

Environment Quarterly

EzemVelo Ngenyanga Ntathu • Mbango wa kotara • Mupo nga Kotara

**Mountain Zebra National Park
Opens New Rock Chalets**

**Women Building a
Better Environment**



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2017 environment CALENDAR



January

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2 February
22 March
23 March
26 March
22 April
9 May
22 May
5 June
8 June

World Wetlands Day
World Water Day
World Meteorological Day
Earth Hour
Earth Day
World Migratory Bird Day
International Biodiversity Day
World Environment Day
World Oceans' Day

17 June
18 July
31 July
1 September
10 - 16 September
16 September
22 September
21 November

World Day to Combat Desertification
Nelson Mandela Day
World Ranger Day
National Harbour Day
National Parks Week
World Ozone Day
World Rhino Day
World Fisheries Day

Focus on Women

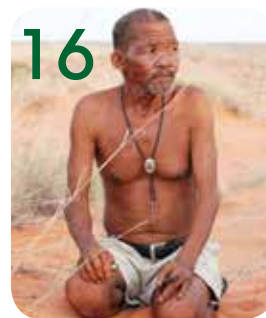
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To use this QR code conveniently you must have a smartphone equipped with a camera and a QR code reader/scanner application feature.





Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The editorial team is proud to bring you this edition of Environment Quarterly, which has a strong focus on the indispensable role and contributions of women to the environment sector, as well as the legislative frameworks and programmes in place to support women's inclusion.

Our department boasts an experienced political and administrative leadership team, spearheaded by women: the Minister Dr Edna Molewa, the Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson and Director-General Nosipho Ngcaba. The vision and drive of the leadership is a golden thread that runs through the high level programmes and interventions of the department, as well as our daily work and interactions with the public.

In the 2013/2014 financial year, the Department of Environmental Affairs became the first department to develop a sector strategy for gender mainstreaming. The Strategy Towards Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector 2016-2021 was developed in order to give effect to Constitutional imperatives, international obligations and the ideals of the National Development Plan Vision 2030 (NDP 2030).

The NDP 2030, which recently marked five years since being launched, acknowledges that in particular young people and women have been denied the opportunities to lead the lives which they desire. The environment sector can be a powerful catalyst for positive change in this regard. Our sector provides many opportunities for women and young people to gain skills, formal education, as well as meaningful and dignified work. In addition the environment sector unlocks opportunities for citizens to become business owners and employers themselves, in a variety of sub-sectors such as the wildlife economy, oceans economy and waste management.

The NDP 2030 notes that emerging small, medium and micro enterprises in areas such as waste management contribute to the reduction of poverty, unemployment and income inequality. You can read more about the legislative framework, skill and job creation projects which provide for full participation and benefit sharing for women in the environment sector on page five of this edition.

Women's Month activities which were led and supported by the department this quarter, included Minister Molewa's engagements with young women, female academics and religious leaders. Minister Molewa promoted personal mastery and leadership, environmental careers and support for women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Read more about these events with various stakeholders on page 10 of the edition.

Deputy Minister Thompson recently led the 8th Women in Environment Conference in KwaZulu-Natal, where amongst others the gender mainstreaming strategy was unpacked and further commitments made to incorporate women's perspectives in planning, monitoring and evaluation of environmental projects. The Deputy Minister's engagement was part of the department's busy calendar of Women's Month activities, with women at all levels of society. You can read more about the event on page 12 of this edition.

This edition's Leadership Profile features our Chief Financial Officer Esther Makau, snippets from the recent growing of Miss Earth South Africa and so much more. We hope that you enjoy this edition and urge you to share your copy with young women in particular, in order to expose them to careers and opportunities in the environment sector.

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Meet our team

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WE ARE GRADUALLY WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST RHINO POACHING



During a media briefing held on 24 July 2017, Minister Molewa outlined the South African government's multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary strategy to combat the threat posed by rhino poaching. The Minister will be joined by Ministers collaborating in the implementation of the Strategic Management approach.

