

Further Funding Requirement

The delay in Bitou getting the Special Ratings Area (SRA) Bylaw passed earlier this year presents us with an interim **Baboon Management Program funding shortfall** for the next 6 months and we are therefore once again asking you to dig deep and help us continue to fund what has been a very successful program to date. Despite a few hiccups on the way, as we have learned how to cope with our troop, we have managed to keep the baboons foraging in the forest rather than in our bins and back yards (See [*“Baboon Management Program Update”*](#) details below).

We are happy to report that we are **making good progress with our SRA Project**. Bitou Council approved the SRA Policy Document in June and the SRA Bylaw in October, which is a major step forward for us as it provides the enabling legislation to launch our SRA application (See [*“SRA Application Progress”*](#) details below). Despite this, we still have a number of administrative hoops to jump through over the next few months before we get final approval in about April/May 2023.

The bottom line is we need to ask residents to fund an additional **R215,000** to take us through to the launch of the SRA in April/May next year (See [*“Update on Interim Funding”*](#) details below).

Baboon Management Program Update

The Valley Baboon Troop has been less active since June with the exception of late July and early August when the troop began roosting on the western side of the Valley, behind Forest Drive. This gave them easy access to the Valley in the early morning before the monitors came on duty and our team worked hard to move them back into the forest again. By the continual daily herding of the troop out of the area, the monitors were eventually able to encourage them to relocate their roosting site back into the Kalandar Kloof. October has once again been quiet with only a few incidents towards the end of the month.

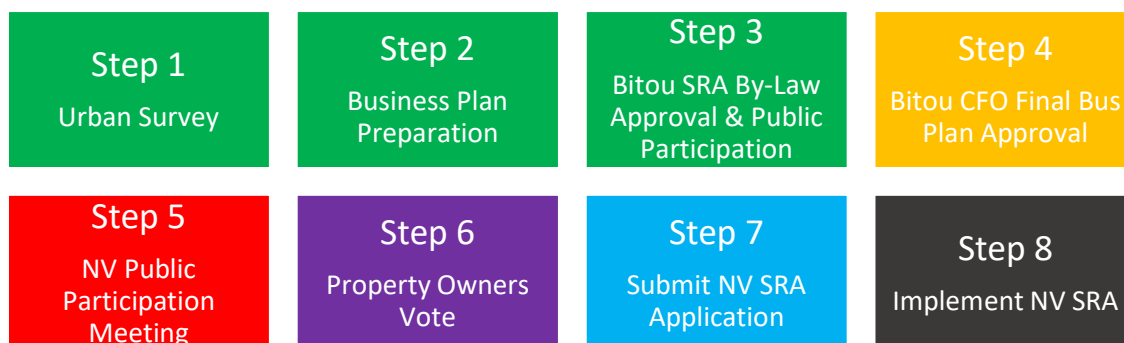
As soon as our SRA is in place, we will be able to implement a program of tagging and collaring key baboons to provide an early warning system and to help locate roosting sites that allow easy access to the Valley.

SRA Application Progress

In our first issue of Natures Valley SRA News, we described 6 steps required for the approval and implementation of an SRA for Natures Valley. However, over the past few months we have had to add a few additional steps to clearly articulate the process. The diagram below shows this process and how far we have progressed to date – the green steps 1-3 have been completed and we are now moving into the final stages of the project.

Although it still looks like we have a long way to go, the Bitou Council approval of the enabling SRA legislation in October has removed the most significant stumbling block and we now have a clear line of sight to our final goal. Bear with us - we are almost there!

The step-by-step SRA Application Process



We are happy to report the following progress made to date: -

- ✓ **Step 1** – The urban perception survey is complete - refer to Issue 2 of 4th April 2022
- ✓ **Step 2** – The draft business plan has been completed and key aspects of the plan such as geographical area, scope of services and indicative costs, have been discussed with the Municipality.
- ✓ **Step 3** – Bitou Municipal Council approved the SRA By-Law and SRA Policy and completed a 30-day public participation process in August. The SRA By-Law obtained final approval from Council on 31st October with publication in the Government Gazette to follow later in November.
- **Step 4** – Revised SRA Business Plan and budget to be presented to the Bitou Municipality CFO for final approval in the early November. We will be sending out a notice of the meeting date as well as all relevant information as soon as arrangements have been made. It is very important all property owners are involved in this process so please look out for the notice.
- **Step 5** – Business Plan to be presented to all NV property owners in November 2022 at a public participation meeting facilitated by Dr Bianca Currie. The NV SRA Steering Committee will be available at this meeting to answer questions on the SRA.
- **Step 6** – NV property owners vote on proposal to implement the SRA proposal.
- **Step 7** – Submission of the SRA application to Council in December. This to be followed by a period of public comment and the establishment of financial administration arrangements with Bitou Municipality before final Council meeting regarding approval in March/April 2023.
- **Step 8** – Implementation of the NVSRA company to manage the SRA on behalf of residents in April 2023. Details of company formation and structure to be communicated in Business Plan.

Update on Interim Funding for the Baboon Monitors

In August 2021 we issued a request to fund a pilot project for baboon monitoring. In February 2022 we sent out a request for additional funding to extend the Baboon Monitoring Project while applying for Natures Valley to be declared a Special Ratings Area (SRA). Our current forecast is that an SRA for Natures Valley could be activated by 30 April 2023 at the earliest.

Income

Total funds received for the 15 months from August 2021 to date, including interest, is R 492 521.

Expenses

In total we have spent R484 215 made up of R264 613 of monitors' wages, R91 447 on staff transport, R94 233 on equipment, R14 203 on radio rental, R 12 650 on pre-SRA expenses (R5 750 to establish a website and R6 900 to prepare the SRA company Memorandum of Incorporation), R5 383 on training, R580 monthly website fees and R1 106 on bank charges.

Please Note: We only have R8 306 cash on hand at 31 October 2022.

As can be seen from the amount of cash left in the account, we now need to ask property owners for further contributions as soon as possible to ensure continuity of monitoring services until the SRA can be established.

With our expectation of establishing the SRA by the end of April 2023 (6 months), and based on actual expenditure to date, we have forecast that we **need to raise approximately R215 000.**

Our sincere thanks to all the property owners who have contributed so generously to date. We sincerely hope that you will again be able to assist us so we can reach our goal of establishing an SRA for Natures Valley.

Banking details for contributions: -

Account: Standard Bank Market Linked Business Savings Account

Account No 10154030161

Branch no 0510001

Account name - Natures Valley Ratepayers Association

Please put your ERF No, Name and "B" on the transfer details so we can identify payment for the baboon management plan. Please send a confirmation email to office@nvra.co.za