

Integrated Report **2022**



NATURE CONNECT

CEO REPORT

I have been fortunate to have been with Nature Connect for the past 10 years. Ten years is a mere blip in geological time, but for humanity – where we are now and where we might be in the next ten years – it is considerable.

Over the past ten years, globally, we have added another 810 million people to our urban areas and increased the differential between urban to rural populations to 13%.

Over the past ten years, the major greenhouse gases have increased approximately 6-7% and can be directly linked to 80% of the extreme weather conditions we are experiencing.

In this ten-year period, Nature Connect has directed over R64 million into its conservation activities, and we have increased our reach by 249%. On this trajectory we will continue to make a significant difference in the coming ten years.

When the average life expectancy of a company is about ten years, how is it that Nature Connect has been around for 21 years and, not only that, has managed to increase its upward trajectory? I attribute this to several reasons. Firstly, we have had the available finances to fund operations and programmes – for which we thank our donors. Secondly, we have been strategic around the direction and the

alignment we have taken – we thank our Board and senior management team for this. Thirdly, we have continued to deliver our programmes at a high quality – we thank our entire team, past and present, for this. Lastly, we have operated with care for the environment and the people we engage with – this comes from a corporate culture and belief in what we stand for driven by our staff and stakeholders.

The past two years have been socially and economically challenging the world over. Right now, in South Africa, we are experiencing the highest unemployment rates in the history of our new dispensation. We are also experiencing massive levels of urban in-flow as people look for opportunities. However, in the face of these facts, I believe we have an amazing opportunity to utilise this population to reconnect people to nature, upskill our youth to find work and build careers in the Green Economy, and turn a latent



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workforce into a force for environmental protection. This can only come through Public-Private Partnerships, a shared common vision, and a re-found pride in our beautiful country.

To our fellow conservationists, to businesses and government striving toward reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, and to our partners and donors who share our common vision, I salute you. May we all continue to drive home the message that we have only one world and a very small window of opportunity to avoid reaching a tipping point from where humanity and the life-systems that support us will not recover. For some species, the next ten years just might be their last.

Dr. Anthony Roberts
CEO



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The exciting news in 2022 is the establishment of our new name, Nature Connect. This has marked a fresh post-COVID beginning of our work that has been going slow due to the pandemic for the last 2 years. We are delighted that the camping programme has begun and we are really looking forward to it growing this year as we bring an exciting new site online. This is the sizeable Bokbaai site with new eco-friendly facilities and refurbished accommodation and teaching venues. We believe this site will be a hit with schools across the Cape and expect to host large numbers of learners there in 2023.

Our relationship with the City of Cape Town has changed as the City wanted to be released from their role as a founding member in our trust document. As the Trustees, we agreed to this change and are hoping that this will be concluded soon.

As part of the process of redefining our relationship with the City we have moved out of our offices on City property and have secured excellent office space in the Westlake Business Park and have settled well into our new venue.

This year has seen the growth of our Sustainable schools programme. This inspiring work allows us to impact environmental education in schools nationwide.

We continue to train people in the green economy. In many cases, these training programmes are pioneering skills development in this field.

The Nature Care Fund programme has been under new leadership. This has kept the existing projects running well while stepping into creative space around the application of Biodiversity offset funds towards advancing conservation. In this new area we are extending the recognition as an authority in the country.

One of the factors that contribute to our success is that we have a wonderfully hardworking staff. Many have been with Nature Connect for a number of years. Our team continues to be led by our CEO, Dr. Anthony Roberts. He has a style of leadership that is high in trust and he is able to cast a compelling vision for the team. The gravitas he



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The Nature Connect programme has been under new leadership. This has kept the existing projects running well while stepping into creative space around using offset for conservation purposes. In this new area, we have become a respected authority in the country.



holds in this sector greatly assists us in our work

We remain extremely grateful to our donors, who trust us and our work in the field and are prepared to support us through thick and thin. Their support through COVID was much appreciated.

Finally, a reminder to all that our mission is to "Change Lives through Nature". We believe that we are doing this, and by making a difference in the lives of each person that experiences some aspect of our programme, we are making a difference in South Africa.

David de Korte



MISSION AND VISION

The Primary Aims of the Trust are to contribute to Environmental Stewardship and Sustainable Development through:

- 🔥 Advancement and delivery of Environmental Education;
- 🔥 Training and development of youth to enter the Green Economy;
- 🔥 Participation in activities that support environmental stewardship and the development of the Green Economy;
- 🔥 Receiving, managing and disbursement of funds for conservation projects.

Our mission is to support the preservation of our unique and biodiverse natural heritage through education, training, and conservation initiatives.

This mission depends on an environmentally-empowered citizenry who collectively aims toward zero further species and habitat loss.

Our vision is to be an organisation with diverse financing mechanisms that enable national roll-out of curriculum-aligned education for sustainable

development programmes, and targeted training interventions to support the skills underpinning a sustainable future for all life. Thereby growing a citizenry connected to nature and empowered to steward nature well.

Values:

Nature Connect captures its defining organisational values as:

- 🔥 Leadership (including Integrity, Respect and Passion/Drive)
- 🔥 Sustainability (being underpinned by Relevance and Creativity/ Innovation)
- 🔥 Empowerment (built on Education and Nurturing)
- 🔥 Collaboration (building Communities of Practice)

Nature Connect subscribes to the Independent Code of Governance. We are registered as a Not-for-Profit Organisation (NPO 013964) and Public Benefits Organisation (PBO 930023924)



In nature's economy the currency is not money, it is life.

- Vandana Shiva
- Environmental Activist.

TURNING A NEW LEAF

The strategic decision to change our name from CTEET to Nature Connect has marked the progression of the growth of our organisation.

On 15 September 2021, we celebrated our 20th birthday with a virtual launch and shared our vision of how we want to continue to build on our foundation of changing lives through nature. Our new name emphasizes how we connect others with nature through nature education, experiences, and opportunities. We now have the chance to reach thousands more kids and adults and grow beyond a region or a country.



2145858

Total Educational
Impact hours

2021

Launch of new name, growing partnerships and expanding reach.

