

ECOSENSE

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Premier Alan Winde lends his acting skills in collab with Mbali

Author: Natanya Dreyer, Team Leader: Learning & Awareness, Eco-Tourism and Access

World Environment Day took place on 03 June 2022 and to mark this day the Western Cape Government alongside CapeNature, and the Berg River municipality, celebrated the launch of the Berg Estuary as a Ramsar site. What does Ramsar status symbolise? Well, it essentially means that it is now recognised as a site of ecological importance both nationally and internationally – pretty big deal!

As part of the day's formal proceedings, a short video segment was shown to guests. The video was filmed at multiple locations including in studio with a green screen and at the Berg Estuary in Velddrif. This is where Premier Alan Winde graciously lent his acting skills alongside our very own Mbali and the virtual CapeNature bot.

Mbali was also filmed on location in Velddrif, where she was transported by boat to an island-type section of the estuary.



View the fun-filled video with a serious message here.

“

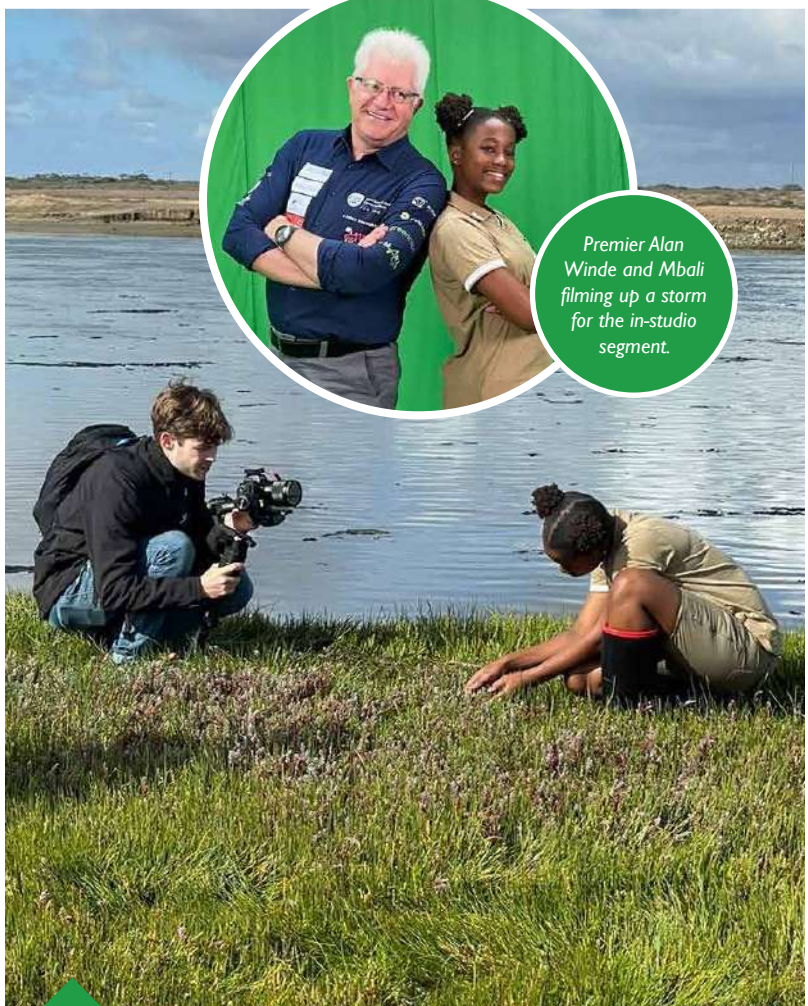
We hoped that the video would garner a lot of attention and have a much wider reach than usual as it showcases that the highest level of government agrees with and supports the protection of this estuary. It was amazing to bring together two different generations with the hope of speaking to both the older and younger generation about this important biodiversity topic.

”

– Natanya Dreyer, Team Leader: Learning and Awareness.



Premier Alan Winde, Minister Anton Bredell, Dr Razeena Omar, Letita Liebenberg (Mbali) and other stakeholders at the unveiling of the signboard showcasing the Ramsar status of the Berg Estuary



Premier Alan Winde and Mbali filming up a storm for the in-studio segment.

Mbali filming segment two at the Berg River Ramsar site.

Notes FROM THE EDITOR

Dear CapeNature Family,

How are we already halfway through 2022? Time flies when you're having fun, or something along those lines, and I certainly hope that you have all continued to find the light in even the darkest of moments. The second half of the year always feels like an opportunity to start afresh or to finally start that thing you wanted to back in January but just didn't find the motivation to do. If you ever needed a sign - this is it!

It's also entirely okay to feel as if you haven't achieved much over the last six months, what matters most however is what you'll do with the next six months. Anxiety arises from life's uncertainties and is even more present when the line between order and chaos is blurred. Remember not to be too hard on yourself. There's our day to day work but there's also our life's work. What gets you up in the morning? Remember that and then try and add value to it each and every single day.

On behalf of the Editorial team and I, thank you for your content contributions. We look forward to receiving even more exciting and lesser known information as we get to know our people and our reserves a little better.

Happy Reading!

