



# Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation (WCRO)

PO Box 47 Prince Albert 6930

NPO Reg. Num 121-079 (15.05.2013)

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2016.02.28

## NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS Narrative Report on the past year's activities 2015.03-2016.02

### 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 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 (021) 794 1422

Fax number ( ) .....

Cell phone number ...082 990 2004.....

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	4 Gardenia Lane, Constantia 7806	4 Gardenia Lane, Constantia 7806	Tel: +27 21 794 1422; 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 burning in the landfill (Municipal solid waste disposal site). On 16 March 2015 a fire in the Municipal waste disposal site crossed the boundary fence destroying 4 fence poles. Fourteen wooden fence poles were stolen in January 2016. A case docket was opened at the Prince Albert police station. In February 2016 the wooden poles were all replaced by steel poles.</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. Transfer and development of skills in natural science within the local community was achieved by running mini-SASS courses for two schools in Prince Albert, the Prince Albert College (8/2015) and the Prince Albert Primary School (9/2015). The mini-SASS course involves the use of aquatic insects to test water quality. On 17 Sept 2015, 50 nature conservation students from NMMU visited the Nature Reserve as part of their training. In Feb 2016 WCRO members introduced Stellenbosch University Sociology staff and students to socio-ecological issues in the Karoo by means to talks, excursions and discussions. WCRO members also gave talks on environmental issues to 2 local clubs (VLV and Garden Club), a winter school study group, a conference on Depth Leadership, and mentored SAEON and EWT interns involved in ecological research. On 10 October 2015 WCRO held a Public Open Day where Prof Judy Maguire led an excursion to discuss Khoekhoen heritage sites on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. During the reporting period, 251 people visited the Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>Over the years attendees and teachers at the local schools have indicated that the field excursions provided by WCRO have been enlightening or given them an interest in science or the environment. 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>3. Conduct and publish research.            During 2015 WCRO mentored a SAEON intern to monitor impacts of sewage effluent on Karoo vegetation, soil moisture and water organisms. We also continued our research on outcomes of ecological restoration trials and on clearing of invasive alien vegetation. NMMU masters student Andrew Jackson, who, facilitated by WCRO and EWT, carried out ecological restoration trials near Loxton, submitted his thesis in January 2016. Sue Dean monitored the effects of clearing of <i>Tamarix ramossissima</i> by excavation, felling and poison and made the data available to CapeNature and to the public via the website <a href="http://www.wcro.co.za/research/publications/">http://www.wcro.co.za/research/publications/</a></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.</p>
<p>4. Work in collaboration with other organizations and government to identify and assist in the conservation of natural and cultural environments in the Prince Albert Municipal area.            On 16 April 2015 Sue dean made a presentation on the activities of WCRO at the Rufford Conference held at Kirstenbosch. Richard and Sue Dean on behalf of WCRO attended three LandCare (Beaufort West), meetings. In February 2016 they presented a talk on “Karoo Vegetation Change” to the regional LandCare forum and to a training session organized by the NPO “Working for Conservation”.            During 2015 WCRO members continued to work collaboration with CapeNature, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), CSIR and South African Environmental 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.</p>	<p>Members of other organizations (LandCare, SAEON, EWT, SANBI) benefited from the shared experience and knowledge of WCRO members.</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
5. Raise funds for its activities and manage these funds to achieve its objectives. During 2015, WCRO raised funds amounting to R13,130 through guided walks and public talks. These funds were used for infrastructure maintenance on the Nature Reserve and for environmental education activities.	CapeNature benefits from the co-management of Wolwekraal Nature Reserve by WCRO. School learners benefited from free mini-SASS field excursions and refreshments.
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 updating of the website ( <a href="http://www.wcro.co.za">www.wcro.co.za</a> ), interaction with the eleven ordinary members to WCRO, and the open day for WCRO members and the general public that was held on the Nature Reserve in October 2015.	Local inhabitants learn more about the natural environment and cultural heritage in which the village of Prince Albert is embedded.

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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	2015.03.07
Special general meeting		x	0	
Board meeting (Exco meetings)	x		4	2015.03.07, 2015.05.29, 2015.08.28, 2015.11.27
Others (specify)		x	0	

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