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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 31st May 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

- The LMP team removed and controlled the bulk of Wild ginger and EDRR (early detection rapid response) species in Observatory.
- The N2 wetland project has been initiated with support from the City of Cape Town (CCT), Cape Bird Club and Fynbos Life.
- Rainfall affected the POA this month.

SUMMARY

- In May the Plans of Actions (POAs) concentrated on eradication [EDRR](#) species and Wild Ginger ([Siphonochilus aethiopicus](#)) along the riverbanks in Obs, ESIs maintenance (Newlands & Levi patches) and the majority planned person day hours was for the wetland project in Observatory. EDDR IAPs removed included Madeira vines ([Anredera cordifolia](#)), Balloon vine ([Cardiospermum glandiflorum](#)) and annual weeds such as Black jack ([Bidens pilosa](#)).
- The earthworks on the N2 wetland project began early in May and were concluded on the first week. This was possible as a result of thorough planning between the collaboration the Friends, Cape Bird Club, City of Cape Town and FynbosLife.
- Approximately 112 refuse bags were collected in May and no notable pollution incidents were observed.
- Qhamani Ntlahla was nominated and voted as the top performing team member this month.

INFRASTRUCURE MAINTENANCE

ESI maintenance was undertaken in May at the Rouwkoop and Levi's patches removing annual weeds and grasses.



ABOVE: The **ABOVE:** Some examples of the ESI maintenance work completed by the LMP team in May including the wetland project work carried out at the N2 wetland/retention pond in Obs:Right; The team controlling EDDR species and vines along the river bank in OBS and Left: ESI maintenance green biomass collected in OBS at the Levis Patch and river banks.; (Photo: Mncekeleli Klaas, 2023).

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The earthwork and, grass and weeds removal was the only special project undertaken in May. This followed the clearing of a thick stand of Cockle burr ([Xanthium strumarium](#)) and Thorn apple ([Datura stramonium](#)) at the N2 pond in preparation for the sites clearing of Kikuyi grass ([Chenrus clandestinus/ Pennisetum clandestinum](#)) and Buffalo grass ([Stenotaphrum secundatum](#)). The Sabelo Memani spent three days monitoring and guiding the excavation process.



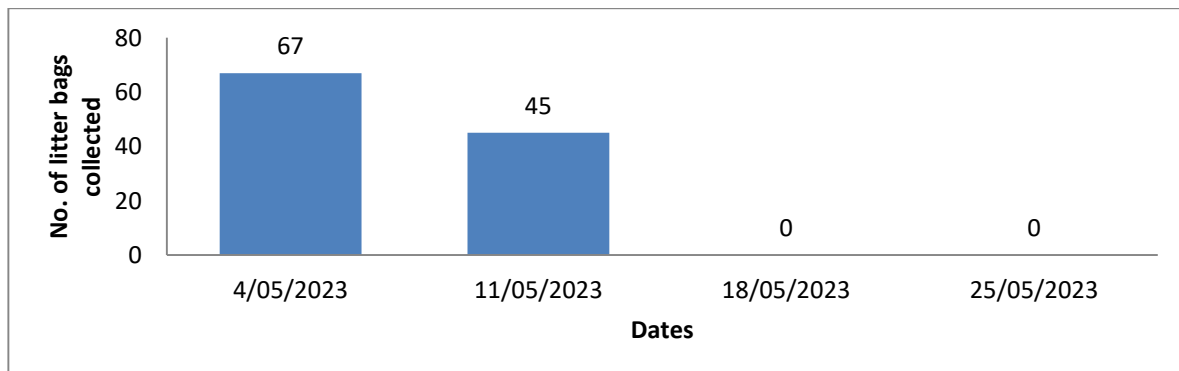
Top Right: A before example of the N2 pond earthworks showing the invasive annual weeds encroachment. Top Left: During the wetlands earthworks. Bottom: Post wetland earthworks, showing the wetland design within the pond. Bottom: (Photos, Sabelo Memani, 2023)



ABOVE: The LMP team planting some obligate and facultative wetland plants at the newly scrapped retention pond (Photo; Sabelo Memani, 2023).

POLLUTION & WEEKLY THURSDAYLITTER RUN ACCOUNTING

112 refuse bags were collected from the Liesbeek River in May and an additional POA planned runs were rain affected. Moreover, there were no key note pollution incidents that occurred in the month.



ABOVE 1: The number of litter bags collected from the Liesbeek over a four week period in May.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- a) Nothing major to report on except: staff were trained on plant propagation techniques.
- b) Qhamani Ntlahtla received the inaugural team player of the month. The awarding of this award is to encourage staff to (i) Create strong work ethic in the team, (ii) To recognise and award hard working individuals, but primarily is to (iii) provide incentives to individuals owing to low wage increments related funding constraints faced by FOL who is not in a favourable position to provide meaningful wage increases to staff because of the lack of available funding. The awarding of the team member solely rested on the team nominating who they thought worked hard the most in the month and subsequently provided reasons for the nomination...



"Qhamani has been an invaluable addition to the team. He works hard, is diligent, a team player supportive of others. His attitude to work is always positive." - **Liebeek Maintenance Team**

"I thank the team and committee. Being awarded this award shows me how hard work and dedication can produce results. It means a lot to me because if the team is able to recognize my hard work, it implies that I have been projecting a positive impact throughout the team." - **Qhamani Ntlahtla.**

PLANS FOR NEXT MONTH

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the committee and our main sponsors SAB Newlands Brewery, ABAX investments and Tuffy as well as other associated stakeholders for continued support to Liesbeek Maintenance Project.