The Integrated Strategic Management Approach involves the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster Departments and a number of the Departments of Defence, Environmental Affairs, Justice, Constitutional Development and Correctional Services, the South African Police Service (SAPS), Ministry of State Security and its Agency, South African National Parks (SANParks), the South African Revenue Service (SARS), as well as provincial conservation authorities. Below are some of the highlights from the briefing:

POACHING



There has been a slight decrease in the number of rhino poached nationally. A total of 529 rhino have been poached since January 2017, compared to 542 in the same period for 2016, representing a decrease of 13 rhinos. With regards to the Kruger National Park which has traditionally borne the brunt of poaching, a total of 243 rhino carcasses were found between January and the end of June 2017. This is compared to 354 in the same period in 2016. This represents a decrease of 34%.

ARRESTS



In the same reporting period, a total of 359 alleged poachers and traffickers have been arrested nationally. The number of arrests inside the Kruger National Park (KNP) totaled 90 alleged poachers with 112 arrested adjacent to the KNP. There has been a marked increase globally during 2017 in the number of rhino horn detections and seizures at ports of entry and exit. As indicated previously, since the beginning of this year, there have been several detections at OR Tambo International Airport).

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS



South Africa has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU's) with Vietnam, China, Laos, Cambodia, Mozambique and Kenya. These MOUs have assisted to improve international and regional collaboration and several are currently under implementation.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



International Climate Agreement

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and Minister President of Flanders, His Excellency, Mr Geert Bourgeois have jointly signed the Declaration of Intent for the implementation of the Third Country Strategy Paper (CSP III) on Development Cooperation in Pretoria, on 21 August 2017. The agreement is the result of a joint consultation process between the Governments of South Africa and Flanders to harness resources toward climate change adaptation.

Image by Thabiso Poee



South Africa participates in UNCCD CoP13

Officials from the South African government made part of the discussions on desertification and land degradation during the 13th session of the United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification CoP 13 held in Ordos, China in September 2017. South Africa showcased efforts made by the departments of Environmental Affairs, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Water Affairs in combating the effects of desertification in some parts of our country.

Image by Ernest Mulibana



KZN Young Achievers Awards

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson was bestowed an honorary award in Leadership, Environment and Entrepreneurship for her role in flying the KwaZulu-Natal flag high, and for the continuous contributions made towards the development and empowering of the youth of KwaZulu-Natal and beyond. This award was given at the KZN Young Achievers Awards ceremony on 05 August 2017 in Durban.

Image by Itumeleng Motsepe

New Miss Earth Crowned

Right: Miss Earth South Africa 2017 co-sponsored by the DEA crowned another deserving winner, Ms Irini Moutzouris (centre) alongside, 1st runner-up Orielia Egambaram, 2nd runner-up Rose Mantsho and 3rd runner-up Bianca Rungasamy.



Image by Thabiso Poee

Celebrating National Parks Week

During the opening of its 12th annual SA National Parks Week, SANParks partnered with Total SA and FNB as co visionaries in developing 'A sustainable National Park System Connecting Society'. From the 18th to the 22nd of September members of the public were granted free day access to the parks.



Image by Thabiso Poee

Celebrating Women in Environment

By Seipati Sentle



Above: The Aquaculture sector has created many job opportunities for women and youth while providing sustainable food supply for the South African public. The women who are employed on the Aquaculture project are from the local community, thereby assisting to uplift their families and living conditions.

This year marks 61 years since approximately 20 000 women from all walks of life marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 to protest against the unjust pass laws that restricted their freedom of movement and destabilised families and livelihoods.

This Year Women's Day in South Africa is celebrated under the theme 'The Year of OR Tambo: Women United in moving South Africa forward.' It is well established that the great ANC President Oliver Reginald Tambo was a strong advocate for women's rights and he was steadfast in his commitment to gender equality both within the structures of the liberation movement and society at large.

The year 2015 marked the 20-year anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Women and the environment is one of the 12 critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Since 1994, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the South African government has made significant strides in ensuring that women are included in key decision-making processes, thus asserting their role in creating a better life for them and accelerate a transition towards the green economy.

Parallel to the evolution of environmental and sustainable development legislation, policies and strategies, the environment sector continues to focus its agenda on women empowerment through various national and provincial programmes.

