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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background To Climbing On The Peninsula

The first recorded ascent of Table Mountain was in 1488 by Antonia de Saldanha. The first rock-climbs were, however, only established many years later by Jim Searle between 1894 and 1895. Rock-climbing developed very rapidly after this especially with the achievements of George Travers-Jackson between 1895 and 1907 and later by Berrisford, Londt, Marcus, Kaplan, Cameron, Mamicos, Fletcher, Scott and others. In the 100 years of rock-climbing on the Cape Peninsula since 1894 when Searle first climbed Right Face, climbing development has been closely aligned to new developments in equipment.

The initial routes of Searle and Travers-Jackson were climbed without the benefit of any safety precautions such as ropes or belays. Around 1914, with the introduction of rubber-soled shoes, climbing grades shot up dramatically and by the 1930’s the leader passed the rope over projections in the rock face as a safety precaution in the event of a fall. The golden rule, however, was that the leader never fell because the hemp rope running over a rock belay would in all probability snap if shock loaded. After World War II, due to the technological advances of the War, nylon ropes and slings as well as pitons and karabiners became available. With these advances in equipment came major advances in safety and as leader safety improved so too did the standard of climbing. The Journals of the Mountain Club of South Africa record the controversies that arose with every advance in equipment, but these same Journals also record the major advances in rock-climbing made by this technology. By the mid 1970’s the piton had been totally replaced by metal wedges which could be placed or removed by hand, ropes were cheaper and more easily available and leaders now fell more readily.

It is at this stage that climbing grades on the Peninsula reached a peak. With all the improvements in gear through the 1980’s especially in footwear, the grades of the new routes did not increase dramatically until a new trend of short (10-20m) routes started to develop. This trend pushed the standard of climbing on the Peninsula to an all time high. New routes were still, however, restricted to cracks and other natural faults in the rock in which protection for the leader could be inserted.
Through the 1980's and starting on Lions Head fixed protection in the form of bolts began to make an appearance. This form of protection now made accessible rock that would otherwise be unsafe due to a lack of natural features for protection and enabled climbers to do harder routes. Termed ‘Sport Climbing’, this new development in safety has meant a massive increase in the popularity of climbing. For the first time, the leader could fall with relative impunity.

This increase in safety has meant that there are now more people climbing on the Peninsula than ever before. The Cape Peninsula has a high concentration of fully equipped sport routes and is an exceptionally valuable resource for climbers, as the mountains are easily accessible and offer a very high quality of route. The resource is not limitless, however and the ever increasing popularity of sport climbing will impact on it. It is now more imperative than ever that climbing is properly managed. This document is the first step in that direction.

1.2 Approach to the Environmental Management Programme

The Environmental Management Programme proposed in this document is broadly based on the ideas outlined in the ISO 14000 Standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS) (SABS, 1996). An EMS can provide an orderly and consistent approach to addressing climbing related environmental issues. It does not establish absolute requirements for environmental performance, however, it does provide an outline of the process and elements needed for an effective system to manage environmental impacts.

The Environmental Management Programme outlined in this document involves an ongoing process of formulation, planning, implementation and evaluation of an environmental policy. The steps required in this process are outlined below:

- **Environmental Policy**
  The environmental policy forms a statement of climbers intentions regarding their environmental performance. It provides guiding principles and aids in the setting of objectives and targets. This policy needs to be endorsed by climbers.

- **Planning**
  The activities relating to climbing have been reviewed and an initial assessment has established the impact they have on the environment. This provides a starting point from which objectives and targets for management can be set. The degree of practical control over the environmental aspects being considered should be taken into account. Priority objectives and targets need to be decided upon and a management programme and tools developed to meet them. Resources are also
committed for implementation. Part of this programme has been developed for comment but it needs to be endorsed by climbers and SANP.

- **Implementation**
  This requires the execution and operation of the management programme.

- **Review and evaluation leading to improvement**
  Deficiencies and shortcomings in the management programme will need to be addressed and the effectiveness of the programme checked. It is important that an EMS is continually reviewed and improved with the objective of improving overall environmental performance.

