



Biodiversity Preservation Report

March 2019 - February 2020



Vision

To be a leading model in the development and promotion of environmentally sustainable living practices which enhance the health, social wellbeing and economic viability of local communities.



Biodiversity Preservation Project

Progress Report

Supervisor: Zikhona Mdalase



BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION PROJECT

STATISTICS 2019-2020

Area cleared and maintained (Approximately):

Baviaanskloof	2,5 square kilometers cleared Port Jackson willow and other Regular (monthly) follow up done
Chapmans Peak Drive	1,5 square kilometers being cleared Port Jackson willow and Stinkbean
Imizamo Yethu slope	0,5 square kilometers marked out for clearing, recently commenced Port Jackson willow
Team (on average):	3 to 4 men, 3 to 4 days per week
Beneficiaries:	All Hout Bay residents

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BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION STATISTICS MARCH 2019 – FEBRUARY 2020

Site	Area cleared	Litres herbicide	Manhours	Nr of men	Comment
Chapman's Peak Drive	1,5 square km (+/-)	576 mixed herbicide	4032	3 to 4	Chapman's Peak is looking a lot better free of invasive species but there is still a lot of work to be done as the fight against invasive species can never be done over night
Baviaanskloof slope	Regular follow up to root out new growth over the whole site of 2,5 square kim	192 litres mixed herbicide	1 344	3 to 4	Follow up has been done on Baviaanskloof slope to ensure total eradication of the Port Jackson Willow species
Imizamo Yethu Slope	0,5 square km (+/-)	7 litres mixed herbicide	29	4	Team moved to work in IY slope before lockdown and has been working there 1 day per week to remove Port Jackson Willow

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Invasive Clearing - Baviaanskloof

The team now consists of four men who work three or four days a week, mainly on Chapman's peak. On days when there is rain or when the bakkie is not available, they do follow up at Baviaanskloof, and have also recently begun clearing on the slopes behind Imizamo Yethu.

The team members are, from left to right: Kingston Phiri, Welile Mngqalelo, Mcdeno Nda and Given Ngadya. This is a strong team of loyal members who are passionate about clearing alien vegetation from Hout Bay's slopes to encourage the return of fynbos in these areas.



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Invasive Clearing - Baviaanskloof

After the March 2015 fire, the Thrive Invasive Clearing team started working on the Baviaanskloof slope clearing Port Jackson willow species. On average, during these four years, three or four team members have been employed. These clearers are trained to spot problem plants and eradicate them and the area has been completely cleared. Team members visit once a week to do follow ups, pull out seedling plants and remove any new invasives

On 12 Aug 2019 the clearing team alerted their supervisor about residents of Baviaanskloof slope questioning them about who they are and what are doing on the mountain. This happened shortly after the recent tragic murder of a tourist at East Fort. The team speedily arranged safety vests with Thrive branding. A letter has been given to the guard and to each team member to produce upon request, stating that the Thrive team is busy with follow up work on the Baviaanskloof slope.



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Invasive Clearing – Chapman's Peak

In June 2018 the Thrive team started clearing on Chapman's Peak Drive. 3 valleys were cleared between June and December 2018, 40 metres were cleared per week. Clearing of Port Jackson willow continued until May 2019 with follow ups once a week at Baviaanskloof. On 6 June 2019 Sandy van Hoogstraten and Roger Price went on a site walk with Zikhona Mdalase on Chapman's Peak Drive to see the work done by the Thrive team.

On 22 July 2019 Thrive Invasive Clearing team embarked on a mission to clear below the road near the day pass turn around point on the ocean side. The area is heavily infested with Port Jackson willow, and Stink bean species which are flowering already and soon will be setting seeds. The plants were well established and densely populated on a steep slope which makes it difficult for the team to walk to the starting line.

On 12 November Sandy visited again and was very pleased with the progress made.



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Invasive Clearing – Chapman's Peak

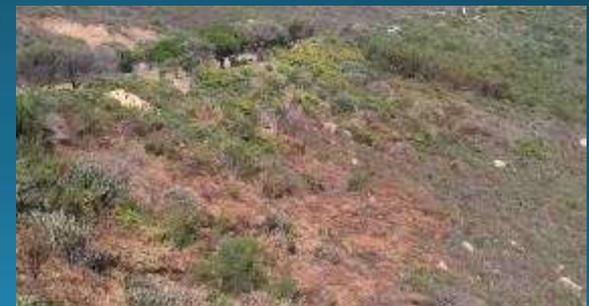
Methods used

Some of the Port Jackson willow is still young so hand pulling is applied which does not require herbicide. For bigger plants cutting and spraying is applied to ensure that the plant is totally killed. Stinkbean on the other hand have a very shallow root system and the method to kill these plants is just to pull them and uproot them and no need to use herbicide for them.

Right top: Stunning fynbos returns to Chapman's Peak

Right centre: Pretty Watsonias on previously cleared slopes

Right: Brown patches indicate areas after work done by team with indigenous plants showing as green bushes



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Invasive Clearing - CHALLENGES

- Working for Water teams and other contracted teams have often been encountered on site, by the Thrive team.
- They do not clear thoroughly, doing more harm than good.
- They chop the plants and do not use herbicide. The plants then grow back stronger, coppice and have to be hacked out.
- SANParks is erratic in their supply of herbicide. However, good relationships have now been forged between the Thrive Supervisor and SANParks personnel, which has improved communication and support
- Entilini has been supportive in allowing the Thrive bakkie and team through the toll free of charge, up to the day visit turnaround. However this has at times been erratic as well.



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Thank You

Our dedicated donors Sandy van Hoogstraten and Ian Liddle actually are not residents of Hout Bay – they live in Camps Bay.

Thrive would like to give a big public THANK YOU to this dedicated couple who have, for more than four years, financed this entire project. Sandy and Ian, Hout Bay owes you one great big vote of thanks for doing this for our precious environment.

THANK YOU SANDY AND IAN

The change that has been wrought here is most visible and has enhanced tourism and Hout Bay's environmental sustainability.



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