



Editorial

With the establishment of the Garden Route National Park having been declared and gazetted on the 6th of March by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk and Nature's Valley being so intimately snuggled by the Tsitsikamma National Park (now just a subsection of the bigger park), we are honored that the General Manager of the Garden Route National Park, Mvusi Songelwa, wrote the editorial for this edition.

"Conservation Without Boundaries"

After a waiting period of more than three years, the Garden Route National Park (GRNP) was finally declared on the 6th of March this year by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk.

For SANParks this has been a milestone. The conservation areas included in the new National Park are some of the most pristine in the world, stretching from the former Tsitsikamma and Wilderness National Parks as well as additional indigenous forests and mountain catchment areas. It goes without saying that the declaration of the new Park brings additional responsibility and, because of the unique patchwork make-up of the ecological borders that straddle state, private and municipal land, a very unique set of challenges.

The size of the GRNP will be a total of approximately 121 000 hectares making it one of the largest conservation estates in the country. It will consist of about 52 500 hectares of newly proclaimed land, as well as 68 500 hectares of the Wilderness and Tsitsikamma National Parks. The individual Parks will retain their identity and become sections of the GRNP, known as Tsitsikamma and Wilderness.

The GRNP will straddle two provinces, namely the Eastern and Western Cape, two district municipalities, namely Eden

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What is the Nature's Valley Trust (NVT)

In 2000 a group of Nature's Valley families launched a community initiative to contribute to the environmental conservation of Nature's Valley and the surrounding area. The NVT is committed to maintaining the relatively pristine condition of the area.

Mission of the NVT

"To maintain the long term environmental integrity of Nature's Valley and surrounds by becoming proactively involved in issues that impact on the future of the area".

and Cacadu, and four local municipalities, namely George, Knysna, Bitou and Koukamma.

Co-operative governance will be essential for the successful management of the new Park, hence the term “conservation without boundaries”. What makes it unique is that its administrative and ecological boundaries vary considerably. There are at least 1004 private landowners on the Park’s doorstep and multi-stakeholder partnerships will be instrumental to successful conservation management.

There will be no additional fences and in the immediate future it will be pretty much business as usual. The real benefits of the proclamation lie within SANParks’ management function in that it will allow for the sharing of resources and management experience and the integration of current management units in order for greater economies of scale to be achieved.

Furthermore, the formation of the GRNP will facilitate the regional implementation of important programmes like fire management and alien clearing and enable land consolidation. The Park management will be able to take advantage of the potential of integrated landscape management, which will improve the protection of important ecosystems.

It is clear that the role of the stewardship programmes will be vital going forward. It will be very difficult for SANParks to manage the areas effectively without the buy-in of various stakeholders. There are formal contractual as well as informal stewardship options. Due to capacity constraints, SANParks is currently only running with the latter where landowners are being engaged on an informal basis. Advice and assistance is being provided to landowners who are willingly addressing issues such as alien clearing, fire management and environmentally-friendly farming methods.

SANParks nationally is in the process of finalising an off reserve strategy which will result in a much broader range of options available to land owners.

Current programmes focus on specific areas, or corridors, which include the Western Knysna Heads, the Harkerville-Robberg coastal corridor and the Touw, Hoogekraal, Karatara and Knysna River corridors. SANParks did extensive mapping of the areas and we target specific priority areas, focusing only on the natural intact portions of properties.

Nationally, SANParks identified the new GRNP as one of the critical focus areas in the country. The area plays host to the largest continuous complex of indigenous forest in the country, spanning approximately 60 500 hectares. Its aquatic systems, the Knysna estuary and the Wilderness lake areas, are rated number one and number six respectively in the country in terms of its conservation value. The fynbos falls within the Cape Floristic region, which is a designated global diversity hotspot.

To manage this unique combination of diverse biomes with strong tourism and developmental interest will be one of our biggest challenges as SANParks. The term ‘conservation without boundaries’ needs to become a way of life, not just for major stakeholders, but also for all residents in the areas surrounding the Park.

Conservation will be a joint effort by all living in the landscape, and not just the responsibility of the conservation agencies.

