



IN DOING THIS, WE HAVE ENSURED THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR PROTECTED AREAS...

Environmental budget reprioritised for post Covid-19 recovery

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has been allocated R8.2 billion for the 2020/21 financial year to help in the implementation of our environmental programmes and post-lockdown economic recovery initiatives and programmes.

Delivering the Department's reprioritised budget policy statement for the 2020/21 financial year during a virtual Parliamentary sitting last week, the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Barbara Creecy said the monies allocated for the present financial year will be utilised to create a "nature-positive future" for the country.

During the national lockdown to stem the spread of Covid-19, the

department's four entities – South African National parks (SANParks), South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority (iSimangaliso) and the South African Weather Service (SAWS) – have been unable to realise their usual income and remain self-sustainable.

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

An amount of R961 million has been transferred to SANParks and R39 million to iSimangaliso to cover the loss of income with regards to

gate fees and accommodation.

Also assigned has been the amount of R44 million to the Department's Environmental Programmes to cover personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitising agents for the 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 ensured the future sustainability of our contribution to nature-based tourism and its longer-term employment potential," said the Minister.

To further secure the financial viability of the four entities, the

following decisions were made:

- Capital spending in all four entities has been postponed while alternative funding sources are sought for 29 projects through the Presidential Sustainable Infrastructure Development Programme (SIDS).

- Budgets initially earmarked for capital spending have been shifted to prevent job losses and ensure duties essential for shipping and aviation purposes, and the extensive programmes of scientific research co-ordinated by SANBI, continue.

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"DRIVING FORCE FOR CHANGE" PILOT YOUTH SUPPORT INITIATIVE
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CELEBRATING MANDELA DAY

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20 YEARS OF TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION

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environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
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GOOD GREEN DEEDS



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Continued from Page 1

Minister Creecy said national and provincial parks face revenue shortfalls and tough choices at this time.

To assist, the institutional arrangements for the management of protected areas are being reviewed to find ways to ensure their survival.

In response to the present crisis, the Minister has adopted a two-pronged approach informed by South Africa's current position as the President of 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. It comprises experts from diverse backgrounds to consider innovative approaches to sustainable funding for the conservation sector. The task team will also identify potential funding sources that could be mobilised.

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

Diverse investment sources are being considered, including innovative financing solutions, debt for nature swaps, grants, and impact investments.

The second initiative is being worked on by the department with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) which will find ways to support the post-Covid recovery of the biodiversity and conservation sector and build a nature positive future.

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

"Despite budget cuts and a late start to our expanded public works programme, we still aim to create 16 315 job opportunities this year. "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," she said.

Work is continuing on delineating 11 strategic water sources, the development of a National Joint Wetlands Management Framework, and the clearing of invasive plant species and rehabilitation of 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

2020/21 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



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



R91 million allocated towards the Oceans Economy Strategy.



R961 million allocated to SANParks to cover the loss of income with regards to gate fees and accommodation revenue in all 20 National Parks.



R131 million allocated to Manning and Operation: SA Agulhas II.



R39 million allocated to iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority to cover the loss of gate fees and accommodation revenue.



R348 million set aside for the South African Weather Service: Operational Transfer.



R44 million allocated to Environmental Programmes to cover PPE and sanitising agents for the participants in the Expanded Public Works Programme projects.



R116 million set aside for the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority: Operational Transfer.



R58 million allocated to cover Waste Pickers for PPE and grants.



R1,3 billion allocated to the South African National Parks: Operational Transfer.



R65 million allocated towards the Youth Development Programme.



R358 million allocated to South African National Biodiversity Institute for Operational expenditure: Botanical Gardens.



R82 million allocated to the Green Deeds Programmes.



R102 million allocated to the South African National Biodiversity Institute: Operational Expenditure National Zoological Garden.



R78 million allocated to Greening and Open Space Development.



R320 million set aside for the Tyre Recycling Initiatives.



R123 million set aside for the Working on Waste programme.

Illustration by DEFF COMMS

15-year fishing rights to small-scale fishers in the Western Cape later this year, it will, for the first time, mark the completion of the Small-Scale 15-year Rights Allocation Process to over 10 500 fisher men and women organised into 110 co-operatives nationwide.

Minister Creecy said the rights allocation process 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 revised period for the commencement of the 2020/21 FRAP process for the granting of commercial fishing rights was published on the 26th June 2020 for comments. The FRAP2020/21 Project Plan has been revised to meet the new deliverables and timeframes.

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

2020 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 the impacts of climate change, through its Nationally Determined Contributions.

