Creating community bird-monitoring and urban rehabilitation protocols for Cape Town

Funding cycle 2019/2020

Summary

Communitree’s mission is to empower people to green public spaces with locally indigenous vegetation contributing towards socio-ecological restoration in Cape Town. In the 2019/2020 funding year, Communitree achieved success in increasing the number of nectivorous plant species that support the sunbird guild, and introduced a number of threatened and endangered plant species to these micro-conservation pockets, that the sunbird guild is key to pollinating, thereby contributing to the restoration of a plant-pollinator relationship, and improving the resilience of these species going forward. While the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the full citizen science programme from being rolled out, a key citizen science outcome included introducing new members of the public to the appreciation of local birds in under-greened, and under-served communities in Cape Town.

Using the practice gathered during our bird monitoring, we work together with partners to create a shared urban restoration protocol to make bird, and rehabilitation monitoring comparable between projects and across the landscape. We have co-created a very useful rehabilitation guide, strategy, and plant and site selection tool so that anybody else can join in, find local partners, and have access to important information without being trained as an ecologist. See https://www.fynboscorridors.org/
Introduction

At Communitree we are all about Fynbos Connection: between people and nature; nature and nature; and people and people. The symbolic and physical manifestation of this is stepping stone gardens that build up into Fynbos corridors. Our vision is to have an socio-ecological corridor across spatial and social divides of Cape Town. Over this funding period, Communitree worked to restore the socio-ecological landscape by working with members of the public to restore abandoned public spaces, thereby forming socially and ecologically restored spaces. Each of the public spaces became a stepping-stone corridor which allowed insects and birds to stop over and refuel as they cross the urban landscape, thereby freeing them from being trapped in a corner of the urban landscape, and improving the resilience of their population.

At the end of 2020, Communitree was handed over from Frances Taylor and to Julia September. A long term partnership with U-Turn was formalised, and our work now falls under Living Roots.
Corridors

The main aim of our work is to work with a sensitivity to the local socio-ecological context, but to keep in view the long term larger goals across the landscape. As such, we chose our sites carefully to make sure they feed into the Liesbeek and Black River catchments.

Priority sites 2019 extend out from Mowbray up the Black and Liesbeek Rivers. See communitree.in for more detail and photos

This was further strengthened by the Fynbos Corridor Collaboration, where our work has been co-founding this collaboration so that similar organisations working throughout Cape Town can work in the same direction and all build corridors together.
Approach

Training community members as bird monitors was part of Communitree’s community conservation work, where we empower members of the public to do restoration work in their own socially and ecologically degraded spaces through practical and theoretical training. Originally the idea was to have the bird training form part of the citizen science training of members of the public, but because of COVID, members of our staff carried out the bird monitoring.

Activities

25 fynbos gardening, birding and propagation workshops

The birding was part of a wider programme involving planting specifically for the subbird guild, as well as follow up maintenance. We had 26 workshops during the year, with a number of follow up visits, activities and discussions and have attended a number of community events and celebrations.

- We hosted 16 workshops at David Profit Fynbos Peace Garden, including for the Camellia Street Garden and 7 birding training sessions at the Wilderoosmyn Garden:

  Wednesday 30 Jan 2019  11:00-14:30  Introducing Fynbos  
  Wednesday 20 Feb 2019  11:00-13:30  Beginner’s Fynbos Propagation  
  Wednesday 20 Mar 2019  11:00-12:30  Weeding workshop  
  Wednesday 27 Mar 2019  10:00-15:00  Bird Outing to Rondevlei  
  Wednesday 10 Apr 2019  11:00-12:30  Advanced Plant Propagation  
  Wednesday 15 May 2019  11:00-12:30  Landscaping  
  Wednesday 12 Jun 2019  11:00-12:30  Continuation of Landscaping  
  Monday 17 Jun 2019  10:00-11:00  Youth Day - David Profit Peace Garden  
  Tuesday 25 Jun 2019  08:00-08:30  Bird monitoring in Bonteheuwel  
  Wednesday 17 Jul 2019  11:00-12:00  Madiba day  
  Wednesday 24 Jul 2019  11:00-12:00  Planting out at David Profit Peace Garden  
  Tuesday 30 Jul 2019  08:00-08:30  Bird monitoring in Bonteheuwel  
  Tuesday 13 Aug 2019  09:00-09:30  Bird monitoring in Bonteheuwel  
  Wednesday 14 Aug 2019  11:00-12:30  Garden Maintenance  
  Friday 13 Sep 2019  08:30-09:00  Bird monitoring in Bonteheuwel  
  Friday 26 Apr 2019  07:00-19:00  iNaturalist City Nature Challenge  
  Wednesday 1 May 2019  07:00-07:30  Bird monitoring Belgravia  
  Tuesday 28 May 2019  07:00-07:30  Bird monitoring Belgravia  
  Friday 05 Jul 2019  07:00-07:30  Bird monitoring Belgravia  
  Tuesday 16 Jul 2019  07:00-07:30  Bird monitoring Belgravia  
  Friday 19 Jul 2019  07:00-07:30  Bird monitoring Belgravia  
  Sunday 04 Aug 2019  07:00-07:30  Bird monitoring Belgravia

