



BBC JOINS THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2024

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) started in 2016 as a competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and has grown into an international event, motivating people to find and document wildlife in their own areas.

BBC would like to encourage everyone to take part in this annual City Nature Challenge (CNC) from 26 – 29 April 2024 in an effort to help document biological diversity in the Overstrand. This is the third time that Overstranders will be participating in this global bioblitz, which also acts as a friendly competition against other cities around the world.



This bioblitz calls on current and aspiring community scientists, nature and science fans, and people of all ages and backgrounds to participate. Go outside and take photos of plants, animals, and fungi during the CNC dates. This will help scientists to track real-time changes in our planet's biodiversity and to better understand wildlife conservation. After the photos are taken between 26 and 29 April, you have from 30 April to 5 May to upload your observations to iNaturalist and for the Identifiers to help identify what was found. The results will be released on 6 May for the public.

Please join in and have fun with friends, colleagues, and family over the four days. Photograph everything other than humans and pets and upload your observations to iNaturalist. Our biodiversity makes this challenge really enjoyable – and for those of you with expertise, but who can't get out there, you can always assist with identifications.

For more information and to join the CNC 2024: Overstrand please visit www.citynaturechallenge.org and click on 'Participate'. We are sharing the outings on our Facebook page and WhatsApp group and you can also follow Overstrand Bioblitzing on Facebook and/or request to join their WhatsApp group to keep updated by sending a message to 072 921 1757.

Sandy Immelman, Facilitator for CNC 2024: Overstrand

BBC: KITCHEN WASTE COMPOSTING

There are so many good reasons why households need to start removing kitchen organics or any food waste out of their weekly black refuse bag. By removing any organics from the landfill we are decreasing land and air pollution.

As reported in last month's article, our first composting workshop demonstrated two popular methods of doing this. By attending the Betty's Bay Conservancy (BBC) interactive workshops you can find out which method best suits you and your household:

- Vermiculture: using fresh fruit and veggie offcuts with red wiggler worms. Any size bin can be used depending on size of the family
- Bokashi: where all kitchen waste, cooked and fresh organics are mixed with Bokashi bran for a fermentation process. You can make your own containers, or buy from a local nurseries, agents or online.



Bettys Bay Conservancy is holding its second Composting demo on 27th April. This one will focus on Anne's wormcomposting method using an outdoor wooden container. All of their family's kitchen organics goes into the bin and all of the resulting fertiliser or castings are well utilised in her medium size garden.

A good source of information is Organic Recycling Association of South Africa (ORASA)

If you miss this demo and would like more information, call Barbara from the Composting Network on 082 338 410 or email bettysbayconservancy@gmail.com

Barbara Jenman

3. BETTY'S BAY CONSERVANCY PENGUIN-PALS PROJECTS



Helping the AFRICAN PENGUINS at STONY POINT

FIRST RESPONDERS

The first nine of the 13 BBC First Responder volunteers have spent a morning at SANCCOB for some basic training on bird handling. Decked out in boots, oilskins and eye, hand and arm protection, they were taught by SANCCOB staff how to catch and handle the large Kelp gulls, the smaller Hautlaub gulls and of course penguins! Beaks are sharp things – and penguins can give a nasty nip if one doesn't hold their heads gently but firmly and carry them properly.



It's a very active Centre with many volunteers and staff working to clean the various pens, keeping track of which penguins go for swim time, feeding the penguins the correct number of fish, tubing fluids for the penguin chicks - as well as all the hospital procedures, cleaning all the towels used and the food preparation. That excludes all the rescues and management aspects of such a busy organization. Well done to **SANCCOB Saves Seabirds** for the dedicated and amazing work they do!

Many Stony Point African Penguin chicks were rescued from flooded nests in the bad storms in 2023. They are currently being taken care of at the Centre and when they are ready they will be released again.

THE BBC First Responders will become part of the SANCCOB First Responders groups and be available for call-outs for injured or distressed seabirds who need to be caught and transported to SANCCOB for treatment.



Carol Clark

Chair of Betty's Bay Conservancy