Parkscape Lee Home 2

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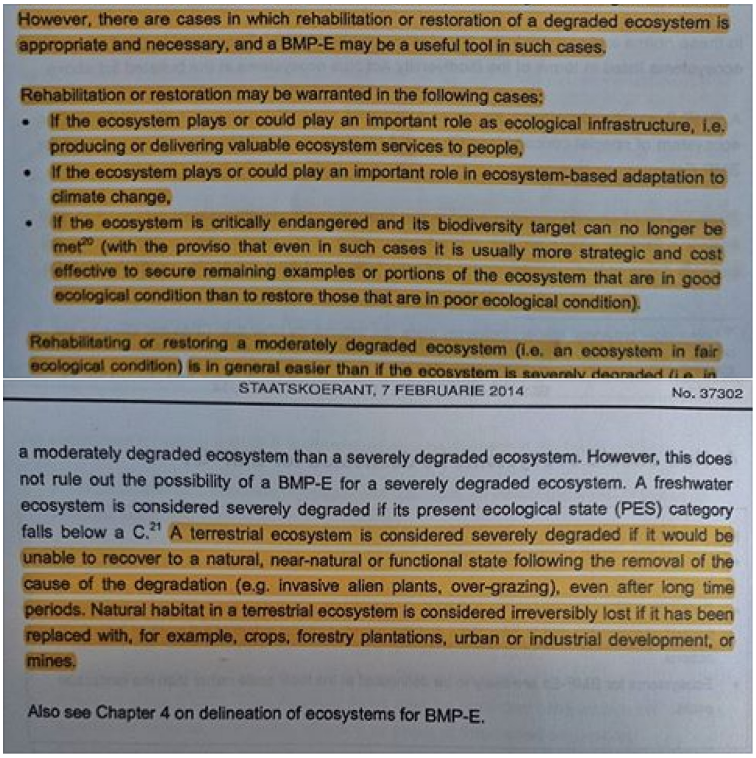
Parkscape added 2 new photos.
September 30 at 3:30pm ·

So now here's an interesting thing as it appears in the National Enviromental Management: Biodiversity Act wrt to Biodiversity Management Plans for Ecosystems (2014). Note the minimum targets and the comment as to what constitutes a degraded system. "Natural habitat in a terrestrial ecosystem is considered irreversibly lost if it has been replaced with, for example... forestry plantations..."



However, there are cases in which rehabilitation or restoration of a degraded ecosystem is appropriate and necessary, and a BMP-E may be a useful tool in such cases.

Rehabilitation or restoration may be warranted in the following cases:

- If the ecosystem plays or could play an important role as ecological infrastructure, i.e. producing or delivering valuable ecosystem services to people,
- If the ecosystem plays or could play an important role in ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change,
- If the ecosystem is critically endangered and its biodiversity target can no longer be met[20] (with the proviso that even in such cases it is usually more strategic and cost effective to secure remaining examples or portions of the ecosystem that are in good ecological condition than to restore those that are in poor ecological condition).

Rehabilitating or restoring a moderately degraded ecosystem (i.e. an ecosystem in fair ecological condition) is in general easier than if the ecosystem is severely degraded (i.e. in

STAATSKOERANT, 7 FEBRUARIE 2014 No. 37302

a moderately degraded ecosystem than a severely degraded ecosystem. However, this does not rule out the possibility of a BMP-E for a severely degraded ecosystem. A freshwater ecosystem is considered severely degraded if its present ecological state (PES) category falls below a C.[21] A terrestrial ecosystem is considered severely degraded if it would be unable to recover to a natural, near-natural or functional state following the removal of the cause of the degradation (e.g. invasive alien plants, over-grazing), even after long time periods. Natural habitat in a terrestrial ecosystem is considered irreversibly lost if it has been replaced with, for example, crops, forestry plantations, urban or industrial development, or mines.

Also see Chapter 4 on delineation of ecosystems for BMP-E.

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4 Chronological

Lee Jones Isn't it fantastic then that at least some of the seed banks under this plantation have survived. Very thrilled!
Like · Reply · 2 Likes · October 1 at 1:34pm

Parkscape Isn't it just! But would that we all knew exactly what and how much as survived - and that there was more certainty. But with botany being an empirical science, this can't be established. Instead one will have to "wait and see" - as admitted to by Tony Rebelo to a Parkscape member who did the fynbos walk last week.
Of course, what is there has been degraded by plantations, as per the information from NEMBA above, and we know it's most certainly not the 20% as recommended by the Minister. In fact, hasn't the figure of 1% been projected wrt Lower Tokai and 13 - 14% as the total in the Cape Floral

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ABOUT

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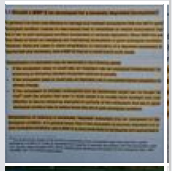
APPS

PHOTOS



VIDEOS

Marlene Laros 1h
Jess Laros-Jooste 1h
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Antonio Tonin 1h
Tania Katzschner 3h
John Curtis
Caroline Voget 10h
Lynette Hendrikse 1h
Karen Esler 1h

Region.

