



**South African
NATIONAL PARKS
HONORARY RANGERS
STRATEGIC PROJECTS PORTFOLIO**

Postal Address: P O Box 40099, Faerie Glen, 0043
Telephone: 083 630 6929. Fax: (011) 472 2924. E-mail: shikanda@mweb.co.za

1. Orientation

- The SPP of the Honorary Rangers (HRs) includes re-engineering, constituency building and youth development.
- The aim of the Portfolio is to actively promote and develop transformation of the HRs to not only reflect the rich diversity of cultures in South Africa, but to also truly reflect the image of SANParks.

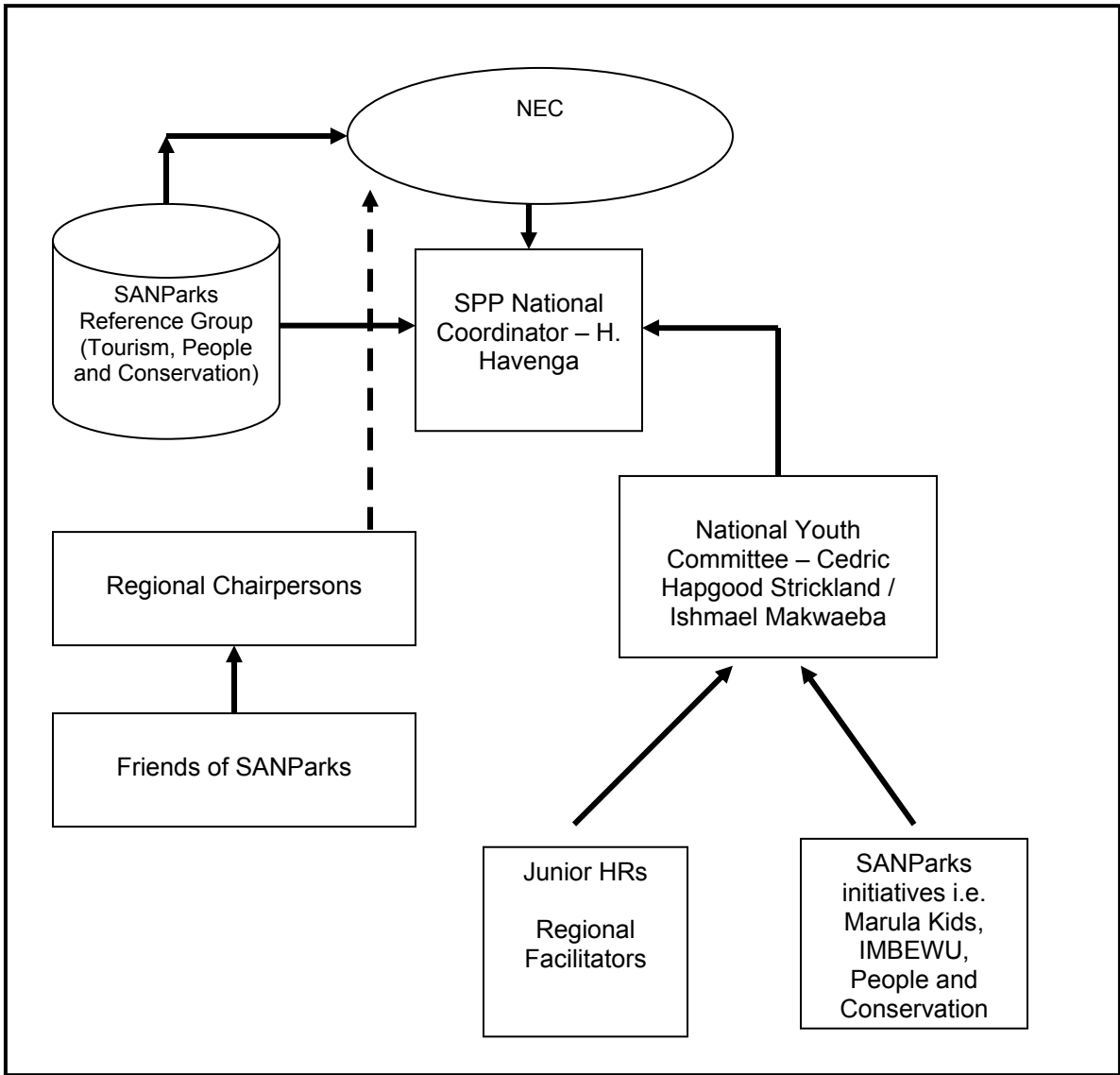
2. Re-engineering and Constituency Building

One of the biggest challenges is re-engineering. This involves understanding and accepting cultural diversity and an acceptance of SANParks' constituency building model. The intention is to ensure that all regions are actively pursuing transformation **and** implementing re-engineering targets. The profile of the HRs should gradually gravitate to fall in line with the demographic profile of South Africa.

