

**Table Bay Nature Reserve - Milnerton Racecourse Section**  
**MONTHLY EMS REPORT**

**MR EMS**  
 Conservation

REPORT No.: 69

PERIOD: June 2013

DATE: 28 June 2013

**FIELD WORK / CONTRACTS**

1

**Reserve Management Activities**

- ✘ Flora monitoring - 5<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> June

**Contract work in Precincts**

- ✘ Refurbishment of Stable Yard fencing along the boundary of the northern area is ongoing.

**INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

2

- ✘ Alien clearing in the southern area will be undertaken in July.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT**

3

- ✘ On the 5<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> June Burn Block 3 (N Area) regrowth was monitored. (See 7. Biophysical Monitoring).

**REHABILITATION**

4

- ✘ Nothing to report.

**INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**

5

- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No issues noted.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** A site visit was undertaken on the 18<sup>th</sup> June to discuss inundated areas along the path of the northern area which need boardwalks.  
 Path maintenance not undertaken in June due to the unavailability of a team.

**FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS**

6

- ✘ On the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> June the monthly avifauna count was undertaken by Helm van Zijl in the northern and southern areas. SG & LL assisted on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. 16 species were sighted in the northern area and 20 in the southern area. The Cape Bulbul was a new sighting for the southern area. Sightings for June still has to be uploaded onto the CCT Biodiversity Database. SG & LL will undertake the survey in July.

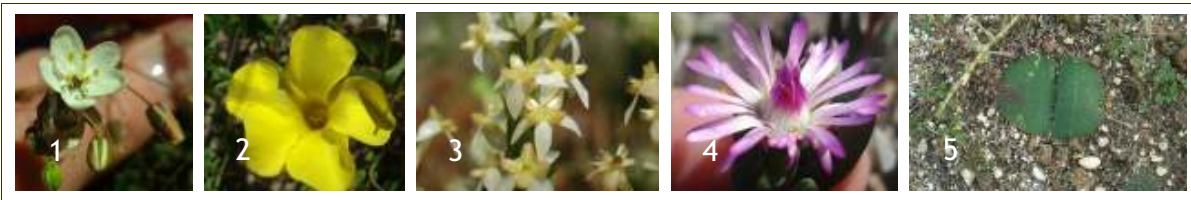


**BIOPHYSICAL MONITORING**

7

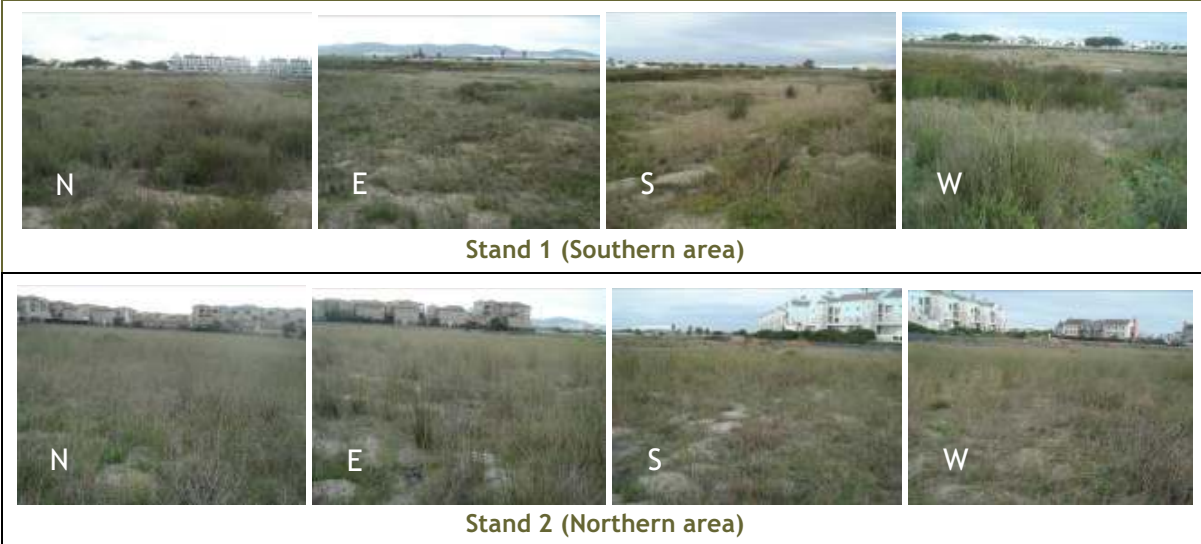
**Vegetation:**

- ✘ Some species observed during June.



1) *Pharnaceum lineare*, 2) *Oxalis luteola*, 3) *Struthiola striata*, 4) *Ruschia* sp, 5) Unidentified orchid

✘ Quarterly fixed point vegetation photography was undertaken on the 20<sup>th</sup> June.



**Water:**

✘ June fixed point photography of the wetlands.

