



the Bitou Community Foundation Trust
(also known as the Bitou Trust)

Report and Financial Statements
For the fifteen-month period ended 31st March 2022
Charity No. 1172847

Bitou Trust

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

As Chairman of the Bitou Community Foundation Trust, it has been five years since I first wrote a report. In that time, there has been a lot of change and turmoil in the world. Many of us have lost loved ones and have had to grieve alone. Through this, we've all had the chance to think about what's truly important to us, what we care about, and what we're grateful for.



Charities have been hit hard by the pandemic, which has added to the struggles they were already facing. Donors have also had to deal with a huge demand for support, while making difficult decisions about how to divide their resources. Despite this, we've seen the generosity of the human spirit shine through.

The Bitou Trust, PlettAid Foundation, and the Robberg Coastal Corridor Protected Environment (RCCPE) have also faced their own challenges. Demand for their services was unprecedented, but I'm proud to say that their leadership and staff have risen to the occasion. They've managed to not only continue their day-to-day work but also expand it within the Bitou community. These organizations have taught us a lot about caring for ourselves, each other, and the places where we live.

I am grateful for the support of all of you, our donors, who made this work possible. How wonderful to think our efforts could provide such support and impact during such a difficult time.

We've been quiet since our 2019 report, but we're excited to share some of the highlights from the past few years. In the report, you'll find updates from the CEO of each of our beneficiary organizations. We hope this gives you a sense of their achievements and challenges and what they plan to accomplish in 2023. Our commitment to them remains strong and we will do our best to support them as they work to strengthen the infrastructure and support that's so important to the Bitou community.

Both PlettAid and the RCCPE are focused on developing the community's ability to take care of themselves, each other, and the environment. They are working to train and educate local people for key roles in areas like healthcare and environmental stewardship. They're also working to build the community's capacity and preserve the natural beauty of the area.

A nationwide shortage of nurses, critical for their home-based care programme, has seen PlettAid commit significant resources to training and growing a team of healthcare workers from the community. This supports both the expansion of the Community Health and Wellness initiative and the hospice care for those facing end of life. An important and growing part of this programme has been the "First 1,000 days" care programme for infants with over 464 infants and 1282 young children coming into care in 2022.

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The Robberg Coastal Corridor Protected Environment Project (RCCPE) had been declared and gazetted in September 2015, gaining non-profit status in 2018 when it became a beneficiary of the Bitou Trust. Formed to support the unique ecology of this biodiversity hotspot, RCCPE's work over the last three years has almost entirely thanks to the Bitou Trust with funds raised in 2018 and 2019 securing both our Conservation Manager and his team who have done an excellent job on restoring, protecting and engaging the community in this work. We remain inspired and committed to finding ways to ensure that the communities of Bitou can continue to benefit from this natural capital and the benefits it confers for the region.

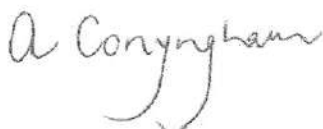
The next few years are definitely going to be tough for everyone, most especially for the communities we serve. The cost-of-living crisis, the energy crisis globally as well as the significant energy crisis in South Africa, the knock-on global effects of the Ukraine war and the migration of refugees – whether from war or climate disasters – are placing significant strain everywhere in the world. For people already living on the edge of poverty, these will be potentially devastating stressors that will, once again, call forth all our resilience and fortitude to withstand and overcome.

I believe both our beneficiaries, the PlettAid Foundation and Robberg Coastal Corridor Protected Environment are well positioned to respond to the ongoing needs of our times and to expand their work to build on their visions for change and impact beyond the crisis of the pandemic.

I would like to thank you all, dear friends and supporters, for the donations and support you have given us and the potential you enable us to realise. It has been immensely appreciated by me and by all who have been touched by your kindness and generosity. My sincere thanks also to the Bitou Trust team in the UK for helping with the continuation of the Trust's activities. Most especially, I would like to thank Zofia Sochanik who has played such an important role in our early years and has so diligently maintained the administrative and governance requirements of the Trust during the pandemic, even while looking after two young children, moving homes and taking on a new full-time role. We wish her well with her move and look forward to staying in touch. Thanks also to my fellow trustees on the Board who have been unfailing in their efforts to support and build what we have begun. I look forward to our continued journey.

As Alexander Solzhenitsyn said in his 1978 Harvard Commencement Address, "a world split apart will demand from us a spiritual blaze ... we shall have to rise to a new height of vision, to a new level of life". All over the world, responses to the covid pandemic could perhaps be understood as the beginning of this rise in the height of our vision, in the level of our care. We have collectively recognised the extend of our interconnectedness, our interdependence on each other and our reliance on the kindness and compassion of our communities. In striving to build connected, compassionate and caring communities, we hope you will continue to walk this path with us.

Thank you.



