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The

Table Mountain Fund

A world-leading conservation trust fund

Initiating, developing and funding projects that
restore and protect the fynbos



The Table Mountain Fund

The Table Mountain Fund is one of the world's leading conservation trust funds – initiating, developing and funding projects that restore and protect the natural wilderness of Table Mountain, the Cape Peninsula and the Cape Floral Kingdom as a valuable heritage accessible to all South Africans.

The Fund, which is widely supported by civil society, government, multinational donors and agencies, has invested in more than 120 projects to date. These projects have successfully built local capacity for conservation action, raised environmental awareness, contributed to the scientific understanding of local conservation issues, and protected and restored critically important terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats within the City of Cape Town and the broader Cape Floral Kingdom.

The Table Mountain Fund is regarded as the premier fund for achieving significant conservation interventions in the Cape Floral Kingdom.



The world's hottest biodiversity hotspot

South Africa is home to an extraordinary richness of species and is recognized as one of the world's mega-diverse countries. The jewel in its crown is the Cape Floral Kingdom located at the south-western tip of the country – the smallest and richest of the Earth's six Floral Kingdoms. This area is home to nearly half of South Africa's plant species and its characteristic vegetation, known as fynbos, is found nowhere else on Earth. Its uniqueness has earned the Cape recognition as a World Heritage Site and a Global Biodiversity Hotspot.

Sadly, urban expansion, alien species invasions, pollution, too-frequent fires and agriculture have left the Cape Floral Kingdom in scattered fragments across the landscape.

Because of the region's incredible species richness, ploughing an area the size of a soccer field can render an entire fynbos

species extinct, along with a host of associated insects and other creatures. Scientists know of 14 unique Cape Peninsula species that are extinct due to recent human activity, and a further 1 736 fynbos species are threatened with extinction.

Long-term intervention is required to restore and prevent further degradation of the Cape fynbos ecosystems.



A scenic view of a coastline with mountains in the background and pink flowers in the foreground. The image shows a lush green landscape with a blue bay and a sandy beach. In the foreground, there are several pink, fluffy flowers on green stems. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

Fynbos facts:

- The Cape Floral Kingdom has the highest species richness in the world, more than three times that of its nearest rival – the South American rain forest.
- Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula are home to double the plant species than the whole of the British Isles. Of these an amazing 70% are found nowhere else on Earth.
- Fynbos has the world's richest bulb flora, and also some of the most beautiful. Lilies, irises, amaryllids and orchids are gems waiting to be spotted by the observant hiker.

Valuable fynbos

The majority of international arrivals come to see the iconic Table Mountain, the beautiful Cape Peninsula and the Cape's scenic rural areas. As the Cape's natural wilderness areas are the foundation of its tourism industry, their protection is critical to maintaining and growing the region's tourism industry. The Cape fynbos ecosystems and water catchments are also a generator of vital freshwater supplies and prevent disasters such as flooding. Protecting these areas is therefore not a luxury, but a necessity. When they are gone, the costs of providing clean and safe drinking water to urban areas will increase dramatically. The fynbos also offers further riches in its beautiful and unique wild-harvested flowers and popular indigenous herbal tea species such as rooibos and honeybush tea.



“During the many years of incarceration on Robben Island, we often looked across to Table Mountain, at its magnificent silhouette ... To us on Robben Island, Table Mountain was a beacon of hope.”

Nelson Mandela



Urban conservation in the City of Cape Town

The Table Mountain Fund works to maintain the remarkable natural fynbos and forest ecosystems of Table Mountain within the thriving city of Cape Town. By purchasing land and working with private landowners, the Fund has created corridors of protected habitat throughout the Cape Peninsula.

Noordhoek Wetlands Land Acquisition:

The Table Mountain Fund has secured the last remaining area of lowland fynbos on the Cape Peninsula, in the suburb of Noordhoek. The acquired land has been incorporated into the Table Mountain National Park, creating a natural corridor between Chapman's Peak and Slangkop.

Green Futures: *Two indigenous horticulture, restoration, landscaping and life-skills colleges are being established on priority urban biodiversity sites in the Cape Flats. The colleges will restore these critical sites and inspire conservation ambassadors within the city.*





Nowhere else in the world does an area of such spectacular beauty and rich biodiversity exist almost entirely within a metropolitan area – the cosmopolitan city of Cape Town.

Applied research for conservation action

The Table Mountain Fund takes a scientific approach to conservation, based on analysis of what is needed to ensure the preservation of fynbos ecosystems. The Fund further catalyses and supports research addressing critical fynbos management issues.

Scholarships: *Tali Hoffmann was one of the distinguished young scientists to receive a TMF-funded merit-based scholarship in 2009, incentivizing top researchers to work in the fynbos.*



Leopard and Stock Farmer conflict in the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve

The Table Mountain Fund is supporting research into the biology and ecology of leopards in the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve, towards finding holistic management solutions for farmers in the area.

Halting the invasion: *The Table Mountain Fund is slowing the spread of invasive alien species – one of the biggest threats to the fynbos – by supporting research into bio-control methods and by directly funding alien clearing efforts.*



Building local capacity for conservation action

The TMF Capacity Building Programme was established in 2003 to address the need for transformation in the conservation sector. The programme sponsors mainly black and women managers to attend relevant short and long courses and provides work experience placements in conservation organisations.