2020

Become Accredited Training Provider

2017

First Endangered Species Projects

2016

Start of Gantouw Project

2014

First Nature Conservation Learnership

2013

Start Conservation Leadership Programme

2007

Establishment of Nature Care Fund
First Skills Development programme

2006

Change to CTEET

2001

Founding of ZEEP

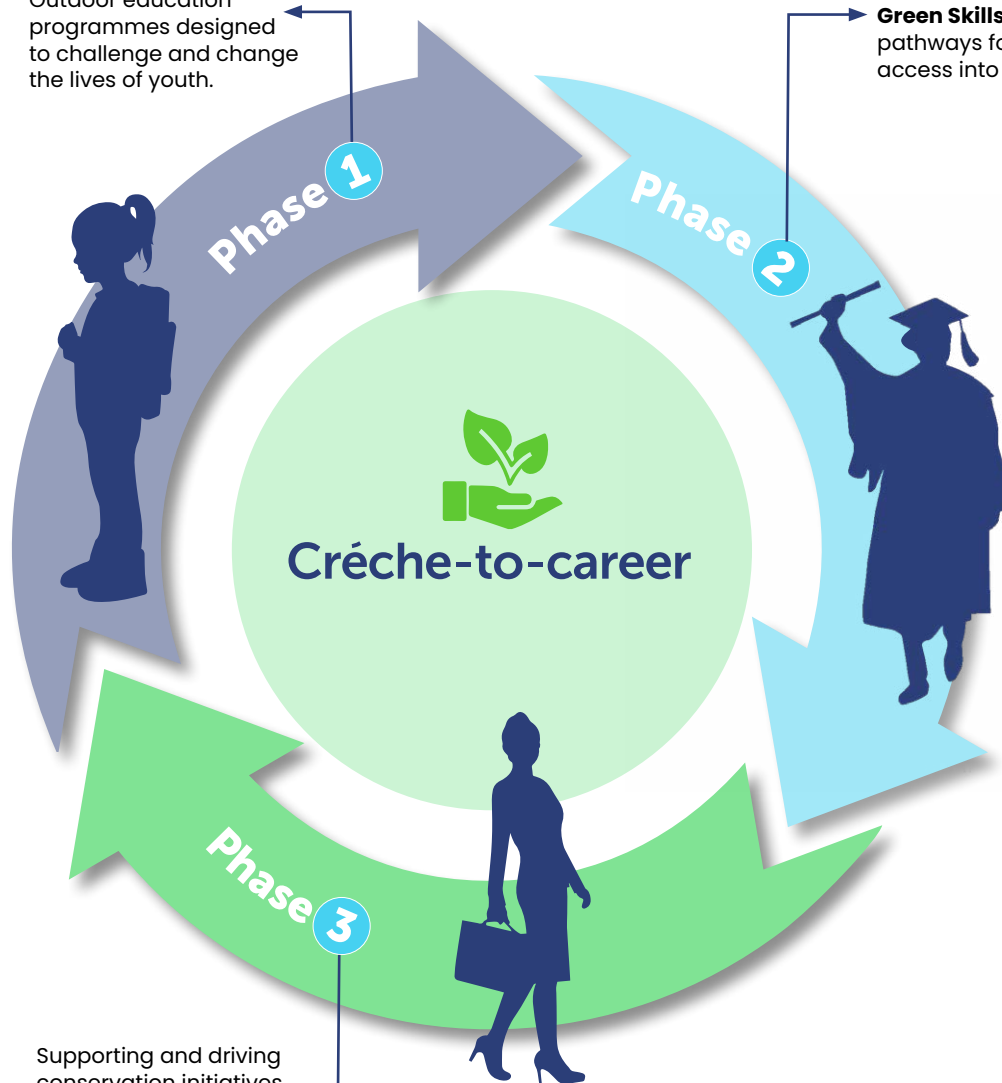


THE NATURE CONNECT JOURNEY

Sustainable Schools:

Outdoor education programmes designed to challenge and change the lives of youth.

Green Skills: Providing career pathways for youth to gain access into the Green Economy.



Through applying our Crèche-to-Career model, we aim to expose as many children and youth as possible to the wonders of nature and create the platforms and structures for them to pursue a career in the Green Economy.

Our intervention model is defined by three phases: Education for Sustainable Development, Training and Development, and Employment in the Green Economy through the Nature Care Fund. We educate, not only to grow responsible citizenry, but to nurture effective employability.

Supporting and driving conservation initiatives in Cape Town and surrounding areas.



STAFF STORIES

I love that our work literally makes a difference in the lives of the children we educate. The opportunity to inspire young children through environmental education is an absolute blessing. Our children are our future. The more time, effort, investment, and love we give to them, the more they will be encouraged to achieve their goals in life and aspire to bigger and greater things. In My journey with Nature Connect started in November 2021 as a casual staff member. I am now proudly one of the Environmental Educators. My journey has been an incredible one. I love that every day is not the same and that I learn something new each day.

Liezel Solomon
-Sustainable Schools
Environmental Educator



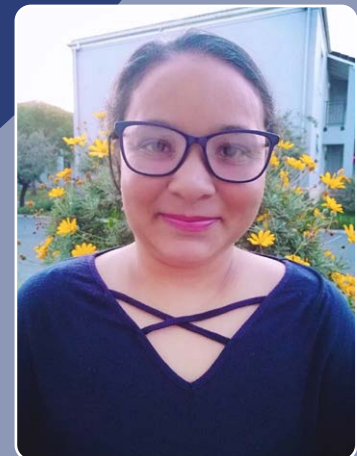
I love that every day is different when working outdoors in the field. Working and solving the daily problems that arise is also very fulfilling. I have been with Nature Connect for 6 years. They took me through varsity until I had a managerial job with the city. I love the people and colleagues of Nature Connect, and they have made me feel like a family ever since I started. I love the fulfillment my job brings in helping to create a world that allows other life forms to live.

Fabrice Turikumwe
- Site Manager, Zoarvlei
section, Table Bay Nature
Reserve



I love enabling young people to develop a growing passion for nature. I love that at Nature Connect, we are affecting change in the lives of people who genuinely care for the natural environment and providing them with the necessary skill sets for conserving nature. Getting the machine in the background to work is the hard part, but seeing the progress made in the lives of others, is worth all the sweat and tears.

Letasha Hesqua
- Green Skills Training Manager



I started with Nature Connect in 2017 as an intern for a year. In 2019 I returned as a Penguin Ranger, and today I am a site manager for the Milnerton Racecourse Section of Table Bay Nature Reserve. My journey with Nature Connect has been one of personal and professional growth, development, and improvement. Being part of those who speak for those who can't speak for themselves. Conserving the critically endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos and contributing to the rehabilitation and upkeep of this necessary patch of vegetation is very honouring. It has always been a passion to be within the conservation sector. My passion drives me to do better and progress within my career.

Ntombi Lolwane
– Site Manager, Milnerton Racecourse Section, Table Bay Nature Reserve



As a second-year National Diploma in Nature Conservation student, I volunteered with the then Nature Connect Gantouw Project in April 2017. Later that same year, the entire second-year nature conservation class of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology had an environmental education camp at "The Island" on Zeekoevlei, hosted by Nature Connect. The camp taught us various ways to tackle environmental education and keep lessons and learning fun.

Towards the end of my second year of studies, I was fortunate enough to receive a bursary from Nature Connect, which assisted with financial aid.

After completing my National Diploma in Nature Conservation in 2019, I successfully acquired the vacancy of Eland Trainee Monitor, where I spent a couple of months learning more about these beautiful animals. In January 2020, I was appointed as a Penguin Ranger with the Simons Town penguin colony, where I still am stationed today.

I believe my short journey through the last two phases within the crèche-to-career Nature Connect process demonstrates the heart of Nature Connect: to enable and then place capable individuals within the green economy.

Kashiefa Amos
– Penguin Ranger, Bughers Walk African Penguin Conservation Project



STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

In the lifetime of any organisation there are key moments which define its success. Whilst Covid has been instrumental in defining how we move forward, the decision to rebrand may prove to have had the most significant impact. This decision reduced the CTEET brand's limitations, allowing us the scope to accommodate a revised strategy: Increasing our Footprint, Influence, Partnerships, and Recognition.

With generous sponsorship from our long-standing donor, Mapula Trust, we embarked on a rebranding and renaming process, culminating in the launch of Nature Connect in September 2021. Arrival at "Nature Connect" was not an easy process but as a collective, we felt the name spoke to two key areas of our focus: firstly, that we are an organisation whose roots remain in NATURE; secondly, that we stand for making CONNECTIONs: connecting people to nature, connecting people to people and connecting people to cause.

As a first step in increasing our footprint, we launched the national Sustainable Schools Programme in early 2021. With an online hub as its foundation, the Sustainable Schools Programme is building a community of practice throughout South Africa. Funding for this programme through the Allan and Gill Gray Foundation and Mapula Trust has been catalytic in enabling

the expansion out of Cape Town. We are incredibly grateful for their buy-in of the vision. We look forward to a natural extension of the programme beyond our borders in 2023 – bringing African solutions to African challenges.

Increasing our influence advances the notion that increasing educational engagement and reach spreads awareness and promotion of Sustainable Development to a broader audience. The next step necessary for increased influence is to share our expertise in formulating strategy and policy around sustainable development. To this end, we are represented on several committees and fora at a national and international level.

Our efforts to nurture and increase our partnerships are based on our desire to increase our impact, maximising return on investment for our stakeholders and leveraging shared value opportunities with Corporations, Public entities, and NGOs. We recognise that working at the level we wish would be impossible without identifying key strategic partners across the country. One such partner is Lapalala Wilderness School, who has been a lead in environmental education in this country for the past 40 years. Their partnering with the Sustainable Schools Programme in Limpopo has been highly effective and illustrates the "hunger" amongst our educators, for such a programme. The success of our Green Skills training programme



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has gone further to highlight the need to identify key partners to establish training/ host sites and increase post-training employment opportunities.

We understand that if we are to succeed in expanding our footprint, increasing our influence, and growing our partnerships, we need to make a strong effort to elevate our recognition as a force for change in the environmental sector. All too often, our fellow NPOs do not take the time to highlight their successes. Whilst our accomplishments over the past 21 years have resulted in numerous awards, we aim to increase our efforts to broadcast, not only our successes, but those of partners and environmental stewards who are making a difference in our country. To showcase a collective of champions, that we are proud to be a part of.



Our programmes work to support the United Nations Sustainability Goals, as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets which align with our own. We have indicated our alignment using the recognisable icons in each of our programmes, where we work towards specific goals to meet these.

