

Environment Quarterly

EzemVelo Ngenyanga Ntathu • Mbango wa kotara • Mupo nga Kotara



Minister Creecy inspires youth on Career Day

Deputy Minister Sotyru leads the planting of 11 000 trees



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

2021

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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16 September
19 September
07 - 11 September
21 November

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

Cover story

14 Minister Creecy inspires youth on Career Day

Features

- 3 Poster: Vaccinate to save South Africa
- 4 Gender 'blind' policies could hinder progress
- 5 Deputy Minister Sotyu leads planting of 11 000 trees
- 6 Poster: National Invasive Species week
- 7 Poster: Protection of natural forestst
- 8 Wildebeest translocation, a victory for conservation efforts
- 9 AMCEN launches COVID-19 green stimulus programme
- 10 IPCC report signals climate change breakthrough
- 11 Poster: October is National Transport Month
- 12 Eight clean-ups hosted for International Coastal Clean-up Day
- 15 Continental honours for high flying marine scientist
- 16 WoF fire-fighters successfully extinguish wild land fires in Canada
- 17 All Rise: Illegal wildlife trader nabbed in joint operation



About the back cover image

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park straddles the border between South Africa and Botswana.

It is an especially interesting place for seeing big predators and for witnessing the thrilling seasonal movements of animals such as springbok and wildebeest. The total area covered is some 38,000 square kilometres (15,000 square miles), with about a quarter of that area lying in South African territory.

The name translates as "place of thirst" and this pays testament to the fact that most of it lies in the dry and dusty Kalahari Desert, where dry riverbeds and sand dunes form the dramatic backdrop.

Image by O'Reilly Media



4



5



10



13



14



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From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk



Dear Valued Stakeholder

Welcome once again to our Bi-Monthly magazine Environment Quarterly. September is a busy month for the department and in this issue, we bring you all the campaigns that we embarked on during August and September in addition to all the educational stories that are aimed at sharing information and ensuring that you learn and understand our mandate.

The month of September marked National Arbor Month, which was this year launched on 1 September in the City of uMhlathuze in KwaZulu-Natal, under the theme **Forest Restoration: A path to recovery and well-being** by Deputy Minister Ms Makhotso Soty.

The theme was adopted from the United Nations Collaborative Partnership on Forests and corresponds President Cyril Ramaphosa's call for the planting of Ten Million Trees, for the next five years in South Africa.

Arbor Month is aimed at creating awareness about the benefits and importance of trees and forests in the daily lives of South Africans. Deputy Minister additionally led several activities and concluded the month of Arbor at the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality in the North, Taung on 31 September. We unpack these exciting Arbor Month activities in this issue.

Clean-up and Recycle Week is also celebrated in September with the main aim of raising awareness through different activities and mediums to communities about the benefits of keeping the environment clean and diverting their waste away from the landfill sites through innovative means.

Minister Ms Barbara Creecy also hosted an Environmental Careers Day and Beach Clean-up in the Overberg and Overstrand Districts of the Western Cape in September. The department further led the beach clean-ups for International Coastal Clean-Up Day (ICCD) in eight beaches.

An important milestone in September is the Cabinet approval of South Africa's revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). South Africa's updated NDC's will soon be deposited

with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The NDC represents South Africa's contribution to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate climate change.

Cabinet has also adopted the long-awaited Climate Change Bill, South Africa's negotiating position for the 26th international climate change (COP26) talks later this year, as well as our fourth Biennial Updated Report (BUR). This 4th BUR provides an update on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory for the period 2000 to 2017, including the GHG mitigation achieved in the same period, along with the support needed and received.

The month of September also saw the announcement of the new timeframes for the Fishing Rights Allocation Process (FRAP) which were also endorsed by Cabinet. This process will be unpacked and communicated comprehensively in the coming weeks.

In conclusion, as COVID 19 is still part of our reality, I want to encourage you to continue taking all the necessary precautions and mostly importantly, remember to get vaccinated

Until next time – take care of our environment!

Albi Modise

Head of Communications & Advocacy

Meet our team

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Find more information on: www.environment.gov.za or call 086 111 2468

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**“MILLIONS ARE
BEING VACCINATED.
YOUR TURN IS COMING.”**

PAM WILLIAMS, SECRETARY



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Gender ‘blind’ policies could hinder progress

By Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: National Coordinator of UNIDO's Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry Project for South Africa, Ms Valerie Geen.

