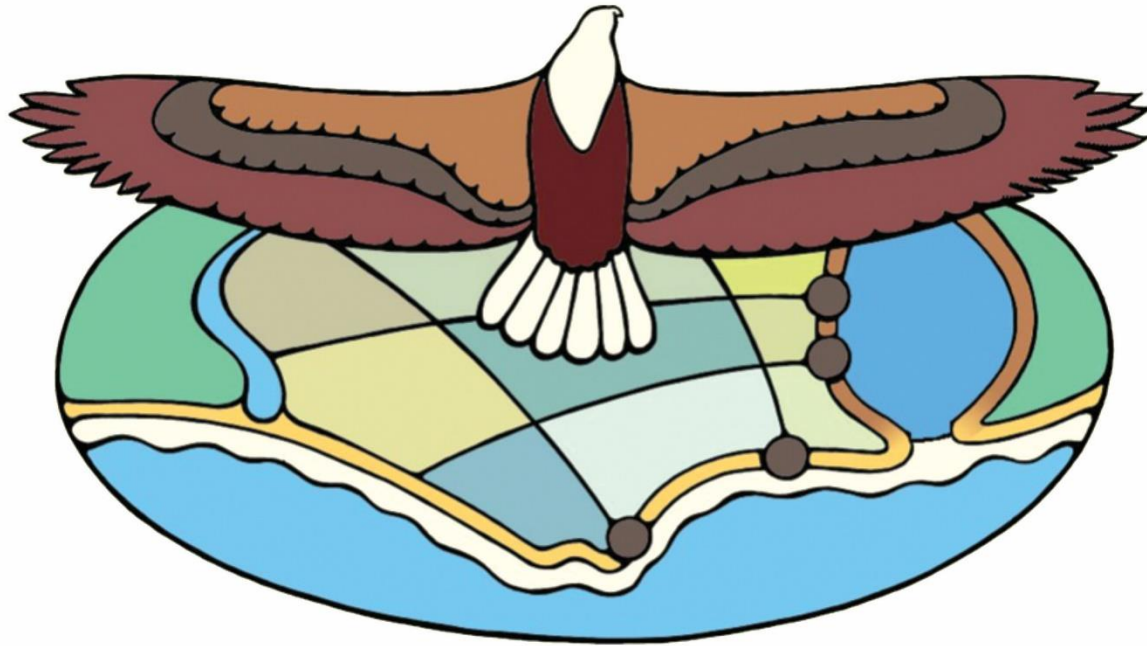




WESTERN HEADS / GOUKAMMA CONSERVANCY



- Knysna Sand Fynbos (FFd10 – SANBI, 2018) - Critically Endangered vegetation type of which only 17% is in an untransformed state
- WHGC host populations of many Red List plants as well as three threatened butterfly species (Edge, 2014)
- Contains important ecological corridors along the dune cordons (east-west) and between the ocean and the Knysna estuary

Confirmation Of WHGC Objectives

- To promote, protect, manage, and grow this endangered ecosystem to the benefit of future generations
- Promote, encourage, foster and support
 - a. understanding and appreciation of the critical biodiversity
 - b. eradication invader plants and animals
 - c. reclaim, rehabilitation and management of degraded areas
 - d. Zero environmental impact/loss
- Foster strong relationships with residence, conservancies and environmental bodies
- Maintained in, or restored to, a natural state in order to sustain biodiversity patterns and processes and the functionality of eco-system services

Overview of previous year – High Lights

1. **Conservation outcomes** progress with SANParks
2. **Stronger network & awareness** in WHGC
 - Knysna Spatial Development Plan (SDF)
3. **Strong relationships** with KM Environmental Dept, SANParks, Cape Nature and FPA
4. **NPO**, Bank account and finances
5. Public Awareness of the sensitive & special nature

Overview of previous year – concerns & challenges

1. **Increase in invasive plants** on some properties that is threat to sensitive nature and fire risk to residence
2. Ignorance or self interest resulting in destruction of nature
3. High property demand resulting in unrealistic development applications that threaten habitat loss and eco system functionality

Development Applications



Reason for WHGC involvement

- Loss of habitat
 - Fragmentation of biodiversity
 - Impact Functionality of eco-system
 - Pollution
 - Transformation of the character
-
- National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004), Revised National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection, GNR No. 2747, 18 November 2022

Overview development framework for CBA or Protected Environment

1. **WC Land Use Guideline-Rural Areas**
2. **WC Biodiversity Spatial Development Framework**
 - WHGC properties falls in Biodiversity priority area that is classified as Core 1
 - In broad terms, the biodiversity priority areas need to be maintained in a healthy and functioning condition, whilst those that are less important for biodiversity can be used for a variety of other land uses.
 - Very specific towards the number of dwellings, linear infrastructure, and other land uses.

CORE 1 Area (CBA and Protected Areas)

- highest conservation importance
- areas that must be maintained in, or restored to, a natural state in order to sustain biodiversity patterns and processes and the functionality of eco-system services.
- Essentially Core areas are ‘no-go’ areas from a development perspective. Accordingly, human impact must be restricted to ensure that there is no further loss of natural habitat
- “Duty of care” as per NEMA Section 28, especially for an area classified as CBA that requires that “Degraded areas should be rehabilitated”. Ref WCBSP: Degraded CBA’s should be rehabilitated and not being seen as an opportunity to develop

Want to know more?

Available documents

- ◉ **WC Land Use Guideline- Rural Areas**
- ◉ **WC Biodiversity Spatial Plan**
- ◉ DFFE Duty of care letter – legal responsibility
- ◉ WHGC Position paper

Objectives for 2024-2025

- Structure of ManCom with monthly meetings
- Deliver on WHGC-TMF project objectives
- Input to the new SDP
- Increase awareness and education
- Foster stronger relationships
- Strongly encourage eradication of invasives