



Chairman's Report

For the year ending 31 March 2019

Presented to Members at the AGM held on Thursday 23 May 2019

Introduction

I customarily try to find an appropriate quote to kick off the Chairman's Report but thought I should break the mould a bit so here is a cartoon to help lighten things up and show that wanting to do the right thing is not always as simple as you might think!



The conservancy's activities are well documented in our monthly e-newsletter and regular e-mails to members, so I plan to go through our activities fairly fast and leave more time for questions at the end.

As always, we take our guidance from our motto:

Protecting nature. Inspiring change

For brevity I will just list our projects in terms of how they fall into either "Protecting" or "inspiring" and I would also like to cover the projects that we could be doing if we had more resources.

But first let me get the administration aspects out the way!

Financial

The finances have already been reported on by our Treasurer, Mervyn Gans. I trust that the AFS are accepted as a reliable record bearing in mind that they are audited by a registered Auditor!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mervyn for preparing the financials. Mervyn's input has saved us a significant amount of cash as it reduced the auditing fee substantially! Thanks also to Chris Steyn for the official audit. The information will be posted on our website and accessible to all.

I would also like to record a vote of thanks to the Trustees of the Kloof Conservancy Charitable Trust. Susie Cairns, Phillida Ellis and Garth Williamson. The trust was set-up a couple of years ago to build up a capital base to fund future projects. It has not had a good year primarily because of the tough economic climate which makes finding donors quite a challenge, but the concept is sound and it was always meant to be a long term funding project.

I would like to report on the data that is submitted to the eThekweni Conservancies Forum for their annual report as that also includes the value of the volunteer time that we do not include in our financial statements. The data below is for the year ending December 2018, so it won't match the audited financial but nevertheless provides a good insight into the financial "value" of the Kloof Conservancy to the environment.

Contribution of Kloof Conservancy to Conservation January to December 2018					
	Total Hrs	Value of Volunteer hours	Cash spent	Total Value	%
Education	3402	R1 020 600	R889 024	R1 909 624	49.7%
Environmental Rehabilitation	983	R294 900	R646 318	R941 218	24.5%
Fundraising	1662	R498 600	R86 079	R584 679	15.2%
Administration	482	R144 600	R48 530	R193 130	5.0%
Species Protection	405	R121 500	R35 030	R156 530	4.1%
Outreach	131	R39 300	R14 656	R53 956	1.4%
Marine and Estuary	0	R0	R0	R0	0.0%
Regulatory	0	R0	R0	R0	0.0%
Capacity Building	0	R0	R0	R0	0.0%
Other	0	R0	R0	R0	0.0%
Total	7065	R2 119 500	R1 719 637	R3 839 137	100.0%

Membership

As in previous years we do not put any effort into recruiting members – we should but no one really wants to do it!

Kloof Conservancy Membership Status (as at end March 2019)							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Paid-up Members	231	216	226	222	212	180	185
Small Business	5	6	4	3	5	3	6
Corporate	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Honorary	11	11	11	11	10	10	10
Total	264	250	258	253	244	210	218

Thank you to all present here and to all the other paid-up members – the vast majority are not actively involved and that is perfectly fine – your membership is a vote of support and that is what we need most.

Let's now look at those activities which are aimed at "Inspiring change" the bulk of these activities are based on our digital channels.

Social Networks - Statistics for 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019		
Website	up 26%	average of 43 daily sessions
BioGuide	up 8%	average of 13 views per day
Facebook	up 38%	5184 Followers
The Leopard's Echo	up 41%	average of 23 unique page views/day
E-newsletter	12 issues	E-mailed to 388 individuals
General notices E-mails	67 notices sent	

Sincere thanks to Jared Crossley for doing all the backroom work on all our digital platforms all the way from Sydney! Thanks also to SOS Web-services for hosting our platforms on a pro-bono basis

I would also like to record the significant contribution made over the past few years by the Ranga Media team. Thanks to Duncan Prince, Kerileigh Lobban and Dylan Dyzel. They took our marketing to a new level and helped boost our brand value. The work was all done on a pro-bono basis and we are sincerely appreciative of their hard work. They did indicate that they wanted to move on and support other deserving organisations and I am very pleased that Janet Hancock and Mark Burgess and their team at Brand Candy have taken over our marketing and branding and have already produced some excellent work for us.

