Blue sky
SOCIETY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

TO THE YEAR THAT WASN'T

> As we draw down the curtain, on perhaps, one of the most unpredictable and illusionary years that I can remember, I am filled with wonder at the strength of the human spirit!

From, Carla

FOUNDER OF BLUE SKY SOCIETY TRUST

2022 has been a year of unpredictable events, coming at us with speed, dexterity and from all angles, individually making no sense, but collectively telling a complete story of humanities journey on this planet. Showing us very clearly that a major shift is occurring, and we hope it is a shift towards a better, healthier planet.

As I review my year to do this newsletter, I am profoundly surprised and delighted by how much was achieved, because at no time during 2022 did I feel that I had a handle on expanding and growing the BSST footprint. How wrong I was!

What We Achieved

FOUR NEW PROJECTS

- Bateleurs – Our warriors in the skies
- Turtle tracking and protection – An extremely endangered species!!
- Vultures
- Pangolins

TWO EXPANSIONS OF EXISTING PROJECTS

- Wild dogs
- Snaring Projects – Amazing work being done in this quarter.

UNEXPECTED ACTS OF KINDNESS & NEW ACQUAINTANCES

- The Research team at Ushaka Marine – incredible humans doing lifesaving work
- The Bateleurs – a team of selfless pilots giving of their time and skills, making sure the work on the ground is achieved by using eyes in the sky
- Donations, Support, Collaborations & Innovative ideas

CREATING A WISH LIST THAT IS FOCUSSED AND ACHIEVABLE TO GROW MY MONTHLY DONATION BASE – 1000, monthly donors of R100.00, each.

- To expand the BSST footprint in the marine environment. There is so much to be done in this sector, if we don't save our under-water world, the world above can't survive
- To connect all my projects to create a platform where ideas, innovation and support can be shared freely.

2022 has been an enormous year...

In so many ways, and I hold firmly to my belief that whatever challenges and circumstances we experienced this year, on a personal and global level is the catapult needed to propel us forward to the Compassionate and Caring humanity that our planet so desperately needs.

May your 2023 be the power of your past experiences and the peace of your future. Thank you to each and everyone of you who have contributed to my 2022!

Kind Regards,

Carla geyser

Overview

Blue Sky Society Trust is an independent non-profit organisation dedicated to conservation, wildlife protection, community upliftment, and ecotourism in Africa. We believe that every act of kindness can have a positive ripple effect, and even the smallest contribution can make a big difference.

Our mission is to protect, preserve, and improve life for people, wildlife, and communities in need.

Our vision is to identify and manage projects that people and companies can support by giving their time, expertise, ideas, and funds.

Our philosophy is that there is no limit to what we can achieve if we work together.

There are infinite opportunities to make a meaningful difference – which is why we want to partner with individuals, schools, and organisations to work towards building a better world.

Blue Sky raises funds for various conservation projects. We believe in supporting many animals and people who can possibly make a difference.

In 2022 through various fundraisers and donations, we managed to raise over R400 000 for these various projects. It's only because of your kindness and generosity that we can do this.

Thank you for supporting us over the past few years.

Board of Trustees

Carla Geyser – Founder Trustee
Nicky Rutherfoord – Trustee
Bronwyn Laing – Trustee
Andre Liebenberg – Trustee

Our Board of Trustees is passionate about Blue Sky Society Trust's role in building a better world and making a difference. Our trustees come from all walks of life and bring a variety of talents, experiences, and expertise to Blue Sky Society Trust.

They are all passionate about conservation, wildlife protection, community upliftment, and ecotourism in Africa, and the role that our organisation plays in protecting, preserving, and improving life for people, wildlife, and communities in need. As the custodians of Blue Sky Society Trust, our trustees help guide and shape the direction of the organisation.

Humanitarian Projects

2022 SOUL2SOLE STATS:

- Previously loved shoes 964 + 211 community shoes - which have been distributed to communities in Zululand
- Collected by 17 schools in January 2022
- New shoes 105 – Onelogix at Bonela Primary School on the 1st of September 2023. Staff from Onelogix came to hand over the new shoes and Uzwelo bags to the children from broken homes.

