



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Ref: 16/5/7**

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**FRANCE**

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Dear Ms Rössler

### **SUBMISSION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE CAPE FLORAL REGION PROTECTED AREAS WORLD HERITAGE SITE (N 1007)**

The World Heritage Committee through **Decision 39 COM 8B.2** (Attached) requested the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 01 December 2017, State of Conservation report providing progress in addressing the following aspects:

- a) Longstanding shortfalls in financial resources which are impeding management of the property;
- b) Finalization of the Environmental Management Framework (EMF);
- c) Strengthened governance arrangements to improve coordination of the Joint Management Committee; and
- d) Progress on the finalization of a property-wide Integrated Management Plan (IMP).

We hereby attach the State of Conservation report for the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session in 2018.

In case you need more information or clarity on the above mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact Director: World Heritage Management, Ms Thumeka Ntloko on Tel: 012 399 9531 or email [tnloko@environment.gov.za](mailto:tnloko@environment.gov.za)

**SUBMISSION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE CAPE FLORAL REGION PROTECTED  
AREAS WORLD HERITAGE SITE (N 1007)**

Yours Sincerely



**Ms Nosipho Ngcaba**

**Director General**

**Department of Environmental Affairs**

**Letter signed by: Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi**

**Designation: Deputy Director-General: Biodiversity and Conservation**

**Date: 30/11/2017.**

**STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT CAPE FLORAL REGION PROTECTED AREAS (N 1007)**



**SOUTH AFRICA**

**BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**DECEMBER 2017**

**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: N 1007**

**Name of property: Cape Floral Region Protected Areas**

**State Party and Province(s): South Africa, Western Cape and Eastern Cape Province**

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

The Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site (CFRPA WHS) is a serial property that was first inscribed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2004 and in 2015 approved an extension of the property. The CFRPA WHS comprises 1,094,742 ha of protected areas and includes 13 different clusters and their individual components. The site represents approximately 6% of the total extent of the Cape Floral Region. Most of the clusters are within the Western Cape Province, with one cluster, Baviaanskloof, in the Eastern Cape Province. Included are National Parks, Nature Reserves, and Wilderness Areas.

The CFRPA WHS is managed by three management authorities: the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (CapeNature), South African National Parks (SANParks), and the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA). These authorities have standing budget allocations which enable them to meet their conservation and management responsibilities.

A Joint Management Committee (JMC) for the whole property was established in 2010 and involves the Chief Executive Officers of the three management authorities, and the Department of Environmental Affairs which also plays the role of Chairperson. The JMC meets annually whilst its committees meets at least twice a year.

Some of the Protected Area Management Plans have already been completed and additional management plans will be completed for all the remaining properties by 31 December 2019.

The CFRPA WHS is not planning any major constructions that can potentially negatively impact property's outstanding universal value.

## **2. RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE, PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH**

The Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site was first inscribed as a world heritage site in 2004 being a network of protected areas that covered 557,584 ha. The property was extended in 2015 and now comprises 1,094,742 ha.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee through Decision 39 COM 8B.2 approved the extension of the property and requested the State Party to among other things to address:

- longstanding shortfalls in financial resources which are impeding management of the property,
- complete the Environmental Management Framework and submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2017, and
- Strengthened governance arrangements to improve coordination of the Joint Management Committee.

Decision 39 COM 8B also requested the State Party to submit a State of Conservation report by 1 December 2017, covering progress on finalization of a property-wide integrated management plan and issues listed above.

### **2.1 ADDRESSING LONGSTANDING SHORTFALLS IN FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH ARE IMPEDING MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY AND WHICH WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN LIGHT OF THE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AREA AND COMPLEXITY OF THE EXTENDED PROPERTY**

The serial property is managed by three conservation agencies i.e. Western Cape Nature Conservation Agency (Cape Nature), Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority (ECPTA) and South African National Parks (SANParks). The three agencies have standing financial allocations

towards management of protected areas under their jurisdiction including those that make up the property.

Budget allocations, although never enough, have so far been sufficient to ensure proper management of the property. Currently there are no shortfalls that impede or compromise the work of the management authorities in relation to conservation. This is also confirmed by the Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) results.

