

Environment Quarterly

Ubume bendalo ngekota • Omgewings kwartaalverslag • Tša Tikologo ka Kotara

Opportunities for women
in the environment sector

**iSimangaliso CEO wins
coveted award**

**Tsakane wastepreneurs
recycle for a living**



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2015 environment CALENDAR



JANUARY

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2 February: World Wetlands Day
 22 March: World Water Day
 23 March: World Meteorological Day
 26 March: Earth Hour
 7 April: World Habitat Day
 22 April: Earth Day
 9 May: World Migratory Bird Day
 22 May: International Biodiversity Day
 5 June: World Environment Day
 8 June: World Oceans' Day

17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification
 24 June: Day of the Sea Farer
 11 July: World Population Day
 18 July: Nelson Mandela Day
 1 September: National Harbour Day
 16 September: World Ozone Day
 22 September: World Rhino Day
 7 October: World Habitat Day
 21 November: World Fisheries Day

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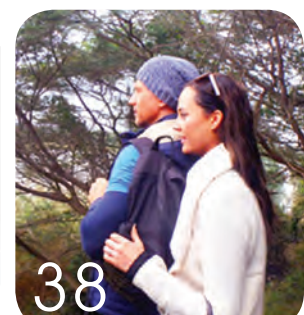
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Guest Editorial - Minister Edna Molewa



Dear Valued Stakeholder,

It is the Department of Environmental Affairs' pleasure to bring you another edition of our official magazine, the Environment Quarterly, in which we have captured the pertinent policy matters and key events in the sector, over the second quarter of this financial year.

Highlights of this edition include an article on strides made to create jobs for women and the disabled through the manufacture of eco-furniture made from invasive species, as part of our Expanded Public Works Programme. This edition also showcases how communities are bringing life to the phrase "Waste is Wealth" through the Green Fund backed Tsakane Wastepreneur Project in Ekurhuleni and the Govan Mbeki Waste Buy-back Centre in Mpumalanga.

The second quarter of the year included the annual commemoration of Women's Month, and Women's Day on the 9th of August, in which our nation paid tribute to over 20 000 fearless women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956, protesting the extension of Pass Laws to women. On the international front, 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of

the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration

and Platform for Action (BPfA). The Platform for Action is the defining and foundational policy framework for the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment

Women's Month is an opportune time to reflect. This year's Women's Month celebration took place at a strategic moment after the Country submitted its report on 20 years of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Internationally, we have also as a country participated at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015 where the Commission on the Status of Women considered and evaluated the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by member states.

As part of our continent's programme, South Africa hosted the AU Summit, the 25th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly between the 7th and 15th of June 2015. The AU theme: "The Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063" permeated the summit and the Heads of States debated on the theme.

At the national level, Women's Month takes place during the 60th Anniversary of the Freedom Charter, immediately after celebrating 60 years of the Women's Charter and twenty years of freedom in 2014 and also as we are preparing for the 60 years anniversary of the 1956 March in 2016.

We also utilise this opportunity to take stock of the successes we have recorded in bridging the gender divide. We further reflect on the challenges we still experience and carve a way forward in

gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of women in key decision making processes.

Emanating from our democratic dispensation, South Africa has made significant strides in this regard. Since 1994, there has been a number of women taking up leadership positions in areas previously dominated by men. One of the success stories of our democracy is that of the representation of women in political and decision-making positions.

In the same breadth, the National Environmental Management Act makes it clear that the vital role of women and youth in environmental management and development must be recognised and their full participation must be promoted.

In August, the Department of Environmental Affairs and its stakeholders held a successful two-day conference to reflect on the sector's gender mainstreaming progress, successes and challenges thus far; and agree on the next decade priorities and opportunities beyond.

Women's issues go beyond Women's Month and the department is committed to seeing the rise of women leadership in the country and continent. Wathintha bafazi!

On that note, we'd like to thank all the contributors who made this edition into what it is, and thank you, our stakeholder, for your continued support.

I thank you.

This edition's editorial is adapted from Minister Molewa's speech delivered at the SA Weather Service MET Mbokodo launch. A full transcript of the speech is available on the DEA website.

Edna Molewa,

Minister of Environmental Affairs

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

NOT ON OUR WATCH

South Africa is the home of the rhino. Our rhino population is estimated at 82% of Africa's rhino. Rhino poachers and syndicate bosses are living amongst us. If you notice suspicious activity in your neighbourhood community or business area call the environmental crimes hotline below.

We must ensure poaching does not rob future generations of our natural heritage. Let's stand up and shout: Not on our watch!

WORLD RHINO DAY
22 September 2015

www.environment.gov.za
Call Centre: 086 111 2468



Play your part and be the voice of the rhino.

ANTI-POACHING HOTLINE
0800 205 005



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Not on our watch!

Save our Rhino



South African
NATIONAL PARKS

iSimangaliso CEO wins coveted award

By Debbie Cooper

The honour of receiving the WWF SA Living Planet 2015 Award was bestowed on the CEO of iSimangaliso Wetland Park at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa Living Planet Conference 2015. Accepting the award at the Maslow Hotel in Johannesburg, Mr Andrew Zaloumis credited the extraordinary World Heritage Site where he works for enabling him to bring together his deep-seated passion for human rights-based development and conservation.

"I would like to thank the WWF for this award. I would like to acknowledge my former 'boss', Valli Moosa, who was there at the start, the Ministry and Department of Environmental Affairs, and many others across all spheres of government who have supported this work. I would also like to thank all the people who have inspired me and worked alongside me to make this a reality, especially the staff at iSimangaliso Authority and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. A special thank you to my family, especially my father who inspired my love for iSimangaliso. This has been and is a team effort," said Mr Zaloumis.

Under Mr Zaloumis' leadership, the 322,000-hectare iSimangaliso Wetland Park, which includes eight percent of South Africa's coastline, was proclaimed and listed as South Africa's first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999. His work has resulted in the economic turnaround of the park with meaningful empowerment and benefits to local communities as well as more sustainable conservation practices.

"The WWF SA Living Planet 2015 Award is our premier award and Andrew is an immensely deserving winner," commented Dr Morné du Plessis, CEO of WWF South Africa.



Above: iSimangaliso CEO Mr Andrew Zaloumis received the WWF SA Living Planet 2015 Award from WWF SA Chairperson, Valli Moosa (left) and Chief Executive Officer: WWF-SA Morné du Plessis (right).

"This award is not given lightly. Last year we did not give an award. This year we determined it should go to Andrew Zaloumis for his boldness, visionary approach and courage to bring an inclusive form of conservation to an area that was once an apartheid operational zone and had one of the lowest human development indices in the country," said Mr Valli Moosa, Chairman of WWF South Africa.

Globally, the WWF Living Planet Award is a symbol of recognition for people who make a meaningful positive contribution to the environment and to lives of people. These people inspire us to make a difference. Over 100 such awards have been made since 2000, recognising a wide variety of initiatives – from the protection of wildlife to international and government leadership. Recent high level recipients have included Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General and the Ministers of Water Affairs of France, Togo and Benin.

Mr Zaloumis' work at the iSimangaliso Wetland Park has been recognised by UNESCO which has adopted it as

a new and pioneering management approach for World Heritage sites. He previously conceptualised and managed the development of the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative, a regional development corridor in South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland.

Mr Zaloumis' roots are in human rights-based development and conservation and he has lived and worked for over 30 years in poverty stricken rural areas with high conservation value. He is keenly interested in indigenous knowledge systems related to the environment and wilderness inspired by his late father, conservation activist and one of the people behind the St Lucia no-mining campaign, Dr Nolly Zaloumis. Mr Zaloumis holds degrees in economics and town and regional planning, is a Fellow of the sixth class of the Africa Leadership Initiative-South Africa and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. He is presently reading for his Masters in Sustainability Leadership at Cambridge University.



About the contributor: Debbie Cooper

Debbie Cooper is the Executive Assistant to the CEO of iSimangaliso. She joined the organisation in 2006. Besides assisting the CEO in administrative tasks, her key responsibilities include writing the organisation's newswatches, press releases, articles for external media, social media posts and photography. Her interests include photography, natural science and conservation, skiing and water sports.

Govan Mbeki Municipality receives R7 million buyback centre

By Nomvuyo Mlotshwa



Project Implementing Agent: Mr Ndumiso Buthelezi presenting buyback centre equipment to the committee of Govan Mbeki Municipality.



Provincial Project Manager: Ms Salome Meso handing over buyback centre asset register to the committee of Govan Mbeki Municipality.

“Waste is no longer viewed as garbage but as a way of generating income,” said the Executive Mayor of Govan Mbeki Municipality, Councillor Lindi Masina.” She was addressing her audience during an event where the municipality was receiving a R7 million buyback centre from the Department of Environmental Affairs. The handover took place at Embalenhle Extension 26 in Mpumalanga

The buyback centre facility will collect recyclables such as cardboard, paper, plastic, cans and glass. The material will be sold to various recycling companies. This initiative will help to alleviate poverty in the community of Embalenhle as beneficiaries will be able to sell their recyclables to the buyback centre and be able to provide for their families.

The 254 square metre buyback centre is constructed under the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP). It is equipped with a glass crusher, a bailing machine, weighing scale and sorting bays. The main structure includes a workshop area, administration offices, a kitchen,

ablution facilities and showers. It is a 6 450 square metre site area fenced with a solid face brick wall and measuring two metres in height. It is also equipped with a security guard house.

The Working on Waste buyback centre project generated 200 job opportunities within the community during its construction. It managed to employ 65 percent women and 60 percent youth. The participants gained various skills and environmental management strategies, as some of their responsibilities involved clearing the project site, digging trenches, picking up litter, mixing concrete, assisting with brick-laying and facilitating door-to-door educational campaigns within the community.

Project participants also received training in Project Induction, HIV/AIDS, Basic Financial Management, Principles of Work Place Behaviour, Occupational Health and Safety and First Aid.

Commending this project, Mr Simphiwe Buthelezi said the buyback centre will provide an opportunity to exchange waste for cash and encourage young people to become self-employed.

“It will take young people off the streets and keep them busy collecting recyclable waste,” he said.

Mr Siphwe Makhubu, a family man, said the training he received as well as the income he received from the project contributed greatly to his family and his personal development and that he will use the experience to look for other employment opportunities.

Councillor Masina appealed to the community to receive the buyback centre in good spirit and urged them to take good care of it and protect it. She continued saying that through the door-to-door campaign facilitated by the project participants about the importance and correct usage of the buyback centre, as well as other better waste management techniques like sorting waste at the source, improvement is already showing with minimised littering and illegal dumping in the area.

The community is ready to sell their waste so they can gain economically and improve their lifestyles. Councillor Masina is adamant the facility will make Embalenhle to become the cleanest town in the region.



About the contributor: Nomvuyo Mlotshwa

Nomvuyo Mlotshwa is an Assistant Director: Programme Publicity and Liaison within the Chief Directorate: Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes at the Department of Environmental Affairs. She markets and promotes the programme brand internally and externally.

Minister urges South Africans to sustain natural resources

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa being interviewed by SABC 2 Morning Live's Sam Marshall.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa has urged fellow South Africans to use natural resources in a sustainable manner and to safeguard them for current and future generations. The Minister was speaking during the celebrations for World Environment Day (WED) held at Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley on 6 June 2015.

The celebrations focused on addressing and heightening awareness on global environmental issues under the theme: **Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care.** Minister Molewa highlighted that

everyday we witness the effects of climate change on lives and livelihoods.

"We need now, more than ever to re-think our relationship with the planet. This means implementing an effective response to climate change because if we do not do that, our developmental dreams for South Africa and the promise of a better life for all, will go unrealised," said Minister Molewa.

A National Green Economy Strategy is in place to ensure that South Africa is well on its way towards becoming cleaner and greener. The eight pillars of this strategy are:

- Green buildings and the built environment;
- sustainable transport and infrastructure;
- clean energy and energy efficiency;
- natural resource conservation and management;
- sustainable waste management
- water management;
- sustainable consumption and production; and,
- agricultural food production and forestry.



About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

Veronica Mahlaba is the Senior Communication Officer: Publications at the national Department of Environmental Affairs, serving under the Communications Chief Directorate. Ms Mahlaba has experience as a Lecturer in the Media Studies Department at a private college. She has worked as writer for a metropolitan municipality and she is a keen photographer.



Above: Venus Primary School won the school's competition where learners had to present on issues that affect the environment.

Minister Molewa further explained that if we want an economically sustainable future, we need to change the way in which we do things. "There may be seven billion of us, but only one planet. It is up to us, to you to make this commitment which I hope all of you will do today."

Also present at the celebrations was Head of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in South Africa, Ms Cecelia Njenga who gave an address on the extent in which our simple activities can actually save the Earth on a larger scale.

Ms Njenga advised people to consume natural resources in a sharing and sparing manner, with simple domestic activities such as saving

water in our day-to-day activities like cooking, brushing our teeth and so on.

