



THE EILAND



ISSUE: 8

APRIL 2024

Letter from the editor:

The past month has seen a decrease of crime in the area, and we would like to credit our service provider for that as they have been doing focused operations with additional vehicles throughout the area. These operations were conducted mostly at night and the increased visibility have been a proper deterrent for criminals. They also focused on the homeless and displaced people sleeping in the area in order to keep their numbers as low as possible and to identify criminals sleeping between them.

The Biodiversity team operating in Zoarvlei, has been hard at work with the removal of weeds out of the stormwater system which is a necessity at the beginning of the winter. This clearance will ensure proper drainage of the stormwater from the Vlei area through the drainage pipes and thereby preventing flooding and blockages around the Paarden Eiland area.

The PECID general cleansing team, better known as P.E.T., has been focussing on mowing of grass and cleaning up of large areas such as the open parking area next to the footbridge in Paarden Eiland Road. At the same time, the City has been deploying extra teams into the area to tackle the road infrastructure maintenance. The changes that were made is clearly visible and adds to the beautification and image that we would want for the area.

Regards

Chris Matthee – CID Manager PECID

Like and follow us on Facebook.

(Cut and paste into your browser)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095721544327>



**EXCELLERATE
SERVICES**



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



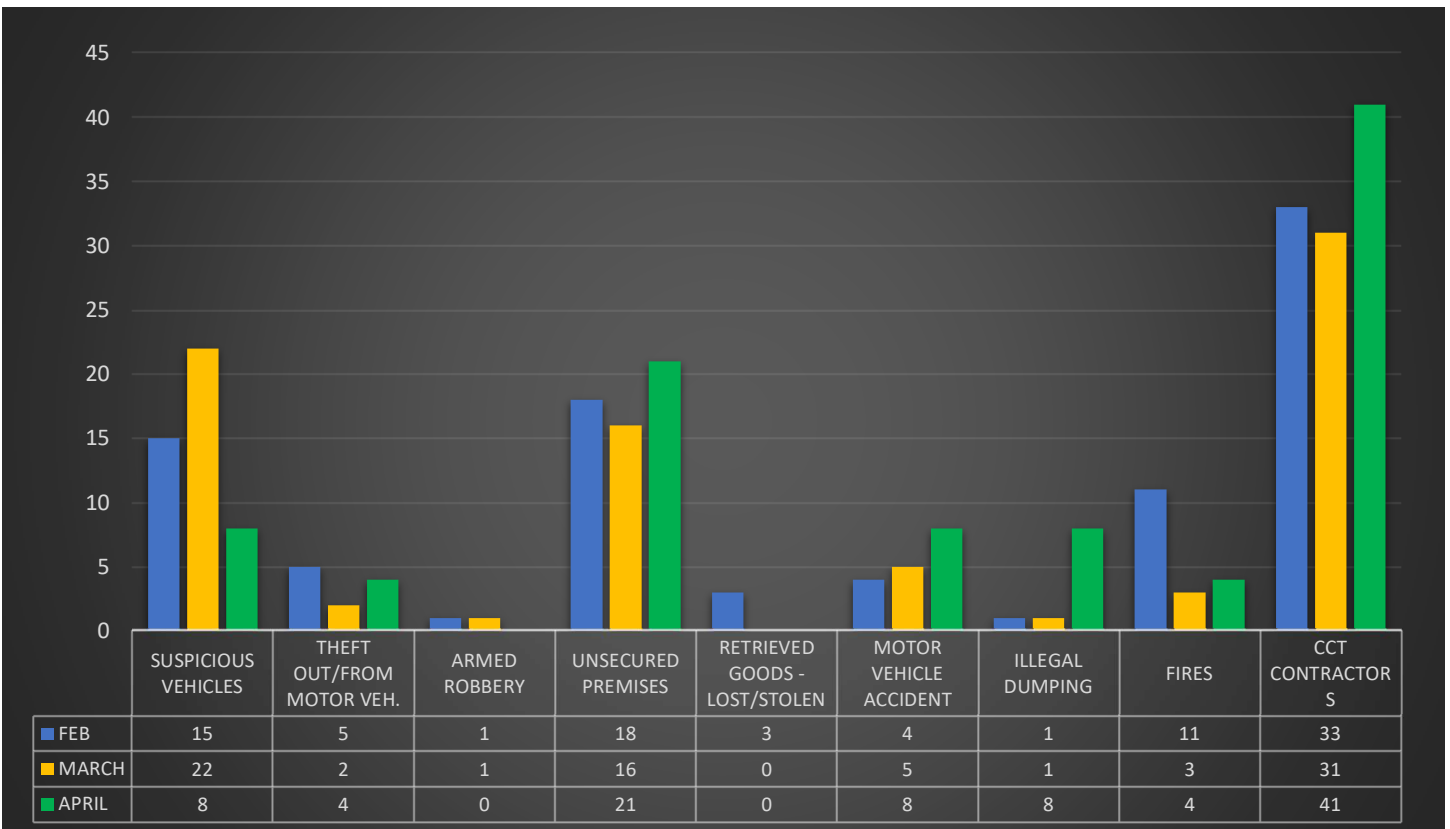
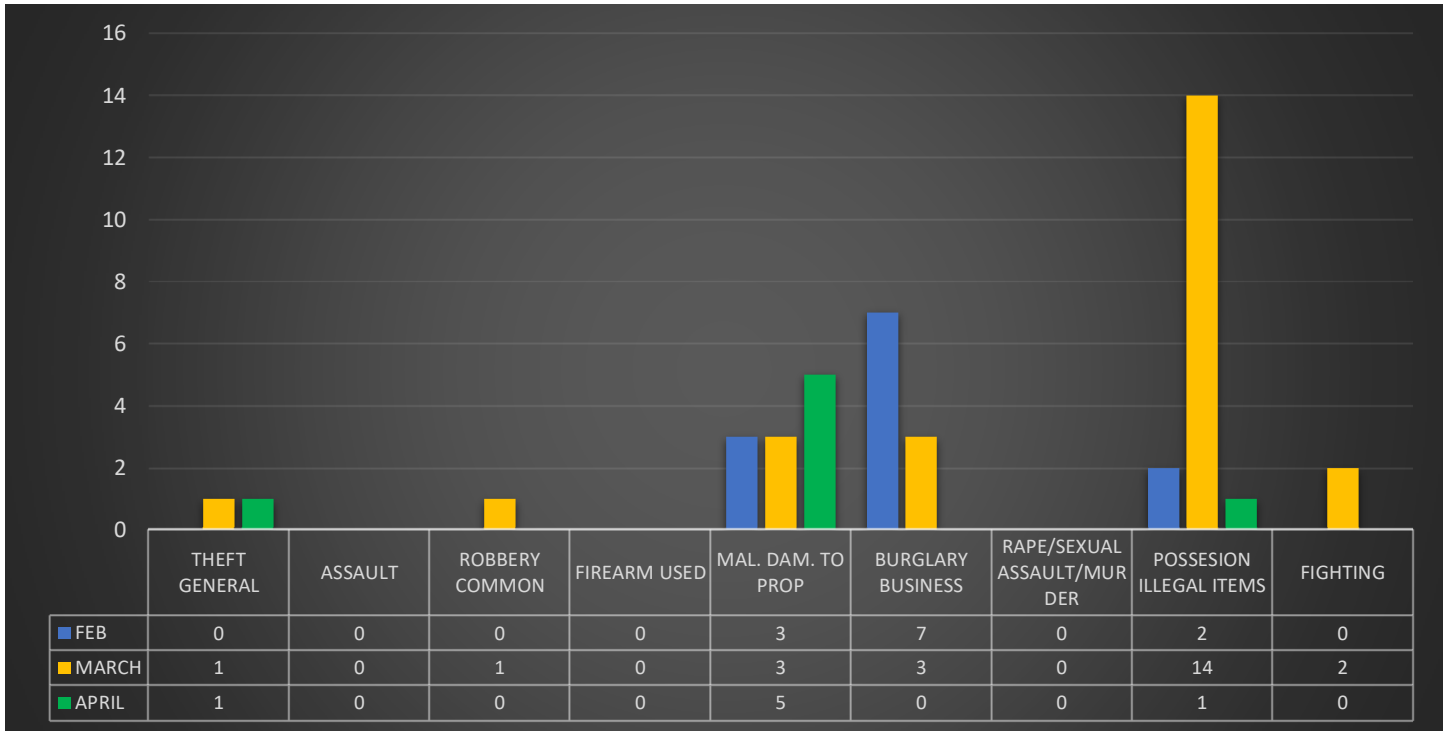
FACEBOOK POST

Our P.E.T. (Paarden Eiland Environmental Team) bush cutter team have been hard at work during the past couple of weeks mowing grass areas throughout Paarden Eiland. From the largest area next to the FW De Klerk Boulevard to the smallest one, they have really tried to get the job done properly. This has been quite a lengthy and exhausting job, and several hundreds of bags was filled and taken to the dumpsite in Woodstock. Besides the grass, these areas were also full of rubbish that was removed.