- We hosted the following events and workshops at St George’s Liesbeek patch:

  Wednesday 27 Feb 2019  15:00-16:00  Site Visit  
  Wednesday 06 Mar 2019  15:00-16:00  Beginner’s Fynbos Propagation  
  Wednesday 17 Apr 2019  14:00-15:30  Advanced Plant Propagation
Tuesday 23 Apr 2019 11:00-12:00 St George’s planting day
Thursday 20 Jun 2019 13:00-14:00 St George’s planting day
Thursday 18 Jul 2019 08:30-10:30 Mandela day Sour fig planting
Wednesday 24 Jul 2019 08:30-09:00 Bird monitoring in Mowbray/Rosebank
Wednesday 24 Jul 2019 15:00-16:00 Planting out
Wednesday 31 Jul 2019 15:00-16:00 Planting out
Wednesday 07 Aug 2019 09:30-10:00 Bird monitoring in Mowbray/Rosebank
Wednesday 21 Aug 2019 15:00-16:00 St George’s planting day
Wednesday 04 Sep 2019 15:00-16:00 St Georges Weeding event
Monday 09 Sep 2019 09:00-09:30 Bird monitoring in Mowbray/Rosebank

- We hosted the following events and workshops at Huis Luckoff retirement village

Tuesday 26 Mar 2019 14:00-16:00 Beginner’s Fynbos Propagation
Thursday 23 May 2019 15:30-04:30 Plant propagation at Huis Luckhoff
Wednesday 12 Jun 2019 10:00-12:30 Grass removal at Huis Luckhoff
Friday 21 Jun 2019 08:00-08:30 Bird monitoring in Mowbray/Rosebank
Friday 21 Jun 2019 10:00-12:00 Planting day at Huis Luckhoff
Friday 26 Jul 2019 08:00-08:30 Bird monitoring in Mowbray/Rosebank
Thursday 8 Aug 2019 08:30-09:00 Bird monitoring in Mowbray/Rosebank
Tuesday 20 Aug 2019 16:00-17:00 Weeding and gardening at Huis Luckhoff
Tuesday 10 Sep 2019 09:00-09:30 Bird monitoring in Mowbray/Rosebank

- We hosted the following events and workshops at Newlands Tree Stump

Thursday 30 May 2019 10:00-12:00 Planting out
Monday 24 Jun 2019 08:00-08:30 Bird monitoring in Newlands
Monday 29 Jul 2019 08:00-08:30 Bird monitoring in Newlands
Monday 12 Aug 2019 09:00-09:30 Bird monitoring in Newlands
Tuesday 20 Aug 2019 14:00-15:00 Weeding Session
Wednesday 11 Sep 2019 08:30-09:00 Bird monitoring in Newlands

- We hosted the following events and workshops at F.R.O.G.

