



Chairman's Report

For the year ending 31 March 2017

2017 AGM

Introduction

Last year the Chairman's Report consisted of taking you through our activities in chronological order as they happened month by month. At the end of the meeting Wendy Erasmus said to me that her head was spinning from trying to keep up with everything I said – I am not sure if that is because I spoke too fast or because of the extent of the activities that Kloof Conservancy is involved in!

This year I have changed approach and I am going to go through our activities in logical groupings based on the broad strategy that we have adopted.

As always our activities are driven by our motto:

Protecting nature. Inspiring change

This has been our guiding point for 4 years now and we often refer back to to test if what we do is the right thing.

Every year I point out that there are many areas where we are not active e.g. assessing developments, reviewing EIA's, recycling etc. I have explained before that we do not have a grand plan to save the world – not yet! What we do is what we are passionate about and what we enjoy doing. That invariably leaves many holes in the work that we should be doing to protect our environment. Our passion for the environment is limited by our resources both financial and human resources. This is not a call to try to mobilise our membership but it is the reality. If more people got involved, we would be able to do more.

That takes me to the first sub-heading for this evening:

Membership

Kloof Conservancy Membership Status (as at end March)					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Paid-up Members	231	216	226	222	212
Small Business	5	6	4	3	5
Corporate	17	17	17	17	17
Honorary	11	11	11	11	10
Total	264	250	258	253	244

Last year I commented with some disappointment on our membership numbers and unfortunately the same comment applies this year.

I would love to tell you that we will start a recruitment campaign to boost numbers but unless someone volunteers to do that its not going to happen!

We have introduced online payments so that may help and we have had a couple of new member join us since this facility was introduced.

We often hear that to attract members we need to offer “benefits” – I don’t think that a conservancy is about what you can get out in “benefits” but rather about what you can put in. Nevertheless the Exec team has decided that we should offer some benefits and with immediate effect we are offering:

- A 20% discount to any paid-up member of the Kloof Conservancy that would like to hire this venue – the Krantzkloof Conference Centre – one member has already benefited with a booking next month and saved themselves R500! They got their membership money back very quickly!
- As a gesture of goodwill towards our fellow conservancies we will also offer a 10% discount to members of other conservancies in KZN
- I think it was last year that Wilf Sperring suggested we purchase a camera trap and hire that out to members who are interested in finding out what animals (not the human type!) visit their gardens. We have purchased a very good quality camera trap and it is now available for a nominal fee on a weekly hire basis. Hugh McGibbon has kindly volunteered to manage the camera hiring so please do contact him if you are interested.

Thank you to all of you present and to all the other paid-up members – the vast majority are not actively involved and that is perfectly fine – your membership is a vote of support and that is what we need most.

Financial

I think Cynthia and her team have done a great job of keeping our books in good order and as you saw earlier I can say that we are financially sound.

During the past 12 months we have introduced electronic ZAPPER and Payfast payment methods – these help to have cashless transactions and hopefully will encourage new membership and donations to the conservancy. I do include a donations button on our e-newsletter but it is not being pressed!

I think that it is relevant to notify you that in the past year we have for the first time taken out Liability Insurance to cover the conservancy in case of any potential claims. This has become relevant because of the significant number of activities we have where we interact with the public as well as our involvement with the river project which I will cover later.

At the last AGM I informed you of the formation of Kloof Conservancy Charitable Trust – this trust is aimed at the long term viability of the conservancy. The goal is to build a capital base which can generate sufficient interest to fund conservancy activities. We have had a slow start but we have approximately R60000 in the investment kitty at this stage.

For the Charitable Trust to be successful we do need to encourage donations and bequests – we do not ask that you leave all your money to Kloof Conservancy – any amount will do so please do consider that. We will soon have some forms available which will assist you in this regard.

Let's now move on to our environmental activities.

Support for Krantzkloof Nature Reserve

Krantzkloof Nature Reserve is a “standalone” activity category because it is a very special place. I don't think that the majority of residents of Kloof actually understand the value of this small jewel. It is not an “animal reserve” even though it is home to some significantly important species such as Blue Duiker and Thick-tailed Bush Babies which are endangered in the Durban Metro area. There are also numerous smaller mammals of importance for the enthusiasts but the real value of the reserve is in its amazing plant biodiversity, its stunning scenery and its value as a place to recharge human batteries. We live in a highly stressed environment always rushing, always chasing the clock and the reserve is right here in our midst as an invaluable resource to relax and take in some fresh air. It can be a challenge to get to the bottom of the gorge – well more of a challenge to get out but the reserve is accessible to all ages and abilities.