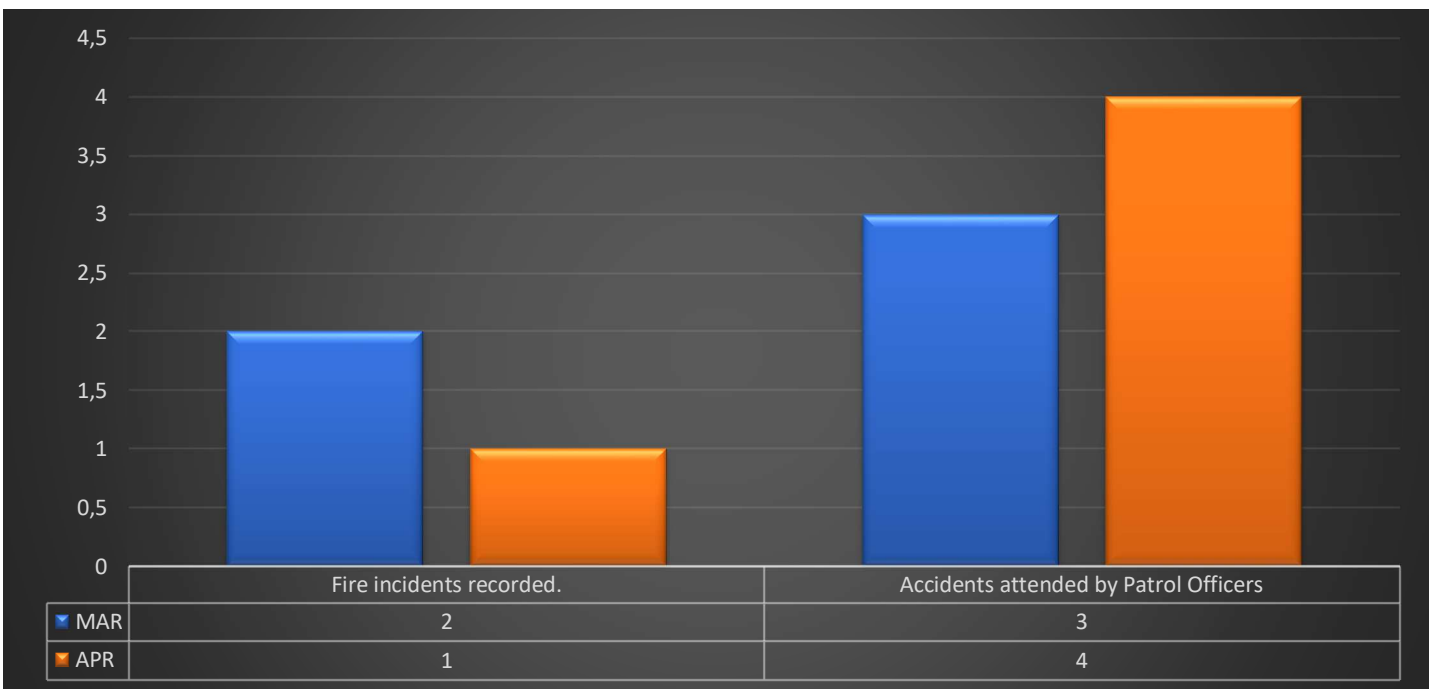
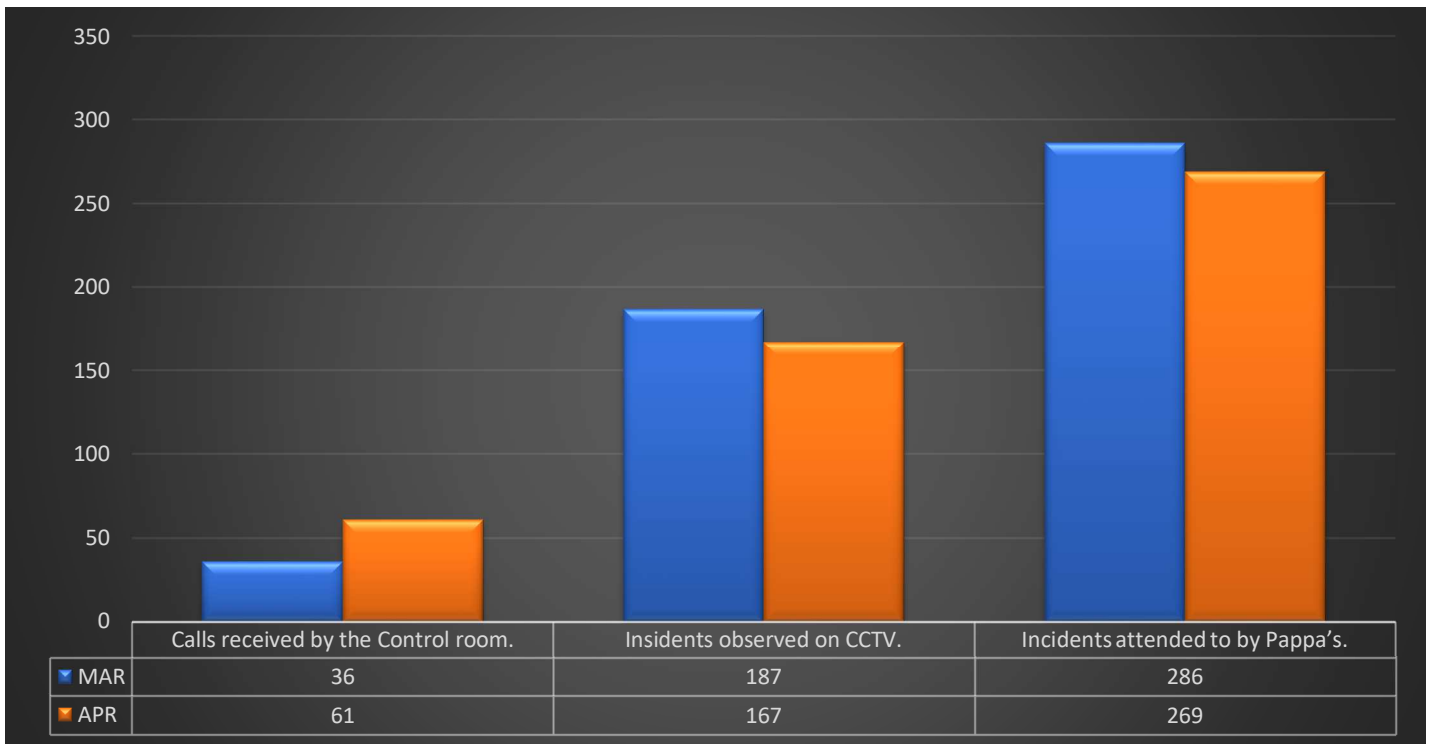
PECID would like to thank the team for their efforts and dedication to the beautification of Paarden Eiland.



