



## **Report to the Annual General Meeting 28 December 2009**

The Nature's Valley Trust (NVTrust) is a community-based organization, established in December 2000, to protect the environmental integrity of Nature's Valley and its surrounding areas.

Nature's Valley lies on one of the most valuable and rapidly developing stretches of South Africa's coastline. Despite being surrounded by the Tsitsikamma National Park and having limited remaining stands on which to build, Nature's Valley remains vulnerable to exploitation. Many of the activities of the NVTrust address broader development in the region and we believe that it is important that the NVTrust engage in these processes and play a part in influencing outcomes towards appropriate development. Applications to rezone, informal business activities, proposed development projects and land claims in close proximity to Nature's Valley, are evidence of development pressure.

The NVTrust was conceptualised in mid 2000 and launched in December 2000. The Trust has been fortunate to have secured the immediate support of passionate and skilled individuals who devoted personal resources to ensuring that the Trust enjoyed a successful launch.

The **mission** of the NVTrust is: "To maintain the long term environmental integrity of Nature's Valley and surrounds by becoming proactively involved in issues that impact on the future of the area".

Our objectives include:

- The development of Environmental Education and Community Awareness programmes to highlight the importance and value of conservation.
- To research areas of environmental concern and common interest (such as the management of the Groot River Estuary) and to collate and disseminate this information, to the NVRA, the community and authority organizations.
- To develop an aware and mobilised community, and to facilitate effective decision making by the community and the NVRA on environmental issues.
- To initiate and implement special-interest environmental, conservation and community projects in collaboration with SANParks, the NVRA and other partner organisations.
- To maintain Nature's Valley as a model of environmentally sensitive development on the Tsitsikamma coast.

- To function as an organisation whose mandate extends beyond Nature's Valley and which is able to respond quickly and effectively in times of environmental crisis.

Some of the NVTrust's achievements:

- 9 outdoor classrooms established, 5500 children benefiting from the environmental education programme, which has won awards and resulted in SANParks outsourcing their environmental education program to the NVTrust.
- The Fynbos Reserve research and management programme which has played a key role in formulating objections to the proposed alienation of the property .
- The establishment of the NV Urban Conservancy.
- Acclaimed river research programmes.
- 2007 SANParks Kudu Award as the best community environmental effort (nationwide) for our conservation programs in Nature's Valley and surrounds.
- The Publication of three annual newsletters and the Eco-Guideline series.
- Development of an effective network of environmental organisations.
- A Kurland community outreach cleaning and greening programme.
- A participant in the successful resolution of the Covie Land Claim.
- A catalyst in ensuring that the Soetkraal area fell under the management of SANParks.
- Halting of an environmentally damaging proposal to film in the Kalander Kloof.

## **A. THE NATURE'S VALLEY TRUST - 2009**

This is the NVTrust's ninth year of operation. Since its inception, many projects have been initiated, implemented and completed and many are ongoing. Through our work, the NVTrust has gained recognition as a proactive and successful NGO contributing to the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom and playing a key role in engaging with communities within our area. This has resulted in the NVTrust receiving three certificates of recognition from CAPE (Cape Action for People and the Environment), being awarded a certificate of commendation at the Cape Time Caltex Environmental Awards and, in 2007 being presented with the SANParks Kudu Award for the conservation NGO which has the best community based programmes in the country. Additionally, the NVTrust has been awarded funding support by the Green Trust, WWF-SA, Table Mountain Fund, the CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund), the NC-IUCN (Micro Tourism Fund of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature), the Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation and the D.G. Murray Trust.

Annual funding from a number of Natures Valley families and individuals enables the NVTrust to employ a Programme Director - Daniël Cloete. Daniel manages and coordinates all the Trust's projects and fundraising activities. In 2009 the NVTrust successfully applied for funding from the Table Mountain Fund (in collaboration with the C.A.P.E. Capacity Development Programme hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to appoint an intern, Cindy-Lee Cloete. Cindy's two year internship will focus on the NVT's Environmental Education and Community Awareness programmes.

The current Trustee body are a committed group of 6 individuals who voluntarily dedicate time, effort and resources into directing the functioning of the NVTrust.