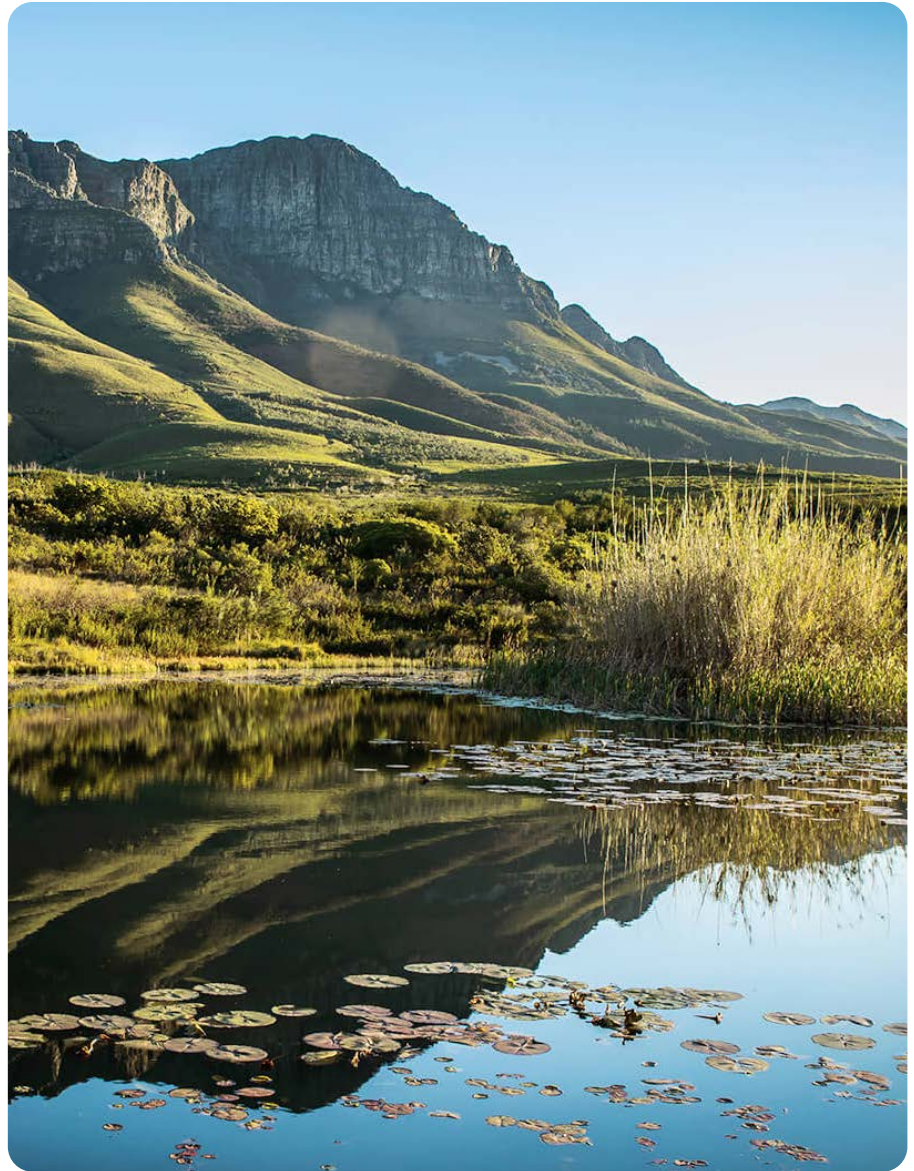


**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

Having weathered two years of substantially reduced activities brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic we see some of our activities starting to resume again to pre-Covid figures. This period has seen many organisations and businesses folding and it has been a true test of the sustainability measures we have been putting in place over the past 10 years. As with the phoenix rising from the flames, we emerged from Covid-19 as a new brand, Nature Connect, a new look and feel to carry our vision of expansion and offerings to our beneficiaries. Such a move requires solid change management to bring along internal and external stakeholders and we have not spared the effort in this regard. Under these new and exciting times we have conducted a risk assessment to help guide us moving forward.



Risk Area	Risk Factor	Mitigation
Finance	Sustainability	Diversify and identify new Income Streams including broadening of Donor base
		Seek external guidance in building the fundraising strategy and drive our fundraising efforts
		Reduce the drawdown on our Endowment fund and look to replenish reserves
	Liabilities	Maintain appropriate Insurance
		Thorough review of vulnerability
	Financial Management	Increase stability through appointment of external accounting firm specialising in NPO financial management.
Governance	Board Review	Broaden the talent and diversity of the Board
		Establish appropriate committees to assist management
	Senior Management	Succession planning and talent management
	Policies and Procedures	Annual policy review
	Liabilities	Review of legal and registration obligations and MoUs
Staff	Skills	Identify and address gaps in skills through training interventions and appropriate appointments
	Talent management	Continuously review salaries to ensure competitiveness and institute appropriate rewards
		Strong corporate culture
Communications	Change management	Ensure top-down, bottom-up communications for staff.
	Stakeholder Engagement	Implement a communications strategy for internal and external stakeholders
	Online presence	Strategically increase reach and support
		Ensure the website unifies the programmes and showcases our complete Crèche-to-Career model.
Organizational Structure	Strategy	Keep abreast of all global to regional changes to ensure change management is well planned and managed
		Ensuring that those responsible for leading the change have the capabilities, authority and the capacity to do so
Data	Data storage and access	Trust to create, enforce, and update a comprehensive data storage security plan that encompasses on-premises infrastructure, mobile devices and across the web
	POPIA compliance	Ensure personnel are appropriately trained and measures are implemented to ensure compliance

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

The Sustainable Schools programme, as developed during the Covid-19 national lockdown, has proven to be a valuable part of Nature Connects' Crèche-to-Career model and the schools and communities in which it serves. The positive response to this programme across the country has shown the need and desire for a holistic model for Education for Sustainable development in a way that is locally relevant to South African schools. The programme recognises the need for face-to-face interaction and an online footprint, in this case, the Sustainable Schools online hub. The programme furthermore features educational outreach in the forms of in-school lessons, day programmes, and/or camps, as well as access to learning resources online for teachers to implement in their classrooms. Assigned school coordinators assist teachers with navigating the online hub, developing, planning, and implementing school projects, as well as reporting on their progress. They are also invited to teacher development workshops and fun, educational action days to get the learners outside the classroom.

Implementation & Partnerships:

Thirty-nine schools in the Western Cape registered on the Sustainable Schools Programme this year. We had expected higher numbers but believe

that the Covid-19 disruptions and uncertainties continued to affect the decisions schools made for much of this past year.

Partnerships and collaborations are at the heart of the programme, allowing Nature Connect to expand the programme nationally and further facilitate and enhance education delivery for Sustainable Development in South Africa. Lapalala Wilderness School signed on as our first implementing partner and is growing the Sustainable Schools Programme in Limpopo. Since we opened registrations to the programme in March 2021, they have managed to register and support 38 schools. In Kwazulu Natal we have One Planet as our implementing partner and they managed to immediately begin supporting nine schools, a number that is sure to grow.

Nature Connect has signed on six supporting partners to become part of our school network. This includes Save our seas Foundation Shark Education Centre, Captain Fanplastic, Enviro Vito, The Beach Co-op, the Greenpop Foundation, and Groundwater Kids. These supporting partners have also assisted us with collaborating on Environmental Education lessons, attending and helping at our Action Day events such as Beach clean-ups for International Coastal Clean-up day, giving presentations and insights



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to our educators at our teacher development workshops, and assisting teachers with resources to help them with their projects at schools.

Teachers Workshops

We were also able to host 5 SACE-accredited teacher development workshops. Three of these were with Lapalala Wilderness school in Limpopo and two in Cape Town. The Lapalala Workshops aimed to introduce and explain the Sustainable Schools Programme to the teachers. In total, 72 teachers and 47 schools were reached through these workshops.

