

Re-alignment, rehabilitation and upgrading of the Tokai picnic-braai site, Table Mountain National Park

Environmental Management Plan: Operational Phase

Report Prepared for
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Table of Contents

1	Project Background	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Brief Project Description.....	1
2	General Operational Impact.....	3
3	Environmental Procedures.....	4
3.1	Roles and Responsibilities	4
3.2	Monitoring	5
3.3	Legal Requirements	5
4	Operational Phase Environmental Management	6
4.1	Traffic & Access.....	6
4.2	Traffic safety & non-vehicular access	6
4.3	Parking.....	7
4.4	Noise	7
4.5	Baboons.....	8
4.6	Alcohol Policy	8
4.7	Landscaping	8
4.8	Waste Management	9
4.9	Water Usage.....	9
4.10	Fires	10
4.11	Security and Emergency	10

1 Project Background

1.1 Introduction

The Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) appointed KHULA Environmental Consultants to conduct a Basic Assessment for the proposed re-alignment, rehabilitation and upgrading of the Tokai Picnic-braai Site on the remainder of Cape Farm 1465. One of the recommendations of this assessment was that both a construction and operational phase Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) be formulated and enforced.

The objectives of the OEMP are to manage the potential operational phase environmental impacts by:

- implementing environmental management measures during use of the site as a picnic-braai area;
- prescribing procedures and guidelines to ensure that other activities (excluding future construction activities) on the site (e.g. hospitality events) are effectively managed in terms of their potential environmental impacts;
- complying with various authority guidelines and applicable legislation;
- assigning responsibilities for aspects of environmental management to relevant parties; and
- detailing a system for addressing non-compliance which ensures accountability, reporting and resolution of any non-compliance.

Implementation of the specifications contained in this OEMP is the responsibility of TMNP.

1.2 Brief Project Description

The proposed re-alignment, rehabilitation and upgrading of the Tokai picnic-braai site entails the following:

- The re-alignment of the site along Tokai Road (north west – south east orientation) to a northeast-southwest orientation;
- The rehabilitation of the Prinskasteel River;
- Reducing the size of the site from 24ha to 21ha, although the capacity of 2,000 persons and 212 braai sites will be increased to 2,500 persons and 262 braai sites over time;
- Demolition of old ablution facilities and construction of new ablution facilities;

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- Decommissioning of the septic tank and soak-away systems and construction of a waterborne sewerage reticulation and connection to the municipal network;
 - Planting of non-invasive exotic and indigenous trees to provide shaded landscapes;
 - Upgrading of the site access to re-align the entrance facility to address congestion along Tokai Road and associated upgrading of Tokai Road pavement with edging on both sides;
 - Construction of a circular access hardened gravel road and demarcated parking areas;
 - Four low key boardwalk type pedestrian bridges across the Prinskasteel River;
 - The introduction of three open play area; and
 - The improvement of perimeter security fencing.

2 General Operational Impact

The operation of any facility has the potential to impact the environment. In this instance the anticipated impacts are expected to be limited due to the fact that the picnic-braai site will be upgraded to reduce current negative impacts associated with traffic, nuisance (noise, baboons, etc), waste management, fires etc. If mitigated according to the OEMP below it is not anticipated that the proposed upgraded picnic-braai site will have a negative immediate and/or sustained impact on the environment. Impacts that have been identified are listed (but not limited to) these below. Where appropriate, these impacts have been mitigated as outlined in the OEMP.

Table 2.1: Key potential impact associated with the operational phase

Impact	Discussion
Access & Traffic	If not appropriately managed the arrival and movement of visitors (pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles) could be in conflict and affect the ambiance of the site as well as contribute to congestion on the approach road especially during busy periods (holidays etc).
Parking	Indiscriminate parking could lead to congestion and environmental damage.
Potential Disturbances	Noise: Unreasonable noise levels will disturb the ambiance of the area. Baboons: If measures are not taken to baboon-proof areas there will be an increase of baboons within the picnic-braai areas which could potentially impact visitors.
Waste Management	Appropriate waste management procedures will need to be applied to minimise accumulation of waste, attraction of vermin and to ensure appropriate opportunities for recycling. Litter by visitors could result in a variety of negative impacts. The incorrect disposal of general waste may cause negative visual impact. If not correctly handled, general waste could be a source of pollution on site, and possibly offsite.
Soil contamination by fuels, oils	Parking of vehicles with leaks in non-allocated areas could result in pollution of soil and water and contribute to habitat loss.
Fires	Lighting of fires outside of designated braai areas may result in large areas of natural vegetation being burned.
Ablution facilities	Should the ablution facilities not be maintained, or maintained with chemical substances, there could be an impact on the surrounding environment.
Water usage	Water saving mechanisms need to be included and maintained on site so help reduce water wastage.