I am sure most of you will be aware that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is going through some difficult times. It would be foolish of us to ignore that but our goal is to focus on what we can do in a practical way to support this jewel. A few years ago we made it clear to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife that we would not use our resources to substitute their obligations to do what is demanded of them in terms of their mandate under the Protected Areas Act. We advised them that we would support improvements to the reserve and enhancements to those aspects of the reserve which impact on visitors. Hence our investment on new entrances, in this facility and in the picnic sites. We do however accept that circumstances can change and we have given the reserve management an undertaking of support should the situation demand it in the short term while Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife get their house in order.

We have a very good working relationship with Waldo Bekker and the combined efforts of the Honorary Officers and Kloof Conservancy help significantly in Waldo's ability to maintain high

standards in the reserve. These combined with the guided walks organised by the Honorary Officers and all the promotional activities we undertake through various channels has resulted in a significant increase in the popularity of the reserve.

Last year we had our AGM here shortly after this conference centre was refurbished and the official opening was in August last year. As you know we manage this facility under a Memorandum of Agreement with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and in the 11 months to 31 March the statistics are as follows:

Number of Paid Events	40
Number of Free/Community events	39
Total Income Generated	R52 000 (paid R40 000 to EKZNW)

At this stage there is not sufficient money to pay someone to run it so we are not advertising the venue as we want to be able to manage it without it becoming a burden.

The Kloof Conservancy 3 Falls Trail Run has gone from strength to strength and is now one of the most popular trail runs in the country. Just as an indication of its popularity in 2016 we opened entries on 1 May and reached our limit of 300 runners in 50 days (19 July). This year we had 100 entries in the first 4 days and it is likely that we will reach 300 entries by 31 May – 31 days. In 2016 the event generated R 69 000. A book will soon be on the bookstores which features the top 40 endurance events in South Africa including cycling, road running and canoeing and the 3 Falls is going to be featured in it.

Andrew McKay has been the inspiration behind the 3 Falls Trail run and continues to provide financial and logistical support to both the 3 Falls and the Kwa-Ximba Trail runs.

Just to prove that we can get some things wrong we tried to start a new trail run using a “team relay” concept but it did not get the support we were hoping for so we abandoned the idea for 2017 but might come back with a fresh idea in 2018.

Our commitment to Krantzkloof Nature Reserve is unwavering and you will have noticed the new entrance at the view site at Bridle Road. We are currently working on a new map of the reserve and a visitor’s information display at the Kloof Falls Picnic Site – they should be ready by August.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife are the legal custodians of this reserve but ultimately we and our children’s children are the beneficiaries – it is our duty to help protect it and we are committed to doing so.

Advocacy / Education – Promoting knowledge and understanding of our bio-diversity

Advocacy - Communication Channels

We continue to maintain a very high level of communication with our members and the public at large. We utilize multiple platforms to communicate and whilst it is difficult to gauge their effectiveness we certainly do have some interesting statistics for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017!

E-mails to members (database of 365 people) = 115 messages (approx. 2/week) – readership average 33%.

E-mails to Trail Runners (database of 1100 people) = 15 messages – readership average 38%

Website: 30466 page views

39 sessions/day up from 30/day

Facebook: Following 3044 people – 51% up from 2020 in 2016

Facebook is by far our most effective communication channel – we reach a wide audience and it is very interactive with good feedback through comments, messages, post sharing etc. Our most successful post on Facebook was that of Caracal in Krantzkloof which was viewed 73798 times!

We post on Twitter automatically from any webpost or e-mail we generate but don't have stats

Overall there is a steady move from Desktop devices to Mobile devices and we will be adapting our website to be more mobile friendly.

In the past year we have continued with our regular communications which our our "chatty" monthly E-newsletter and our "in-depth" bi-annual The Leopard's Echo which is a very readable magazine with some great articles from some great authors! We have a regular set of authors and some exciting guest writers. I am pleased to announce that from our July edition we have a two new regular writers Dr Marlies Craig has joined the panel and will educate us on the lives of insects. We also have an exciting new venture with Kerileigh Lobban a zoologist who will write about the some of the wonderful plant species in Kloof Gorge and the interaction between animals and plants. The project here is to cover some plants that are readily available at indigenous nurseries and some species that are not available. We have enlisted Rod Edwards to assist us to propagate some of the rare species and with each edition of The Leopard's Echo we will be offering some readers – maybe ten or so – a free "rare" species. I am keen to see how this idea develops!