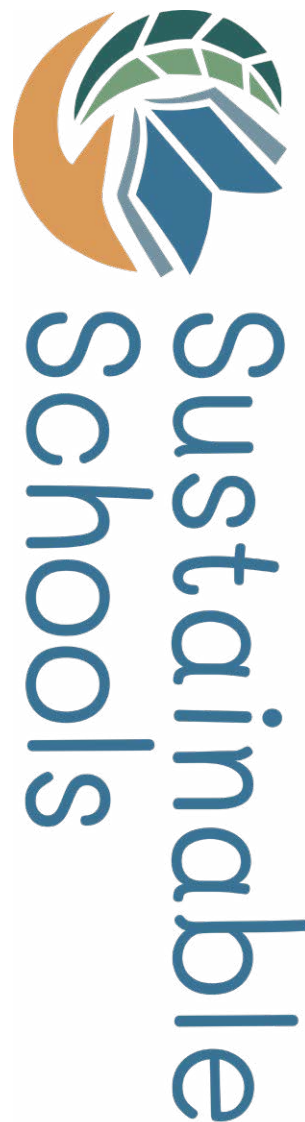
These workshops are for teachers registered with the Sustainable Schools Programme. The programme usually hosts four workshops a year and bases them on specific focus areas such as biodiversity network, marine coast, health, and well-being. The aim of meeting with the teachers is to help and empower them to teach environmental topics in their classrooms. They also get a chance to network with other like-minded teachers and create meaningful partnerships. The teachers also earn professional development points.



Day Programmes and Camps:

Our Environmental Education activities started extremely slowly after coming out of the pandemic, yet gradually increased as 2022 rolled out. However, we had more success with our day programmes and in-school lessons although our camp programme was slow to pick-up as the limitations on gatherings remained in force.

Of the day programmes and in-school lessons a highlight for teachers and



learners has been our medicinal plants lesson, where learners are given the opportunity to use all their senses. We have also engaged with a number of different partners such as limbovane Outreach, an education and outreach NPO who use nature as a platform to help learners develop practical science skills and an appreciation for biodiversity. Our goal is to facilitate learning through experience, and we value partnering with like-minded organisations who enhance the impact of our programmes.



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This past year was an exciting time for Sustainable Schools as we saw the launch of the online platform and implementation of the programme in two additional provinces within South Africa. The expansion and success of the programme would not be possible without Nature Connect's amazing Sustainable Schools team and collaboration and partnerships between like minded organisations and individuals – all striving for the common goal of education for sustainable development within our schools.

*Jocelyn Anderson
-Sustainable Schools
Programme Manager*



The Conservation Leaders Programme:

The Conservation Leaders Programme was a successful part of the Sustainable Schools programme. We were able to run camps and programmes with the learners and partnered with organisations, Project90by2030, the Beach Co-op, as well as SHAWCO, who have been running health and wellness workshops for the learners. We believe that these interventions are essential to integrate into the programme as it helps our learners tackle the many pressures of life that they are experiencing as young leaders coming from impoverished areas. Seeing the Conservation Leaders involved with the Table Mountain Fund micro-grant projects and achieving their goals has been very encouraging.

We are still navigating ways in which we can collaborate with others on action days, prize sponsorship, and school support. The groups' activities this year included hikes through fynbos, a camp at Wortelgat with the Cape Leopard Trust, a camp at Nature's Valley, beach clean-ups, leadership workshops, and the Lapalala Wilderness school camp for the 2015 group who have now graduated. Through these activities and interventions, learners receive the opportunity to interact, engage and identify indigenous fauna and flora. They have learned about catchment area conservation, alien invasive plant species, and various fauna found within the fynbos biome and other biomes. These firsthand accounts allow them to solidify their knowledge of fynbos habitats further and to connect with nature.



Success Story:

Jumah Alih, who joined the Conservation Leadership Project in 2017 as a young grade 8 student, has grown into a champion for conservation and is a respected leader amongst his peers. He developed a deep love for nature conservation with every camp and project. He even started a food garden for his school, Livingstone High. This year he was also elected as Head Prefect at his school! We are proud to see how far he has come.



Feedback from Learner:

"My time spent at Gecko Bush camp was amazing. Out of all the different camps I have ever been on, I am sure no other camp could beat how much fun I had with Nature Connect. It was great having our guide, Naas teach us about leopards, constellations, scorpions, and even himself. Though I wish he did not tell us about the ticks during our hike because we were paranoid about "dying." The cabins were gorgeous. I enjoyed screaming at the top of my lungs with the rest of my family Saturday night, bonding with our marshmallows, and taking pictures.

– Roguen Abrahams
(Conservation Leaders group).



Feedback from Teacher:

The Sustainable School programme provides clear guidelines and support which makes the job of a teacher so much easier in initiating environmental projects and awareness.

– Teacher from Observatory Junior School

School Success Story:

Sustainable schools are a synergy of environmentally driven education and community engagement. It is always great to see how the schools of our programme foster an environment where a community of practice is cultivated.

One example of these schools is Bergvliet Primary School, which donated eco-bricks to John Graham Primary. The school also assisted them with their garden and showed them different and creative ways to use these bricks.

Seeing our Sustainable Schools implementing eco-friendly initiatives and creating a better carbon footprint for the future generation is fantastic!



GREEN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Nature Connect Green Skills Development has taken giant leaps and bounds from successfully delivering skills development programmes in former years. We finally achieved accreditation in March 2021, and, as of the end of 2021, providing a host of accredited training for learnership groups and servicing the corporate environment.

Some of the primary targets for Green Skills have been to: upskill young professionals who were on the cusp of completing their Nature Conservation/ Environmental Management studies; upskilling and career development for school leavers; enabling the Crèche-to-Career model by supporting departmental targets.

Green Skills Development has achieved accreditation with CATHSSETA (Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, Sports Sector Education Training Authority) and AgriSETA (Agricultural SETA). It is in the process of achieving its accreditation with FP&M SETA (Fibre Processing and Manufacturing SETA). Green Skills Development has successfully implemented its first roll-out of Nationally recognised, accredited qualifications and short courses in the past year.

Over the last 6 months of our financial year we have rolled out:

- The NQF 4: Further Education & Training Certificate: Nature Conservation: Natural Resource Guardianship: Terrestrial qualification modules presented:

- 3 groups of Module 1 Communication
- 1 group of Module 3 Flora
- 1 group of Module 4 Fauna
- 1 group of Module 5 Compliance

- Venomous Snake Handling Training x 2

51% of the trainees were female and a total of 81 individuals were trained.

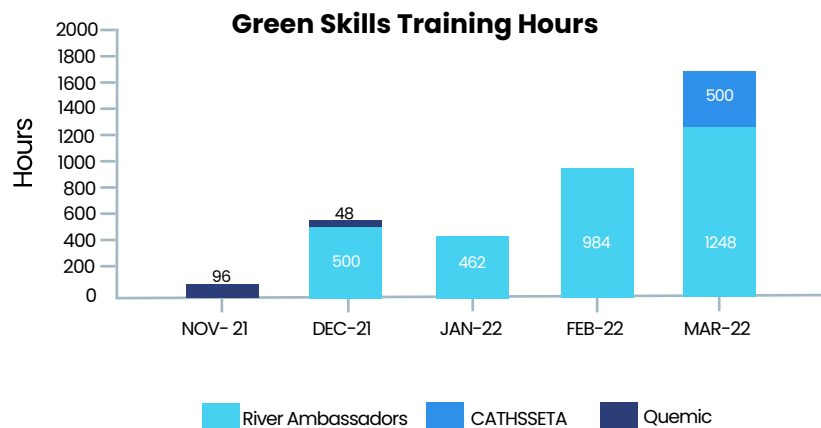
Learnership Programmes:

During the past year Green Skills Development has supported three separate learnership groups, a total of 39 young individuals, all very excited about their career in conservation.



A green economy begins to replace some of the clunking and chugging of ugly machines with the wise effort of beautiful, skilled people. That means more jobs.

- Van Jones



In December 2021, 15 matriculants on-boarded the CATHSSETA-funded learnership, and were all placed on conservation sites that were highly appreciative of their services to the sites.

The programme aimed to provide career guidance, on-the-job and formal training for participants and equip them with technical and scarce skills to service the conservation and environmental sector.

Internship Programmes:

By January 2022, eight Environmental Management Work Integrated Learning (WIL) learners were on-boarded for the CATHSSETA-funded WIL programme. A further seven Nature Conservation WIL learners were also brought on for a year-long experience, a requirement for completion of their diploma. These learners would complete their learnership programmes at the end of November 2022 and January 2023, respectively.

Privately funded Learnership:

In March 2022, 10 employees from Quemic started the Nature Conservation NQF 4 learnership programme. The support offered through their learning journey and exposure to conservation concepts will equip them to effectively carry out their ranger duties.

Throughout the roll-out phases, Green Skills have formed many new partnerships,

and strengthened the current partnerships, as the teams worked tirelessly to provide a seamless training product.