Through the Angel Network, we also distributed to Thandimfundo Primary School :

- 74 new shoes
- 110 good second-hand shoes
- 16 sandals
- 64 school white takkies
- 23 soccer boots
- 88 community running shoes

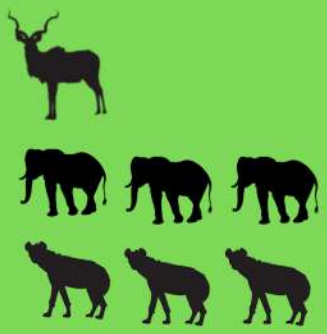
- 209 Flip Flops distributed to Threlfall primary school in Kozi Bay. Donated by EVA Industries.

1280 Shoes for 2022

SCHOOLS WHO COLLECTED SHOES IN DEC 2021 - JAN 2022

- Clifton College
- Maritzburg College
- Hilton College
- St Anne's Diocesan College
- Cordwalles Prep
- Danville Park Girls' High School
- La Lucia Junior Primary
- Virginia Prep School
- Chelsea Preparatory
- Reddam House Umhlanga
- Orient Islamic School
- Berea West Prep
- Durban Girls High School
- Our Lady of Fatima
- Durban Girls College
- Eden Prep
- Michaelhouse High School

Conservation Projects



SAVED FROM SNARES

SNARE RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT

Due to poverty and unemployment increasing, sadly, bush meat poaching has been on the rise.

We have a small group of organisations that pull together when the SOS messages go out;
Wild Wonderful World , Down 2 the Wire, African Wildlife Vets, Elephants Alive , and Blue Sky Society Trust who have been helping assist with veterinary and medicine fees where there is a shortfall, for Dr Joel Alves from Wildscape Veterinary services.

This small group combines forces to do what we do, where we can to help protect our wildlife in snares. The rapid response team has helped save many animals caught in snares this past year.

RISE OF THE MATRIACH®

A small group of ladies headed out in May 2022 to explore the beauty of South Africa on a journey with a purpose. The main focus is exploring some beautiful places in SA and also raising funds and awareness for various beneficiaries.

We raised close to R160 000.00 towards Conservation projects from this particular expedition.

- Pongola Black Rhino Expansion Project
- African Pangolin Working Group – scale donated
- APNR Ground hornbill project - camera trap donated.
- Wildlife act – taking six girls from a local rural community to HIP
- Project Rhino Rhino Art – printed papers for school art in rural communities
- Phinda APWG Donation for pangolin tracking devices
- Zululand Conservation trust
- Elephants Alive - Sleeping bags and Lamps for Gogo's camp
- Elephant Alive – collaring of elephant x 1 in Phalaborwa Mining company area
- EWT (ROTM) – wild dogs' donation

General

We raised funds to collar two elephants in February 2022 and one in July 2022 based in the Phalaborwa Mining Company. These elephants were becoming problematic and kept breaking out and needed monitoring. This was done with Elephants Alive who we have been working with for ten years. We also had Beehives made for a project launching in Mozambique in early 2023 with Elephants Alive. These beehives were donated and made by Graeme Madsen, and two augers to dig the holes in the ground for poles donated by Mark Calvert.

Blue Sky Society Trust also donated 60 Buffs to the PMB SPCA to sell as merchandise towards their fundraising. And also 40 x Buffs to Sharklife based in Sodwana to do the same.

The Bateleurs – a Non-Profit organisation that is made up of volunteer pilots who generously fly for environmental and conservation projects. Blue sky society trust donated R6000 towards logistics.

A Further R5000 was donated to the Nelson Mandela University to support the vital Turtle research being done in Kozi Bay area by Dr R Nel.

Our Business Partners, Sponsors & Donors

Our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude go out to those individuals, schools and organisations that show Compassion, Hope & Love through their sponsorships and support for our projects, initiatives, and mission.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us in 2022, for seeing hope and opportunity where others see challenges! It is through your selfless support that we have made – and continue to make – a significant, meaningful difference.

PLEASE NOTE: We have listed donors and sponsors below. If we have somehow left out anyone, we humbly apologise. It is through your kind donations that can help animals and people in need – and that is truly priceless!

- Aramex Pty Ltd
- PEAR - Jaco
- Whitehart Web Development - Roger Staples
- Remke Lascance
- Cathryn Gill
- Stephanie Davies
- Bronwyn Laing
- Henricus Lascance
- Fiona Kearney
- Kirsten Fenton
- Marcia Kimpton
- Jacques Oosthuizen
- Cecilia Meintjes
- Debbie Burridge
- Richard Savage
- Myrna, Guy and Hugh Saulez
- Rebecca Anne Dahse
- Teri Baumgartner
- Julie Abbate
- Ali Watt
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- Onelogix - Andre Niemand
- African Secrets / Paddington Station PR
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