An Environmental Management Programme based on the principles of EMS thus forms a flexible system that is adaptable to changing circumstances.

### 1.3 Scope of this Document

Subject to the approval of South African National Parks (SANP), this document sets out a number of proposals to manage sport climbing on the Peninsula Mountain Chain.

This document sets out the beginnings of a proposed management system for climbing on the Peninsula. An environmental policy has been formulated which clearly outlines the principles by which climbing activities will be guided.

The potential impacts of climbing have been identified and an initial assessment has been undertaken.

After discussions held at the Upper cable Station on Table Mountain with South African National Parks representatives in 1997 it was decided that traditional (adventure) climbing and scrambling would not be included in this document because of the limited environmental impacts associated with this type of climbing. However, despite this decision all climbers should be committed to the environmental concerns inherent in Chapter Two and Chapter Three of this document.

A draft management programme has been proposed that outlines how a Sport Climbing Working Committee (SCWC) together with climbers will monitor and regulate sport climbing activities and the impacts associated with this form of climbing. This system will hopefully enable the SCWC to work jointly with SANP to maximise the benefits of climbing whilst minimising the negative environmental impacts. The proposals set out in this document should form the basis for an ongoing and growing system to manage sport climbing on the Peninsula.
NOTE:
While this document intends for the regulation of the sport, climbing is an inherently dangerous sport and prospective climbers must recognise that the responsibility for their safety lies purely with themselves.
CHAPTER 2: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Climbers are committed to minimising the adverse effects of their activities on the environment and to promoting the safe practice of the sport. To this end they are committed to the following principles:

- Minimising the impact of climbing activities on the natural environment, including indigenous fauna and flora
- Minimising the visual impact of fixed protection
- Minimising impacts on the cultural and historical environment including all archaeological and palaeontological sites.
- Adhering to standards for fixed protection that conform with safety standards appropriate to environmental conditions on the Cape Peninsula
- Co-operating with managing authorities and recognising and responding to their concerns
- Identifying and assessing the significance of impacts associated with potential new climbing areas in conjunction with SANP and other interested and affected parties
- Monitoring sport climbing activities to ensure compliance with the principles outlined above

This environmental policy provides a framework for action and the setting of objectives and targets.
CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND ISSUES

This section provides an overview of the potential environmental impacts of climbing and their significance. This provides a starting point from which the objectives and targets for management can be set.

3.1 Potential Impacts Identified

The potential impacts that have been identified in relation to activities associated with climbing are presented in Table 1. The status of these potential impacts is also indicated i.e. whether they are positive (+ve) or negative (−ve).

Table 1. The potential impacts of climbing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Potential Impacts</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking to and from venue</td>
<td>• Erosion of footpaths</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Trampling and removal of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Litter</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Access to natural environment</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exercise</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Awareness of environmental issues</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belaying and Climbing</td>
<td>• Erosion of base of crag</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Trampling of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Removal of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Disturbance of animals and nesting/endangered birds</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Litter</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Waste</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Disturbance of archaeologically sensitive sites</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Trampling and removal of alien vegetation</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Recreational use of the natural environment</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Positive psychological experience</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Physical exercise</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolting/ New routes/ Retrobolting</td>
<td>• Removal of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Disturbance of animals and nesting/endangered birds</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Visual impact of fixed protection</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Damage to rock art</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Noise from drilling</td>
<td>−ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increased tourism</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Climbing / Leading and lower off safety</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Positive psychological experience</td>
<td>+ve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Significance Of Impacts

A significance rating has been determined for the potential impacts that have been identified. The criteria used to determine the significance ratings are presented in Table 2 and the significance of the potential impacts are outlined in Table 3.

Table 2. Criteria used to determine the significance ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spatial extent/influence of impact</td>
<td>• Site specific or local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Regional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnitude of impact at spatial scale</td>
<td>• <strong>High</strong>: Natural and/or social functions and/or processes are severely altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Medium</strong>: Natural and/or social functions and/or processes are notable altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Low</strong>: Natural and/or social functions and/or processes are negligibly altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>• Temporary (&lt;1 year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Short term (1 to 6 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Medium term (6 to 10 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Long term (more than 10 years)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Given these criteria, the significance ratings have been defined as below:

- **High**: impacts of high magnitude locally for longer than 6 years and/or regionally and beyond
- **Medium**: impacts of moderate magnitude locally to regionally in the short term
- **Low to very low**: impacts will be localised and temporary.
- **No impact**: a potential concern or impact which, upon evaluation, is found to have no significant impact at all.