Until next time,

Tarcia

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Contents

Cover Story

Premier Alan Winde lends his acting skills in collab with Mbali

Notes from the Editor pg. 1

Message from the CEO's Desk pg. 2

Notices pg. 2

Upcoming Events pg. 3

Tourism Development in the Spotlight pg. 4

EPWP Teams Move to Greater Heights as Qualified Rope Access Technicians pg. 4

Misty Mountains and Mysterious Frogs pg. 5

Rhino Horn Sampling Course Displays New Ways to Tackle Biodiversity Crime pg. 5

Learning & Awareness Hosts bi-annual Stakeholder Engagement Forum pg. 5

On the Road pg. 6

CapeNature unveils Sustainable Outdoor Selfie Frames for Visitors pg. 7

The Spectacular Proteaceae Family pg. 7

Goodbye and good luck/Welcome pg. 8

Getting to Know Executive Management pg. 9

Shining the Spotlight on our EPWP Success Stories pg. 10

CapeNature in the Press pg. 11

Birthdays pg. 12

Social Media Dashboard pg. 13



Message

FROM THE

CEO'S DESK

Dear colleagues,

As we close off the first quarter of the financial year, I would like to commend you all for efforts displayed resulting in a boisterous start to the financial year. We recently concluded another round of year-end employee reviews, and it pleases me to see so many who continue to go the extra mile, take initiative, show innovation and deliver as expected, even under sometimes what is deemed as difficult circumstance. Your effort does not go unnoticed, every single contribution matters to the entity and unified efforts will surely take the entity to that higher level of success. I welcome your enthusiasm and energy as we tackle the next quarter which will be filled with implementation of projects and campaigns. This is going to be a working quarter and I would like to encourage all staff to remain optimistic and rely on each other to achieve that which you have set out to achieve.

Though the National State of Disaster has been lifted, we continue to remain mindful of the COVID-19 virus and the unpredictability of infection rates within our country. With booster vaccines available to all, I would like to urge you all to take up the opportunity to get fully vaccinated, particularly as we potentially enter a sixth wave of infections during the colder

winter months. A reminder that we have established a COVID-19 Committee and the risks involved in the workplace will continue to be assessed. As always, it remains important to practice safe COVID-19 health and safety etiquette particularly when in an indoor environment.

During Quarter 1, the entity implemented several successful stakeholder events. We launched our inaugural Cubs Club, the first ever conservation club at the entity exclusively for children. We also partnered with Local Government for the official Berg Estuary RAMSAR launch in the community of Velddrif along the West Coast. The Berg River Estuary is one of the largest estuaries in the country, spanning over 61 kms and CapeNature is delighted to have formed a part in the establishment of this wetland, which now holds global significance.

Warmest greetings,

Razeena



NOTICES

HR training and development:

- EPWP induction including mop-up sessions
- 4X4 training
- Brush-cutter operator training
- Chainsaw operator training
- Herbicide applicator training
- Pre-sea training

JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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● **Mandela Day:** 18 July 2022

● **Learning and Awareness**
World Ranger Day: 31 July 2022

● **Learning and Awareness**
MPA Day: 01 August 2022

● **National Women's Day**
09 August 2022

● **Marketing - Senior Citizen Day**
21 August 2022

● **Stakeholder Engagement & Access**
World Traditional Medicine Day
31 August 2022

● **Learning and Awareness**
National Arbour Week: 01 September 2022

● **Biodiversity Capabilities**
Fynbos Forum: September 2022

● **Access Week 2022**
September 2022

● **Marketing & Promotions**
International Tourism Day: 27 September 2022

● **Biodiversity Capabilities**
International Vulture Awareness Day:
4 September 2022



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT *in the* SPOTLIGHT



Wilfred Williams

Editor, Tarcia Eiman (TE) sat down with Wilfred Williams (WW), General Manager: Tourism Development to get the lowdown on this unit's significant contribution to the success of the entity's tourism offerings.

TE: How long have you held this position at CapeNature?

WW: I started working at CapeNature in June 2007. My role consisted mainly of developing new tourism products, maintaining and upgrading existing products, and increasing the revenue potential for the then Biodiversity Conservation.

TE: What does a typical day in your work life look like?

WW: Not one day looks the same, but in general I keep myself busy with the following:

- o Managing the Public Private Partnerships at De Hoop Nature Reserve.
- o Managing finances and reporting to Provincial and National Treasury.
- o Chair Bid Evaluation Committees at CapeNature that deals with all procurement above R200k.
- o Continuously looking at innovative solutions to infrastructure development at CapeNature to remain competitive and grow the tourism brand in the Western Cape and South Africa.

TE: Which tourism development projects are you most proud of?

WW: There is a couple, but I will start with the award-winning Oudebosch development at Kogelberg Nature Reserve. This was the first major development at CapeNature that set the tone for the products to come. It was by far the most intensive planning process, from a zonation perspective to the details of the actual cabin designs. The awards and accolades won for the development set the standard for tourism development at CapeNature.

Rocherpan Nature Reserve is a hidden gem that was not part of any planning process within CapeNature. To transform the old staff units into one-bedroom overnight accommodation facilities was an amazing achievement. It put CapeNature on the map in the West Coast.

Another jewel in the crown of CapeNature's tourism offerings is Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve. Transforming old labour cottages into tourism accommodation units by recycling almost 90% of the demolished units into the new facilities was an achievement. To develop the reserve to such an extent that it has become one of the top income generators for CapeNature speaks volumes to the commitment of staff and resources of the unit.

TE: Looking to the future, can you share more about what we can expect in terms of our eco-tourism products?

WW: There is a number of exciting projects on the horizon and I'm happy to share details on some of it with Eco-Sense readers.

