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# ParkNEWS

TABLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK • NOVEMBER 2004



South African NATIONAL PARKS

## SA's newest World Heritage Site

The world has confirmed what Capetonians have always known—the Table Mountain National Park is worthy of World Heritage Status

In June this year the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) was declared to be: “of universal significance to all humanity” and was inscribed as a Natural World Heritage Site. The site is made up of eight separate areas that are considered to be representative samples of the entire region. The areas are managed by different authorities.

Kirstenbosch is the first botanical garden to be included in a Natural World Heritage Site.

Says Brett Myrdal, Park Manager for TMNP, “Cape Town now has two World Heritage Sites—TMNP, together with Kirstenbosch, and Robben Island. This gift of global acknowledgement by UNESCO in our 10th year of freedom symbolizes the unity of our natural and cultural heritage.”

### Why is the CFR unique?

The CFR is the smallest and richest of the six floral kingdoms that occur on earth. It is also the only kingdom confined to one continent and is home to an amazing 8 200 plant species—of which around 80% are fynbos.

Many of the plants that occur here are endemic—that means that they occur nowhere else on earth. It is this combined with the high species diversity and threats from issues like urbanization and alien species that makes the CFR the world's hottest floral hot-spot.

### What makes Cape Town's National Park so special?

Mountains of quartzitic sandstone plunging into wild oceans characterise the Table Mountain National Park which covers an area of around 24 500 hectares and 1 000 km<sup>2</sup> of marine and coastal area. The Park alone is home to around 2 282 species of fynbos plants some of which are endemic to specific areas of the Park. These fynbos ecosystems are home to many animals all of which depend on each other for survival.

This highlights the importance of conserving biodiversity within the Park. For if a plant or animal species that occurs only here should die out then the delicate web of life would be disturbed which could result in further extinctions—a consequence that doesn't bear thinking about.

It falls to the management of TMNP to protect this tiny yet significant area so that it is preserved both for its inherent value and for the benefit of generations to come.

### South Africa's World Heritage Sites

Other World Heritage Sites in SA are: Robben Island, the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, Sterkfontein – Cradle of Humankind, Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape and the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park.



The park is characterised by mountains of quartzitic sandstone plunging into wild oceans

The CFR World Heritage Site consists of:

- Table Mountain National Park and Kirstenbosch – SANParks and SANBI
- Cederberg Wilderness Area – CapeNature
- Groot Winterhoek Wilderness Area – CapeNature
- Boland Mountain Complex – CapeNature
- De Hoop Nature Reserve – CapeNature
- Boosmansbos Wilderness Area – CapeNature
- Swartberg Complex – CapeNature
- Baviaanskloof Protected Area – Eastern Cape Nature Conservation Board



## Citizens to advise the Park

At last we have a Table Mountain National Park Forum Steering Committee to help us build support for biodiversity conservation, serve as an advisory body to the Park on a policy level and as a link between the people of Cape Town and the Park.

The committee was formed through a public participation process involving the 100 stakeholder organisations that make up the Park Forum Plenary. The first two workshops helped establish the Terms of Reference for the committee as well as identify the 17 portfolios that comprise the committee.

It was also agreed that Park Management would recommend candidates who would be put to the vote at the third meeting.

The selection process placed equal emphasis on life-skills as on formal training because experience can be more relevant in certain arenas and at the final workshop held on 12 June, 16 of the

17 portfolios were filled by consensual agreement.

Says Fiona Kalk, Communications Manager for the Park, “Because of the diverse demographics of Cape Town and because we strive to be *A Park for All, Forever*, it was important to form a fully representative Steering Committee. We are excited that this has been achieved and look forward to working closely with this dynamic group.”

The first meeting between Park Management and the committee took place on Saturday 14 August and Theoniel Potgieter was nominated as Chairperson. The Vice-chair is Greg Moseley.

Going forward portfolio representatives will be involved in working groups that will be formed on a project basis.

As an independent body, the committee will have its own relationship with the press and will both support and challenge Park policy in the public arena.

View over False Bay from the Hoerikwaggo Trail. Pic by Don Pinnock, Getaway

A PARK FOR ALL, FOREVER • IPAKA YOLUNTU LONKE NGONAPHAKADE • 'n PARK VIR ALMAL, VIR ALTYD

# Meet your Steering Committee members

Meet your Steering Committee representatives—what is listed here simply scratches the surface of what they have to offer to biodiversity conservation and social upliftment.

**Biodiversity Management—Charmaine Klein**  
A botanist with two Masters degrees; current Head of the Environmental Education and Resources Unit at the University of the Western Cape (UWC); manager of the Unit's Indigenous Nursery and the Cape Flats Nature Reserve at the UWC. A member of the South African National Parks Board. The Board is the public advisory body to SANParks on a national level.

