Summary of Proposals by Working Group received during Phase 2 of the Tokai Cecilia Management Framework Review Process: August 2021 to January 2022

TOKAI CECILIA MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REVIEW
WORKING GROUPS PROPOSALS of Phase 2:
Table Mountain National Park

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1. BACKGROUND

Phase 2 of the Tokai Cecilia Management Framework (TCMF) Review Process provided for facilitated Working Groups to draft detailed proposals for consideration for the future management of the Tokai and Cecilia areas within the Table Mountain National Park. The process took place from August 2021 to January 2022.


This report summarises the focal issues and recommendations of each of the Working Group submissions. The full proposals can be found at:

https://www.sanparks.org/parks/table_mountain/about/tokai-cecilia.php

2. PROPOSALS

2.1. Proposal: Biodiversity Management Working Group (BMWG)

The BMWG’s proposal identifies the required key actions that support and promote the Cape Floral Region World Heritage Site status as well as the applicable Outstanding Universal Value criterion (OUV) for the area, as the area transitions from commercial plantation management to national park zoned for biodiversity conservation. The BMWG recommended that the proposed management actions be continued and taken through, as appropriate, into a revised TMNP Protected Area Management Plan.

The submission covered nine main work areas (objectives) that result in a range of proposed actions that include:
- active and passive restoration of Critically Endangered vegetation and habitat types, including restoration of rivers and wetlands;
- active fire management that supports natural process while protecting the urban-wildland interface;
- undertaking timeous invasive alien plant control;
- managing faunal diversity;
- planning for climate change;
- undertaking erosion control; and
- improved communication with stakeholders and the public on biodiversity issues.

The BMWG proposed that restoration and biodiversity conservation of Critically Endangered vegetation types (Cape Flat Sand Fynbos, Peninsula Granite Fynbos and Peninsula Sandstone Fynbos) in the Protected Area will help make Cape Town a sustainable and resilient city through the ecosystem services provided by natural ecosystems.

2.2. Proposal : Communications Working Group (CWG)

The CWG’s proposal seeks to guide significant communication and reputation management initiatives for the Tokai Cecilia Management Framework (TCMF), and in context together with the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP). The primary focus of the proposal is to ensure effective communication that builds a positive identity for TMNP amongst its internal and external stakeholders, to counteract inaccurate narratives about the TCMF and to promote achievements made in the process.

The CWG proposal works towards identifying Key Core Messages around the TCMF process and wider TMNP (and SANParks) topics that include conservation management, tourism management and socio-economic development. In order to allow for information dissemination and two-way engagement with stakeholders, the proposal identified a mix of communication mediums that include media relations, public relations and social media management.

2.3. Proposal : Cultural Heritage and History Working Group (CHWG)

The CHWG submitted a comprehensive proposal which details the significant heritage layers and key / important heritage markers for Tokai and Cecilia areas. The proposal covers a broad range of topics that put many of the cultural and heritage issues currently under debate into
context. These topics include discussion on the built heritage environment of Tokai and Cecilia areas, previous land-use practices in the area, social-cultural interfacing and key heritage sites such as the Tokai Arboretum. The proposal makes reference in terms of recent heritage, wherein the notion of cultural landscapes is discussed and discouraged, while acceptance of the Cape Floral Region World Heritage Site as a Natural site is encouraged.

Along with the detailed historical account of the areas, the CHWG outline numerous and specific recommendations to enhance the educational value, interpretation and contemporary use of the heritage sites. These include the multi-use of the wider Tokai Manor heritage area, rehabilitation of natural fynbos heritage, historical plantings in Cecilia, establishing an active education facility and improved management and potential extension of the Tokai Arboretum.

2.4. Proposal : Facilities Working Group (FWG)

The FWG’s proposal explores the best use of the Tokai and Cecilia areas as park-user destinations with varying income generating opportunities. The proposal considered developing 'Facilities' that will attract Park users to these areas, keep visitors safe, and are aligned with a customer-centred focus.

The development proposals are grouped into short, medium and long term options for different areas of Tokai and Cecilia, along with high level budget requirements for the successful implementation thereof. The primary tourism development of the proposal focuses on the Tokai Manor Precinct. Required improvement to key current management activities such as fire management and alien vegetation clearing are also highlighted. The proposal highlights that recreational tracks and footpaths need better maintenance and that the poor budgeting models for the Park need to be improved.

