

ECOSENSE

Internal Newsletter • Issue 55



STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT (SOCR)

By: Philippa Huntly, Mainstream Specialist | Directorate: Biodiversity Capabilities

The Western Cape is home to remarkable and rich biodiversity, with many species found nowhere else on earth! As highlighted in the recently released annual State of Conservation Report (SoCR 2020), the Western Province is a botanical wonder with two global biodiversity hot spots, the Cape Floristic Region and the Succulent Karoo Biome. There are 13 489 plant species, of which 6 776 (50.2 %) are endemic.

While our biodiversity provides many benefits to the economy and human wellbeing, it is unfortunately also under threat. The SoCR 2020 delivered a succinct summary of the status of priority conservation indica-

tors as at the end of 2019. While acknowledging the challenges and threats to biodiversity, there are also significant gains to be celebrated, such as the expansion of the conservation estate. The CapeNature Protected Area Estate totals 976 639.98 ha and includes CapeNature protected areas and formal stewardship sites supported by CapeNature.



Visit the CapeNature website to view the full SoCR report [here](#)

A video of the webinar hosted on 20th May, unpacking the report, can be viewed on the CapeNature YouTube page [here](#).

Notes

FROM THE EDITOR



Dear CapeNature Family,

Having gone virtual for most of our interactions due to the pandemic, a common phrase in response to the “how are you doing?” question is often, “surviving.” How are we actually doing as individuals and as employees? We’re doing pretty well, all things considered. The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine is allowing us to envision an end to this pandemic that has thus far cost so many lives and wreaked havoc amongst families and global economies, with many businesses shattered and thousands of jobs lost.

The only positive thing to remember is that whatever goes up, has to come down. We’re still unsure of when we will return to our pre-pandemic day’s – or whether something of this sort will even exist. Our new normal may be here to stay, but perhaps it will come with a new sense of gratitude.

Thank you, from myself and the Editorial team, for the positive feedback following the launch of EcoSense. We appreciate your thoughts and contributions.

Happy reading!

Until next time,
Tarcia

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HERBARIUM HAPPENINGS



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CLEARING ALIEN PLANTS ALONG THE DORING RIVER WILDERNESS AREA



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AN INSIGHTFUL COLLABORATION WITH THE ROOIELS CONSERVANCY



See page 5



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Dear Colleagues,

We now find ourselves in the second half of 2021 and there is a lot to reflect on. The last year presented many challenges, one of the main challenges being the pandemic that we continue to face. As the COVID-19 situation around the world evolves, and as South African's navigate a third wave of infections in our country, these circumstances can often lead to feelings of uncertainty. We have had to adapt to sudden change and have learnt to operate in an unusual manner. I would like to commend all of you for taking these adjustments in your stride. We acknowledge all that you have done over the last few months to weather this crisis and to get our entity prepared to cope with this situation. Your commitment makes all the difference.

Our heartfelt condolences to all employees who have been affected by the pandemic. With the nation currently being under Alert Level 4, taking the necessary COVID-19 precautions remains vital, now more than ever, in order to overcome our situation. CapeNature Management will continue to take the virus very seriously and put safeguards in place at work spaces.

Business continuity remains key as we enter a new quarter. Let us continue to foster a positive attitude to ensure that we meet the entity's and our personal goals. Together, we will overcome this crisis.

Warmest regards,

Razeena



NOTICES

ICT Security Awareness Campaign: addressing general security issues, POPIA and Cybersecurity awareness.

ICT Operational Efficiency Projects: migration from SAP to new financial system, implementation of GMT automation, new HR Performance Management system, migration of critical business systems to the cloud and the new intranet project which will include a document sharing platform on SharePoint online.



