

Update: October 2008

Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) – a park for all, forever

TMNP is unique in being a world heritage site; part of the Cape Floral Kingdom (with over 8 000 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).



Diary

Regional meetings: every third Monday of the month, 19:00, Newlands Firebase Training Centre

- 27/28 September Boulders Penguin Festival
- 4 October Field exercise for TMNP's visitor safety strategy
- 14 October Lions Head full moon patrol
- 11/12 Oct Alien invader course
- 1/2 November Snake Handling Course
- 13 November Lions Head full moon patrol
- 12 December Lions Head full moon patrol

Ongoing Projects & Events

TMNP Visitor Safety & Security Strategy

Working closely with TMNP, iKapa HRs are helping out as “eyes and ears” within Table Mountain National Park, especially in the north sector where the cable car is and which is a high visitor area. HRs help with patrols, and reports any unusual occurrences that may adversely affect visitor safety.

Foot patrol

Over and above the VSS strategy, iKapa HRs regularly do foot patrols throughout TMNP which extends from Cape Point to Signal Hill.



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 which will call in emergency personnel.

Cape Clawless Otter Research

iKapa HRs assist recently appointed HRs Matthew and Mary-Ann Syphus who have been collecting data on Cape Clawless Otters on the Peninsular for 4 years. Their valuable knowledge and ongoing research on these endearing creatures is being fed through to SANParks which is conducting research in TMNP.



Cape Point Light House Painting



The historic Cape Point Lighthouse is regularly defaced with visitors' 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.

Path Maintenance

Cape Point, Newlands Forest, Silver Mine
These paths and boardwalks are regularly kept clean and the encroaching fynbos trimmed. The boardwalks which are an integral part of the paths are also maintained by repairing damaged planks to ensure the safety of walkers. In the Newlands Forest section trees are often blown over the path following storms, particularly in winter. These are cut down and cleared to ensure visitors can walk freely in these areas.



Training

Over and above offering a variety of official HR training courses, iKapa has begun a new and successful initiative training front line staff of some of Cape Town's top hotels, beginning with the five star Cape Grace Hotel.

People Education & Awareness Programme (PEAP)

The programme takes youngsters, students, including Cape Nature, into the park for a direct experience of its diversity and natural beauty and an overnight in the People's Trail hut.



Soon-to-be launched together with TMNP: 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 for iKapa Honorary Rangers overnighing at the People's Trail hut on Table Mountain.

Fundraising and Public Relations

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

Regional Management Committee

Chairperson: Sue Smith
Vice Chairperson: Raj Rajkumar
Secretary: Vito Viglietti
Duty Officer: Rudi Siegenthaler
Treasurer: Johan Noeth
Training: George Smith
Veterinary Services: Paul van Helden
Public Relations: John Elford

Membership

HRs 22
AHR 9
JRs 0