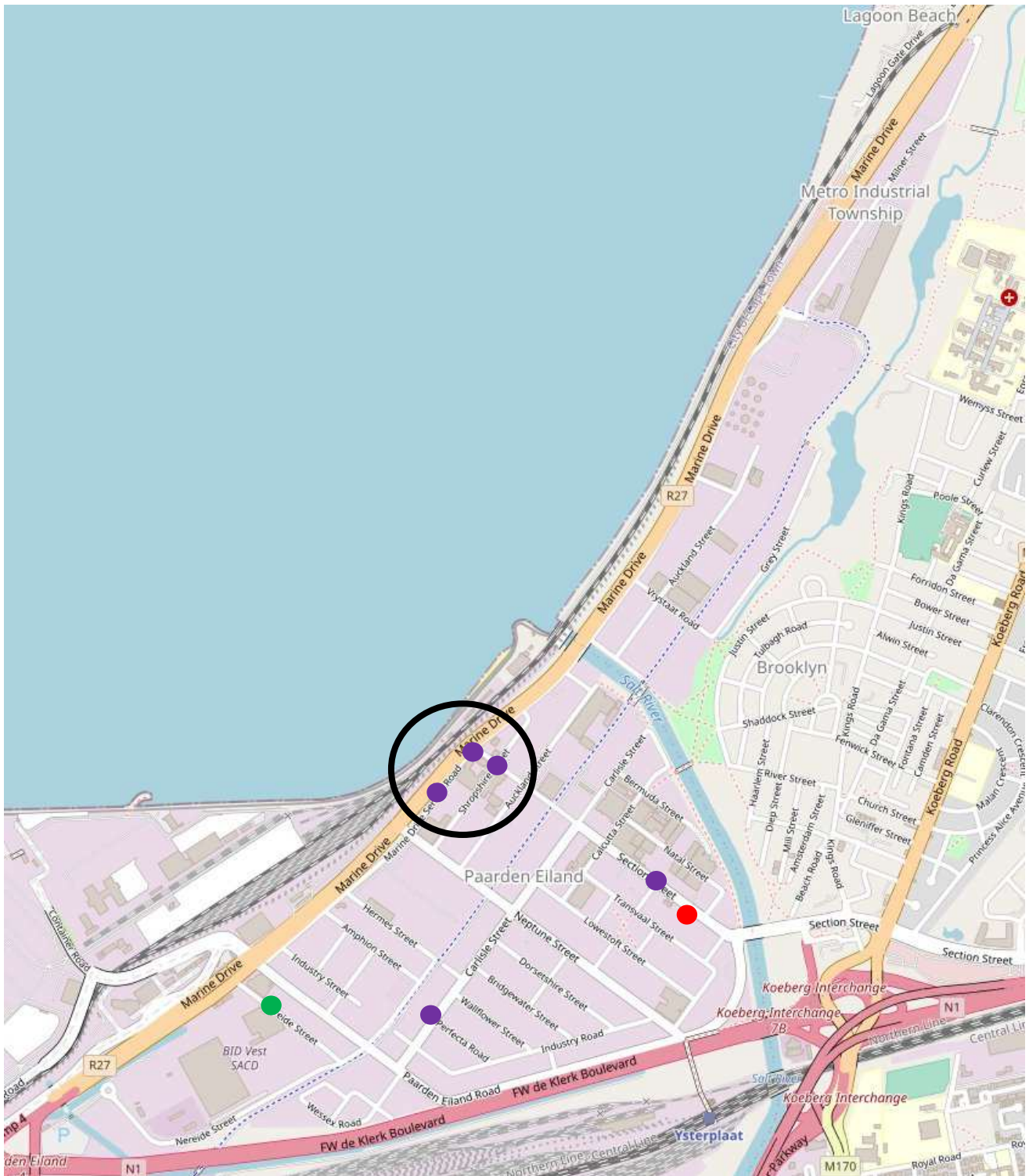
PAARDEN EILAND STATISTICS COMBINED JAN/FEB/MAR AS RECORDED BY THE CONTROL ROOM



EXCELLERATE CONTROL ROOM CAPTURE FOR MARCH/APRIL



SAPS CRIME STATISTICS – CASES OPENED FOR APRIL 2024



- Theft out of/from vehicle.
- Burglary business.
- Robbery aggravated.
- High possibility theft out of/from motor vehicle area.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



SPOTTED IN PAARDEN EILAND

Egyptian Geese



The Egyptian geese have long necks, long pink eyes, pink bill with blacktails and brown patches encircling each eye with beautiful colours of amber and turquoise under their wings. They are locally indigenous to the Western Cape, which means they have always occurred in Cape Town. Native to Africa, but place of origin is Egypt, and they were considered sacred by ancient Egyptians. They typically eat seeds, grass, and plant stems and occasionally locusts and worms. Geese don't have teeth, instead they have a variety of apparatus in their mouth to sieve, rip, and

process food. They like to roost and nest near wetlands where they also feed. The nest is built from reeds, grass, and leaves. The female lays her eggs, and the gander is very protective over the nest. Anywhere between 5- 10 eggs are laid and the incubating period is between 28 – 30 days. Both male and female rear the young chicks. They breed only once a year between February to June. The goslings are strong enough to graze on small aquatic invertebrates, especially freshwater plankton. The males and females are similar in appearance, but females are normally smaller, they have different calls, the males make a hoarse hissing sound while the females make a honking sound. Predators are lions, hyenas, crocodiles, and vultures but the deadliest of all these is humans. They have a lifespan of 15 years but when humans rear them or look after them, they can live up to 35 years. When you see an Egyptian Geese standing on one leg, they are not injured, they stand like that because they are cold and keeping one leg tucked up underneath their body helps prevent the loss of body heat.