Wolwekloof Resort, Ceres – CapeNature took over the management of this iconic facility in June 2019. The first year was spent addressing and upgrading the bulk infrastructure for water, roads, electricity and sewerage at the facility. We started upgrading the existing day visitor facilities with upgrades to the main swimming pools and day visitor picnic sites. The idea is to transform Wolwekloof into an activity hub with a variety of tourism accommodation products as well as an onsite restaurant and café.

De Mond Nature Reserve will undergo an extensive upgrade and construction of additional tourism accommodation units. The capacity will increase from six overnight guests to 24 overnight guests. This year will see the upgrade and reconfiguration of all management and bulk infrastructure.

Goukamma Nature Reserve will see the upgrade of the Groenvlei Precinct in partnership with the National Department of Tourism. A new overnight hiking trail and related facilities will be constructed at Platbank, creating a multiday overnight trail on the reserve.

TE: Do you think it's important that CapeNature continues to update its products for visitors?

WW: It's important to continue upgrading existing products at CapeNature specifically where we have the opportunity to introduce new technology to reduce the maintenance costs of our facilities. Refreshing old products creates relevance in the market and maintains the competitiveness of CapeNature tourism products.

TE: What are the goals of tourism development?

WW: To establish a differentiated and leading brand of products in outdoor nature-based tourism across the Western Cape for all to enjoy. This purpose is pursued to provide opportunities to the public and interact in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.



Sunset at Rocherpan Nature Reserve



Old staff units converted into overnight accommodation Rocherpan Nature Reserve



Glamping at Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve



The Oudebosch eco-cabins at Kogelberg Nature Reserve

EPWP teams move to greater heights as qualified ROPE ACCESS TECHNICIANS

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

Following the successful completion of the Wilderness Rope Access training, the newly trained Rope Access Technicians (RACs) were recruited by the Contour Environmental Group, where they have successfully been incorporated into existing High-Altitude teams, to gain further work experience and use their newly acquired Rope Access skills.

The teams have been working with the Contour Environmental Group since mid-April 2022, and are currently working in the Screenbras catchment area, after which they will proceed to work within the High-Altitude areas situated around the Wemmershoek catchment area. The work that these RACs are now able to do has made and will make a big impact on their careers. They will be able to earn an increased salary and it will allow them more work opportunities, which may not have been available to them prior to the completion of their training.

The Rope Access technicians have already received their certificates, as they needed this to be recruited. The official certificate handover ceremony is going to take place at the Jonkershoek Nature Reserve.



Teams successfully working in field following their High-Altitude Training courses.



High-Altitude work undertaken in and around the Wemmershoek catchment area.

MISTY MOUNTAINS AND MYSTERIOUS FROGS



Author: Dr Martine Jordaan (Fauna Ecologist) and Dr Andrew Turner (Restoration Ecologist), Biodiversity Capabilities Directorate

Globally, amphibian populations declined from the mid to late 1990's, even within Protected Areas, raising the alarm on the need to monitor and protect amphibians. Frogs are good environmental indicators and are expected to be sensitive to climate change, pollutants and a suite of other environmental threats. Over half of the frogs of the Western Cape are endemic to the province and around 15% are threatened. CapeNature initiated a long-term frog monitoring project to investigate the effect of climate change, fire frequency and to determine the conservation requirements for these species to ensure their long-term survival in the wild. Monitoring sites are situated in Swartboskloof and Landdrooskop in the Hottentots-Holland Nature Reserve, the Klein Swartberg Mountain at Caledon and the Groot Winterhoek Nature Reserve.

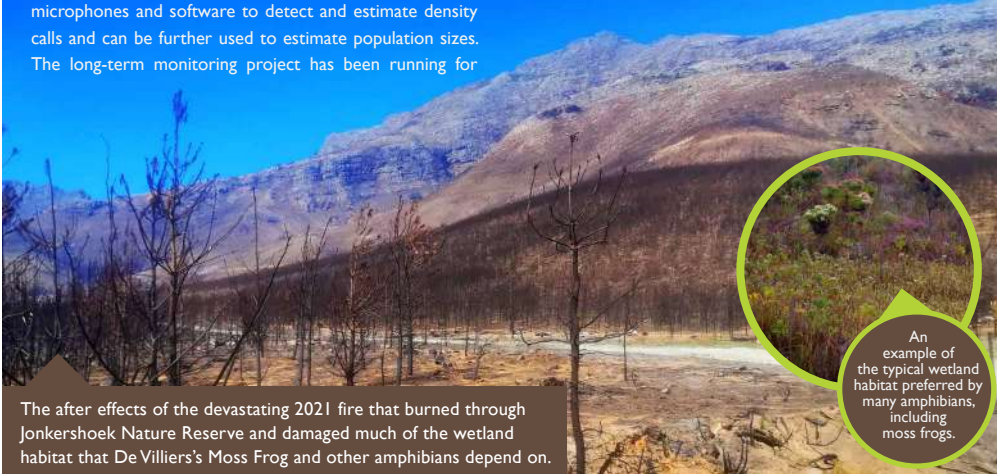
Most fynbos-dwelling frogs breed in well-vegetated seepages and streams and are generally hard to detect visually and monitoring is done through recording the calls emitted by the males. Two methods are employed, one using trained and experienced people to listen for the presences and numbers of frogs and a second using an array of microphones and software to detect and estimate density calls and can be further used to estimate population sizes. The long-term monitoring project has been running for

over 20 years and recent results indicate that alien plant invasions and too short fire return intervals can have significant effects. For example, the 2021 fire that burnt through the entire Swartboskloof negatively affected frog populations, particularly De Villiers's Moss Frog (*Arthroleptella villiersi*). Past results at Swartboskloof, a mid-altitude site, displayed that De Villiers's Moss Frog populations recover after six years.

