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**RE: INVITATION TO ATTEND A GRASSLANDS PARTNER'S  
CONFERENCE: 22 – 24 NOVEMBER 2006  
Venue: Biodiversity Centre, SANBI, Pretoria**

The Grasslands Project under the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) is hosting a Partners Conference during the period 22 – 24 November 2006 to discuss broad and specific sectoral issues of relevance to the programme. The Grasslands Project is one of the bioregional projects under SANBI and is aimed at ensuring that the ecosystem services provided by the grassland biome are sustained and contribute to economic development and poverty alleviation. The pressure from economic development provides an impetus to conserve grasslands biodiversity in South Africa, with 30% of the biome irreversibly transformed and only 2.8% under formal conservation.

The Grasslands Project has been under design for the past 16 months and a number of strategic interventions within major production sectors that operate in the biome have been identified for implementation. The aim of the conference is to bring together all these issues for discussion and take the opportunity to collectively review the implications for implementation. We would therefore like to invite you as part of our stakeholder and partner network to join us in paving the way forward at this important juncture in the project's life.

### **1. Outline of the Programme**

**Day 1 - Wednesday: 22 November 2006** [1.00pm – 5.00 pm]  
Formal Launch of the Programme

*Theme: "Production and Grassland Biodiversity Imperatives"*

#### *Side Events*

- Panel of Experts showcasing agriculture, forestry, urban and coal mining

**Day 2 - Thursday: 23 November 2006** [8.30am – 5.00pm]

#### ***Morning Session***

- Overview on the Grasslands Project; Strategic and operational objectives

- Demonstration site work (Free State; Mpumalanga, Forestry (KZN & Eastern Cape))

#### *- Parallel Sessions*

- National Standards, FSC Certification and listing of Threatened Ecosystems
- Wetland Mitigation Banking in Coal Mining
- Urban Eco-estates and biodiversity conservation
- Red meat Certification and Stewardship approaches in agriculture for biodiversity conservation
- Value of Ecosystem Services and Goods

### *Afternoon Session*

#### Report Back and Discussion

- National Standards, FSC Certification and listing of Threatened Ecosystems: implications for implementation
- Urban Eco-estates and biodiversity conservation: implications for implementation
- Red meat Certification and stewardship approaches in agriculture: implications for implementation
- Wetland Mitigation Banking in Coal Mining and implications for implementation
- Value of Ecosystem Services and Goods: implications for implementation

#### **Day 3 - Friday: 24 November** [08.30 am – 1.00 pm]

- Cross-sectoral, programmatic and institutional issues
- Strategic Focus for 2007
- Way Forward and Closure

A detailed programme will be circulated once it is finalized. Please secure 22 – 24 November in your diaries so long.

## **2. RSVP contact details**

Please RSVP to Florence Nazare ([nazare@sanbi.org](mailto:nazare@sanbi.org) and 012-843-5025) by **30 September 2006** and provide details on who will be attending. If you have any queries please contact Florence Nazare or Lala Steyn (012-843-5025). Participants should fund their own costs of attending the conference, while SANBI will provide the venue and lunches.

Your participation is essential for the success of the workshop and we look forward to your contribution!

Florence Nazare



Florence Nazare  
Coordinator: Grasslands Project

Lala Steyn



Lala Steyn  
Programme Developer: Grasslands Project