

# Annual Report - Green Connection



**2008**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM**

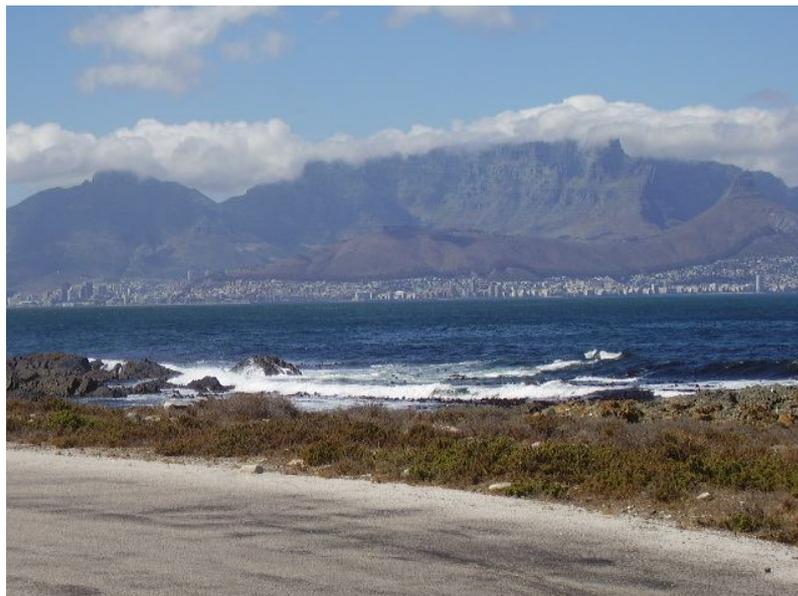
*The Green Connection team has forged ongoing partnerships with a range of stakeholders during the last 2 years. We believe that each of us can make a positive contribution to the transformation of South Africa - sustainable development is the future.*

*The Green Connection has assisted in a range of environmental sectors. In the freshwater sector, we have worked with government, in the marine sector, we have worked with NGOs, Government and industry towards responsible fisheries. On land, we have focused on vulnerable areas of landscape, the succulent Karoo, working with NGOs in climate change adaptation with biodiversity conservation implications, as well as affected communities and local government.*

*We hope you enjoy reading about some of our varied activities, and we look forward to continuing working with you into 2009,*

*Warm regards,*

**Liz, Christy, Basier, Gus,  
Penny**



## **MISSION**

The Green Connection aims to provide practical support to both the government and non-government sector to help ensure sustainable development.



The Green Connection believes that empowering people to participate in their environment is the only way that truly sustainable development can take place. Our environmental resources are limited and not ours to squander but to protect for future generations.

The Green Connection believes that economic growth and development, improvement of socio-economic status and conservation of natural resources can only take place within a commonly understood framework of sustainable development.

## **PROFILE AND MEMBERS**

The Green Connection is an closed corporation, founded in 2006, and registered in South Africa as a under the Companies Act, 1984 (as amended).

The members are as follows:

- Liziwe McDaid
- Christy Bragg
- Basier Dramat
- Anton Gus Pickard (joined in 2008)
- Penny Hlakula (joined in 2008).

The ownership of the Green Connection is 50% women and 60% PDI. We take pride in fact that the team is able to facilitate and communicate in at least three official languages of South Africa. We are working on the rest!

### ***Liziwe McDaid***



As the founder of the Green Connection, Liz's passion is bringing people and the environment together. A wide range of skills and experience have enabled her to use her science background to bridge the gap between environmental justice issues, education and communicating sustainable development. People need to be informed in order to make life-style choices that contribute to sustainable development and sharing practical experiences is the best way of learning. Liz has recently attempted to grow her own food with mixed success.

### ***Christy Bragg***

Christy brings a high level of academic analytical expertise down to ground level. Her commitment and professional analytical skills keep the Green Connection focused on the practicalities at hand. As our conservation expert, she is currently working on her PhD, as well as providing a Green Connection contact in Nieuwoudtville and surrounds.



### ***Basier Dramat***



Basier is the financial manager of the Green Connection. As a qualified accountant, he has come a long way from the gangland ghettos of his youth. Basier is passionate about giving others a chance to succeed and is always willing to go the extra mile to empower others. He is also a keen rugby player and administrator, working with the youth; experiences that enable him to stand firm in handling the Green Connection finances.

### ***Gus Pickard***

Gus grew up in the Swartland in the apartheid era. Using those experiences, Gus is committed to transformation of the land and agricultural sector. With a passionate eye on rural development issues, he is most often found with groups of emerging farmers around him as he assists them with complexities of the business of farming. With his environmental skills well honed, Gus has taken sustainable development from words to actions.



### ***Penny Hlakula***



Penny brings all the energy of youth into the Green Connection. With international educational experience at her back, Penny works hard and has chosen to contribute to the South African future of sustainable development. Her charm and cool head combined with attention to detail makes her the ideal choice to manage our office both real and virtual. But Penny is not only behind the computer but also takes her turn in the field, out there working with communities on the ground.

## **PROJECTS**

### ***Robben Island Museum Policy Review***



In 2006/2007 the Green Connection was subcontracted by MDZ Consulting to review the Environmental Policies of Robben Island Museum (RIM), and if necessary develop new policies where there were gaps in the existing ones. The Green Connection did an extensive literature review of current national and provincial legislation and collated existing RIM Environmental policies and documents into a comprehensive Environmental Policy manual for easy and accessible use by RIM employees.



