

# DUCT AGM



Date  
Time  
Location

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**Meeting called by:** David Still

**Type of meeting:** Annual General Meeting

**Attendees:** See list attached

**Apologies:** See list attached

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## *Minutes*

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**Agenda item:** Chairman's Address

**Presenter:** Dave Still

Welcome and introductions

Acceptance of 2019 AGM minutes

Proposed by David Still and seconded by Mark Graham

Dave Still reminded all of DUCT's mission, vision and role.

### OUR MISSION

To champion the health of the Msunduzi and uMngeni Rivers.

### OUR VISION

An ecologically healthy and biologically diverse uMngeni-uMsunduzi river system that provides sustained ecological goods and services for the communities that depend on them for their survival.

Communities that show respect for the rivers and take ownership and responsibility for the condition of the rivers, seeking to preserve their natural function and beauty.

Government, business, the scientific community and civil society cooperating in providing the resources to effectively manage the river systems

### OUR ROLE

Raise the profile of river health.

Develop, demonstrate and encourage the adoption of solutions to problems.

Support and learn from people and communities who wish to make a difference or are already making a difference to the health of their rivers.

Actively engage in river health projects, education and capacity building.

He likened DUCT's modus operandi to the characteristics of the following four animals:

Bee - we cross-pollinate ideas and information between organisations;

Mule - we stubbornly insist that government fulfils its constitutional and legal obligations with regard to the environment;

Owl - we provide ready access to a network of some of the best river health and environmental scientists in South Africa;

Guinea-pig - we are willing to try out new ideas in the field rather than just talk endlessly about what should be done.

### Staff changes in 2020:

#### Welcome to:

- Sizwe Msimang – Deputy Finance Manager
- Phumla Ndlovu
- Kholosa Magudu

### New Groen Sebenza Interns

- Feziwe Mntungwa

### 2020 Highlights:

- We have a stable, positive team
- Good work has been done on project management systems
- Our project pipeline is strong
- We have finalised our Strategic Plan for 2021-2025
- DUCT has a leading role in the uMngeni Ecological Infrastructure Partnership (UEIP)
- Completion of the Sand Mining Status Quo report

### 2020 Low-Lights

Covid19 lockdown and knock-on effects

Ongoing delays in recommencement of two major projects (DEA and Umgeni Water/Sobantu)

Msunduzi – when you thought it couldn't get worse . . .

Water quality remains poor – Msunduzi capacity for sewer maintenance continues to deteriorate

### Finances

Duct's February 2020 audited financials showed a surplus of nearly R376 000 – much better than the previous 3 years where we had a small loss each year. This is gratifying. However, our assets still mostly comprise the property (building) and moveable items (vehicles, computers etc) – we are short of working capital, necessitating ongoing loans.

