

KNP Mission

(proposed revision: Sept 2003)

In keeping with the SANParks mission, to maintain biodiversity in all its natural¹ facets and fluxes, to provide human benefits and **build a strong constituency** and to preserve as far as possible² the wilderness qualities and **cultural resources** associated with the Park

**New words in red; 1997 footnotes accepted but ¹add the notion "indigenous" to natural; ²"detract as little as possible from" wording (as in 1997) possibly better.*

Biodiversity Objective

To maintain biodiversity in all its natural facets and fluxes.

Ecosystem Objective

To understand and manage the KNP as part of the lowveld savanna and its river catchment areas in such a manner as to conserve and restore its varied natural structure, function and composition over time and space, and its wilderness qualities, through an approach integrating the different scales and types of objectives.

Atmospheric Effects

To understand the major effects of climate (esp. rainfall) in influencing biodiversity, and therefore if, when and how to take management decisions (including the no-action decision) with this clearer context.

Water in the Landscape

To develop an integrated understanding of non-terrestrial ecosystem diversity and dynamics (including sub-surface water) and its links with terrestrial systems, and to maintain the intrinsic biodiversity as an integral component of the landscape and maintain or where necessary restore or simulate natural structure, function, composition and processes.

Terrestrial Ecosystem

To develop an integrated understanding of ecosystem diversity and dynamics, and where necessary intervene with appropriate strategies, in order to conserve and restore terrestrial biodiversity and natural processes.

Alien Impact

To anticipate, prevent entry and where possible control invasive alien species, in an effort to minimise the impact on, and maintain the integrity of indigenous biodiversity.

Threatened Biota

To prevent extinction within the Kruger Park of any species on the IUCN's global critically endangered or endangered lists, and to work with other conservation initiatives to secure and strengthen the future of such species over their historic distribution ranges. To put in place appropriate monitoring and conservation efforts of other threatened species or lower taxonomic division, including considering recommendations of experts of invertebrate taxa for which no formal red-listing has been done, according to a realistic framework. Except in crucial instances for the survival of globally critically endangered species, management for system integrity and biodiversity must take precedence over species management.

Legal and Statutory Objective

To have a thorough working understanding of the legal and statutory framework influencing biodiversity in and around KNP, and to influence the framework's further development and content to the benefit of KNP objectives. KNP may often need to take a pro-active stance in many wider or generic legal and statutory issues, rather than await developments passively.

A question arises whether this whole block does not belong under "Balancing". At this stage, given the strong biodiversity influence in forthcoming legislation, it seems best here, with additional (often smaller) legal & statutory blocks elsewhere in the tree as necessary.