

Sustainable Ceder

Monthly Report:

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Introducing the Cedar Restoration Project to CapeNature

A Collaboration between Sustainable Ceder and NCO2



Fig 1. Dr. Ashley Naidoo (eighth from the left), with the Cedar Guardians and senior personnel from CapeNature, NCO2 and Sustainable Ceder during the visit.

We kicked off the month on a high note as Sustainable Ceder joined Negative Carbon Solutions (NCO2) for an opportunity to introduce the Cedar Restoration Project to CapeNature's newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ashley Naidoo, senior personnel, and the Cedar Guardians at their Cederberg Complex's Algeria Office.

The collaboration with NCO2 is assisting Sustainable Ceder with the planting of cedar saplings in inaccessible terrain through the use of innovative drone technology. Furthermore, cedar seedling plugs (small cylindrical growing units) are produced by NCO2 through a seedling plug manufacturing plant machine (currently based at Cederberg Wines - one of our satellite nurseries). Germinated seeds are then placed into these plugs and given the opportunity to grow into young saplings before being placed in the wilderness.

The introduction began with the founder of NCO2, Andries Louw, providing a hands-on explanation of the processes and how the payload system is set up to drop the cedar plugs in the field. This was followed by a drone flight demonstration, which consisted of dropping cedar plugs in the field, as well as flying a fully loaded flight basket that can hold three planting trays (within weight limits). This demonstration showed how the concept can be especially useful for delivering trays to remote planting teams, allowing them to work for longer periods in the field.

Our main purpose for the introduction – to show how on-the-ground planting efforts and technology can work together – was a success, as CapeNature has given their full support to the project.

Post-Fire Community Outreach

Earlier this year, a fire started at Krakadouw Peak in the northern Cederberg, burning approximately 20,800 hectares. The fire caused severe damage to the landscape, including the cedar population. A full post-fire report will be shared soon. Some of the more isolated communities, namely Heuningvlei, Brugkraal, Grasvlei and Kleinvlei, were hit the hardest. Among the damages were fences and surface water pipes, which disrupted the supply of drinking water.

A few weeks ago, we visited the affected communities to assess the damage and identify their most urgent needs. Thanks to the generous fire donations from the public, Love Our Trails, and Wild Cape Hikes, we set out on 16 July, gathered all our supplies in Clanwilliam, and began our journey to the northern part of the Cederberg.

On the way, we collected 150 fence droppers at Kliphuis that were donated by CapeNature to help rebuild fences lost in the fires. From there, we dropped off water pipes, fittings, and air valves in Heuningvlei and Brugkraal to support the restoration of their drinking water supply and agricultural fields.



Fig 2. Community members from Heuningvlei and Brugkraal are now able to restore their water supply.

Our next stop was Kleinvlei, where we handed over maintenance equipment to assist with campsite upkeep and small improvements. Kleinvlei relies mostly on tourism, and with most of the hiking routes closed after the fire, it is expected that it could have a long-term effect on their business. With the small improvements to their campsite, they could remain open for camping. We ended the day in Zuurrug, delivering boxes of clothing, toys, and shoes for local families to share.

Lastly, we made a small donation of cement to Martiensrust to support road repairs on their main access route toward Wupperthal.

We're committed to continuing this work and reaching even more communities in need.



Fig 3. Offloading new pipes, fence droppers, and boxes of clothes.

