



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



Biodiversity Management Progress Report

July 2022 – June 2023



Skills development staff on a site visit to Macassar East Section of Wolfgat Nature Reserve

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

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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
CAPE	Cape Action for People and the Environment
CapeNature	Western Cape provincial conservation authority
CPBMJTT	Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area
CCT	City of Cape Town, also referred to as City
CDF	Conservation Development Framework
CFU	Colony Forming Units
CIP	Metro Southeast (SE) Strandveld Conservation Implementation Plan
CPUT	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
CR	Critically Endangered
CSU	Conservation Services Unit, Biodiversity Management Branch
DCCP	Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership
DEA&DP	Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (Western Cape)
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (national)
DSDF	District Spatial Development Framework
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
ISU	Invasive Species Unit, Biodiversity Management Branch
LBSAP	Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
LC	Least Concern
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, METT-SA03 used in this report
MPP	Mayoral Priority Programme
MSDF	Municipal Spatial Development Framework
NCC	NCC Environmental Services
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
P&C	People and Conservation
PAAC	Protected Area Advisory Committee
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)
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
USIP	Urban Sustainability Internship Programme
WULA	Water Use Licence Application
WWF-SA	World Wide Fund for Nature, South Africa

1.2 Acronyms of the CCT Nature Reserves

ACA	Ariesfontein Conservation Area
BBNR	Blaauwberg Nature Reserve
BFNR	Bothasig Fynbos Nature Reserve
BB	DNR: Botterblom section
BNR	Bracken Nature Reserve
DNR	Durbanville Nature Reserve
ESNR	Edith Stephens Nature Reserve
FBNR	False Bay Nature Reserve
HCA	Haasendal Conservation Area
HFNR	Harmony Flats Nature Reserve
HNR	Helderberg Nature Reserve
JCA	Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area
MCCA	Morkel's Cottage Conservation Area
MDS	WNR: Macassar Dunes section
MES	WNR: Macassar East section
SNR	Steenbras Nature Reserve
SWCA	Symphony Way Conservation Area
TBNR	Table Bay Nature Reserve
TNR	Tygerberg Nature Reserve
UWNR	Uitkamp Wetland Nature Reserve
VSCA	Van Schoorsdrift Conservation Area
VWCA	Vesuvius Way Conservation Area
WANR	Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve
WCC	Westlake Conservation Centre
WNR	Wolfgat Nature Reserve
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 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. Therefore, 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



Figure 1: Tygerberg Nature Reserve in the heart of the northern suburbs.

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.

The 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 Conservation 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 Biodiversity targets are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Biodiversity reporting targets as per the IDP.

INDICATOR	BASELINE TARGET 2020/21*	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
9.A Proportion of biodiversity priority areas protected (%)	65%	65.33%	65.25%	65.40%	65.50%	65.80%
9.B Biodiversity priority areas remaining (hectares)	New	81 000 ha	81 000 ha	81 000 ha	81 000 ha	81 000 ha

*Percentage of the 2009 Biodiversity Network.

2.2 Notable Highlights¹

- 1) In November 2022, the City of Cape Town was accredited as a Ramsar Wetland City, one of only four in Africa, for safeguarding urban wetlands for people and nature (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Table Bay Nature Reserve is one of the City's nature reserves that protect wetland habitats.

- 2) In the last financial year, **3 279 job opportunities** (target 3 000) were created with **664,97 FTE** (target 500) and **152 941,5** person days of employment. All together BMB facilitated over 3 740 job opportunities.
- 3) **City's EPWP award ceremony in 2023:**
 - Mfundo Tafeni – Best Project Manager
 - Chandre Rhoda – Committed Stakeholder Award

¹ See Annexure A for additional highlights per reserve or unit.

- Kader Asmal Project – Best EPWP Environmental and Cultural Sector Project
 - Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme – Compliance Certificate
 - Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme – Benchmark Project of the Year
- 4) The nature reserve manned gates, events and access points recorded **631 432 visitors**. Over **33 830 individuals** attended education programmes, events, exhibitions, formal or awareness activities on and off the reserves, equalling **34 728 person days of education**. In total, **96 volunteers (1 085 person days; approximate value = R1 M)** and **30 sponsored individuals (2 703 person days; approximate value = R3.4 M)** were recorded.
 - 5) Completion of Biodiversity Network (BioNet) rerun, and draft update of the Bioregional Plan.
 - 6) Action Plan component (2023-2027) of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) completed.
 - 7) Mayor's Priority Programme (MPP) vleis remediation reports completed for Zandvlei, Rietvlei and Milnerton Lagoon.
 - 8) The Cape Bird Club's 75th anniversary was in 2023 and to celebrate this the club embarked on a birding big year for the City of Cape Town boundaries. It was a huge success; over 300 people had joined the challenge and 300 species of bird had been recorded in the City by the end of June 2023. One main aim of the big year challenge was to promote the City's Nature Reserves and the amazing avifauna that occurs in the City (Figure 3).
 - 9) A population of the Swartland Silver-spotted Copper (*Trimenia wallengrenii wallengrenii*) was discovered on the Dassenberg hills above Mamre. This butterfly species was presumed to have gone extinct.
 - 10) Following an ecological burn at Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area in 2020, the first Critically Endangered *Protea odorata* (CR) flowered. Ten plants recruited after the fire, two of which flowered in April 2023 (Figure 4).



Figure 3: This juvenile male Narina Trogon in Cecilia Forest was only the second record of this species in the City and has been a highlight for many birders.



Figure 4: *Protea odorata* at Joostenbergskloof.

2.3 Notable Innovations

1) The Carbon Smart Programme

One valuable option to handle waste from invasive species clearing and green waste from Solid Waste transfer sites is to use this material in a value-added industry product. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) has developed the Biomass Insulated Concrete (Biocrete) product, which utilises invasive species biomass to create various types of infrastructure. This value-added programme provides a unique opportunity to utilise biomass that would otherwise be composted or sent to landfills. The surplus of green waste at Solid Waste sites is expected to continue even after controlling all invasive species.

The DFFE has successfully demonstrated the use of this product by producing accommodation, classrooms, toilets and low cost housing across South Africa. The potential of this process is further extended by allowing the inclusion of other recyclable materials such as plastic, glass, paper, and textiles in the mixture, enabling the production of diverse products such as furniture and decorative items.

BMB has established a Carbon Smart Programme that will utilise this biomass to create various types of infrastructure, aligning with the Carbon Neutral Biocrete Strategy. This programme supports the City's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050, enabling the construction of carbon-neutral buildings immediately. Additionally, the Biocrete product offers superior acoustic properties, insulation properties three times better than concrete, incremental vertical expansion, fireproofing, and termite resistance. Moreover, the Biocrete process uses less water than conventional concrete production. The Carbon Smart Programme presents the City with a remarkable opportunity to offer a potential solution to the urgent need for affordable housing. Through this programme, Bio-bricks can be manufactured at significantly reduced construction costs, enabling the construction of affordable housing units for low-income communities. The remarkable cost-effectiveness of Bio-bricks is complemented by their superior insulation properties, leading to reduced electricity usage in buildings, and their incremental vertical expansion capabilities, making them ideal for the City's limited ground space.

2) Development facilitation through land banking and other offsets

Biodiversity offsetting is a relatively novel practice in South Africa that has not always been implemented in a defensible and consistent manner. The approaches now adopted in the Atlantis Conservation Land Bank and the Metro Southeast Strandveld Conservation Implementation Plan (CIP) are helping to facilitate development in a responsible manner in Cape Town. Implementation of the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline, gazetted in June 2023, is also expected to assist with practical guidance on biodiversity offsetting in the Environmental Authorisation application process contemplated in NEMA.

2.4 Notable Challenges

- 1) Poor water quality issues with ongoing spills and pollution events.
- 2) Unlawful land occupation.
- 3) Upper Steenbras Catchment which is threatened by land tenure and illegal activities.
- 4) Budget constraints for safety/security of visitors, staff, infrastructure and nature reserve operations.
- 5) Escalating human-baboon conflict on the Cape Peninsula.
- 6) Invasive Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) spreads, affecting trees in the Newlands-Rondebosch.
- 7) Contract Management, Tender and Procurement issues.

3. Strategy, Policy, Legislation and Plans

3.1 Biodiversity Network (BioNet)

The fine-scale systematic biodiversity plan for Cape Town, known as the Biodiversity Network or BioNet was updated and now comprises maps for the Terrestrial BioNet 2023, Aquatic BioNet 2023, and combined BioNet 2023 with extended planning domain (10 km buffer around the City and all of Cape Town's major water supply dams and their associated sub-catchments) (Figure 5). The BioNet is a key informant in spatial planning processes and decision making for Cape Town; and directs Protected Area expansion planning locally and provincially. With continued implementation, the BioNet will further underpin the sustainability of Cape Town and improve its resilience to the effects of climate change. The biodiversity priority areas required to meet national conservation targets (i.e. Protected Areas + Conservation Areas + Critical Biodiversity Areas) now add up to 81 418,64 ha, compared to c. 85 000 ha in 2009.