● **Marketing**
Filming webinar in partnership with Wesgro: 14 July

● **Learning and Awareness**
World Ranger Day 2021: 31 July 2021

● **Women's Day 2021**
09 August 2021

● **Marketing**
presents Access Week 2021: 13 September 2021

● **Learning and Awareness**
Arbour Week campaign: 30 August – 5 September 2021

● **Learning and Awareness**
International Coastal Clean Up Day campaign:
21 September 2021

● **Learning and Awareness**
#DontBeTrashy campaign during Recycle Week
2021: 15 – 30 September 2021.

● **Heritage Day 2021**
24 September 2021

CLEARING ALIEN PLANTS ALONG THE DORING RIVER WILDERNESS AREA

By: Patrick Meyer, GIS Technician | Directorate: Biodiversity Capabilities

In 2018 a bio-prospecting permit was issued to The Body Shop International Limited and Givaudan South Africa to retrieve scent samples from the cedar tree (*Widdringtonia*). To ensure that the local community also benefits from this bio-prospecting agreement, it was agreed that proceeds from all projects linked to the plant species will contribute to the livelihoods of the Heuningvlei community.

During 2020, various engagements were held with the Heuningvlei Community and they assisted in identifying livelihood projects. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed for the implementation of the identified projects. The MOU was discussed with the Heuningvlei Community in detail and has subsequently been signed. The implementation of the projects is now underway.

A prize being awarded for the most hakeas chopped.



The hacking team.

CapeNature asks the public to **"#DON'TBETRASHY"** ON EARTH DAY 2021



By: Clinton Windvogel, Learning and Awareness Officer
Directorate: Eco-Tourism and Access

Earth Day is celebrated annually on 22 April, with the main purpose of making the public aware of pressing environmental concerns, around the globe. To commemorate the day, various clean-up events were arranged by Learning and Awareness staff in the East, West, Central and South landscapes which involved various schools, youth groups and community members. Collectively, 175 bags of waste were collected, and 175 people were involved. The campaign linked to the larger #Don'tBeTrashy campaign, also went digital, with social media posts and radio interviews which brought home the importance of Earth Day to a wide audience.



End result is a cleaner and healthier environment in the Velddrif community.



Earth Day Clean ups done in collaboration with local municipality workers.

Keeping our environment clean this **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

By: Jonathan Jasson, Learning and Awareness Administrator
Directorate: Eco-tourism and Access

On Saturday 5 June, teams from CapeNature, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE), Working for the Coast (WFTC) and members of Velddrif yacht club took part in a combined clean-up event in celebration of World Environment Day, which this year had ecosystem restoration as its theme and main focus.

The team met at Velddrif Yacht club and enjoyed a talk given by the CapeNature marine rangers, who provided background information on World Environment Day, and explaining the negative impacts that litter pollution can have on the ecosystem. Two members of the yacht club assisted in transporting part of the team to the estuary banks that were difficult to reach by foot while others collected litter using their canoes.

The CapeNature vessel was used to collect all the rubbish bags from the areas that were cleaned. The event was a big success, with a total of 71 bags filled, dropped off at the yacht club and collected by the Berg River Municipality.

#Don'tBeTrashy.



All partners involved pose for a picture following a successful clean-up.

An insightful collaboration with the **ROOIELS CONSERVANCY**

By: *Ruida Stanvliet, Flora Ecologist* | Directorate: *Biodiversity Capabilities*

On Wednesday, 26 May, CapeNature Flora Ecologist, Ruida Stanvliet, paid a visit to Rooiels at the invitation of the Rooiels Conservancy (REC) and the Rooiels Ratepayers' Association (RERA). These two organisations are assisting the Overstrand Municipality with biodiversity conservation in the village. One of the points of discussion was the future collaboration between the three conservancies of the coastal villages of Rooiels, Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay.

A site visit to the Rooiels Nature Reserve was conducted to reflect on manage-

ment actions. CapeNature gave input on the need for, and timing of, a potential burn as the vegetation is more than 20 years old and showing signs of senescence. Members of the REC have compiled a database with information and images of almost all the plant species in the nature reserve as well as some of the pollinators. This is an exhaustive task that is constantly being updated by two volunteers from the community.