The management actions required to minimise these negative impacts and maximise potential benefits are detailed in Section 4.

3 Environmental Procedures

The Environmental Procedures specify roles and responsibilities and the manner in which the EMP is implemented.

3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The general roles and responsibilities of various parties are outlined below.

3.1.1 The Landowner

TMNP shall be responsible for ensuring the provisions of this EMP are implemented.

More specifically TMNP shall:

- Ensure that it complies with the requirements of this Operational EMP for so long as the site is used as a picnic-braai area;
- Designate a staff member as Environmental Control Officer (ECO) who will on a weekly basis visit the picnic-braai site and assess compliance with the OEMP;
- Maintain a record of all environmental management activities relating to the site (including all environmental reports, complaints made by the public, etc)
- Appoint an independent Environmental Auditor (EA) to undertake annual operational phase environmental audits into perpetuity (or for as long as the site is used as a picnic-braai site) to determine compliance with the Operational EMP.
- Submit an annual operational phase environmental audit report to DEA&DP and the Local Authority.
- Implement the recommendations made by the EA timeously and to the satisfaction of the EA and/or Local Authority.
- Transfer the legal obligation of ongoing environmental management of the site to any future property owners through an appropriately formulated sale agreement/s.

3.1.2 The Environmental Control Officer (“ECO”)

The Environmental Control Officer (“ECO”) shall be a TMNP employee or a qualified environmental professional or professional firm with the relevant environmental expertise and shall be responsible for:

- Informing key, on-site staff through initial environmental awareness training of their roles and responsibilities in terms of the EMP;
- Undertaking weekly site inspections to determine compliance with the EMP;
- Identifying areas of non-compliance, and recommending measures to rectify them;
- Compiling a checklist of areas of non-compliance;
- Ensuring follow-up and resolution of all non-compliance;

- Acting as a community liaison officer to receive and respond to complaints raised by the public.

3.1.3 Environmental Auditor (“EA”)

An internal Environmental Auditor (EA) shall be appointed by TMNP. The EA shall be commissioned to undertake an environmental audit on a yearly basis into perpetuity (or for as long as the site is used as a picnic-braai site). The yearly audits shall include:

- Undertaking site inspections to determine whether compliance with this Operational EMP (see Section 4) is being achieved;
- Compilation of annual audit reports;
- Identifying areas of non-compliance, and recommending measures to rectify these in consultation with TMNP and the Local Authority.

3.2 Monitoring

3.2.1 Monitoring

The monitoring programme to be implemented while the site is used as a picnic-braai area will involve:

- Annual environmental audits to be undertaken by an independent EA to ensure that the Operational EMP (see Section 5) is being adhered to.
- Completion by the EA of annual Audit Reports which will be submitted to the Local Authority and DEA&DP.

3.3 Legal Requirements

In all instances, TMNP and its employees should remain in compliance with relevant local and national legislation including the following:

- National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) as amended;
- National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (No. 24 of 2008);
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008);
- Noise Control Regulations¹ under section 25 of the Environment Conservation Act (No 73 of 1989)
- National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998);

Note that other legislative requirements may pertain to the operational phase, and the above list is not intended to be definitive or exhaustive.

¹ Provincial Notice 627 published in *Provincial Gazette* 5309 of 20 November 1998.

4 Operational Phase Environmental Management

4.1 Traffic & Access

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To limit unacceptable congestion of the road approach/es.
Potential Negative Impact	Traffic arriving at peak times may back up and restrict traffic flows.
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. A specific Traffic Management Plan for periods when peak visitor numbers are experienced must be implemented.
2. Vehicles are parked correctly to allow for the maximum capacity of vehicles on site and overflow parking and non-motorised transport should be allowed on the pavement of Tokai Road.
3. Access to the site is only per the preferred option.

4.2 Traffic safety & non-vehicular access

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To ensure safe access to and through the picnic-braai site for cyclists, pedestrians and animals
Potential Negative Impact	Traffic traversing the site may endanger the safety of pedestrians (especially children) and animals
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. Traffic calming measures to be introduced to minimize traffic speeds for public safety and to protect the site's sense of place.
2. Vehicle movement to be monitored on site.

