

# Budget reprioritised for post Covid-19 recovery



Building a new 'nature-positive future' for SA

The environment, forestry & fisheries department has been allocated R8.2bn for the 2020/2021 financial year to help implement environmental programmes and post-lockdown economic recovery initiatives.

Delivering the department's reprioritised budget policy statement for the 2020/2021 financial year during a virtual parliamentary sitting last month, the environment, forestry and fisheries minister Barbara Creecy said the money allocated for the present financial year will be used to create a "nature-positive future" for the country.

During the lockdown to stem the spread of Covid-19, the department's four entities — SA National Parks (SANParks), SA National Biodiversity Institute (Sanbi), iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (iSimangaliso) and the SA Weather Service (SAWS) — have been unable to realise their usual income and remain self-sustainable.

To ensure they are able to continue to deliver on their mandate despite the pandemic, the department has shifted a considerable amount of funding (R1.1bn) to the four entities, from the departmental budget.

SANParks and iSimangaliso, have received R961m and R39m respectively to cover the loss of income with regards to gate fees and accommodation. The department's environmental programmes have been assigned R44m to cover personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitising agents for participants in the expanded public works programme (EPWP) projects.

"In doing this, we have ensured the sustainability of our protected areas and the significant role they play in supporting our country's mega-biodiversity. We have also



The environment, forestry & fisheries minister Barbara Creecy outlines the department's plan to secure the financial viability of its four entities in the face of the Covid-19 crisis.

ensured the future sustainability of nature-based tourism and its longer-term employment potential," said Creecy.

To further secure the financial viability of the four entities, the department has made the following decisions:

- Capital spending in all four entities has been postponed while alternative funding is sought for 29 projects through the presidential sustainable infrastructure development programme.

- Budgets earmarked for capital spending have been shifted to prevent job losses and ensure the continuation of duties such as anti-poaching services; wildlife management; running botanical gardens and Tshwane Zoo; weather prediction services essential for shipping and aviation; and scientific research co-ordinated by Sanbi.

Creecy said national and provincial parks face revenue shortfalls and tough choices. The management of these areas is being reviewed to find ways to ensure their survival.

In response to the crisis, the minister has adopted a two-

pronged approach informed by SA's position as president of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Amcen), and the important role that the biodiversity economy plays in the country's development plan.

Firstly, a ministerial task team on resource mobilisation for conservation Covid-19 responses has been established, comprising experts from diverse backgrounds finding innovative approaches to funding.

"Initial work is focusing on an emergency response, especially for NGOs in distress, but with a view to longer-term sustainable funding mechanisms and models," said the minister.

The second initiative, teaming

up with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), will find ways to support the post-Covid recovery of the biodiversity and conservation sector and build a nature-positive future.

Creecy said SA needs greater co-ordination between government and non-governmental sectors to restore ecosystem services, protect strategic water sources, and develop green infrastructure.

"Despite budget cuts and a late start to our EPWP, we still aim to create 16,315 jobs this year," she said.

"We will ensure that 60% of the people who benefit from the implementation of our programmes are women, 65% are young people and 2% are people with disabilities."

Work continues on delineating 11 strategic water sources; developing a national joint wetlands management framework; clearing invasive plant species, and rehabilitating wetlands, riparian zones and degraded land.

The fishing sector remains a

significant contributor to food security and the economy. Stabilising the sub-sector through the allocation of longer-term fishing rights is critical to attracting investment into the industry.

When the department issues 15-year fishing rights to small-scale fishers in the Western Cape later this year, it will mark the completion of the first rights allocation process to more than 10,500 fisher men and women organised into 110 co-operatives nationwide.

Creecy said this is a first step to formalising and developing small-scale fishers who, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, faced enormous inequality, insecurity and barriers to economic participation.

The minister said that the stabilisation of the aquaculture sector and the 4,875 jobs it sustains is of crucial importance at this time. In this regard, consultations on the Aquaculture Bill are being finalised.

This year also marks the coming into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The department is reviewing contributions to reducing emissions and building resilience to climate change, through nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The department has called for public comment on three more renewable energy development zones (Redz), namely Emalahleni in Mpumalanga, Klerksdorp in North West and Beaufort West in the Western Cape. This will bring the number of Redz in the country to 11. The declaration of these zones will fast-track the development of renewable energy projects in line with the integrated resource plan.