"We are leaving half of the population behind if we develop policies, plans and projects which are gender blind and don't take note of historical disadvantage." This is according to the National Coordinator of UNIDO's Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry (EEWiGI) Project for South Africa, Ms Valerie Geen.

"There is an urgent need to improve leadership and participation of women as entrepreneurs or industry professionals through strengthened integration of gender and green industry policies," said Ms Geen.

Ms Geen was speaking during the hybrid Climate Change Gender Mainstreaming workshop hosted by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 14 September 2021, in Pretoria, through the branch Climate Change and Air Quality.

Meanwhile, in her presentation, the National Business Initiative (NBI) Programme Manager: Climate and

Energy, Ms Reitumetse Molotsoane also stressed the importance of gender-responsive policies. "Inequality in South Africa disproportionately affects women gender intersects with factors, such as race and ethnicity, age, disability, all of which contribute to and shape an individual identity. Gender inequality intersects with and amplifies many other disadvantages to reproduce poverty and inequality," said Ms Molotsoane.

The main objective of the workshop was to highlight the gaps in the National Climate Change policies and encourage gender mainstreaming in the development, implementation and reporting, as well as to enhance the capacity of South Africa's decision makers, policy developers and stakeholders to develop gender-responsive policies, plans and programmes on climate change.

The DFFE has developed a strategy towards Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector. This is in order to comply to national gender priorities as outlined in the provisions of the Ministerial Technical Committee (MINTECH) approved Sector Gender Framework for the Environment Sector, the Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996), Women's Charter for Effective Equality, 1994, the National Framework for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality, 2000 and the Strategic Framework for Gender Equality within the Public Service, 2006.



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

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

Deputy Minister Sotyu leads planting of 11 000 trees

By Veronica Mahlaba and Tshogfatso Ndhlovu



Above: At the launch of Arbor Month, the Mayor of King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Cllr Lindokuhle Phungula, Deputy Minister, Ms Makhotso Sotyu and Mayor of City uMhlathuze, Cllr Mduduzi Mhlongo unveiled a Covid-19 remembrance plaque in honour of all the people that have lost their lives to the virus.

In September 2021 the City of uMhlathuze in KwaZulu-Natal and the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality in the North West came alive with 7000 and 4000 trees planted respectively during the Arbor Month campaign led by the Deputy Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms Makhotso Sotyu.

This year's national Arbor Month Campaign was coordinated under the theme: **Forest Restoration: A path to recovery and well-being.** The theme was adopted from the United Nations Collaborative Partnership on Forests and it is corresponding to President Cyril Ramaphosa's call for the planting of Ten Million Trees, for the next five years in South Africa. The theme promotes tree planting for restoration and rehabilitation, creation of sustainable settlements by adding greenery and creation of biodiversity around our residential settlements. Besides improving the aesthetics of our surroundings, fruit trees also improve household food security.

A clarion call will be made to the public in general to join the Ten Million Trees Programme and participate in the greening of South Africa for the next five years.

Deputy Minister explained that the **Ten Million Trees Programme** is not only aimed at government, but also targeted to corporates, schools, community based organisations and the general public. "The department

will be putting out an advert where the general public and individuals can be counted in the participation of ensuring a greener South Africa. This advert will be placed in newspapers, on the departmental website, shared with municipalities and institutions such as South African Local Government Association and the Institute of Environment and Recreation Management," said Deputy Minister Sotyu.

She further stated that as South Africa we should not ignore the deforestation challenge we are facing in our country. "We have woodlands and other indigenous tree species that are threatened due to unsustainable harvesting levels as we use these resources to sustain livelihoods. The deforestation and unsustainable harvesting levels will have its own ills such as soil erosion, resulting in dongas as well as desertification and climate change which manifests itself as global warming," said Deputy Minister Sotyu.

At the City of uMhlathuze in Richards Bay, where Deputy Minister launched Arbor Month, cities and towns that have embraced greening initiatives in their programmes were also recognised and rewarded at the Arbor City Awards Competition. Sponsored by Total South Africa, the competition is executed in partnership with the Institute of Environment and Recreation Management and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), and seeks to promote the greening of cities and towns in South Africa.

Winners of Arbor City Awards Competition - 2021

Name of Municipality	Category	Prize
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality	Metropolitan Municipality Category	R 300 000, Trophy and Certificate
Polokwane Local Municipality	Local Municipality Category	First prize winner: R 300 000, Trophy and Certificate
Steve Tshwete Local Municipality	Local Municipality Category	Second prize winner R 250 000, Trophy and Certificate
City of uMhlathuze	Rural Municipality Category	R250 000
Ulundi Local Municipality	Youth Participation in Greening Award	R 100 000



About the contributor: Tshogfatso Ndhlovu

Mr Tshogfatso 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.



