

Name: The provision of suitable signage at Hillside Dams Conservancy.

Location: Hillside Dams, off Banff Road, Hillside, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Objectives: to provide suitable signage at Hillside Dams Conservancy including entry rules (x2 gates), directions, features and other signs thought necessary.

General Background

The Hillside Dams were once a popular recreational area operated by Bulawayo City Council (BCC). However it has fallen on hard times what with financial difficulties, a lack of vision and application, and several serious criminal incidents. This has resulted in the existing facilities being allowed to deteriorate while the area is now shunned by most local residents.

The entire area, approximately 86ha., has been leased from the BBC by Mungrisdale Marketing (Pvt) Ltd who has conceded the conservancy area to an independent, broad-based Trust, the Hillside Dams Conservation Trust. This non-profit Trust has been tasked with the restoration of existing facilities and developing new, appropriate projects in the area in line with the defined aims of the Trust which place an emphasis on conservation, education and recreational pursuits all within a safe, well-run recreational area aimed principally at the residents of Bulawayo.

The conservancy includes a large section of natural vegetation as well as two dams built amongst the rocky kopjes at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. There are also several gardened sections, including what was once an impressive aloe garden. Several archaeological and fossil sites in the area are of a national, if not international importance. Previously there was a trim track on the east side of the conservancy while several youth organizations once used this area for camping and educational purposes.

Project objectives

In the light of the financial situation in Zimbabwe we are looking at practical assistance from companies and individuals with various skills and interests. It must be emphasized that the appeal is being made on behalf of the general Bulawayo Community, all of whom should be able to derive some benefit from the project - it is necessary that the outcomes are inclusive.

A detailed Site Management Plan has been drawn up (Burrett 2007). This document provides suggestions as to the way forward and sets out the ultimate objectives towards which we operate. It is a long to medium term policy which will be tackled by the Trust as and when the finances and skills are available. The focus of this proposal forms part of the overall plan.



The purpose of this document is to appeal for assistance in providing the necessary signage for the area. This should be permanent signage to indicate directions of places of interest, those items of interest, as well as entrance rules and procedures. There is already a basic idea on the logo to be applied across the entire area using different colours for different features. This can be discussed with our management team. Some signs can be acquired from the Conservancy Area for refurbishment while others will need to be made.

One of the existing signs that could be refurbished

We, the Hillside Dams Conservancy Trust are requesting your help in this project. We are seeking the following signage:

1. **Two large entrance signs one each for the Banff Road and Moffat Avenue Entrances. These would indicate the name of the area, times open and rules that apply. Use of the full, four-colour Hillside Dams logo will be necessary.**
2. **internal signage indicating directions to**
 - office
 - tearoom
 - Morning Market
 - Braai Kopje
 - To carpark
 - Toilets (at this stage while we work on repairing the other toilets we will only need to indicate those next to the tearoom) (x4)
 - to the Aloe Garden, Upper Dam, Amphitheatre and Site Museum (x2)
 - To Aloe Garden (x2)
 - To Meeting Centre
 - To Trim Track (x3)
 - To Office, Lower Dam, tearoom & toilets
3. **signs for positioning at the different features include**
 - toilet
 - carpark (x2)
 - office (to include hours, telephone number and email contact)
 - Aloe Garden
 - Trim Track
 - Upper Dam rules – no swimming etc.
4. **Road signs indicating the direction of the dams from the major roads in the city will need refurbishment (there are already present).**
- 5.
6. **future assistance with further signage would be appreciated as additional facilities are created.**



The existing Banff Road sign

Our estate manager will be available to discuss with the donor the exact details and will assist with anything that is required.

All assistance will be suitably acknowledged and companies will be able to use this for purposes of advertising or addressing issues of corporate responsibility. Incorporation of company logos on this signage would be suitable.

If you are able to assist please contact the Estate Manager, Hillside Dams Conservancy, Mr. Norman Scott or Neil Rix 011-402851.