

Environment Quarterly

Kwartaalike Omgewingsverslag • Tikologo ka Kotara • Mupo nga Kotara



**Celebrating
World Food Day**
**Get reacquainted with
our biodiverse rich parks**



environment, forestry
& fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**STAY
SAFE**

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS



2020 environment CALENDAR



JANUARY

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02 February
02 March
21 March
23 March
22 April

World Wetlands Day
World Wildlife Day
International Day of Forests
World Meteorological Day
Earth Day

MAY

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17 May
22 May
05 June
08 June

World Migratory Bird Day
International Day for Biological Diversity
World Environment Day
World Oceans Day

17 June
18 July
31 July
31 Aug - 04 Sep

Desertification and Drought Day
Nelson Mandela Day
World Ranger Day
Arbour Week

SEPTEMBER

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DECEMBER

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16 September
19 September
16 - 20 November
21 November

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
International Coastal Clean-up Day
South African National Parks Week
World Fisheries Day

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About the back cover image

Drakensberg, the main mountain range of Southern Africa. The Drakensberg rises to more than 11,400 feet (3,475 metres) and extends roughly northeast to southwest for 700 miles (1,125 km) parallel to the southeastern coast of South Africa. Rock and cave art several thousands of years old has been found in the range.



To use this QR code conveniently you must have a smartphone equipped with a camera and a QR code reader/scanner application feature.



Dear Valued Stakeholder

It is hard to believe that the year has come and is almost gone. December is always a good opportunity to take stock of the past year. For most of us, this year has proved that the only constant in life is indeed change.

Over the past few months, we have experienced an unprecedented shift in our way of life due to the coronavirus pandemic which disrupted lives throughout the world. The change challenged us to adapt to the “new normal” and for most organisations, the change led to moving swiftly into the digital space.

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has also grown and changed over the past few years. The beginning of April 2020 officially marked the merger of the Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment portfolios into a new Department.

We also welcomed the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Sedumo Rannoi who brings with him a wealth of experience.

His appointment was recently followed by that of the new Deputy Director-General: Environmental Programmes, Ms Nonhlanhla Mkhize and we are excited and looking forward to profiling her in our next issue of Environment Quarterly.

We also congratulate Dr Thuli Khumalo who was recently announced by Cabinet as the new Deputy Director-General: Climate Change and Air Quality. Congratulations Dr.

The past few months have been eventful for Minister Barbara Creecy

and Deputy Minister Makhotsa Soty. Minister Creecy presented the South Africa’s National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of Sharks (NPOA –Sharks) which was prompted by a number of concerns in the public domain over the management of these iconic ocean creatures.

She also launched the fifteenth South African National Parks Week under the theme “Know your national parks” aimed at promoting the accessibility of our national parks to communities across the country.

Minister Creecy recently led the Plastic Colloquium Feedback Session with the objective of taking stock of the work done since the commitments made at the first Plastic Colloquium in November 2019.

Plastic pollution is still a serious problem in our country and as the shopping season approaches, remember to take your recycled shopping bags instead of using plastic bags and when you buy fast food, demand an alternative product to package your burgers, chicken and coffees.

Deputy Minister, Ms Makhotsa Soty had an equally eventful quarter. In the month of November, she officially unveiled a three-star Awelani Eco Lodge in the Mutele Community Conservation Area, Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

She also led the handover of a multipurpose Buy Back Centre worth R27 million as well as eco furniture school desks in Coffee Bay.



The end of November saw the departure of one of our exceptional writers, Tshego Letshwiti who was based in Cape Town. Tshego joined the Department in 2014 and left for greener pasture at the end of November 2020. We wish her nothing but success in her new career journey.

The holidays are here, and this gives us an opportunity to have a more environmentally friendly celebration.

From the DEFF family to yours, may the New Year bring the very best to you and yours.

Until 2021, remember to keep our environment clean – always!

Albi Modise
Head of Communications & Advocacy

Meet our team

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SANParks
SA-Venues.com
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#16Days #16Ways

to empower and encourage women and children to act against abuse.

BREAK THE SILENCE TO END THE VIOLENCE	STOP VICTIM SHAMING	STAND UP FOR YOURSELF	DON'T LIVE IN FEAR	BLAME THE PERPETRATOR NOT THE VICTIM	STOP TOXIC MASCULINITY	DON'T BE SILENT	SEEKING HELP IS NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS
KNOW YOU ARE NOT ALONE	HELP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN	FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS	DON'T LOOK AWAY	REDUCE VIOLENCE ONE VICTIM SHOULD NEVER BE ONE TOO MANY	ZERO TOLERANCE AGAINST RAPE AND ABUSE	BE AN ACTIVIST AGAINST ABUSE EVERYDAY	FIGHT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE IT IS POSSIBLE



Where to get help

 CHILD WELFARE SOUTH AFRICA SA National Council for Child Welfare	 SAPS Crime Stop	 STOP Gender Violence Helpline	 ChildLine (0800 1111)	 tears <small>EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</small>	 CALL 0861 574 747 Crisis On Call	 Gender-Based Violence Command Center	 POWA <small>PEOPLE OPPOSING WOMEN ABUSE</small>
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Spotlight on ocean sustainability and technology

By Tshego Letshwiti

National Marine Week is one of the most important campaigns on the national environment calendar. This year, the week came to a close having raised awareness in schools with a focus on technological advancement in the population count of marine species, the tracking and monitoring of the red tide and monitoring of the sea water quality.

The week long programme was executed in partnership with the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and the Tourism Blue Flag Project, in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

What is National Marine Week?

National Marine Week is an annual marine awareness campaign which takes place every second week of October, aimed at raising awareness about the conservation of the ocean and coastal environments. This year's theme was "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean."

Minister Barbara Creecy said the week brings to the forefront issues relating to the country's ocean and coasts.

"This week highlights the many benefits South Africans enjoy from our coastal and ocean ecosystems. This includes encouraging broader participation in marine related professions," she said.

While South Africa enjoys the benefit of a long coastline comprising of three ocean environments, these have not yet been fully explored. Innovation in science, technology and management is required to fully appreciate the opportunities in our ocean and coasts.

Innovation in oceans

Among the innovative developments under the national Ocean and Coastal Information Management System are the Decision Support Tools that use satellite information collected by the South African National Space Agency for use by a number of government departments and entities. Some of these include Integrated Vessel Tracking, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Operations at Sea and Rescue Tools.

The Integrated Vessel Tracking tool, for example, is important to South African law enforcement agencies as it enables them to monitor vessel activity through real time satellite data within the full Exclusive Economic Zone of South Africa, as well as the Prince Edward and Marion Islands. Authorised officials are able to track all vessels whether their Vessel Monitoring Systems are switched on or not. This innovative technology enables Fisheries authorities to monitor

fishing vessels in South African waters, and keep track of their activities. In addition, vessels that enter both inshore and offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are monitored. Where violations occur, compliance officers and vessels can be deployed.

The tool to monitor Harmful Algal Blooms along the country's 3 800km coastline is crucial to the aquaculture industry. Algal blooms are a natural phenomenon and are particularly common in the productive West Coast's Benguela upwelling region of South Africa and can lead to mass mortalities of entire marine communities, including mass walkouts of rock lobsters. These events can potentially have major environmental and societal implications, with knock-on effects on coastal economies.

Artificial Intelligence for monitoring ocean health

Recently, departmental scientists have been using unmanned airborne vehicles also known as drones to make population counts of sea animals such as whales, dolphins and seals which are an attraction for tourists and enhance ecotourism.

Furthermore, the abundance of these animals is usually an indication of good ocean health. Instead of doing physical or manual counts from aerial photographs, scientists are using artificial intelligence and machine training to do animal counts from aerial photographs taken by drones. These innovative methods ensure the census is completed quickly using less time and labour.

Marine Science programmes are undertaken by the Department in partnership with several other national research agencies and universities.

"Technology advancements over the last century have made the ocean much more accessible to coastal states. Now technology allows us to access the oceans and open up a further 70% of the planet to us – 70% being the surface of the planet covered by the ocean," added Minister Creecy.



About the contributor: Tshego Letshwiti

Ms Tshego Letshwiti was the Assistant Director in the Chief Directorate: Communications at the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. She joined the Department in February 2014 and left at the end of November 2020 to pursue a new career opportunity.



Above: DEFF's Paul Sigutya presents on some of the marine work done in the department.



Above: An official from Tourism Blue Flag explains the importance of wetlands during a practical demonstration of water purification processes and salt water experiment.



Above: WESSA officials explain ocean acidification and the effects of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases in the ocean and how to minimize these effects.



Above: Captain Ian Hlongwane from SAIMI talks to the students about a career at sea.



Above: Rocky shore exploration on Treasure Beach.

KEEPING OUR SEAS CLEAN

AS YOU SAW IN THE WATER CYCLE, WATER FROM RIVERS ENDS UP IN THE SEA. LITTER IN THE RIVERS IS ALSO CARRIED DOWN TO THE SEA.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS' "SOURCE TO SEA" PROJECT WORKS AT KEEPING RIVERS CLEAN SO THAT OUR OCEAN IS ALSO CLEAN. THE "WORKING FOR THE COAST" PROGRAMME MAKES SURE LITTER IS PICKED UP AT MANY BEACHES AND ESTUARIES ALONG THE SOUTH AFRICAN COASTLINE.

LITTER IS **NOT** NCAH!