National Invasive Species week

11 - 15 October 2021

Protect our waters from invasive species

We must all take part in protecting our water resources from threats posed by invasive species

Know what you grow

Prevent the spread

Protect biodiversity

Save our water resources



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ON ALIEN AND INVASIVE SPECIES
IN SOUTH AFRICA:**

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Call centre: 086 111 2468
Website: www.environment.gov.za**



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL FORESTS AND PROTECTED TREES ON PRIVATE COASTAL PROPERTIES

WHAT IS NATURAL FOREST?

Many properties along this coast are covered by natural forest. Natural forest consists of closed canopy stands of indigenous trees, usually with shrub and herb layers below, and the height may vary from about 2 metres (scrub forest) or even lower in early pioneer or re-growth stages, to more than ten metres. Certain tree species only occur in forest (indicator tree species) and botanists can therefore distinguish forest from other woody vegetation. Such trees include white milkwood (*Sideroxylon inerme*).



Destruction of protected trees or natural forest without a license is a **criminal offense**



Whitemilkwood (*Sideroxylon inerme*) - occur on the whole Indian Ocean coast of SA



Red milkwood (*Mimusops caffra*) - mostly on the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape coasts

License application forms for activities affecting protected trees or natural forests can be obtained from the website www.environment.gov.za and must be submitted to the nearest forestry regional office of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

NATURAL FOREST IS PROTECTED



Section 3 of the National Forests Act of 1998 determines that natural forests may not be destroyed. Section 7 of this Act also determines that trees in natural forest may not be cut, destroyed, pruned or damaged without a license. In terms of policy

such destruction is only allowed in exceptional circumstances such as strategic projects like bulk services and infrastructure (e.g. major roads, power lines, dams and pipelines) but not for residential development. The only other exceptions to this rule are:

- vested rights such as zoning certificates issued and properties registered at the Surveyor General before the year 2000, when the National Forests Act was enacted;
- primary property rights, such as the right to erect a dwelling for own use on a vacant property (number of units per specified area in semi-urban areas may have been determined in local zoning schemes).

These exceptions do not apply automatically due to complex land use and legal issues, and do not do away with the need to apply for a license, in which case the responsible forestry official may have to investigate these land issues first.

CERTAIN TREE SPECIES ARE PROTECTED

A list of 47 tree species have been declared as protected under the National Forests Act of 1998. No such trees may be cut without a license under Section 15 of this Act. Trees such as white or red milkwood are forest species that sometimes occur outside forest and are also listed as protected tree species.

Cutting or pruning also requires a license except if less than 25% of the crown is pruned, but not for the topping of such trees, and also not for new development or re-development (exemptions published in Government Gazette on 27 August 2007). No topping or excessive pruning for seaviews are allowed.



White milkwood (*Sideroxylon inerme*). This tree and the red milkwood (*Mimusops caffra*) are dominant keystone species on the coast and are protected because of their aesthetic and ecological role



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Wildebeest translocation, a victory for conservation efforts

By Zibuse Ndlovu

The Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment Minister Barbara Creecy has described the translocation of 27 Zebra and 62 blue wildebeest from the Kruger National Park to the Zinave National Park in Mozambique as yet another victory for cross-border conservation.

"This is an important indication of how South Africa's conservation success is contributing to the rewilding of Africa, and the success of ongoing cross-border collaborations. It is an outstanding example of how African countries are working together to solve conservation problems and grow the eco-tourism sector. These new arrivals are welcome additions to the more than 2 300 reintroduced animals that are now thriving under the restoration and management programmes being implemented in Zinave," said Minister Creecy in a statement issued by the department.

The restoration of Zinave National Park has been one of southern Africa's most remarkable conservation success stories. After decades of human impacts severely disrupted the 408 000ha Park's natural ecosystems and healthy wildlife populations, work began on restoring Zinave to its former glory in 2016, with the signing of a co-management agreement between Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas and Peace Parks. "Through this partnership, significant investment has been directed towards enhancing conservation management, anti-poaching, infrastructure development, tourism development and community development interventions in the Park," said the Minister.

Since 2018, more than 700 animals have been translocated under a donation from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to the

Ministry of Land and the Environment in Mozambique, as they work together, supported by Peace Parks Foundation, to restock and rebuild key parks within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.

