

Rock Art Recording and Public Outreach in the Cederberg



Janette Deacon, Rika du Plessis and
Nicholas Wiltshire

British Museum
11:00-11:20 5 November 2016



The Aim



- ❧ To locate and record basic information on rock paintings and archaeological sites for the purposes of conservation and management.
- ❧ The social relations, beliefs and economy of rock art researchers and managers are as important to understand as the social relations, beliefs and economy of the people who made the rock art.



PAINTINGS

PAINTINGS

ENGRAVINGS

PAINTINGS

CEDERBERG

PAINTINGS

South Africa has an estimated 15,000 rock art sites with 2,500 recorded in the Cederberg

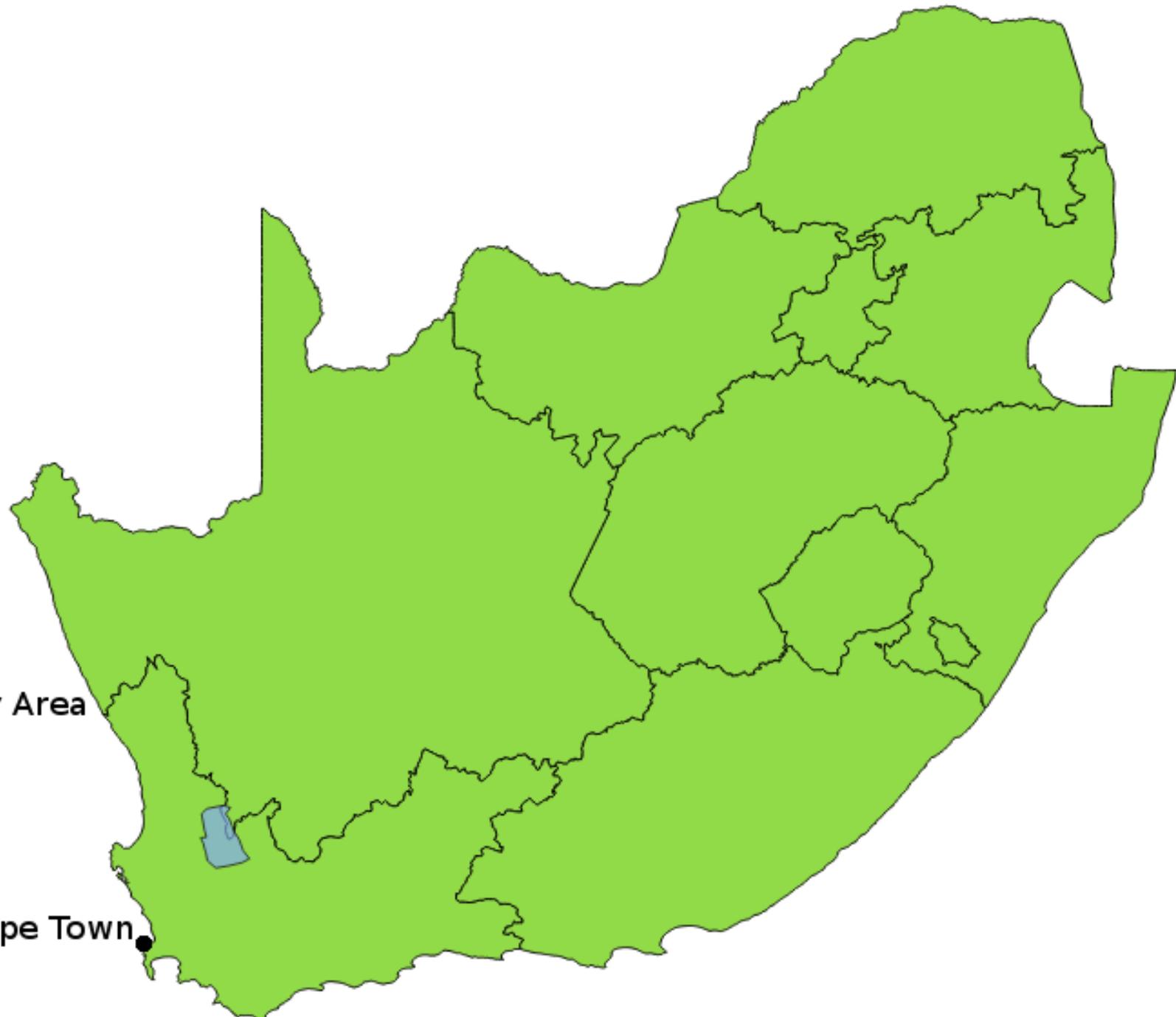
The Location



eCRAG Survey Area

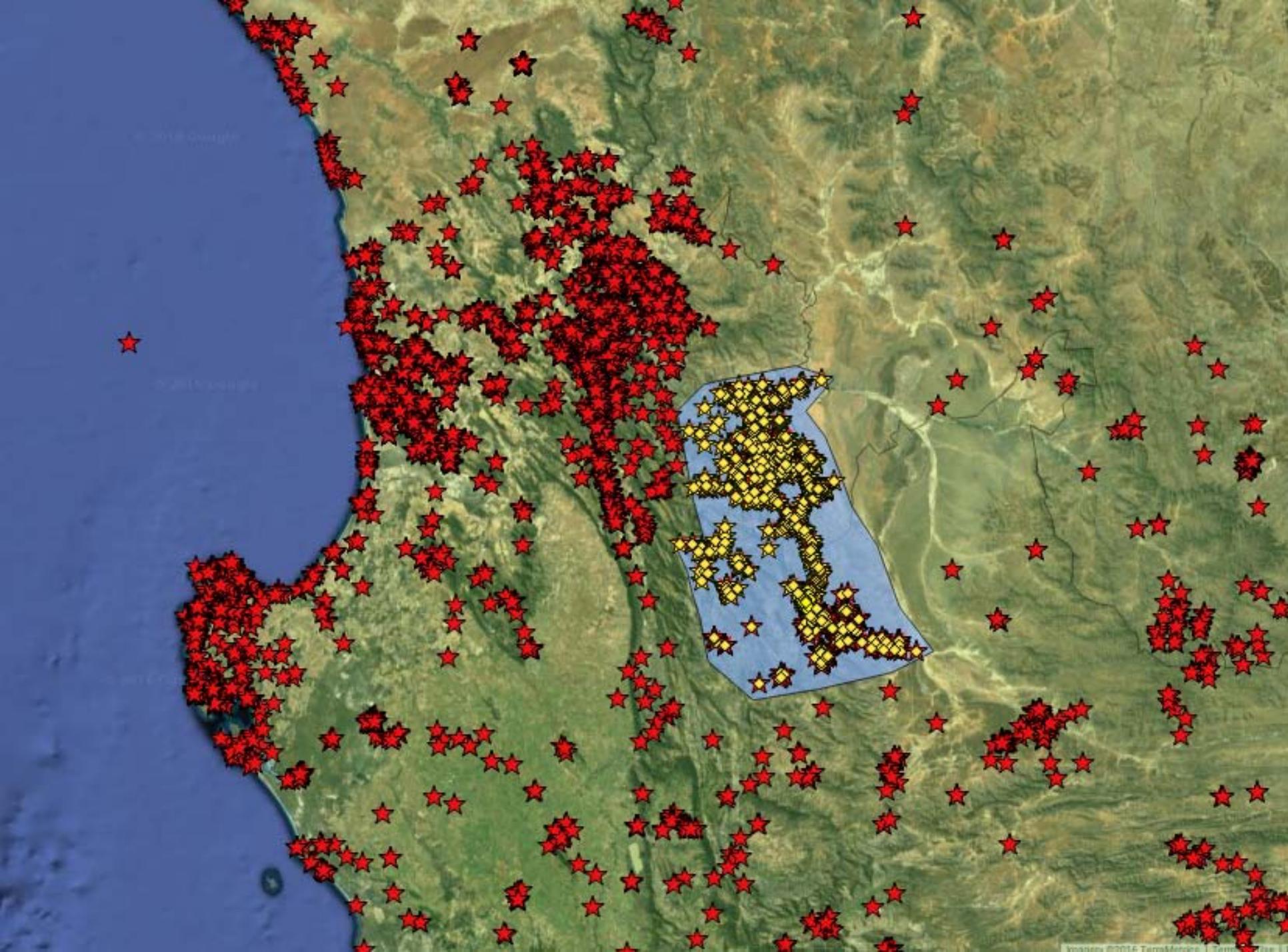


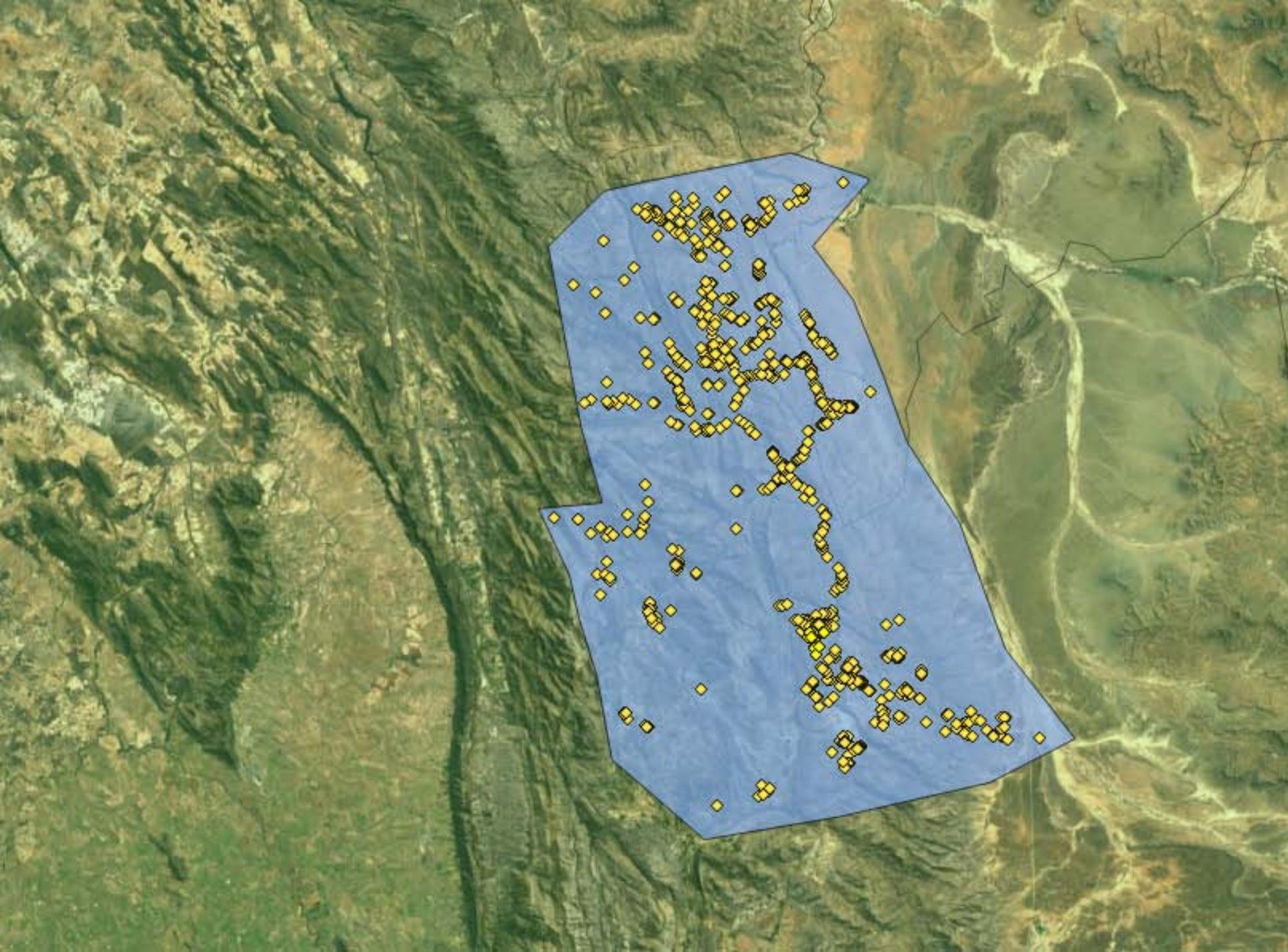
Cape Town



The Inventory





