



Table Mountain National Park

*A Park for All, Forever 'n Park vir Almal, vir Altyd
iPaka yoluntu lonke ngonaphakade*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

Park Management Plan Revision

Conservation Development Framework Revision

Tokai-Cecilia Management Framework Preparation

Introduction.

Thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the TMNP Management Plan revision process.

The purpose of this document is to outline the three planning documents that the TMNP is currently reviewing/developing and to outline the related public engagement process. The three documents (*Park management Plan, Conservation Development Framework and Tokai-Cecilia Management Framework*) are all interrelated management tools that will guide the management of the Park into the future.

Open days will be held for the purpose of presenting these draft documents for public comment:

Date: Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th August 2006

Time: 14h00 to 19h00

Venue: The Main Hall, Chrysalis Academy, Porter School, Tokai

A Map to the location can be found on the last page of this document.

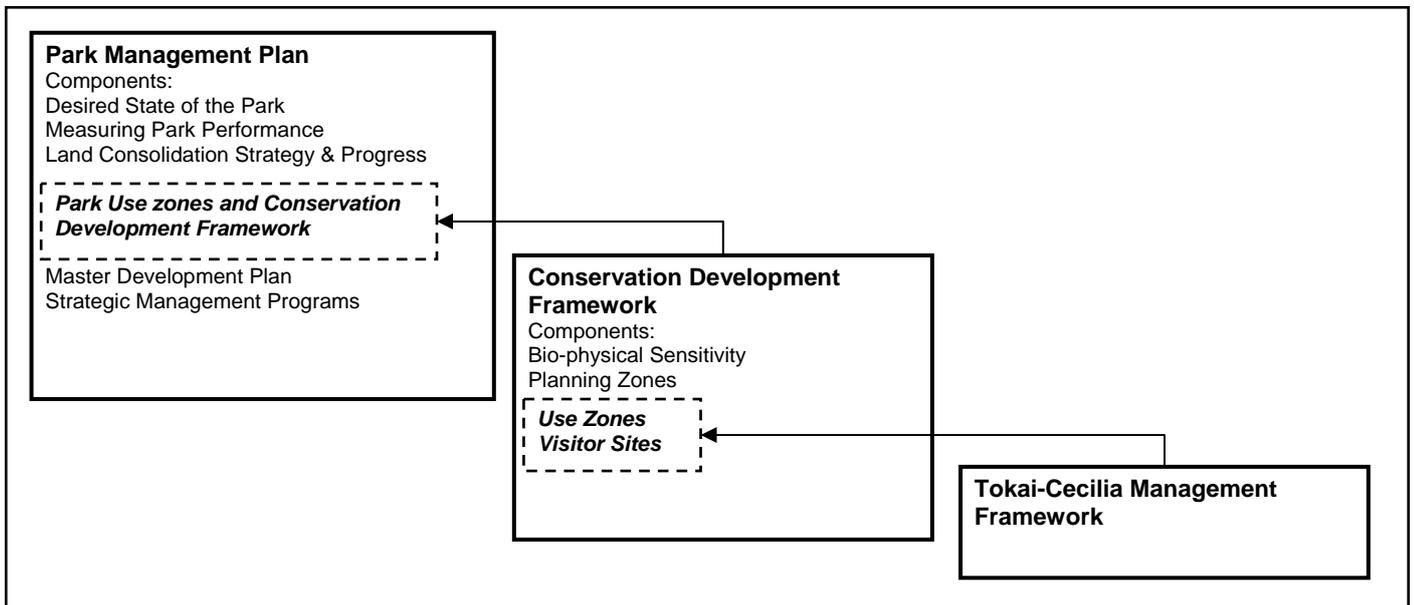


Figure 1. The relationship between the Park Management Plan, the Conservation Development Framework and the Tokai-Cecilia Management Framework

1. Park Management Plan

Introduction

The Park Management Plan is the overarching document that will guide the management of the Park until 2010. It will contain inputs from both the Conservation Development Framework and the Tokai-Cecilia Management Framework. The Park Plan must conform to the requirements and standards set out in the National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003.

