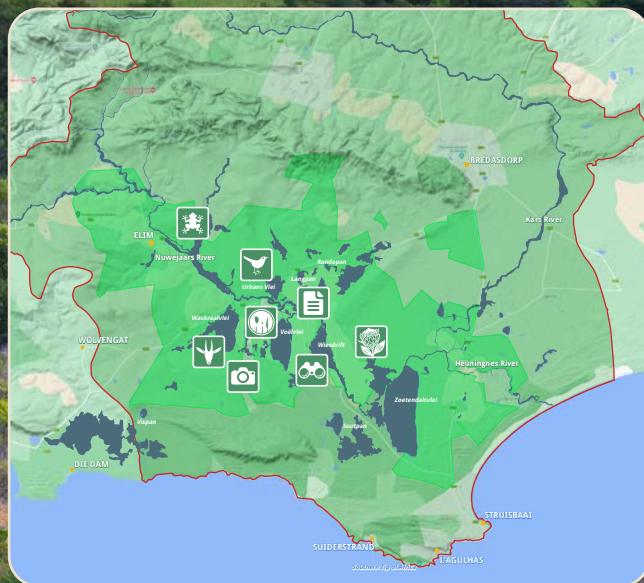




NUWEJAARS
Wetlands SMA

2020/21 Annual Report



Protecting life-giving

Wetlands & Rivers

IN THE AGULHAS PLAIN, AND THE ANIMALS,
PLANTS & HUMAN LIFE THEY SUSTAIN.

Our Vision

To protect and manage the Consolidated Core and Buffer Area and its interface into one functioning ecosystem, forming an innovative system for conservation on private land, while providing environmental education, and sustainable socio-economic activity and tourism opportunities.





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**Photograph credits: LoveGreen Communications, Paul Andrews, Erica Brink, Eugène Hahndiek, Dirk Human, Fraser Crighton*



Message from the Chair

Why do we do what we do in the Nuwejaars wetlands? I'm asked this question constantly. Many simply don't understand why we would go to the trouble, and the costs, of running our land and waterscapes as a Special Management Area.

2020 and 2021 are answering those questions for us. Globally nature is being mistreated. The results are catastrophic: A pandemic, floods (even here in the Overberg), wildfire, heatwaves – these are things we are now having to live with.

And yet, at the southern tip of Africa, these 25 landowners and the community of Elim have chosen to do things differently, to protect our natural world. We're learning that this is no longer a nice-to-have; it's essential! Our 45,000 hectares, our irreplaceable wetlands, the peat-like soils here that store carbon, the Critically Endangered habitat and the wildlife they support – these can all contribute to a nature-positive Overberg and South Africa.

There's no doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has been utterly devastating in our region. Unemployment was a challenge prior to the onset of the pandemic. The situation deteriorated vastly when the first lockdown was implemented. You'll see from our Project Manager's report that we took on a new role – to support those who couldn't access food during the lockdown. With donor support from philanthropist Harry Moore, and later a vast number of partners and donors who joined the Food Relief Programme, we could contribute to livelihoods and to food security. Even though (Oom) Harry is no longer supporting the NWSMA, his legend here will live on. We are so grateful to him for supporting us, and the broader community, during a difficult time for all.

The pandemic also didn't halt our conservation work. For the past year, the hard-working conservation and admin team has developed a strategic biodiversity management plan, based on our original Development Framework. This plan professionalises who we are, what we do, and how we measure our success. This is a powerful piece of work, aligning us with environmental best practice and legislation – nationally and internationally. And it positions us so that our biodiversity and conservation efforts can be recognised globally, in a project driven from the ground up and implemented on private land.

As Chair, I'm so grateful to our conservation team, our Project Manager, our admin support, and the wonderful



contractors and their teams we work with. I'm grateful to my new Executive Board, consisting of Jurie Giliomee, Francis Pratt (both new to the board) and Treasurer Michael van Breda. They bring enthusiasm, positivity and energy to our oversight role. And we're also incredibly grateful to our donors, including WWF South Africa, Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Harry Moore, the Overberg District Municipality and many more, who provided essential support in the past financial year.

We also welcome our new members who joined the NWSMA in 2020: Martin van Wijngaarden and Mulalo Colin Tshivhase of the farm Zoetendal. We look forward to working with you, as we return our entire Nuwejaars River and wetlands system to a pristine condition.

