



Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation (WCRO)

PO Box 47 Prince Albert 6930

NPO Reg. Num 121-079 (15.05.2013)

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2021.02.29

NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS Narrative Report on the past year's activities 2020.03-2021.02

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:... ..**2020.03.01-2021.02.28**

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.....Dr W. Richard J. Dean.....

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

Telephone number

Fax number ()

Cell phone number ...079 517 3693...email.. wrjdean01@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.....

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; Cell: +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 Cell: +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; Cell: +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
Theresa van der Westhuizen	CapeNature Representative	Queens Hotel Building Baron van Reede Street Oudtshoorn 6625;	Private Bag X 658, Oudtshoorn, 6620	Tel: +27 44 203 6300; cell: +27 82 5696480	ID 7411150001081
Malcolm Searle	Additional member and fiduciary officer	20 Devenish Street, Prince Albert 6930	-----	Tel +27 82 497 2290	ID 600707 5230 085
Bertus Fourie	Nature Reserve Manager	26 Nuwestraat, Prince Albert 6930	-----	Tel +27 82 650 9792	ID 851125 5211 086

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. The Nature Reserve is separated from the Municipal Waste Disposal Facility by a 2.5 m high boundary fence built by the Nature Reserve. Plastic from the waste disposal site constantly blows into the nature reserve and is ingested by wildlife. The Waste Disposal site is less than 30 m from the banks of the Dorps River. In 2018 the Waste Management License was renewed by the Western Cape directorate of Waste Management. WCRO lodged a formal appeal against the license extension as the Waste Disposal Facility contravenes a number of its licensing conditions, is placed too near a river and is not compatible with biodiversity conservation. In November and December 2020 and February 2021 WCRO reported on accidental burning of plastic waste and general poor management of the Waste Disposal facility to Western Cape Waste Management and copied this to the local Municipality. Poor management included lack of access control to the Waste Disposal Facility and failure to maintain secure fencing around the facility. We also patrolled the Nature Reserve to discourage intruders, especially those with dogs, and arrange for volunteers to collect plastic blown into the reserve from the Waste Disposal Facility.</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), school learners and visitors to the area. Improved management of the Waste Disposal Facility would reduce the movement of garbage, trespassers and feral animals into the Nature Reserve, and reduce the risk of contamination of the Dorps River and groundwater by leachate or waste. Responses from Waleed Galvaan (Waste Management WC) to our letters in 2020 and February 2021 stated that the Directorate of Waste management would monitor waste facility and facilitate better compliance by the Municipality.</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 were as follows: a) Saasveld NMMU 3rd year student based with WCRO for 12 months as an intern trained learners at the Prince Albert Community Centre (PACT-POP Centre) to grow vegetable in small plots using permaculture techniques, and assisted in the PACT feeding scheme for young children during the lockdown; b) With support from the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR), WCRO developed an indigenous garden, educational signboards and information leaflets</p>	<p>Beneficiaries of our environmental education efforts included the WCRO and SAEON interns (through training and experience received), the local Museum and tourism office through the development of a new attraction, recipients of the PACT outreach programme through our intern participation in training and the feeding scheme, and local residence and tourists through information provided by intern publications in the local paper and through guided walks in Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. WCRO activities have also promoted debates on waste management, water</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>about medicinal plants for the local museum and tourism office;</p> <p>c) WCRO conducted 56 guided walks in the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve Nature Reserve during the reporting period;</p> <p>d) We also mentored one science intern (Gosego Nampa) for the South African Environmental Observation Network (National Research Foundation);</p> <p>e) The WCRO intern wrote published articles in the local newspaper on environmental topics such as drought and pollution.</p>	<p>allocation to people and the environment, and control of alien invasive plants. Moreover we contributed to the conservation and social development aims of the GCBR in collaborating on the indigenous garden project at the Museum.</p>
<p>3. Conduct and publish research.</p> <p>WCRO members mentor one intern annually for the South African National Environmental Network (DST/NRF). The mentoring includes assistance with data collection, analysis and scientific writing. Funds obtained by WCRO through guided walks were used to fund NMU intern Callum Clark who repeated 2002 surveys of the rare succulent <i>Bijlia dilitata</i> (Prince Albert Vygie) on seven properties within a 15 km radius of Prince Albert. Additional research initiated in 2020 includes recording of drought induced plant mortality, camera trap monitoring of burrow use by birds and mammals, and updating of flora lists. We also hosted and mentored SAEON Arid lands Node research intern Gosego Nampa during 2020. Student supervision during 2020 included a master's study rehabilitation in the Little Karoo (via NMU) and mine rehabilitation near Kathu. LeeRoy Arendse completed the dust study we supervised in 2019 and graduated from Stellenbosch University in 2020.</p> <p>In 2020 we completed a major baseline review of the ecology of the Square Kilometer Array area in the Central Karoo for SAEON, and published two papers: Arena, G., Dean, W.R.J. & Milton, S.J. 2020. Ant communities in two habitats in Succulent Karoo shrubland. <i>African Entomology</i> 28(1): 202–209.</p> <p>Dean WRJ, Milton SJ, Vernon CJ, Nichols S & Boon GC 2020. The use of alien plants by birds in southern Africa. <i>Durban Natural Science Museum Novitates</i> 40: 24-48.</p>	<p>Beneficiaries of our research activities include the interns and students who learn, gain experience and obtain degrees, the nursery business Renu-Karoo that uses research-based information to improve its veld restoration service to the public, CapeNature that receives updated species lists, and members of the public who access the WCRO and Renu-Karoo websites in search on information on veld rehabilitation and environmental issues. WCRO members act as mentors for South African Environmental Observatory Network interns posted to the Tierberg/Wolwekraal LTER sites and these students work 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 dynamics and decay rates. WCRO research encourages collaboration between disciplines of ecology, sociology, psychology, anthropology, archaeology, history, education and art, and contributes to the objectives of SAEON and the Gouritz Cluster biosphere Reserve.</p>

Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>4. WCRO works 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.</p> <p>In 2020/2021 WCRO members collaborated with CapeNature, the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR), South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Landcare Beaufort West, Prince Albert Municipality (via the Community Work Programme), Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), the South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON), and the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) in conducting, synthesizing and reviewing 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. We also collaborated with local social charitable organisations including the Farmers' Association, The Fransie Pienaar Museum, Path out of Poverty (youth centre), Prince Albert Community Trust (PACT), the Cultural Foundation and Depth Leadership (via the Prince Albert Skills School).</p>	<p>WCRO and members of collaborating organizations (CapeNature, LandCare, SAEON, EWT, GCBR, SANBI, PACT, Prince Albert Municipality, Depth Leadership Trust, Conservation Ecology Department at Stellenbosch University, Nature Conservation Department at NMU, Conservation Management Services) benefited from the shared experience and knowledge. Our contributions to the indigenous medicinal knowledge garden at the Fransie Pienaar Museum are accessible to a wide range of local people, schools and tourists. Our articles in the local newspaper (Prince Albert Vriend) and talks to clubs and organisations help to inform the public of important environmental issues that affect all our lives. Our interns provided both practical training (gardening) and practical assistance (food distribution to children) during this pandemic year.</p>
<p>5. WCRO raises funds for its activities and manages these funds to achieve its objectives.</p> <p>During 2020.03-2021.02, WCRO raised funds amounting to R35,000 through guided walks and funding applications. Funds were used for intern support, infrastructure maintenance on the Nature Reserve, environmental education, and ecological monitoring and other research activities.</p>	<p>CapeNature benefits from the co-management of Wolwekraal Nature Reserve by WCRO because WCRO maintains the fences and carries out patrols of the Nature Reserve. Post-grad students benefitted from mentorship and practical work on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve, and interns benefitted from the experience gained through interactions with learners, post-graduate students from other disciplines and the public. WCRO supports the objectives of GCBR and SAEON through environmental education and research. Our interns contribute to PACT and other community projects in Prince Albert.</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>6. Provide access to information pertaining to its activities and management through regular open and transparent communication.</p> <p>Public access to information pertaining to WCRO activities and management was achieved through regular Exco meetings and the virtual AGM (via Zoom), by updating of the website (www.wcro.co.za) which also give access to our annual reports to SASSA, interaction with the eleven ordinary members of WCRO, and monthly articles in the local newspaper (Prince Albert Friend). Wolwekraal Nature Reserve also featured in the following publically-available video YouTube: Chasing Lines https://youtu.be/iBzKXaSj2uc</p>	<p>Local inhabitants and visitors to Prince Albert learn about the natural environment and cultural heritage in which the village of Prince Albert is embedded. Information on WCRO activities is disseminated via Facebook, our website, the Prince Albert Tourism office, and the local newspaper, as well as on guided walks and the occasional video.</p>

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3. SECTION C: LIST OF IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND ANY CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION

3.1 Types and number of meetings your Organisation held during the past year

Type of meeting	Indicate by ticking		No of meetings held during the year	Comments
	Yes	NO		
Annual general meeting (AGM)	x		1	2020.12.02 (zoom)
Special general meeting		x		
Board meeting (Exco meetings)	x		3	2020.04.24, 2020.11.30, 2020.12.02
Others (specify)				

4 Did the Organisation make any change or changes to its Constitution during the past year

NO

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NOTE: If your answer is YES, please attach the following to your Report:

3.4.1 A copy of the resolution/s to change the Constitution;

3.4.2 A copy of the changed Constitution.

Please attach a copy of, Annual Financial Statements, which include a Balance Sheet and an Income and Expenditure Report and the Accounting Officer's report to this Narrative Report

ATTACHED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR WCRO as PDF

Submitted online on 2021.08.11

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