

**AGENDA of the
Portfolio Committee : Investment & Infrastructure
2 August 2023
(Also the agenda for the Mayoral Committee Meeting : 16 August 2023)**

**7.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**S Muller
14 July 2023**

Director : Infrastructure and Planning

(028) 313 8019

1. Executive Summary

This report provides the Portfolio Committee with progress on activities in the Environmental Management Services Department (EMS) for the 2022/23 financial year.

The report deals with the planning, development, and operational activities of the 3 sections of the Environmental Management Services Department 1) Biodiversity Conservation Management, 2) Special Projects and 3) Environmental Management. These activities are managed on municipal land such as nature reserves and properties zoned as Open Space Zone 1 areas.

It also looks at the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan for the Municipality to mitigate the impacts of the municipal services on the environment and the implementation of the Baboon Management Programme, Overstrand Wide.

The activities covered are:

- Alien Vegetation Management (AVM),
- Fire Breaks and block burning,
- Trail Maintenance,
- Baboon Management,
- Environmental Management System and Auditing,
- Air Quality Management,
- Planning and Development, and
- Stakeholder Engagement

2. Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan - IGNITE

Infrastructure and Planning
Director

3. Compliance with Strategic Priorities

Provision of democratic, accountable and ethical governance
Provision and maintenance of municipal services
Creation and maintenance of a safe and healthy environment

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4. Delegated Authority

Executive Mayor

5. Legal Requirements

National Environmental Management Act
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act with Norms and Standards and Regulations
National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act
National Environmental Management Air Quality Act
Western Cape Noise Control regulations
National Environmental Management Waste Management Act
Veld and Forest Fire Act
Forest Act
Integrated Coastal Management Act
Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance
Environmental Management Overlay Zone Regulations
Town Planning Regulations
Building Plan Regulations

6. Background/Discussion/Evaluation/Conclusion

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

6.1 Alien Vegetation Management (AVM)

The original budget for AVM for the EMS was R 1 150 000 with a midyear adjustment to R 1 650 000. A total of R 1 646 027 has been spent in total for the clearance of 374 Hectare, at an average cost of R 3 764 per Hectare.

Ward	Hectares Cleared	AVG Amount Spent per Ward	% Spent	Notes and Comments
Ward 1	40	R152 264	9%	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 3	108	R641 351	39%	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 4	12	R46 639	3%	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 7	3	R9 975	1%	Sandbaai Coastal and WWF ground
Ward 8	18	R66 966	4%	Hawston – Erf 1
Ward 9	82	R308 329	19%	Kleinmond and Kleinmond Nature Reserve

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Ward 10	59	R223 144	14%	Betties Bay
Ward 11	38	R144 697	9%	Gansbaai Area
Ward 13	14	R52 662	3%	Vermont Greenbelts
TOTAL	374	R1 646 027	100%	

An estimated 51 % of the budget spent has been on Fernkloof Nature Reserve.

6.2 Fire Services

EMS received an original budget of R 900 000.00 with a midyear adjustment to R 1 050 000.00. Funding had to be transferred from fire services to support other environmental projects for which funding was required, leaving a final total of R 690 000.00. A total of R 672 346.49 has been spent on a total of 39.35 km of firebreaks and fire mitigation, such as controlled burns. Firebreak calculations are done per square meter, length of firebreak X its width. The current average cost to clear per m² is R 2.37. The totals below reflect multiple cuts, as some breaks, have more than one clearing per year.

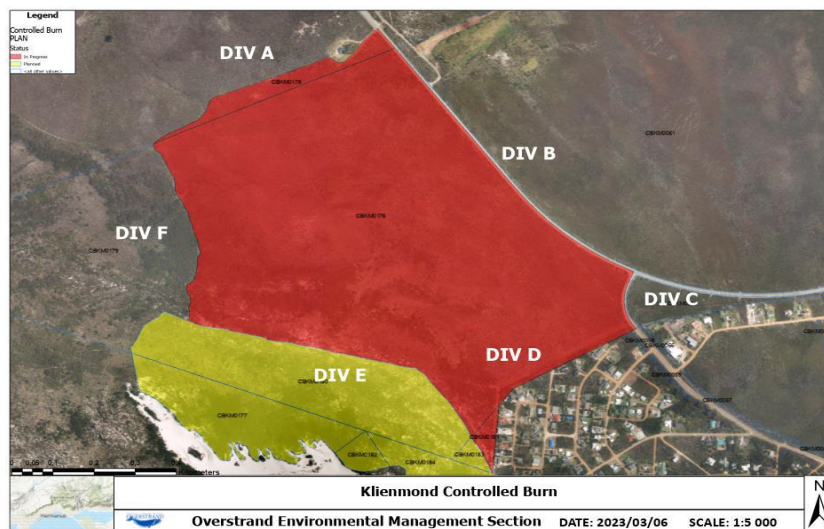
Ward	Kilometres Maintained	AVG Amount Spent per Ward	% Spent	Notes and Comments
Ward 1	0,86	R18 158	3,4	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 2	0,52	R4 919	0,9	Gansbaai Area
Ward 3	11,07	R194 064	36,4	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 4	7,2	R79 110	14,8	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 8	0,43	R10 303	1,9	Hawston – Erf 1
Ward 9	0,34	R2 260	0,4	Kleinmond and Kleinmond Nature Reserve
Ward 10	7,95	R129 650	24,3	Betties Bay
Ward 11	9,79	R68 878	12,9	Gansbaai Area
Ward 13	0,5	R17 671	3,3	Vermont Greenbelts
Ward 14	0,7	R8 275	1,6	Danger Point
TOTAL	39,36	R533 288	100%	