## **2.2 COMPLETING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND SUBMIT A COPY TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE BY 1 DECEMBER 2017**

The Department of Environmental Affairs initiated the process to appoint a service provider to undertake the development of an Environmental Management Framework for CFRPA WHS. The Terms of Reference (ToR) to guide the development of the EMF have been developed. The procurement process to appoint the service provider is still underway and resources to finance this work have been secured. The EMF will amongst other things:

1. Assist in planning for the core areas of the CFRPA WHS, by filling gaps in current sensitivity mapping and protected area zonation;
2. Assist in determining the "Zone of Influence", and, thus, potential buffer expansion areas, for each of the 13 Clusters.
3. Determine an effective buffer area within which land and water should be managed so as to avoid, minimize, or compensate for any adverse effects to the core of the CFRPA WHS.
4. Provide a spatial screening mechanism for EIAs in the study area through the augmentation of an environmental constraints dataset which indicates the issues that should be investigated in more detail during the EIA process.
5. Serve as a tool that provides strategic context for EIA applications in the study area through the development of management zones dataset to indicate through the decision support matrix whether an envisaged activity is compatible in a specific area/zone or not as seen from a strategic perspective.
6. Serve as a tool to inform strategic spatial planning in the area through the development of management zones dataset which, in future, inform the development of a Spatial Development

Framework (SDF) responsible for strategic spatial planning and guiding land use management in the area.

### **2.3 STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPROVE COORDINATION OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) which is a focal point for the World Heritage Convention within the State Party plays a coordinating role for the Joint Management Committee (JMC). The JMC is chaired by the Deputy Director General of the Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation. The JMC includes all the Management Authorities for the Site.

Since 2016, JMC meetings are attended by the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the three management authorities (ECPTA, Cape Nature and SANParks). This has strengthened coordination and allowed decisions to be taken more efficiently. The JMC is also able to mobilize funds on projects that cut across the property's serial components.

The State Party believes that the current management arrangements are effective.

### **2.4 PROGRESS ON THE FINALIZATION OF A PROPERTY-WIDE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The South African National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act requires that protected areas in South Africa have Protected Area Management Plans (PAMPs), *'to ensure the protection, conservation and management of the protected area concerned in a manner which is consistent with the objectives of this Act and for the purpose it was declared'*. Subsequently, the South African World Heritage Convention Act requires the Management Authority to develop an integrated management plan for the World Heritage Site.

To date, some protected areas forming part of the 13 clusters of the serial site, have in place Protected Areas Management plans whilst other protected areas still lack detailed Protected Areas Management plans. The process is still underway to finalise the additional management

plans for all the remaining protected areas. Once all the Protected Areas Management Plans are in Place, an overarching Integrated Management Plan would be developed.

One of the aims of the overarching IMP will be to strengthen the role and resources of the Joint Management Committee (JMC- comprising representatives of the three management authorities as well as the Department of Environmental Affairs) so that it can more effectively act as a single coordinating authority that guides management across all inscribed component parts of the property.

**3. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE(S) PARTY(IES) WHICH MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE**

There are currently no other conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

**4. IN CONFORMITY WITH PARAGRAPH 172 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, DESCRIBE ANY POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTION(S) INTENDED WITHIN THE PROPERTY, THE BUFFER ZONE(S) AND/OR CORRIDORS OR OTHER AREAS, WHERE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS MAY AFFECT THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY**

The State Party received an enquiry from the World Heritage Centre (WHC) (Africa Unit) regarding the stakeholders' concern over a claimed allocation of land for a "temporary relocation area" within the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage property, which is reported to have possible impact on the sensitive vegetation in this area. The WHC has since requested that clarity/comments be provided by the State Party.

The State Party is engaging with all the relevant Departments including City of Cape Town, the provincial Department of Environment, National Department of Housing, SANParks and all the



relevant stakeholders. The purpose of this engagement is to find ways and options to be explored in which alternative land can identified and utilized to accommodate the housing needs. The World Heritage Center would be continuously updated on the outcomes of these engagements and a proposed way forward.

Lastly, the state party will ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the Integrity of the site is not compromised.

**5. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT**

The State Party agrees to this State of Conservation Report being made accessible to the public.

**6. SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORITY**

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## **8. Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage In Danger**

### **8A. Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2015, In conformity with the Operational Guidelines**

***Draft Decision: 39 COM 8A***

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/8A,
2. Stressing the importance of the process of revision and updating of Tentative Lists, as a tool for regional harmonisation of the World Heritage List and of long-term planning of its development;
3. Takes note of the Tentative Lists presented in Annexes 2 and 3 of this document.

### **8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List**

#### **Changes to names of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List**

***Draft Decision: 39 COM 8B.1***

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/8B,
2. Approves the name change to Hološovice Historical Village Reservation as proposed by the Czech authorities. The name of the property becomes Hološovice Historic Village in English and Village historique d'Hološovice in French.

