



## WESSA KZN Newsletter | November 2021

### OVERVIEW

Margaret Burger | Chair WESSA KZN

WESSA KZN continues to work to maintain its strong historical footprint as an important role-player in diverse environmental education and conservation spaces. KZN has long been the domain of a number of local WESSA branches and although Covid-19 has severely curtailed certain regional and branch activities, many initiatives – the result of tireless efforts over decades – are not easily undone. It is vital therefore, that with our energetic and growing contingent of Youth Volunteers, we build upon and grow the remarkable work that has been undertaken in this region by its many legendary stalwarts and dedicated, often unsung heroes. We honour and thank them all.

One such example is the [Hawaan Forest](#), established originally through the work of Umhlanga Branch, and continued to this day by [Phoebe Carnegie](#). In July, the region sponsored WESSA Eco Rangers Bernard Chatikobo, and Bongani Chisale to attend the WESSA 'Greening the Security Industry' course held at uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve. The course was ideally suited to our goal of promoting Eco Rangers for the Hawaan and both participants have had high praise for the course content and the WESSA facilitators. Bongani Chisale guides in the Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve and is one of our Youth leaders, while Bernard Chatikobo focuses on the Hawaan Forest. We thank Phoebe for her passion and vital, ongoing support.

Tragically, the Hawaan and Umhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve are among the areas most badly affected by the [UPL fire and chemical spill disaster](#). WESSA KZN has submitted a case to the DFFE via the [Centre for Environmental Rights](#) and, with the assistance of ecologist Dr Allister Starke, has been maintaining watering stations in the Hawaan Forest in the hope that wildlife will avoid the contaminated Ohlanga Estuary.

WESSA KZN has supported the extension of the [Amanzi ethu Nobuntu \(AEN\) uMngeni catchment project](#), a joint collaboration between the Dept. of Science & Innovation, [WESSA](#), and [DUCT](#) as well as [Adopt-a-River](#) and the [uMngeni Estuary Conservancy](#). The JB Law Testamentary Trust Fund has made it possible for us to provide this sponsorship to WESSA National. In eThekweni, the AEN project was supported by WESSA Durban Branch and the uMngeni Estuary Conservancy. This partnership has enabled the roll out of 4 teams of 10, covering uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve, the Nsthununu Stream in KwaMashu (a tributary of the uMngeni) and the uMngeni Estuary. In the process, 40 youth have acquired a multitude of environmental and leadership skills.

**Images above:** KZN Youth Workshop, Priority Zone, 9th October 2021

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Dear WESSA KZN Members, Supporters and Friends

Welcome to the **WESSA KZN Green Spiral** which brings you report back from the KZN region over the last quarter. This is our first edition and will now be a regular review keeping you updated on green news and happenings. It marks a turning point after almost two, exceptionally tough years brought about by Covid and other challenges.

The first blow was on Saturday, 21 March 2020 when – after developing much enthusiasm during 2019, interacting with our branches and networking with various local Youth groups – we had planned an ambitious Youth Meetup at the Beachwood Mangroves. The aim was to bring together a wide cross-section of youth while celebrating, raising awareness and connecting the dots between the following Special Days, which fall on the 21st and 22nd of March every year: [World Day of Forests](#) | [SA Human Rights Day](#) | [World Water Day](#) (22nd) ... and finally, [World Poetry Day](#) to bring green creativity to the occasion! *“Poetry reaffirms our common humanity by revealing to us that individuals, everywhere in the world, share the same questions and feelings. Poetry is the mainstay of oral tradition and, over centuries, can communicate the innermost values of diverse cultures.”*

We hope to revisit these plans in 2022, but sadly Covid and the first lockdown abruptly put an end to this gathering and all other gatherings for a long time thereafter. The detrimental impacts and repercussions of Covid are undeniable but they have also brought with them many lessons to be learnt and ironically, ways we can improve our outreach to a wider audience if we chose to adapt and take advantage of them. We are now rallying and once again, there is a sense of movement and positive action happening.

The **95th WESSA National AGM** will take place on **4th December 2021**. **Please register and attend.** This is an especially important AGM as it not only marks 95 years of People Caring for the Earth, but is also an opportunity to meet Dr Andrew Baxter, WESSA's new CEO, gain insight into recent changes, and hear how the WESSA Strategic Review foresees the way forward in these complex times of transition. **To register [click here](#)**

As this 95th anniversary year of WESSA draws to a close, we hope this first edition of the *Green Spiral* is a worthy tribute to our stalwart members who have stayed the course over many decades. We also hope it captures the energy, passion and commitment of our Green Youth rising. We now have a substantial base of youth volunteers, who are capable, self-motivated and determined. They've been given space, encouragement and guidance by our chair, Margaret Burger, and have used the opportunity to further grow and develop their skills. We are proud of them and grateful for all that they bring to our efforts to protect and care for the Earth for future generations. 🌱🌍

With very best wishes

The WESSA KZN Membership Team

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## HOT OFF THE PRESS

**All ages getting together:** The WESSA KZN Annual Regional Meeting was held on 6th November and on 13th November, a Youth Workshop was organised at uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve with the aim of creating a new Youth Hub for the Howick, Pietermaritzburg and Midlands area. The programme began with workshoping Green Youth, Green Livelihoods and Green Expectations. This was followed by lunch, a hike in the Reserve, uMngeni Valley View sundowners and supper. The following day included a trip to Beacon Hill before heading home.



**Left:** Participants in the WESSA KZN Youth Workshop at uMngeni Valley. **Above:** The WESSA KZN Annual Regional Meeting was held both online via Zoom, and in person at Mount Argus Road.





## WESSA KZN & uMngeni Valley Youth Workshop 13-14 November 2021

By Margaret Burger | Chair WESSA KZN & Melisa Nonjiko | Membership Groen Sebenza Intern

Our trip with the WESSA KZN Youth group to uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve (UVNR) once again demonstrated the importance of having access to the great outdoors as well as socialising with like-minded individuals. Durban has a strong Youth Group established over several years. However, as more Youth are signing up as volunteers across KwaZulu-Natal, we felt it important to make contact and support Youth local to WESSA's uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve. WESSA KZN membership now has a Groen Sebenza intern, and we welcome Melisa Nonjiko as a member of our Youth Leadership, supporting Bongani Chisale and Sphiwe Rakgabale as the drivers of our Durban Youth Group.

On Saturday, 13 November our Durban Youth Group of eight set off to UVNR to meet up with local Youth, Hudhaifah Goga, Bandile Ngcobo and Bhekisisa Gcumisa. We started with an icebreaker in which each member introduced themselves, said why they were present, and finally named which animal (or other species) they most identified with and why. After introductions and lunch, the following questions were workshopped: a) What are your expectations as a member of the WESSA youth group and where do you see yourself in 5 years? b) How do you think WESSA volunteers can extend their network and inspire other communities to participate in environmental issues? c) What specific project would you initiate if you had R10 000 funding available? The answers were later unpacked and presented by three groups. This helped to envisage a way forward in creating a new hub in the Midlands-Pietermaritzburg area with existing members and supporters.

