January February March 2022

ECOSENSE

CapeNature

Internal Newsletter • Issue 58

CAPENATURE REGISTERS THE 99TH CONSERVANCY

By: Corne Classen, Conservation Manager, Conservation Operations

On Tuesday, 15 February 2022 the registration certificate for the new Pietersfontein Conservancy was handed over to the steering committee at the newly installed Conservancy information board on the R318 Koo road outside Montagu. The 10 352 hectare Conservancy currently incorporates 17 landowners with 31 farm portions. The geographic domain of the Conservancy includes the high lying Waboomberg mountain catchment area, comprising of Langeberg Sandstone Fynbos, with examples of Montagu Shale Renosterveld and Western Little Karoo incorporated at lower altitude.

The registration of the Conservancy will hopefully facilitate improved co-operation among landowners in addressing challenges such as alien vegetation management and wildfires. On the flipside they may share in the benefits of improved conservation status, economic and aesthetic value as well as the provision of environmental services. The Conservancy incorporates an upland-lowland corridor between the Waboomberg Catchment and Drie Kuilen Private Nature Reserve in the north, and the Langeberg mountain range to the south. The Conservancy emblem depicts a klipspringer on a ridge, with a Cape speckled aloe silhouette next to it.

TERSFONTED



Dear CapeNature Family,

We are delighted to share with you the very first edition for 2022. Feels like just yesterday we were all signing off to 2021 and now we find ourselves at the end of the first quarter of 2022 – an accurate depiction of how time certainly flies by! A New Year is to both reflect and to plan for the future. Some people make resolutions to break bad habits while others create new ones or maintain existing ones. Whatever your aspirations are for the year ahead, remember it's never too late to actively pursue the goals you have set out for yourself.

I would also like to remind you of our wonderful, interactive channel titled My

Voice myvoice@capenature.co.za which provides staff with a platform for dialogue, where they can share new ideas, issues or concerns. Your input and engagement is always welcomed.

The Editorial team and I, thank you for your content contributions and we look forward to receiving more as we follow your journey navigating the new Financial Year.

Happy reading!

Until next time,

Jania

EDITORIAL TEAM

FROM THE EDITOR



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Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of this

financial year, it is the perfect opportunity for

reflection on the highs and lows we have managed to achieve and overcome, respectively, across the entity. Against many odds, the pandemic being an ongoing factor, we have managed to perform across all Directorates. Hard work and determination are key to many a success in life. My wish for you this new financial year is a successful year, both personally and professionally. May we continue to synergize internally and alongside our clients and stakeholders, in order to prosper together and strive towards an even better financial year.

> Though we have made great strides in the advancement of the vaccine, particularly with booster shots becoming available to all, our hearts continue to go out to everyone affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives, disrupting our sense of normality and claiming many lives. Again, I would like to express my sincere condolences at the loss of lives due to the virus, to all those who have lost family members, friends and colleagues. It therefore remains important to practise safe COVID-19 health and safety etiquette, particularly as we possibly enter a fifth wave of infections in the coming winter months.

> > I would like to reiterate and acknowledge the successes made by staff over the last financial year, which has now firmly cemented the entity back as a tourism sector front-runner. I am pleased to share that we have seen an increase in the number of visitors frequenting our reserves, with visitor numbers increasing by 61% in the third quarter compared to the same period in 2020/21. Top destinations and attractions remain the Whale Trail at De Hoop Nature Reserve, Algeria in the Cederberg Wilderness, Kogelberg Nature Reserve outside Kleinmond and Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve near Swellendam.

> > > Warmest greetings,

Razeena



NOTICES

Migration from MPLS to SDWAN. SDWAN technology presents an opportunity for CapeNature to increase our current bandwidth and quality of service.

Migration to AZURE cloud environment. Azure is a cloud computing platform and an online portal that will allow CapeNature to access and manage cloud services and resources provided by Microsoft.

WHAT'S NEXT

UPCOMING EVENTS

JJJJJJJJJJ APRIL 2022

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Learning and Awareness International Plant Appreciation Day: 13 April 2022

- Learning and Awareness Earth Day: 22 April 2022
- City Nature Challenge: April 2022

- **Firefighter's Day:** 4 May 2022
- Learning and Awareness International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May 2022
- **Africa Day:** 25 May 2022

- Conservation Review Conference I-2 June 2022
- World Environment Day Media and Stakeholder Event: 5 June 2022
- World Ocean Day
 8 June 2022

PUSHING BOUNDARIES THROUGH HIGH-ANGLE TRAINING AT CHRYSALIS ACADEMY

By: Wesley Leukes, Landscape Unit Manager: Boland Landscape, Conservation Operations





A quick picture of the group before they undertook their training session at the high angle training facility.