Friday 28 Sep 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 05 Oct 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 12 Oct 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 19 Oct 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 26 Oct 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 2 Nov 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 9 Nov 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 16 Nov 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 23 Nov 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Friday 30 Nov 2018 09:00-10:00 Gardening at Sun Path
Tuesday 5 Mar 2019 10:30-12:00 Plant propagation - beginners
Saturday 9 Mar 2019 10:30-12:00 Plant propagation - beginners
Tuesday 9 Apr 2019 10:30-12:00 Plant propagation - beginners
Wednesday 10 Apr 2019 01:30-03:00 Garden Tour 1
Saturday 13 Apr 2019 10:30-12:00 Plant propagation - beginners
Friday 26 Apr 2019 07:00-19:00 iNaturalist City Nature Challenge
Saturday 4 May 2019 10:30-12:00 Plant propagation - beginners
Tuesday 07 May 2019 10:30-12:00 Plant propagation - beginners
Thursday 06 Jun 2019 09:00-10:00 Garden Maintenance
Thursday 13 Jun 2019 09:00-10:00 Sour fig planting
Tuesday 25 Jun 2019 13:00-14:00 Sour fig planting
Plant species selection for the sunbird guild

An important part of the soil preparation process is the planting of pioneers after removing alien vegetation cover, a year 1/first phase activity, which largely fulfills goal 2: to improve the plant cover, plant number, and species number of locally indigenous plants at each patch. In the years that follow, the plant species richness is enhanced with plant species that more directly support goal 4: to improve the abundance and species richness of sunbirds, monkey beetles, bees and flies, are added.

Pioneers

The following plant species are easy-to-grow, take quickly to disturbed soil and stabilise it, lower the pH, and perform as a living mulch by covering the soil and keeping it moist and provide cover to young plants from sun and wind. This is important for more sensitive plants that come later, as the collection of pioneer plants act together to make a stable nursery environment for delicate roots and provide moist, shady conditions for the young sensitive leaves. Some of these pioneer plant species also feed and house bees and monkey beetles. The sunbird guild supplement their diet with insects, especially when feeding chicks so these pioneer plants are already preparing the way for specialist birds and mammals. *Check with the biodiversity branch if the species and variety are locally appropriate before selecting them for each Fynbos patch*.

1. Arctotheca calendula (bees, butterflies, monkey beetles)
2. Arctotis stoechadifolia (ground cover, bees, extra-limmital but useful)
3. Carpobrotus acinaciformis (add mycorrhizae, bees, monkey beetles)
4. Carpobrotus edulis (add mycorrhizae, bees, (monkey) beetles, mammals)
5. Gazania rigens var. rigens (ground cover, add mycorrhizae, monkey beetles, caution horticultural variety)
6. Gazania rigens var. uniflora (ground cover, add mycorrhizae, monkey beetles, caution horticultural variety)
7. *Eriocephalus africanus* (add mycorrhizae, stabilise soil)
8. *Metalasia muricata* (add mycorrhizae)
9. Pelargonium capitatum (bees)
10. Pelargonium cucullatum (bees)
11. Plectranthus neochilus (bees, extra-limmital but useful)
12. *Seriphium plumosum* (add mycorrhizae)
13. Tetragona fruticosa (bees)

Orange-breasted sunbird (Anthobaphes violacea)

Key ecological role: small pollinator of the Erica family

The following Erica species were selected for propagation to feed the orange-breasted sunbird because they have flowers longer than 15mm, are relatively easy-to-grow, have a long flowering season, have a large range in the Cape Town region and are classified as least concern:
1. Erica abietina (check subspecies carefully)
2. Erica cerinhoides
3. Erica curviflora
4. Erica coccinea
5. Erica mammosa
6. Erica plukenetii
7. Erica sessiliflora
8. Erica verticillata

These food resources can be smaller and spread out because the bird is small and needs less bulk food, but it might be sensitive to disturbance (see this paper for counter argument) so they would potentially need to be in noise and disturbance protected areas.

Erica advisor: Julia September

They also feed on:

- Proteas, Leucospernum, Chasmanthe, Aloes, Cotyledon (Pig’s ear), Leonotis, Mimetes, Watsonia, Tecomaria, Lobostermons, Liparia, Agapanthus

Malachite sunbird (Nectarinia famosa)

Key ecological role: large pollinator of the Iris and Amaryllis family

The following plant species occur with the corridor building region, and are suitable as Malachite sunbird food. They are all perennial with short flowering seasons, so a well-thought-out programme, including enough bulk of flowering plants for a flash of feast-feeding, or spread of continuous flower throughout the year, must be factored in:

**Amaryllis family**

Summer/Autumn

1. Brunsvigia josephinae (pollinated by the sugarbird)
2. Brunsvigia litoralis (endangered, so remove from list?)
3. Brunsvigia orientalis
4. Cyrtanthus ventricosus
5. Haemanthus coccineus
6. Haemanthus pubescens
7. Haemanthus sanguineus

**Iris family**

Spring/Summer

8. Chasmanthe aethiopica
9. Chasmanthe floribunda
10. Tritoniopsis triticea (challenging to grow, consider removing from the list)
11. Watsonia meriana
12. Watsonia spectabilis

**Winter/Spring**

13. Gladiolus watsonius (granite, not much known, remove from list?)
Search for more winter bulbs needed for the Malachite sunbird, or a flush of spring feasting?