It should be noted that the significance of some of the potential impacts may vary from area to area. This will depend on the specific conditions present at a particular climbing venue. For example, erosion at the base of a climbing area will depend on how susceptible the soil is to erosion and the amount of solid rock present. In Table 3, the significance ratings have been assigned for impacts both without and with management actions.
Table 3: Significance of Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Potential Impacts</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Significance No Management</th>
<th>Significance Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking to and from venue</td>
<td>Erosion of footpaths</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trampling and removal of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Litter</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>No Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to natural environment</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Awareness of environmental issues</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belaying and Climbing</td>
<td>Erosion of base of crag</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trampling of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Removal of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disturbance of animals and nesting/endangered birds</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low to No Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Litter</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low to No Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disturbance of archaeologically sensitive sites</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low to No Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recreational use of the natural environment</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive psychological experience</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical exercise</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolting/New routes</td>
<td>Removal of indigenous vegetation</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disturbance of animals and nesting/endangered birds</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visual impact of fixed protection</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damage to Rock Art</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noise from drilling</td>
<td>–ve</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low to No Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased tourism</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Climbing / Leading and lower off safety</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive psychological experience</td>
<td>+ve</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 4: MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section sets out a proposed management plan to regulate climbing, new routes and manage impacts.

4.1 Organisational Structures

The environmental management plan will involve different organisations and groups of people. These are described below and the roles and responsibilities of these various structures is detailed further in the management programme

- **South African National Parks (SANP)**
  South African National Parks (SANP) are the managing authority of the Table Mountain National Park and as such, are the ultimate decision making authority. They have the right to establish rules and regulations regarding all activities within the National Park.

- **Sport Climbing Working Committee**
  It is proposed that a Sport Climbing Working Committee (SCWC) that consists of representatives from the climbing community, be democratically elected by climbing users of the Peninsula Mountain Chain. The committee should consist of no less than 5 members. There should be continuity from one elected committee to the next, in that two members of each committee should serve a double term. Election of members will take place at a meeting called specifically for the purpose and votes will also be accepted by proxy, e-mail, letter or fax.

  The first committee elected will be responsible for drawing up a constitution. This committee will set in place clear criteria and guidelines for dispute resolution.

4.2 Proposed Categories Of Climbing Venues

In order to manage the impacts detailed in Section 3, it is proposed that four different categories of venue be created which will be subject to differing levels of control in respect of management and approval of new sport routes. Procedures for management and application for new sport routes in each of the proposed types of venue are listed.

The following categories of venue are suggested in order to facilitate their management:
• **Existing sport climbing venues**
These are areas that currently have sport routes, and are widely utilised. In most cases, access has been negotiated and granted, and in some instances use of the venue is implicit (such as the use of quarries). These venues will require the approval of SANP prior to being classified as existing sport climbing venues.

• **Sport climbing venues in sensitive areas**
These are areas that currently have sport routes and are widely utilised for this purpose. Certain conditions have made some portion or all of these venues sensitive enough to require a higher level of management. These venues will require the approval of SANP prior to being classified as sport climbing venues in sensitive areas.

• **New proposed sport climbing venues**
Other opportunities exist for new venues. Such new venues will require an environmental assessment before use is granted. If a venue is approved it will be delegated into one of the aforementioned two categories.

Annexure 1 provides a map of the Cape Peninsula showing present sport climbing venues, and Annexure 2 shows envisaged categorisation of these venues. All climbing venues presently utilised for sport climbing will have to be assessed and approved at the implementation of this Management Programme.

### 4.3 Management Objectives And Actions

A bi-annual meeting is proposed between the SCWC and SANP to discuss the status of management of climbing activities on the Peninsula. In addition, a number of management objectives and actions are outlined below. These management actions are to apply to all climbing venues. All climbers will be expected to comply with the provisions outlined below.