Dirk Human





Message from the Project Manager



2020 was a year in which so much changed. The Covid-19 pandemic hit us all harder than we ever could have imagined. We were blindsided by many unexpected laws and events and their resulting consequences. Lockdowns, large-scale retrenchments and an international travel ban affected people all over the world – and here at the southern tip of Africa, we weren't spared this.

In fact, many people living at our corner of the world were left with very little when the pandemic hit. Many were without work, and were going hungry.

With the help of wonderful partners and donors, our aim was to change the narrative – to together help bring stability back to our region.

The plan was built on our food relief programme – a programme driven by the Nuwejaars Wetlands Special Management Area, and supported by an amazing set of partners and donors. Through seed funding from a philanthropic donor, Harry Moore, we could launch the programme, to feed those living in and around the NWSMA who had little to their name. Aside from providing wholesome, healthy meals, we could also ensure many who would have lost their jobs could continue working in support of the food relief programme.

The relief programme grew, as our efforts combined with the wonderful work many others were undertaking in their personal capacities, including those driven by landowner members, as well as the efforts of NGOs such as the HeadStart Trust. New donors also added their support, including the Cape Agulhas Municipality.

By the end of the food relief programme, we had together provided 184,000 meals – the equivalent of 1,600 meals a day, five days a week, to people living in Elim, Struisbaai, Bredasdorp and Napier. This showed what we can achieve when we work together.

How did this fit into our NWSMA vision? Well, we initially focused our food relief efforts on children and their families, as part of our Environmental Education programme – although this quickly grew to become an area-wide initiative. It also served as a strong opportunity to bring partners together, to together find solutions to benefit all.

The pandemic, however, also affected us negatively. Many of our tourism projects and environmental education outings were put on hold, and it was essential for us to revise our business plans and work flow. We also lost two staff members, Sumari Swart and Liesbet Willemse as a result of the forced scale-down – a very disappointing outcome for us.

Nature, however, didn't take a breather, even as the world was forced into lockdown. And as the following report shows, we experienced wonderful gains for our natural world over the past year – not least as a result of many of the conservation activities taking place here.

That's down to hard work from the team – including our conservation managers, our administrative staff, our contractors and their teams, and the fantastic landowners we get to work with, who care so deeply for the environment, but as we saw this year, also for the people of our region. My thanks to all!

Ross Kettles



The Nuwejaars Wetlands

Who we are



NUWEJAARS
Wetlands SMA

We are protecting critically endangered nature, in natural and farming landscapes, consisting of

46,900 ha

at Africa's southernmost tip.

We are

25 landowners

including the town of **Elim** and the
**Department of Rural Development
and Land Reform.**