## **B. LOCAL AREA INTEGRATION**

The NVTrust has credibility as an active environmental body. As a result of this, the NVTrust sits on several committees including the Garden Route Initiative Stakeholder Steering Committee, the Tsitsikamma Park Forum and the Groot River Estuary Committee. In addition to this, the Trust regularly attends meetings of the Plettenberg Bay Community Environment Forum, the Kurland Action Group, the Contractual Areas Committee and various environmental education forums. We have provided input into various participatory processes dealing with developments, spatial planning and land claims and, as a result of this action, we have been able to make a positive contribution to the broader issues which impact Nature's Valley.

Over the nine years that the NVTrust has been active, the relationship with Tsitsikamma National Park has been one of the most valued and crucial to our operations. The proximity of the Park to Nature's Valley means that many of the decisions and events taking place in the park have a direct bearing on Nature's Valley. The much appreciated support, assistance and cooperation of the Tsitsikamma Park Management and Rangers have made many of the Trust's education, conservation and research projects and activities possible. The NVTrust looks forward to building this relationship further and contributing to the work of SANParks in the area.

In 2009 the NVTrust had the opportunity to improve our working relationship with Eden District Municipality as well as the local Bitou municipality by working closely together on various Community Awareness and Environmental Education programmes.

## **C. ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS**

The activities of the NVTrust and its employees should be seen against the ongoing identification of issues within our focus area and the implementation of projects in response to these issues. Additionally, the NVTrust needs to maintain our local area integration strategy and to involve and inform interested parties of all environmental and conservation issues affecting Nature's Valley, while simultaneously keeping abreast of current trends and developments in the broader playing field. We continue to underpin our objectives and activities with the principles laid out by national legislation and within this framework, and through our ongoing good relations with bigger environmental bodies and organisations, we are able to effectively engage with a variety of environmental concerns.

Below are some of the key projects and activities which have been undertaken between January 2009 and December 2009. Some of these projects are ongoing, having commenced in previous years.

### **1. Conservation and Research**

- A. Coastal Fynbos and the Brenton Blue Butterfly** (monitoring and research). A small area (1,2 hectares) of endangered coastal dune fynbos exists within Nature's Valley. The NVTrust has facilitated the management of this area which is now known as the Nature's Valley Fynbos Reserve. In accordance with recommendations made by various consultants, a controlled fire was undertaken in 2002 on the Fynbos Reserve and pre- and post- burn monitoring is being undertaken by Prof. Roy Lubke of Rhodes University. The Brenton Blue butterfly used to occur on the reserve and due to disturbance and lack of management of the fynbos disappeared from the area in the 1980's. Management of the reserve has resulted in the habitat now being suitably recovered to possibly support a population of the critically endangered Brenton Blue

butterflies. Larvae of these butterflies were reintroduced to the Fynbos Reserve in 2005 from the Brenton Blue Reserve in Knysna and during 2006 eggs of the butterfly from Knysna were attached to host plants on the Nature's Valley Fynbos Reserve. Intensive monitoring of the Fynbos Reserve has been undertaken since the attempted reintroduction of the butterflies. Sadly, it would appear that this has not been successful to date and it is believed that this may be due to the fact that the species of ant, with which the butterflies have a symbiotic relationship, is no longer present on the reserve. The reintroduction programme has been put on hold until there is sufficient number of butterflies at the Brenton Reserve in Knysna to attempt reintroduction.

The NVTrust has developed a self-guided trail and an outdoor classroom in the Fynbos Reserve. During 2009 the interpretive signage was reprinted and the outdoor classroom booklet updated and translated.

- B. The Phyl Martin Park** is a botanical garden established within Nature's Valley which includes an indigenous nursery. The NVTrust has facilitated the management of this Park and some of the local residents have become actively involved in its upkeep and maintenance through the establishment of an Open Spaces Committee under the NVRA. The NVTrust has developed a self-guided trail, children's' treasure hunt route and interpretive signage. During 2005 a small interpretive centre/museum was established. During 2007 and 2008 the interior of the hut was decorated with the help of some local children and the volunteers from WWISA and during 2009 the interpretive signage was updated and reprinted.
- C.** In collaboration with Tsitsikamma National Parks, the Nature's Valley Trust facilitated a research and monitoring project of the **Groot River Estuary**. The Groot River Estuary Committee, Chaired by South African National Parks, was also formalised in 2008 to look at the various research, monitoring and other relevant issues. Due to sewage and flooding problems in Nature's Valley, the estuary mouth is mechanically breached on occasion. Research presently includes monitoring of water levels, siltation, estuary floor mapping (sediment profiling), salinity and water quality monitoring with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the system in order to produce an informed management plan.
- D. The Salt River** has been identified as a unique river system. Surveys undertaken during 2000 and 2001 found that the Salt River contains a rich diversity of aquatic insect species (with Gondwanan links), which include sixteen new species and four new genera (several of which are not yet described). Ongoing developments along the Salt River system pose a real threat to the Salt River and its unique invertebrate species. In response, the NVTrust raised R20 000 for a follow-up survey of the Salt River to be undertaken. An additional four projects were initiated to include:
- ongoing research,
  - Salt River outdoor classroom,
  - involving local community members in an eco-guiding programme (Tsitsikamma Eco Guides) in collaboration with SANParks, CoastCare (Marine & Coastal Management) and Storms River Adventures
  - a stakeholder engagement process with the aim of producing management guidelines for Salt River users.