However, results at Landdrooskop, a high-altitude site show that De Villiers's Moss Frog populations recover more slowly after about 10 years. Landdrooskop Moss Frogs (*Arthroleptella landdroosia*) are even slower to recover, and this species now only persists in a very small population at the Landdrooskop monitoring site. It is now 13 years after the last fire indicating that fire return intervals for this species need to be longer than this and informs fire management to enable persistence of multiple species by quantifying the range of fire return intervals across space and time.



De Villiers's Moss Frog (*Arthroleptella villiersi*), a tiny frog that grows to a maximum size of 22mm and which is endemic to the Western Cape Province.



The after effects of the devastating 2021 fire that burned through Jonkershoek Nature Reserve and damaged much of the wetland habitat that De Villiers's Moss Frog and other amphibians depend on.

An example of the typical wetland habitat preferred by many amphibians, including moss frogs.



RHINO HORN

SAMPLING COURSE DISPLAYS NEW WAYS TO TACKLE BIODIVERSITY CRIME

Author: Lucille Ross, Compliance Specialist: Port of Entry, Biodiversity Capabilities

Earlier this year, CapeNature staff members from the Conservation Operations directorate attended a Rhino Horn DNA sampling course at Rondevlei Nature Reserve. The course was presented by Jacques du Toit and Edrich Grieb of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and dealt with various practical processes involving the DNA sampling as well as the use of electronic media to record data and information. There were practical opportunities to practice the various different methods.

The training was a follow up from an online presentation that was given in July 2020 which dealt with the theoretical side, the legislation and the National Norms and Standards with regards to the marking of rhino horns. This session was a recap with a focus on the practical side of actually sampling the rhino horn DNA. All the attendees will receive a certificate which will enable them to legally sample rhino horn DNA.

The training also allowed for attendees to raise questions and to address any uncertainties that they might have had regarding marking and sampling of rhino horns. Everybody who joined the course found it very informative and there was active participation.



Sessions were practical, interesting and informative.



Rhino horn DNA sampling.



Group photo of all attendees at the workshop.

Learning and Awareness hosts bi-annual Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness Forum

at Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve

Author: Clinton Windvogel, Learning Officer: Learning & Awareness, Eco-Tourism and Access

The Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness Forum takes place twice a year and most recently took place at the Vrolijkheid Nature Reserve between 25 and 26 May.

The highly anticipated event is hosted for CapeNature's Stakeholder Engagement Officers (SEOs), who are essentially the link between CapeNature and the communities that the entity serves. These staff members are responsible for all community related matters within our landscapes such as environmental education, capacity building and awareness.

The forum is hosted as a platform to bring all Stakeholder Engagement Officers together and acts as a conduit for sharing expertise, planning and making decisions as a team and building the capacity of these staff members. With these specialist staff scattered across the Western Cape, the forum is also able to contribute towards building a close-knit team.

The first day of the forum focused on stakeholder engagement and one of the highlights included a refresher session by Working on Fire on how to go about creating FireSafe communities. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment presented on the opportunities that exist within the biodiversity economy and the Stakeholder Engagement and Access team presented on unemployment in communities, including how these challenges may be addressed.

Tasked with creating and implementing an effective



Stakeholder Engagement Officers learned how to take great pictures by using simple techniques such as a good angle, directing groups and stabilising.

evaluation programme this financial year; the team spent some time work- shopping the current evaluation process and what needs to be done to develop an effective monitoring and evaluation system for the capacity building and awareness activities of CapeNature.

The second day focused on Learning and Awareness matters, including corporate communication such as branding and media management. Part of the presentation also focused on skills development like photography. Topics included the correct use of the CapeNature brand, how to create a successful presentation and how to take better pictures. All training was presented inhouse and content was designed to speak specifically to the work being done by these staff members.

To end off the forum, an open microphone session was held. Staff are encouraged to raise any issues or challenges faced, and the group is used as a sounding board and support system to help resolve or find guidance on these challenges. The open microphone session is always considered and treated as a safe space where any issue can be brought to the forefront without judgement or prejudice.



Resources are distributed and shared at the forum.



SEO's learning the art of photography.

ON THE ROAD



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



Letita Liebenberg, fondly known as Mballi, pauses for a quick photo before the start of the Ramsar launch event in Veldrif.

Communications Officer, Tareia Eiman, and Graphic Designer, Jamie Paulse, share a sweet moment with Premier Alan Winde before the Ramsar event in Veldrif.

Executive Director: Dr Ernst Baard and General Manager: Advocacy Petro van Rhyen following COVID-19 screening processes as they check into the Ramsar event in Veldrif.

Good times



As a proud sponsor of the Jive Comedy Festival, CapeNature staff alongside the performing comedians, enjoyed a day of exploring at Kogelberg and Stony Point reserves.

Scenic beauty

Visitors spend some time marvelling at the majestic Stony Point Penguin Colony.

CapeNature Unveils Sustainable OUTDOOR SELFIE-FRAMES FOR VISITORS

Author: Loren Pavitt, Marketing & Promotions Manager, Eco-Tourism and Access

Plan a road trip with family and friends to visit one of the six CapeNature reserves that have a newly installed outdoor photo frame. The frames aim to encourage visitors to take scenic photos whilst enjoying the beautiful, protected areas at our reserves. All frames are made from iroko wood, wood of the iroko tree (*Chlorophora excelsa*), which is native to the west coast of Africa. It is sustainable, dense and very durable, which speaks to CapeNature's green eco-tourism principles.