WETLAND 1	27 June 2012		Mnth	Wetland 1 - Southern Area (cm)						
				2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
			Jan		114	76	67	18	0	23
			Feb		61	46	44.2	0.5	0	10
			Mar		53	28	25	0	0	0
			Apr		35	18	13	0	0	0
			May		22	37	35.6	0	0	0
			Jun		59	69	70	14	26	56
			Jul	123	153	143	35.6	61	96	
			Aug	150+	155	145	123.6	57	133	
			Sep	150+	187	161.5	112.5	71	127	
			Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	95.5	59.5	117	
			Nov	150+	139.5	138	75.5	48	86	
			Dec	135	108	91	46.75	24	70	
	20 June 2013									

WETLAND 2	26 June 2012		Mnth	Wetland 2 - Northern Area (cm)						
				2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
			Jan		31	34	47.5	29	10	11
			Feb		1	12	29	1.5	0	0
			Mar		0	0	13	0	0	0
			Apr		0	5	3	0	9	0
			May		1	33	46.6	4	31.6	4.3
			Jun		51	62	71.8	43	61	67.5
			Jul	82	94	102	46.6	50.2	91	
			Aug	101	95.5	107	105	75.5	100	
			Sep	97	101.5	150+	93	75	96.5	
			Oct	83	91.5	150+	84	67.2	94.5	
			Nov	68	77	92	71	61	73	
			Dec	52	58.5	69	45	43.5	61	
	20 June 2013									

<b>DAM</b>	27 June 2012		<b>Mnth</b>	<b>Rainfall Data (mm)</b>						
	20 June 2013			<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
			Jan	0	3	3	2.5	13	5.75	7.5
			Feb	28	12	8	5	5.5	2.5	41
			Mar	20	7	0	8.5	5.5	18	26.5
			Apr	65	18	44	7	30	78	48.5
			May	61.5	54	166	121	47	61	41.5
			Jun	111	107	81	100.5	55	81.5	148
			Jul	106	175	96.5	62	70	111.5	
			Aug	102	87	80	60.5	101	100	
			Sep	18	160	67	14.5	42	60	
			Oct	20	15	45.5	30.5	20	36	
			Nov	34	60.5	82	36.5	31	15.5	
			Dec	24	5	9	10.5	32.5	3	

- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk records 148mm from the 1<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June.
- ✘ LL undertook her wetland delineation field work on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June. The study site is one of the ephemeral natural wetlands in the southern area. Soil samples and vegetation transects were monitored and data collected.
- ✘ On the 11th June Frances Litten a GR10 learner from Elkanah House visited the Reserve to take cuttings of flowering species for a Herbarium project. She obtained a permit from KR for the collections. She will be visiting the Reserve throughout the year as 50 specimens need to be collected.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

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- ✘ The MRNR school holiday programme was undertaken on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June at Rietvlei due to the rainy weather. An article appeared in the Tale Talk on the 19 June advertising the event (See attachment at the end of this report). The Wetland Wildlife programme on the 25<sup>th</sup> attracted approximately 18 children who enjoyed a food web scavenger hunt and other activities highlighting wetland food chains and how every species relies on each other. The 26<sup>th</sup> the Racing for Wetlands programme attracted a total of 16 children who enjoyed nature bingo, run races and bio-billionaire.



#### GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

9

- ✘ On the 31<sup>st</sup> May the APO for July 2013 - June 2014 was discussed during the monthly EMC meeting. The APO has been finalized and distributed to the EMC with the minutes of the meeting.
- ✘ On the 18<sup>th</sup> June a site visit was undertaken by KR, SG & WJ to discuss inundated areas along the northern area path which needs boardwalks. Two inundated areas were identified, measuring 35.5m and 85.1m respectively. It was also felt that the boardwalk would be stable even though in areas the uprights would not be able to be dug in very deep due to the underlying koffie klip. The Sub-council has included the project in their budget and KR will manage the project at implementation stage.
- ✘ SG undertook a site visit with RS from Gold Circle on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. The northern and southern areas were visited which provided RS with more insight as to why the Reserve is so important. The kikuyu grass edge effect along Sandown Crescent and La Camargue were discussed. These areas will be cut in July and sprayed with herbicide during summer when conditions are favourable.

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

10

Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing / litter cleanups	✓	Ongoing
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts		
✘ Updating of flora species list		
✘ APO planning for 2013/14	✓	May/Jun
✘ School holiday programme	✓	25,26 Jun
✘ Fauna management plan		Jul
✘ Finalise new MRNR brochure		Jul
✘ Update maps		Aug
✘ Burn Block 3 transect monitoring		Sep
✘ Spring walk		Sep
✘ Handpulling / weeding		Sep-Nov
✘ Annual report		Dec
✘ Grysbok introduction		2013
✘ Road signage		2013
✘ Investigation of Bird hide possibilities		2013

ARTICLE ADVERTISING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME:

## Environmental holiday programme for children

The City of Cape Town's Table Bay and Blaauwberg Nature Reserves will host a holiday programme from Monday June 24 to Friday July 5.

The holiday programme will provide a space where children can learn about Cape Town's unique and irreplaceable biodiversity through fun and educational activities.

The first week will be spent at the Table Bay Nature Reserve where children will learn about the sustainable harvesting of fish, what frogs are all about, as well as enjoying a visit to the Milnerton Racecourse to learn more about the plants and animals found there.

The Blaauwberg Nature Reserve will be visited during the second week.

Here children will learn about the marine environment as well as a few secrets about indigenous plants in the area.

The programme will end with a short, hands-on experience where children will take part in the removal of invasive plants behind Blaauwberg Hill.

A short hike to the top of the hill will complete the day and children will be rewarded with lovely views of Cape Town, especially the iconic Table Mountain and Robben Island – both of which are World Heritage Sites.

All activities are weather-

dependent and will start at 9am, ending at approximately 1pm daily, except on Tuesday and Wednesday June 25 and 26, where events will start at 10am and end at noon.

The programme is aimed at children between the ages of eight and 12 years. Due to limited space, bookings should be made in advance. Bookings close on Friday June 21.

For more information contact the Table Bay Nature Reserve on 021 4440315 or [TableBay.NatureReserve@capetown.gov.za](mailto:TableBay.NatureReserve@capetown.gov.za) or the Blaauwberg Nature Reserve on 021 444 7318/19/20 or [Blaauwberg.NatureReserve@capetown.gov.za](mailto:Blaauwberg.NatureReserve@capetown.gov.za)