

# Upgrading Footpaths and Roads



1 Hand-packed gabions



2-3 Transporting stone to site



4 Packing and laying stone



5-6 Stone steps before and after; Newlands contour path



7-8 Dry packed stones stabilise path; Newlands Forest



9 Boardwalk at Silvermine



10 The Roads Team



11-12 Devil's Peak access track before and after



## Expanded Public Works Programme

In March 2004 the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) granted Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) R35 million to run a three-year Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The aim of the programme is threefold:

- to create conservation and tourism-based training and skills development opportunities for 450 people from the townships bordering the Park,
- to develop a strong and durable infrastructure that can minimize the impact of the TMNP's annual 4.2 million visits on the Park's biodiversity,
- to create a high-quality tourism infrastructure to help realise the TMNP's goal of becoming the world's premier urban National Park by 2010.

Workers who have been trained under the EPWP will all have developed skills that will enable them to compete on the open market once the programme is complete.

## Upgrading Footpaths and Roads

At the outset of the project TMNP had an 800 kilometre network of roads and footpaths most of which were in need of an upgrade. A decision was taken to upgrade 350 kilometres of roads and footpaths and provide strong, durable network that would lessen erosion and soften the footprint of tourism.

The remaining 450 kilometres, many of which are duplicate routes or minor tangents, are being rehabilitated to fynbos which is a significant percentage considering the TMNP's total land area of 25 000 hectares.

Paths have been constructed out of locally available stone where possible, much of which was sourced from the Chapman's Peak road works and transported in gabions, airifting where necessary, to paths requiring upgrading. Where appropriate, such as through afro montane forest and wetlands wooden boardwalks have been constructed.