One of the most significant issues raised by the group was access to becoming an active volunteer. This was further highlighted when it turned out that nature devotee Bhekisisa Gcumisa – who lives in Howick and is known locally as Howickman, having hiked and climbed almost every mountain in and around Howick – had never been to uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve. He also has a great interest in indigenous foods and is the perfect candidate to champion a proposed youth hub. Read about 'Howickman' in this blog post from the [Mpophomeni Conservancy Group: Walking to Stay Sane](#) by Bhekisisa Gcumisa. WESSA KZN membership will continue this incredible journey of supporting our youth volunteers into 2022 when we hope to have another workshop at uMngeni Valley.

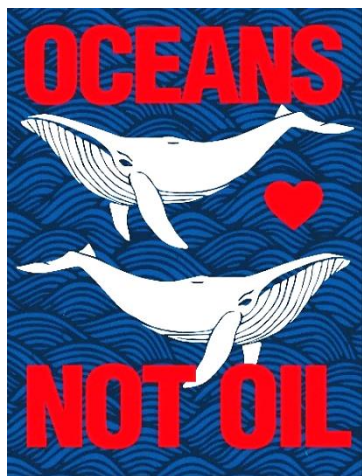


Image credit: Gnasher

## Stop Shell Blasting the Wild Coast

On 4th November 2021, Shell announced it would be starting a 3-dimensional seismic survey in search of oil and gas deposits from Morgan Bay to Port St Johns starting 1st December. Shearwater GeoServices has been appointed to conduct the survey with the seismic acquisition vessel, Amazon Warrior. It will take up to five months and cover over 6 000 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean surface. However, angry citizens are taking a stand to oppose the blasting, which will be [devastaing to marine life](#). Last weekend – [from East London to Coffee Bay](#) – the Wild Coast and East Coast were alive with protests and this past weekend (20-21 November), as the Amazon Warrior arrived in Cape Town, many more protests have taken place from Cape Town to Durban and everywhere in between!

**SIGN THE PETITION:** [We Object to Shell and CGG Seismic Surveys on RSA Coast!](#)

**OBJECT:** [How to submit an objection against Shell and CGG](#)

**FOR MORE INFO, GO TO:** [Oceans Not Oil](#) | [Coastwatch KZN](#)



## PROJECTS, ADVOCACY & NETWORKING



**Above:** Bernard Chatikobo **Below:** Dead fish on the shores of uMhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve | A Spill Tech clean-up crew collects dead fish caught in a boom across the Ohlanga River. Photos by Margaret Burger.



### WESSA KZN Eco Rangers

KZN as a region is ensuring an active presence as one of the custodians of the [Hawaan Forest](#). Bernard Chatikobo knows the forest well and is available for guided walks for those who wish to conduct research or just to experience an ancient forest. Bernard reports to Phoebe Carnegie on the research of flowering plants in the Hawaan. This is a work in progress, and we look forward to its completion. Bongani Chisale guides in the [uMhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve](#), which is situated below the Hawaan and is managed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The beaches and reserves have been closed due to the UPL chemical spill. [96% of beaches are now partially open](#) except for fishing and harvesting. For more information, contact: Bernard 078 751 5991 | Bongani 078 109 2414

### UPL Chemical Spill Disaster

Following the [UPL fire and chemical spill](#) in Cornubia and subsequent pollution of the nearby Ohlanga River, teams from the Sibaya and Hawaan Conservation Trusts and WESSA KZN have maintained water stations in strategic areas for animals to drink from. We also submitted a case to the [Centre for Environmental Rights](#) (CER). An extract from the submission – which was sent 23 July 2021 to the Dept. of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment Attention Minister Barbara Creecy – is as follows:

**Impacts from the UPL chemical warehouse in Cornubia, Durban:** *“WESSA, the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, is deeply concerned about the ecological devastation resulting from the fire-related impacts from the United Phosphorous Limited (UPL) chemical warehouse in Cornubia, north of Durban central. WESSA is alarmed at the impacts on the Hawaan Forest, and uMhlanga Lagoon Nature Reserve in particular. These remaining habitats are home to a large diversity of fauna and flora.*

*The release of chemical pollution across environmental ecosystems services has devastated the Durban community far beyond the border of the actual warehouse. The eThekweni Municipality released warnings of toxicity to air and aquatic systems within the greater Ohlanga catchment. Beaches and ocean access are closed from Beachwood Mangroves on the uMngeni Estuary to uMdloti in the north. The Ohlanga river rises in eThekweni and enters the Indian Ocean at the uMhlanga Lagoon. For this reason, the Ohlanga Catchment has been studied as a prototype to enable a masterplan for urban riverine ecosystems and ecosystem services to be developed.”* -- Environmental Affairs Investigators Reference number is ENV09066 CER Violation Report: DFFE-26721-182308 (Report prepared by Margaret Burger).

The Region has also attended as many public meetings as possible. On Wednesday, 11 August 2021, Margaret Burger attended an oversight [meeting of Parliament’s Portfolio Committee](#) on Environmental Affairs as a local role player.



**Public Meeting at Reddam House School:** On Saturday, 4th September 2021, Jenny Duvenage attended another public meeting on behalf of both WESSA KZN and WESSA KZN affiliated member, [Coastwatch KZN](#).

**The meeting** was organised by the [UPL Cornubia Fire Civil Society Action Group](#) with the aims of: allowing all stakeholders an equal opportunity to voice their concerns; discuss the best way forward in terms of the environmental and health hazards they have been subjected to; how to ensure that such a disaster can never happen again.

**Left:** Open air meeting at Reddam House, with the burnt-out UPL warehouse, on the other side of the freeway, overlooking the school’s sports field. Photos by Jenny Duvenage

The venue for the meeting was Reddam House School in Umhlanga, on an open sports field with the burnt-out remains of the UPL warehouse just a short distance away. At the time of the fire, the school was closed although many learners live nearby in the surrounding suburbs. To read article by Tony Carnie on the meeting [click here](#)

**To watch a livestream of the meeting on Facebook with the following speakers** [click here](#)

**13:25** Start of meeting Bongani Mthembu | SDCEA

**14:20** Introduction & programme Dr Kira Erwin | DUT

### Speakers

**17:00** Desmond D'Sa | SDCEA

**24:00** Rico Euripidou | groundWork

**31:20** Prof. Tracy-Lynn Field | Wits

**38:55** Blackburn Village Community | Kwanele Sisazu

**44:25** Izinga | Jeffery Naidoo

**50:35** Prestondale Umhlanga Crest | Anton Muller

**56:55** Mount Edgecombe | Warren Horsley

**1:00:35** Phoenix Peace Community | Theo Pillay

**1:03:40** Mr Ravi Pillay | MEC EDTEA

**1:21:20** Dr Kira Erwin | Questions

**Launch of UPL Multi-Stakeholder Forum:** On Saturday 23 October, Mr. Ravi Pillay, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), invited all stakeholders to the launch of a Multi-Stakeholder Forum. The forum has been established in line with the recommendation of the Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry & Fisheries during its visit to the UPL site on 11 August 2021. Jenny Duvenage again attended on behalf of WESSA KZN and Coastwatch KZN.

