



In support of
conservation

NATURE'S NEWS

Newsletter of the Nature's Valley Trust



Don't forget
Marine Week
1 – 7 October 2007

September 2007, Issue 20

Contents

Editorial	Pg 1
Status of Projects	Pg 2
News Bites	Pg 4
Marine News	Pg 6
Land Matters	Pg 9
Competitions/Notices	Pg 10
Funding Update	Pg 11
Urban Conservancy	Pg 14
Seafood Guide	Pg 16



Trustees:

Chris van MelleKamp
(Chairman)
Lindy Rodwell
James van Hasselt
Guy Hayward
Geoff McIlleron

Editorial

A Final Word from Peet Joubert

In August we said a sad farewell to Peet Joubert Known on the Garden Route for his untiring efforts to preserve this beautiful coastline, Peet retired from his position of Business Unit Manager of Knysna Lake and Forest Area. During his 28 years with SANParks, Peet initiated many projects and worked hand in hand with various communities in implementing conservation projects. We wish Peet a happy retirement ... which we know, knowing Peet's passion and energy, will definitely not be a time of quiet contemplation. He shares with us some reflections....

I don't feel it necessary to expound on the beauty of Tsitsikamma National Park. Most of you reading this newsletter already have an intimate relationship with Nature's Valley and have experienced the tumbling streams, sunlit forest glades, primordial coastline and sheer magnificence of the area.

As a conservationist employed by South African National Parks, the past (28) years have revealed the unfolding of some interesting trends. Conservation in the early 90's was focussed on saving the species, providing habitats and protecting all life from our exploding human population. Fences were erected to keep people out and wildlife in and some concession was made for tourists who were able to pay for the privilege of visiting our national parks, thus providing some funds to support the parks.

Over the years, this 'wildlife exclusive' approach has gradually shifted to a human centred approach to conservation with emphasis being placed on the role of people in the environment and humanity being viewed as part of a global ecosystem. This trend is highlighted by the model used by our National Government who have adopted a 'triple bottom line' approach to decision making on environmental matters, both within and outside of National Parks, to include the economic, socio-political and natural environments.

This has posed additional challenges to all of us involved in conserving

habitats and wildlife. On the one hand, there is an enormous pool of knowledge, expertise and 'willing hands' amongst civil society who are only too willing to be called on for assistance. On the other hand, areas under conservation are often viewed as an 'untapped' resource which could provide land, food and potential livelihoods to many rural and struggling communities. One of the biggest tests now facing conservation lies in finding the balance between 'conserving and providing', recognising that in order to save our pristine habitats we need to address poverty and social issues impacting our neighbouring communities and that a symbiosis between parks and people must exist. The challenge presently, is to be wise enough to recognise real community needs and to distinguish between need and greed. Avoiding the last and assisting in alleviating the first !

The Nature's Valley community has taken up this challenge too through the work of the Nature's Valley Trust and could be seen as a blueprint for NGO's bordering a National Park. The partnership which has existed between the Nature's Valley Trust and Tsitsikamma National Park has evolved into a symbiotic one and, in turn, the Nature's Valley Trust has, through its projects, assisted and been assisted by Tsitsikamma National Park in addressing the needs of the poorer communities neighbouring the western side of the Park. Such collaboration between civil society, NGO's and government departments can only strengthen the arm of all of us in these times. Let us be wise and continue the good efforts.

Credo Mutwa wrote in an article (*African Environmental Tradition, Enviropaedia, 2002*): "The prevention of Gondwanaland's demise must not be made into something that belongs only to scientists; it must be the national duty of every one of us, no matter how high in the ladder of modern life or how low in that ladder one happens to be standing."

Peet Joubert

Status of Projects

➔ Coastal Fynbos and the Brenton Blue Butterfly:

As we reported in our previous newsletter, we sadly cannot confirm the presence of Brenton Blue butterflies in Nature's Valley. Our original rationale behind the establishment of the Fynbos Reserve was to preserve a representative sample of the rare coastal dune fynbos found here and we will be continuing with this endeavor. A funding application has been submitted to include the updating and translating of signage and resources, maintenance of the reserve and paths, and monitoring of the vegetation and ants found on the reserve.

Spring always comes as a surprise and on the Fynbos Reserve, as happens each year this time, the Ericas share their striking colour and the gladioli come out to show off their beauty.

It is the season of hope and new life And true to the season, we will still be keeping our eyes open for any blue wings fluttering by.

Partnerships: Cape Nature, Green Trust and

WWF-SA, Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation, Dave Edge, Professor Roy Lubke, Bitou Municipality, South African National Parks (SANParks), Willing Workers in South Africa (WWISA)

➔ **The Phyl Martin Park:** By the end of September, the walls of the hut will have been completely adorned with illustrative graffiti. Each wall of the hut will highlight a specific habitat theme Forest, fynbos and sea. We encourage you to visit and view the shell collection, herbarium and educational books.

