



KLOOF
CONSERVANCY



E-NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2013

Combining
environmental
objectives with
community
benefits

MOLWENI RIVER PARK: COMMUNITY PROTECTING THE RIVER AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE AREA



As a follow-up on the Kloof Conservancy Molweni River Health Schools Project, we have initiated a project to build a community park in Lower Molweni. The park will extend from where the Molweni River exits Krantzklouf Nature Reserve to where it joins the Umgeni River, a distance of about 2,5km.

Discussions have taken place with the community representatives and the agreement is to create a park approximately 50m either side of the Molweni River, with a path running on both sides of the river. The riverine area will be cleared of invasive alien plants and the indigenous riverine vegetation re-established. The park will consist mainly of indigenous riverine vegetation with small sections of formal park for recreation purposes.

The primary objective of the new park, from a conservancy perspective, is the protection of the river and the biodiversity of the area. However, this is also an ideal opportunity to combine environmental objectives with the provision of benefits for the community.

The community will benefit from the project through the provision of an

attractive recreational facility as well as an educational facility for the local schools which can use the park as a safe environment for education on eco-systems. Temporary employment opportunities will be created during the clearing operation and permanent jobs will be created for the ongoing maintenance of the park.

Initial section cleared

An initial section has already been cleared with the assistance of iDube Landscaping, and further progress will be determined by the availability of funds. If you would like to support this Kloof Conservancy community project, please contact us at info@kloofconservancy.co.za.

The project is supported by a number of organisations including Umgeni Water, DUCT and various departments within eThekweni Municipality.



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PROTECTING NATURE
INSPIRING CHANGE

TREES
donated to
Molweni schools



▲ Siphiwe Gumede of Philangetemba Trust with some of the trees donated by iDube Landscaping and Kloof Conservancy.

KLOOF CONSERVANCY AND IDUBE DONATE TREES TO SCHOOLS

The Philangetemba Trust is an organisation linked to St Agnes Church, which has been active in the Molweni community for many years and recently built three sports fields at three schools in the area.

iDube Landscaping and Kloof Conservancy donated a number of trees to be planted around the sports fields to provide shade for the learners.

Kloof
Conservancy
sponsors
IAP training



▲ Three EKWZ Field Rangers at the IAP Training.

IAP TRAINING COURSE: KLOOF CONSERVANCY SPONSORS EZEMVELO STAFF TRAINING

Our last Invasive Alien Plant course for 2013 was run earlier today. Kloof Conservancy were proud to sponsor three Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Field Rangers on the course as we see them as key to our fight against IAPs and the protection of Krantzkloof Nature Reserve.

M13 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY SPONSORS TREATED TO A GUIDED WALK AND PICNIC

As a small token of appreciation for their substantial sponsorships, Kloof Conservancy is offering M13 Adopt-a-Highway sponsors guided walks in Krantzkloof Nature reserve. The first walk involved long-time sponsors Scott Bader. The walk included the Mphiti Falls, the Crowned Eagle nest at Ronald's Kloof, and a picnic lunch at the view spot near "Cellar".



Thank you
Adopt-a-Highway
sponsors



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▲ Nightjar

Fiery-necked Nightjars are more often heard than seen and they are one of two species of Nightjars found in the Kloof area – the other being the European Nightjar. They are almost entirely insectivorous although there are records of them having eaten spiders and seeds. Interestingly they drink in flight like swallows, by dipping their bill into water in flight.

This one was photographed by at Msinsi CCA.



▲ Bushbabies

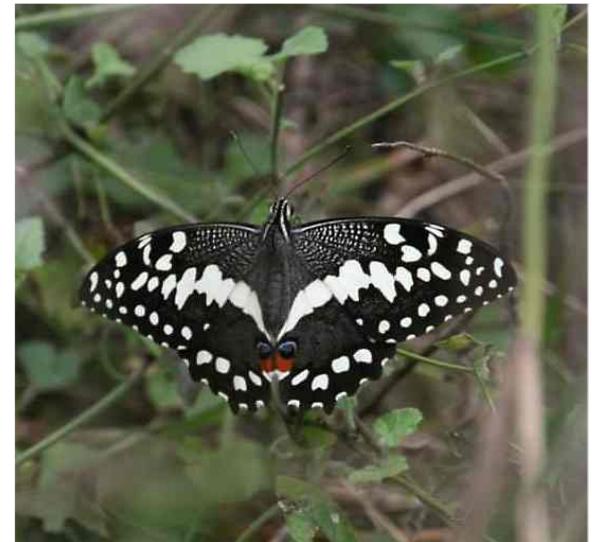
Bushbabies are small nocturnal primates with large eyes that give them good night vision, strong hind limbs, acute hearing, and long tails that help them balance. Habitat destruction from housing developments is a major threat to these animals and Kloof is one of the very few places left in the Durban Metro that you are likely to see them (or more likely hear them!).

This one was photographed by a camera trap in Kloof.



▲ Kloof frog

*Kloof Frog (*Natalobatrachus bonebergi*) is endemic to South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland, and restricted to the coastal forests of southern KwaZulu-Natal and northern Eastern Cape provinces, at altitudes below 900 m. This beautiful example was photographed by Nick Evans in Gillits.*



▲ Citrus Swallowtail

Citrus Swallowtails are beautiful butterflies quite common in Kloof even though we may not have many citrus trees!