"Whether as a child or an adult, you must know that you have an impact on the environment hence we must live responsibly. It is our personal choices that shape our surroundings, so every time you pollute or waste, it is a choice that you make. Mother Earth needs you to become a steward for change," said Ms Njenga.

As part of WED and to commemorate Youth Month, entities belonging to the DEA such as South African National Parks, South African Weather Service and the South African National Biodiversity Institute came on board for WED to showcase careers

and opportunities found in the environmental sector. The Minister highlighted that the department came to sow the seeds that will one day germinate and grow the next generation of environmental champions in the Northern Cape.

"We want to develop the next generation of scientists, botanists and future Ministers of Environmental Affairs from among you here," she said.

School learners from around Kimberley participated in the day by making presentations to fellow community members that attended the celebrations regarding the various causes and effects climate change has socially and economically.



Above: Minister Molweta with the Northern Cape provincial leadership to celebrate WED.

DEA takes the lead in job creation

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: The Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa, Ms Edna Molewa and Mills Manager at the Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture Factory, Ms Boitumelo Rampeng.

Minister of Environmental Affairs Mrs Edna Molewa has intensified the department's stance to create more jobs for the youth through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The Minister visited the Eco-Furniture Factory in Ga-Rankuwa on 26 June 2015 and spoke to the workers there about the number of job opportunities the department aims to create.

"In my budget speech for the 2015/16 financial year, I reported to Parliament that we are on course towards our commitment to create 5 million job opportunities. In the 2014/2015 financial year, 69158 work opportunities were created through our EPWP Environmental

Programmes. One such project is the Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture Factory that we launched last year jointly with the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa," said Minister Molewa.

The Eco-Furniture Programme was started 10 years ago as an eco-coffin programme with the support of the Department of Education. So far the project has created 226 full time jobs for previously unemployed youth. The Ga-Rankuwa Eco-furniture factory is one of the many ways in which the spread of invasive species can be reduced and jobs can be created in marginalised communities amongst poor people.

"We expect to create over 3 000 jobs for the youth through the programme. The 226 full-time jobs opportunities that have been created were mainly from the City of Tshwane's Tshepo 10000 programme. The programme is expected to create 900 EPWP jobs opportunities in Ga-Rankuwa once the factory is fully operational.

"The Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture Factory is also a credit to the City of Tshwane. It has developed an industry around the clearing of invasive biomass, converting trees into usable material and manufacturing an assortment of furniture products," the Minister said. She also promised that the programme would assist schools that lack infrastructural resources



About the contributor: Madimetja Mogotlane

Madimetja Mogotlane is a Senior Communications Officer, Internal Communications and Events in the Chief Directorate: Communications at the Department of Environmental Affairs. Mr Mogotlane is a former intern in Media Liaison at the Department and has journalistic experience.



Above: Workers at the Eco-Furniture Factory in Ga-Rankuwa industrial plant.

to execute their daily teaching operations.

"The factory is currently capacitated to produce 200 school desks per day. This will be geared up to 400 double-combination desks per day. In addition, we are looking at the manufacture of other products such as coffins, garden benches, chess tables, walking sticks and cement-fibre boards.

"The expansion of the Eco-Furniture programme is being considered and may include furniture that Government may use for its own purposes. The expansion is going to go to building materials.

"One of the most exciting opportunities is the potential of converting shacks into long-term green houses using cement-fibre board that has remarkable properties

for fire-resistance, thermal comfort, security, noise abatement and other benefits for our poor," said the Minister.

Councillor Ramokgopa said the programme is another initiative by the city to combat unemployment.

"As the City of Tshwane, we are also delighted to see the progress of this project. As you meet current demands, there will be additional demands coming and we will be able to attract other participants to this project and build a critical mass of the youth who are able to resolve unemployment challenges in this country.

"Few people know about this project, except the testimony of your work that is seen at different schools that you have assisted. Through this project I have committed to work together with the Department of Environmental

Affairs to ensure that we build 10 houses using this kind of material," said Councillor Ramokgopa.

One of the project beneficiaries, Ms Bontle Moatli from the Tshepo 10 000 programme thanked the Department of Environmental Affairs for being a leader in job creation.

"I would like to thank the Department of Environmental Affairs for being very central in ensuring that young South Africans get employed through EPIP. As workers, we are determined to strive for the success of this project. I am also delighted about the progress we have achieved so far," she said.

Ms Moatli also said she was grateful for how the launch of the project changed her life since joining the factory last year.

"I had been applying for different jobs with many companies without any luck, so the establishment of the Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture Factory came at the right time and changed my life for the better. It has been a great working experience being part of this project," she added.

Minister Molewa completed her visit at the factory with a walk about accompanied by Councillor Ramokgopa and other government officials.

"The factory is capacitated to produce 200 school desks per day."



Above: Minister Edna Molewa and Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa look on as a worker at the Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture Factory demonstrates how the timber carving machine works.



Above: Minister Edna Molewa and Ms Boitumelo Rampeng plays chess on top an eco-table made from the wood of invasive plants.

Minister hands over trailers to fight rhino poaching

By Zibuse Ndlovu and Kennedy Msibi



The trailers were handed over to Ms Lize McCourt, the Chief Operating Officer of SANParks, the Acting Chief Director of Environmental Affairs in Mpumalanga, Dr Almerie de Lange on behalf of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism in Limpopo, Mr Charles Sekoati, and Ms Manketsi Tlhape, MEC for Rural, Environmental and Agricultural Development on behalf of the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism.

In a move to bolster the fight against rhino poaching, Environmental Affairs Minister, Ms Edna Molewa handed over four 4X4 forensic trailers on 29 May 2015 in Pretoria.

The trailers were handed over to South African National Parks (SANParks), North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, the Limpopo Department of Environment and Tourism, and Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency and will assist the Department to intensify its fight against rhino poaching.

Speaking at the handover, Minister Molewa said the forensic trailers will provide improved investigative capacity and crime scene management in respect to rhino poaching related cases.

"We have been very lucky to receive the forensic trailers. They will assist when urgent forensic sample results are required for bail hearings involving suspected poachers. It is vital the samples are processed to ensure that the evidence in question is not only acceptable, but delivered within a specified time frame for court purposes," said Minister Molewa. The four forensic mobile units will be utilised by the four Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMI) institutions that have been prioritised due to the large volume of biodiversity rhino crime scenes.

"Correctly collected and handled samples meet chain of custody requirements critical for successful prosecution. This type of evidence can assist in placing suspects at poaching crime scenes, identify-

ing weapons used, and linking horns seized with rhino poached," she said.

The Department of Environmental Affairs purchased the trailers through funding provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Rhino Programme.

In addition to the funding from UNEP, GEF Rhino Programme has also been utilised to provide advanced crime scene management training in November 2014. Further courses are scheduled for later in the year. The provision of advanced crime scene management training is also one of the key areas highlighted in the Integrated Strategic Management of Rhinoceros.



About the contributor: Kennedy Msibi

Kennedy Msibi is public relations management graduate from Vaal University of Technology (VUT). Mr Msibi has served as a general supervisor for the Extra School Support Programme of the Extended Public Works Programme. He is currently an intern at the Department of Environmental Affairs in the Chief Directorate: Corporate Communications under the sub-directorate: Branding Corporate Image and Exhibition

Furthermore, the training initiatives are currently being used to develop crime scene filming material to serve as visual supplementary training material for rhino crime scene investigators.

The Head of Environmental Crime Investigation at SANParks, Mr Kobus de Wet said the trailers will help investigators to do their work efficiently.

"The trailers will be of big help to us, especially with the rhino war in Kruger National Parks. We need equipment like this to process the evidence. These trailers have everything we use on a crime scene," said Mr de Wet.

Limpopo Head of Compliance and Enforcement, Mr Riaan de Jager welcomed the receipt of the forensic

"We need equipment like this to process the evidence. These trailers have everything we use on a crime scene."

trailer by the provincial environmental department saying it will assist greatly with crime scene management. "We really appreciate these forensic trailers, they will help us in our fight against rhino crime," said Mr de Jager.

The trailers have been equipped with, amongst others:

- Generators;
- mobile fridges in which to store genetic material;
- metal detectors;
- electronic calipers; and,
- scales and knife sharpeners.



Above: Assistant Director: EMI Capacity Development, Ms Boitumelo Mphelo, Biodiversity Officer, Mr Paul Hlahasoane (North West), Environmental Services Chief Director, Mr Mafu Nkosi (North West Province), and Director for Enforcement and Compliance Support, Mr Mark Jardine.



Above: The trailers will assist when urgent forensic sample results are required for bail hearings involving suspected poachers.



Above: Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson and Minister Molewa with the Environmental Management Inspectorate team.



Above: Limpopo Head of Compliance and Enforcement, Mr Riaan de Jager with SANParks Head of Environmental Crime Investigation, Mr Kobus de Wet.

Minister encourages learners to do environmental studies

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: Learners who were part of Take a Girl Child to Work initiative show their certificates of attendance at Environment House in Pretoria.



Above: Minister Molewa hugs Ms Nosivuyile Mayiya, a Grade 12 learner from Masiphumelele Secondary School, during the Take a Girl Child to Work initiative in Cape Town.
Photo by Sivuyile Ngaba

Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa has encouraged female learners from different schools in Gauteng and Cape town to venture into environmental studies in order to contribute positively to the environment sector. Minister Molewa was briefing learners at Environment House in Pretoria on 29 May 2015 during the Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work initiative.

"We wish to see you in future contributing positively in the environment sector. Take your studies seriously and know that government is there to assist you with whatever you may need to pursue your studies," Minister Molewa said.

The Take a Girl Child to Work Day was organised by the Sub-Directorate: Employee Health and Wellness. 19 female learners from different schools in Gauteng visited the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to experience the various career opportunities available to them.

In DEA's Cape Town's offices, four learners also had an opportunity to feel the working environment. As part of the initiative, learners were also taken to

offices of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) where they were taught about biodiversity and conservation.

Mr Goitseone Lecogo from LG Holele Secondary School in Ga-Rankuwa, Pretoria, said the day was unforgettable and that it would influence her career choice.

"It was fun learning how different plants can be mixed to heal illnesses and diseases. I did not know about

"Learners had an opportunity to feel the working environment."

careers in the environment before but this initiative has influenced my desire to pursue environmental studies after matric. It was also adventurous to be taken on a walk around at SANBI to learn more about biodiversity. Also, to be in the same boardroom with the Minister and the MECs made me realise how tough it is to serve in government," she said. The Deputy Director: Transformation and Special Projects, Ms Tiny

Mdlalose urged the learners to utilise the opportunity given to them to learn as much as possible about the environment sector.

"It is advisable to consider studying and pursuing careers in this sector as it has many of the rare skills that are in demand in the economy. The Department has a number of interesting career options and can open doors for you in its Entities and the private sector. You can help save the planet for future generations by simply making career choices in the environment sector," said Ms Mdlalose.

At the end of the session, all learners were rewarded with certificates of attendance. The Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work Day is targeted at Grade 10 to 12 South African female learners and gives them the opportunity to visit a place of work and experience the various career opportunities available to them. Since its first launch in 2003, more than 2 400 companies and government departments have participated in the Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work Day campaign.

DEA set to develop an Environment Sector Gender Strategy

By Veronica Mahlaba



Stakeholders that attended the Environment Sector Gender Strategy at Birchwood Hotel, Gauteng.

As a leader in the environment sector, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has initiated an extensive stakeholder engagement process towards the development of the first sector-based Gender Strategy. DEA led by the Chief Directorate: Environmental Sector Coordination facilitated discussions and solicited inputs from various stakeholders to guide the compilation of the Environment Sector Strategy 2015 – 2020 during a workshop held on 28 July 2015 at the Birchwood Hotel, Gauteng.

Chief Director: Environmental Sector Coordination, Ms Keleabetswe Tlouane said DEA has been tasked by MINTEC to put together the Environment Sector Gender Strategy. "Our aim is to achieve women empowerment and gender equality in the sector. The Environment Sector is a dynamic cross-cutting field and we do not want this to be a programme for government only or for a particular group of women hence participation at the workshop was extended to stakeholders outside the public sector. We also want to establish potential partnerships that can help us implement the

objectives set out in the framework document for the Strategy," said Ms Tlouane.

The Strategy will address concepts that consolidate and add value primarily to women in the various environmental programmes within the sector but may also be extended to include the efforts of other sector partners. Through the development of an implementation plan, it is envisaged that the Strategy will also propose key deliverables, timelines, financial implications and responsibilities for implementation of the Strategy.

Assistant Director: Planning and Coordination, Ms Lindiwe Khumalo presented on the Sector Gender Framework, which outlines critical areas that were required to ensure the facilitation and achievement of the Sector objectives in accordance with key government legislation and international best practice. She indicated that a Literature Review study reflecting interventions and challenges identified in order to address, improve and promote gender mainstreaming within the environment sector was conducted. She also presented the Sector

Gender Diagnostic Overview Report that outlined key issues for consideration towards the development of the Sector Gender Strategy that will implement the sector gender imperatives outlined in the Framework document thereby giving effect to the constitutional mandate.

