

Park Forum Steering Committee

Former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Valli Moosa disbanded the last Park Forum Steering Committee in August 2003. Table Mountain National Park (TMN) embarked on a public participation process to establish the Park Forum Steering Committee that would serve as an effective and constructive advisory body to the Park.

The Public Participation

To ensure a fair process an external facilitator Colleen Crawford-Cousins was employed to manage the process and Chris of the IUCN was invited as an independent observer to minute the proceedings of each workshop. The selection of the Steering Committee members comprised of representative from stakeholder organization including the NGO's, Friends Groups and various Conservation and Outreach Organizations. Several meetings/ workshops were held in preparation for the nomination of the potential candidates for the Steering Committee. 30 people were nominated and it was also agreed that the foundation for the Steering Committee should be based on "Benefits Beyond Boundaries" which means biodiversity conservation within the context of TMNP broadens further than the Park fences to convey the idea of social upliftment through conservation. A way forward was a concurrence of 17 portfolios that would comprise the key focii of the Steering Committee. Demographic representation was a crucial issue of the selection to ensure that the business of biodiversity conservation addresses social upliftment.

The Park Forum Steering Committee was selected on June 12, at Edith Stephens and each member was assigned a portfolio and a Park Management representative who will be their primary contact in the Park.

The members and their Portfolios are:

Roland Jenthro – Environmental Experience

Chairperson of Schools Environmental Education Programme (SEEP); has been involved in a number of community development work for 30 years, also engaged in partnerships with organizations such as Red Cross, Cape Flats Nature, Alternatives to Violence for Healing Memories.

Chief Mnqanqeni – Community Partnerships and Benefits (Cape Flats)

He is a teacher with Honors in Education and is a key role player in the Khayelitsha Development Forum. He is a member of Contralesa and a traditional leader with a good understanding of the tension between traditional values and political mandate.

Zibuthe Mnqwazi – Community Partnerships and Benefits (Cape Peninsula)

He is the chairperson of the Peninsula Youth Forum, head of the Masiphumelele and Far South Peninsula Community Development Forums. Zibuthe was instrumental in settling the housing needs and conservation of the Noordhoek / Kommetjie Wetlands between the residents of Masiphumelele and the Park. He has a diploma in Development Management and has attended Technikon courses which qualify him best for this portfolio.

Sheryl Ozinsky – Tourism

She managed Cape Town tourism from 1998 to 2004 and Cape Town Tourism became a household name because of her. She also played a crucial role in positioning the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront to what it is today. Apart from the extensive knowledge she has on tourism, Sheryl is a BSc in Environmental Biology graduate, and has an Honors degree in Marine Biology from the University of Cape Town. She is currently doing a Masters degree in Sustainable Tourism Development at the Sustainability Institute in Stellenbosch.

Moenieba Isaacs – Marine Park

Is currently employed by the University of Western Cape as a researcher, her interests are in Coastal sustainable livelihoods, policy formulation and implementation, transformation and redistribution of rights. She has a PhD in Human Ecology. Her PhD thesis title was: *Understanding the social processes and politics of implementing a new fisheries policy, the Marine Living Resource Act 18 of 1998, in South Africa*

Thionel Potgieter – Land Consolidation and planning

He has recently been appointed as Senior Council by President and is particularly interested in environmental and media law. He has practiced as an advocate on the Cape Bar since July 1984 with distinctive emphasis on environmental and media law including civil litigation. He was once a journalist for Die Burger and he is a well traveled ex lecturer of journalism and media law.

Beverly Crouts – Cultural Heritage Resource Management

She is the Provincial Manager of SAHRA for the Western Cape Province. Beverly has a National Diploma in Architecture, a Masters degree in City and Regional Planning, and a Public Administration Certificate from the University of Indiana. She has mentored the planning for the Cape Town Community Land Trust for District 6 redevelopment project as an Architectural Technologist in Community Architecture, Planner and Researcher – District Six Land Claims Unit. She is involved in a number of committees and many others.

Blum Kahn – Financial Sustainability

Qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1980 and is currently CEO of Metropolitan Health Group. He has held several senior financial positions in reputable organizations and is a member of the Table Mountain Fund. Blum is also experienced in Community Development and he is a chairperson of the property Trust for the Trinity Methodist Church.

Sheila Besten – Cape Flats Biodiversity

A qualified Horticulturist with a National Diploma who is passionate about conservation, cultivation and community development. Actively involved with the Khayelitsha Education Resource and Information Centre (Keric), an organization devoted to educating communities about the benefits of conservation and economic upliftment through environmental initiatives. Sheila is positioned to advise the Park about the preservation of biodiversity while balancing community needs in terms of sustainable use of land.

Anwaaz Bent – Volunteer Management

A founding member and convener of the Hikers Network and 360 Degrees Hiking and Mountaineering Club, Educational convener of Wilderness Search and Rescue. Hikers Network is a non profit community oriented programme with the intentions of educating and enlightening communities of the value of our natural heritage as well as teaching and giving practical training about Mountain Safety, map reading and orientation. Anwaaz is a dedicated volunteer who is involved in numerous outreach programmes and has an excellent insight for team work between men and women who are willing to devote their time to the cause of conservation.

Greg Mosely – Recreational Users

He is a geologist who has worked in developing countries with similar set up as Table Mountain; he brings with him a wealth of experience. He is currently the chairman of the Cape Town and the national deputy President of the Mountain Club of SA. Geg has had a long involvement with environmental matters and he is a founding member of the Coordinating Council for Nature Conservation in the Cape (CCNCC). He has links with other recreational groups and is actively involved in an initiative to establish a Western Cape Mountain Forum which focuses on demographic representation.

Miranda Javu – Traditional and Spiritual Users

She is a traditional Healer who established Kwa-Ntu Cultural Village Projects that aims at reviving the Xhosa traditions. Through Kwa-Ntu the youth have an opportunity to reconnect with their cultural and traditional roots and this is done through dancing, language practice and healing. Actively involved in community health and environmental development, she is a trained HIV/AIDS and abuse counselor. As a traditional healer she is knowledgeable of the conservation complications and the conundrums that are posed by overuse of *fynbos* resources and the right of people to practice their traditional and spiritual rights.

Augustine Morkel – Safety and Security (Chairperson)

Is the Kirstenbosch Estate Manager with a Peace Officer certificate that is registered with SANParks, a Marine and Coastal Management and the National Botanical Institute certificates and these qualifications put him in good stead to advise TMNP on matters relating to Safety and Security. He also has level 2 SAFCOL Fire Boss training, Disciplinary Procedures Course, First Aid Level 1 and he is a qualified PADI rescue diver.

Louis de Villiers – Legal

Currently practices law as an Attorney, Notary and Conveyancer focusing on conveyancing and property law. Louis is a renowned figure in conservation and he was member of the Save the Mountain Campaign a while ago. He is also a founder of the Environmental Law Association (ELA). In his capacity as a member of ELA he was elected to sit in the Peninsula Mountain Forum (PMF) and since 1998 he was chairperson of the PMF Steering Committee. He then became a member of the Regional Committee of WESSA – WC in 1999 and was appointed as chair in 2002.

Tamra Veley – Communications and Media

Her career started in the early 1980's, she first worked for the SA Media Council during its initial stage in November 1983, she then moved to the Public Affairs

Department of Shell South Africa prior forming Corporate Image in 1987. She is the founder of perceptions audits in South African companies; she commissions, manages and oversees all market research administered by clients. She also handles crisis communications, reputation management, image and issues management for a number of companies. With her expertise in communication we know that our communication strategy will be satisfactory to our stakeholders.