Creecy said waste recycling and the transition to a circular economy are areas that must be speedily upscaled to create jobs; formalise micro-waste recovery enterprises; divert waste from landfills and the environment; and improve the overall system of waste management.

**“We’ve ensured sustainability of our country’s protected areas”**

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DEFF) 2020/21 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- 01**  **R1, 1 billion** approved for re-allocation towards Covid-19 implications.

**10**  **R91 million** allocated towards the Oceans Economy Strategy.
- 02**  **R961 million** allocated to SANParks to cover the loss of income with regards to gate fees and accommodation revenue in all 20 National Parks.

**11**  **R131 million** allocated to Manning and Operation: SA Agulhas II.
- 03**  **R39 million** allocated to iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority to cover the loss of gate fees and accommodation revenue.

**12**  **R348 million** set aside for the South African Weather Service: Operational Transfer.
- 04**  **R44 million** allocated to Environmental Programmes to cover PPE and sanitising agents for the participants in the Expanded Public Works Programme projects.

**13**  **R116 million** set aside for the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority: Operational Transfer.
- 05**  **R58 million** allocated to cover Waste Pickers for PPE and grants.

**14**  **R1,3 billion** allocated to the South African National Parks: Operational Transfer.
- 06**  **R65 million** allocated towards the Youth Development Programme.

**15**  **R358 million** allocated to South African National Biodiversity Institute for Operational expenditure: Botanical Gardens.
- 07**  **R82 million** allocated to the Green Deeds Programmes.

**16**  **R102 million** allocated to the South African National Biodiversity Institute: Operational Expenditure National Zoological Garden.
- 08**  **R78 million** allocated to Greening and Open Space Development.

**17**  **R320 million** set aside for the Tyre Recycling Initiatives.
- 09**  **R123 million** set aside for the Working on Waste programme.

Illustration by DEFF COMMS

# R1 m earmarked for SA's young innovators



Environment, forestry & fisheries minister Barbara Creecy engages with a group of young South Africans and encourages them to actively participate in green initiatives.

## SA's youth call for green recovery

By **Zibuse Ndlovu**

The environment, forestry & fisheries department has set aside R1m to fund youth-led projects that tackle climate change, waste management and biodiversity loss.

This was revealed at a virtual Youth Environment and Sustainability Dialogue hosted by minister Barbara Creecy on Youth Day, under the theme: "Youth Power: Growing SA together during the period of Covid-19".

Creecy said the decision was a response to the call for more support for young innovators

and entrepreneurs.

More than 100 youth from across SA took part in the virtual dialogue where they expressed concern about the dire economic impact of Covid-19 and its effect on achieving the goals set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Among suggestions presented by the youth, representing 15 organisations, was a gender-and-youth-responsive green recovery mechanism. They asked for the green recovery strategy to include more rapid introduction of renewable energy, greener public transport, and upscaling of the circular economy to better manage waste.

In a joint statement, the youth asked that climate change be addressed with greater urgency by all levels and sectors of the

government. They also expressed their concern for vulnerable members of the community, including waste recyclers who play a big role in waste diversion from landfills, but work under dangerous and insanitary conditions.

The applications for funding opened on July 1 and will close on August 31. Adjudication by an independent panel will take place in September and October. In November, 10 successful projects will be granted R100,000 each.

"This pilot initiative is one of our ways to enable young entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions to create new economic opportunities in a more climate-resilient and sustainable economic path," said Creecy.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Applications for funding can be submitted in a form available on the environment department's website [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za) under "Projects and Programmes".

The adjudication of projects will take place in September and October. In November grants of R100,000 will be awarded to each of the 10 successful projects. The selected projects will be announced in November.

### Results areas that would qualify for support include:

#### ● Climate Change

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity; reduce and/or avoid greenhouse gas emissions

#### ● Waste

Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

#### ● Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Equitable benefit and sustainable use; conservation and management of species and ecosystems; and restoration of degraded ecosystems

### Applicants and the type of activities that will be eligible for support:

● **People:** Youth organisations; youth-led organisations; and organisations undertaking youth climate, waste, biodiversity, forestry and fisheries-related implementation.

● **Activities:** Stakeholder engagement and consultation; prefeasibility studies; feasibility studies; project structuring; identification of full project financing

### Supporting documents required for application:

- Profile of business and business owner/partner or owners/partners;
- Certified copy of identity document of business owner/partner or owners/partners;
- Supporting letter from the bank confirming banking details of the business;
- Proof of physical address of the business;
- Additional information may be requested in the pre-screening process.

