

## **CapeNature – Stakeholder Engagement Protected Area Management Plan, Dassen Island.**

The Dassen Island Nature Reserve (DINR), proclaimed in 1988, is situated 55 kilometres North West of Cape Town, 33 kilometres south west of Saldanha Bay and 9 kilometres south west of Yzerfontein, in the south-western Cape Province. At 220 ha Dassen is the second largest South African continental island, after Robben Island, and is a haven to numerous breeding, roosting and migrating seabird and shorebird species. 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. The objective of the Dassen Management Plan is to ensure that the protection, conservation and management of the complex is consistent with the objectives of the NEM: PAA and with the purpose for which it was declared.

In developing the management plan for the Dassen Island Nature Reserve, 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 (Spies and Symonds 2011) 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 CNRC. 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 initiated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 and concluded on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012. This was done to ensure that best practice for public participation was adhered to.