Mvusy Songelwa
General Manager of the Garden Route National Park

Status of Projects

- o **Nature’s Valley Fynbos Reserve:** The objective of the rehabilitation and management of this Fynbos Reserve is to conserve a representative sample of a unique coastal dune fynbos community. The reserve serves as an outdoor classroom for the Trust’s Environmental Education Programme and plays a critical role in the reintroduction of the endangered Brenton Blue Butterfly.

With many of the existing signboards having been damaged or destroyed by the sun and weather we deci-

ded to reprint and replace all the existing sign boards on both the Fynbos Reserve as well as the Phyl Martin Park during April.

We have some ideas for new signboards that we are working on such as how to distinguish between some of the more closely related flowering plants and will add to or replace some of the existing signs as the new sign boards are completed. We have also worked on a map for the reserve which will indicate all the little paths that are not always clearly visible.

Partnerships: Cape Nature, Green Trust and WWF-SA, Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation, Dave Edge (Brenton Blue Trust), Professor Roy Lubke (Rhodes's University), Bitou Municipality, South African National Parks, Willing Workers in South Africa, Mark Read (Chairman – WWF).

- o **Tsitsikamma Rivers Macroinvertebrates Research Project:** This very exciting project follows on the discovery of 16 new species of aquatic insects in the Salt River from 2000 – 2004. The aim of this three phase project is to, in the current first phase, survey 11 rivers in the Tsitsikamma Region to prioritize the rivers on conservation importance based on the insect species found. The second phase will focus on the environmental requirements of the insects in only a few of the high priority rivers identified during phase one and the third phase will facilitate effective conservation and wise management of the priority rivers based on the information gained from the preceding research.

The fourth and final scheduled field trip took place during February 2009. Sampling went well except for one small setback – the keys of one of the vehicles managed to make its way into the Storms River! As was predicted, notwithstanding the very dry conditions with some of the rivers having stopped running, the mid-summer period yielded a much higher abundance and diversity of the flying adult insects.

The varied conditions from the start of the study (in January 2008 just after a big flood) to the last survey (during drought conditions) could not have been anticipated and it will be interesting to see how it will influence the findings of the study. The rivers of this region are all very event driven and this apparently has much more impact on the macro invertebrate and other life than the seasonal changes. An interesting suggestion has also been made that the findings from this final, dry condition field trip might provide some answers to the question of what would happen if the rivers dry up as a result of increased water extraction. Any abstraction of water from a river severely increases the impacts of droughts.

During April an additional survey of the upper catchment streams of the rivers that are part of this study was undertaken. Although this will require additional sorting and identification, this survey should reveal significant diversity differences and endemism not found during the normal sampling times.

The researchers estimate that the huge number of samples collected during the study will take them at least 20 weeks to analyse. The general pattern that they find is that the samples are dominated by only a few species so they really have to sieve through each sample to get to the rare and unique species. A photographic record of the diagnostic features of the different species has been compiled and each time a

new species is identified it is catalogued.

The preliminary report on the findings will be prepared for August 2009 with the final report to be completed in January 2010. Work for the planning and funding application for the second phase though will take place long before the final report so that the second phase can be scheduled to hopefully start early in 2010.

Partnerships: Dr. Ferdy de Moor (Albany Museum), Prof. Michael Samways (Stellenbosch University), Table Mountain Fund, SANParks, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Dana Grobler (C.A.P.E. Ecological Reserve Implementation), Bitou Municipality, Eden District Municipality and the Garden Route initiative.

- o **Environmental Education (EE):** The formation of the NVT EE programme was as a result of the recognised need to develop an outreach programme with neighbouring communities in and around NV. The aim is to maintain a programme in Nature's Valley for environmental awareness and education to promote sustainable living among communities. Making use of the NV environment, 9 outdoor classrooms, with associated resources that are linked to the National School curriculum, have been developed for the programme.

Over a 5 week period during February and March, 500 children from schools in the region had the opportunity to experience Nature's Valley and surrounds as part of the South African National Parks **Kids in Parks** programme.

Each two and a half day long camp provided the children with a whole host of learning experiences. On the first day they were divided into two groups who then took turns to learn about four of the environments in Nature's Valley; the indigenous forest close to the camp site, the river and estuary of the Groot River, fynbos in the Fynbos Reserve and Intertidal Pools at Blue Rocks. On the second day the children went to Monkeyland in the morning, walked either the Groot River or Salt River Trails and finished the afternoon off with the, always very popular Treasure Hunt in the Phyl Martin Park. The evenings were spent playing fun games and doing skits on what they learned during the days.

