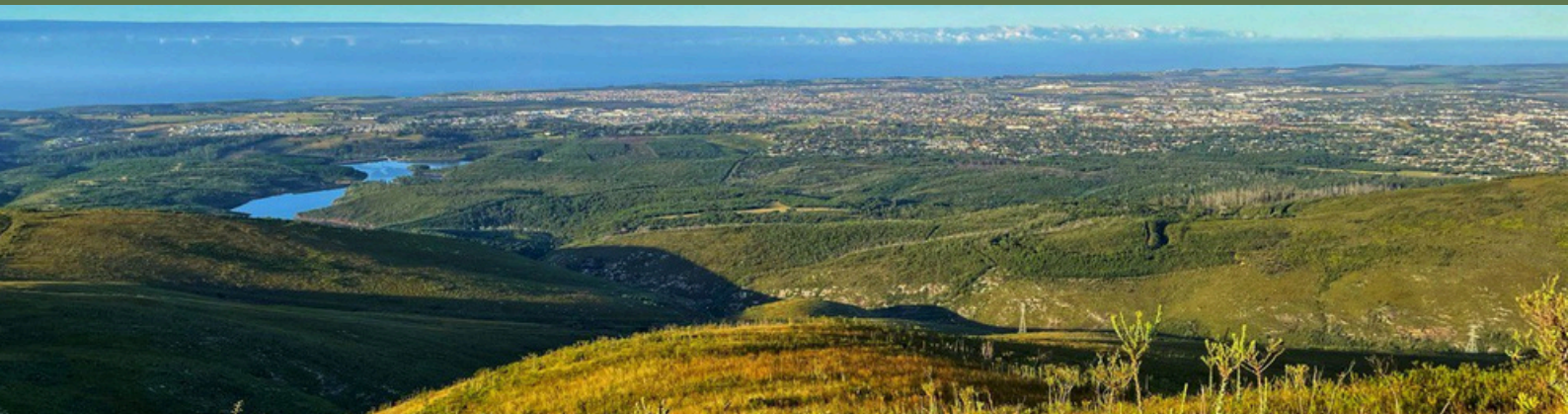


GARDAG Newsletter



2024 in Overview

GARDAG Victory

Looking back at the what we achieved in the last 12 months, the highlight is the Garden Route Dam legal review win! After all, that is why we exist, looking out for our precious strategic water resource, the GR Dam. Along with other court cases in the water industry this may be a year where the public have started to say "NO MORE!" No more bad governance, bad decisions and no more messing around with water, even when motivated as sustainable development. You need to do the work right! Sustainable development has 2 words, not just development. And urban densification does not include expanding development into undeveloped land. Decisions must occur with the entire watershed life cycle in mind. We need to remind Government of the Bata Pele principles enshrined within our governmental structures.

CASE NO. 1184/23
CHAMBERBOOK NO. 64/14

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MR / MS JUSTICE: Smelns
AT CAPE TOWN: ON 7 AUGUST 2024

In the matter between

GARDAG NPC

and

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT:
WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

GEORGE MUNICIPALITY

First Respondent

Second Respondent

Third Respondent

Golf Day

Second to none, we had a brilliant inaugural golf day. It was hard work, but worth every minute. We again thank every sponsor and team that contributed to the vibe. And all the Gardagians that helped on the day. We very much appreciate everyone's part. The day raised R 40 000 towards monitoring and projects.



Next Golf Day
5 June 2025
World Environment Day

Good Bye Dirk

Our treasurer, Dirk Stander, resigned due to family commitments. We thank Dirk for his contribution to GARDAG during 2023 and 2024.



2025 Projects

World Wetlands Day

2 February 2025

The children of St Paul's Primary were taught about the characteristics and importance of wetlands through a colouring competition, talks to the grade 6 & 7s and a practical exercise in the Meul River Wetland. Great thanks to Debbie Fordham of Upstream Consulting for practical augering and water testing teaching and other volunteers for ensuring a successful event.



Meul River Wetland

The wetland next to St Paul's Primary was visited on 31 January. The trees have grown substantially, while the wetland is generally overgrown with indigenous vegetation and in a good condition. Cleanup of rubbish certainly assisted restoration of the wetland environment. Pollution is, however, still a problem, which caused Victoria Bay beach to be closed after rain in December



George State of Rivers

Monitoring was undertaken with kits supplied by OUTA WaterCan and Afriforum. A mini SASS kit was purchased to participate in the Citizen Science State of the Rivers Report for SA by University of KZN. The continued pressure and exposure about water pollution are starting to reap positive results!

Read more about this on the blogs www.gardag.org.za

GARDAG plans to write a Citizen Science State of Rivers Report for George, based on water monitoring results. A volunteering opportunity exists for eager writers or environmentalists.



Water Monitoring

A water monitoring programme was developed and is available on www.gardag.org.za. Preference will be given to laboratory analyses, which provides more accurate results for reaching conclusions and making statements to the Municipality. This is, however, costly. Support of our golf day and donations are required to ensure adequate funds are available.

Garden Route Dam

The proposed development at the dam was stopped, but we need to keep watching that space. The filmset for The Bridge TV series appeared overnight and is only being rehabilitated now. Rumours had it that George Municipality wanted the structures to remain. Again, positive pressure and media exposure reaped benefits. George Municipality is also set on developing the land. Vigilance and activism is key to ensure that our precious environment and clean dam water are protected.