The nature reserve forms part of the planned eco-corridor that will connect the core of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve to the

coast. The proposed corridor has already received approval in principle from CapeNature's protected area expansion strategy and review committee. Discussions relating to securing the future of the eco-corridor are being facilitated by the REC. CapeNature will continue to provide assistance to the REC and the RERA in support of the biodiversity wealth of the area.



An aerial view displaying the size of the Rooiels Nature Reserve.

Stunning view of the Rooiels Nature Reserve captured by Graham McClelland.

CAPENATURE AND THE GLOBAL 'PLANT A MILLION TREES MOVEMENT'

By: *Philippa Huntly, Mainstream Specialist* | Directorate: *Biodiversity Capabilities*

CapeNature is joining the global 'Plant a Million Trees Movement'. CapeNature staff across all landscapes have traditionally been involved in numerous tree planting campaigns and worked tirelessly to support schools and communities with greening initiatives. Typically, these occasions have been linked to days on the environmental calendar such as Arbour Day, Plant Appreciation Day, Biodiversity Day, Earth Day and World Environment Day. This initiative seeks to build on successes and in the form of the Plant One Million Trees campaign.

Some tree-planting initiatives around the world have been criticised for planting trees in areas where there would not naturally have been trees, such as grasslands. This is harmful to the natural environment and is to be avoided. An insightful article in the Mail and Guardian titled "The trouble with indiscriminate tree-planting in Africa" by S. Allison notes the need to avoid 'arboreal imperialism'. The CapeNature Plant a Million Trees Movement will only plant locally indigenous trees or non-invasive



PLANT ONE MILLION TREES

fruit trees in appropriate areas such as schools and urban or peri urban communal open spaces. So please do join this journey with us and help to make a positive contribution to your local community, school or urban park.

Colleagues from our Stakeholder Learning and Awareness Unit are planning a range of activities for Arbour Day – a wonderful opportunity to plant trees and celebrate the good they provide – like shade, food, materials, habitat for small animals and also of course the opportunity to learn more about the bountiful biodiversity of our province.

HERBARIUM HAPPENINGS

AT THE JONKERSHOEK NATURE RESERVE

By: *Takalani Makhomu, Technical Assistant* | Directorate: *Biodiversity Capabilities*

The addition of new staff to the Jonkershoek herbarium, at Assegaibosch Nature Reserve, has resulted in significant improvements. The newly appointed Herbarium Technical Assistant, Takalani Makhomu, together with long-serving General Herbarium Assistant, Francois Jooste, have been painstakingly clearing the backlog of plant specimens and correctly documenting them. The role of the Jonkershoek herbarium is to represent the Greater Cape Floristic Region through specimens, collected mainly from CapeNature managed protected areas.

Collected specimens are sent to the Jonkershoek herbarium, which serves as a central accessing point where the specimens are identified, curated and databased, thus also providing a historical reference collection. The herbarium provides for capacity development for interns and staff, whilst serving as a repository for material for research projects – both taxonomic and ecological. The herbarium is also used as a botanical reference “library” for taxonomic purposes, and has a new computer, which was provided by the CapeNature ICT department. This all assists staff to expedite the data entries onto the database. This has also assisted in a herbarium strategy document being developed.

Takalani is in regular contact with the Compton Herbarium at

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and an MoU between CapeNature and SANBI is currently in process. Collaboration between the Compton and the Jonkershoek herbariums are perceived as a win-win situation, as it would not only contribute to expanding the national species distribution records, but will also assist CapeNature in obtaining updated species information for nature reserves.



Plant specimens are carefully curated at the Jonkershoek Herbarium.