### The stated aims of the forum are to:

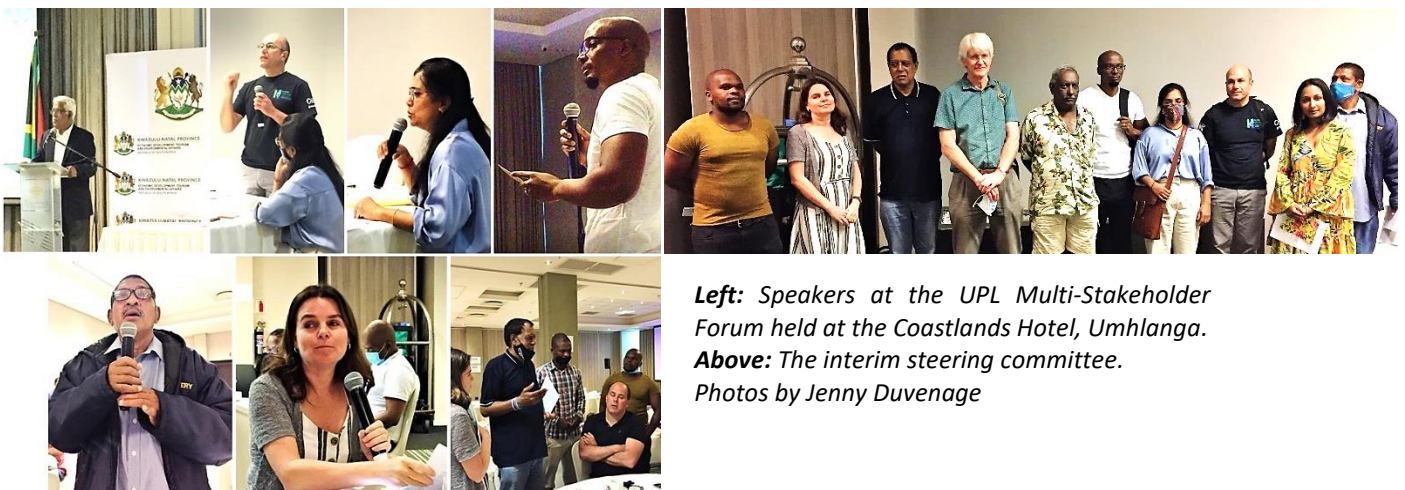
- be inclusive and representative of all stakeholders
- create an environment for interested and affected parties to engage meaningfully with each other, the authorities and UPL South Africa (Pty) Ltd
- make coordinated input into all relevant processes, studies and investigations being undertaken on all aspects of the pollution incident
- act as a conduit for the dissemination of information to communities affected by this incident; and
- be managed independently of government and UPL South Africa (Pty) Ltd, by a committee chosen by the stakeholders

At the launch, concern was expressed that the Terms of Reference appeared to have been decided without adequate consultation, transparency and accountability. A decision was taken to form an interim steering committee. The members of the steering committee, who represent a cross-section of stakeholders from civil society, local communities, business and tourism are: Kwanele Msizazwe, Francine Hattingh, Desmond D'Sa, Jeremy Ridl, Allimuthu Perumal, Bongani Mthembu, Kesha Naidoo, Rico Euripidou and Kamini Krishna. (See L-R in image below.) Kirsten Youens was not present, Desmond D'Sa and Bongani Mthembu will alternate, and Jeremy Ridl is the convener. UPL declined to attend the launch.

*"The interim steering committee will be responsible for finalising the terms of reference for the multi-stakeholder forum and will, within 30 days, convene a meeting of all stakeholders to nominate twenty people."* – EDTEA

In order to ensure easy access for all interested and affected parties, a repository has been established where reports and other relevant documents are posted. Go to: [www.cornubiaenviroinfo.co.za](http://www.cornubiaenviroinfo.co.za)

**Links to articles on launch and other developments:** [Daily Maverick](#) by Tony Carnie | [The Mercury](#) by Karen Singh



**Left:** Speakers at the UPL Multi-Stakeholder Forum held at the Coastlands Hotel, Umhlanga.  
**Above:** The interim steering committee.  
Photos by Jenny Duvenage





## Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu Phase 1B Project

Report by Melisa Nonjiko | Membership Groen Sebenza Intern

The [Amanzi ethu Nobuntu](#) (AEN) Phase 1B Project – which ended on 11th October – was hosted by [DUCT](#) in partnership with WESSA KZN membership, [uMngeni Estuary Conservancy](#) and [Adopt-a-River](#). The project is funded by the Department of Science and Innovation, and monitors the uMngeni catchment. The team of 8 members focused on reclaiming the north bank of the uMngeni Estuary by tackling the huge amounts of litter on the trail, which starts from the uMngeni Bird Park and goes right through to the [Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve](#).



The team worked tirelessly from 24th August to 28th September on the trail, picking up the most disturbing kinds of litter one can imagine. A total of 717+ bags were collected, and at least 6 of these bags were filled with discarded condoms! The trail is being used by sex workers, which is likely because of the lack of any presence or monitoring of the trail. However, we are proud to say we noticed a change in their behaviour. As we continued working on the trail, they began asking for refuse bags so they could dispose of their 'litter' properly.

The trail is also used as a dumping site by construction companies, neighbouring communities, and passers-by. We are uncertain who is responsible for this illegal dumping, but can confirm – judging by the quality and type of items that are dumped – that the majority belongs to more affluent communities so this appears to be, not so much a lack of education, but rather a disregard for the environment.



The team also focused on the removal of invasive alien plants, with a total of 1 787+ of *Litsea Glutinosa* removed throughout the trail. We are now looking into pruning the trees so that it can operate as an educational trail for tourists and nature lovers. The site is filled with beautiful indigenous fauna and flora and is a home and feeding spot to a number of birds such as African Fish Eagle, Cape Glossy Starling, Village Weavers and many more.

## Branches & Affiliate Members

**Southern KZN Branch:** Paddy Norman, the branch chair, works across several sectors of the environment and is the spokesperson for WESSA in the area. Paddy continues with his strong advocacy role on behalf of WESSA KZN, Coastwatch KZN (WESSA KZN Affiliate) and the WESSA Environmental Governance Committee (EGC). The branch has regular outings of great interest to the local members of the Port Shepstone area and beyond! *See pics below.*



**Upper South Coast Branch:** Bob Skippings remains the acting chair of the Umbogavango Educational Resource Centre. Bob confirms that the project received its sponsorship from AECI for 2020 but due to Covid, it has unfortunately been a non-starter this year.

**Durban Branch:** Margaret Burger is the acting chair of Durban Branch. The branch currently functions as part of the KZN Region in supporting Youth mentorship.

**Kingsburgh Branch:** The branch, with Rob Jack as chair, continues to support local activities in the Amanzimtoti area, but has struggled to meet and initiate any events and activities due to Covid.



