

INTRODUCTION TO IKAPA

Updated January 2010

Table Mountain National Park – a park for all, forever

TMNP is unique in being a world heritage site; part of the Cape Floral Kingdom (with over 8000 species, 70% of which are endemic); a national and international tourist destination (over 4 million visitors a year); and an open access park in Cape Town (a city of 5 million people)



Chacma Baboon on Table Mountain

DIARY

Regional meetings: every third Monday of the month, 19h00, SANParks Offices at Kloofnek.

PROJECTS

Foot patrol

iKapa HRs regularly do foot patrols throughout TMNP which extends from Cape Point to Signal Hill. Working closely with TMNP, iKapa HRs assist as “eyes and ears” in Table Mountain National Park.. Areas covered include Signal Hill, Lions Head and the front of the Mountain past the cable station to Devils Peak and the Queens Blockhouse. This path which continues through beautiful Afro-Montane forest through to Kirstenbosch is also patrolled. Other popular areas covered are Cecelia Forest as well as the historical back table with its 5 dams. Silvermine is also a popular tourist area and has many picnic sights as well as scenic walks. Paths on the Southern side of Silvermine lead all the way to Kalk Bay. Further south is the popular Boulders Penguin Colony and the road to Cape Point which is frequented by the resident baboon troupe. The Cape Point section of the park including the ship wreck trail, Oliphantsbos and The Cape of Good Hope are patrolled on foot or in a vehicle. Further round the peninsular HR’s patrol from Slangkop Lighthouse through to Chapmans Peak along Nordhoek beach.

Full Moon Patrol

iKapa HRs patrol Lions Head every full moon when hundreds of visitors ascend the mountain to take in the splendid view of the setting sun and rising full moon. Many of the public are ill-equipped for walking on the mountain and the HRs keep an eye out for any problems that may arise. In the event of an emergency situation occurring Park Rangers are contacted through the Park radio network who will call in emergency personnel.



Cape Clawless Otter Research. (Ongoing)

iKapa HRs assist with data collection of Cape Clawless Otters on the Peninsular which is fed through to TMNP for research.



Dassie Research

HR's report dassie sightings within the park as a drop in the numbers of these animals has been noted. This is a new project and will be ongoing



African Penguin Nest Box Project

A total of 200 nest boxes were handed to Table Mountain National by iKapa Honorary Rangers, in partnership with Dyer Island Conservation Trust; US-based Species Survival Plan and ordinary members of the public, including schools.



The specially designed nest boxes are a response to the decline in the Red Data-listed African Penguin population. The population of African Penguins has experienced a dramatic decline in recent years to only 120 000 birds with the population at Boulders dropping from 3500 birds in 2005 to 2600 in 2007. The nest boxes will help conserve the Boulders Colony population of African Penguins by protecting eggs from predators and juveniles from heat exhaustion, which is having an impact on these charismatic sea birds. Schools will receive an informative African Penguin nest box poster sponsored by Creda Communications. A map of the numbered nest boxes with sponsor's names will be on display at Boulders Penguin Colony. This project will be part of on-going research as Boulders.



Cape Point Light House Painting and Graffiti Removal



Before

The historic Cape Point Lighthouse is regularly defaced with graffiti. iKapa HRs paint this historical landmark at least 4 times a year. The lighthouse is no longer used as a beacon but is the central control room for all of the lighthouses situated around the SA Coast. HR's are also involved with graffiti removal on natural rocks within the park particularly on Table Mountain. Using special environmentally friendly paint remover the

rocks are scrubbed clean.



After painting

Path Maintenance



Cape Point, Newlands Forest and Silver Mine are some of the paths and boardwalks regularly maintained to ensure the safety of walkers. The boardwalk at Cape Point is exposed to the elements and needs constant maintenance to keep it safe and user friendly.

Invasive alien species clearing



iKapa HRs had special training in the invasive species in TMNP which is designed to help them with alien species mapping, monitoring and clearing. Honorary Rangers repeated their popular "Invasive Aliens in Fynbos Course" with emphasis on Table Mountain National Park, Identification and Control. The course conducted by Honorary Ranger Dr Tony Rebelo was held at the newly opened SANParks Cape Research Node situated in Tokai. It was attended by iKapa Honorary Rangers, SANParks as well as Working for Water employees – from as far afield as Agulhas, as well as City of Cape Town conservation management employees.

Tokai Park

Tokai Park has recently been added to Table Mountain National Park. Parts are currently under commercial pine plantations, but as the pines are removed fynbos rehabilitation is actively promoted with plans to re-introduce Grysbok. Extensive work has also been done on the riverine ecosystems to encourage the return of the Cape Clawless Otter. To date 21 Red Data List plant species have either germinated from the seed banks or reintroduced with the assistance of the Kirstenbosch Threatened Species Programme and the Millienium Seed Bank. These include the "Extinct in the wild" Erica verticillata and E. turgida.

Training

Over and above offering a variety of official HR training courses, iKapa has a successful initiative training front line staff of some of Cape Town's top hotels.



Junior Rangers

This will bring together youngsters from schools on the Cape Flats to learn about TMNP and get hands-on experience of this magnificent park

Annual Table Top weekend:

iKapa Honorary Rangers overnight at the People's Trail hut on Table Mountain and visit historic sites on the back section of Table Mountain.



Fundraising and Public Relations

iKapa HRs put together conservation partnerships with local businesses, organisations, and individuals in support of TMNP.

Projects include:

A Corsa Ute from Thorp Motor Group for use by Boulders Penguin Colony.

Donation of radio's to TMNP

Donation of cyber trackers to TMNP

Funds donated by the VOC running club to build a new path to the top of Devils Peak.

Regional Management Committee

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Duty Officer

Training Co-ordinator

Junior Rangers

TMNP Liaison

Biodiversity, Speaker Programme

Uniforms

John Elford

Ruedi Siegenthaler

George Smith

Dagmar Gleiss-Forcioli

Rudi Siegenthaler

Mike Kelderman

Raj Rajkumar

Sue Smith

Tony Rebelo

Erik Kiderlen

Membership: 33