The National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) makes it clear that the vital role of

women and youth in environment management and development must be recognised and their full participation therein must be promoted.

The 2017 Women and Environment Dialogue aims to reflect on and take stock of the environment sector's gender mainstreaming progress, successes and challenges thus far and agree on the next decade's priorities and opportunities.

The sector is further committed to roll out initiatives that aim to address the imbalances of the past and advance gender inequality regardless of race, religion, disability, or any other factor.

The framework implementation will enhance our attainment of gender equality in the environmental sector in accordance with the Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996); the Women's Charter for Effective Equality, 1994; the National Framework for Women



About the contributor: Seipati Sentle

Ms Seipati Sentle is a Communications Specialist for the Department of Environmental Affairs.



Above: Over the years, the Department of Environmental Affairs has created bursary opportunities for women wishing to take up studies in the environment field. The Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson is seen here with some learners from KwaZulu-Natal. Minister Edna Molewa often enjoys engaging with high school learners, showing them various opportunities that are available in the environment field.



Above: To date nearly 300 women have benefitted from the Environmental Practice Learnership Programme. Ms Reneilwe Dibakwane from Bushbuckridge Municipality in Mpumalanga receives a certificate of competence from The MEC for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism Mr Seaparo Sekoati during the Environmental Learners Graduation Ceremony at the Capricorn TVET College.

Empowerment and Gender Equality, 2000; the Strategic Framework for Gender Equality within the Public Service, 2006; as well as international frameworks including UN Women, United Nations Commission on Status of Women (UNCSD) and United Nations Environment Programmes (UNEP) among others.

Some of the key progress made in gender mainstreaming includes administering the Environmental Practice Learnership Programme. To date nearly 300 female learners have benefited: going on to formal employment in business, government and non-governmental and community based organisations.

Other initiatives include bursary opportunities created for women. These initiatives have gone a long way towards addressing the skills gap in the environment and reducing unemployment, especially of young women.

With regards to enterprise and community development, the National Green Fund established in April 2012 has injected much needed funding into women-headed green economy projects like the Muthi Futhi project in Edakeni, near Eshowe, Uthungulu District in KwaZulu Natal province.

This project comprises a group of rural women who are pioneering the commercial production of selected indigenous traditional medicinal plants, with the sale of herbal

products ensuring a fully functional and operational enterprise that provides green jobs.

A similar such initiative is the 100 percent women-owned Bema Bamboo project in Mandeni, Ilembe District in KwaZulu Natal. This project aims to produce top-quality Beema Bamboo biomass feedstock.

“The 2017 Women and Environment Dialogue aims to reflect on and take stock of the environment sector’s gender mainstreaming progress.”

The environmental sector continues to support a host of other projects around the country that promote environmental conservation, but at the same time impart skills to women in sectors such as wetland conservation and rehabilitation.

These include those within the ambit of the Expanded Public Works Programme such as Working for Wetlands, Working for Water, Working for Fire, Working for Waste and the Land Care Programme.

The South African green economy modelling report of 2013 revealed that investments in the natural resource management, in particular through Working for Water type programmes has significant potential to create jobs

while enhancing environmental goods and services such as water availability and regulation.

The Working for Water programme started in 1995 and remains a particularly highly relevant intervention in the green economy sector through creating vital opportunities for women empowerment.

Between 2012/13 there were 73 678 work opportunities created for women under the environment and culture sector programme. The following year this number increased to 80 658 work opportunities for women

The DEA has created and laid a firm platform base for the sector’s women and environment agenda. Working in collaboration with business, labour, academia and civil society, we have it within our means to resolve the country’s challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.



Above: More women are finding it exciting to look for career opportunities in the shipbuilding sector. Sisonke Qina is employed by SA Shipyards as an intern and hopes to expand her career in this sector.

Women building a better environment

By Erica Mathye



Above: Black Mamba'a Ms Felicia Mkgakane and her colleague, Collet Ngobeni share a moment with Minister Molewa.



Above: Aspiring poet, Ms Zuziwe Mhlongo shares her thoughts on Women's Month.

