



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Biodiversity Management Progress Report

July 2024 – June 2025



Cape Grassbird (Sphenoeacus afer)

SPATIAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Julia Wood

Manager

T: +27 21 444 1761 E: Julia.Wood@capetown.gov.za

Making progress possible. Together.

Table of Contents

Page

Table of Contents	2
1. Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	4
1.1 Acronyms used throughout this report	4
1.2 Acronyms of the CCT Nature Reserves	5
2. Executive Summary	6
2.1 Conserving biodiversity: our natural capital.....	6
2.2 Notable Highlights.....	7
2.3 International Highlights	10
3.4 Notable Innovations	11
3.5 Notable Challenges	11
3. Strategy, Policy, Legislation and Plans	12
3.1 Biodiversity Network (BioNet)	12
3.2 Biodiversity Spatial Plan	13
3.4 Protected Area Management Plans and Invasive Species Control Plans	14
4. Green Jobs	15
4.1 Job Creation.....	15
5. Conservation Services	17
5.1 Conserved land in Cape Town	17
5.2 Protected Area Expansion.....	17
5.3 Fauna	21
5.2 Flora	23
5.4 Mayoral Priority Programme: Recreational Vleis.....	25
5.5 Rivers and Wetlands	26
5.5 Restoration.....	28
5.6 Ecological Research.....	30
6. Invasive Species	31
6.1 Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management	31
6.2 Aquatic Invasive Plant Management	31
6.3 Biocontrol	32
6.4 Invasive Animal Management	33
6.5 Early Detection and Rapid Response.....	34
7. Fire.....	35
7.1 Wildfire	35
7.2 Ecological Burns	35
7.3 Brush Pile Burning.....	37
8. Nature Reserves	38
8.1 Heritage Management Framework for the Nature Reserves	38
8.2 Monitoring Framework and Plans	38
8.3 METT Assessments	38
8.4 Reserve Awards (November 2024)	38

9. Urban Baboon Programme	39
9.1 Cape Peninsula Troops covered by the Urban Baboon Programme	39
9.2 Gordon's Bay Baboons	39
10. People and Conservation.....	40
10.1 Environmental Education, Awareness and Events	40
10.2 Media	40
10.3 Protected Area Advisory Committees	40
10.4 Visitors and revenue	41
10.5 Volunteers and Sponsored Programmes	42
10.6 Skills Development	43
11. Staff and Visitor Safety, and Security	44
11.1 General Security	44
11.2 Illegal land invasion	44
12. Administration.....	46
12.1 Budget.....	46
12.2 Key Capital Investment Projects	46
12.1 Staff.....	47
13. Annexures	49
Annexure A: Nature reserves each illustrating at least one major highlight and one major challenge from 2024/2025.....	49
Annexure B: Media releases, articles and queries	54

1. Abbreviations and Acronyms

1.1 Acronyms used throughout this report

BioNet	Biodiversity Network, the systematic biodiversity plan for Cape Town
BMB	Biodiversity Management Branch
CapeNature	Western Cape provincial conservation authority
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area
CCT	City of Cape Town, also referred to as City
CIP	Metro Southeast (SE) Strandveld Conservation Implementation Plan
CPUT	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
CR	Critically Endangered
CSU	Conservation Services Unit, Biodiversity Management Branch
CSRM	Catchment, Stormwater and River Management
DCCP	Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership
DEA&DP	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (Western Cape)
DD-T	Data Deficient - Taxonomically Problematic
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (national)
DSDF	District Spatial Development Framework
DSS	Decision Support System (analytical tool for water quality monitoring)
EDRR	Early Detection and Rapid Response
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMD	Environmental Management Department
EN	Endangered
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
FTE	Full Time Equivalents (jobs)
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IRMP	Integrated Reserve Management Plans
ISU	Invasive Species Unit, Biodiversity Management Branch
LBSAP	Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
LC	Least Concern
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, METT-SA03 used in this report
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPP	Mayoral Priority Programme
MSDF	Municipal Spatial Development Framework
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998
NEMBA	National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, Act No. 10 of 2004
NEMPAA	National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, Act No. 57 of 2003
NR	Nature Reserve
NWM6	National Wetland Map 6
P&C	People and Conservation
PAAC	Protected Area Advisory Committee
PAMA	Protected Area Management Agreement
PAMP	Protected Area Management Plan
PPM	Project Portfolio Management
PSHB	Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANParks	South African National Parks, the national protected area authority
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SMF	Strategic Management Framework
SLA	Service Level Agreement
S&P	Systems and Procedure
SPCA	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; both National (NSPCA) and local Cape of Good Hope (CGHSPCA)
SSB	Water & Sanitation: Scientific Services Branch
TCP	Tenders, Contracts and Projects Unit, Biodiversity Management Branch
TMF	Table Mountain Fund
TMNP	Table Mountain National Park, managed by SANParks
UBP	Urban Baboon Programme
WULA	Water Use Licence Application
WWF-SA	World Wide Fund for Nature, South Africa

1.2 Acronyms of the CCT Nature Reserves

ANR	Ariesfontein Nature Reserve
BBNR	Blaauwberg Nature Reserve
BFNR	Bothasig Fynbos Nature Reserve
BONR	Botterblom Nature Reserve
BNR	Bracken Nature Reserve
DHNR	Dassenberg Hills Nature Reserve
DNR	Durbanville Nature Reserve
ESNR	Edith Stephens Nature Reserve
FBNR	False Bay Nature Reserve
HANR	Haasendal Nature Reserve
HFNR	Harmony Flats Nature Reserve
HFNR: MCS	Morkel's Cottage Section
HNR	Helderberg Nature Reserve
JCA	Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area
MDNR	Macassar Dunes Nature Reserve
PNR	Paardevlei Nature Reserve
SCNR	Schaarpenberg Nature Reserve
SNR	Steenbras Nature Reserve
SWNR	Symphony Way Nature Reserve
TBNR	Table Bay Nature Reserve
TNR	Tygerberg Nature Reserve
UWNR	Uitkamp Wetland Nature Reserve
VSNR	Van Schoorsdrif Nature Reserve
WANR	Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve
WCC	Westlake Conservation Centre
WNR	Wolfgat Nature Reserve
WNR: SAS	WNR: Strandfontein Aquifer Section
ZNR	Zandvlei Nature Reserve

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Conserving biodiversity: our natural capital

The key legislation that guides the management and protection of biodiversity in Cape Town is the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and its subsidiaries the Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 (NEMBA) and the Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 (NEMPAA). The management of wetlands is chiefly administered through the National Water Act 36 of 1998. This legislation provides the City of Cape Town (CCT or City) with its mandate both in terms of being a landowner and more generally in terms of biodiversity protection and invasive species control. The City abides by this legislative framework and has developed strategies, policies, and plans to ensure the protection, conservation, and wise use of priority terrestrial biodiversity, rivers, estuaries and wetlands.

The **Integrated Development Plan** (IDP) and **Municipal Spatial Development Framework** (MSDF) recognise Cape Town's critical environmental assets, its globally important biodiversity, and the significance of its 307 km coastline. The city is indeed exceptionally rich in species and is recognised as the most biodiverse city in the world (Figure 1). The City's **Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** (LBSAP) and the **Environmental Strategy**

recognise the significance of, and commit the City to conserving, Cape Town's unique biodiversity for both present and future generations (Figure 1).

The Environmental Management Department's (EMD's) Biodiversity Management Branch (BMB) is responsible for the planning and implementation of the LBSAP. This incorporates conservation planning, protected area expansion, conservation services, flora and fauna species identification and protection, urban wildlife conflict, people and conservation (nature conservation tourism, recreation, community involvement and education), nature reserve management, job creation, skills development, invasive species control, and restoration.

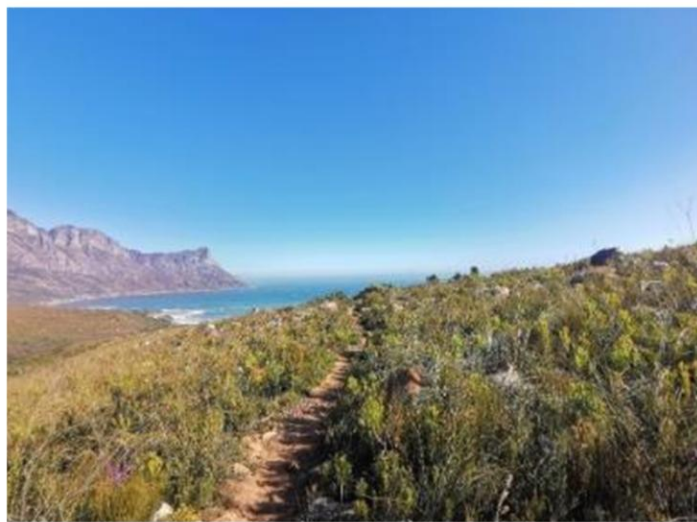


Figure 1: Species rich Kogelberg Sandstone Fynbos at Steenbras Nature Reserve.

The Cape Town Biodiversity Network (BioNet) includes all priority natural and semi-natural terrestrial sites, wetlands and rivers, and indicates which parcels of land are classified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and need to be conserved to meet National Biodiversity Targets. The BioNet and Management Guidelines were consolidated into the **Bioregional Plan**, which was approved as policy by the City Council in July 2015. The updated plan called the **Cape Town Biodiversity Spatial Plan** is due to be approved in July 2025 (see section 3.2). The Biodiversity targets are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Biodiversity reporting targets as per the IDP.

INDICATOR	BASELINE TARGET 2020/21	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
9.A Percentage of biodiversity priority areas protected (Env 4.21)	65%	65,40%	65,50%	65,80%
9.B Percentage of biodiversity priority areas within the municipality (Env 4.11)	34.18%	34.18%	34.18%	34.18%

2.2 Notable Highlights¹

- 1) Secured 2 new nature reserves: **Schapenberg** and **Paardevlei**, increasing the number of City nature reserves to 24.
- 2) Completed **wetland report** under the banner of the Ramsar Wetland City (Figure 2).

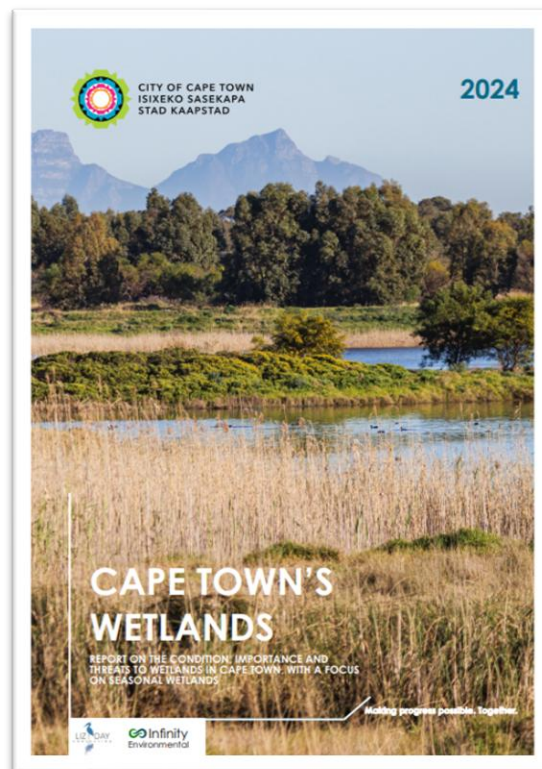


Figure 2: Report on Cape Town's wetlands, which contributes to the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation Commitments.

- 3) Work continued on the **Protected Area Management Plans** (PAMPs) for the proclaimed reserves.
- 4) **Dredging of Zeekoevlei** commenced.
- 5) Work continued on the **construction** of the new education centre, offices and accommodation at **Bracken Nature Reserve** and construction started at **Harmony Flats Nature Reserve**.
- 6) **Adequate enclosure for hippo** in terms of an electric fence was successfully completed, a fundamental action in terms of the CapeNature permit (Figure 3).

¹ See Annexure A for additional highlights per reserve



Figure 3: Hippo in Rondevlei section of the False Bay Nature Reserve.

7) **Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme (including River Wardens)**

Since its inception in 2018, 334 participants have benefited from this programme with a total of 165 exiting the programme into mainstream/long-term employment opportunities or to further their studies and/or venturing into entrepreneurship.

For 2024/25:

- Invasive Species Unit and People & Conservation Skills Development resulted in 50 participants with 23 progressing to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship with 5 obtaining permanent employment with the City.
- River Warden Skills Development resulted in 51 participants with 6 progressing to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship (Figure 4).

8) **Carbon Smart Skills Development Programme** – Since 2023, 67 participants of which 7 progressed to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship.

For 2024/25:

- Carbon Smart Skills Development Programme resulted in 34 participants with 4 progressing to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship.



Figure 4: River Wardens clearing parrot's feather.

- 9) Of the 36 vacancies in the BMB, 12 were filled directly by EPWP/skills development candidates and further 12 promotions were from previous EPWP/ skills development candidates. Therefore, 67% of the vacancies were filled by candidates who had participated at some stage in a skills development programme in BMB.
- 10) Awards and Recognition:
Cliff Dorse received a bronze City award for Openness and transparency: Professional teams/roles that builds and serves the City internally
SPE Awards (2025)
- Positive contribution to customer service (Silver): Jacques Kuyler
 - Administrative Assistant of the Year (Bronze): Nicole Liebenberg
 - Leadership Award (Bronze): Chandre Rhoda
- EPWP Awards**
 2nd Runner up: Most Innovative Project (Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme)
 Benchmark project of the Year: Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme
 Certificate of Compliance: Carbon Smart Programme
- 11) The nature reserve manned gates, events and access points recorded **680 106 visitors**. P&C initiatives and programmes reached more than 20 136 learners from 184 schools, along with 878 teachers and 19 096 adults — contributing to **40 707 person-days of environmental learning**.
- 12) Volunteers recorded on the nature reserve numbered **139 individuals (2 465 person days; approximate value = R502 424) and Sponsored Programmes, 82 individuals (2 028 person days; approximate value = R1 513 083)**.
- 13) In the last financial year, new populations of species of special concern were discovered: **17 flora species** (Figure 5) and **3 fauna species** (Buff-spotted Flufftail (*Sarothrura elegans*), Subantarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis*) and Cape Galaxia (*Galaxia cf. zebratus*) recorded in the Steenbras Upper Catchment.