These two initiatives not only ensure our oceans are litter free, but they also provide jobs for people, allowing them to create a better life for themselves.



CAREERS:

Marine Biologists study sea creatures and plants. This ranges from large creatures (like whales) all the way to microscopic creatures (like plankton) and everything in-between. They also see how changes in the environment, such as pollution, will affect sea life. They play an important role in protecting biodiversity.

Conservationists protect and preserve the environment and wildlife. They work towards ensuring that the earth and everything that lives in it are given the best chance of survival. This may include helping make new laws or rehabilitating a natural area that has been damaged.

Recycling is a job that helps save the environment, including rivers and the sea, as well as making a living for people. Materials such as metal, glass, wood, plastics or paper can be sold and reused to make new products.



Jabulile Nhleko works for the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries as an Estuarine Ecologist. She studies estuaries to see how the plants, animals and environment need to work together to have a healthy ecosystem. From what she learns, she can then advise on how to best manage estuaries. She has also worked as a river health scientist and at the moment is working at getting her PhD (Doctoral degree).

CURRICULUM LINKS

- **Grade 7 and 8: Life Orientation** – Health, social and environmental responsibility (environmental health)
- **Grade 7: Natural Sciences** – Life and Living (biodiversity), Grade 8 – Life and Living (Interactions and interdependence within the environment).

Knowledge is NCAH!



LIVING SEAS!

NO LITTER OR POLLUTION IN THE SEA MEANS LOTS OF DIFFERENT PLANTS AND ANIMALS - OR LOTS OF **BIODIVERSITY**.

UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS TO FIND WORDS THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT IN THIS WORKSHEET, AS WELL AS CREATURES THAT CAN BE FOUND BECAUSE THERE IS NO LITTER.



STARUYE

REVDISITYOIB

NAOCE

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LARCO

WLAHE

HISTRASF

SHARK

STARFISH

FISH

BIODIVERSITY

WHALE

OCEAN

CORAL

CRAB

ESTUARY

START YOUR OWN SCIENCE SPAZA

Do you want to start a science club at your school? Send us the following information, and Science Spaza will contact you.

School: _____

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Postal address: _____

Visit www.sciencespaza.org, email info@sciencespaza.org, sms or WhatsApp us on 076 173 7130 or write to us at PO Box 22106, Mayor's Walk, 3208.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

SEND US A PHOTO OF YOUR CLUB DOING THE ACTIVITY OR ARRANGE YOUR OWN CLEANUP OF A LOCAL WATER SOURCE - YOU WILL BE SAVING MARINE BIODIVERSITY.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES

Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP) are aimed at addressing environmental management challenges in South Africa. Working with the Coast is one of the focus areas of EPIP and facilitates the rehabilitation of coastal environments.

The Source to Sea initiative aims to tackle land-based waste and litter in hot spot communities located near rivers and catchments and preventing such litter and waste to enter waterways and ending up in the sea.



Source to Sea
LITTER FREE LAND FOR LITTER FREE OCEANS

Our magnificent mountains

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

Images by Alchetron.com, Cederberg.com, Fisheradvisory.com, Royalnatal.com, SANParks and SA-Venues.com

The 11th December is International Mountain Day, a day where people recognize and celebrate these spectacular jewels that cover 25% of the earth's land surface. This year, the day is celebrated under the theme "Mountain Biodiversity", which aims to look at the many varieties of life that are encompassed in mountains.

Mountains are beautiful landscapes because 15% of the world's population including a quarter of the world's plants and land animals call mountains their home. Mountains also provide fresh water while also providing nearby communities with hydro, solar, and wind power. In celebrating International Mountain Day, we take some time to appreciate the Top Five mountain ranges in South Africa.

The Drakensberg Mountain Range

Spanning over a 1 000km and covering the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and the Free State, the Drakensberg Mountain range is the highest in South Africa standing at 3 482 metres above sea level. Visitors to the mountain can visit the multiple caves that have over 600 San rock paintings. Other activities around the mountain include hiking and horse trails, canopy tours and river rafting which makes it the perfect holiday destination for people of all ages.

The Table Mountain Range

Overlooking the beautiful city of Cape Town, the Table Mountain range is one of the world's oldest mountains, estimated to be around 300 million years old. The Mountain was named after its flat top that resembles a table. Towering at 1 085 metres above sea level, visitors to the Table Mountain National Park can enjoy a cableway ride up to the top of the famous mountain to enjoy the scenic views. The park also has hiking trails, camping sites and five dams that make for great picnic spots.



Above: The Drakensberg Mountain Range is the highest in Mzansi.



Above: The Table Mountain Range overlooks the Mother City.

The Tsitsikamma Mountain Range

Situated in the Eastern and Western Cape, the Tsitsikamma Mountain range is part of The Tsitsikamma National Park which happens to be the largest marine reserve in South Africa. Spanning at just 80km wide, the mountain's highest point stands at 1 675 metres above sea level. Those seeking adrenaline can visit the Bloukrans Bridge which offers the highest commercial bungee jumping in the world. Other activities to be enjoyed at the park include snorkelling, mountain biking and horse riding along the beach.

The Cederberg Mountains

Named after the endangered Clanwilliam cedar tree, the Cederberg Mountains are situated in the Western Cape and are well known for their unusual rock formations and bushman rock art. The highest peak of the mountain stands at 2 027 metres above sea level. The area offers visitors hiking trails, San rock art caves, rock climbing and an amateur astronomical observatory.



Above: The Cederberg Mountains in the Western Cape.



Above: The Tsitsikamma Mountain Range.

The Amatola Mountain Range

Once home to Khoisan hunter-gatherers, the Amatola Mountain range is known for its lush forests and scenic waterfalls. Situated in the Eastern Cape, the highest peak of the mountain towers at 1 963 metres above sea level. The Mountain is home to one of the top hiking trails in South Africa, the six-day Amatola hiking trail. Visitors can also enjoy the canoeing experience offered or the guided walks around the range.



Above: The Amathole Mountain Range.



About the contributor: Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

Mr Tshegofatso Ndhlovu is an Intern in the Chief Directorate: Communications. He holds a diploma in Journalism from The Tshwane University of Technology. He is an avid Tennis Player who looks up to the Williams Sisters.

A time for sharing on World Food Day

By Salome Tsoka



Above: To celebrate World Food Day on 16 October, Minister Barbara Creecy and the Mayor of Dr Beyers Naude Municipality Mr Deon de Vos planted trees and a vegetable garden at the Narsingh Street Primary School.



Above: Minister Creecy and Dr Beyers Naude Municipality Mayor Mr de Vos handed out certificates to the Environment Ambassadors from the ten schools. The ambassadors were encouraged to never tire to do good as they were the future leaders.

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in partnership with Gift of the Givers celebrated the international event through a clean-up campaign and the opening of ten boreholes in the drought stricken community of Graaff-Reinet in the Eastern Cape.

The Dr Beyers Naude Municipality relies heavily on tourism for employment and other economic activities. Minister Creecy highlighted the importance of this initiative especially during a time when many South Africans have had their livelihoods affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as tourism activities were restricted.

“This municipality is very dependent on tourism for jobs and the Camdeboo National Park in the area is one of the attractions which brings tourism into the municipality. In a municipality like this, small things that can go wrong can have a big impact on job creation,” she said.

The Minister also added that the clean-up on World Food Day would tackle the identified issue of illegal dumping and that the Department would continue to work with the municipality to introduce a waste management integrated strategy and other recycling economic initiatives. These would assist to keep the town clean and create employment opportunities through the waste sector.

The Mayor Mr Deon de Vos, said he was thankful for the new partnership with the Minister and the Department and was committed to this partnership to save the environment and keep the municipality and its communities clean.

The givers give back

The Gift of the Givers Foundation identified ten schools in Graaff-Reinet to drill boreholes for water supply and to sustain the community. The borehole at Narsingh Street Primary School is 180 meters deep and produces 20 thousand litres of water per hour. The foundation also planted a community vegetable garden, trees and donated gardening tools to sustain the schools’ nutrition programmes well and beyond the World Food Day.

Gift of the Givers Specialist Hydrologist, Geologist and Palaeontologist Dr Gideon Groenewald said the World Food Day initiative was their continuous drive to educate children about how to find water and plant vegetables during a time when their communities, their country and the rest of the world continue to face the effects of climate change.

“These children are our future and we need to teach them well so they can look after the environment tomorrow. We are going to teach them how to prepare a garden, prepare and care for vegetables and patience as potatoes don’t grow in a day,” Dr Groenewald said.

The World Food Day initiative also recognised 10 learners selected from the ten schools to be environmental ambassadors to promote cleanliness of open spaces, discourage dumping, and educate their communities on recycling. Minister Creecy and Mayor De Vos commended these learners by handing them certificates of recognition and further encouraged them to continue to be advocates for the environment as they were the country’s future leaders.