Many of the management actions discussed below should occur on self-regulatory basis, with climbers taking responsibility for their own actions. These management actions are to be taken in respect of all types of climbing venue being used i.e. existing venues, venues in sensitive areas.

• **Erosion**
The SCWC will monitor the state of paths and discuss this at a proposed bi-annual meeting between the SCWC and SANP. A summary report (including maps where necessary) detailing actions needed to upgrade paths should be drawn up before the meeting. The total number of new paths required to service new venues is probably
minimal and some existing paths are urgently in need of maintenance. Responsibility for path maintenance will occur as follows:

- SANP will be responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of existing generally utilised paths in the park;
- For paths exclusively used to access sport climbing venues:
  - The SCWC and climbers will be responsible for maintenance (labour) on these paths;
  - SANP will provide materials and technical information support for path maintenance.

All climbers are required to utilise existing paths.

Vegetation removal and trampling at the base of venues should be avoided at all costs to prevent erosion. Where possible, actions should be taken to put erosion control measures in place. Areas requiring such measures may be identified by SANP. SANP will provide materials and technical knowledge and the SCWC will be required to put measures in place.

- **Vegetation**
The maintenance and creation of proper access paths will limit the impact on indigenous vegetation.

Removal of indigenous vegetation for the establishment of routes will not be condoned. Removal of vegetation for the establishment of footpaths should be limited. The size of the area of activity at the base of the venue will be limited so as to minimise impacts on indigenous vegetation.

If alien vegetation occurs within the immediate vicinity of the venue, this will be removed by SANP.

- **Litter and Waste**
No foreign material of any kind is to be left behind at climbing venues. Defecation should be avoided at all costs, but, if necessary, should take place well away (50 m is recommended) from venues, paths and streams, and be buried.

At the discretion of the SCWC, or at the request of SANP, the Working Committee will organise clean-ups of climbing venues, or paths used exclusively to reach climbing venues.

- **Disturbance of animals and birds**
Nesting and endangered birds should not be disturbed. Seasonal closure of crags will
occur if nesting birds are likely to be disturbed. The following procedure will apply:

- The SANP will inform the SCWC of any proposed closure;
- The SCWC will provide the wording for appropriate closure signage and inform the relevant SANP reserve manager;
- Appropriate signs will then be made up by the SANP reserve manager and erected at the top and bottom of the path to a crag, indicating the intended period of closure.
- The SCWC will also advertise the closure.

No new route will be approved if, in the opinion of an expert, it will disturb an endangered or nesting bird.

**Archaeological sites**
Archaeological sites are not to be disturbed. No route will be approved if it has a significant effect on the content of an archaeological site.

The location of all archaeological sites at existing venues and measures to protect these sites are listed in Annexure 3.

**Fixed Protection**
Fixed protection will be as unobtrusive as possible and will be painted to blend in with the rock colour when necessary. Painting of fixed protection should occur before such protection is placed.

In situations where non-climbers use the vicinity of a venue, drilling should only be carried out in the absence of other mountain users, or with their express permission to proceed.

All fixed protection that is placed on the Peninsula Mountain Chain should comply with acceptable safety standards.

Replacement of bolts at climbing venues should follow the procedures for new routes and venues as outlined in Section 4.4 below. The SCWC will undertake to remove all fixed protection at a climbing venue should it be closed.

### 4.4 Management Of New Routes And Venues

Anyone wishing to establish a new sport route or develop a new venue will be required to apply to the Sport Climbing Working Committee (SCWC) for permission. The procedures to be followed associated with each type of sport climbing venue are
outlined below.

All current sport climbing venues will require approval from SANP before allocation into one of the two categories of sport climbing venue at the outset of the implementation of this Management Programme.

4.4.1 Existing Sport Climbing Venues

The Sport Climbing Working Committee (SCWC) will maintain and make freely available to SANP full details of all routes in existence at existing venues.

Exempt venues

Certain venues will be exempt *i.e.* new route activity will not require the prior permission of the Committee. These venues are to be determined by the Committee and SANP within 2 months of the commencement of the provisions of this Management Plan.

