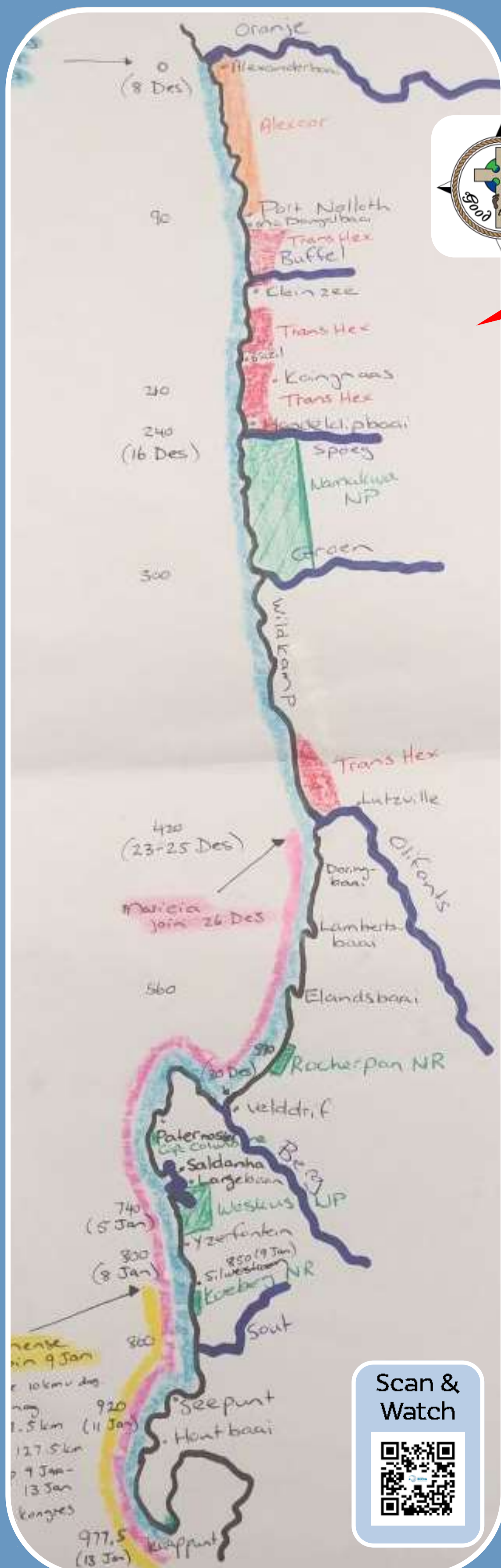


Footsteps to Good Hope



A solo walk of 977Km along the West Coast of South Africa



Jacobus van der Linden, an 18 year supporter, completed his epic walk of 977Km from the border of Namibia to the Cape of Good Hope SA as an inspiration to all to participate in God's care for His creation.

Marine Plastics & Nurdles



A national study has found that most plastic pollution on SA beaches originates locally.

The West Coast is semi-desert with low rainfall and is sparsely populated. Yet 18 sites were found with serious plastic pollution.

Nurdles became news in SA in Oct. 2017 when a container ship lost 49 tons into the sea in Durban. Nurdles have since been found on beaches up to 1500 Km to the south west.

In support of the Marine and Coastal Conservation Program Jacobus shared data on three nurdle-sites along the coast with Bob Sluka (ARI).

Churches & the Youth



The walk started on 8 Dec. 2017 on the beach at mouth of the Orange river with a family kneeling in prayer.

Along the route Jacobus and his support team spoke at churches about the walk and eco-challenges we face.

A blog was kept. It includes a journal, a range of topics relevant to the West Coast (wadars, pollution, kelp forests) and devotions for the followers. The blog has had ±16 000 page views.

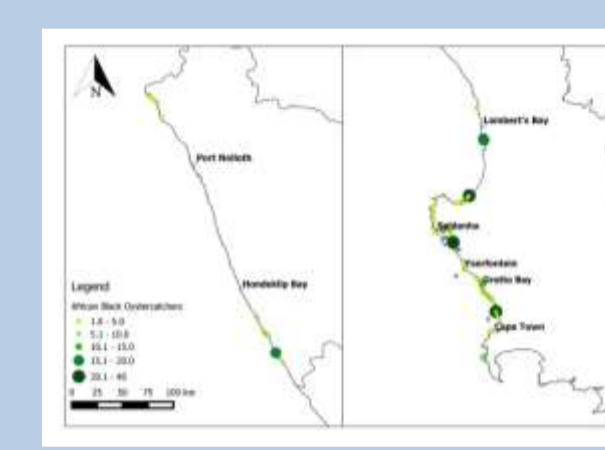
The walk was broadcast on national TV and radio. Jacobus has been nominated for a national Eco-logic award.

Monitoring the African Black Oystercatcher



The South African Bird of the Year 2018 is the African Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus moquini*). In 2015 it was downlisted in the regional Red Data Book from Near Threatened to Least Concerned.

This success can be attributed to various reasons e.g. greater access to food, a ban on vehicles on beaches and conservation efforts.



During the trek along the West Coast Oystercatchers were counted and their GPS co-ordinates recorded. The data has been shared with BirdLife SA.

In total 453 birds were found at 94 sites. 11 sites had more than 10 birds each. The largest group had 38 birds. We trust that the data will contribute positively to the SA Bird Atlas. Contact: info@arocha.org.za

