



9th October, 2017

The Municipal Manager
Overstrand Municipality
P O Box 20
Hermanus
7200

Attention: Ms Liezl de Villiers

By Email: ldevilliers@overstrand.gov.za

Dear Liezl,

Comments on the 3rd Draft INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN (IMP) FOR THE FERNKLOOF NATURE RESERVE, HERMANUS, August 2017

Below please find the comments of the Hermanus Ratepayers Association on the Fernkloof Integrated Management Plan.

1. There is no explanation at all as to why the second draft of the Fernkloof IMP, that was approved by the Fernkloof Advisory Board (FAB) in 2013, and that had the general support of the community has been rejected in favour of this new IMP? The HRA was in support of most of the 2nd draft and it would prefer that it rather be approved for implementation
2. The proposal in this 3rd Draft IMP to designate a huge part of Fernkloof Nature Reserve as a "Potential Development" area for the likes of an astronomy centre, a cableway, zip-lining, accommodation, and 4x4 tracks is strongly opposed by the Hermanus Ratepayers Association. It seems to have been drawn up without sufficient consultation with the people responsible for the day-to-day running of the reserve and we fail to understand how it can be seen to be acceptable that an area can be designated a nature reserve and thereafter all sort of plans are designed for development on this area
3. The current draft IMP is not aligned with the DA's Natural Resources Policy, December 2013 (Copy attached). In this policy, it is stated, on pp 15 & 16 inter alia that
 - *The sound management of existing protected areas and the creation of new protected areas are crucial for maintaining both natural and cultural habitats*
 - *All municipalities should, wherever possible, set aside land for nature reserves. Protected from development, such spaces will serve to provide leisure opportunities for local citizens, tourism opportunities and sites for environmental education for learners*
 - *The public interest may be best served by leaving certain tracts of land in its pristine state or by allowing previously degraded land to return to its former state. Not all land should be regarded as suitable for development*
4. It is not clear how the Municipality can say (on p17) that "..... The Botanical Centre was constructed at the top end of the entrance road terminus by the HBS, and is currently leased to them by the Municipality....." It is the land that is leased to Hermanus Botanical Society (HBS).....not the buildings.....the buildings belong to HBS as they built and paid for them
5. On p19 there is the following a description of the cycle track "A "Hermanus Cycle Trail" has been



established by Messrs Hermanus Cycles, in association with other role-players such as the Hermanus Tourism Bureau, and the FNR. This ± 17km circular trail is signposted for clockwise travel, and may be joined inside the entrance to the FNR, and at a number of other points. The surface is mainly that of a jeep track or "twee-spoor" track, but a few substantial stretches of single track hiking path add to the attraction of the route. An average rider may complete the route (which is also open to hikers, joggers and dog-walkers), in less than 90 minutes." This is all out-of-date and needs to be updated.....the HRA has carried out a recent investigation and spoken to "role players" like Hermanus Cycles, Euodia Cycles, Precision Cycles and the Cape Epic organisers (like Paul du Toit of the Wine Village), and the cycle track is no longer signposted or maintained and no one in the cycling community in Hermanus has any role.

6. On p32 it is stated "*Alien or indigenous animals that become a danger or excessive nuisance to persons and property due to either habituation or aberrant behavior may be destroyed humanely or captured and removed from the FNR in consultation with CapeNature.*" The issue of baboon management is currently one of the hottest issues in town and a specific section on responsibilities, the old electric fence and the new virtual fence needs to be included.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Seth Anderson
CHAIRMAN