River Ambassador Project:

The River Ambassador programme started on 1 October 2019 and will continue to run until June 2022. The project aims to restore the ecological functioning of the urban water ways through removing invasive species, litter waste, implementing erosion control, and planting indigenous species while developing the skills capacity of unemployed youth in Cape Town. Through engagement with the Project Liaison Team, made up of representatives of various City of Cape Town departments, the project focuses on two main sites; the Mocke River Wetland and the Doorddrift section of the Diep River. In addition, the team assisted with alien clearing and ecological restoration projects at Princess Vlei, Little Princess Vlei, Rondvlei, Zandvlei, Soralia Village Wetland, and Capricorn Park throughout the year.

The first River Ambassador intake, appointed in March 2020, successfully completed their contracts at the end of June 2021, with a second intake starting in mid-August 2021. Seventeen of the 18 learners who started the programme in March 2020 completed the training and graduated from the programme with the Nature Conservation qualification offered by The Nature College. The graduation for this group



There is a quote by Von Goethe "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do". This captures the work of the Green Skills Training and Development Programme, through the training they apply, the knowledge they share and the action they take to capacitate the new entrants into the Green Economy. The new entrants walk away with the knowledge, the tools to apply and the willingness to do! We are excited to watch them progress in their careers.

*Louise Matske
- Green Skills and
Partnership Strategist*

was held in September 2021.

The second intake of River Ambassadors started their programme in September 2021 kicking off their year with a two-day team building camp. The camp ended with a hike to Silvermine and a guided walk into Boulders Beach by the Penguin Ranger Team in Simons Town. This group of River Ambassadors was Nature Connect Green Skills Development Team's inaugural learnership. By the end of the financial year, the River Ambassadors had completed four of the five modules towards their qualification. They also received Water Safety Training from the NSRI, Mini SASS Water Monitoring Training by Living Labs, and Chainsaw Training.



A summary of the milestones for this project for this financial year are as follows:

- 17360 operational hours were accrued during this financial year
- 3710 training hours over the two learnership intakes for this financial year
- 4.7 tonnes of litter waste removed
- 55.8 tonnes of invasive biomass removed
- 31 previously unemployed youth received the opportunity to complete the Nature Conservation Learnership.
- 56% of the participants on this programme were women, 55% were coloured and 45 % were black. 100% of the learners were from low-income areas.



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Seeing the learners grow professionally makes me want to be part of this programme in a mentoring capacity to reach even more young people like these who serve on our site. We all should be proud of the professionalism the learners leave with at the end of their contracts; we wish they could stay longer.

–False Bay Nature Reserve Manager

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I am grateful that I received this chance to be part of this amazing learning experience; I would definitely do this again! Nature Connect made learning fun and informative. Thank you, Nature Connect, for this amazing opportunity! I would highly recommend this course to others.

–Quemic Africa learner.



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The learnership helped me to understand things better in the sense of why I am helping to preserve nature on the reserves.

Overall, the learnership gave me confidence in the new-found knowledge I have and in my work.

**–CATHSSETA
Learnership learner**

NATURE CARE FUND

The Nature Care Fund remains committed to identify, access, and manage funds to drive innovative environmental stewardship and unlock sustainable development opportunities, in so doing, supporting the growth of the Green Economy.

Directing funds from environmental compliance toward conservation

Development pressure for land transformation is part of the package for people living on planet Earth. Nature Connect supports the business of doing our best to tread lightly. Therefore, we willingly provide the service of channeling funds from property development commitments towards positive conservation outcomes. As available land for development becomes increasingly scarce, biodiversity offsets become an increasingly likely trade-off as a last resort in balancing development and conservation interests. The Nature Connect Biodiversity Offset Policy articulates what we believe in and directs our activities as implementing agents in this often-times contentious space.

Investing directly in conservation research

Tough global economic times have affected our donor contributions towards scientific research, jeopardising our species-specific conservation work.

Fresh investment is necessary to continue the cutting-edge research for which Nature Connect has become known. In February this year, we celebrated the success of our animal husbandry of the critically endangered *Kedestes lenis lenis* butterfly. We successfully took these caterpillars in captive rearing through all their life stages from egg to adult butterfly. This was a global first! Our celebration was dampened by the reality that funds are no longer available to drive this project forward. Our flagship nature-based solution, the Gantouw Project, a green alternative utilising eland to manage alien plant and bush encroachment in Strandveld, remains at Vergelegen wine estate, as available urban sites within the City have also been constrained.

Successful projects hosted through the Nature Care Fund small grants facility

All catalytic projects funded through the Table Mountain Fund achieved their outcomes and objectives. We thank the Table Mountain Fund, which made this possible through their extension that accommodated COVID-related delays in project activities.

Developing robust co-management mechanisms

Our conservation sites operating with novel partnership funding and



The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.

– Robert Swan

co-management arrangements, and located within pockets of mixed residential and commercial property across the City, have been ticking over for more than a decade. Most of these sites are now being stress-tested. Original minds behind conception and implementation have moved off, new actors have arrived, and City spatial planning has unfolded in directions not foreseen 15+ years ago. This allows us to apply a critical eye to what was initially conceived and test the robustness of the mechanism for the continued roll-out of a model aimed at sustainable financing for conservation.

We are working hard to safeguard a key conservation corridor linking the high biodiversity value pockets of land within the Muizenberg East biodiversity cluster development with the False Bay Nature Reserve. Area Site Manager Kim Gordon, and Conservation Officer Jamy Lee Fredericks, work towards good governance of the critically endangered Cape Flats Dune Strandveld. In addition, they build local awareness, taking residents and their children into the hotspot of biodiversity on their doorstep. Of course, they also have to attend to the never-ending issue of alien invasive plants. Caring for creatures great and small, they work with the creepy-crawlies such as butterflies, spiders, and chameleons, and larger animals including grysbok, otters, frogs, owls, and birds. They work with all who call this place home,

advocating for all the life-sharing spaces in the middle of a residential area.

Moving towards the north of the City, to Kenilworth Racecourse Conservation Area we find Site Manager Lindile Masinyana, Assistant Conservation Officer Fayruz Prins, and Senior Field Ranger Tanya Snyders. They steward what has been described as the “hottest hotspot” for plant biodiversity in the world. There is arguably no place on earth that can yield so many different plant species local to the site over such a small area – 47 threatened IUCN Red Data species amongst the 349 plants in the 42 hectares. Two plant species are site endemics, meaning they grow naturally nowhere else in the world! Despite the uncertainties of working in



partnership with the horse-racing industry, we salute them for their efforts to harness what this remnant patch can offer, most notably informing local learners and showcasing the spectacular offering from nature in the heart of the Mother City.

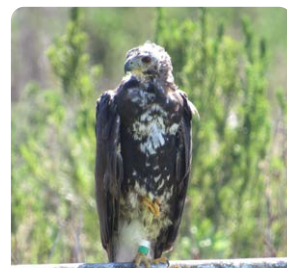
Moving to yet another patch of Cape Flats Sand Fynbos surrounded by houses but secured for conservation in perpetuity through a trade-off within development processes, the Milnerton Racecourse is ably managed by Site Manager Ntombikayise Lolwani. Ntombi reports monthly to the Environmental Management Committee that oversees the stewardship of this site for nature. She too, engages with people: residents, their children, and the local community, on excursions into this rich landscape, including Night Walks, Spring Walks, and Frog Walks. On this particular site, she also spends a significant amount of time working with the groomsmen who are interested in fynbos species known for their traditional healing properties. Ongoing alien vegetation clearing, plant rehabilitation programmes, grysbok management, and controlled burns must not be forgotten as standard in the Day of the Life of a Conservator.

Fabrice Turikumwe is the Site Manager for Zoarvlei section of the Table Bay Nature Reserve. Unlike our other sites, this site is open to the public 24/7. This means that over and above the regular

conservation work, he must also engage directly with homeless people and people involved with potentially illicit activities such as illegal dumping, drug use, and cable theft.

The remaining Nature Care Fund team members work in the marine environment. Known as Penguin Rangers, they manage people and nature to provide a safe environment for our African penguins breeding in Boulders Beach 'hood' and surrounds. This charismatic species is globally recognised as vulnerable to extinction, and this is the only stable African penguin population left on planet earth. The Penguin Rangers' duties include: monitoring penguin population size and breeding activities, regulating public access to the birds, moving penguins off the roads and out of people's gardens to safety, and collecting injured birds or deserted eggs for hatching and rehabilitation at the SANCCOB facilities. Once again, the critical mix of people -skills, and understanding of natural systems, are evident in our team comprising Kashiefa Amos, Vardaman Hahndiek, Mpumelelo Mabutyana, and Mikaela Slier.