This one was photographed on the Molweni River.

Don't forget to e-mail photographs of any interesting sightings of Kloof's flora and fauna to info@kloofconservancy.org.za. We also encourage you to record your observations on SANBI's citizen scientist project, iSpot. For more information visit: <http://www.ispot.org.za/>





Over the past 10 months we've brought you segments of the very important **eThekwini Municipality State of Biodiversity Report 2011-2012**.

We wrap up the series with the municipality's assessment of the **Threats to Biodiversity in Durban**.

The full report can be downloaded from our Dropbox (3MB file): <http://db.tt/vPvGEZkr?dl=1/>.

6.4. Threats to Biodiversity in Durban

Some of the major threats to biodiversity include:

- transformation of natural areas (habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation);
- introductions of alien invasive species;
- over-exploitation (harvesting, sandmining);
- pollution and diseases; and
- human induced climate change.

Due to the lack of quantitative data relating to many of these threats, this report will only focus on transformation, invasive alien species and climate change. As more information becomes available, these will be included.

6.4.1. How much land has been transformed?

Transformed areas in the city are those areas that have been altered dramatically from their natural state by human activities. This is one of the single greatest threats to biodiversity as it implies habitat loss, habitat destruction and fragmentation of natural areas. Transformation reduces the ability of ecosystems to deliver services.

6.4.2 Habitat Fragmentation

Fragmentation of natural areas is one of the main threats to biodiversity in a city. As the name implies, habitat fragmentation isolates one habitat fragment from other areas of habitat. In this way, habitats which were once large and continuous are divided into separate, smaller fragments. Human causes of fragmentation include the transformation of land due to agriculture and urbanisation.

It is recognised that the fragmentation of natural areas affects species differently. For example, a strip

of urban development may not affect the dispersal of wind-pollinated plants, but a plant that depends on small mammals for dispersal could be adversely affected.

6.4.3. Invasive alien species

Invasive alien species are plants, animals, pathogens and other organisms that are not indigenous to an ecosystem, and which are capable of spreading naturally (often rapidly) into natural or semi-natural habitats. They can cause economic or environmental harm or can adversely affect human health. In particular, they impact adversely upon biodiversity, causing the decline or elimination of indigenous species through competition, predation, or transmission of pathogens, and the disruption of local ecosystems and ecosystem functions.

6.4.4 Climate change

In Durban, the following changes have been projected to occur:

- Increases in temperature of 1.5-2.5°C by 2045-2065 and 3-5°C by 2081-2100.
- Rainfall in Durban is projected to increase in the future (up to an additional 500 mm by 2081-2100). The distribution and variability of this rainfall will change; with rainfall events becoming more erratic.
- At present the sea level along the Durban coastline is rising by 2.7 cm every decade. Projections indicate that this rate is likely to accelerate in the future.

Due to these changes in temperature and rainfall, the bio-climatic envelopes (distributions of plants and animals based on climatic variables) in which the fauna and flora of Durban exist could shift. This places additional pressure on Durban's biodiversity.

“TRANSFORMED AREAS IN THE CITY ARE THOSE AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN ALTERED DRAMATICALLY FROM THEIR NATURAL STATE BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES. THIS IS ONE OF THE SINGLE GREATEST THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY ...



Merry Christmas
and Happy
Holidays



GET BACK TO NATURE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Celebrate this special time with family and friends in nature and enjoy the many wonders of Kloof. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. We thank you for your support in 2013 and we look forward to working with you in 2014 as together we **PROTECT NATURE** and **INSPIRE CHANGE**.

Planet in
YOUR hands

TIP
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SAVE WATER

Save water by covering your pool so the water doesn't evaporate. There are a number of reasonably priced cover options available. A bonus is that a cover will also retain heat so your pool will be warmer.

TIP
48

RECYCLE PAPER

Cut down on waste, and save money this festive season by wrapping presents in recycled paper.



Diary of
EVENTS

KLOOF CONSERVANCY EVENTS IN DECEMBER

For more information please visit our website: www.kloofconservancy.org.za

SUNDAY 5 January	Krantzkloof Nature Reserve 6-hour (strenuous) guided walk. R30pp. Meet at Kloof Falls Rd picnic site at 07:45. No booking required.
WEDNESDAY 8 January	Springside Nature Reserve guided walk. All welcome; easy walk on well maintained paths. Donations accepted for ongoing Hillcrest Conservancy projects. Meet at 07:30. Tea/coffee served in the resource centre after the walk. Contact Sue on 031 765 6809.
SATURDAY 11 January	Msinsi work day – Come and help us eradicate IAPs from this environmentally valuable piece of land. We start at 08:30 and work for as long as we can. Bring gloves, strong shoes/boots/gum-boots, tough jeans and enthusiasm – we will provide the rest! No previous experience required.
SATURDAY 11 January	Glenholme Nature Reserve 2-hour guided nature walk. Meet at 10:00 at the SPCA tea garden. Donations go towards maintenance and upkeep of the reserve.
SUNDAY 19 January	Krantzkloof Nature Reserve 4-hour (relaxed) guided walk. R30pp. Meet at Kloof Falls Rd picnic site at 07:45. No booking required.

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