A top-of-the-class female EPWP member showing that women can dominate in a usually male dominated activity.

Following the baseline data collection and mapping completed during the initial phase of the Holsloot Mapping Project, which took place in the Holsloot mountain catchment at Limietberg Nature Reserve, the project team planned to use the remaining funding allocated to this project, for a second/implementation phase in the form of scheduling high altitude training with the two Rope Access Invasive Alien Plant (IAP) clearing teams. The objective was for these teams, once trained, to undertake much needed clearing work within the Holsloot catchment area.

The idea was also to take this project to the next level by using the available funding to complete the Wilderness Rope Access training for two Rope Access (RAC) clearing teams and to purchase the equipment needed for the teams to complete this training. In addition, the goal was to source data and information collected during the mapping phase of the Holsloot Mapping Project, which in turn will be used to plan and implement a High-Altitude Invasive Alien Clearing Management Plan for the upper sections of the Holsloot catchment. Rope Access Technicians are a scarce commodity within IAP clearing implementation strategies and plans. Having additional RAC teams, is a major contribution in the fight against IAPs in our mountain catchments. This is also the first time that CapeNature has sourced funding for this specialised training.

The high angle training sessions were held in March 2022 at the Chrysalis Academy, a leadership development organisation situated in Tokai, Cape Town with CapeNature Management in attendance. The women participants, in particular, shined during the respective training sessions, alluding to the gender mainstreaming goals and activities recently undertaken within the entity. Teams gave their all in a series of aerial tests in an attempt to pass the training course and obtain their official certification. An award ceremony is expected to take place in the near future.

Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (ORCT)

collaborates with De Hoop to ensure joint management with neighbouring Denel Overberg Test Range.



A geographical map displaying the birds movements during the project.

By: Vicki Hudson, Landscape Conservation Intelligence Management, Biodiversity Capabilities

The plight of Black Harriers in the Overberg wheatbelt - part of Landscape South, was recently highlighted by the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust (ORCT) due to the loss of two male birds in quick succession. These birds were tagged as part of an ongoing research programme and full details can be found here.

Following on from a recent presentation by Dr Odette Curtis-Scott, Director of ORCT, another important concept was shown by the results of satellite data. The map of the birds' movements below clearly shows the importance of CapeNature's protected areas, in this instance, De Hoop Nature Reserve and its associated collaborative management with neighbouring Denel Overberg Test Range. It is clear to see the critical contribution they make to landscape conservation in the area on which many species rely for survival. The key to increasing conservation management effectiveness, is again shown to be an all-encompassing, holistic on and off-reserve strategy.

AGE IS NOTHING BUT A NUMBER FOR FEMALE FIREFIGHTER

By: Morris Floris, Integrated Catchment Specialist, Biodiversity Capabilities

Arguably the oldest women firefighter at CapeNature, Ms. Spaas Pretorius (51) is still firmly standing her ground as part of the Gamkaberg FTE fire team. Integrated Catchment Specialist, Morris Floris sat down with this diligent firefighter to find out what motivates her.

"I prefer working in the field with the fire team and I especially enjoy working in mountainous and relatively rough terrain.", she says. After being approached by Sam Pinzi, Conservation Officer at Gamkaberg Nature Reserve to work at the laundry, she made her mission clear: "Put me at the coalface of firefighting."

At the end of January, she participated in fighting the Rooiberg fire at Gamkaberg and was part of the troop flown in by helicopter. The next day she was on foot and walked out of the mountain with the team, proving her high level of fitness, as she did this effortlessly. Not one to sit around when there is not a fire to fight, she also flexes her administrative muscles by assisting in the office at the reserve.



Spaas Pretorius at the Gysmanshoek fire in Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve where she and the Gamkaberg team assisted with firefighting operations.

LANDSCAPE EAST COMMEMORATES WORLD WETLANDS **DAY 2022**



By: Phunyuzwa Xhegwana, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, **Conservation Operations**

Wetlands are commemorated on World Wetlands Day annually on 02 February, since South Africa signed the Ramsar Convention in 1971. The theme for this year was "Wetlands Action for People and Nature" highlighting the importance of people ensuring the sustainable use of wetlands. This special marked day also advocates for financial resources to be channelled towards saving the world's wetlands from disappearing, while rehabilitating those that are degraded/ degrading.