In November 2007, Table Mountain Fund (TMF) confirmed that they will provide funding of R440 000 to further research into the Salt River system and 10 other river systems in the Tsitsikamma. This is a three phased project, with the first phase (2 years) focussing on establishing whether the "unique" insects found in the Salt River

are found in other local river systems. Phase 2 of the project will investigate the habitat and environmental requirements of the insects in identified priority river systems and Phase 3 will involve researching possible conservation measures which can be put in place to conserve the priority river systems as well as stakeholder engagement.

The first phase, funded by the Table Mountain Fund of the project commenced in January 2008 and by January 2009 the four sampling periods have been completed with an additional upper catchment hike to sample some of the upper reaches of the rivers being completed in March 2009. The researchers involved in the study are Dr. Ferdy de Moor from Albany Museum, Terence Belinghan an MSc student from Rhodes University, from Stellenbosch University Prof. Michael Samways and John Simaika a Phd student and from DWAf their River Health team. Following the final field trip the remainder of 2009 was used to work through and identify the insects collected and the final findings and written report will be completed in January 2010. The second phase of the project will be guided by the findings of the first phase and is planned to commence late in 2010.

## 2. Community Awareness and Outreach

- A. The NVTrust's Community Awareness and Environmental Education Programmes are in a strong position with the appointment of Cindy-Lee Cloete following our successful application to Table Mountain Fund for funding (in collaboration with the C.A.P.E. Capacity Development Programme hosted by SANBI) to participate in their Young Professional **Intern** Programme.

The aim of the structured two year mentoring programme is to support the orientation, growth and development of a young conservation graduate through their transition from the formal learning context into the real world of conservation. Cindy-Lee's internship will focus on the NVTrust's EE and CA programmes.

- B. **The NVTrusts Community awareness projects** include three yearly newsletter which are disseminated to Nature's Valley homeowners, associated organizations and interested individuals. In addition, a series of eco-guidelines have been produced and are updated when necessary and include Green Living Guidelines, Bird and Tree Checklists, Tide Table, Invader Plant Species and Indigenous Gardening. During peak holiday seasons, the NVTrust arranges a holiday program to incorporate activities and presentations which are interesting, relevant and informative, aimed at both adults and children visiting Nature's Valley. A Triathlon arranged by the NVTrust has become a popular addition to the December Holiday programme.

- C. For the second year, as part of the Ocean Conservancy's **International Coastal Clean-up** day each September, the NVTrust arranged a cleanup in Kurland Village.

More than 230 community members of all ages, armed with gloves and refuse bags supplied by the Plastic Federation of South Africa, conducted a sweep of Kurland Village and surrounds. This included the Buffels stream feeding into the Matjies River entering the ocean near Arch Rock at Keurbooms. Enough bags were gathered to collect approximately 10 m<sup>3</sup> of litter. The cleanup day has now been set as an annual event on our calendar.

- D. A **Kurland Village Greening** was initiated by the NVTrust (along with Willing Workers In South Africa, DWAf and Bitou Municipality). The main focus area was to "clean and green" the Buffels stream running through the village with the aim of eventually establishing a park that can be used by the community. 150 indigenous trees

(provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), were planted with the assistance from learners from the Crags Primary, Bitou Municipalities and some of the local NGO's including Willing Workers in South Africa.

In addition, with the long term aim to provide a fruit tree for each property in Kurland Village, 200 peach and plum trees were also distributed to individual home owners. This will meet the dual purposes of greening the village and meets a direct request from the community for fruit trees.