They also feed on:

Protea, Leucospermum, Mimetes, *Aloes, Chasmanthe, Strelitzia, Cotyledon* (Pig’s ear), *Leonotis, Watsonia, Tecomaria* and many more

**Cape Sugarbird (Promerops cafer)**

Key ecological function: pollinate some plant species within the Amaryllis family but depend on protea for food. Proteas are not dependent on them for pollination.

The following Proteaceae species were selected for propagation for the Cape Sugarbird because they are relatively easy-to-grow and are long flowering. Consider historical range and subspecies carefully:

1. *Protea cynaroides* (sand, all four birds feed from this! As well as monkey beetles!)
2. *Protea repens* (sand and clay)
3. *Protea neriifolia* (sand, East)
4. *Protea magnifica* (sand and clay, East)
5. *Mimetes cucullatus* (sand)
6. *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* (Check sub-species carefully) → positioned to benefit from a well-managed corridor should wrong subspecies in gardens be managed

Protea advisor: John Sharp

They also feed on:

*Erica, Watsonia, Aloes*

**Southern Double-collared Sunbird (Cinnyris chalybeus)**

small, short-billed, not-fussy generalists pollinator

The following plants are easy-to-grow, long-flowering and visited by generalist nectar-feeding birds:

1. *Salvia africana-lutea*
2. *Salvia lanceolata*
3. *Leonotis leonurus*

They also feed on:

Proteas, Ericas, Leucospermum, *Chasmanthe, Strelitzia, Aloes*, Kniphofia, *Cotyledon* (Pig’s ear), Halleria (Tree Fuschia), Mimetes, *Watsonia, Tecomaria* and many more

Sunbird advisor: Ceinwen Smith of Ingcungcu

**Monkey beetles, dolys and bees**

Monkey beetles are a key pollinator of the Iris family, with some species of plant relying on a very particular species of monkey beetle for pollination, and therefore long-term survival. Bees and flies, which are very difficult to distinguish with the naked eye, are really important
pollinators as well. The following plant species are chosen because they are easy-to-grow, have a long-flowering period and the attract insects. They would work with the species also categorised under ‘pioneers’ above, the mesems and daisies doing the work of attracting monkey beetles.

1. Salvia africana-caerulea (bees)
2. Bulbine frutescens (bees)
3. Watsonia marginata (bees)
4. Watsonia borbonica (bees, nectivorous birds, mammals)
5. Ornithogalum thyrsoides (monkey beetles, bees)
6. Cotula turbinata (monkey beetles, likes to grow between Buffalo grass)
7. Lampranthus glaucus (monkey beetles)
8. Dimorphotheca pluvialis (monkey beetles)
9. Heliophila africana (sand, blue, doly)
10. Additional: H. scoparia (sand, white to purple, doly), H. juncea (sand, white to purple, doly) and H. coronopifolia (sand, blue, doly)

*Moraea, Ixia, Sparaxis, Tritonia and Gladiolus?

Monkey beetles are found on marginal public spaces such as road verges, often a few meters back from the road as they are killed by traffic. Be mindful of the emerging pattern of niche specialisation of monkey beetles between large and small fragments of road islands. Some species prefer the large fragments, and others the small fragments.

→ consider seasonal continuity of flowering. Investigate whether monkey beetles need year-round flowering or only during spring and summer.

Monkey beetle advisor: Peta brom

→ factor in hybridability, investigate the closest wild population to each patch

→ What plants stand to benefit from this improved connectivity through connecting of isolated populations? What plants are threatened by hybridisation?
# Planting plan for 2019

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<th>Species</th>
<th>St George 2019</th>
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<th>Bishop's 2019</th>
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Through co-funding, in the 2020 planting season, we planted more sensitive plants that were both endangered or extinct, and supported more members of the sunbird guild: *Erica verticillata, Erica turgida, Serruria aemula*.