About the contributor: Salome Tsoka

Ms Salome Tsoka holds a BA Degree in Journalism from the University of Johannesburg and has been writing for as long as she can remember. She is a Senior Communication Officer in the Chief Directorate: Communications at the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

FOOD WASTE, A GLOBAL CRISIS

By Rishal Sooklal and Katlego Mabatle

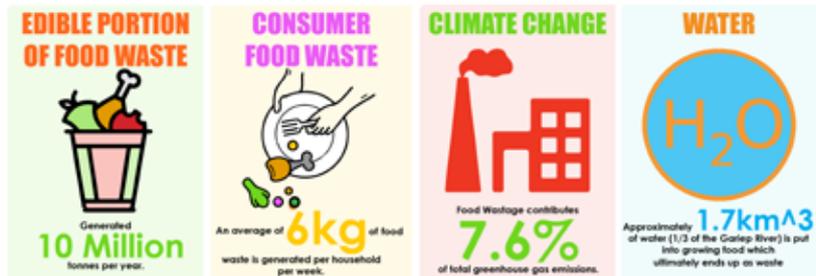
Food waste has become a big problem globally as huge quantities of food are lost or wasted every day throughout the food supply chain, from initial agriculture to the final consumer. Globally, one third (1.3 billion tons) of food that is originally meant or regarded as fit for human consumption is lost or wasted each year. This trend denies the world to feed the most vulnerable and malnourished groups in our society.

There is no room for food loss and waste during this time of crisis, where the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect the incomes and livelihood of people while pushing many people into extreme poverty and hunger especially in developing countries. This reminds us that we need to place emphasis on assuring food availability, especially for the most vulnerable. The 16th October is World Food Day which calls for global solidarity to help the most vulnerable to recover from the crisis.

The food that is lost or wasted is primarily disposed to landfill sites and, as a result, contributes to climate change by increasing greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. The decomposition of wasted food disposed of at landfill sites generates methane, a greenhouse gas that is more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

The prevention of food waste and re-use of surplus food are seen as primary enablers in the reduction of food waste, however, unavoidable food waste that is diverted from landfills can be beneficiated through processes such as being used in animal feed, bio-remediated into biofuel, composted and processed in waste-to-energy plants for the production of energy.

A SNAPSHOT OF FOOD WASTE IN SOUTH AFRICA



Here are some easy actions you can take to reduce your food waste:

1. Start small

Take smaller portions at home or share large dishes at restaurants.

2. Buy 'ugly' fruit and vegetables

Don't judge food by its appearance, don't worry, they taste the same.

3. Set your fridge to the right temperature

Set fridge to the recommended temperature, for example, set to a cool to keep food fresher for longer. Use airtight containers to keep open food fresh in the fridge.

4. Love your leftovers

If you don't eat everything you make, freeze it for later or use the leftovers as an ingredient in another meal.

5. Store food wisely by practicing FIFO: First In, First Out

Move older products to the front of your cupboard or fridge so that you use them first and new ones to the back.

6. Put your food waste to use

Instead of throwing away your food scraps, compost them. This way you are giving nutrients back to the soil and reducing your carbon footprint.

7. Buy only what you need

Make a shopping list and stick to it, and avoid impulse buys. Not only will you waste less food, you'll also save money.

8. Understand date labelling on food

There is a big difference between "best before" and "use-by" dates. Sometimes food is still safe to eat after the "best before" date, whereas it is the "use-by" date that tells you when it is no longer safe to eat.

9. Sharing is caring

Donate food that would otherwise be wasted.

10. Respect food

Food connects us all. Re-connect with food by knowing the process that goes into making it.

Sources:

www.fao.org

www.knowledge4food.net

www.foodbanking.org

About the contributors: Rishal Sooklal and Katlego Mabatle

Mr Rishal Sooklal is a Control Environmental Officer: Grade A under the Directorate: General Waste. He is passionate about food waste prevention and sustainable diets for a sustainable future.

Mr Katlego Mabatle, an Environmental Officer: Production Grade A, in the Directorate: General Waste. He is involved in promoting a clean environment through waste minimisation and recycling strategies.

How to start and maintain your home garden



Above: Mr Mulalo Mathebula from Cape Town prepares his garden to plant Mutshaina, spinach and spring onions. Green fingers or not, anybody can start a garden at home for healthy, fresh produce when you need it most.

Above: Make your own compost by putting leftover food in a compost heap. You can use compost to grow new plants. Making compost also reduces space used for landfills and creates healthy soil.

Above: Mr Mathebula's green leafy vegetable garden. Planting a fruit or vegetable garden at home is pleasing to the eye and soothes your soul when you see them grow.

Did you know that you can plant your own fruit and veggies in a home garden? Whether you are a beginner or a more experienced gardener, starting a home garden has numerous benefits for you and your family, plus you will be helping the environment and saving money at the same time!

Along with the hobby of maintaining a veggie garden, is the problem of having pesky little critters destroying and damaging your plants! There are several options you can explore in order to keep your plants healthy and bug-free. It's a little more expensive but you can use organic insecticides and set up snail traps to keep the slimy creatures out.

When picking out fertiliser, your best bet is organic. But if you are looking to keep this hobby on a low budget, then you can easily just make your own fertiliser at home.

All you will need is:

- A plastic bag filled with manure.
- Fill an old dustbin or bucket with water, then place the bag in the water to soak and stew for about two weeks.
- After the two weeks, take the bag out of the water and store the fluid in the dustbin. When you need to fertilise your plants, use some of this fluid diluted with some water. It's that simple.
- Plant indigenous species of plants. They use less water and provide food and habitat for animals.



Above: You can use a borehole to water your vegetables, and you can install a watering system.



Left: To keep your veggie garden alive, you will definitely need to water it. Give it a good watering at least twice a week, or even three times a week if the weather has been extremely hot or if your soil is overly dry. If your plants wilt, then you may need to water them more often. Just be sure not to over-water your plants as you can end up drowning and killing them.

Source: www.joburg.co.za

Get reacquainted with SANParks' biodiverse rich parks

By Salome Tsoka
Images by SANParks

As the country opens up its tourism industry again following the Covid-19 restrictions, it's time for South Africans to become reacquainted with the country's rich biodiversity. South Africa is home to at least 19 operational national parks, spanning over 4 million hectares across the country. Managed by the South African National Parks (SANParks), these parks also include 67% of the protected areas in the country.

As the holiday season approaches, consider taking a moment with your friends and family to explore these top three picks which include the Garden Route National Park in the Western Cape, Addo Elephant National Park in Port Elizabeth and Kruger National Park located between the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces.

Garden Route National Park

If you would like to experience a combination of a safari adventure and an ocean life experience, then the Garden Route National Park in the Western Cape is the one for you. Filled with a series of captivating lakes, rivers, estuaries and beaches, the national park also features a selection of lush forestry and mountains. You and your family can explore the Wilderness Section of the Garden Route National Park which stretches from the Touw River mouth to the Swartvlei estuary and beyond, where it links with the Goukamma Nature Reserve. The section will allow you to explore the rich biodiversity that is in the park through activities such as hiking, visiting the beach, kayaking on the river, bird watching, boat cruises, swimming, whale watching and paragliding. The vast number of activities will allow you to experience the park's extensive biodiversity where you stand a chance to see the beautiful Knysna seahorse, pansy shell, pied kingfisher, grey heron and little egret. You and your family or friends can stay at the Ebb & Flow Rest Camp which offers a selection of cottages, cabins and rondavals and experience the beauty of the park in a relaxed manner.

Addo Elephant National Park

Established in 1931 to save the dwindling Eastern Cape elephant population, the Addo Elephant National Park in Port Elizabeth is now the third largest national park in the country. The park is one of the only places in the world where one can experience the Big Seven which include the lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, buffalo, Southern Right whales and Great White sharks. One can explore all this biodiversity with a game drive and follow up with a boat



Above: One can explore the Garden Route National Park's rich biodiversity by exploring its long hiking trail.



Above: The Addo Elephant National Park in Port Elizabeth was established in 1931 to save the dwindling Eastern Cape elephant population at the time.



Above: The Addo Elephant National Park is one of the only places in the world where one can experience the Big Seven which include the lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, buffalo, Southern Right whales and Great White sharks.



cruise during the whale watching season which is between June and December. The park is also home to one of the largest dunefields in the southern hemisphere, the Alexandria dunefield. Stretching over 50km of coastline and over 15 000 hectares, the dunefield and unspoilt coastline of mainly sandy beaches is perfect for adrenaline enthusiasts who would like to experience sandboarding or sandsledding. If one is interested in a quieter and tranquil experience, one can explore the park's rich biodiversity through the two-day Alexandria Hiking Trail or the 7km Woody Cape Tree Dassie Trail and see about 300 recorded species of birds, bushbuck, bushpig, the rare nocturnal tree dassie, vervet monkeys, blue duiker, leopard and the brown hyena.

Kruger National Park

Spanning almost 2 million hectares in unmatched biodiversity, is the Kruger National Park between the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces which is a must-see park renowned for its exceptional wildlife experience which is ranked as the best in Africa and the world. Not only is it home to a rich biodiversity but it also has a variety of historical and archaeological sightings.

Its rich biodiversity means it is home to a number of species including 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals. When visiting, make sure you see the Big Five which include the buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion and rhino. Ask your guide to also show you the Little Five which include the buffalo weaver, elephant shrew, leopard tortoise, ant lion and rhino beetle. Bird watching enthusiasts should also not miss an opportunity to see the Birding Big Six which include the ground hornbill, kori bustard, lappet-faced vulture, martial eagle, pel's fishing owl and saddle-bill stork as well as the five trees which include the baobab, fever tree, knob thorn, marula and mopani trees. The park boasts a rich biodiversity but also a rich cultural and heritage history which one can explore by visiting the Letaba Elephant Museum, Jock of the Bushveld Route, Albasini Ruins, Masorini Ruins and Stevenson Hamilton Memorial Library at Thulamela.