Lady Conyngham (Chairman)

Bitou Trust

FROM THE CEO OF THE PLETTAID FOUNDATION: CECILY VAN HEERDEN



Caring for the communities of Bitou

When I reflect on the year gone by, it is the human interaction that makes a sense of greater purpose, gratefulness and hope well up. Of course, the year brought its share of challenges but what stands out is the way our team rose to those challenges. The humanity and compassion shared with those at the end of their journey, unflinchingly serving our Bitou community through the later waves of Covid and the fallout from the pandemic, embracing change without faltering. It has been a privilege to walk this 2021/2022 path with you. The support of the Bitou Trust has provided an exceptional contribution to our adding the capacity that directly assisted us over these really difficult few years.

As a Foundation, PlettAid remains committed to filling a crucial role in the health and welfare service infrastructure of the region. Our overall aim is to ensure that all have access to the quality essential care that will enhance the quality of life for people from all communities in Bitou. We believe our work over past year demonstrates just how significantly we have stepped up to this role. Our activities include promoting health literacy and wellbeing for all and providing home-based palliative care and support for those living with life limiting illness, including their families. These two core programmes are obviously interconnected and support each other. They are: ***The Plett Wellness Programme***, a mobile health promotion and illness prevention programme and ***Hospice Plett***, a palliative home-based care and residential support for persons diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and for their families.

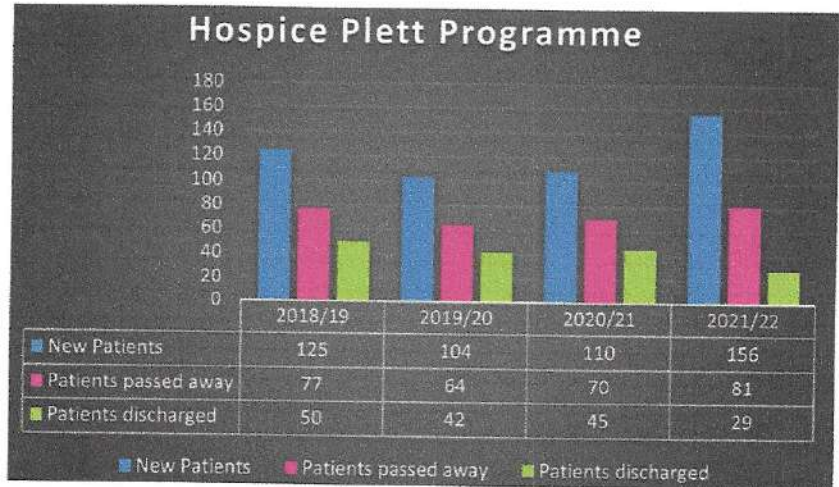
Despite the misnomer of the programme name (which is receiving attention with the board in the coming year), Hospice Plett provides significantly more than the end-of-life palliative care implied by the term Hospice. As with many organisations providing palliative care, our palliative care commences from the moment of diagnoses and continues even beyond end-of-life care to provide support in bereavement and recovery for remaining members of the family. In some instances, this means we care for infants and children who are orphaned. For us, palliative care includes the physical, psychosocial, spiritual, cultural and emotional care of both the patient and family members affected by and living with any life-limiting condition.

Our continued response to the Covid-19 pandemic The Covid-19 pandemic continued unabated in this past year, and we continued to play a crucial role in the management of the epidemic in Bitou. The availability of oxygen concentrators for home use, acquired with the Bitou Covid-19 Response Team funds, was an enormous help during each wave of the pandemic. When hospitals were at full capacity, our nurses were able to deliver oxygen concentrators to patients' homes allowing numerous community members to convalesce without the added financial and psychological stress of hospitalisation. We continued to support St Peter's Anglican Church soup kitchen outreach financially. Two consecutive grants from the Challenge Fund (Tshikululu and DG Murray Trust), allowed us to assist Dr Anel Scholtz and her vaccine teams. Our registered nurses were certified as vaccinators, and community health workers mobilised communities to attend vaccine sites.

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Hospice Plett programme

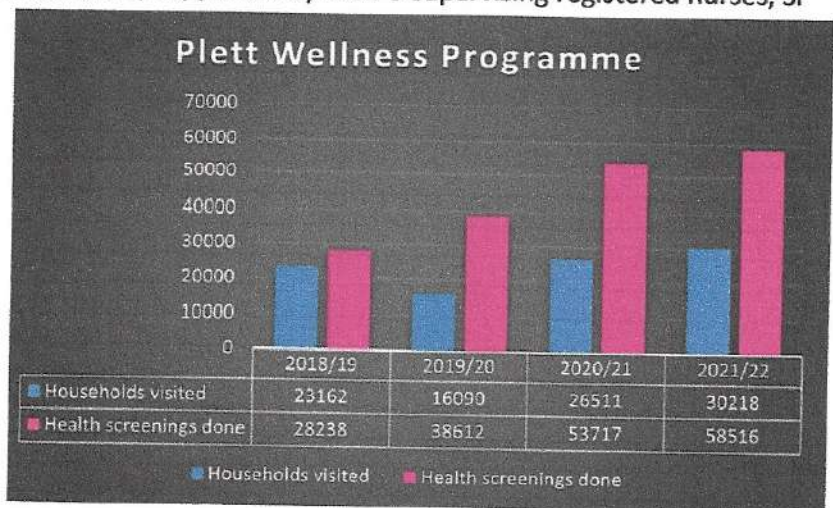
Sr Charlotte Bothma and Sr Marlene Joseph both completed the Certificate Course in Palliative Care for Health Care Professionals in September 2021. In January 2022, Sr Marlene stepped into the clinical manager role where she and her team of nurses, social worker and home-based carers continued to offer compassionate support and care to record numbers of patients including to some of our most vulnerable community members. Kayise Skosana, a social worker, joined the team in October 2021 and has been a tremendous support to our hospice patients and staff alike. She is well supported by several volunteer professional counsellors who offer our patients and their families, emotional support and bereavement care



