

Integrated Reserve Management Plan Altona Investments

Altona Conservation Area (ACA) is a property of approximately 199.82 ha, located north of the N1 national road and east of Brandwacht, near Worcester in the Western Cape.

A large portion of the property is in near pristine condition and supports Breede Shale Renosterveld, a vulnerable vegetation type and Robertson Karoo a vegetation type regarded as Least Threatened (LT). It is however an interesting mesic form of Robertson Karoo with Renosterveld elements. Most of the ACA is identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) for vegetation type threshold and as a locality for restricted plant taxa. The site supports at least 12 Red Listed vertebrates (five mammal, three bird, three reptile and one amphibian species). Of greater importance are 20 identified endemic invertebrates that actually / potentially occur on site.

Worcester lies in the Breede River Valley east of the Du Toitskloof and Slanghoek Mountain Range and is therefore within the rain-shadow of these mountains. The property is characterised by its climatic extremes. The summers are very hot with daytime maximum averages in the low 30°C's with some days in late February exceeding 40°C. In winter snow often falls on the surrounding mountains.

The underlying geology of Altona is mainly shale of the Noree Group of Malmesbury Shale, an ancient rock type that weathers to form clay-rich loamy or sandy-loam soils with a high nutrient status.

This management plan describes and provides guidelines, actions and activities that will ensure that the long term objectives of the Altona Reserve are effectively met. The plan will ensure management continuity through the formulation of clear objectives, the scheduling of actions and activities and by providing specific management guidelines. By assigning responsibility to a particular person for implementing management activities and through the costing and scheduling of those activities the plan provides a management mechanism whereby all actions undertaken can be monitored annually.

A management plan is a dynamic document and should be updated annually as more information becomes available. However this management plan focuses on gathering baseline data and the implementation of a few high priority projects.