Research into THE EERSTE RIVER

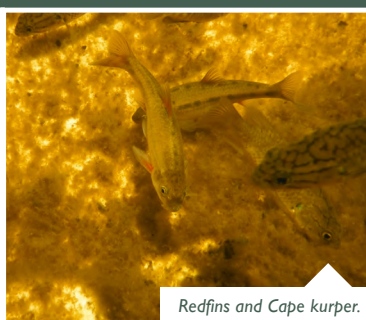
By: *Leah Brown, WIL student* | Directorate: *Biodiversity Capabilities*

CapeNature has a strong commitment to youth development and in line with this, every year Work Integrated Learning (WIL) students are placed at CapeNature reserves in order to complete their practical year of study. Typically, the students are from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and a placement at a conservation agency or on a nature reserve is a requirement for the completion of their studies.

Leah Brown, one of the Jonkershoek WIL students has started her research project which is focused on the fish community of the upper Eerste River. So far, only mainstream sites have been completed, but her project will also include sampling tributaries in the reserve. A very exciting result so far was catching indigenous Breede River redfins and Cape kurper in the reserve. Interestingly, the indigenous fish were only detected in the section of river where the Theewaterskloof inter-basin water transfer flows into the river and not in the more pristine upstream sections. Sampling is ongoing, and the study will provide much needed updated fish distribution records for Jonkershoek Nature Reserve.



A sample site in the upper Eerste River at Jonkershoek Nature Reserve.



Redfins and Cape kurper.

Webinar and school programmes celebrated for the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIODIVERSITY 2021

By: *Clinton Windvogel, Learning & Awareness Officer*
Directorate: *Eco-Tourism and Access*

International Day for Biological Diversity, also known as International Day for Biodiversity, is celebrated annually on 22 May. The purpose of the day is to increase the understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues and concerns. This year's theme was "We are part of the solution #ForNature" and called for active engagement to address the many environmental concerns in the Western Cape. The Western Cape is home to remarkable and rich biodiversity, with many species found nowhere else on earth.

As highlighted in the recently released annual State of Conservation Report (SoCR), the province is a botanical wonder with two global biodiversity hot spots, the Cape Floristic Region and the Succulent Karoo Biome. The Learning and Awareness Unit arranged events to commemorate the day at various primary and secondary schools in the East, West, South and Central landscapes. The key event to mark the day was an impactful activity in the form of the State of Conservation Report webinar, which was broadcasted on 20 May 2021 in partnership with the Capabilities Component. It proved to be a great success with almost 200 people viewing the video and live streaming session.

The Heuningnes estuarine lake area is a great example of rich biodiversity.



GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

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

- JAN DE JAAR | Field Ranger
- NICOLE HORN | Graduate Intern
- PATRICIA NDWANYAZA | Finance Officer
- AUGUST HESS | Field Ranger
- MEHNAAZ KAMROODIEN | Team Leader: Shared Services
- WILLEM DE KLERK | Graduate Intern
- DAVID MORTIMER | Conservation Stewardship Specialist
- TAMMIE PONTSANA | Landscape Support
- GERT SNYDERS | Field Ranger
- SUZETTE TRUTER | Administrator
- NHLANHLA MASHININI | Finance Manager: Donor Funding
- TASLEEM ISMAIL | Buyer
- JAEL AFRICA | Finance Officer
- PAUL LAWRENCE | Digital Specialist
- KEVIN SHAW | Team Leader: Ecology
- ADAM JACOBS | Field Ranger



Tasleem Ismail

The supply chain management team bid farewell to Tasleem Ismail who worked a total of six years for CapeNature, and who started out as an Administration Officer, in the Southwest Region. We wish him well and all of the best! Disclaimer: photo taken prior to level 4 regulations.



Mehnaaz Kamroodien

A small farewell held by her colleagues, after nine and a half years of employment at CapeNature. The finance team wishes Mehnaaz all the best for her future endeavours. Disclaimer: photo taken prior to level 4 regulations.



Kevin Shaw

After 35 years in service within the conservation sector, Kevin Shaw departs from the entity. Kevin's contribution to the entity and conservation in general speaks volumes. We wish him the very best!

WELCOME!

