

THE VALUE OF CAPE FLATS SAND FYNBOS (CFSF) AT TOKAI PARK

14% CFSF remains, <1% conserved



Erica verticillata, Whorl Heath (🌿), previously extinct, has been reintroduced into the wild at Tokai Park as part of an active restoration programme

Tokai is one of the richest plant areas known on Earth:



Over 440 plant species have been recorded in CFSF at Tokai



147 plant species threatened with extinction in CFSF (36 added in the last 10 years alone)



Several species are already extinct (e.g. Whorl Heath, Cape Flats Gorse, Pearl Heath, Showy Heath)

No other city on Earth has so many species threatened with extinction



According to Purcell's historical records, we may expect over 500 plant species at Tokai



Passive restoration at Tokai Park has been a great success, with over 350 plant species recovering from seedbanks



Seedbanks have persisted for over 100 years under pine plantations, recovering most spectacularly in areas prescribe burned



Wildlife, such as Cape Fox, Porcupine, Caracal, snakes and wild bees, is now recorded here

THREATS

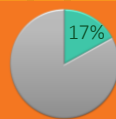
These maps show the City of Cape Town (CT) in black; growing rapidly, consuming 12 km² of new land each year and 1/3 of our CFSF in total. They show only urban transformation. Agricultural transformation is responsible for us losing the other 2/3.

CFSF (in orange on maps) is endemic to CT (it occurs nowhere else). It is a lowland Fynbos type, occurring only at altitudes of 20–200m. These flats are favoured for development.

Poor management (a lack of prescribed burns) and the retention of pines pose major threats to the CFSF at Tokai.



OUR RESPONSIBILITY





The 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets

South Africa is a signatory to the Rio Conventions and Aichi Targets, and is committed to conserving 17% of each vegetation type for future generations (target ) and preventing threatened species extinction (target .



Only 14% of the area of CFSF remains, but less than 2% is in good condition, and only 1% is conserved.



Tokai Park contains a large part of the CFSF (1%) that can be conserved and restored (targets  and ). It is therefore a site of national importance and, because of its species richness, global significance.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Support the active and passive restoration of CFSF at Tokai Park. CFSF must be zoned and conserved, and degraded areas restored. Restoration = alien clearing and natural fire regimes being re-established (prescribed burns).

Fire is crucial in allowing plants to rebuild their seedbanks and establish minimum viable populations for CFSF to remain self-sustaining. Tokai is special as, worldwide, only it and Blouberg Nature Reserve are suited to long-term CFSF conservation.

Competing land uses (such as shaded walks) need to be moved to less sensitive habitats (e.g. the many green belts which have alternative, shaded walking routes in the proximity of Tokai Park).



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TOKAI PARK