The 2-million-hectare world-renowned Kruger National Park, managed by South African National Parks, offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the best in Africa. With more than 147 mammal species thriving in abundant numbers as a result of many years of expert conservation management and protection strategies, the park is well positioned to support the restoration of decimated protected areas in neighbouring southern African countries.

Zinave now boasts 13 species including impala, reedbuck, waterbuck, buffalo, zebra, wildebeest, giraffe, sable and elephant. Thriving in their safe and plentiful habitat, these reintroduced populations have more than doubled in numbers and have close to 6 000 animals. With the herbivore populations flourishing, the first predators – a clan of four spotted hyenas – were reintroduced into the park at the end of 2020 and have already produced their own offspring.

"It is heartening to see how healthy populations of wildlife have stimulated the potential for increased tourism and related income opportunities in and around Zinave. The Park is set to become a major contributor to Mozambique's eco-tourism economies. We highly value the cross-border partnerships that we have with our governmental partners in South Africa and with Peace Parks Foundation. It is a wonderful example of how regional partnerships can contribute to building a more prosperous future for southern Africa and its people," said the Minister of Land and the Environment in Mozambique, Ms Ivete Maibaze.

Photo: The restoration of Zinave National Park has been one of southern Africa's most remarkable conservation success stories. Images: Courtesy Peace Parks Foundation.



AMCEN launches COVID-19 green stimulus programme

By Zibuse Ndlovu

The Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Minister Barbara Creecy, who is also the outgoing President of African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) officially launched a new web-based platform, which will showcase green stimulus projects across Africa.

"This programme is intended to significantly contribute to Africa's green recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and support the continent's journey towards a sustainable and low-carbon development pathway," said Minister Creecy during her virtual address of the 18th Ordinary Session of the AMCEN.

Minister Creecy described the programme as a source of pride for the continent, and one that has potential to create jobs. "Such a recovery has the potential to create opportunities for entrepreneurship, income generation, jobs and growth, particularly for women and the youth, and at the same time, to accelerate action on attaining short, medium and long-term environmental goals, both nationally, regionally and globally," said Minister Creecy.

On 28 May 2020, the AMCEN Bureau met and considered what Africa's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic should be from an environmental perspective. Within this context, the Bureau adopted a Concept Note of the African Green Stimulus Programme, which outlined the key priority areas amongst other issues for this response. "This gave rise to the development of a comprehensive document for this Programme, with the main objective of making a significant contribution towards Africa's green recovery from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Minister Creecy.

Speaking at the ministerial segment, the incoming President of AMCEN and Minister of Environment of Senegal, H.E Abdou Karim Sall, said it was in the interest of Africa and its people that environmental issues are given the attention they deserve, especially in view of the impacts of COVID-19. "It is not only an opportunity but an obligation, that we African Ministers in charge of the environment take responsibility for ensuring that the necessary means are provided to translate AMCEN's objectives into urgent action," said Mr Karim Sall.

Ministers further noted that the pandemic had hampered the capacity of African countries to respond to the crises of climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution, which are also already having a severe impact in many parts of the continent.

Hosted by the African Union Development Agency, the online platform consists of a website, administration portal and a data management system through which information on the portfolio of green projects and initiatives can be shared and updated. It is designed to ensure that information about the African Green Stimulus Programme can be accessed publicly and updated on a regular basis

“ It is not only an opportunity but an obligation, that we African Ministers in charge of the environment take responsibility for ensuring that the necessary means are provided to translate AMCEN's objectives into urgent action.”

Photo: Clean energy, climate action, air quality, land restoration, biodiversity, the blue economy, and green cities, are some of the programme's key priority areas.



IPCC report signals climate change breakthrough

By Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: Droughts will become more frequent at 1.5 °C of global warming, and more so as the level of global warming increases.



Above: South Africa will be submitting its revised Nationally Determined Contribution to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions to the UNFCCC ahead of COP 26.

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report is an important contribution to enhancing scientific understanding on climate change, that must inform international policy at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, in November." These were the sentiments by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms Barbara Creecy.

The assessment report, is the first in a series of reports to be adopted under the IPCC 6th assessment cycle. In 2022, the IPCC will release the next reports on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; another report dealing with mitigation of climate change; and finally, a synthesis report of the key findings.

The report also highlights and analyses the detail available in terms of climate change in southern Africa, reinforcing existing scientific evidence that the region is likely to become drier, and reductions in precipitation can already be detected.