Figure 5: Presumed extinct in Cape Town for >40 years and in October 2024 found in seasonal wetland, Acacia Park. The site is unfortunately not protected and faces various threats. Conservation staff are working with the landowner and assessing possible re-introduction sites.

14) Re-introduction of Blue Water Lilies (*Nymphaea nouchali*) to FBNR: Rondevlei Section on 7 November 2024 (Figure 6)



Figure 6: Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lansdowne and Earthshot representative with staff planting water lily as part of the Earthshot week.

2.3 International Highlights

- 1) Cape Town became a **member of IUCN** in November 2024, the only subnational in the South and East Region of Africa and one of only two subnational governments in Africa. This recognises Cape Town as a global conservation player and places Cape Town in a unique position to be profiled on the world stage.
- 2) The City of Cape Town is one of 43 cities globally accredited as a **Ramsar Wetland City** (only 4 cities in Africa). The inaugural meeting of the CCT Ramsar Wetland City Steering Committee took place on 22 May 2024. The committee includes representatives of 12 organisations and 8 different line functions within the CCT municipality.
- 3) City of Cape Town continued international engagement as a **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Generation Restoration Role Model City**. Cape Town was selected by the UNEP and ICLEI Africa as the venue host for the Generation Restoration in-person capacity building workshop, 25-28 March 2025, at the Smart Living Education Centre, Green Point Park. This landmark gathering brought together 60 technical subnational government representatives and urban experts from 23 cities across 18 countries to advance urban ecosystem restoration using nature-based solutions (Figure 7).



Figure 7: UNEP Generation Restoration Cities workshop participants visiting the Blaauwberg Sand Fynbos Restoration Project in Blaauwberg Nature Reserve on 26 March 2025.

3.4 Notable Innovations

Use of drone technology

The use of drone thermal imagery during routine conservation operations has proven very successful. Drone footage was used to locate hippos (Figure 8).

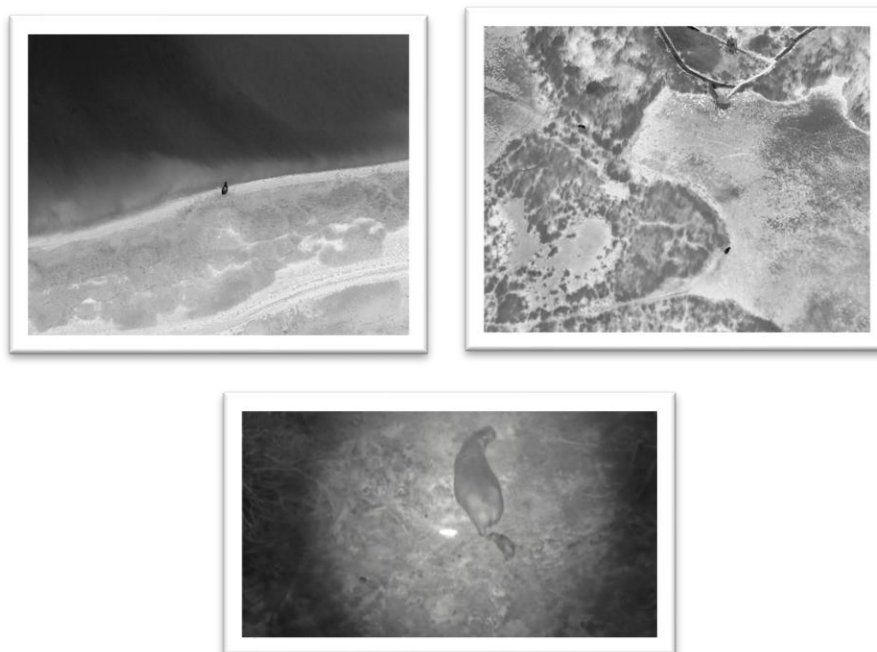


Figure 8: Thermal images of hippo.

3.5 Notable Challenges

Table 2: Challenges

Item	Challenge	Action
EPWP	Major concern as to sustainability of certain core functions. Most invasive species control on reserves, which is a legislative requirement, is undertaken via EPWP grants. These grants have reduced from R31M in FY23 to R8M in FY26 to an unknown amount in FY27.	Motivation via SMF
Public Works land	Challenges in resolving the state land holdings.	Ongoing
Safety and security, and protected area integrity	Remains a major concern and is the largest expenditure item on reserve budgets. Existing budgets also don't accommodate industry increases.	SMF, business improvement
Land invasions ongoing	Rivergate (Table Bay Nature Reserve); Slangetjebos (False Bay Nature Reserve); and Wolfgat Nature Reserve land invasions are ongoing. During the past year there was also an attempted invasion of the Macassar Dunes.	Legal processes underway for all invasions cases. Proactive monitoring and action
Illegal occupations	Blaauwberg Nature Reserve	Legal process underway
Water quality issues	Regular sewage spills and/or poor water quality and litter due to inadequate infrastructure and services.	MPP vlei remediation programme. Meetings with Water and Sanitation

3. Strategy, Policy, Legislation and Plans

3.1 Biodiversity Network (BioNet)

The fine-scale, systematic, spatial biodiversity plan for Cape Town, known as the Cape Town BioNet, was updated by the CSU to align to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2023 (Figure 9). The Cape Town BioNet 2024 is publicly available on CityMap Viewer and CapeFarmMapper3.

The biodiversity priority areas required to meet national biodiversity targets (i.e. Protected Areas + Conservation Areas + Critical Biodiversity Areas).

Training on the Cape Town BioNet 2024 was delivered to 99 BMB staff in August 2024; 41 City staff from other line functions in October 2024; and 39 BMB Skills Development staff in November 2024.

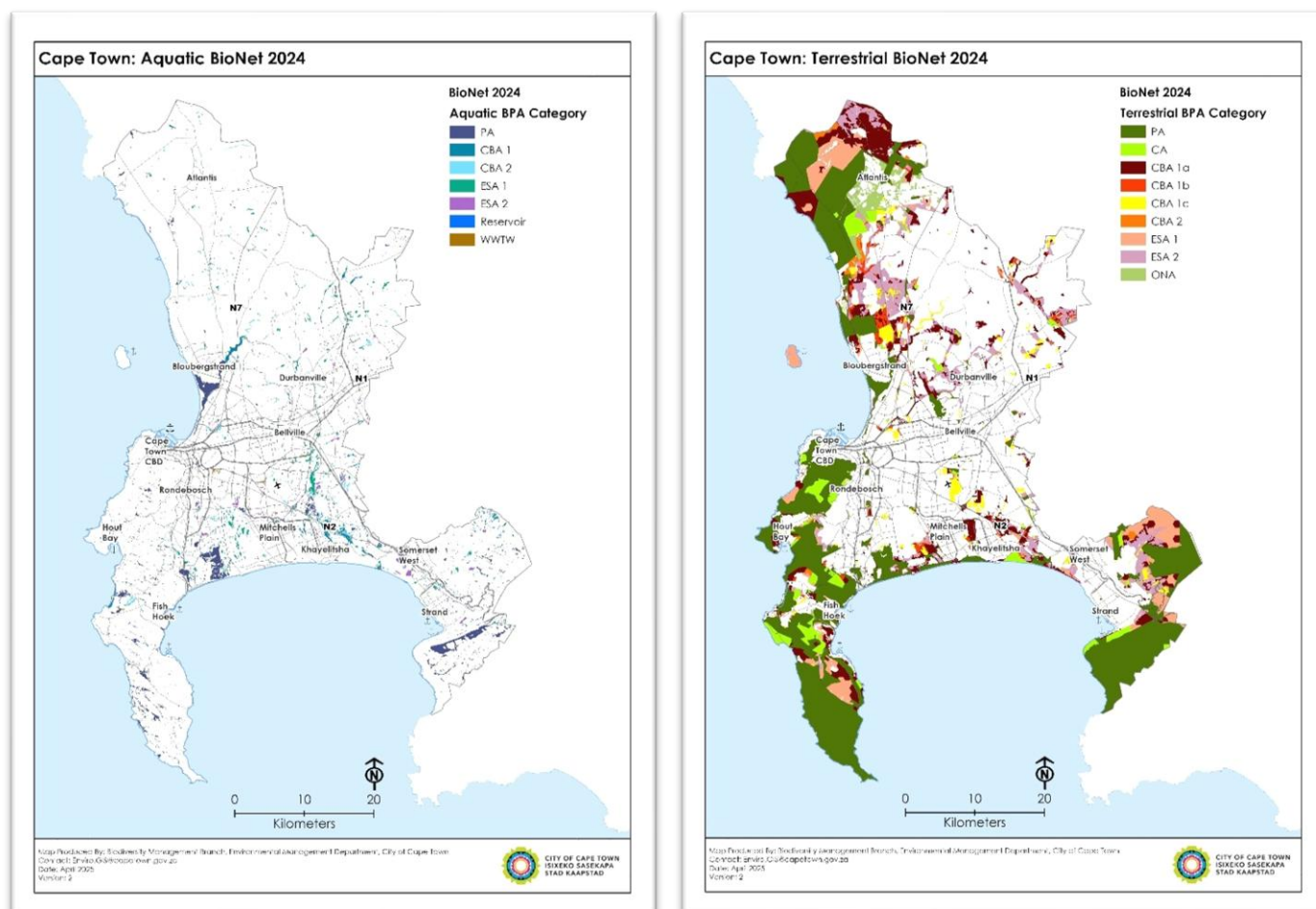


Figure 9: BioNet 2024 - terrestrial (right), freshwater (left).

Updating of the BioNet wetland layer has been the subject of numerous discussions with internal City Departments, Scientific Services Branch (SSB) and Catchment Stormwater and River Management (CSRM), and external organisations, SANBI and SANParks. The adoption of the same terminology used in the National Wetland Map 6 (NWM6) initiative is essential and a task team was established on 22 April 2025 to take this critical initiative forward. This task team included the above organisations inclusive of their respective GIS specialists and the added resource of external freshwater ecologists and Chair of the Western Cape Wetlands

Forum. The committee has workshopped remote sensing tools available to assist with ground-truthing of the existing wetland layer. The SANParks team has developed a Wetland Probability Tool which is being tested infield, while the attributes table for data capturing is being refined for the larger effort and alignment with the NWM6 (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Wetland probability mapping with SANParks, SSB, CSRM, EMD, BMB and external specialists.

3.2 Biodiversity Spatial Plan

Much headway was made with the process to update the Bioregional Plan 2015 to the Cape Town Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2025. The Concept Note was signed by the Executive Mayor in July 2024. Extensive consultation took place with internal and external stakeholders. The draft policy was published for public comment from 13 February to 13 March 2025 (Figure 11). In total, 591 comments were received during the public comment period. The following government organisations commented on the draft policy: City of Cape Town (various line functions); CapeNature; Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning; South African Local Government Association; City of Barranquilla, Colombia; City of São Paulo, Brazil; and City of Paris, France. Numerous non-government organisations and groups also commented on the draft policy, in addition to comments from private individuals.

The biggest update/change is to refer to the BioNet as a “Biodiversity Priority Areas Map” or “BPA Map”, rather than a CBA Map. This recent sector shift is in acknowledgement that the term “CBA Map” can lead to the misinterpretation that only CBAs are important. The term “Biodiversity Priority Areas” collectively refers to Protected Areas, Conservation Areas, Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1 and CBA 2) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA 1); all of which are important for contributing towards meeting the national biodiversity targets.

No changes raised during the public participation were substantive to the core of the policy. The valid changes recommended that effected meaningful improvement to the policy included formatting, minor corrections, a few technical updates (e.g. to references) and sector specific alignment in response to recent changes. The final draft policy and public participation comments response report were tabled at the Spatial Planning and Environment: Portfolio Committee meeting (agenda item SPE 12/06/25 volume 2) on 5 June 2025, followed by the Mayco meeting (agenda item MC 65/06/25) on 17 June 2025; with approval for onward submission for Council adoption on 30 July 2025.

