Table Mountain National Park
in the City of Cape Town

managing the edge – challenges for urban conservation

Presentation to:
BiodiverCities 2010
6 – 8 September 2010
Paris

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Manager: Planning
Table Mountain National Park
Biodiversity Significance

World Heritage Site inscription:
The Peninsula is considered to be “… of outstanding universal value for representing ongoing ecological and biological processes associated with the evolution of the unique fynbos biome”

- Cape Floral Kingdom – smallest and most diverse
- One of the world’s biodiversity hotspots
- High levels of endemism
- 2285 plant species - 158 endemic plants (7%)
- 801 animal species - 167 endemic animals (21%)
- Marine biodiversity rivals the terrestrial biodiversity
Key features of the TMNP

- A National Park entirely within the City of Cape Town
- Heart of the Cape Floral Kingdom – a natural World Heritage Site
- Marine biodiversity to rival terrestrial biodiversity
- Primarily ‘open access’ with 360 km boundary and 4 pay points
- Nearly 4 million visits a year and 1 million paying visitors
- Multi-recreational use – hiking, dog walking, mountain biking, horse riding
- Economic driver of the local tourism economy
- Fynbos - a fire driven terrestrial ecosystem – it’s ‘born to burn’
URBAN EDGE ‘FLASHPOINTS’

- Fire
- Baboons
- Encroachments
- Crime
- Financial sustainability
- Access
- Affordability
- Recreational activities
- Pine trees
THE CAPE OF FLAMES
JANUARY 2000
FIRE : RESPONSE

• Circum-Peninsula firebreak
• Fire Management Plan
• Co-ordinated Park and city fire services
• Fire Protection Association
• Helicopter fire fighting service
• Removal of alien vegetation
• Volunteer fire fighting service
• Fire proofing residences on the Urban Edge
BABOONS : RESPONSE

• Pro-active research programme
• Partnership approach:
  - City, conservation authorities, community, NGOs
• Baboon monitors
• Baboon proofing residences
• Enforcement
URBAN ENCROACHMENTS
ENCROACHMENTS: RESPONSES

- Peninsula Urban Edge
- Land Use Zoning Scheme
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Public participation
- Court action
Muggers on the mountain

TROUBLE SPOTS: Table Mountain, usually associated with nature’s beauty, has been the scene of three attacks in the past few days. A woman was stabbed in Platteklip Gorge (1) on Tuesday, a British doctor was attacked on Tafelberg Road (2), and a group of six pensioners walking on the mountain were attacked and robbed. Also yesterday, the body of a woman was found close to the top of the mountain (3). It appeared that he had fallen.

SPECIAL police task teams have been set up to investigate a spate of violent muggings on Table Mountain, Cape Town’s biggest tourist attraction.

After it was reported yesterday that a Japanese woman had been attacked and stabbings were reported, police were quick to react. A British doctor and a group of pensioners were also attacked.

Also yesterday, the body of a woman was found in the bushes near the Platteklip Gorge. She had been stabbed in the back and chest.

The body was found by a group of six pensioners who were walking on the mountain.

The police Serious and Violent Crime Unit is investigating the two attacks reported.

Special task teams have been allocated to the cases.

Yesterday afternoon, two Japanese consul general officials arrived at the bottom of the mountain to look at the body of a woman who had been found.

Kevin Tramp, a rescue coordinator for Wilderness Search and Rescue, said he believed the man had been climbing the cliff face after walking up the mountain.

“Terry was very beat after walking up the mountain,” he said.

The police have released the identity of the man who died. A group of six pensioners were attacked and robbed six days later. According to a security guard, a taxi driver had been walking on the mountain and stumbled upon the scene.

“The police called and, when I looked down, I saw the body of a woman and a man. The police called and, when I looked down, I saw the body of a woman,” he said.

The same body was also found by a British doctor who had been attacked on Tafelberg Road.

The body was found close to the top of the mountain. It appeared that he had fallen.
CRIME : RESPONSE

- Visitor Safety Plan
- Parks Visitor safety rangers
- Dog unit
- Public education
- Co-ordination with police services
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Primary source of Park income: gate fees and concession income
- TMNP generates a surplus through tourism – approx. R20 million pa
- Surplus to national biodiversity effort
- TMNP received over past 5 years R106 million in grant funding from various government social / environmental investment programmes: (Working for Water, Working on Coast, Expanded Public Works Programme)
- Job creation and training:
  - 600 people - public works
  - 300 people - alien clearing
  - 90 small businesses
ACCESS : RESPONSE

