



BOTANICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

Treasurer's Report in Respect of the Year Ended 31 March 2026

This report covers the financial year ended 31 March 2026 for the Botanical Society of South Africa (BOT SOC) and its various branches.

Dear BOT SOC Members

The Annual Financial Statements set out the consolidated results of the Botanical Society of SA (BOT SOC) and its branches for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Society was fortunate that its investments performed well during the past financial year. This provided welcome funding to support ongoing operating and conservation expenses as we continue the transition from a membership to a donor-funded model, following the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI's) withdrawal of the garden access benefit in March 2024. The incoming Council will need to maintain its focus on building a credible pipeline of donor funding for both operating expenses and conservation projects.

The staff have done an excellent job of keeping the operating costs as low as possible and for that they must be applauded. In addition, the BOT SOC team secured funding to pilot conservation projects across the Society's focus areas. These six focus areas were agreed to with Branches at the Pathfinder Convention in 2022. Funding was granted by the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) for an initial project in the Western Cape with a view to expanding this project to other provinces. I am pleased to report that the initial project was a success, and we are engaging with NLC to expand the project into the other provinces. The financial position and operations of BOT SOC are discussed in more detail in the full Treasurer's Report for 2026.

A vital step to expanding BOTSOC's potential to secure external funding is the proposed transition from a Voluntary Association to a Non-Profit Company legal structure. This shift will ensure improved governance and statutory compliance, both of which are important considerations to donors, both local and foreign. All branches will continue to have the option to exist as either an internal or external branch, as they have had this option since 2018, however existing Branches will need to finalise their position by 31 October 2026.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY of SA

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BOT SOC AGM 2026 Treasurer's report G Morrison

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Kirstenbosch adopted their own separate legal personality as a Voluntary Association in 2021. The Kirstenbosch Branch's cash reserves subsequently declined significantly over the last few years, mainly due to dwindling membership numbers, revenue loss, limited donations received and fundraising initiatives that have not generated significant income. Unfortunately, the Kirstenbosch bookshop has not returned to profitability in the years following the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the Branch Committee has taken the difficult but prudent decision to close the bookshop and has also begun implementing measures to scale down Branch administrative costs.

The Kogelberg Branch has registered a separate Non-Profit Company in November 2025 and the transfer of their BOT SOC Kogelberg operations to the Hangklip Botanical Society is planned for the 2026/27 financial year. The Branch bookshop is thriving with a vibrant community of volunteers and members of the branch. It offers visitors to Harold Porter National Botanical Garden an additional attraction to add to their unique garden experience.

I will not be standing for re-election in order to pursue other interests. Thank you to my fellow Council members, the staff and you, the members, for your determination to build on the Botanical Society's rich conservation history in South Africa.

Grant Morrison CA (SA)

15 August 2026