As the country moved to a "nature-positive future", the department has called for public comment on three more Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ) namely Emalaheni in Mpumalanga, Klerksdorp in North West and

Beaufort West in the Western Cape. This will bring to 11 the number of REDZ in the country.

The declaration of these zones will fast-track the development of renewable energy projects in line with the integrated resource plan.

The Minister said waste recycling and the transition to a circular economy are areas that need to be speedily up-scaled to create jobs, formalise micro-waste enterprises, divert waste from landfills and the environment and improve the overall system of waste management.



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.

R1 MILLION set aside for youth projects



BY ZIBUSE NDLOVU

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries has earmarked R1million to fund youth-led projects tackling the issues of climate change, waste management and biodiversity loss.

This was revealed during a virtual Youth Environment and Sustainability Dialogue hosted by Minister Barbara Creecy on youth day, under the theme: Youth Power: Growing South Africa together during the period of Covid-19.

Minister Creecy said the decision was a response to the call for more support for young innovators and entrepreneurs.

More than 100 youth from across South Africa took part in the virtual dialogue during which 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 the suggestions presented to the Minister, by youth representing 15 organisations, was a green recovery mechanism that is gender-and-youth-responsive.

The youth asked for the country's green recovery strategy to include more rapid introduction of renewable energy, greener public transportation and the upscaling of the circular economy to better manage waste.

In a joint statement, the youth stressed that climate change be addressed with greater urgency by all levels and sectors of government. A concern was also expressed for vulnerable community members including waste recyclers who play a significant role in waste diversion from landfills but work under dangerous and insanitary conditions.

The applications for funding opened on 1 July and will close on 31 August 2020. Adjudication by an independent panel is expected to take place in September and October. In November, grants of R100 000 will be awarded to 10 successful projects.

"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 the Minister.

Supporting documents that are needed:

- Profile of business and business owner/partner or owners/partners.
- Certified copy of identity document of business owner/partner or owners/partners.
- Letter of support from the bank confirming banking details of the business
- Proof of physical address of the business.
- Additional supporting information may be requested during the pre-screening process.
- The adjudication of projects will take place in September and October 2020.
- In November grants of R100 000 will be awarded to 10 successful projects.
- Announcement of the selected projects will be made in November 2020.

Minister Barbara Creecy during an initial engagement with the youth where she encouraged them to actively participate in climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Applications for funding can be submitted in an application form available on the department's website www.environment.gov.za under Projects and Programmes.

Results areas that would qualify for the support:

- Climate Change.
- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity.
- Reduce and/or avoided green house gas (GHG) emissions
- Waste.
- Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems.
- Equitable benefit and sustainable use, conservation, management of species and ecosystems and restoration of degraded ecosystems.

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

- **People:** Youth organisation; 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.

**"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

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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

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.

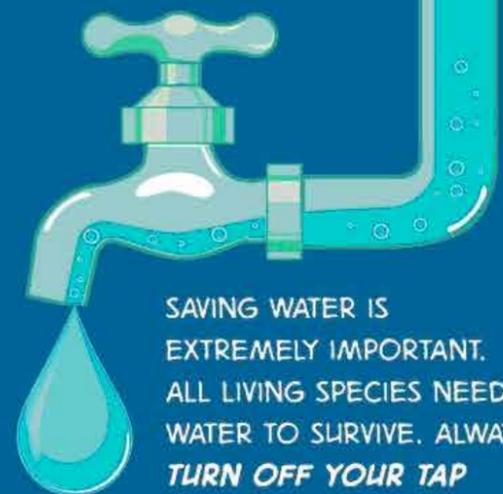


Don't use plastic

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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PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS



GOOD GREEN DEEDS



Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights for an Equal Future

#GenerationEquality



CELEBRATING *Women* IN ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES



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30TH ANNIVERSARY
SINCE THE RELEASE OF
NELSON MANDELA



**STAY
SAFE**

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

While the world comes to terms with the impact of the Coronavirus, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries reached out to the most vulnerable communities in various parts of the country, delivering food parcels and bringing some much-appreciated social relief

Lending a helping hand during the Covid-19 pandemic

FREE STATE

DEPUTY MINISTER DELIVERS FOOD HAMPERS

BY SALOMETSOKA

The Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Makhotso Sotyu together with the Free State MEC for Economic and Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Mr. Makalo Mohale and the South African National Parks (SANParks) led an initiative to deliver food hampers that would benefit 250 households living in the communities near the Golden Gate Highlands National

Park in the Free State recently. This initiative is part of the SANParks response to the coronavirus, which will see a total of R6 million used to purchase food parcels, hygiene products, educational materials and water tanks to support and benefit 7 500 families living near national parks around the country. Many of the beneficiaries from these communities rely on the national parks for their survival, either through jobs or business opportunities.