Moving on to our projects and I will start with those that fit in to the category of “Protecting nature”.

Active Projects:

- Krantzkloof Nature Reserve
 - 3 Falls Trail Run (Bruce Crouch, Brad Phillips, Andrew McKay, Paolo Candotti)
 - Krantzkloof Conference Centre (Bev Candotti, Bruce Crouch, Brad Phillips, Paolo Candotti)
 - Trail Repairs (Bruce Crouch, Paolo Candotti)
 - Picnic Area Upgrades (Martin Gardiner - civils, Bev Candotti – gardens)

- M13 Project (Hugh McGibbon)

- Indigenous Open Gardens (Brigid Turner, Sandra Hanafey, Carolyn Victor, Bruce Crouch, Kevin Collett, Kerileigh Lobban, Dylan Dyzel, Paolo Candotti)

- Molweni River Health Schools Project (Bev Candotti, Natalie Ellis, GCS Consultants, Umgeni Water, eThekweni Municipality, Alexandra Konstandinidi, Paige Kelly, Paolo Candotti)

- Memorial Park (Ian Sandison)

- Back-to-Nature (various members)

- Msinsi Grassland Project (Bruce Crouch, Barry Lang, Paolo Candotti)

- The Leopard’s Echo (Jo Sobey (design), Paolo Candotti (editing), Regular authors: Steve Woodhall, Dr Marlies Craig, Robin Lamplough, Peter Spence, Pat McKrill, Arend Hoogervorst. Guest authors in past year Céline Hanzen, Tim McClurg, Dr Elsa Lee, Shane McPherson, Kerileigh Lobban, Prof Neil Crouch)

- Kwa-Ximba Conservancy – Outreach (Bruce Crouch, Simon Maphumulo, Andrew McKay, Paolo Candotti plus team!)

- Tradescantia Bio-Control Project (Martin Gardiner, Tony Kee, Paolo Candotti)

- Caracal and Mongoose Research Project (Brett Markwell, Hein Pienaar, Andrew Surgeson, Dave Cloke, Hugh McGibbon, Amanda Jones, Michael Schleyer, Mark Liptrot, Chris and Christine Smart, Glynnis Jones, Jarryd Streicher, Paolo Candotti)
- Aller River Pilot Project (Natalie Ellis, Thozeka Letuka, Mark Liptrot, Hugh McGibbon, Nick Swan, Luci Coelho, Richard Winn, Margaret Burger, Paolo Candotti)

Currently there is no doubt that the Aller River Project is our “flagship” project and the one that is making the greatest impact. This is quite a unique project in that it tackles head-on the human impact on the environment. It is more of a “social development” project than a true “environmental” project but its impact is definitely for the benefit of the environment. The project has been running since mid 2016 and is now in its fourth phase and only partly funded. Although relatively small it is seen by many as leading the field in the methodology used and innovative approach to behaviour change. It’s important to remind ourselves that the goal of this project is to pilot solutions which will lead to substantial behaviour change whereby residents in a river catchment take co-responsibility with the authorities for river health.

The project has used innovative techniques such as “Nudge Theory” borrowing from Richard Thalers Nobel Prize winning work and Participatory Video a behaviour change technique developed by InsightShare in the UK.

Human Behaviour change is a long-term process and the current socio-economic and political climate has not made things easy, but we do believe we are making slow but steady progress.

The most singular outstanding success has been the “disposable nappies” sub-project which in a 3-month trial removed over 21 000 nappies from the immediate area of the Aller River. The work done has been fascinating in its approach, its multiple role players and in particular the response from the community.

The project has been recognised for its achievements when it won the Mail and Guardian Greening the Future Award in the Community Conservation section. More importantly however the project has had buy-in from key role players in the municipality and industry players like EDANA who represent major manufacturers in Kimberly Clark and Proctor and Gamble.

I would also like to make you aware of a new important new project that we are supporting. The Kloof Conservancy together with WESSA KZN have initiated the establishment of an Environmental and Climate Justice Centre for KZN. The project is in its early phase and has been made possible by a very generous donation from a Kloof Conservancy supporter as well as contributions from Westville Conservancy and our own Kloof Conservancy.