What are outdoor photo frames and why are they important?

Trending over the last few years, outdoor selfie frames have become increasingly popular at tourist destinations worldwide. The frames are normally quite big and entirely transparent to allow tourists to use the travel destination's stunning backdrops for photographs. They strive to perfectly encapsulate some of the destination's most iconic and eye-catching features, whilst encouraging tourists to use them for capturing memorable moments. Once posted and shared online, tourists' photographs also do a lot to market the destination, especially if the correct hashtags are used and the destination itself is tagged.

These are the must-visit nature reserves with selfie frames:

- **Cederberg Wilderness, Algeria**, where the selfie frame is situated near the Algeria office with a backdrop of a serene waterfall gorge and Middleberg mountains.
- **Stony Point Nature Reserve's** frame overlooks the beautiful coastal view of the quaint coastal town of Betty's Bay. Stony Point's land-based penguin colony is the third largest breeding colony of African penguins in the world. It is a sight to behold!
- **Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve** has a magical, fairytale-like indigenous forest that is ever more enticing to explorers. Its outdoor photo frame captures just this.
- **Goukamma's** frame has a picturesque river and river mouth backdrop.
- **De Hoop Nature Reserve** lies at the southernmost tip of Africa, where mountains meet the sea. This is the ideal combination for a photo moment!
- **Walker Bay Nature Reserve** is a coastal dream with the bluest skies to match. Visitors will take a snap at the heart of the famed Whale Coast.



Leucadendron sp. (Image: Scott Ramsay)

The Spectacular Proteaceae Family

Author: Ruida Stanvliet, Flora Ecologist,
Biodiversity Capabilities

(continue reading on the following page)

Residents of the Western Cape are privileged to live amongst such diverse, floral beauty. Nature reserves managed by CapeNature offer numerous opportunities to experience the exceptional fauna of this biodiversity hotspot region we call home. Many species of the iconic Proteaceae (protea) family are flowering right now.

The family Proteaceae was named in 1767 by Carl Linnaeus after Proteus, one of the gods in Greek mythology who had the ability to constantly change his form. The name Proteaceae echo the variability of many different plant forms found within the large family. The Proteaceae is one of the most spectacular plant families in South Africa. The first record of any plant ever described in southern Africa was *Protea neriifolia*, described by Clusius 50 years before Jan van Riebeeck set foot in the Cape of Good Hope (Vogts 1960).

The Core Cape Subregion of South Africa (also referred to as the Greater Cape Floristic Region) is one of the world's most remarkable hotspots of biodiversity. The region comprises an estimated 9 400 species of vascular plants of which almost 70% are endemic. It is home to six endemic or near-endemic families, of which the Proteaceae is one of the most well-known.

Fourteen genera of the Proteaceae occur in southern Africa, namely *Aulax* (featherbushes - 3 taxa), *Brabejum* (Wild Almond being the single taxon), *Diastella* (silky-puffs - 9 taxa), *Faurea* (beechwoods - 5 taxa), *Leucadendron* (cone-bushes - 98 taxa), *Leucospermum* (pincushions - 54 taxa), *Mimetes* (pagodas - 13 taxa), *Orothamnus* (Marsh Rose being the single taxon), *Paranomus* (sceptres - 19 taxa), *Protea* (sugarbushes - 87 taxa), *Serruria* (spiderheads - 59 taxa), *Sorocephalus* (clusterheads - 11 taxa), *Spatalla* (spoons - 20 taxa), and *Vexatorella* (vexators - 5 taxa) (Rebello 1995; SANBI 2020). Two genera are dioecious, namely *Aulax* and *Leucadendron*. Growth forms in the Proteaceae differ vastly, from prostrate shrubs to tall trees. All species have compound flower heads, called an inflorescence.



Protea eximia
[Acknowledgement:
iNaturalist © capietours (CC BY-NC 4.0)]

Pollination of Proteas

Most species of Proteaceae are pollinated by birds, e.g. the national flower which is the King Protea (*Protea cynaroides*), the common and well-known sugarbush (*P. repens*), and most of the bearded Proteas (*P. neriifolia*, *P. laurifolia*, *P. magnifica*, *P. lorifolia*). Bird-pollinated species mostly have brightly coloured involucral bracts to attract birds of which the most important are the sugarbirds and sunbirds. Several species are pollinated by rodents, including gerbils, mice, rats and shrews. Interestingly, one species, *P. punctata*, has implemented a pollination shift to being pollinated primarily by long-proboscid flies and butterflies (Johnson et al. 2012). Another interesting species is *Leucospermum arenarium* that is listed as Critically Endangered.

This species depends on rodents for pollination and presents its viscous nectar in an exposed position on petal tips to allow rodents easy access without destroying the inflorescences (Johnson & Pauw 2014). Some species are pollinated by bees, e.g., *Diastella thymelaeoides* ssp. *meridiana*. The inflorescences of bee-pollinated species are considerably smaller in size than those of bird-pollinated species. There are also ten wind-pollinated members of the Proteaceae in southern Africa, all of which are *Leucadendron* species. These species are odourless and do not secrete nectar.

Some species of Proteaceae exude a 'yeasty' scent, which is a typical trait of plants pollinated by small mammals (Kühn et al. 2017). Visits by small mammals do not however preclude visits by other pollinators, such as sunbirds and insects. The mammal-pollinated flowers are more open-shaped and with a diameter wider than the length of the inflorescence, e.g., *Protea canaliculata*, *P. sulphurea*, and *P. humiflora*.