Thereafter, Director: Intergovernmental Cooperation Planning and Coordination, Ms Samukelisiwe Mncube presented the proposed structure for the Strategy and revealed the proposed thematic areas that will form the crux of the document.

Attending the workshop was Ms Magogodi Mangope from Women in Environment Programme in North West, a DEA flagship programme across all provinces. She said it was her first time attending such a workshop.

"I hope the strategy that is being developed will help and we will see progress when it comes to women participation in the environment sector. From such workshops we need to see tangible results and not just promises," Ms Mangope said.

Minister joins young women to discuss climate change issues

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

A delegation of over 200 young women from across Gauteng joined Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa on 20 June 2015 at Environment House in Pretoria to discuss climate change issues. Addressing the energetic crowd, the Minister said,

"Women and children are the most vulnerable to effects of climate change as they constitute majority of the world's poor however I stand here knowing that women are the ones most capable to contribute.

"We need more youth moving into environmentally related fields to combat the challenges facing the country," she said.

Minister Molewa engaged the youth on environmental issues with a focus on climate change and sustainability and how the youth can play a role in the fight against environmental degradation. Deputy Director: Youth Environmental Services (YES) Ms Nomfundiso Giqwa, spoke to the young women about the programme run by the branch, Environmental Programmes and how through this programme, young people are able to work in the environmental sector.

"YES involves unemployed young people in activities that provide environmental service for the benefit of the community whilst providing them with opportunities for personal development, accredited training and exit opportunities," she said.

Environmental service involves bringing about solutions to environmental problems inclusive but not limited to erosion, waste, deforestation, biodiversity management, education and awareness. Environmental services should meet a community's needs,



Above: Minister Molewa poses for a picture after her engagement with the young women from Gauteng, at Environment House in Pretoria.

fit within departmental objectives, and add value to the beneficiaries' development whilst providing employment, further training or self-employment by opening up business ventures as exit opportunities from the programme.

The Minister highlighted measures that DEA is taking to ensure that environmental education is taught in schools to encourage learners to pursue careers in Environmental Sciences.

One of these measures is Sector Education and Training's Fundisa for Change programme. The school based environmental education programme was implemented in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education. 150 educators from KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, Limpopo and North-West benefitted from the accredited training through Fundisa for Change.

Education and Training Deputy Director: Mr Pandelani Dzhugudzha said Fundisa for change is there as a support structure for educators to

put flesh on the skeletal curriculum that is in the curriculum and to equip educators with content for environment in the curriculum.

One of the learners present also raised concern over the lack of information that is appealing to youth. She also encouraged the department to get more involved in social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Those present were delighted to hear that DEA has started increasing its networking platforms with an Instagram account: [environmentza](#) and a Facebook account: "Department of Environmental Affairs".

Minister also expressed interest in reaching out to more youths and communities by utilising popular celebrities and television shows to teach a bigger audience about climate change.

"We will work with the relevant chief directorates and stakeholders to ensure that more youth get access to information on the environment," she said.



About the contributor: Gaopalelwe Moroane

Gaopalelwe Moroane is a Senior Communication Officer under the sub-directorate, Editorial Services in the Department of Environmental Affairs. Prior to working for DEA she worked for short periods with the Pretoria News, Grahamstown's local paper *Grocott's Mail* as well as writing reviews for the National Arts Festival publication, *Cue Newspaper*.

Minister Molewa in North West



Minister Molewa handing over the Environment Outlook Executive Summary to North West MEC of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development, Ms Manketsi Tlhape with them is the Acting Mayor of Moretele Local Municipality, Councillor Mangena and Chief Nawa. (Picture by: Veronica Mahlaba)

World Ranger Day



Marakele Parks Manager, Mr Johan Taljaard leads Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, Department of Environmental Affairs' Director General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba and South African National Parks CEO, Mr Fundisile Mketeni towards the parade by the rangers at this year's Ranger Day celebrations held in Marakele National Park on 1 August 2015. (Picture by: Abraham Shoba)

National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) Workshop



The Department of Environmental Affairs, along with stakeholders such as the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and other relevant stakeholders united on the 17th of July, at the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) workshop, hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs at the Environment House in Pretoria, to address the impending issue of climate change. Amongst the stakeholders from various organisations throughout South Africa, were Mr Filipe Lucio, Dr Simon Mason and Dr Stefan Rösner, who each shared their knowledge on components included in the Global Framework for Climate Services respectively. (Picture by: Marissa Burger).

Ga-Segonyana



The Deputy Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs Ms Barbara Thomson plants a karee tree at Ga-Segonyana as part of a project set to create 426 jobs for local. (Picture by: Madimetja Mogotlane)

USA Oceans Special Envoy



DDG for Oceans and Coasts branch, Dr Monde Mayekiso receives a token of appreciation from Oregon State University Professor and Advisor in Marine Studies, Dr Jane Lubchenco, who was leading the President Barack Obama's Oceans Special Envoy after a meeting with the Department. (Picture by: Madimetja Mogotlane)

Africa consolidates position ahead of UN desertification conference

By Lavinia Engelbrecht



Above: Speaking on Minister Molewa's behalf, Executive Mayor of the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality Cllr Kgosientso Ramokgopa indicated desertification is strongly linked to poverty and migration, which can hamper Africa's developmental goals



From Left: Mr Boubacar Cisse from UNCCD Secretariat, Ms Thizwilondi Rambau the Secretary at the meeting and Mr Kharika the President at the meeting.

South Africa hosted delegates from 51 out of 54 African states, to consolidate the African position on issues of desertification, land degradation and the impacts of climate change, on 31 August to 04 September. The meeting in the capital brought together the African Focal Points to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), ahead of the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (CoP 12) to be held in Ankara, Turkey in October this year. In addition, the gathering in Tshwane was expected to develop coordination mechanisms and agree on task divisions among those African Focal Points who will lead and provide support to the regional group in the negotiations of different agenda items.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of Minister of Environmental

Affairs Edna Molewa, Executive Mayor of the Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality Cllr Kgosientso Ramokgopa indicated that Africa's desertification is strongly linked to poverty, migration and food security. These are issues which have the potential to negatively impact on South Africa and the continent's developmental goals and agenda.

Cllr Ramokgopa indicated the 12th CoP would have to devise a strategy on the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets into the UNCCD implementation. "This is very critical as global financial flows will now focus on the SDGs. It is therefore important that we position ourselves correctly to benefit from resources available," stated the Mayor. In addition, he informed the meeting that the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on Land Degradation Neutrality

(LDN) would have to be aligned with the implementation of the SDGs moving forward.

The Focal Points and delegates were also advised that CoP12 in Ankara would also consider the implication of the post 2015 development framework and the SDGs for the delivery of the UNCCD science and policy efforts, including the review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and its recommendations to the COP. "As we are all aware, the work of the CST provides us with the technical strategies and methodologies to engage as we fight Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD)," stated Cllr Ramokgopa, adding "Therefore, it is important that as we move beyond 2015 with our global agenda, programmes of work for CST should be recognised and supported."



About the contributor: Lavinia Engelbrecht

Lavinia Engelbrecht is the Director: Corporate Communication, and Editor-in-Chief of Environment Quarterly. Ms Engelbrecht is a seasoned government communicator, having served as writer, Chief Sub Editor and Communication Manager for national government departments and a parastatal. Ms Engelbrecht began her career in the mainstream media as reporter, covering courts and crime, finances and diplomatic news amongst others.

Further to the above the Secretariat has made a proposal under the subject on, "additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the CoP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention". When the proposal was presented during the 13th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 13) parties were not ready to discuss it, as it is a sensitive issue touching on the institutionalised Convention procedures. The CoP12 will thus be expected to deliberate on this proposal, with hopes of a resolution being taken.

Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, and President of UNCCD COP11 Hon Pohamba Shifeta advised the meeting that COP12 takes place at a critical time, during which the global community must take serious decisions in order to ensure the effective implementation of the convention. "As I am sure all of us in this room are aware, desertification, land degradation and drought are issues of global importance, which have serious negative implications on livelihoods, biodiversity, economic growth and sustainable development across the world," Minister Shifeta said.

"Of course, Africa is particularly vulnerable with about 70% of the African population being directly dependent on the environment for its livelihood and around 73% of

agricultural land thought to be in a degraded state," stated Minister Shifeta, adding that these issues should however, not only be confined to Africa. The Namibian Minister stated that with the adoption of the UNCCD Global Strategy in 2008, the "Future We Want" outcome document in Rio in 2012 and the strong decisions taken at COP11 in Windhoek, there is now political momentum to strengthen the mandate of the UNCCD in reversing land degradation globally and securing a land degradation neutral world.

Minister Shifeta assured the technical experts and negotiators, of the unwavering support of their political leaders. "Recent decisions from the African Union Summits in 2013 and 2014 and the 15th session of the African Ministerial Conference of the Environment (AMCEN) earlier in 2015 are proof of this," stated the Minister.

Amongst others the decisions from AMCEN called for:

The placement of desertification, land degradation, drought and land degradation neutrality at the center of the post-2015 development agenda;

the review and strengthening of our Regional Coordination mechanism and strengthening of African leadership in UNCCD processes; and

The review and alignment of our Regional Action Programmes with the UNCCD Global Strategy.

Looking ahead to UNCCD CoP12

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will host its Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) in Ankara, Turkey, from 12 October to 23 October 2015. The conference will take place at the Congressium Ankara-ATO International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Decision-makers from 195 member states will attend COP12 to discuss solutions to issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD).

Land rehabilitation is one of the pathways to sustainable development. By rehabilitating degraded land, many of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) would be more attainable. Land that is properly nurtured fosters food and water security and reverses negative climate change impacts, such as forced migration, by cultivating opportunities for growth and ensuring stability. To invest in the land is to invest in sustainable livelihoods, therefore the goal of COP12 is to provide practical steps to make the rehabilitation of degrading land areas a reality. The Parties are also expected to identify ways to contribute to the success of the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris.



Above: South African dancers entertained the delegates at the gala dinner, providing local flair to the event.



Above: Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, and President of UNCCD COP11 Hon Pohamba Shifeta hands over a token of appreciation to DEA Acting DDG of Biodiversity & Conservation Ms Skumsa Mancotywa.

Deputy Minister leads World Oceans Day

By Muano Liphadzi



Above: Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson addresses the audience on World Oceans Day

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson led the celebrations for World Oceans Day on 08 June 2015 in Port Elizabeth at the EastCape Training Centre.

In her speech, Deputy Minister Thomson said, "The use of various marine resources in our ocean space has increased over time and there still remains significant potential to unlock further economic development opportunities in our country's oceans space.

"We thus need to develop a proactive approach to understanding our oceans capacity and role to ensure socio-economic emancipation while protecting this vast and fragile

environment. We aspire to create partnerships while strengthening existing ones to develop means and ways to share the wealth of the ocean for the benefit of all South Africans," she said.

The department continues in its efforts to protect and maintain marine biodiversity. Aspects of climate change, ocean acidification, pollution, unsustainable coastal area development and unwanted impacts from resource extraction, are some of the issues that need to be addressed for human well-being and environmental prosperity.

World Oceans Day (WOD) was officially recognised by the United Nations (UN) in 2008 and is also observed by all UN member states, which includes South Africa. The WOD theme for 2015 and 2016 as determined by the United Nations is **Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet: Enabling Sustainable Ocean Economy Development.**

The department has linked this theme with the initiatives that South Africa is embarking on in the ocean environment. WOD aims to raise awareness on the role of the oceans and the importance of conserving and protecting our marine environment.

South Africans, including those in the Living Standard Measurement (LSM) 1-10 need to know that Oceans are

the lifeblood of planet Earth and humankind. Oceans are believed to cover over 70% of the Earth's surface, carry out about 50% of global primary production and support the greatest biodiversity on the planet. They regulate the Earth system, meaning that they play a role in the global carbon cycle and have an impact on climate change.

They provide social and economic goods and services. Through recreation, people can enjoy and relax on the beach. This also gives growth to the tourism industry at large and therefore provides job opportunities for the citizens of the country.

Oceans serve as a source of food, of which 10% of human protein intake comes from. Ocean-based businesses contribute to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and also attracts foreign investors.

The Department of Environmental Affairs in collaboration with Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality is determined to carry on with World Oceans Day celebrations in order to sensitise ordinary South Africans to the importance of marine biodiversity and the economic potential of our oceans. Citizens are encouraged to keep away from littering as most of the litter from the surface ends up in our oceans and can potentially harm the precious species that live there.

In 2014, DEA launched the National Environmental Management of the Oceans (NEMO) to ensure that the oceans are well protected, conserved and continuously maintained.



About the contributor: Muano Liphadzi

Muano Liphadzi is an intern in the Internal and External Communications Directorate, Cape Town. He holds a degree in BA (Communication Science) : Corporate and Marketing Communications from The University of Free State.

