**APPENDIX S2**

**Examples of respondents’ quotes supporting the emerging themes of nature** **being both a resource (benefit) and a nuisance**

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| **OPPORTUNITY / CHALLENGE** | **SUPPORTING QUOTES** |
| **BENEFITS** |
| ***Nature as a resource for supporting livelihoods and lifestyles*** |
| Appreciation of the unique natural environment, and the unpredictability thereof. | *“…the diversity of the area…no one day is the same…it’s so exciting”* (respondent from Amsterdam Hoek). |
| Societal and individual dependence on nature for physical, spiritual, and psychological well being | *“…nature is a healing property itself, we need nature for us to be able to live healthier lives, you need to breathe the fresh air, you need to look at God’s nature and appreciate it because it relieves depression, stress and all those things…”*  (respondent who had relocated back to Motherwell from another more affluent residential area).*“… nature is my life…its inside my heart….”* (respondent from the township). The older respondents (generally above 40 years old) expressed how nature provides a “*sense of place*” and “*sense of hope*” and a “*sense of belonging*”.  |
| Past discriminatory legislation has had a negative impact on perceptions of nature. | *“…most Black people don’t believe in nature reserves…”* (respondent from the township). |
| Lack of awareness of the nature reserves and the benefits thereof. | *“…. we took a child that lived right across from the Aloes Reserve… for a snare hunt and she said …. she didn’t know about the reserve….*” (respondent from Swartkops). |
| Exploitive unsustainable use of nature reserves, such as harvesting and hunting, keeping livestock, and the isiXhosa initiation rite. | *“…we continuously going into the reserves and removing snares … rescuing small protected game species that are hunted illegally with dogs in the reserves…*” (respondent from Amsterdam Hoek).*“… no area within the city limits is not being hunted*…” (respondent from Amsterdam Hoek).*“…it’s not sustainable...they come with picks and everything …there is good stuff they are taking and its’ just destruction…”**“… the problem is after the initiation school they have to burn down that camping thing … and then next year you can’t build a new camp tent on top of the ashes of one of last year so you’ve got to cut down some other trees and get more space, hence it’s going into the reserve so they are going there without knowing that this is a reserve…”* (respondent from Motherwell).  |
| Encroachment into the natural open space system for cultivation, additional structures, and informal settlement. | *“… we don’t have enough space in our own garden…the municipality should allow the community to proceed with farming….”* (respondent from Wells Estate). *“… Wells Estate has grown so much and there seems to be so little control over the boundaries of the Aloes Nature reserve…”* (respondent from Swartkops). *“…. the problem is those shacks, they put them all over…I am worried they will destroy nature ….”* (respondent from Bluewater Bay, who formerly lived in a township). |
| Encroachment onto the nature reserves signifies a need for land.  | “*… the Wells Estate people … will rather have a veld destroyed, even that Aloes Reserve …it’s not because they don’t like nature, because there is a fight for land or spaces…”* (respondent who had grown up in a township). |
| Informal settlement encroachment in the reserves is attributed to the political instability within the coalition local government. | “*...we started seeing the informal settlement when there was a political meltdown… the executive mayor went about the city and said… we need to start occupying land, and unprecedented occupation of land started happening…”* (respondent who had grown up in a township). |
| Encroachment onto the natural open space system reduces the land available for harvesting of medicinal plants, threatening the livelihood of sangomas, and the well-being of many people.  | *“…you know this is the root, or you have to take the thorns of this one to use it …. once you have settlements ...all that is gone and …no one ever really plants those things… they grow in nature,, once it’s gone you also kill many other things …”* (respondent whose family member is a traditional healer in another city). |
| ***Community outreach and employment opportunities*** |
| Underutilised opportunities for ecotourism, employment and community outreach, are attributed to poor management.  | *“… the matter of proper management in the nature areas…. these natural areas should be used in a way to develop the people, the youth …in terms of different projects*…” (respondent from Motherwell). |
| Lack of awareness of the work of the Zwartkops Conservancy; and lack of financial and other municipal support for the work of the Conservancy  | *“… the work they do has not been supported enough…and they actually do community outreach…”* (respondent from Bluewater Bay)*.**“…they are the watchdogs …. because the Municipality is not functional...”* (respondent from Bluewater Bay). |
| **ECOSYSTEM DISSERVICES** |
| ***Personal safety concerns*** |
