Kleinmond

Natuurbewaringsvereniging
Nature Conservation Society

Reg no/nr 005-622 NPO kleinmondnbv@gmail.com

Jaarverslag
Annual Report
2022/3

Disa Graminifolia

Introduction

2022 was ushered in with a destructive fire that left many in Kleinmond very despondent. At the annual meeting in April last year, however, Prof. Brian van Wilgen reassured the community that fires are important for fynbos survival and that many areas actually needed the fire in January.

A few positive developments for Kleinmond NCS:

- The municipality's decision not to mow grass in parks and open areas during spring until seeding is complete as well as the ban on the use of balloons (latex and foil) in the Kleinmond and other municipal nature reserves and their picnic spots.
- The municipality's awarding of funds to a contractor to eradicate alien invasive plants in a large area of approximately 100 ha. A much-desired follow-up operation has also been approved which will be executed during April/May this year.
- Funding received for specific projects from the Frank Robb Trust and the Rowland and Leta Hill Trust.
- A research project on the economic impact of the reed infestation in the lagoon by a Masters student from Stellenbosch University. This is an introductory project and additional research may follow.

The committee

The KNCS members who served on the committee since April 2022 are Carl Swart (chairperson), Botha Maree (vice-chairperson), Thea Brink (secretary), Leon Louw (treasurer), Gerhard Booysen (hiking club representative), Mariaan Guest, Gerrit van den Dool, Carin Malan, Winie le Roux, Vic Brink and Margie Samuels.

Ledetal

Die vereniging se adreslys toon dat daar tans 289 lede is. Dit is minder as verlede jaar, aangesien name en adresse afgehaal is nadat pos 'n paar keer nie afgelewer kon word nie en die betrokke persone nie die vereniging in kennis gestel het van adresveranderinge nie. Ons het ook in die loop van die jaar lede aan die dood verloor. Prof. Frans van der Merwe, die bekende landboukundige en skrywer van *The Kleinmond Wild Horses* is vroeg in Maart in Stellenbosch oorlede.

- - -

Hiervandaan is die verslag opgestel volgens die struktuur wat vanjaar gevestig is en aspekte van ons kernbesigheid beskryf, naamlik Waardering van die habitat, Bewaring van die habitat, Bestryding van indringers en rommelverwydering en Netwerke. Hierdie werk word ondersteun deur die administrasie, media en finansies.

Waardering van die habitat

Stapklub

Na die inperking as gevolg van die pandemie en die tydelike sluiting van baie staproetes na die brand in Januarie 2022 was die grootste deel van 2022/23 weer normaal. Stappers kon hulle verwonder aan die nuwe plantegroei wat na die brande verskyn het.

Die Kleinmond Stapklub vier vanjaar sy 30ste bestaansjaar. Die klub beplan ’n spesiale byeenkoms op 29 Julie 2023. Daar gaan ons so veel moontlik oudlede verwelkom wat hulle wedervaringe oor die laaste 30 jaar sal deel.

Die stapklub het tans 187 lede. Op Dinsdae stap daar elke week gemiddeld 25 lede, op Donderdae 15 lede en op Donderdae saam met die Ramblers 12 lede.

Soos altyd was die natuur onvoorspelbaar en moes ongeveer agt stappe weens gure weer afgestel word, tot ontsteltenis van sommige stappers. Daar was gelukkig geen ernstige ongevalle gedurende die jaar nie. Ons het wel kleiner ongelukke gehad, maar gelukkig was dit beperk tot verstuitings, skrape en bloukolle.

Hiking trails

The fire in January 2022 resulted in several burnt bridges and route markers, but these were quickly repaired or replaced.

The restoration of the Palmiet Plankiespad now demands attention. A committee was appointed to investigate how best to repair and replace this trail. Their recommendations were considered and matters such as cost, lifespan, safety and the possibility of theft and vandalism taken into account. The choice fell on cement “sleepers” as they are long-lasting and also resistant to fire, vandalism and theft.

The total length of the trail is 800 metres and it will cost approximately R400 000 to replace the boards with

sleepers. These funds are not readily available and we therefore plan to do the replacement over a period of five years. We hope to raise sufficient funds during this time.