All this and more can be explored through the wilderness trails, game drives, guided walks, 4x4 mountain biking, backpacking trails, eco-trails, golfing and bird watching. All the main rest camps in the national park have day visitor areas and guests can enjoy the Park and Ride Scheme which will allow them to experience the majestic Big five, currently only available in the Marula Region - Numbi, Phabeni and Kruger gates.

Visit the SanParks website for more information on the updated rates and tariffs for visiting the parks.



Above: Spanning over 2 million hectares, the Kruger National Park is one of the biggest parks in the country.



Above: It is a favourite tourist destination, renowned for its exceptional wildlife experience which is ranked as the best in Africa and the world.



Above: The park's rich biodiversity means it's home to a number of species including 336 trees, 49 fish, 34 amphibians, 114 reptiles, 507 birds and 147 mammals.



Above: Guests can explore the park's wildlife through wilderness trails, game drives, guided walks, 4x4 mountain biking, backpacking trails, eco-trails, golfing and bird watching.



iSimangaliso Wetland Park

A world class must-see tourist destination

By: iSimangaliso



Above: A combination of marine and terrestrial landscape, iSimangaliso offers more variety of activities than almost any destination globally. Visitors to the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site are spoilt for choice in this miraculous natural playground.

The United Kingdom's independent travel magazine, Wanderlust, has named the iSimangaliso Wetland Park one of the world's top 38 must-see tourist destinations. The news came earlier this year in September which is celebrated in South Africa as Tourism Month.

iSimangaliso is not only South Africa's first World Heritage Site, it is also the second largest Park in South Africa after Kruger National Park, covering 1328 000 hectares including the marine ecosystem.

iSimangaliso's eight inter-linking ecosystems, warm clear oceans bursting with a myriad of underwater species on coral reefs, the 'Big 7' terrestrial and marine fauna including sharks, whales, coelacanths and nesting leatherback and loggerhead turtles, and 530 species of birds and more, make iSimangaliso one of the rarest and most treasured places on earth. With a wide range of leisure activities, there is something for everyone

Due to the presence of South Africa's greatest concentration of hippos (around 800) and crocodiles (well over 1200 adults) in the Lake St Lucia system, swimming is prohibited there but the warm Indian Ocean is the perfect antidote to the summer heat and humidity. The preferred swimming spots are the shallow rock pools and sheltered bays at Cape Vidal, Sodwana Bay and Kosi Bay, and on calm days, Main Beach at St Lucia

Water babies



Above: Estuary boat cruises are run from jetties at St Lucia and Kosi Bay offering close-up encounters with hippos, crocodiles and water birds.



Above: Guided kayaking is also permitted through a licensed operator in the southern section of the Lake St Lucia Estuary.

Scuba diving is available to the public at the world-renowned Sodwana Bay section of the Park, as well as guests of Thonga Beach Lodge and Rocktail Beach Camp further north in the Coastal Forest Reserve section.

All you need to enjoy a fantastic spectacle of undersea life is a snorkel, mask, and a day trip to one of the many small bays along the coast including Mabibi, Dog Point, Black Rock, Lala Nek, Kosi Bay mouth, Cape Vidal or Perriers Rocks.

Other ocean-related experiences that iSimangaliso is internationally known for include turtle tours (November to March) and boat-based whale watching (June to November), both of which offer a spectacular and spiritual experience. Although no whale watching trips take place in December, it is still possible to spot whales breaching off our coastline. Turtle tours are offered to the general public by three licensed vehicle operators, either at St Lucia or Sodwana Bay, and four community guides offering walking tours at Kosi Bay.

Bush babies

A wide range of big and small game is spread throughout the southern and central regions of the Park, with all of the "Big 5" found in the uMkhuze section since the introduction of lions in 2013. The southern areas around St Lucia, Western and Eastern Shores are famed for leopard sightings and the kudu found here sport possibly the most magnificent horns. Rare, endangered or uncommon species include the wild dog, serval, bushbuck, Samango monkey, black and white rhino, cheetah and oribi. Visitors may drive themselves through the majority of the park's game roads or take a specialised 4x4 trip with licensed operators for day or night drive.

Other activities in the St Lucia area include horse riding on the beach or game park area, or a visit to the St Lucia Crocodile Centre. Photography, that hobby and passion of millions of camera and cell phone users, is within almost everybody's reach in the digital age, and the possibilities of great scenic, wildlife or people shots, are endless.

And at the end of a day in the land of miracles, there's not much to beat the sight of the setting sun over a lake or bushveld scene, or the majestic rising moon or dawn breaking over the silvery sea. A few of iSimangaliso's favourite sunset spots are the Sunset Jetty in the hub of St Lucia town, Lake Mgobozeleni near Sodwana Bay, the 360-degree flaming skies at Kosi Bay, Catalina Bay Lookout or Lake Bhangazi in the Eastern Shores section. As for sunrise – pick your spot! There's no such thing as a bad sunrise on the eastern coast of Africa and the cloudier days often yield the greatest rewards for the very early start.

iSimangaliso represents many things for many people. For some it's an adrenaline rush. For others, a soul escape. For everyone, it is a miracle of nature.

**For general enquiries, please email:
info@isimangaliso.com**



Above: Sodwana Bay has been rated as one of the top ten diving destinations in the world, with a wonderland of underwater scenery awaiting exploration. Image by Eve Marshall.



Above: Watching a loggerhead turtle laying her eggs on iSimangaliso's golden shores is a deeply moving experience.



Above: With more bird species (530) than some whole continents – and at least 420 occurring in the uMkhuze section, iSimangaliso is a world-renowned year-round birding destination. Guided walks are available by arrangement with operators specialising in birding (St Lucia) or the Fig Forest walk and Aerial Boardwalk at uMkhuze, and it would be impossible for a visitor to spend even a day in the Park without ticking off an impressive list of avifauna.



Above: Bhangazi Horse Safaris offers rides along the St Lucia beaches or in the Game Park section of the Eastern Shores where plains game is common. uMkhuze's recently rebuilt kuMasinga Hide is renowned for excellent viewing at this permanent waterhole, where photographer Romano Volker spotted this lioness.

Building a culture of cycling in communities

By Veronica Mahlaba and Elizabeth Ntoyi
Images by Veronica Mahlaba

The GO! Durban Cycle Academy was launched as a social upliftment intervention programme to address the importance of building a cycling culture in communities.

This was shared by EThekweni Transport Authority during the 3rd Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) Workshop hosted by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in Durban from 13 to 14 October.

Cycle academies can be a game changer for previously disadvantaged communities in teaching the basic skills of riding a bicycle, in providing access to bikes within a safe, secure and supportive environment and in helping kids and adults to learn and experience how cycling is a fun, appealing and effective mode of travel. The GO! Durban Cycle Academy is currently active in four communities within Inanda, KwaDabeka, KwaMashu and Chesterville.

DEFF Senior Policy Advisor, Dr Jenitha Badul said Non-Motorised Transport plays a significant role in the provision of affordable, sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation systems globally. "The opportunity for cycling to form a significant component of a much improved, integrated and sustainable transport system, should be explored by cities in the pursuit of more sustainable alternatives in reducing or avoiding transport related emissions," she said.

The Department visited the Cycle Academy in KwaMashu where children between the ages of 6-20 years old were training. Cycle coach, Mr Brighton Dladla said the academy has motivated local youth and women since they started participating. "The academy assists the children with their homework and provide tutors for subjects like English and Mathematics.

They are also able to gain friends and a place where they can share their dreams and aspirations. We have become a family, away from our families," said Mr Dladla.



Above: Children between the ages of 6 and 20 at the KwaMashu Cycle Academy come after school to train and develop their cycling skills.

Awande Sibiya (12) from KwaMashu Cycle Academy said she enjoys cycling and wishes to do it professionally one day. "I was glad when the academy was started close to my home because I didn't have to worry my parents about transport money. Cycling is an unusual sport in the townships and you don't see many girls doing it so I wanted to be different and try something new. Since it is close to home, this means my parents know where I am at all times. It is a safe place to let your kids go," said Ms Sibiya.

The Non-Motorised Transport programme is a legacy project of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which is financed under the Framework of the South African – German Financial Cooperation, through the KfW Development Bank on behalf of BMZ; in partnership with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries and in collaboration with the Department of Transport.



About the contributor: Elizabeth Ntoyi

Ms Elizabeth Ntoyi holds a Honours Degree in Environmental Management from the University of South Africa. She is a Control Environmental Officer Grade A: Sustainability Programmes & Projects at the national Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries serving under the Chief Directorate: International Governance and Resource Mobilization.

Youth enter two-year shipbuilding programme

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

A new cohort of 20 youth from across South Africa, has been appointed under the Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy Apprentice programme at Sandock Austral Shipyards (SAS) in Durban. The Apprentice Programme will continue for a duration for 24 months.

The training programme is made up of 10 males and 10 females. Speaking to the group, Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy Project Manager, Mr Andre Share expressed his excitement at seeing the females in the group as it meant that young women were finally being presented the opportunity to capacitate industries such as this. "It is important to have young women in fields such as shipbuilding which traditionally have been predominantly filled up by males," he said.

The partnership between the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) and Sandock Austral Shipyards will see the apprentices being equipped with training interventions and the provision of protective clothing. DEFF, through the Oceans Economy Secretariat, will be responsible for the payment of a monthly stipend.