Advocacy - BioGuide

BioGuide: Average 8 views per day (up from 4/day)

We are happy that it is a very innovative and exciting tool which can only get stronger as the technology gains acceptance. Thanks to Jared Crossley we recently upgraded the system to now include videos. It is such a brilliant system that I cannot resist showing you how it works again!

Advocacy - Indigenous Open Gardens

We continue the long tradition of the Indigenous Open Gardens and regrettably we most probably had the worst attendance in the history of the event with about 670 visitors. We did have an almost total wash-out due to rain on the Saturday but even that does not fully explain the low numbers. We remain of the opinion, supported by the likes of Elsa Pooley that the event is still important in the context of advocating the benefits of indigenous species so we will continue with it and have already selected the gardens for 2018.

Two successful aspects of the event were the children's Art competition which was kindly sponsored by WESSA Highway Branch and the children's Treasure Hunt. The key aspects of these two successes were that maybe we have found the "key" to bring in younger families into the event and we will try to build on that.

2019 will mark the 20th year of the indigenous open gardens and we should start thinking of making something special out of that occasion – maybe I am hinting that we need a special organiser for this!

Advocacy - Molweni River Health Schools Project

This very successful project is now in its 5th year and continues to provide an invaluable learning experience for learners at the 7 schools which are involved. GCS Consultants and others provide real scientists to accompany the learners and that is very much appreciated by the schools

Advocacy - Flora Educational Trust project

Thanks to the efforts of Mieke van Tienhoven in 2016 we received a grant from the Flora Education Trust which we used to educate a number of schools in the area on the threat of invasive alien plants. The project went very well and was much appreciated by the schools. As with all these projects it is difficult to assess the impact but we did leave small indigenous “gardens” at each school which we do follow-up on.

Advocacy - Back-to-Nature

Our Back-to-Nature events are aimed at attracting young families and we only had two in the past year and both were very successful.

We experimented for the first time with a Moth Evening in partnership with Lepsoc which included a brilliant and informative talk by Herman Staude. Interestingly during the evening the boffins identified a moth which had never previously been recorded in SA - *Hypochrosis meridionalis* – it was a fairly unremarkable looking moth but the experts were very excited! The event enabled us to donate just over R3314 to the Millar's Tiger Moth Project.

Our Frog Day at Tanglewood Farm in partnership with EWT was a huge success with over 300 people attending many of which were children. We raised R7670 which was donated to the Endangered Amphibian Project run by Dr Jeanne Tarrant

We did have a Bird Day in 2016 but this was an “adults” only event at the Waterfall Retreat and was part of a broader initiative to try to get a project going in the Nkutu Valley. The day itself went very well but unfortunately the project has just not taken off!

Advocacy - Guiding Project

You may recall that in 2015 we engaged the Wilderness Leadership School with a view to training 6 guides to FGASA local guide level which would be used to lead walks in Krantzklouf. Of the six, five were youngsters and four black unemployed students. One dropped out and one transferred to a cadetship in an Eastern Cape Nature Reserve but we still hope to recover him. Of the four we are still working with three have now passed their theoretical exam and are awaiting their practical assessments. We are hopeful that two of the students will be able to start up their own eco-tourism guiding business as soon as they obtain the full qualification

Advocacy - Holiday Club

The Holiday Club is run by Mieke van Tienhoven and is very popular. It does only impact on a relatively small group of children and we are trying to get Mieke to expand it to cater for more groups

Advocacy - Glenholme NR

We have taken a bit of a back seat in promoting Glenholme Nature Reserve but we are still involved and donated funds towards the rebuilding of the broken bridges and we still advertise and support

once per month walks. There is some significant scope to utilise Glenholme more effectively and I hope we will develop some new plans in the coming year.

Physical Re-habilitation

We always maintain that our approach must be a combination of “talking-advocacy” and doing and we do have a number of projects that impact directly in maintaining or rehabilitating biodiversity areas.