Birding activities

Bot River/Kleinmond Estuary Co-ordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC)

The Cape Whale Coast IBA (Important Bird Area) that extends from Stony Point in Betty's Bay eastward for about 35 km to the Klein River estuary supports more than 233 bird species, including 86 waterbird species. The Bot River/Kleinmond and Klein River (Hermanus) estuaries are important summer refuges for waterfowl and migrant species.

The Bot River/Kleinmond Estuarine system comprises about 1 550 ha and is ranked 8th in the country for its conservation importance for birdlife and as a nursery area for fish. These wetlands have historically held up to 25 000 birds and occasionally more than 40 000.

Bird counts around the Bot River/Kleinmond estuary started 29 years ago. The data collected are invaluable for conservationists and BirdLife South Africa.

The Bot River/Kleinmond and Klein River estuaries have seen an overall decline in the number of birds counted since the 1980s. In recent counts numbers were only 32% of the numbers recorded between 1979 and 1981. An 85% decline in migratory birds, especially migratory waders, has been recorded.

Local birders are part of a team from Tygerberg Bird Club who contribute their time to this citizen science project. They are supported by BirdLife Overberg and the Somerset-West Bird Club.

Uilkaste

Kleinmond BuildIt het 5 uilkaste aan KNBV geskenk. Twee kaste is by die Kleinmond Laerskool, een by Kleinmond Primêre Skool en twee by Fynbospark opgerig. Tweetalige inligtingsborde oor die gevlekte ooruil is ook aangebring.

Birding in Kleinmond

The Kleinmond Bird Club closed down at the end of 2022, and in its place an informal WhatsApp group was launched to try to get more people in our area involved in birdwatching and to provide a link between like-minded people, from beginners to experienced birders. To date there are 240 participants.

BirdLife Overberg will assist the group with general information, courses and slide shows.

Bewaring van die Habitat

Fynbos displays

Wildflower displays in the library were resumed at the beginning of 2023. The display in the Tourism Office was resumed soon after the Covid restrictions were lifted while a new display started at the golf clubhouse in January 2023.

After the fire the veld was bare for a while, but soon we could enjoy the plant growth stimulated by that fire. The veld is recovering beautifully with bulbs and young *Ericas* blooming everywhere.

KNCS applied for and received the necessary picking permits from CapeNature.

Mimetespark

Mimetespark is ’n munisipale park by die oostelike ingang van die dorp wat in verwaarlosing verval het. ’n Plantkenner het die rykdom van inheemse plante in die park raakgesien en onder die aandag van KNBV gebring. Daar is toe besluit om die park weer te laat herlewe en plaaslik inheemse plante daar te vestig.

Munisipale toestemming is bekom en tans is die betrokke amptenare entoesiasties oor die werk wat gedoen word en ook bereid om te help waar nodig.

Die werk staan onder leiding van Magdaleen Brits en ’n span entoesiastiese vrywilligers. Die dienste van ’n plaaslike tuinwerker en ’n onderneming wat spesialiseer in inheemse plante word van tyd tot tyd ingeroep.

Die oostelike gedeelte van die park is reeds skoongemaak en beplant met plaaslike inheemse plante. Mense het bankies geskenk en die vrywilligers hou die beddings nat en onkruidvry. Die westelike deel langs die rolbalbaan is groot en oorgroei van indringers. Dit grens aan ’n waterstroompie en in die winter verander ’n groot gedeelte in ’n vlei.

A relatively new concept in conservation circles is rewilding or the restoration of the original ecology of an area. Visible results of man’s influence are removed as far as possible and the area is allowed to return to its natural state. This process will be followed to a degree in the western part of Mimetes Park. Clean-up work has started, but the eradication of invasive plants will take a few years. Meanwhile, endemic species already growing there will be encouraged to grow and multiply peacefully.

Kleinmond’s wetland areas and the plants that flourish there are disappearing at an alarming rate and we hope that Mimetes Park will contribute to the protection of this endangered part of our natural environment.

Bestryding van indringers en rommelverwydering

Kapgroep

Die kapgroep fokus op die verwydering van indringerplante. Waar moontlik word plante wortel en tak uitgetrek; andersins word hulle afgesaag en met gif behandel. Soms is dit ook noodsaaklik om die saad (bv. van hakeas) een vir een te verwyder.

