

Making Sustainable Development A Reality

www.thegreenconnection.org.za



Annual Report 2020

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080-620-NPO

PBO no: 930036889

Board Members: Liz McDaid, Basier Dramat, Christy Bragg, Penny Hlakula, Glyn Williams, Yachika Reddy

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Board Members Yachika Reddy, Glyn Williams, Penny Hlakula, Liz McDaid, Basier Dramat, Roshan Stanford

Our Mission

We believe 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. We believe 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. Our organisation aims to provide practical support to both the government and non-government sector as an integral part of sustainable development.

Profile

The Green Connection was established in 2000 and registered as a Non-profit organisation in 2010. The organisation comprises of 66.67% women and 83.3% PDI and prides itself on its relevance to the new South Africa. The organisation's Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) status was approved in 2011.

Organogram

BOARD

Yachika Reddy (Chair); Basier Dramat; Glyn Williams; Penny Hlakula; Liz McDaid; Roshan Stanford

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Liz McDaid
Neville van Rooy
Sizo Sibanda
Bahia Brady

Consultants:

Media: Natasha Adonis

Legal: Adrian Pole

Research Associates: Sakeena Allie; Gillian Hamilton; Ketshepaone Modise; Jan Arkert; Linda Arkert; Kirsten Pearson;

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Christy Bragg

2020 Operations

Over the last couple of years, Green Connection associates have been diverted into various activities and the Green Connection board resolved to let the organisation idle until momentum picked up again. Despite the covid pandemic and associated economic slowdown, the Green Connection has expanded and is making its mark.

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Energy Governance

The Green Connection continues to be part of the civil society network, the Energy Governance Initiative EG-SA. EG-SA meets regularly to discuss current energy challenges facing the country and how organisations can work together to address them.

The Green Connection contributed to an EG-SA/Project 90 briefing on the [Just Energy Transition](#) for South Africa.

Responsible Fishing

Green Connection continues to work with small scale fishers around the coast. IOISA now runs an annual training course for its trainers who live and work with small scale fishing communities. The Green Connection offers a communication and conflict resolution module as part of the training course.

Since 2008, the Green Connection has been involved with WWF in working together to support the training of fishers, as well as advising them on their restaurant programme. The Green Connection has continued to work with WWF to assist the Responsible Fisheries Alliance (RFA) which is a group of commercial fishing operations that strive to improve the ecological friendliness of their operations.

The Two Rivers Urban Park

The Green Connection continues to offer a supportive role wherever it can. In 2020 the Two Rivers urban park came under threat as greedy developers attempted to force through approvals to build on a river confluence area and which is designated urban park. The Green Connection lent support and put in an appeal to the W.Cape environmental Authorities against the development approval.

UCT Planners and Architects planning

Over a number of years, the Green Connection was asked to provide a lecture on public participation in environmental decision-making to the planning and architect students. In 2020, the lecture was virtual and focused on how students might want to view public participation in EIAs

The Legacy Project

The green Connection has always maintained a strong grassroots connection and going forward, it would be important to revitalise that aspect, and to start to run eco justice and youth development projects. Ways to work both voluntarily and funded should be strengthened, particularly wrt to implementing the legacy project.

With an initial boost from Liz McDaid's, Goldman award donation, the Green Connection has initiated the legacy project. This will be partly organised through a champions advocacy training course and in part, and additional funding will be sought to complement the oceans based advocacy.

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Who Stole our Oceans Campaign

Who Stole Our Oceans (WSOO) was initiated in early 2020, and was an excellent lesson on how to organise during COVID lockdown. The GC team had to meet virtually to discuss and put the project proposal together, and then had to be creative in engaging with communities. As lockdown eased, some of the small community engagements have been able to take place. The WSOO report is separately appended.

Going forward into 2021.

The Green connection's challenge has always been to raise funds to carry out the work it has identified as a priority. We are seeing that although youth are passionate about environmental justice, there is little advice and capacity building available to facilitate their voices being raised.

Thankfully, it appears that the drought is over and the Green Connection is looking forward to implementing our various projects going forward.

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