

YOUTH MONTH



Opportunities For Youth In Environment

Finding wealth in waste

In our 20 years of environmental protection and conservation, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has also created and sustained projects that benefit the citizens of South Africa. We are committed to improving socio-economic benefits within the environmental sector by creating 65 494 work opportunities for women, youth and people living with disabilities.

Youth Jobs in Waste (YJW) is a sub programme providing employment opportunities to the youth of South Africa. The programme addresses a skills gap in municipalities that allow for smooth landfill operations. The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa launched the Youth Jobs in Waste Programme on 17 June 2013.

The launch, which took place in Phuthaditjhaba, Free State, formed part of the DEA Environment and Youth Month celebrations. Speaking at the launch, the Minister said, "The waste sector has been identified as one of the critical sectors with the potential to contribute substantially to the generation of jobs within the green economy. It is in this light that the department is increasingly expanding its programmes in job creation and enterprise development programmes in this sector."

In 2014, the programmes created over 4000 jobs across eight provinces of South Africa. Youth Jobs in Waste beneficiary, Themba Danster says, "Unfortunately family circumstances stopped me from completing my tertiary studies so I was overjoyed when I got the opportunity to be in this programme. He is a collections administrator, based at the Green works! Project. This is the service-learning component responsible for training students to implement environmental improve combining community service with an academic curriculum. He got involved in the programme after seeing a newspaper advert calling for youths who were interested in waste management jobs. "I was one of 17 successful candidates out of 85 applicants in the Free State province."



Youth Jobs in Waste beneficiary (Free State): Themba Danster

#HireAGraduate Environmental Affairs Internship Programme

The environmental field provides many exciting, interesting and satisfying career choices, stretching across a range of fields and disciplines. The Department of Environmental Affairs has implemented an internship programme, which aims to create a pipeline of candidates that may compete for appointments in and outside the department.

Unemployed South African undergraduate and postgraduate students who have not been previously employed under any internship programme can apply in fields that are in line with the department's core business. Applicants should not be above 35 years of age. Applications for 2018/19 will open in October this year. For more information contact: Department of Environmental Affairs, Mr Thomas Mathiba Director: Sector Education, Training and Development Tel: 012 310 3653 Email: tmathiba@environment.gov.za or visit www.environment.gov.za/careers/internships. Candidates with disabilities are always encouraged to apply.



Minister encourages learners to do environmental studies.



Minister Edna Molewa and Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson interacting with learners from Kwabhekilanga Secondary School in Alexandra, Johannesburg. Ms Ntombenhle Nkosi and Mr Kingsley Macebele had many questions regarding environmental issues. Photo: Veronica Mahlaba



Minister Molewa encouraged the learners to pursue environment studies as the field of their career during Cell C's Take a Girl Child to Work initiative. Photo: Sivuyile Ngaba

Environmental studies offer career opportunities

Ipeleng Machiswa has a BSc. Honours in Chemistry, BSc degree in Biology and Chemistry at the University of North West and a Certificate in Environmental Law with the University of Pretoria. In 2016, she did her internship programme at the Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria. Now completed, she shares her experience.

"I chose to study biology and chemistry because it includes all the fields in which all sciences are based or connected, such as environmental science, physics etc. My curiosity of everything around us made me choose it."

"I was with the branch Biodiversity and Conservation, which deals with conservation of the species and entails facilitation of biodiversity management plans for all the species, threatened or protected species and facilitates the implementation of several multilateral environmental agreements."

"I enjoyed working in DEA. I have gained valuable insight on my future career development. I went into the internship programme with my eyes open and my expectations realistic. For me it was a profoundly rewarding experience, with its own challenges and it has paved the way for a successful professional career."



Ipeleng Machiswa

DEA Youth Conservation Programme continues momentum

At the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, presented the Youth Conservation Programme (YCP) as the legacy of CITES CoP17 on South African soil.

During the plenary discussion on youth engagement in conservation, Minister Molewa noted the worldwide movement to elevate the voice of youth in the dialogue on biodiversity. South Africa has contributed to this global undertaking through several platforms, including the pledge to the Sydney Promise. The YCP is the next step in South Africa's commitment to forging a meaningful relationship between young people and nature on home soil.

The YCP programme aims to mobilise young South Africans, who living in communities that are adjacent to protected areas, on the need for conservation. Through intensive workshops and practical experience, the programme stresses the important role young people can play in conservation. Simultaneously, great emphasis is placed on the opportunities available for social-economic upliftment through sustainable participation in the biodiversity economy.

The YCP was brought to fruition by the Department of Environmental Affairs' People & Parks Programme, a branch that is charged with facilitating the socio-economic development of previously disadvantaged South African communities neighbouring protected areas, through conservation and sustainable use. One of the primary objectives of the YCP is formal integration of the youth voice into structures of governance.

The People & Parks Programme launched the initial campaign in August 2016. "It was with great pride and excitement for the future of this endeavour that we reported that the Youth Conservation Programme had been fully endorsed by the People & Parks Conference as a key vehicle for empowering young South Africans to become pivotal in our conservation landscape," said Minister Molewa.

The Youth Conservation Programme continues to be piloted in 2017 in several South African provinces, with the goal of placing young people at the centre of decision-making process, thereby empowering them to become current and future leaders for change.



Young women and pupils from Gauteng schools join Minister Molewa to discuss climate change issues and how they can mitigate or adapt to them. Photo: Gaopalelwe Moroane



Learners from Oliver Tambo Primary School, who won first place in the World Wetlands Day Awareness Competition hosted by the DEA, Gauteng Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and City of Ekurhuleni. Photo: Gaopalelwe Moroane



The Department of Environmental Affairs launched yet another exciting new cycle of the Working for the Coast programme on 17 June 2016, during World Oceans Day celebrations in Durban. The projects will generate approximately 2 407 work opportunities over two years.