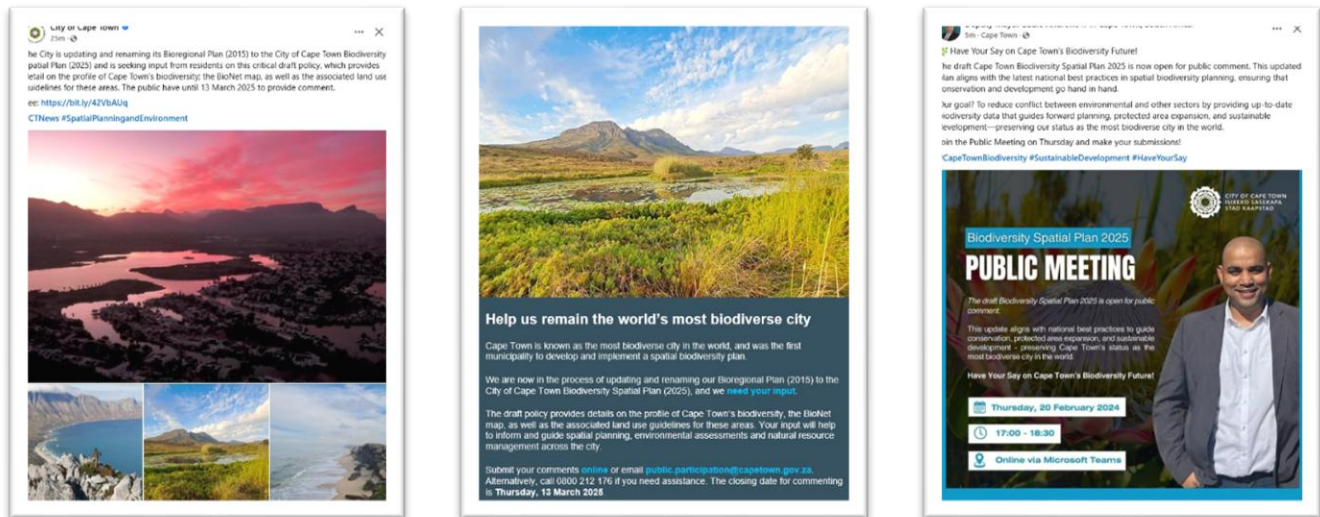


Figure 11: Draft Cape Town Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2025 public participation social media, 13 February 2025: City Facebook (left), City News Online (middle), and Deputy Mayor's Facebook (right).

3.4 Protected Area Management Plans and Invasive Species Control Plans

BMB is currently reorganising the Integrated Reserve Management Plans (IRMPs) into Protected Area Management Plans (PAMPs). Although the process is slow, during the past year significant progress was made. The revised PAMPs for the proclaimed City Nature Reserves and all draft plans will be complete by the end of June 2026 before the public participation process.

Three Invasive Species Control Plans are 90% complete with date of completion scheduled for December 2025, eight are 50% complete with scheduled completion for March 2026, with the final 18 plans still needing a large amount of work with the scheduled completion for June 2026. The Invasive species control plans will be subsidiary plans included in the PAMP.

4. Green Jobs

4.1 Job Creation

Green jobs are jobs that focus on enhanced environmental quality, improved living environment and the restoration and/or protection of municipal green infrastructure and ecosystem services, with a specific focus on skills development and social upliftment.

In 2024/2025 financial year, 1 935 temporary employment opportunities (target 1 863) and 73 402 person days (307.15 full-time job equivalents) were created through implementation of invasive species control, green jobs and skills development projects across the BioNet (Figure 12 and 13, Table 3). A number of invasive species control and green jobs projects were also facilitated for various line departments. Through these projects an additional 283 EPWP job opportunities were facilitated but the job opportunities were recorded for EMD (Table 4).



Figure 12: EPWP staff at Tygerberg Nature Reserve working on a restoration project.

Table 3: Job Opportunities created. Although some were for other line departments, all job opportunities were recorded for EMD.

Project	Budget (excl. VAT)	Expenditure (excl. VAT)	Person Days	Job Opportunities	FTE
Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme (GPX.0000984-F1)	R4 500 000.00	R4 500 000.00	6 160	54	26.78
Kader Asmal Integrated Grant Project (GPX.0000987-F1)	R10 500 000.00	R10 500 000.00	20 734.50	595	90.15
Kader Asmal Integrated Project: MJCP (S20.00104)	R1 462 014.00	R 1 461 017.11	11 363	350	49.40
KaderR Asmal Integrated Project: Treasury PEP Funding (GPX.0001995-F1)	R5 622 080.00	R5 622 080.00	12 206	299	53.06
Carbon Smart Skills Development (GPX.000320)	R1 771 879.00	R1 771 878.17	6 177	37	19.81
Carbon Smart Programme (SPX.0003852)	R2 836 343.81	R2 789 274.24			
River Warden Programme (SPX.0004021)	R4 218 000.00	R3 952 036.46	10 601	51	43.47
Additional River Wardens	R 752 839. 09	R 752 839. 09	530	266	
Other line functions incl. Wards & Subcouncils (reported against EMD EPWP Projects)	R23 713 935.20	R23 638 657.76	5 631	283	24.48
TOTAL	R55 377 091.10	R55 063 060.17	73 402.5	1 935	307.15

Table 4: Job Opportunities created on behalf of other line departments

Line Departments	Planned Budget	Actual Expenditure
Human Settlement	R 4 170 722.72	R4 170 722.72
Bulk Services: Bulk Water	R5 587 140.86	R5 584 818.13
Recreation & Parks	R4 371 066.40	R4 371 066.40
Distribution Services: Pumps Stations	R1 182 575.47	R1 182 575.47
Enterprise and Investment	R760 000.00	R756 648.72
Roads and Infrastructure Maintenance	R153 533.51	R153 533.51
Catchment Stormwater and River Management	R970 843.79	R970 843.79
Green Jobs-Subcouncil 12	R184 511.11	R184 511.11
Green JObs-Subcouncil 19	R1 000 000.00	R999 976.34
Green Jobs - Subcouncil 13	R1 900 000.00	R1 899 957.92
Green Jobs - Ward 71	R1 200 000.00	R1 199 939.53
Coastal Management: Sunset Beach Maintenance	R300 000.00	R299 979.39
Green Jobs- Cleaning & Clearing - Zoarvlei	R69 636.00	R69 636.00
Green Jobs - Ward 36	R62 737.16	R62 737.16
Green Jobs - Ward 19	R200 000.00	R199 961.72
Green Jobs - Ward 41	R250 000.00	R249 999.49
Green Jobs - Ward 40	R100 000.00	R99 954.58
Green Jobs - Ward 30	R450 000.00	R449 844.02
Green Jobs - Ward 72	R300 000.00	R299 816.80
Ward 62 (Rec & Parks)	R335 000.00	R334 994.13
Green Jobs - Subcouncil 19 Water Trailer	R60 979.18	R60 979.18
TOTAL	R23 713 935.20	R23 638 657.76



Figure 13: Invasive Species Unit including Skills Development staff at Tygerberg Nature Reserve. This Unit, along with the Special Projects Unit, drives job creation in the branch.

5. Conservation Services

5.1 Conserved land in Cape Town

Protected and conserved land in Cape Town is now 55 696,83 ha, which is 65,53% of the baseline BioNet 2009 and equates to 22,72% of the municipal area (245 189 ha). The Corporate Scorecard Target of 65,40% of the BioNet conserved by June 2025 was achieved. Table 5 outlines conserved land according to management authority. The City managed Nature Reserves expanded by 110,30 ha over the past year, while the total conservation estate in Cape Town increased by 219,83 ha (Table 5).

Following the valuations completed towards the end of 2024, a new set of properties for potential acquisition is now available for prioritising and taking forward.

Table 5: Conserved land in Cape Town as of 30 June 2024

Management Authority	Area	BioNet*
City of Cape Town	20 038,72 ha	23,57%
SANParks (TMNP)	24 669,31 ha	29,02%
CapeNature	5 927,59 ha	6,97%
Eskom	2 722,14 ha	3,20%
Stewardship (CapeNature & CCT sites)	2 339,07 ha	2,75%
TOTAL	55 696,83 ha	65,53%

5.2 Protected Area Expansion

1) Protected Area Estate

- Transfer of Somerset West Erf 22049 (Schapenberg NR), Ptn 129 of CA 29 (WANR: La Fontaine) and Erf 1188 Macassar to the City.
- Transfer application for Burgherspost properties submitted to SG's office, transfer expected early July 2025.
- Four new sites lined up for potential acquisition pending a favourable valuation, negotiations and Mayco approval for 2026 financial year.

2) Reserve Proclamation

- Two MoUs and six Protected Area Management Agreements signed by the City and sent to CapeNature for signature.
- Still waiting for the gazetting of Zandvlei Nature Reserve.
- Budget approved and allocated to appoint surveyors for the second round of proclamations.

3) Reservation of City Land (conserving City-owned land)

- The 75 ha reservation of the Macassar housing land was approved and is now reserved for Biodiversity Management and included in the Macassar Dunes Nature Reserve
- Resubmitted the benefit Transfer application for Erven 7620 and 62551 Mitchells Plain from Recreation & Parks to BMB to be included in the Strandfontein Aquifer section of Wolfgat Nature Reserve.
- Reservation report for Erf 3825 Melkbos (Atlantic Beach) was rejected.
- Reservation application submitted for ST222-64, ST222-60 and ST222-67. These properties are approximately eight hectares in extent and will consolidate Haasendal Nature Reserve (Figure 14).



Figure 14: New reservation application submitted at Haasendal.

4) Metro Southeast Strandveld Conservation Implementation Plan (CIP)

- Annual Protected Area review for Macassar Conservation Area completed (Figure 15).
- Undertook a Conservation Framework for Macassar.
- The Macassar WWTW offset includes a 25 ha portion of Erf1205 that will be included into Macassar Nature Reserve as an offset requirement.



Figure 15: Macassar Dunes Nature Reserve

5) Conservation Stewardship

The Conservation Stewardship Programme is a conservation initiative, driven by CapeNature in the Western Cape in partnership with the City's Biodiversity Management Branch and several other core conservation organisations. The initiative is to establish partnerships with private landowners to protect and manage land with high biodiversity value. Through this partnership, landowners can access technical incentives such as invasive species clearing teams, fire management and active restoration support provided by our conservation community partners. The goal is to secure formal conservation status for private land, to contribute to national and City conservation targets, to encourage and support good biodiversity management, and to empower landowners to in the conservation of their properties.

Highlights of the past year

- Active restoration on private conservation areas (Three Fountains Nature Reserve, Joubert Family Conservation Area, Camphill Village Nature Reserve, Rivergate Erf 2 Conservation Area, and Twenty Acres Conservation Area) using Atlantis Search-and-Rescue material.
- Conducted or assisted with annual reviews for Protea Grove Conservation Area, Vergelegen Nature Reserve, Boskloof Conservation Area, Three Fountains Estate Conservation Area, Capaia Wines Conservation Area, Atlantic Beach Conservation Area, Nirvana Fynbos Conservation Area, New World Foundation Conservation Area, and La Bella Conservation Area.
- Meetings and site visits were conducted to the following stewardship sites: Boskloof Conservation Area, Apollo Bricks Conservation Area, Camphill Village Nature Reserve, Graanendal Estate Conservation Area, Klipheuwel Quarry site, Joostenberg Private Nature Reserve, Jacobuskraal Conservancy, Kalbaskraal Nature Reserve, Dankbaar Nature Reserve, New World Foundation Conservation Area, and Hillcrest Conservation Area.
- Site visits were held at other conservation worthy sites, including Morgenster, Lourensford, Schoongezicht, Glen Lily Wine Estate, Weltevreden Vernal Pool, Damarakloof, Blue Gum Haven, No. 25 Groenrivier Estate, Dassenvier, Nieuwepost, Graven Gift Public Works property, Mamre Community Property Association, High Noon, Zevenwacht Farm (ST 241/1 & ST 241/30 RE), and Ridgemor Villa in Firgrove.
- The proclamation of the Three Fountains Nature Reserve occurred in April 2025. The Franco Three Fountains Nature Reserve lies within the Klein Dassenberg smallholdings area and is privately owned by

the Franco Property Trust – Tony & Jodie Franco. The Nature Reserve was officially proclaimed on 11 April 2025 spanning 20,4 ha and is the only Protected Area to conserve the unique Cape Vernal Pools habitat, as well as remnants of Atlantis Sand Fynbos (EN) and Swartland Shale Renosterveld (CR). A series of seasonal/vernal pools are connected by a network of narrow, seasonal streams running the length of the Nature Reserve. The vegetation contains mostly saline wetland associated species with 22 Species of Conservation Concern recorded to date (Figure 16).



Figure 16: Three Fountains Nature Reserve

- Four new Conservation Stewardship Agreements were negotiated and are now in the process of being signed up into the programme. The Klipheuvel Conservation Area, spanning 35 ha of Critically Endangered Swartland Shale Renosterveld is home to some very special plant populations as such the Endangered Silverpaw Spiderhead (*Serruria incrassata*). Cecelia's Corner Conservation Area only spans 2.4 ha of Critically Endangered Swartland Silcrete Renosterveld but is home to approximately 20 threatened plant species including a small population of the Fascicled Autumnaster (*Marasmades fasciculata*), a species on the very brink of extinction. The Alcock Family Conservation Area spans 6.4 ha of Atlantis Sand Fynbos (Endangered) with exceptional seasonal wetlands and two seasonal streams. Finally, the Bradley Family Conservation Area which spans around 3 ha of Endangered Atlantis Sand Fynbos is also mostly a wetland site and is home to the Critically Endangered Pink Bobbejaantjie (*Babiana blanda*) which was once considered extinct in the wild until this new population of the species was discovered in the Philadelphia area.
- During the past financial year, technical incentives were also provided to private landowners in support of their private conservation initiatives. Funding for technical incentives was provided by the Table Mountain Fund to the value of R100 000 per year over two years. Projects included:
 - Erosion control and trail maintenance at Capaia Wines Conservation Area.
 - Alien clearing at La Belle Conservation Area.
 - Removal of old building rubble from Kenilworth Racecourse NR.
 - Alien clearing at Smithswinkel Bay NR.
 - Implementing an ecological burn at Camphill Village NR.
 - Herbicide support for various sites.
 - New conservation signage for various sites.