**"DRIVING FORCE FOR CHANGE"**  
**PILOT YOUTH SUPPORT INITIATIVE**

**Apply now! 1 July - 31 August 2020**

R1 million has been reserved to fund youth-led projects tackling the issues of climate change, waste management, Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

For further information on the initiative kindly contact: Dr. Jenitha Badul  
Tel: 0123999272 Email: [dfc@environment.gov.za](mailto:dfc@environment.gov.za)

Call centre: +27 86 111 2468  
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# Caring for our environment

## Start a home garden

YOU CAN **PLANT YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEGGIES** IN A HOME GARDEN. YOU WILL BE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAVING MONEY AT THE SAME TIME!



## Make your own compost

PUT 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.



## Plant indigenous

PLANT **INDIGENOUS SPECIES** OF PLANTS. THEY USE LESS WATER AND PROVIDE FOOD AND HABITAT FOR ANIMALS.



## Reuse

USE A **GLASS DRINKING BOTTLE** THAT CAN BE WASHED OUT AND USED AGAIN. IF YOU USE ITEMS THAT CAN BE REUSED, THIS RESULTS IN LESS WASTE.



Reduce . Reuse . Recycle . Recover



Are you making a difference?



Section 24 of the South African Constitution states: "Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being."

## Become a Waste Picker

START **WASTE PICKING** TO MAKE MONEY. WASTE PICKERS COLLECT RECYCLABLE MATERIALS TO RESELL TO BUYBACK CENTRES.



## Reduce power use

WHEN YOU EXIT A ROOM, **ALWAYS TURN OFF THE LIGHTS**. USING ELECTRICITY CREATES POLLUTION. YOU WILL CREATE FAR LESS POLLUTION IF YOU SAVE ELECTRICITY.



## Don't use plastic

PLASTIC BAGS HARM ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND TAKE YEARS TO BREAK DOWN. USE YOUR OWN **CANVAS BAG** INSTEAD OF PLASTIC BAGS.



## Save water



SAVING WATER IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. ALL LIVING SPECIES NEED WATER TO SURVIVE. ALWAYS **TURN OFF YOUR TAP** WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED AND FIX ALL YOUR PLUMBING **LEAKS**.



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# A helping hand during hard times

## SANParks joins relief initiative

By **Salome Tsoka**

While the world comes to terms with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the environment, forestry & fisheries department has reached out to some of the most vulnerable communities in SA, delivering food parcels and bringing much-appreciated social relief.

Deputy minister Makhotso Soty, the Free State MEC for economic & small business development, tourism & environmental affairs Makalo Mohale, and the SA National Parks (SANParks) led the initiative.

They delivered food hampers to 250 households living in

communities near the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in the Free State.

This initiative is part of SANParks' response to the pandemic, in which R6m will be used to buy food parcels, hygiene products, educational materials and water tanks to support and benefit 7,500 families living near national parks around SA.

Many of the beneficiaries from these communities rely on the national parks for their survival, either through jobs or business opportunities, so have been without a source of income during the pandemic.

Speaking to the local chiefs and mayors of the communities they visited, the deputy minister said that this initiative was funded by the SANParks Honorary Rangers and the United Nations Development Programme.



Beneficiaries of the food parcels included the unemployed and child-headed households with no sources of income.



Environment department's deputy minister Makhotso Soty chats to King Moremoholo Mopeli at Maboela Village in the Free State.



The food parcels included staple foods such as maize meal, tinned products, vegetables as well as soap, hand sanitiser and masks.

## Kruger Park villages get water tanks

By **Madimetja Mogotlane**

Environment, forestry & fisheries minister Barbara Creecy came to the aid of 1,500 vulnerable families bordering the Kruger National Park in both Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces by donating food parcels and 80 water tanks.

The donation came as a relief to community members who rely on the national parks for their survival.

The 1,500 parcels included a bar of soap, cleaning detergents, masks and groceries.

The water tanks have been installed in the most water-stressed villages within the local traditional authorities.

Speaking to the beneficiaries, Creecy said: "Because of the national Covid-19 lockdown, tourism, which is the main source of income for you, has dried up. This has affected your wellbeing as you rely on tourism for an income."

"That is why we decided to try to make your lives a little easier in these trying times."