The camps, sponsored by Pick and Pay, were hosted by Richmond Gewers and Martha Setshwaelo from the Tsitsikamma National Park's People and Conservation Department with assistance from the NVT, Tsitsikamma Eco Guides, Diploma students doing their practical year with SANParks and rangers to plan and guide the classrooms.

The **Adopt-a-Beach** programme for this year will be with the Craggs primary Grade 8's and will take place during the second and third terms and end off with the annual camp in October.

An Eco Club has been established by the Craggs Primary and we are very excited that the Eden District Municipality's **Adopt-a-River** team has agreed to support and help the Craggs Primary Eco Club start their own Adopt-a-river project in the Salt River.

The Adopt-a-River project has grown out of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's River Health Programme through which the health of river systems in South Africa are assessed and monitored. The aim of Adopt-a-river is to educate and capacitate both school educators and learners with the necessary skills, understanding and passion to monitor the ecological health of nearby river systems. The overall aim though is much broader and that is to instill in the learners (and through them the community) an understanding of the importance of water and the urgent need for its conservation and sustainable use. The ultimate goal of the project is the assurance of the future availability of safe drinking water for all.

A **Kurland Village Greening** initiative is being planned along with Willing Workers In South Africa, DWAF and Bitou Municipality. The 2009 initiative will take place over two phases with an indigenous tree planting being planned for June and a fruit tree planting being planned for September.

The main focus area of the first phase will be to "clean and green" the Buffels stream running through the village with the aim of eventually establishing a park that can be used by the community. Other areas that will also benefit from the first phase include the Community Centre, Clinic, Sport Fields and Creche.

The aim of the second phase will be to provide a fruit tree for each property in Kurland Village. Over time this will meet the dual purposes of greening the village and supplementing the villagers' food supply.

Partnerships: SANParks, WWISA, CoastCare, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa, WWF-SA, Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation, Project Aware, Eco-Schools, ORCA Foundation, Eden District Municipality, Bitou Municipality.

Nature's Stories

Diversity of Nature's Valley damsels and dragons: Groot river

by John P. Simaika, Stellenbosch University

Dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata) could be called the birds of the insect world. Perhaps this metaphor should also be extended to butterflies, which have caught our imaginations for hundreds of years, and have made their way into thousands of collectors' displays. Dragonflies (including damselflies) are as popular as butterflies and birds worldwide. Even in South Africa, there are several guides to dragonflies available, such as those by W. Tarboton and M. Tarboton (2002, 2005: A field guide to dragonflies of South Africa, published by the authors), now out of print, and the recent field guide by M.J. Samways (2008: Dragonflies and damselflies of South Africa. Pensoft, Sofia, Bulgaria).



A SANParks ranger searching the Groot River for dragonflies in Spring. **Image Copyright ©:**

John P. Simaika.

Nature's Valley and the Tsitsikamma area has the unique advantage of being situated in the Cape, which many rare, but also generally common 'dragons' and 'damsels', call home. For those who prefer to walk, they may find it most appealing to wander down from the Nature's Valley office to the bridge over the Groot River beside the de Vasselot section of the Tsitsikamma National Park to view some of the 'dragons and damsels'. This is a wide open habitat of which the majority is fringed by dense forest, and in parts by reeds and grass-covered flood-benches. Of the 14 species recorded at the Groot River so far, nearly half are endemic to South Africa, and of these, four are restricted to the southern Cape.

The more widespread endemics found at the Groot River are the Goldtail (*Allocnemis leucosticta*) and the Stream Hawker (*Aeshna minuscula*). At least one or two Stream Hawkets can usually be seen patrolling over a stream. The Goldtail is a shade-loving species, and thus is most often found in forested habitats. Goldtails can even be encountered when walking a forested trail. Their white pterostigmas (coloured cell in the outer wing) and bright orange abdominal tips give them away immediately. In young males and unmated females the tips are still white, however.



Goldtail (*Allocnemis leucosticta*). Image Copyright ©: John P. Simaika.