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An estimated 54.6 % of the budget spent has been on Fernkloof Nature Reserve for the 2022/2023 financial year.

6.3 Controlled Burns

The Farm Blesberg, Portion 2002, Betty's Bay (CBKM0176, CBKM0181 and CBKM0178) was burnt on 4 April 2023 and the goal was to reduce the fuel load of the 80 ha site and to stimulate fynbos regrowth. It was a very successful burn conducted through Overstrand Municipality along with Cape Nature, Overberg District Municipality and Greater Overberg Fire protection Association (goFPA).



6.4 Trail Maintenance

In accordance with the Environmental Management Maintenance Tender, Trail Maintenance is currently being done per meter. Figures used to calculate how much was spent, could be misleading, as Trail Maintenance falls under the budget code of Maintenance of Unspecified Assets, which is used for the maintenance of all natural assets, including, but not limited to Trail maintenance. EMS intends to update the GIS to reflect figures more accurately for this vote. EMS received an original budget of R 297 550.00 with a midyear adjustment to R 950 550.00. R 522 384.64 has been spent from this Vote. The table below reflects the percentage of trails maintained per ward per Kilometre.

Ward	Km Maintained	% Spent	Notes and Comments
Ward 1	0,8	3	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 3	23,3	87	Mainly Fernkloof
Ward 4	2,6	10	Mainly Fernkloof
TOTAL	26,7	100%	

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An estimated 100 % of the budget spent has been on Fernkloof Nature Reserve. Although there are trails in other areas, these have not been properly mapped yet and are generally maintained by Operational Services.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

6.5 Eco-Rangers Monitoring Programme/Grant Funding Betty's Bay

On the 15th of March 2022, the Bettys Bay Grant Funding Project was successfully implemented with 12 beneficiaries trained during this time. The project forms part of the Baboon Management Program of the Overstrand Municipality that falls directly under the Environmental Management Services (EMS). The Eco-Rangers assist with waste management monitoring, data collection of baboon proof bins, identification of fruit trees, open vegetable gardens and baboon/bird feeding stations that could attract baboons into the urban area. The first 4 months of the contract was funded by Local Economic Development (LED) for the period of March 2022 till June 2022. The Grant Allocation was R450 000 and the budget spent was R336 509 (see table below).

Grant Allocation	Expenditure to 15 March – 30 June 2022	Comment
288 904	326 546	Basic Salary and Wages
100 000		Travel or Motor Vehicle
2948	3 198	Unemployment Insurance
200		Materials and Supplies
2948	3 726	Skills Development Fund Levy
55 000	3 038	Uniform and Protective Clothing
R 450 000	R 336 509	Total received

Due to the success of the project, the Mayor requested the Municipal Manager to extend the programme. The total amount of R231 818 was allocated to extend the project from August to December 2022, a total of R184 800 was spent.

The success of the project had a huge impact on the social and environmental sectors of the town of Betty's Bay and the surrounding areas and the project was extended further from January 2023 to June 2023 with the current 8 Eco-

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Rangers. An amount of R 376 000 was allocated at the budget review and a total of R 221 760 was spent.

Further success of the project saw the expansion to Pringle Bay, with the appointment of additional 10 Eco-Rangers from 1 May 2023 to 30 June 2023, where baboon troops were causing damage to infrastructure in urban areas with a further expenditure of R 92 400.

A total amount of R835 469 was invested in the Eco-Rangers who are all employed from the Mooiuitsig Community in Betty's Bay.

6.6 Overstrand Baboon Management Programme – HWS OM Wide

The Programme started on 1 July 2020 in the Overstrand, following the implementation protocol of the Overstrand Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP) which was signed by DEA& DP, CapeNature and OM.