- ZIYANDA NKUMANDA | Quality Controller
- TAKALANI MATHODE | Tourism Liaison Officer
- NAM MAKWETU | Conservation Officer (On Reserve)
- WESLEY LEUKES | Landscape Manager
- VALINTINO KERSPUY | Conservation Assistant
- JAN-HENNING PIENAAR | Marine Ranger
- JEANDRÉ JOSEPH | Maintenance Assistant

- KUTALA ZWABU | Compliance Officer
- WILLEM DE KLERK | Compliance Officer
- CHANEL HAUVETTE | Senior Field Ranger
- SORAYA MAJIET | Analyst
- CHARLES TURNER | Tourism Liaison Officer
- LONWABO MKOSI | Graduate Intern

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IT'S BOULDERING SEASON in the West Coast



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Are you experiencing a legal and/or financial stressor? Your Universal EWP is there to provide you with legal advice to address any legal stressor (excluding labour law) and financial consultation.








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CapeNature in the press



DAILY SOUTHERN & EAST AFRICAN TOURISM UPDATE

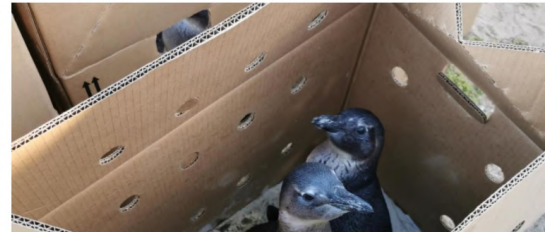
News Features Columns Useful Info Destinations



Join

Feelgood Friday: First penguin release at De Hoop

18 Jun 2021



Publication: Langeberg & Montagu Mail
Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021
Page: 8

De Hoop Collection participates in CapeNature's annual winter campaign

CapeNature is proud to announce that Public Private Partner (PPP), world-renowned De Hoop Collection, is joining in the entity's annual Winter campaign by offering 40% off their exquisite accommodation, located at the De Hoop Government Publications, Western Cape Municipality, until June 30, 2021.

Wild fire season draws to a close

Some of the fire crews were badly injured and took only a few hours to get to hospital. The fire season was the most intense in the Western Cape since 2017. The fire season was the most intense in the Western Cape since 2017. The fire season was the most intense in the Western Cape since 2017.

Unieke pikkewyn hervestigingsprojek: 'n Eie ikoniese bedreigde Afrika Pikkewyn

Die Hoop is 'n uitsonderlik belangrike plek vir die herstelling van die Afrika Pikkewyn. Die Hoop is 'n uitsonderlik belangrike plek vir die herstelling van die Afrika Pikkewyn.

families travelling on a limited budget or cape town etc

WIN A FATHER'S DAY HAMPER
For the love of climbing

HOW TO SEND YOUR ROCKLANDS PROJECT

making a booking.
De Hoop social media handles:
Twitter: @DeHoopReserve

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BIRTHDAYS

CapeNature wishes you a great year ahead!



JULY

1	Sandisiwe Rubuluza	13	Ryan Marinus	23	Andre Saptou
4	Johnny Brander	14	Althea Bestha-kirkwood	23	Johan Burger
5	Nicole Breda	15	Koos Engelbrecht	23	Derick Damon
8	Marius Poole	15	Thembakazi Makaula	24	Nicholas Barry
8	John Minnaar	16	Amukelani Nkuna	25	Lwazi Vani
8	Hanli Hendricks	16	Darryn Field	27	Pieter Booysen
9	Natalie Baker	18	Paul Gildenhuys	27	Nam Makwetu
9	Lee-xavier Schoonraad	18	Willem Wagenaar	28	Garth Roziers
10	Malcolm Botha	19	Soraya Majiet	28	Jamie Dippenaar
10	Abraham Lottering	21	Princess Ntsomi	28	Lyndall Swartz
10	Marika Van Der Walt	22	Felicia Petersen	29	Lonwabo Mkosi
13	Willem Goemas	22	Lesley-ann Williams	30	Darryl Menigo