We've signed restrictions to protect the area

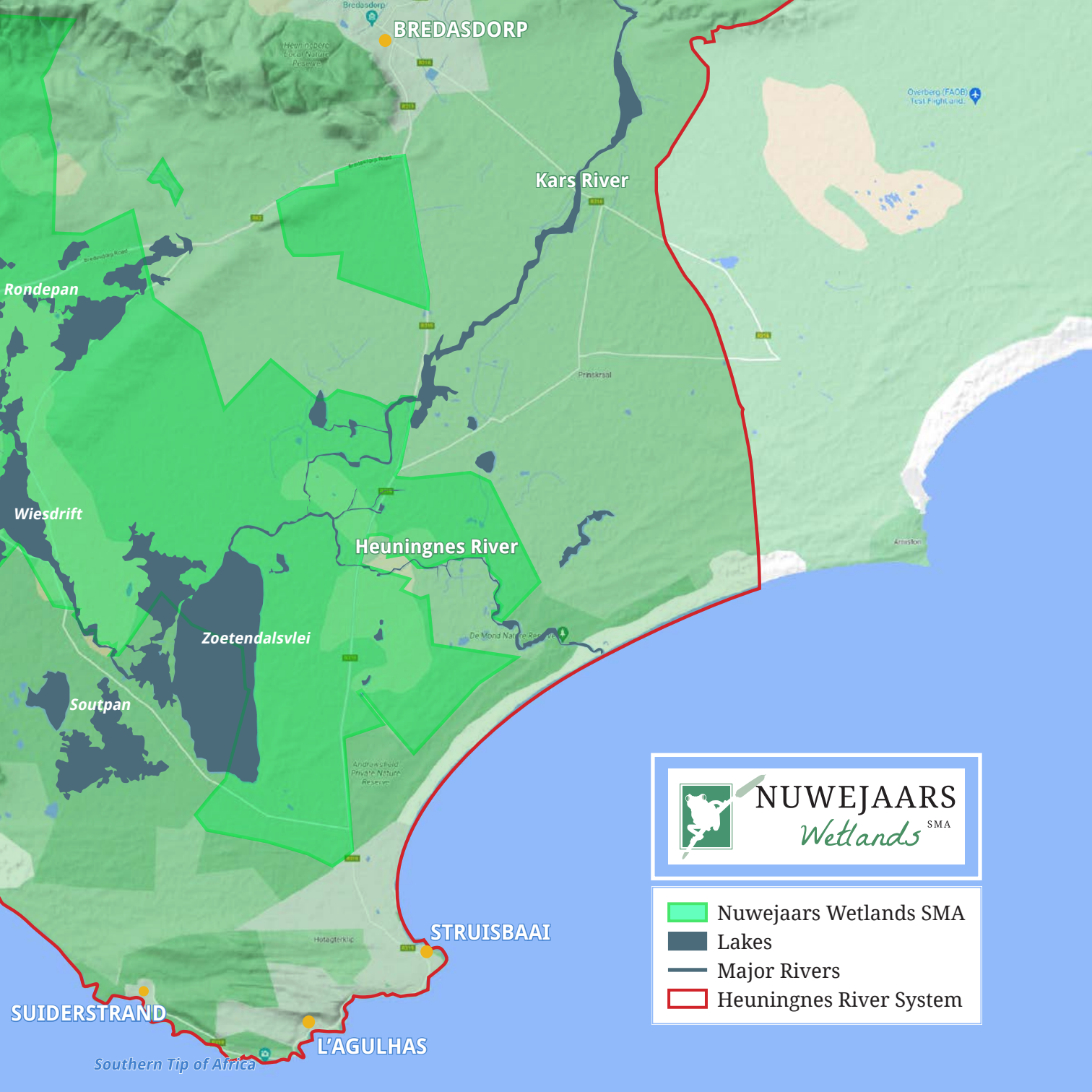
forever,

protecting the irreplaceable
Nuwejaars wetlands
and surrounding habitat, and the wildlife that live here.



Special Management Area





BREDASDORP

Kars River

Overberg (FAOB)
Test Flight Land

Rondepan

Prinskraal

Wiesdrift

Heuningnes River

Amersfoort

Zoetendalsvlei





De Mond Nature Reserve

Soutpan

Andrewsfield
Private Nature
Reserve



NUWEJAARS
Wetlands SMA

-  Nuwejaars Wetlands SMA
-  Lakes
-  Major Rivers
-  Heuningnes River System

STRUISBAAI

SUIDERSTRAND

L'AGULHAS

Southern Tip of Africa



Protecting our wetlands



A complex wetland system runs through the heart of the Nuwejaars Wetlands Special Management Area (NWSMA), close to Africa's southernmost tip. It's the biggest wetland system in Southern Africa connected to the ocean, forming part of the Heuningnes River System. The Nuwejaars, Kars and Heuningnes Rivers meet here, and reach the sea at the Ramsar site, the De Mond Nature Reserve.

The wetlands are made up of carbon-storing peat-like soils, and are surrounded by threatened fynbos and renosterveld habitat, interspersed with farming landscapes. The NWSMA borders the Agulhas National Park and the De Mond Nature Reserve, and connects the two. The wetlands, rivers, natural vegetation and agricultural lands provide excellent habitat for wildlife, especially a wide diversity of birdlife.

Rehabilitating our wetlands for birds

Over the years, many of the natural areas became infested with invasive alien plants. With support from donors and partners, we are now clearing the alien plants from our irreplaceable wetlands.

A wetland rehabilitation project, funded by WWF South Africa, launched three years ago, with the focus on maintaining, expanding and rehabilitating the Palmiet and Berzillia riparian wetland along approximately 5km of the perennial Nuwejaars River.

The project provided employment for 10 project participants from the area who implemented 'on the ground'

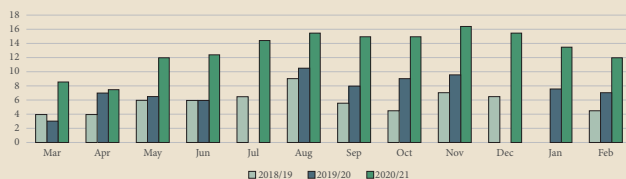
maintenance activities along the Nuwejaars River and wetlands. Around 290 hectares were cleared of invasive plants, controlled burns were undertaken and we built a walkway and a bird-viewing platform, which overlooks a permanent pan in the wetland. This structure was built to showcase the incredible birdlife such as the Black Crane, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Southern Pochards and much more that have been recorded here. Thereafter, a bird hide was developed with views of the seasonally inundated Nuwejaars River channel tributaries. The hide is a wonderful asset

to the NWSMA which will be used to facilitate our conservation awareness programmes.

