



Chairman's Report

For the year ending 31 March 2018

Presented to Members at the AGM held on Thursday 24 May 2018

Introduction

The conservancy's activities are well documented in our monthly e-newsletter and regular e-mails to members so this year I do not want to dwell too much on the details of the activities, but I am happy to take questions at the end.

As always, our activities are driven by our motto:

Protecting nature. Inspiring change

This has been our guide for 5 years now and I am pleased to note that I do occasionally get messages where the writers use the word "I was inspired" when wanting some help or advise. Even Parks department have "borrowed" the term from us in a sign that they have erected in Shongweni recently!

We do try to be as hands on as possible and the following quotation by "anonymous" is something that resonates with us.

Of Greeks and Romans

The Greeks, brilliant, imaginative thinkers, so imaginative that they would always see the logical weaknesses or fallacy of any proposal - result, much inaction.

The Romans on the other hand just went ahead and built the thing - bridges, aqueducts, roads without great worries whether they were always infallibly right and surprise, the bridges, roads and so on mainly stayed up and lasted and they conquered the world.

That is our approach, get down to specifics, solve these, use the acceptable solutions as the basis for progress. And like the Roman roads we will reach the world!

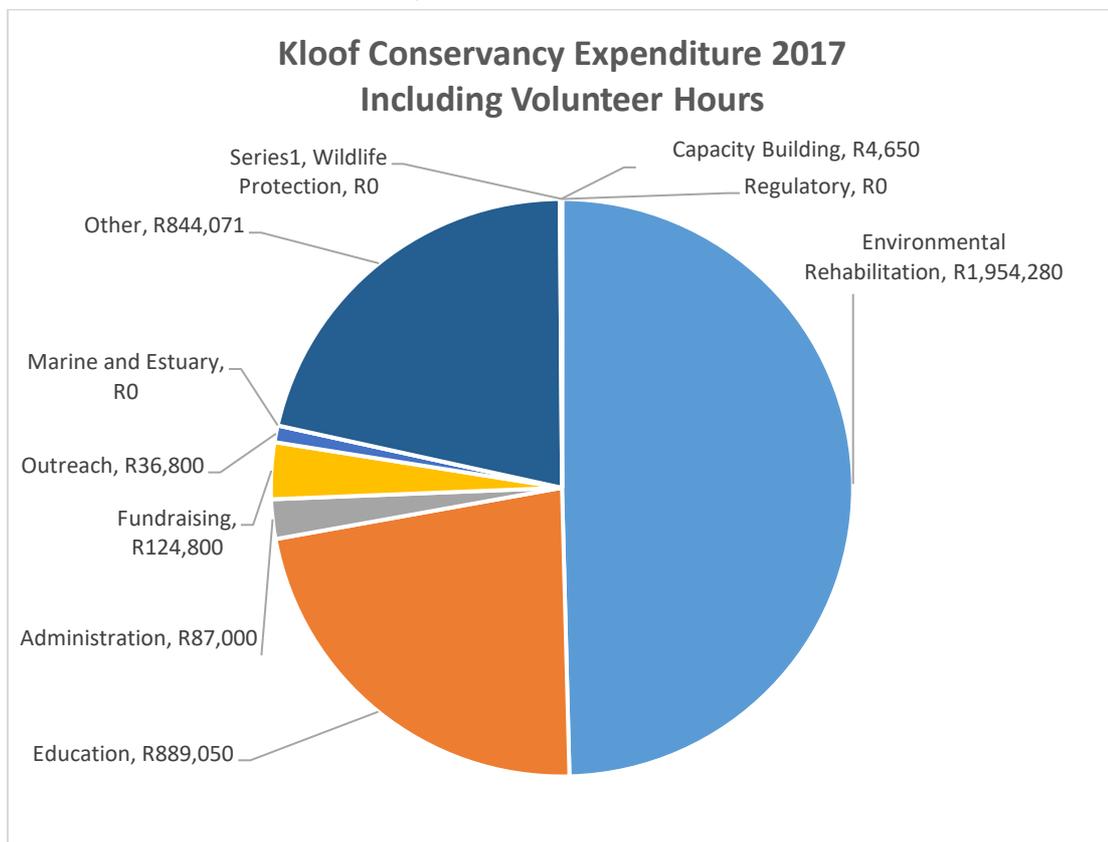
Financial

The finances have already been reported on and for the sake of brevity I would just like to record that the finances are in good shape, but the kitty has been somewhat depleted in comparison to the previous year – that is not a problem because at the end of the day we need to spend whatever income we get!

On a point of interest, we collate information which includes the number of hours that we put into conservation. The data is quite interesting!

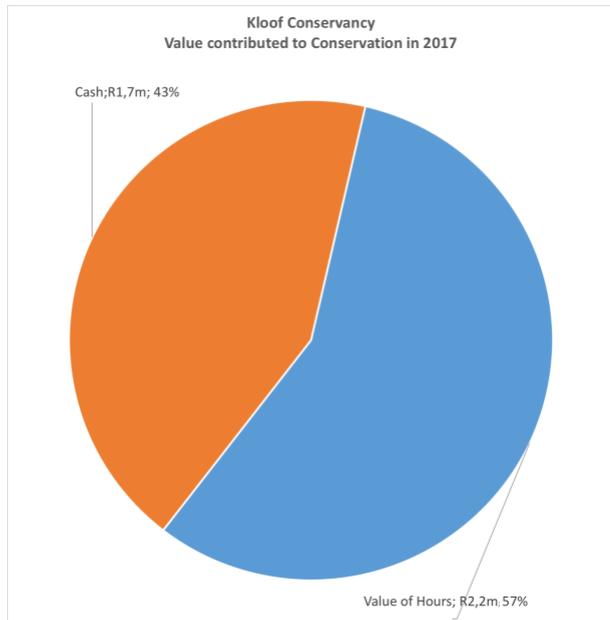
KLOOF CONSERVANCY - Contribution by Category (2017) - Including Aller River		
Category	Rand Value	%