Plett Wellness programme

The Plett Wellness team continued to provide the Bitou community with health promotion and illness prevention interventions. They ably assisted the local Department of Health (DoH) with the dissemination of accurate Covid-19 information to community members and were instrumental in mobilising community members to get vaccinated. The essence of their role is health screening, health education and appropriate referral. Expanding their repertoire to include all things Covid, led to numerous outreaches and collaboration with many other role players, and in so doing, spread the wellness message far and wide.

Our health counsellors, Danray le Fleur and Nomsa Mdaka, operate the mobile wellness unit, assisting businesses in Bitou and Knysna with their staff wellness programmes. This team of 27 community health workers and 2 counsellors, supported by their 3 supervising registered nurses, Sr Dorette Herbst, Sr Yvonne Samuel and Sr Bev Du Preez, did over 30 000 home visits, and performed over 50 000 health screenings during this past year. These workers brave the most adverse conditions to facilitate health care access to those who would otherwise fall through the cracks of the public healthcare system. The impact of this work cannot be overstated



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As a vital adjunct to our work – and indeed to the Department of Health infrastructure in the Bitou Region, nine Plett Wellness facility-based counsellors were appointed to assist the Primary Health Care clinics with health screening, education, and supporting pregnant women through their ante-natal period. They also play

a vital role in monitoring regimen adherence for those on antiretroviral and/or TB treatment, and treatment for chronic illnesses including diabetes and hypertension. Their services are invaluable to the Primary Health Care clinics.

“Behind the scenes” – Administration & Support

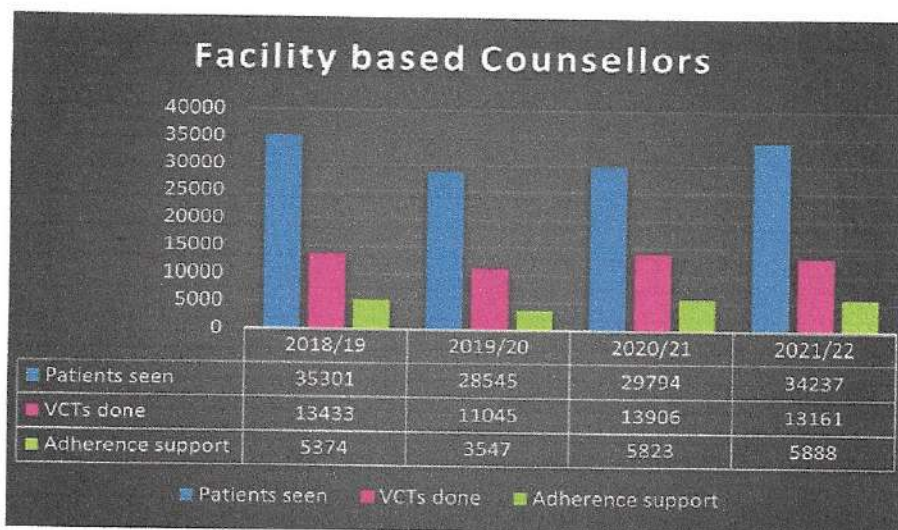
Thanks, in large measure to the injection of significant funds from the Bitou Trust, our exponential growth in 2018 and 2019 with the expansion of the Plett Wellness programme led to the addition of 38 staff members. This created significant administrative support strain.

To make sure we could improve these systems and support the work on the ground, we were assisted by Rae Gilbert who undertook an in-depth analysis of the organisation, focussing on the admin support structures to optimise resources and ensure sustainability. Thanks to Rae’s expert analysis and recommendations, we have subsequently welcomed the following staff members to the organisation: Carla Funde (Receptionist), Tesné Botes (Clinical Admin Assistant), and Sharon Bright (Charity Shop Manager). Shirley Viljoen, who has been with us since March 2020 as Receptionist has been redeployed to an organisational admin assistant position. Michelle Hinrichsen was also brought in to assist the admin support team in the development of a sustainable fundraising and marketing strategy.

Russel Braum, who joined the organisation as Assistant General Manager, in September 2021, has led the comprehensive management of the admin support department, marketing, and fundraising, with the unstinting support of Rae. Most crucially at this time, this has enabled me to support the clinical team that has been challenged by staff shortages over the past 9 months. The improvements made to the administrative support systems are significant, and I am confident that we will reap a plentiful harvest from this investment in the future sustainability of The PlettAid Foundation.