AUGUST

1	John Goliaths	7	Rowena Bosman	16	Wilfred Williams	23	Whilmien Geduld
1	Anthony Erasmus	7	Wayne Meyer	17	Dian Dreyer	24	Deon Hignett
2	Alan Wheeler	7	Marlene Van Onselen	17	Jonatha Zimri	24	Nkosazana Nongxa
2	Siyabulela Mandlake	7	Jonathan Jasson	17	Nusheen Brenner	26	Jacqueline Blaauw
2	Marietta Plaatjies	7	Erika Swanepoel	18	Keith Spencer	26	Kelly Sokoko
2	Imilda Ontong	9	Kirschtwell Arendse	18	Thabiso Mokoena	26	Zenoebia Gamielien
2	Matome Shadung	11	Lucinda Witten	18	Sinayo Lungile	27	Jaimé Preston
3	Lazola Momo	11	John Rossouw	20	Jan Josephs	28	Wesley Farmer
3	Westley Oransie	14	Brian Bergstedt	20	Lucien Swartz	28	Patrick Meyer
4	Willem Titus	14	Rodney Kissen	21	Sydville May	29	Barend Le Roux
5	Marelize Du Preez	16	Pierre De Villiers	21	Jeanetta Claassens		
5	Jonathan Silinga	16	Carlo Van Tonder	23	Ameerah Hendricks		

SEPTEMBER

1	Graham Lewis	8	Jerome Dowrie	17	Erna Muller	27	Brenton Matinka
1	Sibusiso Ngubane	9	Sheldon Diedericks	18	Valerie Jansen	27	Leonie Erasmus
2	Jason Valentyn	9	Ramese Mathews	18	Newille Dynaard	27	Imran Brey
2	Ruida Stanvliet	10	Zainab George	19	Geralda Adams	27	Jo - Marie Fortuin
3	Anthea Oliphant	11	Ismat Adams	20	Thomas Horne	28	Marzanne Olieslaager
3	Thulani Ndlovu	11	Chanel Hauvette	21	Rochelle Dickson	29	Jean Du Plessis
4	Annelize Richards	13	Lucina Jan	22	Yves Chesselet	30	Anele Mdleleni
5	Wentzel Hornimann	13	Danielle Bowen	23	Ricardo Adonis		
6	Julinda Coetzee	14	Anita Wheeler	24	Lucinda Theron		
6	Yasmina Domingo	14	Antoinette Veldtman	24	Loren Pavitt		
6	Allistair Pietersen	15	Morris Floris	26	Nophiwe Nkqayi		
7	Marx-lenin Nagan	16	Micheal Jennett	27	Danie Landman		

SOCIAL MEDIA DASHBOARD



6 039 followers



33 529 followers



13 200 followers



CapeNature

Happy Father's Day! ❤️

Make the most of our 40% Winter Discount and spoil Dad with a Getaway at selected CapeNature reserves. Valid until 31 August 2021, book today and create those treasured memories.

We have availability at the following reserves:

- ➡ Goukamma Nature Reserve
- ➡ Anysberg Nature Reserve
- ➡ Kliphuis (Cederberg Wilderness)
- ➡ Gamkaberg Nature Reserve
- ➡ Marloth Nature Reserve

T&Cs apply.

#LoveNature
#LocalTravel
#WinterEscapes



CapeNature

CapeNature hosted an informative and insightful webinar on the Western Cape State of Conservation 2020 Report on 20 May. The full webinar can be viewed below.

#SoCr2020
#CapeNature

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwol-fRILuk>



Western Cape State of Conservation 2020 webinar

22 likes 3 shares

Like Comment Share

If you haven't made plans yet for this weekend, you're in luck!