We cannot talk about women in 2017 without talking about the women of 1956 who changed the course of history when they marched in protest of the Pass Laws that required black South Africans over the age of 16 to carry a pass book everywhere they went.

61 years later, a woman in South Africa has been presented with economic and political opportunities that otherwise would have been reserved for men. She assumes leadership at home and at work.

In closing off Women's Month, three women pioneers in different fields of the environment speak about how they use their power to persuade mind shifts and change stereotypes.

A woman loves and protects

Felicia Mkgakane (29)
Member of anti-poaching unit, Black Mambas

The Setswana saying which goes, "Mosaditla o tshwara thipa ka fa bogaleng" loosely translated to 'a strong woman looks danger in the eye', rings true for Felicia Mkgakane who faces danger every day in her line of work from the threat of poachers or being mauled by a wild animal.

Felicia joined the Black Mambas to expose her inherent nature to nurture, care and protect the environment in the same way a woman protects her children.

"Women are notorious for burying deep secrets within our hearts. As Black Mambas we never slip about secret operations," says Felicia.

The Black Mambas is a 26-member female anti-poaching unit that was founded in 2013 and currently looks after the Balule Nature Reserve.

The group gained international fame and recognition in 2015 when the UN honoured them with a Champions of the Earth award for their sterling efforts in conservation.

Two years into the job, Felicia says the risk is even higher.

"In the past, poachers used to target the full moon to poach the animals but right now they have become so desperate in their efforts that they crawl in pitch black darkness hunting for the rhino. The risk is high but it's the love that drives you" says Felicia.

A woman shares what she knows

Zuziwe Mhlongo (27)
Senior Human Resource Officer:
Service Benefits
Department of Environmental
Affairs

The dynamic young woman from Umzimkhulu in KwaZulu-Natal says women find their strength in learning from one another, especially in the workplace.

Zuziwe says older women should teach younger women important life lessons from a place of love.



About the contributor: Erica Mathye

Erica Mathye is the Deputy Director: Editorial Services at DEA. Before joining the Department, she worked as a journalist, literature editor and sub-editor for various publications. Her interests include travelling and spending time on Pinterest looking for home improvement ideas.

"I'm very lucky because I have a supervisor who is supportive of my work life and goals. We have such a good working relationship that even on days when I'm not fine, she notices that and invites me to talk about whatever is bothering me," says Zuziwe.

As a former intern for the department, Zuziwe is living proof that hard work pays off.

"I was raised a single mother who sacrificed a lot of her needs to put me through school."

Zuziwe warns women to get out of abusive relationships as soon as the signs start showing.

"I grew up in a dysfunctional, abusive family. My mother defeated abuse in her marriage so from her experience I know that it is possible for a woman to move and live a more fulfilling life," she says.

When life becomes unbearable, Zuziwe says she buries herself in her writing.

"My poetry is my secret place where I find peace. It's a secret place where there is no criticism. It's my own therapeutic world where I pour out my heart, thoughts and ideas about life," says Zuziwe.

A woman is fearless

Salome Meso (34) Provincial Project Manager: Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme

When Salome Meso joined the EPIP as a young, dynamic Provincial Project Manager six years ago, she had to change a lot of stereotypes about the role of a woman in the workplace, particularly in Mpumalanga.

Salome explains that she worked in rural areas where most leadership is male and a woman's place is with the children or lower on the hierarchy of employment.



Above: The Provincial Project manager for EPIP in Mpumalanga, Ms Salome Meso.

"I remember some of the Chiefs and Indunas (Zulu word for tribal councillor) refused to speak with me during community engagement meetings because traditionally men do not discuss business with women.

It did not help that Salome was a Tswana speaking woman from Ga-Habedi in North West, who was now posted in Mpumalanga province.

"My secret weapon was language. I made sure I learned iSiswati so I could at least communicate effectively with the locals," she says.

At work, Salome says she does not tolerate inefficiencies and ineffectiveness among project participants and even from herself as an employee.

