

MEDIA RELEASE - 19 April 2002

SANPARKS REFUTES FIRE CLAIMS

On Tuesday the 16th of April 2002, Cape Peninsula National Park (CPNP) successfully initiated a control burn on Trappies Kop, an area above Kalk Bay/Clovelly, in order to remove more than 50 years worth of fuel build up and dry brush piles resulting from alien clearing operations. The park personnel conducted the operation under controlled conditions and this was concluded without any incident. This operation was necessary to prevent a wild fire situation that would have resulted in the loss of houses and other damage to private and municipal property.

On Thursday the 18th of April 2002, an unrelated fire started above Millers Point, and was driven towards Simon's Town by strong south-eastern winds. The causes of this fire are yet unknown and are not a direct result of Tuesday's control burn as claimed in the media.

SANParks staff at Cape Peninsula National Park has ascertained that the fire is presently confined to the mountains between Millers Point and Plateau Road (leading to the Cape Point gate). At this stage no houses or property are at risk, but given the weather conditions forecast today (very hot and windy), the situation could change at a moments notice.

--- ends ---

For more information on this release please contact:

Shirley Koaho
Acting Head of Communication
Tel.: (012) 426 5006 or 5002
Fax: (012) 343 9959
Email: shirleyk@parks-sa.co.za

Stephen Hulbert
Cape Peninsula National Park
Tel.: (021) 701 8692
Email: stephenh@parks-sa.co.za