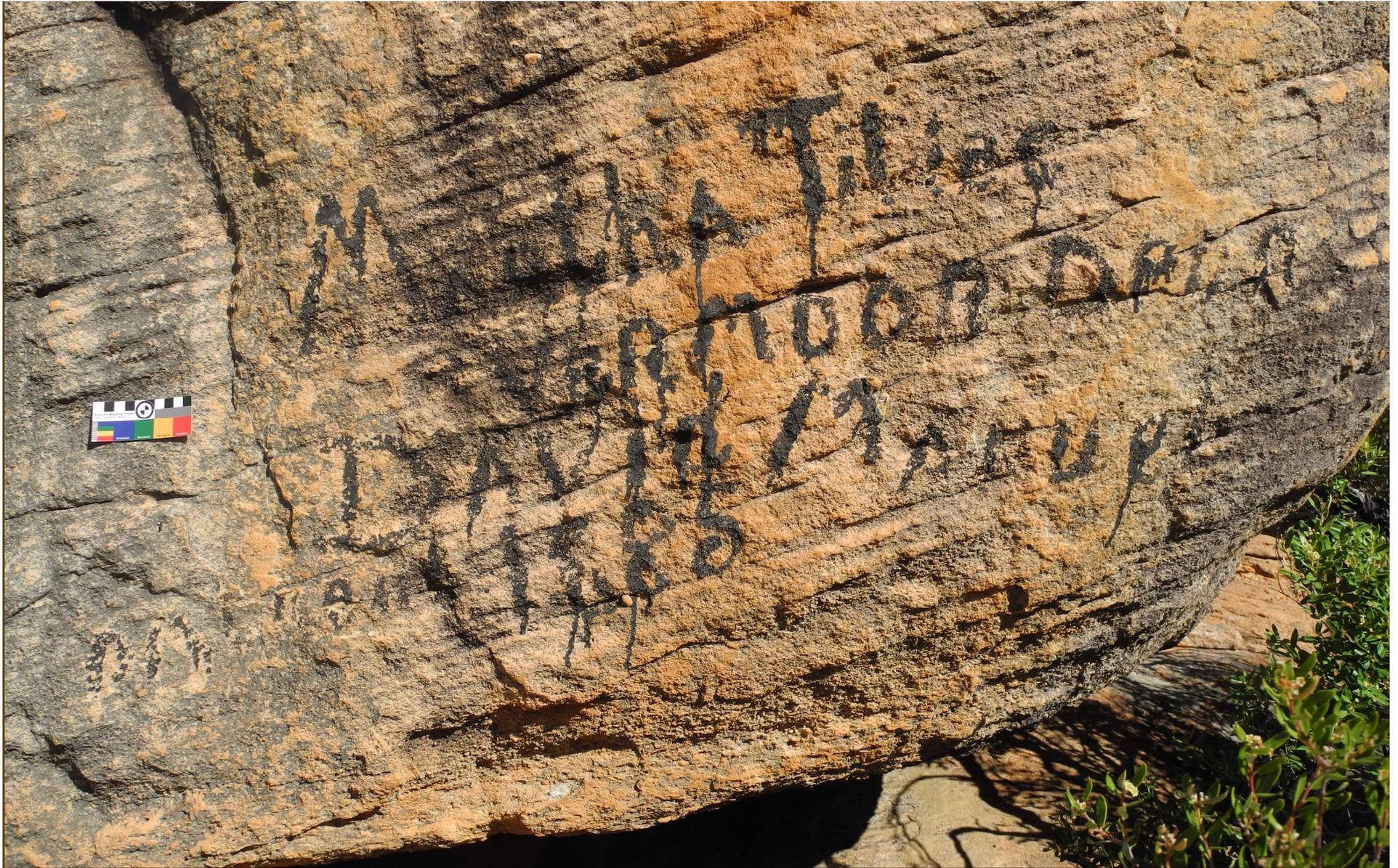


The Fieldwork







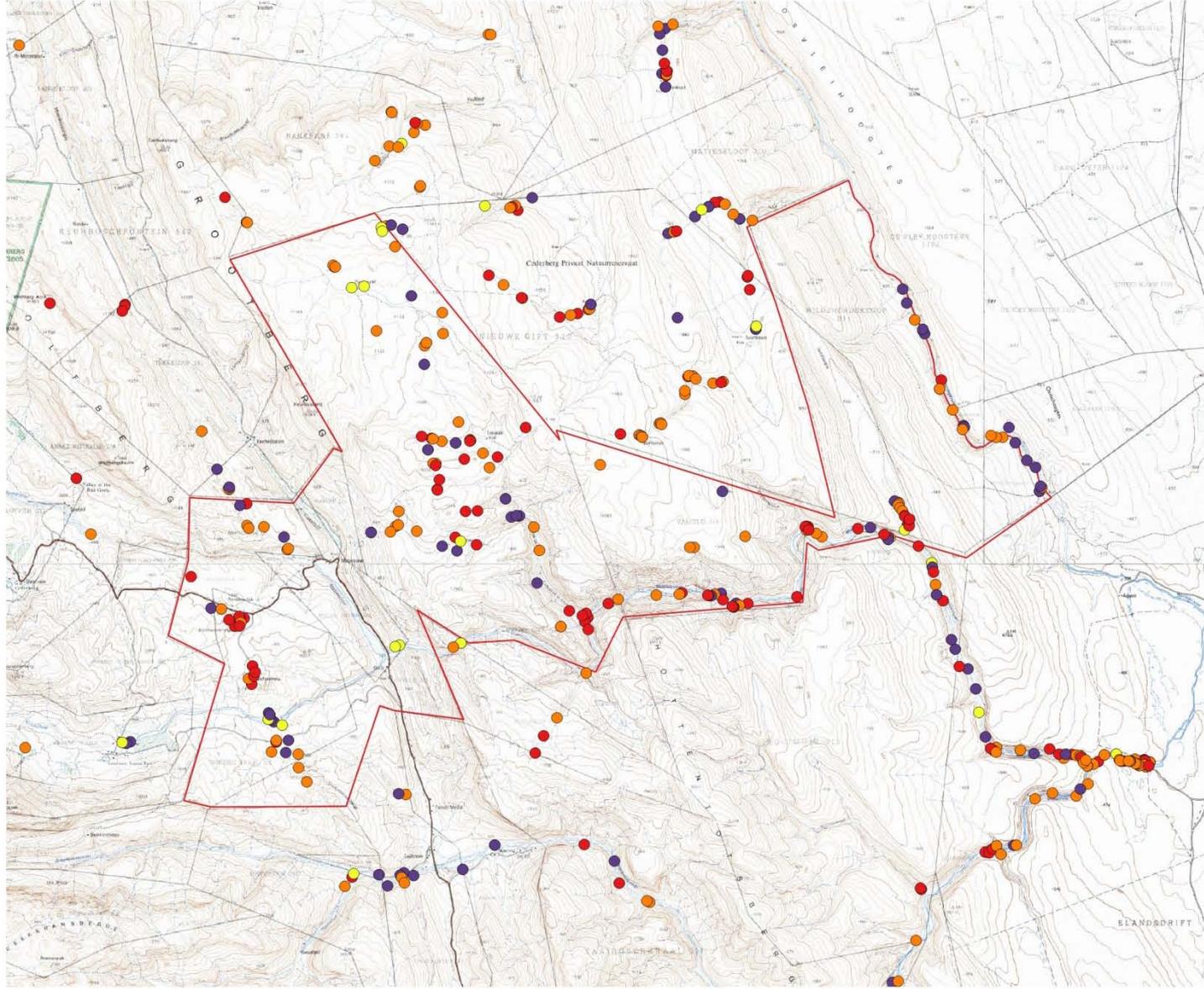


Record of the murder of Martha Tobias by David Myburg, 1885

The Analysis



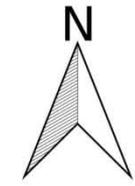
eCRAG archaeological site recordings per year	No of sites
2007	23
2008	53
2009	49
2010	138
2011	310
2012	193
2013	80
2014	111
2015	82
2016	64
TOTAL (rock art only)	1103 (841)



Legend

Heritage Sites

- Rock Art Only
- Ruins and Stone Walling
- Artefacts Only
- Rock Art and Artefacts
- ▭ Matjiesrivier Boundary



Cultural heritage sites in the Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve and surrounds

Matjiesrivier summary

CATEGORY	SUB-CATEGORY	N	%	TOTAL NUMBER at 145 sites	% TOTAL
Humans				1657	49.77
	Males	223	13.46		
	Females	146	8.81		
	Pos. males	149	8.99		
	Poss. Fem	56	3.38		
	Indeterminate	1081	65.24		
	Therianthrope	2	0.12		
Handprints				301	9.04
Footprints				2	0.06
Animals				582	17.48
Patterns				787	23.64
TOTAL				3329	100.00

Matjiesrivier animals

CATEGORY	TOTAL NUMBER	%
	582 images, 145 sites	17.48
Indeterminate antelope species	194	33.33
Indeterminate animal species	111	19.07
Eland	110	18.90
Elephant	51	9.76
Hartebeest	32	5.50
Ostrich	29	4.98
Rhebuck	24	4.12
Equid / zebra	18	3.09
Lion / feline	4	0.69
Sheep	4	0.69
Baboon	2	0.34
Canid	2	0.34
Snake	1	0.17