On the day, the Overberg Stakeholder Engagement Officer (SEO) presented at the Working on Fire webinar, to raise awareness on wetlands in and around CapeNature protected areas. The presentation concluded with the #LoveWater Nature series video produced by the Learning & Awareness Unit, used to educate Grade 6 learners on the importance of wetlands and the challenges confronting the waterbodies. A total number of 68 people were in attendance, ranging from representatives from academic institutions, conservation entities and various other NPOs.

The event was followed later the same week with a collaboration with SANParks conducting a successful World Wetlands Day. This event was attended by 19 learners and three educators. In addition, 56 Working for Wetlands participants formed part of the attendees that participated in the interpreted walk, while participating in a clean-up event along the estuary. CapeNature was represented by Andre Saptou, who conducted a talk titled "Life of a ranger" which also covered working with neighboring establishments to manage the estuary (guided by the National Environmen-



BATS AT GROENVLEI

By: Marienne de Villiers, Fauna Ecologist, Biodiversity Capabilities Batting at Groenvlei

Eighteen of the ±62 species of bats in South Africa occur in the Western Cape. Four of these are fruit-eating species. while the rest are insectivorous. The largest bat roost in South Africa is on CapeNature's De Hoop Nature Reserve and the 300,000 bats that live there are estimated to consume about 100 tons of insects per year, including mosquitoes and agricultural insect pests.

Groenvlei Lake on Goukamma Nature Reserve is a national wetland Freshwater Priority Area and one of only eight freshwater lakes in South Africa, all of which are Critically Endangered ecosystems. The nearby forest provides good habitat for many small animals including bats, but some bat species are also attracted to artificial structures.A recent bat study was carried out to find out more about the bats utilising Mvubu Bush Camp, on the shore of Groenvlei. To identify the species using the building, pinpoint the roost location and determine roost size, a visual sunset survey was carried out and calls were recorded throughout the night using an ultrasonic bat recorder.

Different bat species can be identified via use of sonograms (visual representations of their high-frequency calls). While there is variation in call characteristics within some species and overlap in characteristics between other species, the recorded calls indicated that at least three (possibly four) insectivorous bat species were flying near the buildings.

The resident bats at Goukamma Nature Reserve were identified as common Cape serotine bats, Neoromicia capensis. The roost was estimated to comprise 20-40 adult bats, with each pair probably caring for twins.

Environmentally and bat friendly measures that can be taken to discourage bats from taking up residence in buildings include (a) bat-proofing the walls of the building at the end of Autumn once the young bats are able to fly, (b) installing temporary one-way valves to allow any trapped bats to escape, (c) providing alternative housing in the form of a bat box.

It is important to reflect on the many important ecosystem services provided by bats like seed dispersal, pollination and insect control.

MOBIL Launch of new tourism app for visitors

CapeNature goes

By: Loren Pavitt, Marketing Manager, Eco-tourism and Access

Visitors can experience nature with the new CapeNature mobile app.The first of its kind for CapeNature, the visitor app enables a new way of experiencing and working in nature for visitors and officials - ultimately improving efficiency. Users can log in to the app directly on their mobile devices such as phones and/or tablets and download experience guides. The app is a positive contribution to CapeNature's focus on customer-centricity in alignment with the entity's vision. CapeNature aims to be at the forefront of the digitalisation of the local eco-tourism industry. To date, more than one thousand users have downloaded the FREE mobile app to their devices.





Cape serotine bat: morphological measurements rather than appearance are needed to positively identify the Cape serotine (N. capensis), but typical features visible here are dark brown ings, pale belly, plain face (no nose-leafs), rounded ears with a short, broad tragus (tongue-like projection in the ear) and dome-shaped forehead



Sonogram characteristics used to identify bat species include peak frequency, bandwidth, call duration and the presence of harmonics (a sound wave that has a frequency that is a multiple of the fundamental tone). Here depicted is the typical Cape serotine bat (N. capensis) hockey-stick shaped call peaking at around 38 kHz.



Would you also like your pics to be featured in "On the road"? Please send them to teiman@capenature.co.za with a caption and we will make it happen!



Awesome people



Sheraaz Ismail (far right), joined by Henry van Tonder (far left) handing over a token of appreciation to Adam Nel and Nicholas from Marloth NR for excellent service to clients.