3.2 Bioregional Plan

The Cape Town Bioregional Plan was adopted as Council Policy in August 2015 (Policy Number 44854). It comprises a biodiversity profile for the bioregion, the Cape Town BioNet and management guidelines. The purpose of the Bioregional Plan is to inform and guide spatial planning, environmental assessment and natural resource management by a wide range of sectors whose policies and decisions impact on biodiversity. It provides a framework for all City line departments to align their environmental responsibilities. The spatially explicit BioNet facilitates forward planning to minimise impacts on biodiversity; and enables a more integrated, cost-effective approach to environmental management and conservation in Cape Town.

The Bioregional Plan is in the process of being updated, with a draft completed by the Conservation Services Unit (CSU) in June 2023. This update incorporates the new spatial products from the BioNet rerun, including updated and additional input layers; updated legislation and policy; and alignment to the IDP 2022-2027, Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF 2022) and eight District Spatial Development Frameworks (DSDFs 2022). The Bioregional Plan will now go through the official approval and public participation process.

3.3 Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP 2019) action plan component was updated by BMB to set priorities for the remainder of this IDP term (2022-2027). The action plan component consists of actions, deliverables, targets, timeframes, means of verification, and implementing units identified for each of the five strategic objectives. These specific actions are set to achieve optimal and realistic governance and management of biodiversity and ecosystem services. As this was a major overhaul of the action plan to bring it up to date with Branch priorities, three workshops with all levels of professional and management staff from the BMB (c. 60 people) formed the initial phase of this update. The collated comments were then collated, and the spreadsheets were completed and wordsmithed. The final draft was approved by the Branch Manager on 23 June 2023. Final approval and implementation of this updated LBSAP action plan will commence from 1 July 2023.

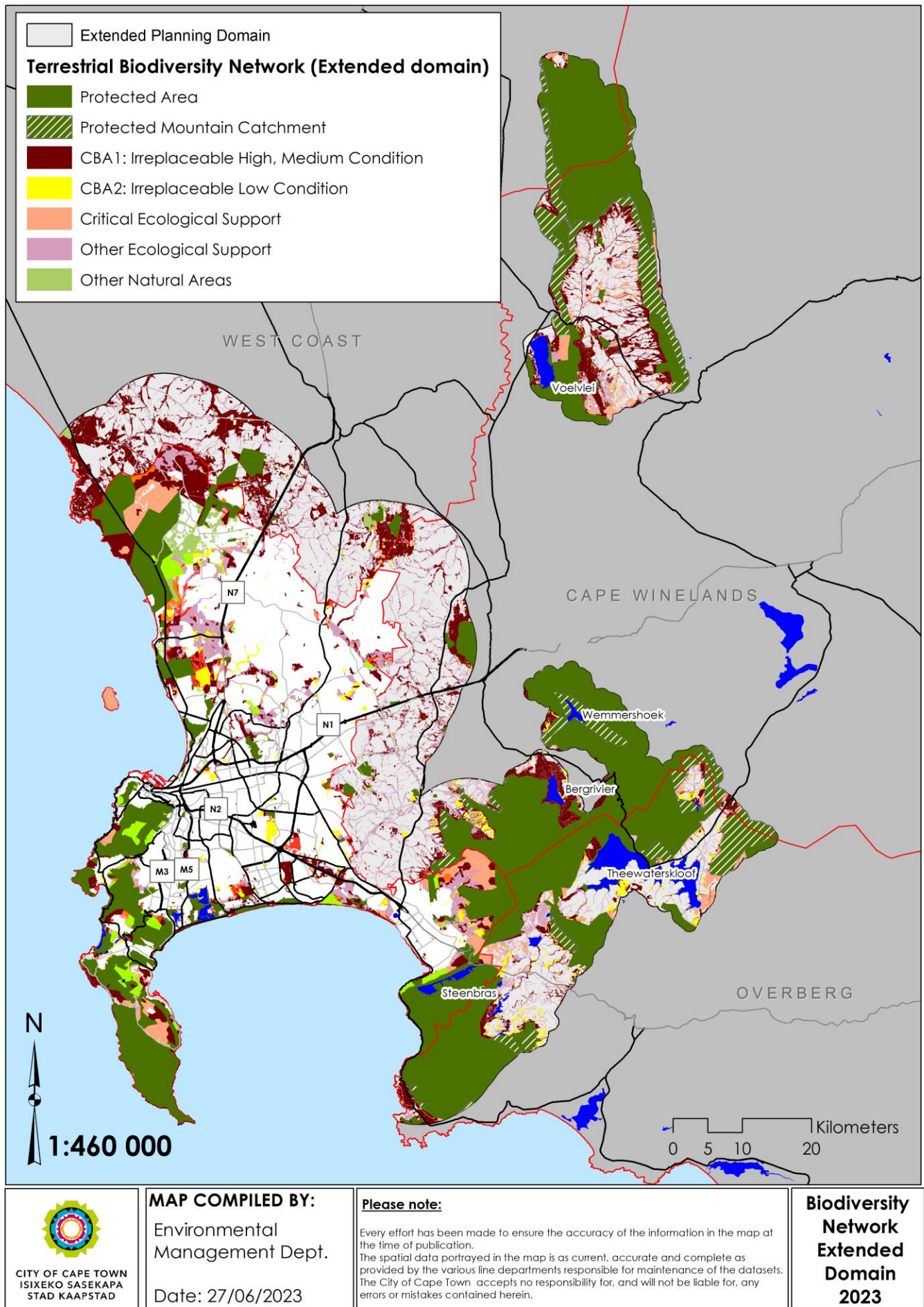


Figure 5: BioNet 2023 with terrestrial, freshwater and extended planning domain.

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 this financial year, a total of 3 279 temporary employment opportunities and 152 942 person days (665 FTEs) were created through implementation of invasive species control, green jobs and skills development projects across the BioNet (see Table 2 below). The targets of creating 3 000 job opportunities and 500 FTEs for this reporting period were exceeded.

Table 2: 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)	R7 278 138,07	R7 278 138,07	19 432,0	129	84,49
Kader Asmal Integrated Grant Project (GPX.0000987-F1)	R18 214 553,63	R18 214 553,63	66 654,0	1 746	289,80
Kader Asmal Integrated Project: Treasury PEP Funding (GPX.0001995-F1)	R13 028 513,33	R13 028 513,33	25 446,5	640	110,64
Kader Asmal Integrated Project: MJCP (\$20.00104)	R5 162 014,00	R4 316 667,98	23 208,5	625	100,91
Other line functions (reported against EMD EPWP Projects) ²	R11 250 456,32	R11 166 450,61	18 201,0	139	79,13
TOTAL	R54 933 675,35	R54 004 323,62	152 941,5	3 279	664,97

In addition to the achieved targets mentioned above, a number of invasive species control and green jobs projects were also facilitated for various line departments. Through these projects an additional 461 EPWP job opportunities, 38 261 person days and 166 FTEs were achieved (see Table 3 below).

Table 3: Job opportunities created on behalf of other City line departments.

Line Departments	Planned Budget	Actual Expenditure	Person Days	Job Opportunities	FTE	Comments
Bulk Services: CSRM	R10 000 000,00	R4 566 861,25	27 118	270	117,90	Job opportunities created on behalf of Water and Sanitation Directorate
Enterprise and Investment	R2 000 000,00	R1 998 016,68	7 783	104	33,84	Job opportunities created on behalf of Enterprise and Investment Department
Housing Development	R1 484 139,47	R1 385 297,13	3 360	87	14,61	Job opportunities created on behalf of Human Settlements Directorate
TOTAL	R13 484 139,47	R7 950 175,06	38 261	461	166,35	

² These include Bulk Service: Bulk Water; Bulk Service: Pump Stations; Recreation and Parks; Corporate Services: Subcouncil 12 and 19; and Ward Allocations 40, 61, 69 and 85.

5. Conservation Services

5.1 Protected Area Expansion

1) Reserve Proclamation

- No update for the two outstanding nature reserves (Table Bay and Zandvlei) which still need to be gazetted.
- Some gains to the conservation estate were made over the past year. However, the abolishment (deproclamation) of CapeNature's Driftsands Nature Reserve in November 2022 meant that the IDP target of 65,33% was not met.
- The conservation estate of all proclaimed and secured areas (e.g. land purchased and not yet proclaimed) now stands at 55 365 ha (65,14% of the BioNet) as of June 2023 (Table 4).

Table 4: Conserved land in Cape Town.

