

Milnerton Racecourse Nature Reserve
MONTHLY EMS REPORT

MRNR  **EMS**
 Conservation

REPORT No.: 54

PERIOD: Feb 2012

DATE: 24 Feb 2012

CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ 1st Feb - Cut down Rhus (CCT team & additional labour) ✘ 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd Feb - Firebreak (CCT team & additional labour) ✘ 22nd Feb - Grysbok Drive Count (CCT team & additional labour) 	
INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Follow-up clearing of woody alien species to be undertaken Mar/Apr. ✘ Follow-up spraying of Kikuyu was undertaken in the northern area on the 31st Jan by SG. ✘ The <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> is growing very well in the buffer zone preventing the constant invasion of kikuyu into the northern area from the grass track. Weeding was undertaken on the 15th Feb. 	
FIRE MANAGEMENT	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ The growth of the planted <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> in the firebreak along Stable Yard has improved since weeding of grasses etc was undertaken in Jan. ✘ Fire preparation for burn block 3 is now complete. On the 1st Feb all the Rhus was cut down, while on the 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd Feb the firebreak along Sandown Crescent and the grass track was completely cleared. A meter of vegetation was brush cut away from infrastructure (benches, signboards, boardwalk etc) on the 8th & 15th. ✘ Additional team funding: 6 of the 8 days have been utilised. The additional 2 days will be utilised during Aug/Sep for hand-pulling of weeds. 	
REHABILITATION	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ No rehabilitation undertaken during Feb. 	
INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Stormwater outlets: All outlets are clear of vegetation and open. ✘ Signage & Fences: Quotation for cat proofing of fencing pending. ✘ Path maintenance: No maintenance needed. ✘ General: Removal of graffiti on Stable Yard wall is outstanding. 	
FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ During Feb the monthly avifauna count was undertaken by Helm van Zijl in the northern and southern areas. Sightings for Dec/Jan were uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database by SG. Feb sightings still to be uploaded. ✘ Monthly sightings prevent species captured on the CoCT Biodiversity Database from becoming extinct. ✘ On the 22nd Feb a Grysbok Drive count was undertaken in the northern and southern area. In total 4 individuals were sighted, all male. One of them occurring in the Northern Area. 	

Vegetation:

✘ Vegetation: Some species observed during this month.



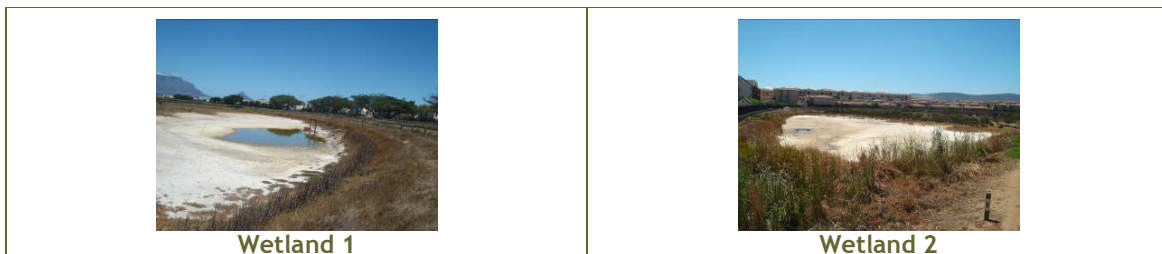
1) *Helichrysum patulum*, 2) *Struthiola striata*, 3) *Aspalathus* sp, 4) *Pelargonium myrrhifolium*, 5) *Geranium capitatum*, 6) *Falca harveyi*, 7) *Aspalathus hispida*, 8) *Athanasia dentata*, 9) *Stoebe plumosa*, 10) *Nidorella foetida*

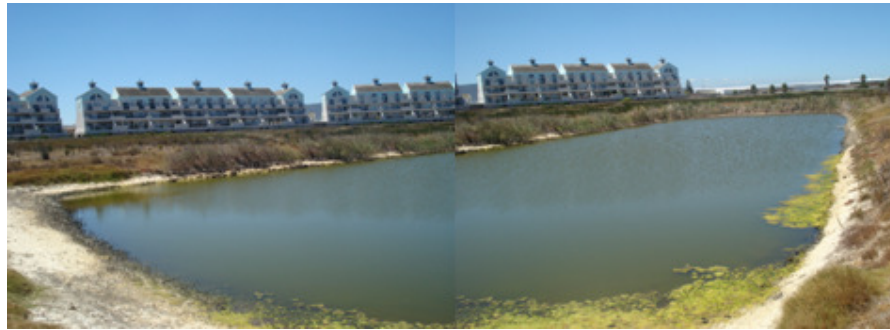
✘ Transect monitoring identification is now complete. In total the following number of species were counted along the 20m long transect lines (See Table). Note the cross's mark where monitoring was not undertaken. Species have been uploaded onto the biodiversity database. A huge thank you goes to Hedi Stummer who assisted with the identification of unknown species. Red data species identified were *Cliffortia hirta* (EN) & *Leucadendron levisanus* (CR).

Burn Block	Shrub Transect				Restio Transect				Grass Transect			
	Pre burn	1 st post burn	2 nd post burn	3 rd post burn	Pre burn	1 st post burn	2 nd post burn	3 rd post burn	Pre burn	1 st post burn	2 nd post burn	3 rd post burn
1	9sp	19sp	12sp	10sp	8sp	9sp	21sp	17sp	11sp	14sp	17sp	13sp
2	✘	✘	11sp		✘	✘	11sp		✘	✘	14sp	
3	13sp				15sp				8sp			

Water:

✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands on the 20 Feb 2012.