- E. The **Tsitsikamma Eco Guides** have been established as a small business. Through a partnership with SANParks, CoastCare and Storms River Adventures, selected members from local communities have been trained and equipped to operate a small eco-guiding business operating out of Nature's Valley. In 2008 three of the four remaining guides opted to set up their own guiding operation in Kurland, with the NVTrust offering our continued support.

Lola Barnardo, ("Aunt Helen"), is still working as a Tsitsikamma Eco Guide assisting the NVT with guiding the outdoor classrooms, taking visitors for guided walks and assisting SANParks with groups at Stormsriver Mouth.

- F. The NVTrust facilitated the establishment of Nature's Valley as an **Urban Conservancy**. The concept has been favourably received by the community and will encourage more input in decision making and environmental responsibility in Nature's Valley.

The conservancy is registered with Cape Nature, and a constitution and management plan has been developed. An Urban Conservancy guideline document was and signage was produced for the conservancy.

In 2008, with the assistance of Kim Kruyshaar, a Carbon Footprint Calculator for Nature's Valley was developed by the Urban Conservancy. The calculator has been developed with support from the Climate Action Programme of the SA National Biodiversity Institute and measures both an individual and a household carbon footprint for permanent and holiday residents. It would be the first time in South Africa that a community attempts to measure its carbon footprint. The intention is for as many households as possible to fill in the calculator so that the average household emissions for NV can be determined, be compared to the national average and then agree on a target for household CO<sup>2</sup> emissions for NV that everybody can strive for. Due to the low number of participants that have completed the calculator in 2009 this was not possible to determine for the first year. In the December 2009 feedback of the first year of the Carbon Footprint Calculator was provided in the Nature's News.

The programme will now continue into its second year with the aim of having more households complete the calculator so that we will be able to reach the established goals. Further in 2010 the project will look at the implementation of an off-set project for the Carbon Footprint project.

### 3. Environmental Education

The NVT **environmental education project** was initiated in collaboration with existing education programmes (South African National Park's TEEN project, the Garden Route Environmental Education Network, Eco-Schools, and Adopt-a-Beach). To date more than 5 500 learners have participated in our programmes.

- A. Nature's Valley has been established as an **outdoor classroom** using nine focus habitats: the Salt River, forest, shell midden site, Fynbos Reserve, Phyl Martin Park, wetlands, underwater classroom, rock pools and estuaries. Being a pristine area, Nature's Valley is an ideal setting for such a project. Resource booklets or other related materials have been developed for each classroom and these are linked to the school curriculum. An environmental education in-house manual was developed by the Trust during 2007 and updated in 2008 to identify and illustrate curriculum links within the outdoor classrooms and resources.

During 2009 we initiated the development of 3 more outdoor classrooms focussing on Astronomy, Alien Vegetation and the local Nature's Valley Geology. In addition we are updating our existing classrooms and translating them into Afrikaans.

- B. The NVTrust has continued for the sixth year with the **Adopt-a-Beach** project which was initially run as a collaborative project with SANParks. For the duration of the year up until November, when we end off with the annual camp, the learners visit their adopted NV beach monthly. The programme deals with the different coastal environments and biodiversity including water, sand, plant and animal life and is also dealing with more practical issues such as the influence of pollution on the coastal environment and the way the coast is being used and valued by humans.

The Grade 8 classes of The Craggs Primary at Kurland and Coldstream Primary have 'adopted' the Nature's Valley beach. Sadly, during 2008 and 2009 we were unable to implement the program with the Coldstream school due to the closure of the Groot River East and Bloukrantz passes. The Adopt-a-beach camp for this year will take place early in January 2010 to round the programme off for the years' participants.

- C. An Eco Club has been established during 2009 by the Craggs Primary and with the assistance of Eden District Municipality's the Eco Club started their own **Adopt-a-river** project in the Salt River.

The Adopt-a-River project has grown out of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's River Health Programme through which the health of river systems in South Africa are assessed and monitored. The aim of Adopt-a-river is to educate and capacitate both school educators and learners with the necessary skills, understanding and passion to monitor the ecological health of nearby river systems. The overall aim though is much broader and that is to instill in the learners (and through them the community) an understanding of the importance of water and the urgent need for its conservation and sustainable use. The ultimate goal of the project is the assurance of the future availability of safe drinking water for all.

The selected site in the Salt River will be assessed and monitored at least once a month and as we establish the programme more sites will be added for comparison. As it is quite a technical programme, Eden District municipality will periodically come and do live demonstrations in the field to ensure that the correct procedures are followed so that the data can be used as supplementary data for the National River Health programme.