Management Authority	Area	BioNet*
City of Cape Town	17 690,50 ha	20,81%
SANParks (TMNP)	25 160,00 ha	29,60%
CapeNature	7 372,10 ha	8,67%
Stewardship (CapeNature and CCT sites)	2 316,86 ha	2,73%
Eskom	2 825,87 ha	3,32%
TOTAL	55 365,33 ha	65,14%

*Percentage of the 2009 BioNet, as of June 2023.

2) Reservation of City Land (conserving City-owned land).

During the reporting period, nine reservations were underway. These include the following submissions:

- Erf 1954 Somerset West (Staff housing).
- C. 73 ha Macassar East Human Settlements land
- Erf 1212 Mitchells Plain.
- Erven 67530 and 67531 Wynberg (Staff housing).
- Portion Remainder Erf 1 Capricorn.
- An additional portion of Erf 1694 Melkboschstrand (Melkbos corridor).

The following were approved:

- Erf 2756 Atlantis, a 125 ha portion (Reservation Benefit Transfer from Human Settlements) finally linking the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve: Klein Dassenberg section to Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve: Dunes section across the Klein Dassenberg Core Flora Site.
- Erf 35281 Strand (Morkels Cottage).
- Erf 9637 Milnerton.

3) Stewardship

The following was achieved in this financial year:

- During November 2022, the landowners of **Joostenberg Private Nature Reserve** (Figure 6) signed the Private Nature Reserve Verification and Validation Agreement to align their old Private Nature Reserve to the Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA) under the CapeNature Conservation Stewardship programme. Table Mountain Fund (TMF/Conservation) at Work Technical Incentives funding to the value of R20 000 was made available for the Joostenberg Private Nature Reserve's ecological burn and restoration plan.



Figure 6: Aerial view across the lower half of the Joostenberg Private Nature.

- Signing of a Biodiversity Conservancy Agreement across 20 farm portions totalling 112 ha across Jacobuskraal Estate.
- Signing of a Biodiversity Partnership Agreement across the conservation area within the Graanendal Lifestyle Estate.
- Signing of New World Foundation and Twenty Acres perpetuity Biodiversity Agreements by CapeNature.
- Signing of a Private Nature Reserve Verification and Validation agreement for Eagles Nest (with assistance from Conservation Outcomes).

4) Development facilitation

Metro Southeast Strandveld Conservation Implementation Plan

The Metro Southeast Strandveld Conservation Implementation Plan (CIP) is a collaborative City-led project including conservation partners CapeNature, Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The concept is to facilitate development on various Strandveld remnants, while protecting and providing management resources to others.

The City has proactively reserved 161,29 ha of municipal land for conservation purposes in the Macassar East area. The reserved land is managed by the BMB. This area contains 130 ha of medium to high quality Cape Flats Dune Strandveld. This area was reserved for biodiversity conservation purposes in order to conserve the significant ecological attributes of the site, and to provide a conservation land bank for potential use as a biodiversity offset area for critical City developments. This is known as the Macassar Dunes Conservation Land Bank. Where appropriate, the need for offsets by City line functions (e.g. Human Settlements) is highlighted during the Environmental Authorisation process by the relevant specialists. The terrestrial biodiversity attributes contained in the land bank can then be considered by the botanical and offset specialists as a potential offset to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of any qualifying Cape Flats Dune Strandveld at the development site. The competent authority (DEA&DP) may include any offset requirements in the Environmental Authorisation conditions, and these can be deducted from the land bank. The Macassar Dunes East Conservation Land Bank has facilitated or is in process of facilitating six City housing developments; resulting in 108,22 ha of the conservation land bank used for biodiversity offsets; and facilitating 7 879 residential opportunities in Khayelitsha and Mfuleni.

Atlantis Land Bank (Dassenberg Coastal Catchment Partnership, DCCP)

The Environmental Authorisation processes for the development of natural vegetation remnants inside the Atlantis urban edge often resulted in the need for ecological compensation. The approval process, especially with regards to mitigation requirements, was highlighted as a significant challenge to development in Atlantis. In response, in May 2013 Council approved the Atlantis Industrial Incentives Scheme (Report C46/05/13). One of the incentives approved was that of holding land in order to proactively 'bank' biodiversity offsets for development inside the urban edge of Atlantis. The Atlantis Biodiversity Incentive was created, where over 1 000 ha of Critical Biodiversity Area has been secured outside the urban edge to provide a proactive conservation 'land bank'. When the competent authority DEA&DP issued an Environmental Approval that includes required ecological compensation of a certain area, this is deducted from the City's conservation 'land bank'. This incentive scheme was extremely successful and 15 developments comprising 154 ha were facilitated. The proactively secured conservation land bank was fundamental in motivating for the Atlantis Generic EMPr (Environmental Management Programme) which was gazetted on 7 April 2022. This programme has now excluded the "removal of indigenous vegetation" trigger from the listed activities that require Environmental Authorisation within the Atlantis Urban Edge.

5.2 Flora

Floral finds of the year

It was a busy year of Bioblitzing recording over 1 700 observations loaded to iNaturalist representing 760 species. Notable species were found at the following new locations:

- Groot Olifantskop Farm (Melkbosstrand): *Serruria trilopha* (critically endangered, CR) only one plant seen, and *Aspalathus retroflexa bicolor* (CR).
- Dassenberg hill (above Nieuwepost, Cloof and Burgherspost): *Erepsia hallii* (EN) and *Pterygonium inversum* (Endangered, EN).
- Atlantis Industria (Zone 8): Search and Rescued plants: *Pelargonium psammophyllum* a newly described species – no status yet (Figure 7).
- Servcon/HDA triangle – Chatsworth: *Skiatophytum flaccidifolium* (CR) and *Lampranthus immelmaniae*.
- Diemersdal Conservation Area: *Aspalathus puberella* (EN) and *Cynorhiza meifolia* (Data Deficient) a cryptic species not recorded for over 150 years.
- Rock Ridge Farm, Muldersvlei: New population of *Geissorhiza lewisiae* (VU). This is interesting, because this is a limestone species from Langebaan and Saldanha.
- Nieuwepost Lowlands: The wetlands assessment recorded 16 new populations of threatened species including *Amphithalea ericifolia erecta* (CR), *Diastella proteoides* (CR) and *Babiana pygmaea* (CR); and a massive westerly range expansion for *Gladiolus hirsutus* (least concern, LC), a species thought to only occur on mountainous Sandstone Fynbos.



Figure 7: *Pelargonium psammophyllum*.

Notable floral observations:

- Woodlands Conservation Area: *Senecio cadiscus* (CR) reseeding by itself for the second year after introducing only a handful of plants in 2020.
- Three Fountains Nature Reserve: Numerous seedling of *Marasmodes fasciculata* (CR) following the wild fire.

- Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area: First flowers of *Protea odorata* (CR) since the ecological burn – two plants.

5.3 Fauna

1) Notable Faunal finds

- During the habitat condition assessment of the Dassenberg hills, staff discovered a new population of the Swartland Silver-spotted Copper (*Trimenia wallengrenii wallengrenii*) butterfly (Figure 8). Endemic to the hills between Darling and Mamre, the species was last observed during the late 1990s and subsequently presumed to have gone extinct. Additional surveys on other parts of the hills and other hills in the area again revealed no other remaining populations likely making this the only remaining population for the species with fewer than 100 individuals.
- Camera traps at Capaia Wines Conservation Area produced interesting results including Caracal, Bat-eared Fox, Honey Badger and Small-spotted Genet.
- A new population of Klipheuwel Caco (*Cacosternum aggestum*) was found at Blaauwblommetjieskloof.



Figure 8: The rediscovered Critically Endangered – Presumed Extinct Swartland Silver-spotted Copper.

2) Fauna management

Table 5: Game register for July 2022 – June 2023

Species	Translocations	Births	Deaths	Total in CCT	Animals on Loan	Animals on CCT Reserves
Bontebok (<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>)	0	0	0	0	*12	0
Hippopotamus (<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>)	0	0	0	7	0	7
Eland (<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>)	0	2	0	13	0	13
Red Hartebeest (<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>)	0	2	0	**13	0	13

* The City Bontebok herd are kept on Kinko Conservation Area near Swellendam that is within the historic range of Bontebok.

** Red Hartebeest are very shy, and difficult to count. Two juveniles were caught on camera traps in this financial year.

Seven Cape Gysbok were translocated from Milnerton Racecourse section of Table Bay Nature Reserve to Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve (Figure 9).



Figure 9: USIP Veterinary intern assisting with Gysbok capture at TBNR: Milnerton Racecourse Section.