Communities urged to conserve biodiversity

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: The Deputy Minister, Barbara Thomson has used the International Biodiversity Day to reflect on the importance of biodiversity and the responsibility of communities to support government in its conservation efforts.



Above: The Deputy Minister also had a time to view the Baynespruit River where people maintain the stream by removing litter before addressing residents about the International Biodiversity Day celebration.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson has acknowledged Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg for being the environment hub of the country. Deputy Minister was addressing the community of Msunduzi during the International Day for Biological Biodiversity on 22 May 2015. This year's theme is **Biodiversity for Sustainable Development**

"It is important for us to use this day to reflect on the importance of our biodiversity and the responsibility of communities to support government in its conservation efforts.

"We chose your district for today's celebrations because it is the chosen area for several biodiversity and local government initiatives, due to its rich and complex natural environment with valuable, life-sustaining resources. One of these initiatives is the Umgeni Ecological Infrastructure Partnership that was established in an effort to solve water security

"As national government we will continue to support municipalities such as Msunduzi"

issues and to promote a culture of sustainable development," she said.

The Deputy Minister also promised to support the municipality in its pursuit to working with national government.

"As national government we will continue to support municipalities such as Msunduzi in their pursuit to create sustainable living environments for local communities by exploring ways to enhance the partnership between local municipalities and national government. This is because we understand that local government should take a leading role in biodiversity conservation as the level of government closest to the people. To this effect we will be launching the New Environmental Sector Local

Government Support Strategy. This strategy provides a platform for a more coordinated and structured mechanism to deal with sustainable environmental management in local government," she said.

Dr Sean O'donoghue from eThekweni Municipality said the municipality is committed to working with communities to create awareness about biodiversity to enhance the partnership between local municipalities and national government.

"Our partnership with Umgeni infrastructure partnership includes working with communities to create awareness about the importance of biodiversity. We go out to communities and teach them how biodiversity benefits us and how we can benefit biodiversity. Our ecological infrastructures also include looking after our wetlands, grasslands and forests. All these natural ecosystems provide us with environment services," he said.

LET'S LEARN MORE ABOUT RHINOS



FACT BOX



FUN FACTS ABOUT RHINO

- THERE ARE FIVE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF RHINOCEROS.**
Three are from southern Asia and two are from Africa. They are the black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros, Indian rhinoceros, Javan rhinoceros and Sumatran rhinoceros.
- THE NAME RHINOCEROS MEANS 'NOSE HORN' AND IS OFTEN SHORTENED TO RHINO.**
It comes from the Greek words rhino (nose) and ceros (horn).
- DESPITE THEIR NAMES, WHITE AND BLACK RHINOS ARE GREY.**
The white rhino's name is taken from the Afrikaans word "wyd", which means "wide" and describes its mouth. Early English settlers in South Africa misinterpreted the "wyd" for "white". Black rhinos probably got their name from the dark wet mud in their wallows that made them appear black in colour. Both species are essentially grey in colour.
- WHITE RHINOS ARE THE SECOND LARGEST LAND MAMMAL.**
The white rhino is the largest rhino species and can weigh over 3 500kg. It is the largest land mammal after the elephant. Elephants can grow to be 7 000kg.
- AFRICAN RHINOS ARE MOBILE SPAZA SHOPS FOR OXPECKERS.**
The oxpecker eats ticks and other insects that it finds on the rhino, and creates a commotion when it senses danger. It pays the rhino for the food, by being its security alarm.
- A GROUP OF RHINOCEROS IS CALLED A "HERD" OR A "CRASH".**
- RHINOCEROS HAVE THICK, SENSITIVE SKIN.**
Rhino skin may be thick, but it can be quite sensitive to sunburns and insect bites which is why they like wallow so much – when the mud dries it acts as protection from the sunburns and insects.
- RHINOCEROS HORNS ARE MADE FROM A PROTEIN CALLED KERATIN, THE SAME SUBSTANCE AS OUR FINGERNAILS AND HAIR.**
The rhino's horn is not bone and is not attached to its skull; it is also not hollow like elephant tusks. It is actually a compacted mass of hairs that continues to grow throughout the animal's lifetime, just like our own hair and nails.
- SOME RHINOS USE THEIR TEETH – NOT THEIR HORNS – FOR DEFENCE.**
When a greater one-horned rhino is threatened it slashes and gouges with its long, sharp incisors and canine teeth of its lower jaw. Despite their scary looks, rhinos are plant eaters. They have to eat a lot to fill their large bodies. The black rhino has a hooked lip which allows it to feed on trees and shrubs. The white rhino has a long, flat upper lip perfect for grazing on grasses. The upper lips of the three Asian rhino species allow these animals to browse vegetation in tropical forest habitats.
- RHINOS HAVE POOR EYESIGHT, BUT VERY WELL-DEVELOPED SENSES OF SMELL AND HEARING.**
A rhino has difficulty detecting someone standing only a hundred feet away if the person stands still. However, if the person makes the faintest sound or the rhino is able to smell the person, it will easily detect him, even at much greater distances. The olfactory portion – which deals with smells – is the largest area of the rhino's brain.
- RHINOS COMMUNICATE BY DOING A POOI!**
Rhinos use piles of dung to leave "messages" for other rhinos. Each rhino's smell is unique and identifies its owner. It can also tell a rhino if the other rhino is young/old/male or female. They also tell other rhinos that this is their territory.
- THE SUMATRAN RHINO IS THE CLOSEST LIVING RELATIVE OF THE ANCIENT, EXTINCT WOOLLY RHINO.**
These rhinos had thick, shaggy coats and were hunted by early humans, and are depicted in cave paintings dating back more than 30 000 years ago.



FACT FILE 1

COMMON NAME:

White rhino. **Synonym:** Square-lipped rhino.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Ceratotherium simum "cerato" meaning "horn", "therium" meaning "wild beast", and "simus" meaning "flat nosed" in Greek.

TWO SUBSPECIES:

- Southern *Ceratotherium simum simum*.
- Northern *Ceratotherium simum cottoni*.

FOOD:

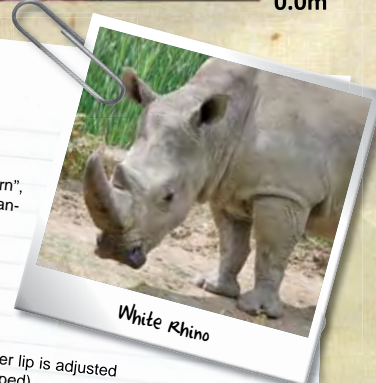
White rhinos feed on grasses and their broad upper lip is adjusted to this type of food (hence the synonym square-lipped).

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Size:** The white rhino is the larger of the two African species. It has a bigger head, due to the muscles that support its neck, as the animal feeds from the ground with its head lowered for much of the day.
- **Weight:** Adult males weigh between 1 800 and 2 500kg and females 1 800 to 2 000kg.
- **Shoulder height:** 1.5 to 1.8m.
- **Skin colour:** The colour of their skin is grey. There is no difference in the skin colour of white and black rhinos, despite their names.
- **Hair:** Rhinos have hair only on ears, tail tips and eyelashes.
- **Distinctive characteristics:** Their outline is characterised by a pronounced hump. The head hangs down, low to the ground; they look up only when alarmed. White rhinos have two horns on the end of their nose. The front horn is usually much larger than the inner horn. Rhinos are known for their distinct "prehistoric", solid look; an appropriate labelling for one of the oldest land mammal species in the world.

LOCATION AND HABITAT:

- **Habitat:** African long and short grass savannah areas.
- **Location:** The Southern Rhino can be found mostly in South Africa, with smaller populations found in Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe.



FACT FILE 2

COMMON NAME:

Black rhino. **Synonym:** Hook-lipped rhino

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Diceros bicornis: "Di" meaning "two", "cerato" meaning "horn" in Greek and "bi" meaning "two", meaning "horn" in Greek and "bi" meaning "two", and "cornis" meaning "horn" in Latin. There are four subspecies of the black rhino:

1. Western *Diceros bicornis longipes*.
2. Eastern *Diceros bicornis michaeli*.
3. SouthWest *Diceros bicornis bicornis*.
4. SouthCentral *Diceros bicornis minor*.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Size:** The black rhino is the smaller of the two African species.
- **Weight:** Adult males weigh up to 1 350kg and females up to 900kg. Weight at birth: 35 to 45kg.
- **Shoulder height:** Black rhinos stand at approximately 1.6m tall at the shoulder.
- **Skin colour:** There is actually no colour difference between the white and black rhino. They are both of a dark grey colour, but this can vary depending on local soil conditions, (as rhinos tend to wallow in the mud or dust, their skin may vary in colour accordingly).
- **Hair:** They only have hair on the ears, tail tips and eyelashes.
- **The horn:** Black rhino have two horns, which grow continually from the skin at their base throughout their life (like human fingernails). Rhinos from different areas can have horns of different shapes, and sizes also vary. The shape of the horn also differs between sexes with males tending to have thicker horns, and the females often longer and thinner ones. The horn is comprised of thousands of compressed hair-like strands of keratin (like hair and fingernail fibres), making it extremely hard and tough, but it can be broken or split during fighting. The front (anterior) horn is longer than the rear (posterior) horn, averaging at about 50cm long.
- **Distinctive characteristics:** Black rhinos are smaller than white rhinos, and have less of a pronounced hump on the back of their necks. They have a smaller head too. They are browsers, so eat from higher bushes or trees, requiring less muscle strength around their necks than white rhinos. The most distinguishable characteristic between a black and a white rhino is that black rhinos have a hooked lip, as opposed to a flat-based lip, which is related to their eating habits.

LOCATION AND HABITAT:

- **Location:** Black rhino occur throughout southern and eastern Africa.
- **Habitat:** Black rhino can occur in a range of habitats where there is sufficient resources like a healthy supply of shrubs, woody herbs and plant-life. A place with a nearby water source and mineral licks that is within at least a 8 to 16km radius.



FACT FILE 3

COMMON NAME:

Sumatran rhino. **Synonyms:** Asian two-horned rhino or the hairy rhino.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Dicerorhinus sumatrensis, from the Greek "di" meaning "two", "cero" meaning "horn", and "rhinos" meaning "nose"; "sumatrensis" from Sumatra.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Size: Sumatran rhino are by far the smallest species of rhino.
- Weight: They weigh between 500-800kg.
- Shoulder height: They usually stand at 1.20-1.45m and are about 2.50m long.
- Skin colour: Sumatran rhinos have a reddish-brown skin, in the wild variably covered with short bristly hair.
- Hair: These are the hairiest species of rhino. This can vary from a short, bristly coat to a shaggy fur for those in captivity because of less abrasion from vegetation. The ears have a fringe of longer hairs, and the tail end has a tuft of thicker hairs.

LOCATION AND HABITAT:

- Location: Across parts of Southeast Asia including: Sumatra, Indonesia, the foothills of Bhutan and northeast India, southern China, Cambodia and Borneo.
- Habitat: The Sumatran rhino lives in dense tropical forest in both the lowlands and highlands. Sumatran rhinos are very well adapted to life in very dense tropical forests. They are primarily attracted to areas with plentiful food resources (shrubs, fruits, shoots, leaves and roots, etc.)



Sumatran Rhino

FACT FILE 4

COMMON NAME:

Javan rhino. **Synonym:** Lesser one-horned rhino.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Rhinoceros sondaicus; from the Greek "rhino" meaning "nose", and "ceros" meaning "horn". *Sondaicus* derives from "Sunda", the name for the western part of Java, but the word is also used to indicate the main chain of Indonesian islands, the "Sunda islands".

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Size: The Javan rhino is a smaller and lighter relative of the greater one-horned rhino. It stands at 1.4 to 1.7m tall at the shoulder. There is not much difference in size between the males and females, and from information gathered in Ujung Kulon and from museum skeletons, there is a possibility that females are slightly bigger.
- Weight: Javan rhinos are comparable in size to the African black rhino, though only a few animals have actually been weighed. They typically range between 900 and 2 300kg.
- Lifespan: Javan rhinos are estimated to live an average of 35 to 40 years in the wild.
- Skin colour: Javan rhinos have grey or grey-brown skin, almost black when wet, with pink colouring in the folds.

LOCATION AND HABITAT:

- Current range: The Javan rhino exists in a single population in Ujung Kulon peninsula, western Java, Indonesia.
- Historical range: Javan rhinos were once rather common over a large part of Southeast Asia, from near Calcutta in India, throughout Bangladesh, southern China, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, the large island of Sumatra, and the western half of Java.
- Habitat: Javan rhinos used to live in a variety of tropical landscapes, both lowland and highland, from the mangroves of the Sunderbans in India and Bangladesh, the mountains of southern China, to the sub-montane shrubs on the highest volcanoes of Java. The Javan rhino probably had a wider ecological range than either its larger relative, the greater one-horned rhino, or its compatriot, the Sumatran rhino.



