

NACSSA AGM CHAIRMANS REPORT  
AUGUST 2015

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of this organization over the past 2 years:

We had a very successful meeting in Cullinan where it all started and where we had our 10 year celebration! The weekend was a great success with attendance was good on all the days. Congratulations go to Joan and her team for an excellent job. Well done.

We have continued communicating with Regional committees over the last two year period. I had enquiries from a number of conservancies in areas like the Free State and Mpumalanga, but none came to the party in that they were prepared to start regional committees.

We have tried to attend all the meetings of the IUCN committee, but unfortunately outside Durban and Johannesburg it would be difficult and costly for Trafford or I to attend. These meetings do have good networking value, and therefore a good place to promote conservancies.

NACSSA joined up with WESSA once again and ran a very successful stall at the new venue of the SASOL Birding fair held at the Walter Sisulu Gardens near Roodepoort in September 2014. Conservancies also continued to take part in the popular Yebo Gogga at Wits University.

The stand at the Walkerville show which is shared with GCA to promote Conservancies, won the best stand on the show this year. Well done to Ivan and his hard working committee.

As far as promoting our brand, I was once again interviewed for Nature Journal by Tim Neary on the Magaliesberg Biosphere and the role the conservancies played in being the key buffer zones.

It was disappointing that Gauteng, in its new conservation strategy drawn up by a consulting firm, totally ignored the conservancy movement.

We are witnessing a rapid decline in the commitment of some Provincial and local authorities to conserve the little we have left, let alone plan for more green areas in cities and towns. If it was not for Conservancies, many of these green areas would have already been turned into low cost housing or extension of existing suburbs. Which paints a bleak picture for the future.

Many conservancies have requested our official trademark logo to add to their signs. NACSSA as an official WESSA affiliate is showcased by them, whenever an opportunity arises.

Finally I would like to thank everyone that put in a lot of effort to keep our conservancy flag flying high in their regions, not bending to political and consultant pressures and especially our Exco Ivan, Trafford and Reg for their inputs over this period. I would like to especially thank Reg for the two years he served as treasurer and lastly but not least Pauline for all her hard work in keeping the administrative side going, and Elaine for the great work she has done on our website to keep it updated.

Going forward I would like to appeal to all regions to let Pauline and Elaine have any items of news for a newsletter and the website.

Last year we could not find a date that would have suited all the key people but we will endeavour to look at 2016 for a meeting once again in the central area.

Thank You

John Wesson  
8 August 2015  
Umgeni Valley.