5.4 Recreational vlei water quality

1) Vlei Systems and Procedure (S&P) for recreational waterbodies within the protected area network

The Vlei S&P ('Decision making to partially close, close or reopen each of the City's recreational vleis located within the Protected Areas: Zeekoevlei, Zandvlei and Rietvlei Systems and Procedure') was approved by the City Manager on 27 March 2023. Implementation started with immediate effect. The Vlei S&P has also been incorporated in the proposed amended Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Scientific Services Branch. See Table 6 below for the follow-up sampling in terms of the S&P for this financial year.

Table 6: Follow-up sampling requested within financial year.

Recreational waterbody	Date	Motivation:
False Bay Nature Reserve: Zeekoevlei section	12 September 2022	<i>Escherichia coli</i> readings exceeding threshold
Zandvlei Nature Reserve	12 September 2022	<i>E. coli</i> readings exceeding threshold
False Bay Nature Reserve: Zeekoevlei section	11 October 2022	Blue-green algal bloom
Zandvlei Nature Reserve	27 June 2023	<i>E. coli</i> readings exceed threshold

2) Water Quality related closures of recreational waterbodies and other reserve waterbodies

The only system subject to partial closure in this financial year was FBNBR: Zeekoevlei (Table 7), where sampling point ZEV2 at the north-western end of the system has had continual poor results due to highly polluted inflow from the Big Lotus River, exceeding *E. coli* thresholds for intermediate contact recreation. As of 28 June 2023, *E. coli* readings still exceeded 100 000 Colony Forming Unit (CFU).

Table 7: Recreational Restriction imposed during the financial year.

Waterbody	Reason	Date of Closure	Date of Reopening
Zeekoevlei	High <i>E. coli</i> readings exceeding thresholds	21 October 2022 (partial closure around ZEV2)	Undetermined

3) Remedial Plans for recreational waterbodies

As part of the Mayoral Priority Programme (MPP) projects, EMD was tasked with securing the appropriate specialist consultant appointments to compile Remedial Plans for the three recreational waterbodies (Rietvlei, Zeekoevlei and Zandvlei) within the protected area network, including the Milnerton Lagoon section of Table Bay Nature Reserve. The use of Tender 375C enabled the appointment of Infinity Environmental and PRDW Coastal Engineers with support of ASP Tech Hydraulic

and Sedimentation Engineering Consultants, freshwater ecologist Liz Day Consulting, Anchor Environmental marine specialists and Tritan Engineering and Hydrographic Surveys. Their surveys were primarily intended to assess the most effective and efficient remedial actions to pursue that will meaningfully restore these systems and alleviate some of the impacts of the accumulated pollution in the systems.

5.5 Restoration

Ecological Restoration Planning in City protected areas

Our long-term goal is to improve the habitat condition of as much of our conservation estate as we can through passive and active restoration. This is important, because restored ecosystems will improve the conservation of biodiversity, delivery of ecosystem services, social value, adaptation and potential mitigation to climate change. In support of this goal, the subsidiary restoration plans developed in previous years were used to continue the implementation of ecological restoration in City nature reserves. These subsidiary restoration plans build on the habitat condition assessments to guide active restoration (sowing and planting to restore vegetation structure, function and composition) within each protected area, based on the greatest needs and available resources.

5.6 Ecological Research

1) Blaauwberg Sand Fynbos Restoration Project

BMB has had a long-term and ongoing partnership with Stellenbosch University through the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology and the Centre for Invasion Biology. The research generated through this partnership has, over time, fed into various aspects of City implementation, with a particular focus on managing and restoring areas supporting critical biodiversity within the City's jurisdiction. The Blaauwberg Sand Fynbos Restoration Project has been a model in this regard, being collaborative and interdependent; each partner plays a particular role to enable the next level of research and best-practice management. The current phase of this large-scale ecological restoration project continues the City and Stellenbosch University collaboration, 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 time of this report, 33 projects are in progress on City Nature Reserves. An additional 13 applications were being processed, and 15 had been closed and theses/reports received. Nineteen research theses are still outstanding.

6. Invasive Species

6.1 Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management

Approximately 10 274,16 ha (748,57 ha initial, 3 621,11 ha follow-up and 5 904,48 ha maintenance) of invasive plants were cleared in protected and conservation areas (Figure 10).

In addition, 5 080,78 ha (966,78 ha initial, 2 559,45 ha follow-up and 1 554,55 maintenance) of invasive plants were cleared in public open spaces, road verges and greenbelts, in collaboration with various City line departments (Table 8).

Table 8: Hectares (ha) cleared for each treatment phase per Line Department.

Department	Initial (ha)	Follow up (ha)	Maintenance (ha)
Environmental Management	180,59	28,18	1 279,52
Recreation and Parks	106,34	105,18	18,34
Distribution Services: Pump stations	2,86	0	14,11
Bulk Services: Catchment, Stormwater and River Management	0	1,43	29,45
Housing Development	139,20	159,24	108,98
Enterprise and Investment: Atlantis Special Economic Zone	145,22	694,97	0
Bulk Services: Bulk Water (Wemmershoek Catchment)	392,57	1 570,45	104,15
TOTAL	966,78	2 559,45	1 554,55



Figure 10: Post specialised high angle teams felling a mature pine tree at the Wemmershoek Mountain Catchment

6.2 Aquatic Invasive Plant Management

Twenty catchment systems (rivers, wetlands, etc.) were cleared of invasive aquatic plant species during the financial year (Table 9). In total, 80,70 ha of initial and 619,34 ha of follow-up were cleared. The target of

710,27 ha of freshwater systems was not met, as only 700 ha was achieved. However, an additional 151,19 ha of canals and ponds were cleared.

Table 9: Hectares (ha) cleared per river

Rivers Cleared	Initial ha	Multiple follow-up ha
Westlake River	0	6,85
Black River	0	89,83
Liesbeek River	0	16,00
Salt River	0	26,08
Diep River	0	166,65
Rietvlei	0	6,00
Kuils River	75,37	182,47
Soet River	0	21,00
Bokramspuit River	0	6,83
Vygekraal River	0	17,70
Big Lotus River	0	28,46
Little Lotus River	0	7,36
Sand River	0	5,63
Witsands Pond	2,10	0
Sir Lowry's Pass River	3,19	0
Khayelitsha Wetlands	0	13,30
Lourens river	0	4,26
Elsies River	0	9,92
Elsieskraal River	0	2,00
Kreupelhout Dam	0	9,00
TOTAL	80,7	619,34

6.3 Biocontrol

A total of 31 050 biological control agents was released during this financial year with the majority of releases in Strandfontein (Table 10).

Table 10: The biological control agents released and agent used for control of aquatic weeds.

Biocontrol Release Sites	Type	Agent	Number released
Constantia pond	Pond	<i>Lysathia sp.</i>	1 700
Keyser River	River	<i>Neohydronomous affinis</i>	100
Strandfontein	Pond	<i>Neohydronomous affinis</i>	200
Strandfontein	Pond	<i>Megamelus scutellaris</i>	18 900
Constantia pond	Pond	<i>Lysathia sp.</i>	2 100
Glen Kotzen racing stables	Pond	<i>Megamelus scutellaris</i>	500
Keyzers River	River	<i>Neohydronomous affinis</i>	300
Westlake	River	<i>Lysathia sp.</i>	7 250
TOTAL			31 050

6.4 Invasive Animal Management

1) House Crows

During the roost counts, approximately 977 House Crows were recorded and 4 257 House Crows counted at baiting/feeding sites. These numbers could both include multiple sightings of the same bird. The trapping method continued to be unsuccessful this year with only 35 crows trapped. A total of 27 House Crow carcasses were collected. Table 11 provides a breakdown of House Crow surveys across the Cape Flats. Note that estimated population size is based on the average roost counts.

Table 11: Invasive House Crow census and count of individuals captured.

Reporting Period	Spotted (during baiting)	Roost count	Baited	Collected (carcasses)	Removed (trapped)
July 2022 – September 2022	48	0	0	0	0
October 2022 – December 2022	1 038	357	0	0	0
January 2023 – March 2023	1 059	32	0	0	35
April 2023 – June 2023	2 112	588	359	27	0
TOTAL	4 257	977	359	27	35

2) Mallard Ducks

During the Mallard Duck counts, 378 mallards were counted on nature reserves and public open spaces (Table 12).

Table 12: Waterbodies surveyed for invasive Mallard Ducks.

Location	Number Counted
FBNR: Zeekoevlei Section	87
New World Foundation Conservation Area	291
TOTAL	378

3) Guttural Toads

The project was conducted on 520 properties in the Constantia area during the year. A total of 1 832 invasive toads was removed, indicated in Table 13 below.

Table 13: Number of Guttural Toads captured and number of properties visited.