**The Highway Branch** has finally closed after 50 years of activism and support of WESSA's environmental education. We salute our stalwart environmentalists Alan Job, the late Jean Job, and Jean Senogles for their decades of support for WESSA. (SEE: [Green Heroes of Highway Branch: 50 Years of Caring for the Earth on page 13](#))

**Midlands Branch** with Dale van Ryneveld as chair, continues to be involved in the management of the Doreen Clark Nature Reserve.

**Sani Wild Life Branch** is based in the Underberg region of the Drakensberg. Mike Bloom is the new chair. The branch has supported the development of ten youth through training facilitated by WESSA National at uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve in Howick. The branch is currently saving towards purchasing bio-monitoring equipment to complete miniSASS tests on local rivers. Tragically, the Branch has recently lost an irreplaceable committee member, who was also a WESSA Board member. (SEE: [Tribute to Mduduzi Joubert Majozi on page 13](#))



### WESSA KZN Affiliate Members

**Adopt-a-River NPC (AaR):** Janet Simpkins and AaR have become strong partners on the uMngeni Estuary and in supporting clean rivers, sewage monitoring and youth development. [See website](#). *Left: Janet Simpkins and Nonhuthuko Nsibande at the end of the Phase 1B Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu project.*

**Friends of Pigeon Valley:** Crispin Hemson (FoPV and Durban Branch committee member) continues to write a weekly insert for the local newspaper on the sightings at Pigeon Valley, conducts monthly guided walks, and maintains the [FoPV Facebook page](#) with regular fascinating and educational posts.

**Coastwatch KZN:** [Coastwatch](#) continues to monitor the KZN Coast and inform other networks of activities that should be monitored for environmental compliance.

**Enviro Fixers**, a Friends Group active in Ward 36 in Durban as well as Bridgevale Park, continues to act as a local custodian and influences communities to plant indigenous. [Find on Facebook](#).

**Westville Parks and Westville Conservancy** is undertaking the restoration of seven parks in Westville. The KZN Region has assisted in kickstarting the project with a donation of R 12 500,00. [See website](#).

## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH

**International Coastal Clean-up Day and River Clean-up Week** 15-18 September marked [International Coastal Clean-up Day](#) and National River Clean-up Week with citizens across the country pulling together to clean-up our rivers, beaches and oceans. Every day is clean-up day for our dedicated team so this was more or less part of our normal routine. As usual, our WESSA KZN Youth rallied to make the day a great success. The uMngeni Estuary and River desperately need our TLC so our youth – who are also part of the [Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu](#) team – spent three weeks prior to the official clean-up focusing on the north bank and riparian zone of the uMngeni Estuary. We were pleased to have WESSA Treasure Beach's Kevin Lakani and the Blue Flag Beach stewards join us for the ICC event at the Beachwood Mangroves, and thank our partners [Adopt-a-River](#), [uMngeni Estuary Conservancy](#), and the North Durban Honorary Officers of [Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve](#) for their support and organisation of the event.



*Above: Futhi Sibiya and Margaret Burger*

### WESSA Youth Workshop at the Priority Zone to plan July Unrest Exhibition

On Saturday, 9 October 2021, [X-Factored Youth](#) and WESSA Youth Durban held a preliminary workshop at the Priority Zone in Monty Naicker Street to plan for an upcoming exhibition depicting the July 2021 looting spree and civil unrest in the greater eThekweni metropolitan area. (SEE: [Upcoming Events on page 10](#))

To enable this initiative, WESSA Youth Volunteers have taken up the role of civil journalists by capturing and submitting multi-media examples (photos, video clips, social media posts etc.) reflecting what transpired during the unrest and its aftermath.

The aim of the exhibition is to facilitate a process of: documenting the events in visual format; understanding the causes and drivers that enabled these events to take place; unpacking and confronting the impact and results of the unrest; identifying measures that will cure the conditions that enabled the unrest; healing from the adverse emotional effects resulting from the unrest.



The preparation for the exhibition is being guided by Futhi Sibiya, who runs the [X-Factored Youth](#) programme. Under his skilful facilitation, the workshop was a great success. In the first session, the participants spoke of their personal experiences and in the second, images and videoclips were shown and discussed.

Although it was quite intense revisiting these traumatic events, it was also very informative and constructive in terms of grappling with the issues and gaining insight and understanding into what unfolded between the 9th and 18th of July 2021 and – most importantly – why and what must be done to ensure this does not happen again.



#### **Great Southern BioBlitz | WESSA Durban Branch by Margaret Burger | Chair WESSA KZN**

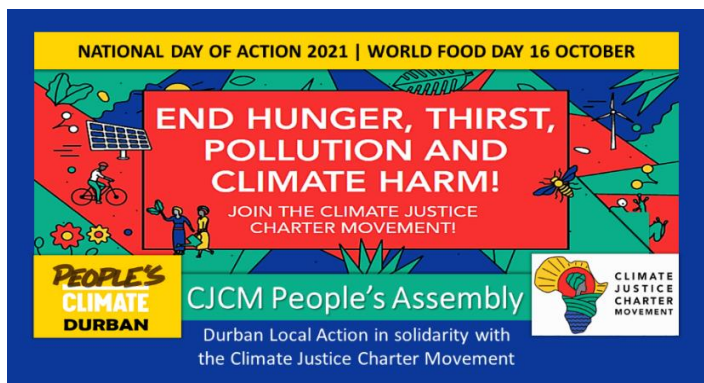
WESSA Durban Branch took part in the [Great Southern BioBlitz](#) (GSB) at Burman Bush Nature Reserve on 25th October 2021. The GSB is an international period of intense biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species across the Southern Hemisphere in Spring. The GSB was initiated to encourage users of iNaturalist and those interested in recording the biodiversity of their local areas in order to upload data of all taxa and improve existing records. Although iNaturalist users joined the [City Nature Challenge](#) 30 April to 01 May 2021, this period is autumn in the southern hemisphere. The GSB21 was therefore introduced to record our southern hemisphere's biodiversity at a time of year when life, in all its forms and abundance, is re-emerging and flourishing.

The aim is not to be competitive. Rather it is: for enjoyment; to promote citizen science; to facilitate observers and identifiers connecting and collaborating; to encourage ordinary citizens to get out into nature. eThekweni has been supported by Suvarna Parbhoo of SANBI, who is also the current chair of the Botanical Society Coastal Region. iNaturalist, and the data recorded, supports eThekweni departments in updating their species lists for green spaces and nature reserves.

WESSA Durban Branch focused on Burman Bush and gathering the data of this incredible asset! Crispin Hemson and Friends of Pigeon Valley also joined in! We encourage all members to use iNaturalist to assist in the recording of our incredible biodiversity! Log on create a profile and become an iNaturalist identifier – it's easy to use and a great tool for learning and recording all taxa.







## CJCM People's Assembly on World Food Day

On World Food Day (16th October), WESSA Youth participated in a planning event for a CJCM Festival of Alternatives. The group focused on the key issues of:

1. Feeding ourselves through food sovereignty;
2. Democratising the water commons;
3. Socially-owned, community-based renewable energy;
4. Zero waste and simple living;
5. Eco-mobility, eco-social housing, and transition towns;
6. Transforming work: climate jobs, a solidarity economy and a basic income grant.