Venues falling into this category have been suggested in Annexure 2.

Other Crags

New routes at all other crags will require permission from the Committee. Proposals for new routes should be addressed to the SCWC and either posted to or handed to the Secretary at the Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) at the following address between 10am and 2pm on weekdays:

Sport Climbing Working Committee
C/O The Mountain Club of South Africa
97 Hatfield Street
Cape Town
8001

Written permission for the addition of new routes must be obtained from the Committee prior to the commencement of bolting. All applications will be considered against the principles contained in the environmental policy. Approval will be subject to compliance with the management actions detailed in section 5.2.1. The Committee will be required to respond to applications within 4 weeks.

Existing sport climbing areas are presented in Annexure 2.

4.4.2 Sport Climbing Venues in Sensitive Areas
If requested by SANP, a venue shall be assessed and shall be declared sensitive. Such areas will be subject to stricter management and new routes may have to be approved in conjunction with SANP and not solely by the SCWC. The Committee will be required to respond to applications within 6 weeks.

Venues that currently fall into this category are detailed in Annexure 2.

4.4.3 New Proposed Sport Climbing Venues

Approval for new venues shall be subject to and dependent on the outcome of an environmental assessment according to the following procedure.

A written proposal should be submitted to the SCWC, through the MCSA, and should include the following information:

- map detail showing the exact position of the venue/s, as well as proposed access path/s
- detail of other potential users of the area, including comment on any possible impact that climbing may have in this regard (positive and negative)
- comment on the flora and fauna in the area. This should be a general comment on the existence of indigenous or alien vegetation and some idea of their relative abundance and a comment on the amount of vegetation that will be impacted upon
- comment on the nature of the archaeological and palaeontological deposits or any rock art
- comment on the quality of the access path/s and base of the crag, including recommendations for upgrading, or the need for new paths, if any
- comment on the quality of the rock, in particular any loose rock that may pose a safety threat

The SCWC shall forward these proposals to SANP, who will jointly undertake a physical examination of the area within a month.

If there is insufficient information for decision making, at the discretion of either the SCWC or SANP a further professional assessment of the area may be required. This will be organised by the SCWC. At the discretion of the SCWC or SANP approval may be granted subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. It is the responsibility of the Committee to ensure these are met before issuing written permission to individuals, without which sport climbing activities may not commence.

The criteria by which proposed venues are assessed shall be in accordance with the principles laid out in the environmental policy. When a venue is approved it will be afforded status for management purposes as either an existing sport climbing venue or
a sport climbing venue in a sensitive area. The routes of any new paths required to the new venue will be specified and recommendations made for construction.

The SCWC is required to issue a decision within 3 months of the receipt of an application, unless circumstances do not permit it.

4.5 Information Dissemination

The SCWC will make use of the following mediums to disseminate information regarding this Management Programme and information related to sport climbing activities:

- A database of the email addresses of sport climbers will be created and expanded\(^1\). Notices of all activities related to sport climbing on the Peninsula in relation to this Management Programme will be sent out to parties on the database;

- Climbing clubs in Cape Town and Stellenbosch will be notified of activities in relation to this Management Plan. These include:
  - The Mountain Club of South Africa;
  - The UCT Mountain and Ski Club;
  - The Stellenbosch University Climbing Club.

- Notices will be placed at public training venues in Cape Town and Stellenbosch and at shops presently selling climbing gear in Cape Town such as Camp and Climb, Orca Industries and Outdoor Warehouse;

- Notices will be published in South African climbing publications such as *HighLife*.


---

\(^1\) A database of sport climbers currently exists and is maintained by Dr E. February. This database will be expanded as required.
5.1 Responsibilities And Monitoring

5.1.1 South African National Parks

SANP holds ultimate decision-making authority and will be responsible for policing the system.

SANP will attend bi-annual meetings with the SCWC and respond to the recommendations of the SCWC.

They will regulate and be responsible for:

- Approval of new climbing venues;
- Providing material and technical advice regarding the upgrading and maintenance of paths to venues and construction of new paths.