Speaking to the local Chiefs and Mayors of the identified communities, Deputy Minister Sotyu indicated that this initiative was funded by the SANParks Honorary Rangers and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Deputy Minister Sotyu hands out food parcels during the SanParks Covid-19 food parcel initiative in the Free State. The food parcels included staple foods such as maize meal, cooking oil, tinned products, vegetables as well as soap, a hand sanitiser and reusable masks.



WESTERN CAPE

MINISTER DONATES FOOD PARCELS TO FISHERMEN

BY TSHEGO LETSHWITI

The Department in partnership with FishSA, Oceana, major fishing corporations and the SA Fishing Development fund distributed over 10 000 food parcels to distressed small-scale and interim relief fishers during the lockdown, throughout the country.

Small scale fishing communities in the Western Cape were initially adversely affected in January and February this year during the Covid-19 pandemic in China when restaurants closed, and fishers were unable to sell abalone and West Coast Rock Lobster to their traditional marketers. Consequently, some sections of the fishing industry have felt the impact of the corona virus longer than other sectors of the economy.



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

"The generosity of Fish SA, the SA Fishing Development Fund as well as several large scale commercial fishing companies has made this possible and I want to thank them for taking the initiative to help thousands of families in distress," said Minister Barbara Creecy.



DEFF officials and Oceana representatives' handover food parcels for fishers based in and around Langebaan.

MPUMALANGA

MINISTER CREECY COME TO AID OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



BY MADIMETJA MOGOTLANE

Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy came to the aid of 1 500 vulnerable families bordering Kruger National Park in

both Mpumalanga and Limpopo province by donating food parcels and water tanks.

The donation came as a relief to most of these communities as they rely on the national parks for their survival, either through jobs or

business opportunities.

The 1 500 parcels included a bar of soap, cleaning detergents, masks and groceries. The 80 water tanks have been installed in the most water stressed villages within the local traditional authorities.

Speaking to the beneficiaries, Minister 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 well-being as you rely on tourism for an income. That

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

The minister was supported by SANParks CEO, Mr Fundisile Mketeni and local traditional leaders.



Celebrating Mandela Day with Kogelberg fishing community



A fisherman talks about some of their challenges during the lockdown period.



Minister Barbara Creecy and CEO of WWF South Africa, Dr Morne du Plessis hand over food vouchers and care parcels to fishermen and fisherwomen.

BYTSHOGO LETSHWITI

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy joined the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) South Africa, Spar, BMZ, Government of Flanders, Coca-Cola South Africa and Gift of the Givers in celebrating Mandela Day in Kleinmond.

The Department partnered with these organisations and delivered

food vouchers and care parcels to 94 active members of the Kogelberg fishing community.

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of small-scale fishing communities.

Since the lockdown began, these communities have faced many challenges, from the initial restrictions on being able to fish to the inability to access markets for their catch.

Minister Creecy addressed a few representatives of the Kogelberg fishing community about some of the challenges they have experienced during the lockdown period.

The small-scale fishers along the coast of our country have been hit hard by the economic and social effects 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 94 fishers.

CEO WWF South Africa, Dr Morne du Plessis, mentioned that WWF has a deep and long-standing relationship with the small-scale fishers of the Kogelberg.

"We would like to 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.

Deputy Minister donates 250 eco-desks



Deputy Minister Sotyu and the Mayor of Mantsopa Local Municipality, Cllr Mamsie Tsoene handing over eco-desks and other vital items to Ladybrand Public Primary School.



Principal of Ladybrand Public Primary School, Mr Wetes welcomes garden tools donated by DEFF from the Deputy Minister.



Food parcels donated to the elderly at the Manyatseng Old Age Home.

BYVERONICA MAHLABA

To commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day, the Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Makhotso Sotyu took action by donating 250 eco-desks to Ladybrand Public Primary School and Manyatseng Primary School in Ladybrand, Free State.

Donated desks were sourced from the Department's Eco-Furniture Programme which utilises invasive alien plant biomass to make products needed by government, thereby creating work opportunities for previously unemployed people as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme.

This year's Mandela Day comes as communities across the world are affected by the spread of Covid-19, which has hit every economy, causing new social and economic challenges while threatening to reverse the gains made by the democratic government.