Where to from here: our 2023 and future focus

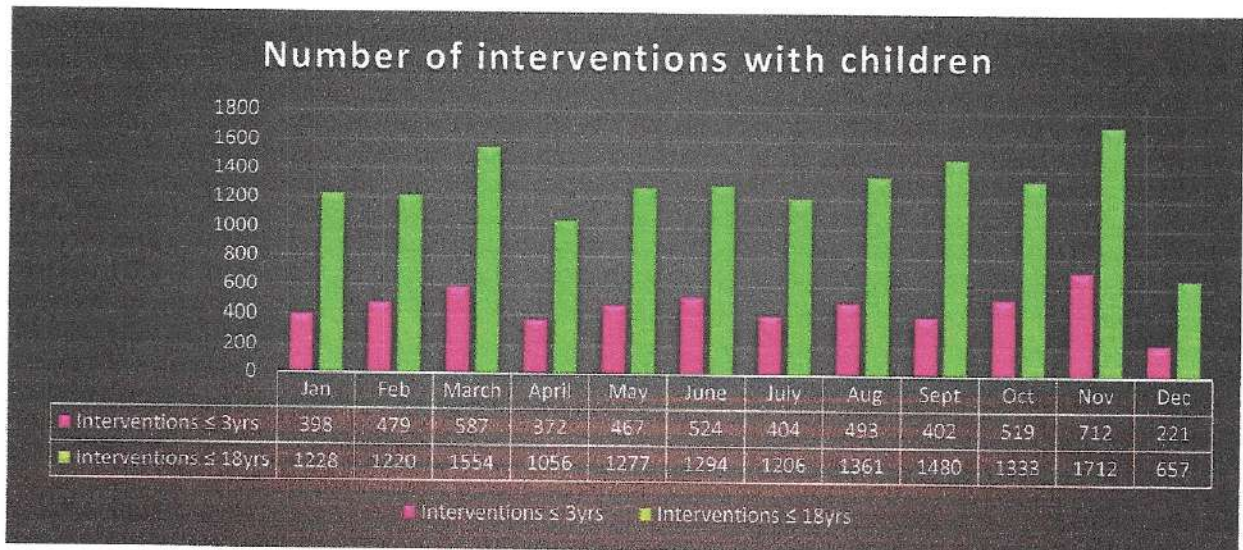
Our biggest challenge currently is the countrywide registered nurse shortage, that has impacted us significantly in 2022. The nursing and community care worker shortage, and the ever-present challenge of sustainable funding, is shaping our focus for 2023 and beyond.



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We believe that a collective and collaborative strategy between organisations addressing health and welfare services in Bitou could provide a significant advantage in this regard – not only through sharing resources, but also through collaborating for funding and engaging in complementary care provision. We hope to build this initiative in the coming year.

We are deeply in need of developing and expanding the psycho-social support offered in our palliative care programme. In many instances the psycho-social needs of the family far outweigh the physical needs or symptoms and the distress, in times already hard with end-of-life emotional challenges, are exacerbated. In this regard, we want to improve psycho-social care to our patients in the Palliative Care Hospice Plett programme and to the community members who we engaged with in the Plett Wellness programme. Specifically, we are looking to significantly support the over 400 children in our 1st 1,000-days programme (children under the age of 3yrs), and over 60 youngsters needing care and support to manage the requirements of continuing to participate and thrive in life, education, and social connectedness, once their parents have passed. Training and developing the skills and capacity of community health workers in order to employ them to provide these services will have multiple benefits in the long term for the whole community, not just the children or the care workers assisted in the immediate future.



I want to thank the Bitou Trust and all its generous supporters for the gifts that you have given. I would most especially like to thank Annabelle whose devotion and dedication to care and service has made this all possible. Finally, I want to thank my incredible team for their unstinting support, energy, compassion, and loyalty. Together we can scale mountains

Cecily van Heerden

CEO PlettAid Foundation

www.plettaid.org

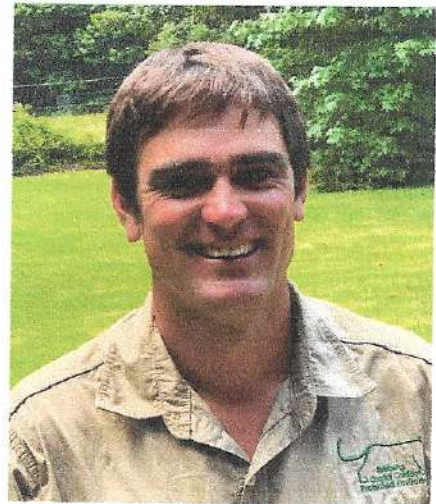
Bitou Trust

FROM THE CONSERVATION MANAGER OF THE ROBBERG COASTAL CORRIDOR: KEI HEYNS

Conserving the coastline of Bitou

*"To follow a trail is to remember how it goes,
making one's way in the present is itself a recollection of the past...
onward movement is itself a return" –*

Tim Ingold & Jo Lee Vergunst, -Ways of Walking



I am grateful to be writing this report to the Bitou Trust and its generous supporters and to have the opportunity to thank you all for enabling the work we have done at the RCCPE over the last three years.