The UN Environment Programme described the environmental rule law that highlights the need for establishing this Centre: “it reflects universal moral values and ethical norms of behaviour, and it provides a foundation for environmental rights and obligations. Without environmental rule of law and the enforcement of legal rights and obligations, environmental governance may be arbitrary, that is, discretionary, subjective, and unpredictable”.

The Vision for this project has been defined as:

“Our vision is to combine strong mobilisation through the empowerment of communities with strategic legal interventions in our environmental conservation work.

We aim to use the law and advocacy to focus on climate justice issues, to protect natural resources, wild spaces and wildlife. It is our mission for South Africa to achieve its climate change obligations and use its natural resources sustainably for all who live here.”

This is an important development and our role is really to help this get off the ground and then it is likely to run on its own steam. It requires significant funding and most of this will be sourced off-shore.

Let’s now move on to - Dormant or “low activity” projects

Glenholme NR (Richard Hancox)

IAP Verge Clearing Project

Support for Neighbourhood project

- Nkonka Project
- Ronald’s Kloof Stream Project

Molweni River Community Park - Outreach (Lower Molweni)

Projects we would love to run if we had more human resources!

- Monitor EIA’s
- Comment on EIA’s
- Monitor Building Developments
- Comment of draft Government legislation
- Comment on Municipal initiatives such as the IDP
- Molweni Source-to-Umgeni Project
 - Map the river and conditions (water quality, IAPs)
 - Develop a trail
- Develop fauna and flora lists using iNaturalist
 - Butterflies
 - Birds
 - Insects
 - Plants/shrubs
 - Trees
 - Amphibians
 - Reptiles
- Environmental Education at Schools
- Outreach – encourage/establish a conservancy in Upper Molweni
- Outreach – encourage/establish a conservancy in Lower Molweni

- Outreach – encourage/develop “adopt-a-spot” in Upper Molweni
- Membership expansion

If there are any volunteers to tackle any of the above projects (or any that we have not mentioned) then I would be very happy to hear from you!

The Bigger Picture

Looking at the bigger conservation picture we need to recognise that we are a “small-fish” in a big pond and we

We are part of the eThekweni Conservancies Forum which represents all the conservancies in eThekweni which is a branch of Conservancies KZN the “mother” body for conservancies in KZN which in turn is part of the National Association of Conservancies of South Africa (NACSA). So we are part of a bigger picture and I think we are playing our part in helping promote the broader role of conservancies

I think it is also important to record that as a conservancy we understand our limitations and we will always seek partnerships to help make a greater impact.

During the course of the past year we have partnered with the following organisations in various activities.

- Lepsoc – Butterfly and Moth activities
- EWT – Frog Day
- GCS Consultants – Molweni River Project, 3 Falls Trail Run and Kwa-Ximba Trail Run
- InfoAfrica – Biodiversity Talks and Bird Courses
- UKZN – DBN (Prof Cathy Sutherland on the Aller Project)
- University of Cambridge (Dr Elsa Lee on the Aller Project)
- UKZN – Pmb (Prof Colleen Downs on various fauna research projects)
- Agricultural Research Council on the Bio-control of Tradescantia Fluminensis
- Krantzklouf Honorary Officers
- Gillitts Conservancy
- Hillcrest Conservancy
- Everton Conservancy
- Kwa-Ximba Conservancy

The Road Ahead

For the current year we plan to continue more or less on the same lines as in the past few years. Our efforts are constrained primarily by the lack of human resources – people to run the projects I mentioned earlier. I have spoken and written before about the different members we have and I stress that every member is valuable but until we have more involved members then we have to be happy with what we can do with the resources we have.

Thank-you

We are extremely fortunate that we do have great support. As I went through the projects, I did mention who is involved but we do have a core group of volunteers that is active in almost every event we organise – my sincere thanks to all.

And finally, a thank you to the Exec team – all that is achieved would not happen without the support of all in the team.

Sometimes we take things too seriously so I thought the following photo sent to me by Jean Sengoles would bring a smile – I think she spotted this during her recent visit to Australia as it has typical Australian humour – with a serious message!



That wraps up the Chairman's Report for this AGM. Thank you for your attention.

PA CMA

23 May 2019