Javan Rhino

FACT FILE 5

COMMON NAME:

Greater one-horned rhino. **Synonym:** Indian rhino.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Rhinoceros unicornis: "uni" meaning one and "cornis" meaning horn in Latin.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

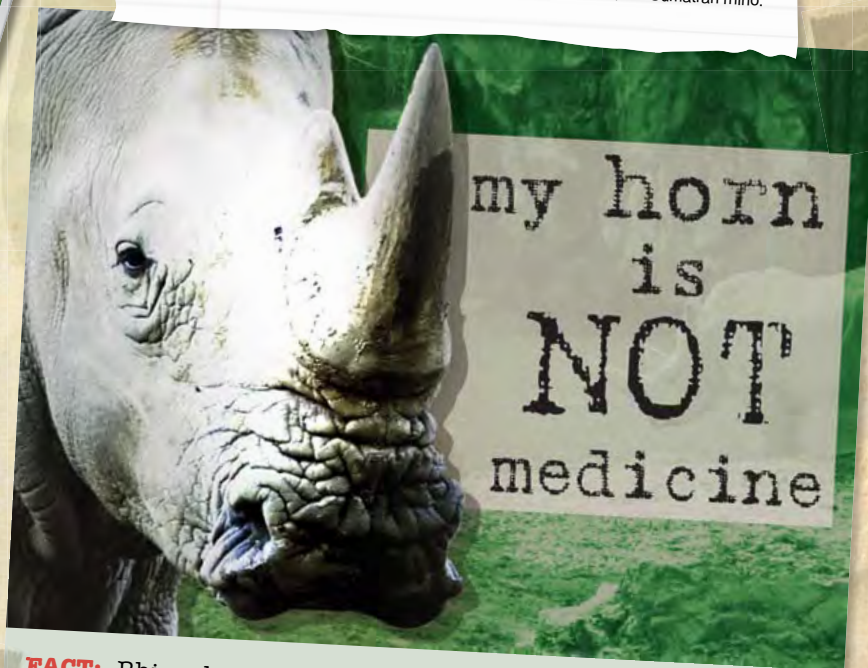
- Size: The greater one-horned rhino are second in size only to the white rhino.
- Weight: Usually between 1 800 to 2700kg.
- Shoulder height: The greater one-horned rhino stands at around 1.75 to 2m, and are 3 to 3.8m long.
- Skin colour: They have an ashy grey, hairless skin which develops thick folds, resembling armour plating. Several prominent folds of skin protect the neck. The skin has a maximum thickness of 4cm; the subcutaneous fat is 2 to 5cm thick and well supplied with blood, which helps thermo-regulation, so that the animal is able to regulate its own body temperature in varying weather conditions. Between the folds, around the stomach, the inner legs and the facial area, the skin is rather soft and thin.
- Hair: Found at the tip of the tail, around the ears and eyelashes.
- Distinctive characteristics: Aside from their unique "armour-plating" appearance, they have a prehensile upper lip, much like that of the black rhino, which assists in their foraging processes.

LOCATION AND HABITAT:

- Location: The greater one-horned rhino can be found in India and Nepal, and particularly in the foothills of the Himalayas. In former times, greater one-horned rhinos roamed freely the floodplains and forests alongside the Brahmaputra, Ganges and Indus River valley.
- Habitat: Greater one-horned rhinos are closely adapted to the life along bodies of water, and often are seen to take up residence in swamps, forests and riverines, and anywhere that is near nutritious mineral licks.



Indian Rhino



FACT: Rhino horn is NOT a remedy for fever, pain arthritis, convulsions, or any other medical condition. Rhino horn does not cure devil possession - and it is not an aphrodisiac.

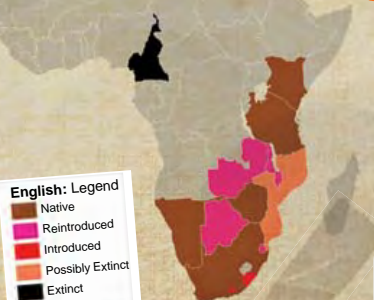
Yet these myths are behind a thriving illegal trade in rhino horn and have made rhinos one of the world's most endangered species.

Please share the truth about rhino horn and help stop the illegal slaughter of rhinos ... before it's too late.

Learn more at annamiticus.com and savingrhinos.org

BLACK RHINOCEROS RANGE

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Adapted and selected images, courtesy of Save The Rhino International.
To learn more, visit: www.savetherhino.org



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Leadership Profile:

Dr Christo Marais Chief Director Natural Resources Management Programme

By Sivuyile Ngaba



Chief Director: Natural Resources Management Programme Dr Christo Marais didn't think he would go to University since he was not the most hardworking student in high school student with horse riding, rugby and spending time with his Dad on the farm being his higher priorities.

But things changed when he was introduced to forestry and mountain catchment management at his first job as a student forester with the then Department of Forestry at Lebanon State Forest near Grabouw in January 1980. Two aspects of his work interested him: the clearing of alien invasive species and integrated veld and forest fire management. From there, Dr Marais went to Saasveld School for Forestry where he studied

a Diploma in Forestry. He also studied at the University of Stellenbosch where he obtained his B.Sc. Hons in Forestry: Nature Conservation and then obtaining his Ph.D. in Nature Conservation in 1998 on the topic "An economic evaluation of the invasive alien plant control programmes in the mountain catchment areas of the Western Cape Province, South Africa". Sivuyile Ngaba had an opportunity to speak to him about being a leader in the department and about some of his interests outside work.

What, in your opinion, makes a good leader?

A leader needs to lead by example, have empathy for his team and be approachable. He must have a vision and give strategic leadership. They do not have to be a specialist in any

particular narrow field but they must have a background, technical skills and a thorough understanding of the field in which they are leading.

What do you find to be the most challenging and the most rewarding about working for DEA?

The most challenging thing that I've experienced is time available versus the amount of work you have to do. My experience with DEA is that the department has the most passionate staff all working towards the objectives of the department. Sometimes one can become frustrated by bureaucracy when you want to make time to add value to the department but you can't run away from it.

This does not only apply to DEA though but all government departments. It is not always easy to get things done but if one gets to know the rules of the game and follow them, you get there in the end. There are instances when you attend meetings on topics of little interest to you and you think how much work you could have done while sitting in that meeting. Later on however one realises that you should be exposed to other aspects of the department to have a clear understanding of its complexities and how the one branch supports another.

What is rewarding towards my work is that I've chosen my career with a few professional and personal objectives in mind which also impacts on my attitude to my work. I'm passionate about improving natural resources of this country particularly water catchment management which has largely been influenced by my aca-



About the contributor: Mr Sivuyile Ngaba

Mr Sivuyile Ngaba is an Assistant Director: Internal and External Communication within the Communications Services Directorate, based in Cape Town. He joined the Department of Environmental Affairs in August 2013, after serving the Western Cape provincial Department of Social Development for seven years.

demic background. While the people in the street look at the beauty or landscape of the mountain, they don't see the amount of clean water coming from that mountain. Early on in my career I also developed a keen interest in the economics of natural resource management and systems thinking.

This led to my participation in the motivation of what today is called the Working for Water programme. This acted as a platform upon which most of other Environmental Programmes in the Department were developed. The second passion which is development of people came about when I was reading a book by the late entrepreneur, Dr Anton Rupert, who wrote, "You can't sleep at ease if your neighbour is hungry."

I love seeing people develop and some individuals starting their careers under me are now directors and chief directors in government. Some have left and made a success of their careers in the private sector. I generally like working with young people but don't think I would have enjoyed a career of being a full time lecturer. I enjoy teaching for short spells to senior students (generally post graduate) but then I want to get to my work. There is always something new to learn.

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

It's very difficult for me to say what my greatest achievement is. I would say the greatest achievement was being part of was the Fynbos Forum that developed the motivation for the establishment of the Working for Water programme.

As already mentioned this has led to the establishment of all the other programmes under NRM. The achievement cannot be claimed by one person though. If it was not for the far sightedness, sheer guts and intelligence of the late Professor Kader Asmal that took ownership of the message of Working for Water, the programme would not have existed today. With the patronage of our late former president and the support from him, Dr Guy Preston and others were able to put the programme on both the national and world stage.

I am proud to be a part of that programme. It gave me an opportunity to develop. I never dreamt of ever

wearing the red gown that people receiving their Doctorates wear when I was still doing my Forestry diploma. Thanks to the Working for Water "experiment" though, I was presented with the opportunity to do my post-graduate studies.

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

- Never give up - when you take something on make sure it is achievable and see it to its completion.
- Be fair – don't do unto others what you don't want to be done unto yourself.
- Don't be scared of change - times of change are times of opportunities.
- Work 20% harder and qualify yourself 20% than the person next to you and you will succeed.

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

I am working in the field of optimising natural resource and catchment management so my job is largely "going green". I try and practise going green by driving a car that's light on fuel. At home we try to use energy and water sustainably. We recycle as much as we can especially glass.

What key role does your Chief Directorate play under the Environmental Programmes branch?

The chief directorate can be seen as the catalyst for the development of an ecological infrastructure and ecosystem services (or natural resource management) sub sector of the economy. We invest in the restoration of natural landscapes to improve water resources, biodiversity and to promote adaptation to, and mitigation the impacts of climate change.

What are the three most important leadership traits that you would never compromise?

- Being honest, to both yourself and other people
- Being open and approachable
- Having a vision

Quick Facts

Home town: Robertson in Western Cape.

Role Models:

1. Natural Resource Management; Professor Brian Huntley who is the former CEO of SANBI who played a leading role in the establishment of SANBI and developing it into a world renowned institute.
2. Political: Who else than our late former president Nelson Mandela.
3. Sport: My horse riding mentor Peter Starke who not only became famous for herding elephants on horseback back into Etosha Pan National Park in Namibia, but was one of the best trackers in that country and won the South African dressage championships a number of times.
4. Family: My Mother and Father who set the best example any kid could dream of.

Favourite quote/motto: "Never give up" and "Times of change are times of opportunities".

Hobbies: Horse riding particularly dressage, bonsai and cooking

I am currently reading: *The Persistence of Memory* by Tony Eprile. I also like reading biographies and history. *Long Walk to Freedom* and the *Biography of Walter and Albertina Sisulu* by their daughter-in-law Elinore Sisulu are must reads to people interested in recent South African History. A fascinating history book that I've read recently is *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams and the Making of Modern China* by Julia Lovell. In Afrikaans I like the work of Andre P Brink, Koos Kombuis, and some biographies.

I am currently listening to: A wide variety of music but amongst others I listen to, Phil Collins, George Ezra, Nelly Furtado, Joan Baez, Sting, Mike and the Mechanics, Rodrigues etc. I'm not musically educated enough to appreciate jazz though. Jazz is like red wine or whiskey, one has to develop a taste for it.

South Africa prepares road to Cop21 in Paris

By Godfrey Nyakhulalini and Gaopalelwe Moroane

The annual Conference of Parties (COP) will take place between 7 and 8 December 2015 at the Stade de France in the Le Bourget area of Paris. South Africa will join over 750 cross-sector participants from business, government, investors, United Nations (UN), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and civil society to build on year-round work from Climate Action and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



Above: Delegates at the first international conference on Innovation for sustainability under climate change and green economy.

As part of the preparation for this meeting, the Department of Environmental Affairs engaged several stakeholders from various fields to share ways in which South Africa is adapting to the effects of climate change. One of the engagements was the first international conference on "Innovation for Sustainability Under Climate Change and Green Economy" which took place over three days at Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg from 26-28 May 2015 with over 400 delegates.

The objective of the conference was to create a platform to share knowledge and practical solutions

to the standing global challenge of climate change and the emerging green economy. The four conference thematic areas encompassed: business and biodiversity; energy and energy management; water connections, global change and sustainability; and climate change and green economy transition. The conference engaged stakeholders on symposium, academic papers, workshops, and exhibitions.

The SEED and SALGA facilitated inspiring symposia focused on entrepreneurship and solutions and the readiness for local government respectively. The workshop covered

topics such as electric vehicles, carbon tax and renewable energy as a path to energy efficiency in public buildings, waste-to-energy technologies on urban sustainability, food security and green jobs. The delegates were also glued to the BMW i3 and i8 as well as DEA Nissan Leaf green cars exhibition area.

The Chair of the Conference Professor Godwell Nhamo from Exxaro Chair in Business and Climate Change at the University of South Africa (UNISA) introduced the thematic areas of the conference and reminded the delegates about the message of the conference which was: "Inspire and



About the contributor: Godfrey Nyakhulalini

Godfrey is a Policy Analyst in the Directorate: National Sustainable Development at the Department of Environmental Affairs. His work involves developing policy, strategies and research for sustainable development, green economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production. The highlight of his career was being part of the team that was driving Green Initiatives for the 2010 FIFA World Cup at the department.

be inspired.” During his introduction remarks, professor Nhamo noted the commitment of the government and the partnership that were established before the conference with the strategic government departments in particular the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), SALGA as well as SEED that continues to champion the work of climate change and sustainable development in different areas. He also hinted on the National Development Plan (NDP) as a key plan that has been considered in crafting the thematic areas of the conference. Professor Nhamo indicated that the organising team for the conference that included DEA and SEED had made sure to select local and international speakers who are knowledgeable and possess expertise on different topics within the various thematic areas.

