



# Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation (WCRO)

PO Box 47 Prince Albert 6930

NPO Reg. Num 121-079 (15.05.2013)

Tel / Fax \*27 (0) 23 5411828 (A/H)  
Mobile (27) 082 7700206  
e-mail [WklConsResOrg@gmail.com](mailto:WklConsResOrg@gmail.com)

2020.02.29

## NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS Narrative Report on the past year's activities 2019.03-2020.02

### 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:.... **2019.03.01-2020.02.28**

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 Ms Theresa van der Westhuizen; 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; 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

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

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Please note that you can **SUBMIT** reports online by visiting [www.dsd.gov.za/npo](http://www.dsd.gov.za/npo)

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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. We followed up in September 2019 with a report to Western Cape Waste Management on accidental burning of plastic when smoke affected the Nature reserve for two weeks because the underground fire could not be extinguished by the municipality.</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. However, feedback from Waleed Galvaan (Waste Management WC) on 13.12.2019 “the Department has engaged with the municipality to provide support to improve the overall waste management strategy of its facilities and infrastructure.. The establishment of a new waste disposal facility is very expensive, and the Municipality will have to apply for it. This is however, not likely to occur in the short term, for such a small town as Prince Albert”</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 field visit by ca. 50 2<sup>nd</sup> year students and mentors from the Saasveld campus of NMMU (August 2019) In addition to university students and 117 visitors were given guided walks in the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve Nature Reserve during the reporting period. We also mentored one conservation intern (Gina Yang) from the NMU and one science intern (Phila Ngwilikane) for the South African Environmental Observation</p>	<p>BTech-level students from Nelson Mandela University learned about the practical issues around conservation management, 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. Our interns gained experience in environmental education, public speaking, scientific and popular writing, plant and animal identification, field sampling</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>Network (National Research Foundation). Both interns wrote articles published in English and Afrikaans in the local newspaper on environmental topics such as drought and pollution. We presented talks on global change and drought at the Museum AGM on 28 May 2019 and to the local Farmers' Association on 18 June 2019 and to the Garden Club on 5 February 2020.</p>	<p>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>
<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 through guided walks were used to fund NMU intern Gina yang to repeat surveys of 75 vegetation plots and to conduct a soil survey on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. 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 Phila Ngwilikana during 2019. Student supervision during 2019/2020 included a master's study on dust impacts on Karoo vegetation (Stellenbosch University) and a master's on rehabilitation in the Little Karoo (via NMU). We presented a paper on health and restoration at the Society for Ecological Restoration Conference in Cape Town in September 2019.</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 2019/2020 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</p>	<p>WCRO and members of collaborating organizations (CapeNature, LandCare, SAEON, EWT, GCBR, SANBI, 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</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>Programme), Path out of Poverty (youth centre), Endangered Wildlife Rust 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 Farmers' Association, Prince Albert Garden Club, The Fransie Pienaar Museum, the Cultural Foundation and Depth Leadership.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>5. WCRO raises funds for its activities and manages these funds to achieve its objectives. During 2019.03-2020.02, WCRO raised funds amounting to R9,700 through guided walks and public talks. Funds were used for intern support, infrastructure maintenance on the Nature Reserve, environmental education, and restoration trials and other research activities.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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).</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 local garden club, and the local newspaper, as well as via talks at conferences and workshops.</p>
<p>7. Succession planning A special meeting on the future of WNR took place on 30 Oct 2019 and was attended by Dr WRJ Dean (Chair WCRO), Dr SJ Dean (Secretary/treasurer WCRO), Chris Ball (Vice chair WCRO); Hugh Forsyth (Exco WCRO); Dr Steve du Toit (GCBR), Jan Coetzee (WWF land acquisition), Theresa vd Westhuizen</p>	<p>By planning for the succession of Wolwekraal Nature Reserve we intend to ensure that the land remains well managed and that investment of time and money in conservation, education and research continue to reach a wide sector of society through links with allied research, educations and conservation organisations.</p>

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
(CapeNature/WCRO), Dr Joh Henschel (SAEON Arid Lands Node), and Malcolm Searle (co-opted WCRO member)	

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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	2019.07.20
Special general meeting		x		
Board meeting (Exco meetings)	x		4	2019.05.21, 2019.07.20, 2019.10.30, 2020.01.31
Others (specify) succession planning	x		1	2019.10.30

#### 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 2020.11.24

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