

**Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area  
MONTHLY EMS REPORT**

**MRCA**  **EMS**  
Conservation

REPORT No.: 44

PERIOD: Feb 2011

DATE: 25 February 2010

**CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT**

**1**

- ✘ On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February CoCT assisted with clearing of the firebreak in the northern area.

**INVASIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

**2**

- ✘ Spraying of Kikuyu grass in the northern area firebreak undertaken.
- ✘ Removal of *Typha capensis* currently underway in the firebreak along the Sandown Cres. boundary.
- ✘ Two *Persicaria* plants within burn block 2 were hand pulled, constant monitoring in place.
- ✘ Follow up clearing of woody aliens to be undertaken within the next few months.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT**

**3**

- ✘ Monitoring of post fire flora species underway.
- ✘ Half of the firebreak within the northern area has been herbicided and cleared.



**REHABILITATION**

**4**

- ✘ Awaiting further contact from SANBI MSB regarding seed collection for Milnerton Ridge rehabilitation.

**INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**

**5**

- ✘ **Detention ponds:** Repairs to paving at Pond 4 required (see photo). Litter & vagrant activity noted at Pond 1.
- ✘ **Toilet:** Although serviced every Thursday, it is still in a bad condition.
- ✘ **Stormwater outlets:** All outlets are clear of vegetation and open.
- ✘ **Signage & Fences:** No vandalism or other damages noted.
- ✘ **Path maintenance:** N Area requires general maintenance (to be undertaken in March).



**FAUNA MANAGEMENT & OBSERVATIONS**

**6**

- ✘ The 4<sup>th</sup> cat trapping exercise will commence within the northern area during March.
- ✘ During Feb the monthly avifauna count was undertaken in the northern and southern areas. Sightings still to be uploaded onto the CoCT Biodiversity Database.
- ✘ No owl activity around the box noted.
- ✘ Regular surveys will be undertaken to prevent species captured CoCT Biodiversity Database from becoming extinct due to the lack of recorded sightings

**Vegetation:**

✘ **Vegetation:** Some species observed during this month.



1) *Aspalathus ericifolia*, 2) *Muraltia spinosa*, 3) Unidentified sp, 4) *Berkheya rigida*, 5) *Restio dispar*, 6) Unidentified sp, 7) *Pelargonium* sp, 8) *Rhus lucida*, 9) *Pelargonium citriodorum*

**Water:**

✘ Fixed point photography of the wetlands for February 2011.



**Wetland 1**



**Wetland 2**



Measured in cm	Wetland 1 (Southern Conservation Area)					Wetland 2 (Northern Conservation Area)				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan		114	76	67	18		31	34	47.5	19
Feb		61	46	44.2	0.5		1	12	29	1.5
Mar		53	28	25			0	0	13	
Apr		35	18	13			0	5	3	
May		22	37	35.6			1	33	46.6	
Jun		59	69	70			51	62	71.8	
Jul	123	153	143	35.6		82	94	102	46.6	
Aug	150+	155	145	123.6		101	95.5	107	105	
Sep	150+	187	161.5	112.5		97	101.5	150+	93	
Oct	150+	160.5	143.5	95.5		83	91.5	150+	84	
Nov	150+	139.5	138	75.5		68	77	92	71	
Dec	135	108	91	46.75		52	58.5	69	45	

- ✘ Wetland 1 is at its lowest volume since monitoring commenced in 2008.
- ✘ However, wetland 2 was lower in 2008 by 0,5 cm.
- ✘ Rain gauge data supplied by Niel van Wyk records 5.5 mm for Feb 2011. (Comparative figures for Feb in previous years were: 5mm in 2010; 8mm in 2009 & 12mm in 2008).

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

8

- ✘ The first annual Newsletter for 2010 has been distributed.
- ✘ The MRNR management plan has gone through its first public participation process.
- ✘ No APO comments have been received.
- ✘ Planning in Balance has a volunteer, Roxane Moulet, who will be assisting at MRNR and other CoCT reserves throughout the year.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION / OBSERVATIONS / MEETINGS

9

- ✘ Four changes are needed on the GIS map displayed at the public participation exhibitions.

#### ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

10

Regular monthly / bi-monthly tasks:	Ongoing
✘ Path maintenance & ad hoc alien clearing	
✘ Vegetation & water level monitoring / bird counts	
Other action items:	
✘ Finalising MRNR management plan	March
✘ Cat trapping project	March
✘ Firebreak in burn block 3	Ongoing
✘ Fish species survey	March
✘ Handpull <i>Vicia</i>	Aug / Sep
✘ Grysbok reintroduction	When possible