The report states that droughts will become more frequent at 1.5 °C of global warming, and more so as the level of global warming increases. It has also long been known that the region is warming drastically, at about twice the global rate of warming.

"Sustaining the global temperature of 1.5o C by the end of the 21st century will require global scale negative emissions in the second half of the century to reduce atmospheric CO2" said the Minister. "In this regard the work of the Climate Commission to identify pathways for a Just Transition to a low carbon economy and climate resilient society by mid-century has never been more important".

"Climate action remains a national and international priority. South Africa remains firmly committed to

contributing our best effort towards the global cause of addressing climate change. In this regard we will be submitting our revised Nationally Determined Contribution to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions to the UNFCCC ahead of COP 26," the Minister added.

South Africa supports the common position of the African Group of Negotiators, ahead of COP26, that ambition and climate action need to be dramatically increased to advance all three of the interconnected global goals in the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement, namely; mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation.

"In this regard it is urgent that developed countries urgently honour their obligation to provide financial support to developing countries who already face the impact of climate change," said the Minister.

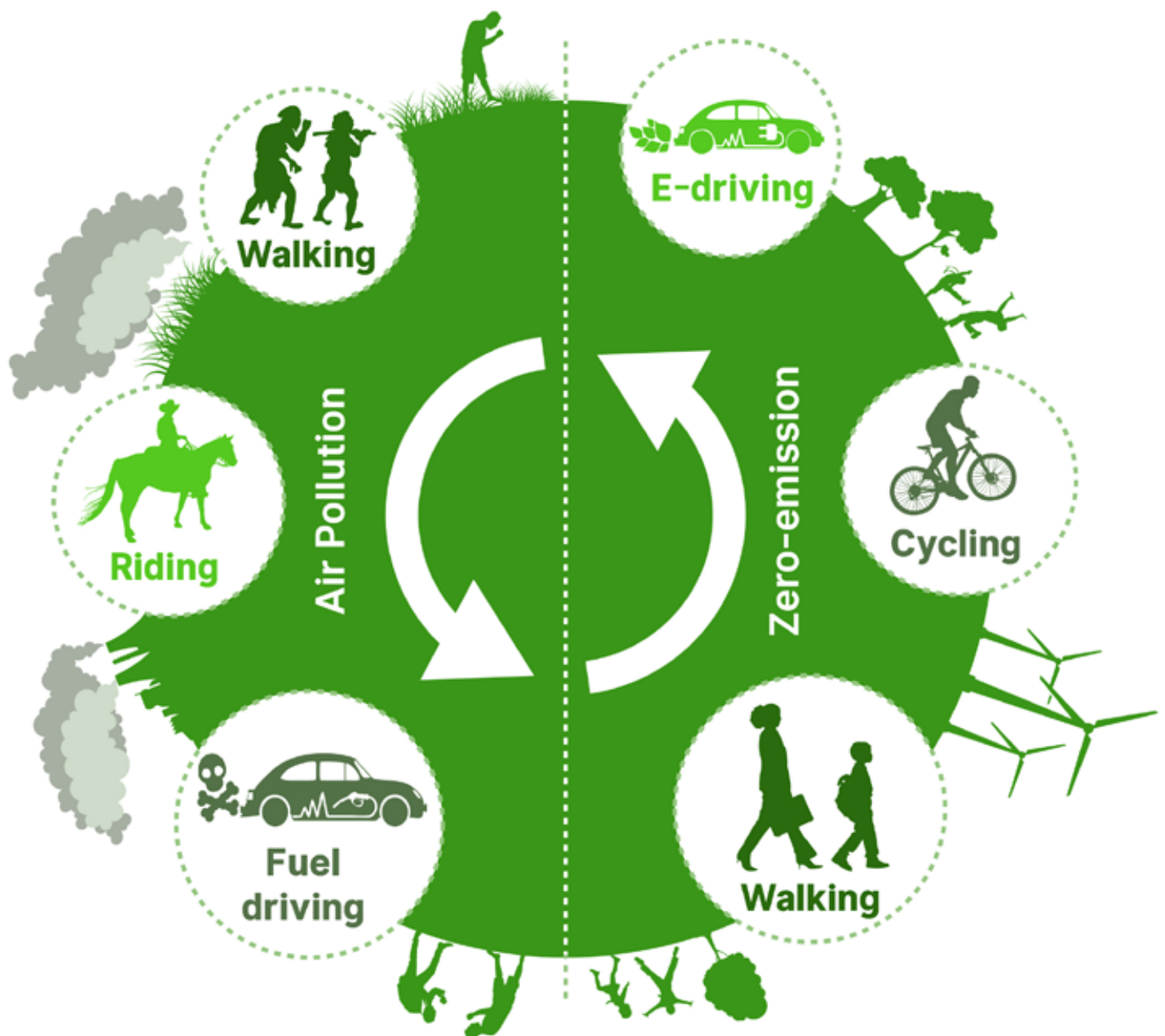
“ The report also highlights and analyses the detail available in terms of climate change in southern Africa, reinforcing existing scientific evidence that the region is likely to become drier, and reductions in precipitation can already be detected.