Paarden Eiland has plenty of Egyptian geese and over the years we have had numerous calls from companies concerned about the safety of the goslings and parents. PECID has saved and relocated most of them to a safe area and even stopped traffic so they can cross over to the safety of the canal. Thank you to all concerned. So, remember.... Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

ALIEN VEGETATION CLEARING

As April ended, our focus remained on clearing aquatic invaders that had taken root in Zoarvlei's main watercourse. One of our key accomplishments this month was the successful removal of several truckloads of bulrush reeds (*Typha capensis*). Working closely with contractors from the Invasive Species Unit (ISU), we made significant progress in managing the reed population.

The proliferation of bulrush reeds has posed significant challenges, as they often cause blockages in stormwater outlets, increasing the risk of flooding in neighbouring residential areas. In addition to bulrush reeds, efforts were targeted to other invasive aquatic plants such as red sesbane, Port Jackson, and water primrose. Of particular concern is water primrose, classified as a category 1a invader according to NEMBA's invasive species list.

Despite the challenges, our dedicated team of contractors has shown remarkable progress. Moving forward, we are committed to continuing our alien clearing efforts throughout the coming months. A great thank you goes to all the hands that made the clearing possible.

SEED SMOKING

Since last spring, we have been collecting seeds from various fynbos plant species across the reserve's surrounding green spaces. Many of the fynbos species we've collected require a process called smoke germination to properly sprout and grow. Smoke germination mimics the effects of wildfires, which are essential for triggering the germination of these seeds in their natural habitat.

During smoke germination, the seeds are exposed to the smoke of burning fynbos vegetation. This process breaks down the seed coat, allowing moisture to penetrate and initiate germination.

In addition to smoke germination, we are also preparing and cleaning seeds for restoration. Some species will be planted as seedlings, while others will be directly sown into Zoarvlei's restoration site. With two years' worth of seeds collected, we are gearing up for a productive restoration season. During the month, we successfully started smoke germination for a portion of the collected seeds. This important step brings us one step closer to our restoration goals.

FLAMINGO RETURN TO ZOARVLEI

We're excited to announce the annual arrival of a large flock of lesser flamingos to our beloved reserve! These elegant birds have made their yearly visit and can be spotted gracefully wading in the main water body. The presence of these lesser flamingos is a rare and beautiful sight. While Zoarvlei is known for having an array of aquatic birdlife, sightings of large flamingo flocks are not guaranteed, making their arrival all the more special.

Flamingos are also known for their vibrant pink plumage, which comes from the carotenoid pigments in their diet. The more carotenoids they consume, the brighter their feathers become. Flamingos play a crucial role in wetland ecosystems. By feeding on algae and other organisms, they help to control water quality and prevent overgrowth. We invite all members of the community to join us in welcoming these magnificent birds to Zoarvlei.



ALIEN VEGETATION CLEARING



SEED SMOKING



PROTEA SPECIES SPOTTED IN THE VLEI



FLAMINGOS IN THE VLEI



EXCELLERATE SERVICES – SAFETY TIPS

Because of the late sunrise during the winter, we have added some tips on commuting to and from work safely.