Physical Re-habilitation – M13

The M13 is ongoing and now in its 17th year – it is currently managed by Hugh McGibbon. You will recall that we have an agreement with the KZN Department of Transport that we can sell some advertising space on the M13 and that income is ploughed back into maintaining the vegetation. We are concerned that the KZN Department of Transport don’t really want this project to continue but we understand that negotiations are in place for the eThekweni Municipality to take over the vegetation management of all KZN DoT roads within the Metro. We have informed the municipality of our project and requested reassurance that they won’t interfere with what is a highly successful project

Physical Re-habilitation – Memorial Park

Our financial involvement in Memorial Park has reduced significantly in the past year but we are very active with on-going monitoring and liaison with Parks Department. Ian Sandison keeps an eye on the park and promptly reports problems to Parks Department. We have successfully persuaded Parks to do three IAP clearing sessions in the past year.

Physical Re-habilitation – Alien Busters Project

This project is ongoing and we have continued to pay for a team to work one week per month during the growing season to keep the street verges in Kloof free of invasive alien species. We have not covered Forest Hills in this programme and need to make a plan to do so. We do have some problem areas but by and large the verges are generally in good condition.

Physical Re-habilitation – Msinsi Grassland

This is an amazing success and the quality of the grasslands have improved dramatically since 2011. A small team works on the 2nd Saturday of every month and is occasionally boosted by a team from Working on Fire. The grasslands were burnt last season and won’t be burnt this year. The variety of species is really amazing and if you have not walked there you should make an effort to visit – maybe in spring! We have recently planted over 100 trees in an effort to repopulate the riverine section

Unfortunately, Kloof High is no longer involved in this project so we are on our “own”. Steps are in progress to transfer the property from the department of Public Works to eThekweni Municipality who will classify it as conservation zone. I would like to recognise the financial contributions from local

residents Moragh Dan and Stuart Bradbury. I would also like to thank Barry Lang and Bruce for their dedication to work on Saturday – and Bev for bringing us lunch!

Physical Re-habilitation – Support for Neighbourhood project

We are very keen to support initiatives where local residents take control of patches of land around where they live and we have provided some support in the form of advice, labour and herbicides to the following resident run initiatives:

Nkutu Project upstream of the Nkutu Picnic Site. This has had limited progress

Nkonka Project upstream of the Nkonka Falls in the Braeside Road area has been making steady progress.

Uve Stream Project on the fence line with Krantzkloof Nature Reserve is also making steady progress.

Cumic Park – administered by Waterfall Conservancy

Although no longer requiring any support as it is self funded by residents the Ronald's Kloof Stream Project downstream on Memorial Park remains very much under the umbrella of Kloof Conservancy and is de facto an extension of Krantzkloof NR.

Outreach

Our outreach programme continues to be an important part of our activities although we have put less resources into this in the past 12 months mainly due to the time being taken up with the Aller River Project.

On the 30th September we hosted the annual leadership hike for the leadership group at Tholulwazi. This involved the team from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife as well and the learners hiked from the Uve entrance to the school in Lower Molweni. During the hike we stopped and had talks on the environment and the importance of the reserve.

We have continued interacting with the community on the Lower Molweni Community Park but most of the work there is now being done by DUCT while we maintain the relationship with the local traditional leadership. The formalisation of the park is in limbo as the area is managed by the traditional leaders and there are contractual issues holding up any potential investment by the municipality to formalise the park. The three picnic sites we built are well used and well maintained.

The Eco-tourism camp we were keen to build on the fence line with the reserve has hit numerous snags chief of which was the assessment by experienced camp operators that we would not attract the required volume of traffic to make the camp viable. We are looking at alternative options.

Our support for the Kwa-Ximba Conservancy continues and we co-organised the trail run which raised R29000. The Kwa-Ximba Conservancy has found its feet and is beginning to make an impact in the area with numerous workshops, clean-up campaigns and interactions with schools. Their biggest project is the stewardship project where they are hoping to set aside a large area for conservation. The stewardship programme is being managed by the municipality and progress is slow but steady

eThekwini Conservancies Forum

The eThekwini Conservancies Forum is a branch of Conservation KZN which is the “controlling” body for all conservancies in KZN. Over the past 3 years an enormous amount of time and effort has gone into trying to restructure what used to be called the KZN Conservancies Association and to try to make the body a more influential player on environmental issues in KZN. There is still a long way to go but in eThekwini we have made very good progress since the formation of the forum in late 2014. The forum meets three times per year at a different conservancy venue and conservancies share experiences and lessons learnt. The forum also meets formally every quarter with Parks and Natural Resources Department and is currently engaged in finalising a Memorandum of Understanding with eThekwini Municipality with a view to improving co-operation.