**Communications and Media**  
To be selected by the Steering Committee.

**Environmental Experience—Roland Jethro**  
Chairperson of Schools Environmental Education Programme (SEEP); involved in Cape Flats community development work for 30 years; involved in partnerships with organizations such as Red Cross, Cape Flats Nature, Alternatives to Violence and the Centre for Healing Memories.

**City of Cape Town**  
The City of Cape Town will be represented by Cllr. Themba Sikhutshwa, who is a member of the Executive Mayoral Committee and is responsible for Planning and Environment, and Cllr. Abre Hanekom. Cllr. Hanekom is Chairperson of the Sub-Council, sits on the Transport and Disciplinary committee and was Deputy Mayor of Oostenberg prior to the formation of the Unicity.

**Community Partnerships and Benefits (Cape Flats)—Chief Mqanqeni**  
Chief Mqanqeni plays a key role in the Khayelitsha Development Forum. He is also a teacher with an Honors Degree in Education. As a member of Contralesa he is a traditional leader with a good understanding of the tension that exists between traditional values and political mandate.

**Community Partnerships and Benefits (Cape Peninsula)—Zibuthe Mqkwazi**  
Chairperson of the Peninsula Youth Forum; Head of the Masiphumelele Development Forum and a member of the Far South Peninsula Community Development Forum. Zibuthe played a vital role in mediating between the residents of Masiphumelele and the Park in terms of balancing housing needs and the conservation of the Noordhoek/ Kommetjie Wetlands.

**Tourism—Sheryl Ozinsky**  
Managed Cape Town Tourism from 1998 – 2004 during which her name became synonymous with tourism in the Cape; instrumental in putting the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront on the map; marketing and fund raising for the Two Oceans Aquarium.

**Marine Park—Moenieba Isaacs**  
A researcher with the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies, University of Western Cape; areas of expertise include: Coastal Sustainable Livelihoods, policy formulation and implementation, transformation and redistribution of rights, community-based management and food security. She has a PhD as well as an Honours Degree in Human Ecology.

**Land Consolidation and Planning—Theoniel Potgieter (Chair)**  
Recently appointed Senior Council by the President; special interest in environmental and media law. It is due to the *pro deo* (for God) contribution of his services that Zone C (the mouth of the Silvermine River) was saved from suburban development.



Blum Kahn, Augustine Morkel, Charmaine Klein, Theoniel Potgieter, Zibuthe Mqkwazi, Moenieba Isaacs, Sheila Besten, Greg Moseley, Sheryl Ozinsky, Anwaaz Bent and Roland Jethro



Theoniel Potgieter, Moenieba Isaacs, Greg Moseley



Miranda Javu

**Cultural Heritage Resources Management—Beverly Crouts**  
Current Provincial Manager of the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) for Western Cape Province; a National Diploma in Architecture; a Public Administration Certificate from the University of Indiana; a member of a variety of organizations such as Stellenbosch Heritage Committee, Franschoek Trust, Franschoek Aesthetic Committee and Nelson Mandela House.

**Financial Sustainability—Blum Kahn**  
A Chartered Accountant and current CEO of Metropolitan Health Group, Blum has held numerous senior financial positions and is a member of the Table Mountain Fund. He is also experienced in community development and is chairperson of the Property Trust for the Trinity Methodist Church.

**Cape Flats Biodiversity—Sheila Besten**  
A National Diploma in Horticulture and involved with the Khayalitsha Education Resource and Information Centre (Keric)—an organization dedicated to educating communities as to the benefits of conservation and economic upliftment through environmental initiatives.

**Volunteer Management—Anwaaz Bent**  
A founder member and convener of the Hikers Network and the 360 Degrees Hiking and Mountaineering Club; Educational Convener of Wilderness Search and Rescue.

**Recreational Users—Greg Moseley (Vice-chair)**  
Chairman of the Cape Town Section and the national Deputy President of the Mountain Club of South

Africa; President of the UCT Mountain and Ski Club. Founder member of the Coordinating Council for Nature Conservation in the Cape (CCNCC).

**Traditional and Spiritual Users—Miranda Javu**  
A traditional healer and founder of the Kwa-Ntu Cultural Project—a project that aims to keep the Xhosa tradition alive. Through the Kwa-Ntu project Xhosa youth have the opportunity to retain a connection to their cultural roots by learning traditional dance, language and healing.

