



# Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation (WCRO)

PO Box 47 Prince Albert 6930

NPO Reg. Num 121-079 (15.05.2013)

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2019.02.28

## NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS Narrative Report on the past year's activities 2018.03-2019.02

### 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:.... **2018.03.01-2019.02.28**

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

Contact person .....Sue Milton-Dean .....

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

Telephone number (023) 5411828.....

Fax number ( ) .....

Cell phone number .....082 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 Dr Alan

Wheeler; Additional Member Mr Hugh Forsyth;

Secretary/Treasurer Dr Sue Milton-Dean

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**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
Alan Wheeler	CapeNature Representative	Queens Hotel Building Baron van Reede Street Oudtshoorn 6625;	Private Bag X 658, Oudtshoorn, 6620	Tel: +27 44 203 6312; Cel: +27 82 300 1787	ID 650802 5011 087.

**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.</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. Closure of the neighbouring Waste Disposal Facility would reduce the movement of garbage and feral animals into the Nature Reserve, reduce the risk of contamination of the Dorps River and groundwater by leachate or waste.</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 environmental outings for 10 learners of Prince Albert Skills School (PASS) for special needs learners, the involvement of 25 B-tech students and mentors from the Saasveld campus of NMMU (August 2018) in the monitoring of two veld restoration projects carried out by and a visit by about 50 second year Saasveld Nature Conservation students to the reserve. In addition to university students and 106 visitors were given guided walks in the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve Nature Reserve during the reporting period. We also mentored one science intern for the South African Environmental Observation Network (National Research Foundation). The 10 popular articles that she wrote for the local newspaper contributed to environmental education of the general public. We also presented a talk on ecological restoration at the “Conservation @ Work” Symposium in Robertson.</p>	<p>Special needs learners enjoyed the outdoor education experience and broadened their understanding of the interactions between people and the environment. BTech-level students from Nelson Mandela University gained practical field experience in ecological restoration and monitoring on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. Local residents and tourists have commented enthusiastically about the natural history and heritage information gained on walks in Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. Students and interns gained experience in environmental education, public speaking, scientific and popular writing, plant and animal identification, field sampling and research techniques. Talks and popular articles reach a wider community including farmers and land managers. WCRO activities have also promoted debates on waste management, water allocation to people and the environment, and control of alien invasive plants.</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>3. Conduct and publish research.            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 members through publication of papers in peer-reviewed journals were paid to WCRO and used to fund veld restoration trials and monitoring on the Nature Reserve during the current reporting period. Long-term ecological research projects on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve are being conducted in collaboration with SAEON, and include repeat surveys of 72 vegetation plots, and long term decay studies that form part of an international study on decay rates. Additional research includes recording of drought induced plant mortality, camera trap monitoring of burrow use by birds and mammals, and updating of flora lists. A reptile-tagging study is envisaged for 2019/2010. We also collaborated during the reporting period with SAEON Arid lands Node to compile a special journal issue dealing with research in the Karoo. WCRO members together with a SAEON intern and members of the Landmark Foundation published a paper on short-term effects of kraaling as a contribution to the “Shepherding Back Biodiversity” project. We also published a paper documenting the spread of invasive alien <i>Myrtillocactus</i> in the Prince Albert area. Student supervision included a masters on reseeding and one on dust impacts on Karoo vegetation.</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, 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.</p>
<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.            In 2018/2019 WCRO members collaborated with CapeNature, the Landmark Foundation, the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR), South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Landcare Beaufort West, Prince Albert Water &amp;</p>	<p>WCRO and members of collaborating organizations (CapeNature, LandCare, SAEON, EWT Conservation @ work, GCBR, SPL, SANBI, IJR, Prince Albert Municipality, Depth Leadership Trust, Department of Sociology at Stellenbosch University, Nature Conservation Department at NMU, Landmark Foundation, Conservation Management Services) benefited from the shared</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
Sanitation Forum, Conservation @ Work, Stellenbosch University School of Public Leadership (SPL), the Institute for Justice and Restitution (IJR), Prince Albert Municipality, and the South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON), 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 organisations including the Prince Albert Garden Club, The Fransie Pienaar Museum, the Cultural Foundation and Depth Leadership.	experience and knowledge. In addition WCRO provided 5 field outings or lessons for teenage learners from the PASS School in Prince Albert. 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.
5. WCRO raises funds for its activities and manages these funds to achieve its objectives. During 2017, WCRO raised funds amounting to R15,000 through guided walks and public talks, R20,000 from the Table Mountain Fund (for upgrading fencing), and R50,000 from the NRF for peer-reviewed publications. Funds were used for intern support, infrastructure maintenance on the Nature Reserve, environmental education, and restoration trials and other 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, and interns benefitted from the experience gained through interactions with learners, post-graduate students from other disciplines and the public.
6. 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 the AGM, by updating of the website ( <a href="http://www.wcro.co.za">www.wcro.co.za</a> ), interaction with the eleven ordinary members of WCRO, and occasional articles in the local newspaper (Prince Albert Friend).	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 local garden club, and the local newspaper, as well as via talks at conferences and workshops.

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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	2018.04.14
Special general meeting		x	0	
Board meeting (Exco meetings)	x		4	2018.04.14, 2019.07.27, 2018.11.09, 2019.02.22
Others (specify) research planning		x	1	

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

NO

**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 2019.06.20

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