

## Contact details

If you would like more information on the project, or are interested in becoming involved, please contact:

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Website: [www.capetown.gov.za/environment](http://www.capetown.gov.za/environment)

Friends of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area  
Tel: 021 554 2221 or 082 651 5437  
Fax: 021 554 2034  
E-mail: [Lraubenh@mweb.co.za](mailto:Lraubenh@mweb.co.za)

Please visit the BCA website on [www.bca.org.za](http://www.bca.org.za)  
or [www.capetown.gov.za/environment](http://www.capetown.gov.za/environment)

Afrikaans and Xhosa text versions available electronically

## What is being done to protect the area?

The City of Cape Town, in partnership with others, is working to address the threats facing the area and to take the BCA forward to full realisation of its vision.

963ha of the Primary Conservation Zone has been formally proclaimed as a Nature Reserve, and an active land consolidation process is underway to secure the remaining land, identified as the Primary Conservation Zone, into the BCA.

Biological corridors, linking the BCA and surrounding conservation areas, have been identified and work is being undertaken to secure these in perpetuity.

A Reserve Manager and staff have been appointed to manage the BCA, and together with environmental law enforcement and civil society groups, e.g. the Friends of BCA, are actively managing the on-the-ground threats to the BCA.

Capital budget implementation projects have been undertaken – these both add to the tourism and recreation potential of the BCA, as well as the conservation effort.

Strategic and strong partnerships have laid the foundation for successful establishment of the BCA as a conservation area of international significance. Working with the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, Western Cape region, donor funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund was secured, and this catalysed a number of programmes and initiatives, creating a strong basis from which the further establishment of the BCA has progressed. A co-operative partnership between the Friends of BCA and 4x4 clubs helped stop inappropriate off-road vehicle usage and led to the rehabilitation of significantly degraded areas.

Active engagement with planning processes and development applications is made to ensure that potential negative impacts on the BCA are minimised and positive benefits optimised.

Exciting plans have been made for the future conservation and establishment of the BCA.

## What can you do?

- Appreciate that this area is important on a global scale and that we are fortunate to have such amazing and special resources in Cape Town.
- Enjoy yourself in this wonderful environment, but do not participate in inappropriate activities that cause harm to it.
- Conduct your activities in a manner that is in keeping with being in a Nature Reserve - for example do not light fires, trample natural vegetation, or play loud music.
- Respect the restrictions placed on activities. They are not there to spoil your fun, but to protect the environment so that your children, and children's children, will be able to enjoy and benefit from the area.
- Utilise the area, in an appropriate manner, for example for school outings and research projects.
- Look after the investment made in infrastructure and report any vandalism to the authorities: Big Bay Law Enforcements, tel: 021 554 1306 or 021 554 3947 or BCA Biodiversity Management, tel/ fax: 021 554 0957 or [bca@capetown.gov.za](mailto:bca@capetown.gov.za).
- Provide your positive support for the BCA by actively participating in public processes of relevance.
- Join the Friends of the Blaauwberg Conservation Area, tel: 021 554 2221 or 082 651 5437 - a group of ordinary and concerned citizens whose mission it is to contribute to seeing that the area is protected and utilised to the benefit of the general public now and for the future. Actively participate in activities organised.



[www.bca.org.za](http://www.bca.org.za)

**Vision:** To conserve, protect and enhance the unique natural, historical and cultural resources of this area for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.



 CapeNature



**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND**



**cape west coast BIOSPHERE**



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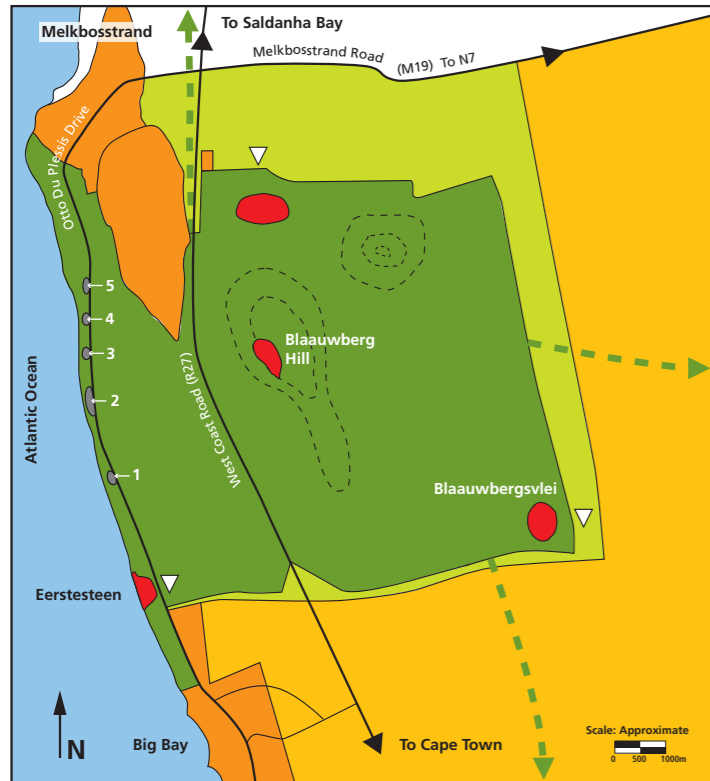
CITY OF CAPE TOWN | ISIXEKO SASEKAPA | STAD KAAPSTAD