**Safety and Security—Augustine Morkel**  
Kirstenbosch Estate Manager, Peace Officer registered with SANParks, Marine and Coastal Management and the National Botanical Institute; Level 2 of the SAFCOL Fire Boss training, Disciplinary Procedures Course, First Aid Level 1; a qualified PADI rescue diver.

**Legal—Louis de Villiers**  
An attorney specialising in property law; a member of the Save the Mountain Campaign; founding member of the Environmental Law Association (ELA); Chairperson of the Peninsula Mountain Forum (PMF) Steering Committee; a member of the Regional Committee of WESSA-WC.

The interim contact details for the Steering Committee are:  
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Please note when contacting the committee that mail and messages will be picked up once a week.

## Conservation yields returns on investment

A recent study by UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB) shows that, since it was established in 1998, the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) has generated millions of rand and created hundreds of employment opportunities.

This was positive news for us because the future of conservation lies in our ability to manage the economic link between social development and conservation. Should we fail to nurture this link by ensuring that people are employed by and trained in conservation initiatives, we will have to depend on dwindling handouts.

Fortunately for us our core business of biodiversity conservation can be undertaken as a labour intensive programme—whether this be fire management, alien plant clearing, footpath construction or coastal protection. This has enabled us to move away from a reliance on donor funding to increasing our delivery on public works programmes. These programmes are structured in such a way that unemployed people are recruited for skills development training, contract work and SMME initiatives. And this results in socio-economic development.

To start with the GSB estimates that, over the last six financial years, TMNP has made a contribution of R377 million to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of which around R132 million has gone into the Western Cape province. (All values given in 2004 prices)

This includes both project and operational spend as well as the accompanying "multiplier effects". Multiplier effects refer to spend that results from wages paid and contracts awarded.

For example, a demand for equipment used to upgrade the paths can lead to increased production in those industries as well as their suppliers. As this process unfolds, each industry employs people and pays wages. Employees, in turn, spend their wages and cause a further ripple effect through the economy.

The Park's operational spend is expected to increase annually while project expenditure depends on future funding. Although taking committed funding into account, total future expenditure has the potential to add a further R367 million to the GDP over the next five years. This figure will increase if and when further funding is secured.

**Job Creation**  
Direct operational and project costs have created between 300 and 600 direct jobs over the same six-year period. Multiplier effects have resulted in indirect jobs being created. This means that, in order to meet the needs of the TMNP our suppliers and partners would have taken on extra staff. In turn these additional employees also have more money to spend.

Between 103 and 158 indirect jobs have been sustained over the last six years.

**Tourism Value**  
The above figures do not account for the positive effect the Park has on Cape Town's tourism economy.

It is not possible to put a figure on how much is spent in Cape Town as a direct result of the Park but it is difficult to imagine that our City would be as popular without its spectacular scenery, awesome beaches, unique biodiversity and numerous recreational opportunities.

Wesgro estimates that in 2002/2003 foreigners, attracted by the Cape's property market and business opportunities, invested around R550 million in the Western Cape tourist economy which in turn creates local employment and SMME opportunities.

As an organization we were delighted to discover that our commitment to conservation and our social projects have a positive economic spin-off.

# Hoerikwaggo — the poetry of an ancient mountain chain

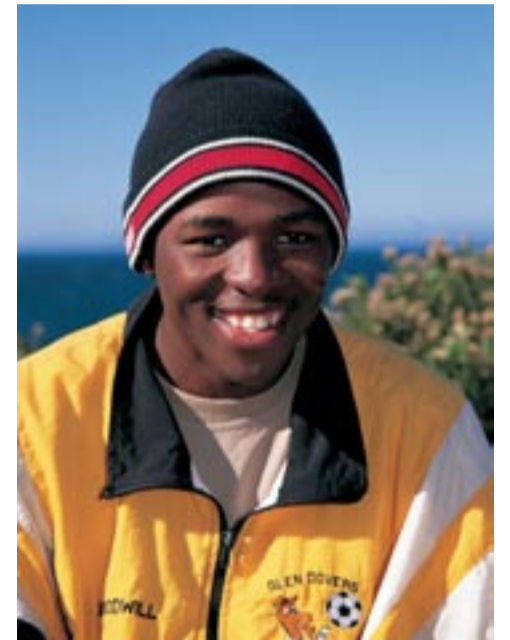
Table Mountain National Park is about to knock your socks off with a guided six-day/six-night hike that starts in the heart of the city and ends at Cape Point.

The Hoerikwaggo Trail will offer a variety of experiences—both natural and cultural—and is set to become one of the world's most popular hiking trails. Hoerikwaggo—"sea mountain"—is the Khoi Khoi name for Table Mountain and, like our ancestors, hikers will be able to overnight in the National Park and capture the wilderness spirit of years gone by. All accommodation will be in restored historic buildings and both camping and indoor accommodation will be available.

