



QUARTERLY BUZZ

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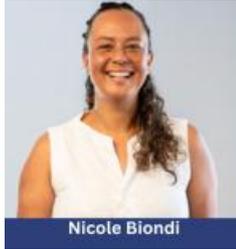
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Meet Our New Board Members



Pavitray Pillay



Nicole Biondi



Stephen Granger

We haven't introduced you yet... but meet the incredible leaders who have joined Nature Connect! Last year, we were excited to welcome Nicole Biondi, Pavitray (Pavs) Pillay, and Stephen Granger to our board, joining our two remaining trustees, Dave de Korte and Mike Gregor. Nicole brings over 20 years of experience across the conservation, tourism, and early childhood development sectors. Her expertise in social impact investing, leadership, and strategic communications will help guide our strategic positioning as we continue to grow.

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Bokbaai Experience for CPUT Students

In September, we hosted the CPUT 2nd Year Nature Conservation students at the Bokbaai Environmental Education Centre for a week of practical conservation training. The camp offered students hands-on experience in various fields, including wildlife forensics, drone technology, camera trapping, and wildlife capture methods.



Throughout the week, students engaged in real-world conservation challenges, from setting up camera traps with the Cape Leopard Trust to participating in a night frog survey and learning bird ringing techniques. The highlight of the camp was the live wildlife crime investigation scenario, where students practiced compliance training with SANParks and CapeNature experts.

It was an unforgettable week of learning and growth, preparing the next generation of conservation leaders to protect our ecosystems. 🌍💚

INTEGRATED REPORT

Changing Lives Through Nature



Our Integrated Report is out. See what we've accomplished together.

Our latest Integrated Report is now live! Dive into a comprehensive look at our journey, achievements, and the impact we're making together. View the full report on our website and explore how we're shaping a sustainable future. Don't miss out!

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Team Nature Connect absolutely rocked the Great Southern BioBlitz 2024 (GSB24)! Over four action-packed days, we were out in the field, capturing South Africa's rich biodiversity and adding it to the global iNaturalist database. From sunrise hikes to evening uploads, our crew didn't miss a beat, and the energy was electric!

We recorded a fantastic range of species, proudly showing off our team's passion for conservation and citizen science. Every observation we made contributes to local conservation efforts and global research. It's an amazing feeling knowing our work is part of something bigger!

GSB24 wasn't just about data—it was about adventure, teamwork, and making a real impact. We're fired up about what we accomplished and can't wait for the next BioBlitz!



Catch the Latest Episode of Conservation Calls!



We're thrilled to announce that Kim Gordon, our Stewardship Programme Coordinator was recently featured on the Conservation Calls podcast! In this must-listen episode, Kim dives deep into our ongoing efforts to protect the endangered Western Leopard Toad and the innovative strategies we're using to safeguard this incredible species.

Hear firsthand how these conservation actions are making a lasting impact. Make sure to follow, rate, and share the podcast on Spotify to help us spread the word and inspire more people to get involved in protecting our planet!



The Sustainable Schools Programme has officially become a member of the UNESCO Greening Education Partnership, a global initiative aimed at empowering countries to address the climate crisis through education and sustainable development.



By joining this partnership, the Sustainable Schools Programme aligns with a global network dedicated to preparing the next generation to face climate challenges. The Partnership focuses on four pillars: Greening Schools, Greening Curriculum, Greening Teacher Training & Education Systems, and Greening Communities.

Alongside this, our Sustainable Schools will be participating in the UNESCO global social media campaign, showcasing how schools worldwide are embracing sustainability and going green.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR TABLE MOUNTAIN FUND GRANTEES!

We proudly hosted a closing presentation to celebrate the incredible achievements of our 2024 Table Mountain Fund beneficiaries! These inspiring teams have made significant strides in protecting and restoring the precious natural heritage of the Cape, home to the world-renowned Fynbos.

A huge congratulations to: 🌱 Arky's Outreach; 🌊 Mosselbank River Conservation Team; ❤️ Green Hearts; 🏡 Community Women Action

Their hard work and dedication have left a lasting impact on our conservation efforts, and we couldn't be prouder of their success. Each of these grantees has shown what's possible when passion meets action!



HELP US TO CONTINUE TO CHANGE LIVES THROUGH NATURE.

If you're a fan of Nature Connect have you considered getting more involved in the work we do?

Invest in the future of Nature Connect by making donations using SnapScan or PayFast - we'd love to have you as a regular donor!

If the budget's a bit tight you can support us without spending an extra cent: add **Nature Connect** as a beneficiary to your [MySchool](#) [MyVillage](#) [MyPlanet](#) card!





Watsonia and various bulb species from the diverse Iris family, alongside many rare and endangered flowers.. Spring transformed this biodiversity hotspot into an oasis, promoting not just ecological health but also enriching our mental well-being.



The team behind the walks fostered a deep connection between social interactions and nature through storytelling about the plants' morphology, traditional uses, and significance to the area.

Sightings included Parrot-beak tortoises, Common Brown Water snakes, Cape Burrowing scorpions, Cape Dwarf chameleons, and various insects and frogs, adding to the experience of exploring this hidden gem.

Feedback from participant Lisa Bluett "...I hope more people get to see and experience this special place, to know more about the life that's here and why it should be protected."



October Spring Walk at Kenilworth Racecourse

This Spring, the conservation area showcased its vibrant blooms through two guided walks that attracted 50 participants from across the Cape. The event began with an introduction to the site's significance and history, followed by a unique opportunity to explore its rich biodiversity. Home to over 400 plant species, the field was alive with an impressive array of colours, highlighting the beauty of spring flowers. Notable among these were the tall stands of

River Warden Launch with COCT!



Nature Connect, in partnership with the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Management Branch, recently celebrated the launch of the River Warden Program on Park Island in the Zandvlei Nature Reserve. This community conservation initiative focuses on monitoring the health of Cape Town's waterbodies.

River Wardens at False Bay, Zandvlei, Edith Stephens and Table Bay Nature Reserves are responsible for monitoring illegal dumping, reporting sewer spills, assisting with rehabilitation, and clearing invasive aquatic weeds. We are incredibly thankful to the National Lotteries Commission for being integral in kickstarting the program and to the City of Cape Town for coming on board as a key player, helping drive the program to the next stage.



Celebrating Innovation: The Big Biodiversity Challenge Prize-Giving

On International Day of Biological Diversity (21 May), the Big Biodiversity Challenge, was launched by the Western Cape Environmental Education Friends (WCEEF) in collaboration with CapeNature, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), SANParks, Nature Connect, Two Oceans Aquarium, the Western Cape Government, and the Western Cape Education Department. Grade 6–9 students across the Western Cape were invited to devise creative solutions to urgent biodiversity threats.

On World Habitat Day (First Monday of October), a prize giving saw students present a range of innovative projects....

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CEO's Report

" I have been fortunate to lead Nature Connect for the past 12 years, witnessed its growth and been part of a team dedicated to increasing the impact of our work. This growth has come with some challenges, not unlike those faced by any other industry or sector undergoing expansion. As a result, this last year we focused on applying and implementing systems to improve efficiencies while reducing risk."

~ **Anthony Roberts**



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IN OUR INTERGRATED REPORT!

Hey Teachers! 🌿📅 Have you booked your 2025 Camp Programme at Bokbaai yet? Treat your students to an immersive coastal adventure on South Africa's West Coast! From exploring coastal habitats to interactive eco-workshops, this camp has everything needed for a great experience of exploration and discovery. 🌍🌟

[BOOK NOW](#)