It was lovely to meet ewe! Nicolette Mouries, Tourism Officer for Landscape East , ran into this cutie pie on her way to Meiringspoort.

Rawese Matthews from Rawese Matthews from Tourism Development sharing Tourism Development NR staff tourism Developmis visits. this pic of River of his visits. during one of his visits.

Control 1

Good times

Where East meets Head Office. Tom Barry, Nicolette Mouries and Kgaugelo Shadung (Conservation Manager) from the Oudtshoorn regional office met with Petro van Rhyn, Loren Pavitt and Fatima Borez from Eco-Tourism and Access at the lovely Meiringspoort.

Scenic beauty

Sheraaz Ismail, Fatima Borez and Petro van Rhyn from Eco-Tourism and Access recently Visited the construction site at Grootvadersbosch. The upgraded camping site is a very exciting new tourism development all campers can look forward to.



Saying goodbye will always remain bitter sweet, especially to our colleagues who have spent many years, some even decades, at the entity. Today we celebrate our retirees for a well-deserved job completed. You have all had a remarkable impact on the entity in your own special ways, you've worked hard and never hesitated to go the extra mile. A special reminder that retirement doesn't mean losing opportunities to do something, retirement means finally getting to do all those things you couldn't do because of work.

Wishing you the very best on this next chapter of life, from all of us at CapeNature!



An intimate farewell function was held at Jonkershoek on 25 February 2022 to mark the occasion of the retirement of Francois Jooste and Brian Bergstedt. They were also awarded long service awards, Francois for 38 years and Brian for 32 years, respectively.







On 29 March 2022, another small farewell was held for Janice Jackson. Joined by the Eco-tourism and Access directorate and other colleagues, it was a special celebration of a wonderful individual that will be sorely missed. Fond memories at the entity were shared, as Janice retires after 39 years of service.

GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK!

You've been dependable, supportive and inspiring during your time with us. We wish you all the best for your next chapter!

BRIAN BERGSTEDT | Conservation Assistant NEVILLE JANSEN | Field Ranger FRANCOIS JOOSTE | Technical Assistant MARELIZE DU PREEZ | Tourism Officer ARTHUR NDESI | Records and Archives Officer VUYISILE KOYO | Conservation Trainee TIMOTHY PETERSEN | Conservation Trainee JOHANNES LEISA | Conservation Assistant NUSHEEN BRENNER | Conservation Trainee SIYAMTHANDA KUNENE | ConservationTrainee GOITSIMANG RASHOPOLA | Conservation Trainee LEAH NAOMI BROWN | Conservation Trainee ZOE ELLENBERGER | Conservation Trainee LEIGH COOKSON | Conservation Trainee MIHLE MGEDLE | Conservation Trainee TARIN MAILE | Conservation Trainee SINAYOLUNGILE | Conservation Trainee



Dr BOYD ESCOTT | Conservation Planning Specialist LAMEES CHIKTE | Conservation Officer (On Reserve) FHULUFHELO TSHIKOVHI | People & Parks Officer AMY MONIQUE LEWIS | Conservation Trainee NONHLANHLA BLESSING NDLOVU | Conservation Trainee ANOVUYO MSHWESHWE | Conservation Trainee LEHANDRé CORNIKA FORTUIN | Conservation Trainee VIAHN DANEIGH VERMEULEN | Conservation Trainee LUVUYO DEKEDA | Conservation Trainee ALUWANI RAMARU | Conservation Trainee BULUMKO MAKAPELA | Conservation Trainee ELIHLE JOKO | Conservation Trainee HLENGIWE PHIRI | Conservation Trainee LORAINE AMANDA BOOYSEN | Legal Advisor



In Quarter 4 an Advertising Value Equivalent

(meaning what we would have paid if we had to buy the radio airtime or print space for advertising)

was a remarkable





Gasvryheid, soet soos heuning . . .

By Heaningylei, diep in die Cederberge, vind jy 'n gemeenskap w se hande vir niks verkeerd staan nie, skryf Marzahn Botha.



D



BAN MUSE











BIRTHDAYS -

CapeNature wishes you a great year ahead!