Salome's projects are mainly in Working on Waste, Working for Land, Greening and Open Space, People & Parks and Wildlife Economy focus areas and she supervises project participants on the ground and implementing agents in ensuring successful implementation of these projects. Her work involves new or existing projects for rehabilitation or upgrades, working closely with other colleagues.

Despite the challenges, Salome says she loves working with different communities and expanding on the environmental management programmes of municipalities, through the Department's various initiatives and programmes.

"Often when we have completed a project, we find that we have also improved the relationship between a municipality and its community in terms of service delivery" says Salome.

Her projects last anything between six and 24 months and she is "mostly fulfilled to learn of the upliftment in various lives of the participants that are temporarily employed in these projects and their households" she added.

The Sports Sciences, Development Studies and Project Management BA (Hons) graduate from University of Western Cape says the sky is the limit for a woman who is not afraid to face challenges and embrace them creatively and intelligently.



Above: Salome with some participants of the Loskop Non-Motorised Transport event, where the Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson handed over bicycles.

Fighting to save the environment

By Veronica Mahlaba and Thabiso Poee



Above: Ms Ntebo Kwenaithe is serious about saving lives.

How did you get involved in Working on Fire?

I was told about the Working on Fire programme by my cousin in 2011 and then immediately joined in Hammanskraal. I became a Crew Leader Type 1 in March 2012.

What made you become a firefighter?

When I was growing up, I wanted to be a soldier but that was unsuccessful. I saw that there were similarities between soldiers and firefighters as they both require fitness and discipline. We are here to save and protect people. That's why I became a firefighter.

What does your typical day entail?

I come to the office and do paperwork. I find production (includes information such as fire breaks, road maintenance, slashing) from my manager and delegate the work appropriately. I do drilling sessions in the morning, check for injuries, do risk assessments and fitness. I am able to run 2,4 km in 13 minutes 30 seconds, the prescribed for women is 14min and for men 12 minutes.

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I love going out to different sites to gain experience and learning more. I also enjoy doing the drills, going out to do fire awareness and choir competitions.

Are women represented well in this field?

Females are coming on board. When I first joined in 2011, there was no crew leader women. In 2012 I became the first woman in Gauteng to become a Crew Leader. Today there are many more Type 1.

Would you encourage other women to become firefighters?

Yes. As much as it is very challenging, I would recommend to other women to join in. It is great for fitness, so you don't age quickly. We save people and animals. We are important as firefighters.

You were part of the team that went to fight the fires in Kysna, briefly tell us about the experience?

The fire was challenging, you could be sent to the same area three times. There were crown fires, which are fires that burn on top of trees like fynbos. It is very flammable. We had to dig deep to extinguish the fires and mop up to make sure it doesn't resurface. As a woman you need to

accept the conditions as they are when you are out on the field.

What challenges do you face as a woman leader in your career?

In the office I don't have much. I always have people that I can go to for assistance I have support. Outside of work, we face tough terrain and unfamiliar grounds. In Knysna we didn't know where we were or what we were approaching. So it was tough. We didn't know any escape routes and we had to figure out on the ground our safety zones. That can be a bit scary with the type of job we do.

What has been the most rewarding experience thus far?

It was at Modimolle in Limpopo, where lightning struck a veld. We worked for 24 hours without eating or sleeping, fighting the fire. I realised we were really fit as the area was mountainous. We worked until our pants were torn and some of our boots were torn.

What are your encouraging words to other women?

We must stand up as women. Don't let men discriminate us in terms of our gender. We are mothers, sisters and wives. Let us push ourselves in everything we do.

About the contributors: Veronica Mahlaba and Thabiso Poee

Thabiso Poee is the Editorial Services Intern at the national Department of Environmental Affairs. His passion is in History, Literature and the Creative Arts.

Veronica Mahlaba is the Senior Communication Officer: Editorial Services at the national Department of Environmental Affairs. 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.

Minister Molewa celebrates Women's Month

By Veronica Mahlaba, Gaopalelwe Moroane and Thabiso Pooe



Above: Minister Molewa with Ms Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University and her runners up at the Phenomenal Women event.

