

News from KZNCA

June 2015

Issue 9

Our Vision

Through our members, to be a recognised and significant contributor to Conservation and environmental management in KwaZulu-Natal.

Greetings!

Welcome to Newsletter No. 9, May 2015 issue.

Decisions taken at the AGM mean that the Association must move to become stronger, with a higher public profile. But are all our Conservancies ready for this?



Wild dagga (Leonotis leonurus) in bloom near Richmond

KZNCA to move on joint project programmes

Partnerships planned with other Conservation organisations and local Government

At the first meeting of the new Conservation Committee last week a decision was made to call for proposals from Association members for joint KZNCA conservation projects that meet the following criteria:

- *As many Conservancies as possible to be involved in each project, working together.*
- *Projects to target conservation and management of habitats, flora, fauna, protected areas, processing services (like waste) and people-related activities.*
- *Each project to involve other Conservation organisations, local Government, job creation and social development.*

Are *all* KZNCA Conservancy members ready for the planned move forward?

The new KZNCA strategy, approved at the AGM, is for the Association to become stronger, more visible and a role-player in provincial environmental planning.

But that means KZNCA members need to embrace the common vision and widen the scope of their activities.

This is not as easy as it sounds. Many Conservancies see themselves as small, social groups engaging in local conservation activities.

The Association needs to provide encouragement, training and skills to smaller members, giving them the confidence to change.

Oops! Our article in last month's *News from KZNCA* mentioned glysohates in weed killers – but the correct spelling of the word is “glyphosates”. We regret the error - and thank you to our observant reader.

What is a Conservancy?

The word “Conservancy” differs in meaning and use all over the world. KZNCA proposes:

- A Conservancy is voluntary group or association of persons who wish to conserve natural resources
- The Conservancy must be registered by KZNCA and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, have a Constitution and be managed by an elected committee
- Conservancy members are those persons or corporations registered as such by the committee.
- The Conservancy area is that in which defined, planned conservation activities take place.
- Such an area may comprise privately or publicly owned areas or be part of a jurisdictional zone such as the ocean.
- Conservancy activities must be done with the consent of the stakeholders in the Conservation area

Did you know?

Estimates are that by the year 2040, 15% of the world's **total** energy generation and 25% of **electricity** generation will be from renewable energy?

That the relatively “small” percentage of renewable energy is because of the estimated **massive 45% increase** in world energy use over the next 25 years?

That the electric eel, growing up to two meters long and weighing up to 20kgs, can generate 600 watts of electricity and cause cardiac arrest in humans?



Electric eel (*Electrophorus electricus*) - a shocking prospect

New registration forms

The Association will shortly be sending every Conservancy the newly-designed form that brings KZNCA membership and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife registration up-to-date.

New members are asked to be patient.

KZNCA subscription fees go up

The Association AGM has approved the increase of subscriptions from their present R250 to R400 yearly. The new subscriptions will take place with immediate effect, meaning the 2015/2016 year.

The Association will consider representations for a reduced fee from Conservancies who have special needs.



The range of the flame lily (*Gloriosa superba*) extends to coastal dunes.

Now easier to contact KZNCA

It's a lot easier to contact the Association now. New secretary Dinky Oliver is based in the KZNCA office in Durban from 08.30 to 12.30 weekdays.

The telephone number is 082 789 7868 and new eMail addresses are:

- dinky@kznca.co.za (Secretary)
- rob.crankshaw@kznca.co.za (acting CEO)
- malcolm.stainbank@kznca.co.za (Chairman)

Soil conservation – neglected?

Conservation of soil seems to have been overlooked by humans in favour of other ecosystems.

Why? Perhaps because soil is used to generate short-term gains rather than being protected, developed and managed as a critical asset.

It is hard to understand. Soil provides a vast range of ecosystem services critical for life. Water storage and filtration; as a growth medium; a habitat for billions of organisms. It supplies most of the antibiotics used to fight diseases, essential nutrients to our forests and crops, and it helps regulate the earth's temperature.

But even more importantly it is the biggest source of human built habitats, food security and nutrition – and soil is the key element underpinning human economics.

Soil loss in South Africa is estimated at 300-400 million tons per year. Who is worrying?

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