Creecy was supported by SANParks CEO Fundisile Mketeni and local traditional leaders.

# Thousands of food parcels for Cape fishermen



Food parcels being prepared for handover.



Fishermen and women receive their food parcels in Hout Bay.

## Small-scale fishers hard hit by Covid

By **Tshego Letshwiti**

The environment, forestry & fisheries department teamed up with FishSA, Oceana, major fishing corporations and the SA Fishing Development Fund, to distribute more than 10,000 food parcels to distressed small-scale and interim relief fishers during lockdown.

Fishing communities in the Western Cape were already adversely affected in January and February this year during the Covid-19 pandemic in China when restaurants closed and they were unable to sell abalone and West Coast Rock Lobster to their traditional markets.

Consequently, some sections of the fishing industry have felt the impact of the coronavirus longer than other sectors of the economy.



A delighted fisherman shows his thanks for the donation.

The department distributed food parcels to fishers in Hout Bay, Langebaan, the Overberg region, Khayelitsha and Witsand in the Western Cape. Donations were also made in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

"The generosity of FishSA, the SA Fishing Development Fund

and some large-scale commercial fishing companies has made this possible.

"I want to thank them for taking the initiative to help thousands of families in distress," said environment, forestry & fisheries minister Barbara Creecy.

# Minister and partners help struggling fishermen

## Food and care parcels donated on Mandela Day

The environment, forestry & fisheries minister Barbara Creecy joined the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) SA, Spar, BMZ, the government of Flanders, Coca-Cola SA and Gift of the Givers in celebrating Mandela Day in Kleinmond in the Western Cape.

The department partnered with these organisations and delivered food vouchers and care parcels to 94 members of the Kogelberg fishing community.

The pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of small-scale fishing communities. Since the lockdown began, they have faced many challenges, from the initial restrictions on being able to fish to the inability to access markets for their catch.

Creecy addressed several representatives of the Kogelberg fishing community about some of the challenges they have experienced during lockdown.

“The small-scale fishers along the coast of our country have been hit hard by the economic and social impact of Covid-19.

“In the spirit of Nelson Mandela, we again extend a hand of friendship and support to our small-scale fishing communities. Ours is a common

struggle for transformation of the fishing industry, sustainable use of marine resources and access to better livelihoods for coastal communities,” she said.

Once the formalities were done, WWF volunteers delivered food vouchers and care packages containing hand sanitiser and masks to the homes of the 94 fishers.

WWF SA CEO Morné du Plessis said that WWF has a deep, long-standing relationship with the small-scale fishers of the Kogelberg.

“We thank everyone who has come together today to put together this small relief package for a community whose hardship was only intensified by the Covid-19 crisis,” he said.



Environment minister Barbara Creecy addresses the Kleinmond fishing community on Mandela Day.

**“We extend a hand of friendship”**



Kogelberg fishing community members received 94 parcels and food vouchers to help them survive during lockdown.



Environment minister Barbara Creecy and WWF SA CEO Morné du Plessis hand over food vouchers and care parcels.



A Kogelberg fisherman talks about some of the challenges his community has faced during the pandemic.

# Ladybrand schools get eco-desks, garden tools

## Elderly also gifted with care parcels

By **Veronica Mahlaba**

Environment, forestry & fisheries deputy minister Makhotso Sotyú donated 250 eco-desks to Ladybrand Public Primary School and Manyatseng Primary School in the Free State, to commemorate Nelson Mandela Day.

The department sourced the desks from its eco-furniture programme, which uses invasive alien plant biomass to make products needed by the government. This creates work opportunities for unemployed people as part of the expanded public works programme.

This year's Mandela Day comes as communities and economies across the world are hit by Covid-19, causing new



The Ladybrand Public Primary School welcomes garden tools donated by the environment department.

social and economic challenges, while threatening to reverse the gains made by SA's democratic government.

In light of these struggles, Sotyú also donated school shoes, bags, jojo tanks, garden tools, sanitizers and face masks, among other items.

She also handed out 50 blankets, groceries, sanitizers, vegetable seeds and garden tools at Manyatseng Old Age Home.

Sotyú said the Ladybrand visit was a response to the Nelson Mandela Foundation's call for all citizens to be active in their communities.



The elderly at the Manyatseng Old Age Home in Ladybrand receive parcels to help them survive during the pandemic.

“Learners and elders in our communities are at high risk of getting the coronavirus and must be helped to live and perform efficiently in these hard times.