As part of South Africa's Women's Month celebrations, Minister Edna Molewa graced a number of event and ceremonies to commemorate the strength and

unity of the women that marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 to protest against the carrying of pass books. The Minister, who is also the Chancellor of Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, was

invited as one of the guest speakers for a ceremony at the campus on 11 August 2017.

The theme for the evening was Phenomenal Women. The event aimed to inspire young women to be



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.



Above: Minister Molewa flanked by the newly inaugurated Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi (left) and Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Gordon Zide (right).



Above: Minister Molewa receives a blanket from the United Reformed Church of South Africa Women's Congregation at a conference held in White River.

the best they can be and as mothers of the nation, to be bold enough to take on the reigns of leadership and understand the importance of leading within their homes, communities and their country.

Minister Molewa said that Africa was blessed with great and visionary women leaders. Since the dawn of time, Africa has always had the leadership of queens and chiefs so women leadership is not a new thing to Africa.

The Minister also alluded to the fact that Africa has a long and illustrious history of women at the forefront of gender and national struggles.

"Government has chosen as the theme for this year's Women's Month The Year of OR Tambo: Women united in Moving South Africa Forward. It is a celebration of the women of 1956, but at the same time a call to action to the current generation of women to continue the struggle towards the total liberation and empowerment of women.

"Today, levels of gender representation in our government and across most sectors of our society are amongst the highest in the world. In some instances, higher than countries far more established than ours. The South Africa of today is a vastly different place for women than the South Africa of 1956, because gender mainstreaming across all spheres of government has resulted in the advancement of our country's women at levels unseen previously in our history."

Minister Molewa also acknowledged that even as our women continue to

reap the benefits of the groundwork laid by our predecessors, they still face many challenges.

Minister followed the Phenomenal Women event with an inaugural ceremony on 12 August 2017 at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) where she spoke about Women's Month in addition to celebrating its newly appointed Chancellor, Dr Xolani Hymphrey Mkwanzazi and Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Gordon Ndomdomzi Zide.

In her capacity as both Minister of Environmental Affairs and Chancellor of Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, Minister Molewa

"Let us stand up and seek information that can empower us. Let us knock on the doors of various organisations and government departments and enquire about their programs for women."

congratulated the new Chancellor and Vice Chancellor and Principal of the VUT.

Minister Molewa esteemed the calibre of the two university heads as the kind needed to kick-start the country's slow economic growth. "We are very confident that both of you as leaders of this institution will serve to inspire, to motivate and lead the VUT to even greater heights of success and achievement," she said.

In her congratulatory address Medical Officer and Business Leader Dr Anna Mokgokong attributed the significance of the two leaders' appointment in Women's Month as an indication that their most urgent task would be to ensure that the gender issue becomes priority within the education sphere. "As women we face many challenges especially in the STEM (Science, technology, Engineering and Mathematics) areas. STEM has a history of being skewed towards males. Apparently women comprise of 26% of STEM talent worldwide," said Mokgokong.

Minister wrapped up her Women's Month activities with an attendance at the United Reformed Church of South Africa's (URCSA) Christian Women's Ministry Northern Synod on 20 August 2017 in White River, where she spoke to the over 700 congregants on the theme of Government Women's Month Celebrations.

Addressing the hall, Minister encouraged the women to seek and take advantage of every opportunity to better themselves and the lives of their children.

"Let us stand up and seek information that can empower us. Let us knock on the doors of various organisations and government departments and enquire about their programs for women. Let us organise ourselves and form cooperatives and work together to create wealth," she said.

The day was wrapped up with Minister and the Gift of the Givers handing out blankets and food parcels to the ladies in attendance.

Women integral to environmental sustainability

By Zibuse Ndlovu and Abraham Shoba



Above: Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson makes a speech during the 8th Annual Women in Environment Conference held in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal.



Above: Deputy Minister Thomson handed over certificates to women in recognition of their contribution to women empowerment in the environment sector.

The Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson has applauded women for their role as foot soldiers in the fight to combat environmental degradation. Ms Thomson was interacting with women at the 8th annual Women in Environment Conference held on 24 August 2017 in Newcastle, KwaZulu - Natal.

