



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Living Alongside Wildlife Programme

Environmental Management Department

Subcouncil 1-21

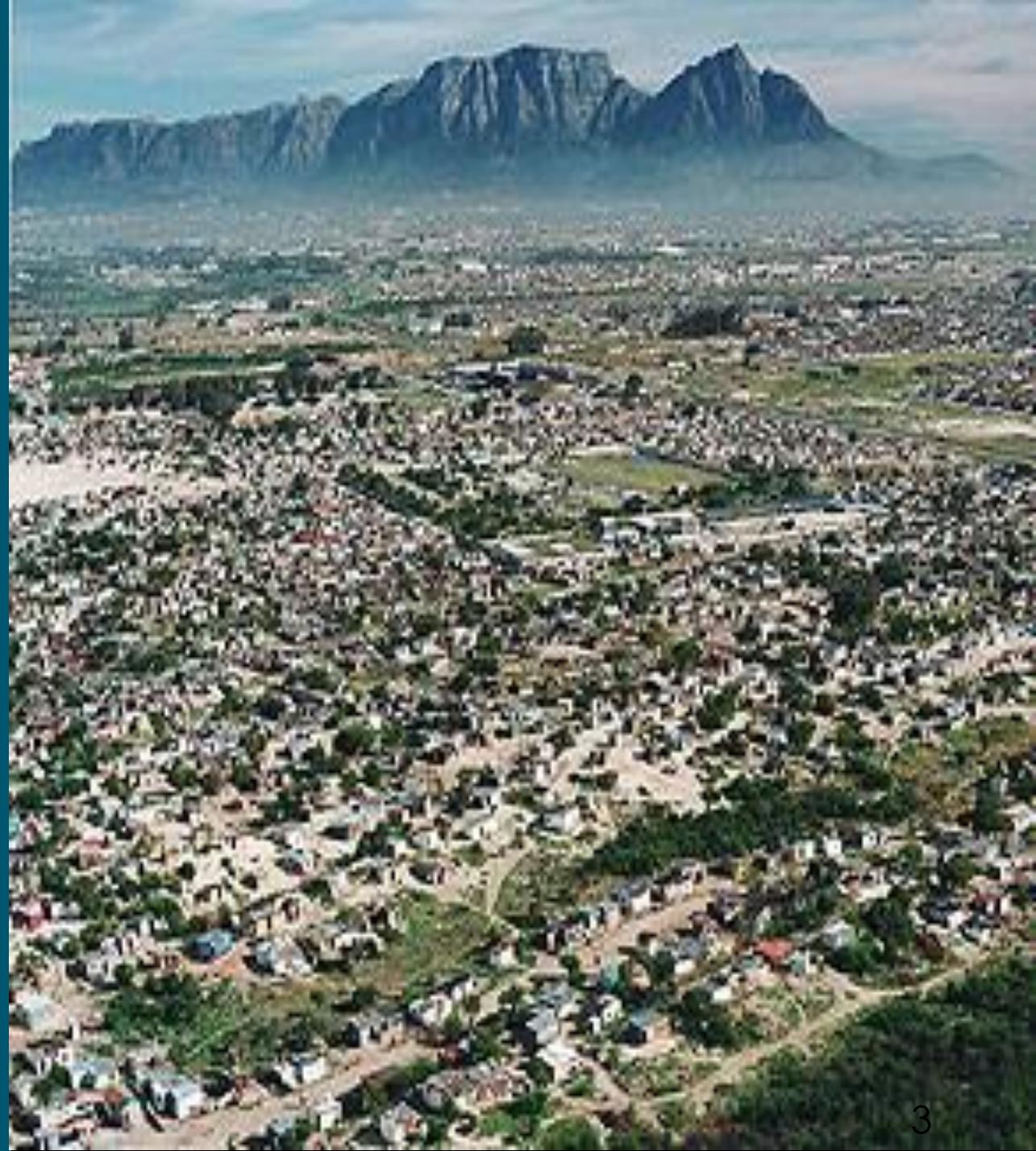
May 2022

Cape Town: Most Biodiverse City in the World



Wildlife in the context of urbanisation

- Urban area continues to expand
- This places pressure on wildlife (i.e. food, ranges and habitat).
- Wildlife living at the edges of urban areas or within the urban areas may inevitably come in contact with humans.



The Ideal: Keep wildlife wild and away from dangers of urban space such as-

- Road kills
- Access to domestic waste
- Disease spreading
- Conflict between humans and wildlife which can turn dangerous or even fatal
- Habituation
- Perceived nuisance



Important to note...

- Some animals, such as Leopard Toad, do live in urban areas as most of their natural habitat is gone. In this case we want to protect them by improving biodiversity in our gardens, limiting pesticides and facilitating movement and breeding.
- Leopard Toads are threatened by habitat fragmentation



Animals Raiding the Urban Space

- Feeding of wild animals is prohibited in the Animal Keeping By-Law 2021
- Negligent feeding is also considered illegal in the Animal Keeping By-law
- Illegal dumping is a criminal offence in the Integrated Waste Management By-law
- Need to ensure the public is informed about the bylaws in the context of wildlife in the urban environment.