The managed troops are divided across two geographical areas, Overstrand East from Hawston to Vogelgat Nature Reserve and Overstrand West, from Kleinmond to Pringle Bay.

Troops in the Eastern region include the Onrus, Hamilton-Russel, Voelklip and Vogelgat troops, and in the Western region include Kleinmond/Betty's Bay, Pringle Bay, Hangklip and Silversands troops.

HWS took on the management of the BMP in July 2020 for a duration of 3 years. The contract expired in June 2023 and the assignment of Province for baboon management in the Overstrand Municipality expires in December 2024.

The annual report for the Programme is due every year in August, so this year's 2022-2023 annual report will only be available in August 2023 and will depict the overall picture of the Programme for the final year and also for the last 3 years.

The total budget allocation for the Programme in the last three years can be seen in the budget table below and it includes the budget allocation for the 2023/2024 financial year. The assignment from the Provincial Government will expire in December 2024.

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	Budget				
Area	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
East	4 366 933	4 411 588	4 632 167	7 781 953	21 192 641
West	1 933 067	2 203 412	2 313 583	2 868 047	9 318 109
Hangklip	562 824	3 347 840	3 515 232		7 425 896
Total	6 862 824	9 962 840	10 460 982	10 650 000	37 936 646

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

6.7 Planning and Development

The Environmental Management staff consists of an Environmental Officer in Kleinmond, Environmental Audit officer in Hermanus and Environmental Manager based in Hermanus. The position of Assistant Environmental Officer in Gansbaai was vacant from 25 January 2023 up to June 2023. The duties of this position were shared between the Environmental Manager and Audit officer.

- A) A total of 1800 Building Plans were reviewed during the financial year. Of these 810 was for Hermanus, 378 was for Gansbaai and 612 was for Kleinmond.
- B) A total of 66 Town Planning Applications were reviewed for the financial year. Of these 43 was for Hermanus, 15 was for Gansbaai and 8 for Kleinmond.
- C) A total of 51 Property Administration applications were reviewed for the financial year. Of these 27 was for Hermanus, 10 was for Gansbaai and 14 was for Kleinmond.

6.8 Environmental Management Plan (Audits and Monitoring)

The focus of the 2022/23 environmental audits was to revisit problem sewer pumpstations and all waste facilities.

- a) Sewerage management: This includes audits at sewer pump stations and Wastewater Treatment Works: 29
- b) Sewer spillage reports captured: 21
- c) Waste management: This includes audits at waste transfer sites, garden waste drop-off sites and landfill: 12

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d) Water purification sites: 1

Feedback sessions with relevant managers is planned for the later part of 2023.

6.9 Air Quality Management

Under the air quality management function, the following matters are dealt with: noise, odour, dust and smoke. Noise exemptions for events are also issued in terms of the Western Cape Noise Control regulations.

Noise complaints	38
Exemptions	62
Dust complaints	1

A service provider was appointed to conduct Noise impact assessments related to noise complaints. The consultant was appointed on a 1-year tender at a cost of R198 950.

6.10 Stakeholders Engagement

The Environmental Management Services Department deals with many stakeholders from National, Provincial and Local Government and NGO, NPO and Private organisations to individual members of the public, from time to time.

The Major stakeholders are:

- Fernkloof Nature Reserve Advisory Board
- Hermanus Botanical Society
- South African National Botanical Institute
- Cliff Path Management Group,
- Various Overstrand Hacking Groups
- Vermont Conservation Trust
- Whale Coast Conservation Foundation
- Estuary Forums (KREF, BREF, UEF and OREF)
- Various Local Nature Conservancies
- Kogelberg Biosphere Company
- Stanford Conservation Trust
- Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative
- Dyer Island Conservation Trust
- Municipal Coast Committee
- Overberg Planners Forum
- Overberg Climate Change and Biodiversity Forum
- Provincial Estuaries Forum
- Institute for Environmental Recreation and Resource Management
- ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability

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- United Nations Environment Programme
- Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
- CAPENATURE
- Working on Wetlands, Working on Fire, Working for Water
- Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association
- Breede Gourits Water Users Association

7. Financial Implications

None

8. Staff Implications

None

9. Comments from other Departments, Divisions and Administrations

None

10. Annexures

None

RECOMMENDATION:

that the contents of the report **be noted**.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL :

S MULLER

TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION :

N/A

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**THIS MATTER SERVED BEFORE THE INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON 2 AUGUST 2023, WHICH COMMITTEE SUPPORTED
THE RECOMMENDATION**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL :

S MULLER

TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION :

N/A