Hagen's Sprite (*Pseudagrion hageni hageni*) is a small damselfly with a bright orange face and eyes. At the Groot River it will be found along the forested fringes of the stream.



Hagen's Sprite (*Pseudagrion hageni hageni*). Image Copyright ©: John P. Simaika.

The range-restricted endemic species include the White Malachite (*Chlorolestes umbratus*), Queen Malachite (*Ecchlorolestes nylephtha*), Sooty Threadtail (*Elatoneura frenulata*) and Cape Sprite (*Pseudagrion furcigerum*). The Cape Sprites and Sooty Threadtails can be found among sedges, grasses and reeds along the stream edge and surrounding vegetation. The Queen Malachite can sometimes be seen perching on large, lichen-covered boulders, although most often it will rest on a branch. The White Malachites are showy, and the mature males are unmistakable, as they have contrasting brown and white wings, and white bodies.

Of the common, widespread species, the dropwings are most strongly represented.

These include the Red-veined Dropwing (*Trithemis arteriosa*), Navy Dropwing (*T. furva*) and Jaunty Dropwing (*T. stictica*). Tarboton and Tarboton (2002) state that the Red-veined Dropwing is perhaps the most frequently encountered dragonfly in South Africa. Indeed, this extremely successful species is rarely missing from a river, stream, pond, dam or lake. The Red-veined Dropwing is found throughout Africa, the Mediterranean and Middle East. Another common red dragonfly found at the Groot River, the Red-veined Darter (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*) is found in these countries, and even in Asia and the Indian Ocean islands. The Common Bluetail (*Ischnura senegalensis*) is also a very widespread, species, tolerant of



Jaunty Dropwing (*Trithemis stictica*.) Image Copyright ©: John P. Simaika.



Julia Skimmer (*Orthemtrum julia capicola*.) Image Copyright ©: John P. Simaika.

extreme conditions, as well as of pollution. The Common Citril (*Ceriagrion glabrum*) is a bright orange damselfly that typically perches on reeds, grasses or sedges at the water. Males tend to be very territorial. Finally, relatively large, powdery-blue resident is the Julia Skimmer (*Orthemtrum julia capicola*). It is in the same family as the darters and dropwings, and is a commonly seen resident at the Groot River. Other species are likely to be resident or visiting at the Groot River.

As interest in dragonflies and damselflies grows, deepens and spreads with naturalists, so will our understanding of these wonderful insects.

Fishery Monitoring within Nature's Valley

by Kyle Smith, SANParks Scientific Services

Fish! I like fish! I like to catch them, I like to watch them, I like to eat them and I especially like to study them. So I get very concerned when I read statements like: "At least 70% of the world's fisheries are either depleted or fully exploited" (United Nations Environment Programme) and that "Coral reefs have declined by about 30% in the last 30 years" (Conservation International Frontlines Magazine, 2003). The number of articles goes on and although targeting different areas or concerns, they are all loudly stating that the world's oceans are in trouble and fish stocks are in rapid decline.

South Africa has unfortunately not been spared, and due to stock assessments highlighting the dramatic decrease in catch rates of many fish species, the traditional linefishery was declared to be in a State of Emergency in 2000. For example it was shown that catch rates of Geelbek (*Atractoscion aequidens*) had declined by 97% in comparison to historic levels whilst the Dusky Kob (*Argyrosomus japonicus*) population was estimated to be sitting at between 2 and 7% of historic levels (Griffiths, MH, 2000 – Long-term trends in catch and effort of commercial linefish off South Africa's Cape Province: Snapshots of the 20th Century. South African Journal of Marine Science 22: 81 – 110). This had implications for all anglers as recreational size and bag limits were revised, becoming stricter, whilst the number of licenses issued for commercial fishing was drastically reduced. However, when attempting to review how our recreational fishery is doing it becomes abundantly apparent that we need long term monitoring programs to be in place in order to accurately assess and document changes occurring within this fishing sector.

