

## **CapeNature – Stakeholder Engagement Protected Area Management Plan, Kogelberg Nature Reserve Complex.**

This protected area is situated in the southern part of the Boland and is managed according to the internationally accepted principles of a Biosphere Reserve. The Kogelberg Nature Reserve Complex (KBNC) forms part of the sensitive pristine core area of 18 000 ha of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, sustaining high levels of biological diversity, buffered by a surrounding area. Beyond the borders of the Nature Reserve Complex, agriculture and pine plantations form part of the buffer and transitional zones of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, in keeping with the UNESCO biosphere reserve concept.

The KNRC, includes the Betty's Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA), which is on the western end of the warm temperate south coast, one of South Africa's four major biogeographic provinces. It is a productive and biologically diverse area, supporting substantial fish, invertebrate and algal fisheries. The environment is diverse, with rocky headlands, wave-cut platforms, high energy sandy beaches, pocket beaches, kelp forests, estuaries, extensive sub-tidal reefs and pelagic habitat.

As a result of its mountainous terrain and high rainfall, the Boland Mountains are an important water catchment area, providing water for the Cape Metropolitan Area as well as for extensive areas on richer soils in the upper catchment under deciduous fruit orchards (some 25% of the catchment) grown for export and domestic use. The Palmiet River which flows through the protected area feeds the interbasin transfer to meet the Cape Metropole demand.

To comply with the National Environment Management : Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003 (NEM:PA), CapeNature is required to develop management plans for each of their nature reserves and or reserve clusters. In developing the management plan for the KBNC, CapeNature is striving to establish biodiversity conservation as the foundation of a sustainable economy by providing access to natural resources, benefits and opportunities for all. However Section 39(3) of the NEM:PA states that when preparing a management plan for a protected area, the management authority concerned must consult municipalities, other organs of state, local communities and other affected parties which have an interest in the area.

CapeNature has used an adaptation of the South African National Parks (SANParks), Stakeholder Participation in Developing Park Management Plans process for stakeholder participation. This requires the registration of any interested or affected party as a stakeholder and requires that attendance registers for workshops and meetings are kept. Additional individuals, wishing to participate in the process, must register as stakeholders and must be accommodated to ensure that the process is inclusive Cedarberg Conservation Services (t/a FOOTPRINT Environmental Services) (FES) was appointed by CapeNature in December 2011 to manage the stakeholder participation process (SPP) for the KBNRC. Due to the December festive season public participation is not recommended at all by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) : Guidelines on Public Participation (August 2010) and the process was therefore only initiated on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and concluded on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012. This was done to ensure that good practice for public participation was adhered to.