October is National Transport Month

..... Sustainable Transport

October is declared transport month. Transport plays a critical role in daily life and its evolution over time tells an interesting story. Going back to the ancient times of our fore-fathers, walking was the only common mode of transport. Walking allowed people to travel from one place to another for various reasons. Given longer distances people had to travel, animal riding was introduced as an option to enable people travel these longer distances and in addition carry items along. Over time animal drawn carriages were introduced.

Technology and innovation introduced fuel powered motor vehicles into the system which are faster however, these fuel powered vehicles have negative impacts on the environment including human health. The world is now more aware of these negative impacts and a need for cleaner innovations. This realization has resulted in the introduction of electric vehicles, the use and promotion of non-motorized transport systems inclusive of walking, bicycle use and skate boarding. By using these sustainable modes of transports we can all play our part in protecting the environment.



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Eight cleanups hosted for International Coastal Cleanup Day

By Nwabisa Timeni & Siyabulela Malo



Above: Volunteers after the pickup of plastic nurdles at Klein Brak Beach just outside Mossel Bay, Western Cape.

The department hosted beach clean-ups for International Coastal Clean-Up Day (ICCD) on Saturday, 18 September 2021.

This year the department in partnership with numerous stakeholders, including provincial and local government, hosted beach clean-ups at eight beaches -- Port Nolloth Beach, Northern Cape; Klein Brak Beach, Mossel Bay; Velddrif on the West Coast; Struisbaai, Western Cape; Brighton Beach in Gqeberha; Eastern Beach in East London; Second Beach at Port St Johns and Isipingo Beach near Durban.

Learners from four schools in Gqeberha arrived in numbers to participate in collecting litter around the

beach. Each learner, volunteer and stakeholder played their role in ensuring that the environment was clean.

Klein Brak beach, which is one of the beaches that was affected by a nurdle spill last year, was also one of the sites visited. The focus of the Klein Brak clean-up was to remove nurdles from the beach.

ICCD is held on the third Saturday of September every year, and volunteers from around the world participate in what has become one of the world's biggest coastal clean-ups.

ICCD coincides with the National clean-up and Recycle SA Week held in September.



About the contributor: Siyabulela Malo

Mr Siyabulela Malo is a Media Relations & Editorial Services Intern in the Directorate : Communication Services in Cape Town. He holds a BA Communications Management Degree from the University of Fort Hare.



Above: Volunteers embarked on a solid waste and general litter beach clean-up in Brighton beach, Gqebera.



Above: Learners from George Randell High School and Centre of Excellence High School participated in the clean-up at Eastern Beach, East London.



Above: Learners from schools in Port St Johns participated in a general litter focused beach clean-up in Port St Johns, Eastern Cape.



Above: Learners from Port Nolloth High School and volunteers took part in a beach clean-up in Port Nolloth with awareness focusing on fishing, mining equipment and general litter



Above: AJ Mwelase High School and UMLazi Commercial High School took part in a beach clean-up in Isipingo focusing on environmental awareness and general litter.



Above: Volunteers with the surfs used to pick up plastic nurdles at Klein Brak beach near Mossel Bay.



Minister Creecy inspires youth on Career Day

By Nwabisa Timeni

Images by Gaopalelwe Moroane and Ndzalama Nkuna



Above: Minister Barbara Creecy joins learners for a presentation at the Environmental Careers Day hosted by the Department.



Above: Minister Creecy addresses learners at the environmental Careers Day held in Gansbaai Academia.

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Ms Barbara Creecy hosted an Environmental Careers Day and Beach Clean-up in the Overberg and Overstrand Districts of the Western Cape on 11 and 12 September 2021.

Learners from six high schools in the districts attended the Careers Day at Gansbaai Academia in Gansbaai where exhibitors from the department and various other stakeholders within the environmental career field shared information about careers in the environmental sector.