#### **Examination of nominations of natural, mixed and cultural properties to the World Heritage List**

##### **NATURAL SITES**

##### **AFRICA**

#### **Extensions of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List**

***Draft Decision: 39 COM 8B.2***

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension of Cape Floral Region Protected Areas, South Africa, on the World Heritage List, on the basis of criteria (ix) and (x);
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

*The Cape Floral Region has been recognised as one of the most special places for plants in the world in terms of diversity, density and number of endemic species. The property is a highly distinctive phytogeographic unit which is regarded as one of the six Floral Kingdoms of the world and is by far the smallest and relatively the most diverse. It is recognised as one of the world's 'hottest hotspots' for its diversity of endemic and threatened plants, and contains outstanding examples of significant ongoing ecological, biological and evolutionary processes. This extraordinary assemblage of plant life and its associated fauna is represented by a series of 13 protected area clusters covering an area of more than 1 million ha. These protected areas also conserve the outstanding ecological, biological and evolutionary processes associated with the beautiful and distinctive Fynbos vegetation, unique to the Cape Floral Region.*

*Criterion (ix): The property is considered of Outstanding Universal Value for representing ongoing ecological and biological processes associated with the evolution of the unique Fynbos biome. These processes are represented generally within the Cape Floral Region and captured in the component areas that make up the 13 protected area clusters. Of particular scientific interest are the adaptations of the plants to fire and other natural disturbances; seed dispersal by ants and termites; the very high level of plant pollination by insects, mainly beetles and flies, birds and mammals; and high levels of adaptive radiation and speciation. The pollination biology and nutrient cycling are other distinctive ecological processes found in the site. The Cape Floral Region forms a centre of active speciation where interesting patterns of endemism and adaptive radiation are found in the flora.*

*Criterion (x): The Cape Floral Region is one of the richest areas for plants when compared to any similar sized area in the world. It represents less than 0.5% of the area of Africa but is home to nearly 20% of the continent's flora. The outstanding diversity, density and endemism of the flora are among the highest worldwide. Some 69% of the estimated 9,000 plant species in the region are endemic, with 1,736 plant species identified as threatened and with 3,087 species of conservation concern. The Cape Floral Region has been identified as one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots.*

### **Integrity**

*The originally inscribed Cape Floral Region Protected Areas serial property comprised eight protected areas covering a total area of 557,584 ha, and included a buffer zone of 1,315,000 ha. The extended Cape Floral Region Protected Areas property comprises 1,094,742 ha of protected areas and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 798,514 ha. The buffer zone is made up of privately owned, declared Mountain Catchment Areas and other protected areas, further supported by other buffering mechanisms that are together designed to facilitate functional connectivity and mitigate for the effects of global climate change and other anthropogenic influences.*

*The collection of protected areas adds up in a synergistic manner to present the biological richness and evolutionary story of the Cape Floral Region. All the protected areas included in the property, except for some of the privately owned, declared Mountain Catchment Areas, have existing dedicated management plans, which have been revised, or are in the process of revision in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act. Mountain Catchment Areas are managed in terms of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act. Progress with increased protection through public awareness and social programmes to combat poverty, improved management of mountain catchment areas and stewardship programmes is being made.*

### **Protection and management requirements**

*The serial World Heritage property and its component parts, all legally designated protected areas, are protected under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act*

*(57 of 2003). The property is surrounded by extensive buffer zones (made up of privately owned, declared Mountain Catchment Areas and other protected areas) and supported by various buffering mechanisms in the region. Together, these provide good connectivity and landscape integration for most of the protected area clusters, especially in the mountain areas. The protected areas that make up the property are managed by three authorities: South African National Parks (SANParks), Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (CapeNature) and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency. These authorities, together with the national Department of Environmental Affairs, make up the Joint Management Committee of the property. All of the sites are managed in accordance with agreed management plans, however, there is a recognised need for a property-wide management strategy in the form of an Environmental Management Framework.*

*Knowledge management systems are being expanded to advise improved planning and management decision-making, thus facilitating the efficient use of limited, but increasing, resources relating in particular to the management of fire and invasive alien species. The provision of long-term, adequate funding to all of the agencies responsible for managing the property is essential to ensure effective management of the multiple components across this complex serial site.*

*Invasive alien species and fire are the greatest management challenges facing the property at present. Longer-term threats include climate change and development pressures caused by a growing population, particularly in the Cape Peninsula and along some coastal areas. These threats are well understood and addressed in the planning and management of the protected areas and their buffer zones. Invasive species are being dealt with through manual control programmes that have been used as a reference for other parts of the world.*

- 4. Commends the State Party for its review of the nomination boundaries to bring forward an extension of the property which, on the basis of fine scale scientific analysis, significantly increases the number of Fynbos vegetation types protected within the property and strengthens the property's integrity;*
- 5. Encourages the State Party to address longstanding shortfalls in financial resources which are impeding management of the property and which will be increasingly important in light of the substantially increased area and complexity of the extended property;*
- 6. Requests the State Party to complete the Environmental Management Framework and submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre by 1 December 2017 and to strengthen the role and resources of the Joint Management Committee so that it can more effectively act as a single coordinating authority that guides management across all inscribed component parts of the property;*
- 7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2017, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress on the finalization of a property-wide integrated management plan; strengthened governance arrangements to improve coordination; and the implementation of actions to ensure adequate financial resources for the property's management, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.*