Daar is tans 25 lede in die kapgroep. Groot dank is verskuldig aan hierdie mense vir hulle ywer en entoesiasme. Dink net hoe sou ons omgewing gelyk het as dit nie vir hulle was nie!

Daar word getrou boekgehou, en die indringers wat in 2022 en tot dusver in 2023 gekap is, is:

	2022	**Jan-Mrt 2023**
Port Jackson	24 544	2 224
Mirt	8 203	11 300
Langblaar	2 121	772
Swartwattel	247	2 342
Den	382	219
Hakea	435	163
Bloekom	10	10
Rooikrans	71	5
Lavatera	72	
Peperboom	2	
Besembos	5	
Lantana		69
Perdebos		2 087
Pampas		51
Casuarina		35
Manatoka		4
Totaal	**33 971**	**17 057**

Die kapgroep werk vanaf die R44 aan die westekant van die Palmietrivier tot by Heuningkloof in die ooste en vanaf die kuslyn tot hoog in die berg noord van Kleinmond. Die gebied is in 21 blokke ingedeel. Die stand van indringers in elk van die blokke is na ’n deeglike verkenning in ’n verslag aangeteken en die werk word nou daarvolgens beplan en aangepak. Die verslag word ook gebruik in gesprekke met die Overstrand Munisipaliteit sodat daar nie oorvleueling met hulle inisiatiewe is nie.

Indringerspesies wat tans die grootse bedreiging vir plaaslike fynbos inhou, is die volgende: *Acacia saligna* (Port Jackson),

Acacia longifolia (Langblaarwattel), *Acacia mearnsii* (Swartwattel), *Leptospermum laevigatum* (Australiese mirt), *Hakea sericea* (Syerige hakea), *Pinus pinaster* (Trosden), *Eucalyptus-spesies* (Bloekom), *Erigeron sumatrensis* (Perdebos)

Tydens die brand het baie van hulle doodgebrand, maar saad het daarna soos hare op 'n hond se rug opgekom en die kapgroep doen wat hulle kan om hierdie spesies onder beheer te hou.

Die uitdagings in die kusreservaat (tussen Kusweg en die see) is heeltemal anders as dié op ander plekke, want dit is veral plante wat uit tuine ontsnap het wat dreig om inheemse plante te versmoor.

Die kapgroep ontvang nuwe kappers met ope arms en ons nooi graag belangstellendes om te kom deelneem. Dit is baie bevredigend om te weet jy maak 'n groot verskil aan die bewaring van ons uitsonderlike fynbosskat.

Beach clean-ups

The society used to organize clean-up efforts along the coast and around the lagoon on Wetlands Day (February) and International Coastal Clean-up Day (September). When the Eco-Ministry was established in 2019, they began to organize similar events every month, and KNCS decided to cooperate with and support their work. We now join their monthly clean-ups.

These events involve large numbers of volunteers, and they make a visible difference. A group that deserves special mention is the Strandlopers Eco Youth Club from Proteadorp. Pupils and parents of the Kleinmond and Proteadorp primary schools also take part.

During the year more emphasis was placed on sorting the litter while picking it up. The result meant that during the 2022 clean-ups approximately 351 bags of rubbish weighing 2 068 kg were removed of which about 50% of the weight was recycled.

The Eco-Ministry also collects plastic bottle caps and the clips from bread bags. They are donated to the Sweethearts Foundation which sells them and use the proceeds to buy wheelchairs for the disabled.

Nets in storm water outlets

The municipality launched Project Storm in collaboration with the Dyer Island Conservation Trust in 2019 to install nets at storm water outlets in Gansbaai. The society installed similar nets locally at five locations and regularly monitored and cleaned them until the end of August 2021, when the work was transferred to the municipality. We owe a lot of thanks to a few volunteers who still monitor and regularly clean the nets when the municipality doesn't get around to it timeously.

Netwerke

BREF (Bot River Estuary Forum)

Die KNBV dien op BREF wat uitvoering gee aan sy advies- en oorsigfunksie met die bestuur van die Botrivier-estuarium.