Environmental Rehabilitation	R1 954 280	49.6%
Education	R889 050	22.6%
Administration	R87 000	2.2%
Fundraising	R124 800	3.2%
Outreach	R36 800	0.9%
Marine and Estuary	R0	0.0%
Other	R844 071	21.4%
Capacity Building	R4 650	0.1%
Wildlife Protection	R0	0.0%
Regulatory	R0	0.0%
Total	R3 940 651	100%

- Volunteer time calculated at R300/hr



Other = KCC maintenance, KKNR Improvements, Guiding Project, Map and Display Project

Admin = all accounting, managing membership and interactions with external parties.



I would like to extend my thanks to Chris Steyn for the financial statements and the official audit. The information will be posted on our website and accessible to all.

The Kloof Conservancy Charitable Trust has raised a total of about R100 000 – at this stage that is being invested and as previously mentioned this is a long-term project, so we do not expect any impact in the short-term.

Activities

Before I get into the activities let me repeat what I have stated every year since I have been chairman. We still do not have a plan to “save the world”. We do what we can with the resources we have, and we hope that at the end of the day it does make a difference even if it’s a small one.

In the past year we have been fortunate that a number of people have come forward and have said “I like what the conservancy is doing. How can I help”. Whilst that is enormously encouraging it always leaves me with a bit of a dilemma because I can see from the enthusiasm that the individual wants to get stuck-in and “save the world” and sometimes the best I can offer them is to stand at an intersection in the reserve to wave a flag during the 3 Falls or to collect entry money at the Indigenous Open Gardens show – this does not quite match the expectations!

Most people have limited time available and that is the biggest problem. I will talk about the volunteers and their efforts later but the key to our success is to have members that want to run small or large projects. It’s the organising that is the difficult part and most people just don’t have it – so waving a flag is the next best thing we can offer!