Situated in the heart of the Cape Floral Kingdom on an exceptionally beautiful stretch of pristine Coastline within the recently declared UNESCO Garden Route Biosphere Reserve, the Robberg Coastal Corridor (RCC) is a critical 18km eco-corridor linking two important protected areas: The Garden Route National Park and the Robberg Nature Reserve. The Coastal Corridor hosts rare and threatened flora and fauna endemic to the Cape Floral Kingdom which is recognised as one of the wonders of the botanical world. The RCC is also one of the eco-corridors situated within the greater Eden to Addo Corridor initiative. Preserving this narrow and highly threatened Corridor from adverse development will enable the migration of plants and animals and maintain cultural integrity and key ecological processes, such as seed dispersal, pollination, nutrient recycling and predator- prey interaction.

This critical ecological challenge mobilized a small group of landowners with the Corridor, "the Founders" namely Dr Robbie Robinson formerly CEO of SANParks, Chris von Christierson, (founding Chairman), Andrew Hill, Dawn Leggat and Eden District Municipality, to constitute the RCC Landowners Association (RCCLA) in 2010 in order to protect the Corridor for posterity. To this end, the RCCLA, in a ground- breaking initiative and with the support of the Eden to Addo Corridor initiative, SANParks, Cape Nature and the Bitou Municipality, voluntarily made application in 2011 to the Minister for Environmental Affairs and Development Planning of the Western Cape, to declare its members' properties a Protected Environment (PE) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act. The five properties were finally declared and gazetted a Protected Environment in September 2015, known as the Robberg Coastal Corridor Protected Environment. It gained non-profit status in 2018.



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The RCCPE was designed to create and support a protected area between the ecologically isolated and threatened Robberg Nature Reserve (under Cape Nature's authority) and the larger Harkerville state forest (under SANPARKS authority). The RCCPE lies within one of the world's prime biodiversity hotspots the Cape Floristic Region, comprising one of the smallest but richest flora kingdoms in the world as well as being of great historical and Paleoanthropological interest.

Previously the Head Ranger of the Fransmanshoek Conservancy at Vleesbaai, I was employed as the Conservation Manager of the RCCPE In February 2020. Our goal is to maintain the ecological and cultural integrity of this corridor and funding through the Bitou Trust in 2019 has been used to make significant progress in engaging further stakeholders to secure this land.

A core part of our mission is to fulfil an advocacy role by providing environmental awareness and active Conservation commitments in our communities. In addition, as we seek to identify ways in which we can financially support the work of the RCCPE, we have collaborated with SANParks and Cape Nature to establish a 45km hiking trail, recently renamed the INQUA TRAIL, along this magnificent coastline. Upon completion the trail will run from the Robberg Peninsular to Noetsie, situated on the outskirts of Knysna. It will emulate the world famous 5 day Otter Trail along the Tsitsikamma coast established by the late Dr. Robbie Robinson CEO of SANParks, who was also instrumental in plotting the Inqua trail. A map of the trail can be seen below.

The ultimate goal is to consolidate all landowners along the corridor. To date, two thirds of the Corridor has been declared a protected Environment with landowner commitment to prevent inappropriate development and there is proactive collaboration with SANParks and cape Nature to protect the remaining areas. The design of the trail has also taken into consideration the feedback of various groups of potential users as well as interested and affected persons, to ensure that we can avoid unintended consequences and problems, in the future.

With the Bitou Trust's financial support, we completed a number of critical surveys of the prospective route including walking the stretch of coastline in its entirety between Robberg Vlei (Local Municipality Park and Recreation) and Crooks River (the Western Boundary of Cairnbrogie Farm). Local knowledge was gleaned from elderly inhabitants, adjoining landowners and intrepid hikers familiar with the stretch of coast, to build our awareness of the area. This included points of interest,

natural and cultural history, most feasible routes and paths and contributing ideas to enhance the experience. Similarly, we sought input from groups of walkers from the very outset to ensure that the trail development would consider issues appertaining to route navigation and trail infrastructure. With the support of my locally sourced team, we have been working incredibly hard to build and maintain the trail.



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Within the limits and protocols of the current public Covid -19 health issue, the project hosted several walks over weekends, led by myself and guides I was training. These outings proved to be of great value providing an invaluable gauge of overall expectations and experience. Financial support from both The Bitou Trust and the Table Mountain Fund, was crucial in the establishment of the initial two-day section of the hiking trail. This has considerably supported our conservation efforts within the RCCPE as well as being of great benefit to tourism and local employment within the Bitou region. Below are some photographs I selected from various exploratory hikes.

Much more obviously remains to be done in 2023. We are currently seeking further funding to support not only the training and development of local community members in roles of critical importance to the Corridor-as guides and to engage in trail building and maintenance, alien clearance, erosion control, fire management, ecosystem services, species protection and monitoring, amongst many other activities. Our vision is also to develop local service providers through setting up overnight camps, catering, guiding, transportation and many other ecotourism roles.

We are keen to build on our community engagement and advocacy efforts with local community members and hope to host a number of workshops, helping to identify opportunities for them to become engaged. The restrictions Covid placed upon the residents of Bitou highlights the importance of pristine landscapes. Mental health is greatly improved by communing with nature and by being stimulated by a challenging trail in a spectacular environment.