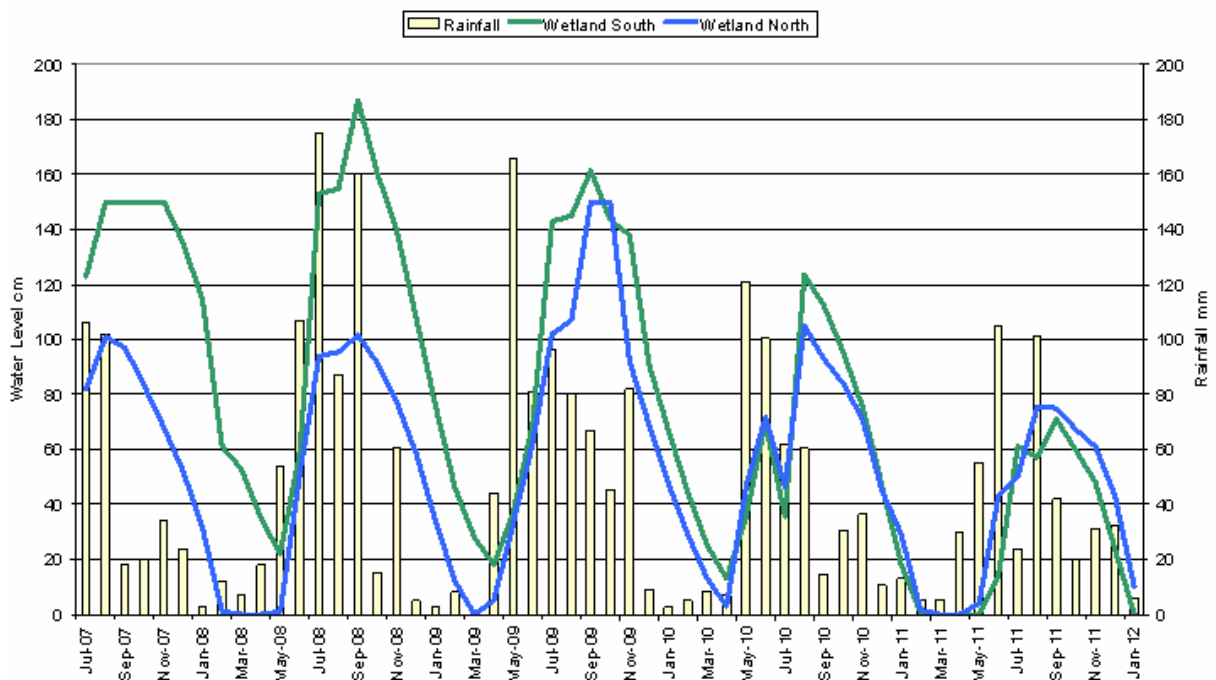
Dam

✘ Wetland 1 & 2 are still at its lowest level for this time period since monitoring commenced in 2007.

Measured in cm	Wetland 1 (Southern Area)						Wetland 2 (Northern Area)					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jan		114	76	67	18	0		31	34	47.5	29	10
Feb		61	46	44.2	0.5	0		1	12	29	1.5	0
Mar		53	28	25	0			0	0	13	0	
Apr		35	18	13	0			0	5	3	0	
May		22	37	35.6	0			1	33	46.6	4	
Jun		59	69	70	14			51	62	71.8	43	
Jul		123	153	143	35.6	61		82	94	102	46.6	50.2
Aug		150+	155	145	123.6	57		101	95.5	107	105	75.5
Sep		150+	187	161.5	112.5	71		97	101.5	150+	93	75
Oct		150+	160.5	143.5	95.5	59.5		83	91.5	150+	84	67.2
Nov		150+	139.5	138	75.5	48		68	77	92	71	61
Dec		135	108	91	46.75	24		52	58.5	69	45	43.5

✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk records 2.5mm for Feb (See Graph).

MRNR Rainfall & Wetland Water Levels



- ✘ 2nd MRNR annual newsletter was finalised and distributed on the 16th Feb. Newsletters were distributed to the Milnerton and Table View Library, Rietvlei & BBNR EE office and Biodiversity Management head office.
- ✘ Compiling of the new MRNR brochure is underway.
- ✘ Flyers to be distributed to Sandown Crescent, The Met & Stable Yard at the end of Feb informing the residents about the burn.
- ✘ An article highlighting the control burn appeared in the Table Talk on the 4th Feb (See article).



GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

- ✘ ZS informed the Trafalgar trustees of Sandown Crescent that the vegetation bordering onto the northern area needs to be cleared 1m away from the palisade fence. Trafalgar has placed their landscaping contractors in charge of removing this vegetation.
- ✘ The MRNR EMS is currently being updated.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing / litter cleanups	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ BB3 preparation	✓	Jan - Mar
✘ MRNR EMS update	½	Nov-Jan
✘ Flora transect monitoring survey	✓	Feb
✘ MRNR Annual Report/Newsletter finalised & distributed	✓	Feb
✘ Spray kikuyu	✓	Feb
✘ Grysbok drive count	✓	Feb
✘ Burn notification (letter drop/door to door)		Feb/Mar
✘ Ecological burn		7 th , 14 th , 28 th Mar
✘ Burn newspaper article		Mar
✘ Ad hoc post burn monitoring		Mar - Dec