

Media Release - Embargo 1 August 2003

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

The Park Manger of Namaqua National Park, Matthew Norval announced today that the scarcity of rain and change in weather patterns in the Namaqualand area may have a negative effect on this year's floral display at the national park.

"Variations in rainfall in Namaqualand are extreme with considerable differences between the escarpments and the coastal plain. By the end of July 2002 the Skilpad section had experienced 185mm of rainfall while since January 2003 only 28mm has been recorded this year," said Norval.

Norval, said "Although it is disappointing for potential visitors to the area it is part of the natural cycle and in fact periods of drought actually contribute to the unique floral diversity of Namaqualand . Despite the fact that the displays of flowers will probably be limited this year the scenic beauty and the wonderful hospitality of the people of the area still makes it an attractive destination."

The Skilpad section of the Namaqua National Park will still open for visitors from today the 1st August till the end of September or into October if late rain is recorded.

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