During 2003 and 2004 research was conducted on the Plettenberg Bay linefisheries including the recreational



Anglers on the rocks towards the Salt River. Image Copyright ©: Kyle Smith.

coastal anglers. Many of you may remember the research student Kelly King and her sidekick Archibold van der Westhuizen. Although this study provided valuable data it was in essence a snapshot of the local fishery and provided limited data on long term fishing trends. By using the same methods, SANParks is busy setting up monitoring programs within the areas of their jurisdiction, including the De Vasselot section of Tsitsikamma National Park. The project is following a staged affair in that the first stage is a more in depth study detailing all aspects of the fishery and changes that may have occurred since the study done by Kelly. This includes information on the following:

- Total effort – where and when are people fishing.
- Total catch – what species are being targeted and caught, how many and what size?
- Catch-Per-Unit-Effort – to be used as an indirect indicator of abundance.
- Basic demographics – who is fishing and why?
- What are the anglers’ attitudes towards and knowledge of the recreational angling regulations and the management authority (being SANParks).



More anglers on the rocks towards the Salt River. **Image Copyright ©: Kyle Smith.**

Hopefully you can see that this is in fact a two way process and is aimed at not only getting indirect information on fish abundance but also to get the anglers’ perceptions of what’s happening, why and what should be done about it. It is in fact an opportunity for the sharing of ideas and information.

The second phase of the project will be to scale down the amount of information collected, focusing only on catch and effort, but will increase the number of sampling days as the project will swing from being run by me, as a scientist, to being run by Park management.

By implementing these programs we can gather important empirical data that will be used to pick up trends in both resource use and fish abundance whilst importantly identifying anglers’ perceptions and understanding. I believe the project has real validity and can provide relevant and important fishery data and at this stage I would like to invite interested local anglers who would like to contribute or become more involved to start recording their individual catch and effort data. Local catch cards (available at the NVT office from May 2009) are being developed and all the angler needs to record is the date, the time spent fishing and what fish were caught giving species, numbers and size if possible.

The catch cards will be collected once a month by me and will be used to bolster the information captured during the fishery surveys. It will be important to fill out the cards each time you go fishing even if no fish were caught. The more people who fill these out the more accurate our estimates will be on catch-per-unit-effort and total fish caught.



a Discarded Leopard Catshark (*Poroderma pantherinum*). **Image Copyright ©: Kyle Smith.**

Remember this is YOUR resource, so let’s look after it together!

In March 2009, the NVUC attended an Outeniqua Conservancy forum meeting in the Craggs (hosted by the Redford Conservancy) with the theme of "Wildlife Monitoring in your conservancy". Informative talks were presented by Dr. Bool Smuts of the Landmark Foundation and by Alexander Braczkowski, a 2nd year Nature Conservation Student at Saasveld. Both talks highlighted the fact that although predators such as Leopard and Caracal do occur in our area, very little is known about their ecology and habits. Dr. Smuts pointed out that the continuous and indiscriminate killing of these and other predator species is still taking place but that over all the years it has resulted in greater problems rather than solving the predator/man conflict. Natalie Baker, appointed in place of Justine Sharples in the Cape Nature Garden Route Conservation Service division, was also welcomed to the forum.

Please note that membership of the Urban Conservancy is free.

All you need to do is complete the membership form below and drop it off or send it to the Nature's Valley Trust office.

Nature's Valley Footprint Project by Kim Kruyshaar

On Saturday 28 March, between 20:30 and 21:30, South Africans switched off lights to acknowledge EARTH HOUR and added their names to the worldwide petition to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen later this year. According to Eskom South Africa saved about 400 megawatts during Earth Hour. This meant South Africans switched off a total of 4.7 million 60 watt light bulbs (go to www.earthhour.org to learn more).



Our collective vote for the earth aims to pressurize world leaders to take real action to address Climate Change and is a clear signal that public awareness is growing. But for individuals, communities and companies to make the shift from awareness to action, we all need to do more than switch off lights and petition governments.

By launching our very own NV Carbon Footprint Calculator in January 2009, the NVT & Urban Conservancy is supporting the community to look profoundly at the way we live. As yet only about 30 NV households have filled in the CFC, not enough to determine an average footprint for NV or to set a target to reduce our CO2 emissions. We aim to have about 25% (80 – 100) of the NV households complete it by the end of the year. If you have not already done so, please complete the CFC (<http://www.naturesvalleytrust.co.za/Assets/Image/conservancy/CC.xls>). Contact Kim on 0764548467 / kimchris@telkomsa.net if you have problems with the CFC or reservations about sending in your household information.

