

Duiwenhoks Conservancy

Annual
General
Meeting
2019



Agenda

1. Welcome
 - Rules: no side conversations please
 - Apologies
2. Chairperson's Report
3. Financial Report + future funding
4. Achievements
 - Projects,
5. What do we want from the Conservancy?
6. Fire
7. Other agenda items
 - Pre-school
 - The Winkel Project
8. Election of committee – chairman + at least 3 others
9. Thank you's & Closure

Remembering

Lyn Munnik, Paul Andrew, Jack Thorne, James Miggels, & others

Apologies

Parker, Hewitt, Kleyn, Thorne, Munnik, Brimble, Millar, Oberholzer, Burke, Hicks, Cooke, Hill, Moir, Solomons, Weber, Borain etc

The purpose of the Conservancy is to:

1. Conserve the natural systems of the Duiwenhoks river and surrounds
2. Promote the protection of indigenous plant and animal life
3. Conserve existing settlements, buildings, and any other elements of historical and cultural value and the protection of local landscapes from intrusive elements such as roads, electricity pylons, unsightly advertisements etc.
4. Promote the removal of invasive alien vegetation
5. Work with relevant authorities and appropriate organisations in order to ensure adherence to regulations regarding river usage, fishing and bait collection, disturbance of river banks, building and zoning and generally to support sustainable development
6. Work with previously disadvantaged inhabitants of the village of Vermaaklikheid and surrounds to promote sustainable livelihoods that support the objectives of the Conservancy.

From the Constitution which is available at duiwenhoksconservancy.co.za

Report Back

- The Conservancy belongs to all of us. It is a legal entity in that represents multiple stakeholders and can convene meetings with government, raise funding and be represented. For example we have been asked to sit on the Estuary Management Forum which is being constituted.
- We have to take advantage of our ability for collective action to look after our interests.
- We can't let small disagreements deter us from the bigger mission.
- The year was dominated by the fire in October 2018
- We have come to the end of a funding cycle
- Abie is now running a small business which we have played a significant role in establishing
- Threats to the heritage of the village are from development, alien plants, fire, over use of water by farmers in the mid-reaches of the river

We have helped to build a more integrated Vermaaklikheid over the past few years

- Held a 2-day workshop to hear people's stories & what they want in life.
- Raised R750k in funding & paid about R600k for work done through new job opportunities,
- Purchased equipment for bush clearing and chipping
- Initiated funding for the village food garden thro' GoWC,
- Initiated the chicken farm on the Kop,
- Funding the purchase of bush clearing tools - chainsaws, chippers etc
- Buying beekeeping equipment and sending 3 people on a course to learn about beekeeping
- Funded an expert in conflict resolution to come in on 2 occasions.
- Made a short documentary which featured community members telling their story
- Trained teams on the use of chainsaws
- We've cleared about 30 - 40 Ha of aliens
- Registered an NGO and developed a new informative website
- Launched Abie as a small business
- Developed an electronic mailing list in
- Received commitments from DEA to assist with herbicide for alien clearing
- Started working more closely with the SCFPA -

Financial Highlights

- Bank balance R54,000
- Subs collections R 14,500 – thank you
- Paid out R150k in wages for work done
- Paid out R25,000 in expenses & maintenance
- Income – about R60,000 for small projects
- Transferred remaining Grant money into our account R 120k which was used to fund on-going operations.
- Outstanding expenses:
 - Audit: R20,000, Abie: R12,000

New Funding Cycle

- Opportunities for funding through:
 - Global Environment Facility
 - Other sources eg lottery fund

What do we want from the conservancy?

30 minutes process to explore this

Discussion to follow

Alien vegetation control and fire management

Vermaaklikheid 2018 Fire scar

Write a description for your map.

Legend

- Feature 1
- ▣ Wild Olive Guest Farm

Vermaaklikheid

Mu

Google Earth

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N

4 km

(Draft) Seven Point Plan

Alien vegetation control and fire management

1. Communal firebreak
2. Mature alien infestation
3. Dealing with sapling regrowth
 - Herbicide project
 - Hand pulling teams
4. Integrated Fire Management Plan - SCFPA
5. Fire training and readiness
6. Storage of equipment
7. Membership of Conservancy and SCFPA

SCFPA Firebreak Proposal – April, 2019



SCFPA Firebreak Proposal – Main features

- Utilize as much as possible existing roads / jeep tracks to reduce costs
- Consider corridor around the town's infrastructure to prevent fires from getting on to farm land
- Total length approx. 32km.
 - 24km - existing roads that will be opened and widened
 - 8km - single track/fence lines to be cleared from scratch.
- Most work will be done by means of a bossieslaner and brush cutter.
- Should be carried out asap before rooikrans gets denser
- **Initial cost estimate R128,750 to R142,000.** If Conservancy gives go ahead, will supply detailed official quote.