I am immensely grateful to the Bitou Trust for the catalytic support it has provided to enable this work. Notwithstanding Covid it has been an immense honour to be in this role over the past three years. In fact, the challenge of Covid 19 was minor compared to the trail project! The trail is after all most likely the healthiest setting and the perfect place to be over this time, when the natural beauty and sense of place offered everything to reduce anxiety.

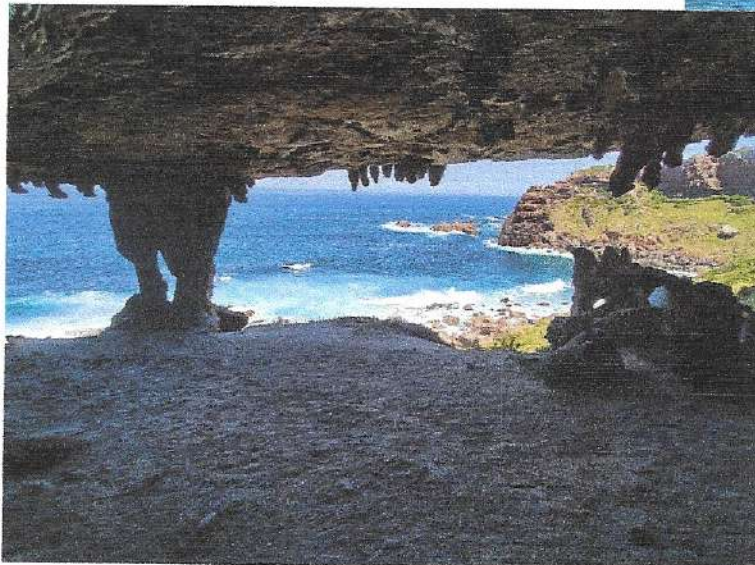
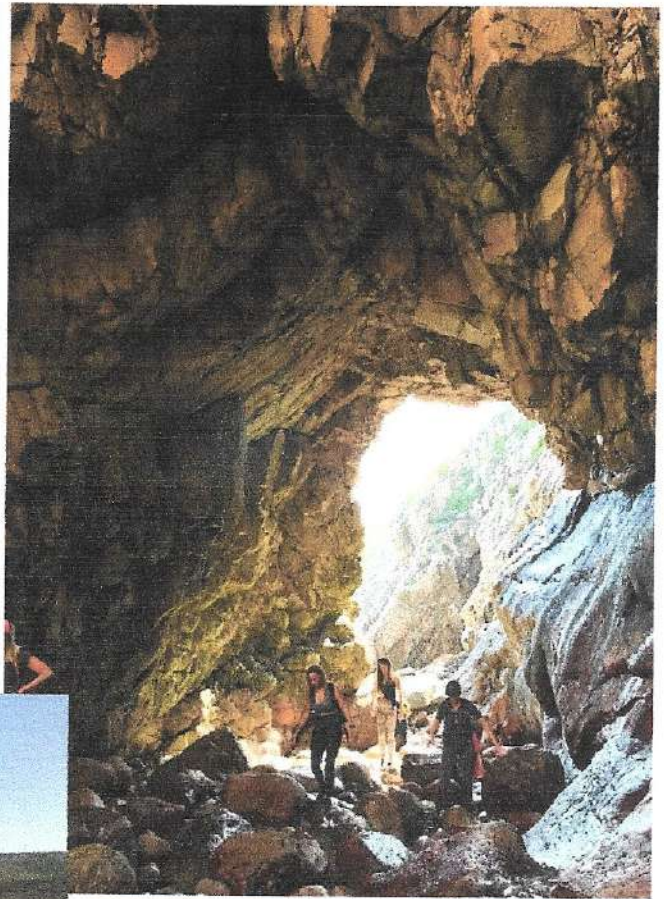
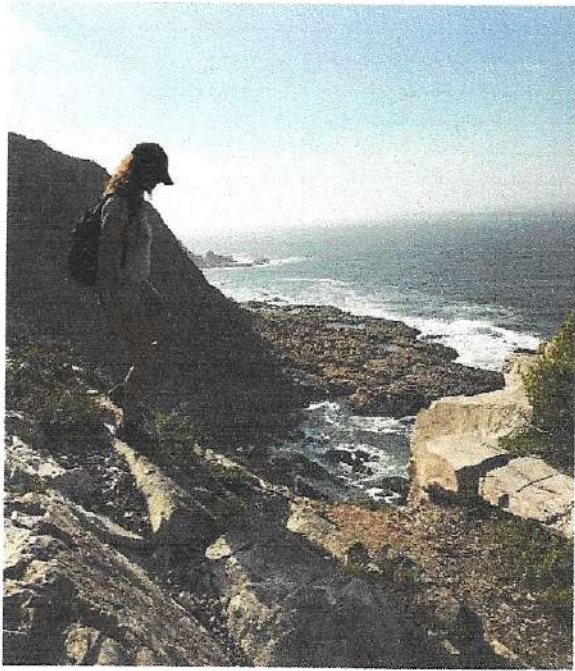
Thank you for your support.

Kei Heyns

Conservation Manager, RCCPE

www.rccpe.org





Bitou Trust

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSSE) (effective 1 January 2015).