- D. During October, we celebrated the annual **Marine Week** calendar event with about 200 learners from Schools in the area. This was a benchmark collaborative effort involving the NVTrust, Eden District Municipality, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as well as SANParks, ORCA foundation and Caring for the Coast. The participating schools were from the Craggs Primary, Wittedrift Primary and Coldstream Primary. The interactive learning and seashore fun ensured that the

learners acquired a wealth of knowledge about our rich marine biodiversity. The activities included learning about sandy and rocky shores, dunes and estuaries and special plant and animal adaptations.

## 4. Development Monitoring

The NVTrust has participated in all **development processes** which fall within our core focus area, as well as providing inputs into the Spatial Development Framework for Bitou which is part of the IDP (Integrated Development Plan). During 2005 - 2009 we have participated in and given inputs into the Kurland Village extension development, the proposed Kurland Estate development, the Bitou Municipality land audit, the Bitou Municipalities proposed Alienation of the Phyl Martin and Fynbos Reserves and the proposed Covie developments. Participation in these processes is vital if we are to identify and lessen the impact on ecosystems, water sources and ecological corridors which all affect Nature's Valley.

## 5. Conclusion

2009 has been both a challenging and successful year. Our operational staff has changed, our partnerships have been strengthened, our projects have largely been successful and we have faced development challenges. We believe that the Trust's strength and success to date has been a result of strong constituency and community support, strong partnerships and a good track record.

## D. FUNDING

The listed organisations provided Funding Support for the following projects in 2009:

1. The Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation have provided funding for the printing of environmental education resources, schools transport and Urban Conservancy guidelines.
2. Table Mountain Fund is funding the two year (2008 – 2009), first phase of the Tsitsikamma Rivers Macroinvertebrate Research Project. This funding has been extended to April 2010 to allow the final report to be completed and to allow for the marketing of the findings.
3. Table Mountain Fund (in Collaboration with the C.A.P.E. Capacity Development Programme hosted by SANBI) is funding the two year Young Professional Intern Programme.
4. The D.G. Murray Trust has provided funding for the further implementation of our Environmental Education Programmes and Community Awareness Programmes for 2009/2010.
5. The Department of Environmental Affairs, Development and Planning (through Eden District Municipality) funded this years' Marine Week celebrations.
6. Eden District Municipality funded the 2009 Adopt-a-Beach end of year programme (that will take place in January 2010).

Our most challenging task in terms of funding is to secure finances to cover our core running costs each year. This has, to date, been achieved through donations, fundraising events in December and through Trusts and Foundations. Donations from about 130 individuals yearly and 245 all together are providing significant support, enabling the NVTrust to operate as a credible environmental organisation and to achieve our goals. Without this ongoing support the Trust would not be able to function and the growing number of individuals who donate to the Trust is highly encouraging.

## E. FINANCIAL POSITION: MARCH 2008 – FEB 2009

The *audited* financial results of the Trust for the years to February 2008 and 2009 are summarised briefly below:

<i>(Rands)</i>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Income	516 429	540 020
Expenditure	<u>-533 036</u>	<u>-412 906</u>
Net Income	<u>-16 606</u>	<u>127 114</u>

- While expenses are generally incurred evenly through the year, the Trust is still very reliant on the income generated during the December period.
- Project-specific expenses are significantly higher this year (2009) than last year.
- Running costs (salaries, postage & telephone, audit & accounting, rental) of R253 008 are 24% higher as we improved the Trust's capacity. These costs as a % of the total Trust's costs are slightly lower at 47% (last year: 49%).
- The present cash balance, excluding project specific funds, is R20 401 (at November 2009). The Trust's monthly expenditure, including salaries, average R22 000 and so, in the absence of further donations and grants, the Trust continues to face strong financial challenges.
- After leaving a small balance to pay for regular monthly expenses, the balance of the cash is placed in a 30-day interest-bearing account.

We are extremely grateful to those of you who give so generously to the Trust. Every donation makes a difference!