Every year I point out that there are many areas where we are not active e.g. assessing developments, reviewing EIA's, recycling etc. 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 but it is understandable that most people do not get involved!

Membership

Kloof Conservancy Membership Status (as at end March)						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Paid-up Members	231	216	226	222	212	180
Small Business	5	6	4	3	5	3
Corporate	17	17	17	17	17	17
Honorary	11	11	11	11	10	10
Total	264	250	258	253	244	210

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

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

We do offer a discount on the hire of this venue as well as a nominal fee to hire a camera trap – both have been seldom used.

Meryvn Gans has volunteered to join the team and has offered to look at starting an e-mail recruitment campaign – hopefully I will have better news next year.

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.

Related to membership and our interaction with the public are our website and our social media channels.

Social Networks - Statistics for 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018		
Website	down 10%	average of 83 page views per day
BioGuide	up 60%	average of 12 views per day
Facebook	up 25%	3758 Followers
The Leopard's Echo	up 90%	average of 17 reads/day
E-newsletter	12	E-mailed to 388 individuals
General notices E-mails	55	

Sincere thanks to Jared Crossley for doing all the backroom work on all our digital platforms all the way from Sydney!

Support for Krantzkloof Nature Reserve

Krantzkloof Nature Reserve remains our single biggest focus in terms of both effort and financial support.

Over the past 12 months we have – together with the reserve management and the HO's worked on the following projects:

- Completion of the information display and signage
- Improvements to the Kloof Falls Picnic site including fencing and the parking area
- Regular feedback to management on trail conditions, incidents, IAPs etc.
- Extensive trail repairs to stop erosion
- Maintenance of the re-opened Nkutu Trail
- Tradescantia eradication project
- 3 Falls Trail Run
- Krantzkloof Conference Centre

It was most pleasing to be recognised by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife when they awarded the conservancy their 2017 External Organisation award.

The 3 Falls continues to be an extremely popular event and has almost become a “must do” event amongst trail runners. Last year we netted just over R67000 and this year we hope to be over R80000.

The Krantzkloof Conference Centre continues to grow in popularity. We are still finding our feet in the “hospitality” industry but overall it is going well and generating some income.

Krantzkloof Conference Centre		
	2017	2018
Paid Booking	41	60
Free Bookings	38	40
Total	79	100
Total Income	R52 400	R105 040

There are numerous volunteers that are involved in the support for Krantzkloof NR but I do need to mention:

- Martin Gardiner for the parking area
- Andrew McKay for the Trail Run

- Bev Candotti for the Conference Centre
- Brad Phillips has some involvement in all activities
- Bruce Crouch who also works on all the various projects

Thanks also to Waldo Bekker for his role not only as the manager of the reserve but for his support for our initiatives.

Indigenous Open Gardens

We have persevered with this project but last year was undoubtable the worst on record with just over 800 visitors and net income of just over R18 000. The reasons for this are varied and difficult to address:

- It's a tired product
- We have limited resources to plan for a "bigger event"
- People have got other priorities

Having said all that, it is still a significant event on the environmental scene in KZN – the only true indigenous garden show so we will continue, and we have some improvements planned for this year.

We get about 80 volunteers over the weekend but again the planning is done by a smallish group: Brigid Turner, Sandra Hanefey, Carolyn Victor, Bruce Crouch, Kevin Collett, Kerileigh Lobban, Dylan Dyzel

Other Projects:

- **Guiding Project**

This is one of our "difficult" project but we have now graduated 3 qualified guides with one more to go. So far John Terblanche, Amahle Khayana and Craig Widows have qualified

- **Molweni River Health Schools Project**

This very successful project is now in its 6th 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.

This project has been run by myself with help from Bev Candotti, Brian Tozer and Lyn Bingham as well as numerous volunteers from the municipality and GCS consultants

- **Holiday Club**

Our Holiday Club events are always fully booked and run by Mieke van Tienhoven

- **Glenholme NR**

We maintain a minor role in supporting Glenholme Nature Reserve mainly by advertising the walks and assisting with arranging the guiding. Richard Hancox is one of the guides

- **Back-to-Nature**

We held two Back-to-Nature events and both were very successful. The Butterfly day in partnership with Lepsoc and the Frog day in partnership with Jeanne Tarrant and EWT.