Reference and Administration

Charity Name

The name of the charity is the Bitou Community Foundation Trust, also known as The Bitou Trust.

Charity Number

1172847

Trustees

Lady Annabelle Conyngham (Chair)

Chris von Christierson

Philippa Vaughan

Jane Taylor

Programme Manager

Tamzin Ractliffe

Principal Office

30 Kings Lane Windlesham Surrey GU20 6JQ

Independent Examiner

Tiffany Purves, ACA CA(SA): Director, About Finance Limited, 9 Danesfield, Ripley, Surrey GU23 6LS. Tel/Fax: 01483 223371

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4TA Tel: 03000 123 000

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Bitou Community Foundation Trust, also known as The Bitou Trust ('The Trust') was established as a registered UK Charity (Charity Number 1172847) constituted under a Trust Deed dated 26th December 2016 and registered with the Charity Commission in April 2017.

The Trust sought to provide a vehicle through which caring and interested citizens could provide financial support to the need for healthcare, community development and environmental conservation to uplift the impoverished communities and protect the unique natural biodiversity in the Bitou region of the Western Cape. It was established with an initial gift from the Founding Trustees and actively fundraises in the UK and Europe to support sustainable development, health & wellbeing and environmental conservation in the Bitou region of the Western Cape of South Africa.

Our efforts are focused on registered public benefit organisations working in the Eden District of the Bitou region of the Western Cape including the communities of Storms River, Wittedrif and Plettenberg Bay in the east and Harkerville in the west. This is an area of some 123km in length and one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. The Bitou region is urgently in need of more sustainable development practices. The communities of Bitou have shown rapid growth of a predominantly poor population with migrants largely coming from the even poorer communities of the Eastern Cape.

Bitou Trust

Poor living conditions as well as inferior nutrition exacerbate poor health, are placing significant strain on the community which is under resourced in clinics and care facilities. At the same time, rapid development is having a significantly damaging effect on the environment and biodiversity of the region. A clear programme of environmental conservation most especially of the indigenous fynbos is essential for the unique and pristine coastline and the surrounding lands making up the Robberg Coastal Corridor.

Purpose

We support the development and conservation of a vibrant culture of care, making us a region of strong, interconnected communities providing palliative care for the people and conservation for the places of Bitou.

Our primary purpose is to provide palliative care to the people and places of Bitou. Palliative care is holistic care and relief for the poor, the sick, the young and the aged facing life-limiting illnesses and loss in their families. We also provide care, conservation and protection for the places of Bitou. This natural environment is a biodiversity hotspot that is being harmed by rapid development and destruction of the flora, fauna and natural ecosystems that are of immense natural beauty and that provide important ecosystem services.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Deed provides for a minimum of three trustees. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration is paid. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the Trust Manager and, in accordance with the Trust's policy, to withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises. Trustees are appointed for a period of five years after which time they may put themselves forward for re-appointment.

The trustees will consider new trustee appointments recruited for their knowledge, empathy and experience of the charity and its mission and to ensure the skills and composition of the trustee body and succession planning is optimised. Under the provisions of the Deed of Trust, any trustee may propose a willing and eligible candidate. New trustees may be sought by open advertisement or through dialogue with prospective interested parties who respect the ethos and commitment of the Trust and its charitable objectives.

Induction and training of new trustees

There is no formal induction process. However, a pre-appointment presentation introduces the objects and activities to potential Trustees and literature is made available to outline and clarify the work of the Trust. All Trustees are introduced to the responsibilities and duties of a trustee and the expectation the Charity has of them. All trustees have considerable experience either as trustees or as company directors.

Related parties

The Trust currently has two South African beneficiaries viz. PlettAid Foundation and The Robberg Coastal Corridor Protected Environment. Both are supported by the fundraising activities of the Bitou Trust in the UK.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Trustees recognise that exchange rate fluctuations may result in funds raised and/or transferred to South Africa may be different to those anticipated and/or budgeted for. The trustees have reviewed this risk and established a policy to manage this risk which retains the focus on the public benefit derived from our funding of the work of our beneficiaries and reports accordingly to the donors committed to the work.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

The primary purpose of the Trust is to support the care and wellbeing of the Bitou region, its environment and all its people. We will support organisations, programmes and initiatives that deliver support services, education and training, capacity development and related activities that together promote and increase the likelihood of success of efforts to establish sustainable livelihoods, promote health, wellbeing, community capacity building (including adaptive capacity to climate risks) and social inclusion, and that ensure the environment of the region can continue to support the people, flora and fauna in a way that will sustain the region for the future.

Bitou Trust

Our initial support has focused on the work of the PlettAid Foundation and the Robber Coastal Corridor Protected Environment. However, we remain open to partnerships that will consolidate, expand and add value to leverage the efficiencies of our actions and of the benefits on the communities we serve.

The Trust meets its objectives through a programme of fundraising, strategic partnership and programme research and advocacy where appropriate. During the period under review, the Trust has been inactive largely as a result of the covid pandemic and its consequences for our beneficiary organisations who were stretched to capacity. In 2023 we will focus renewed efforts on establishing our relationships with donors to secure the expansion and ongoing service delivery of the Bitou Trust's beneficiaries in South Africa.