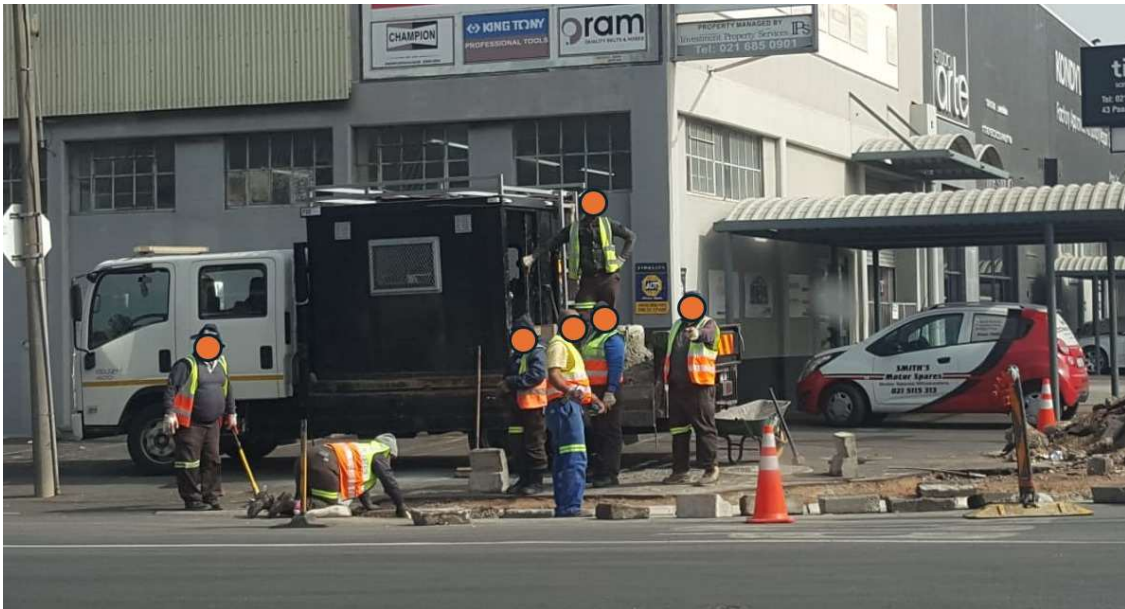
1. Awareness is your first line of defence – be aware of yourself and your surroundings.
2. Avoid walking alone, always try walking in a group even if you don't know the people you are walking with. This will deter any criminal from trying to attack you. Try to befriend other people using the route that you are using, it will be to your benefit should you be attacked.
3. Trust your instincts: if something feels wrong, it most probably is.
4. Avoid headphones: you need your ears to hear what is going on around you.
5. When walking alone, don't talk on your cell phone – you will be distracted and not aware of what is going on around you. Also, keep your phone out of sight.
6. Strap your bag across your chest and hold it tight, without looking nervous. Keep the zip opening towards you. Remember, backpacks can easily be tampered without you noticing it.
7. Do not carry too many packages at once – you must always have clear visibility and freedom of motion.
8. Do not wear expensive jewellery.
9. Do not carry large amounts of cash and avoid drawing money when walking alone, especially at night.
10. Stick to well-lit and busy streets. Avoid dark areas, parking lots or alleys.
11. Don't wear shoes or clothing that restricts your movements.
12. Carry a noisy friend – a whistle! Carry it around your wrist or in your hand, it will not be of any use in your bag.
13. If you find a person following you or acting suspicious, run into the nearest shop and call the police.

Dealing with cash in your business

1. Alternate the days and times on which you deposit cash.
2. Never make your bank visits public, even to people close to you.
3. Do not openly display the money you are depositing while you are standing in the bank queue.
4. Avoid carrying money bags, briefcases or openly displaying your deposit receipt book.
5. It's advisable to identify another branch nearby that you can visit to ensure that your banking pattern is not easily recognisable or detected.
6. If the amount of cash you are regularly depositing is increasing as your business grows, consider using the services of a cash management company.
7. Refrain from giving wages to your contract or casual labourers in full view of the public, rather make use of wage accounts that can be provided by your bank.
8. Refrain from driving to the bank in your company branded vehicle on a typical "pay day".
9. Consider arranging for electronic transfers of wages to your contract workers or casual labourers personal bank accounts or using the "cash send" facility.



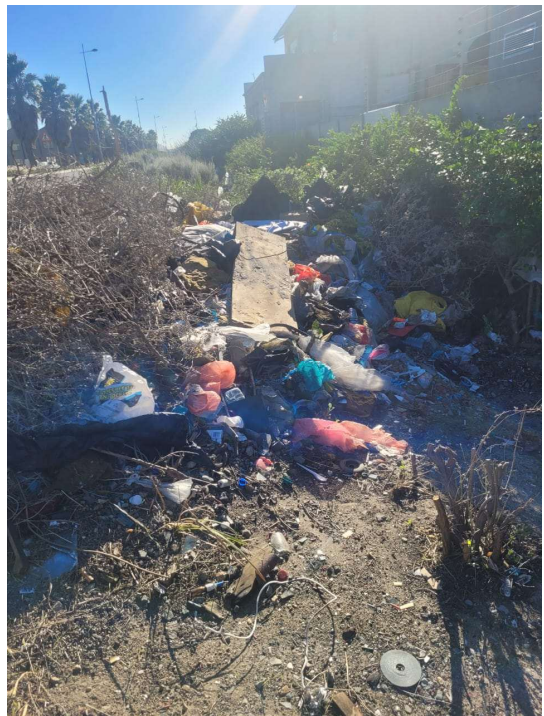
CITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING IN OUR AREA



Tree trimming – City Parks Department



ILLEGAL DUMPING AND DISPLACED PEOPLE



EXCELLERATE
SERVICES



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