For this reason, Deputy Minister Sotyu also donated school shoes, bags, jojo tanks, garden

tools, sanitisers, face masks and many other items.

Deputy Minister Sotyu also headed to Manyatseng Old Age Home and handed over 50 blankets, groceries, sanitizers, vegetables seeds and garden tools.

She stated that she was in Ladybrand in response to the call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation for all to be active citizens in our communities.

"The learners and elders in our communities are at a high risk of getting the coronavirus and should be assisted to ensure that they live and perform efficiently during these hard times.

"We can do this individually or as part of one of the millions of groups getting together to start initiatives around delivering food parcels, making masks and protective gear, teaching online or making donations towards these efforts," said Deputy Minister Sotyu.

The Covid-19 regulations including screening, social distancing and sanitising were observed during the Deputy Minister's visit to Ladybrand.

Rangers lauded for holding down the fort amid Covid-19

Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy during the 2019 World Ranger Day celebration at the Kruger National Park. Images by Salome Tsoka



BY ZIBUSE NDLOVU

To mark World Ranger Day on 31 July 2020, the Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy has paid tribute to game rangers who have dedicated their lives, even during Covid-19 to protecting South Africa'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. In this time, rangers 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," said the Minister. According to the 2020 National Rhino Poaching Statistics released by the Department, poaching has decreased 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 South Africa. "After a decade of implementing various strategies and campaigning against ever increasing rhino poaching by local poachers recruited and managed by crime syndicates, efforts are paying off, and we have been able to arrest the escalation of rhino losses," said Minister Creecy. Between the start of the

Lockdown on 27 March 2020 until the end of June 2020, 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. World Ranger Day, which is supported by the International Rangers Federation, is held annually to commemorate those rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and to celebrate the commitment of rangers who battle poaching in protected areas on a daily basis.

Celebrating 20 years of transfrontier conservation



The establishment of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) as a means of jointly managing natural resources across political boundaries is one of the greatest conservation success stories within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). TFCAs were mainly founded with the aim of collaboratively managing shared natural and cultural resources across international boundaries for improved biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development, regional co-operation and integration for shared natural and cultural 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 of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park established in 1931, in South Africa and the Gemsbok National Park proclaimed in 1938 in Botswana. This vast wilderness spanning 35 551km² 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 the survival in the harsh desert environment. Kgalagadi is the only Transfrontier Park to date 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 7 April 1999, Botswana and South Africa 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 remained. 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, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

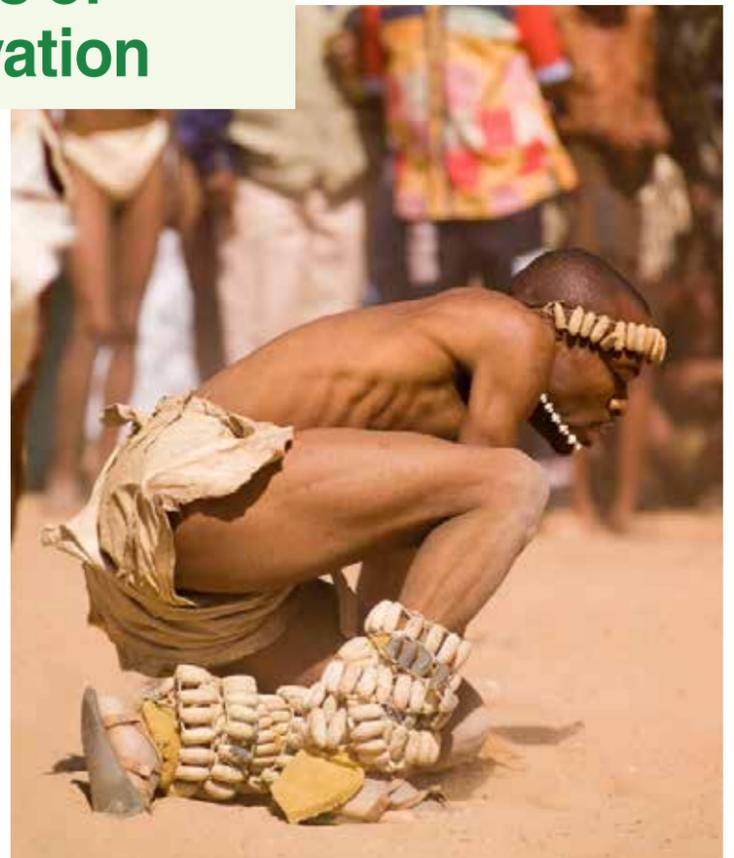


Photo by Jana Powell from Kgalagadi Self-Drive Book