**Far Left:** (Left to right) Thandeka Mkhwanazi, Bongive Tsotetsi and Melisa Nonjiko of WESSA KZN Youth with Sifiso Mdluli of Thespians Heart Production  
**Left:** Environmental activist Mark Naicker with Nora Saneka (ACM). Nora says: "Mark was a member of a children's group in Isipingo, who sent a child delegate as a representative to Cape Town in 1992, with me, to help draw up our [South African Children's Rights Charter](#). It's wonderful that we have met up again on the Climate Justice Charter!"

The [Climate Justice Charter](#) (CJC) was launched last year and is the world's first such charter. On World Food Day 2020, the CJC was handed over to Parliament with [demands](#) that it adopt the Climate Justice Charter in accordance with Section 234 of the South African constitution, which provides for charters to be adopted.

The handover included a [climate science future document](#) prepared by leading climate scientists and a list of demands from 72 communities calling for an end to pollution, water stress, hunger and climate harm. Since then, the Climate Justice Charter Movement (CJCM) has gained momentum nationally, with more than [200 organisations](#) formally endorsing the charter.



**Above:** (Left to right) Erwin Sieben (UKZN) with Dingane Xaba ([Unicorn Riot](#)), Sebastian Sanjigadu ([Keep it Cool](#)) | Coral Vinsen (ACM), Delwyn Pillay ([Greenpeace Africa](#), ACM, [People's Climate Durban](#)) with Nora Saneka of ACM | Photos by Jenny Duvenage



## YOUTH INITIATIVES

**WESSA Youth Durban Report by Bongani Chisale**  
Durban WESSA Youth Co-ordinating Team

**Team building with Futhi Sibiya of X-Factored Youth:** While as a country we have adapted to life under the pandemic in July, KZN was hit by another hard rock on the back as widespread unrest and looting took place throughout the province.

The July aftermath provided a platform for Durban WESSA Youth to regroup, tackle the mindset of different members from different areas, and to work on understanding the reasons and/or motives for the unrest and looting.





The first step was to reunite our youth members and supporters by implementing a team-building session, which could help them to refresh and process what had unfolded in the province. On the 8th of August 2021, a team building session was held at [eNanda Adventure Park](#) in collaboration with Green Corridors' [X-Factored Youth](#) and WESSA Youth.

The session focused on the activity of a Treasure Chest, and the participants competed with rival teams in search of treasures hidden throughout the park. This was a great activity for our youth. The session took the whole day and we had a lot of fun while exercising our problem-solving skills and thinking patterns.

The team-building session's success provided the idea for another collaboration between X-Factored Youth and WESSA Youth, and several meetings were held during August to plan an upcoming event that will create a visual exhibition whereby the violent unrest that erupted on the 12th of July can be viewed, analysed and better understood.

The exhibition will be held towards the end of the year, with a collection of photographs, videos and other media depicting the aftermath of the July 2021 civil unrest. We would like to say a big thank you to Mr. Futhi Sibiya and Margaret Burger for their support and help. Their untiring efforts are greatly appreciated.



**Heritage Day Guided Cycling Tour:** The 24th of September 2021 was our National Heritage Day and Durban WESSA Youth celebrated by going on a Guided Cycling Tour of the city with [Tri-ecotours](#). The tour offers an educational experience with interesting facts about the city of Durban, while cruising on a bike. Thanks to Sphiwe Rakgabale (our guide) for taking us on such a fascinating tour – we had a great time!



**SANI PASS WILDFLOWER WALK**  
Sunday 30 January 2022 | [See page 16](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & FUTURE PLANS

### Curated Visuals Exhibition 'Aftermath of the Durban Unrest'

An exhibition depicting the aftermath of the July 2021 looting spree and civil unrest in the greater eThekweni metropolitan is being prepared. The aims of the exhibition are to facilitate a process of: documenting the events in visual format; understanding the causes and drivers that enabled these events to take place; unpacking and confronting the impact and results of the unrest; identifying measures that will cure the conditions that enabled the unrests; healing from the adverse effects including anger and despair caused as a result of the unrest.

### WESSA LIFE Local Initiatives For the Environment | Green Matchmaking

WESSA KZN Youth Volunteers continue to be involved in various activities, and we have a dynamic and capable Youth Co-ordinating Team with WESSA Durban now officially a youth-run branch. Youth Supporters are asked to sign up on the [www.wessalife.org.za](http://www.wessalife.org.za) portal and complete a Green Matchmaking form to support an active KZN and Durban Youth volunteerism. As at 30th October 2021, WESSA KZN has 334 Supporters, many of whom are young, nature conservation graduates. We have also recently welcomed on board our first Groen Sebenza intern, Melisa Nonjiko. With this increased capacity we are hoping to organise regular Youth Induction courses and, under the banner of WESSA LIFE (Local Initiatives For the Environment), implement local community projects.



**Green Matchmaking**  
**Local Initiatives For the Environment**



By Jenny Duvenage | KZN Coordinator

### Strengthening and growing WESSA KZN Membership

*"For people, generally, their story of the universe and the human role in the universe is their primary source of intelligibility and value ... The deepest crises experienced by any society are those moments of change when the story becomes inadequate for meeting the survival demands of a present situation."*

– Thomas Berry | The Dream of the Earth

There is no question as to the challenges we have all faced over the past 18 months, and being an organisation that relies on connecting and engaging with individuals and communities has made it especially difficult. Many of our active members are also older so have preferred not to take the risk of participating in group events and activities.



In addition to health concerns, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to economic, social, and psychological problems with people losing their jobs and businesses closing – can we doubt that hardships caused by the pandemic contributed significantly to the widescale looting and unrest that broke out in KZN during July.

Faced with such difficulties, we have to look for ways to survive, grow stronger and help each other. As an environmental organisation that has stayed the course for 95 years – and having navigated much change in the process – we understand that instilling environmental consciousness and principles are key to the societal shifts that must take place if we are to find real solutions to the multiplicity of crises facing humanity and the planet.

Historically, we know that in times of crisis, opportunities arise and new perspectives evolve – these are the ingredients necessary for shifts to occur, and it is our Youth who will lead the way. It's therefore vital that we empower them with the knowledge, confidence and leadership skills they will need to meet the task ahead and build the better future we owe them and they deserve.

The pandemic has also pointed us in the direction we need to go if only we would take heed and act accordingly. As Arundhati Roy said in her much quoted April 2020 essay, *The Pandemic is a Portal*: “Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.”