1.1 Background to the current Park Management Plan revision

During the process leading to the proclamation of the then Cape Peninsula National Park in 1998, South African National Parks (SANParks) specifically committed itself to consultation with the people of the Cape Metropolitan Area in the formulation of an Integrated Environmental Management System (IEMS) that would guide the management of the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP). Two important documents to arise out of this process were the *Park Management Policy* and the *Park Strategic Management Plan*.

The purpose of the *Park Management Policy* was to:

- Define a vision, principles, goals and objectives for the management of the Park;
- Guide park management to strive for the wellbeing of the ecological, economic and social environment of the Park;
- Accommodate the interests of stakeholders of the Park; and,
- Guide the formulation of a Strategic Management Plan, which will in turn inform annual plans and management procedures.

The *Strategic Management Plan* indicated where management would focus its efforts in 12 Key Result Area over a 5 year period.

A key feature of the IEMS system was the annual review of its operational plans and a 5-year review period for the Park Management Policy and Strategic Management Plan.

With the proclamation of the National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003 (NEMA: PAA) in 2005, the IEMS approach needed to be aligned to the requirements of this Act. In essence, the Park Management Policy has been superseded by a 'National Coordinated Policy Framework' as required by Section 41 (2) of the Act, and a Park Management Plan has replaced the Strategic Management Plan in terms of Section 41 (1) of the Act. Provision is made for the development of a 'Desired State of the Park' which sets out the long-term vision, mission, values and objectives at the Park level.

The overall principles of *continuous learning* and *adaptive management* have been integrated into the cyclic review processes of these documents (see Figure 2).

1.2 Aim & Purpose of the Park Management Plan

The National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003 requires that SANParks produces management plans for all national parks in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The overall aim of the Park Management Plan as per the Protected Areas Act is to:

- ensure the Park is managed according to the reason it was declared;
- be a tool to guide management of a protected area at all levels, from the basic operations to the level of the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;
- be a tool which enables the evaluation of progress against set objectives;
- be a document which can be used to set up key performance indicators for Park staff;
- set the intent of the Park, and provide explicit evidence for the financial support required for the Park, and
- provide for the scoping process required as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for development in the Park

Land Consolidation Strategy & Progress

The decision to establish the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) was taken by the Government on 3 April 1996 when Cabinet adopted the recommendation:

1. To appoint South African National Parks (SANParks) as the future management authority for the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) with the intention to proclaim the CPPNE as a National Park; and
2. For Ministers who have an interest in such a proclamation or administer property in the CPPNE to support the abovementioned intention and co-operate in the process to establish the CPPNE as a National Park.

This landmark decision would afford conservation worthy land in and around the CPPNE the highest level of protection in terms of national legislation. The park establishment area for the TMNP was therefore pre-determined and clearly defined by the statutory 29 000 hectare CPPNE. Since the Park's establishment in 1998, SANParks and its partners have consolidated over 80% of conservation worthy land in and around the CPPNE into the Park. This has been achieved through the Park's land consolidation strategies which addresses both conservation worthy public land (State and local authority) and private land in the CPPNE.

Park Use Zones and Conservation Development Framework (CDF)

The Protected Areas Act mandates SANParks to:

- protect, biodiversity, cultural heritage and scenic beauty,
- provide environmentally compatible spiritual, recreational and tourism opportunities and
- to contribute to economic development

If not properly managed these functions could be in conflict with each other. SANParks has formalized a strategic spatial planning process pioneered by the TMNP known as the Conservation Development Framework (CDF). This process strives to ensure that recreational and tourism activities are not incompatible with the prime function of biodiversity and heritage conservation within the largely open access nature of the urban park.