"At the end of the programme, the apprentices will not only have been given the opportunity to support themselves and their families with the stipend, but will leave the programme with invaluable skills and experience they can apply in shipyards anywhere else," said Mr Andre Share.

The appointment of the apprentices feeds into the Operation Phakisa Focus Area: Marine Transport and Manufacturing initiatives like Shipbuilding, Ship Repair, and Naval Maintenance.

Nonkululeko Dlamini who is an apprentice in boilermaking said, "I have not only learnt the practical skills, but Mr Boshoff and the rest of the training team have also taught me to be resilient in my craft and to not give up just because something didn't work the first time round."

About the Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy Programme

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the implementation of Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy. This programme entails the unlocking of economic opportunities in South Africa's oceans to contribute to Gross Domestic Product growth and create the much needed employment.

Operation Phakisa focuses on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's oceans, which could contribute up to R177 billion to the GDP by 2033 and between 800 000 and 1 million direct jobs.

About Sandock Austral Shipyards

Sandock Austral Shipyards, prides itself in being, "Africa's leading commercial, naval shipbuilding and ship repair company," and has been running its apprenticeship programme since 2008 in the fields of Boiler Making, Fitting and Electrical trades.

This training initiative in shipbuilding is traditionally very manpower intensive with a broad band of specialised skills requirements.

"History has shown that shipbuilding artisans are a desired commodity in related industries, therefore for the Shipbuilding Industry to survive, training is essential," cited SAS CEO, Mr Prasheen Maharaj during the Operation Phakisa visit.



About the contributor: Gaopalelwe Moroane

Ms Gaopalelwe Moroane is the Assistant Director in the Chief Directorate: Communications at the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, in Cape Town. She joined the department in 2012 as an intern after completing her studies at Rhodes University.

Leadership Profile: CFO, Mr Rannoi Sedumo

By Zibuse Ndlovu

Being a good leader is not easy. While a leader's actions may be scrutinised when things are not going well, it is one's leadership qualities that shine through the worst times...and it is the same qualities that those you lead respect and look up to.

Our senior writer, Zibuse Ndlovu spoke to the new Chief Financial Officer in the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Rannoi Sedumo about being a leader in the Department.

Mr Sedumo's primary responsibility is to assist the Accounting Officer (Director-General) to manage the finances of the department, including financial planning, management of financial risks, record-keeping, financial reporting and supply chain management. He believes that a good leader is the one who leads by example.



What, in your opinion, makes a good leader?

Leading by example.

What do you find most challenging and on the opposite end, most rewarding, about working for the Department of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries?

The most challenging task for me is to change the current qualified audit opinion, and the most rewarding is being part of a team that is contributing towards saving the world for future generations.

What key role does the branch Financial Management Services play in the Department?

- Ensuring the efficient and balanced allocation of financial resources to fund the strategic objectives of the department,
- Production of valid, accurate, complete and timely financial reports for decision making and accounting purposes.
- Procurement of goods and services in a manner that is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective.

What do you consider to be your single greatest achievement in life thus far?

Being able to lead and being led at the same time.

If you could give your 20-year-old self any advice, what would it be?

Learn to consistently spend less than what you earn, take a long-term view investment decision (no matter how small your savings are) and be considerate to those less fortunate.

What does going green mean to you and how do you practice it in your daily life?

Reduction and recycling of waste. I carry re-useable bags for use when buying my weekly groceries.

What are the three core tenets of your management/ leadership philosophy that you would never compromise?

- Lead from the front, middle and the back.
- Believe in people.
- Know the strengths of your team members.

Quick facts:

Home town: Phuthaditjhaba, Free State.

Role model: My late father remains my number one role model.

Favourite quote/motto: "There are two ways of spreading the light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." By Edith Wharton.

Hobbies: Reading, listening to music and searching YouTube for woodwork projects.

I am currently reading: Life Lessons from The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari by Robin Sharma.

I am currently listening to: The Crises Leader by John Maxwell.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It's holiday season, remember to keep South Africa's many beautiful beaches clean. It is our responsibility to prevent pollution and degradation to the environment.

Protect yourself and loved ones by keeping your holidays safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS



Protected trees 1

Tree species protected in terms of Section 12(d) of the National Forests Act No. 84 of 1998

<p>Acacia erioloba Camel thorn Kameeldoring (A) / Mogohlo (NS) / Mogorihó (T)</p> <p>168</p>	<p>Acacia haematoxylon Grey camel thorn Yaakameeldoring (A) / Makhala (T)</p> <p>169</p>	<p>Adansonia digitata Baobab Kramator (A) / Sabal (NS) / Mawana (T)</p> <p>467</p>	<p>Azelia quanzensis Pod mahogany Paulmahonia (A) / Mutakota (V) / Inkehtu (Z)</p> <p>207</p>
<p>Balanites subsp. maughanii Torchwood Groendoring (A) / Ugobandlovu (Z)</p> <p>251</p>	<p>Barringtonia racemosa Powder-puff tree Poerierkwasboom (A) / Iboqo (Z)</p> <p>524</p>	<p>Boscia albitrunca Shepherd's tree Witgat (A) / Mohlópi (NS) / Mothópi (T) / Muvhombwe (V) / Umgaomogomo (X) / Umvithi (Z)</p> <p>122</p>	<p>Brachystegia spiciformis Msasa Msasa (A)</p> <p>198.1</p>
<p>Breynia salicina Matumli Mingerhout (A) / Makhomá (NS) / Muta-lume (V) / Umfomfo (Z)</p> <p>684</p>	<p>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza Black mangrove Swart-wortelboom (A) / Iikhongali (X) / Iuhlobane (Z)</p> <p>527</p>	<p>Cassipourea swaziensis Swazi onionwood Swazi-uishout (A)</p> <p>531.1</p>	<p>Catha edulis Bushman's tea Boesmanstee (A) / Makhatsa (NS) / Igqwaka (X) / Umhlywazi (Z)</p> <p>404</p>



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Protected trees 2

Tree species protected in terms of Section 12(d) of the National Forests Act No. 84 of 1998

Ceriops tagal
Indian mangrove
Indiese wortelboom (A) / Isinkaha (Z)

525




Cleistanthus schlechteri
var. schlechteri False tamboli
Vals-tambolie (A) / Umzithi (Z)

320




Colubrina nicholsonii
Pando weeping thorn
Panda-treurdoring (A)

453.8




Combretum imberbe
Leadwood Hordeekool (A) /
Mahlwale-ithipl (NS) / Matswiri (T) /
Impondondlovu (Z)

539




Curtisia dentata
Assegai Assegai (A) / Umgina (X) /
Umagunda (Z)

570




Elaeodendron transvaalensis
Bushveld saffron
Bosveld-saffraan (A) /
Monomane (T) / Ingwavuma (Z)

416




Erythrophysa transvaalensis
Bushveld red balloon
Bosveld-rooiklapperbos (A) / Mafalatsane (T)

436.2




Euclea pseudebenus
Ebony guarri
Ebbehout -ghwarrie (A)

598



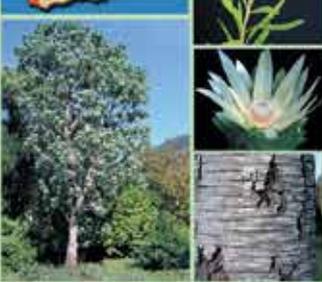

Ficus trichopoda
Swamp fig
Moerazy (A) / Umvubu (Z)

54




Leucadendron argenteum
Silver tree
Silwerboom (A)

77

Lumnitzera racemosa
var. racemosa Tonga mangrove
Tonga-wortelboom (A) / Isikhaha-etibornvu (Z)

552




Lydenburgia abbottii
Pando bushman's Tea
Pando-boesmanstee (A)

407




Wildlife Zones to protect SA's rhino herd

By Zibuse Ndlovu

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy recently announced the launch of the Wildlife Zones initiative that brings together proven anti-poaching strategies and technologies on a national level to protect the country's rhino herd.

"By demarcating areas primarily around rhino populations, wildlife in the area, as well the people living in and around conservation areas, will be protected," said Minister Creecy in a statement.

The concept is based on multi-party cooperation, but will ensure the use of appropriate technologies to ensure surveillance and early warning and detection, all in an effort to become more pro-active.

"We applaud the coming together of key role-players who have joined the national government in our fight against rhino poaching through the utilisation of new, and tested, technologies," said the Minister.

"We are proud to partner with Peace Parks Foundation, and all the government and non-governmental organisations that will be involved in this important initiative," the Minister added.

The introduction of the Integrated Wildlife Zones, similar to the Integrated Protection Zones previously utilised within national parks and provincial reserves, sees an expansion of the effort to protect the world's largest black and white rhino populations.

"This initiative prevents borders and boundaries from inhibiting planning and the implementation of actions aimed at halting rhino poaching and the smuggling of rhino horn," said the Minister.

Seven Integrated Wildlife Zones are being introduced across South Africa. "By introducing a zoning approach, the necessary resources can be redirected to areas most in need of support," said Minister Creecy.

The initiative furthermore ensures cooperation between the state and private role-players and is aligned to the objectives of South Africa's National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

"As a key member of the iconic Big Five, we hope that as our provincial borders open, more people will be able to travel to our national parks and other conservation areas to experience first-hand our natural heritage, and see these ancient animals in the wild," the Minister said.