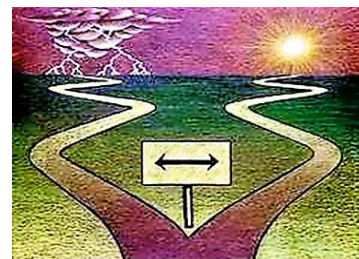
We have faith in our youth and their ability to contribute meaningfully to environmental action in our local communities. To achieve this, we require support and funding from our established membership base. We therefore appeal to all our members to please renew their membership if it's due and if possible, donate towards our Green Matchmaking and WESSA LIFE programmes. (SEE: [Contact details and other info on page 15.](#)) We aim to establish Youth Action Groups in key areas with the intention that in time, these groups will become fully-fledged branches that will continue (and extend), the amazing work undertaken by our older members over so many years.

#### Focus areas under our Green Matchmaking Programme are:

Citizen science	Environmental governance
Community food gardens	Green art and creativity
Ecosystems and biodiversity	Green enterprise
Energy and green audits	Waste minimisation
Enviro education and training	Water protection

#### WESSA members work to:

- Protect and conserve natural habitats and biodiversity
- Engage with individuals and communities to promote sustainable livelihoods
- Create opportunities for social and economic upliftment through environmental education
- Collaborate and network with groups and organisations with similar objectives
- Raise awareness and promote public participation around key environmental issues



**SHIFT HAPPENS**



#### To our Standard & Discounted Members

Are you receiving *African Wildlife & Environment*, our digital inhouse magazine? If not, please let us know.



Thembeke Mkhwanazi and Nontuthuko Nsibande of Amanzi Ethu Nobunto remind everyone of International Coastal Clean Up Day on Saturday, September 18 and World Rivers Day on September 26.

northglennnews

#### IN THE MEDIA

An article about International Coastal Clean-up, quoting WESSA CEO Dr Andrew Baxter at length with additional input from KZN Chair Margaret Burger, was featured in IOL. The event, and WESSA KZN's contribution was also covered in the Northglenn News. Durban's rivers, beaches and ocean – which have been so disastrously impacted by the UPL chemical spill – are now also facing a sewage crisis. Margaret Burger commented on the situation in a report by Duncan Guy from The Independent on Saturday. See [links to articles on page 10.](#)

**Left: The Northglenn News**



## International Coastal Clean-up

**Below:** Cleaning up in the uMngeni Estuary ahead of International Coastal Clean-Up Day are L-R: Nontuthuko Nsibande, Bongilewe Tsotetsi, Rosemary Harrison, Melisa Nonjiko, Margaret Burger and Boysie Mzobe.



READ ARTICLE: [Face masks join bottles as major polluters](#) by Tanya Waterworth | IOL 18th September 2021

**Sewage Crisis:** The lower uMngeni River is so polluted there are fears it may close Durban's beaches. The Region has received numerous calls from the media for comment.

READ ARTICLE: [Durban beaches, rivers are living on borrowed time if sewerage crisis is not resolved](#) by Duncan Guy | Independent on Saturday, 18th September 2021



**Conservancy tackles invasive trees on Umgeni River bank,**  
**Left:** In the Northglenn News (15 November 2021), WESSA KZN chair Margaret Burger, talks about the work being undertaken along the Umgeni River: "The Umgeni Estuary Conservancy (UEC), together with the Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu team, recently cleared around 2 000 *Litsea glutinosa* trees from the north bank of the Umgeni River. This highly invasive tree, which is common throughout Durban North, has led to rapid habitat change along the creek of the river ..." [Read article](#) and [watch video](#)

## Mindset change needed to tackle pollution

IN August, Durban's Green Corridors installed its newest litter boom across the mouth of the uMngeni River to halt litter from entering the ocean.

While the boom has had the desired effect by targeting plastic packaging that pollutes beaches and river systems, work still needs to be done to tackle litter that enters stormwater drains across Durban.

This was evident as a whopping 60kg of waste was collected in two hours by Green Corridors and SAFRIPOD in a major beach clean-up on International Coastal Clean Up Day recently.

Litter boom coordinator Jie Green Corridors, Sephiwe Rakgabelo said the recent rains saw more rubbish flow

down river towards the beachhead Mangroves Boats and the uMngeni River mouth.

"With the International Coastal Clean-Up, Adopt-A-River, with various stakeholders, co-ordinated a clean-up on the north side of the uMngeni River mouth and the Beachwood Mangroves. While that was just one day's work, clean-up continues daily from various stakeholders who are committed to saving the environment. Just last week alone we collected more than 60 bags of rubbish on the north side of the river mouth. What we see clearly is that, despite various litter booms placed in strategic spots, waste is still flowing down river. We feel a lot of this is due to litter flowing into our stormwater

drains. The amount of litter in our rivers and oceans is staggering and my hope is that people's mindsets change, especially when it comes to litter bins. We need to change our behaviour to limit the amount of rubbish ending up in our streets and oceans," he said. "Our mandate as Green Corridors is to create open green spaces within the city for people in communities to live, work and thrive. Creating a waste really detracts from this when it washes down. With less waste in these green spaces, local communities would be able to use it more for leisure and tourism opportunities," he said.



Litter boom coordinator for Green Corridors, Sephiwe Rakgabelo says there is a constant battle to keep the uMngeni River clean due to the amount of rubbish flowing downstream. PHOTO: Simon Mabin

### Clean-up by the numbers

At the International Coastal Clean Up, a total of 75 people collected 145 bags of waste, and two bulk bags of PET. High on the list of waste collected were plastic beverage bottles with 1 330

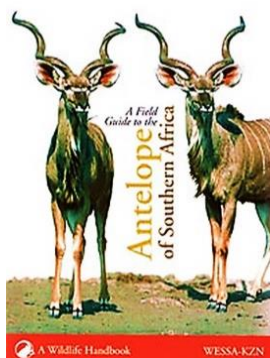
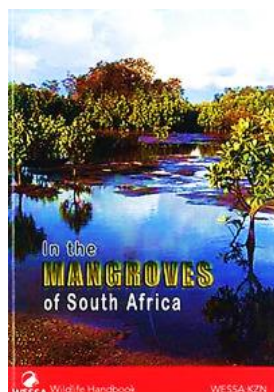
containers, 809 beverage cans, 601 plastic bottle caps, 402 cigarette butts, 372 straw/bambers, 106 cigarette tips, 192 slippers, 54 masks and other items such as slippers, shoes and even a



Volunteers collect waste from the north side of the uMngeni Estuary during the major beach clean-up on International Coastal Clean Up Day. A whopping 60kg of waste was collected in two hours by Green Corridors and sponsors, SAFRIPOD.

## Mindset change needed to tackle pollution

"Part of our mission is to provide occupational therapy and education in rural areas. It's about teaching people how to live off, around and with the land, helping them understand that the health of humans and nature are one." – Sephiwe Rakgabelo: Green Corridors' Clean-ups & Litter Booms Coordinator; WESSA KZN Youth Coordinating Team; Founding director of [Tri-ecotours](#). The above article, in the Highway Mail on the 2nd October 2021, highlights the invaluable work undertaken by Sephiwe and the most recent boom installed in August across the mouth of the uMngeni River to halt litter from entering the ocean.



## WESSA KZN Wildlife Handbooks

This popular series includes:

- Suburban Wildlife in KZN
- Mangroves of Southern Africa
- Antelope of Southern Africa

These handy A5-sized field guides are packed with information and full colour pictures on every page.