The Photographic Record





ORIGINAL PHOTO



DSTRETCH ENHANCED



DStretched
images
originally
in pale
pink
pigment



The Local Community





Graduates, Cederberg Rock Art Tourist Guiding course, 2013



MAJOR CHANGES IN LIFESTYLE

Two thousand years ago Khoekhoe hunter-gatherers in the region lived the nomadic life of the bush and hunted wild sheep, and later cattle, brought from the east and southern Africa. They made pottery to cook food, make beer and store their dairy produce. However, the sheep bones as they are found in archaeological sites of this era. As Khoekhoe numbers increased, the San hunter-gatherers' population declined. By 1000 AD there were few San in the landscape. Their scattered remains and paintings perhaps as much as 1000 years ago.

Khoekhoe hunters practiced a different tradition, when called finger painting because paint was applied with the finger.

The lifestyles of indigenous hunter-gatherers and herders changed fundamentally after 1652 with the colonisation of the Western Cape by the Dutch East India Company. In less than a century large numbers had died from European diseases such as smallpox.

Many were killed by European settlers who regarded the San and Khoekhoe as heathen and thieves. Despite the fact that the Khoekhoe had been taken to the Cape.

* Some are quite resistant to the disease and a permanent feature.

There was much interest in the San in Victorian times. This photograph taken in Cape Town in the 1860s shows a few young men from the San and Khoekhoe and their families. The photograph is by Wilhelm Steinhilber and Dr Lucy Lloyd, and demonstrates aspects of their language.