2.5. Proposal : Fire Management Working Group (FMWG)

The FMWG’s proposal aims to improve fire management in Tokai and Cecilia areas through the formulation of six long-term objectives for fire management in Tokai and Cecilia. These are:

- managing a fire-safe interface between the Park and neighbouring communities and farms;
- safe-guarding identified heritage assets from fire;
- implementing prescribed burning for biodiversity needs and community safety;
improving fire awareness, education, and communication with neighbouring communities and Park users;
- effective and flexible budgets; and
- being prepared for fire through having maintained access and fire support infrastructure.

The FMWG proposal highlighted key points around fire management including that: (a) fire is a natural process and is important for the health of fynbos ecosystems; (b) fire management needs to be implemented in a responsible manner that minimises threats to surrounding areas and heritage assets; (c) and that fire management (preparedness and fire-fighting) requires an integrated approach among the role players, including from SANParks, City of Cape Town, MTO Forestry, CPFPA, Working on Fire and firefighting volunteers and neighbouring communities.

The FMWG proposal also makes several proposals that focus on: (i) reducing and improving management of fuel loads on the urban interface and in proximity to heritage assets; (ii) increasing fire awareness and communication; (iii) ensuring adequate budgets and resources are in place; and (iv) ensuring fire-fighting readiness.

2.6. Proposal : Health and Wellbeing Working Group (HWWG)

The HWWG’s proposal seeks to celebrate the human connection with nature and provide for healthy lives by promoting physical, emotional and spiritual experiences within the Tokai and Cecilia areas, including TMNP. The proposal identifies core themes that present the use of the area for human wellness. It acknowledged and discussed the diversity of people in cities and their connection to nature, which allows for de-stressing, recharging, respecting, connecting, healing and nation building. A core focus of the proposal centres on the benefit provided to people by trees and shaded areas which reflect the cultural and scenic landscape of the Tokai-Constantia Valley. The proposal calls for the establishment of permanent shade areas in the Protected Area through planting of suitable trees.

The HWWG proposal indicates that the Tokai and Cecilia areas are valued and celebrated by a diverse range of groups and users with multiple opportunities for development of the landscape for the benefit of both users and the Park. The proposal recommends a comprehensive list of activities in relation to:

- developing cultural heritage and cultural landscapes;
- education;
- social outreach and upliftment;
- mountain biking;
- horse riding;
- dog walking;
- hiking;
- mushroom gathering;
- community development;
- remembrance; and
- child and youth development.

The HWWG proposal provides for greater social connection through the establishment of First Nation Indigenous Cultural Heritage Centre, developing places of healing for traumatised youth, adults, and a Memorial as a representation against gender-based violence.

2.7. Proposal: TCMF Safety and Security Working Group (SSWG)

The SSWG’s proposal highlights the context of crime in the Park in terms of the Park being open access in a dense and densifying urban environment. The proposal emphasises that crime, particularly opportunistic crime, is a reality for the Park. Although perception of crime in the Tokai and Cecilia areas varies, with crime statistics appearing to be low, this is most likely due to the extensive activities carried out by local stakeholder groups together with the sheer volume of user numbers, particularly in the plantation section of Lower Tokai. The SSWG proposal is also mindful that Tokai and Cecilia areas are used as a means of ingress and egress between suburbs and the Park by those with criminal intent.

The SSWG proposal puts forward several practical approaches to lessening the crime risk in the Tokai and Cecilia area. These include a centralised place to respond to and/or to log an incident, maintenance of emergency access routes, the use of new technology (camera, drones and panic buttons), increasing high visibility patrols and working with Car Guards and Security Service Providers. The SSWG is convinced that if these proposals are taken forward, crime in the area can be mitigated and kept at bay.

3. WAY FORWARD - PROPOSAL SYNTHESIS AND INTEGRATION

The Working Group proposals have made an exceptionally rich contribution to the Tokai-Cecilia Framework Review Process. The proposals cover the broad diversity of interests and
issues in use and management of these areas, and recommended proposals and actions to address these. In the next Phase of the TCMF Review Process, the recommendations are being documented to provide the basis for a draft implementation plan which will be made available for a 30-day public comment period.

4. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

South African National Parks is appreciative of all Working Group participants for sharing their knowledge, experience and insights towards the future management of the Tokai and Cecilia areas.