

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

**A VERY WARM
WELCOME TO THE
WILDLIFE AND
ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA
(WESSA)'S 100TH
ANNUAL REPORT AND
A SPECIAL WELCOME
TO ALL THE NEW
MEMBERS OF WESSA.**

It is an honour for me to report to you in this auspicious year as we reach our centenary milestone. A century of environmental and conservation impact of people caring for the Earth.



WESSA 100 years

A centenary marks an important 100-year milestone, serving globally as a vital tool for natural and heritage preservation, identity reinforcement, and social cohesion across diverse cultures.

It bridges generational gaps and validates shared historical struggles and triumphs. Above all, it brings past and present members together to secure the organisation's long-term survival through a shared identity.

We pay tribute to the vision and historical resilience of the founders of this wonderful NGO in 1926, and to the determination of all past leaders who collectively steered WESSA to where it is today.

We acknowledge the current Board's responsibility to safeguard this precious organisation on the bumpy road to its next century of achievement and environmental impact.

The Board will continue its oversight of our refreshed strategy, purpose, and focus on climate action, biodiversity and habitat conservation, and pollution reduction on land, at sea, and in the air, while building resilience and long-term financial sustainability.

Considerable progress has been made in strengthening governance, reviewing our Memorandum of Incorporation, and improving the effectiveness of the Board and Management through organisational restructuring and stronger accountability.

One of the highlights of the last year has been the improved alignment among the Board, Management, staff, members, and volunteers across all regions and branches nationwide through our One-WESSA strategic alignment project.

Notwithstanding the challenging economic environment, I am pleased to report that the organisation has significantly improved its financial health and resilience as reflected in the Annual Financial Statement.



R100 million +
Current assets,
for the first time in
our history

I wish to thank my fellow Board members, the CEO, our management team, all staff members, WESSA members and volunteers, and our partners and our funders for their ongoing support and confidence.

Now is the time for a call to action: let us join hands and educate, advocate, and act as never before to build active citizens for environmental stewardship as we move forward over the next 100 years!

The Board has focused on strengthening WESSA's foundations, while the CEO's Report that follows reflects how those foundations are translating into present-day impact.

Janssen Davies

Chair of the Board