

# FRIENDS OF THE BAVIAANSKLOOF WILDERNESS AREA TRUST (IT986/2001)



Protect, Preserve & Restore

Chairman of FOBWA Trust: Denis Stigant  
Committee chairperson: Mervyn Brouard  
E-mail: [mpb@telkomsa.net](mailto:mpb@telkomsa.net); Tel: 0828754210

20<sup>th</sup> June 2013

## Request for sponsorship

### 1. Proposal background

At the entrance to the Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area, a proclaimed world heritage site, is sited the Komdomo camp site. It is operated by the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA). The Friends of the Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area (FOBWA) has established that Komdomo is rated nationally as an Important Birding Area (IBA) and as such will, if promoted correctly, attract many new visitors.

Appendix 1 shows a list of birds that are likely to be found there whilst those in red were seen by Dave Brown a Bird Life Eastern Cape (BLEC) member during a 1 hour tour of Komdomo. The major part of the list came from the Southern African Bird Atlas 2 using the records for the pentad that includes Komdomo. Each pentad is approximately 9km north/south and 7km east/west.

A proposal has been submitted to ECPTA to create 4 birding in and around Komdomo for which an in-principle approval has been given. A final written approval with and required conditions is expected by the end of July.

The proposal lists 4 interventions and suggests FOBWA with the support of sponsors and BLEC and complete them in the sequence noted below.

### 2. Sites chosen

#### 2.1. Confluence site



Just below the confluence of the Kouga and Groot Rivers the bank is slightly raised and will make a good lookout point. Here V shaped configuration of screens will allow unobserved access to a bench behind a viewing slot. The raised area is unlikely to be affected by flooding so could be considered more permanent.

## 2.2. Groot River site



100m left of the boardwalk down from the office block it is suggested that screens will allow unobserved access to a view point overlooking the river. The structure is considered sacrificial due to regular flooding of the river and shall be as inexpensive as possible.

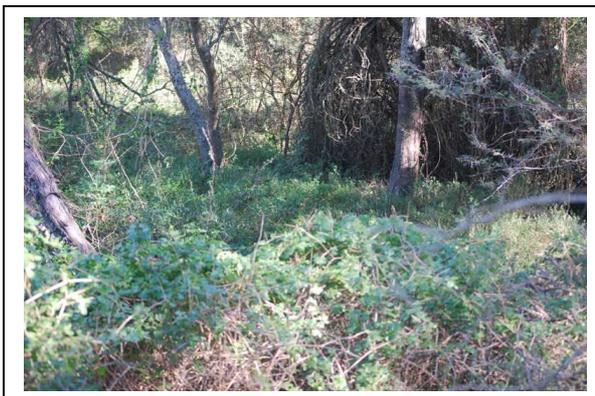
## 2.3. Main ablution block lookout

It is suggested that a 2m x 5m viewing deck be installed on the left of the road going W past the main ablution extending slightly over the steep slope. Two benches are to be placed on the deck with a view of the swimming hole and the koppie and the cliff face across the Groot River. Greater than 2m x 5m would trigger an EIA limiting us to this area.

## 2.4. Water feature site



Here it is suggested that a water feature be created on the flat section below site 22. Nearby is a connection to the water supply which is used for the sprinkler system. A controlled drip valves shall fill the water feature continuously. Behind Dave and Noel benches are to be placed looking down on to the feature.



A small concrete shallow water bath to be built on the flat section below site 22. The picture on the left shows the flat section. It is suggested no screening will be necessary. Little or no clearing of bush will be needed. Water overflow, if any, will be directed to a soak away.

## 3. Structures proposed

### 3.1. Confluence site

It is proposed that 2,5m high pole and screens be installed in a chopped off V shape to allow unobserved access from the path/road. A bench to be placed at

the end where a 3m long 0,3m high slot be cut into the latte for viewing. A shelf shall be provided to place reference books. Latte roofing will provide some shade. The legs of the V shall be approximately 10m long. Poles shall be sunk into the ground without the use of cement.

Local unemployed persons will be contracted to provide the screens which will be made with Spanish reed cane which is an invasive alien. Use of the reed will also support our alien clearing programs.

### **3.2. Groot River site**

Guests can walk down on the boardwalk directly below the office and then walk left 100m downstream to the 2,5 m high pole and screens with a bench and a viewing slot. Here a 15m long L shaped screen is suggested. A latte roof is not needed at least initially as the area is shaded by Acasia karoo.

### **3.3. Main ablution block site**

A short decked path leads to a raised 3m X 5m viewing deck extending out over the steep bank. This will provide a great view of the swimming hole, the bushed area below and the cliff face. Railings shall be installed around sides of the deck. The corner poles shall extend upwards to provide supports for poles onto which a latte roof shall be attached to provide shade. Benches and a shelf shall also be provided.

### **3.4. Water feature site**

On the bank directly behind site 22 two wooden benches shall be placed such that they can view the pond to be built below. The cement pond shall be 1,5m in diameter and shallow on the flat grassed area below. Overflow shall be directed to a soak away comprising of a small hole filled with river stones.

## **4. Expected costs**

### **4.1. Confluence site**

Calculating on 23m of screens the budgetary costs excluding labour is R14000. R608/m costs are used. Labour will be provided by FOBWA members at no cost.