Master Development Plan

The TMNP is located entirely within metropolitan Cape Town and is the most visited national park in South Africa. To envision, understand and realise the potential of this comparative advantage is the key to the realisation of the Parks' vision. This section outlines the key projects required to achieve a sustainable Park from the biodiversity, tourism and social perspectives

Strategic Management Programs

The Strategic Management Programs (SMP) indicates where Park Management intends to focus its efforts over the next five years by prioritising proactive strategies.

Each strategic program is aligned to the Parks primary objectives. Within each program there are lower level strategies and plans that will be implemented through a set of actions and will result in a number of deliverables. The implementation of the strategies by those tasked with responsibilities for implementation will be monitored using indicators as determined by the Parks Scorecard.

2. Conservation Development Framework (CDF)

The CDF is a spatial framework to guide and co-ordinate conservation, development and recreational activities and initiatives in and surrounding the Park. This framework will inform where visitor facilities should be located, which are priority conservation areas, what recreation activities can take place where.

Introduction

The Protected Areas Act, which replaced the National Parks Act, mandates SANParks to:

- protect, biodiversity, cultural heritage and scenic beauty,
- provide environmentally compatible spiritual, recreational and tourism opportunities and
- to contribute to economic development

If not properly managed these functions could be in conflict with each other. SANParks has formalized a planning process which strives to ensure that recreational and tourism activities are not incompatible with the prime function of biodiversity and heritage conservation. TMNP as a largely open access urban park is under extreme user pressure. It is essential that park management has a strategic plan in place to address these visitor pressures.

SANParks has appointed the Ikapa Enviroplan consultancy to prepare the revised CDF for the TMNP.

2.1 Why is the TMNP CDF under review?

The current CDF was compiled in March 2001. In terms of SANParks adaptive management policy and to comply with the Protected Areas Act, all plans are reviewed on a five year cycle. SANParks has formalized the CDF preparation process to ensure compliance with the Protected Areas Act and the current CDF needs to be reviewed against this. The review will also consider changes in visitor use over the last 5 years and in particular the shifting of tourism markets and recreational user needs. Of these changes the most significant are the declaration of a Marine Protected Area, the inclusion of Tokai & Cecilia plantations, and the ongoing land consolidation of the park.

2.2 Park Zoning

The Conservation Development Framework (CDF) is a strategic spatial plan for the Park and its surrounds which designates:

- a range of visitor Use Zones,
- Visitor Sites for the placement of visitor facilities (tourism and recreation) and infrastructure,
- the size & nature of those facilities,
- entry points: and
- transport and pedestrian routes through the park.

The functions of the use zones are to:

- protect environmentally sensitive areas,
- provide a range of visitor experiences without compromising the integrity of the environment,
- provide a gradation of "wild" experiences; and
- separate different users.

Each of these zones has criteria for:

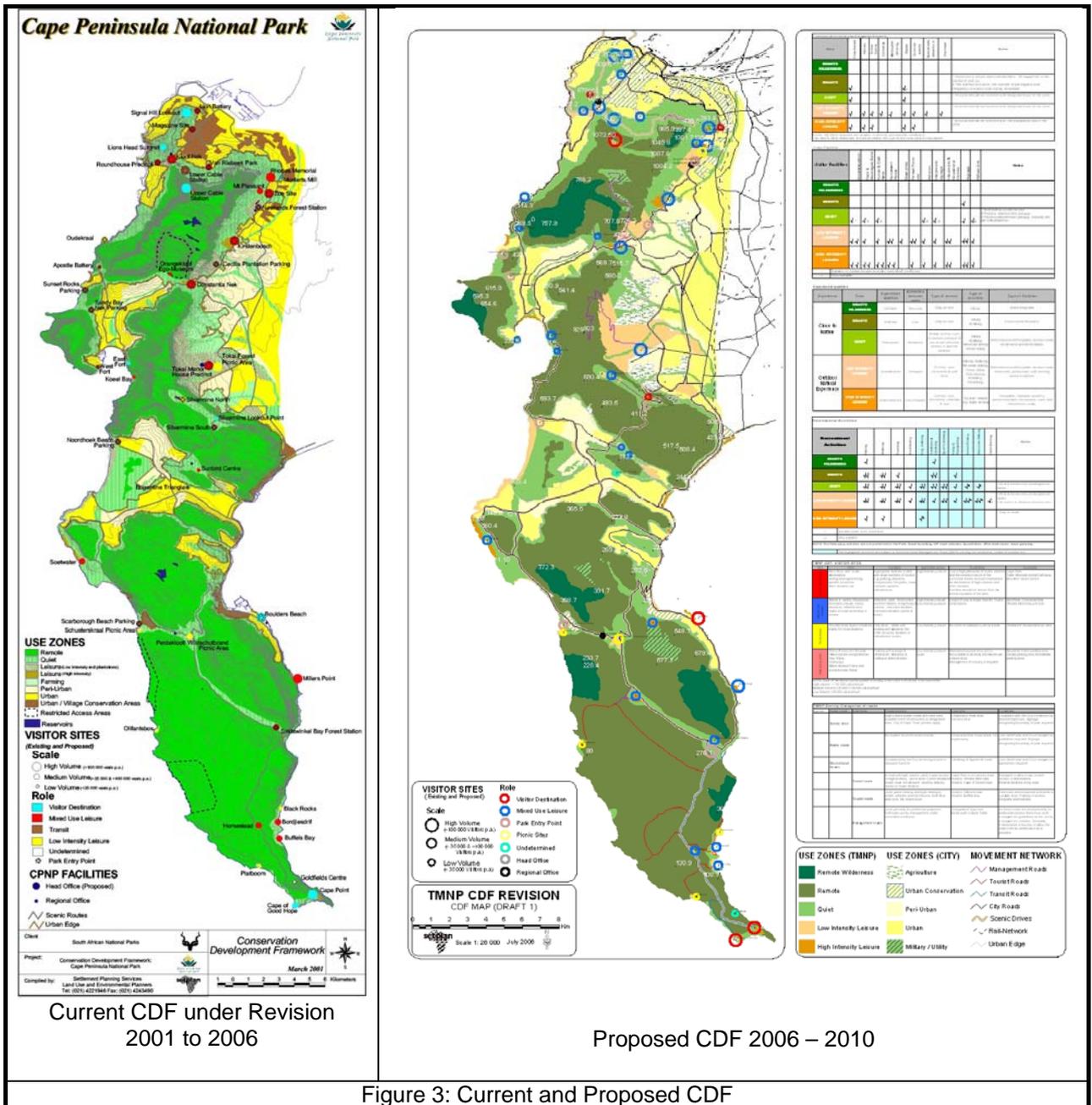
- the type of activities
- interaction with other users
- the type and size of facilities
- the sophistication of facilities
- the standard of roads

2.3 What changes are proposed in the revised CDF?

The current CDF delineates four zones namely: Remote, Quiet, Low Intensity Leisure and High Intensity Leisure. The designation of these zones has proved to be resilient and appropriate for the management of the Park.

However, to protect the more inaccessible and environmentally sensitive areas of TMNP, it is proposed to add an additional zone - "Remote Wilderness". The uses and activities in the various zones will be refined to more clearly define the desired state (or objectives) for each of the zones.

In addition, the existing category of high, medium and low volume Visitor Sites for mixed use, transit, destination and low intensity leisure use will be maintained.



Tokai - Cecilia Management Framework

BACKGROUND

On 1st April 2005, SANParks was assigned, by the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry in terms of the National Forests Act, the management of 1000 hectares of publicly owned land within the CPPNE area. TMNP has taken over the management of the Tokai and Cecilia plantations and the 'exit lease' whereby the forestry company, MTO Forestry (Pty) Ltd., has the right to harvest about 600 hectares of plantations over a 20 year period.