Nature conservation in an urban setting is not for the faint-hearted, and requires a skill set that spans the practical "hands-on" through to a well-developed intellectual and emotional IQ. Nature Connect is proud of their team of dedicated professionals



who demonstrate their love for people and nature in what they do every day.

Striving to spark catalytic projects to crystallise into sustained livelihood opportunities

The Nature Care Fund remains a natural entry point for mobilising local community conservation activities, thanks to generating a bigger “bang for your buck” through partnerships. Many of the traditionally small and short-term projects have the potential to be up-scaled. We are striving towards this end, focusing on creating sustained income streams for steady livelihood provision while stewarding nature.

Spending time in new networks and learning new languages to build new relationships.

“Business as usual” is under the spotlight. We are investing time in various civic-government partnerships and networks locally, nationally, and internationally. These include membership with the Sustainable Landscapes Finance Coalition, representation on the Protected Area Advisory Committee for several nature reserves in Cape Town, and being on the founding Board for the African Chapter of the International Society for Ecological Restoration. Learning the language and strengthening communications amongst those with and without influence is key to building the bridges necessary for serving both

people and the planet.

Growing as a key component of Nature Connect

The last year has seen the Nature Care Fund staff grow as a team. We have reminded each other of the magnitude of the responsibility we shoulder. The team recognises what they secure for future generations. They appreciate that they hold out gems that showcase vestiges of the smallest floral kingdom in the world. The Nature Care Fund continues to engage ever more richly with our education and training teams as everyone looks to changing lives through nature together.



Our Nature Care Fund Team to the rescue!

Grysbok rescue and relocation:

On 14 May 2021 a distressed Cape grysbok was reported on a plot within Capricorn Business Park that was being cleared for development. The Nature Connect conservation team was called out and conducted an emergency capture. The capture was done successfully with the assistance of the SPCA, the CCT Veterinarian team, Zandvlei Nature Reserve staff and Nature Connect volunteers. The grysbok was relocated directly to Muizenberg East Private Nature Reserve, the neighbouring section of Muizenberg East Conservation Cluster.

Chameleon rescue:

It was reported on 13 July 2021 that several children were seen at the Capricorn Boulevard/Prince George Drive intersection illegally selling Cape dwarf chameleons. Kim Gordon located the children and educated them that what they were doing was illegal. The three chameleons were handed over and immediately released at Zandvlei Nature Reserve Park Island section.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION



Nature Based Solutions

Gantouw project – after moving the eland Mike, Gibbs, Uniqua and Berni to Vergelegen Wine Estates' conservation area in 2020 we maintained a close eye on the animals to track their condition and also on the veld to understand changes to the vegetation. Their 10ha camp soon became too small and they were introduced to a larger 180-ha camp this year. Despite having limited human contact, they still readily approach Petro, the project's original manager, whenever she visits them.

Western Leopard Toad – In April, we completed the installation of the toad tunnels in Peninsula road in Zeekeovlei. This is an important site as the road bisects two breeding water bodies: Zeekoefvlei and Rondevlei. The tunnels were the first of their kind installed in South Africa, and we held our breath during the breeding season when the toads started to move to see if they used the tunnels to cross the road. Much to our delight, the toads were guided to the tunnels by the barriers and readily moved through the tunnels. We greatly appreciate the funding from Fondation Ensemble and Leisure Charitable Trust for making this project possible.

African penguin – this project, a partnership between SANCCOB, the City of Cape Town, and Nature Connect, is in its 11th year and continues to contribute significantly to the survival of the African penguin. From rescuing birds from peoples' gardens, transporting birds in need of attention to SANCCOB, managing habitat and breeding sites to reducing predation, the four rangers continue to play an essential role in maintaining penguin population numbers.

Disa draconis – In partnership with the Stellenbosch University Botanical Gardens, we embarked on an ambitious effort to germinate seed of a significant population of *Disa draconis*. This population is geographically and morphologically separated from the closest population, with its pollinators having adapted their characteristics to match those of the plants. Sadly, none of the seeds germinated and we will have to wait for next season to try again.

Kedestes butterfly – given that both species of butterfly, *Kedestes lenis lenis* and *Kedestes barberae bunta*, are critically endangered, understanding their biology, managing their habitat, and developing techniques to bolster their population numbers are critical actions. The efforts to perfect the method of captive rearing bore fruit this year with the first-ever successful rearing through to adulthood of *Kedestes lenis lenis*. Despite only a 25% survival, these numbers are almost certainly higher than the survival through adulthood in the wild and something we can build on. As a global first, this is something we can be incredibly proud of. This project would not have been possible without the support of several donors, but particular recognition must be given to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

Leucadendron grandiflorum – After a wait of five years to conduct the ecological burn on Wynberg hill in the hopes of stimulating the extinct *Leucadendron grandiflorum* to emerge from the seed bank, the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Management Branch conducted the burn on this stewardship site in April 2021. It was a momentous occasion, and thanks to the highly trained team, it went by without any incident. It was a waiting game to see if any *Leucadendron* seedlings emerged from the ashes. Although nothing occurred in this rainy season, we hold onto hope that next year might yield some plants.

Cape platanna – The population of Cape platannas at Kenilworth racecourse is likely to be one of the most important as studies have shown that the genetics of this population are very different to other populations – in a time of increased pressures on animal populations such as climate change and fragmentation it is likely that populations with the highest genetic diversity will survive. We are exploring ways of possibly bolstering the populations at Kenilworth racecourse but to do this alongside robust research that does not negatively impact the micro-frog populations on the site.

OUR PEOPLE

A strong focus of our developing strategy is to facilitate new entrants to the Green Economy, provide stepping stones for youth to begin their careers, and provide growth opportunities to individuals within the organisation. Our vision is to grow leaders and managers from the ground up, where individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds get opportunities for personal development so that we can contribute to sustainable transformation.

We continue to review our transformation plan with the goal of enhancing workplace diversity and aligning to the transformation objectives, in particular:

- alignment of Human Resources policies, practices and procedures to the Department of Labour's Code of Good Practice on Integrating Employment Equity
- ensuring better workforce representation of the nationally Economically Active Population statistic of South Africa
- prohibiting unfair discrimination in the workplace.

Head Office



Dr. Anthony Roberts
CEO



Nicole Georgiou
Operations Coordinator



Louise Matschke
Green Skills
& Partnership Strategist

Sustainable Schools Programme



Jocelyn Anderson
Manager, Sustainable
Schools Programme



Melissa Zackon
Schools Coordinator



Tammy-Lee Solomons
Day Programme Coordinator



Karen Merrett
Learning &
Communication
Designer



Leah Mulenga
Conservation
Leaders Project Coordinator



Anwar Boonzaaier
Educator



Catherine Kühn
Education Coordinator

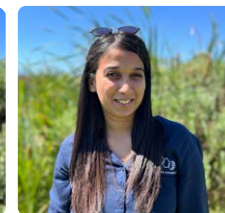
Green Skills



Letasha Hesqua
Training Manager



Petro Botha
Training Officer



Bianca Serra
Administrator

Nature Care Fund



Louise Baldwin
Manager, Species
Conservation



Lynette Munro
Conservation Partnership
Facilitator, Biodiversity
Offsetting



Ntombi Lolwane
Site Manager, Milnerton
Racecourse Section,
Table Bay Nature Reserve



Fayruz Prins
Kenilworth Racecourse
Conservation Area



Fabrice Turikumwe
Zoarvlei Wetlands



Lindile Masinyana
Kenilworth Racecourse
Conservation Area



Vardaman Hahndiek
Penguin Rangers
– African Penguin
Conservation Project



Mikaela Stier
Penguin Rangers
– African Penguin
Conservation Project



Kashiefa Amos
Penguin Rangers
– African Penguin
Conservation Project



Mpumelelo Mabutyana
Penguin Rangers
– African Penguin
Conservation Project



Kim Gordon
Muizenberg East
Biodiversity Cluster



Jamy Lee Fredericks
Muizenberg East
Biodiversity Cluster



“

*Working hard
for something
we don't care
about is called
stress: Working
hard for
something we
love is called
passion.*

– Simon Sinek

Governance

The organisation works to align its policies to various South African governance and ethics documents (such as King IV, the Department of Social Development's Code of Good Practice for South African Non-profit Organisations and The Independent Code of Governance and Values for Non-profit Organisations in South Africa). The organisation has had clean audits from reputable auditors and is in good standing with SARS, the Department of Social Development, and the Department of Labour-COIDA.



