



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Living Alongside Wildlife (WildCT) Charter May 2022



**SPATIAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

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Table of Contents

Page

1. Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
2. Definitions	3
3. Programme Description	4
3.1 Background	4
3.2 Regulatory and Governance Context	5
3.3 Purpose	5
3.4 Outcomes.....	6
3.4 Objectives	6
4. Scope.....	8
4.1 Work Breakdown Structure	8
4.2 Interventions and timeframes.....	8
5. Indicators.....	9
5.1 Progress Indicators.....	9
5.2 Outcome Indicators	12
5.3 Programme Reporting Structure	14

1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

BioNet	Biodiversity Network, the systematic biodiversity plan for Cape Town
BMB	Biodiversity Management Branch
CapeNature	Western Cape provincial conservation authority
CCT	City of Cape Town, also referred to as City
EE	Environmental Education
FY24	Financial Year ending in June 2024
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
LBSAP	Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
SANParks	South African National Parks, the national protected area authority
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UN	United Nations
WildCT	Living Alongside Wildlife Programme

2. Definitions

Ecosystem Services	Any beneficial natural process arising from healthy ecosystems, such as purification of water and air, pollination of plants and decomposition of waste.
Fauna	Species of the Kingdom Animalia, which include, amongst others, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, arachnids, fish and molluscs.
Wildlife	Locally indigenous fauna that are not domesticated or captive. Extra-limital and / or invasive fauna are not included.

3. Programme Description

3.1 Background

Cape Town, recognised by the United Nations (UN) as one of the most biodiverse City in the world, has some of the most unique and endemic flora and fauna on earth. The City of Cape Town (CCT) has a responsibility to conserve its biodiversity for current and future generations. With rapid urbanisation, however, the residents of Cape Town are coming into more frequent and closer contact with wildlife in the urban space and these interactions may not always be positive.

Prior to urbanisation, much of the land was home to many wildlife species, with their natural habitat and food sources. In order to protect Cape Town's biodiversity, the conservation partners in the City developed the Biodiversity Network in collaboration with other stakeholders that prioritises conservation areas to protect both flora and fauna. The CCT manages 21 nature reserves, most of which are surrounded by urban development. However, as the city grows and the urban edge expands outwards, the resultant fragmentation of these natural areas means that many wildlife species now find themselves either being pushed further away from previously natural spaces, entering the urban space on occasion, or living within the urban space. It is preferable for wild animals to remain in the natural areas within Cape Town where they thrive best and can avoid the potential threats associated with the urban space. While urbanisation is inevitable as the human population increases, the enormous pressure this puts on our wildlife cannot be ignored, especially as it pertains to unavoidable interactions with humans.

Close proximity of wild animals to the urban space often leads to conflict and is exacerbated by human behaviour. Access to domestic waste increases the probability of diseases spreading between wildlife and humans. The feeding of wildlife (now prohibited by the Animal Keeping By-law 2021), whether deliberate or negligent through attractants, can lead to habituation. This may result in a complete loss of fear of humans, which increases the chances of negative and dangerous interactions. Food attractants can also lead to damage to property by some animals trying to gain access. It is important to note that it is difficult to rehabilitate an animal back to its natural state, and subsequently euthanasia may be the only option left.

Proximity to humans can be detrimental to wildlife in the urban environment. For wild animals, health issues related to high calorie human diets can cause severe medical complications, including diabetes, obesity and malnutrition (nutrient deficiencies, abnormal development). There are many other ills that may befall wildlife in the urban space, including exposure to pesticides and pollutants, attacks by domestic animals, electrocutions and motor vehicle incidents. Western Leopard Toads, for example, are an endangered species due to habitat fragmentation, but cannot move between breeding sites without the risk of being killed by vehicles.

Encouraging presence of a natural predator species as a means to control the numbers of exotic pest species is less damaging to the environment than using pesticides, which may cause harm to ecosystems by killing other animals that were not targeted. Additionally, having more biodiverse gardens that are well managed positively contributes to better ecosystem functioning as they provide shelter and food for beneficial species, including birds and insects that help control pest species.

There are various ways that we can live harmoniously alongside wildlife. Managing our environment to better accommodate the wildlife around us is essential to avoid negative interactions. Every species plays a unique and important role in ecosystem services and humans do not function in a vacuum.

It is therefore essential that the CCT advocates for responsible and ecologically sound practices through a Living Alongside Wildlife (WildCT) programme to safeguard current and future generations of humans and

wildlife. This programme falls within the Biodiversity Management section in the draft IDP (2022/23 to 2026/27) and is aligned to the Environmental Strategy and the approved 2019 Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP).

3.2 Regulatory and Governance Context

Whilst the City of Cape Town is concerned to minimise human – animal conflict and keep wild animals in their natural habitat as far as practically possible, a number of other roleplayers, including organs of state such as CapeNature and SANParks, residents, and interest groups, have important roles and responsibilities for the management of wildlife.