6) Public land

- Meetings held with SANBI, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden around the conservation status of Tienie Versfeld and the SANBI owned portion of Edith Stevens Nature Reserve, two conservation sites vested with the botanical gardens section of SANBI, which currently have by the Provincial Protected Area Review committee no formal conservation status. Both sites were reviewed on 13 February 2025 and both were recommended for Nature Reserve status.
- Various meetings and site visits with TNC, CapeNature, offset specialists and other City line functions to discuss conservation options for the Upper Steenbras catchment area (Figure 17).

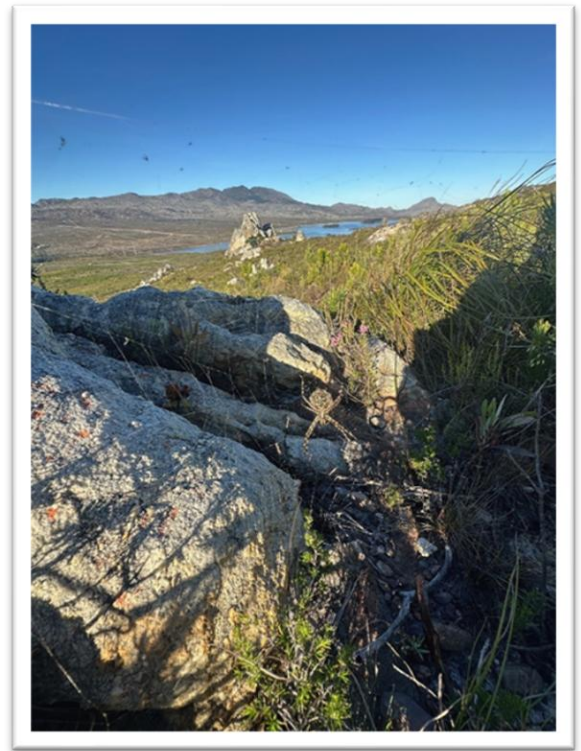


Figure 17: Upper Steenbras Catchment

5.3 Fauna

1) Notable Fauna finds/observations of the year

- Buff-spotted Flufftail (*Sarothrura elegans*) recorded at Heldeberg Nature Reserve
- Subantarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis*) recorded at the Macassar Section of Wolfgat Nature Reserve
- Cape Galaxia (*Galaxia cf. zebratus*) recorded in the Steenbras Upper Catchment

2) Fauna management

Table 6: Game register for July 2024 – June 2025

Species	Translocations	Births	Deaths	Total in CCT	Animals on Loan	Animals on CCT Reserves
Hippopotamus (<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>)	1	0	0	*7	0	*7
Bontebok (<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>)	0	2	4	0	**11	0
Eland (<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>)	0	7	0	***21	0	***21
Red Hartebeest (<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>)	0	2	0	****18	0	****18

* One hippo was translocated but unfortunately died post translocation on the receptor site in November 2024. A drone count conducted in May 2025 on False Bay Nature Reserve confirmed 7 hippos.

** The City's Bontebok herd is kept at Kinko Conservation Area near Swellendam, within the species' historic range. A detailed assessment of the herd dynamics was conducted by a researcher in March 2025.

*** A clear photo of the full Eland herd was obtained, confirming a total count of 21 individuals.

**** Red Hartebeest are more elusive; the reported number is therefore an estimate.

- The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was finalised and BMB coordinated the logistics for hippo translocation to Plettenberg Bay. The Hippo is shown visiting the capture boma (Figure 18).
- The laboratory ZooOmics confirmed that it is possible to accurately identify and sex Hippos (*Hippopotamus amphibious*) through DNA extraction from their dung. Hippos are notoriously difficult to sex in the field which has significant implications for population management.
- Re-initiated the injured wildlife response partnership with the Cape of Good Hope SPCA.
- Strengthened One Health disease surveillance in collaboration with the State Veterinary Laboratory and University of Pretoria.
- Hosted a porcupine post-mortem demonstration for Cape Peninsula University of Technology conservation students (Figure 19).
- Captured and translocated Cape Gysbok from Milnerton Racecourse section of Table Bay Nature Reserve to Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve.
- A coordinated multi-agency effort successfully relocated a distressed Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina*) from Gordon's Bay to Kogel Bay (Figure 20).

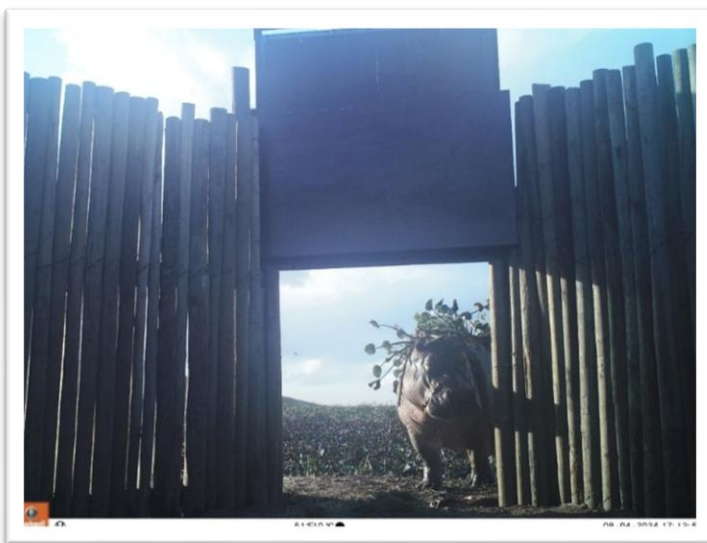


Figure 18: Camera trap footage of dispersing hippo visiting the capture boma at False Bay Nature Reserve.



Figure 19: Autopsy demonstration for CPUT conservation students on a porcupine.



Figure 20: An immobilised elephant seal in distress in Gordon's Bay. The animal was safely relocated to Kogel Bay Beach in a coordinated multi-agency effort.

5.2 Flora

1) Notable floral observations:

- The extremely significant rediscovery of this presumed locally extinct wetland species, CR *Cotula myriophylloides*, within the City of Cape Town has led to a specific project to secure the protection of the site in perpetuity, as well as assess other possible sites for reintroduction. Discussions with Transnet and water quality assessment of suitable receptor sites have taken place (Figure 21).



Figure 21: The significant rediscovery of the CR *Cotula myriophylloides* within the City at Acacia Park substation.

- New population of *Steirodiscus speciosus* (CR) at Zone 10 in Atlantis Industria.
- New populations of *Gladiolus quadrangulus* (EN), *Babiana leipoldtii* (EN), *Restio rigoratus* (EN) and *Lampranthus altistylis* (DD-T) were also found on Bluegum Haven farm.
- *Ixia tenuifolia* (EN) southern population rediscovered at Bluegum Haven farm, last seen in 1995 and thought to have been lost with recent N7 upgrades.
- New population of *Heterorhachis aculeata* (VU) and first record of *Sparaxis parviflora* (EN) in the City at Driefonteinen Nature Reserve.
- New population of *Senecio foeniculoides* (CR) was found within the development footprint of a new solar farm development during Search & Rescue operations.
- First record of *Isoetes stellenboschensis* was discovered at Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area.
- *Geissorhiza lewisiaea* (VU) flowering in profusion at Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area after the April 2024 fire.
- New population of *Aspalathus retroflexa bicolor* (CR) on Groenrivier estate.
- *Pelargonium tenellum*, Red Listed as LC, but with no records on the iNaturalist website, was flowering on Burgherspost in large numbers.
- *Stylepterus fruticosus* (EN) flowering at Nirvana in 3 year old veld.

- CREW visit to northern section of Melkbos Corridor (Erf 633 & Erf 2033) on 30 June 2025 observed several threatened species, including:
 - *Hermannia procumbens procumbens* (CR) – in the wetlands.
 - *Gladiolus griseus* (CR) – at least 6 clumps (Figure 22)
 - *Leucospermum hypophyllocarpodendron canaliculatum* (EN)
 - *Xiphotheca reflexa* (EN)
 - *Ruschia tecta* (EN)
 - *Lachnaea grandiflora* (VU)
 - *Ruschia indecora* (NT)



Figure 22: *Gladiolus griseus* (CR) from Melkbos Erf 633/RE.

- Site assessment of the western side of Ariesfontein farm on 17 June 2025 confirmed the presence of historically mapped CBA 1a areas with a number of threatened species including:
 - *Serruria trilopha* (CR)
 - *Leucadendron lanigerum* (EN)
 - *Babiana villosula* (EN)
 - *Monsonia speciosa* (EN)
 - *Ruschia geminiflora* (VU)
- Revisiting an old site assessment on small holding on Three Fountains Estate on 3 June revealed several highly threatened species within a really small footprint including:
 - *Pelargonium cf. heterophyllum* (CR)
 - *Marasmodes fasciculata* (CR)
 - *Lampranthus reptans* (EN)
 - *Leucadendron thymifolium* (EN)
 - *Babiana nana nana* (EN)
 - *Pauridia minuta* (NT)
 - *Eriospermum spirale* (NT)
 - *Antimima aristulata* (VU)
 - *Lampranthus spiniformis* (VU)
- BioNet assessment of Outspan Park in Durbanville revealed some interesting previously unrecorded threatened species in an area not previously considered sensitive including:
 - *Lachenalia liliflora* (EN)
 - *Pauridia alba* (VU)
 - *Trachyandra clamadophylla* (VU).
- A brief assessment of the seasonal wetlands on Burgherspost revealed a new population of *Eriospermum flavum* (Rare) (Figure 23).
- Post-fire survey at Uitkamp Wetlands NR resulted in the discovery of
 - *Lachenalia corymbosa* (VU)
 - *Eriospermum flavum* (Rare) (Figure 23)
- A site assessment of 4 Barbet Close, D' Urbanvale confirmed the presence of several threatened species in the back yard of the property on the silcrete outcrops including:
 - *Cephalophyllum parviflorum* (CR)
 - *Antimima aristulata* (EN)

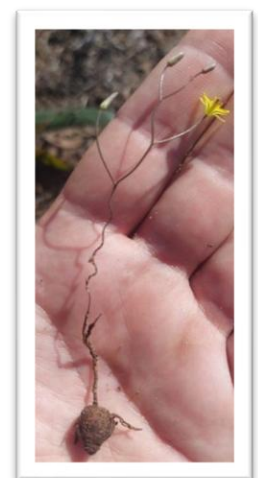


Figure 23: *Eriospermum flavum* (Rare) from Burgherspost wetlands & Uitkamp Wetlands NR.

- *Indigofera psoraloides* (EN)
- *Pauridia alba* (VU)
- *Aspalathus aculeata* (VU)
- *Athanasia capitata* (EN)

5.4 Mayoral Priority Programme: Recreational Vleis

1) Milnerton Lagoon Dredging Project

The project is currently in the procurement phase. This follows the approval of the recommended dredging methodology by the Executive Mayor where a site visit was conducted in June 2025. Beach Wells to pump seawater into the lagoon are also being investigated.

2) Zeekoevlei Dredging Project

The dredger has been delivered and undergone various operational tests. Dredging operations have officially commenced, marking a key milestone in the rehabilitation of the Zeekoevlei system. The Zeekoevlei Dredging Project has successfully progressed to the implementation phase, with all necessary permits secured.

3) Lowering of Zeekoevlei Weir and Fish Ladder Project

This project is in the procurement and awaiting the Environmental Assessment (EA) decision from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

4) Zandvlei Dredging Project

The Zandvlei hydrographic survey and depth probes have been completed. The sample collection work, initial site investigations, compiling the scope of works for the hydrographic survey, and probing and sample collection have been undertaken.

5) Vlei Systems & Procedures (S&P) for recreational waterbodies

The implementation of the Vlei S&P ('Decision making to partially close, close or reopen each of the City's recreational vlei's located within the Protected Areas: Zeekoevlei, Zandvlei and Rietvlei Systems and Procedure approved by the City Manager on 27 March 2023) progressed well. There were however some sporadic delays for receiving results. The ongoing highly polluted flow from the Big Lotus River continued to affect sampling point ZEV2 within the FBNR: Zeekoevlei section (Figure 24). The high nutrient load inflow also resulted in a toxic algal bloom over the festive season. This situation will likely only resolve once catchment level pollution abatement actions are identified and implemented. This however has the potential to severely impact on the efficiency of the dredging exercise currently underway. Table 7 records the vlei closures last year due to high *E. coli* levels and *Microcystis* toxins.

Table 7: Recreational Restriction imposed during the financial year.

Waterbody	Reason	Date of Closure	Date of Reopening
FBNR: Zeekoevlei	High <i>E. coli</i> readings exceeding thresholds	21.10.2022 (partial closure around ZEV2)	06.01.2025
FBNR: Zeekoevlei	High toxin readings for <i>Microcystis</i> bloom	12.12.2024 (Full closure)	06.01.2025
FBNR: Zeekoevlei	High toxin readings for <i>Microcystis</i> bloom	06.01.2025 (Partial closure)	08.01.2025
FBNR: Zeekoevlei	High <i>E. coli</i> readings exceeding thresholds	11.04.2025 (partial closure around ZEV2)	Ongoing



Figure 24: FBNR: Zeekoevlei southern shoreline showing sludge build-up in the system as a result of continued pollution that necessitated dredging as remediation.

5.5 Rivers and Wetlands

1) Quarterly results & Catchment Management routine sampling

Communication around water quality results is through monthly circulations of Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) data sheets. CSRM routine sampling results (inclusive of the recreational waterbodies) are included and showcased in the Public Dashboard - [Public Inland Water Quality Dashboard \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com). This however does not include the BMB quarterly sampling points, which are currently still subject to ad hoc reports and LIMS sheet circulations to the respective reserves. Discussions around the inclusion of the BMB quarterly sampling points within the Bulk Decision Support System (DSS) progressed to the point where approvals were granted and the technical inclusion of the data points are to follow. This inclusion is of significant value to BMB as the LIMS data will be processed, graphed and evaluated against water quality parameter thresholds, similar to the Public Dashboard. This will allow the easy circulation of an automated collation and interpretation to each reserve on an annual or bi-annual basis.