Colin Veleen, Assistant Manager, Matjiesrivier



Arrie Beukes, Manager of Bakkrans private nature reserve



Field assistants Aubrey and Lee-Roman Adams

The Management





The Trail



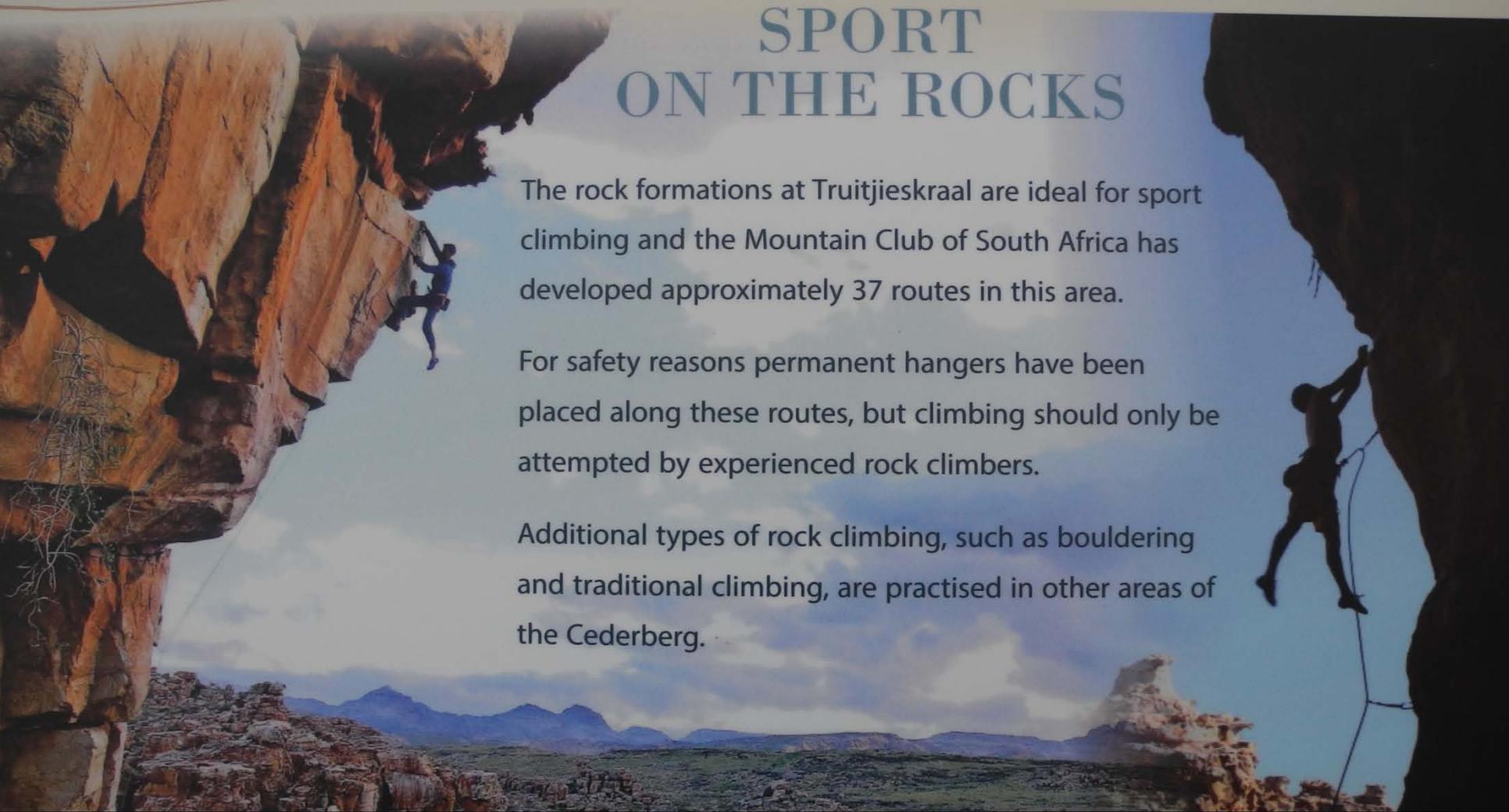


SPORT ON THE ROCKS

The rock formations at Truitjieskraal are ideal for sport climbing and the Mountain Club of South Africa has developed approximately 37 routes in this area.

For safety reasons permanent hangers have been placed along these routes, but climbing should only be attempted by experienced rock climbers.

Additional types of rock climbing, such as bouldering and traditional climbing, are practised in other areas of the Cederberg.







WELCOME to TRUITJIESKRAAL

In the next 30 minutes along this trail you will find interesting insights about the lifestyles of people who have lived here, how this landscape formed, how plants and animals contribute to it, and how dynamic ecological processes continue to change it.

We trust you to stay on the path so that the fragile vegetation has a chance to regenerate after the most recent fire.

Fire is a major threat, so no smoking is allowed. Kindly put your cigarette butts in the container provided before you start on the trail.





Truitjeskraal



A LESSON IN GOOD BEHAVIOUR

People have cared for this landscape for hundreds of thousands of years. Rock art and artefacts left behind by Indigenous people are valuable and cannot be replaced. For hundreds of generations, San artists and their descendants preserved the rock paintings on this trail. You can continue their proud heritage and protect them for your descendants too. Please keep on the trail and do not touch the paintings or put anything on them.

Don't remove anything from the area.
Help us to protect this very special place by not damaging it.
Truitjeskraal is part of a World Heritage site.

Take photos, but leave only your footprints.



Truitjieskraal
MATJIESRIVIER NATURE RESERVE



 **CapeNature**
Conserve. Explore. Experience
www.capenature.co.za

A LESSON IN GOOD BEHAVIOUR

People have cared for this landscape for hundreds of thousands of years.

Rock art and artefacts left behind by indigenous people are valuable and cannot be replaced. For hundreds of generations, San artists and their descendants preserved the rock paintings on this trail.

You can continue their proud heritage and protect them for your descendants too.

Please keep on the trail and do not touch the paintings or put anything on them.

Don't remove anything from the area.

Help us to protect this very special place by not damaging it.

Truitjieskraal is part of a World Heritage site.

Take photos, but leave only your footprints.















WORLD HERITAGE FYNBOS

As a result of a combination of sandy soil, low rainfall and rocky terrain, the vegetation here has three main Fynbos communities: Restioid Sandy Fynbos, Dwarf Bedrock Shrubland and Kloof Thicket. The species include creepers, trees and Fynbos shrubs. Plants from the Succulent Karoo, such as euphorbias, crassulas and a species of *Lessertia*, have also adapted to the local conditions. You will see vygies, restios, sedges and wild rosemary in open terrain, and mosses, sorrel, seasonal ferns and even orchids where more water filters into the soil from rocks nearby.



The **taaibos** (# 1 – *Searsia undulata*) was used by hunter-gatherers for their bows.



Beware of the thorns on the **katdoring** or **wild asparagus** (# 4 – *Asparagus retrofractus*).



Wild rosemary (# 2 – *Eriocephalus africanus*) has a strong aroma.