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Lee Jones OK - I think I am starting to see why you do not appear to accept or understand a whole lot of the issues around the proposed restoration of this invaluable tract of land ...

Using the term "empirical science" is pretty much a tautology. Botany, horticulture, conservation, etc. are sciences along the same lines as most (dare I say all?) sciences such as archaeology, palaeontology, geology, forensics, physics, zoology, etc., etc.

All these sciences are consistently striving to learn more and add to knowledge about our universe - no science is (or probably ever will be) 'complete'. New knowledge and understanding is being added by the day. Of course, there are some who choose to disbelieve the science when it is broached - take the HIV/AIDS dissenters and the Global Climate Change dissenters as examples. Many of these have political and/or personal (and/or other) motives for dissing the science, despite the larger community appreciating the vast body of scientific / empirical evidence supporting the findings - then there is also something called "peer review" which is a fairly rigorous process and helps to ensure that empirical evidence is reflected accurately.

"... wait and see ..." Absolutely - Nobody knows precisely what seeds (and other propagules such as rhizomes, bulbs, tubers, etc.) remain viable under the soils within this tract of land. I would hazard a guess that Tony was not "admitting" the fact, but rather that it was a statement - although I can not speak on Tony's behalf. A statement with which I agree wholeheartedly.

Using these passages from the NEM:BA Norms and Standards for BMP:E to dismiss the Tokai restoration potential does not really make sense and in fact thoroughly strengthens the argument for restoration of the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos - so thank you immensely for posting this.

That restoration potential is possible in this site is abundantly clear from the many species which have emerged - and are emerging - after the decades of afforestation cycles. There are other tracts of land (elsewhere within the Cape Floristic Region and South Africa) that are presently considered to be Critical Conservation Areas and Conservation Support Areas - that are

1) covered with plantations, or
2) agricultural lands (old fields or grazing areas) or
3) have been covered with alien invaders for decades, etc.

but are also earmarked for restoration simply because they:

a) still harbour some natural seed banks and/or
b) make high level conservation sense - e.g. to restore connectivity between lowlands and montane areas, reestablish animal habitat, provide corridors for pollinators,
c) afford the opportunity to restore Endangered Ecosystems,
etc., etc.

One of the aspects that has emerged - more clearly in recent decades - is that the larger an area is the greater the probability (a scientific term - indicating likelihood) of improved biodiversity pattern and process (you can google this if you do not understand what that means - but it is fairly well summarised in the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas - World Heritage Site document which I see you have.

Secondly - I don't understand what you mean by this though?

"Of course, what is there has been degraded by plantations, as per the information from NEMBA above, and we know it's most certainly not the 20% as recommended by the Minister. In fact, hasn't the figure of 1% been projected wrt Lower Tokai and 13 - 14% as the total in the Cape Floral Region."

But I will give it a whirl ...

Cape Flats Sand Fynbos only occurs within in the City of Cape Town - nowhere else on the planet. It is one of a number of Fynbos vegetation types that do occur within the greater area of the City of Cape Town (i.e. City of Cape Town MM, Drakenstein LM and Stellenbosch LM), but many of the others are montane (found on the mountains and slopes) while Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is found on the lowland plains only.

It is a very clear vegetation type - demarcated by species that are adapted to this very specific geological/pedological habitat within a defined climatic regime.

The original (historical) extent of the vegetation type was roughly 54,000 ha of which between 10-15% remains (the variation here largely depends on the mapping scale at which the remnants are mapped. The bottom line - is that at very least 85% of this specific vegetation type has been permanently transformed and now hosts houses, factories, roads, etc.

The national conservation target for Cape Flats Sand Fynbos is 30% of the original, historical extent - i.e. around 16,200 ha that should be conserved. However, only somewhere between 5,400 (10%) and 8,100 ha (15%) remains untransformed by development. Of this only about 500 ha (one percent of the original historical extent) is formally conserved and protected. Different tiers of government are responsible for gradually securing tracts of land that harbour this vegetation type. The processes and successes are slow - but steady.

I hope this clarifies the situation?

Like · Reply · 1 Like · 58 mins · Edited

Carina Helene Becker Well put Lee Jones! I'm also not to sure what the purpose of this post is? Parkscape keeps saying they are not Pro pine or anti fynbos/biodiversity but seems like many posts are stating that they don't want rehabilitation to occur and keep questioning the importance or need of rehabilitation when its been proven that it can happen in tokai? And that points should stay.