4.3 Parking

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To provide adequate space for parking of vehicles.
Potential Negative Impact	Indiscriminate parking could cause traffic congestion and impact the natural environment and conflict with pedestrians and cyclists.
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. Implement parking and road proposals as per the approved landscape master plan.
2. Ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to prevent parking outside of designated areas, specifically so as to ensure that the physical environment makes it difficult if not impossible for illegal parking to take place.
3. Trained staff should be employed to provide security and manage parking to ensure optimum utilization of the facility.

4.4 Noise

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To limit noise levels and duration to acceptable limits so as not to impact negatively on the quiet and tranquil surroundings.
Potential Negative Impact	Disturbance to the local community, other visitors to the site and the impact on the sense of place.
Duration of potential impact	Sporadic and seasonal

Mitigation:

1. Noisy entertainment must be prohibited (“no music rule”) within the picnic-braai site.
2. Manage the behaviour of rowdy visitors – specifically they should be ejected from the site. If such visitors refuse to leave the precinct then Management shall seek the assistance of SAPS and / or their security contractor(s).
3. Additional staff may be needed on busy days.

4.5 Baboons

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	Management of baboons within the site
Potential Negative Impact	Disturbance and potential harm of visitors by baboons.
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. The baboon monitoring program currently in place should be studied and communicated to all staff and visitors to the site.
2. Baboon proof bins must be installed and maintained within picnic areas and signage must be placed to inform visitors that baboons are dangerous wild animals.
3. Where specific interventions (e.g. fencing requirements) are required. These will be undertaken in conjunction with the Baboon Management Committee.

4.6 Alcohol Policy

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To prevent drunkenness and excessive consumption of alcohol within the picnic-braai site.
Potential Negative Impact	Disturbance to the local community, other visitors to the site and the impact on the sense of place.
Duration of potential impact	Sporadic and seasonal

Mitigation:

1. Staff must enforce a “no-alcohol” policy on site and visitors must be notified of this prior to entering the site.

4.7 Landscaping

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	Limit inappropriate modification of the site and/or destruction of historic features, landscapes and protected vegetation while at the same time providing adequate shade for users
Potential Negative Impact	Destruction of habitat and historic landscape
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. Implement the approved landscape plan proposals.
2. Educate staff and visitors on the historic, cultural and ecological significance of the site.
3. Police and control activities to restrict unauthorized modification and/or damage to the site/landscape.

4.8 Waste Management

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	Appropriately manage the disposal of waste
Potential Negative Impact	Inappropriate management of all waste will attract vermin, vagrants, lead to environmental pollution, health risks and effect the aesthetics of the environment
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. Maintain all sewer connections to acceptable standards for acceptance by the municipal standard. Manage the accumulation, separation and disposal of solid waste in contained areas for collection by the municipal services or disposal at approved sites.
2. Ensure adequate number of bins at convenient locations and sanitise all waste containers to limit health risks and odours.
3. Conduct daily litter clean-ups.
4. Maintain all facilities to acceptable standards of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and municipal health regulations.
5. Removal of waste from designated bins by City or private waste removal company to designated waste removal sites.

4.9 Water Usage

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To minimise water usage
Potential Negative Impact	Excessive usage of water
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. Appropriate water saving measures for irrigated areas.
2. Water for drinking? Taps?

4.10 Fires

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To reduce uncontained fires (i.e. fires outside of designated braai areas)
Potential Negative Impact	Unmanaged fires have the possibility of burning natural vegetation within the site and possibly beyond the borders and may also impact visitors to the picnic-braai site.
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. Ensure that fires are only started in designated braai areas.
2. Trim branches of trees above braais to ensure that the area provides a usable canopy area and will not be a fire hazard.
3. Maintain a firebreak network that is approved by the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association and is aligned in an environmentally sensitive manor.

4.11 Security and Emergency

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objective	To provide adequate site security and address emergency evacuation.
Potential Negative Impact	Increase in crime and injury to patrons and public
Duration of potential impact	Long term

Mitigation:

1. Provide sufficient Staff (monitoring) during open hours.
2. Ensure that the picnic-braai area is fenced off appropriately.
3. Car guards, beggars etc to be prohibited from operating within the site and Management to be diligent in enforcing this

