



SUSTAINABLE TREES

POLICY ON MAINTENANCE, PROTECTION AND REMOVAL OF TREES IN THE MARINA MARTINIQUE

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Compiled	Environmental Officer	L. van Staden
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my home, my marina, my lifestyle

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Background

Trees play a vital role in maintaining the beauty, character, and environmental balance of the Marina Martinique estate. They:

- Enhance the natural aesthetics of the estate.
- Improve air quality and provide oxygen.
- Provide shade, reduce wind, and support biodiversity.
- Contribute to the unique Mediterranean-styled identity of the Marina, especially the tall, mature palms.

The MMHOA is committed to maintaining trees responsibly while balancing the rights of owners, infrastructure safety, and environmental conservation.

General Approach

Preservation First

Unnecessary tree removal is discouraged, especially in the case of palms, which are difficult or impossible to replant.

Indigenous Preference

Over time, exotic trees will be replaced with indigenous species as part of long-term landscaping and environmental management.

Routine Maintenance

MMHOA staff prune trees in pavements and open areas to maintain safe clearances and prevent damage to services. Trees interfering with services (e.g. roots lifting walls, branches entangling with lines) may be removed by MMHOA.

Owners are responsible for private property tree and garden maintenance. If more intrusive cutting (beyond standard pruning) is requested by an owner, it must be arranged and paid for privately, subject to approval.

Specific Tree Protection

White Milkwood *Sideroxylon inerme* is a Specially Protected Tree.

Only normal pruning (up to 30%) is allowed. Removal or more intrusive pruning requires a permit from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (Eastern Cape).

MMHOA Rules & Regulations

Design Review Committee (DRC) Rules

In terms of par. 7.15. regarding Landscaping or Gardens, the following:

- MMHOA is responsible for the upkeep of all common areas.
- Members and Body Corporates are responsible for the landscaping and upkeep of areas within their boundaries.

A list of recommended trees, shrubs, groundcovers and indigenous flora may be found on the Marina's website www.marinamartiniquehoa.co.za. This list will be revised in conjunction with this Operational Procedure during 2026.

Par. 12.4.2.9 refers to the clearing or removal and/or damaging of any vegetation. All members must note that White Milkwood *Sideroxylon inerme* are protected and permits are required to remove or prune either of these trees. Unauthorized action on a White Milkwood carries fines:

- 1st incident: R5,000 + possible criminal charges
- 2nd incident: R8,000 + possible criminal charges
- 3rd incident: R10,000 + possible criminal charges

Conduct Rules

Rule 18.7: *"No person may cut, damage, or destroy any plant or tree without permission from the MMHOA."*

MOI mentions

Par 9.1 addresses Rules, stating that *"Subject to any restriction imposed by the Act, the zoning regulations, this Memorandum of Incorporation or any direction given at a general meeting of the Association, the Board may from time to time make rules.."* with specific mention of trees, vegetation or gardens as follow:

Par 9.1.4 *"..the standards and guidelines for the design and layout of all communal areas, private open space, parking areas and areas to be landscaped and laid out as garden areas to ensure an attractive, aesthetically pleasing character to the Marina; "*

Par 9.1.9 *"..the preservation of the environment including the right to control and to require the cultivation of trees and other vegetation and the right to control the design, erection, placement, materials and construction of fences and/or walls, whether on or within the boundaries of any erf including the right to prohibit fences and walls in any garden area or around any erf; "*

Tree Removal / Substitution Policy

As recommended by the Board (March 2024), a specific tree hindering development, infrastructure or services, must where possible, be replanted.

- If not possible to replant, another tree of the same type must be planted 1.5m – 2m from the hazard site.
- If neither is possible, the owner must provide a substitute tree, to be planted at the MMHOA's discretion.
 - The donor will be informed of the location and may place a commemorative plaque

Costs of removal for owner-requested trees will normally be borne by the owner, once approved.

Substitute trees are preferred to be:

- Palm trees as street lining - to carry forward the trend and character of the Marina Martinique
- In place of the New Zealand Christmas trees (*Metrosideros excelsa*)
 - Candlewood (*Pterocelastrus tricuspidatus*),
 - Guarri bush (*Euclea* spp.),
 - Weeping boerbean (*Schotia brachypetala*),
 - Coastal camphor bush (*Tarchonanthus littoralis*),
 - False olive (*Buddleja saligna*), and
 - Coast silver oak (*Brachylaena discolor*)

Request & Approval Process

All requests must follow the process below:

Submit Written Request

Owner sends motivation for removal (with supporting detail/evidence) to the Infrastructure Manager: infrastructure@marinamartinique.co.za

Committee Review

Request is reviewed by the Design Review Committee (DRC) where recommendations based on environmental, aesthetic, and safety considerations are made for submission to the Board of Directors.

Board Approval

Final decision is made by the MMHOA Board of Directors, with the outcome being communicated to the requesting owner by the Infrastructure Manager after the Board meeting.

Implementation

If approved, the owner may be required to bear the cost, while all other arrangement i.e. substitute planting, are confirmed.

Conclusion

The MMHOA prioritises the preservation of trees while allowing for responsible management in cases of hazards or legitimate requests.

Members must follow the formal process, respect protected species like the White Milkwood, and accept that costs may fall to the requesting owner.