Some proud participants in the TMF Capacity Building Programme:

- **Barry Stoffels:** completed an Associate In Management (AIM) course at the UCT Graduate School of Business and is now Manager of Administration and Finance at the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP).
- **Lewine Walters:** completed a B.Tech in Nature Conservation and a placement with the City of Cape Town. She is now based at the Macassar Dunes project site.
- **Xola Mkefe:** previously Communications Manager at Cape Flats Nature completed a B.Tech in Education Management and is now Park Manager for the West Coast National Park.





Raising environmental awareness

It is only when people are given the opportunity to experience the splendid Cape Floral Kingdom and to understand its value and global uniqueness that they will be inspired to preserve it. The Table Mountain Fund supports projects that raise awareness, with a focus on children.

False Bay Ecology Park

The Table Mountain Fund invests in the False Bay Ecology Park on the southern shores of Zeekoevlei on the Cape Flats, providing learners with a fun, informative experience over a few days and nights that instills a love and appreciation for nature.

Restoring and protecting critical conservation land in the Cape Floral Kingdom

As eighty percent of the important biodiversity areas in the Cape are under the care of private landowners, the Table Mountain Fund supports projects that work in partnership with landowners. This 'stewardship' approach to conservation has met with great success, with many landowners contracting their land into a stewardship agreement in return for management assistance.

Restoring rivers: *The Table Mountain Fund supported the restoration of the flood-ravaged Langtou River in the Southern Cape, encouraging land-users along the river to adhere to sound environmental management guidelines.*



The Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor

The Table Mountain Fund has invested in the establishment of two major natural corridors in the Cederberg region, introducing and incentivizing people in these critical conservation areas to manage their land in a sustainable way.

Economic sense: *Conserving the extraordinary biodiversity of the Cape fynbos is essential for the delivery of jobs and social development. The Fund supports the Flower Valley Conservation Trust to expand sustainable biodiversity-based businesses on the Agulhas Plain.*





What's new?

The Table Mountain Fund has established the TMF Stewardship Fund and has embarked on a dedicated fundraising campaign to capitalize this fund.

Through stewardship, 286 landowners have secured over 1 million hectares of critical habitat in the Cape under voluntary conservation management. The limiting factor is a lack of resources to implement conservation activities on these

stewardship sites. The TMF Stewardship Fund will provide funding for priority management activities such as alien clearing, erosion control and fire control, and will also provide opportunities for job creation in rural areas.

The Foundations of the Table Mountain Fund

WWF South Africa had the foresight in 1993 to raise the start-up capital for the Table Mountain Fund through a campaign launched by Sir Edmund Hillary. By 1998 South African custodians had donated R10 million and the Trust was registered.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) then increased the capital fund by \$5 million. This provided the opportunity to expand operations beyond Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula to include conservation efforts throughout the whole of the threatened Cape Floral Kingdom.

The Table Mountain Fund also manages projects funded by the Roland and Leta Hill Trust, local corporates, and a \$1 million capacity building grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The Fund is managed by an independent Board of Trustees and has appointed WWF-SA to provide various management and administrative services. The TMF is also subjected to an annual external audit supervised by an audit subcommittee which reports to the Board of Trustees.

Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) is an overarching partnership of government and civil society aimed at conserving and restoring the biodiversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom and the adjacent marine environment, while delivering significant benefits to the people of the region.

The Table Mountain Fund is central to CAPE, as it is the only fund enabling a large number of projects across the region that work towards the goals of the CAPE partnership.



Forest facts:

- Forest once covered not only Table Mountain's ravines but also its eastern slopes and much of Hout Bay. What remains today are small remnants of these forests in areas that were too inaccessible to exploit.
- Ancient milkwood forests once lined the Cape Peninsula coast, and have mostly been replaced by housing. The remaining milkwoods are now protected trees.
- Many tree species, like the spoonwood, Hottentot's cherry and wild almond, are only found in the Cape.

Support our work

The Table Mountain Fund has delivered excellent results in restoring and protecting the natural wonders of the Cape Floral Kingdom. But there is much more to do as the threats to this unique World Heritage Site are mounting every day. We need your support to continue our work.

Join us in saving the fynbos, so that this natural treasure can be accessed by all now and in the future. Join us as we build the Table Mountain Fund.

Direct Deposit:

Account name: WWF South Africa
Bank: ABSA Bank
Account No: 410 720 086
Branch: Stellenbosch
Branch Code: 632-656
Swift Number: ABSA ZA JJ CCT
Reference: The Table Mountain Fund

Please email or fax us a copy of your deposit slip so that we may thank you for your support.

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Contact us

We are always available to answer your questions or to present the Table Mountain Fund to an audience.

The Table Mountain Fund

Centre for Biodiversity Conservation
Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
Rhodes Drive
Newlands

Tel: +27 21 762 8525

Fax: +27 21 762 1905

Email: info@wwf.org.za

Private bag X2
Die Boord
7613
South Africa

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