- “Animal Control” is the shared constitutional executive function of the national and provincial spheres of government.
- “Nature conservation” is similarly a constitutional executive function shared between national and provincial spheres of government, with the exception of functions assigned to local authorities in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act of 2003. National Parks, however, are the exclusive competence of national government, represented by SANParks.
- Veterinary services are the exclusive constitutional competence of the Provincial sphere of government.
- Local authorities such as the City of Cape Town have constitutional competence in respect of the “control of public nuisances” and “fences and fencing”, and other matters such as municipal planning.

The constitutional assignment of executive mandates indicate that all three spheres of government have important roles to play in wildlife management. Intergovernmental cooperation is therefore critically needed to address wild animals that have entered an urban space. The City of Cape Town is working with the Western Cape Government, CapeNature and SANParks to establish a governance framework for wildlife in Cape Town, under the leadership of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP).

3.3 Purpose

The aim of a WildCT programme is to protect the City's precious wildlife, reduce conflict between humans and wildlife, and positively change behaviours. This will be achieved by establishing, exploring and promoting the implementation of sustainable practices in which humans and wildlife could interface that are conducive to a healthy natural environment. For certain wildlife, such as Western Leopard Toad, it is appropriate to allow them to live in your garden, while other animals such as baboons need to live in the adjacent wild area and must be discouraged from accessing residential property.

This is a complex task as Cape Town is home to people with wide-ranging value systems and interests. While some may want to protect wildlife, others may see animals as a nuisance or even a resource to be harvested for whatever purpose. People may also be unaware of the various ways they could handle nuisance or conflict situations. As such, animals such as porcupine, snakes, genets and caracal have been killed by residents who could not find an alternative option. Awareness and Environmental Education (EE) with affected communities is essential, and will assist with discussions on sustainable solutions to living positively alongside wildlife.

Another aspect of the programme will look at how to apply and implement sustainable solutions to prevent negative interactions between humans and wildlife in the urban space. The programme will promote and facilitate use of preventive measures against increased conflict with potentially dangerous or damage-causing animals (e.g. snakes, baboons). These preventative measures include not feeding wildlife; proper disposal of food and domestic waste; preventing access to compost heaps; animal proofing of vegetables and fruit trees; correct storage of wood; etc.

In addition, the programme looks at having better communication channels with the public and other stakeholders. As it currently stands, enquiries regarding interactions with wildlife are received on an ad hoc basis from both the public and internal stakeholders. Various environmental awareness documents which have already been compiled for distribution to enquirers include nuisance animal info sheets that focus on animal identification and preventive measures, and the urban wildlife contact lists for specific issues. There have also been awareness campaigns for specific species. The WildCT programme would aim to coordinate, increase, improve and consolidate these existing endeavours. A social media presence may be considered, which would ideally contain informative details about various groups of wildlife and their ecological purpose, amongst other things.

In essence, the aim of the programme will be to engage with individuals, groups and communities about interactions with their natural environment and what they can do to support biodiversity, as well as promote a harmonious relationship with the wildlife that they may come across. This programme is concerned with:

- 1) Awareness about living alongside wildlife that occur naturally in Cape Town.
- 2) Wildlife that could cause conflict, including mammals (porcupine, baboon, genet, caracal, mongooses, otter and leopard) and reptiles (snakes).
- 3) Wildlife of conservation significance that use gardens as part of their habitat, e.g. Amphibians (Western Leopard Toad)
- 4) Charismatic wildlife such as chameleons, owls and other birds, frogs and tortoises, which are found in suburban areas.

3.4 Outcomes

WildCT programme strives to:

- 1) Ensure Cape Town's residents are informed and understand, respect and cherish its precious locally indigenous wildlife
- 2) Keep wildlife "wild" and reduce interaction and conflict with residents
- 3) Work towards unique solutions, in conjunction communities and interest groups, interested and affected parties, to protect and live alongside wildlife.

3.4 Objectives

The overarching objectives of the programme are as follows:

- 1) To promote **Sustainable Solutions** in the relationship between humans and wildlife, e.g. promoting strategic fencing where required, signage to inform motorists of wildlife crossings, animal-proof bins, waste minimisation, pesticide minimisation, power line insulation, traffic calming, and alternate power line routing underground.
- 2) To ensure **Wildlife Friendly Sustainable Development**. Liaise with Planning and Building Development Management, Urban Mobility and Energy departments, to ensure that new infrastructure is built in a

way that will accommodate wildlife in any specified area. This will include looking at road infrastructure, new built roads, electrical installations and Water and Sanitation infrastructure.