Reporting Period	Captured			Properties visited
	Male	Female	Juvenile	
July 2022 – September 2022	0	0	0	0
October 2022 – December 2022	208	160	159	0
January 2023 – March 2023	80	86	1 135	52
April 2023 – June 2023	0	2	2	0
TOTAL	288	248	1 296	52

4) Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB)

The invasive PSHB continued to spread in the City of Cape Town, with the first sighting outside of the Somerset West region confirmed in Newlands on 24 January 2023. To date, PSHB has been confirmed only in the Somerset West region and several suburbs in the Southern parts of the City (Newlands, Kenilworth, Wynberg, Rondebosch and Mowbray).

There is still no effective means to control or treat beetle infestations within a tree. Chemical control is also not yet legal, as no insecticide or fungicide has been registered for urban trees. However, several scientific research projects/programmes are being conducted globally to find effective ways to control the beetle and the fungi it carries. The current best practice strategy is to reduce beetle numbers by

physically removing infested highly susceptible or reproductive host trees. Approximately 368 PSHB reports were received and 331 surveys were conducted. A total of 971 infested trees were detected and 418 of those trees were successfully removed.

Several PSHB training workshops were conducted as part of PSHB programme. These workshops were aimed at providing training to small businesses, landowners and conservation partners on how to identify PSHB infected trees and on protocols on how to safely manage PSHB infected biomass. The 327 people trained included members of the general public, contractors and business owners, staff from other conservation agencies, and City officials.

6.5 Early Detection and Rapid Response

The Early Detection and Rapid Response Programme (EDRR) targets 16 listed invader species (https://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/Procedures%2c%20guidelines%20and%20regulations/Invasive_plants_Identikit.pdf) for control across the City. The priority is to detect, identify and control these target species in order to prevent them from expanding and invading large areas. See Table 14 below for reporting details.

Table 14: Number of EDRR species reported and the response.

Reporting Period	Reports	Sightings verified	Sightings controlled	Follow-up sightings
July 2022 – September 2022	15	15	14	1
October 2022 – December 2022	32	32	32	25
January 2023 – March 2023	23	23	7	16
April 2023 – June 2023	37	37	37	0
TOTAL	107	107	90	42

7. Fire

7.1 Wildfire

During the financial year, 71 (approximately 500 ha) wildfires occurred on City nature reserves. The most significant wildfires took place at Steenbras Nature Reserve (150,5 ha on 24 December 2022 and 194,08 ha on 8 February 2023).

7.2 Ecological Burns

Of the six planned, two ecological burns were undertaken during the 2023 summer fire season: False Bay Nature Reserve Zeekoevlei section and Blaauwberg Nature Reserve Hill Section. The False Bay Nature Reserve burn was a reedbed and successfully burnt the entire 1,8 ha block (Figure 11). In Blaauwberg Nature Reserve, the burn was to restore senescent vegetation, maintain appropriate fire regime, and manage fire risk. At Blaauwberg, even while the burning conditions were very good, the senescent Swartland Shale Renosterveld would not burn cleanly and only 2,6 ha burnt.



Figure 11: Ecological burn at False Bay Nature Reserve Zeekoevlei section on 12 April 2023.

Fauna observations for Ecological Burns

The fauna observation team implemented the standardised protocol for observations at the Blaauwberg fire (Figure 12). The review from the last season, including this event will form the basis of defining the protocol and enable the establishment of a dedicated and experienced team.



Figure 12: Ecological Burn at Blaauwberg Nature Reserve

7.3 Brush Pile Burning

In this financial year, 641 brush pile burns were undertaken to reduce fuel loads of felled invasive alien trees.

8. Nature Reserves

1) Protected Area Management Plans

BMB is currently reorganising the Integrated Reserve Management Plans (IRMPs) into Protected Area Management Plans (PAMPs). Progress was made for all the City nature reserves, including drafting of Goals per Management Target, and Visitor User Development Frameworks based on zonation planning from the existing management plans. Conservation development planning for some of the reserves is delayed as these sites require update to the Sensitivity Analysis, a key informant of the Conservation Development Framework (CDF), which requires GIS Analyst support not yet available in the Branch.

2) Heritage Management Framework for the Branch

The Heritage Management Framework for the Branch was finalised. The Standard Procedure document was finalised containing the correct procedures for BMB staff to follow when finding archaeological or similar artefacts in field, to ensure compliance with the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999.

3) Business Framework for Helderberg Nature Reserve

The Helderberg Nature Reserve (HNR) business framework was completed. The gathering of market research information is suggested as this will also inform the CDF for HNR. A visitor user survey has been designed, and the completion of the market scan started to determine key information on all related market offerings in the greater Somerset West area.

4) Monitoring Framework and Monitoring Plans

The standards for the updated PAMPs will require monitoring requirements per nature reserve and associated sites, which will inform monitoring plans for these sites. Draft versions have been drafted for Steenbras Nature Reserve, Zandvlei Nature Reserve, False Bay Nature Reserve, and Westlake Conservation Centre. Work continued on BMB-level monitoring protocols: the fire monitoring protocol and restoration monitoring protocol. The *Kedestes* butterfly monitoring protocol was completed, and the Flora Species of Special Conservation Concern was drafted.

5) METTs Assessments

All proclaimed nature reserves managed by the City are evaluated every two years using the South African Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-SAv3), and score data submitted to the DFFE. The next METT will take place and be submitted in 2023/2024.

6) Reserve Awards (November 2022)

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
- People and Conservation aspects
- Achieved despite external threats and pressures
- Showcases the City and supports the objectives of the City

Most improved

Runner-up: Symphony Way Conservation Area

Winner: Tygerberg Nature Reserve

Reserve of the Year

Runner up: Blaauwberg Nature Reserve

Winner: Vesuvius Way Conservation Area

9. Urban Baboon Programme

9.1 Cape Peninsula Troops covered by the Urban Baboon Programme

The Urban Baboon Programme (UBP) is run by the City's service provider, NCC Environmental Services (Figure 13) and over this financial year kept baboon troops out of town for 93.8% of the time. The programme has experienced an overall 23,2% population increase from 2012 to 2023 (354 to 461 individuals), with continuous annual increases seen up to 2022, but experienced a 7,4% decrease from 2022 to 2023 (498 to 461) due to increased time in the urban areas and human-baboon conflict as a result of all the tools in the UBP not being used. Please click the link below to view the 2022/2023 annual count:

https://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/City%20research%20reports%20and%20review/Annual_Baboon_Count%20UBP-2022_2023.pdf.

The Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team (CPBMJTT) finalised a draft Cape Peninsula Baboon Strategic Management Plan (Draft CPBSMP), and made it available for public comment between 27 January and 31 March 2023. In addition, a stakeholder engagement workshop was hosted at The Range on 3 March 2023.

For more information regarding the Urban Baboon Programme including reports from the City's service provider (NCC), please visit the link below:

<https://www.capetown.gov.za/Explore%20and%20enjoy/nature-and-outdoors/our-precious-biodiversity/focus-on-baboons>.



Figure 13: Baboons resting and grooming on the mountain above Tokai.

9.2 Gordon's Bay Baboons

The management of baboons in the Steenbras Nature Reserve and surrounding area is ongoing. During this financial year several significant contributions have been made towards the successful management of the

Gordon's Bay troop. There are still areas that require attention and improvement, but work continues on these aspects.

The monitoring of the three troops and work on the Virtual Fence system, as well as the two Splinter Troops will continue. Preliminary results indicate that this is a management initiative that works well. New collars fitted with drop off functions in order to further reduce recapture stresses on the animals will be investigated.

10. People and Conservation

10.1 Environmental Education, Awareness and Events

This year environmental education activities in the BMB reached 20 386 learners from 143 schools (and with an additional 1 454 teachers and 11 990 adults) resulting in 34 728 person days of education (Figure 14). This means that 33 830 individuals were involved in formal education events, exhibitions, informal or awareness activities on and off reserve undertaken. This included the work undertaken on the reserves by partners with the City. The number of person days of education, learners, teachers, and total people, all increased from the previous financial year, despite a decrease in the number of schools.



Figure 14: Heritage Programme, September 2022 at the Rocklands Library.

10.2 Media

In the past financial year, there were 62 media releases from the City of Cape Town focusing on BMB matters; in the same period there were more than 25 media articles, radio interviews, and media queries. This is likely to be an underestimate due to the difficulty in tracking all media mentions and articles, including social media. Please see Annexure B for details.

10.3 Protected Area Advisory Committees

The establishment of Protected Area Advisory Committees (PAACs) is provided for in the Protected Areas Act, and is primarily intended to involve neighbouring communities in decision-making regarding Protected Areas. Current PAACs include:

- Blaauwberg Nature Reserve
- Bracken Nature Reserve
- Durbanville Nature Reserve
- Edith Stephens Nature Reserve
- False Bay Nature Reserve
- Helderberg Nature Reserve
- Steenbras Nature Reserve
- Table Bay Nature Reserve
- Tygerberg Nature Reserve (including Bothasig Fynbos Nature Reserve)
- Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve
- Wolfgat Nature Reserve
- Zandvlei Nature Reserve

10.4 Visitors and revenue

The City's nature reserves received 631 432 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 R 9,5 M was received (over collected on revenue by 168% of planned).