Minister Creecy also donated 150 pairs of school shoes, which were shared among the six schools at the Environmental Careers Day. Eco-desks were also donated to schools in need in the district.

The weekend's activities concluded with Minister Creecy leading a Beach clean-up in Kleinmond, Western Cape on Sunday, 12 September. She was joined by learners,

community leaders, Deep Blue Ambassadors, NGOs, volunteers and DFFE officials. The beach clean-up marked the start of national Clean-up and Recycle SA Week.



Above: Minister donated 150 pairs of school shoes to six schools in the Overberg District.



Above: Eco-desks were donated to a school in Hermanus.



Above: Learners participating in the beach clean-up at Kleinmond Main Beach.



Above: Minister Creecy alongside school learners and volunteers after the beach clean-up at Kleinmond Main Beach.



About the contributor: Nwabisa Timeni

Ms Nwabisa Timeni is an Intern: Stakeholder Engagement for Cape Town's Directorate: Communications Services.

Continental honours for high flying marine scientist

By Dr Marjolaine Krug

Image by Gaopalelwe Moroane

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's (DFFE) Physical Oceanographer, Dr Marjolaine Krug, will be the recipient of the 2021 Africa Award for Research Excellence in Ocean Sciences.

Dr Krug, who works under the Branch: Oceans and Coasts, is an expert in satellite oceanography and ocean glider observations. Her research has focused on the dynamics and variability of the Agulhas Current as well as interactions between the Agulhas Current and the coastal and shelf regions. She is currently employed as a senior scientific advisor where she leads the development of the Oceans and Coastal Information Management System (OCIMS).

In response to receiving the award, Dr Marjolaine Krug said, "I am deeply honored to receive this award and even more happy to be the first female recipient. Many on this continent have not had the same privileges as I have, and I would therefore like to dedicate this award to all African women who were robbed of their potential due to past injustices".

"I am also inspired by the new generation of talented scientists emerging from South Africa and look forward to being able to nominate some of them for the award in forthcoming years," she added.

Since her PhD graduation in December 2011 from the University of Cape Town, Dr Marjolaine Krug has established a strong reputation both nationally and internationally. Dr Krug published several seminal papers which increased South Africa's understanding of the Agulhas Current and its variability. In her first paper stemming out of her PhD in 2010, Dr Krug's innovative use of Synthetic Aperture Radar information enabled the mean structure of the Agulhas Current to be mapped at a higher spatial resolution than ever before.

She was also the first to highlight the seasonal variability of the Agulhas Current using observations from satellite altimeters. Her ability to develop an algorithm to objectively track large meanders in the Agulhas Current allowed to show that their frequency is far less than previously understood. Her methods have led to a new algorithm, the Location of the Agulhas Current's Core and Edges (LACCE), which was very recently published and can be used operationally to track the Agulhas Current. Dr Krug has also mentored and supervised several students. One of the highlights in her role as a supervisor was to be part of her first PhD student discovery of a new current along the South- West coast of Madagascar.

One of Dr Krug's major achievements as a researcher was to pioneer the deployment of underwater ocean gliders in the Agulhas Current, one of the strongest

currents in the world. In 2015, Dr Krug led the first deployment of underwater ocean gliders in the Agulhas Current as part of the Shelf Agulhas Glider Experiment (SAGE) and between 2017 and 2019, she undertook three more ocean glider deployments in the Agulhas Current region as part of the Gliders in the Agulhas (GINA) initiative and in a contribution to the CAPTOR Project (Connectivity And disPersal beTWEEN prOTected aReas), a programme led and supported by ORI/SAAMBR and funded by the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP).

Underwater gliders are robotic platforms piloted from the land and which can measure a range of physical, biological, and biogeochemical variables such as a temperature, chlorophyll, oxygen, salinity and more. Piloting these gliders in the fast and powerful Agulhas Current proved very challenging but it also shed new understanding of the variability of the current at small spatial scales and its impact on coastal regions. While there have been no new deployments of underwater gliders along South Africa's coastline since 2019, those initial deployments demonstrated the feasibility and the value of ocean gliders as real-time observing platforms for interdisciplinary research.



WoF firefighters successfully extinguish wildland fires in Canada

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: The 109 firefighters and management dubbed as Black Bear Hotshots that left South Africa for Canada.

The Working on Fire (WoF) firefighters from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) successfully extinguished wildland fires, after responding to the call made by the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC), requesting assistance for their fire management in Canada.