The project is supported by Peace Parks Foundation with funding from the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, as well as the Dutch, Swedish and UK People's Postcode Lotteries.



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

Zibuse Ndlovu is the Assistant Director in the Chief Directorate: Communications at the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.



Waste champions!

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy together with The Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Mr Geoff Makhubo awarded certificates of recognition to co-operatives that are at the forefront of Pikitup's separation of waste at source programme in September 2020. The Environment Quarterly takes closer look at the operations and functions of these cooperatives to find out what really drives them and sets them apart as waste champions.

Shomang Sebenzani Environmental Co-operative



Shomang Sebenzani Environmental Co-operative is a woman led co-operative established in 2001 with the sole aim of improving the quality of life for the people of Alexandra Township by clearing and converting illegal dumping sites into food gardens and recreational facilities. The co-operative has grown to become one of the biggest recycling establishments in the Johannesburg region employing over 620 people, majority of which are women. Ms Francina Rammabi, who is the director of the co-operative said one of the biggest challenges they face is lack of trucks to transport their stock. However, the challenges haven't deterred them from collecting their monthly target of 150 tons of mixed recyclable waste.

Keep It Clean Recycling Co-operative



This co-operative believes in making a difference in the recycling market place by promoting the value of recycling in communities. Keep It Clean was started in 2008 by Mr Dian Naidoo, with a vision of becoming a first-class delivery solution in transforming waste to income. The co-operative now produces approximately 35 tons of recyclable waste per month and employs eight people, six of which are women. Mr Naidoo said he is proud of the fact that the co-operative has been able to uplift the lives of his employees.

Twanani Environmental Co-operative



Established in 2013, with a vision of promoting recycling in the community of Alexandra Township, Twanani Environmental Co-operative was chosen by Pikitup to be part of the co-operatives that will help them with their waste minimisation efforts. The co-operative produces around 10 tons of recyclable waste per month and employs 17 people who are all from Alexandra. The director of the co-operative, Mr Different Hlongwane said he appreciates the certificate of recognition from Minister Barbara Creecy because it will bring exposure and growth to their co-operative.

Talefang Recycling and Project Co-operative



Talefang was formed in 2014 by now director, Ms Peace Mathebula. The co-operative has a staff of 21 and was formed with the aim of uplifting the community of Alexandra. The co-operative aids Pikitup in their waste minimisation efforts and in return is provided with trucks and drivers who deliver their 30 tons monthly recyclable waste.

Learners urged to pursue environmental studies

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Deputy Minister Soty and Deputy Minister Tshwete handing over 150 eco-desks and gardening tools to the Coffee Bay Junior Secondary School in Eastern Cape.



Above: The Deputy Minister of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete assisting with the planting of trees around the school.



Above: Deputy Minister Soty handed over a multi-purpose buyback centre to the Mayor of King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality, Cllr. Nyaniso Nelani in Coffee Bay.

The learners of Coffee Bay Junior Secondary School in the Eastern Cape were encouraged by Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Makhotso Soty to take up science subjects in school to qualify for environmental studies. The Deputy Minister was speaking to the learners during her visit to the school where she donated 150 eco-desks, along with gardening tools and planting trees on 06 November 2020.

“There are bursaries that the Department offers to full time students to make it easier for children who come from areas such as this one to get funding and further their education. Your location is a beautiful place for eco-tourism. If some of you can study courses that involve looking after and preserving the environment, you can bring vast knowledge to develop this area,” she said

Accompanying the Deputy Minister Soty was the Deputy Minister of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete, who promised that her Department would assist in some areas of concern that she had noted as they were driving through the area.

Deputy Minister Soty also handed over a multi-purpose buyback centre in Coffee Bay. The construction and subsequent handover of the buyback centre formed part of the Department’s waste management support to the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality in the provision of infrastructure required for recycling, storage and collection of general domestic waste.

The Mayor of King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality, Cllr. Nyaniso Nelani appealed to the community members to protect the buyback centre.

“We are grateful that the government came up with an investment of this nature. We are calling upon the community to jealously guard this building, so that it is not vandalized and it can serve its purpose of creating jobs and addressing the issue of waste. The community must work with government to ensure that we get rid of waste in our areas.”

Deputy Minister Soty emphasized that government must continue to teach young people to understand the message of recycling and reusing as waste can become a useful product. “This kind of infrastructure we are handing over today is precisely for that. To make sure that the waste we get from home, schools and shops can come here to be sorted and processed and then it is recycled for the creation of a new product.”

Principal Noxolo Kuse-Mngqibisa from Coffee Bay Junior Secondary School expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the donation of desks. “As we are in the rural areas, many things miss us here. We are so happy and grateful for you coming here and giving our learners hope that they do matter as well. In the rural areas, we don’t have much, we are used to sharing. So with the desks that you have given us, we will share 50 desks with the next school for them to also have furniture for their learners,” she said.

“ We are so happy and grateful for you coming here and giving our learners hope that they do matter as well. ”



About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

Ms Veronica Mahlaba is a Senior Communication Officer at the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries serving under the Communications Chief Directorate. Ms Mahlaba has experience as a Lecturer in the Media Studies Department at a private college.

District Champions visit Dr Ruth Mompoti Municipality

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

The Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Makhotso Soty together with the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Njabulo Nzuza embarked on a maiden visit to the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality in North West. This was part of the District Champions Deployment on 23 October 2020.

District Champions are deployed by President Cyril Ramaphosa to assist him and Deputy President David Mabuza in managing the implementation of the District Development Model in order to enhance the capacity of the state where it matters most. Some of the objectives of the District Champions are to strengthen the efforts needed to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and to enhance the response to Gender Based Violence.

Speaking during a meeting with local mayors, municipal managers and stakeholders, Deputy Minister Nzuza said the formation of relationships between government and local municipalities is important in ensuring that they deliver on the mandate that was given to them by Cabinet.

"In order for us as District Champions to bring quality services to communities, we need to foster relationships with local and district government as this will make it easier for us in identifying the areas that need our help and will allow us to come up with solutions that are specifically customised for those problem areas," Deputy Minister Nzuza explained.

As part of the day's activities, the Deputy Ministers also visited the Taung Skull Heritage Site and the Vaalharts Water Canal to engage with the necessary stakeholders on the kind of help that is needed to ensure that these two sites are fully operational and can be of benefit to the community of Taung.

Deputy Minister Soty said she is glad that they have been deployed into a district that is full of opportunities because this will allow them to take those opportunities and turn them into a reality.

"This district in particular has five municipalities and all five of them are filled with opportunities. Our job is to sit down and make sure that each one of those municipalities has an activity that will sustain the communities that surround it, while also creating jobs for the people that live in it," said Deputy Minister Soty.

She added that she wants to make sure the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality is fully operational and that they have bettered the lives of the people who live in it by the time their term in the district comes to an end.



Above: The Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Makhotso Soty and the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Njabulo Nzuza visit the Taung Skull Heritage Site.



Above: Deputy Minister Nzuza speaking during the session held with local mayors, municipal managers and stakeholders.



Above: Deputy Minister Soty and Deputy Minister Nzuza donated sanitary towels, gardening tools and sanitizers to the principal of The MM Sebitloane Special School.

“ The formation of relationships between government and local municipalities is important in ensuring that they deliver on the mandate that was given to them by Cabinet. ”

Mutele Community celebrates handover of Awelani Eco-Tourism Lodge

By Salome Tsoka



Above: Deputy Minister Ms Makhotso Sotyu together with local and traditional leaders officially unveiling the Awelani Eco-Tourism Lodge.

The Mutele Community celebrated the official handover of the three-star rated Awelani Eco-Tourism Lodge by the Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Makhotso Sotyu in Masisi, Vhembe District in the Limpopo Province, on Friday 13 November 2020.

Speaking at the celebratory event, the Deputy Minister commended the community for taking the initiative to approach their local leaders which enabled approximately 1 800 hectares of its land to be freed for conservation and tourism associated projects in order to address high unemployment rate among the community members.

“Our government in partnership with the private sector made you realise your dream. Poverty has no space in this area. The location of this lodge falls within proximity of Kruger National Park which means tourism will grow in this area,” she said.

Over the past couple of years, the Department has been actively involved in the establishment and development of community conservation and eco-tourism related projects in communities living adjacent to Transfrontier Conservation Areas such as the Mutele Community.

The Department together with provincial and local government invested more than R50 million in the development and upkeep of the lodge which is located approximately 11km west of the Pafuri Gate of the Kruger National Park. The lodge has the capacity to accommodate 54 overnight guests and also offers a 150-seater conference centre and is being managed by

the Transfrontier Parks Destinations which is a consortium which helps manage the Peace Parks and adjacent areas by balancing the needs of the local community and the environment.

Speaking at the event, the Chairperson of the Awelani Community Trust, Mr Albert Ramufhi said the Awelani Eco-Tourism lodge journey began ten years ago and the ultimate goal was to always create employment opportunities for the community.

“We would like to thank the Chiefs for giving the community the land to create job opportunities for ourselves. The goal was to always produce employment, conserve nature and improve our local economy. We’d like to thank the Vhembe District Municipality and the Department for the funding they’ve pumped in. We have more we’d like to do here including adding game and boreholes which will ultimately create employment,” he said.

Deputy Minister Sotyu said the continuous support from the operational team will ensure the continuous success of this project.

“The Department through the Expanded Public Works Programme has committed an additional R10 million towards the project for infrastructure development in this area.”