Partnerships: Bitou Municipality, WWF-SA, Leni du Plessis, Nature's Valley Ratepayers' Association (Open Spaces Committee), WWISA

➔ **Opal Wetland/Erf 380:** Very sadly, Bitou Municipality have informed us that Erf 380, the location for the proposed wetland area, is included in the Land Audit and we are therefore unable to

implement any projects on this erf. The initial audit document which was circulated is to be redrafted and, we have been informed, should be completed by October 2007 for further public input and comment. We have informed our funders, CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) of the situation and await their response regarding the unused funds for this project.

All preparatory investigations and surveys have been done for this project, and quotations obtained to undertake the work on Erf 380. Should we be given the go-ahead, everything is in place to tackle and complete this project. An educational resource has been developed for children and interpretive signage has been designed to enhance visitors' experience of the wetland area.

Partnerships: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Cape Nature, Working for Wetlands, NVRA, SANParks

- **The Salt River:** Exciting developments have taken place around our plans for further research on the Salt and other Tsitsikamma Rivers (See below – News Bites). Following fairly extensive discussions with the Table Mountain Fund, a steering committee has been established to monitor the proposed research into the macroinvertebrates of 11 of the Tsitsikamma rivers.

We are extremely excited about these developments as, after years of trying, we have just received approval from the Table Mountain Fund for the first phase of a project aimed at improving the conservation of rivers in the Tsitsikamma region.

- **Existing Research:** Dr Ferdy de Moor is continuing to gather data on the Salt River and, again, air and water temperature loggers were replaced in August (amidst much groaning and squealing in the icy water as we tried to locate the loggers!). The data which is being gathered will feed into the proposed new research project and provide a valuable basis on which to build further insights into these river systems.

Partnerships: Dr Ferdy de Moor (Albany Museum), Table Mountain Fund, SANParks, Department of Water Affairs & Forestry, C.A.P.E., Bitou Municipality, Eden District Municipality, Garden Route Initiative

- **Tsitsikamma Eco Guides** (see article below): The guides are going from strength to strength, following up on any marketing and training opportunities that arise. Meetings have been held with Bitou Tourism who are extremely supportive of the guides' work and the possibility exists of them working more closely with Ingwe Forest Adventures and their children's groups. During September, a volunteer from Belgium will be working with the guides on business and marketing strategies and fine tuning their business.

Partnerships: SANParks, Bitou Municipality, WWISA, NC-IUCN, Storms River Adventures, Bitou Tourism, Bhejane 4X4 Adventures.

- **Environmental Education (EE):** Following the approval of two funding applications submitted to Project Aware and WWF-SA, we will, over the next few weeks, be developing the resources and co-ordinating logistics to launch our Underwater Classroom during Marine Week. Our Marine Week will be extended to a month during which 600 children will be given the opportunity to explore what lies beneath our seas. With the assistance of a lifeguard and the Tsitsikamma Eco Guides, groups of 15 children will be taken on an interpretive hike to the Salt River mouth, equipped with flotation devices, goggles, snorkels and a resource book and, after familiarizing themselves with their equipment, will be given time to discover what lies below our oceans. We will be partnering with the ORCA Foundation and Eco-Schools in the area on this project.

During October, we will be running 2 Adopt-a-Beach camps in Nature's Valley for children from Crags and Coldstream Primary Schools. This will coincide with International Beach Clean-up Day and we will be focusing our efforts on the rocky areas in Nature's Valley where there is much fishing debris and litter. Data sheets will be completed and returned to the National Office where a national audit is conducted on litter collected from our shores around South Africa. This information is then fed to an international database.

**OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO BRAM AND CHANTAL VERVEIJ
WHO WILL BE ASSISTING IN FUNDING THE FOOD COSTS
FOR THESE CAMPS!**

We have been reworking our environmental education resource booklets and these have now been adapted so that they are in alignment with the national curriculum. In addition, we have developed an environmental education manual which explains the role of EE in our curriculum, our own EE objectives in Nature's Valley, the activities and resources for the 7 outdoor classrooms and the cross-curricula links which are possible.

Partnerships: SANParks, WWISA, CoastCare, DEAT (Dept of Environmental Affairs and Tourism), WESSA (Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa), WWF-SA, Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation, Project Aware, Eco-Schools, ORCA Foundation

NVT News Bites

TABLE MOUNTAIN FUND CONFIRMS SUPPORT OF TSITSIKAMMA RIVERS RESEARCH PROJECT

The Table Mountain Fund has confirmed that they will be funding the first phase of an exciting 3-phase research project, focusing on the aquatic insects found in 11 river systems, including the Salt River, in the Tsitsikamma area to be conducted over the next five years.

