

CONSTITUTION OF THE PRIMATE ECOLOGY AND GENETICS GROUP, SOUTH AFRICA

1. THE NAME

The name of the Society shall be the "PRIMATE ECOLOGY AND GENETICS GROUP" (hereinafter referred to as "PEGG").

2. CAPACITY AND PROPERTY

PEGG shall be a juristic person with capacity, *inter alia*, to institute and defend legal proceedings in its own name, to own fixed and movable property in its own name, to buy and sell it, to let, mortgage or pledge it or to encumber it any other way, and jointly to do all acts which are necessary in law for the promotion and protection of its objects and interests.

The property of PEGG shall be vested in the Executive Committee as constituted in terms of the Constitution.

PEGG is a not-for-profit organization, and no profits or gains shall be distributed to any person; any funds PEGG may accrue will be utilized solely for investments or the objects for which PEGG was established.

Upon winding up or liquidation, PEGG will be obliged to give or transfer its assets remaining after the satisfaction of its liabilities to some other company, society or association with objects similar to its own.

3. OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

General

(a) To promote, facilitate and encourage all areas of non-human primate research in southern Africa;

(b) To preserve the southern African primate fauna and to support legislation to this end, and, if necessary, to oppose legislation tending to have adverse effects thereon;

(c) To be actively concerned with the welfare of primates;

Co-ordination and Education

(d) To assist in the co-ordination of primate research in southern Africa by means of congresses, meetings and publications covering current research work, to facilitate co-operation among scientists of all nationalities engaged in primate research, and to have contact with foreign primate societies and international organizations dealing with primatology, wherever possible;

(e) To co-operate with public authorities and to act in an advisory capacity where asked to do so;

(f) To stimulate public interest in primatology by means of publications, meetings, film shows and any other means.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of PEGG may not be denied on the grounds of race, gender, language, religion, political affiliation, or national origin. PEGG recognizes three categories of membership:

(a) Individual Members

Any person engaged in non-human primate research or interested in supporting the purposes of PEGG may apply for individual membership.

(b) Institutional Members

Any bona fide institution or society with an interest in primatology or any other objective of PEGG is eligible for Institutional membership.

(c) Student Members

Any bona fide student at any school, university or other educational institution with an interest in supporting the objectives of PEGG, is eligible for Student Membership, provided he or she has not been a post honours or equivalent student for more than four years, or is not in full time employment. The term of student membership cannot exceed seven years.

5. PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Until such time as PEGG has 50 active members there will be no membership fees, as the costs of maintaining a bank account would outweigh the fees collected. When the membership reaches 50, subscriptions of individual, institutional, and student members will be due on the 1st January of every year. Any member who has not paid the annual subscription before the 1st July shall forfeit membership while the subscription is unpaid. The Executive Committee shall, however, have power exercisable in its entire discretion to waive subscription fees in deserving cases.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The PEGG Executive Committee will be elected at the Annual Meeting, which will be held at a time that is generally acceptable to the Membership, as ascertained by e-mail consultation and a minimum of 14 days notification. Terms of office will extend for three years and are renewable. Terms of office shall begin at Annual Meetings.

7. **MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIETY**

The management of PEGG shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee, which will consist of at least two office bearers, one of whom must take responsibility for communicating with the Membership by e-mail and/or updating the PEGG website.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members to assist with the organization of particular events (e.g., symposia, field excursions) or tasks requiring special skills (e.g., website design). These co-opted members do not thereafter become responsible for the general management of PEGG.

8. **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The Annual Meeting shall be held once a year at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Membership. At least 60 days notice of any such meeting must be given. The event should take the form of a scientific meeting at which information on primate research within the southern African region is shared among PEGG Members. Any additional scientific meetings may be called by the Executive Committee after due consultation with the PEGG Membership.

9. *Vote at Annual Meetings*

All members shall exercise one vote each in any issue requiring to be settled democratically.

10. **SUBCOMMITTEES**

The Membership shall have power to appoint committees to deal with such matters as occasion may require.

11. **FINANCE**

Until such time as PEGG has 50 active members there will be no subscription fees and no necessity for finances. When the membership reaches the necessary number, the financial affairs of PEGG shall be controlled by the Executive Committee, which will operate a banking account and all financial transactions shall be authorized by two office bearers. A third signatory may be designated at the Annual Meeting, with the agreement of the Membership.

12. The accounts of the Society shall be audited by an auditor appointed by the Executive Committee.

13. The end of the PEGG financial year shall be 31 December.

14. **ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

No item of the constitution shall be altered, rescinded or added to without the consent of at least two-thirds of those members present and entitled to vote at an Annual Meeting. Four weeks' notice of such proposed alterations, which must be explained in full, shall be given to the Membership.

15. **DISSOLUTION**

PEGG may be dissolved if at least two-thirds of the voting members present at a meeting convened for the purpose of considering such a matter are in favour of dissolution. If PEGG is dissolved, all debts must be settled. The members or office-bearers do not become liable for any of the obligations and liabilities of PEGG solely by virtue of their status as members or office-bearers of the organization. After any debts have been settled, if there is property or money left over it should not be paid or given to members of the organization but distributed to another non-profit organization that has similar objectives to PEGG. The membership will decide which organization should be the beneficiary.

This constitution was approved and accepted by members of PEGG at the Annual Meeting in Pietermaritzburg on 18 June 2005, and amended at the Annual Meeting in Magoebaskloof on 23 June 2006.



Co-chairperson



Co-chairperson