**Outcomes**

**Partnership leverage**

**Bird monitoring protocol - lingcungcu**

We used our long term relationship with lingcungcu to create a bird-monitoring protocol that was aligned with their existing bird monitoring protocol, and therefore create data that is comparable in the long term.

**New habitat - stepping-stone corridors**

Below is a map of the sites that have been established this year along the Liesbeek and Black River, adding to the few that were started last year in Mowbray. With the project funding the stepping-stone gardens will have locally appropriate genetic stock of pioneer plants, as opposed to garden variety ground covers. Having the appropriate plants is key to making each garden a meaningful contributor to a stepping-stone corridor, and will each serve as a mother stock of plant material for growers to add to the corridor.

**Bonteheuwel**

**David profit Peace Garden**

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**Camellia Garden**

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Belgravia

Wilderoosmaryn Patch

2019

- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: In progress
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioneers species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020

- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: In progress
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioneers species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

Liesbeek River Corridor

The Liebseek River Corridor project is a collaborative project aimed not only to protect and restore the function of the river but also to raise awareness of the historical importance of the river through signage and art installations. In collaboration with different organisations, schools and individuals we have already began participating in initiatives that improve the future of not only Liesbeek River but Cape Town.

Communitree facilitates the participation of members of the public in Fynbos rehabilitation along the Liesbeek River through the growing of plants, Fynbos garden care, bird- and insect-monitoring. Each Fynbos patches is a stepping stones for insects and birds along the river, a place to rest and refresh along their journey, such that each patches works with the others to build up a stepping-stone corridor. Along with the ecological rehabilitation we are working with local schools on bringing to light the historical significance of each site to aid in cultural acknowledgement and restoration.

Bishop’s Court

St Alban’s Patch

2019

- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: In progress
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioneers species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020

- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: In progress
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioneers species: Completed
- Planting of insect and bird species: Completed
- Planting of specialist species: In progress
- Place-making: Pending
→ put on hold until neighbouring owner stops building and building over the river is complete

Newlands

Newlands Treestump Garden

2019

- Initial assessment: Pending
- Removal of invasive aliens: Pending
- Landscaping: Pending
- Planting of pioneers species: Pending
- Planting of insect and bird species: Pending
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020

- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioneers species: Completed
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: In progress
- Place-making: Pending

Triangle Garden Patch

2019

- Initial assessment: Pending
- Removal of invasive aliens: Pending
- Landscaping: Pending
- Planting of pioneers species: Pending
- Planting of insect and bird species: Pending
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020

- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: In progress
- Landscaping: In progress
- Planting of pioneers species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: In progress
- Place-making: In progress

Sand Souci Bridge Patch

2019

- Initial assessment: Pending
- Removal of invasive aliens: Pending
- Landscaping: Pending
- Planting of pioneers species: Pending
- Planting of insect and bird species: Pending
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020

- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: In progress
- Landscaping: In progress
- Planting of pioneers species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: In progress
- Place-making: In progress
Rondebosch Common-Table Mountain Corridor
Rondebosch Common is a small but valuable fragment of Cape Flats Sand Fynbos that needs our protection because of the natural heritage it holds. The way Communitree does this is by helping re-connect the plants, insects and birds of Table Mountain to Rondebosch Common by creating fynbos patches that behave as fueling stations for the insects and birds.
as they fly over residential areas. At each of these fynbos patches the birds and insect can rest and refuel with food in the form of pollen and nectar. While they do this they cross-pollinate between each patch and between Table Mountain and Rondebosch Common. This help keep each population of plant, insect and bird from being isolated from others of its kind.

This corridor passes through areas of Mowbray and Little Mowbray, Rosebank, and UCT. We actively try to set up new gardens in these various areas in order to provide stepping stones. In order to convert abandoned or underutilised public spaces and reintroduce locally indigenous plants that will attract indigenous insects and birds that used to be in the area.

The area consists of Penisula Shale Renosterveld (along the slopes of Table Mountain) as well as Cape Flats Sand Fynbos. Both vegetation types are endemic to Cape Town and critically endangered. Creating indigenous gardens using the right species can therefore make a difference in the conservation of these vegetation types.