APRIL

Nompumelelo Tebele
Jakob Van Rooi
Hilton Bocks
Thobani Mbonane
Daseree Muller
Siphokazi Buyangane
Tippie Lerm
прре сени
Hendrik Ockhuis
Hendrik Ockhuis
Hendrik Ockhuis Patrick Hendricks

	Nicolaas Swarts	
	Kabelo Modise	
	Brenden-lee Jonas	
12	Llewellyn Jacobs	
12	Simona Fortuin	
13	Piet Simons	
	Leandi Wessels	
15	Elbie Colburn	
15	Theodore Taute	
	Johannes Visagie	
17	Louise Afonso	
18	Carl Brown	

Chipa Sithole
Khayakazi Breakfast
Dominique Coetzee
Takalani Makhomu
Kim Arrow
Rudie Davids
Noluthando Saki
Phunyuzwa Xhegwana
Maria Du Plessis
Dumisane Jula

MAY

1.1	Ashlin Daniels		Mark Williams	18	Michael Hanson	Avril Williams
1.1	Lue-ann Norton		Nkosekhaya Pinzi	18	Marienne De Villiers	
3	Willem Dowrey		Megan Simons	20	Siphokazi Mnyani	
4	William Fullard	12	Oiva Irua	21	Sipho Ngonyama	
5	Nicklaas Lukas	12	Martin Albertus	21	Sheraaz Ismail	
5	Christen Davids		Jamie Paulse	23	Molubabalo Mayipheli	
5	Koos Maya		Cebokazi Blayi	23	Natanya Dreyer	
6	Lungile Zukelwa		Steve Gildenhuys	24	Phillip Fouche	
7	Gerrit Swanepoel		Ndumiso Mphakathi	25	Patrick Wiltshire	
7	Nicolaas Tities	17	William Benn	30	Wynona Didloft	
8	Amore Hoogbaard	17	Aphiwe Kwinana	30	Danelle Kleinhans	
8	Enver Benadie	18	Earl Roode	31	Jolene Mouries	

JUNE

2	Petrus Lamini		Lucky Seabi		Resenga Lebese	24	Dion Ruiters
3	Byron Hendricks	9	Marius Brand	16	Thandeka Mabena	25	Ernst Baard
5	Cuan Mcgeorge		Rudi Coetzee	17	Valintino Kerspuy		Liwa Gunguluza
6	Mortimar De Boer	10	Philippa Huntly	18	Martine Jordaan	27	Jan Makampies
6	Lwandiso Luthango		Adam Nel	18	Tinie Van Der Westhuizen		Sandy Floris
6	Milisa Mdange	Ш	Ryan Jack	19	Masehly Scheepers	28	Callum Beattie
6	Henry Van Tonder		Natasja Warnick	19	Jo-anne Jansen		Brittany Cornelson
7	Gertruida Dasa	12	James Jafta	20	Hendry-John Blignaut	30	Frederick Ockhuis
7	Stanton Christians	13	Noloyiso Dlamini		Patrick Shone		
8	Corne Claassen	13	Zanne Brink	23	Karin Bekker		
8	Mzwandile Mhana		Luleka Sheleni	23	Lushano Gibson		
9	Lezel Ohlson	15	Arno Oransie	24	Dolf Europa		

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GOLDEN/YEARS

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Liked by esmarnewick and 677 others capenature Explore Kogelberg or Stony Point in the Overberg for FREE this Tourism Month.

capenature @lets_scamper_ oh how exciting! Please take some pictures 😁 🛫 .

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CapeNature @CapeNature1 · 2d Be Safe this fire season - heres a tip on fire safety:

Open fires are a common cause of uncontrolled fires in the Western Cape. Preferably, do not start a fire when it is hot and dry, and especially not when it's windy.

#BeSafe #FireSafetyTips #CapeNature



re Happy Heritage Day South Africa! 📖 📖

CapeNature is the proud custodian of in cultural and natural heritage. Cederber Area is renowned for its spectacular sa caves and rocky overhangs, which shel the region's finest San rock art. Where of example is till palable, n of

Join us as we celebrate our heritage and the many diverse cultures of our nation. #CapeNature

00 40

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Comment

CapeNature @CapeNat... · 2021/11/18 ···· Fishing is a popular outdoor pastime and enjoyed by South Africans from all walks of life. Recreational fishing using rod and line is permitted in several CapeNature reserves.

Click here for a list of spot: capenature.co.za/permits/recrea...

#CapeNature **#FisheriesSA** #WorldFisheriesDay

✤ CapeNature 17 0 4 today. Book today to enjoy accommodation in our pristine nature reserves Book now: https://bit.ly/3FKIsQB #BlackFridayDeals #CNBlackFriday2021 #CyberMonday2021 #ca

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Juste of the quarter

"Sometimes we can only find our true direction, when we let the wind of change carry us."

- Mimi Novic

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