2) Algal blooms

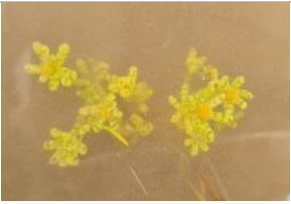
Algal blooms are a consequence of eutrophication and while the recreational systems are closely monitored, other natural waterbodies are less frequently sampled. Harmless algal blooms infrequently require attention, and the focus is to identify toxic blooms. The algal blooms recorded during this annum includes the following:

Table 8: Algal blooms recorded in the past financial year: 4 toxic bloom events, 3 different genera.

Algal species:	Toxic / Harmful:	Site:	Sampling:	Management response:
<i>Chlorella</i>	Harmless	Zandvlei	01.10.2024	Monitoring
<i>Cylindrospermo</i>	Toxic	TBNR: Rietvlei Section	15.11.2024	Monitoring & coordination with Rand Water for toxin analysis
<i>Microcystis</i>	Toxic	FBNR: Zeekoevlei	20.11.2024	Monitoring and resulting closure
<i>Microcystis</i>	Toxic	FBNR: Zeekoevlei	11.04.2025	Monitoring

3) Macro algal annual monitoring

Table 9: New populations of algae

Species:	Site:	Date:	Photograph:	Notes:
Cape Waternet (<i>Hydrodictyon africanum</i>)	TBNR: MRC TBNR: Rietvlei Acacia Park	14.08.2024 N/A 12.09.2024		New locality, co-occurrence with <i>N. praeclara</i> at Acacia Park
<i>Hydrodictyon pateniforme</i>	Witzands: Pond 7 FBNR: Rondevlei Fishermans Walk	No algae No algae 05.11.2024		No sign at WANR Pond 7 or Rondevlei anymore. Proposal to re-establish spores in WANR Pond 12. New locality in Fisherman's Walk, Grassy Park.
<i>Nitella praeclara</i>	Goodwood Prison Acacia Park Edith Stephens NR	22/8/24 12/9/24 20/9/24		New locality at Acacia Park and Edith Stephens NR.

The monitoring of the macro algae is in furtherance of scientific publications in collaboration with North-West University specialists.

International algal specialist delegation

BMB facilitated multiple site visits across the City by four algal experts during April 2025. The delegation consisted of two specialists from North West University and two specialists from Poland. The aim was to sample Euglenophytes for species diversity assessments and to build the global eDNA database. Sites assessed included Paardevlei wetlands, Milnerton Racecourse, Acacia Park wetlands and Silverstreamstrand. The effort was well supported by the SSB and reserve teams (Figure 25).

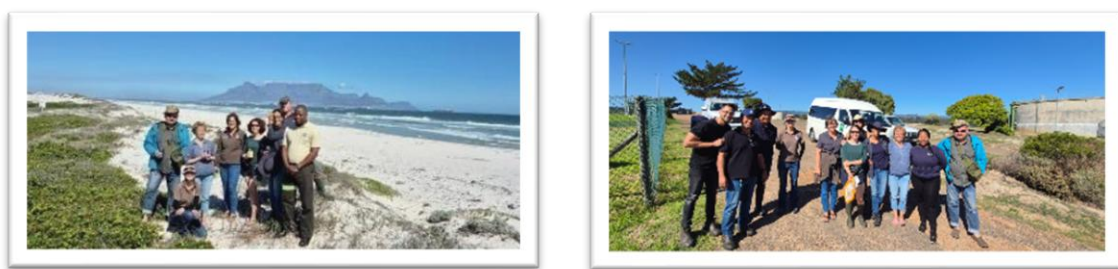


Figure 25: Group photographs of the algal experts and reserve staff team that sampled sites.

6) Fish Die-offs

Table 10: Fish Die-off events noted during year.

Site	Species	Date	Duration	Sampling	Causal Factor
Zandvlei NR	Mullet species	10.03.2025	1 day	no	Sewage spill / Ammonia toxicity

A strategic partnership was established between DFFE, BMB, EMD: Coastal Management Branch (CMB) and SSB focussed on fish die-off causal factor investigations. The FBNR team assisted the DFFE research team with endo-parasite assessment in Tilapia. DFFE also showcased a dissection of the invasive Sharp-toothed Catfish, showing the endo-parasite load of this species (Figure 26).



Figure 26: FBNR: Rondevlei section fishing and dissection to view parasites with DFFE & SSB.

5.5 Restoration

1) Summary for Biodiversity Management Branch Restoration Facility activities

- A total of **765** cuttings was collected and propagated
- Seeds of **39** different species were sown in **398** seed trays
- A total of **6 611** plants, mostly from seeds, were bagged up
- A total of **1 995** plants were searched and rescued from Atlantis development sites and maintained at the BMB Restoration Facility
- A total of **1 968** plants were planted out at various nature reserves for restoration projects
- A total of **900** plants were donated to the Liesbeek River maintenance project
- Seeds of **63** different species were smoke treated and collected from the restoration facility for broadcasting at various nature reserves.

2) Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area restoration

Seed of *Protea repens* was collected from Paarl Mountain NR, the nearest source of genetic material for the species. Sowing the smoke-treated seeds at



Figure 27: Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area is of extremely high ecological importance.

Joostenbergskloof took place in August 2024. Seven new *Protea odorata* seedlings were also planted at Joostenbergskloof (Figures 27 and 28). A quick count in May 2025 revealed 13 plants, most of which are/were flowering in 2025. Alien clearing will continue.



Figure 28: *Protea odorata* in flower.

3) Paardevlei Restoration

About 30 *Wurmbea stricta* bulbs, originally from Strand and donated by Geert Sprangers were planted out in one of the seasonal wetlands at Paardevlei Nature Reserve. *Leucadendron linifolium* (NT) was almost extinct in the City with few individuals left near Macassar. A significant challenge was that there was no suitable receptor site to reestablish this species in the City. However the creation of the Paardevlei Nature Reserve provides an ideal opportunity to establish the species. As such, 70 seedlings were planted at the site in May 2025 (Figure 29).



Figure 29: Restoration Facility staff planting out the *Leucadendron linifolium* seedlings at Paardevlei Nature Reserve.

4) Zeekoevlei Eastern Shore rehabilitation project

Systematic augmentation of the plant diversity continues on site. In addition, there is active monitoring by the reserve team of the faunal component on site, in particular the robust Cape Dwarf Chameleon population (Figure 30). Discussions around further expansion of the rehabilitation footprint is underway.

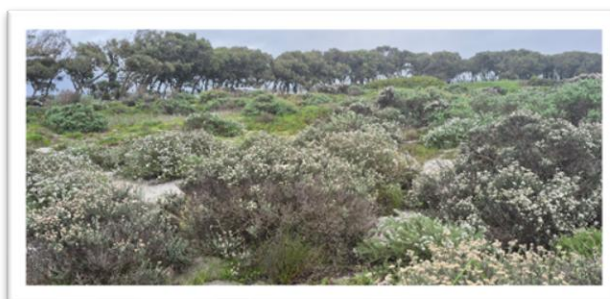


Figure 30: FBNR: Zeekoevlei Eastern Shore – before (left) and after (right) photographs of the rehabilitation effort.

5) Zandvlei Ecological Corridor / Promenade Road rehabilitation project

Maintenance of the wetland area continues with assistance from the River Warden Programme and Invasive Species Unit. The site is also subject to a partnership project between E&HM and BMB to start installing functional art and educational material along the pathway (Figure 31).



Figure 31: Zandvlei Promenade Road project summary and the Green Jobs team doing site maintenance.

5.6 Ecological Research

1) Blaauwberg Sand Fynbos Restoration Project

The current phase of this large-scale ecological restoration project continues with City and Stellenbosch University collaboration and funded by the Anglo-American Nature Positive Grant (2022-2025). This collaboration includes investigations that have the potential to cost-effectively improve ecological restoration outcomes at vegetation community and landscape scales, and to improve the conservation status of threatened plant species by optimising propagation techniques for species that do not perform well from direct sowing.

2) Research and Project applications

At the end of June 2025, 36 research projects are in progress on City Nature Reserves. Five research applications are being processed. Four research projects were withdrawn and five were rejected. Over this past financial year, 25 projects were completed and researchers contacted for reports and data.

Two cases of illegal activities by researchers are currently under investigation with CapeNature. A letter explaining the process and requirements was sent to four local University Vice Chancellors in an effort to achieve better compliance.

6. Invasive Species

6.1 Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management

Approximately **8 531,85 ha** of invasive plants were cleared within **protected areas and conservation areas**, comprising (Figure 32):

- **869,70 ha** of initial clearing
- **3 464,72 ha** of follow-up clearing
- **4 197,43 ha** of maintenance clearing

In addition, **2 692.72 ha** were cleared across **public open spaces, road verges, greenbelts**, and other areas in collaboration with various City line departments. This included:

- **468,11 ha** of initial clearing
- **1568,89 ha** of follow-up clearing
- **655,72 ha** of maintenance clearing



Figure 32: Invasive species clearing at Dassenberg Hills Nature Reserve.

6.2 Aquatic Invasive Plant Management

Thirty-nine aquatic systems (317 ha)—including rivers, wetlands, and related ecosystems—were cleared of invasive aquatic plants (Figure 33 and Table 11). This included:

- **10,5 ha** of initial clearing
- **306,41 ha** of follow-up clearing

These interventions contributed to the restoration of ecological functioning and the improved flow and quality of freshwater systems.

Table 11: Hectares (ha) cleared per system in 2024/2025

Rivers Cleared	Initial ha	Multiple follow-up ha
Big Lotus River	0,00	27,81
Vygrekraal River	0,00	19,29
Silverstream Canal	0,00	6,8
Soet River	0,00	38,3
Westlake River	2,26	1,13
Masiphumelele Canals	0,00	5,8
Dam Park Dam 2, Dam 3	0,00	1,26
Princessvlei	0,00	155,28
Liesbeek River Reach 6, 7, 8	0,00	9,42
Black River Reach 1, 2, 3, 4	0,00	29,32
Salt River	0,00	10,78
Brommervlei River	2,61	0,00
Grootboskloof River	1,13	0,00
Paggasvlei River	1,07	0,00
Wynberg Park Stream	0,35	0,00
Maynardville Park Stream and Water Body	0,51	0,00
Ward 86 Canals (Broadlands, Onverwacht, Wagerbietjie	1,1	0,00
Mocke River	0,00	1,22
False Bay Nature Reserve-Rondevlei Section-RDVC 01, RDVC02, ZVC001	1,51	0,00
TOTAL	10,54	306,41

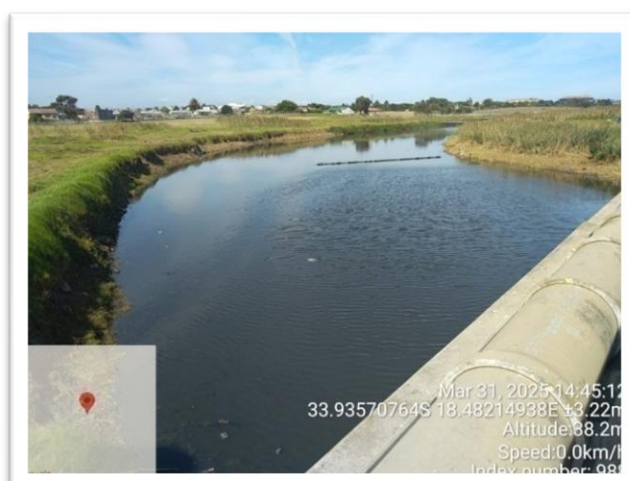


Figure 33: Clearing of water hyacinth in the Black River.

6.3 Biocontrol

Biological control (biocontrol) is a vital component of integrated invasive species management, particularly in aquatic ecosystems where traditional methods like mechanical or chemical control can be costly, labour-intensive, and environmentally disruptive. Some benefits of biocontrol use include it being environmentally sustainable, cost effective and target specific.

Accordingly, **22 350** biocontrol agents were released during the financial year. These efforts supported the sustainable management of aquatic invasive plant species, particularly within sensitive and high-priority ecosystems (Table 12).

Table 12: The biological control agents released during this reporting period for control of aquatic invasive plants

Biocontrol Release Sites	Target Species	Agent	Number released
False Bay Nature Reserve - Strandfontein	Water Hyacinth	<i>Megamelus scutellaris</i>	12 900
Imhoffs Gift Vlei	Water Lettuce	<i>Neohydronomus affinis</i>	3 450
Princess Vlei	Water Hyacinth	<i>Megamelus scutellaris</i>	6 000
Total released			22 350

6.4 Invasive Animal Management

1) House Crows

The **House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)**, native to Southeast Asia and Indian Subcontinent, is a highly invasive bird species that poses significant environmental, economic, and public health threats in South Africa. Its growing presence in urban and coastal areas, particularly in Cape Town, necessitates urgent and sustained control efforts. Effective management of House Crows relies heavily on the application of appropriate, humane, and scientifically sound control methods. Given their intelligence, adaptability, and social behaviour, incorrect or inconsistent interventions can lead to control failure, increased costs, and unintended negative consequences for the programme. A total of 3 296 House Crows were observed, with 70 crows and seven nests removed.