The **8-day healing bush** (# 5 - *Lobostemon laevigatus*) flowers in spring. A paste of crushed leaves placed on a wound is said to heal it in 8 days.



The **sand olive** (# 3 – *Dodonaea angustifolia*) is used as a remedy for fever.



Bobbejaantou/baboon rope (# 6 – *Secamone alpini*) is a creeper plant that grows in rock crevices and scales the side of these rock walls.



FYNBOS AND FIRE



Fynbos plants need fire to reproduce, but to ensure their survival the intervals between fires must allow the slowest-growing plants to flower for at least three successive seasons. The Fynbos biome is located in the winter rainfall region, so growth takes place during winter and spring. Most fires occur in summer and autumn between October and May.

Fynbos generally occurs on nutrient-poor soils and fires help to recycle nutrients from old growth back into the soil, while heat and smoke stimulate the germination of dormant seeds. Plants known as re-seeders are mostly annuals, short-lived perennials or bulbs that flower prolifically

after a fire. Plants called re-sprouters, like restios, sedges and proteas, re-sprout after a fire. Proteas are also serotinous, which means that seeds are only dispersed after a burn. The veld at Truitjieskraal was badly damaged by a fire in 2007. Combined with the poor soils, the type of Fynbos, and the fact that the fire happened during a drought, resulted in the vegetation taking particularly long to recover.

Please watch your step and do not trample the plants as you walk along the trail. Please stay on the path.





EROSION SHAPES THE ROCKS

As you walk along the trail you will see natural stripes in the rocks. These are the result of different coloured sands that were deposited in the shallow sea, or blown from dunes along the shore hundreds of millions of years ago.

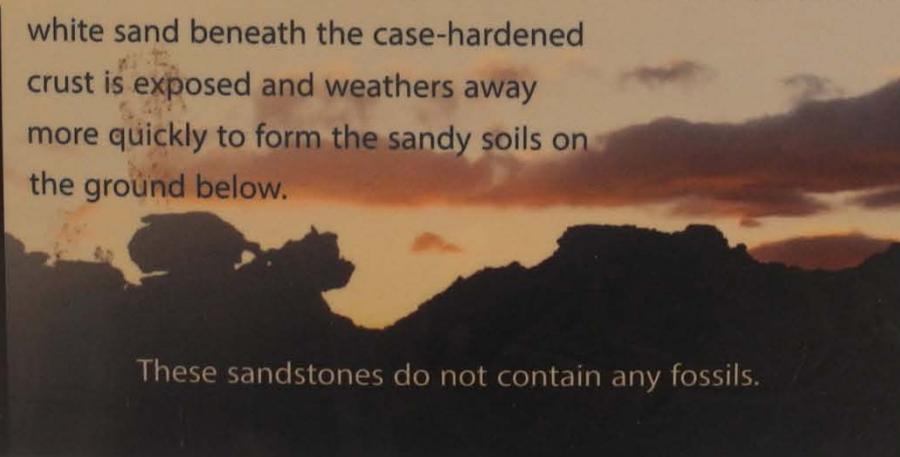
The reddish outer crust on the rocks in some places is coloured by iron oxides that have stained the sand and hardened the outer surface. This is known as case hardening. When this outer surface is broken, the soft

white sand beneath the case-hardened crust is exposed and weathers away more quickly to form the sandy soils on the ground below.

These sandstones do not contain any fossils.

Wind, water and the chemical composition of the rocks are the main agents in the weathering process. Moisture and salts trapped between sand particles or in cracks in the rock expand in winter when it freezes, causing the outer crust to split off.

The wind then picks up the sand grains and blows them onto exposed surfaces, scouring the soft surface and accelerating the erosion process.





Questionnaires
were completed by
three different
groups:

- Casual visitors
- Archaeological Society members
- Sport climbers and Mountain Club members

The Public Response



- ❧ General public: 31 responses
 - ❧ Would you like a guide? Yes: 19%
 - ❧ Rock art information was a highlight: 93%
- ❧ Rock art interest group: 20 responses
 - ❧ Most interesting information: rock art, geology, plants, general introduction
 - ❧ Information on app or website? Yes 30%, No 35%, ambivalent 25%
- ❧ Sport climbers and Mountain Club members
 - ❧ Requested more information on snakes
 - ❧ Eco-toilets welcomed



LINK TO FULL TEXT VERSION



<http://www.openheritage.org.za/about/media/november/britishmuseum>