For more details on each book: [Click here](#).





### Tribute to Mduduzi Joubert Majozi

*WESSA board member and community environmental activist*

We are deeply saddened at the sudden passing of Mr Mduduzi Majozi on 30th September 2021. He is survived by his wife Mathapelo, his daughter Fezeka, and two sons, Lwezi and Nthando.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Mrs Majozi and the Majozi family on the loss of a truly great and wonderful community member. Mdu was a family man, an inspirational teacher, an environmental champion, and was deeply passionate about the world around him. As a long-standing member of the WESSA Sani Wild Life Branch, he brought with him local community support and new knowledge from his B.Ed. studies at the University of the Free State. At our 2019 KZN AGM held at the Sani Lodge, we missed meeting Mdu in the flesh due to his graduation ceremony.

We mourn his passing and know his shoes will not be filled. We know he has nurtured and supported local community members who will now have to fly the flag without him. As vice principal, his school will also be experiencing a void left by a man for whom nothing was too much. We are deeply grateful for his life and the time he has spent working to better his community, the Youth, and the environment. For tribute by Chair of the WESSA Board, Wandisile Mandlana, [click here](#).

*By Margaret Burger | KZN Regional Chair*

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### Green Heroes of Highway Branch | 50 Years of Caring for the Earth

For 50 years, the Highway Branch of WESSA KZN has worked tirelessly to protect the environment and support WESSA in its educational programmes. After Jean Job passed away on [12 March 2018](#), Alan Job retired as long-time chair in [May 2018](#), and Robin Harrison stepped down as treasurer after 10 years. Jean Senogles has since been holding the fort as acting chair but sadly, the decision has now been taken to officially close the branch.



**Left-Right:** Jean Job | Alan Job and Robin Harrison | Jean Senogles. Photos: Highway Mail

Alan and Jean Job moved to South Africa from the UK in 1973 and almost immediately, a notice in a local newspaper – of a meeting being held by the Wildlife Society of SA – caught their eye. Jean Senogles has also been a member of the Society since the early 70s and, together with Joan Kuiper, founded the Highway Branch.

Despite many setbacks, the branch – with this core group of dedicated environmentalists – began working resolutely in the area, rehabilitating natural areas by clearing invasive alien plants, re-establishing indigenous flora, creating hiking trails, and setting up Plant a National Tree nurseries. At that time no nurseries stocked indigenous plants and the Nursery Association did all they could to close the operation down. Eventually, as Jean Senogles puts it, the nurseries ‘took their revenge’ by deciding to also offer indigenous plants for sale and so their objective was achieved!

As well as being chair of the Highway Branch for 45 years (up to May 2018), Alan has also been chair of the Ron Senogles Environmental Education Trust Fund (RSEETF) since its inception in 1995, as well as the driving force behind building the fund, which has sponsored many worthy recipients involved in KZN conservation projects. In February, 2014, Alan and Jean Job were joint recipients of a [Green Hero Award](#) presented to them by the late [Jean Lindsay](#).



The branch worked closely with the legendary Dr Nolly Zaloumis and was instrumental in raising much needed funds through many initiatives, including the Wildlife car competition and Wildlife fetes in Pinetown that helped towards the funds that eventually enabled the purchasing of the uMngeni Valley Reserve. Jean Senogles also served on the Natal Branch Administration Committee for many years and was Chair for a number of these, during which time the highly successful Wildlife Expos took place at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

**Left:** Jean and Alan Job receiving the Green Hero award from Jean Lindsay in February 2014.



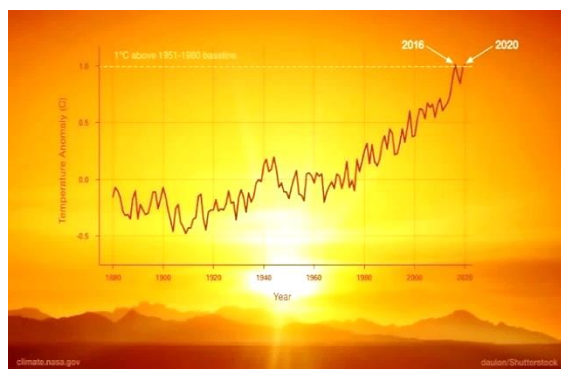
When Nolly Zaloumis initiated the 'Save St Lucia Campaign' and headed the 'Save St Lucia' Committee, Jean and her husband Ron were in the front lines of the struggle with him. Jean says: *"It was a tremendous war – with battles won and lost. Many people contributed to the eventual success of the campaign but it should never be forgotten, that if it were not for Nolly Zaloumis (then Chairman of the Natal Branch of the Wildlife Society), the dunes beyond Mission Rocks would now be gone. He led the Wildlife Society and its members on a provincial, then National and then International campaign to save the dunes and hence the Wetlands."*

Jean was the first woman to be appointed to the Natal Parks Board and is a founder member of Primates Africa and the Westville Conservancy. For her contribution to Conservation, she has received the Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Club of Pinetown.

For over 30 years, the Highway Branch held regular monthly meetings at the Westville Central Library accompanied by film screenings, talks and other events and activities. Later, the Palmiet Nature Reserve became its base. One of its key focus areas has been environmental education. To this end, second-hand book sales at various shopping malls were a regular fundraising activity. Alan explains how this enabled the Branch to introduce children to the environment and instil a love of nature: *"We were passionate about teaching children about nature, which is the reason we asked people to donate books, which we then sold at malls. The money raised helped us to take schools – one of the regulars being the Fulton School for the Deaf – to nature reserves and teach them about the need to conserve and love nature while participating in fun activities."*

The proceeds were also used to sponsor learners from local schools to spend a day at [Treasure Beach Environmental Education Centre](#). At one stage, the branch was sponsoring between 600 and a 1 000 learners a year, which not only spread environmental knowledge and awareness but also helped support Treasure Beach as the funds stayed within the Society.

*By Jenny Duvenage | KZN Coordinator*



*This graph illustrates the change in global surface temperature relative to 1951-1980 average temperatures, with the year 2020 tying with 2016 for warmest on record. (Source: NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies)*

## **COP26: Another World is Necessary**

*By Jenny Duvenage | KZN Coordinator*

*"For over 70 years, economics has been fixated on GDP or national output, as its primary measure of progress. That fixation has been used to justify extreme inequalities of income and wealth coupled with unprecedented destruction of the living world. For the twenty-first century, a far bigger goal is needed: meeting the human rights of every person within the means of our life-giving planet."*

*— Kate Raworth*

At time of writing, [COP26](#), the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow (31 October– 12 November 2021), was in full swing, with world leaders being put to the test. Their actions — or lack thereof — showing just how committed they are to addressing the planetary emergency of increasing climate breakdown.

In August, the IPCC released its [Working Group I report](#), the first instalment of the Sixth Assessment Report, which will be completed in 2022. The report makes clear that humanity is facing a [Code Red Emergency](#) when it comes to the climate crisis, and states unequivocally that the only hope of stabilising global temperatures within 20 to 30 years is for strong urgent action to bring about an immediate reduction in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and other greenhouse gases.