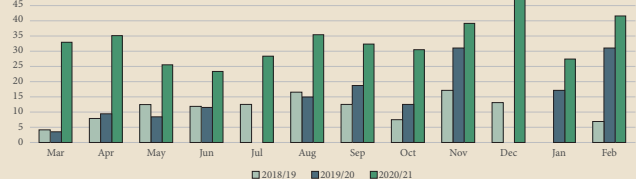
All these interventions focused on reducing channel choking from the alien plants and expanding riparian vegetation and floodplain habitats as well as adjacent natural areas, while improving resources specifically for globally and regionally threatened bird species.

The project was hugely successful, and we achieved more than we had set out to with the funds. As a result, the WWF South Africa team is now supporting phase two of the project for the next three years.

Bird species abundance increased at our wetland rehabilitation site over 3 years



Bird species richness increased at our wetland rehabilitation site over 3 years





Our urgent interventions

During the wetland rehabilitation work, some areas were identified that needed urgent mitigation action:

- A few sites were being heavily grazed and trampled by cattle, and this was hampering the growth of wetland vegetation. Cattle exclusion fencing was erected around the perimeter to minimise further damage to the vegetation.
- A farm service road negatively affected the natural drainage patterns of the wetland and connecting tributary. Pipes placed under the road had filled with silt, and water was not draining adequately across the wetland. The team therefore developed drainage

channels, which were filled with rocks collected from the surrounding agricultural lands. After the first heavy rainfall, the channels facilitated improved water flow, thereby protecting and restoring the integrity of the Nuwejaars River, its tributaries and wetland systems.

- When we saw slight erosion along a buffer riparian edge of the river channel, local botanists Rebecca Dames and Sean Privett visited the site, and encouraged us to introduce indigenous tree and shrub species to stop potential erosion damage. These plants also now act as a “screen” to conceal the tar road from view.

Our dragonfly adventure

Dragonfly and damselfly expert, Corrie du Toit, visited some of our rehabilitated wetlands in January 2021. Dragonflies and damselflies are considered indicator species for good water quality, given how sensitive they are to unhealthy water systems.

So when Corrie and the team found 15 of these ancient species, 11 of which were first-time records in our area, it showed that our wetland species were responding well to the improving waterscapes.

Our thanks to WWF South Africa for supporting our wetland rehabilitation work.



Monitoring our animals & plants

Ecological monitoring allows us to measure and evaluate change, to see how our work is changing the landscape. We repeat observations and measure the change over time, and feed this into our conservation activities.

With the support of the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust and WWF South Africa, we can continuously monitor and measure the integrity of biodiversity and the ecosystems they encompass, in order to comprehend natural resource development and change, to improve our biodiversity. Here are some of our monitoring activities.

- During our Coordinated Water Fowl Counts (CWAC), we count the different species and quantity of birds in three wetlands: Langpan, Voëlvlei and along the Nuwejaars River and wetlands. During 2020 we completed nine counts across the three wetlands. The data was submitted to the University of Cape Town's Animal Demography Unit and is added to the national wetland register.
- We employed vegetation monitoring in the form of fixed-point photography in order to document vegetation health following maintenance interventions. There are over 196 photography records (of which we added 40 this year), already showing positive short-term changes in vegetation structure of management sites following our alien clearing and prescribed burns.
- Monthly Avian Point Counts are carried out in the Wetland Rehabilitation Project area. This helps us to track how bird species respond to our wetland rehabilitation efforts. (See the graphs on Page 8 for some of our findings). In total for 2020, we carried out 72 counts across six monitoring plots. Analysis of the fixed-point avian counts shows an increasing trend in species richness and abundance over the last three years, with peaks in the winter rainfall months, which seems to indicate that more wetland-associated birds are using the resources that the wetlands have to offer.
- We carry out small mammal, reptile and amphibian monitoring via funnel traps in the Nuwejaars wetlands. We added two new species sightings to our small mammal and reptile list, namely Forest Shrew (*Myosorex varius*) and Rinkhals (*Hemachatus haemachatus*). We work with partners such as Bionerds and the University of Pretoria, who are currently undertaking a study to better understand the phylogenetic composition of Rinkhals throughout South Africa.