Beginning with a cultural route, hikers will wend their way through the streets of the city and discover aspects of our cosmopolitan harbour town that will deepen their understanding of our colourful past. Fittingly the first night is spent in the Platteklip Wash House (1888) where Malay women washed their master's clothing on the flat stones for centuries. From there the trail winds its way down the spine of the mountain chain offering challenging peaks, long beach treks and breathtaking scenery.

Due to the scale of building and path restoration and maintenance, the trail will open in two phases with the first and third legs opening in March 2005 and the central section becoming available later on. The cultural route is being developed in conjunction with various partners such as Cape Town Partnership, South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) and District Six Museum.

The booking details will be available in February next year. (Please note: subject to ongoing planning, certain aspects of the route may change.)



Above left: Day 4—Noordhoek Beach and the Atlantic Ocean.

Above right: Fezile Dyosi, the first TMNP staff member to walk the total length of the trail. (Pictures: Don Pinnock, Getaway).

Below: The footpath trainees celebrate the awarding of the first three contracts (Picture: Steve Lamb)

Left: The Platteklip Wash House (1888) (Picture: Marge Hemp, Getaway).



Table Mountain National Park

## Building Paths, Building People

The construction of the trail is only a part of the greater vision of the TMNP. Faced with the challenge of becoming a financially sustainable organisation, the Park has to reconcile its core business of conserving biodiversity with the pressures of increased tourism and the ever present threat of social inequity. Our network of paths combined with a public works grant of R35 million has provided part of the solution. The grant was given to the TMNP by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

The 4.2 million pairs of feet that walk the Park each year need to be managed and the best way to do this is through durable paths. Such paths soften the footprint of tourism but the catch is that they need to be built and maintained. So from the 700 kilometres of footpaths that criss-cross the Park we have identified 340 kilometres that will be upgraded and the rest will be restored to fynbos.

Those that have been selected for upgrades need to be high-quality and environmentally sensitive—to build such paths requires labour which means job creation.

The workforce has been sourced from the seven communities that neighbour the Park. Public works grants provide for onsite training of unemployed people who receive a training allowance. The aim is to provide skills training which gives workers the

opportunity to independently contract to the Park or to seek skilled employment elsewhere once their contracts are up. A selection of the workers will ultimately service the tourism needs of the trail.

To date 8.6km of paths have been constructed and 11 km have been trimmed. Hikers who make it up to the spine of the Table Mountain Chain have been delighted with the progress.



## The People

This three-year programme will train 350 people from the townships of Imizamo Yethu, Masiphumelele, Red Hill, Westlake, Loyolo, Hangberg and Ocean View in path building skills. Due to the requirements of public works grants the team must consist of 80% women, 20% youth and 2% disabled. Each worker will be trained and mentored in the art of footpath building on a task-based contracting system.

Already six months old, the footpath teams (known as Duiker, Olifant and Eland) celebrated their first milestone in the "Building of People". On Friday 26 August three footpath contractors were chosen from a pool of ten potential independent contractors—who then appointed their own teams of eleven persons each.

These teams will contract their much needed path building skills to the Park, upgrading paths earmarked by the Park following a carefully planned footpath upgrade prioritisation process.

Some of the trail guides for the Hoerikwaggo Trail have also been sourced from these communities. A group of 65 people—many of whom had never been out in nature before—went through a selection process including a 22 km hike, 10-days of outdoor experience training and interviews. Following this 15 were chosen to train for 3-months to become fully qualified Theta accredited trail guides.

# Cape Town's Marine Park

To help ensure that commercial and recreational use of our oceans is sustainable, the seas around the peninsula have been declared the Table Mountain National Park Marine Protected Area (MPA).

The Park now has an additional area of 1000 km<sup>2</sup> of sea and coastline to look after. This includes fighting the ever-increasing threat of poaching, making sure our unique marine biodiversity is protected, implementing anti-pollution measures and, of course, developing marine ecotourism and educational opportunities.

Given the extent of activity within the MPA this is a mammoth task but our Marine Team, lead by Paul Sieben, Area Manager: Marine and Robin Adams: Marine Operations Manager, is more than up to the job.

The marine team has moved into offices at the Signal School in Simon's Town. Furniture for the new offices has been provided by ABSA and Sanlam and the restoration of the buildings has been possible with the kind help of staff and volunteers. Park management would like to thank the private companies and concerned individuals that have made this move possible.