In terms of the assignment, SANParks is mandated to effect the long term management and rehabilitation of the Tokai and Cecilia plantations. In order to carry out this mandate, TMNP is committed to develop an overarching Management Framework which will provide opportunity for public, specialist and management input.

A common vision needs to be formulated for the management of the plantations into the future rather than a detailed plan for implementation. It will provide a strategic and spatial framework for addressing issues related to biodiversity conservation, heritage, recreational uses and eco-tourism relevant to the future management and rehabilitation of the plantations.

SANParks appointed Geostratics CC to prepare the management framework for Tokai and Cecilia Plantations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The Management Framework has to:

- Incorporate and link the Tokai and Cecilia plantations to TMNP
- Link the Tokai and Cecilia to the surrounding urban area
- Accommodate commercial forestry through the exit strategy
- Guide site utilisation (recreational use zones, visitor sites)
- Conserve biodiversity as SANParks core function
- inform the revision of the Park's CDF

The initial key issues to be addressed include *inter alia*:

- Heritage significance assessment and identification of key heritage resources
- Assessment of biodiversity significance and rehabilitation potential
- Visitor management, access and security issues
- Recreational use zone, opportunities, requirements etc.
- Provision of 'shaded landscapes'
- Tourism and development opportunities
- Links to future Park headquarters at Tokai Manor
- Proposal for 'special areas' e.g. picnic area, arboretum etc.

Public Engagement Process

The purpose of public engagement process is to ensure that Park Management makes informed decision making based on the principles of the National Environmental Management Act (act 107 of 1998), especially 2.4 (f, g and i). The engagement is a two step process. The first is to solicit co-ordinated comments from Interested and Affected Parties, the second is to formally respond to the comments received.

To ensure an open process, independent facilitators have been appointed to manage the public process. It is the role of the facilitators to capture all public comments and prepare an issues report document for Park Management. All comments will be considered and reasons provided where these cannot be accommodated. The tracking of the comments will via a 'Comments and Response report'. This document will be submitted together with the Park Management Plan to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism as well as being made available to the public.

For further information please contact:

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Conservation Development Framework

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Tokai-Cecilia Management Framework

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SUMMARY OF PROCESS TO DATE:

Dates	Park Management Plan	CDF – Revision	Tokai Cecilia MF
April 2005	Review Previous Park Plan		
September 2005	Setting the Parks Desired State with Park Forum		
Sept – Oct 2005	Determining the Parks Scorecard with Park Forum		
Oct 2005	Workshops with Park Forum for new Park Plan		
08 April 2006	National Advertisement calling for I&AP to Register		
19 May 2006	Workshop: Biodiversity Objectives with Park Forum		
09 June 2006	Workshop: Environmental Experience with Park Forum		
10 June 2006	Workshop: Volunteers with Park Forum		
02 June 2006		Appointment of CDF Facilitators	
19 June 2006			Appointment of MF Facilitators
21 June 2006	Workshop: Tourism		
28 June 2006	Letter sent to Stakeholders on TMNP Database informing of the revision of Park Plans		
01 Jul 2006	Advertisement in local Newspapers informing the general public to register as a I&AP		
05 Jul 2006	Radio Interview – Cape Talk		
29 -30 Jul 2006	Advertisement in local Newspapers informing the general public of public Open days to comment on the Plan		
01 August 2006	Background information Documents sent out to Registered I&AP's		
01 – 07 August 2006	1st Draft of Plan for Internal TMNP Comment	1st Draft of revised CDF for Internal TMNP	Base Information Report
07 – 10 August 2006	Final internal TMNP Comments	Final internal TMNP Comments	Public Engagement
11 August 2006	Available for Public Comment	Final Draft CDF & Zoning	Public Engagement
14 & 15 August 2006	Public Open Days		
30 August 2006			Issues Report
7 September 2006		Draft "Master Plan"	
14 September 2006	Public Comment Closes	Public Comment Closes	
22 September 2006	Comments Report	Comments Report	Draft EMF for Internal TMNP Comment
1 October 2006			Draft for Public Comment
06 October 2006	Response Report	Response Report	
13 October 2006	Amended Plan for SANParks Exco	Amended CDF for SANParks Exco	
30 October 2006	Final Plan	Final CDF	Comments Report
01 November 2006	Plan sent for Ministerial of DEAT for Approval		
06 November 2006			Response Report
1 to 30 November 2006			Key Issue Resolution
15 December 2006			Final MF

