

**Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area
MONTHLY EMS REPORT**

MRCA ✘ **EMS**
Conservation

REPORT No.: 35

PERIOD: March - Apr 2010

DATE: 30 April 2010

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

1

- ✘ On the 31st of Mar, 7th and 21st Apr the Rietvlei CCT team assisted in clearing the pathway in the northern conservation area, alien clearing follow up throughout MRCA, Dutch Quaker duck removal at pond 4 of Royal Ascot and rehabilitation of the berm leading into wetland 1.

INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

2

- ✘ A follow-up clearing of invasive aliens was done on the 31st March. *Acacia saligna* (Port Jackson) and *Acacia cyclops* (Rooikraans) were cleared within the Northern and Southern Conservation Areas.
- ✘ Spraying of Kikuyu grass was also done during this time along the path within the northern conservation area.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

3

- ✘ No fire management has been required on site. Further monitoring of burn block 2 will be undertaken with vegetation regrowth.

REHABILITATION

4

- ✘ The berm leading into wetland 1 has been backfilled using sand from the track. Cuttings of *Carpobrotus edulis* have been planted within this area to stabilise the soil. A wooden plank still needs to be placed at the foot of the rehabilitated area to prevent the soil from slumping off into wetland.



Before



After

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

5

- ✘ **Owl box:** The Owl box within burn block 2 was re-erected on the 31st March.
- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation & open.
- ✘ **Rubbish bins:** CCT to supply additional bins when possible. No vandalism or other damage noted.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No vandalism or other damages noted.
- ✘ **Toilet:** The Real Landscapes toilet at detention pond 3 was serviced on the 22 April.
- ✘ **Boardwalk:** KR has ordered planks to replace the broken area of the boardwalk as well as extra to future maintenance.

- ✘ **Gold Circle railings:** During the control burn on the 9th March a section of the wooden railings burnt. These areas have been measured and KR has ordered the material needed.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** The path within the northern conservation area was cleared on the 31st of March and 21st of April. The Kikuyu grass running along the path has also been sprayed.



FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS

6

- ✘ The three Dutch Quakers present within pond 4 were removed on the 7th April and used as bait for Caracal traps within Tygerberg Nature Reserve.
- ✘ On the 19th April the cat trapping project commenced within the northern conservation area. One trap cage has been set out so far baited with pilchards. On the morning of the 22nd a cat was caught but when transferring the cat into the transport box it unfortunately escaped. A letter notifying residents of the domestic animals policy was distributed on 20 April.



- ✘ On the 21st April a bird count was executed and all sighting uploaded onto the Biodiversity Database.

BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

7

Vegetation:

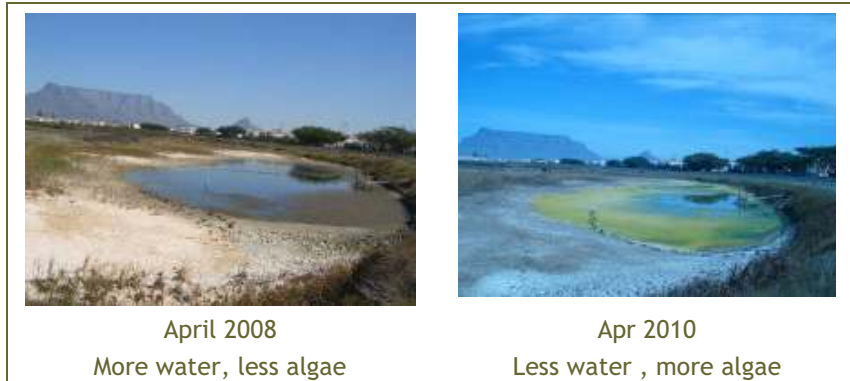
- ✘ Vegetation monitoring is on-going. *Haemanthus pubescens* spotted during the past month



- ✘ Fixed point photography has been taken of Burn Block 2 after the fire as a regrowth monitoring system.
- ✘ MRCA species identified by Clive Mc Dowell, CREW and Fiona Powrie have been uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database.

Water:

Fixed point photography of the wetlands and dam is carried out on a monthly basis.



April 2008

More water, less algae

Apr 2010

Less water, more algae

Measured in cm	Wetland 1 (Southern Conservation Area)				Wetland 2 (Northern Conservation Area)			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Jan		114	76	67		31	34	47.5
Feb		61	46	44.2		1	12	29
Mar		53	28	25		0	0	13
Apr		35	18	13		0	5	3
May		22	37			1	33	
Jun		59	69			51	62	
Jul	123	153	143		82	94	102	
Aug	150+	155	145		101	95.5	107	
Sep	150+	187	161.5		97	101.5	150+	
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5		83	91.5	150+	
Nov	150+	139.5	138		68	77	92	
Dec	135	108	91		52	58.5	69	

Water levels in both wetland 1 and 2 have dropped when compared to previous years.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH 8

- ✘ An Environmental Education programme outline highlighting purpose, target audience and time frame for environmental events which can be held within MRCA has been prepared (See appendix 1).
- ✘ Letterhead for EMC has been finalised.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS 9

- ✘ Nothing to report

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS 10

- Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks
- ✘ Continue with the mapping of individual Red Data species
 - ✘ Path maintenance ✓ Ongoing
 - ✘ Bird count
 - ✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring

✘	Completing Review 'Action Items' up		Behind schedule
✘	Explore species reintroduction in light of aims of ecosystem restoration	✓	Ongoing
✘	Draft 6 month APO	✓	Jan 2010
✘	Environmental Education	½	April/May 2010
✘	Clearing of woody alien plants	✓	April/May 2010
✘	Kikuyu grass	¼	Ongoing
✘	Replant owl box	✓	April 2010
✘	Eradicate Dutch Quakers	✓	April 2010
✘	Humane cat trapping project		Ongoing
✘	Final Grysbok capture and relocation operation.	¼	May/June 2010
✘	Measurement of inundated areas requiring boardwalks		July 2010
✘	Replacing of Gold Circle Wooden railings		2010