We have a pool of volunteers that always assists at these events and they are too many to mention but Back-to-Nature – too many to mention but for the Butterfly day, Kerileigh put in an inordinate amount of time.

- **Memorial Park**

We continue active involvement in Memorial Park thanks to the dedication of Ian Sandison who keeps a watching brief, fixes things that get broken and liaises with Parks Department. In this context I would like to thank Zeeh Khoso and Mike Haskins for their co-operation.

- **Alien Busters Project**

This is mainly where we have been clearing verges of invasive alien plants using Msenge as the contractor – we suspended this project in October due to funding.

- **Msinsi Grassland**

This excellent little project continues with a once-a-month hacking day supported by input from the large crew from Working-on-fire. It's a small team, Bruce Crouch, Barry Lang and myself plus three paid workers and we are making steady progress to protect this valuable grassland.

- **Support for Neighbourhood project**

- Nkonka Project upstream of the Nkonka Falls in the Braeside Road area has been making excellent progress with the involvement of two of our members Mike Coppinger and Martin Eweg.
- Uve Stream Project on the fenceline with Krantzkloof Nature Reserve is also making steady progress thanks to Gwynne Key who puts a lot of effort into clearing IAPs
- 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.

- **The Leopard's Echo**

As explained earlier the magazine continues to be well received and we are also getting much appreciated support from Struik-Nature. I would like to thank

- Jo Sobey for the design and layout of The Leopard's Echo
- All the authors particularly the "regular" authors, Arend Hoogervorst, Peter Spence, Robin Lamplough, Dr Marlies Craig, Steve Woodhall and Pat McKrill. On occasions we have some illustrious guest writers such as Neil Crouch.