This research project follows the discovery of 16 yet unknown species and 3 new genera of aquatic insects in the Salt River which runs from the foothills of the Tsitsikamma Mountains and enters the sea west of Nature's Valley. The presence of the unique insects was first documented in 2000 by scientists from the Albany Museum, who undertook a survey of the Salt River as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

All rivers can be considered unique if looked at holistically. However, the Salt River has the following distinctive characteristics:

- ✧ There are no recorded freshwater fish in the river;
- ✧ Three separate surveys have revealed a diverse number of freshwater aquatic insect species;
- ✧ There are a high number of species and even some genera that have not been described;
- ✧ Many of the species belong to families and genera that are restricted to the Cape Floral Kingdom.

The aquatic insects of the southern Cape are unique when compared to the rest of Africa. They have adapted to the cool, low nutrient, fast-flowing acidic waters typical of this region. The large diversity of species can be attributed partially to the fact that there has been no major catastrophic event such as glaciation, flooding by epicontinental seas or total aridity since the middle Cretaceous (over 100 million years ago). These cold, acidic waters house the remnant of the cold-adapted, temperate Gondwanan fauna that was common to the southern land-mass during the Permian to the Jurassic periods, before the splitting of Gondwanaland in the Cretaceous.

The nearest modern-day relatives of these insects are found in South America, Australia, Madagascar and India, rather than in the rest of Africa. This has resulted in a high degree of endemism in this region.

Ongoing developments along the Salt River and other river systems in the Tsitsikamma over the past five years have resulted in the increasing abstraction of water from rivers and potential threats to the systems and the unique invertebrates.

Through this research project, 11 rivers in the Tsitsikamma region will be surveyed to determine whether the apparently 'unique' insects found in the Salt River occur in other nearby river systems and which of these rivers should be given further attention in terms of monitoring, management and conservation status.

Little is known about the habitat needs of the aquatic insects in the Tsitsikamma region and hence their potential vulnerability to current or potential man-induced environmental changes. It is therefore proposed that these information shortfalls be addressed in a structured scientific programme, the outputs from which could be used to develop and promote effective conservation strategies and wise management of rivers in the Tsitsikamma region.

In Phase 1 of the research programme, surveys of aquatic insects will be undertaken in 11 rivers in the Tsitsikamma region (Matjies, Buffels, Salt, Bobbejaans, Groot (West), Bloukrans, Lottering, Elandsbos, Storms, Elands, Groot (East)) so that a comparison of species between the different rivers can be made to identify and prioritize rivers in terms of regional and national conservation importance.

Phase 2 of the project will focus on the environmental needs of aquatic insects in selected high conservation priority rivers, with particular emphasis on endemic or rare species.

Phase 3 will utilize information gained in phases 1 and 2 to facilitate effective conservation and wise management of rivers in the Tsitsikamma region by promoting stewardship and private ownership conservation initiatives, with particular emphasis on rivers of high conservation importance.

The Powerful Hand of Nature

Impelled by winter storms and the pull of moon and sun, the ocean released mighty forces on our shores. These pictures illustrate how, on the 28th and 29th July, the Lagoon was pushed up to record levels and how our main bathing beach at Nemesia Street has all but disappeared after a few high tides driven by winter gales. These factors combined to relocate tens of thousands of tons of beach sand in a whisk and are reminders that Global Warming will drive us to make major adjustments to our lifestyles.



Photographs: Geoff McIlleron. Taken 1 September 2007

Tsitsikamma Eco Guides Aim For Birding Excellence

Through Eugene Steyn, chairman of the Plettenberg Bay branch of BirdLife SA, three of the Tsitsikamma Eco Guides were sponsored by BirdLife SA to attend a months birding course at Geelbek in the West Coast National Park during July. Through expertise gained on this intensive

course, these ladies are now enthusiastic about our birds and keen to impart this additional knowledge to interested persons in the field. The three all received certificates, a Sasol Bird Guide book and a pair of binoculars each. Carmen, Felencia and Lola have returned bubbling with enthusiasm and renewed energy.

Birdlife SA is in the process of investigating the establishment of tourism birding routes along the Garden Route and, through this programme, will employ trained community guides to accompany tourists.

To encourage the guides birding skills, on the 6th August 2007 Eugene Steyn, Geoff McIlleron (Hon. President of BirdLife SA Plettenberg Bay) and Patrick Niven visited Nature's Valley to congratulate the guides on their achievement. Two Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa books, signed by Patrick Niven, were given on 'permanent' loan to the guides. Patrick Niven is the son of Cecily Niven and grandson of Sir Percy FitzPatrick. Cecily Niven made outstanding contributions to ornithology in Southern Africa and her interest in professional ornithology led to the establishment of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town. Her son, Patrick Niven, was Chairman of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, publishers of the Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa, which is accepted as the most authoritative publication on birds in Southern Africa.