• Open access park – 75% of area is free entry

• TMNP Environmental Experience Program 20 000 pa
  – Park City bus
  – Environmental Education Centers

• Subsidised access - 10 000 pensioners per year
AFFORDABILITY : RESPONSE

- Wild Card permit system for nationals and locals:
  - National and regional Wild Cards
  - Cape Town Wild Card : R75 for 12 free entries
  - For example: Cape Point gate fee is R75 per entry
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
### 2006 CDF: Visitor Use Zones - Desired State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>TMNP Zone</th>
<th>Desired State</th>
<th>Quality of the natural environment</th>
<th>Experiential Qualities</th>
<th>Interaction between users</th>
<th>Sophistication of facilities</th>
<th>Level of Exertion</th>
<th>Level of self sufficiency</th>
<th>Spirituality</th>
<th>Primary user movement within the zone</th>
<th>Equivalent SANParks zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Close to Nature</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities tend to be at landscape level</td>
<td>REMOTE WILDERNESS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Areas with very high natural qualities where the sights and sounds of the city are infrequent allowing for a spiritual experience of isolation. They are generally inaccessible, requiring additional physical exertion to reach and experience. Visitors need to be more self reliant and experienced. The nature of the experience is heavily dependant on the quality of the natural environment. The main accent of management is biodiversity conservation.</td>
<td>Pristine</td>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>Pedestrian only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REMOTE</td>
<td></td>
<td>The experience is one of relative solitude and wildness. Signs and sounds of the urban area are more obvious and encounters with other visitors are more frequent than in Remote Wilderness. Although less physical exertion is required, a reasonable level of fitness, self reliance and experience is necessary. The nature of the experience is dependant on the quality of the natural environment. The main focus of management is biodiversity conservation. There may be some signs of infrastructure mainly of a heritage nature.</td>
<td>Relatively Pristine</td>
<td>Solitude</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Pedestrian limited non motorised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>QUIET</td>
<td></td>
<td>This zone provides experiences of a relative sense of solitude and relaxation in an environment that is openly exposed to the sights and sounds of the city. Although it is a place of quietness and naturalness, there will be more interaction between users than Remote. There is less of a challenge and the zone is easier to access and less physical exertion is required. The quality of the experience is less dependant on the quality of the natural environment with the provision of basic facilities such as rustic accommodation, refreshments and craft outlets in appropriate locations. It also serves as a buffer to the adjoining urban area.</td>
<td>Natural / semi-transformed</td>
<td>Relaxation</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Pedestrian Non motorised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outdoor Natural Experience</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities tend to be at precinct level</td>
<td>LOW INTENSITY LEISURE</td>
<td></td>
<td>The main accent is on recreational activities which are more dependant on the quality of the facilities provided than in a natural environment. By their nature these zones are located in more transformed landscapes with the provision of a range of facilities such as accommodation, braai/picnic sites, food and beverage outlets, interpretation and education centres, etc. as appropriate. Interaction and socialisation are an integral part of the experience.</td>
<td>Transformed</td>
<td>Socialisation</td>
<td>Frequent</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Pedestrian Non motorised</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HIGH INTENSITY LEISURE</td>
<td></td>
<td>High intensity tourism development with modern commercialised amenities and concentrated activities. The quality of the visitor experience is heavily dependant of the quality of the facilities which enable the visitor to experience the environment with a minimum of effort. Due to the high impacts these facilities are concentrated at specific nodes. These nodes are generally situated at existing facilities including historic buildings and precincts. The main focus of management is to ensure a high quality visitor experience whilst ensuring that the activities have a minimal impact on the surrounding environment and that heritage resources are respected and celebrated.</td>
<td>Highly transformed</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>Very frequent</td>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>Very low</td>
<td>Very low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Motorised People movers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The ‘Desired State’ is the long-term objective of the zone and these desired conditions may not currently exist. Achieving the ‘Desired State’ will be informed by many factors and may only be reached in the long term.
2. Motorised people movers may traverse Use Zones to connect High Intensity Leisure zones. Introducing motorised people movers is subject to detailed studies and necessary approvals.
## 2006 CDF Visitor Use Zones: Recreational Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreational Activities</th>
<th>Hiking</th>
<th>Walking</th>
<th>Running</th>
<th>Bouldering</th>
<th>Dog walking</th>
<th>Traditional &amp; Free Climbing</th>
<th>Sport Climbing</th>