Action in our conservation corridors

If we know how animals are moving across the landscape, we can protect those secret corridors they make use of. And it allows us to improve highly-degraded corridor links, in order to reconnect ecosystems.

That's why our conservation team started developing our corridor strategy. They undertook a desktop survey to highlight potential corridors linking natural areas. They then put camera traps in strategic positions in the corridors, to gauge animal movement between fragments of natural vegetation. This work is supported by the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust.

And to date, the work has delivered some exciting results – including a sighting of a Cape Leopard in the NWSMA. This is only the second time we've pictured a Cape Leopard on the NWSMA.

Our thanks to the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust and WWF South Africa for supporting our monitoring and conservation corridor work.





Creating the right environment for our animals

Our natural landscapes and agricultural lands are home to species that occurred here naturally, such as Bontebok and Grey Rhebok, and reintroduced species, including Buffalo and Hippo. The habitat supports the animals, and as such, it's vital that we encourage healthy ecosystems, and monitor and manage our wildlife populations.



Rau Quagga

Our Rau Quagga form part of the Quagga Project, a project to try to retrieve the genes responsible for the Quagga's distinct stripes and colouring. The Quagga became extinct in the 1800s, but it was later discovered that it was a sub-species of the southern Plains Zebra. Our own Rau Quagga herds gave birth to seven new foals this past year, two to the north herd (Mercury and Terry) and five (Corona, Mayhem, Acute, Honey and Ferguson) to the south herd.

We also moved our Rau Quagga in order to facilitate gene flow. Sydney, a young stallion from our north core herd who was chased out by a dominant stallion, was captured and moved to one of the southern herds, after we saw this herd split into two breeding groups. The herds will continue to be monitored carefully to observe and capture herd dynamics and demographics.



Bontebok

The Bontebok once faced almost certain extinction, with fewer than 20 individuals remaining. Today pure Bontebok once again inhabit this landscape, which is the original home of this species. Our breeding herds are scattered across four different sites

within the NWSMA in small isolated herds which do not interact. In order to increase genetic diversity, we manage the populations by introducing and translocating rams and ewes from different

backgrounds to breeding herds. This year, we used the detailed data collected from the monitoring to devise a translocation plan aimed at introducing new genetics into family herds where recruitment was low to non-existent. Two animals were moved during the year, and we also welcomed seven new lambs.

However, on the downside, an entire herd was lost in December 2020, as a result of suspected poaching. The matter was reported to the police, and we continue to monitor our animals for signs of poaching activity.



Buffalo

Buffalo became locally extinct around 200 years ago. The NWSMA reintroduced Buffalo in 2009. In December 2019, the herd of breeding Buffalo was released from the boma into the Waskraalvlei game area. We monitored them via telemetry (one of the cows has a satellite collar) and noticed that the mortality rate increased during the heavy rainfall season. The herd was moved back to the enclosed camps for a short period to monitor their health. Most animals were darted with vitamin boosters and parasiticides and we provided supplementary feeding. When the population stabilised, they were released again in November 2020. We also welcomed two new calves born in October 2020.

Grey Rhebok

The Grey Rhebok is one of the few free-roaming antelope remaining today. They slip through narrow fencing, or simply jump over fences. But conservationists are becoming increasingly worried about their declining numbers, and they have now been listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN's Red List, and are on the watchlist to move to Vulnerable if things don't improve.

The NWSMA is home to a number of healthy subpopulations of Grey Rhebok that move via our conservation corridors, or enjoy the agricultural lands. In order to secure their future, habitat needs to be well managed, and numbers need to be monitored, to spot worrying trends early – activities that are already taking place in the NWSMA.

Managing our threatened habitat

Aside from the wetlands, the NWSMA is also home to Critically Endangered habitat, including Central Rûens Shale Renosterveld, Elim Ferricrete Fynbos and Overberg Sandstone Fynbos, as well as Endangered Agulhas Sand Fynbos and Vulnerable Agulhas Limestone Fynbos. Here you'll find more than 1850 plant species – most in the Fynbos Biome. Already much of this habitat has been lost to urbanisation, agriculture and roads.

It's nearly impossible to get back that which has been lost. That's why the NWSMA team manages our habitat in order to protect what remains, by improving the integrity of the ecosystems by removing invasive plants and undertaking prescribed burns.

Managing invasive plants across the NWSMA

Invasive plants have been identified as one of the biggest threats to our natural landscapes. These mostly Australian species grow fast, outcompete indigenous vegetation, and consume vast amounts of water.