The guides are now preparing to establish additional birding routes for day visitors to the Plettenberg Bay area. Hats off to you ladies and may you go from strength to strength!

Back from left: Geoff McIlleron, Patrick Niven and Eugene Steyn.
Front from left: Sharron Krigga, Carmen Lawack, Anthea Wolhuter, Lola Barnado and Felencia Draai.

Marine News

In light of the fact that Marine Week and International Beach Cleanup Day are around the corner, we felt it appropriate to include a marine focus in this issue of the newsletter to include local issues and to highlight the spectacular beauty of our coastline.

Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area To Open? Or not to Open?

Many of you will have read recent press coverage of the issue surrounding Tsitsikamma's Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the demands of local anglers to gain access to their historical fishing sites. A document has been developed looking at the pro's and con's of opening up sections of the MPA for subsistence fishing and this is currently being considered by Marthinus van Schalkwyk, our Minister for Environment and Tourism.

The development follows many meetings, discussions and heated debates over a year or more

between SANParks, Marine & Coastal Management and the local angling unions and the decision now lies in the hands of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

The Nature's Valley Trust has submitted a letter to the Department requesting that consideration be given to looking at alternatives (such as bussing anglers on a regular basis to appropriate fishing areas outside of the MPA) and that any decision be made on a sound, scientific basis to ensure that the MPA and fish stocks are not impacted. We suggested that a public participation process be entered into to ensure transparency and that consideration be given to the precedent which may be set through a decision to open the MPA.

Finally, we urged that the needs of the people are balanced with the needs of the specific environment under discussion to ensure that it remains a viable and thriving ecosystem which ultimately benefits all.

MPA's – what's all the fuss about?

(The following is an extract from an article by Colin Attwood and Stephanie Lemm in a paper entitled: “State of Marine Protected Areas in South Africa” produced for WWF-SA in October 2003.)

Marine protected areas (MPAs) form part of our commitment to protect the natural environment in much the same way that nature reserves and national parks protect examples of terrestrial habitat types. The application of protected areas in the sea is relatively recent. The first MPA (Tsitsikamma) was declared in South Africa only in 1964.

There is still a general perception that marine environments are more resilient than terrestrial environments, and less susceptible to irreversible damage by human activities. This perception is neither appropriate nor entirely correct. Worldwide, fish populations have been heavily depleted by fishing activities. Although these depletions are reversible in theory, the socio-economic realities are preventing the recovery of stocks by resisting cut-backs in fishing effort. Furthermore the oceans are under threat from other activities, including mining, invasive alien species, pollution, boating, coastal development, catchment runoff and uncontrolled tourism. MPAs now form the backbone of South Africa's marine conservation strategy and are augmented by comprehensive fishery regulations, and controls on pollution, shipping and mining.

There are nineteen marine protected areas (MPAs) in South Africa promulgated under national legislation - the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA) No. 18 of 1998. The MLRA lists the three objectives of MPAs as the protection of marine life, the facilitation of fisheries management and the reduction of user-conflict. In South Africa, the management of MPAs and fisheries is controlled by the same policy and legislation. The concept of “no take” is important in South African MPAs. Eight of the nineteen MPAs are completely “no take” areas.

The profile of MPAs is considerably lower than that of terrestrial protected areas. This is partly a worldwide phenomenon. Being mostly hidden from view, marine environments have attracted less attention and concern than terrestrial environments. This imbalance is slowly being rectified, as witnessed by new international calls for marine conservation, MPAs and responsible fishing practices.

Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area

(This is an extract from a document produced by Marine Protected Area Researchers)

Tsitsikamma MPA is the marine equivalent of the Kruger National Park and a major tourist draw card. The park provides a breeding reserve for reef fish that reseed adjacent line fishing areas. It plays a vital role in the protection of the breeding stock of linefish species that are only found inshore, out of the reach of trawlers, and which are only caught by hook and line. These fish are already in a state of crisis from over-fishing - So much so that the previous Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Valli Moosa) declared the line fishery in a state of emergency in 2000 (Government Gazette, 29 December 2000 No. 21949, Notice 4727 of 2000).



The Tsitsikamma coastline harbours some of the most pristine reef complexes along our coastline and the fish fauna is dominated by highly resident and long lived species. Dr Paul Cowley and his research team have spent over 13 000 hours fishing in the park and have tagged over 7 500 fish. Ninety five percent fish recaptured occurred within their small (< 5 km) research area showing that the fishes are extremely resident and hence vulnerable to any fishing pressure.

The Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP) is centrally situated in the distributional range of many of the slow-growing sparid fish, such as poenskop, bronze bream, white musselcracker, red roman, jan bruin and zebra. Ageing studies reveal most of these species are extremely long lived with large fish capable of reaching ages in excess 30-40 years! Therefore when a large fish is taken off a reef by an angler it will not be replaced for decades - even if fishing is halted immediately. The reproductive potential of the populations of larger, older fish protected by the TNP is vital for ensuring sufficient recruitment of young fish into the ecosystem because older/larger females produce exponentially more eggs than the smaller/younger fish which are prevalent in the fished areas outside the park. A large female can produce several million eggs which can be distributed over a large area ensuring the viability of regional fisheries.

Fishing is widely regarded as the primary threat to marine ecosystems and South African research experience has shown anglers do not obey regulations. Typically, between 20% and 50% of fish caught by shore anglers are done so illegally. Bag limits, size limits and closed seasons are regularly disregarded. A shore-fishery survey recently conducted by a Rhodes University student (Ms Kelly King) between Plettenberg Bay and Grootbank, on the western border of the TNP showed that 61%, 44% and 56% of white steenbras, galjoen and zebra, respectively, caught by shore anglers were below the legal size limit (undersized). The capture of undersized fish is one of the major reasons contributing to the collapse of endemic reef fish. Therefore, the benefits of no-take MPA's such as the TNP assist to offset the non-compliance of conventional fisheries management measures such as size and bag limits.

Economically, a marine protected area such as the Tsitsikamma National Park with no fishing is important for several reasons. Firstly, it is a major tourist attraction, attracting 200,000 visitors per annum and generating R10 million of direct revenue each year. Part of its special appeal is that it is the only place on our southern coast where one can don a mask and snorkel and see an abundance of large fish in the shallows including poenskop, leerfish, white steenbras, schools of white musselcracker etc. A wealth of research both locally and internationally show that MPA's such as the Tsitsikamma National Park protect large breeding fish which seed young fish into the fisheries in adjacent fished areas such as Plettenberg Bay to the South and Cape St Francis to the North. King's survey also showed that the angling catch rates were highest immediately outside the park, providing some evidence for the value of the no-take area for fishing in the adjacent area.

How can we help?

In one of our earlier newsletter we included a report on a project being implemented by WWF-SA, the Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI), to raise awareness amongst the general population of the threats to fish stocks and to encourage people to be discerning consumers. One resource from this project is the Consumers Pocket Guide to Seafood which lists popular eating fish species under 'green (yes)', 'orange (numbers depleting)' or 'red (illegal to buy or sell)' and encourages people to use this guide when purchasing or ordering fish. We would encourage everyone to make use of this resource (below). In addition, a SASSI 'hotline' is available where you can call, at any time, to verify the status of a species of fish:

SASSI HOTLINE: 079 499 8795

**PLEASE REFER TO THE
CONSUMERS' SEAFOOD GUIDE
INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

Land Matters

LAND AUDIT

Following our various updates to members and requests for inputs into the land audit, we have received no feedback from Bitou Municipality to the submissions made to them. We believe that the initial document which was produced for public comment had some errors, but no new or reviewed document has been produced for comment. This is obviously leading to some confusion. One example of this is the exclusion of erf 380 from the audit (see Status of Projects above): Bitou Municipality have informed us that it is part of the land audit process and land use is under consideration for this erf. However, the list of erven produced by Bitou Municipality in the Land Audit document does not include erf 380.

We hope, and trust, that the Municipality will resolve these issues and respond to our letters of concern regarding this process.

KURLAND ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

There is very little news on the proposed development of 1 250 houses as part of the Kurland Estate project. We have been told that the estuarine and river reserve studies have been completed and the

data is being collated to determine the ecological reserves for the Buffels and Salt Rivers. Once this is done, a report will be submitted to the Department of Water Affairs for approval. The outcome of these studies is vital to the proposal as the development's source of water will be from the Salt and Buffels rivers and groundwater in their catchments.

A further aspect to this development is the non-alignment of Bitou's urban edge, as proposed by consultants appointed by Bitou for developing the Spatial Development Framework (SDF), and with criteria set out by the Province. This issue has been ongoing for approximately a year now and has led to some contention with developers working within Bitou's Spatial Development Framework (and its associated urban edge definition), and Province being unable to approve developments which fall outside of the Provincial SDF. We have, however, been told that discussions are taking place regarding this conflict.

KURLAND VILLAGE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Phase 1 of the Kurland Village development is now complete and final approvals are awaited for Phase 2. Hilland Associates, the environmental consultants appointed by Bitou Municipality, have produced an overall environmental management plan (EMP) for the development. This was in response to a request by the Environmental Liaison Committee (established to monitor the development) which was concerned that the initial EMP produced focused solely on Phase 1.

