# Brousse-James & Associates

## Ecological and Environmental Services

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### Corporate Profile

#### 1 Introduction

Brousse-James & Associates is an Ecological and Environmental Consultancy that was established in 1997. Although the business has only two full-time professional employees, we maintain a core group of professional associates, all experienced and respected in their own field of expertise, who are brought in to the team for specific projects.

Since its inception, we have been involved in numerous interesting Environmental and Information Technology projects for a variety of clients, ranging from small landowners to big companies, conservation organisations, Government Departments and International NGO's.

#### 2 Directors

#### 2.1 Barry Mark James

Barry James holds a BSc in Zoology and Botany, BSc(Hons) in Plant Ecology and Rehabilitation Ecology and an MSc in Plant Ecology. He has certificates in Environmental Impact Assessments, Geographic Information Systems, Tourism Guiding, Wilderness Management, Information Technology and advanced first aid. He is a registered with the South African Council for Natural Science Professionals as a Professional Natural Scientist (Reg. No: 400263/06), holds professional membership with the South African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Scientists and is a Certified Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner. He is presently registered for a PhD with the Da Vinci Institute of Technology Management, looking at the sustainable utilisation of indigenous Southern African wood.

Barry is equally "at home" in the office, writing project proposals and reports and doing GIS and database management tasks, as well as participating in "on the ground" wildlife and environmental management. He has extensive tourism and "Big-5" guiding experience and has been intimately involved in the development of tourism facilities, ranging from primitive wilderness camps to five star lodges. He has written a number of rehabilitation plans following various developments. He has also had photojournalism experience and has been published in a number of South African outdoor and adventure magazines, and has written training manuals and visitor information booklets. He has lectured in Bioresources and Grassland Science at the University of Natal and has good communication skills (written and verbal).

He believes strongly in the sustainable utilisation of natural resources and over the last six years has acquired extensive knowledge of Southern African indigenous wood and the

harvesting, processing and marketing issues associated with that and does some small-scale trading in indigenous woods to wood collectors and the specialist woodworking market. He is also an Associate Editor of the International Wood Collectors Society Journal.

Conservation achievements include; conception of the Pongola Biosphere Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; and founder member and past board member of the Dusi-Umngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT), a non-profit organisation dedicated to cleaning up the Dusi and Umngeni Rivers in KwaZulu-Natal. He witnessed, and was part of, the phenomenal growth in Game Ranching in South Africa during the last two decades and has been involved in every aspect of Government Protected Area and Private Game Ranch development, planning and management, including game capture, transport, care and reintroduction.

Barry has participated in many long distance cycling, canoeing, running and swimming events. He achieved a silver medal in the Iron Man in 1986 and was awarded the Natal Parks Board Lions Head Bravery award in 1995. Hobbies include woodwork, woodturning and leatherwork. He enjoys playing the saxophone and trumpet and is trying very hard to revive a lapsed musical interest and learn to play jazz and swing on the sax.

#### 2.2 Danielle Brousse James

Danielle James has extensive experience in the administration of Game Reserves and business management. She holds a BA in English, History and Socio-cultural Anthropology and has a secretarial diploma. She has certificates in Book Editing, Soil Classification and Land Capability, Veld Management and Ethnobotany.

She managed the School of Environment and Development at the University of Natal in 1996 and 1997 and has been managing Brousse-James & Associates since the end of 1997. She has considerable experience in assisting with writing of Wildlife Management Plans, Wilderness Management plans and Environmental Impact Reports, as well as editing specialist reports. She has also had photojournalism experience and has been published in a number of South African outdoor and adventure magazines. She has also developed a strong interest in indigenous wood and is currently an Associate Editor of the International Wood Collectors Society Journal.

Danielle is an accomplished horsewoman, having achieved Natal Colours, and has participated in long distance running, cycling, canoeing and swimming events. In between managing Brousse-James & Associates, she home schools two sons, she enjoys wood turning and is learning the violin along with her seven-year old.

#### 3 Specific Wildlife Management and Conservation projects.

As a former Zone Officer (District Conservation Officer) in Zululand, where the biggest concentration of game ranches in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal is, Barry James developed a good understanding of the industry and the people involved in it. In addition, as part of a World Bank Project in 2002, Brousse-James & Associates did an assessment of 27 private Game Ranches and three formally Protected Areas as part of an ecological study to determine the contribution of private nature tourism to biodiversity conservation.

In 2002, Brousse-James & Associates was part of a team conducting a WWF funded project to assess the management effectiveness of all KwaZulu-Natal Protected Areas and Barry James was subsequently contracted by WWF International to write a database program for use in assessing Protected Area Management Effectiveness worldwide. We have been contracted to compile Integrated Management Plans for KZN Wildlife Protected Areas and numerous Environmental Impact Assessments within Protected Areas in the Province. In 2007, we were contracted to develop a Pro-Forma Management Plan for private land, which was to be included in Biodiversity Stewardship agreements within the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, and have subsequently been contracted to compile management plans for some of these properties. We have done work within and around both of the World Heritage Sites in KwaZulu-Natal, namely the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

We have written a number of Management Plans for Private Game Ranches in South Africa and were intimately involved in the development of Thanda Private Game Reserve, all the way from conception to writing a management plan for conversion of degraded cattle farms into a game reserve, habitat assessment, animal reintroduction plans, environmental impact assessments for the tourist facilities, ongoing environmental controls and management and game counts.

#### 4 Specific rehabilitation and biodiversity management experience.

The major part of Barry James's BSc(Hons) coursework concerned itself with Plant Ecology and Rehabilitation Ecology. The title of Barry James's MSc was "Succession and Soil Properties following the removal of Pine Plantations on the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia". This research project gave him a good understanding of plant (particularly forest) succession and further insight into processes that assist with rehabilitation of degraded areas.

Brousse-James & Associates have written a number of Environmental Management Plans and Rehabilitation Plans and both members have experience in selecting and planting indigenous plants.

#### 5 Summary of services offered

- Sourcing and supply of indigenous South African wood and specialist advice on indigenous wood.
- Rehabilitation/revegetation planning and implementation.
- Planning for sustainable utilisation of natural resources.
- Protected area and game ranch management plans, wildlife management, game counts and ongoing ecological advice.

- Biological monitoring, biodiversity assessments and ecological research.
- Ecotourism planning.
- Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Environmental Management Plans.
- Sustainability Plans and Integrated Reporting.
- Geographic information systems (GIS).
- Environmental training, field guide training.
- Environmental journalism, writing and editing of reports, brochures, information booklets and training manuals.

#### 6 Clients

- The World Bank.
- WWF International.
- WWF Black Rhino Expansion Project.
- KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (ex Natal Parks Board).
- KwaZulu-Natal Biodiversity Stewardships Programme.
- KwaZulu-Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission.
- Institute of Natural Resources.
- Mpumalanga Parks Board.
- KwaZulu-Natal Roads Department.
- South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.
- The South African Council for Geoscience.
- Thanda Private Game Reserve.
- AmaZulu Private Game Reserve (Mkuze Falls and Amakhosi Lodge).
- Phinda Private Game Reserve.
- Pongola Game Reserve.
- Cathkin Estates.
- Isimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site (previously Greater St Lucia Wetland Site).
- Acer Africa
- Umzimkhulu Industrial Holdings
- Idwala Carbonates.
- Natal Portland Cement.
- Sony Picture Entertainment and Warner Brothers.
- Numerous private landowners and engineering and town planning companies.