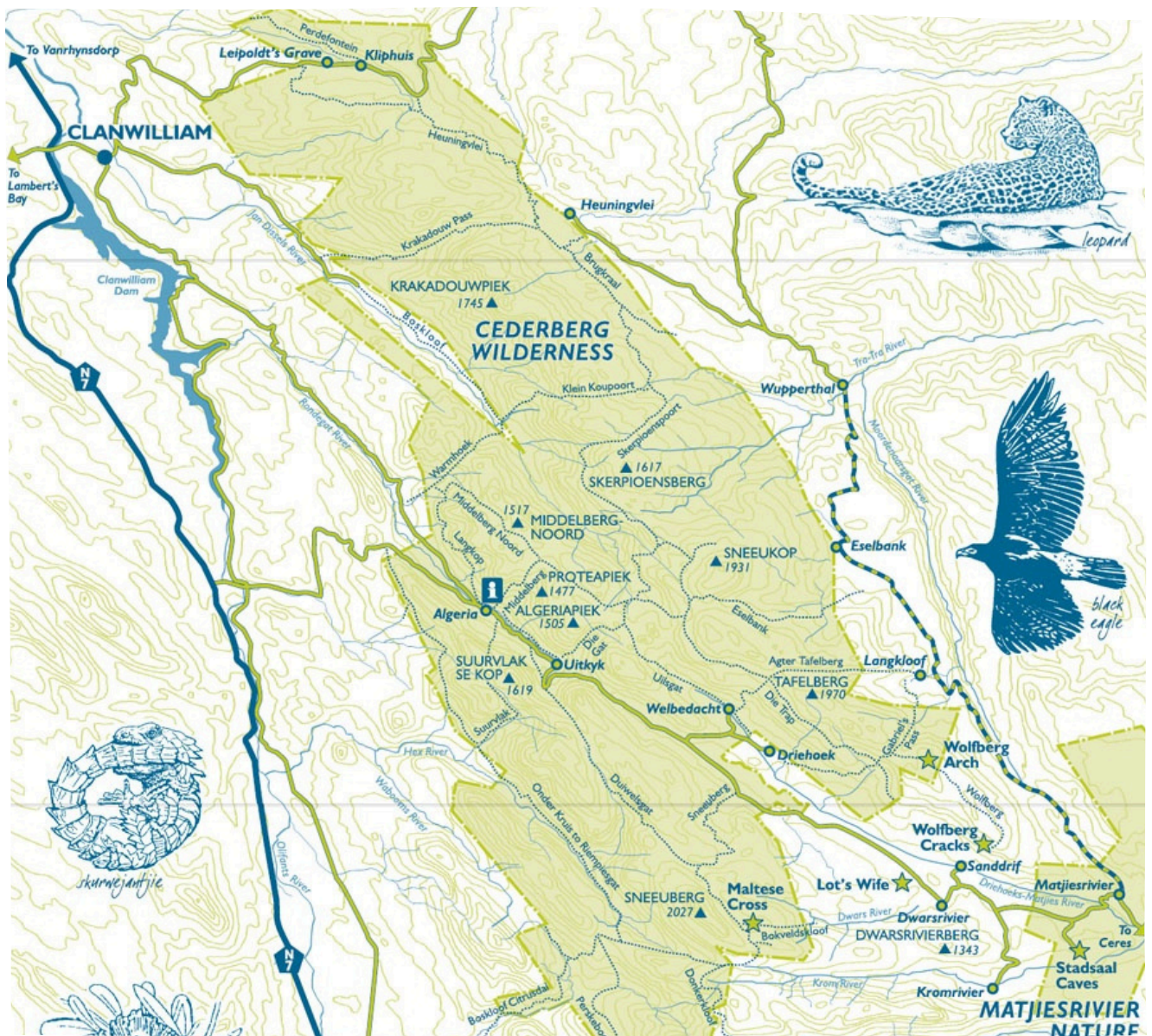


Fig 4. Map of the Cederberg Wilderness Area showing the location of some of the local communities.

MCSA Cedar Tree Planting Weekend



Fig 5. The Mountain Club South Africa (Cape Town Section) planting team with Denvill Sass - a local planter from Sustainable Ceder (middle).

The Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA) has been a long-time supporter of Sustainable Ceder – from donating old backpacks, which we turned into planting packs, to providing tents and camping gear.

This month, they sponsored a full planting tray of 128 saplings, and the goal was to plant the cedar saplings on MCSA property in the Breekrants area in the southern part of the Cederberg. Twelve members of the MCSA Cape Town Section, led by Jess Verheul, joined us on an overnight hike into the Breekrants Valley.

With permission from the landowners at Kromrivier Kloof and Kromrivier Cederberg Park, we gained easy access and set off early on Saturday, 26 July, to the planting site on the MCSA's property. It was a cold morning, with frost covering the ground as we began the hike at Kromrivier's Disa Pool parking area with a steep climb towards Apollo Peak. While most of the team enjoyed their lunch, three of the members went and summited Luna Peak. Afterwards, everyone hiked towards Breekrants, pitched their tents, and started planting cedar saplings.

As soon as the sun started to set, the temperatures dropped quickly. After a long day of hiking and planting, the team was ready for a hot meal and a warm sleeping bag. The next day began with a warm cup of coffee before heading back along a circular route via Donkerkloof Kop towards Bakleikraal. We had our last stop at Disa Pool before heading back to the parking area. The group ended up planting 101 cedar saplings, with an additional three larger cedar trees. The rest will be planted close to Die Sluis at Kromrivier before the end of the season.

It was a real pleasure connecting with so many passionate, conservation-minded people, and we're looking forward to many more planting weekends in the future.