Make the most of our current 40% discount offer, we have a few spots available at the following reserves:

- ➡ Buffalo Valley
- ➡ Kliphuis cottage (Cederberg Wilderness)
- ➡ Gamkaberg Nature Reserve
- ➡ Gamkaskloof Nature Reserve
- ➡ Goukamma Nature Reserve
- ➡ Grootvadersbosch Campsite

Book directly via our website booking portal or mail reservation.alert@capenature.co.za

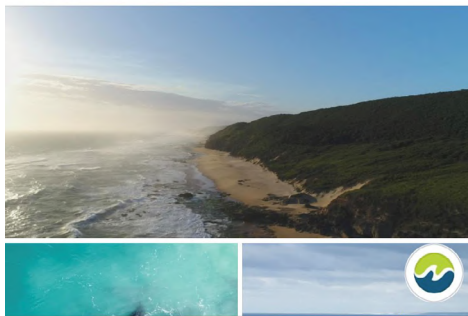
#LoveNature
#LocalTravel
#WinterEscapes



CapeNature added 3 new photos from 8 June at 02:19.

World Oceans Day is celebrated on 8 June each year. The day is a global campaign dedicated to raising awareness of our oceans and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. The theme for this year is "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods" The theme also includes a declaration of intentions that launches a decade of challenges to get the Sustainable Development Goal 14, "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources", by 2030 as per the United Nations."

#WorldOceansDay2021
#CapeNature

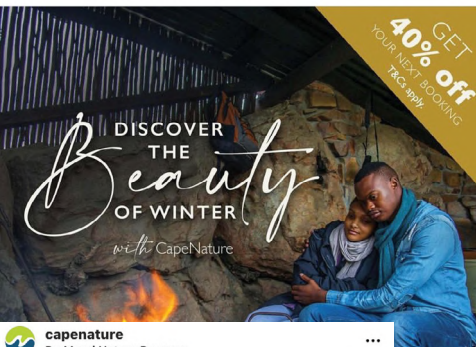


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Gamkaberg Nature Reserve



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Boost Post



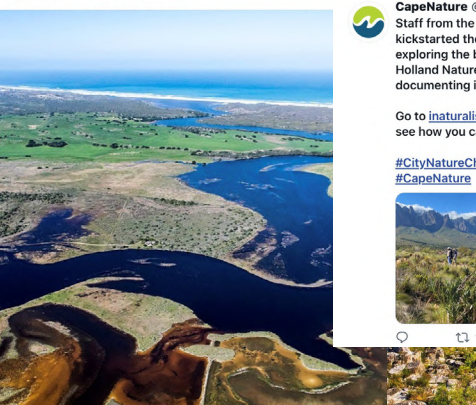
capenature
De Mond Nature Reserve

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capenature number cl and the re thank you #EathDay?

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Liked by johannphoto and 232 others

capenature CapeNature, in partnership with national and provincial departments, conserves the Western Cape's freshwater and wetland ecosystems through ecological infrastructure projects, restoration projects and freshwater and wetland forums.

To learn more you can view a webinar where we unpack the Western Cape State of Conservation Report, on our

#SoCr
#CapeNature
#NatureConservat
View all 4 commet



CapeNature @CapeN... · 2021/04/24

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of African Penguins oiled since 1990: 30,000 individuals were oiled in two individual oil spills (in 1994 and 2000).

Read more here: capenature.co.za/restoring-life...

#CapeNature

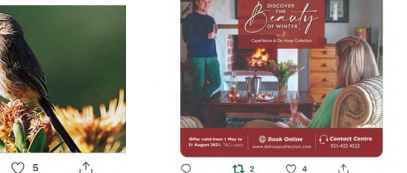


CapeNature @CapeN... · 2021/06/07

World Environment Day was celebrated on 5 June with main purpose to make the public aware of the environmental issue that are of greatest concern.

The theme this year is ecosystem restoration.

#WorldEnvironmentDay2021
#CapeNature





QUOTE

OF THE QUARTER

Like tiny seeds with potent power to push through tough ground and become mighty trees, we hold innate reserves of unimaginable strength. We are resilient.

— **Catherine DeVrye, The Gift of Nature**



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