### 2020 Challenges – remain much the same as in 2019

Continue to build systems for people and project management

Improve DUCT's finances – reduce debt

Impact solid waste pollution at a strategic level

Impact Duzi water quality

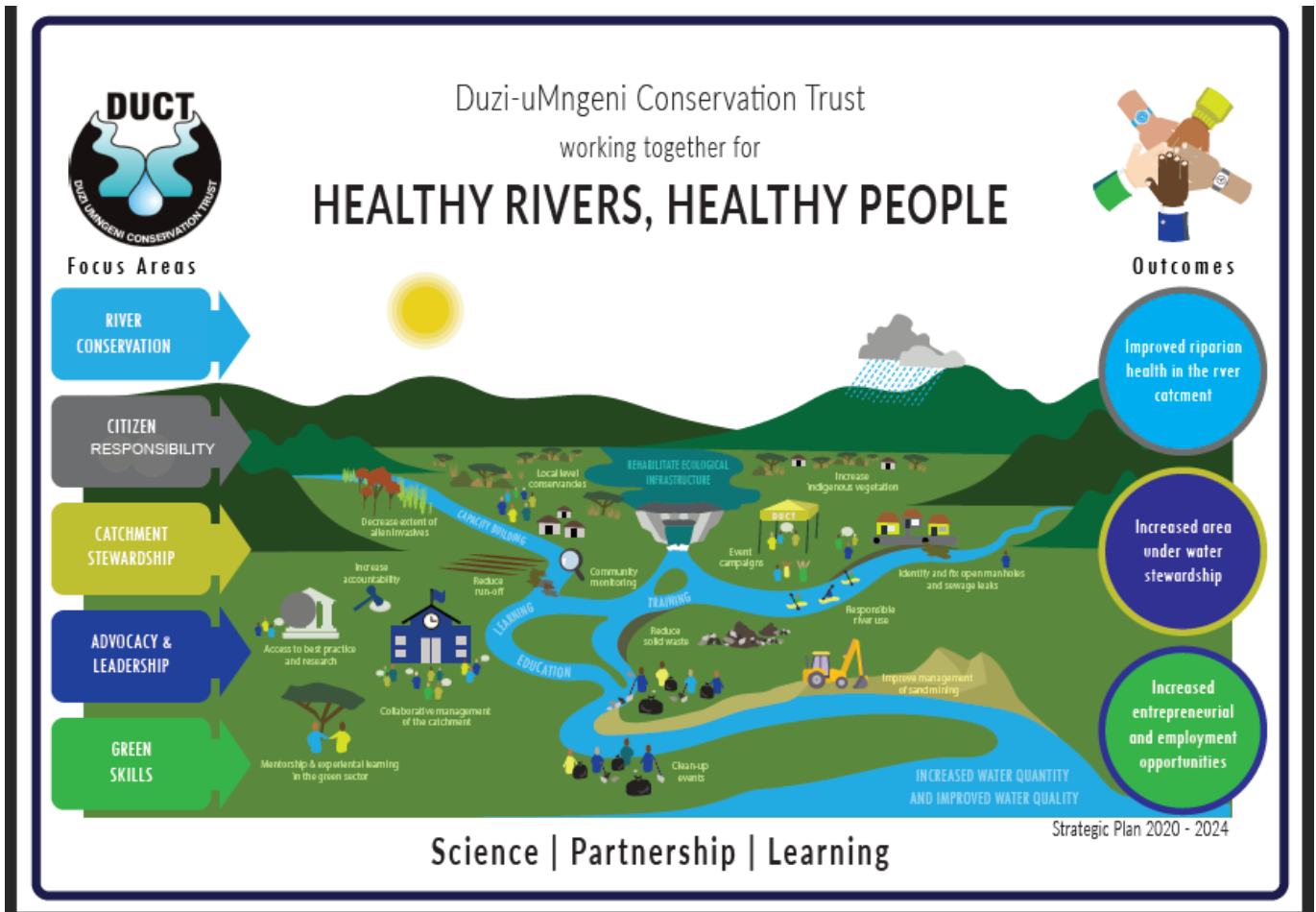
Take further steps with illegal sand mining

Long Service Awards:

- Wendy Ngcobo
- Hlengiwe Nxele
- Sithembiso Sangweni

Agenda item: General Manager’s Report

Presenter: Faye Brownell



DUCT is really about implementation. We focus on a range of ecological infrastructure interventions that include:

- Alien plant eradication throughout the whole catchment
- Community based water management
- Education
- Advocacy
- Dealing with solid waste and sewer surcharges

We have simple interventions like storm water socks, and trash booms. This is primarily achieved through the employment of over 300 EPWP workers. DUCT are the hands and feet out in the communities, working every day to try and bring about change.

Why was I surprised, you may ask? DUCT *is* all of that. Yes, a resounding yes. But we are so much more now. If I look at the high-level of strategic work that we are now involved in, I can see us working across the different levels now. We are both boots on the ground, and contributing to policy shifts in the catchment.

It has been amazing to draw on my historical networks within the water services sector, and mesh these together with the extraordinary networks that being the leader of DUCT has placed me in. I have had my eyes opened to both the challenges and the opportunities in this catchment, and my passion for DUCT to be an agent of change has accelerated. We have truly shifted gears.

I will touch on 3 strategic projects a little later to illustrate this.

The gear shift has also happened internally. We have noted our lack of monitoring and evaluation in our projects – the absence of tracking the amazing successes, and also the times we have fallen short. We are putting systems in place – and have hired Larette to manage this.

We also shifted from 13 people in the office to over 30 people!! Wow. In a 3-bedroom old home. We have had to all adapt, make concessions, live through renovations, and transform our space into something more efficient. We are almost done.

#### The DUCT role in the catchment

- Action on the ground
- Community engagement
- Partnering with government to help them fulfil their mandate
- Building river health ambassadors by providing basic employment alongside education
- Highlighting both the dire straits we are in, as well as the successes that are being realised

#### Projects

##### **A brief timeline of the project delays was detailed as below:**

Umgeni Water a 5-year project was slightly delayed, and only started in April as opposed to February.

The WRC project began on time in April 2018.

The DEA LUI and Capacity Building projects did not begin as planned in April, after months of delays and some very serious communications with Head Office in CT, the DEA Alien Clearing project finally began at the end of September.