- 3) To coordinate and facilitate **Awareness and Environmental Education campaigns**, including on matters of waste and electricity management. Campaigns will include councillors and community leaders so that they can engage their respective communities. This strategy intends to involve all stakeholders to be part of and included in finding solutions specific to their unique circumstances. These solutions will have a much bigger chance of being effective and supported when the local residents are involved and have contributed to the process. Thus, meetings with the affected communities will be held to discuss sustainable solutions specific to the needs of that particular community. Awareness and education will form part of these engagements. Campaigns will also be done with CCT staff, citizens and schools.
- 4) To support an Animal Welfare NGO via a grant for **injured and distressed wildlife**. It is envisaged that this NGO could work across the metropolitan city and undertake work that the City is not able to do.. The City is rich in wildlife which does result in injured animals as a result of conflict with residents as well as road fatalities.
- 5) To **ensure law enforcement** - enforce current by-laws and revise when necessary. This objective will involve working with various City line functions, in particular the City's Law Enforcement and Urban Waste Management in relation to the Integrated Waste Management and the Animal Keeping By-laws.

4. Scope

4.1 Work Breakdown Structure

This programme is led by EMD but will include the following City line functions:-

- a. Urban Waste Management – wildlife proofing of waste, responsible waste management, waste collections, and law enforcement
- b. Law Enforcement – by-laws
- c. Urban Planning and Design – new developmental areas
- d. Development Management - development and building conditions, and enforcement
- e. Property Management – ensuring wildlife proofing of Council leased land
- f. Environmental Health – transfer of diseases from wildlife to humans and vice versa. Support for minimising close contact for certain species.
- g. Urban Mobility – signage, traffic calming, planning for new infrastructure and retrofitting old
- h. Environmental Management – overall lead department for the WildCT programme.
- i. Catchment, Stormwater and River Management – new infrastructure and ensuring environmentally friendly solutions as well as maintenance of existing canals and waterways.
- j. Recreation and Parks – open space planning and management

4.2 Interventions and timeframes

Objective	Sub- project	Responsible line function
1) Sustainable Solutions	Animal proofing of public and private properties	EMD, Urban Waste Management, all City line functions
	Strategic mitigation measures for waste	EMD, Urban Waste Management
	Insulating electricity infrastructure	Energy
	Traffic signs and traffic calming	Urban Mobility
	Stormwater infrastructure and management	River, Stormwater and Catchment Management
	Open Space Management	Recreation and Parks
	Law Enforcement and By-laws	Urban Waste Management, Law Enforcement
2) Planning and Sustainable Development	Spatial Planning	Urban Planning and Design, , EMD
	Development Management (land use and building control)	Development Management

	Transport / roads	Urban Mobility
	Electricity	Energy
	Stormwater	Catchment, River and Stormwater Management
	Open Space Planning	Recreation and Parks
3) Awareness and Education	General	
	Waste Minimisation, waste handling	EMD, Urban Waste Management, Environmental Health
	Animal Proofing of public and private properties	EMD, Urban waste Management, Environmental Health
	Smart Living	EMD
	Environmental Health Issues	Environmental Health
	Roads / Traffic	Urban Mobility
4) Animal Welfare for Injured and distressed wildlife	Grant – in - aid	EMD
5) Law Enforcement	Effective enforcement	Law Enforcement, Urban Waste Management
	Revise by-laws when appropriate	Law Enforcement, Urban Waste Management

5. Indicators

5.1 Progress Indicators

Progress indicators towards the programme objectives listed above will be measured as follows:

Objective	Sub- project	Indicator	Measurement	Measurement (short term – FY24)	Measurement (Medium term – post FY24 – 5years)	Responsible line function
1) Sustainable Solutions	Animal proofing of public and private properties	Animal-proof bins (and/or cages) on both residential and public property.	Animal proof bins	Supply of animal proof bins to affected areas by FY24	Ongoing	Urban waste Management
		Animal-proof bins (and/or cages) and wildlife proofing on City property	Consolidate information on City owned properties	TBC once information has been consolidated		Property Management, Recreation and Parks Environmental Health, Urban waste Management