Table 15: Visitor numbers for individual reserves

Entry gate	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Helderberg	57 603	44 367	186 248	85 199	62 862
Tygerberg	31 791	17 094	34 195	41 762	43 847
Zeekoevlei	103 192	108 526	59 440	40 482	219 991
Witzands Aquifer	7 138	25 159	42 029	94 162	137 344

10.5 Volunteers and Sponsored Programmes

1) Sponsored Programmes

Sponsored³ programmes resulted in 30 individuals (made up of external sponsored staff members, learnerships and interns) and 2 703 person days of work in the BMB (approximate value is R3,4 M).

2) Volunteer programmes

Nature Connect is assisting with the administration, by drawing up volunteer contracts and assisting with placements. The volunteers resulted in 96 individuals and 1 085 person days on the reserves (valuing approximately R1 M).

10.6 Skills Development

The training of EPWP, internships, learnerships, and formal skills development programmes is critically important. Of the 17 vacancies in the BMB, six were filled by EPWP/skills development candidates and two career advancements were from those who were previously EPWP/skills development.

³ Sponsored programmes include individuals that undertake work for BMB and their salaries/stipends are paid for by external partner organisations.

Kader Asmal

The Kader Asmal Skills Development Programme had a target to employ 90 EPWP beneficiaries in the second year of the programme (Figure 15). By the end of the 2022/23 financial year, 129 beneficiaries were employed thus exceeding the job opportunity target. Through multiple training interventions and mentorship, the programme was successful in exiting the participants into mainstream employment opportunities (36 participants) and career advancement (1 participant). A total of 21 training interventions were successfully implemented, but 11 could not be implemented due to SCM procurement constraints. In addition, 14 training interventions were organised and facilitated in-house as part of work orientation.

The skills development programme focuses on developing candidates in the middle management (auxiliary conservation officer), technical field (auxiliary quality controller), administrative and clerk support, and within awareness and communication (people and conservation officers) of the environmental sector.

In particular the Kader Asmal EPWP Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme in the City for 2022/23 was a success, with many students performing well in both the experiential and academics. It is important to note that the support, mentorship and dedication offered by EPWP, the respective mentors and their teams can never be overstated. The 2022 WIL saw 14 students placed with the City Nature Reserves, with a pass rate of 92,8%. Fifteen students were placed for the 2023 academic year, 8 from Centurion Academy and 7 from Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT).

Other skills/internship programme

The following opportunities were provided on the City's nature reserves and conservation areas by partner organisations (Table 16).

Table 16: Breakdown of skills development programmes.

Programme	Participants	Host Site
Nature Conservation Learnership 2021-22	11	3 False Bay NR, 2 Blaauwberg NR, 1 Muizenberg East Cluster, 1 Helderberg NR, 1 Steenbras NR, 2 Witsands Aquifer NR and 1 Wolfgat NR
Nature Conservation Learnership 2022-23	9	3 Wolfgat NR, 2 Blaauwberg NR, 1 Table Bay NR Zoarvlei Section, 1 False Bay NR, 1 Steenbras NR, and 1 Witsands Aquifer NR
WIL: Environmental Management	4	1 False Bay NR, 1 Edith Stephens NR, 1 Zandvlei NR and 1 Blaauwberg NR
Groen Sebenza Internship	4	1 Species Project, 1 Table Bay NR Milnerton Racecourse Section, 1 Muizenberg East Cluster, 1 Table Bay NR Zoarvlei Section
TOTAL	28	



Figure 15: Microplastics training for Skills Development Staff.

11. Staff and Visitor Safety, and Security

11.1 General Security

The BMB identified the need for an integrated solution, which is pro-active by nature, to address visitor and staff safety at nature reserves and natural areas which goes beyond the service provided by a general security company. A contractor was appointed to provide various services related to visitor management, staff safety, provision of additional surveillance for reserve infrastructure and natural areas (this includes monitoring for poaching and illegal plant harvesting), fence line patrols and first response to emergencies such as visitor injury, fire, pollution events and snake capture. Their services proved to be successful in dealing with the unique requirements of working within the natural environment and dealing with the various safety and security needs in such an area that the Recreation and Parks Department of the City (who manage open spaces) also started making use of their services.

Visitor and staff safety, combined with protected area integrity, is the biggest financial cost for the BMB, and was about R38 M for the 2022/23 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 oil spills.
- 3) **Cash collection services** – reserves with paying entrances use cash collection services.

There is a close collaboration between the Marine and Environmental Law Enforcement Unit and BMB staff. The following were undertaken:

- Process underway to train reserve staff as Peace Officers – the compliance and enforcement function will be shared.
- Regular Environmental Law Enforcement operations, joint operations and inspections at nature reserves.
- 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 the 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. EMD secures protected areas by means of contracted security in addition to permanent staff. Participation in briefings hosted by Safety and Security ensures Environmental Management is recognised and protected areas are prioritised by Anti Land Invasion Unit and Metro Police.

Processes to address unlawful land occupation also take a long time, because numerous legislation needs to be considered and various City departments are involved in dealing with unlawful land occupation, each with their own items to action. This includes Environmental Management, Informal Settlements, Legal Services, Safety and Security, and Social Development.

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	Totals as per January 2023: 245 (Erf 79) and 112 (Erf 38295)	July 2020	Notices to vacate were served
False Bay Nature Reserve	Slangetjebos	Totals as per January 2023: 1392	2018	Notices to vacate were served
Wolfgat Nature Reserve	Wolfgat	1	August 2022	Emergency interdict in place Court proceedings ongoing

12. Administration

12.1 Budget

1. Capital budget (66% spend with land acquisition programme which was in reality spent resulting in overall 87% spend) and controllable operational budget (96% spend).
2. Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) – 92% spend. Funds were limited so a block on all expenditure came into place in March 2023 and resulted in unspent funds on R&M.
3. 81% spend on the Mayoral Priority Programme (MPP) budget.
4. Kader Asmal grant funding 100% spent.
5. Ward allocation budgets 100% spent.
6. Received additional operational budget via adjustment budget for 2022/2023. Strategic Management Framework (SMF) budget requests approved for offsets, MPP, and Living Alongside Wildlife Programme
7. Revenue was 168% of planned amount during the financial year (Total revenue raised is R9 578 592).
8. PPM reporting 100% each month.
9. Total budget for EMD EPWP was R43 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 total R25 M, of which R10 M was spent on EMD priorities.
10. Sourced R3,5 M from LandCare and R475 000 for three-year TMF programme (small incentive projects for landowners).

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:

- Harmony Flats Nature Reserve complex
- Bracken Nature Reserve multipurpose centre and office building
- Zandvlei Nature Reserve multipurpose centre
- Edith Stephens Nature Reserve office complex and education centre.

12.1 Staff

Staff awards (November 2022)

Biodiversity Find of the year

Flora find of the year

Runner-up

Thozama Notshati – Cape Water Net Algae (*Hydrodictyon africanum*) observed on 26 July 2022 at Table Bay Nature Reserve Milnerton Racecourse Section. Even though it was found in Table Bay Nature Reserve previously, this observation was the first ever record on iNaturalist for this species.

Winner

Hayley Wittridge and Jacques van der Merwe – Critically Endangered *Moraea ogamana* from Helderberg Nature Reserve. Discovery of this highly threatened bulb following the ecological burn was highly significant.

Fauna find of the year

Cliff Dorse – *Kedestes lenis lenis* (Critically Endangered) – Cape Point and Ocean View new populations found. This is a significant find for global conservation.

Special Award

People and Conservation Team

Best Teams

Runner-up: Women in Leadership

Winner: Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve

Outstanding Staff Member

Runner-ups: Jikephi Noludwe and Siyamvuyela Mhlana

Winner: Lewine Walters



Figure 16: Table Bay Nature Reserve

13. Annexures

Annexure A: Regions, reserves, offices and units of the BMB, each illustrating at least one major highlight and one major challenge from 2022/2023.