The DEA Capacity Building Project, however, is unfortunately still delayed due to AG queries at a national level, bringing the entire programme to a halt.

The Msunduzi Sewer Monitoring phase 1 ended in June, and should have moved seamlessly to phase 2 in July. However, delays with Council resolution have resulted in DUCT only signing the contract in the first week of December and therefore will really only be able to start in January 2019. And the uMgungundlovu project that should have started in 2017 has been delayed repeatedly due to local politics. DUCT got the final go ahead with the 7<sup>th</sup> iteration of the proposal, which has been awaiting the MMs signature for the past month. This year there are a total of 16 projects that are underway.

## DEA Alien Clearing

- 17 x Supervisors/contractors
- 22 x Brushcutter/ Chainsaw operators
- 22 x First aiders & Health and Safety Reps
- 126 x Herbicide applicators
- On the ground for two months, 10 teams of 11
- The aim for year 1 is to clear nearly 4000ha

## Umgeni Water Darvill

This five-year project started in April 2018, employing 10 youths and aims to equip them with as much knowledge and skills to help them establish their own SMME.

## WRC – Knowledge Sharing

This five-year project aims on improving water security by integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into planning, finance and development in the water sector.

## Achievements

### **Task 1**

- Gathered documents relating to finance and investment in ecological infrastructure

### **Task 2**

- MAP & TRACK: Developing a stakeholder database and tracking tool that outlines the project related role-players, their relationship to the project.

### Scope

To develop and capacity incentives for mainstreaming ecological infrastructure value into national, regional and local development policy and finance, with application demonstrated in two water catchments.

## Msunduzi Sewer Monitoring

To reduce sewerage leakages and surcharges into the Msunduzi river system within national environmental legal compliance requirements, as well as to contribute towards community and river health and an enabling environment for local economic development, open space management and healthy outdoor activity within the Msunduzi Municipality.

## Achievements

Provided a public awareness and educational programme to change behaviours amongst the public that contributes towards sewerage blockages and to secure community support for the monitoring and reporting of leaking, blocked and surcharging sewer system.

### Scope

Reduce sewage/water leakage and surcharge, as well as solid waste and other forms of pollution that are entering the Msunduzi River system.

**Duzi-Umngeni Conservation Trust (NPC)**

(Registration number: 2006/006370/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 29 February 2020

**Detailed Income Statement**

	Notes	2020 R	2019 R
<b>Revenue</b>			
Project income	9	14 030 936	11 216 936
General income	12	144 626	316 080
		<u>14 175 562</u>	<u>11 533 016</u>
<b>Cost of sales</b>			
Opening stock		29 682	49 535
Stock write-off		(29 682)	(19 853)
Closing stock		-	(29 682)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Other income</b>			
Gains on disposal of assets		25 000	-
Interest received		1 588	34 292
Other income		61 239	13 186
Youth wage subsidy		360 398	312 962
		<u>448 225</u>	<u>360 440</u>
<b>Expenses (Refer to page 24)</b>			
		<u>(14 016 821)</u>	<u>(11 919 068)</u>
<b>Operating profit (loss)</b>		<u>606 966</u>	<u>(25 612)</u>
Finance costs	13	(230 721)	(142 563)
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>		<u>376 245</u>	<u>(168 175)</u>

## Duzi-Umngeni Conservation Trust (NPC)

(Registration number: 2006/006370/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 29 February 2020

### Detailed Income Statement

	Notes	2020 R	2019 R
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Accounting fees - current		28 268	30 000
Accounting fees - other services		-	19 749
Advertising		9 047	14 142
Bad debts		-	42 892
Bank charges		25 758	25 930
Computer expenses		53 475	38 500
Consulting fees		338 223	427 260
Depreciation	2	103 395	92 959
Employee costs		2 760 476	2 022 864
Insurance		163 417	143 679
Loss on sale of assets		-	1 477
Meetings		38 116	22 781
Office repairs and maintenance		207 648	39 824
Office running costs		154 233	99 715
Postage		201	768
Printing and stationery		59 829	25 637
Project expenses	9	8 929 649	7 931 081
Shortfall funding		120	139 950
Statutory costs		51 892	38 939
Sundries		27 358	33 523
Telephone and fax		55 084	75 161
Training		14 160	11 200
Travel - local		470 014	276 007
Vehicle maintenance		526 458	365 030
		<b>14 016 821</b>	<b>11 919 068</b>