Dubbed as Black Bear Hotshots, the 109 firefighters and management left South Africa on 10 August 2021, arriving in Winnipeg, Canada when they were experiencing high fire dangers. Canada's wildland fire management resources were exhausted and they were on their highest level, National Preparedness Level 5.

The firefighters were divided into five teams of 21 crew members and were deployed to various active fires in Manitoba from Loon Straits in the Eastern Sector and the Cold Lake complex in the Western Sector where multiple fires were burning. The teams participated in extinguishing the Loon Straits fire in Eastern Manitoba and then combating fires 083, 038 and 032 in North-Western Manitoba as part of the Cold Lake fire complex.

By the time the South African firefighters demobilised from the fire line on 11 September 2021, fire 083 and fire 038 were extinguished, and fire 032 was under control. On 16 September 2021, the DFFE's Deputy Director-General: Environmental Programmes, Ms. Nonhlanhla Mkhize happily welcomed home the South African firefighters and delivered a message on behalf of Minister Barbara Creecy. Ms Mkhize extended her

deepest gratitude and appreciation to the WoF team that is returning home from a successful firefighting mission in Canada, Manitoba.

"The praise for your professionalism and high-performance standards expressed by Canadian authorities, is indicative of the success of the Working on Fire Programme and its capabilities in Integrated Fire Management over the past 18 years. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the Expanded Public Works Programme and indeed South Africa shares in this proud moment with all of you and welcome back home. Siyabonga," said Ms Mkhize.

The request for firefighting assistance from WoF came through the CIFFC, in terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Canada and South Africa. This MOU provides for the exchange of Wildland Fire Management Resources between these two countries.

Canadian High Commissioner in South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Christopher Cooter jokingly mentioned that he knows that firefighters had challenges of facing the wildlife and mosquitos. "This is the fourth time we have called on you and you have answered that call every time. You have inspired everyone with your professionalism and bravery."

A total of 18 team members received recognition awards for going above and beyond the call of duty during the 34-day deployment.



About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

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

Illegal wildlife trader nabbed in joint operation

By Zibuse Ndlovu

A Vietnamese national has been arrested in connection with the illegal trade in wildlife and illegal possession of a firearm following a raid on properties in Bela-Bela and Pretoria on 12 August 2021.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) Head of Communication, Mr Albi Modise said the arrest was indicative of how when various law-enforcement agencies collaborate, the scourge of wildlife crime can be nipped in the bud. "We have to at all times send a message to poachers and would-be poachers that anyone that elects to ignore our environment laws, will face the full might of the law," said Mr Modise.

The arrest of the man came after a four-month investigation involving analysts and wildlife investigators. The integrated team involved in the raid comprised the Green Scorpions from the DFFE, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and SANParks, as well as members of the South African Police Service.

Commenting on the arrest, the DFFE's Enforcement Chief Director, Ms Frances Craigie said search and seizure warrants were executed simultaneously at a Vietnamese-owned farm near Bela-Bela in Limpopo and at two storage units in Pretoria.

"A Vietnamese national has been charged with illegal possession of a threatened species in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act," said Ms Craigie.



Above: Suspected lion claws, lion knee caps and lion tooth.
Image by San-Marie Ras

The joint investigation team seized 4.19kg of lion teeth, 680g of lion claws and more than 60 kg of processed animal products believed to be lion gelatine.

"Although successes like these invigorate officials, this suspect is part of a bigger syndicate that needs to be collapsed and more arrests made. The Green Scorpions are passionate about fighting wildlife crime not only domestically but also combatting transnational trafficking of wildlife, their parts and derivatives," said Ms Craigie.

Meanwhile, in a separate case, hefty sentences were handed down by the Skukuza Regional Court to three rhino poachers convicted of rhino poaching.

Mr Walter Hendrick Mangange, 59, Mr Shangani Mathebula, 26,

and Mr Emmanuel Mdluli, 33, were convicted on 2 September on charges related to rhino poaching, including entering the Kruger National Park with intent to commit a crime, including the possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition, possession of a dangerous weapons and three counts of hunting rhinoceros.

Mr Mangane was sentenced to a total of 45 years imprisonment and Mr Mdluli to 30 years in jail for trespassing, numerous charges related to the illegal possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition, possession of a dangerous weapon and three counts of rhino poaching. Mr Mathebula, a Mozambican national who was in South Africa illegally, received a 30-year sentence for contravening the immigration act, trespassing, charges related to the possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition, possession of a dangerous weapons and three counts of hunting rhino.

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