

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF LANGEBAANWEG "E" QUARRY
THE SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM : DIVISION OF EARTH SCIENCES

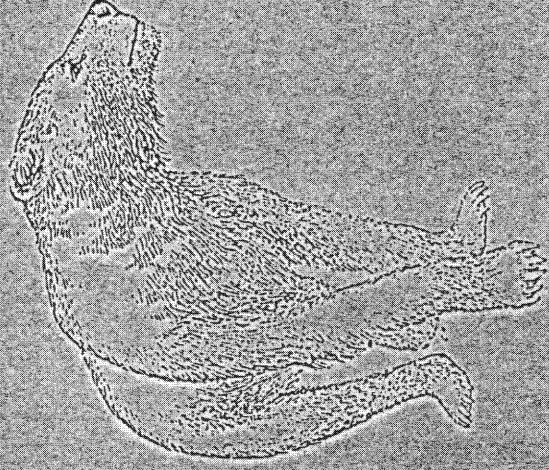
Draft Document
for meeting scheduled for
Wednesday 6 December 1995
at Langebaanweg
at 13.00 hrs

Meeting convened by
Professor Roy Lubke
Coastal and Environmental Services
P O Box 934
GRAHAMSTOWN 6140

SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM : DIVISION OF EARTH SCIENCES
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AGRIOTHERIUM AFRICANUM.

BACKGROUND

Langebaanweg "E" Quarry is widely recognised as one of the world's richest Late Tertiary vertebrate fossil deposits. Since the late 1950's the South African Museum has been involved at this site. In 1968 Dr Brett Hendey, a research scientist at the South African Museum, formulated and directed the *Langebaanweg Research Project*. This project became the main focus of the Museum's Department of Cenozoic Palaeontology. As a result of this work the palaeohistory of the West Coast has been reconstructed in remarkable detail. There is however, much scope for further research which will help develop current ideas and add more evidence for climatic and environmental changes over the past five million years in this area.

Over one million fossils have been recovered from the Quarry using controlled excavation methods, from surface collecting and from sievings of dump material generated by Chemfos. In 1976 Brett Hendey conducted the last controlled excavation. Future controlled excavations are envisaged along with monitored surface collecting.

The Langebaanweg fossils represent the largest fossil vertebrate collection at the Museum. Curation and computerisation of this collection is an ongoing project in the Division of Earth Sciences.

For the past two years the site at "E" Quarry has been used mainly for education purposes. The success of the educational outings has led the Museum to explore more seriously the possibility of expanding this activity into a formal outreach programme. Our aim is to establish a "Langebaanweg Palaeoenvironmental Education Centre" (LPEC) for use by research teams, school and university groups, and adult and tourist groups. Activities at the Centre would be co-ordinated with lectures, demonstrations, training and research programmes conducted at the Museum.

**POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING
THE LANGEBAANWEG PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE**

- * Primary mandate for management of the site and conservation of fossils under auspices of National Monuments Council
- * Multi-disciplinary environmental research and education
- * Education and training: schools, universities, public and other organisations
- * Close working relationship with the West Coast National Park
- * Links with other museums to form national and international networks for palaeo-research, palaeo-education and palaeo-tourism
- * Local Community involvement
- * Consultancy
- * Recruitment and training of volunteers
- * Secondment of staff from other organisations during peak periods
- * Saldanha Steel Industry : co-operation and development

**FACTORS PROMOTING SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM INVOLVEMENT AT THE
LANGEBAANWEG PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE**

- * Years of scientific research on the Langebaanweg fossils
- * Sole collectors and curators of the fossils from this site
- * Executor and co-ordinator of current research projects on these fossils
- * Expertise in teaching and training
- * Expertise in displays and preparation of materials
- * Public appeal of fossils
- * Good relationships with Chemfos, National Monuments Council and National Parks Board
- * Access to willing volunteers

**KEY FOCUS AREAS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
LANGEBAANWEG PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE**

Funding

* capital funding
* operational funding
* fundraising
* general funding vs targeted (project) funding
* corporate funding

People

* LPEC project co-ordinator
* LPEC manager
* PRO
* core education team - museum staff and seconded staff
* researchers
* curator
* volunteers - permanent volunteer management (database)
* maintenance staff - buildings and site (eg invasive vegetation)
* security staff

Facilities at the LPEC

* accommodation (20 people)
* research
* lecture rooms
* office/s
* volunteer space
* catering
* excavation
* storeroom/s and work shed/s
* fencing
* site shelters/protection
* vehicles
* communication tools - radios and cell phones

Facilities at the Museum

* research
* lecture/demonstration room/s
* laboratory space
* volunteer space
* office/s
* vehicles
* storeroom/s

Other Issues and Planning Requirements

* ownership of the Quarry
* leadership
* development of draft strategic plan
* management plan for the LPEC
* site utilisation plan - protected 10 ha vs expanded area
* research, education, recruitment and tourism policies
* community involvement policy
* training of seconded staff and volunteers
* network with supporting organisations
* communication strategy - PRO / fundraising; Centre with Museum
* distribution of income generated through tourism, consultancy and courses