CapeNature reserves and flowering Proteaceae

Some of the winter-flowering (June to August) Proteaceae observable in CapeNature reserves are *Mimetes acullatus* (widespread common pagoda), *Protea nitida* (widespread waboom), *Protea coronata* (green sugarbush, Garden Route), *Protea sulphurea* (sulphur sugarbush, Hexrivier, Swartberg), *Protea magnifica* (bearded sugarbush, Hottentots Holland, Langeberg, Outeniqua, Kammanassie), *Protea laurifolia* (grey-leaf sugarbush, Hottentots Holland, Riviersondered, Anysberg), *Spatalla barbigeria* (fine-leaf spoon) and *Leucospermum royenifolium* (eastern pincushion, both Outeniqua and Swartberg mountains), *Leucospermum prostratum* (yellow-trailing pincushion, Kogelberg), *Paranomus dregei* (scented sceptre, Anysberg and Swartberg), and *Paranomus bolusii* (Overberg sceptre, Groenlandberg).



Leucospermum prostratum
(Image: Steve Gildenhuys)



Protea punctata
(Image: Charleen Brunke)



Diastella thymelaeoides ssp. *meridiana* (Image: Ruida Pool-Stanviet)

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!

IZAK LOMBARD | Field Ranger

LWANDISO LUTHANGO | Promotions Officer

BRENTON BOOYSEN | Field Ranger

BUBELE MDINGI | Team Leader: Assets and Fleet

RUMARK FESTUS | Conservation Assistant

SANDRA FLORIS | Finance Manager: Transactions

DANIELLE BOWEN | Conservation Officer (On Reserve)

PHAKAMILE ZUNGU | Conservation Officer (On Reserve)

NICO DU PREEZ | Field Ranger

LAZOLA MOMO | Team Leader: Internal Control Unit

ROWENA VAUGHAN | General Manager: Human Resources



After an astounding 35 years of service, the entity bid farewell to Karin Bekker. We wish her a well-deserved retirement and a prosperous new chapter ahead!

FAREWELL KARIN BEKKER

WELCOME

BILLY-JEAN SAM FORTUIN | Shared Services Officer

CHARMAINE MEYER | Landscape Administrative Assistant

RUMARK FESTUS | Conservation Assistant

SANDILE MDOKO | Conservation Officer (On Reserve)

SIZWE MATHYE | General Manager: Finance

GETTING TO KNOW

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Q&A with CapeNature CEO



DR RAZEENA OMAR

1. What has been your biggest learning since becoming a CEO?

The importance of the contribution of every person in the entity is required to achieve success, coupled by the passion of CapeNature staff to conserve the environment for future generations.

2. Do you have a secret talent that no one knows about?

Perhaps it is not a talent, but more so a passion/calling. I am very interested in and practice energy healing therapies.

3. What do you do for fun?

I love listening to a variety of music genres and enjoy hiking, baking and writing.

4. How do you relax?

Through playtime with my five-year old granddaughter and meditating.

5. What was your first job?

I had many informal jobs that I did as a student to pay my way through tertiary studies. This included working at a hospital in Johannesburg during vacations, assisting in zoological research projects and practicals at university, etc. However, formally, I did a six-month stint as a mathematics teacher at a High School in the Western Cape.

6. What is the craziest thing you have done?

Dancing on a table in 15-centimetre platform-soled high heels in celebration of my 40th birthday!

7. What gets you up in the morning?

I love the work that I do, and I look forward each day to make my contribution towards conserving the environment for current and future generations.

8. What motivates you?

Providing opportunities for our youth to reach their full potential.

Q&A with CapeNature Executive Director: Eco-tourism & Access



MR. SHERAAZ ISMAIL

1. What has been your biggest learning since becoming Executive Director: Eco-Tourism and Access?

I was the youngest appointed Executive Director at the age of 33. Biggest learning was never to give up, believe in yourself, your ability and your vision. Also have patience, patience and more patience, lol!!!

2. Do you have a secret talent that no one knows about?

Believe it or not I'm an avid gamer. From my childhood days I spent hours at gaming arcades escaping my reality. This is something that continued into my teenage and adult years. Some of my favorite games include Assassins Creed, Call of Duty, Red Dead Redemption and God of War. I'm not the only gamer at CapeNature...wink, wink!!!

3. What do you do for fun?

Love spending time with my wife and kids doing weekend getaways in nature, enjoying scenic drives or visiting local markets and eateries.

4. How do you relax?

Winters are awesome so we enjoy our fireplace while watching a good movie or listening to good music. I also enjoy a bit of gardening and some DIY projects in and around my house.

5. What was your first job?

I worked at the Woolworths Distribution Centre in Montagu Gardens as an Intake and Dispatch Controller. I made sure that Woolworths stores in the Western and Eastern Cape as well as Namibia receives their orders daily and on time. It's a 24/7 and 365 operation.

6. What is the craziest thing you have done?

I spent a few days in Stockholm Sweden where sunset was 23h45 at night. This certainly boggled the mind and senses. I then decided to travel to the northern part of Sweden to the village of Grovelsjön to experience what they call "the land of the midnight sun". Here the sun does not set at all, it's literally daylight 24/7 for months on end. It still is one of my most memorable experiences.

7. What gets you up in the morning?

Living with purpose and intent. I refuse to live life for the sake of it. To the best husband, dad, leader and mentor, I can possibly be. This is a conscious decision, and you need to work at it each day.