Like · Reply · 47 mins

Lee Jones Carina - the interesting thing here is that Parkscapes appear to be slowly understanding the issues - particularly with a post such as this that very clearly indicates that the imperative is to restore the ecosystem. Maybe it is a turning point.

Like · Reply · 45 mins

Write a reply...

Write a comment...

Parkscape
September 30 at 3:39pm ·

Each weekend at the Parkscape Table on Orpen Road, people ask us why we formed? Was it, they want to know, to save the pines?
No, it wasn't.
Parkscape formed on the basis of three things:
Franziska Blochliger's brutal murder and the determination that an incident such as this should never happen again in the area.
The outreach from the Women of Westlake in helping with the apprehension of some of those involved, and their subsequent vigil to which they invited the broader co... See More

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31 Chronological

23 shares

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Enrico Fernando Abrahams If only WOW! CAN ACTUALLY INTERVENE IN THE THE INCIDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY! WESTLAKE!!!!

Like · Reply · September 30 at 5:50pm

Adele Walker Safe, shaded recreation is what I support and no fynbos where the current pines are. I also suggest trying to keep the existing pines for as long as possible and in the interim plant indigenous tress where some of the pines were cut down a few weeks ag... See More

Like · Reply · 5 Likes · September 30 at 6:22pm · Edited

Write a comment...

Parkscape
13 hrs ·

Parkscape loves it that in just over a few months 2,151 people have liked our page! Thank you for your support, it means so much!

Now two quick questions...
HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO JOIN OUR DATABASE? If not, please do so!
http://bit.ly/2dBNN56 ... See More

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184 · Chronological

20 shares

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Like · Reply · 12 hrs

Snesipho Morrison Wht a company guis
Like · Reply · 12 hrs

Write a comment...

Parkscape
16 hrs ·

And now for some light relief. Social media is a funny old place where people think they can say things they'd never dream of saying to your face. And then there are some of the people who come to the table on the weekends who really seem to just come to pick and argument (fortunately they are very few and far between). But given some of what we've had to deal with, we were very much reminded of this... 🙂
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUlA40uLIKw

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10 · Chronological

2 shares

Emme Hurter Thank you to those who walk the talk by putting themselves out there and taking it on the chin! Your efforts are so appreciated by all of us who endorse your principles
Like · Reply · 3 Likes · 16 hrs

Parkscape Thank you, Emme! Your support is so very much appreciated!
Like · Reply · 13 hrs

Write a comment...

Parkscape
September 30 at 11:07pm ·

This is a deeply disturbing comment from Tony Rebelo of Friends of Tokai Park wrt VWS Firefighters:

"I am afraid: any organization that claims to put out all fires at all costs is an enemy of Fynbos! So long as they have this aim, then I am fully in support of starving them of support and letting them go extinct. They are dinosaurs of an age that has passed and should be encouraged to go extinct.
When they change their aim from fire suppression to fuel-load reduction with eco... See More

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10 · Chronological

3 shares

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Carina Helene Becker Tony's comment has been taken out of context! Context is very important here! If you follow the discussion you'll see why he made that provocative statement!

Like · Reply · 1 Like · 10 hrs

Lee Jones https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quoting_out_of_context

Like · Reply · 2 hrs

Write a comment...

Parkscape added 2 new photos.

September 29 at 2:08pm ·

To those who think that MTO has always wanted to exit forestry in Tokai and Cecilia...

In 2006 and following on the Minister of Water Affairs Exit Strategy from forestry in the Western Cape, MTO Forestry did a presentation to the CMC Financial Committee re Funding requirements to TMNP:

November 2006...

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1

Chronological

1 share

Lee Jones Shew - times have changed in ten years hey? People have pretty much accepted that the pines must go and that SANParks are the appropriate management authority.

When I chatted with the SAFCOL plantation manager back in the 1990s already - he was saying that it was likely that most of the plantations would be coming out. So this must have been a bit of a last shout out by MTO. Interesting history.

Like · Reply · September 29 at 4:17pm

Write a comment...

Parkscape

September 29 at 1:37pm ·

An extract from one of the foundation documents for the formation of what is now known as Table Mountain National Park called the Policy for the Multipurpose Use of the Cape Peninsula by Prof Richard Fuggle

(Environmental Sciences) et al - 1994:

"Promote the use of existing alien forest plantations for recreational purposes, including activities which require shade and shelter from the wind (eg picnicking); easily accessible and non-strenuous... See More

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3 Chronological

Lee Jones And just over twenty years later - with a whole load of biodiversity understanding and conservation planning knowledge - there are a whole lot of folks who recognise that this area is of critical conservation importance and globally significant.

Like · Reply · 3 Likes · September 29 at 4:19pm

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