The forum was represented at the Sustainable living exhibition August 2016 where we had an opportunity to present our work to the public. The forum has also engaged extensively (with limited results!) with the National Department of Environmental Affairs.

The forum identified three broad “rehabilitation” areas which we felt needed attention in eThekwini and these are:

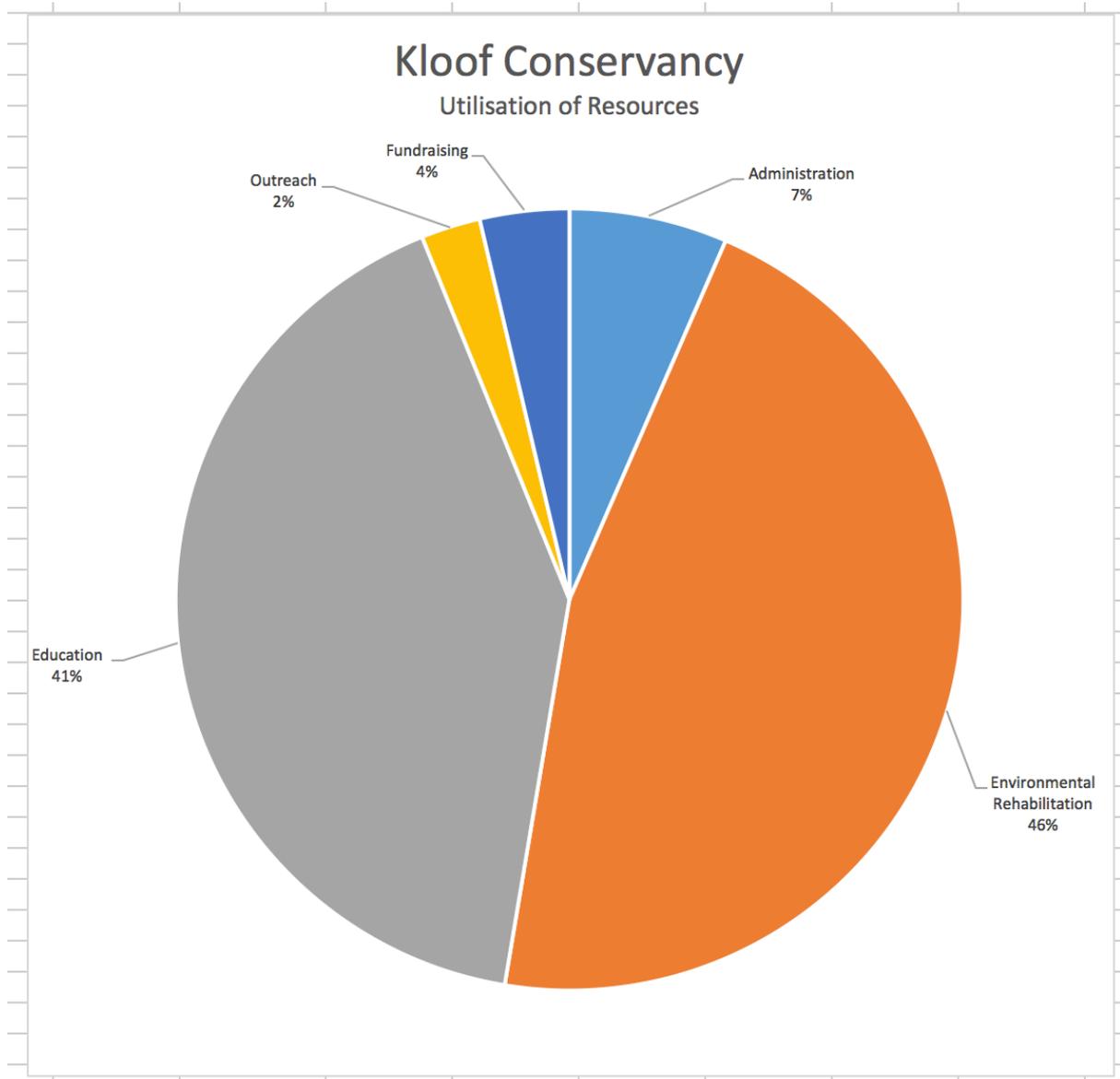
- Rivers
- Grasslands
- Nature Reserves

The focus has been on rivers and later you will be hearing about the Aller River Pilot Project. I will not go into details as they will be covered later but it is important that the members of Kloof Conservancy be aware and hopefully be supportive of the fact that whilst the project is being done under the broad umbrella of the eThekwini Conservancies Forum and Conservation KZN the contracting agency is Kloof Conservancy and we have signed the contracts and taken on the legal obligations for Phase 1 with the municipality and phase 2 which we signed recently with the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge. The project is a great example of civic society coming to grips with issues that impact on residents and not sitting back and waiting for the municipality to address every problem. This fits neatly within Durban’s Rockefeller “100 Resilient Cities” programme.

One of the initiatives taken by the ECF has been to try to quantify the value of the contribution to the environment made by conservancies in eThekwini. This is not a perfect science and the nit-pickers will punch holes into the numbers but the numbers do provide some indication of the combined effort of the conservancies – and these do not include the more difficult to assess improvements in environmental goods and services.

Value of Conservancies contribution to the Environment in eThekweni								
Activity Description	Kloof Conservancy				All Conservancies in eThekweni			
	Total Hrs	Value of Volunteer hours	Cash spent	Total Value	Total Hrs	Value of Volunteer hours	Cash spent	Total Value
Administration	503	R150 900	R2 500	R153 400	3339	R1 001 550	R14 490	R1 016 040
Environmental Rehabilitation	1 231	R369 300	R719 350	R1 088 650	8714	R2 614 200	R1 822 121	R4 436 321
Education	3 067	R920 100	R53 500	R973 600	6984	R2 095 200	R266 880	R2 362 080
Outreach	192	R57 600	R0	R57 600	701	R210 300	R6 883	R217 183
Wildlife Protection	0	R0	R0	R0	238	R71 400	R0	R71 400
Marine and Estuary	0	R0	R0	R0	568	R170 400	R32 275	R202 675
Fundraising	272	R81 600	R5 000	R86 600	1480	R444 000	R37 400	R481 400
Regulatory	0	R0	R0	R0	215	R64 500	R0	R64 500
Capacity Building	0	R0	R0	R0	216	R64 800	R5 000	R69 800
Other	0	R0	R0	R0	365	R109 500	R33 363	R142 863
Total	5 265	R1 579 500	R780 350	R2 359 850	22820	R6 845 850	R2 218 412	R9 064 262