8. What motivates you?

Being an agent of change, wanting to change people's lives for the better. I believe nothing is impossible and if there is a will to make things happen it can happen. People motivate and inspire me. Match my effort, energy and work ethic and together we can make blue sky ideas become a reality.



Jonathan Jasson
Tourism Liaison Officer, Eco-Tourism and Access

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON OUR EPWP SUCCESS STORIES

1. What factors influenced you to get involved in the EPWP programme?

At the time of applying for the FTE Administrative Assistant – Learning and Awareness at CapeNature in 2019, I was nearing the end of my internship contract at SANParks Agulhas National Park, which gave me the opportunity to be part of this programme. I heard many great things about CapeNature and the work that they do and I was looking to create a career for myself within an entity that offers Eco-tourism.

2. What kind of education, training or on the job experience has prepared you for this career path?

My Diploma in Tourism Management has helped prepare me for this career path and having spent most of my professional career since 2016 as an intern in various organisations including CapeNature. I gained so much on-the-job experience through checking in guests, assisting with handling complaints, doing checks on accommodation facilities and most importantly interacting with guests. The tourism industry is certainly an ongoing learning experience, so I am continuously learning.

3. What are your duties?

- Oversee and provide input into maintenance and upgrade of existing Eco-tourism products at Kogelberg Nature Reserve.
- Ensure that all tourism products and activities at Kogelberg Nature Reserve adhere to applicable norms and standards via regularly scheduled and documented quality and compliance checks.
- Implement measure to ensure the successful operations of CapeNature Eco-tourism products and activities at Kogelberg Nature Reserve.
- Procure products and services for Kogelberg Nature Reserve in line with the norms of the entity as well as statutory provisions.
- Interact with relevant conservation managers and reserve staff with regards to maintenance and operations of tourism facilities at Kogelberg Nature Reserve.

4. What part of your day-to-day duties do you personally find most satisfying?

If I can single out one thing that I enjoy most it would have to be the interaction between various stakeholders on a day-to-day basis. These include, my team, the reserve staff, contractors, management and most importantly the visitors who come to experience the reserve. I enjoy the interaction with them the most as they are ultimately the ones whom we want to provide excellent service to.

5. How have you overcome challenges, if any, in your working environment to date?

By trying to always keep a positive mindset. In overwhelming situations or challenges, it is human nature to feel pressured, but I have learnt, and I am still learning to remain positive. Challenges are a part of living and it is important to learn to accept and navigate them. So, I have tried to stay positive and tried to remain calm at all times.

6. What advice would you offer learners who are interested in pursuing a similar journey as you?

To always give of your best and to surround yourself with people who add value to your life. Stay true to yourself and always believe you can achieve whatever you put your mind to.

7. Is there any person who has been particularly helpful to you in your time at CapeNature and how did they help you?

Not only one person but my previous team in the Learning and Awareness unit, Natanya Dreyer and Clinton Windvogel. They saw the potential in me and gave me the opportunity to be a part of the CapeNature family when I first started as an EPWP – FTE Administrative Assistant. They motivated me, helped me to grow and always inspired me to do my best. We were a close team and achieved a lot together as a team.



Gavin Sean Petersen
Field Ranger, Stony Point Penguin Colony

1. What factors influenced you to get involved in the EPWP programme?

I have always loved nature, and at the time I saw a post that would allow me to get closer to nature and biodiversity.

2. What kind of education, training or in-service experience has prepared you for this career path?

I worked closely alongside the rangers who have guided me and taught me all the standard duties and responsibilities of the job.

3. What does a day in the field look like?

- Patrol in and around the penguin colony.
- Rescuing birds from danger or objects that will cause their deaths.
- Transporting sick and injured birds.
- Doing maintenance in colony (brushpacking, side drainage for water, fixing fences around colony)

4. What part of your day-to-day duties do you personally find most satisfying?

To work hands-on with the penguins, which are an endangered species. I try my best daily to keep them safe from danger.

5. How have you overcome challenges, if any, in your working environment to date?

I face my challenges by doing my best and always reminding myself why I chose this path in the first place.

6. What advice would you offer learners who are interested in pursuing a similar career as you?

Be patient and stay focused on your dreams. Always ask if you don't know something.

7. Is there any person who has been particularly helpful to you in your time at CapeNature and how did they help you?

Brenton Matinka – He gave me the opportunity of taking charge of the production team.

Patrick Hendricks – He taught me how to sort out problems during field ranger patrols and general duties including how to collect data, and how to safely utilise the brush cutter and chain saw etc.

Brenton Booysen – He gave me the opportunity to go out with him on a boat and to make chase of poachers in the MPA.

BIRTHDAYS

CapeNature wishes you a great year ahead!