**Bishop’s Patch**

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<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<td>Planting of specialist species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place-making</td>
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</table>

**Ryan Road**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Place-making</td>
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**Ouma Erin Garden**

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<td>In progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place-making</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cecil Park
2019
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioners species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioners species: Completed
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: In progress
- Place-making: Pending

Thandokhulu High
2019
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioners species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioners species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

Koornhoop Corner
2019
- Initial assessment: Pending
- Removal of invasive aliens: Pending
- Landscaping: Pending
- Planting of pioners species: Pending
- Planting of insect and bird species: Pending
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioners species: Completed
- Planting of insect and bird species: Completed
- Planting of specialist species: Completed
- Place-making: Pending
N2 patch

2019
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: In progress
- Landscaping: Pending
- Planting of pioneeers species: In progress
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: In progress
- Planting of pioneeers species: Completed
- Planting of insect and bird species: In progress
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

St George's Island

2019
- Initial assessment: Pending
- Removal of invasive aliens: Pending
- Landscaping: Pending
- Planting of pioneeers species: Pending
- Planting of insect and bird species: Pending
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020
- Initial assessment: Completed
- Removal of invasive aliens: Completed
- Landscaping: Completed
- Planting of pioneeers species: Completed
- Planting of insect and bird species: Pending
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: In progress

Tow Path

2019
- Initial assessment: Pending
- Removal of invasive aliens: Pending
- Landscaping: Pending
- Planting of pioneeers species: Pending
- Planting of insect and bird species: Pending
- Planting of specialist species: Pending
- Place-making: Pending

2020
Strategic corridor building through partnership - FCC

Using the practice gathered during our bird monitoring, we work together with partners to created a shared urban restoration protocol to make bird, and rehabilitation monitoring comparable between projects and across the landscape. We have co-created a very useful rehabilitation guide, strategy, and plant and site selection tool so that anybody else can join in, find local partners, and have access to important information without being trained as an ecologist. See https://www.fynboscorridors.org/

Community conservation

This has been a success in terms of sharing the skills of growing Fynbos and preparing the ground for Fynbos, as well as understanding the link between gardens and insect and birds life, with an increased sensitivity to the details of the specific plants and birds. Participants in the Cape Flats are now connected with their closest local nature reserve which is Edith Stevens and have since gone on their own steam for a follow up visit. This is a great sign of strong interest and sustainable relationships within conservation work. Both sets of participants have met some members of the other group and this has been very successful in enabling exchange of knowledge and increased motivation through the inspiration of others’ work and knowledge.

Words from some participants:

Soraya Salie, David Profit Peace and Camellia Garden:
I do educational activities with the kids on our street because they are left on their own. One little one came up to me the other day and said: “Every day I greet the garden Aunty Soraya. I say good morning when I go past and good evening when I come back.”

Mariam Edwards, Wilderoosmaryn Garden:
“Wa alaykum salaam
Wow
Fynbos has really enhanced our area, it’s looking beautiful and it has allowed for more communication between neighbours .
We noticed more and more different types of birds in our area, such as sugar bird. Weavers, mouse sparrow. Sea Gull, hadedaa. We different pigeons as well. Rock pigeon, love pigeon
We also see different sparrows
Lately the red winged starling and the common starling. The garden itself is a source of comfort. Beautification. Stress reliever. Promotes peace and spirit of community amongst the neighbours and passersby. We share ideas.

Communities Coming together, Breaking barriers. Breaking boundaries

“The garden is a learning curve. I feel like I'm at university, learning all about the plants and how they affect our habitat. Everyday when we at garden and with others gardeners, I learn a lot.”

Citizen scientists and the power of binoculars

During the funding cycle we aimed to do group training and help community gardeners to become fully capable bird monitors. Due to covid 19, we could not carry that out in that format, so we did the bird monitoring ourselves. But, in instances where it was possible we worked with community members that were available. The best outcome here was seeing people who had never had access to binoculars view the redwing starling for the first time. They were just spellbound and commented how beautiful the birds they see every day actually are.

We gathered data for the whole season and achieved our goal of creating a baseline dataset for the gardens.

Thanks

Thanks from Communitree to African Bird Club for co-sponsoring the wonderful and diverse outcomes of the work of 2019 and 2020.