“We would also like to encourage the Awelani Community Trust to continue to look after the interest of the four villages that are beneficiaries of this lodge,” she said.

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By Post – Issuing Authority: Biosecurity Directorate, Private Bag X 4390, Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries, Cape Town, 8000

By Email – AISpermits@environment.gov.za (illegible scanned emailed applications will not be processed)

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Minister Creecy officially opens SANParks Week

By Tshego Letshwiti



Above: Minister Barbara Creecy and Premier of the Western Cape Mr Alan Winde.



Above: Minister Barbara Creecy delivers her keynote address at the launch of SANParks Week.



Above: CEO of SANParks Mr Fundisile Mketeni.

Every year South African day visitors get an opportunity to enjoy free access to the country's 19 national parks for a week. The SANParks Week was started 15 years ago, as a way to make the national parks more accessible to communities across the country, many of whom have never had an opportunity to visit before.

Speaking at the official launch of the National Parks Week, the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy said she hoped more South Africans would develop a sense of pride and ownership of these iconic areas.

"Our country's national parks represent the indigenous fauna, flora, landscapes and associated cultural heritage of the country while contributing to the improvement of the lives of local communities and development of the country's economy," said Minister Creecy.

In the past year, SANParks has added 138 344 hectares to the system of national parks. This included the new 135 245 hectare Meerkat National Park which Minister Creecy declared on the 27th of March 2020. The Meerkat National Park was developed in partnership with the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the internationally-acclaimed Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project, and adds 3.4% to the country's national park system. The new park increases the protection of the poorly protected Nama Karoo biome from 1.5% to 2% and will also enhance protection of the area's unique cultural heritage. The Meerkat national park represents a globally unique collaboration and the creation of a multi-disciplinary research platform that spans the diverse fields of Astronomy, Earth and Life Sciences.

South Africa boasts plant and marine species that are found nowhere else. According to the South African National Biodiversity Institute, there are over 100 000 known species of plants, animals and fungi in South

Africa. Scientists believe that there are at least another 50 000 species in the country that have not yet been discovered and or named.

The country's unique biodiversity status means that there is a significant economy which creates jobs in parts of the country where there are few other opportunities. The 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment found that 418 000 people are directly employed in the biodiversity economy with eco-tourism alone creating over 88 000 jobs. In addition, biodiversity or nature-based tourism generates a direct spend of approximately R31 billion in the economy annually.

SANParks has been also actively assisting the Department's Wildlife Economy programme to redress the historic exclusion of people from the game farming industry. This has created opportunities for emerging game farmers with SANParks providing a supply of founder herds of game. The organisation also raises awareness about conservation and protected area management.

Minister Creecy also noted SANParks' involvement in community development, saying "It is notable that SANParks has in recent years been actively supporting the development of neighbouring communities by getting communities living adjacent to national parks involved in biodiversity initiatives. They have extended some of their operations so that these hold educational and socio-economic benefits for neighbouring communities.

"With the national lockdown, this year necessitated a reprioritisation of the Department's budget for the 2020/21 financial year and R961 million was allocated to SANParks, in order to offset revenue losses due to reduced visitor numbers to parks.

The monies allocated will be used to support all the parks existing programmes and ensure that SANParks continues to create a nature positive future for the country.

Minister presents expert panel's review on management of sharks

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



Above: Minister Barbara Creecy appointed an expert panel to review the NPOA-Sharks in May 2020. The review was prompted by a number of concerns in the public domain over the management of these iconic ocean creatures.



Above: One of the expected highlights from the presentation of the report, was the disappearance of the white sharks from eco-tourism hotspots in South African oceans. SANParks' Dr. Alison Kock, shared findings from research done on how it seems the recent Orca occurrence and predation may have had an effect on the presence of the sharks.

“ This day is significant because it serves as an annual reminder of how South Africa is blessed with a wide variety of fisheries resources

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy presented the review of South Africa's National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of Sharks (NPOA –Sharks) on 17 November 2020 at the Two Oceans Aquarium, Cape Town.

The NPOA-Sharks review was compiled by an expert panel which was appointed by Minister Barbara Creecy in May 2020.

“This review was prompted by a number of concerns in the public domain over the management of these iconic ocean creatures,” said Minister Creecy as part of her keynote address during the review presentation.

The NPOA-Sharks panel has, amongst other things, noted with concern the disappearance of the white sharks from eco-tourism hotspots, but concluded that these were more likely a shift in distribution from West to East as a result of recent Orca occurrence and predation, rather than being related to the fishing activity of the demersal shark longline fishery.

The panel also reviewed all 62 actions of the current NPOA-Sharks in terms of their feasibility and their implementation status. The systematic review focussed on alignment with the International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, recommendations on the overall structure, completeness of the plan and identification of gaps, achievability of the plan, clarity, and areas of general progress or lack of progress. The Panel provided detailed recommendations on how to improve the plan and ensure the sustainable management.

The experts provided the five specific recommendations for immediate implementation below:

- Effective communication and coordination from scientific evidence and advice to policy and management action;
- the development of measurable indicators to track the progress and completion of actions. These should include timelines and quantities;
- the ecosystem effects of fishing and spatial conservation and management measures need to be adequately covered in the plan;
- stronger focus is on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and improved monitoring, surveillance and enforcement of compliance and;
- the use of technology to improve monitoring and evaluation of management actions and compliance with permit conditions.

The presentation of the NPOA-Sharks formed part of World Fisheries Day celebrations, which is celebrated every year on 21 November throughout the world by fishing communities.

“This day is significant because it serves as an annual reminder of how South Africa is blessed with a wide variety of fisheries resources, but also that we have to sustainably manage and adequately protect the ecosystems that harbour these finite resources,” said Minister Creecy.

Moving towards a zero plastic waste future

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy said she would like to see the development of a governance model and system that will lead to South Africa moving towards a zero plastic waste future. She said this during the Plastic Colloquium Feedback Session, hosted together with the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa and Plastics SA virtually on 12 November 2020.

According to Minister Creecy, plastic still poses a huge threat to our environment with only 14% of all plastics being recycled and 86% being leaked into our environment. These plastics have devastating effects on our water systems and marine biomes.

“South Africa is considered globally to have the 11th highest mass of mismanaged plastic which results from weak household refuse collection systems, non-compliant landfilling and poor levels of public understanding of the dangers of plastic waste on the environment,” explained Minister Creecy.

Aimed at taking stock of all the commitments that were made at the inaugural colloquium which took place in November 2019, the Plastic Colloquium is an initiative between government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and civil society, all of which are key to controlling and managing the plastic problem in our country.

Speaking about the progress that has been made on the side of government, the Minister made mention of the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 which

was approved by Cabinet in September.

“A major recent success was the approval by cabinet of the National Waste Management Strategy. This is a significant milestone in our fight against plastic waste because it emphasizes cooperative governance in the management of waste and the allocation of shared responsibilities across all spheres of government in dealing with waste issues. This Strategy is also important because it emphasizes the need to reduce, re-use, recycle and recover all waste that goes into our environment,” she said.

Representing the Integration of the Informal Waste Economy working group, Mr Eli Kodisang said some of the progress made by their working group includes the development of the Waste Pickers Guideline document and the payment of reclaimers for separation at source services.

“One of the key achievements that have been made since the last colloquium is the completion of the development of the Waste Pickers Guideline document. This document is very important because it will ensure that there is an uptake in terms of the amount of plastic that is collected from our environment. The lack of payment for separation at source services offered by reclaimers is another element that our working group has managed to resolve. This is an ideal achievement as it will allow for the collection of more recyclables,” said Mr Kodisang.



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Youth lead in driving change in the environment

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Young innovators with their certificates of achievements with Minister Creecy and other partners after being awarded their R100 000 cheques each.

A total of R1, 3 million has been awarded to selected youth projects to implement ideas that will support young innovators and entrepreneurs to create a more environmentally friendly economy and society. The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy announced the 13 successful projects for the Driving Force for Change Initiative on 26 November 2020, at the South African National Biodiversity Institute.

Minister Creecy stated that the initiative was announced on Youth Day, responding to President Ramaphosa's challenge to South Africa's youth challenge to craft and design programmes that will make the country reach its developmental goals and address the unemployment crisis.

"The country's economic recovery plan lays the policy basis to open new sectors of the economy. What we need from our young entrepreneurs is creativity, innovation and the ability to think outside of the box," explained Minister Creecy.

The Minister further elaborated that the drivers for Change Youth Initiative intend to translate concepts into bankable business ideas, to explore uncharted territories through research and development, to incubate and nurture innovation and technology, to equip the youth with the necessary skills sets and capacity, so that their projects have a positive impact on the environment.

In the Department's search for innovators, it received over 250 applications. A total of 10 finalists is supported through the Department. In addition, the Department, secured an amount of R300 000 from the British High Commission, which enabled the Department to support an additional three applicants, bringing the total number of finalists to 13. Each finalist received R100 000 for their projects.

The finalists were chosen under four themes: Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Biodiversity and ecosystems and Waste Management Solutions. The following are the successful finalists and the relevant projects within each of the 4 thematic areas:



Waste Management Solutions



1

1. Mr Neo Pule
Zero to Waste

Zero to Waste is motivated and driven to positively impact the environment. The project proposal is focused on basic separation at source and inclusive of alternative advanced waste management solutions (organic waste for composting, waste to energy, etc.) The company aims to have a social impact on communities that will shift their perspective in valuing waste as an unearthed revenue.