Ons het insette gelewer rakende die toepassing van die Mondbestuursplan en op verskeie maniere seker gemaak dat die Kleinmond-strandmeer die erkenning kry wat dit verdien in die bestuur van die Botrivier-estuarium. Dié herhaalde vertoë het Cape Nature oortuig om sekere metings (bv. watervlak en -temperatuur, soutgehalte en suurstofvlakke) nie te beperk tot die Botvlei nie, maar dit ook in die Kleimond-strandmeer te doen. Hierdie data sal deel vorm van die kriteria vir die opening van die Botriviermond.

Die vereniging het versoek dat die proses om die balans van die Botrivier-estuarium as ’n Ramsar vleiland te verklaar as ’n vaste besprekingspunt op die agenda geplaas word.

Overstrand munisipaliteit: Wykskomitee vir wyk 9

Hierdie forum bied ’n geleentheid om natuurverwante sake onder die aandag van senior bestuurslede en gemeenskapverteenwoordigers te bring. Voorbeelde hiervan sluit in:

Onwettige behuisingstrukture

Oorsigverslae is aangevra oor die onwettige behuisingstrukture in Mountain View en Overhills en voorstelle is gemaak oor hoe hierdie verslae daar moet uitsien. Daar is kennis geneem van die groot getal onwettige strukture in Mountain View waarvan omtrent 120 deur die munisipaliteit vir hofbeslissings verwys is, asook van ’n hele aantal strukture in Overhills wat onder oorhoofse kragkabels opgerig is.

Gebrekkige herwinning in Proteadorp en Overhills

Die munisipaliteit het rapporteer dat herwinningsakke in Proteadorp en Overhills uitgedeel word, maar dat die publiek nie werklik aan herwinning deelneem nie. Me Plaatjies, die waarnemende munisipale bestuurder, het onlangs versoek dat die publiek se gebrekkige reaksie met ’n opvoedingsprogram reggestel word.

Skoonmaak van onbeboude erwe

Daar is die afgelope jaar probleme ondervind met die skoonmaak van onbeboude erwe. Dit was enersyds weens onbetroubare werk deur die kontrakteur en andersyds weens ernstige kritiek teen die voorgestelde hersiene “Plot clearing policy”. Nege verskillende gemeenskapsorganisasies in Kleinmond en die buurdorpe tot by Rooiels het hulle ongelukkigheid daaroor in ’n skrywe aan die Burgemeester uitgespreek.

Kogelberg Biosfeer

Die vereniging het aangesluit as ’n sg. Affinity-lid van die biosfeer en het onlangs deelgeneem aan ’n werkswinkel oor “Sustainable Development and Living” wat deur die biosfeer en ander georganiseer is.

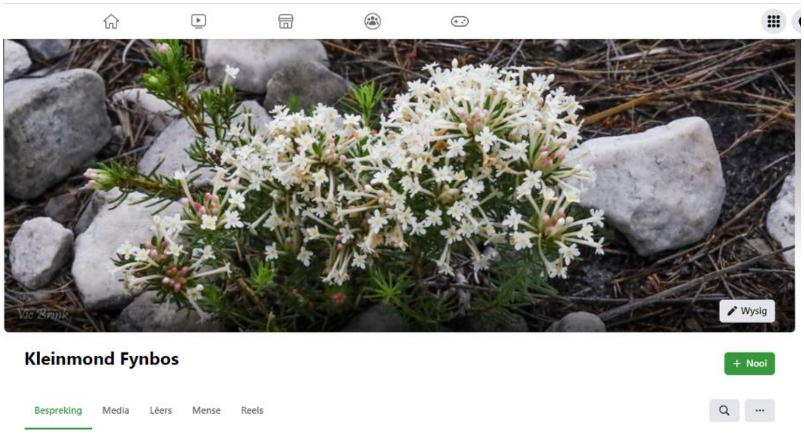
Media en finansies

Fynbos newsletter

The Fynbos newsletter appears four times a year as a full-colour pdf document e-mailed to members. A small number of members receive a printed copy in black and white.

The newsletter is published in English and Afrikaans and an attempt is made to create a balance between news about local matters concerning nature conservation and articles with information on topics of general conservation interest.

