Your peatland management and rehabilitation summary

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Name of peatland: _____
Name of assessor: _____
Assessment date: _____ / _____ / _____

Report

Thank you for completing the tool for the management and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands.
This report summarises your responses, highlighting the issues you identified and where further action is needed.

Your responses

Part 1: External Threats

External Threat 1: Dams

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Has the upstream catchment been impounded (e.g., by a dam) in a way that could affect the peatland?	Yes	Upstream impoundment may threaten the peatland by altering the amount, timing or duration of water entering it.
Has the ecological reserve for the river below the dam (i.e. including the peatland) been determined?	Yes	The ecological reserve has been determined for the river downstream of the dam.
Is the ecological reserve being honoured?	Yes	An upstream dam is unlikely to pose a major threat to the peatland you are managing.

External Threat 2: Groundwater Abstraction

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Is there groundwater abstraction in the catchment/region that may be impacting the peatland?	Yes	Groundwater abstraction may pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.
Is the groundwater abstraction in the catchment legal?	Yes	Groundwater abstraction is unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.

External Threat 3: Invasive Alien Trees

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Are there alien trees in the catchment, (either plantations or invasions) that may be impacting the peatland?	Yes	Alien trees, whether in plantations or invasions, may pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.
Do the alien tree plantations have a valid water-use licence?	Yes	Alien trees, whether in plantations or invasions, are unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.
Is there a catchment regional management plan in place that involves the longterm integrated management of invasive alien trees that is being implemented? ie alien tree clearing is happening	Yes	A management plan that involves the management of invasive alien trees in the catchment of the peatland you are managing is currently being implemented.

External Threat 4: Urbanisation

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Is there urbanisation in the catchment that may be impacting the peatland?	No	Urbanisation is unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.

External Threat 5: Other Threats

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Are there any other risks to the peatland? e.g. extreme weather phenomena, pollution [point and non-point source], climate change?	Yes	Peatland climate risk is best managed through ecosystem-based adaptation that maintains or restores the systemâ€™s natural hydrology and resilience. Where increased drought is expected, protecting the ecological reserve is critical to sustain baseflows and prevent further drying, while in areas where higher rainfall and more intense events are projected, maintaining healthy wetland and peatland vegetation helps stabilize soils, increase surface roughness, and reduce erosion and channel incision. Key actions include clearing invasive alien trees that increase evapotranspiration and lower water tables, reinstating natural flow and saturation regimes where they have been altered (e.g. through ecological reserve determination, gazetting and enforcement), and reducing or carefully managing groundwater abstraction to avoid further drawdown of peatland water levels. These specific interventions are covered earlier in the tool, in sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

Part 2: Internal Threats

Internal Threat 1: Drainage of peatlands

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Has the peatland been drained?	No	Drainage is unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.

Internal Threat 2: Habitat Transformation

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Has the peatland habitat been transformed [e.g. vegetation removed, ploughed]?	Yes	Step 1: Report the issue. Report suspected damaging or unauthorized activities to the relevant environmental authority, providing the location, photographs and a description of the disturbance where possible. Report the transgression to the relevant authority, in this case the Department of Forestry and Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): 0800 205 005/ Envirocrime@dffe.gov.za. The DFFE will conduct their own investigations, either at provincial or national level. Most relevant legislation • National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) Section 24N relating to EMP, Section 24P relating to financial provisions for remediation of environmental damage; The [duty of care] principle enshrined in section 28 of the NEMA requires landowners to take reasonable measures to prevent, minimize and rectify environmental degradation on their properties. • National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), 10 of 2004. • Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA), 1983 (Act 43 of 1983). Step 2: Mitigate and restore. Stop further disturbance and address the cause of degradation. With specialist guidance, restore natural water flows, saturated conditions and indigenous vegetation, using a nearby, relatively intact peatland with similar environmental conditions as a reference where possible.

Internal Threat 3: Impoundment

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Has the peatland been impounded [ie a dam wall built within below or above the peatland]?	No	An impoundment within or downstream of the peatland is unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.

Internal Threat 4: Invasive Alien Plants

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Is there an alien invasion within the peatland itself? [whether aquatic weeds or trees]?	No	Alien plant invasions within the peatland are unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.

Internal Threat 5: Erosion

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Is there erosion within the peatland?	No	Erosion is unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.

Internal Threat 6: Direct Groundwater/River Water Abstraction

Question	Your answer	What this means / key actions
Is there direct surface or groundwater abstraction from within the peatland?	No	Direct abstraction of surface water or groundwater is unlikely to pose a threat to the peatland you are managing.