



Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

## **PUBLIC STATEMENT - CAPE TOWN FIRES - 19/04/2021**

The Association for Heritage Assessment Practitioners stands together with others in commiserating the utter devastation that has occurred to our invaluable heritage resources as a result of the fires on Table Mountain these last two days. As yet incalculable damage has been reported to many significant heritage buildings, the surrounding cultural landscape along the slopes of Table Mountain and the incredibly valuable and special libraries and collections. Memories and meaningful experiences are attached to these places, and we recognise the grief that many will experience in their loss; not least for our members, many of whom have spent hours of dedicated research in and about these spaces.

We are thankful to the firefighters who worked tirelessly in their efforts to limit the scourge of the flames to their best ability as they threatened these important places and to all those who assisted in assuring the safety of UCT students, staff and members of the public.

As the smoke clears, the true magnitude of the damage will come to light. The APHP, as an organization of professional heritage practitioners, would like to offer our support and assistance in any salvage, restoration or other rehabilitation work where we may be of value. Please contact Muneerah Kariem at [info@aphp.org.za](mailto:info@aphp.org.za) for further information.

We further encourage any offers of financial assistance to be directed to the Cape Town Heritage Trust, who has a Foundation registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and has Section 18A status, which enables the issuing of tax certificates of donation. Please contact Nicolette Nunes in this regard at 021 426 2157/ [admin@heritage.org.za](mailto:admin@heritage.org.za).

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