2) Mallard Ducks

The **Mallard Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*)**, native to the Holarctic region, is an invasive alien species in South Africa. Although visually appealing and often found in urban parks and water bodies, Mallards pose a serious threat to the country's native waterfowl and wetland ecosystems. No Mallards were removed during the 2024/2025 financial year.

3) Guttural Toads

The **Guttural Toad (*Sclerophrys gutturalis*)**, although native to parts of South Africa, is **invasive in the Western Cape**, where it possibly poses a threat to local biodiversity and ecosystem stability. Its rapid spread, especially in urban and suburban environments, makes effective control critical. Guttural Toads potentially compete directly with locally endemic species such as the **Western Leopard Toad (*Sclerophrys pantherina*)**, a species of conservation concern in Cape Town. For this financial year, 3 408 Guttural Toads were removed.

4) Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) continues to pose a significant threat to Cape Town's urban forest, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. In response, the City, through the EMD and in collaboration with relevant line departments, has implemented a coordinated and multi-faceted intervention strategy. The strategy involves:

- Surveillance and reporting
- Infested tree removal and biomass management
- Implementation of the PSHB Charter.

PSHB infestations have been confirmed in Cape Town at the following suburbs: Constantia, Rondebosch, Claremont, Newlands, Kenilworth, Bishopscourt, Mowbray, Pinelands and Wynberg in the South; Observatory, Rosebank, Woodstock and Gardens in central regions; Bellville, Durbanville and Kuils River in the North; and Somerset West and Gordon's Bay in the East.

During the reporting period, **194 PSHB-related reports** were received, and **73 tree surveys** were conducted. These efforts led to the detection of **1144 PSHB-infected trees**, of which **517 trees** were removed as part of the City's ongoing control and containment strategy.

In addition to field interventions, a series of **training workshops and webinars** were conducted as part of the broader PSHB management strategy. These capacity-building initiatives targeted **small businesses, private landowners, and conservation partners**, focusing on:

- Correct identification of PSHB-infested trees
- Safe handling and management of PSHB-infected biomass
- Adherence to the City's PSHB disposal protocols
- Training and awareness sessions actively engaged **1 968 people**.

6.5 Early Detection and Rapid Response

1) Listed EDRR species

Rapid response is a critical component of effective invasive species management. It is the immediate and coordinated action taken as soon as an invasive species is detected, aiming to contain, control, or eradicate the species before it becomes established or spreads further.

The EDRR programme targets 16 listed invasive species for control in the City of Cape Town, of which 148 populations were removed.

2) Invasive Red Swamp Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*)

An iNaturalist record of the invasive Red Swamp Crayfish at Burgundy Estate, Bothasig was actioned through engagement with Burgundy Estate management to verify the invasion and assess the extent. A collaborative effort between BMB and CapeNature delivered a two-day trapping effort and a satellite assessment of a Constantia record. The Burgundy Estate trapping caught three individuals (Figure 34). None were captured in Constantia. Initial assessments of the invasion avenues were done and further actions through the ISU were raised with the Invasive Alien Animal Working Group (IAAWG).



Figure 34: Red Swamp Crayfish trapping at Burgundy Estate, Bothasig.

7. Fire

7.1 Wildfire

Firefighting staff fitness tests and testing equipment were undertaken in September, October and November 2024. Preparation of firebreaks was completed for all City nature reserves by 1 December 2024.

This year, 43 wildfires burnt approximately 429 ha on City nature reserves. The most significant wildfires took place at Steenbras Nature Reserve (307 ha), and Dassenberg Hills Nature Reserve (70 ha). The remaining fires were small in extent, and most occurred in Witzands Aquifer, Dassenberg Hills, Steenbras, and Macassar Dunes Nature Reserves. (Figure 35).



Figure 35: Staff inspecting and testing fire equipment before the fire season.

7.2 Ecological Burns

1) Ecological burns

Three successful ecological burns were conducted (29,65 ha), at Blaauwberg and Uitkamp Nature Reserves, and Camphill Village Nature Reserve (Figure 36 and 37, Table 13).

Table 13: Dates of ecological burns and area burnt

	Reserve	Date	Ha burnt
1	Blaauwberg NR 1	19.02.2025	20
2	Blaauwberg NR 2	12.03.2025	
3.	Uitkamp Wetland NR 1	17.03.2025	4.15
4.	Uitkamp Wetland NR 2	27.03.2025	
5.	Camphill Village NR	31.03.2025	5.5
	Total		29.65



Figure 36: Ecological burn at Camphill Village Nature Reserve.



Figure 37: Discussion with Fire Services and Volunteer Wildfire Services before an ecological burn.

2) Fauna observations for Ecological Burns

Strategic coordination of the Fauna Observations Team at planned ecological burns involved all three burns within this financial year, 2x Uitkamp Nature Reserve and Camphill Village Nature Reserve. Data captured are being digitized and used to interpret these events from a faunal survival and survival strategy perspective. The focus is on vertebrate fauna (excluding highly mobile bird species that are merely noted).

The ecological prescribed burn at Camphill Village was followed up with a Newsletter article around the fauna observations efforts and the means by which indigenous fauna survive fires in these fire driven systems (Figure 38).

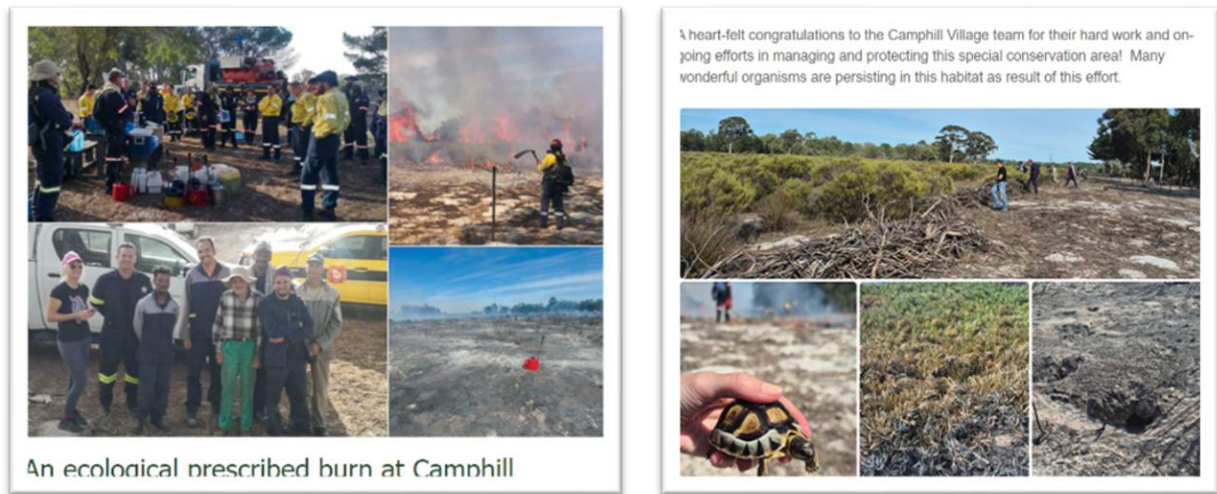


Figure 38: The newsletter article for the Camphill Village team.

7.3 Brush Pile Burning

No brush pile burning was conducted during the past year.

8. Nature Reserves

8.1 Heritage Management Framework for the Nature Reserves

The Branch Heritage Management Framework is in final draft after some updates from the PAMP process reviewed by Harriet Cliff, who has agreed to be the representative of the Heritage Branch to serve on a BMB Heritage management committee.

8.2 Monitoring Framework and Plans

Strawdog monitoring plans were updated and shared with the nature reserve managers in particular to facilitate planning of priority monitoring needs aligned to the PAMP (and prompt new intake of students to choose priority research topics). The Flora Species of Special Conservation Concern Monitoring Protocol was drafted. Updates were made to some existing protocols and standard methods made available on the Branch Monitoring SharePoint site. A more comprehensive staff training course is still required to facilitate improved staff capacity to conduct monitoring to standard but needs to be postponed until the PAMP drafts are complete.

8.3 METT Assessments

METTs assessments were not required this year – the next assessment starts in August 2025. When considering the ensuing reporting at National level, the Branch manager noted a disconnect in methodology and scoring reported by other organisations. A decision was made to trial the international version of the METTs (IUCN METTs 4) alongside conducting the South African version (METT-SAv3). The international process may be more appropriate for the City of Cape Town context. Data and evidence will be collected as required for both and decisions on a way forward will be taken in April to June 2026.

8.4 Reserve Awards (November 2024)

The reserve, which over the last year, has excelled in:

- Conservation, restoration and veld management
- Invasive species and fire management
- Infrastructure management
- Staff – working as a team, health and safety aspects, following Council policies and procedures
- People and Conservation aspects
- Achieved despite external threats and pressures
- Showcasing the City and supports the objectives of the City

Reserve of the Year: **Runner up:** Steenbras Nature Reserve, **Winner:** False Bay Nature Reserve

Special Award: Sunset Beach Rehabilitation Project

9. Urban Baboon Programme

9.1 Cape Peninsula Troops covered by the Urban Baboon Programme

The Urban Baboon Programme (UBP) contract, run by the City's service provider, NCC Environmental Services, was completed on 31 December 2024. On 1 January 2025, the programme was transferred to the Shark Spotters and renamed the Cape Baboon Partnership (<https://baboons.org.za/>, Figure 39).



Figure 39: Baboon on a sign - Cape Point (Photo: Cliff and Suretha Dorse)

9.2 Gordon's Bay Baboons

The management of baboons in the Steenbras Nature Reserve and surrounding area is ongoing. There have been problems with one of the troops spending a large amount of time in Gordon's Bay.

10. People and Conservation

10.1 Environmental Education, Awareness and Events

This year environmental education activities in the BMB reached 20 136 learners from 184 schools (and with an additional 878 teachers and 19 096 adults) resulting in 40 707 person days of education. This means that 40 110 individuals were involved in formal education events, exhibitions, informal or awareness activities on and off reserve by BMB staff. This included the work undertaken on the reserves by partners with the City. The number of person days of education, total adults, and total people, all increased from last year, including an increase in the number of schools (Figure 40).



Figure 40: Environmental Education programme at Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve.

10.2 Media

In the past financial year, there were 59 media releases from the City of Cape Town focusing on Biodiversity Management Branch matters. In the same period there were many media articles, radio interviews, and media queries but these are not quantifiable due to the difficulty in tracking all media mentions and articles, including social media. Please see Annexure B for details. All media releases can be seen on the City of Cape Town [website](#) and the available media reach reports can be accessed [here](#).

10.3 Protected Area Advisory Committees

The establishment of Protected Area Advisory Committees (PAACs) is provided for in the Protected Areas Act, and the role of these PAACs is primarily intended to give advice, and to facilitate interaction, communication, engagement and the development of partnerships with stakeholders, surrounding communities and organizations with a real interest in nature reserves, to promote the set management plan objectives of the

nature reserves. PAACs serve a three-year term, and the new term began in July 2024 with the official appointment of PAAC members for the following nature reserves:

- Blaauwberg
- Bracken (including Perdekop and Haasendal)
- Durbanville (including Uitkamp Wetland, Botterblom and Joostenbergskloof)
- Edith Stephens
- False Bay (including Rondevlei, Zeekoevlei, Pelican Park, Slangetjebos, Zandwolf and Strandfontein Birding Area)
- Helderberg (including Silverboomkloof, Harmony Flats and Morkel's Cottage)
- Steenbras
- Table Bay (including Rietvlei, Diep River, Milnerton Racecourse and Zoarvlei)
- Tygerberg (including Bothasig Fynbos and Ariesfontein)
- Witzands Aquifer (including the Klein Dassenberg Hills)
- Wolfgat (including Strandfontein Aquifer and Macassar Dunes)
- Zandvlei (including Muizenberg East)

10.4 Visitors and revenue

The City's nature reserves received 680 106 visitors recorded mostly through its manned access points and events (the majority of reserves are open access, so this figure is an under estimate). Through paid gates and events an income of R21.7 M was received (over collected on revenue by 136% of planned) (Figure 41, Table 14 and 15).

Table 14: Visitor numbers and revenue from 2017 to 2025.

Entry gate	2018/19	2019/20
2017	343 490	R1 900 000
2018	410 000	R1 910 000
2019	378 193	R3 500 000
2020	319 519	R3 500 000
2021	340 265	R5 867 000
2022	394 062	R7 772 000
2023	631 432	R9 578 592
2024	598 315	R13 767 118
2025	680 106	R21 721 681

Table 15: Visitor numbers for selected individual reserves.

Entry gate	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Helderberg	57 603	44 367	186 248	85 199	62 862	174 752	179 524
Tygerberg	31 791	17 094	34 195	41 762	43 847	29 450	31 304
Zeekoevlei	103 192	108 526	59 440	40 482	219 991	167 821	119 536
Witzands Aquifer	7 138	25 159	42 029	94 162	137 344	121 086	227 269



Figure 41: Sandboarding at the dunes, Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve.

10.5 Volunteers and Sponsored Programmes

1) Sponsored Programmes

Sponsored² programmes resulted in 82 individuals (made up of external sponsored staff members, learnerships and interns) and 2 028 person days of work in the BMB (approximate value is R1.5 M).

2) Volunteer programmes

Nature Connect is assisting with the administration, by drawing up volunteer contracts and assisting with placements. The volunteers resulted in 139 individuals and 2 465 person days on the reserves (approximate value is R794 083) (Figure 42).



Figure 42: Volunteer appreciation day with the City and SANParks.

² Sponsored programmes include individuals that undertake work for BMB and their salaries/stipends are paid for by external partner organisations.

