



Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation (WCRO)

PO Box 47 Prince Albert 6930

NPO Reg. Num 121-079 (15.05.2013)

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2017.02.28

NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS Narrative Report on the past year's activities 2016.03-2017.02

1. Section A: Basic details about the Organisation:

1.1 Organisation name:... Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation .

1.2 Non-profit Organisation Registration Number:..... **121-079 (15.05.2013)**.....

1.3 The twelve-month period this Report covers:... ..2015.03.01-2016.02.28

1.4 Contact persons (Two office bearers nominated by the Organisation):

Contact personSue Milton-Dean

Contact person's title in your organisation(Secretary/Treasurer).....

Telephone number (023) 5411828... ..

Fax number ()

Cell phone number082 7700206..

E-mail address... WklConsResOrg@gmail.com.....

Another contact person is.....Chris Ball.....

Contact person's title in your organisation ... Vice Chairperson....

Telephone number

Fax number ()

Cell phone number ...082 990 2004...email..mrchrisball@gmail.com

1.5 Organisation's physical address:

.....Nuwestraat 8.....

.....Prince Albert.....

Province ... Western Cape.....

Postal code 6930.....

1.6 Organisation's postal address (if different to 1.5):

.....PO Box 47.....

.....Prince Albert.....

Province ... Western Cape.....

Postal code 6930.....

South African Revenue Service Tax Number 9541/939/16/2; NPO Reg. Num 121-079 (15.05.2013)

EXCO Members: Chairperson Dr WRJ Dean; Vice Chair Mr Chris Ball; Cape Nature representative Ms Anita

Wheeler; Additional Member Mr Hugh Forsyth;

Secretary/Treasurer Dr Sue Milton-Dean

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<http://www.wcro.co.za>

1.7 Organisation's Office Bearers. If the form does not have enough spaces for all your office bearers please add the rest on a sheet of paper, and attach. (Office Bearers may be e.g.: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees. etc)

Name	Office bearer title	Work or home address	Postal address	Telephone (include dialing code)	ID Number
William Richard John Dean	Chair	8 Nuwestraat, Prince Albert 6930	PO Box 47, Prince Albert 6930	Tel: +27 23 541 1828; Cel: +27 79 517 3693	ID 400810 5011 083
Christopher John Watkins-Ball	Vice Chair Member & fiduciary officer	Ouplaas, Kruisrivier, Calitzdorp	.PO. Box 49, Calitzdorp 6660.	Tel: +27 Cel: +27 82 990 2004	ID 391102 5051 082
Suzanne Jane Dean	Secretary/ Treasurer Member & fiduciary officer	8 Nuwestraat, Prince Albert 6930	PO Box 47, Prince Albert 6930	Tel: +27 23 541 1514; Cel: +27 82 770 0206	ID 520713 0118 082
Hugh Pickering Forsyth	Additional Member & fiduciary officer	2 Klipstraat, Prince Albert 6930	2 Klipstraat, Prince Albert 6930	Tel; +27 23 5411 514,	ID 430317 5030 083
Anita Wheeler	CapeNature Representative	Queens Hotel Building Baron van Reede Street Oudtshoorn 6625;	Private Bag X 658, Oudtshoorn, 6620	Tel: +27 44 2036 312; Cel: +27 82 784 1785	ID 740914 0056 082.

Changes to the Office Bearers: please attach a copy of minutes where changes were made and attendance register.

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2. SECTION B: THE ORGANISATION'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR:

Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>1. Maintain Wolwekraal Nature Reserve Infrastructure. Mending of the boundary fence between Municipal garbage dump and the Nature Reserve is ongoing because it is frequently damaged by being cut by people wishing to gain access. The WCRO Exco agreed to rebuild the fence using steel poles and to secure it with two electrified strands. The work was completed in April 2016. Costs: R11,360.00 for labour, R5,000.00 for poles, and R1600.00 for incidentals such as cutting, welding and drilling poles, cement, and diesel R20,170, for installation of the electric wiring, resistors and warning notices. The total cost of the electric fence is thus R38,000.00 of which Conservation @ Work obtained R20,765 from the Table Mountain Fund. This was paid to Renu-Karoo, the service provider. Renu-Karoo covered the remaining fencing costs as the fence helps to secure the Renu-Karoo nursery.</p>	<p>Wolwekraal Nature Reserve is a government Gazetted protected area. WCRO and CapeNature are committed to co-managing the area to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem function for recreation, education, carbon sequestration and soil and water protection. Beneficiaries are the present and future community of Prince Albert (in terms of quality of life, education, employment), and visitors to the area. Maintaining fences limits movement of garbage and feral animals into the Nature Reserve and discourages intruders who intend to vandalise, hunt or remove trees.</p>
<p>2. Provide environmental and natural history education for the public and for schools and transfer skills to local community. Major environmental education activities this year included a restoration project carried out by 25 B-tech students and mentors from the Saasveld campus of NMMU (July 2016) and a visit by 65 2nd year Saasveld Nature Conservation students to the reserve. Despite extending repeated invitations to the Primary and High Schools in Prince Albert, our efforts to involve learners and teachers in environmental education on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve failed this year. In collaboration with the Depth Leadership Trust we took two groups of six high school learners for walks in the Nature Reserve in May 2016. We also donated 1000 digital images of local plants and animals to the Depth Leadership Trust for an exhibition featuring “what part of nature do you love most? The photographs were printed for a public exhibition and the posters were then donated to the hospital, schools and old age home. WCRO members also gave talks at the a</p>	<p>University groups make regular visits to Wolwekraal Nature Reserve to enrich lab studies with field ecology. Local residents and tourists have commented enthusiastically about the natural history and heritage information gained on walks in Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. Participants and assistants participating or assisting in teaching of short courses or working year long internships have gained skills in plant propagation, identification, field sampling and research techniques. WCRO activities have also promoted debates on waste management and control of alien invasive plants.</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>Conservation at Work rangeland training session in February, Robertson Literary Society AGM in July, a Grassland Society of Southern Africa weeds workshop in August, the Arid Zone Forum workshop in October and the Karoo Futures workshop at Stellenbosch University in November 2016. A total of 265 people were given guided walks in the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve Nature Reserve during 2016.</p>	
<p>3. Conduct and publish research. WCRO members mentored a SAEON intern involved in ecological research and assisted a Stellenbosch Sociology student investigating local attitudes to fences around nature reserves. We also continued our research on outcomes of ecological restoration trials and on clearing of invasive alien vegetation. To this end we obtained funding from the Missouri Botanical Garden to subsidise a group of 25 BTech students to carry out a restoration experiment on an eroded area of Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. This experiment will be monitored and replicated in 2017 using funds obtained from publishing research papers under the SAEON banner. Long-term ecological research projects on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve that are being conducted in collaboration with SAEON include repeat surveys of 72 vegetation plots, and long term decay studies that form part of an international study on decay rates.</p>	<p>Beneficiaries of our research activities include the students who learn, gain experience and degrees, the business Renu-Karoo that uses research-based information to improve its veld restoration service to the public, and members of the public who access the WCRO and Renu-Karoo websites in search on information on veld rehabilitation and environmental issues. The South African Environmental Observatory Network carries out research on the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve because it is an ideal site to observe the influence of village development on a natural environment and to record and share information on climate change impacts on vegetation and decay rates.</p>
<p>4. Work in collaboration with other organizations and government agencies to identify and assist in the conservation of natural and cultural environments in the Prince Albert Municipal area. WCRO members attended two LandCare (Beaufort West), meetings in 2016 and continued to work collaboration with CapeNature, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), South African Biodiversity Institute, SANBI (fracking impact assessment), CSIR (SKA environmental impact assessment) and South African Environmental</p>	<p>WCRO and members of collaborating organizations (CapeNature, LandCare, SAEON, EWT, SANBI, CSIR, Prince Albert Municipality, Depth Leadership Trust, Department of Sociology at Stellenbosch University, Nature Conservation Department at NMMU, Cape Leopard Trust, Conservation Management Services) benefited from the shared experience and knowledge.</p>

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Observatory Network (SAEON), in conducting and synthesizing research that could lead to better environmental management and conservation of natural and cultural environments in the Prince Albert Municipal area as well as elsewhere in the Karoo.	
5. Raise funds for its activities and manage these funds to achieve its objectives. During 2016, WCRO raised funds amounting to R15,000 through guided walks and public talks, R20,000 from the Table Mountain Fund (for upgrading fencing), and R37,000 from the Missouri Botanical Garden for restoration research. Funds were used for infrastructure maintenance on the Nature Reserve and for environmental education and research activities.	CapeNature benefits from the co-management of Wolwekraal Nature Reserve by WCRO. Post-grad students benefitted from practical participation in ecological restoration on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve..
8. Provide access to information pertaining to its activities and management through regular open and transparent communication. Public access to information pertaining to WCRO activities and management was achieved through regular Exco meetings and an AGM, by updating of the website (www.wcro.co.za), interaction with the eleven ordinary members to WCRO, occasional articles in the local newspaper (Prince Albert Friend).	Local inhabitants learn about the natural environment and cultural heritage in which the village of Prince Albert is embedded.

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