Note: Hours are valued at R300/hr								

The data has been collected in categories to try to make some sense of the values. The total figure is very substantial and as you can see Kloof Conservancy is a significant contributor to the numbers – maybe its because we record more diligently!



The graph shows how the Kloof Conservancy resources were allocated.

Earlier today the Conservation KZN AGM was held and the direction being planned by Rob Crankshaw was reaffirmed. Ultimately it is important to have a successful and influential “mother body” as that can have much bigger clout than an individual conservancy so we will continue to support and encourage the development of Conservation KZN.

The Road Ahead

What can you expect in the next 12 months? I have already mentioned some of the newish activities and I am pleased to see that we have some new faces joining the Exec team and hopefully this will generate new and fresh ideas. Most of the activities I have spoken about will continue and if anyone would like to start a project of their own then please do not hesitate to contact the team.

I suspect that the rivers project will take up a lot of my time in the coming months and unfortunately that will mean that some of our local initiatives – like more Back-to-Nature events may have to take a back seat.

We are looking for more funding for the rivers projects so if are successful then we can see significantly increased activity on that front.

Joint Venture Partners/Approach - thank-you

Our approach in almost all our activities is to form partnerships with other organisations with similar goals but different skills sets. That we our combined efforts result in all parties achieving much more than had we operated as independent entities.

So I would like to express sincere thanks to our partners.

I have already mentioned the importance of Krantzkloof Nature Reserve and our partnership with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife so thanks to Waldo and his team.

We regularly partner with the Krantzkloof Honorary Officers on numerous activities including the co-management of this facility.

We have also built a good relationship with the SANParks Honorary Rangers who have assisted us for a number of years with marshalling at the 3 Falls Trail Run and are currently assisting us with a project to control *Tradescantia fluminensis* in the reserve.

We run our Back-to-Nature Frog evenings in partnership with Dr Jeanne Tarrant from the Endangered Amphibian Programme – a project of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

WESSA Highway Branch have taken a leading role in our joint efforts at Glenholme Nature Reserve thanks to the work of Alan Job.