2

2. Mr Chad Robertson
Regenize

Regenize is an accessible, inclusive and rewarding recycling solution. Beneficiaries will be provided access to a free recycling collection services where they can learn about recycling and get rewarded with a virtual currency called Remali, which can be used to purchase groceries, airtime

or data. Regenize also setup decentralised recycling hubs where the collectors can transfer and sort waste, creating more time to collect and less time travelling.



Above: Founders of Regenize, Mr Chad Robertson and Mr Nkazimlo Mifi reward people to recycle because their mission is to get Africa recycling



3

3. Mr Seth Mulli
Youth Bridge Trust

The Youth Bridge Trust has identified the Green Economy as a high potential sector for empowering the youth. The goal of the project is to create green jobs and eco entrepreneurial opportunities.

The objectives of the project are to equip 180 youth with new skills, confidence to identify and seize opportunities to monetise waste streams and to build the capacity of youth-led implementation



4

4. Mr Boingotlo Tshabang

Mr Boingotlo Tshabang proposed a project to thermally decompose plastic waste under anaerobic conditions using a process called pyrolysis. The resultant fuel oil – for uptake by industries (steel and iron factories, ceramics or chemical industries or hotels and restaurants). The char can be used as a gas adsorbent and can be used to capture carbon dioxide in industrial process and in the purification of water.

Did you know?

The energy crisis and environmental destruction are the principal problems in the present day due to the rapid industrialization and growing population. Degradation of solid waste such as plastic bottles, grocery bags, etc. in nature takes many years. Besides, plastic disposing methods like landfill, reusing, and burning can create severe risks to the human health and environment. Therefore, plastic must be kept under control from damaging the environment. One of the most favorable and effective disposing methods is pyrolysis, which is an environmentally friendly and efficient way.



Biodiversity and Ecosystems



5

5. Mr Francois du Toit
African Conservation Trust

African Conservation Trust is a Non-Profit Organisation that was established in 2000. Whilst contributing towards conserving South Africa's environment and heritage, the aim of the project is to foster resilient livelihoods of communities through engagement with youth. The Project also aims to build new capacities to seize opportunities in the local game meat market to contribute to socio-economic development.



Above: African Conservation Trust builds healthy, productive, ecological gardens, at a homestead level, at community level and at farm level.



6

6. Ms Sheraine van Wyk
Whale Coast Conservation

The Mill stream project is implemented by the Whale Coast Conservation. The project focuses on the youth as recipients of capacity building, environmental education, and practical learning while doing work to clear the river watercourses and restore affected wetlands.

The project envisages instilling sense of pride in the youth involved, and in exposing them to perform tour-guide duties to promote environmental health.



7

7. Ms Teresa Boule
Amava Oluntu

Amava Oluntu is a Non-Profit Organisation focusing on Skills Development and Youth Education. Amava Oluntu and Ingcungcu aim to close the gap and offer an accessible platform to Fynbos conservation, through skills development, entrepreneurial opportunities for youth and community engagement.

'Fancy Fynbos' stimulates entrepreneurial development and youth employability by focusing on innovative and sustainable designs on Fynbos.



Climate Change Adaptation



8

8. Mr Jonathan Levin

Mr Levin's project focuses on promoting river health in the areas surrounding the Braamfontein Spruit. The project aims to share information and to involve stakeholders and the public in monitoring river health. The affected communities will be actively engaged in the project as Community awareness is key.



9

9. Ms Sarah Reeves
Youth Health Africa

The Youth Health Africa NPC looks at implementing modern farming techniques through the establishment of aquaponic units in a select number of communities. The project will also undertake social outreach activities related to the promotion of good health and nutrition, as good nutrition is key for wholesome communities. Challenges faced by the organisation on an ongoing basis include: food insecurity, youth unemployment and sustainable income generation.



10. Mr Khahliso Lefatsa
Mbekewni Eco Club

The Mbekweni Eco Club is a Non-Profit Organisation. The vision of the Eco-club is to improve water quality of the Berg River and Biodiversity conservation. The Club also facilitates environmental education and awareness in the Mbekweni Township and adjacent informal settlements within the Cape Winelands District Municipality.



Above: It was a day of joy as the participants of the Driving Force for Change Initiative were awarded their funds.



Climate Change Mitigation



11. Lebogang Leshabane
BG-Co

Mr Lebogang Leshabane is the founder and owner of BG Co. The project intends on implementing a purification system and a simultaneous energy production system.

The aim of the project is waste water treatment works. The objective is to capture the Methane Gas produced and to repurpose it as renewable energy.



12. Mr Hollo Matlala
4th Element Group

The 4th Element Group is a company founded by Mr Hollo Matlala. The company is focused on providing innovative solutions in the energy and water sectors. The company also seeks to generate energy conservation data and to promote the uptake of solar systems. This will be achieved through the provision of maintenance free decentralised electricity generating systems.



13. Mr Abongile Nkqayi
Ma-Afrika Energy Group

The Ma Africa Energy Group is committed to finding a practical solution for the high volume of wood waste generated by medium sized saw mills and furniture manufacturers in South Africa.

The Start-up company proposes the use of Proudly South African gasification technology in processing waste-wood into a sustainable energy source.

DEFF's own waste artist

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

With a dream of spreading peace and love to the people through his art, 23-year-old multimedia artist, Mr Nkosinathi Makama uses his paint brush to bring awareness to social ails that the world is facing currently. The graduate from Tshwane University of Technology recycles wooden cardboards and glass and uses them as canvas for his masterpieces that are inspired by his view of the world.



Above: Another one of Mr Makama's art pieces displayed at the Inspiration Hub, titled "Wrestle With the Devil."



Above: Another one of Mr Makama's art pieces displayed at the Inspiration Hub, titled "Wrestle With the Devil."



Above: Mr Makama's art piece titled "The Shoes We Use 2 Love" displayed at the Inspiration Hub in Sunnyside.

How did you discover your love for creative arts?

Drawing is something that I have been doing from a very young age, and at that time, I was drawing for the fun of it. It wasn't until I won a drawing competition in primary school that I realized my talent. One of my teachers asked us to draw our favourite cartoon character and my drawing was entered into a competition. I think being the youngest competitor and actually winning in the competition made me realize that my drawings were more than just typical drawings and the love just grew from there.

Where do you draw your inspiration from?

I draw inspiration from a lot of things but I would say most of it comes from the things that attract us mostly as millennials. If one looks at my art, they would find a lot of references from pop culture, the fine arts and modern day cartoons. Those are my main sources of inspiration.

Where did the idea of using recyclable material come from?

As a young artist, I have always wanted to use canvas for my art but I could not afford it. So one day, I came across some used old wooden cardboards which I then decided to clean up and I started drawing on them. The completed drawing turned out pretty good and from then on, I started collecting more cardboards and using them for my art. I have also recently started using old glass panels.

How would you describe your art?

Mind throbbing, interactive and very transparent. It is the kind of art that leaves a question in one's mind. I don't

want the message in my art to be too obvious. I want everyone who looks at my art to take from it a message that resonates with their individual lives.

What has been one of your proudest moment?

Having my art discovered by Mr Tshepo Mmakanyane from the Inspiration Hub in Sunnyside and him asking me to display some of my art pieces at the gallery definitely has to be one of my proudest moments. My work being displayed at the Inspiration Hub has allowed my social media following to grow at a rate that I could have never imagined and it made me look at my art as something bigger than just a personal outlet.

What do you want to achieve with your art?

I want my art to bring about an emotional awareness, I feel that the youth of today is facing an emotional and mental war that is destroying who we are as young people. I want my art to bring some sort of end to this war by comforting my audience with the feeling of gratitude, love and peace. I also want my art to be displayed in parks and in heritage sites where it will reach a wider audience and bring about a significant message to those who see it.

“ I feel that the youth of today is facing an emotional and mental war that is destroying who we are as young people.

10

things you can do about Alien Invasive species



An **Alien Invasive Species** is an organism that does not naturally grow or occur in an area, which means it was brought in by accident or on purpose. It is an organism which comes from **another country (alien)** and **takes over** an area, pushing out other organisms (invasive), by using up the **nutrients (food), water and space** that the **indigenous organisms** would normally use.



Alien and Invasive species are the **2nd biggest** threat to biodiversity.



Here's what you can do about Alien Invasive species

- 1 Learn about invasive species, especially those found in your area.
- 2 Do not give invaders a free ride to a new location. Clean your hiking boots, boats and trailers, off-road vehicles and other gear after you've spent time in nature.
- 3 Don't move firewood over long distances. Instead, buy it where you'll burn it, or gather on site when permitted.
- 4 Plant indigenous and other waterwise non-invasive plants in your garden. Remove any invasive plant species and dispose of it responsibly.
- 5 Never dump unwanted aquariums or live bait into watercourses such as dams, lakes, or rivers and do not flush aquatic species down the toilet whether dead or alive.
- 6 Apply for a permit to conduct activities with Category 2 invasive species.
- 7 Report when you see new incursions of alien and invasive species. Visit: www.ispot.org.za
- 8 Volunteer to help remove invasive species from natural areas
- 9 Be involved in awareness activities by joining invasive species forums and spreading the word to those around us.
- 10 Share your different activities with us on our social media platforms.



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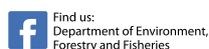
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