SANParks has challenged the HRs to four areas namely:

- Reduce barriers to entry to HRs – particularly for PDIs
- Speed up Transformation in HRs
- Target the Youth and PDIs
- Co-opt influential leaders (political, business, education etc) into HRs.

The following diagram sets out the operational structure of the SPP:



3. New category of HRs

The category will be called *Friends of SANParks*. The purpose is to foster the principles of the Honorary Rangers (HRs) and fully support them in their endeavours to serve the South African National Parks (SANParks).

The primary objective of the new category is to provide a vehicle through which the Honorary Rangers of SANParks can accept, utilise and recognise voluntary help and



services from the public. A further objective is to utilise this voluntary help and support in such a way as to be mutually beneficial to the volunteer, the Honorary Rangers and SANParks.

The following broad categories of *Friends of SANParks* have been identified:

- Recognised Conservation Bodies
- Overseas Volunteers
- 'Specialist' SANParks volunteers
- Influential Volunteers who may be able to assist with fund raising and lobbying.

4. Junior Honorary Rangers

One of the outcomes of the strategic change within SANParks was the consolidation of youth focused awareness project portfolios into one programme. The objectives of the Junior Honorary Rangers are:

- to involve and develop the youth in SANParks and nature conservation activities with the eventual goal of creating new generations of conservation conscious adults;
- to generate a fully functioning and operational Junior HR Corps in all the regions of the Honorary Rangers;
- to create a greater exposure to national parks through visits co-ordinated with SANParks Youth Outreach Programmes (Imbewu; Morula Kids; etc.);
- target an annual 20% increase in the number of JHRs from the poorly resourced groups;
- to promote the re-engineering process within the Senior Honorary Rangers through the Youth conservation programmes; to understand and accept cultural diversity within the organisation;
- to assist with the change process of SANP according to the Constituency Building model; and
- to build an organisation that is reflective of the demographic profile of South Africa.

5. Fundraising

- Funding always remains a key issue when initiatives need to be implemented. This is relevant to all activities of the HRs, but in particular, the Junior HRs and the re-engineering initiatives.
- From an operational level, JHRs are different from senior HRs. No resources – heavily reliant on contributions by parents/ guardians.
- Highlighted as the single largest constraining factor that inhibits growth of JHRs.

6. Achievements

JHRs

- Outreach programmes for JHRs supported.
- Successful JHR events in the North West, Northern Cape and Limpopo provinces.
- R 20 levy per senior HR member accepted.
- Proper financial controls established.
- Public Benefit Organisation – will help tremendously with fundraising
- Chairperson – J. Davies is negotiating a substantial annual donation from the First Rand / Sage Foundation.
- 53 JHR facilitators trained.
- Funding proposal completed – next step is to submit to institutions.
- Guidelines for JHRs finalised. (Indemnity form, code of conduct, administrative rules, marketing brochure).
- Target set at previous indaba achieved – 1083 (718 appointed JHRs, 365 applicants)
- Trunk Call – dedicated page – increased exposure within SANParks but also outside. However, articles are urgently needed.

Expanding the reach of the HRs

- Monthly contact with SANParks to keep abreast of changes and to report back on developments within the HRs.

- Marketing flyer to attract PDIs
- Expansion of NEC – great opportunity to get new insight, fresh approach and fresh ideas.
- Friends of the HRs – proposal drafted and submitted to SANParks officials. Next step is joined presentation by Chairperson and G. Phillips / C. Patton to the new SANParks Board.

7. Go Forward Actions

- Funding proposal for JHRs submitted and assistance secured.
- Target of 1500 JHRs achieved.
- Geographical coordinators and regional facilitators for JHRs and Friends of SANParks appointed in each region.
- Friends of SANParks accepted by SANParks board and active recruitment underway.
- Regions start to identify contributors / possible friends they want to involve.