### **4.2. Groot River site**

18m of screens at R608/m comes to R10944 also excluding labour.

### **4.3. Ablution viewing deck site**

Indicative prices are R2000/sqm. A walk way to the deck will be about 3sqm. Therefore for 13sqm cost would be R26000.

### **4.4. Water feature site**

Here a rough estimate for a pipe and valve, cement and sand plus a simple bench is R1500.

### **4.5. Total cost**

Cost as above	R52444
Contingencies	R5200
Total	R57644

## **5. Conclusion**

FOBWA requests support for funding this project to the tune of R57644. Funding organisations will be allowed to place their signs and logos on the structures indicating their support after consultation with ECPTA to ensure compliance with their policies.

Mervyn Brouard  
Chairman of FOBWA management committee

**KOMDOMO BIRD LIST**

**Apalis, Bar-throated**

Apalis, Yellow-breasted

**Barbet, Black-collared**

**Batis, Cape**

Bishop, Southern Red

Bishop, Yellow

Bokmakierie

**Boubou, Southern**

**Brownbul, Terrestrial**

Bulbul, Cape

Bunting, Cape

Bunting, Cinnamon-breasted

Bunting, Golden-breasted

Bush-Shrike, Olive

Buzzard, Jackal

Buzzard, Steppe

**Camaroptera, Green-backed**

Canary, Brimstone

Canary, Cape

Canary, Forest

**Chat, Familiar**

Cisticola, Lazy

Cisticola, Levillant's

Coot, Red-knobbed

**Cormorant, Reed**

**Cormorant, White-breasted**

Coucal, Burchell's

Crake, Black

**Crested-Flycatcher, Blue-mantled**

Crow, Cape

Crow, Pied

Cuckoo, Black

Cuckoo, Klaas'

**Cuckooshrike, Black**

**Cuckooshrike, Grey**

**Darter, African**

Dove, Laughing

**Dove, Red-eyed**

Dove, Tambourine

**Drongo, Fork-tailed**

Duck, African Black

Duck, Yellow-billed

Eagle, Booted

Eagle, Martial

Eagle, Verreaux's

Egret, Cattle

Finfoot, African

Firefinch, African

Fiscal, Common

**Fish-Eagle, African**

**Flycatcher, African Dusky**

Flycatcher, Fiscal

Flycatcher, Spotted  
**Goose, Egyptian**  
Goose, Spur-winged  
Grebe, Little  
**Greenbul, Sombre**  
Guineafowl, Helmeted  
Hamerkop  
Harrier-Hawk, African (Gymnogene)  
Heron, Black-headed  
Heron, Grey  
Heron, Purple  
Honeyguide, Greater  
Honeyguide, Lesser  
**Honeyguide, Scaly-throated**  
**Hoopoe, African**  
Ibis, Hadedda  
Indigobird, Dusky  
Jacana, African  
Kestrel, Rock  
**Kingfisher, Brown-hooded**  
**Kingfisher, Giant**  
Kingfisher, Half-collared  
Kingfisher, Pied  
Kite, Black-shouldered  
Kite, Yellow-billed  
Martin, Brown-throated  
Martin, Rock  
Masked-Weaver, Southern  
**Moorhen, Common**  
**Mousebird, Red-faced**  
**Mousebird, Speckled**  
**Neddicky**  
Nightjar, Fiery-necked  
Olive-Pigeon, African  
**Oriole, Black-headed**  
Owl, Barn  
Paradise-Flycatcher, African  
Pigeon, Speckled  
Plover, Three-banded  
Prinia, Karoo  
Puffback, Black-backed  
Quelea, Red-billed  
Raven, White-necked  
**Robin-Chat, Cape**  
**Rock-Thrush, Cape**  
Rush-Warbler, Little  
Saw-wing, Black  
Scops-Owl, African  
**Scrub-Robin, Brown**  
**Scrub-Robin, White-browed**  
Seedeater, Streaky-headed  
Siskin, Cape  
Sparrow, Cape  
**Sparrow, Southern Grey-headed**  
**Spurfowl, Red-necked**  
Starling, Cape Glossy  
Starling, Common  
Starling, Pied

Starling, Red-winged  
Stonechat, African  
**Sunbird, Amethyst**  
Sunbird, Collared  
**Sunbird, Greater Double-collared**  
Sunbird, Malachite  
Sunbird, Southern Double-collared  
Swallow, Barn  
Swallow, Greater Striped  
Swallow, Lesser Striped  
Swallow, White-throated  
Swamp-Warbler, Lesser  
Swift, African Black  
Swift, Alpine  
Swift, Little  
Swift, White-rumped  
Tchagra, Southern  
Thick-knee, Water  
Thrush, Olive  
**Turaco, Knysna**  
**Turtle-Dove, Cape**  
Wagtail, African Pied  
Wagtail, Cape  
Warbler, Willow  
**Waxbill, Common**  
Waxbill, Swee  
Weaver, Cape  
Weaver, Dark-backed  
**Weaver, Spectacled**  
**Weaver, Thick-billed**  
**White-eye, Cape**  
Whydah, Pin-tailed  
**Wood-Dove, Emerald-spotted**  
**Woodhoopoe, Green**  
Wood-Owl, African  
**Woodpecker, Cardinal**  
**Woodpecker, Knysna**  
**Woodpecker, Olive**