JULY

1	Sandisiwe Rubuluza	13	Willem Goemas	23	André Saptou
4	Mmuso Lerutla	14	Althea Somdyala	23	Derick Damon
4	Johnny Brander	15	Thembakazi Makaula	23	Johan Burger
5	Nicole Breda	15	Koos Engelbrecht	24	Nicholas Barry
8	Marius Poole	16	Amukelani Nkuna	25	Veronique September
8	Hanli Hendricks	16	Darryn Field	25	Lwazi Vani
8	John Minnaar	18	Willem Wagenaar	27	Nam Makwetu
9	Lee-Xavier Schoonraad	18	Paul Gildenhuis	27	Pieter Booysen
9	Natalie Baker	19	Soraya Majiet	28	Lyndall Swartz
10	Marika van der Walt	21	Princess Ntsomi	28	Garth Roziers
10	Malcolm Botha	22	Lesley-Ann Williams	28	Jamie Dippenaar
10	Abraham Lottering	22	Felicia Petersen	30	Darryl Menigo

AUGUST

1	Anthony Erasmus	7	Rowena Bosman	20	Ameera Mahomed	28	Wesley Farmer
1	John Goliaths	9	Kirschtwell Arendse	20	Lucien Swartz	28	Patrick Meyer
2	Imilda Ontong	11	John Rossouw	20	Jan Josephs	29	Barend Le Roux
2	Kgaugelo Shadung	11	Lucinda Witten	21	Sydville May		
2	Marietta Plaatjies	14	Rodney Kissen	21	Jeanetta Claassens		
2	Alan Wheeler	16	Pierre De Villiers	23	Rumark Festus		
2	Siyabulela Mandlake	16	Wilfred Williams	23	Whilmien Geduld		
3	Westley Oransie	16	Carlo Van Tonder	23	Ameerah Hendricks		
5	Onelisa Qwaka	17	Dian Dreyer	24	Deon Hignett		
7	Jonathan Jasson	17	Jonatha Zimri	26	Zenoebia Gamielidien		
7	Wayne Meyer	18	Thabiso Mokoena	26	Kelly Sokoko		
7	Marlene Van Onselen	18	Keith Spencer	26	Jacky Blaauw		

SEPTEMBER

1	Sibusiso Ngubane	9	Sheldon Diedericks	18	Valerie Jansen	27	Danie Landman
1	Graham Lewis	9	Ramese Mathews	19	Geralda Adams	27	Brenton Matinka
2	Ruida Stanvliet	10	Zainab George	20	Thomas Horne	29	Jean Du Plessis
2	Jason Valentyn	11	Chanel Hauvette	21	Rochelle Dickson	30	Anele Mdleleni
3	Anthea Oliphant	11	Ismat Adams	22	Yves Chesselet		
3	Thulani Ndlovu	13	Danielle Bowen	24	Lucinda Theron		
5	Wentzel Hornimann	14	Antoinette Veldtman	24	Loren Pavitt		
6	Yasmina Domingo	14	Anita Wheeler	26	Nophiwe Nkqayi		
6	Allistair Pietersen	15	Morris Floris	27	Sandile Mdoko		
7	Marx-Lenin Nagan	16	Micheal Jennett	27	Jo-Marie Fortuin		
8	Jerome Dowrie	17	Erna Muller	27	Leonie Erasmus		
9	Esethu Mxoli	18	Newille Dynaard	27	Imran Brey		

SOCIAL MEDIA DASHBOARD

32 288
page likes



17 351
followers



7 097
followers



in

6 315
followers



Facebook: Top Posts By Engagement Rate (Apr 2022, 01 - Jun 2022, 10)

Post Title	Reactions	Comments	Shares	Engagement	Engagement Rate
Hey Nature Lovers, please note that firewood will no longer be permitted in any...	247	17	132	496	2%
Anyberg Nature Reserve is a world heritage site in the semi-Karoo between...	457	18	18	493	2%
You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting...	303	15	13	331	1%
When we say "paradise", we really mean Grootvadersbosch Nature...	273	14	18	305	<5%
10 reasons why you should invest in Eskops and experience longer-lasting...	109	10	26	213	<3%

LinkedIn: Top Posts By Engagement Rate (Apr 2022, 01 - Jun 2022, 10)

Post Title	Reactions	Comments	Shares	Engagement	Engagement Rate
Did you know that half of South Africa's freshwater fish species are found nowhere...	99	9	8	110	2%
When we say "paradise", we really mean Grootvadersbosch Nature...	58	9	3	61	<5%
CapeNature was proud to participate in the @GreenExp Reforest Festival with its...	39	1	1	41	<5%
Happy International Plate Appreciation Day! 🍴🌱	39	6	8	47	<5%
Anyberg Nature Reserve is a world heritage site in the semi-Karoo between...	46	6	6	46	<3%



Twitter: Top Tweets By Engagement Rate (Apr 2022, 01 - Jun 2022, 10)

Post Title	Retweets	Replies	Engagement	Engagement Rate
"Very welcome to this proud occasion where we will be officially launching the Be...	14	1	20	<1%
Our love language consists of tents and stony skies. 🏕️	15	0	18	<5%
When we say "paradise", we really mean Grootvadersbosch Nature...	12	0	15	<5%
We would like to give a special thanks to all the Anyberg Nature Reserve...	12	0	15	<5%
The journey to the Wolfberg Arch is long, with an average timing of 8 hours. The path...	10	1	13	<5%

Instagram: Top Posts By Engagement Rate (Apr 2022, 01 - Jun 2022, 10)

Post Title	Reactions	Comments	Engagement	Engagement Rate
Our love language consists of tents and stony skies. 🏕️	438	8	426	2%
You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting...	288	4	292	2%
Beautiful reserves = delicious food = guided hiking trails = the perfect recipe for a...	239	5	244	1%
WCW! That is what I feel and think every single time I hear that forgotten paradise call...	225	6	231	1%
When we say "paradise", we really mean Grootvadersbosch Nature...	213	6	219	1%



Quote OF THE QUARTER

“An understanding of the natural world and what’s in it is a source of not only great curiosity, but also great fulfillment.”

- Sir David Attenborough

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