Board of Trustees

David de Korte – Chairman

David de Korte is one of the founding members of Nature Connect (previously Cape Town Environmental Education Trust).

David is currently working for Common Good as the Education Programme Coordinator. He was the previous headmaster of Camps Bay High School. From his time as headmaster and now with Common Good, it is evident that David firmly believes in uplifting children from disadvantaged communities. We are grateful to have David's insights and understanding of the school system and curriculum. In his free time, David enjoys the outdoors with his family, and whenever the swell is suitable and time allows, you will find David on his surfboard.

Mike Gregor – Trustee

Mike is the CEO of Rapula Farming, a business linked to several conservation initiatives across South Africa. His business knowledge and acumen, coupled with an understanding of conservation challenges in South Africa, enables Mike to critically assess and guide intervention programmes that Nature Connect pursues. Mike has been involved with environmental education and community upliftment programmes for a number of years, serving on Boards of several Non-Profit Organisations.

Dalton Gibbs – Trustee

Dalton is another one of the original founders of Nature Connect. Dalton has been involved with the City of Cape Town for over 20 years and was instrumental in developing the Cape Town Biodiversity Network with his colleagues in the Biodiversity Management Branch. He strongly believes and understands the importance of educating children on the value and need of conservation interventions in Cape Town. Dalton is an avid naturalist, ornithologist, and historian and will take all opportunities to share his knowledge with people for the betterment of conservation.

EVENTS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In the past, our events were often a good source of new supporters. After the pandemic, it was evident that in-person events also play a role in the sustainability of an organisation. As much as these events are significant for brand awareness, it was great to see that the year's events we participated in fostered a sense of camaraderie. Those who participated in these events appreciate the beauty of fighting for a cause. Participating and hosting these events not only motivated people but also helped staff see the importance of their efforts and work.

The events we participated in:

Earth Day Environmental Education:

On 22 April 2021, we commemorated Earth Day with 15 residential children of Villa D'Algarve complex in Muizenberg. The day's main message was to convey how the earth's future is in our hands, by discussing ways we can contribute



to preserving our planet and by the children making a promise to protect the earth in their way. We believe that through the day's activities, we have instilled valuable knowledge into the young minds of Villa D'Algarve resident children.

Participated in the iNaturalist Challenge:

The City Nature Challenge 2021 took place from 30 April to 3 May. The Nature Connect Conservation Leaders joined in the fun, snapping away and uploading their finds on the iNaturalist app.

According to citynaturechallenge.org, the ultimate goal of the challenge is to make people "become aware that biodiversity exists and matters, not only in the wild but also in cities."



Participated in the Society of Ecological Restoration's "Make a Difference Week" beach clean-up and hosted clean-up on Sunrise Circle dunes:

On 5 June 2021, World Environment Day, the Muizenberg East team participated in a community beach clean-up organised by Nature Connect in commemoration of SER's "Make a Difference Week". After the beach clean-up, the Muizenberg East team invited residents for a litter clean-up of the dunes around Sunrise Circle. More than 20 large bags of litter were filled from the dune clean-up. Over 100 people participated in the beach clean-up.



Environmental Education School Holiday Programme:

Our annual December holiday programme was held at three sites in Dec 2021, namely MEPNR, Soralia Village and Villa D'Algarve. The holiday environmental education programme was a highlight for

the team; getting to share our love for nature with younger generations (and sometimes their parents, too) is fun for all involved. We hope to inspire young minds to take an interest in conservation, but mostly to enjoy time out in the natural world.



In October, the iNaturalist's Great Southern Bioblitz

was a perfect opportunity to focus on species identification at each site in the Muizenberg East Cluster. Over 120 entries were submitted. This is an annual international survey conducted in the Southern Hemisphere in Spring. The Muizenberg East conservation team hosted events at several sites in the Muizenberg East Cluster. Residents were invited to join in on the activity of recording plant and animal species that they could find in the conservation areas over a series of days between

22-25 October. Our Nature Connect's Muizenberg East site manager and conservation officer, Kim Gordon were involved in several ecological burns between April 2021 and March 2022 with the CCT teams across several CCT nature reserves.



Sustainable School Programme's Beach Cleanups: These clean-ups are not only a great way for schools to participate and realise the value of recycling, up cycling and playing a part in keeping our environment clean but also an opportunity for the community and organisations to get involved a contribute in making a difference.

5 June 2021 Clean-up: The organisations involved in helping with the beach clean-up were: The Beach Co-op an Captain Fanplastic. We received donations came from Pick n Pay, PlasticsSA and Krispy Kreme. Organisations and schools which attended the clean-up: Silukanyo primary school, West End Primary and John graham, Steenberg high Organisations who brought their learners: Village Heights Eco Buddies, Project 90 by 2030, 9 Miles, Beyond



project, Conservation Leadership Programme. Individual learners from Rondebosch Boys High and Herschel Girls also attended. In total, we collected 215 kgs of trash!

18 September 2021 Clean-up: The organisations involved in helping with the beach clean-up were: The Beach Co-op and Captain Fanplastic. Captain Fanplastic ran a program with the learners which included a story about turning trash into treasure and which then led them onto a treasure hunt to collect and record what plastic they gathered on the beach. We received donations came from Pick n Pay, PlasticsSA, Petco, The Western Cape Government, and Krispy Kreme. The schools which attended the clean-up: Silukhanyo Primary school, Strandfontein Primary school, Harmony Primary school as well as Village heights eco buddies. In total, we collected 44 kgs of trash!



Public Engagement

Partnerships allow for sharing of skills and the optimising of resources. We believe in the adage, "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts". Partnerships are most effective when the people in the partnership, know and understand each other. This process of building a relationship takes time and is facilitated through networking that is enabled through conference participation, membership that allows

targeted communication and information flow, and engagement with peers on projects within communities of practice.

Nature Connect therefore, encourages and values staff participation in whatever forums allow for the growth of the individual for the benefit of the organisation.

With the partnership section we can highlight or pop out a quote: Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!

Our team engages across a wide range of fora, representing Nature Connect on international, national, and local platforms including:

- International Society for Wetland Scientists
- International Society for Ecological Restoration
- IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management: Impact Mitigation and Ecological Compensation Thematic Group
- International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa
- South African Wetlands Society
- South African Botanical Society
- Western Cape Stewardship Forum

- Western Cape Wetland Forum
- Fynbos Forum
- The Cape Floristic Region Partnership
- The Protected Area Advisory Committee for Blouberg, Table Bay, False Bay, and Helderberg Nature Reserves
- Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy (BHCDS) Forum
- National Environmental Skills Development Planning Forum



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***Partnerships
are most effective
when the people
in the partnership
know and
understand
each other.”***

***– Lynette Munro.
Conservation
Partnership
Facilitator,
Biodiversity
Offsetting.***

FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Diversification of income streams remains key, as is expansion of our existing donor base, ensuring alignment with national strategies such as the National Development Plan and the Youth Employment Services initiative.

Increase income generating activities

Our income generation in 2021/2022 grew to 29.6% of total revenue compared to 10.8% for 2020/2021 – still substantially down from years prior to Covid, a result of reduced income-generating activities, primarily the lack of education programmes. As the Covid restrictions were relaxed in January 2022 we saw a rapid increase in education programmes being run for schools. We envisage that as the new education camp site at Bokbaai comes online coupled with the roll-out of our Green Skills training programmes we should see the amount and proportion of self-generated funds increase substantially.

The financial sustainability risks brought about by Covid strengthen our resolve that we must continue to explore a broader set of self-generating income mechanisms going forward.

Managing existing donors and diversifying donor streams

Relationships with existing donors are maintained by ensuring that all reporting deadlines, publicity requirements and

targets are met. Donors are kept up to date with the organisation's activities through the distribution of a quarterly newsletter, mainstream media and social media.

We have made ongoing fundraising efforts to identify and apply for funding from new sources, both locally and internationally. This year we secured our largest single-donor contribution from Allan and Gill Gray Foundation for our Sustainable Schools programme and the commitment to three years of funding gives an excellent launch pad for the national roll-out of this programme.