We hope to meet shortly with Bitou Municipality, the contractors and consultants to discuss Phase 2 and to workshop ways in which we can ensure more inclusive representation on the Environmental Liaison Committee. During Phase 1, an ongoing issue was the lack of participation by stakeholders on this forum.

NOTICES

NB: Anyone wishing to advertise in the newsletter is requested to send material to us (nvalley@worldonline.co.za) by the first week of November 2007. We will be charging a nominal fee for this which is available on request. Our newsletter has a distribution of approximately 750 people.

December Competitions Challenge to the Valley's Youth!!!!!! (6 to 18 years old)

During December we will be running two competitions for the Valley's youth and we challenge you all to take part in this fundraising, fun initiative.

Come on Guys! We dare you

1. Reduce, Re-Use and Recycle

We challenge you to make use of any waste which you can to create Christmas gifts which will be auctioned at our Funders Evening in December in Nature's Valley. Tin candle holders, Christmas decorations, boats, toys, paper mache boxes, clothing**ANYTHING GOES!** Prizes will be given to:

The gift which elicits the highest bid;
The creation which uses the most diverse litter;
The most beautiful creation

2. Photographic Competition

Submit your most beautiful photographs (printed) of Nature's Valley to the Nature's Valley Trust. These will be on display at our Funders Evening in December in Nature's Valley and the best ten will be auction to the highest bidders.

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be given to the photographs which best capture the essence of Nature's Valley

FUNDRAISING UPDATE THANK YOU!

"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"

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN !

Join the campaign, make an individual contribution or even better widen our support base and contact your family, friends and neighbours and form a syndicate.

When you have decided what category to choose, Platinum, Gold or Silver, please send an email or the donation form below, to Julie Carlisle indicating your commitment.

THE PLATINUM COLLECTION (R10 000 – R15 000 annually) :

Underpins the philosophy that sustainable conservation measures require dedicated, long-term commitment.

Platinum Brenton Blue categories:

R15 000 to be donated each year;

Platinum Otter categories:

R12 000 to be donated each year;

Platinum Whale categories:

R10 000 to be donated each year

THE GOLDEN COLLECTION (R5 000 – R9 000 annually) :

Represents innovation, delivery, results and dedication.

Golden Brenton Blue categories

R9 000 to be donated each year;

Golden Otter categories:

R7 000 to be donated each year;

Golden Whale Categories:

R5 000 to be donated each year

THE SILVER COLLECTION (R500 – R4 000 annually) :

Symbolises the power of broad based community support and the importance of strength in numbers.

Silver Brenton Blue categories

R4 000 to be donated each year;

Silver Otter categories:

R2 000 to be donated each year;

Silver Whale Categories:

R500 – R1 000 to be donated each year

THANK YOU: 2001/2002/2003/2004/2005 / 2006/2007 SPONSORS

A & J Dick Trust, Albertyn Family, Anderson Family, Allison family, R Barker, D Barnes, MC Basson, CM Bath, GE Bath, S Bekker, Bhejane 4X4 Adventures, Biesenbach Family, J Blaine , D Blaine , FH Blignaut, Bouwer family, IH Braatvedt, Brand family, Breen family, R Browne, G Buchner, Callaghan family, ML Carstens, Cameron family, Campbell family, CEPF, Cooper family, Corbitt family, Coulson family, Cronje family, JP & BA Daffue, Dalrymple family, H De Clercq, De Bruyn family, De Clercq family, R De Muelenaere, Dedwith family, LW Dekker, J De Wet, Die Boord, L Du Plessis, MM Du Toit, Dugmore, M, Dyk family, Ellison family, S Engelbrecht, Erens family, Esterhuizen family, Excelsior Farm, Faber and Le Roux, Findlay family, Firth family, Flemming Family, Fox M, Frankies Family, Gerber R, Gibson, Gilbert P, Ginn Family, Girdwood Family, Goeller Family, HA Graham, D Grant, Green Trust, T Grobicki, G Grobler, Andre & Maritha Hamman, P & M Hammes, Harmse family, Harpur family, Harris family ,Guy Hayward, Gordon Hayward, M Hepburn, D Heyns, G Heyns, G Hobbs, M Hobbs, HJ Hover, Inkwazi Trust, HB Isherwood, IUCN, P Jackson, Jensen family, J Johannson, JH Johnson, KM Kamp, B Keeble, B Kerswill, Kirsten family, Klein family, Koekemoer family, Emile Kotze, Krieglger family, Krone family, MN Kroon, AJ Kruger, W Kruger, K Kruyshaar, L Langton, AW Lategan, le Roux family, David & Shirley Levy, Nicholas Littlefair, Liversidge family, GP Lombard, Lyell Trust, Mackenzie family, Des & Karin Mahony, MJ Marchand, J Martin, B Marx, D Mason-Jones, WG McIlleron, Mitchells Brewery, G Montgomery, Moore family, Mossienes, Mudge family , Myburgh family, R Nichol, P Niven P, C Noble, JA Noble, NVRA, AL Ochse, Julia Oliver, CP Oosthuizen, D Ocroft, WR Parkhurst, G Paterson, Perlman family, P Perry, A Pienaar, N Pienaar, G Player, D Powrie, PC Pretorius, G Pretorius, Prinsloo family, PJ Quarmby, J Rae, Rattray family, M Read, M Richards, Rosenthal family, IL Shires, Sinbosh family, DW Smith, Staples family, PE Streicher , A Sturgess, Sturgess Grandchildren, The Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation, S Taylor, Thalassa Trust, JB Theron, T Timson, Taute family, Tsitsikamma Ladies Forum, Van De Pijpekamp family, Van der Hoven family, Van der Merwe family, L Van der Walt, Van der Westhuyzen family, A Van Hasselt, C Van Hasselt, G Van Hasselt, J van Hasselt, Van Heyningen family, C Van Melle Kamp, HJ Van Niekerk, K Van Niekerk, ML van Niekerk, MS Van Tonder, RR van Wyk, PR Van Zyl, JB Venter, RH Venter, P Vichos, SF Viljoen, C Visser, Von Holten family, Wagener family, Watt family, C Wessels, B Whall, Whitesides family, A Whyte, Wiswe family, Withers family, D Woode, MS Woolf, R Young, WWF-SA.