10.6 Skills Development

The training of EPWP, interns, learnerships, and formal skills development programmes is critically important. Of the 36 vacancies in the BMB, 12 were filled directly by EPWP/skills development candidates and further 12 promotions were from previous EPWP/ skills development candidates. Therefore 67% of the vacancies were filled by candidates who had participated at some stage in a skills development programme in BMB. Overall, 44% of the vacancies were filled by permanent staff.

1) Kader Asmal

This programme has been ongoing for six years, with:

- Phase 1 (ISU) implemented between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2021, and Phase 2 (ISU and P&C) implemented from 1 July 2021 and ending on 30 June 2024.
- Phase 3 (ISU and P&C) started on 1 July 2024.
- River Wardens Skills Development started on 01 July 2024

Since its inception in 2018, a total 334 participants have benefited from this programme with 165 exiting the programme into mainstream/long-term employment opportunities or to further their studies and/or venturing into entrepreneurship.

2024/25:

- ISU and P&C Skills Development employed 50 participants with 23 progressing to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship, and 5 obtaining permanent employment with the City
- River Warden Skills Development Programme, there were 51 participants with 6 progressing to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship

2) Carbon Smart Skills Development Programme

Since 2023 (started on 1 July 2023), 67 participants of which 7 progressed to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship.

2024/25:

- Carbon Smart Skills development Programme resulted in 34 participants with 4 progressing to longer term employment, further studies or entrepreneurship.

3) Work Integrated Learning (WIL) – Nature Conservation students

BMB hosted 15 WIL students³ in 2024. A total of 13 students of passed, with the top Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) student coming from the City students. A further five students received allocates. The 2025 15 WIL students started their year in January 2025.

4) Other skills/internship programmes

Those shown in Table 16 are run by partner organisations.

Table 16: Breakdown of skills development programmes.

Programme	Number of participants	Host Site
Nature Conservation Learnership 2024-25 (NQF level 2 - Nature Conservation)	4	3- Steenbras Nature Reserve 1 - Helderberg Nature Reserve
Internship - Nature Conservation	1	1 - Tygerberg Nature Reserve
Groen Sebenza Internship	3	1 - Muizenberg East Cluster - Zandvlei NR 1 - Milnerton Racecourse section of Table Bay Nature Reserve 1 - Zoarvlei Section of Table Bay Nature Reserve
Total	8	

³ WIL Students are 3rd year Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) who undertake a yearlong practical in the workplace.

11. Staff and Visitor Safety, and Security

11.1 General Security

Visitor and staff safety, combined with protected area integrity, is the biggest financial cost for the BMB, and was over R48 M for the 2024/25 financial year.

The security budget is spent on:

- 1) **Regular security/static guards** – Safety and Security, Facilities Management tender is transversally used for the deployment of static guards at a number of nature reserves for access control.
- 2) **Integrity “rangers”** – as per BMB's Visitor and Staff Safety Tender, undertake patrols along fences; assist with environmental crime and visitor safety; and provide first response to emergencies including all types of crime, fire, and pollution events.
- 3) **Cash collection services** – reserves with paying entrances used cash collection services. This was stopped in February 2025 when the reserves became cashless.

There is a close collaboration between the Marine and Environmental Law Enforcement Unit and BMB staff.

The following proactive measures were undertaken in 2024/2025:

- Process underway to train reserve staff as Peace Officers to share the compliance and enforcement function.
- Regular Environmental Law Enforcement operations, joint operations and inspections at nature reserves.
- The EMD's tender/contract makes provision for surveillance to be conducted via drones. This has been of great help in areas where unlawful land occupation occurs. Statistics and drone images provided show the extent of unlawful land occupation, which includes not only the extent in terms of area invaded but also a count of structures on sites. This information is critical for planning purposes and used in legal proceedings as evidence. The City's Safety and Security Directorate is also making use of drones for their operations.
- Regular Environmental Law Enforcement task team meetings to integrate and guide environmental law enforcement:
 - Include area law enforcement
 - Introduction to the nature reserves
 - Introduction to the by-laws
 - Identify priorities for action.

11.2 Illegal land invasion

The City's nature reserves have not been exempted from unlawful land occupation and this remains one of the biggest challenges (Table 17). BMB has established excellent working relationships with anti-land invasion, law enforcement and other City departments working with the land invasion issues. BMB secures protected areas by means of contracted security in addition to permanent staff. Participation in briefings hosted by Safety and Security ensures BMB is recognised and protected areas are prioritised by the Anti Land Invasion Unit and Metro Police. Drones were used by BMB and Safety and Security to monitor areas and report on illegal land invasion.

Monitoring and surveillance of Unlawful Land Occupation sites continued (Table 17):

The illegal occupants of structures at Blaauwberg Nature Reserve is part of a protracted court proceeding.

Table 17: Unlawful land occupation on City Nature Reserves or land reserved for BMB

	Site	Number of Structures	Date of invasion	Where process is
Adjacent to Table Bay Nature Reserve	Rivergate Erf 79 and Erf 38295	Erf 79 Rivergate: Total 387 as at 24 July 2025 Erf: 38295 Rivergate: Total 188 as at 24 July 2025	July 2020	Eviction application in process.
False Bay Nature Reserve	Slangetjebos	Erf 1 Slangetjebos: Total 1356 as at 23 July 2025 Erf 93284 Slangetjebos: Total 256 as at 23 July 2025	2018	Eviction application being finalized for launching at court.
Wolfgat Nature Reserve	Wolfgat	1	August 2022	Emergency interdict in place Court proceedings ongoing
Macassar Dunes Nature Reserve	Macassar	0	Several attempts	Attempted invasion, no structures on site. Emergency court orders obtained when attempted invasion happened.
Zandvlei Estuary Nature Reserve	Frogmore Estate	To be assessed.	Unsure of exact date but was during COVID lockdown	Legal Request to be submitted for obtaining court order

12. Administration

12.1 Budget

- 88% of the capex budget spent.
- 93.5% of the controllable operational budget spent.
- 100% of controllable Repairs & Maintenance spent.
- 94% of the MPP operational budget spent.
- 99.44% of grants from EPWP office (Kader Asmal Programme) spent
- 97.13% of ward allocation budgets spent.
- Received additional operational budget via adjustment budget for 2023/2024. SMF budget requests approved for facility management (additional positions), budget and positions for the PSHB programme, and R3.6 M for fire break maintenance.
- Revenue 136% of planned amount even with SAMRAS (point of sale) being closed on and off during the period (Total revenue raised is R21.7 M).
- PPM reporting 100% each month.
- Total budget for EMD EPWP was R36 M sourced mainly as a grant from the City's EPWP office; additional funds from other line functions, subcouncils and wards for invasive species clearing was R24 M.
- Allocated and spent just over R3 M from LandCare and continued with R475 000 for three-year TMF programme (small incentive projects for landowners ending in September 2025), R80 000 from TMF: Fynbos Forever Programme, and R785 000 from the Blue Downes offset funds

12.2 Key Capital Investment Projects

The nature reserves have a capital investment programme to upgrade and develop the visitor facilities and offices. The projects in planning phase during the financial year include:

- Edith Stephens Nature Reserve office complex and education centre
- Westlake Conservation Centre office complex

Ongoing fencing of the Nature Reserves and the delivery of the final weed harvester were critical capital projects. The tender for redevelopment of a visitor centre and administrative complex at Bracken Nature Reserve was under construction and is due to be completed in 2025/26 (Figure 43).



Figure 43: The upgrading of the visitor centre and administration complex at Bracken Nature Reserve.

12.1 Staff

Staff Recognition Awards (November 2024)

Biodiversity Find of the year

Flora finds of the year:

- **Cliff and Suretha Dorse**
Species: Floating Buttons (*Cotula myriophylloides*)

This highly distinctive and bizarre aquatic plant is well known by botanists and it used to be a feature of Cape Town's seasonal wetlands. Unfortunately, with the loss and degradation of our lowland wetlands, this species was long considered to be locally extinct and only two remaining localities were known in the Overberg. Cliff and Suretha Dorse were looking for localities for highly specialised and threatened macro-algae when they discovered a very large population of the species at the Acacia Park sub-station wetland just on the side of the N1. This site is not protected and plans are being put in place to identify suitable receptor sites for its reintroduction. A small collection has been introduced to the Westlake Wetlands, Zandvlei Nature Reserve, as a trial. They continued to grow and flowered at this locality and a more concerted effort to establish it at this locality will be pursued next winter.

- **Edith Stephens Nature Reserve team**
Species: Scented Viooltjie (*Lachenalia arbuthnotiae*) (CR)

Lachenalia arbuthnotiae is a Critically Endangered Fynbos Biome endemic (specifically to the Metro South-East) and is currently restricted to only two known localities. The population at Mitchells Plain hospital was the only known remaining locality for the species for many years. This site is however not protected and subject to various threats (inclusive of alien plant invasion). The discovery of a second remaining locality for the species within Edith Stephens Nature Reserve is therefore of immense conservation significance. The reserve team found 13 individual plants after the first discovery of the species on site on 20 September 2024. Edith Stephens Nature Reserve now represents the only site locality for this Critically Endangered species that enjoys formal conservation protection. The reserve does however face various threats, and particular care will have to be taken in ensuring that we retain this incredibly valuable population of *L. arbuthnotiae* into the future.

Fauna find of the year:

Wolfgat Nature Reserve: Strandfontein Aquifer section team **Species: Barber's Ranger (*Trida barberae bunta*) (CR)**

Up until now, there has only been one location for the Critically Endangered Barber's Ranger – the Pelican Park section of False Bay Nature Reserve. The species numbers seem to fluctuate greatly and they are potentially extremely vulnerable – one catastrophic event at Pelican Park could render the species extinct. While only two individuals have been seen at the Strandfontein Aquifer section of Wolfgat NR, it is of immense conservation significance that there is now a second site where the species occurs. The finding of this species is a testament to the entire Strandfontein Aquifer team, not only for finding it but for the preceding sound ecological management which has allowed the site to restore and be viable for a variety of species, including this butterfly.

Best Teams

Special Mention - Witzands Aquifer Permit Office team

Winner - Macassar Dunes Nature Reserve Land Invasion Response team

Outstanding Staff Members

Special Mention - Zenzele Baleni, Ricardo Petersen, Heiner Riffel, Asieff Khan, Elzette Krynauw

Winners - Crystal Moses, Jacques Van Der Merwe

3) Women in Leadership

The Women in Leadership Programme (operating under the SPE directorate) aims at bringing women together to share their experiences in a safe, learning environment that has direct relevance and personal impact to those that participate. It addresses issues that affect women, no matter their standing and highlights the unique challenges they encounter. The programme also aims to connect an extensive female network of employees that encompasses all levels of management. The aim is not only to educate but also to foster an inclusive, stigma-free environment that promotes awareness and practical support for women in the workplace.

All activities over the last reporting period focussed on support of women, whether it was donating female hygiene products to selected shelters, volunteering time, removing the attached stigma of women's shelter patrons, or highlighting the impact of gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace by passive protest and online discussion (Figure 44).



Figure 44: Group photo of stakeholders during the Women In Leadership event highlighting Gender Based Violence.

13. Annexures

Annexure A: Nature reserves each illustrating at least one major highlight and one major challenge from 2024/2025

Name of reserve / unit	Highlight(s)	Challenge(s)	Management response to challenge
Nature Conservation Unit	Appointment of both Regional Heads completes the realignment of the operational leadership team within the Nature Conservation Unit.	- The threats and ongoing illegal land invasion of protected areas are negatively impacting the City's Nature Reserves. - Security of staff and infrastructure is negatively impacting morale and financial resourcing within the Unit - Navigating and understanding the bureaucracy of the organisation which hampers the effective delivery of services. - The inability to access tenders and the navigation of procurement processes is impacting the ability to get priority projects complete.	- Ongoing legal processes and watchfulness to prevent additional invasions. - Motivation for additional People and Conservation officers - TCP Unit assist on Supply Chain Management and Tender access.
NORTH REGION			
Blaauwberg Nature Reserve (BBNR)	- Two planned ecological burns for the reserve achieved an 86% burn rate of the planned areas. - The Anglo-American funded research into Cape Flats Sand Fynbos restoration continued.	The lack of access to alternative accommodation for the relocation of illegal occupants from the condemned structures at the Blaauwberg's Valley Farm homestead is holding up the launch of the Court application for an eviction order.	Ongoing legal process
Table Bay Nature Reserve (TBNR)	The Otter, the new weed harvester machine, is greatly assist in efforts to control pondweed which affects recreational use of the Rietvlei water body.	The catchment area of the greater Table Bay Nature Reserve remained a receptor of extensive polluted water from various sources including: huge volumes of sub-standard treated effluent discharged from Potsdam Wastewater Treatment Works, untreated sewerage from failing sewer conveyance infrastructure, wastewater/solid waste from informal settlements; unauthorised industrial discharges, fuel spills and run-off, silt from agricultural/mining areas, etc. The result of all these inputs is especially evident at the Milnerton Lagoon where a lot of these waste elements settle. Any form of life and biodiversity, in the lagoon, has disappeared due to the inability for aquatic life to tolerate these toxic waters.	- Working with Water and Sanitation to address pollution issues - Continue to engage in the MPP programme for Inland Water and Sanitation as well as mitigation measures such as the dredging of the Milnerton Lagoon mouth.

Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve (WANR)	Revenue and visitor numbers have increased exponentially, proving both the popularity of the nature reserve and the recreational opportunities it offers.	The rapid and ongoing growth of commercial activities (including sandboarding, off-roading and quad biking) necessitated the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve to initiate a process to determine the number of commercial activities that can be sustainably accommodated in the nature reserve. Associated with this investigation is the identification of the procedures needed to formalise and manage commercial access to the nature reserve as well as how to accommodate requests received from interested parties for start-up companies.	- Process to manage and support use of the reserve underway through the establishment of a code of conduct and limiting visitor numbers. - Commercial tender might need to be initiated
Bracken Nature Reserve (BNR), Haasendal Nature Reserve (HANR) and Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area (JCA)	- Work began on the construction of the new Bracken environmental education and visitor centre. The older heritage buildings at the site were protected as work began on this project. - A new fence was erected at the Perdekop Section, which has helped to alleviate some of the security concerns.	No secure fencing at Haasendal to protect the reserve from poaching, dumping and fire.	Fencing and security to be investigated
Durbanville Nature Reserve (DNR), Uitkamp Wetland Nature Reserve (UWNR) and Botterblom Nature Reserve (BONR)	- Plant cuttings and seeds had been collected before the wildfire which swept through Uitkamp; allowing this material to be used in restoration after the fire. - A visit and clean up by neighbouring residents of Uitkamp Wetland Nature Reserve provided a good opportunity to build relations with neighbouring residents. - AN ecological burn was conducted at Uitkamp Wetland NR	The malfunction of the Durbanville NR intercom resulted in a reduction in recorded visitor numbers.	- Engage with air pollution to resolve – meeting set up in July 2024. - Repair of the intercom system.
Tygerberg Nature Reserve (TNR), Bothasig Fynbos Nature Reserve (BFNR), Ariesfontien Nature Reserve (ANR) and Van Schoorsdrif Nature Reserve (VSNR)	- The new giant "Photo Frame" was erected on top of Tygerberg Hill. - The presence of qualified Peace Officer staff at Tygerberg Nature Reserve has helped to address some of the compliance issues.	- The lack of a full staff at the Van Schoorsdrift and Ariesfontein Nature Reserves has limited management effectiveness. - Load shedding has resulted in no water being available which has led to the closure of the Tygerberg Nature Reserve on several occasions.	Posts to be put on the staffing strategy
South REGION			
Helderberg Nature Reserve (HNR) including	Helderberg Nature Reserve received a replacement bakkie after a long two year wait	The Polyphagous Shothole Borer Infestation has crept into the indigenous forest sections of the Helderberg Nature Reserve. This presents new	The reserve and Invasive Species Unit continue to work on the PSHB circumstances presented.

Silwerboomkloof Section	- A fencing upgrade has begun at Helderberg Nature Reserve. Sections of internal fencing as well as a section on Hillcrest Road are in the process of being replaced. This forms part of a Capital project allocation. - The conversion of the old environmental centre into a fully functioning administration office for BMB staff was completed. - Repairs on the upper sections of the management track to Leopards Loop were achieved through the Green Jobs programme. - Restoration of the artificial ponds which facilitate water flow through the lower sections of the reserve has also begun. The siltation of these ponds after the 2022 fire has affected winter water flow and flooding of the lower parts of the reserve is presenting challenges and placing infrastructure at risk.	challenges to the management of this infestation. The loss of so many trees in the lower section of the reserve has already had a number of impacts. The lack of sufficient full time People and Conservation staff at Helderberg Nature Reserve remains a concern.	- SMF application for P&C post. - Major repairs on the management tracks and trails due to severe weather conditions and major erosion. - Continue with restoration of artificial ponds to facilitate water flow through the reserve.
Harmony Flats Nature Reserve (HFNR)	The expansion of the <i>Protea scolymocephala</i> population on both Harmony Flats Nature Reserve and Morkel's Cottage Conservation Area is an indicator that there is an overall improvement of the habitat condition on these protected areas. The expansion of the population has been facilitated by BMB staff who ensure that when seed becomes naturally available it is not lost to site by the wind but rather collected and scattered up wind of already existing plants.	- The lack of sufficient full time People and Conservation Officers for the Helderberg Nature Reserve cluster remains a concern to assist with the needs at Harmony Flats Nature Reserve and MC. - The removal of Security Services from Morkel's Cottage Conservation Area since August 2023 has resulted in considerable impacts and setbacks.	- SMF budget application for Helderberg NR. - Decision by Senior Managers to be made regarding site integrity and needs
Steenbras Nature Reserve (SNR)	- A team of EPWP staff has been appointed which consists of 1 Clerk, 1 Team Leader and 7 Workers. - NatureConnect Learners completed. - The contractor appointed through the Green Jobs Unit to undertake repairs and maintenance along the Steenbras River Gorge completed the work during the reporting period.	- Although beneficial, one Quemic Integrity Team cannot effectively serve the entire nature reserve. Ideally a second/third team needs to be appointed. There are many incidents which are missed, and evidence of these is only found after the fact. - There have been several break-ins at the Kogel Bay Depot, all of the valuable items from the BMB	Funding for additional Quemic IT team required. Management of Baboons – collars and virtual fence.

	The School Street office first phase of its maintenance is nearing completion.	buildings have been removed, however, the perpetrators are still gaining access into the Recreation and Parks Storeroom and have stolen gas bottles, copper wire and any items of metal they can find. - A splinter baboon troop is visiting the Gordon's Bay residential area almost daily. A plan of action is being implemented to remove this troop. - Large scale plant poaching, especially <i>Berzelia</i> species and Buchu, is on the increase in the Basin/Kogel Bay area. This is for the export (overseas) market. An operational plan will be developed to prevent further incidents.	
Wolfgat Nature Reserve (WNR), and Strandfontein Aquifer Section (WNR: SAS), Macassar Dunes Nature Reserve (MDNR)	- Filling of posts for Macassar East - Fencing completed along Swartklip Road, Baden Powell Drive, Eastern Fence line (near Hugenhout Primary School)	- Illegal structure's occupants (Khoisan Grouping) make it difficult for projects to proceed e.g. (fencing/firebreak maintenance). Poachers using dogs, illegal harvesting of flora afterhours. - Dumping and fencing theft - Need additional funds to complete Eastern Fence line. Current allocation is only for a portion of the fence line. - Funds needed for SAS and MDNR	- Court interdict granted, and the next step is the eviction application. - Additional funds to complete fencing
Edith Stephens Nature Reserve (ESNR)	Klaas's Cuckoos were recorded at ESNR for the first time, very successful amphibian counts with many Western Leopard Toad recorded.	Biodiversity Area Coordinator post was vacant due to resignation of previous incumbent.	Asieff Khan appointed as Biodiversity Area Coordinator for Edith Stephens and Symphony Way.
False Bay Nature Reserve (FBNR)	- Pelican Park 2 Biodiversity Offset was approved and will be managed by False Bay Nature Reserve. - Improving water quality at Zeekoevlei. - Increasing visitors, especially birders, to the Reserve. - Hippos at Rondevlei has drawn many visitors to the Reserve. - Unveiling of the expanded picnic area.	- Heavy rains and inundation of certain sections of the Reserve hampered progress with field operations - Wildfires and land invasion at Slangetjebos Section. - Inadequate fencing to secure hippos in Strandfontein Section. - Frequent hippo activity making it difficult to control water hyacinth and litter at the Italian Road Canal.	- Slangetjebos Eviction application. - Hippo management.

	• Strandfontein S3 fuel reduction burn and planned ecological burn at Van Blommestein Park. • Construction of the electric fence at Rondevlei	• Not having a permanent mechanical plant operator.	
Westlake Conservation Centre (WCC)	• New biocrete gatehouse structure delivered. • Fence line replacement (Clearview) along Steenberg Road and bottom of Ou Kaapse Weg boundaries by contractor. • New bird species record for site: Sombre Greenbul. • Gate repairs	• Several incidences of minor theft on site. • New gatehouse experiencing several structural issues e.g. peeling paint, wall and floor cracks. • Water supply issues - top borehole pump stopped functioning (May 2024) and several municipal water supply outages affected operations. • Capex funds needed for UPSs for gate motor and network box.	• Obtain funds for UPSs
Zandvlei Nature Reserve (ZNR)	• A school holiday EE programme was run in collaboration with the Zandvlei Trust. • R1,5 M fencing project under way. • Weedharvester - Cape Shoveler was delivered and launched at ZNR. • Small Plant/ Vehicle replacements of motorbike and quad bike	• Four grysbok mortalities (three caused by trains). • Gabion project hardened certain banks in the lower section of the narrows. • Sewage spills were disruptive. Major spill at Zandvlei mouth led to deaths of 40 Giant snake eel juveniles. • Subsistence poaching reports increased. • Cape Shoveler weedharvester had teething problems and was not actively clearing over the summer season as modifications led to downtime. Vessel is difficult to operate in the wind. • Wildfire in Westlake Wetlands. • Cases of arson in Westlake Wetlands, a few small fires were extinguished.	Repairs and Maintenance funding for Weedharvester required.

Annexure B: Media releases, articles and queries

MEDIA RELEASES	DATE
Residents invited to public information day about proposed modification of weirs at Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei	01 July 2024
Call to to nominate representatives to serve on Cape Peninsula Baboon Advisory Group	04 July 2024
All City of Cape Town Nature Reserves closed due to weather	11 July 2024
Residents reminded to comment on proposed modification of weirs at Zeekoevlei and Rondevlei	17 July 2024
World Ranger Day 2024: City showcases its woman field rangers	31 July 2024
Rietvlei's trails, picnic areas and Old Friend's bird hide open again to the public	20 August 2024
Catchment Management Forum to reinforce health of the Diep River	25 August 2024
Update on upcoming transitioning period, Cape Peninsula Baboon Advisory Group	29 August 2024
Call on residents, adventure sport operators to comment on draft Code of Conduct for Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve	02 September 2024
Commenting period for draft Code of Conduct for Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve extended	06 September 2024
Residents invited to join beach clean-up mornings in Blaauwberg	11 September 2024
City invites residents to join 2024 International Coastal Clean-up	15 September 2024
Reminder of information days about draft Code of Conduct for Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve	16 September 2024
Celebrate our natural heritage with free entry to City nature reserves during the Great Southern BioBlitz	17 September 2024
Steenbras River Gorge, Crystal Pools hiking trail bookings open 1 November	29 September 2024
City invites residents to online Borer beetle info session	09 October 2024
Two weeks left for comments on draft Code of Conduct for Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve	13 October 2024

Steps under way to secure baboon rangers for festive season, and beyond	14 October 2024
Green Coast status awarded to Blaauwberg Nature Reserve coastline for fifth time	29 October 2024
City offers free Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer beetle (PSHB) pest training in Constantia	07 November 2024
Locally extinct Cape Water Lily back in bloom to celebrate Earthshot Week	07 November 2024
Baboon rangers secured for December	15 November 2024
Mayco approves proposed partnership with Shark Spotters to assist with baboon management	20 November 2024
City of Cape Town joins the International Union for Conservation of Nature	27 November 2024
City and SANParks celebrates International Volunteer Day by recognising Cape Town's environmental volunteers	05 December 2024
Council gives City greenlight for partnership with Shark Spotters to assist with baboon management	05 December 2024
Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team welcomes withdrawal of litigation	06 December 2024
Somerset West community invited to Shot Hole Borer beetle (PSHB) pest training	13 December 2024
Zeekoevlei waterbody closed until further notice	13 December 2024
Somerset West community invited to Shot Hole Borer beetle (PSHB) pest training	18 December 2024
City signs partnership agreement with Shark Spotters, supported by SANParks and CapeNature	20 December 2024
Shot Hole Borer beetle (PSHB) highly active this time of year-residents to be on the lookout	20 December 2024
Borer beetle pest sighted in Durbanville	21 January 2025
Ecological burns scheduled for City nature reserves 2025	22 January 2025
Residents are urged to attend an online information session about the invasive borer beetle	23 January 2025

City Nature Reserves move to cashless payment options	24 January 2025
Temporary suspension of work at the Bayside Canal	06 February 2025
Destructive borer beetle: residents invited to important community meeting in Durbanville	07 February 2025
City provides guidelines to remain most biodiverse city in the world	13 February 2025
Cape Peninsula Baboon Advisory Group established	14 February 2025
Deputy Mayor invites residents to online meeting: City's Biodiversity Spatial Plan currently open for public comment	17 February 2025
City rolls up sleeves for World Wetlands Day	18 February 2025
Deputy Mayor invites residents to online meeting tonight: City's Biodiversity Spatial Plan currently open for public comment	20 February 2025
Shark Spotters on the go with baboons from tomorrow	28 February 2025
Borer beetle sighted in Bellville: Residents encouraged to complete urgent surveys	13 March 2025
Destructive borer beetle: residents invited to important community meeting in Kraaifontein and Pinelands	20 March 2025
Preparations under way for dredging of Zeekoevlei	25 March 2025
Global workshop on urban ecosystem restoration hosted in Cape Town	28 March 2025
Budget prioritises cleaner vleis, resilient coastline, upgrade of public places	03 April 2025
Capetonians invited to take part in 2025 City Nature Challenge	17 April 2025
2025 City Nature Challenge on the go this weekend	24 April 2025
New Codes of Conduct to preserve Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve	12 May 2025
Dredging of Zeekoevlei to start in June	14 May 2025

Local informal traders invited to apply for a spot at Tygerberg Nature Reserve	15 May 2025
Assembling of Zeekoevlei dredger under way	19 May 2025
Beware of the borer beetle: residents invited to important community meetings in June	23 May 2025
City committed to sustainable development that also protects Cape Town's exceptional biodiversity	23 May 2025
News just in: Popular roaming Elephant seal has just arrived at Kalk Bay Harbour!	28 May 2025
City of Cape Town Deputy Mayor invites residents to webinar on invasive PSHB	19 June 2025