		Managing timeously waste collection in areas with high levels of human-wildlife conflict	Develop an operational plan	TBC once plan developed		Urban waste Management, EMD
		Promote the implementation of wildlife conflict mitigation measures in restaurants and public leisure areas in wildlife affected areas	TBC	TBC		EMD, Environmental Health, Urban waste Management
	Strategic mitigation measures	Explore the possibility of providing data for early warning systems for residents in wildlife affected areas	Data made available in pilot areas	Early warning system working in at least one pilot area by FY24	Early warning system working in two pilot areas by FY25	EMD
		Exploring sustainable solutions such as strategic fencing for baboon-affected areas	TBC	TBC	TBC	EMD
	Insulating electricity infrastructure	Insulation of existing electrical installations	TBC	TBC	TBC	Energy, EMD
	Traffic signs and traffic calming	Investigating ways of improving existing roads to accommodate wildlife, such as changing curb stones to accommodate small wildlife, e.g. leopard toad movement, or culverts/underpass in toad migration routes that go across busy roads.	TBC	TBC	TBC	Urban Mobility, EMD
		Traffic Signage	Appropriate signage in affected areas – develop plan	TBC once plan developed	TBC	Urban Mobility, EMD
		Traffic calming measures where appropriate	Investigate	TBC		Urban Mobility, EMD
	Stormwater infrastructure and management	Stormwater infrastructure retrofitting	TBC	TBC	TBC	Catchment, River and Stormwater Management
		Management of canals and stormwater drains	TBC	TBC	TBC	Catchment, River and Stormwater Management
2) Planning and Sustainable Development	Spatial Planning	Spatial planning to include proactively developing the City in a sustainable manner for fauna management. This could include overlay zones. Green Infrastructure Network and BioNet	TBC	TBC		EMD, Urban Planning and Design, Development Management, Urban Mobility, Energy
	Development Planning	Provide comment to all proposed development projects where urban wildlife conflict issues may arise	TBC	TBC		EMD

		Drawing up City SOPs, aligned to NEMA, on wildlife mitigation measures for development.	TBC	TBC		EMD
	Transport / roads	Engage on plans for new infrastructure				Urban Mobility
	Electricity	Engage on plans for new infrastructure				Energy
	Stormwater	Engage on plans for new infrastructure				Water & Sanitation
3) Awareness and Education	General Information	The provision of a link on the City Website that provides information on sustainable living alongside wildlife				EMD
		Internal line function awareness, education and assistance				EMD
		Design and provision of pamphlets and posters	TBC	TBC		EMD, Urban Waste Management, Environmental Health
		EE Roadshows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors • Sub-council • Schools • Communities adjacent to natural areas. • Internal City Staff • Ad hoc locations where wildlife issues may arise 	TBC	TBC		EMD, Urban Waste Management, Environmental Health
		Engaging relevant stakeholders in the management of specific species and issues with the urban space	TBC	TBC		EMD, Urban Waste Management, Environmental Health, Law Enforcement
	Waste Minimisation	Encouraging responsible waste management and minimisation, including recycling.	TBC	TBC		Urban Waste Management
	Animal Proofing of public and private properties	Advising on sustainable mitigation on fauna which could cause conflict or nuisance	TBC	TBC		EMD

	Smart Living	Promoting the use of alternatives to pesticides, and supporting the City's SMART LIVING principles	TBC	TBC		EMD
		Promoting increased biodiversity of appropriate species (e.g. Western Leopard Toads / indigenous) in the urban space and residential areas	TBC	TBC		EMD
	Environmental Health Issues	Providing information on health risks of interactions with certain species, such as baboons	TBC	TBC		Environmental Health
	Roads / Traffic	Alerting citizens to drive slowly and avoid killing or injuring wildlife				EMD
4) Animal Welfare		Deal with injured and distressed wildlife	Negotiated grant with animal welfare organisation	MOA finalised	Indicators developed in MOA	EMD
5) Law Enforcement	Enforcement	Enforcement of existing by-laws	TBC	TBC	TBC	Law Enforcement, Urban Waste Management
	Revising by-laws	Revise by-laws such as updating and enforcing the Integrated Waste Management By-law	TBC	TBC	TBC	Law Enforcement, Urban Waste Management

5.2 Outcome Indicators

The outcome indicators are an indication of the success of the programme.

Sub-programme / Projects	Indicators	Baseline (July 2022 – June 2023)	Short-term Target (12 months FY24)	Medium – term Target (5 years)
Human – wildlife conflict	Public engagement	Limited	Engagement with public to create awareness/inform and also seek sustainable solutions	Public engaged and informed, and finding solutions to reduce conflict – at least 2 examples
Awareness	Number of pamphlets and meetings	Limited	10 pamphlets produced	Campaign with a detailed number of pamphlets and messaging
EE	Number of EE person days	None	500 person days	1000 person days per year
Solid waste management	Animal proof bins for residential	Limited	Baboon proof bins available	Adequate supply of bins

	properties			
Infrastructure	Infrastructure retrofitted to improve wildlife movement or to reduce conflict, includes traffic signage	City line function discussions	At least one improvement of infrastructure	TBC
Improve wildlife movement or reduce conflict in new developments and infrastructure	Preparation of SOP or policy	Limited	SOP/Policy in preparation	SOP/Policy in place
Improve wildlife welfare	Grant – in – aid MOA	Negotiations with animal welfare NGO underway	MOA in place	MOA operational
Law enforcement	Effective Law Enforcement	TBC	TBC	TBC

5.3 Programme Reporting Structure

It is envisaged reporting will be done via a transversal programme.