Speaking during the conference convened under the theme: Pledge for Parity, Deputy Minister said the first step to make women full participants in environmental governance was to recognise that they are a largely untapped resource of environmental knowledge that needs to be used justly to combat climate change.

"We can no longer afford to underestimate or neglect the role of women in building a sustainable future for the coming generation. The next step is finding concrete ways to integrate women into the planning, development, and execution

of environmental decisions and strategies for a sustainable future," said Ms Thomson.

The Women in Environment Conference brings together various stakeholders in the environment sector, with a specific objective of women empowerment.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) took a decision during 2013/ 2014 Financial Year to develop a Strategy Toward Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector 2016 - 2021, the first such sector strategy in the country, in order to promote gender equality in line with the Constitution and National Development Plan as well as international obligations.

Ms Fika Khumalo from Danganya in Mkhomazi south coast, is a Mine Agritainment founder that produces organic plants and said she was happy to be part of the 8th Women in Environment dialogue since it was her first time.

The Agritainment started in 2015 and it consists of five members. It produces organic beetroot which is used to make beetroot wine that helps with high blood pressure, sugar diabetes and boosts libido. They also produce the comfrey plant to make ointment.

"This project helped us a lot in terms of eradicating poverty in our homes. While we still lack a market to sell our products we are able to sell to family and friends, at schools, clinics and to our local communities," Ms Khumalo said.

A Commissioner for Amajuba District: Dr Nompumelelo Mbatha Mahlubi encouraged women that they should not rely on Universities to conduct research on what indigenous plants can be used. "We need to find ways to take control of our knowledge and on how we can share it. We have to continue preserve what we have from nature and their use to heal human sickness," she said.

About the contributors: Zibuse Ndlovu and Abraham Shoba

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

Abraham Shoba is a Communication Officer at the Department of Environmental Affairs, within the Communications Chief Directorate.

The 6th annual Rhino Conservation Awards

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

Images by Itumeleng Motsepe



Above: The recipients of the the best Field Ranger awards, Mr Tyson Maluleke (middle), Julius Sibuyi (left) and Wilson Siwela (right). Mr Maluleke’s K9 Kilalo (ranger dog) was also recognised for its efforts in combating rhino poaching.



Above: Minister Edna Molewa with Rhino Conservation Awards Founders, Miss Xiaoyang Yu and Best Political, Investigative and Judicial Support first Runner-Up, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The Ballroom at Montecasino was packed to capacity with officials and volunteers who gathered to pay tribute to those who work to conserve the lives of rhino on 21 August 2016. Minister Molewa gave a keynote address at the annual Rhino Conservation Awards.

Minister Molewa paid tribute to the fallen rangers who work on the frontlines of the war against rhino poaching. “The loss of our rangers to the bullets of criminals is a stark reminder of the severity of the threat posed by the transnational illicit wildlife trade. Our abundant biodiversity has made us a target for unscrupulous gangs with little regard for the long-term consequences of their actions,” she said.

According to a statement by the Game Rangers Association of Africa, at least 55 rangers from Africa have been killed in the last 12 months alone. This number brings the global total of killed rangers during the same period to 105 according to the International Ranger Federation.

Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi who was the first runner up for Best Political, Investigative and Judicial Support

at the annual Rhino Conservation Awards, said he was often mocked for “caring more about animals than people”.

“When a country is waging a liberation struggle, giving attention

to wildlife is seldom considered a priority. But to me it was important because I wanted more than a political victory for South Africa. I wanted a rich inheritance where I risked my reputation,” he said.