Lepsoc have been long-standing partners primarily with Steve Woodhall in the driving seat but now with Kevin Cockburn at the helm.

The Duzi Umgeni Conservation Trust have been a great inspiration for us in terms of river work and our relationship with them goes back to the very beginning of our Molweni River Health Schools Project in 2013. Since then the partnership has extended to the Lower Molweni Community Park and a significant input in the Aller River Pilot Project.

The world renowned Wilderness Leadership School have partnered with us in training our special field guides and kindly hosted our Eco-champs at no cost on a Wilderness Leadership Trail in isiMangaliso Wetland Park

The Durban Natural Science Museum have continued partnering with us whenever we call on them and recently were present at the Aller River Festival. Kloof Conservancy remains the only conservancy in KZN that gets a free half-page advert in the museum's Thola Magazine – this magazine is copied to all natural science museums across the world.

We co-operate with a number of departments in the municipality and have a good relationship with Parks and Natural Resources. The Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department have been very supportive of our work and have partnered with us not only on the Aller River but at the Msinsi Grasslands through the participation of Working on Fire who have burnt the grasslands for us

and have also worked on numerous Saturdays with us in doing some of the heavy clearing work particularly in the forest section. We also benefit from the herbicide assistance programme offered by EPCPD and we are co-operating on a number of other initiatives. I hope that you have read the various excellent articles in The Leopard's Echo written by Richard Boon, Lyle Ground and Cameron McLean all from EPCPD.

UKZN and in particular the School of Built Environment and Development Studies have supported us on the Aller River Pilot Project and thanks to Cathy Sutherland and Patrick Martel who have kindly joined us here this evening.

I have already mentioned that in April, Kloof Conservancy signed an ACADEMIC COLLABORATION AGREEMENT with the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge with regard to Phase 2 of the Aller River Pilot Project – this means that the work that we are doing on the river will get to an international audience – something which every member should feel proud of!

At the open gardens we partnered the Flora and Fauna Publications Trust and BotSoc

Our Service Provider Partners

Those partners that I have mentioned so far are involved with us because they see benefit and synergy in co-operation but there is also another set of partners who contribute as businesses as their contribution to the environment and the work we do.

These are the service providers who assist us with very significant pro-bono contributions. All that brilliant electronic communication work I spoke about earlier would not be possible without the generous hosting of all our electronic media by SOS Webservices– this is a very significant contribution – thank you Roger! In addition, all the design work is done by Jared Crossly who is now resident in Australia but thanks to the internet continues to do all the electronic web design work for us from Sydney! The time lag is excellent as I can send messages to Jared in the late morning knowing it is after work for him and he has no excuse but to get the work done!

A big thank you also to GCS Consultants who have traditionally supported us on the Molweni River Health Schools Project by providing scientists to back up each team of school learners and thus provide an incredibly practical and useful education experience for the learners. They also assist us with the Trail run and are getting more and more involved in the Aller River Project.

We had the input from Cynthia earlier on the financial and they would not look as good if we had to add the cost that she does not charge us the services of Stanton and Associates. Thank you Cynthia – we sincerely appreciate all your pro-bono work

I am sure you will have noticed a very fresh and bold look in some of our advertising and promotional material and that is the work of a great young team of designers from Ranga Media. Duncan Prince, Dylan Deyzel and Kerileigh Lobban. They have made an enormous difference to our “imagery”!

Although not strictly speaking part of the conservancy but very much with the future of the conservancy at heart I would like to thank David Cairns and the trustees of the Kloof Conservancy Charitable Trust – Sue Cairns, Phillida Ellis and Garth Williamson.

A big thank you also to the Kloof Conservancy members that are always there to assist us – over the weekend of the garden show we have 80 volunteers on duty, for the trail run about 60 for the Back-

to-Nature events anything from 12 to 30 depending on the event so if I were to go through each one we will be here all night – please accept our sincere thanks!

And finally a thank you to the Exec team – some are more active than others so I won't get myself into trouble by naming anyone – yes I get to do all the talking and the slave driving but I can unequivocally state that it would not happen without the support of all in the team.

I end as customary with our slogan to make sure we stay focused!

Protecting nature. Inspiring change

That wraps up the Chairman's Report for this AGM. Thank you for your attention.