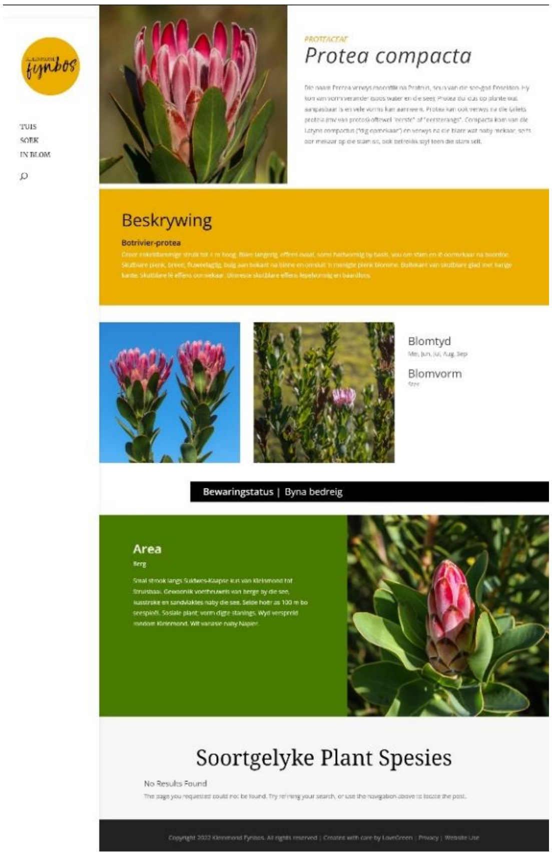
Kleinmond Fynbos op Facebook



Die Kleinmond Fynbos Facebook-blad is in Junie 2020 begin. Daar word elke dag ’n foto en kort beskrywing van ’n plaaslik inheemse spesie wat in die betrokke maand in die Kleinmond-omgewing blom, geplaas.

Daar is ’n sterk deelname van groeplede. In Februarie en Maart 2023 is die blad 17 082 keer bekyk. Die groep het tans ongeveer 1 700 lede waarvan die meeste in Suid-Afrika is. Daar is ook lede in die VK, Oekraïne, die VSA, Namibië, Australië, Indië, Kanada, Nigerië en Nederland.

Kleinmondfynbos Webwerf



Daar is verlede jaar begin met die bou van ’n webwerf, www.kleinmondfynbos.org.za, wat aanvanklik op plantspesies in Kleinmond se omgewing sal fokus. Die ontwerp van die webwerf word deur LoveGreen gedoen. Inligting van 39 spesies in die Proteaceae-familie is reeds ontwikkel en saam met 156 foto’s aan die webwerf-ontwikkelaars gestuur. Daar word tans aan die data vir die Ericaceae-familie gewerk.

Public Relations

Two excursions were arranged during the year. The first was to the new municipal recycling plant in Hermanus. We are grateful that recycling is back in operation after the previous plant was destroyed by fire.

The second was a visit to the Steenbrasdam hydropump station. An interesting presentation about the Escom's network was made before the group visited the turbines.

Financial report

The financial position of the Society remains stable, largely because of careful management practices by the committee. The 2022/23 financial year closed with a funds balance of circa R39 300 more than that of the previous year. We are grateful for donations of more than R66 000, of which R23 565 from the Frank Robb Trust and R25 000 from the Roland and Leta Hill Trust formed a large part. The notable increase in interest received (R54 674 vs R6 184 in the previous financial year) was caused by the interest on a two-year investment of R470 000. The interest was payable at its due date in January of this year.

On the expenses side there was a notable increase, from R48 500 in 2021/22 to R85 500 this year. We spent R20 312 on the Mimetes Park project and also allocated R20 000 towards a Masters student's research of the economic impact of the reed infestation in the lagoon.

A word of thanks

Finally I would like to thank the committee members and volunteers involved in projects such as alien plant hacking, clean-up days, hiking trail maintenance, Mimetes Park and flower exhibitions. They all give their time, talents and energy to conserving the treasure of our fynbos. A special thanks must go to Winie le Roux who left Kleinmond recently and could no longer serve on the committee.

Dit was 'n voorreg om ons natuurlike erfenis in julle geselskap te geniet en by te dra tot die bewaring daarvan.

Ek wil graag my opregte dank en waardering aan al ons lede en donateurs uitspreek vir die volgehoue ondersteuning aan die vereniging en sy aktiwiteite.

Carl Swart
Voorsitter/Chairperson

Kleinmond, 19 April 2023