## F. FUTURE CHALLENGES AND 2010

The NVTrust's accomplishments to date are illustrated in our project achievements and the support received from international funding agencies. Current and proposed developments have and will continue to pose a challenge to us but with the support received to date, strong partnerships and a solid community foundation and backing, we will continue to fulfil our objective to "*protect the environmental integrity of Nature's Valley and its surrounds.*"

Key NVTrust projects in 2010 will include, amongst others, the following:

⇒ ***Ongoing monitoring of new developments within our area of concern.***

The current and proposed developments in The Crags (Kurland Village and Kurland Estate) will continue to present a potential challenge with obvious consequences to Nature's Valley, the Salt River and its surrounding areas. Water has been and continues to be a major issue and developments along our sensitive river systems, abstraction of water and impacts from activities are concerning. We will continue working within the guidelines and frameworks laid down by environmental legislation and work with the various Government departments in tackling these issues. The NVTrust will also be closely monitoring further developments surrounding the Bitou Municipalities proposed alienation of the Phyl Martin Park and Fynbos Reserve.

### ⇒ **Environmental Education**

With the appointment of Cindy-Lee Cloete as our Environmental Education and Community Awareness Officer the NVTrust is well placed to improve and enhance our programmes in 2010.

The NVTrust outdoor classrooms are well established and are receiving important recognition. In 2010 we will be finalising and implementing our three new EE booklets (Geology, Astronomy and Alien Vegetation) that will be used as part of our outdoor classrooms. We have and will continue to work closely with other environmental organisations in the area, including the local schools, the Department of Education, SANParks People in Conservation Department, Eco-Schools, the Garden Route Environmental Educators Network and C.A.P.E.

For at least the first six months of 2010, funding from the Tony & Lisette Lewis Foundation and D.G. Murray Trust will cover the transport cost to bring learners to Nature's Valley to participate in our Outdoor Classrooms. Transport costs for schools are restrictive constraint and we will continue to investigate funding opportunities for this.

We will continue with the well established Adopt-a-Beach and the Adopt-a-River programmes with the Crags Primary. In addition we will look at extending the Adopt-a-Beach programme to the Cold Stream Primary.

Building on our successful collaborative effort for the 2009 Marine Week we will look at repeating the Marine Week celebrations as well as celebrating some of the other key Environmental weeks such as Environmental Week, Water Week and Arbor week.

A need has been identified for a co-ordinated approach with regards to Environmental Education (Environmental Weeks, Cleanups, school outings) in the Bitou Municipal area and the Nature's Valley Trust has undertaken to act as a catalyst towards the establishment of such an approach. We will work and submit funding applications with the aim of building capacity to fulfilling this role.

### ⇒ **Research and Conservation**

The Tsitsikamma Rivers Macro Invertebrate research project and Groot River Estuary monitoring will be our key research and conservation projects for 2010. Further research into the reintroduction of the Brenton Blue Butterfly will be investigated along with tertiary education and research institutions.

### ⇒ **Community Awareness and Outreach projects**

With the success and outstanding results of the international coastal cleanup day over the past two years we plan to continue with the initiative in 2010 in Kurland Village. We are also looking at implementing a follow up greening project in Kurland Village as well as implementing a similar project in the Covie village.

In 2010, along with partner organisations, the NVTrust will be applying for funding to re establish the Tsitsikamma Eco Guides programme for further training and assistance for Helen Banardo and the training of new guides identified from the local communities.

### ⇒ **Fundraising**

The NVTrust will continue with its fundraising efforts to secure additional funding to enhance and expand existing projects and to implement any new identified projects.

## G. CONCLUSION

The NVTrust, due to the commitment and support of the community, partner organisations and funders, is now firmly established (both locally and in the broader environmental context) as an organisation which has proved capable of successfully initiating, implementing and completing conservation projects which play a role in protecting the environment within our focus area. The NVTrust has, on several occasions, been used as a reference for other areas and cited as a community based conservation body which has proved to be effective and of benefit to associated organisations, neighbouring communities and the environment at large. Our achievements over the past nine years have been made possible through the support of the Nature's Valley community, both financially and through the encouragement provided. The NVTrust has attempted to represent the interests of the homeowners of the Valley on environmental matters to ensure a strong environmental ethic for future generations. With ongoing support, the strong foundation provided by the Trustees and the work of the NVTrust team, we aim to continue building on our existing partnerships, continuing our project implementation and addressing the current and future challenges which arise.

Chris van Melle Kamp  
Chairman  
December 2009

**Trustees:** Lindy Rodwell ,James van Hasselt, Guy Hayward, Geoff McIlleron, Julie Carlisle and Chris van Melle Kamp (Chairman)

**Staff:** Daniël Cloete (Programme Director: full day) and Cindy-Lee Cloete (EE and CA Officer: full day)