Status of wetland conservation in Tshwane
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Colbyn Wetland Nature Reserve
Wetland Fountains Resort
(Fountains Valley)
Wetland conservation in Tshwane

- Many wetlands in Tshwane have been damaged by development impacts and are lost (buildings, roads, etc).
- 31 Important wetlands in Tshwane has been identified, demarcated and mapped on the Tshwane Geo web GIS data system.
- Some of the wetlands are already protected within a proclaimed nature reserve (Rietvlei, Colbyn, Fountains, Austen Roberts, Chamberlain etc.)
Wetland conservation in Tshwane

• Most wetlands in Tshwane need physical protection (fences) to prevent illegal activities (sand mining, dumping, squatting, security etc.)

• Assessment of wetland conditions and implementation of rehabilitation plans still have to be conducted

• All our wetlands need more information signs for awareness
Wetland conservation in Tshwane (continued)

• Up until now no budget was allocated for wetland management specifically (It has been requested)

• Residence knowledge on wetlands is poor and educational awareness have to be conducted.

• Insensitive development applications are still allowed

• Fragmentation of natural areas by roads and development initiatives took place
Wetland conservation in Tshwane (continued)

- Dumping of building rubble in water courses happen and effluents contaminate water courses
- Changes in storm water hydrology happen unnoticed
- Water pollution is not under control
- Criminal activities are launched from wetland areas
- Alien invasive plants encroach into wetland areas
Challenges

• The control and management of increasing insensitive development applications from developers and contractors

• Continuous fragmentation of urban nature areas divided by roads and development initiatives

• Poor support from metro police to implement public amenity by-laws

• Impact from the building industry on Tshwane`s nature areas (dumping of building rubble in water courses, effluents contaminated water etc.)

• Storm water pollution and impact on the urban hydrology
Challenges

- Educational awareness related to wetlands
- City planning not according to ecological boundaries
- Roads fragmented nature areas
- Water and sanitation are not sensitive to environmental impacts
- Budget allocation for wetlands
Riparian zones not protected, no buffer
Local Governmental Wetland Management Plan for Tshwane

- Physical protection (demarcate/ fence off)
- Legal protection (proclaimed)
- ID all threats to the existing wetland
- Implement Norms and Standards for wetland management
- ID benefits to provide resilience against climate change
- Assess wetland condition and implement rehabilitation plans
- Promote awareness (educational programs, booklet etc.)
- Brand wetlands with info signage
- Establish wetland forums/ programs
Operating procedures to manage wetlands in Tshwane

- Maintain fences to protect wetland against illegal activities (sand mining, dumping, squatting, uncontrolled fires etc.)
- Erect signage with information regarding the wetland
- ID all water inlets to the wetland and monitor for pollution impacts
- Construct pollution traps at all water inlets
- Monitor water quality and improve it with oxygen traps (aeration of water)
- ID and rehabilitate erosion sites
- Eradicate all alien invasive plants
- ID and construct visitor infrastructure (path ways, bird hide, parking etc.)
Birders enjoying Colbyn Wetland Nature Reserve
• Thank you