Our Funders & Partners

Without the support from the following organisations for our various projects, the Nature's Valley Trust would not have been able to achieve what it has to date. Our grateful thanks to the funding agencies and organisations who have made our projects possible.

Project Funding News:

- As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the **Table Mountain Fund** will be supporting the Tsitsikamma MacroInvertebrates Research project.
- In addition to this, **WWF-SA and Project Aware** have confirmed that they will be funding the development and implementation of the Marine Extreme underwater classroom.
- The **Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation** have renewed their funding of our environmental education resource development, transport costs for school groups visiting our outdoor classrooms and updating and printing of the Urban Conservancy guidelines.

Our Funders:



Our Partners:





Please either e-mail or fax this form to Julie at nvalley@worldonline.co.za or 044 531 6820 and indicate which category of donation you have chosen below:

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: _____ Donation Category: _____

Our thanks for your ongoing support. Please feel free to contact us with any comments, suggestions or queries.

Nature's Valley Trust
PO Box 230, The Craggs, 6602
Tel / Fax: 044 531 6820 / E-mail: nvalley@worldonline.co.za



The relevance of the Urban Conservancy in Nature's Valley is becoming more and more obvious. The concept of environmental 'stewardship' and its complementary role in environmental conservation in South Africa generally, is gaining impetus. This has been highlighted at the various conferences and discussions which we've attended in the past months and, for this reason, we felt it pertinent to discuss this in this conservancy update.

Nationally:

Nationally, the concept of Stewardship (the banner under which conservancies fall) has gained prominence and civil society is becoming more involved with environmental governance. The result of this is that the area of land under semi-formal 'protection' and management is on the increase, adding to the national percentage of land under conservation. The trend over the past few years has been for civil society to play a far more active role in general governance, collaborating and working closer with Government departments to complement their role and this is playing out too in the protection of our environment.

Provincially:

The Southern Cape Conservancies hold regular meetings to share and workshop projects and ideas. Through this, and with the support of Cape Nature, they are able to extend their efficacy in conserving areas. Three success stories in our area involve the Redford Road, Southern Crags and Indalo Conservancies, all of which have completed alien plant clearing projects. The Southern Crags Conservancy has worked with the Eden to Addo Initiative on this project and was able to access funding for their work. The concept of 'stewardship' is very relevant to both the Garden Route Initiative^{1*} and Eden to Addo^{2*} which aim to include enormous tracts of land under conservation along the Garden Route and extending to Addo National Park.

Nature's Valley:

Nature's Valley has one of the most pristine habitats in the area. Rather than adopting an attitude of complacency however, the community of Nature's Valley has realized that in order to maintain this status quo, active participation in the management of the area is imperative. It has become increasingly obvious to us over the months that the Urban Conservancy is a vehicle through which the community of Nature's Valley can play a vital role, as individuals and as a whole, in protecting our Open Spaces, participating in decision making and implementing projects as a body which is recognized and registered with a Provincial conservation body and which has national recognition.