In conjunction with the SCWC they will also monitor:

- the state of paths;
- the state of a venue regarding vegetation, litter, and erosion.

SANP are the managing authority and will act on individuals’ transgressions as they see fit, within the law.

5.1.2 Sport Climbing Working Committee

The SCWC will monitor and regulate activities associated with sport climbing venues. In this regard they will help to monitor and regulate:

- the state of paths;
- the state of a venue regarding vegetation, litter, and erosion;
- promote the safety and proper equipping of sport routes;

The SCWC will report to SANP on a bi-annual basis regarding the condition of paths and venues. The SCWC in conjunction with SANP will be responsible for organising work meets to maintain and upgrade paths exclusively used to access sport climbing venues.
The SCWC will control the placement of additional new routes according to aforementioned policy and management actions and keep up to date records of all sport routes within the Peninsula Chain. The SCWC will liaise with National Parks Board and other relevant experts to consider applications for sport climbing at new venues.

5.2 Correction And Enforcement

SANP, as the landowner and manager, holds ultimate decision-making authority, and will act on individuals’ transgressions as they see fit, within the law. This may include the imposition of fines that would be determined by SANP.

In the interests of co-operation, however, the SCWC will act as watchdog over sport-climbing activities and attempt to defuse conflict before this point is reached. Where new routes are placed without the written permission of the SCWC, the Committee, in conjunction with SANP, will be responsible to arrange for fixed protection to be removed.

5.3 Review

The SCWC and SANP will meet not less than twice per year to review the Environmental Management Programme and discuss relevant issues and concerns. The status of all sport climbing venues will be reviewed. These meetings will also include the presentation by the Committee of a summary report detailing:

- the actions need to upgrade paths as described earlier;
- updates on all sport routes within the Table Mountain Chain.

In addition, the management programme should be updated to reflect the results of the bi-annual meeting.
CHAPTER 6: List of Contributors and References

6.1 Contributors

Cheryl Jenks
Ed February
Jayson Orton
Ross Suter
Maretha Shroyer
Guy Holwill
Steve Downing
Paul Schlotveldt

6.2 Consultation with Sport Climbers

A meeting was held on 10 February 1999, to present the draft Environmental Management Plan for Climbing. The aim of the meeting was to determine any issues and concerns sport climbers may have and to gain their input into the document. A list of people who attended the meeting as well as people who commented on the document is found in Annexure 4.

6.3 Way Forward

After evaluation by the SANP this document will be widely circulated to climbers and other relevant persons for comment after which it will be amended, re-evaluated by SANP and finally adopted as policy.

6.4 References


ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Location of Climbing Venues
Annexure 2: Categories of Climbing Venues
Annexure 3. Location of Significant Archaeological Material at Sport Climbing Venues
Annexure 4: Attendance Register and List of People who Submitted Comments
Annexure 1: Location of Climbing Venues

A 1:50 000 map indicates the location of the present sport climbing areas in the south of Table Mountain. Additional areas are found at Higgovale quarry, Vredehoek Slate Quarry and on the Lion's Head Granite.
Annexure 2: Climbing Venues

A listing of the areas falling under existing sport climbing venues and those that are deemed sensitive.

Existing Sport Climbing Venues
The Mine
Peer’s Cave
Trappieskop
Silvermine Crag

Lakeside Pinnacle (provisional)

Sport Climbing Venues in Sensitive Areas

Schoorsteenkop

The Hole

In 1997 a pair of Peregrine falcons nested at the Hole. Climbers were asked to stop climbing at the venue for the time they were nesting. This request was adhered to with climbers showing a great deal of consideration. If the pair of falcons continue to nest in the area, the climbing ban should be adhered to.

Sport Climbing Venues in Sensitive Areas where no further bolting will occur

No further bolting will be allowed at the following sensitive venues:

Lion’s Head Granite

Climbing occurs on the granite slabs around the foothills of Lion’s Head, and climbing here represents some of the earliest ascents in local climbing history. Climbing occurs distant from the hiking trails used by casual walkers. Due to the generally flat base around the slabs, damage to vegetation through erosion is minimal.

