

**Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area**  
**MONTHLY EMS REPORT**

**MRCA**  **EMS**  
Conservation

REPORT No.: 36

PERIOD: Apr - May 2010

DATE: 28 May 2010

<b>CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>1</b>
✘ No contracts have been undertaken during this period. (Grysbok capture & relocation pending).	
<b>INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>2</b>
✘ Spraying of Kikuyu grass within the Northern and Southern areas needs to be done during summer.	
<b>FIRE MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>3</b>
✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species is underway.	
<b>REHABILITATION</b>	<b>4</b>
✘ <i>Carpobroptus edulis</i> is growing successfully on the berm. No retaining is required at this point in time - to be monitored.	
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ <b>Stormwater outlets:</b> All outlets are clear of vegetation &amp; open.</li> <li>✘ <b>Rubbish bins:</b> CCT to supply additional bins when possible. No vandalism or other damage noted.</li> <li>✘ <b>Signage &amp; Fences:</b> No vandalism or other damages noted.</li> <li>✘ <b>Toilet:</b> The Real Landscapes toilet at detention pond 3 is being cleaned on a regular basis.</li> <li>✘ <b>Boardwalk:</b> Replacement boardwalk planks to be ordered. Details have been supplied to CCT.</li> <li>✘ <b>Gold Circle railings:</b> KR needs to order wooden railings to replace the ones within burn block 2 which were burnt during the control burn in March. Measurements have been e-mail to KR.</li> <li>✘ <b>Path maintenance:</b> The path within the Northern Conservation Area is a bimonthly procedure and will be undertaken during the month of June.</li> </ul>	
<b>FAUNA MANAGEMENT &amp; OBSERVATIONS</b>	<b>6</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ Capturing of 2 male Cape Grysbok within the Southern Conservation area is still to be undertaken.</li> <li>✘ The humane cat trapping project is on hold due to the cage being needed at other CCT reserves which have a more urgent problem. Trapping will be undertaken bimonthly for two weeks at a time.</li> <li>✘ On the 24<sup>th</sup> May a bird count was executed within the Northern Conservation Area, &amp; on the 25<sup>th</sup> May within the Southern Conservation Area. All sightings were uploaded onto the Biodiversity Database.</li> </ul>	
<b>BIOLOGICAL MONITORING</b>	<b>7</b>
<p><b>Vegetation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✘ Bi-monthly fixed point photography has been taken of Burn Block 2 after the fire as a regrowth monitoring system.</li> <li>✘ MRCA flora and fauna species identified by Kirsten Louw and Margaret Maciver have been uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database.</li> <li>✘ Species identified on 24 May 2010 within burn block 2 include: <i>Rhus sp</i>; <i>Oxalis sp</i>; <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>; <i>Watsonia meriana</i>; <i>Geranium incanum</i>; <i>Pelargonium sp</i>.</li> <li>✘ Some angiosperms flowering during May (see next page).</li> </ul>	



*Muraltia satureioides*



Unidentified sp.



*Diosma* sp.

**Water:**

- ✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands and dam is carried out on a monthly basis.



April 2010  
Mostly dry pan and algae



May 2010  
Increased in water level by 43.6cm

Measured in  
cm

**Wetland 1 (Southern Conservation Area)**

2007 2008 2009 2010

Jan		114	76	67
Feb		61	46	44.2
Mar		53	28	25
Apr		35	18	13
May		22	37	35.6
Jun		59	69	
Jul	123	153	143	
Aug	150+	155	145	
Sep	150+	187	161.5	
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	
Nov	150+	139.5	138	
Dec	135	108	91	

**Wetland 2 (Northern Conservation Area)**

2007 2008 2009 2010

		31	34	47.5
		1	12	29
		0	0	13
		0	5	3
		1	33	46.6
		51	62	
	82	94	102	
	101	95.5	107	
	97	101.5	150+	
	83	91.5	150+	
	68	77	92	
	52	58.5	69	

- ✘ Water levels in Wetland 1 and 2 have increased drastically however Wetland 2 water level is higher than previous years.
- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk recorded 101mm of rain has fallen during May 2010.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

8

- ✘ Children and mentors from Home of Hope will be visiting MRCA on the 9<sup>th</sup> June during their school holidays. The programme will highlight the importance of wetlands and the flora and fauna within these sensitive systems.

- ✘ Home of Hope will be first be visited the previous day where a morning of fun filled activities will be undertaken. The topic will encompass what the children can do to help the environment, focusing on saving water and electricity as well as recycling. An introductory presentation on MRCA will highlight what the conservation area is before they visit the area.

GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS		9
✘ Five piles of Hartlaub's gull feathers on dry pan of Wetland 1 in Southern Conservation Area.		

ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS		10
Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks		
✘ Continue with the mapping of individual Red Data species	✓	Ongoing
✘ Path maintenance		
✘ Bird count		
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring		
✘ Completing Review 'Action Items' up		Behind schedule
✘ Explore species reintroduction in light of aims of ecosystem restoration	✓	Ongoing
✘ Draft 6 month APO	✓	Jan 2010
✘ Environmental Education	½	April/May 2010
✘ Clearing of woody alien plants	✓	April/May 2010
✘ Kikuyu grass	¼	Ongoing
✘ Humane cat trapping project	✓	Bi - monthly
✘ Final Grysbok capture and relocation operation.	¼	May/ June 2010
✘ Measurement of inundated areas requiring boardwalks		July 2010
✘ Replacing of Gold Circle Wooden railings		2010
✘ Replacing of Board walk plank		2010