Deputy Director-General: Environmental Advisory Services, Mr Alf Wills was one of the co-host guest speakers and indicated that SEED partnership with government is critical in the development path of South Africa and beyond and in addressing the elements of NDP. He said “climate change is a global challenge. Even if we achieve zero emission, we still need to adapt on the effects that are already existing”. He further, indicated the need to grow the already identified existing green economy sectors such as such as energy efficiency, waste and

transport. Programmes such as the green economy and blue economy have massive opportunity to create jobs and address skill development issues. However, the remaining challenge is to develop an evidence base that will be able to grow those sectors. DEA and National Treasury have budgeted green fund for R1,1 billion to support green initiatives to assist South Africa’s transition to a low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient development path while delivering high impact economic, environmental and social benefits. Currently there are 53 approved projects. In his conclusion Mr Wills emphasised to the delegate the need to look at the issues on how to transit and upscale existing activities supported by the evidence base approach.

The second engagement led by the DEA took place at the launch of South Africa’s Adaptation Fund Projects.

The approved project called “Taking adaptation to the ground: a small grants facility for enabling local level responses to climate change in South Africa”, is funded to the tune of US\$ 2,442,682. This project will be led by SouthSouthNorth and will be implemented in the Namakwa and Mopani Districts in Northern Cape and Limpopo Provinces respectively.

These projects will provide an opportunity for South Africa to learn how to develop and implement high impact climate change adaptation projects that make a real difference to the lives of people who are

vulnerable to climate change.

As a result of these projects:

- 25000 people will have reduced risks to climate change-driven floods, storms, fires and drought;
- 25000 people will benefit from improved disaster management systems;
- 300 rural homes will be protected from storms and lightning strikes;
- 5 new pedestrian bridges will protect children from flash floods;
- 200 ha of grasslands and 100 ha of bush encroached land will be restored to enhance Ecological Infrastructure and food security; and,
- 200 farms in communally owned areas will have reduced risks to climate change as a result of investments in climate smart agriculture and physical infrastructure.

These projects are a collaborative effort that could only be done in partnership with the multiple institutions and individuals, in government, non-government and the private sector.

“This programme of work represents our commitment to adapt to climate change with a special focus on our communities who are most vulnerable to its current and expected impacts. Through this programme of work

“We will learn how to integrate science with local and indigenous knowledge” said Minister Edna Molewa at South Africa’s Adaptation Fund Projects launch.



Above: The delegates were also glued to the electric vehicles the BMW i3 as well as DEA Nissan Leaf green cars exhibition area.

Tsakane Waste-Preneur Project

By Eleanor Momberg

Residents of Tsakane, near Springs in Ekurhuleni, collect glass bottles and other recyclables including newspapers, magazines, cardboard, paper, mixed plastics, cans, PET, polystyrene, Tetrapak, and aluminium, to earn a living or supplement their income. These community members are Wastepreneurs.

The Wastepreneur project is a WILDLANDS pro-poor development and sustainability intervention.

It was piloted in the uMgungundlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal from 2010 – 2012 and is supported by the Department of Environmental Affairs' Green Fund which is implemented by the Development Bank of

Southern Africa. The project has been expanded to Gauteng, where it is being piloted in, amongst others, in Ekurhuleni.

The Tsakane Wastepreneur projects employs 390 members of the local community, who have also started collecting foil paper, such as chip packets and sweet wrappers, as they contribute to keeping their town clean.

The Green Fund has invested more than R62.5 million in the Wildlands Conservation Trust to expand the Wastepreneur project to enable the economic transformation of 21 communities, through the establishment of over 4 400 Wastepreneurs that have collected and

bartered over 13 200 tons of recycling in the past 4 years.

Besides showing that it is possible to collect and process recyclable waste as a means of supporting their families, the project has contributed significantly to the clean-up of the participating communities, many of them among the poorest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

The Wastepreneur network has been expanded from 529 in January 2013 to 6 656 in December 2014. In addition, 92 schools and 15 charities have been recruited and 60 Wastepreneur "sorters" have been contracted.



About the contributor: Eleanor Momberg

Eleanor Momberg is the Rhino Communications Manager in the Department of Environmental Affairs. Ms Momberg was a member of the South African delegation, which attended the CITES 16th Conference of Parties in Bangkok, Thailand.



What is the environmental and Socio-economic impact?

A total of 16 518 779kg of recycling was collected during 2014. This avoided carbon emissions of 13 089 tCO₂e. More than 60 percent of the waste collected was glass.

An amount of R8 223 557 has been paid in wages to the recycling team, providing livelihood support for an extended network of over 350 community members between January 2013 and 31 December 2014.

A total amount of R7 786 160 was paid or bartered for the recycling collected by the Wastepreneurs, schools and charities, providing livelihood support for an extended network of over 20 000 community members between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2014.

In addition, 5 679 person days of training for the recycling team and Wastepreneurs took place between 1 April 2013 and 31 December 2014, significantly improving the skills, knowledge and ability of

community members and leaders to be productive. The training has included Adult Basic Education and Training literacy and numeracy, training in sustainable agriculture and business, recycling skills, health and safety, personal health and well-being and leadership and citizenship.

Sponsors: Coca-Cola, ENGEN, Grindrod Limited, BHP Billiton and Unilever.



Deputy Minister leads clean-up of Emalahleni

By Dimakatso Tsutsubi and Veronica Mahlaba

During his State of the Nation Address in 2014, President Jacob Zuma made a call for all South Africans to embrace the spirit of former president Nelson Mandela by setting apart 67 minutes through a Clean Cities and Villages Project. In a bid to respond to this call, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Ms Barbara Thomson joined the people of Emalahleni in Mpumalanga for a clean-up campaign on 8 May 2015.

Addressing approximately 1 000 community members at the Empumelelweni Sports Ground, Deputy Minister Thomson expressed concern over the environmental cleanliness of Emalahleni. The consequences of the illegal dumping of waste and air pollution are dire and can cause very serious health hazards for the people. In this light, Deputy Minister urged the people of Emalahleni to make every effort to protect every individual's right to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.

She also highlighted that the leadership of Emalahleni Local Municipality has taken the lead in developing a clean-up project called Clean Up the Municipality as a result of the negative impact a dirty environment can have on a community.

"The main purpose of the campaign under the theme Our Place, Our Planet, Our Responsibility is to sensitise the local community on sustainable benefits of cleaning and taking care of the environment. As the Department of Environmental Affairs, we fully support this clean-up initiative by the municipality. We are encouraged by the objectives of this campaign particularly the establishment of a local environmental forum and the mainstreaming of environmental issues into the local Council agenda," said the Deputy Minister.

In a bid to improve the environment of Emalahleni and compliance to various environmental legislation, DEA is exploring the implementation of Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme (EPIP) initiatives.

The initiatives will take place through the Department's Working on Waste, Working on Land, People and Parks, Wildlife Economy, Youth Environmental Services, as well as Greening and Open Space Management Programmes.

The Mayor of Emalahleni Local Municipality, Councillor Salome Sithole said the municipality has a lot of mines that produce coal and power stations that produce electricity, all of which pollute the area. She explained that the mines and companies draw people from all over South Africa to

work there, making the population of the area high. The condition has led to illegal building of houses and illegal dumping sites.

"As a municipality, we would like to thank the Deputy Minister for ensuring that we receive all the assistance to improve the lives of our people," the Mayor said.



Above: Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson engages with the community of Emalahleni.

Cleaning up the environment not

only creates a more pleasant place to live, but also creates a good impression on prospective employers, investors, professionals, and tourists. Communities have been encouraged to uphold the principles of reducing, recycling and re-using waste. Upholding these principles not only helps to combat serious environmental problems such as climate change, but could also create treasure from trash and turn waste into wealth.

Deputy Minister Thomson also explained to the community of Emalahleni about DEA's flagship programmes called the Greenest Municipality Competition. The main objective of this competition is to encourage municipalities to increase their green footprint through initiatives such as solar energy and greening projects while providing work opportunities. "I want to encourage your municipality to participate in this competition. It is open to all municipalities and the rewards for participation are numerous. The most important reward will be an improved quality of life for your community," Deputy Minister Thomson said.



About the contributor: Dimakatso Tsutsubi

Dimakatso is the Assistant Director: Media Liaison. She holds a B.A Degree in Communication from University of North West and she is currently studying towards her Honours Degree with UNISA.

Deputy Minister uses her 67 minutes to plant a garden

By Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: Officials from provincial departments in the Free State, the SAWS, NEPAD Environmental Affairs officials, Phumelela Municipality and the community of Memel all joined the Deputy Minister in extending the vegetable garden of a local Memel community initiative which provides food to poor households in the community.

"Tourism creates jobs, and when we keep our places of residence clean and green, it will boost the economy," said Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson during a community outreach and engagement initiative on severe weather and climate change where she used her 67 minutes for International Nelson Mandela Day to plant a vegetable garden at Zamani Creche in Memel in the Free State on 15 July 2015.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister encouraged people to plant vegetable gardens and take good care of the environment by planting trees and separating waste.

"Climate Change can lead to a loss in food security. By planting the vegetable garden, we are not only contributing to our 67 minutes for International Mandela Day, but we are also trying to secure food for the future. "Nature can survive without us, but we cannot survive without nature," Deputy Minister said.

The South African Weather Service (SAWS), through the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), has embarked on a project to inform and educate extension agents, farmers and other users about the effects of climate change on agricultural activities.

The Manager for External Communication at SAWS, Ms Hannelee Doubell said the project will help train extension officers and farmers on the application of agrometeorological information and how it can be used to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies.

"The project which is being pioneered in Free State and KwaZulu-Natal is aimed at providing education and information firstly to extension agents, farmers and other users; and secondly to decision makers within the Department of Agriculture," Ms Doubell said.

She added that climate change posed a significant risk of increased crop failure, and loss of livestock.

"In South Africa, some areas are projected to be drier and warmer than others. In other areas wetter conditions are expected and these will affect agricultural practices."

Agro-meteorological services in developing countries such as South Africa have to bear greater responsibility due to changing agricultural practices, climate change, large population pressure and demand for food security.

"The need for the development of operational framework remains important to drive agro-meteorological information dissemination for agricultural productivity.

"With climate change most likely to have a significant impact on food availability, food accessibility and food system's stability in many parts of the world, this project is implemented at an opportune time," added Ms Doubell.



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

Zibuse Ndlovu is the Assistant Director: Editorial Services at the Department of Environmental Affairs, within the Communications Chief Directorate.

CSIR plans to reposition South Africa's pulp and paper industry

By Reyhana Mahomed

South Africa's pulp and paper mills currently use only about 40% of a tree in its production process – the rest of the material is “lost” as waste along the process. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal is pioneering new technologies aimed at using the tree to its maximum potential – up to 90% – to produce chemicals and other high value products that would contribute to the evolution of current South African pulp and paper mills into forest biorefineries.

New communication technologies have led to a decrease in the demand for paper, with a knock on effect on the pulp and paper industry and associated research and development. In addition, the waste produced by the industry and associated costs of discarding the waste, has made the industry less viable. “If we look at what is being sent to landfill, we will find that there is value in the material,” explains CSIR researcher, Professor Bruce Sithole, “and that is what biorefinery is all about.” Bruce is leading the CSIR in pioneering research and development in the biorefinery domain.

A biorefinery operation is a facility that integrates biomass conversion processes and equipment to produce fuels, power, heat and other value added chemicals and biomaterials in addition to their traditional products. Prof Sithole explains that biorefinery does not seek to replace the pulp and paper industry, rather, it is envisaged that the biorefinery process will take place alongside the pulp and paper making process, using its waste as raw material for the production of valuable products.

Biorefinery is no new concept with Scandinavian and North American countries having successfully implemented biorefinery processes alongside the pulp and paper making industry.

Prof Sithole, who has experience working in the Canadian biorefinery industry, explains that the trees go into the lumber mill to produce timber and then the chips are used to produce pulp and paper.

“From there, specific chemicals, energy, fuel and bio oils are extracted from the waste,” he says, “this makes it a complete value chain”. The waste includes wood shavings, bark, leaves, branches and chemical processing by-products. The Canadian forestry industry contributes approximately 25% to the national gross domestic product.

Bold plans for a bold future

In South Africa, the potential to extract value from pulp and paper waste is negated since most waste ends up in landfill sites or is burnt, stockpiled, or even pumped out to sea. This poses huge health and environmental risks as large amounts of greenhouse gases are released from the waste.