“We can do this individually or as part of one of the millions of groups getting together to start initiatives to deliver food parcels,

make masks and protective gear, teach online or make donations towards these efforts,” said Sotyú.

All the Covid-19 regulations, including screening, social distancing and sanitising, were observed during the deputy minister's Ladybrand visit.

# Celebrating 20 years of transfronteir collaboration

Kgalagadi park is a great SADC success story

The establishment of the Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) as a means of jointly managing natural resources across political boundaries is one of the greatest conservation success stories in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

TFCAs were mainly founded to collaboratively manage shared natural and cultural resources across international boundaries for improved biodiversity conservation, socioeconomic development, and co-operation and integration of the shared resources.

This year, the SADC region celebrated the establishment of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park 20 years ago as well as the transfrontier conservation strides that have been made in the Southern African region in the last two decades.

The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park comprises the Kalahari

Gemsbok National Park established in 1931 in SA and the Gemsbok National Park proclaimed in 1938 in Botswana.

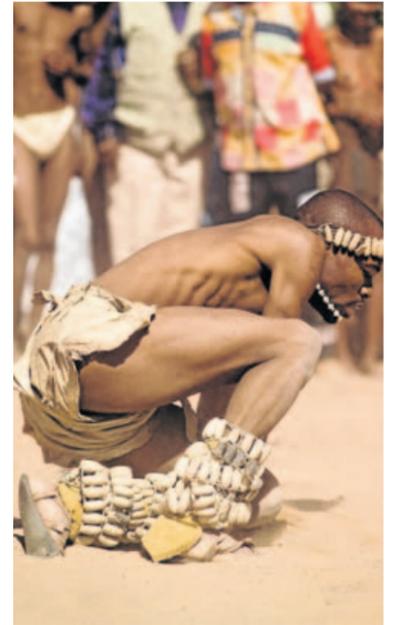
This vast wilderness spanning 35,551km is a protected area where the boundary between the two countries has no physical barriers. This allows for free movement of animals along ancient migration routes that is so necessary for survival in the harsh desert environment.

Kgalagadi is the only transfrontier park that is open in the true sense of the word for tourism movement — as tourists can move freely across the international border within the boundaries of the park.

On April 7 1999, Botswana and



The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park spans 35,551km.



SA signed a historic bilateral agreement to manage their neighbouring national parks as a single ecological unit.

The Kgalagadi were some of the first people to penetrate the northern Kalahari and lived in comparative peace with the Khoe-speaking inhabitants. Although they did not always remain there, the name they gave the area did. Today there are about 100,000 Khoe-speaking people in Southern Africa. They live in small, scattered groups in the urban and rural areas of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, SA, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Animals move along ancient migration routes**

## Rangers put their lives on line to save wildlife

Poaching stats down 53% in first six months of year

By **Zibuse Ndlovu**

To mark World Ranger Day on July 31 2020, the environment, forestry & fisheries minister Barbara Creecy paid tribute to game rangers who dedicate their lives, even during Covid-19, to protecting SA's wildlife and natural heritage.

"Our rangers have remained at the forefront of the battle against poaching, despite the national lockdown, contributing to the decrease in poaching numbers," said Creecy.

"During this time, rangers



Environment, forestry & fisheries minister Barbara Creecy addresses the World Ranger Day celebrations. / SALOME TSOKA

have had to face not only the threats posed by poachers, but they, and their families, have also had to deal with the danger of contracting Covid-19."

According to this year's national rhino poaching statistics released by the department, poaching has fallen by almost 53% in the first six months of 2020, with 166 animals being killed for their horns across the country since the beginning of the year.

During the first six months of 2019, 316 rhino had been poached in SA.

"After a decade of relentlessly implementing various strategies and campaigning against ever-increasing rhino poaching by local poachers recruited by crime syndicates, efforts are paying off, and we have been

able to arrest the escalation of rhino losses," said Creecy.

Between the beginning of the lockdown on March 27 until the end of June, 46 rhino were poached across the country. Of these, 14 rhino were poached during April, 13 in May and 19 in June.

In the Kruger National Park, 88 rhino were poached in the first six months of 2020. As the lockdown restrictions have gradually been lifted, so the rhino poaching incidents have slowly increased.

"The dedication of essential staff, particularly our rangers, during this time is to be commended.

"Your hard work, and the support of your families has not gone unnoticed," said the minister.



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