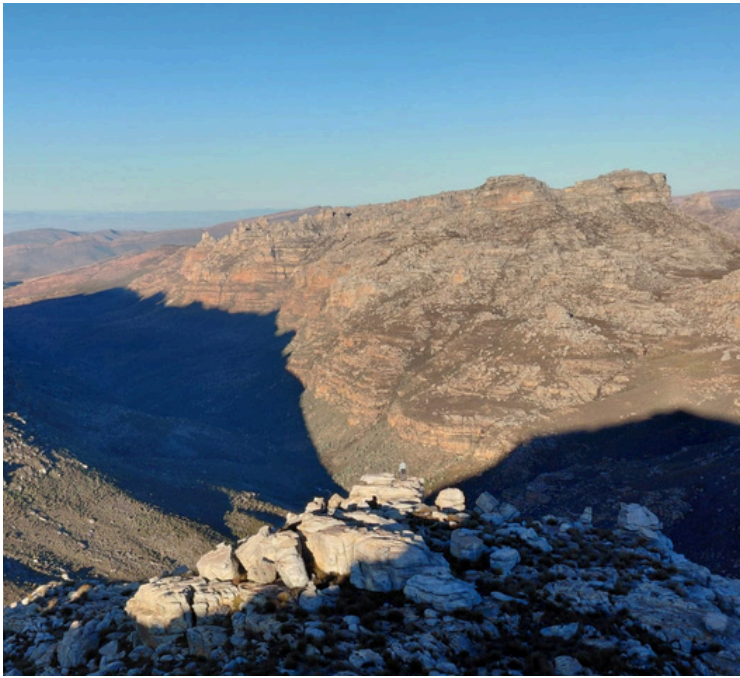


Fig 6. Looking down into the Breekrants Valley



Fig 7. Heading towards the direction of Donkerkloof Kop



Fig 8. Sneeuberg in the distance



Fig 9. Denvill Sass with a planting backpack on his first overnight hike.



Fig 10. Tray with cedar saplings



Fig 11. Saplings were planted below 1500m

Saplings Planted This Month



Fig 12. The Cedar Guardians and local planters from Sustainable Cedar preparing for planting before the rain

July was a very dry month with hardly any rain, and with heavy rain forecasted for the end of the month, most of the planting was done during the final week of July.

Table 1. The number of cedar saplings planted in various locations in the Cederberg during July 2025.

| Date | Location | Saplings Planted |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|
| 08.07.2025 | Bushmanskloof/Heuningvlei | 120 |
| 20.07.2025 | Champagne Trail - DH | 14 |
| 22.07.2025 | Welbedacht | 100 |
| 26.07.2025 | Breekrants Valley | 104 |
| 29.07.2025 | Waterkloof/Burgerskloof - DH | 768 |
| Total Saplings Planted (July 2025) | | 1106 |

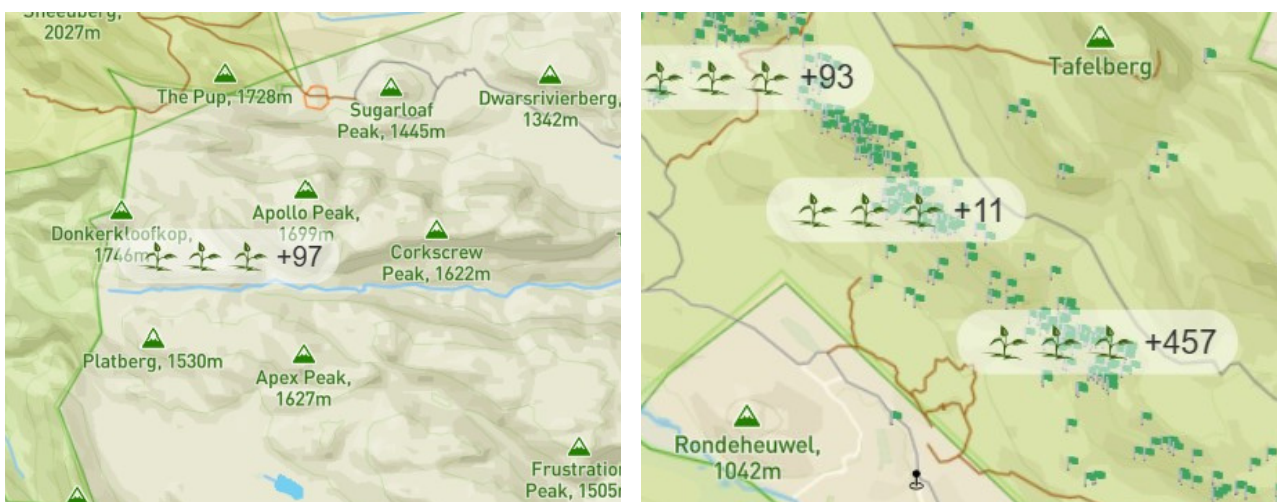


Fig 13. An overview of some of the trees planted in July 2025, as recorded on the EarthRanger platform.

Further News

SA Reforestation Trust

This year, Tourvest Destination Management, a long-term partner of the SA Reforestation Trust, has generously donated 1,010 trees to support our restoration efforts.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Maarten Groos, Director of the SA Reforestation Trust, and Helen Turnbull, CEO of the Cape Leopard Trust, for a full introduction to the project.

The SA Reforestation Trust is one of our valued conservation partners, and we are proud to be affiliated with their work.

Arrival of our new Nursery Tunnels

We recently updated our germination process to take place in a more controlled environment during the winter months. Seeds are now germinated in a germination box, where viable ones are identified and individually planted into trays for the next growth stage.

These trays are then placed in a grow tent, allowing the young plants to develop under stable conditions before being moved into a plastic micron 200 tunnel.

Thanks to the recent funding we received from EOCA, we were able to purchase our new shade cloth nursery tunnel, which will be used during the hardening-off phase as the saplings adjust to outdoor conditions.

In addition, four new plastic tunnels have arrived and will soon be delivered to our satellite nurseries located within various local communities.



Fig 14. Saplings in the indoor grow tent.



Fig 15. New shade cloth and micron plastic tunnels.