High value speciality chemicals can be extracted from sawmill and dust shavings, while mill sludge can be converted into nanocrystalline cellulose (NCC), polylactic acid and biogas. The extraction of NCC has potential for application in various products such as rigid packaging, polymer composites and hygiene products.

“We are currently in the research and development phase, looking at

what could be generated from pulp and paper waste and whether the processing would be viable for South Africa,” explains Prof Sithole. Making paper is very expensive, “because the process uses a lot of water and energy, and these are two of South Africa's biggest problem areas.” Additionally, the industry generates a lot of sludge waste. CSIR's plans to revitalise the industry seeks to prevent job losses in the industry and create new jobs by streamlining biorefinery technologies/applications to the pulp and paper industry.

The CSIR's biorefinery centre – based in Durban – has successfully partnered with the industry to develop technologies for making pulp and paper products. “Our future plan is to reposition the centre into a biorefinery technologies centre to develop and implement economic and sustainable technologies for the benefit of the industry,” says Prof Sithole. This would assist in improving product quality and increasing the competitiveness of the company.

To build the capacity and skills required to revitalise the industry, Prof Sithole is currently supervising and co-supervising 20 MSc and PhD students. Two MSc graduates, under Bruce's supervision, have been employed by the industry.

The short term plan of the centre is to circumvent landfill costs and its associated problems, train engineers and scientists on biorefinery technologies and see the creation of small, medium and micro enterprises involved in collection and processing the wastes for beneficiation.



About the contributor: Reyhana Mahomed

Reyhana Mahomed is a Communications Manager at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR): Natural Resources and the Environment. Before joining the CSIR, Ms Mahomed was a Deputy Director in the Department of Environmental Affairs' Chief Directorate: Communications.

Fire Fighters return from Canada

By Parapara Makgahlela
Photos by Erica Mathye



Above: Working for Fire team members welcome their colleagues back.



From Left: Representative from Canadian embassy in SA, Minister of Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa welcoming Fire Fighters from Canada.

A team of 48 members drawn from the South African Working on Fire programme (WoF), as part of a co-operative resource-sharing arrangement between Canadian and South African forest fire-fighting agencies, returned from their month-long stay in Canada on 24 August.

The firefighters were deployed to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) to assist with Canadian wild fires during the months of July and August. Touching home soil at OR Tambo International Airport, the team received a warm South African welcome from the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa. They excitedly shared with her their experiences of working on fires in Canada and generally how they found the environment.

The team was divided into two groups and worked in the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta.

Firefighter Kedibone Qhinebe said assisting Canada with forest fires was an awesome experience and helped her to learn new skills.

"We had to dig the ground to put out fires that were burning the roots of trees," said Ms Qhinebe.

Minister Molewa applauded the team for their hard work in Canada and said she was hoping for even stronger bonds between South Africa and Canada.

Crew leader, Mr Jonas Matlala said he was impressed to see the strides made by South Africa in terms of female representation in firefighting work.

"There are not a lot of female firefighters in Canada so this made me appreciate the efforts made by our government in this regard," he said. Ms Qhinebe added that the training that they have received from the WoF programme met international standards.

"We did everything we were required to do. The only difference between ourselves and them is the equipment we use."

Mr Matlala said fighting fires in Canada requires a lot of water as they had to dig out roots that were burning and use more water to douse out fires.

He added that another great benefit from the deployment was the exposure to the English language. "Our

English has improved a lot since our departure to Canada," he laughed. The WoF members worked alongside international firefighting teams drawn from Mexico, USA and Australia. In anticipation of increasing fire-danger weather under probable conditions of climate change, the international firefighting community has been working together for years to put in place, exchange and resource-sharing agreements.

The Working on Fire programme is an inter-Departmental programme administered through the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Working on Fire Programme General Manager in Gauteng Province Stephen Boyes said he was proud of the exceptional work the fire fighters did in Canada.

"Following their first two weeks in Canada, the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) released a positive Crew Performance Report which lauded amongst other the South Africans for their physical fitness, productivity, health and safety and mopping up operations," he said. The 48 crew members left on 19 July and came back on 21 and 24 August 2015.



About the contributor: Parapara Makgahlela

Parapara Makgahlela is a Provincial Communications Officer for the Working on Fire programme in Gauteng Province. Mr Makgahlela is a former trainee journalist for the Sunday Times. He has worked at the Limpopo Department of Agriculture as a Communications Officer and freelanced for various newspapers in Limpopo.

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DEA approves the exportation of seven lions to Rwanda

By Thulasizwe Ndlovu

The Department of Environmental Affairs played an important role in the recent export of seven lion from South Africa to Rwanda.

The introduction of lion to Rwanda means that these apex predators will roam the Akagera National Park in the East African country for the first time since the genocide in 1994. The re-introduction of the lions is expected to benefit Rwandan wildlife tourism immensely.

It is a translocation that could not have happened without the Department of Environmental Affairs.

South Africa was a party to the development of the Conservation Strategy for the Lion in Eastern and Southern Africa, published in 2006. This plan recognised, among others, that the problems facing lions would require international, national and local resources to solve, and called for individual lion range States to develop national lion action plans. A draft Biodiversity Management Plan for

the African Lion was published for public comment in May 2015.

Because the Department of Environmental Affairs is responsible for biodiversity-related matters, and is a signatory to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the freight agent contacted the Environmental Affairs officials stationed at the O R Tambo International Airport Cargo section to ensure the smooth export of the animals.

The role of the Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI), more commonly known as the Green Scorpions, at the Cargo section is to ensure compliance with CITES regulations for all animal and plant species entering and leaving South Africa.

The EMI team put in place an inspection plan in collaboration with Michael Falls of Pride of Africa Wildlife Solutions. The plan was necessary because the consignment of lion also needed to be inspected by

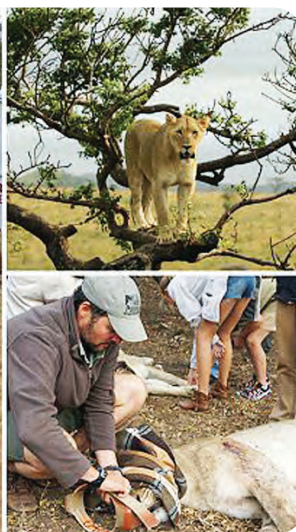
other Departments, including the State Vet, before being exported.

The lions arrived in steel crates at the airport at 8pm on 29 June 2015. Officials from the Department's Biodiversity Compliance unit, were on hand to verify all the relevant documents. The role of the Green Scorpions in this case was to ensure that export of lions from South Africa to Rwanda complied with all relevant CITES Regulations.

Once the compliance inspection was completed and all documents were verified, the consignment permitting it to be loaded on a charter flight destined to Rwanda was endorsed.

The lions were received by the Akagera Park in good health.

It is hoped that the lions will adapt well in their new habitat as Akagera Park offers a safe space with plenty of food – the park is home to a variety of antelope, buffalo, leopard, elephant, zebra and giraffe.



About the contributor: Thulasizwe Ndlovu

Thulasizwe Ndlovu is the Environmental Officer Specialised Production within the Sub-directorate : Biodiversity Compliance in the Chief Directorate : Compliance. He works in Pretoria and OR Tambo International Airport.



Roars over lion management in SA

By Eleanor Momberg

Photos by Christopher Clark and SANPARKS

The national and international community has been abuzz with claims of canned lion hunting and calls for a total ban of hunting following the release in July of a documentary at the Durban International Film Festival called Bloodlions.

The debate around the ban of hunting in general was exacerbated by the shooting of a collared lion named Cecil outside the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe by an American hunter.

This incident prompted an international outcry, with NGOs and the media calling not only for a full ban of hunting, but also the transport of any hunting trophies from South Africa, and the rest of Africa, by airlines and shipping companies. Calls have also been made for a tourist boycott of South Africa.

One of the airlines to bow to international pressure was US carrier Delta Airlines, which banned the shipment of all lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo trophies worldwide on 3 August 2015. The ban does not distinguish between legally hunted and traded wildlife specimens

and the illegal exploitation and smuggling of wildlife species.

South Africa's hunting sector is valued at around R 6.2 billion a year and is a major source of South Africa's socio-economic activity, contributing towards job creation, community development and social upliftment.

Until May this year Delta had indicated publicly that it would continue to allow such shipments – as long as they were legal.

Only days before the announcement of the ban, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, had welcomed the lifting of an embargo by the cargo division of South African Airways on the transport of legally acquired hunting trophies of African lion, African elephant, rhinoceros and tiger.

This was after SAA Cargo had stated it was satisfied that sufficient measures were in place to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

As one of the first signatories to the Convention on the International Trade in

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), South Africa has a strictly regulated hunting and trophy transportation permit system.

"Our species conservation track record is well known on the global stage. The Department of Environmental Affairs has put sufficient measures in place, including deploying Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI's), commonly known as the Green Scorpions, at OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) since 1 April 2015," said the Minister.

The lion is a prime tourist attraction in South Africa and is one of Africa's Big Five trophy animals. Because of this the South Africa ensures that this species is properly managed in order to ensure its protection. Various legislative provisions have been developed and implemented in this regard to protect lion and to regulate activities involving lion – a key member of the Big Five and an important contributor not only to South Africa's economy through tourism and hunting, but also an important part of our natural heritage.

That is why so-called canned lion hunting, or the hunting of lion in artificial



circumstances is prohibited in South Africa. This is clearly outlined in the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations of 2007, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004.

In terms of the regulations, the hunting of lion is strictly prohibited in a small enclosure or while it is under the influence of a tranquilliser. It is further illegal to hunt lion by means of any luring method (smell, sound or bait), by using poison, traps, snares, weapons not suitable for hunting or flood lights. Lions may also not be hunted from a motorised vehicle or an aircraft. At this point in time, the hunting by means of a bow-and-arrow is not prohibited in terms of the TOPS regulations.

This means that a hunting permit may not be issued under any of these circumstances. In addition, any person who hunts a lion in any of the prohibited manners is guilty of an offence and there is an obligation on every permit holder to comply with the conditions to which the permit has been issued.

In South Africa, the intense controversy over the merits and ethics of the captive breeding and subsequent release for hunting of captive-bred lion – a legal activity – continues even though no negative effects of trophy hunting on wild lion populations in South Africa have been identified.

Very few wild lions are trophy hunted each year (typically less than ten), and trophy hunting is largely fed by the captive populations. The economic benefits to the private sector of keeping and trading in wild lion may provide some incentive for conserving the species and its habitat. The hunting of lion is not allowed in any of the national parks and only limited hunting is allowed in some provincial state reserves.

The seriousness of the government's efforts to ensure lion are properly managed in South Africa, and that the species is not exploited to the point of extinction, is clear not only from the recent publication of the first Biodiversity Management Plan for the African Lion in South Africa by the Department in April 2015, but also from

the Minister's meeting in July 2015 with industry stakeholders.

The Minister had convened the meeting to address widespread and mounting public concern around the practice of so-called 'canned hunting' of lion.

The meeting had conceded that 'rogue elements' were operating within the lion breeding and hunting industries, and that these needed to be rooted out. Numerous provinces were already taking action and a number of cases are presently before the courts relating to the suspected illegal activities related to lion breeding and hunting.

The organisations had also agreed that the illegal hunting of lion was damaging the legal industry. While the Department doesn't have any evidence that hunting or "canned hunting" damages tourism, such a boycott would not be justified as the captive bred lion hunting industry contributes to the GDP of the country and these farms provide much-needed work to individuals in poor communities.



DEA and SANParks pay tribute to custodians of conservation

By Abraham Shoba

Picture by Madimetja Mogotlane

Environmental Affairs Minister, Ms Edna Molewa and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of South African National Parks (SANParks), Mr Fundisile Mketeni led the celebrations of World Ranger Day at Marekele National Park, Thabazimbi on 01 August 2015.

"The work of a ranger is a diverse and complex one. They have and continue to lead the way for us in conserving our country's natural wonders in tribute to all that they do," said the Minister in commemorating the tireless work of the rangers who dedicate their lives to protecting South Africa's natural heritage. Mr Fundisile Mketeni added to this by describing the plight of South African

rangers, "Being a ranger in the field is about being observant at all times and being prepared to cover huge distances in order to sweep areas where poachers might be harvesting. We have seen that you need a lot of physical and mental fitness in order to stand the heat and pressure of the day and the cold nights."

Minister Molewa congratulated the Marakele National Park for having zero incidents of poaching in nearly two years.

Minister also acknowledged that there was a gap in communities surrounding national parks.

"In order for biodiversity conservation to make sense to ordinary South

Africans, we have to ensure that we collaborate with communities in spending a great deal of time educating them in the area of benefits of conservation and rhino protection."

Supporting Minister's point, Mr Mketeni urged South Africans to acknowledge rangers for their sterling work.

"We recognise the various stakeholders such as the Water Back Biosphere Reserve and the Thabazimbi local community for their support of Marakele National Park. SANParks will continue to provide eco-tourism which will assist in playing the role of a catalyst for local economic development in the Marakele area.