<th>Hang &amp; Paragliding</th>
<th>Horse Riding</th>
<th>Mountain Biking (MTB)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMOTE WILDERNESS</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMOTE</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>+ from designated launch sites and provided all equipment is carried in and out * MTB &amp; horses only on designated routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUIET</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>* MTB &amp; horses only on designated routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOW INTENSITY LEISURE</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>✓*</td>
<td>* MTB &amp; horses only on designated routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH INTENSITY LEISURE</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓*</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* Only on leash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: If an activity is not listed in the table, then it is not usually permitted in the TMNP.
## 2006 CDF: Visitor Site guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>Applicable zones</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tourist Destination</strong></td>
<td>Main tourist destinations. Seeing and experiencing specific attractions. Short duration visit.</td>
<td>Appropriate facilities to deal with large numbers of tourists e.g. parking, ablutions, interpretation, footpaths, transport systems, refreshments.</td>
<td>High Intensity Leisure</td>
<td>Due to high pressure of tourist volumes and the sensitive nature of the surrounds, these sites are maintained as destinations of high volumes and short duration. Facilities should not detract from the intrinsic qualities of the area.</td>
<td>Boulders’ Visitor Centre, Cape Point, Cape of Good Hope, Signal Hill, Silvermine Lookout, Table Mountain Upper Cable Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mixed Use</strong></td>
<td>Serves a variety of purposes - recreation, leisure, transit, education, refreshments and accommodation. Varies in scale and purpose according to context</td>
<td>Ablutions, parking, food outlets, accommodation, interpretative centres, education facilities, recreation facilities (picnic &amp; braai). Park facilities.</td>
<td>High Intensity leisure</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure</td>
<td>Length of stay is longer than for Tourist Destinations and provides for a range of activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Picnic / braai</strong></td>
<td>Provides braai and/or picnic facilities.</td>
<td>Only picnic and braai facilities, tables with seating and ablutions. No other facilities. Limited scale refreshment outlets may be considered</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure</td>
<td>Provides for safe and secure family orientated facilities for low intensity leisure activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park Entry Point</strong></td>
<td>Points of entry into the Park which can be categorised as: -Pay Points, -Gateways, -Minor Access Points and -Local Access Points</td>
<td>Parking with signage &amp; information. Ablutions and trading at selected sites.</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure</td>
<td>Low Intensity Leisure</td>
<td>Maintained as Park entry points Not suitable to diversify into Mixed Use sites. Management of security is required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park Accommodation</strong></td>
<td>Provides Park accommodation from which adjoining zones can be accessed.</td>
<td>Small (max. 24 beds) accommodation, preferably self catering for park visitors</td>
<td>Quiet</td>
<td>The accommodation should be appropriate to the surrounding environment.</td>
<td>Back Table hikers accommodation, Olifantsbos Cottage, Overseer’s Cottage, Orange Kloof Tented Camp, Silvermine Tented Camp, Slangkop Tented Camp, Rooikraans Radar Station.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
1. Each visitor site can be graded according to the volume of visitors to be catered for.
   - **High volume** > 100 000 visits/annum;
   - **Medium Volume** >35 000 <100 000 visits/annum;
   - **Low Volume** <35 000 visits/annum
2. The table indicates facilities that may be appropriate at different visitor sites. The development of specific sites is subject to detailed planning and following the relevant statutory approval processes.
3. The CDF provides for linking visitor sites across different use zones as determined through local planning processes and relevant statutory approvals (e.g. EIA and HIA)
   * indicates visitor sites under separate or shared management with SANParks.
PINE PLANTATIONS
Tokai vision
‘Transition area’ planting for shaded recreational landscapes

The proposed ‘transition’ areas are an innovative approach to secure shaded recreational areas and a planted urban interface landscape, whilst achieving the long term biodiversity objectives. This is a cyclical approach which involves:

1. Commercial pine plantation - harvesting the existing pine tree compartments;
2. following up with a biodiversity burn to stimulate fynbos growth;
3. allowing fynbos growth for about 8 years for the seed to be returned to the soil;
4. planting non-invasive pine trees;
5. allowing about 30 years of tree growth to provide shaded recreational areas;
6. during this period the fynbos dies back due to shading; and
7. harvesting of pines for fynbos to return.

Table Mountain National Park

7. Harvesting and Fynbos Rehabilitation
6. Shaded Recreational Area
5. Pine Trees Replanted
4. Natural Fynbos Recuperation and Seedsetting
3. Biodiversity Burn
2. Trees Harvested
1. Commercial Pine Plantation
A Park
For All
Forever

Table Mountain National Park
A Park for All, Forever  iPaka yoluntu lonke ngonaphakade
’n Park vir Almal, vir Altyd