Several workshops were conducted to gather external stakeholder input and expert feedback, and internal workshops were conducted to ensure all staff and employees of RIM agreed with their future environmental policies. New policies were drafted where there were gaps in the existing policies.

This project is currently in the final stages, the delay due to RIM internal issues in forming a new Council. (The Council is needed in order to approve the new Environmental Policies.)

### ***Financial Management for Non-financial managers***

The Green Connection has developed a financial education programme which includes: The main elements of financial management, Financial policies and accountability, Key concepts of budgeting, Developing and interpreting a variance report, Overview of Financial Statements, and Asset control .



The programme is a very basic financial management programme aimed at individuals or organizations that have no financial training at all. The aim of the programme is to enable the participants to gain some knowledge of how to control their finances and be able to do a simple budget, as well as be able to compare the budget to actual expenses. This enables the participants to see where the income comes from and what they spend the money on. The programme makes use of interactive methods and draws on the experiences of the participants.

This course was given at the Learning Week presented by the Fundamentals Training Centre in Cape Town as well as to a farming trust, Erfdeel Farming Trust, in Piketberg. The course will also be presented to the Lutzville Farming Association later in 2008.

### ***Responsible Fisheries Programme***

The Green Connection has worked with Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) in designing a course for fisheries compliance officers, vessel skippers and officers. This involved designing the course, developing course material, and delivering training. The course was initially designed for hake trawl industry but has now been adapted to hake long line, tuna long line, and tuna pole. The Green Connection has been involved in all of these adaptations and the next industry to be tackled is the purse seine industry.





The Green Connection will continue to work with WWF into the future as they have asked us to continue to deliver training, train their trainers and to assist with design of future courses. It is envisaged that this arrangement will continue into 2009.

### ***Assistance to DWAF in the Olifants Doring Catchment***

The Green Connection was first contracted in 2006 to assist the Department of Water Affairs (DWAF) with implementation of its responsibilities in the Olifants Doring catchment. We have been involved to date with various water transfers, and new water use licence applications. This project also includes a mentoring component which aims to assist DWAF in building the capacity of its new staff, and is scheduled to continue into 2009.



### ***Support to Riebeek Valley residents - PPC cement factory***



In November 2006, the Green Connection was asked to assist the residents of the Riebeek Valley to participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed PPC cement factory. The Green Connection's role was to assist the residents to understand the EIA process, and to help them to participate and to draft submissions for the residents' forum that was formed in 2007.

The Green Connection strongly believes that local communities should be empowered to participate in matters of environmental governance that affect them. EIAs are only one environmental tool that ordinary people are faced with, and the Green Connection looks forward to assisting other communities in the future.

### ***Succulent Karoo Climate Change Communication Project- CEPF- funded***



The project was initiated late in 2007. A needs assessment survey of rural stakeholders in 7 priority areas of the Succulent Karoo showed that the communities of the Succulent Karoo were eager for more information on climate change, and, interestingly, had already noticed many changes in the environment. To date the Green Connection has held 10 workshops, 1 meeting and are preparing for two more workshops. Green Connection also developed a handbook and designed and hosted a website containing climate change related information

([www.climatetalk.org.za](http://www.climatetalk.org.za)). On request from workshop participants, the Green Connection developed an educational DVD, which will be distributed amongst to all who participated. The Final Evaluation Report will be available towards the end of 2008.



### ***Education for adaptation to climate change in South Africa- DG Murray Trust-funded project***

This project, begun in mid 2008, is collaboration between the Climate Action Partnership (CAP) and the Green Connection and has been funded by the DG Murray Trust and administered by the Wildlands Conservation Trust.



The aims are two-fold, to continue the education of the communities of the Succulent Karoo in order to prepare them for the impacts of climate change and to initiate a process of involving local communities in a participative research project, where their valuable observations can be captured in a scientific format and the findings compiled into a report to be made available to climate scientists for use in their research programmes. The project aims to build on the existing climate change communication project in that it will continue to work with communities identified through the Succulent Karoo Climate Change Communication Project.

### **ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES:**

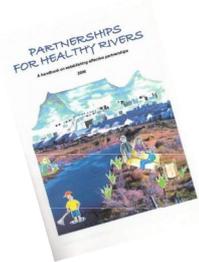


The Green Connection team places value on networking, meeting with people, keeping up to date with the latest developments in the field, and providing expert input where we can.

Such events are too numerous to list but range from presentations to parliament regarding legislation amendments, strategic planning sessions for ecosystem programmes such as SKEP, and participation in a renewable energy summit.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

In collaboration with our clients and associates, the Green Connection has produced a number of educational media to assist with capacity building in the field of sustainable development.



### **FINANCES:**

The 2008 annual financial statements of the Green Connection were prepared by external accounting officers, Stokell and Associates. The full annual financial statement is available under separate cover.

# THE GREEN CONNECTION



**MAKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT A REALITY**

Contact us:

PO BOX 24308

LANDSDOWNE 7779

TEL/FAX: 021-7616560

WEBSITE: [WWW.THEGREENCONNECTION.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.THEGREENCONNECTION.ORG.ZA)

EMAIL: [INFO@THEGREENCONNECTION.ORG.ZA](mailto:INFO@THEGREENCONNECTION.ORG.ZA)