RESERVE / UNIT	HIGHLIGHT(S)	CHALLENGE(S)	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO CHALLENGE
ISU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensured that new tenders are awarded. Drafted the PSHB charter – circulating for comment. Assisted Bulk Water with catchment coordination, including removal of pines. Year two of skills development programme completed which includes ISU, People and Conservation, as well as nature conservation students (75 individuals). Hosted three CAPE Invasive Alien Animal Working Groups including a special session and workshop at the Conservation Symposium – attended by government officials, researchers, NGOs, SPCA across the country. Important as input and support of methods of invasive animal control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of permanent staff. Sustainable funding. Funding allocated each year by EPWP office. Increase in PSHB invasion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivate via SMF for additional staff. Investigate alternative funding models. Initiate PSHB charter with other line functions
TCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in the contract management processes in the BMB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlawful land occupation remains one of the largest challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing legal processes and setting up proactive monitoring and reaction plans.
Special projects Unit	<p>Strategic documents completed for the MPP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milnerton Lagoon Remediation Plan Rietvlei Remediation Plan Zandvlei Remediation Plan Diep River Estuary Management Plan S&P for opening and closing recreational vleis. <p>Fleet received as part of the MPP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tipper truck received for Rietvlei Vessel received for Zandvlei. <p>Carbon Smart Programme initiated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays in obtaining EIA and WULA approvals for the MPP dredging projects. Lack of staff to implement MPP and Carbon Smart Skills Development Programme. Lack of resources such as office space and vehicles negatively affect the implementation of projects. Lack of tenders such as a professional service tender for BMB projects. Gaining access to tender 375C took months and delayed implementation of the Milnerton Lagoon dredging project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. Motivate via SMF for additional staff and security resources. Ongoing discussions about initiation of a professional tender.
CSU: Protected Area Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquisition of three properties: Portions 50 and 53 of Hangklip Farm 559 in the Rooi Els corridor and Erf 633 in Melkbos in the Melkbos corridor. Discovery of a new population of Swartland Silver-spotted Copper on the Dassenberg hills. Signing of a Private Nature Reserve Verification and Validation agreement for Joostenberg Private Nature Reserve and Eagles Nest (with assistance from Conservation Outcomes). R3,5 M LandCare project well underway with 284 ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalising protected area proclamation. Making progress with state land. Landowner passing away during final stages of acquisition negotiations. Formal status for Joostenbergskloof. Formal status for Schoongezicht. Formal status for Mamre Core Flora Site. Getting an agreement signed for Atlantic Hills, Welbeloond Conservation Area. Getting feedback for completed valuations from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue following up with CapeNature. Continue to follow up and engage with Public Works. Continue following up with WWF-SA/Garden Cities. Continue a relationship with the Smuts family around the management of the Schoongezicht remnant and the Mamre CPA around the Mamre Nature Garden. Keep following up with the developers. Keep following up with Property Management.

	<p>of Follow-up and 42 ha of Initial clearing, as well as 7 km of fencing projects completed to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of New World Foundation and Twenty Acres perpetuity Biodiversity Agreements by CapeNature. • Signing of a Biodiversity Conservancy Agreement across 20 farm portions totalling 112 ha across Jacobuskraal Estate and Biodiversity Partnership Agreement across the conservation area within the Graanendal Lifestyle Estate. 	Property Management.	
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building close working relationships with freshwater algal specialists from North West University. • Strengthening working relationships with colleagues in Scientific Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent pollution events (i.e. sewage spills) into key recreational waterbodies. • Reactive and administrative responsibilities preventing effective implementation of proactive conservation work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the implementation of remedial plans that can assist with providing some temporary relief to our waterbodies amidst the ongoing pollution.
Nature Conservation Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval for the creation of Macassar East section of WNR and securing additional operational funding (including new staff) for both Macassar East and Pelican Park expansion as a result facilitating of development offsets. • Boundary fencing projects completed at sections of various Reserves including Blaauwberg, Bracken and Wolfgat Nature Reserves. • The demand and use of the Witzands Dunes for recreation continues to grow resulting in significant revenue generation. However, this needs to be carefully managed to avoid conflict between user groups and potential environmental impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing pollution of Reserves as a result of failing sewage infrastructure continues to be a challenge to many of our Nature Reserves including Zandvlei, False Bay, Edith Stephens, Table Bay and Wolfgat. • Insufficient staffing levels to deal with extended hours of operation of the Reserves led to high levels of overtime and insufficient staffing to deal with illegal activities such as flower harvesting, hunting, dumping, fires and sand mining in Reserves such False Bay, Steenbras, Blaauwberg and Witzands Aquifer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Water and Sanitation to address pollution issues. • Motivate via SMF for additional staff or security resources.
NORTH REGION			
Blaauwberg Nature Reserve (BBNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographs of the BBNR, as seen from space, were tweeted from the International Space Station on 18 July 2022. European Space Agency astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti photographed and tweeted about leading ecosystem restoration work being undertaken at the City's BBNR while in low earth orbit on board the station. This was part of a call for action to support CitiesWithNature in looking after areas of ecological importance and social significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of access to alternative accommodation for the relocation of illegal occupants from the condemned structures at Blaauwberg's Valley Farm homestead is holding up the launch of the Court application for an eviction order. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing legal process.
Table Bay Nature Reserve (TBNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple infrastructure upgrades and construction projects were completed in this financial year including: upgrade of the Old Friends bird hide (funded and organised by the Friends of Rietvlei), construction of the gatehouse at the main entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The catchment area of the greater TBNR remained a receptor of extensive polluted water from various sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Water and Sanitation to address pollution issues. • Continue to engage in the MPP for Inland Water and Sanitation.

	of the reserve, and a new ClearVu fence installed in the Diep River section along Gie Road.		
Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve (WANR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue and visitor numbers have increased exponentially. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rapid and ongoing growth of commercial activities (including sandboarding, off-roading and quad biking) necessitated the WANR 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 WANR and how to accommodate requests received from interested parties for start-up companies. A large portion of stormwater pipe leading to the urban storm water recharge pond (at Pond 7) collapsed in June 2022. A large section of the management track washed away and an area of approximately 17 ha of Cape Flats Dune Strandveld was flooded as a result. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process to manage and support use of the reserve underway. Commercial tender might need to be initiated. The Catchment, Stormwater and River Management Branch compiled the Scope, Conceptual Design and Approval to have the stormwater pipe repaired. Phases 1 and 2 were completed with Phases 3 and 4 still to commence. Ongoing monitoring to ensure work is completed.
CENTRAL REGION			
Bracken Nature Reserve (BNR), Haasendal Conservation Area (HCA) and Joostenbergskloof Conservation Area (JCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for redevelopment of facilities at Bracken Nature Reserve progressing well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No secure fencing at HCA to protect the reserve from poaching, dumping and fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing and security for HCA to be investigated.
Durbanville Nature Reserve (DNR), Uitkamp Wetland Nature Reserve (UWNR) and Botterblom Nature Reserve (BB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durbanville Nature Reserve opened on weekends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objections prevented the ecological burn that was planned for UWNR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with air pollution to resolve.
Tygerberg Nature Reserve (TNR), Ariesfontein Conservation Area (ACA), Bothasig Fynbos Nature Reserve (BFNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In pursuit of restoring Batavia Park, TNR staff assisted Recreation and Parks Department and community members from the Bothasig Ratepayers Association with a donation of 50 plants and continued with the planting of indigenous plants. It is always encouraging to see our residents taking part in restoration of open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of a Senior Field Ranger at TNR has proved challenging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivate via SMF for additional staff.

