



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo leNtshona Koloni

Ref Number: 11/4/1/2/8

Report of the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on its oversight visit to Stony Point and Kogelberg Nature Reserves as follows:

Delegation

The Delegation consisted of the following members:

Simmers, TA (Chairperson and leader of the Delegation)
Dijana, TM
Philander, WF

Apologies were received from Members Beerwinkel and Schäfer.

The Committee Co-ordinator, Ms S Niekerk, accompanied the Delegation.

1. Introduction and Background

Section 114 (2)(b)(i) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, mandates provincial legislatures to provide for mechanisms to maintain oversight over the Provincial Executive Authority in the province. To this end the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning undertook an oversight visit to the Stony Point and Kogelberg Nature Reserves. These reserves are managed by CapeNature, an entity of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

The purpose of the visit was to gain an understanding of the biodiversity and conservation issues linked to the respective Reserves and its impact on economic growth and tourism in the areas. In the case of the Kogelberg Nature Reserve, the Committee requested an update on the upgrading project currently underway.

2. Overview

The Committee visited the Stony Point and Kogelberg Nature Reserves on Tuesday, 18 September 2018, and met with officials from CapeNature and, in the case of Stony Point, with members of the community. The engagement commenced with a brief presentation that was followed by a tour of the respective facilities. The Committee also witnessed a penguin release at the Stony Point Nature Reserve.

Stony Point Nature Reserve is located in the quaint coastal town of Betty's Bay in the Overberg and is home to one of the largest successful breeding colonies of African Penguin in the world.

Kogelberg is South Africa's first registered biosphere reserve and it encompasses the entire coastal area from Gordon's Bay to the Bot River vlei, and inland to Grabouw and the Groenland Mountain.

2.1 Stony Point Nature Reserve

2.1.1 Findings and observations

- 2.1.1.1 Stony Point is situated within the Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area and the objectives of activities at the Reserve are to protect flora and fauna, to facilitate fishery management and to diminish any conflict that may arise from competing users in the area.
- 2.1.1.2 The Reserve employs four full time staff members and 14 contracted staff members that form part of the Extended Public Works Programme against an operational budget of R3.9 million.
- 2.1.1.3 The challenges experienced within the Reserve include poaching, high unemployment and ecological damage caused by invader plants and wild fires.
- 2.1.1.4 The opportunities created in the area include community awareness, job creation and responsible tourism development.
- 2.1.1.5 The income generated at the Reserve for the 2017/2018 financial year amounted to R1,9 million compared to R219 000 in 2014/2015, showing an increase in the number of visitors.
- 2.1.1.6 The Reserve also boasts a restaurant called "On the Edge Restaurant" that is managed by the Mooi Uitsig Community Trust. The Mooi Uitsig Community Trust Project was an initiative of the Department of Tourism in partnership with the Overstrand Municipality and Casidra. The Project started in 2007 and the Mooi Uitsig Community Trust was established in 2012. The aim of the Trust is to utilise the resources and property of the Trust for the social and economic benefit of the beneficiaries and to identify and support community development projects.
- 2.1.1.7 Mooi Uitsig was established due to the Highlands forest station that closed and families were relocated by the municipality to houses in Mooi Uitsig. The population was small and consisted of 42 families.
- 2.1.1.8 On the Edge Restaurant opened its doors in December 2014. CapeNature took over the management of Stony Point from 1 July 2014. The restaurant was officially launched and handed over to the community on 10 April 2015.

Challenges with this initiative included the fact that trustees were general workers at the municipality, gardeners and domestic workers and therefore did not have any experience in managing a business, the community wanted to see immediate results, there was poor attendance at meetings, there was distrust over money matters and employees refused to sign employment contracts as they saw themselves as co-owners and not employees.

CapeNature then stepped in and assisted with setting up community meetings, the election of new trustees, the drawing up of an action and implementation plan and capacity building. As a result the restaurant now permanently employs three staff

members and five casual staff members. Most of the purchases are sourced locally and the Manager was appointed from the community. The restaurant has started to show a profit, the trust is functioning, meetings are well attended and training sessions are in place and trustees understand their roles and responsibilities. CapeNature assists with the training and development of trustees, staff development and community meetings.

On the Edge Restaurant entered the Premier's Entrepreneurship Recognition Awards in 2017. The youth and community members also participate in environmental education activities such as "save the penguins".

- 2.1.1.9 Other projects flowing from the Trust are the establishment of a vegetable garden that supports the restaurant, the Penguin Kidz Crèche and the Mooi Uitsig Community Arts and Culture Project which assists young people to develop their skills.

2.2 Kogelberg Nature Reserve

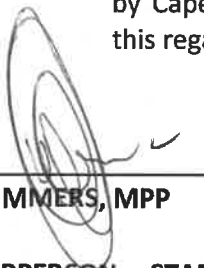
2.2.2 Findings and observations

- 2.2.2.1 Kogelberg Nature Reserve occupies an area with minimal human interference. The Reserve presents the finest example of mountain fynbos in the Western Cape and is a renowned World Heritage Site.
- 2.2.2.2 The glass fronted eco-cabins afford occupants breath-taking views of the Reserve. Each of the five Oudebosch eco-cabins at Kogelberg Nature Reserve sleeps four people and consists of two bedrooms, one bathroom, one en-suite, and a spacious kitchen, lounge and dining area.
- 2.2.2.3 Phase 1 of the Oudebosch Project opened to the public in February 2012 and boasts green design and water saving features. Sustainable features include waterless toilets. The cabins are linked by wooden walkways and constructed with renewable materials. Each cabin has a planted roof with modular trays for planting indigenous vegetation. Chandeliers and lights are finished off with recycled bottles. The central eco-pool has no chemicals and the shallow section has aquatic plants that assist in the cleaning and regeneration process.
- 2.2.2.4 Oudebosch has received international recognition in the form of the coveted Holcim award for sustainable construction with architectural excellence which was awarded to the company Architecture Coop. GVK Siya Zama Building Contractors won the AfriSam Innovation Award for Sustainable Construction of the Oudebosch Cabins.
- 2.2.2.5 The Reserve boasts an occupancy rate of 85-90% year on year. Approximately 4 500 individuals are accommodated every year.
- 2.2.2.6 The income generated at the Reserve for the 2017/2018 financial year amounted to R2,8 million compared to R1 million in 2012/2013 when the reserve opened.
- 2.2.2.7 Construction of Phase 2 of the Oudebosch Project is currently underway and completion is expected in quarter four of the 2019/2020 financial year. This encompasses five new 2-

sleeper and three new 6-sleeper cabins, a new eco-pool and green design principles and universal access features. This will increase the staff complement from 13 employees to 32 employees.

3. Acknowledgements

The Committee is gratified by the outstanding achievements of CapeNature and the enormous effort and expertise of industry experts who assisted in the development of the Oudebosch facility. The Committee is also impressed with the Community involvement at the "On the Edge Restaurant" as well as the mentorship role performed by CapeNature. The Committee congratulates CapeNature on sterling achievements in this regard.



TA SIMMERS, MPP

**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING**

DATE: 26/10/2018