During the past year, the Covid pandemic affected the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI) Alien Clearing Project, funded by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, and coordinated by Flower Valley Conservation Trust. However, the project team did manage to undertake some clearing work between January 2021 until March 2021. Experienced contractors from Bredasdorp, Elim, Spanjaardskloof and Napier carried out follow-up alien clearing treatment covering a total of 396 hectares of natural vegetation. Our landowners provided co-funding support to the project. We also partnered with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Landcare division, to fund alien clearing treatments on property owned by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the Elim community in the NWSMA, covering a total of 933 hectares of Elim Ferricrete Fynbos.

Our landowner-members also undertake

invasive alien clearing on their own properties – often at great personal expense, in order to maintain the pristine environments. We are extremely grateful to all our members who are involved in alien clearing activities.

How fire helps

Fire is an essential ecosystem process in fynbos and renosterveld. We plan and undertake prescribed burns in order to stimulate regrowth and renewal in our fynbos landscapes. As such, fire is vital to ensure our ecosystems continue to function as they should.

However, the Covid pandemic once again impacted on our plans, and instead of undertaking four prescribed burns, we could only carry out one ecological burn in 2020, where we burnt 183 ha of Elim Ferricrete Fynbos and Overberg Sandstone Fynbos which was exactly 17 years old – our ideal fire cycle.

What the experts found in our fynbos

The NWSMA has partnered with the Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) who visit our fynbos landscapes in search of new



and interesting species. During 2020, the CREW team found a Critically Endangered *Erica* species that had not been recorded on the NWSMA before, called *Erica gracilipes*. The team also highlighted the *Leucadendron elimense subsp. elimense* and *Erica regia subsp. regia*, both listed as Endangered on the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Red List.

The species data collected was captured on the iNaturalist Protea Project which aims to map the current distribution of Proteaceae species in the Agulhas Plain, with a particular interest in sites where invasive alien plant species are present. The data is also added to our flora database.



Research to better understand our world

Research is a key element in our activities, helping us to understand our opportunities and threats, to better manage the NWSMA. In particular, our research is aimed at protecting our rare, threatened and endemic species – from animals to plant life.

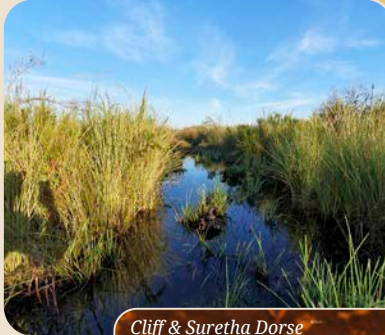
Amphibian research

In a bid to better understand the distribution and threats facing several highly threatened and endemic amphibians, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Bionerds partnered to launch a project in the Western Cape, focusing on five of the most range-restricted frogs of the region. Using predictive distribution models, Bionerds highlighted areas of potential occurrence across the Agulhas Plains, and ten sites within our wetlands were highlighted.

As the Nuwejaars team had previously sighted its first Cape Platanna (*Xenopus gilli*) in the wetlands in 2019, we were confident we would find them again. The field experts at Bionerds developed a survey protocol. The surveys confirmed two new localities for the Endangered Cape Platanna – expanding the known range for this acidic, black-water specialist of the Cape lowlands.

Water salinity in the NWSMA

Brigitte Melly, postdoctoral fellow from South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) has been assessing the changes in salinity with water level changes in the Nuwejaars Catchment. Her research requires data collection from water loggers and water quality sampling to measure changes in pH and salinity across the catchment in the different seasons. We look forward to learning more from her research and findings.



Cliff & Suretha Dorse
(www.biodiversityfocused.co.za)





Experiencing the NWSMA: Our tourism offering



Tourism is an integral opportunity to make the conservation business model more sustainable in the NWSMA. Currently we offer game drives to visitors, as a way of sharing our story with tourists, who can see our numerous game species, such as Buffalo, Hippo, Bontebok and Rau Quagga.

Wildlife Guided Tours

The Covid-19 pandemic affected tourism ventures around the world – and we were no exception. Our Wildlife Guided Tours could only open when lockdown allowed for it, and given the need for social distancing, we had to reduce the numbers of tourists we could accommodate during the tours.

Despite this, the demand for tours proved that local tourists are keen for adventure closer to home. Tours operated through the December holidays, and only closed as a result of wet weather conditions later in 2021. All income generated from our tourism activities is funnelled back into our conservation work.

