



# Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation (WCRO)

PO Box 47 Prince Albert 6930

NPO Reg. Num 121-079 (15.05.2013)

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2022.02.28

## NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORTS Narrative Report on the past year's activities 2021.03-2022.02

### 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:... ..**2021.03.01-2022.02.28**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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
AJ (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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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 C Ball; Cape Nature representative Ms T van der Westhuizen; Additional Members Mr Forsyth; M. Searle, AJ Fourie, Secretary/Treasurer Dr S Milton-Dean

2

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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. <i>Maintain Wolwekraal Nature Reserve Infrastructure.</i></p> <p>a) The Nature Reserve is separated from the Municipal Waste Disposal Facility by a 2.5 m high boundary fence built by the WCRO. 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 December 2021 and February 2022 WCRO reported on accidental spills of sewage effluent and on accidental burning of plastic waste and general poor management of the Waste Disposal facility to the local Municipality, Western Cape Waste Management and Minister Bredell. Poor management included lack of access control to the Waste Disposal Facility, failure to maintain secure fencing around the facility and failure to control plastic litter blocking the pumps at the sewage works. We also patrolled the Nature Reserve to discourage intruders, especially those with dogs, and arranged for volunteers to collect plastic blown into the reserve from the Waste Disposal Facility.</p> <p>b) Interns employed by WCRO maintained the hiking trails paths and checked fences for snares or access points used by people or domestic livestock.</p>	<p>a) 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 December 2021 and February 2022 stated that the Directorate of Waste management would monitor waste facility and facilitate better compliance by the Municipality.</p> <p>b) Maintenance of the paths and fences protects biodiversity and ensures that the natural and cultural heritage of Wolwekraal Nature reserve is protected and made accessible to school learners and visitors from the local community and further afield.</p>

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3

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Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>2. <i>Provide environmental and natural history education for the public and for schools and transfer skills to local community.</i></p> <p>Major environmental education activities this year were as follows:</p> <p>a) Two Saasveld NMMU 3<sup>rd</sup> year student based with WCRO for 12 months as interns volunteered part time throughout 2021 at the Prince Albert Community Centre (PACT-POP Centre) and at the Prince Albert Skills School (PASS). They taught learners to grow vegetables in small plots using permaculture techniques; They also took learners to Wolwekraal Nature Reserve for natural history lessons and for bicycle rides to learn about the geology and vegetation of the area;</p> <p>b) WCRO facilitated practical training on vegetation sampling for seven learners from the Prince Albert College;</p> <p>c) WCRO maintained the indigenous garden that was developed in 2020 with support from the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR). We also printed information leaflets about medicinal plants for the local museum and tourism office;</p> <p>d) WCRO conducted 180 guided walks in the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve Nature Reserve during the reporting period;</p> <p>e) The WCRO interns wrote published 10 articles in the local newspaper on environmental topics such as waterwise gardening, pollination, drought and pollution. Examples include:  Prince Albert Friend, March 2021? Jou tuin as 'n ekologiese reserwe in tye van droogte. Waldo Jordaan, intern at WCRO.  Prince Albert Friend, April 2021. Kaktus tuine – 'n bron van kommer. Waldo Jordaan, intern at WCRO.  Prince Albert Friend, May 2021. Springtails – a tiny insect of significant importance. Waldo Jordaan, intern at WCRO.  Prince Albert Friend, October 2021 Feed the birds or not? Richard Dean.</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 maintenance of the medicinal and indigenous gardens, recipients of the PACT and PASS outreach programmes through participation of our interns in teaching. A local school benefitted by being able to use the Nature reserve for training activities. Local residents and tourists benefitted from information published in the local paper and through guided walks on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve. WCRO activities have also promoted debates on waste management, water allocation to people and the environment, and control of alien invasive plants.</p>

Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>3. <i>Conduct and publish research.</i></p> <p>a) With support from the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR), Callum Clark in May 2022 repeated the 2002 surveys of the rare succulent <i>Bijlia dilatata</i> (Prince Albert Vygie) on seven properties within a 15 km radius of Prince Albert;</p> <p>b) WCRO researchers recorded drought induced plant mortality, monitored birds and mammals, updated plant and animal lists, resurveyed 75 vegetation plots and the <i>Aloe claviflora</i> population on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve and resurveyed restoration trials established in 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>c) Student supervision in 2021 included a master’s study rehabilitation in the Little Karoo (via NMU);</p> <p>d) Conference papers presented by WCRO members in 2021 included  * “Karoo Research -Challenges and Opportunities” was presented at the Grassland Society of southern Africa (2021.07) dealt with ecological research needs associated with the growth of renewable energy industries and tourism in the Karoo.  *”Karoo Restoration -Needs, Challenges and Questions” presented at the Arid Zone Forum 2021.10  * “The impact of drought-induced porcupine herbivory on a population of <i>Aloe claviflora</i> on the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve, Prince Albert” Arid Zone Forum 2021.10</p> <p>e) Papers published in peer reviewed literature included:  -Milton SJ, Petersen H, Nampa G, van der Merwe H, Henschel J. Drought as a driver of vegetation change in Succulent Karoo rangelands, South Africa. <i>African Journal of range and Forage Science</i>.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.2989/10220119.2021.1992501">https://doi.org/10.2989/10220119.2021.1992501</a>  -van der Merwe H, Milton SJ, Dean WRJ, O’Connor TG, Henschel JR. 2021. Developing an Earth Systems Science Research Platform in the Karoo at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). <i>South African Journal of Science</i> 117: 99-105.  -Dean WRJ, Milton SJ 2021. Recent, current and future anthropogenic impacts and</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>implications for ecological restoration in the Karoo, South Africa. <i>Anthropocene</i> 36 36, Article 100307.</p> <p>-Shackelford N, et al (incl SJ Milton) 2021. Drivers of seedling establishment success in dryland restoration efforts. <i>Nature Ecology &amp; Evolution</i> 5, 1283–1290.</p>	
<p>4. <i>WCRO works in collaboration with other organizations and government agencies</i> to identify and assist in the conservation of natural and cultural environments in the Prince Albert Municipal area.</p> <p>In 2021/2022 WCRO members collaborated with CapeNature, the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR), South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Botanical Society of South Africa, Landcare Beaufort West, Prince Albert Municipality (via the Community Work Programme), Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), the South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON), ESCOM, Western Cape Agriculture, and the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) in conducting, synthesizing and reviewing research and advising on ecological restoration so as to contribute 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, Prince Albert Community Trust (PACT), the Cultural Foundation and Depth Leadership (via the Prince Albert Skills School).</p> <p>WCRO collaborated with GSSA, SAEON and Western Cape Agriculture to produce a U-Tube video entitled “Wolwekraal Nature Reserve and Renu-Karoo Nursery virtual field trip” <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGuLUa5J_c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGuLUa5J_c</a></p>	<p>WCRO and members of collaborating organizations (CapeNature, LandCare, SAEON, EWT, GCBR, SANBI, PACT, Prince Albert Municipality, Western cape Agriculture, Depth Leadership Trust, 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 practical training (gardening, bicycle repair) and environmental education two local schools.</p>

Activities (projects and programmes) for the reporting year	How beneficiaries benefited
<p>5. <i>WCRO raises funds for its activities and manages these funds to achieve its objectives.</i></p> <p>During 2021.03-2022.02, WCRO raised funds amounting to R59,000 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. Interns benefitted from mentorship, practical work on Wolwekraal Nature Reserve, and 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>
<p>6. <i>Provide access to information pertaining to its activities and management through regular open and transparent communication.</i></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 (<a href="http://www.wcro.co.za">www.wcro.co.za</a>) which also gives access to our annual reports to SASSA, interaction with the 18 ordinary members of WCRO, and monthly articles in the local newspaper (Prince Albert Friend). Wolwekraal Nature Reserve also featured in the following publically-available videos on YouTube: Chasing Lines <a href="https://youtu.be/iBzKXaSj2uc">https://youtu.be/iBzKXaSj2uc</a> and <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGuLUAA5J_c">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGuLUAA5J_c</a></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 <a href="http://www.wcro.co.za">http://www.wcro.co.za</a> , the Prince Albert Tourism office, and the local newspaper, as well as on guided walks and occasional videos.</p>

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7

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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	2021.12.01 (zoom)
Special general meeting		x		
Board meeting (Exco meetings)	x		3	2021.03.01, 2021.06.01, 2021.09.01, 2021.12.01 (hybrid zoom and attendance)
Others (specify)				

**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 by email NPO Directorate <NPOEnquiry@socdev.gov.za>; Shirley Kumari Govender [ShirleyG@dsd.gov.za](mailto:ShirleyG@dsd.gov.za) on 2022.04.05

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8

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