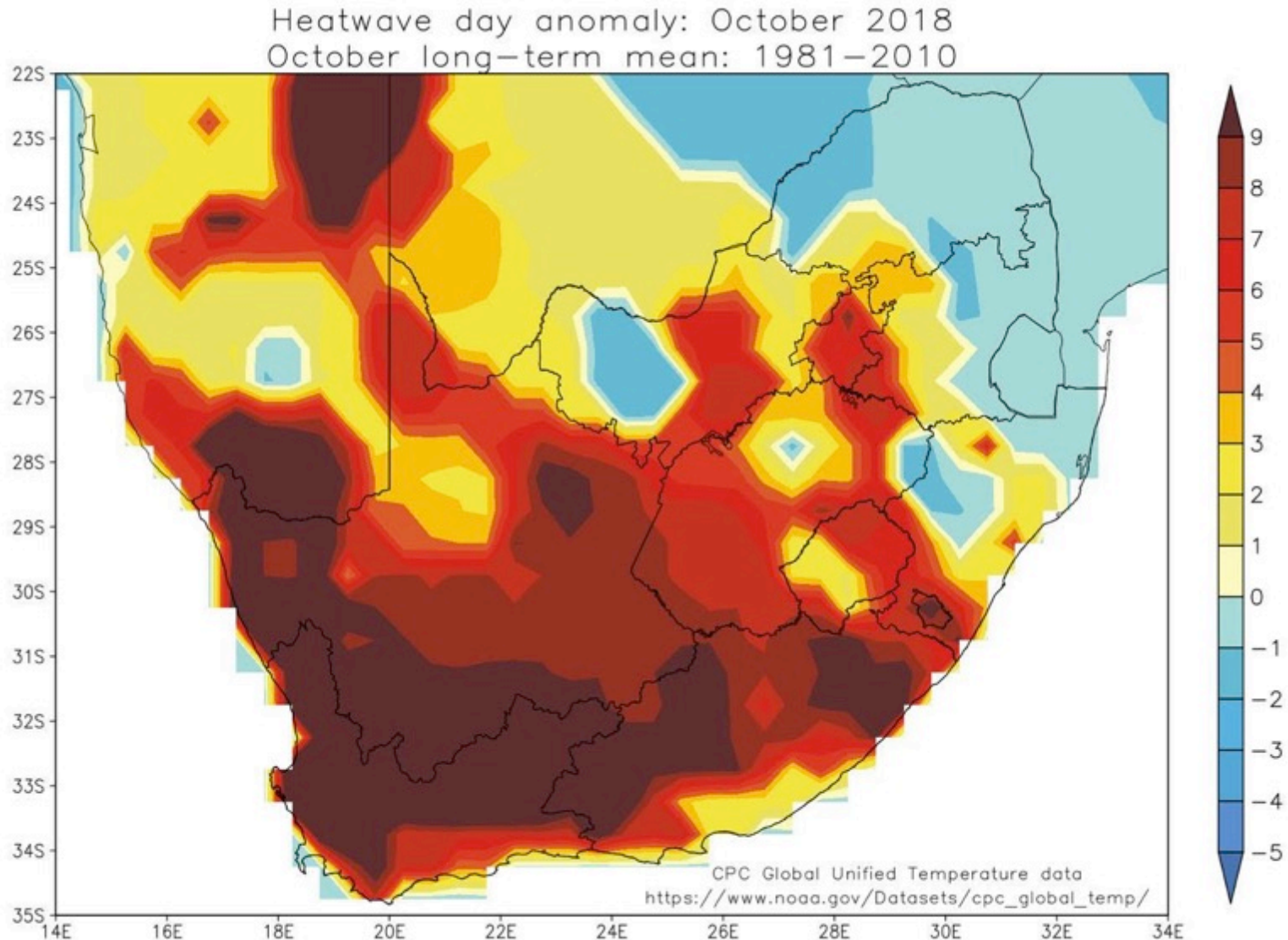
Hand pulling vs herbicide spraying



WWF/Nedbank Herbicide assistance Pilot project

- Partnership between WWF and SCFPA
- Need long term commitment from Landowners “Carrot & stick” approach – Green Scorpions
- Need **control plan** per property within the FMU/Conservancy
- Controlled issuing of herbicide (volume + specific area with attached map)
- Ensure long term success - quality control + advice by SCFPA management team
- Easy to use template available

The heatwave anomaly in October with temperatures well above the long term mean. This is the new normal for a 2⁰ world · “This is a BIG deal”



Thank you