About the contributor: Abraham Shoba

Abraham Shoba joined the Department of Environmental Affairs in 2011 as an Auxiliary clerk in Facilities Directorate and later transferred to Communications Directorate. He is currently working as a communications officer in Corporate Communications.

Extension of the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site approved

By Duncan Senye

Photography credit: Everywhere Everytime

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on 03 July 2015 approved the extension of the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site. This approval was granted by the 39th Session of the Unesco's World Heritage Committee, which met in Bonn, Germany from 28 June to 08 July.

"The extension brings the size of this World Heritage Site to 1 094 742 hectares – almost double its previous size of 553 000 hectares," said the DDG for Biodiversity and Conservation Ms Skumsa Mancotywa.

This step significantly increases the size of South Africa's protected areas that enjoy outstanding international recognition. These include Table Mountain National Park, Agulhas Complex, Langeberg Complex, Anysberg Nature Reserve, Swartberg Complex, Baviaanskloof Complex and the Garden Route Complex. The extension increases the number of protected area clusters making up the Cape Floral Region from eight to 13 and marks a new era in South Africa's listing of World Heritage Sites.

"This extension is the first nomination to be submitted after the development of the Procedure for Nomination of World Heritage Sites," said the Deputy Director: Protected Areas Legislation and Compliance: Biodiversity and Conservation Caiphus Khumalo. The last time South Africa had a site inscribed on the World Heritage List was in 2007 with the inscription of the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape.

The Cape Floral Region, which was first inscribed onto the World Heritage List in 2004, is one of eight South African World Heritage Sites with the other seven being the Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa, iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Robben Island, the Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Transboundary with Lesotho), Mapungubwe Cultural



Above: UNESCO World Heritage Site #125: Cape Floral Region Protected Areas

Landscape, the Vredefort Dome and the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape.

The extended Cape Floral Region is one of the richest areas for plants when compared to any similar sized area in the world. It represents less than 0.5% of the area of Africa, but is home to nearly 20% of the continent's flora with some 69% of the 9 000 identified plant species being endemic to the area.

In accepting the approval of the extension, Deputy Minister for the Department of Environmental Affairs, Ms. Barbara Thomson said: "South Africa is delighted to add more protected areas to its portfolio of world heritage properties".

She added that the country had in the last few years learned a few lessons in management of its world

heritage sites and had, through its engagement with the Committee and the Advisory Bodies, achieved

high standards of conservation to levels expected by UNESCO.

"The World Heritage Committee has in the last few years emphasised the need to ensure that communities derive benefits from world heritage sites, especially those living adjacent to the sites. This is a view that fits in well with South Africa's efforts to involve communities in the protection of world heritage, as custodians of our heritage," said the Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister Ms Barbara Thomson. She added that South Africa views the listing of our heritage as a significant part of the country's development imperatives because while it ensures protection of this highly prized heritage, it also has potential to boost economic development, create jobs and develop skills. The country has in the last few years worked tirelessly in ensuring that conservation and development are not pursued in exclusivity of each other.



About the contributor: Duncan Senye

Duncan Senye is a Deputy Director Media Liaison, External Communication Directorate, at the Department of Environmental Affairs. He is a journalist with years of experience in broadcast media. He worked as a news producer and presenter for Radio Mmabatho, Radio Bop, Radio Sunshine, Channel Africa, SABC 2, and SABC 3. He also presented a reality show called Speak-Out on SABC 2. His hobbies include listening to gospel music, playing pool, volleyball and karate.

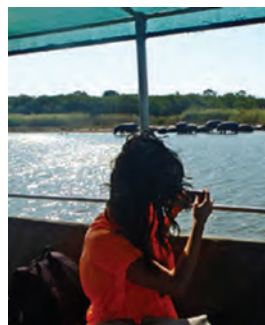
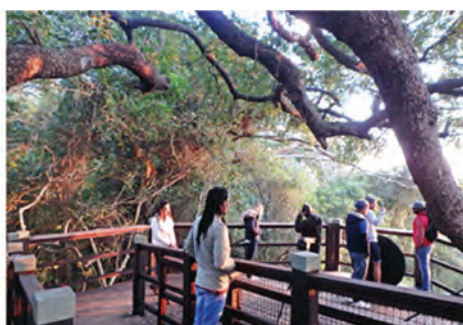
iSimangaliso hosts Top Billing

By Debbie Cooper

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority recently had the pleasure of hosting the country's most loved luxury television show, watched by around 2 million viewers. From 14 – 17 July, the SABC 3 Top Billing crew enjoyed a taste of bush life in South Africa's first World Heritage Site, whilst still enjoying the refined comforts provided by first class service providers. Taking in the Lake St Lucia Estuary, Eastern Shores, Western Shores, Lake Sibaya and Coastal Forest sections of iSimangaliso, the team was hosted by Makakatana Bay Lodge, Heritage Tours and Safaris, Shakabarker Safaris and Isibindi Africa - Thonga Beach Lodge.



The focus is on a celebrity couple, Jonathan Boynton-Lee and Jay (Jessica Carly) Anstey, wining, dining and enjoying the various aspects of an unmatched bush and beach holiday whilst celebrating their romance", says Lindy Duffield, iSimangaliso's Marketing Manager. "The resultant programme will give viewers an opportunity to see some of what iSimangaliso has to offer – even for those who don't really 'do' the bush." Jonathan is a Top Billing presenter and award winning and multi talented film maker, recently named as one of Mail and Guardian's 30 most influential young South Africans in the art and culture fields. Jay is an actress, perhaps best known for her former role on the South African TV show Isidingo.



During their three day visit the Top Billing team enjoyed seeing hippos from the Makakatana Bay Lodge boat cruise, views from the uMthoma Aerial Boardwalk on the Western Shores, snorkeling in the warm waters of the Coastal Forest section and sundowners set up by Thonga Beach Lodge on the edge of Lake Sibaya. Producer of the programme Adrian Hogan described the shoot as follows: "We are at a place with unprecedented natural wonder and we were gifted with the freedom of time to craft this insert into something exceptional. My cast has portrayed to our viewers how lucky you are to be travelling in iSimangaliso - a fine balance of beauty and adventure in a time of love".

Rhino horn dealer's appeal dismissed

By Nicole Limberis

The Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) dismissed an appeal by Muvhuso Calvin Ndwambi (the appellant) against a conviction of fraud and a sentence of six years' imprisonment imposed by the Regional Court, Kroonstad and confirmed by the Free State High Court, Bloemfontein.

On 29 October 2003 at Shell Ultra City, Kroonstad the SAPS set up a police trap after receiving information from an informant that the appellant's co-accused wished to sell a rhino horn. During the police trap, the appellant's co-accused negotiated the transaction, of what appeared to be a real rhino horn, with an undercover police official. This took place whilst the appellant (who happened to be a police officer) kept watch.

The appellant's co-accused represented to the police officer that the item she was offering for sale was a rhino horn and that it originated from Mozambique. The asking price was R350 000. The appellant was found, on the facts, to have been complicit in the transaction.

The representation turned out to be false when results from the forensic laboratory showed that the article was a mere imitation of a rhino horn and not in fact a rhino horn. The appellant was thus convicted and sentenced on the charge of fraud rather than that of illegal possession of a rhino horn.

The appellant unsuccessfully appealed his conviction and sentence to the Free State High Court. He was granted leave to appeal to the SCA. The basis of his appeal was that the State had failed to prove all the elements of fraud against him because, so the argument went, the state failed to prove intention to deceive and prejudice. These two elements must be proved in order to be convicted of fraud.

The SCA held that the evidence of the appellant and that of his co-accused was correctly rejected by the trial court as palpably false. This left the trial court without the benefit of credible evidence from either of the accused persons and with only the State's evidence upon which to

determine their respective guilt or innocence.

Against this background the SCA concluded that the prima facie inference that the false representation had been made knowingly, or without belief in its truth, or without knowledge of whether it was true or false must be considered as conclusive.

The SCA then considered whether or not the transaction was calculated to prejudice. The court said further that the prejudice need not be proprietary or financial or even directed at the person to whom it was addressed. The court noted that even though the horn was found to be fake, transactions of this kind contribute to the illegal trade in rhino horn which South Africa as a country must be concerned about. The transaction thus had the potential to prejudice the country as a whole.

The SCA concluded that the appellant was rightly convicted of fraud and that the sentence of six years' imprisonment was appropriate in the circumstances. The SCA accordingly dismissed the appeal.



About the contributor: Nicole Limberis

Nicole Limberis is the Environmental Control Officer (grade B), EMI Legal Support within the Directorate: Capacity Development and Support in the Chief Directorate: Enforcement. Nicole practiced as an attorney until joining the Department in January 2014.

Vox Pops

DEA staff members

What does Mandela Day mean to you?

Mandela Day is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact. The Mandela Day campaign message is: "Nelson Mandela has fought for social justice for 67 years. We're asking you to start with 67 minutes."



1. Ms Nqobile Radebe

Administration and Strategic Support

I spent the day picking up litter in my community. Mandela Day means the ultimate act of selflessness, Ubuntu, for example, giving so freely of myself that my own needs and wants are negated, in the interests of doing right by the masses and expecting nothing in return. What I'm talking about here is service – the time, energy and effort we give to help other people and causes. Of We become a positive force in the universe when we do so

"A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of."
- Nelson Mandela



2. Ms Sanet Moore

Deputy Director: Office of the DDG

I was part of the 67 minutes initiative organised by DEA's Environmental Programmes (EP). The office of the DDG decided to distribute basic supplies to the needy such as; blankets, clothes, food and shoes on the streets of Cape Town. The theme for this year was, **We might not make a huge difference to a lot of people, but a small gesture might change one person's whole world.**



3. Mr Victor Sithole

Project Administrator Intern: Transfontier Conservation Areas.

To me, Mandela day is a day to reflect, sit back and make a difference in other people's lives. Mandela spent 27 years in prison and risked the death penalty to fight for justice and the equal treatment of all human beings. To me, Mandela Day means spending just an hour and 7 minutes doing humanitarian work for the less fortunate.

Mandela is a humanitarian icon, so it was just natural to spend my day, doing humanitarian work. I went to the UN offices in Prinsloo Street in Pretoria to donate old clothes and some sweets and snacks for the kids sleeping outside the UN offices.



2. Mr Paulie Erasmus

Facilities Management

Mandela Day is all about stretching hands and giving back to the less fortunate by any means that a person can. I spent my 67 Minutes the same way I always do every year on 18 July, by donating groceries to car watchers and homeless people at a local mall in Centurion.

It always breaks my heart to see people who do not appreciate the basics such as food and clothes when hundreds of people are suffering out there in the streets. It is my dream to see families coming together in helping other people who cannot afford the basic needs."

Vox Pops continued

Members of the public



1. Ms Sharnay Moodley

I spent my 67 minutes at a local hospital helping mothers of new born babies and also donating clothes for People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA). I was pleased to take part in such activities and I look forward to next year's Mandela Day

This year, I spent my 67 minutes volunteering for the Model United Nations Association's annual Universities Conference hosted at the University of Pretoria. This event brought together undergraduate students from all over South Africa to meet and interact with diplomats, politicians and academics involved with spreading South Africa's message of Ubuntu. It was a great opportunity to do what I love whilst working with SA's future leaders.



4. Mr Tshegofatso Mashigo

This day was started to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela, our former President, and his values, through volunteering and community service. It is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.

doing so. I make sure I play my part even though it is not Mandela Day by making sure that I do something good for needy people. I practically make every day my Mandela Day.

This Mandela day I went to a special needs school in Primrose, Germiston where my colleagues and I handed out food parcels to the school. We spent over 3 hours singing, dancing and playing games with the learners who seemed excited to spend time with us. This is a day of giving back and making a difference in people's lives, no matter how little the efforts may seem.



2. Mr Rudolf du Plessis

Mandela Day is celebrated internationally on the 18th of July. By honouring Mandela's legacy on this day, it teaches us that each individual, no matter how small, has the potential to bring a lasting positive change to the world.



3. Titus Pertho Maluleke

It refers to the remembrance of the icon, that fought for the freedom of our people and country, providing justice for everyone and the rainbow nation, also allowing us to live in peace by forgiving the previous apartheid regime, that promote division based on race.

I contribute with my time at an old age home at Augrabies, Upington, Northern Cape, together with my colleagues by providing groceries for the old age and also cooking for the old age personnel.



5. Rotondwa Netshivhambe

Mandela Day means a lot to me, it reminds me of all the struggles Madiba went through for our freedom, and the courage he showed in



6. Ms Jessica Dunstan

Nelson Mandela was a great man; this is very clear from the legacy he left behind. He symbolised peace and selflessness. I cannot even begin to imagine how our country would have turned out had it not been for the sacrifice he made.

"There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." - Nelson Mandela



Photo by: Nomuyo Mlatswa

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