A 'Voetspore' visit

The Nuwejaars team enjoyed a visit from well-known television journalist, Johan Badenhorst and his Voetspore team. Voetspore travelled through South Africa, from the north-eastern corner at Pafuri, to the most southerly tip of Africa, which included a stop-off at our wetlands and our wetland rehabilitation site. The series was aired on SABC 2 in June 2021.

KykNet star, Erns Grundling also enjoyed a Wildlife Guided Tour and visited our Food Relief Programme for his show, Elders, which was aired on KykNet at the end of 2020. Erns hiked 350km from the Cape Winelands to the Overberg, on the 'Pelgrimstog van Hoop'. And our Project Manager, Ross Kettles, was interviewed on RSG in December, to chat about our projects and work.





A better world for people: Wellbeing and livelihoods



Sustainable livelihoods are a core focus area for the NWSMA. The goal is to make a meaningful contribution to the socio-economic development needs of people living in our region. Through the contribution of our members, and wonderful donor support, we can create green jobs to support these livelihoods – but also achieve so much more.

Our Food Relief Programme

In fact, the Covid-19 pandemic proved that the NWSMA can serve as more than a conservation venture, but also as a development node within the rural landscape. When the pandemic hit, many people in and around the NWSMA were left hungry and desolate. The NWSMA therefore took on the role of helping to bring stability back to the region.

Between May and October 2020, we worked with donors and partners to together provide 184,000 meals to those most in need, and most affected by the pandemic and lockdown. That meant 1,600 meals a day, for five days a week!

Harry Moore, a philanthropic donor, provided the launch funding to ensure the food relief efforts could commence. His wonderful support also led to additional funding from the likes of the Cape Agulhas Municipality, and ingredients and consumables donated by a range of partners from the Cape Agulhas district.

The stew was made at the Black Oystercatcher Wine Farm, using Fraser's Folly Brewing Company's craft beer equipment. It was made with an array of nutritious veggies and meat, donated by those concerned about the impacts of the lockdown. Because of the wonderful ingredients, it ensured the meals were packed with vitamins and minerals.

The Food Relief Programme slotted in with our NWSMA Environmental Education programme, supporting young children and their families in local communities such as Elim, Struisbaai, Bredasdorp and Napier – where many parents struggled to provide good nutrition to children.



Our sincere thanks to all our donors and partners who supported this programme during the extremely difficult times.

Green jobs for our region

Through our conservation programmes, supported by our key donors, the NWSMA is able to provide a number of green jobs, from our operational team, to supporting local contractors who work with us.

Denver Engel has worked with the NWSMA in various positions since 2013. In 2016 he took over the running of the maintenance team when stalwart Joey Cloete retired. Since then, Denver and his hardworking team members have undertaken our many ecosystem services activities required, funded by the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust and WWF South Africa, including maintaining our fences, gates, bomas, roads, electric fences, river crossings and more. These activities allow for a safe area for game to roam, graze and breed, benefitting the species themselves, as well as habitat quality.

Gerty Holtzhausen and her alien clearing team members are funded by WWF South Africa. Gerty is from the town of Bredasdorp, and has run her own business since 2005, when she started her contracting business. She has been with the NWSMA since 2017, and has become a key member of the NWSMA.

Through the ABI Alien Clearing Project implemented by Flower Valley Conservation Trust, we were able to employ four alien clearing contractor teams consisting of one contractor and ten general workers from Elim, Bredasdorp, Spanjaardskloof and Napier, creating employment opportunities for 44 individuals. However, Covid-19 impacted on the ability of the teams to work during lockdown.

Developing young conservators

We also support students who want to get some hands-on experience in conservation, with our volunteer programme. This year we hosted two volunteers at the NWSMA, Inge Raubenheimer and Olivia Brunings, both students from the Stellenbosch University who were keen to get their hands dirty and assist us in our daily operational activities which included alien clearing and biodiversity monitoring.





Governance: What makes us different

The Nuwejaars Wetlands Landowners' Association (NWLOA) is appointed as the management authority for the Nuwejaars Wetlands Special Management Area, as agreed to in the Constitution of the NWLOA by the member-landowners.

The Constitution required that the Nuwejaars River Nature Reserve (NRNR), a Section 21 Not-for-Profit Company, be established to manage the NWSMA and all its assets and is responsible to the NWLOA Executive Committee. The NWLOA manages the area in line with accepted Protected Environment norms and standards and in strict accordance with the requirements of the management plan.