## Duzi-Umnjeni Conservation Trust (NPC)

(Registration number: 2006/006370/08)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 29 February 2020

### Statement of Financial Position as at 29 February 2020

	Notes	2020 R	2019 R
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	2	2 587 669	2 437 167
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Inventory	3	-	29 682
Trade and other receivables	4	8 854 252	1 487 975
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2 488 714	1 256 209
		<b>11 342 966</b>	<b>2 773 866</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>13 930 635</b>	<b>5 211 033</b>
<b>Equity and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained income		1 660 593	1 284 348
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Other financial liabilities	6	1 081 521	1 081 900
Loans from directors	7	1 483 565	-
		<b>2 565 086</b>	<b>1 081 900</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	1 888 562	987 728
Projects	9	7 188 932	1 398 271
Provisions	10	627 462	377 662
Other financial liabilities	6	-	81 124
		<b>9 704 956</b>	<b>2 844 785</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>12 270 042</b>	<b>3 926 685</b>
<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>		<b>13 930 635</b>	<b>5 211 033</b>



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**Agenda item: Appointment of auditors**

Colenbrander re-appointed

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**Agenda Item: Election of Directors for 2021 - 2023 term of office**

Mark Graham and Trevor Gorven reappointed for another 3-year term

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**Agenda item: Introduction of Guest Speaker**

**Presenter:** Mark Graham

Kevin McCann is an experienced and knowledgeable conservationist with a range of environmental and ecological skills. Deeply committed to environmental conservation through effective conservation action.

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**Agenda item: Guest Speaker Presentation**

**Presenter:** Kevin McCann

**Kevin McCann's Topic: Can we change our value system to integrate the environment into our current global economic model**

The elephant in the room is the Corona Virus. Although this has been a major health and economic crisis, with lockdowns happening all around we have experienced a visible decrease in all kinds of pollution. We have seen animals returning to their natural habitats, seen the peaks of the Himalayas that have previously been covered with smoke/ unnatural clouds and gases. So, although we might be suffering currently, there is some good that came from this pandemic.

Kevin went on to explain that the current value hierarchy we are forced to follow makes it seem like the basis of all human progress is the economy instead of it being nature. We should be preserving our non-renewable sources instead of over-exploiting them. We value the economy more than nature right now because the resources are still available. What happens when all the resources run out. What is our country left with after that, as wealth also runs out after some time? Creating energy is costing our country much more than its monetary value. We should be creating more energy using renewable resources.

There are various threats to our environment which sees us losing various plants and animals to extinction. There could have been measures taken to prevent this if our country wasn't too focused on the economy instead of the environment. The question still remains; Why is the government not investing heavily in environmental protection. The lack of awareness remains a major downfall in nature conservation. Locally, a high percentage of people living around wetlands, rivers, streams and dams are not taking care of their resources as they should be. Instead with the increase of population comes the deterioration of our water sources. Solid and Human waste are affecting many of our water sources and that includes industrial

waste. We have to find a way to teach people that they must preserve the water we currently have and treat it better so that its available for them and other people in future.

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**Agenda item:** Chairman's Award and Closure

**Presenter:** Dave Still

The 2020 Chairman's Award goes to Larette Schultz. Larette returned to DUCT after leaving briefly last year and has done invaluable work keeping the DUCT bus running. She has set up many systems that have helped DUCT cope with the many challenges that occurred this year.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 20h30.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

Allegra Wykerd	Larette Schultz	Ryan Brudwig	Dennis Mncwabe
Asande Ngcamu	Lisl Everton	Samuel Kumbula	Ryan O' Connor
Bruce Baxter	Lethu Mahlaba	Sanele Vilakazi	
Charmaine Hemmingway	Mark Graham	Sithembiso Sangweni	
Dave Still	Matthew Black	Sizwe Msimang	
Elizabeth Taylor	Melanie Rood	Sphamandla Dlamini	
Faye Brownell	Merrill King	Tembeka Dambuza	
Feziwe Mntungwa	Mfundo Myende	Wendy Ngcobo	
Gill Graff	Nkosingithandile Sithole	Zakhele Mdunge	
Gugulethu Tshabalala	Nomathemba Ntshangase	Ross Haynes	
Hlengiwe Nxele	Owen Hemingway	Dave Pullin	
Jim Taylor	Pam Haynes	Ant Edmonds	
Kholosa Magudu	Phakamani Dlamini	Tamara Black	
Kirsten Oliver	Portia Vilakazi	Mlu Ntuli	

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**Agenda Item:****Apologies**Trevor Gorven

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