Strategic priorities

At an annual year-end meeting of the trustees, the trustees agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Trust including consideration of grant seeking, programmatic activity and fundraising performance. The day to day administration of fundraising and grant making activities, and the processing and handling of applications is delegated to the Trust Manager, a volunteer working in the sector in the UK.

Financial review

There was no active fundraising in the period under review given the challenges of Covid. Donations in the period thus amounted to a nominal £1,500 (2020: £1,800). No funds were remitted to beneficiary organisations in the year. Remaining cash at year end was of £3,554 (2020: £2,725).

Reserves policy

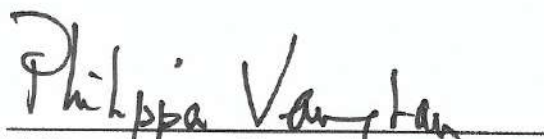
The Bitou Community Foundation Trust is a vehicle focused on raising funds to support its South African beneficiaries. Its support team are all volunteers which means that only nominal reserves are required. Thus, it is the Trust's policy to remit funds to beneficiaries in each year in which they are generated to support the work of beneficiaries in that year. Reserves maintained will only seek to be sufficient for ongoing maintenance of the Trust and its regulatory and fiduciary obligations.


Principal funding sources

Donor support from the UK has been instrumental in supporting programmatic activity in both the UK and South Africa and the trustees are grateful for the support of donors, including those participating in The Funding Network, who have responded positively to its mission and objectives, and enabled it to make important progress during this first year of activity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015).

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 25th January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


Philippa Vaughan (Trustee)


Jane Taylor (Trustee)

Bitou Trust

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Voluntary income:			
Unrestricted funds	£ 1,500.00	-	£ 1,500.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 26,839.23
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>			
Operating costs	£670.00	-	£ 670.00
<i>Charitable activities</i>	-	£0.00	£ 0.00
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£1,366.42	£ 0.00	£ 670.00
Net incoming /(outgoing) resources	£830.00	£0.00	£ 830.00
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Funds brought forward	£ 2,725.00-	-	£ 2,725.00
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	£ 3,555.00	£0.00	£ 3,555.00

Bitou Trust

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total Funds
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank and in hand		£ 2,150.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,150.00
NET CURRENT ASSETS		£ 2,150.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,150.00

FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds				£ 2,150.00
Restricted funds				£ 0.00
TOTAL FUNDS				£ 2,150.00

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

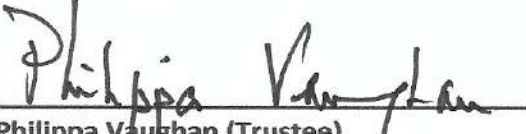
The trustees acknowledge that they are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

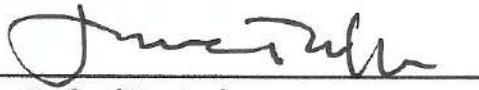
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and:
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and enable them to ascertain to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website.

The Charity is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Approved by resolution of the board of trustees on 25th January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


Philippa Vaughan (Trustee)


Jane Taylor (Trustee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) (effective January 2015) and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of the services provided by volunteers has not been included in the accounts.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs includes those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Charitable activities

This relates to grants given either to the Trust's beneficiaries in South Africa or to its partnership beneficiaries according to the intentions and specifications of the donors to specific charitable activities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds

These can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked for specific objectives or a particular project and can be utilised at the discretion of the trustees to further the objectives of the project concerned. More specifically, funds for operating costs represent a founding grant to support the operational costs associated with ensuring that the Bitou Trust can establish itself well to further its mission and the mission of its beneficiary partner organisations.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular focused, and therefore restricted, purpose.

Bitou Trust

Costs of generating voluntary income

During the period, no costs were incurred as the Programme Manager worked on a voluntary basis. Costs were limited to banking fees only.

No trustees' remuneration was paid nor was any other benefit paid to trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Related party disclosures

All of the activities referred to in the Trustees' Report relate to activities carried out by the PlettAid Foundation or the Robberg Coastal Corridor Protected Environment NPO, beneficiaries of the Bitou Trust in South Africa. Both the PlettAid Foundation and the Robberg Coastal Corridor Protected Environment raise further funding locally and their financials for the period are appended for available on our website.

Bitou Trust

DETAILED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	15 mos 31/3/2022	12 mos 31/12/2020
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£
Voluntary Income		
Donations	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,800
Total incoming resources	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,800
 RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Charitable activities		
Grants remitted to beneficiary projects / organisations	£ 0.00	£
Support costs		
Fundraising costs	£ 0.00	£
Bank charges	£ 120.00	£ 60.00
Travel	£ 0.00	£
Telecommunications	£ 0.00	£
Postage & Stationery	£ 0.00	£
Professional Fees	£ 550.00	£
Other: Memberships, Subscriptions, Domains	£ 0.00	£ 195.00
Total costs	£ 670.00	£ 255.00
 Net Income	 <u>£ 830.00</u>	 <u>£ 1,545.00</u>