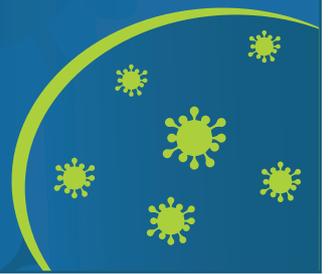




CapeNature

14-17 April 2020

COVID-19 WEEKLY UPDATE



Who would have known a couple of months ago that working from home will be the new norm? CapeNature staff have adapted quickly to this and we are still delivering on our mandate as far as possible. Unfortunately, a number of sectors have and will suffer a major financial loss due to lockdown. One of those is tourism, a sector which we have a substantial vested interest in. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to still take that break that you had to postpone, and most importantly, take it locally. And if you did not plan a break, lockdown should have taught you that nothing is ever to be taken for granted. Running and cycling, taking your dog for a walk and just spending time outside in nature, is something which you can easily access post-lockdown. We eagerly await your visits at any of our reserves.

Anti-poaching efforts continue during lockdown as part of our essential service

In addition to simply preventing illegal activities, the ongoing enforcement work will result in the maintenance of functional marine and coastal ecosystems and the associated species as well as providing flourishing populations of specific species that can be sustainably harvested by coastal communities so maintaining the existing ocean and coastal economies, e.g. Abalone, West Coast rock Lobster, line fish species.

CapeNature officials, working in partnership with the broader Phakisa operations, successfully prevented two poacher vessels from entering and illegally netting in the Bot Estuary on the night of the 15 April 2020 (attached photographs of vessels and gillnets). If left unchecked this illegal activity will harvest the great majority of estuary dependent marine fish species growing up in the estuary. It is critical that these fish such as Elf, Leervis, Kob and Mullet (harders), who enter the estuaries as juveniles are allowed to grow to maturity and return to the ocean to breed when the estuary mouth is open. These are actually the breeders that will sustain the broader ocean population.

The latest research is showing that there is a high degree of residency of these species to the ocean area relatively close to the estuary where they grew up. Ensuring healthy and productive estuaries is a CapeNature focus as this not only provides critical estuarine habitat to be enjoyed by all, but also provides valuable resources to the ocean based fisheries.



Please note that all our reserves are closed for the public during the lockdown period. Entry for any purpose is expressly forbidden in terms of the current COVID-19 national lockdown regulations. Anyone found to be in contravention of these regulations on CapeNature reserves will be guilty of a criminal offence and will be handed over to the police and be liable to a fine or imprisonment.

Do you know someone with medical experience?

The Western Cape Government launched its recruitment drive for volunteers with medical experience, on 3 April 2020. There have been 854 responses to the call and these are currently being reviewed. We are very appreciative of all of these people for offering to step up to the frontline to assist the thousands of Western Cape Government healthcare workers who have already been activated, or who stand ready to respond to increased admissions as a result of COVID-19. Those still wishing to volunteer can fill out the form available at: www.westerncape.gov.za/department-of-health/volunteer-recruitment-questionnaire.



We encourage you to STAY IN CONTACT WITH US.



We encourage you to still TAKE THAT BREAK once the lockdown has been called off and we can travel safely.

Contact Centre Numbers

061 8712539 | 074 936 2139
062 318 4987 | 061 855 4066

Emergency Numbers

<https://www.capenature.co.za/essential-services-will-continue-lockdown/>

Social Media



Email info@capenature.co.za



Most of all we encourage you to STAY HOME, STAY SAFE and STAY HEALTHY during the lockdown period.