| Impenetrable vegetation in the nature reserves limits visibility and surveillance, in favour of potential criminal activity. |  *“…there has been evidence that some of the stuff is stolen…they plant it in the reserve*…*they steal cars and they take them into clearance and reserve and strip them there…*.” (respondent from the Amsterdam Hoek); *“…you can’t go alone … the problem is the crime because the other people …. are doing the wrong things there …. even with family it is not safe to go now…”* (respondent from townships). |
| Municipal (mis) management contributes to real and perceived crime. | *“…there are issues in terms of how the municipality is conducting or is monitoring the nature reserves…there are some nature reserves that they have stopped looking after, like the Swartkops Nature Reserve - they no longer take care of the reserve... lack of rangers and safety is always an issue. …some of them [reserves] are not even fenced in terms of being protected…and they do all sorts of crime…”* (respondent from Motherwell). *“...it’s not clean, it’s not safe, it’s not a pleasure to walk there…*” and *“…I used to go but now it is too dangerous ... I would not go there by myself anymore”* (respondents from Amsterdam Hoek). |
| Accessibility of the reserves is not well publicised, and for some residents it is considered unaffordable. | “… *adults cannot afford to go to the reserve…if we do not pay there won’t be guards…we risk out lives going into the reserve…*” (respondent from Motherwell).  |
| ***Health and aesthetic concerns*** |
| Ineffective waste management is attributed to inadequate service from the Municipality, and the behaviour of residents.  | *“.... a lot of the township areas are not planned properly...the streets are to narrow….”* (Amsterdam Hoek resident).*“…if we can change the people’s mind… because I cannot blame the municipality all the time for those things, because nature doesn’t belong to the municipality only, it also belongs to us...we must take responsibility…”* (respondent from Motherwell who is an educator for the Zwartkops Conservancy). |
| Exacerbated fire risk, associated with the alien vegetation infestation, and the (illegal) informal structures*.* | *“…that stuff dries out and becomes a fire hazard….and if it goes up it goes up like a tinder box…”* (respondent from Amsterdamhoek). |
| Odours are associated with ineffective waste management and litter smouldering; and livestock increases the risk of disease. | “…*the diseases they [livestock] bring into the area…”* (expressed by many respondents from the township). |
| Recognition of the importance of, and the potential of education to change the attitudes and behaviour towards nature, especially with regards to litter. | *“…if we can change the people’s mind… because I cannot blame the municipality all the time for those things, because nature doesn’t belong to the municipality only, it also belongs to us...we must take responsibility…”* (respondent from Motherwell who is an educator for the Zwartkops Conservancy). |
| **PERSPECTIVES ON MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL OPEN SPACE** |
| ***Lack of political accountability and municipal planning***  |
| The needs of the community are not reflected in the municipality’s strategic plan (integrated development plan (IDP).  | *“…there is an IDP, but the government is not moving…nothing materialises…”.**“…. government is failing the community…*” and *“…. government at all levels, but specifically at local level is an impediment to progress…*”. (respondent from Bluewater Bay). |
| Lack of political accountability and ineffective service delivery (expressed by many interviewees across the socio-economic range). | *“…. there is no provision for schools…no open spaces for business… for churches… there’s nothing…we might be building homes but we still carrying on with the old model …. the settlements are going further and further away from economic activities, with no provision for transport….”* (respondent from Motherwell Township). |
| Complex multi-layered systems and procedures characteristic of the bureaucratic municipal approach was considered to impede progress and innovative solutions proposed by certain community members. | *“… our problem is the top political echelon in the metro... the workers, they all quite keen on helping you…. but in some cases, they are not going to do it, because they are not funded properly...”* (respondent from Redhouse). |
| The notion of nature being used as a means of segregation underscores the complexities of conservation efforts and competing land use.  |  “….*the perception is you are conserving nature to keep them away from actually settling closer to you or actually giving them that piece of land and then nature is not as important as people wanting land so it becomes an emotive thing… often conversation becomes insensitive to the issues, the social and community issues of the need for land…it puts communities against each other so the other one does not talk about the benefits for those people, they often talk about the benefits for themselves but they don’t say this is how this thing can benefit you as a community and why we need that thing ….”* (a former township respondent). |