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This report is based on the activities undertaken by the Liesbeek Maintenance Project (LMP), from the period of the 1st to 30th June 2023. The LMP is a project established by the Friends of the Liesbeek (FoL) which seeks to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity and public interest of the Liesbeek River and its surrounding environs.

HIGHLITES AND CHALLENGES

- Rainfall and subsequent flooding events hampered and disrupted the bulk of June's POA. Most POAs ended up being half day jobs or disrupted tasks, however, the team managed to complete all emergency tasks delegated in the month.
- Wetland rehab work was completed satisfactorily.
- The wetland project site's continued flood impact mitigation was monitored. There was no evident damage to the plants propagated at the wetland site.
- Fauna (birds and mammals) thrived at the wetland site
- Sonwabile Vetman resigned from the NQF 2 Environmental Practices internship learnership.



SUMMARY

- June's Plans of Actions (POAs) were planned for the continuation of the Wild ginger ([Siphonochilus aethiopicus](#)) and river bank weed control both in Observatory and Mowbray respectively. ESIs maintenance work was also planned for the wetland site/Levi's patch slopes, Newlands - Rondebosch reaches as emergency work during rain affected days and/or in an event of flooding in Obs and Mowbray lower reaches.
- Due to rain and flooding, Newlands - Rondebosch maintenance was only undertaken, with about 40x40 square meters of Wild ginger cleared in Mowbray.
- Only 69 refuse bags were collected in June and no notable pollution incidents were observed.
- There was no team player award in June as the bulk of the team's POA and work rhythm were both rainy days or flooding affected. Generally the team good moral was not consistent throughout with as a result none of the team were outright deserving of the award.

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Although the bulk of June's POA was not archived as per work plans because of relentless rainfall and floods, in June the team removed Wild ginger along a small portion of the river in Mowbray as part of the maintenance effort to fight back this invasive aquatic plant. Moreover ESI maintenance was undertaken at Sans Souci, Boundary Rd, pathway along the Newlands Trail to Rouwkoop Rd and Levi's patches removing annual weeds and grasses as well as cutting overhanging branches from trees and bushes. Additionally, the team cleared silt that had been deposited on the pathway below the white bridge leading to Rouwkoop and Ednam road. Furthermore as a subsequence of the floods, some drift branches had been hauled off the river canals in Newlands as a risk mitigation factor.

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ABOVE: Some examples of the sites where the team completed tasks in June; - Top Left - The team removed deposited sand along the pathway (near Ednam/Rouwkoop Rd) north east of the WPRU in Newlands; Middle top - Wild ginger clearing in Mowbray, north of Gloucester Rd. Top right - Team preparing the Levi patch for additional indigenous species planting as part of the wetland rehab project. Middle left - Pre-path maintenance at the Newlands trail. Middle - Drift wood exemplified post flooding. Middle right - Some of the drift wood and dead tree branches collected along the river banks of cut off overhanging trees in Newlands.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

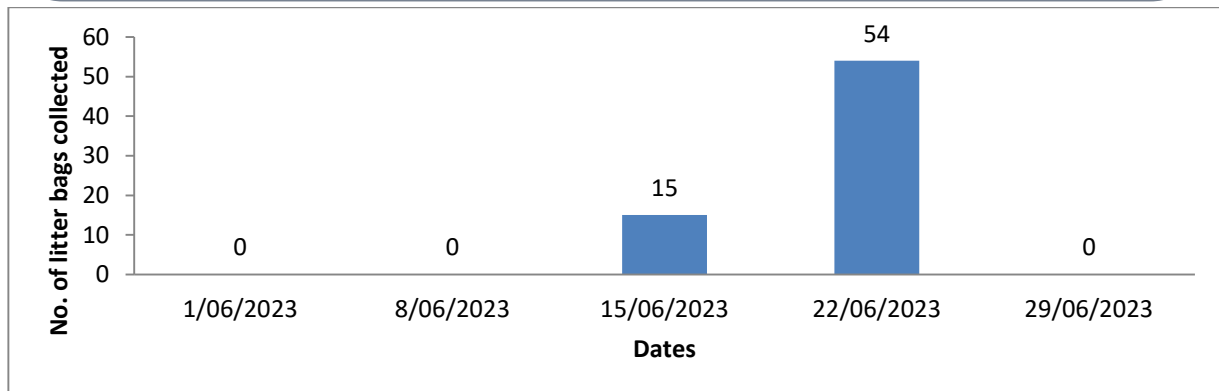
- The LMP continued and completed the follow up planting of additional indigenous plants at the wetland site north of the N2. The surplus of these plants were also planted at the Sans Souci patch to improve ground cover on small bare patches that have lost ground cover due to shading and extreme dry summer heat conditions.



ABOVE: Some team staff planting additional plants left from the wetland rehab project.

POLLUTION & WEEKLY THURSDAYLITTER RUN ACCOUNTING

A minimum of 69 refuse bags were collected from the Liesbeek River in June owing to relentless rainy days and flooding. Half the planned litter runs were not completed as a consequence. Moreover, as was the previous month, no key note pollution incidents occurred.



ABOVE: The number of litter bags collected from the Liesbeek and environs in June.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- a) The YeSYouth interns and Sabelo Memani attended separate workshops in relation to the YES programme about interns progress.
- b) CVs for YesYouth Interns were completed by Sabelo Memani. Additionally, new CVs for staff are being developed using the YesYouth format, which is simplistic but comprehensive.
- c) Staff attended two mini-workshops about wetland rehabilitation processes and followed by a video session and discussion about our recent wetland project. The workshops aimed to (i) aid the team's understanding of urban rehabilitation projects by providing on the job experience and workshopping opportunities (ii) to use rainy days positively and not lose work days during rain affected days.
- d) Sabelo Memani attended a site meeting with Personal Trust, with the view to improve the aesthetics of the plot sandwiched by the slipway north of the Belmont road and the Rondebosch village. Plans are being developed for a mini site rehabilitation project to be funded by Personal Trust.
- e) Sonwabile Vetman resigned from the NQF 2 Environmental Practices internship learnership for a better financial opportunity elsewhere.

VEHICLE MANAGEMENT

- a) Start km - 188 804 and End Km - 188 895
- b) Start fuel : Full tank and end Quarter tank
- c) Fuel Paid for R 1000

PLANS FOR NEXT MONTH

- a) OBS and Mowbray river bank maintenance;
- b) Belmont Rd bridge maintenance;
- c) Regular litter runs.;
- d) Wetland progress monitoring and seed dispersal;

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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