

## Your Handprints Helping Creation in 2009



A Rocha South Africa has much to be thankful for in 2009. Our newsletter list grew from 200 to 330 people with more than 100 finance partners funding A Rocha projects and staff. Our Community Groups increased from three groups in the Western Cape to five groups in the Western and Eastern Cape provinces, with an interest group in Gauteng. The Vuya Endaweni Community Group in Stellenbosch commenced its conservation programme through education and community development this year. ARZA's community bird ringing tradition continued with Dieter Oschadleus and Dalton Gibbs at the Rondevlei Community Group in Cape Town. Phila Endalweni's two school enviro-clubs flourished and a first new club in Imbali is scheduled to commence in January 2010. Our HIV AIDs outreach programmes introduced three childcare networks in Pietermaritzburg to the wonder of local wilderness areas. In the Living Msunduzi Waterways Project a baseline survey of plants was completed in February by Kees van Reenen a Dutch volunteer. Our Christian Citizenship Programme presented six churches in four provinces with A Rocha's vision and introduced 18 theology students to local wild flower conservation. Regarding organizational capacity, we appointed Steve Weaver, our first conservation trained CEO. Steve's recent experience as Parks Regional Manager for the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources brings to us a new capacity for giving direction to A Rocha conservation projects countrywide. In the national office we appointed a finance manager to consolidate our financial and auditing administration.

## ARZA's New Partnership in Conservation

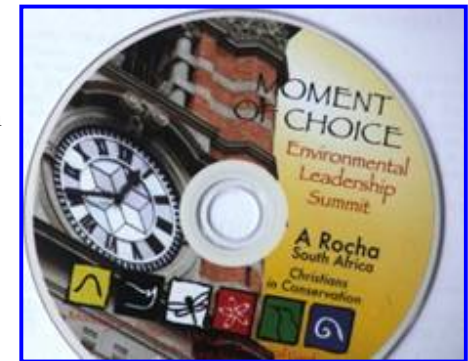
ARZA formed a new community partnership this year with Ben and Karen Hoffman of the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary near Pietermaritzburg. See <http://www.africanraptor.co.za/cms/> A portion of all Rocha South Africa Friends Subscriptions will be donated for the rehabilitation and return to the wild of African raptors. Ben and Shannon, Steve Weaver and Allen Goddard are pictured here at a recent conservation forum.



## Milestone Stories

On 24 August 2009 A Rocha presented South Africa's first environmental leadership summit in KZN on the theme: *Sustainable Ecosystems Services for the City of Choice*. Twelve of the country's environmental experts, based in Pietermaritzburg, led a round table discussion. Fifty Five delegates from government, education, business, civil society and the informal sector then participated in workshops on solving the challenges facing the city: Waste Management, Sanitation, Climate Change, and Development Planning. A film *Moment of Choice*, documenting the Summit is now available.

ARZA people authored other stories of hope in South Africa this year. Lydia Willems' project to decrease the carbon footprint of Stellenbosch University residences won an ESKOM eta award. ARKZN's Election Day tree planting event and the *Amagoggagogga Adventure* featured prominently in the *Witness* newspaper: *Making our City GREEN* (24 April 2009), *Greening the Soul of a Generation* (13 June). A third article Hope Flowers in Imbali (6 October 2009) was the front page environmental feature for the day and presented A Rocha's partnership with the Duzi-Umngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT) on 19 September in this year's World Clean up Day.



Between March and September tree planting took place in A Rocha's Ferncliffe carbon banking project. We purchased 152 indigenous trees for planting during the very memorable community tree planting event on 22 April.

In October A Rocha KZN participated in Pietermaritzburg's *Living the Future Summit* organized by the Msunduzi Innovation and Development Institute [www.midi.org.za](http://www.midi.org.za). Our

input into the summit succeeded in foregrounding climate change impacts on Pietermaritzburg and the need to achieve economic development without abandoning transformation to renewable energy, and without compromising development for the poor.



The last twelve months have seen A Rocha's profile and presence in conservation in South Africa grow steadily, and we look forward getting our hands more involved in creation care in 2010.

**Siyabonga-Dankie-Enkosi A Rocha Friends and Partners for your handprints helping creation this year!**