

# Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area MONTHLY EMS REPORT

REPORT No.: 38

PERIOD: July 2010

DATE: 30 July 2010

## CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT 1

- ✘ On the 16<sup>th</sup> July CoCT assisted with path maintenance within the northern conservation area.

## INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT 2

- ✘ Alien clearing within the northern & southern conservation areas will be undertaken during August as only 3 people were available to assist on the day of path maintenance.
- ✘ A survey of kikuyu infestations in the Northern area has been undertaken. Mapping to undertaken in August.
- ✘ Spraying of Kikuyu grass within the Northern and Southern areas to be undertaken in summer.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT 3

- ✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway (see comments under Biological Monitoring).




## REHABILITATION 4

- ✘ *Carpobrotus edulis* is growing successfully on the berm.



## INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT 5

- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation & open.
- ✘ **Detention ponds:** Requires maintenance. Details in table below.

1	2	3	4
Litter needs to be addressed	Nothing to report	Path inundated, clear storm water outlet & accumulated litter	Remove palm tree stem, open storm water canal at culvert & remove tyre
			

- ✘ **Rubbish bins:** CCT has received bins for MRCA, to be placed by NvW & KR. No other damage noted.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No vandalism or other damages noted. Locks to be installed by KR.
- ✘ **Toilet:** The Real Landscapes toilet at detention pond 3 was serviced on the 15 July.
- ✘ **Boardwalk:** Broken plank absent, needs to be replaced as it is a safety risk.
- ✘ **Gold Circle railings:** Wooden railings to replace the ones within burn block 2 ordered.

- ✘ **Path maintenance:** On the 16<sup>th</sup> July path maintenance undertaken in the northern conservation area. Dead kikuyu grass removed & replaced by *Carpobrotus* cuttings cleared during path maintenance.
- ✘ **Inundated areas:** Measured along north eastern and southern side along path within northern conservation area. Cut pine tree stumps can be obtained from Tygerberg Nature Reserve as stepping stones for inundated areas. See measurements below:

Wet area #	Measurements (Length / Depth)		Action Required
1	18.71m	14.5cm	Yes
2	6.45m	Not deep	No
3	5.16m	10.5cm	Yes
4	4.3m	9cm	Yes
5	3.23	Not deep	No

## FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS

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- ✘ The humane cat trapping programme was not executed during this reporting period due to the trap not being available.
- ✘ The latest avifauna sightings still to be uploaded onto the CCT Biodiversity Database when received from HvZ.
- ✘ Research on rodent poisons utilised at the stables not completed. This information will be utilised to inform decisions regarding the relocation of the owl box closer to the stables.

## BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

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### Vegetation:

- ✘ Some flowering species identified on 21 June within burn block 2 include (some shown in photos): *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (bottom left) / *Orchidaceae* sp / *Oxalis* CF *polyphylla* (bottom middle) / *Oxalis pes-caprae* / *Asteraceae* sp / *Watsonia* sp (not flowering)



### Water:

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



Wetland 1: July 2010



Wetland 2: July 2010

✘ Wetland 1 is lower in water volume by 33.57% than 2009 & Wetland 2 is 4.9% lower.

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	35.6		1	33	46.6
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	

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

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✘ The article on the Home of Hope environmental education article appeared in the Tygerburger during July, as well as Allan Liebenberg's article in the Table Talk (page 3) on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. (MRCA was called Royal Ascot Conservation Area).

**GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS**

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- ✘ Phostoxin degesch box found within southern conservation area. Packaging is not be left in the conservation area.
- ✘ Dogs spoor and faeces found within the northern conservation area.

**ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS**

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Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Continue with the mapping of individual Red Data species	✓	Red Data mapping behind schedule
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing		
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Environmental Education	✓	June 2010
✘ Final Grysbok capture and relocation operation	✓	May/ June 2010
✘ Kikuyu grass (survey in N area complete)	✓	Ongoing
✘ Cat trapping project	✘	Behind schedule
✘ Measurement of inundated areas requiring boardwalks	✓	July 2010
✘ Complete internal review		Aug/Sep
✘ Replacing of Gold Circle Wooden railings & boardwalk plank		Aug
✘ Post burn transect monitoring		Sep/Oct