Proposed: Living alongside wildlife (WildCT)

Proposed: Living alongside wildlife programme (WildCT)

- City-wide programme
- Working with residents for sustainable solutions
- Critical is awareness and education, baboon proofing and waste management as well as a range of interventions from planning, property management, and electricity upgrading, to name a few. Supporting animal welfare to care for injured and distressed wildlife
- Improved governance (all three spheres of government)

Departments involved

- Urban waste Management – wildlife proofing of waste, waste collections, and law enforcement
- Law Enforcement – Animal Keeping By-law, Integrated Waste Management By-law
- Urban Planning and Design – new developmental areas
- Development Management – development management in areas in close proximity to natural areas, imposing conditions for new developments
- Property Management – ensuring wildlife proofing of Council leased land
- Environmental Health – transfer of diseases from wildlife to humans and vice versa. Support for minimising close contact for certain species.
- Urban Mobility – signage, traffic calming, planning for new infrastructure and retrofitting current infrastructure
- Environmental Management – overall lead department for the Living Alongside Wildlife Programme
- Catchment, Stormwater and River Management – new infrastructure and ensuring environmentally friendly solutions, maintenance of existing canals and waterways
- Bulk Water – new infrastructure and management of existing infrastructure
- Recreation and Parks – open space planning and management

Purpose of Programme

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.

Outcomes of Programme

Living Alongside Wildlife Programme strives to:

- Ensure Cape Town's residents understand and nurture its precious wildlife
- Keep wildlife “wild” and reduce interaction and conflict with residents
- Work towards sustainable solutions to protect and live alongside wildlife

Objectives of Programme

1. To promote **Sustainable Solutions** in the relationship between humans and wildlife
2. To ensure **Wildlife Friendly Sustainable Development**
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 take the campaign to their respective communities as well.
4. To support an Animal Welfare NGO via a grant for **injured and distressed wildlife**.
5. To **ensure law enforcement** - enforce current by-laws and revise when necessary.

1. Sustainable Solutions

- Strategic fences
- Early Warning Systems for Baboons
- Avoiding the use of Pesticides (Promoting alternatives) – Smart Living principles
- Animal-Proof Bins
- Signage
- Responsible Waste Management and Minimisation
- Retrofitting infrastructure such as powerlines, roads, stormwater drains etc.

2. Sustainable Development

- Engage with the Spatial Planning and Environment, Urban Mobility, Water and Sanitation and Energy directorates / departments and provide comment to all proposed development projects where urban wildlife conflict issues may arise
- Promote building in a way that will accommodate wildlife in collaboration with the relevant line function.

3. Environmental Education

1. EE Roadshows:

- Councillors
- Sub-council
- Schools
- Communities adjacent to natural areas.
- Internal City Staff
- Ad hoc locations where wildlife issues may arise

2. Design and provision of pamphlets and posters

3. The provision of a link on the City Website that provides information on sustainable living alongside wildlife

3. Environmental Education: Preventing Conflict

- Public awareness & education is critical
- Prevent feeding (of all wildlife).
- Do not approach - allow animals space to move without feeling cornered.
- If they approach you, back away slowly.
- Avoid loud noises and flash photography that might startle animals.
- Increase vegetation cover to allow for safe movement of wildlife
- Dogs on tight leash when in natural areas.
- No littering as discarded food items still 'feed' animals & affect their health.



3. Environmental Education: Communication channels

- The programme looks at having better communication channels with the public and other stakeholders.
- We need to incorporate a link on the City website that will have everything including the ISU information and a social media presence for something like this to be effective at all.
- 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.

- The focus may be on
 1. animal identification
 2. preventive measures
 3. the urban wildlife contact lists for specific issues
 4. awareness campaigns for specific species, amongst other things.

4. Support an Animal Welfare NGO to provide support

- Will deal with injured and distressed wildlife in Cape Town
- Advertised through the grant-in-aid process



5. Law Enforcement

- Ensure By-Laws are enforced
- Make follow ups with relevant officials to ensure seamless transitions.



Working with communities and NGO's

- Wild CT allows the City to partner with residents, communities, and interest groups for the greater good of all wildlife Cape Town
- Wild CT is chartering a new course where communities will have the opportunity to be fully involved in devising and implementing solutions and decisions that affect them directly and address their unique circumstances
- Local solutions to local challenges – with baboons, different communities would want different solutions, the City's role is to facilitate and support
- Wild CT is centred around community ownership and involvement, and the shared responsibility to prevent, as far as possible, interaction between humans and Cape Town's wildlife
- The purpose is to also mitigate reputational and litigation risk to the City as WildCT aims to finding solutions by working with residents and involving communities in matters that affect them directly, sharing the responsibility with residents and interest groups in addressing animal welfare issues, education and waste management

3. Public Participation Process

Living Alongside Wildlife Programme

Public Participation Process

- The Living Alongside Wildlife Programme will undergo a public participation process. It will be then updated and serve at Council in October. Before it goes to Council we would like the other line functions to sign off on the charter.
- Issue a **media release** to inform public and i&a ps that public participation will commence on 16 May 2022; to inform all of the open day meetings; to advise where public can access relevant documents; and how to submit comments.



- **Period: 16 May to 17 July 2022**

Public Participation Process

- Tabled in *May* at all Suncouncils for noting
- Focus meeting with wildlife groups / individuals and former CARBS members
- Public meetings in each of 4 City Regions
- More engagements if required





CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

THANK YOU | DANKIE | ENKOSI