Elsies Peak

Climbing occurs on the higher walls along the cliff face which can be considered inaccessible to non-climbers. A pair of Black Eagles nest some hundred metres further around the cliff.
## Annexure 3 Location of Significant Archaeological Material at Sport Climbing Venues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE TYPE</th>
<th>IDENTIFICATION</th>
<th>EFFECTS OF CLIMBING</th>
<th>DAMAGE PREVENTION</th>
<th>PENINSULA EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROCK ART</td>
<td>Usually red, but sometimes yellow or white marks on steep rock. Can be recognisable images or a variety of dots, lines or other markings.</td>
<td>Destruction or defacing of paintings, and/or reducing the visual experience of seeing rock art by spoiling surrounding areas.</td>
<td>Never climb near or over paintings and preferably don't climb within the bounds of the site.</td>
<td>Peers Cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTEFACT SCATTER</td>
<td>Loose items of archaeological nature lying on the ground. Usually stone artefacts. Difficult for the layman to identify.</td>
<td>Trampling on artefacts can cause breakage and cause them to be moved from their original contexts or buried in the ground.</td>
<td>Use groundsheets. Walk carefully. Do not allow dogs to dig and preferably keep them away completely.</td>
<td>Silvermine Boulder Kalk Bay Crags Peers cave Elsies Peak Skoorsteenkop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPOSIT</td>
<td>Dusty and ashy ground with artefacts on and below the surface. Identification may be difficult but presence of seashell is an obvious indicator.</td>
<td>Trampling, digging and moving stones will disturb the deposit. Walking over deposits causes their erosion. Deposits can be contaminated by the introduction of foreign matter.</td>
<td>As above. Erosion prevention is critical and no dogs should be allowed at all. Groundsheet use is very important and absolutely no fires can be made in the sites.</td>
<td>Peers Cave Kalk Bay Crags The Hole Elsies Peak Misty Cliffs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEXURE 4: Attendance Register and People who submitted comments

Attendance Register

Sport Climbing Working Committee
Cheryl Jenks
Ross Suter
Maretha Shroyer
Ed February

Climbers
Guy Holwill      Nicky Allsopp    ? Geldenhuys
Jeremy Samson    Gawin Wood      Geoff Ward
Jason Whyte      Ian Manson      Andre Schoon
Jasyon Orton     Alison Hughes   Vanessa Lane
Mary Jenner      Robyn Holwill   Douglas Ward
Garon Fish       Kirsty Donald   Hugo Vaughan
Ken Schumann     Brian Valentine Xander Botha
Jason Temple-Forbes Manni Hughes  Richard Behne
Justin Lawson    Simon Bernhardt Bill Tucker
Gareth Austin    Alex & Jeanine Steyn
Andy Davies

Comments Received From:

Mike Scott
PE Grobler
Jay Hyde
Jayson Orton
Reuben Heydenrych
Doug Ward
Steve Downing
Bill Tucker
Patrick McCann
Richard Behne
Guy Holwill
Robyn Holwill
Jeremy Samson
Andy Davies
### Attendance Register of Meeting Held on 4 April 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Scott</td>
<td>Ian Manson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Downing</td>
<td>Judy Moore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Hodge</td>
<td>Jeremy Samson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maarten Turkstra</td>
<td>Hugo Vaughn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ross McBride</td>
<td>Sue Lielllock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Seydel</td>
<td>Paul Woolley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Heathcoate-Markes</td>
<td>Douglas Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robyn Holwill</td>
<td>Mike Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Varga</td>
<td>Ross Suter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Davies</td>
<td>Gill McKirdy</td>
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<td>Esme Strydom</td>
<td>Alex McKirdy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa Lane</td>
<td>Brendon Theunissen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Jennings</td>
<td>Michael Koren</td>
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<td>Douw Steyn</td>
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<td>Adele McCann</td>
<td>Mark Johnston</td>
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<td>Gus Hojem</td>
<td>Mark Gesmond</td>
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<td>Andre Schoon</td>
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<td>Adam Roff</td>
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<td>Scarre Cilliers</td>
<td>Tanya Clausen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Jenner</td>
<td>Cheryl Jenks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Hughes</td>
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