THIS CITY WORKS FOR YOU

## Location & Concept

The Blaauwberg Conservation Area (BCA) is situated on the West Coast, approximately 25km from the city centre of Cape Town. The design of the BCA allows for a Primary Conservation Zone, approximately 2000ha in extent and containing the most sensitive and important resources, with an adjacent Conservation Interface Zone, which acts as a buffer to urban pressures. This thus provides for a multi-purpose conservation area comprising undisturbed conservation areas as well as visitor, educational, recreational and related facilities.

### BCA Framework Plan



## Why so special?

### Ecological importance

- BCA is located within the Cape Floral Kingdom – a global biodiversity hotspot and World Heritage Site.
- BCA is a significant project of the City's Biodiversity Strategy and a key node of the City's Biodiversity Network.
- It represents one of the most intact and diverse lowland habitats near Cape Town, and marks the beginning of the West Coast flora
- It comprises three very threatened lowland vegetation types: Cape Flats Dune Strandveld, Swartland Shale Renosterveld and Cape Flats Sand Fynbos. Three transitional vegetation types (ecotones) also occur. The combination of these vegetation types is seldom found in a single conservation area.
- Swartland Shale Renosterveld is one of the most highly threatened vegetation types in SA: only approximately 9% remains, of which only about 0.6% of its original extent is formally conserved. Only half of the original Cape Flats Dune Strandveld vegetation and less than 14% of Cape Flats Sand Fynbos remain. The latter vegetation type is confined to the boundaries of the City of Cape Town and only 0.1% is formally conserved.
- Over 564 plant species, of which 44 are considered to be threatened with extinction, have been identified to date in the BCA. This is more than a third of the total number of plant species found in the British Isles.
- 42 species of mammal, 28 species of reptile, 5 amphibian species, and 30 species of butterfly are anticipated to occur here. Historically many larger mammals existed and several of these species are planned to be re-introduced.
- 3 red data mammal species and 2 red data reptiles species have been recorded.
- The recently described Blaauwberg Dwarf Burrowing Skink (*Scelotes montispectus*) is only known from 6 individuals, 3 of which were found within the BCA.
- 140 bird species have been recorded, including the threatened African Black Oystercatcher.
- 8 red data bird species are recorded.

### Cultural / historical importance

The Blaauwberg Conservation Area presents a rich cultural and historical heritage of various periods in history, from the later Stone Age to present, including

- Khoisan middens.
- Early maritime history.
- Site of the Battle of Blaauwberg (1806), which marked the end of Dutch rule at the Cape.
- World War II structures.



## Opportunities

### Economic

The rich biodiversity and cultural-historical aspects, combined with the scenic splendour and iconic view of Table Mountain, Robben Island and Table Bay, set the scene for a tourist destination of international significance. With appropriate conservation and sustainable development of the area, the economic spin-offs for the region will be great.

### Education

The BCA's unique features make it a valuable environmental education, training and development resource for all sectors of the community. It provides for an excellent outdoor classroom facility, and for programme development from school-based curricula through to continuing adult education programmes.

### Recreation

The varied landscapes, from the coast to Blaauwberg Hill and inland, provide opportunities for a multitude of recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, birdwatching and picnicking. Eerstestein is a formalised coastal recreation amenity that provides facilities for braaiing and picnicking.



## Threats

Being situated on the axis of urban growth, the BCA is under significant threat from the impacts of urbanisation, including inappropriate development on its periphery and bulk services infrastructure. Resource depletion and loss of habitat, especially critical biodiversity corridor linkages within the context of the Biodiversity Network, are significant threats.

Alien invasive vegetation is also a great threat, not only because of the potential loss of biodiversity, but also because it poses a fire hazard, and can create a refuge for illegal informal settlers.

Although decreasing, due to increased conservation management of the BCA, the threat of vandalism to signage and infrastructure remains a concern, as does inappropriate off-road vehicle use. The latter damages vegetation, causes erosion and impacts on archaeological sites.

