SPRINGERBAAI ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN - 2020

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- Maintain and protect the natural environment (fauna and flora) by ensuring compliance with the EMP studies
- Ensure that a monitored programme for the eradication of alien vegetation is in place
- Introduce sufficient natural disaster precautions (eg Firebreaks & reaction))
- Improve the use of green alternative resources and reduce waste and pollution
- Encourage water saving and rainwater harvesting
- Take action against large scale development in the region which may affect the peace and tranquility of the estate
- Manage and maintain the grazing for our wildlife

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The original EMP for Springerbaai was compiled by "Ecosense Environmental Services" in 1999 during the construction phase of Springerbaai. Due to significant changes in the development at that time, an addendum to the EMP was requested. "Sharples Environmental Services" compiled this study in 2007 and, read together with the original EMP, is now the final document for Springerbaai. This is a lengthy document of some 30 pages and can be viewed on the Springerbaai website.

SALIENT POINTS ADDRESSED FOR 2020

1 ERADICATION OF ALIEN VEGETATION

Refer to "Weeds Eradication Procedure" and "Rooikrans & Suurvy Removal Procedure" on the Springerbaai Website

- **Weeds**

  Weeds such as Thorny Bitter Apple, Tall Fleabane and Scottish Thistle continue to be eradicated with a hoe when encountered. Weeds in the roads and pathways are eradicated by spraying.

  R 7 000.00 allocated for 2020

- **Rooikrans**

  Although Rooikrans or Rooipitjie plays an important plant in stabilizing the dunes, it is an alien plant which multiplies prolifically and presents a large fire hazard.

  The removal of saplings along the fence lines and areas previously cleared areas requires constant attention.

Due to wind erosion and stabilization challenges, clearing rooikrans on dunes or in sandy areas requires more thought - a poorly planned cut could expose the area to erosion. Any clearing in these areas requires immediate stabilization actions such as brushwood stacking and the planting of bietou and other indigenous shrubs.

A monitored programme for the removal of rooikrans has been implemented. The follow up of removing saplings in the previously cleared areas is an important part of eradicating this plant. If left unchecked , all previous clearing is rendered ineffective.

Accurate representation on plan is currently being undertaken of current and planned eradication.

Residents must be reminded that it is their responsibility for the regular eradication of alien vegetation on their erven.

R 15 000.00 allocated for 2020

- **Suurvy**

Suurvy is not classified as an alien plant. It has been successfully used in combatting soil erosion and is an effective fire retardant. It also provides refuse for rodents and is a good food source for small animals and birds.

However, the plant is problematic at Springerbaai where it is actively spreading in the grazing areas and will compromise grazing if not managed. It grows prolifically in areas subjected to disturbance of some form (eg ploughing)

Removal is best achieved with the aid of a gropper attached to the hydraulic lift of a tractor (it is simply a big rake). Suurvy is uprooted by the gropper and stacked in neat rows for drying out. The areas exposed to the gropper are followed up by hand extraction which must be repeated periodically.

Areas removed as well as areas planned for 2020 arte currently being mapped

R 80 000.00 allocated for 2020

2 VELD MANAGEMENT AND GRAZING PASTURES

Much of the grazing pastures have already been established. The challenge now is to emulate the areas where the suurvy has been removed with natural veld. This will require a mixture of grasses, ephemeral plants, dwarf shrubs and woody shrubs. This approach will ensure the natural diversity for grazing and browsing herbivores.

R 20 000.00 allocated for 2020

Seclusion Sites

The restoration of some of the old agricultural lands and pasture areas to indigenous thicket vegetation can be achieved by establishing a suitable "microclimate" for thicket development. This is accomplished by protecting these thicket developments in fenced off areas varying in size and shape, thereby excluding browsers until the areas are established. Larger trees will also be introduced in these sites to provide shade and wind protection.

R 10 000.00 allocated for 2020

Vegetation Monitoring Programme

A vegetation monitoring programme is in place to determine wildlife impact on vegetation and habitat utilization preferences of herbivores.

This is achieved by **"fixed point photo monitoring sites"** where photos are taken on the same planes and orientation annualy in order to record the impact on the vegetation.

3 REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of the Bird Hide dam is the only item outstanding from the original list of areas to be rehabilitated. This area could and should be one of the better attractions at Springerbaai. A mixture of ephemeral plants and shrubs together with larger varieties of indigenous trees would attract bird life, not to mention the added attraction of a full dam if the borehole programme is successful.

R 10 000.00 allocated for 2020

4 NURSERY

The main objective of the nursery should be the production of huge quantities of Bietou, kapbokbos and other indigenous plants for the thicket patches /seclusion sites. Additional troughs / shelves as well as upgrading of the irrigation system are necessary to achieve this.

R 8 000.00 allocated for 2020

5 BEACH

Springerbaai's responsibility terminates on the landward side of the high water mark. The area between the high and low water mark (Admiralty Strip) is the responsibility of the State. However, we at Springerbaai are proud of our estate which has secluded access to the beach. We must encourage all owners and visitors to remove any washed-up waste and to keep the beach in a pristine condition**. Only footprints to be left**

6 ECOLOGICAL BURNS – Refer to "Ecologiccal Burn" on the website

The aim of the burning procedure in the **grass land** is to remove any moribund (old grasses) material and ensure new palatable grass growth. The probability of a low heat burn will kill any unwanted endo & ecto parasites, larvae and eggs. This burn will provide more nutrient rich grazing lawns for the game.

The purpose of the burning procedure in the **Rhenoster Thicket** is to reduce fuel load in this area and to reduce overall fire risk in that area of the estate. The burn is also an essential ecological tool enhancing the germination of certain plant species that only grow in that habitat and that needs fire to grow.

These areas will also be presented on plan

R 16 000.00 allocated for 2020

NOTE: SUURVY BUDGET

Initially an amount of R 20 000.00 was requested for the eradication of suurvy. This amount was revised to R 120 000.00 at the AGM with the intention of having a substantial impact on the suurvy. As the use of seeds and shrubbery are an integral part of eradicating suurvy, it was decided to allocate the R 120 000.00 as follows:

Tractor and Gropper	R 40 000.00
Casual Labour	R 40 000.00
Veldt management -Seeds and shrubs	R 20 000.00
Seclusion Sites and perches	R 10 000.00
Rehabilitation of Bird Hide and dam	R 10 000.00
Total Suurvy	**R 120 000.00**

TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2020

Suurvy	R 120 000.00
Eradication of weeds	R 7 000.00
Eradication of Rooikrans	R 15 000.00
Nursery	R 8 000.00
Ecological Burns	R 16 000.00
Total	**R 166 000.00**