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OPEN DAY

14 - 15 August

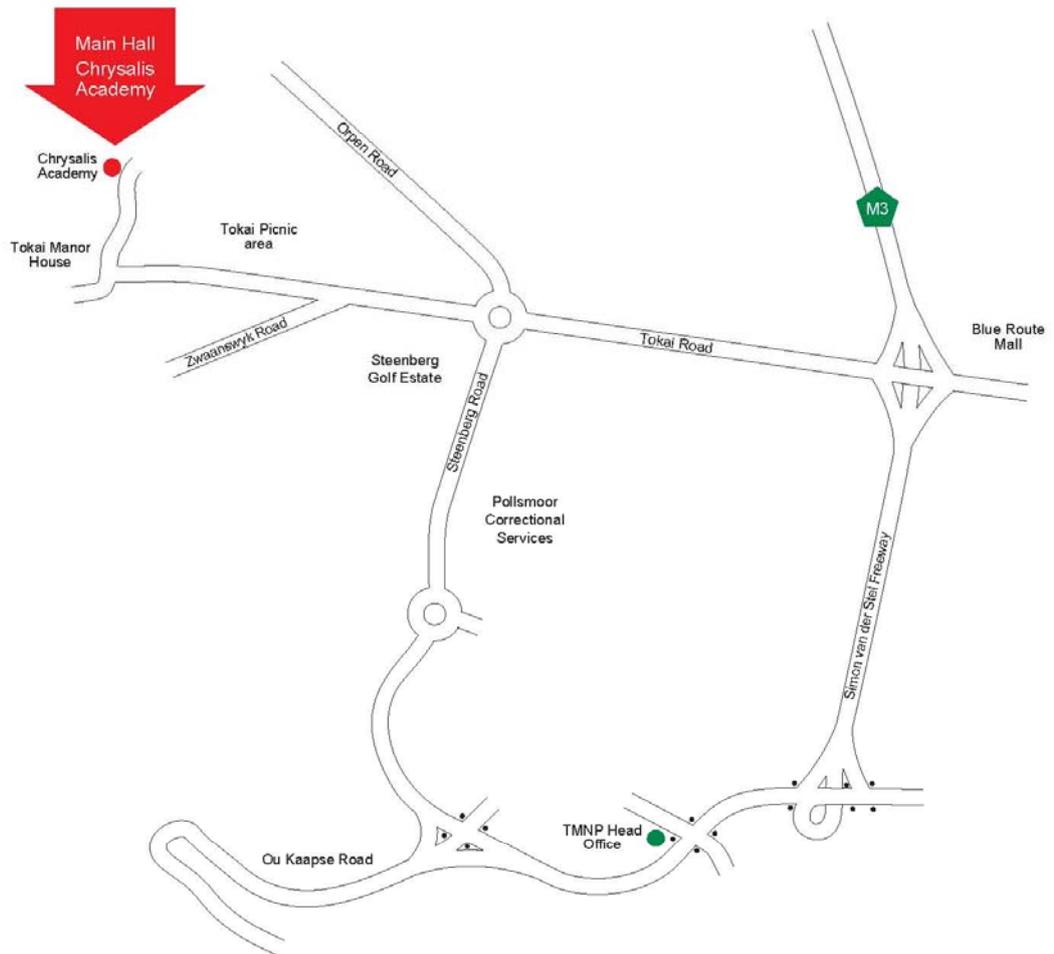


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