Our new management plan

In order to ensure our management plan remained in line with a changing environment and a changing world, the team has been updating the plan over the past year. We established a "Revision Committee", comprised of the NWSMA conservation managers, general manager, communications team and NWLOA Executive Committee members. And we commissioned external organisations, Bionerds and Fynbos Trust to guide us on the review process. The committee met monthly to discuss, workshop, and draft a new Biodiversity Management Plan for the NWSMA. The Biodiversity Management Plan will be finalised later in 2021, capturing a number of new and exciting opportunities for the NWSMA over the next 10 years.



Donors

Our sincere thanks to all our donors who so kindly gave either funding or in-kind support, to help the NWSMA protect this irreplaceable area, and improve lives here.

- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (through the ABI Alien Clearing Programme)
- Corrie du Toit
- Fynbos Trust
- Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
- Geoff Nichols
- Harry and Dorinda Moore
- Overberg District Municipality
- Rikki Allardice
- WWF South Africa

Feeding programme donations:

From the NWSMA team, we are so grateful to the following donors and partners, who helped make the Food Relief Programme a reality:

- Antoinette Weddings & Events
- Black Oystercatcher Wine Farm
- Bruce Jack Wines
- Cape Agulhas Municipality
- Cape Food Farm Stanford
- Fraser's Folly Brewing Company
- Harry & Dorinda Moore
- Overberg Agri
- Robert Graaff
- Smuts Brother's Agri PTY LTD
- The Eat Out Restaurant Relief Fund
- The HeadStart Trust
- And to each individual who helped in any other way, we truly appreciate your support.



Partners

- Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI)
- Agulhas National Park
- Bionerds
- BirdLife SA
- CapeNature
- Cape Wildlife Group
- Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers
- Flower Valley Conservation Trust
- Fynbos Trust
- Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association
- LoveGreen Communications
- Overberg Agri
- Overberg Crane Group
- Overberg District Municipality
- Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust
- South African National Parks
- University of the Western Cape
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture, LandCare



Our team (as at February 2021)

Executive Board

- Dirk Human – Chair
- Francis Pratt
- Jurie Giliomee
- Michael van Breda

Conservation and Operations Team

- Ross Kettles – Project Manager
- Vanessa McKibbin – Administration and Financial Manager
- Eugène Hahndiek – Conservation Manager: Game & Veld Management
- Erica Brink – Conservation Manager: Planning, Monitoring & Development

Communications support

Ecosystem Services Team

- Denver Engel (Team Leader)
- Gershwin Natal
- Taswell Cloete
- Isaac Faroo

Wetland Rehabilitation Team

- Gerty Holtzhausen (Contractor)
- David Newman
- Irene Ward
- Hilton Olifant
- Cornelia Newman
- Ronald Kabawa
- Ashwin Pieterse
- Louisa Newman

- LoveGreen Communications



Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of comprehensive income and statement of financial position for the year ended 28 February 2021, were derived from the audited annual financial statements of the Nuwejaars River Nature Reserve NPC for the year then ended. We expressed a modified audit opinion on those annual financial statements which have been explained in the applicable audit report.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Annual Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary of the audited annual financial statements.

Auditor's Response

We have been requested to judge whether the summary financial statements are consistent with the audited annual financial statements.

The summary financial statements were derived from the audited annual financial statements of the Nuwejaars River Nature Reserve NPC for the year ended 28 February 2021 by management and appear consistent.

BVA Overberg Incorporated
Registered Auditors

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021

FIGURES IN RAND	2021	2020
ASSETS	R	R
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2 161 899	2 533 366
Investments	112 000	115 990
	2 273 899	2 649 356
Current Assets		
Biological assets	1 792 000	2 137 500
Trade and other receivables	604 967	32 148
Cash and cash equivalents	4 563 860	15 076 608
	6 960 827	17 246 256
TOTAL ASSETS	9 234 726	19 895 612
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity		
Accumulated profit	8 220 561	10 290 926
Liabilities		
Non-Current Liabilities		
Other financial liabilities	-	8 700 000
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	157 674	458 205
Income received in advance	856 491	446 481
	1 014 165	904 686
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1 014 165	9 604 686
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	9 234 726	19 895 612

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

FIGURES IN RAND	2021	2020
Revenue	1 871 008	1 245 486
Other income	64 523	3 398 676
Operating expenses	(4 212 898)	(3 913 276)
Operating (loss) profit	(2 277 367)	730 886
Investment revenue	556 492	625 363
Fair value adjustments financial assets	(349 490)	(572 510)
Finance costs	-	(957)
(LOSS) PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	(2 070 365)	782 782





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