Currently in South Africa, an average middle- to upper-income household (2 adults, 2 children) has a carbon footprint of 38 tons per annum (9 tons per capita). Project 90 x 2030, a respected South African NGO which works with communities to reduce their CO2e, has set a target of reducing household emissions by 90% by the year 2030. If you think this drastic, you should look at the video clip 'Wake up, Freak out – then Get a Grip' on Youtube. Also look out for a new climate change film, 'The Age of Stupid', released in Britain in March and hopefully arriving in RSA later this year.

Yesterday's generation was not fully aware of the environmental cost of our consumption driven economy. Tomorrow's generation will be too late to make a significant difference. It is up to us to take action to reduce the impact of Climate Change and we do not have much time. I can relate to the person who said that "today we have more stuff but fewer values". Instead of worrying about what we will lose by giving up over-consumption, we should look to what we stand to gain when choosing environmentally sustainable lifestyles. For one, our children will inherit earth capital (as we did) to support their intellectual, creative and social development. Before temperature rise reaches that tipping point beyond which the earth's climatic systems alter so dramatically that our civilization can no longer be supported, we need to reach our own tipping point of action for change. It seems like a really difficult challenge, but we have a future for human civilization to gain.

Alien Invasive Vegetation in Nature's Valley

With Nature's Valley being so intimately nestled in the De Vasselot section of the surrounding Tsitsikamma National Park any decisions or actions taken within the Valley have the potential for dire consequences to the Park. One of the most real and present threats to the surrounding National Park from Nature's Valley is the threat of Alien invasive vegetation. The potential exists for it to spread aggressively and to outcompete and displace indigenous plants. The detrimental effects of this include reduced biodiversity, the disruption of the natural ecological processes that are sustaining the forest and fynbos, utilizing excessive amounts of water and supporting less wild inhabitants (Birds, Insects, Buck etc) and creating new habitat for alien, wild inhabitants. Unchecked, thick stands of trees such as wattle, pine and gum can quickly be established and potentially fuel dangerous fires.

As home owners and gardeners we should be sensitive to the fact that alien invasive vegetation can spread to the surrounding areas. Some of the plants introduced to South Africa are so destructive that they can cover and smother large areas of forest or fynbos within a short time. In their country of origin, such plants are kept in check by their natural enemies (insects, fungi etc). However here, in South Africa, they have none of their natural enemies.

The law, which governs the removal of invasive plant species, is part of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, Act 43 of 1983. Regulations 15 and 16 of this Act were amended and became law in 2001. This law includes a list of problem plants (and their categories) drawn up by a panel of experts. The list was sent to various organisations, including the South African Nursery Association and farmers' unions, for comment. There are three Categories of invasive plants that were drawn up:

- **Category 1** plants are weeds and must be removed immediately.
- **Category 2** plants must be removed unless the landowner has a certificate from the regional Department of Agriculture office for these plants and agrees to limit the spread of the plants. The certificate applies to plants that are being grown for commercial use (e.g. for timber, firewood, fodder or crops).
- **Category 3** plants, mostly ornamentals, do not need to be removed, but must be controlled and new plants may not be planted.

Nurseries may not stock or sell plants in any of the 3 categories.

The landowner or land-user must take responsibility for clearing land of these and other identified plants where relevant. The Department of Agriculture appoints inspectors and people from local authorities may be delegated powers to carry out inspections. Once an inspector finds invasive plants on a property, a directive will be issued granting the landowner a period of time within which to remove the plants. After this time period a fine could be issued if the plants have not been removed or the state may remove the plants at the cost of the landowner.

You may think that the plants in your garden don't spread, but birds or insects spread some plants and these can certainly get over garden walls! Others plants are spread by wind, and here the same applies. Certain plants, for example Oleander, may not appear to be invasive in a garden, but once their seeds spread to a watercourse, they grow profusely, choke up the watercourse and reduce the amount of available water. Many of these plants have the potential to spread by other vegetative means such as through their root systems or budding off.

The control of alien invasive vegetation includes the management of the seed and vegetative growth source and rehabilitation of the affected land. Control methods used depend on the environment, the soil type, the type of alien invasive vegetation and the extent of infestation. These plants should be destroyed using the method that is most cost effective and that causes the least disturbance to the environment. Most invasive plants are incredibly persistent so follow up operations are necessary.