In the 2022 financial year, 15 donors contributed to various programmes, with grants from trusts and foundations accounting for 44% of the organisation's income.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

As part of our sustainability plan, we are constantly reviewing the efficacy of our monitoring and evaluation tools and aim for an integrated approach. The contracting of external consultants this year helped us strengthen our M&E, by further building the tools for data capturing and assessment. Using this feedback mechanism, when implemented correctly, helps us better understand our impact, highlight areas of improvement and gives us the ability



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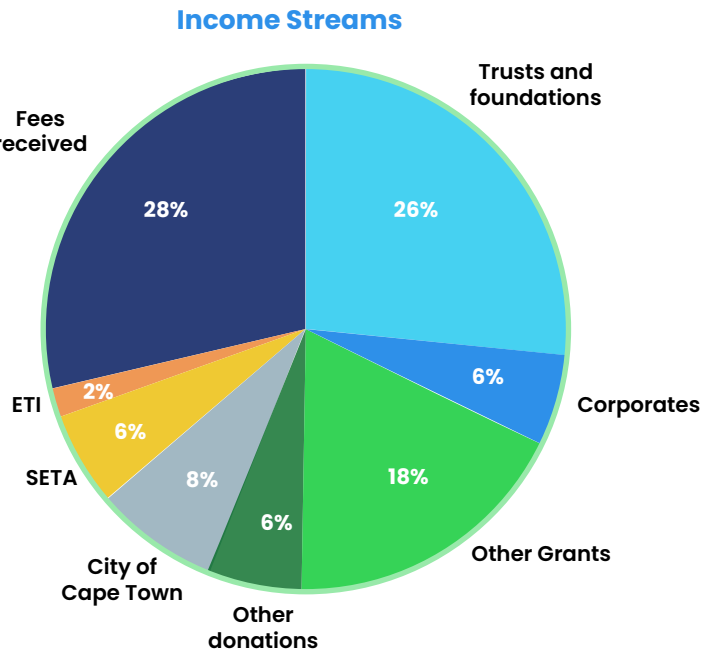
Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.

Ban Ki-moon – 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations

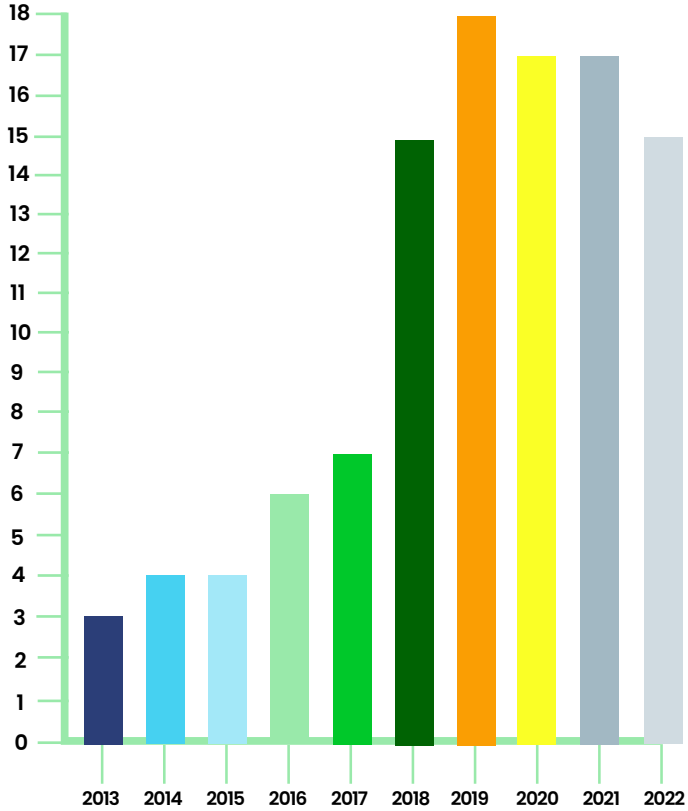
to adapt to external factors. This is vital to our resilience as an organisation, and for our stakeholders to know – and believe in – what we do.

Endowment Fund

The endowment fund that we had built in the 6 years preceding Covid-19 allowed us to maintain our core team of staff at their standard salaries, making a massive difference to them and their families, and allowed us some breathing room to refocus our energies. Unfortunately we have depleted most of the funds we had built over those years and we will now embark on a rebuilding exercise in the coming year.



Number of Donors



PARTNERS AND DONORS





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Qualified opinion

We have audited the annual financial statements of Cape Town Environmental Education Trust, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes to the annual financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effect of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of this report, the annual financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Cape Town Environmental Education Trust as at 31 March 2022, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Trust Deed.

Basis for qualified opinion

In common with similar organisations it is not feasible for the Trust to institute accounting control over cash collections from donations prior to the initial entry of the collections in the accounting records. Accordingly, it is impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (IRBA Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in South Africa. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IRBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Code is consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards). We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Trustees' Report, and the supplementary information set out on pages 20 to 21, which we obtained prior to the date of this report. Other information does not include the



annual financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the annual financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the annual financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, to consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report

Responsibilities of the trustees for the Annual Financial Statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Trust Deed, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to

enable the preparation of annual financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Annual Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based

on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the trust to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the annual financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Financial	2022	2021
Income	8 748 412	7 063 143
Expenses	8 824 552	7 617 685
Total	- 76 140	- 554 542
Assets	2022	2021
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	540 600	377 107
Current Assets		
Trade and Other Receivables	167 617	244 014
Other Financial Assets	2 695 599	2 473 792
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5 990 369	4 004 661
Total	9 394 185	7 099 574
Funds and Liabilities	2022	2021
Funds		
Accumulated Surplus	2 541 480	2 617 620
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	160 454	87 001
Funds for Future Projects	2 735 839	2 573 050
Deferred Income	3 717 057	1 635 352
Provisions	239 355	186 551
Total	9 394 185	7 099 574

LOOKING FORWARD

Aiming for Five years of sustained growth

The first year of our 2021–2025 Strategy, a period that focused on organisational growth, saw evidence of Covid-19 impact. Whilst engagements with our beneficiaries remained constrained, we had a heightened drive and restructuring to ensure we were in the best position to realise and manage the growth of our programmes. As 2022 unfolded, we saw a relaxing of some of the restrictions and concerns of the past 18 months and a general sense that people wanted to resume some sort of normality. We stepped up to the challenge, rolling out our programmes – paving the way for growing the pool of people who share our belief in changing lives through nature.

Roll-out of the Sustainable Schools programme

In answering the call from across the SADC region, for a unified and coordinated programme for environmental education, we launched the Sustainable Schools programme in early 2021. This ambitious and forward-looking approach to unifying Education for Sustainable Development required the development of our online hub, necessary to drive the development of a community of practice. However, we

recognise that most schools still value the engagement with a “warm body” and the support that comes with that and we will continue to build this into our implementation model as we grow the programme going forwards. With opportunities to present the programme in Rwanda and Namibia later in the year, we are excited at the possibilities to cultivate interest and upscale the programme beyond South Africa.

Broadening our partnership base

In order to strengthen not only our organisational sustainability but also our impact we will actively pursue the expansion of partnerships. As the impacts of climate change increase, the evidence that we need to work together becomes more and more apparent. Understanding that our work can help ameliorate degraded ecosystems and absorb some climate change impacts, we have focussed on growing our partnerships with landowners and authorities. We look forward to effective on-boarding with meaningful partnerships across the country in the coming years.

Unlocking funds for conservation

It is increasingly recognised that more than half of global GDP is generated through activities that depend on nature and its services. As such, the loss and



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*Paving the way
for growing the
pool of people
who share our
belief in changing
lives through
nature.*

degradation of biodiversity affect the business bottom line. There is a global awakening of understanding that new relationships need to be built for new systems to be put in place to protect business and nature. With experience in novel co-management arrangements and positioned to drive for change within current business models for conservation, we look forward to pioneering innovation that advances the transition to the nature-smart economy, securing land for conservation and providing jobs along the way.

Weathering the challenges of growth

Our rebranding was the start of the process of expansion, breaking away from the localised programme implementation in Cape Town to a broader audience, requiring careful management of how we presented ourselves at this expanded level. One key aspect is our leadership and governance and recognising that we must bring about inclusivity – this was not a new recognition but has required a greater urgency to bring about transformation. The coming year will see a concerted effort in attracting Board members who can add value to our operations and strategic alignment.





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