and Van Schoorsdrift Conservation Area (VSCA)			
EAST REGION			
Helderberg Nature Reserve (HNR) including Silberboomkloof Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Helderberg Environmental Centre was a popular venue for a variety of activities, including environmental education, launches, conferences and workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of a People and Conservation Officer at HNR remains a concern. The establishment of a purpose built facility has seen an increase in the number of bookings and requests for curriculum based programmes immediately. The gap is being filled by Field Rangers which impacts on operational activities in field. Interns and student appointments also need a permanent on-site staff member to learn receive guidance from. The Snr P&C Officer does facilitate, but is not always on site to meet the needs and demands. This post needs to be looked into as a matter of urgency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivate via SMF for additional staff.
Harmony Flats Nature Reserve (HFNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in <i>Protea scolymocephala</i> following the sowing of seed after the 2021 burn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an open boundary, resulting in illegal activities and fires. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing and security to be investigated.
Morkel's Cottage Conservation Area (MCCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mole mound soil restoration of degraded sections has been successful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and security removed and not replaced. This has made operations challenging due to fence theft and fires. Alien clearing and restoration efforts have also been impacted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivate for additional safety and security.
Steenbras Nature Reserve (SNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous staff development. Attending official and in-house training sessions. Management of students, learners and interns to be able to complete their programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal activities. Constant issues with church groups trampling veld, making fires and overnighing. Illegal flower harvesting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing and security to be investigated.
Wolfgat Nature Reserve (WNR), Macassar Dunes Section (MDS) and Vesuvius Way Conservation Area (VWCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vesuvius Way Conservation Area and Zandwolf section of FBNR received Reserve of the Year award at the 2022 BMB Staff Recognition Day. Secured funding for Macassar East staffing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste dumping resulting in continuous need for cleaning and removal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Urban Waste Management.
SOUTH REGION			
Edith Stephens Nature Reserve (ESNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of the new development of the recreational area at ESNR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulrush encroachment due to the sewage spill on the other side of Govan Mbeki bridge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options to control encroachment and ensure sewage spills are reduced.
False Bay Nature Reserve (FBNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of Pelican Park and Rondevlei Section. Dropping the fence between Rondevlei and the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality issues at Zeekoevlei as a sewage overflows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Water and Sanitation to address pollution issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAFDA field. Successful fish trek at Rondevlei. Clearing of Hyacinth at the T Canals. Allocation of funding from Cape Bird Club to FBNR for five EPWP participants. Rondevlei and Zeekoevlei annual drawdown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing of Western boundary due to theft of fence. Limiting fish in Zeekoevlei due to pollution. Issues with the maintenance of small plant and vehicles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing and security to be investigated. Investigating a more permanent solution. Communicate with PAAC and the community. Liaise with Fleet.
Symphony Way Conservation Area (SWCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve signage installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource challenges with Supply Chain Management (SCM) limited operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with SCM.
Zandvlei Nature Reserve (ZNR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discovery of <i>Ruppia cirrhosa</i> stands in the estuary. This is a macrophyte with greater salinity tolerance than <i>Stuckenia pectinata</i>, which will help improve water quality and habitat within the estuary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 20 separate sewage spills directly impacted the Zandvlei waterbody over the course of the year. The most significant being the Raapkraal pump station failure in August 2022, leading to a fish die off in the Westlake pond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Water and Sanitation to address pollution issues.

Annexure B: Media releases, articles and queries

MEDIA RELEASES	DATE	ARTICLES/RADIO/MEDIA QUERIES	DATE
City nature reserve stops bulb poachers in their tracks	14 July 2022	Tygerberger article: "Library brings world to life for children"	21 July 2022
Helderberg Nature Reserve to reopen 1 August 2022	21 July 2022	Cape Argus media query – Baboons	21 July 2022
New litter fences a good catch for Zeekoevlei	24 July 2022	TimesLive article: "Awesome! There's algae in my water!"	2 August 2022
City invites residents to online meetings on proposals for baboon-affected areas	26 July 2022	Cape Argus article: "Two bodies were found in a grave in the Zeekoevlei Nature Reserve"	15 August 2022
City shines spotlight on its rangers this World Ranger Day	31 July 2022	Freelance media query – shothole borer beetle story	18 August 2021
Links, registration for City's online meetings about proposals for baboon-affected areas	12 August 2022	CONTACT article: "The lowdown on Zeekoevlei's drawdown"	Aug/Sep issue
Helderberg Nature Reserve open and bustling with activity	19 August 2022	Tabletalk media query – Table Bay Nature Reserve fence	30 August 2022
City's Spatial Planning and Environment women receive some TLC	31 August 2022	WWF-SA blog post: "The untold tourism side to Philippi Horticultural Area"	22 September 2022
Durbanville Nature Reserve now open on weekends	8 September 2022	Tygerburger media query – Bracken Nature Reserve	5 October 2022
Update on Cape Peninsula Baboon Management Joint Task Team progress	20 September 2022	GroundUp article: "30 things the City has done to clean up Cape Town's vleis, rivers and wetlands"	22 November 2022
Cape Fox spotted in Table View	23 September 2022	Daily Maverick article: "The call of the mild – of mice, men and tiny claws in the Tygerberg Nature Reserve"	8 December 2022
Robben Island fuel reduction burn showcases local biodiversity and secures key heritage site	16 October 2022	Tygerburger media query – City and SANParks Table Mountain celebrate their dedicated volunteers	8 December 2022
Floral carpet covers Helderberg Nature Reserve after fire	18 October 2022	Radio Interview Capetalk – Pied Crows (Clifford Dorse)	23 December 2022
Join in the Great Southern Bioblitz!	21 October 2022	Happening Radio media query – media coverage opportunity for Table Bay Nature Reserve	10 February 2023
Zeekoevlei partially closed to the public	21 October 2022	5050 feature: Wetland City	20 February 2023
City compiling plan of action to restore Milnerton Lagoon environment	24 October 2022	Asset magazine media query – Cape Town's approach to beekeeping	25 February 2023
Cape Town achieves international Wetland City status	10 November 2022	Cape Argus article: "World Wildlife Day celebrated with discovery of small jumping cockroach in Cape Town"	6 March 2023
Biodiversity Management Awards showcase City's conservation efforts	10 November 2022	Sunday Times article: "Baboons discover foodie heaven in Constantia"	5 March 2023
Spectacular sightings, record number of visitors to Tygerberg Nature Reserve	17 November 2022	Media hack media query – invasive species	22 March 2023
Tender awarded for new weed harvester for Zandvlei	30 November 2022	Financial Mail media query – PSHB	22 March 2023
City unpacks short-term interventions to help tackle pollution at Milnerton Lagoon	1 December 2022	CONTACT article: "Fur your information"	April/May issue
City and SANParks Table Mountain celebrate their dedicated volunteers	7 December 2022	Social media query (Facebook) – invasive trees in Cape Town	21 April 2023
Steenbras Nature Reserve closed due to flooding	13 December 2022	Social media query (Facebook) – caracal signage	15 May 2023

Steenbras Nature Reserve reopened after flooding	23 December 2022	ICLEI web article: A city of hope for all; Cape Town's journey towards a prosperous, resilient and inclusive future	18 May 2023
City contains fire at Rondevlei in False Bay Nature Reserve	23 December 2022	Cape Town etc. media query – Durbanville Nature Reserve	24 May 2023
Ecological burns scheduled for City nature reserves	29 December 2022		
New weed harvester for Zandvlei due by November 2023	17 January 2023		
Invasive Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer beetle spotted in Newlands	25 January 2023		
Proposed Baboon Strategic Management Plan now available for public comment	27 January 2023		
Steenbras Nature Reserve and gorge hike open despite roadworks along Clarence Drive	2 February 2023		
Residents reminded of online meeting about borer beetle threat	6 February 2023		
Open invitation to stakeholder workshop about draft Baboon Strategic Management Plan	21 February 2023		
Beetle pest spreading steadily	22 February 2023		
Call for sustainable products to help remediate inland water bodies	24 February 2023		
Beetle pest training for businesses handling trees and plant material	28 February 2023		
Reminder of stakeholder workshop about draft Baboon Strategic Management Plan	28 February 2023		
City celebrates World Wildlife Day with jumping cockroach	3 March 2023		
Reminder of beetle pest training for businesses handling trees and plant material	6 March 2023		
Beetle infested trees removed from public owned land while City kick-starts voluntary tree replacement programme	7 March 2023		
City encourages residents to participate in voluntary tree replacement programme	10 March 2023		
Reminder of beetle pest training in Helderberg area for businesses handling trees and plant material	14 March 2023		
Consultants recommend pondweed harvesting, other interventions for Rietvlei remediation	15 March 2023		
City notes consultants' recommendations for dredging of Zandvlei	23 March 2023		
Cape Town aims to win City Nature Challenge yet again	12 April 2023		
Tygerberg Nature Reserve temporarily closed	18 April 2023		
Spatial Planning budget prioritises health of vleis, coastline, resilience to climate change	18 April 2023		
Residents to register and get ready for City Nature Challenge next week	22 April 2023		
Millions to rehabilitate vleis, improve coastal infrastructure	24 April 2023		

Tygerberg Nature Reserve open again	24 April 2023		
Transition to a more sustainable baboon programme making progress	26 April 2023		
Get cameras ready for City Nature Challenge to record cool wildlife findings	27 April 2023		
Annual drawdown of Zeekoevlei to flush the system	28 April 2023		
Deputy Mayor joins City Nature Challenge fun night walk at Tokai Park	29 April 2023		
Cape Town residents earn second spot in City Nature Challenge winner categories	15 May 2023		
City celebrates International Day of Biodiversity in Philippi and Green Point	25 May 2023		
City's partnership with Stellenbosch University assists Fynbos Restoration research project	2 June 2023		
R1,2bn for cleaner vleis, improved beach facilities, and resilient	11 June 2023		
Rietvlei temporarily closed due to localised flooding	21 June 2023		
Weed harvester for Zandvlei will boost environmental health, economy	26 June 2023		
Rietvlei's trails, picnic areas and boardwalks open again to the public	28 June 2023		
City enlarges Rondevlei section of False Bay Nature Reserve	28 June 2023		
City and Bird Club partner on dune planting for Westridge Park Development	30 June 2023		