Says Sieben, "Our marine staff have previously been located in separate areas which has detracted from a sense of team work. Now that we all sit together planning operational activities is more effective and there is a sense of cohesion."

A big breakthrough is the acquisition of two semi-rigid boats that will enable previously land-bound staff to patrol the coastline for illegal activities, check permits and to offer assistance where needed.

Sieben continues, "Our team aims to run the most

efficient and effective MPA in South Africa. Our goal is to establish excellent working relationships with the fishing communities and stakeholder groups to ensure buy-in for marine conservation at all levels."

The TMNP team will work closely with a variety of organisations and authorities including Marine and Coastal Management (MCM), public prosecutors, local police, City Police, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), lifesaving clubs and marine volunteers.

Because the seas around Cape Town are the meeting place of the cold Benguela and warm Atlantic currents the diversity of marine life is vast. Our marine natural heritage is every bit as significant as our terrestrial areas and the TMNP is committed to fulfilling our duty as custodians of our marine component.

So what can you do to help protect our oceans? Robin has a few tips:

- If you use the sea for fishing, diving or motor sports familiarise yourself with the boundaries of the MPA and the restricted zones (see map on page 3 or [www.tmntp.co.za](http://www.tmntp.co.za) for details).
- If you fish or dive for crayfish make sure you are aware of the seasons as well as size restrictions and bag limits.
- Report suspicious behaviour—poaching is a huge threat to our marine resources. If you see suspicious behaviour call 786 5656 or after hours – 957 4700. We need to unite against crime.
- Be aware of your safety and surroundings—don't go alone into remote areas.
- Respect the ocean and all marine life, it is up to us to make sure that future generations are also able to enjoy this precious resource.



Smitswinkel Bay, exquisite seclusion in the southeastern area of the Park **Picture: Don Pinnock, Getaway**



Mr. Jean Felix-Paganon: Ambassador of France, Murphy Morobe: (then) Chairman of the SANParks Board, Martine Barker: Designer, John Yeld: Author and Brett Myrdal: TMNP Park Manager, enjoy the launch.

## Get to know your park

Authored by well-known environmental journalist John Yeld and designed by Martine Barker, an Assistant Editor at the Cape Argus, "Mountains in the Sea—An Interpretive Guide to the Table Mountain National Park" is a great new book funded by Fonds Francais Pour L' Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and commissioned by South African National Parks (SANParks). This indispensable guide is reader-friendly and fits easily into a rucksack.

Designed for both visitors and locals, the *Interpretive Guide* is rich in information about the wonderful, and occasionally weird, plants and creatures that occur in the Park, their habitats and how they fit into the unique ecology of the area.

It contains many suggestions on the recreational aspects of the Park, including maps and descriptions of 16 of the easiest and most popular walking routes on the mountain. There are also details of "must see" venues like the Table Mountain cable-

way, Boulders penguin colony and Cape Point, and information on topics like where to watch birds, fish, surf, dive, eat out or just have fun in the outdoors.

The *Interpretive Guide* also gives an account of the fascinating history of the Cape Peninsula and of how the Park came into being. It will literally take you by the hand and lead you through the magical world that is the Table Mountain National Park, inspiring you to get out and explore the many extraordinary facets of the Park.

The book is available at most major book stores nationwide and retails for between R95 and R98. Alternatively it is on sale at TMNP outlets for R70 and is sold to schools for R30.

The launch was celebrated on 11 June 2004 at the Old Mutual Conference Centre, Kirstenbosch—many thanks to Prof. Brian Huntley, Chairman of SANBI for generously donating the use of the hall.



A female klipspringer surveys her new domain. **Picture: Andrew Ingram, Cape Times**

## Klipspringers return home

In October nine klipspringers (*oreotragus oreotragus*) were reintroduced to Table Mountain. This delicate buck used to occur on Table Mountain and it is believed that they were shot to local extinction for their hides.

According to Brett Myrdal, Park Manager, "Reversing the human-caused local extinction of the klipspringer, an integral part of the fynbos ecosystem for thousands of years, is an act of reconciliation which will help us redefine our role within nature."

"Keeping this promise to the people of Cape Town is definitely one of the highpoints of our year."

In addition, a further 16 klipspringers were released in the mountains above Simon's Town and 13 grey rhebuck have new homes in the Cape of Good Hope section of the Park. TMNP staff will closely monitor their progress.

Continued Myrdal, "Heartfelt thanks to CapeNature who donated the animals which were sourced from reserves at Limietberg, Groot Winterhoek and Theewaterskloof.

It is this excellent spirit of cooperation that exists between the TMNP and CapeNature that made this historic occasion possible."

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