^{1*} A landscape initiative which aims to establish corridors linking areas under formal conservation to for the Garden Route National Park

^{2*} An organization which is working closely with the Garden Route Initiative involving civil society in establishing corridors, through stewardship initiatives, linking to formal conservation areas, establishing corridors from mountain to coast and increasing land under conservation between Eden and Addo.

Plans for the rest of the year:

We have been busy updating the conservancy guideline files and will be distributing the updates shortly. We would encourage members to familiarize themselves with the guidelines. A new addition to the files will be an ecological footprint ‘monitor’ which has been produced by C.A.P.E (Cape Action for People and the Environment). **Change your ecological footprint for the better.**

We continue with our various projects in the area, including alien clearing and exploring our options for organic waste management.

The next Southern Cape Conservancy meeting will take place in Nature’s Valley in October. We hope to involve all of the Southern Cape Conservancies in work-shopping the development of a recycling project.

If any of you have ideas for projects, or information that you feel we should add to the Conservancy Guideline file, please e-mail or post your ideas to us. We will be having a conservancy meeting in December and you are welcome to present your ideas to us then.

*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 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 Craggs, 6602 / Fax: 044 531 6668 / E-mail: nvalley@worldonline.co.za

Consumer's Seafood Guide

<p>Green Category (YES): These are species that are from relatively healthy and well-managed populations that can sustain current fishing pressure. Some green species are not targeted by any particular fishery, but are managed as a sustainable bycatch. These species are recommended as the most sustainable choices available.</p>	<p>Anchovy Angelfish (Atlantic pomfret) Bluefish (bluenose) Blueskin (trawl soldier) Blue hottentot Butterfish Chub mackerel (makriel) Dorado (dolphinfish; mahimahi) Gurnard Hake (stockfish) Harder (mullet) – not from estuaries</p>	<p>Horse mackerel (maasbanker) Hottentot Jacopever John Dory Monkfish Mussels Octopus Oysters Panga Queen mackerel (Natal snoek) Sand soldier (red tjor-tjor) Santer (soldier)</p>	<p>Sardine (Pilchard) Snoek South coast rock lobster Squid (calamari; tjokka) Steentjie Tuna – all except bluefin tuna West coast rock lobster (west coast crayfish) White stumpnose Yellowtail</p>
<p>Orange Category (MAYBE): These species may be legally sold by registered commercial fishers and retailers. However, an increased demand for these could compromise a sustainable supply, due to one or more of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The species may presently be rare because they are overfished. ⌘ The fishery that catches them may damaged the environment through the method used and/or high bycatch. ◆ The biology of the species makes it vulnerable to overfishing, or it may not have been adequately studied, but it is suspected that it will be unable to sustain heavy fishing pressure based on information for related species. 	<p>Abalone – local wild caught ◆ Bluefin tuna ◆ Carpenter (silverfish; Silver) ◆ Dageraad ◆ Elf (shad) – no-sale in KZN ◆ Englishman ◆ Geelbek (Cape salmon) ◆ King mackerel (couta; cuda) ◆ King soldierbream ◆ Kingklip ◆</p>	<p>Kob (kabeljou; dusky, silver and squartail kobs) ◆ Langoustines – local trawled ⌘ Marlins ◆ Poenskop (black Mussel-cracker) ◆ Prawns – local trawled ⌘ Red steenbras (copper steenbras) ◆ Red stumpnose (Miss Lucy) ◆</p>	<p>Rockcods – all except potato and brindle bass) ◆◆ Roman (red roman) ◆ Scotsman Sharks – all except those on Red List ◆ Skates & rays ◆ Slinger ◆ Snappers – all except river snapper ◆ Sole ⌘ ◆ Swordfish ◆</p>
<p>Red Category (NO): These species are by law illegal to buy or sell in South Africa. Some of these “no-sale” species are very important recreational species that cannot handle commercial fishing pressures and may therefore only be caught for your own enjoyment and use, subject to the possession of a valid recreational fishing permit and other restrictions that may apply (such as daily bag limits, closed seasons and minimum sizes).</p>	<p>Baardman (bellman; tasselfish) Banded galjoen Blacktail (dassie; kolstert) Brindle bass Bronze bream Cape stumpnose East coast rock lobster Galjoen Garrick (leervis) John Brown (Janbruin) Kingfishes</p>	<p>Knife jaws, Cape and Natal (cuckoo bass; kraaibek) Large-spot Pompano moony; wave garrick) Natal stumpnose (yellowfin bream) Natal wrasse Potato bass Ragged tooth shark River bream (perch) River snapper (rock salmon) Sawfishes</p>	<p>Sevny-four Southern pompano Spotted grunter (tiger) Spotted gully shark Springer (ten pounder) Stonebream Striped cat shark (Pyjama shark) West coast steenbras White musselcracker (brusher; cracker) White steenbras (pignose grunter) Zebra (wildeperd)</p>