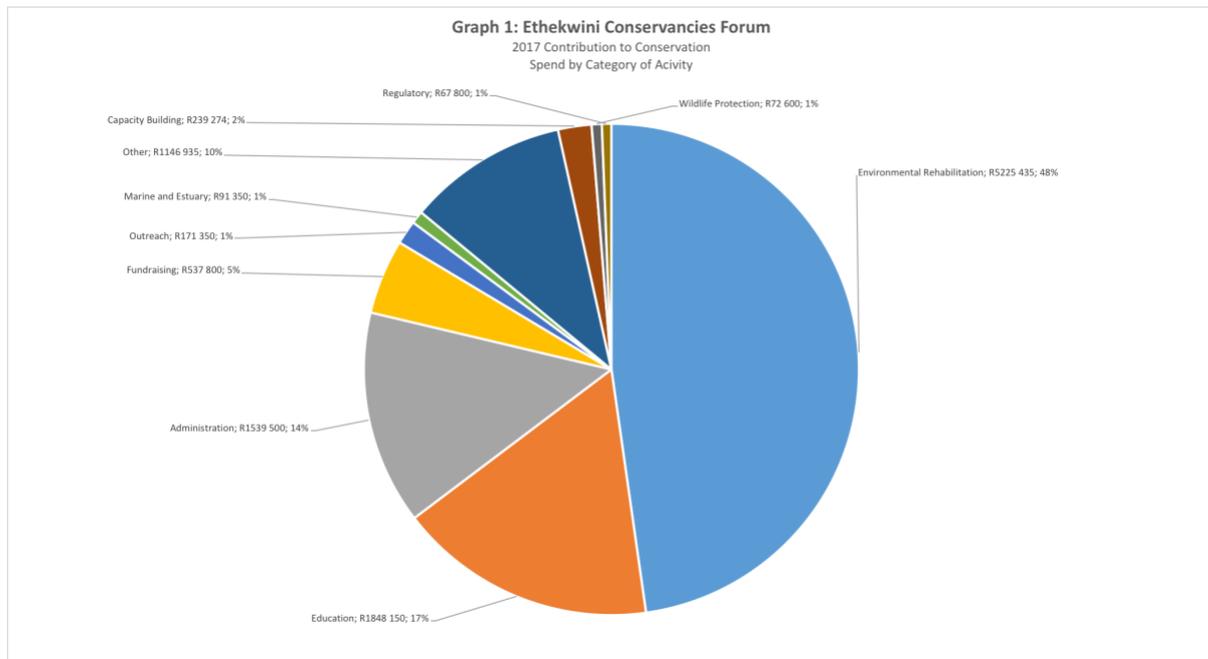
- **Outreach**

We continue our outreach support to Kwa-Ximba Conservancy and Lower Molweni. In Kwa-Ximba we are actively supporting the team out there not only with the Kwa-Ximba Trail Run but also with their stewardship programme. Bruce Crouch does all the admin for the Kwa-Ximba Trail run

eThekwini Conservancies Forum – Aller River Project

The eThekwini Conservancies Forum is a branch of Conservation KZN which is the “controlling” body for all conservancies in KZN. The forum comprises of 26 registered conservancies in the eThekwini Municipality and meets 3 times per year.

Table 1: eThekwini Conservancies - Contribution by Category (2017)		
Category	Rand Value	%
Environmental Rehabilitation	R5 225 435	48.9%
Education	R1 848 150	26.1%
Administration	R1 539 500	11.2%
Fundraising	R537 800	5.3%
Outreach	R171 350	2.4%
Marine and Estuary	R91 350	2.2%
Other	R1 146 935	1.6%
Capacity Building	R239 274	0.8%
Wildlife Protection	R72 600	0.8%
Regulatory	R67 800	0.7%
Total	R10 940 194	100%



The “flagship” project is undoubtable the Aller River Pilot Project and many of you will recall that the team made a presentation to you at last year’s AGM. Kloof Conservancy is the implementing agency for this project. Since the AGM the project has continued to make steady progress in engaging the community and the municipality. It is important that I stress that this project is aimed at behaviour change and not at fixing the river directly! This is a difficult process and one that can only be assessed over the long-term. The project has received significant attention by many organisations and the authorities including those outside of eThekweni. Our partnership with the University of Cambridge has given the project international exposure and the work of project is being presented at various seminars and conferences both in SA and the UK. At least one research paper on the project is anticipated.

Funding for Phase 3 is currently provided by the National Lotteries Commission and this funding will run out in October. The team is currently assessing the options for additional funding.

This has been a pilot and the team is confident enough to look at extending the methodology to other rivers and additional funding proposals are in the pipeline. However, in order to remove the administrative load on Kloof Conservancy it is planned that future project proposals will be done under the banner of Conservancies KZN.

The Road Ahead

We do not have any plans for anything dramatically different in 2018/2019. With some new members coming on board in the Exec team we may have some new ideas and we will see how that develops but our plans for the current year are essentially “more of the same!”

Thank-you

We are fortunate that we do have great support. As I went through the projects I did mention who is involved but we do have a core group of volunteers that is active in almost every event we organise

- Trish Guilhermino
- Rubi-D
- Brigid Turner
- Mel and Gernot Mallinger
- Cheryl Crouch
- Anna Rice
- Richard Hancox
- Prue Spencer
- Trevor Freemantle
- Bev Candotti

I would also like to make special mention of SOS Web Services – in this day and age our internet connection is vital, and SOS have been incredibly supportive and accommodating!

And finally, a thank you to the Exec team – all that is achieved would not happen without the support of all in the team.

I end with a quote from someone who may not be a great icon but was reasonably intelligent!

The destiny of our land, the air we breathe, the water we drink is not in the mystical hands of an uncontrollable agent, it is in our hands. A future which brings the balancing of our resources-preserving quality with quantity - is a future limited only by the boundaries of our will to get the job done."

Richard M Nixon

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