Be sensitive to the environment when removing problem plants. For example, most birds in the Southern Cape breed between August and January, and the removal of a big nesting tree during this period can be very detrimental. When using any of the mechanical, chemical or biological control methods for Alien vegetation eradication take this and other relevant environmental factors into consideration at all times.

Being surrounded by the beautiful forest, fynbos and coastal dune vegetation we have access to a wonderful diversity of indigenous plants and the potential for beautiful, low maintenance gardens, which can be planted to attract birds, butterflies and other insects. In addition to the low maintenance, very little watering is necessary for an indigenous garden, the theory being that the usual, average rainfall will suffice.

A copy of "Nature's Valley Invasive Plants" is included in the Urban Conservancy Resource file or alternatively is available from the Nature's Valley Trust office. At the office we will also be able to advise you as to which resources might be useful for indigenous gardening and refer you to some suppliers of indigenous plants. Further information on alien invasive vegetation can be obtained by calling the Working for Water hotline (0800 005 376) or from their website (<http://www.dwaf.gov.za/wfw>).

Please contact Daniël Cloete via email (info@naturesvalleytrust.co.za) or phone (044 531 6820 / 083 565 5563) if you have any comments, queries or suggestions on the resource file or if you have any ideas for projects.



NATURE'S VALLEY URBAN CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP FORM

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|-------|----|--|
| Name: | | | | |
| Erf: | | | | |
| Postal Address: | | | | |
| Telephone: | | Cell: | | |
| E-mail address: | | | | |
| Property Inclusion: | Yes | | No | |
| Please send me a copy of the Constitution | Yes | | No | |
| Signature: | | | | |

Return to: PO Box 230, The Crags, 6602 / Fax: 086 514 5946 / E-mail: info@naturesvalleytrust.co.za

Notices

NVT Office Spring Clean

Over the December period, with the help of Chrissie Cloete, the NVT office received a proper and much needed spring clean. We would also sincerely like to thank Marina Niven who very generously made and donated beautiful new curtains for the office to nicely round off our spring cleaning efforts. Please feel free to come and visit us when you are next in Nature's Valley or near the office.

Nature's Valley Monitor

A very exciting weekly Blogspot – Nature's Valley Monitor - has been set up for Nature's Valley. The Blogspot was set up and is being moderated by Robert Kleyn, a resident of Nature's Valley.

The Monitor offers a wonderful interactive opportunity for the many people that love Nature's Valley but only have an opportunity to visit the Valley during their holidays to keep up to date with local issues, spread information fast and receive feedback as well as generating discussion about opportunities and issues.

Through the Monitor it is aimed to keep concerned parties focused on conservation and to educate outside parties on the wondrous natural beauty of Nature's Valley and the surrounding park environment.

The address for the Monitor is: <http://www.naturesvalleymonitor.blogspot.com> and you have the option on the Blogspot to subscribe and receive the weekly update straight to your mailbox.

Fundraising Update

"THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS FOR THE TRUST TO BE SUPPORTED BY A REGULAR, ANNUAL COMMITMENT FROM THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO LOVE NATURE'S VALLEY"

This remains our intention and motivation. Donations, primarily by the Nature's Valley community, have enabled the Trust to be established, and sustained since 2001.

**ANY DONATION TO THE NATURE'S VALLEY TRUST,
NO MATTER HOW LARGE OR SMALL, IS APPRECIATED**

All donations will go toward the running and projects of the Nature's Valley Trust. Please send an email or fax the donation form below to Daniël Cloete, indicating your donation amount. Please consider making your donation either a monthly or yearly commitment to the Nature's Valley Trust and indicate it on the donation form.



Please either e-mail (info@nauresvalleytrust.co.za) or fax (086 514 5946) this form to Daniël Cloete:

Bank details: Nature's Valley Trust, Standard Bank: Branch: Jan Smuts Branch code: 420 512 for cheques or 004 205 for electronic banking; Account: 001913859

Name: _____

Address: _____

Erf in Nature's Valley: _____ Tel: _____ Cell number: _____

E-mail address: _____

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Please feel free to contact us with any comments,
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