It is no longer possible to deny the reality of climate change. In 2020, the world was [gripped by extreme weather](#) and throughout 2021, [extreme, record-breaking weather](#) events have continued to take place globally, with thousand-year floods drowning Europe and Asia, unprecedented snow storms and cold snaps from Spain to Texas, and excessive heat and drought in western North America leading to historically low reservoirs and sparking wildfires that have destroyed towns and degraded air quality for thousands of miles. Record-shattering heat has also occurred in Canada, and wildfires ravaged parts of Southern Europe in August. The following essay on page 15, published by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, examines how imperative it is for those attending COP26 to "demonstrate that they understand the world is on fire." We are in a climate emergency, and false solutions being widely promoted must be avoided at all costs.

**UPDATE from Friends of the Earth | [COP26: 3 ways the Glasgow Climate Pact fails us – and excludes justice](#)** *"After two long weeks of negotiations at COP26, the United Nations Climate Talks, the Glasgow Climate Pact was signed. Unfortunately, it didn't deliver the ambitious, bold and justice-led solutions to the climate crisis that we needed ..."*





## Real ambition vs. false solutions: What's at stake during COP26?

*"Originally scheduled to take place in 2020, COP26 was meant to be a moment of truth. Five years on from Paris, it was to be a litmus test for the willingness of States to deliver on the three objectives set in the 2015 Agreement: limiting the increase of greenhouse gas emissions to avoid more dangerous levels of global warming, increasing resilience, and aligning financial flows with economy-wide decarbonization.*

*After 12 months of delays induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, COP26 will instead take place against the backdrop of nationalist health policies with daunting consequences, failed promises to adequately scale up climate action and financial support, and an unprecedented push for false solutions that divert global attention from the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels.*

*If governments want to avoid COP26 going down in history as a fatal blow to the Paris Agreement and the moment when climate catastrophe was sealed in our collective fate, they must demonstrate that they understand the world is on fire. We are in a climate emergency that will only get worse, and catastrophically so, absent decisive and immediate action consistent with science and equity to: curb the major sources of emissions — fossil fuel production and use, deforestation, and industrial agriculture; provide adequate and just financing to cover loss and damage and adaptation measures in those communities hardest hit by and least responsible for climate change; and abandon purported techno-fixes, carbon offsets, and far-off promises of mid-century 'net zero', which are dangerous distractions from the real, necessary, and viable solutions to the mounting climate crisis."* [Click to read full essay](#) from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, 27 October 2021.

## WESSA KZN Region: Contact details and other information

### WESSA KZN REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Executive	Branches	Friends & Affiliates
Pieter Burger <i>Regional Representative</i> Margaret Burger <i>Chair &amp; Treasurer</i> Paddy Norman <i>Vice Chair   Enviro Governance Committee</i> Jenny Duvenage <i>Coordinator   Central Membership</i> Sephiwe Rakgabale <i>Youth Representative</i> Bongani Chisale <i>Youth Representative</i> Melisa Nonjiko <i>Membership Groen Sebenza Intern</i>	Margaret Burger <i>Durban Youth Branch Acting Chair</i> Jean Senogles (now closed) <i>Highway Branch Acting Chair</i> Rob Jack <i>Kingsburgh Branch Chair</i> Dale van Ryneveld <i>Midlands Branch Chair</i> Mike Bloom <i>Sani Wildlife Branch Chair</i> Bob Skippings <i>Upper South Coast Branch Acting Chair</i> Paddy Norman <i>Southern KZN Branch Chair</i> Dave Henry <i>uMhlanga Branch Acting Chair</i>	Janet Simpkins <i>Adopt a River Eco Solutions</i> Helen Koch <i>Enviro Fixers Durban North</i> Jenny Duvenage <i>Coastwatch KZN</i> Margaret Burger <i>Conservancies KZN</i> Crispin Hemson <i>Friends of Pigeon Valley</i> Margaret Burger <i>uMngeni Estuary Conservancy</i> Rob Jamieson <i>Westville Conservancy</i>

### CONTACT DETAILS | BANKING & OTHER INFORMATION

Margaret Burger Pieter Burger Jenny Duvenage	083 630 5380 083 630 5378 076 236 6713	Chair & Treasurer Regional Representative Coordinator   Central Membership	<a href="mailto:kzn.chair@wessalife.org.za">kzn.chair@wessalife.org.za</a> <a href="mailto:kzn.rr@wessalife.org.za">kzn.rr@wessalife.org.za</a> <a href="mailto:membership@wessalife.org.za">membership@wessalife.org.za</a>
Website: <a href="http://www.wessalife.org.za">www.wessalife.org.za</a> Apply online: <a href="#">WESSA LIFE membership</a> Donate: <a href="#">WESSA LIFE donations</a> Info Queries: <a href="mailto:membership@wessalife.org.za">membership@wessalife.org.za</a>		Banking Details Name: WESSA Membership Bank: First National Bank Branch & Code: Howick 22-07-25 Account Number: 62 219 969 732	WESSA is a CIPC-registered Non-Profit Company and NPO registered as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) with Section 18A status



## SANI PASS WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday 30 January 2022

With special guest botanist Elsa Pooley,  
doyen of Sani Pass flowers



### **COST IS R 600 PER PERSON, WHICH INCLUDES:**

Transport in 4x4 vehicles up Sani Pass; A slow 8 km walk down the Sani Pass enjoying the unique flowers, the superb views, and birds along the way with expert botanists to help identify the species to add to your appreciation and enjoyment; Transport back from SA border post to Giant's Cup Café from 3pm.

### **ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY DUE TO LIMITED TRANSPORT**

Support a good cause – funds raised from this event go towards sponsoring teachers and community members from this area on Environmental Education courses at WESSA's uMngeni Valley Nature Reserve.



**COVID PROTOCOLS:** All vehicles will have sanitisers, windows will be kept open and all passengers are required to wear face masks.

*All participants must be fully vaccinated*

### **YOU WILL NEED TO BRING:**

- Passport. *This is essential as you will be exiting SA at an official border*
- Hiking boots
- Packed lunch
- Lots of water to drink
- Hiking stick
- Hat
- Warm clothing
- Raingear
- Flower books | binoculars | camera optional



**MEET:** 06h30 sharp at the Giant's Cup Café 10.5 km down the Sani Pass Road on the left-hand side.

**BOOKINGS:** For the walk, contact Sani Lodge Backpackers on 083 987 3071 or email [info@sanilodge.co.za](mailto:info@sanilodge.co.za)

**ACCOMMODATION:** is also available at Sani Lodge Self-catering cottages or Backpackers, on the same property as the Giant's Cup Café Go to: [www.sanilodge.co.za](http://www.sanilodge.co.za)

**SALES:** Before and/or after the walk: Snacks, sunscreen, caps, Elsa Pooley wild flower field guide books; Sani Pass flowers, mammals, birds and reptiles posters; WESSA publications; local books and maps; indigenous plant species; artwork by local artists.