The awards were awarded as below:

| CATEGORY | WINNER | FIRST RUNNER UP | SECOND RUNNER-UP |
|--|---|---|---|
| Field Ranger | Tyson Maluleke and his K9 Kilalo, and Julius Sibuyi | Wilson Siwela | |
| Conservation Practitioner | Kruger National Park’s Marula South ranger team | Namibian Conservancy Rhino Ranger Incentive Programme | SANParks’ regional ranger Don English and section ranger Craig Williams |
| Best Rhino Conservation Supporter | Adam Pires and the EWT Wildlife in Trade Programme | Richard Mabanga | Rhino Art – Let the Voices be Heard campaign, and husband and wife team, Steve and Perry Dell from the Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust and the Rhino Poaching Unit |
| Best Political, Investigative and Judicial Support | Jabu Qayiso | Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi | Frik Rossouw |

SANBI bids farewell to Dr Abrahamse

By Kennedy Nemutamvuni

After 10 years of a successful career span at the helm of the country's biodiversity knowledge and information hub, Dr Abrahamse leaves the office. She steered the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) from a narrow botanic focus to a broader biodiversity mandate representative of all ecosystems across land and sea. The persuasive executive reflects back on her time as Chief Executive Officer of SANBI

Institution in transit

Given her strong background in biological science backed by a doctorate degree, Dr Abrahamse has provided much needed leadership and management for SANBI. She was part of the team that was instrumental in the development of the National Environmental Management Act of 1998 which would later become the basis upon which the Biodiversity Act of 2004 is derived from. SANBI was established on 1 September 2004 through the enacting of the National Environmental Management Act: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 after it evolved from the National Botanical Institute.

Dr Abrahamse was part of the team tasked with driving the switch on the previous natural resource management policy prescriptions to the constitutional policy frameworks. It is in this process that she worked with many prominent personnel who some of them would later be appointed in the SANBI Board of Directors.

Dr Abrahamse strongly believes biodiversity science has to be widely "accessible and responsive" to the people. She has however warned SANBI to never be found competing with universities in research but to

complement each other, encourage uptake as well as informing policies and be the basis of decision making process for the betterment of the lives of the people. This is because the world has already taken this decision of unlocking synergies and complementarities between people and the biodiversity.

Opening "windows of biodiversity" to the world

When Dr Abrahamse arrived, SANBI was sitting on eight gardens with the ninth waiting to be finalised. She studied the progress that had been and ensured it was executed efficiently. This was the start of her long-term vision of having a country-wide footprint of the botanic system representative of our biodiversity. She has since overseen the addition of Hantam, Kwelera as well as the Thohoyondou Botanical Gardens due for launch in August 2017. These additions have seen the growth of the system of botanic gardens from 8 to 11 at the time of her departure.

It is through this excellence in the botanic gardens system that today SANBI celebrates its 35th gold medal and the presidential award at the 42nd exhibit of the Royal Horticultural Chelsea Show.

Let a 100 flowers blossom

Through her impeccable track record in leadership, she was appointed to the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's inaugural Scientific Advisory Board. This body is responsible for the provision of advice on science, technology and innovation for sustainable development to the UN Secretary-General and Executive Heads of UN organisations. This was good news. South Africa and SANBI in particular celebrated this appointment which



Above: Dr Abrahamse has provided much needed leadership and management for SANBI.

meant broadening of engagement with wider communities globally. However, her service to the board has come to an end with the appointment of the new UN Secretary General.

Learning as we go!

SANBI today celebrates its profound values known as uGreat – simply translates uBuntu, Growth, Respect and Tolerance, Excellence, Accountability, Togetherness. These values are based on the respect for each other irrespective of race, culture and social considerations. The outgoing leader takes pride in the effect these values have had on staff and the recognition across the organisation.

Dr Abrahamse will be remembered for her inspiring stories about her daughters, love for people and her character that instilled confidence and removed fear amongst many young people. She has excelled in her position.



About the contributor: Kennedy Nemutamvuni

Kennedy Nemutamvuni provides the learning network support to the Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice Chief Directorate at SANBI. His responsibilities include knowledge management support, convening communities of practice particularly in the ecological infrastructure programme of work, coordination, capturing and dissemination of information.

iSimangaliso bids farewell to Andrew Zaloumis

After some 20 years of outstanding leadership and a career dedicated to people-centred conservation, Andrew Zaloumis has stepped down as CEO of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. He will pursue his studies in sustainability at Cambridge University UK and continue to contribute to Southern African conservation and development.

Zaloumis was honoured to receive the WWF Living Planet award in 2015; Receiving an 'Ingwazi (Legend) Award' from the Land of Legends Association, one of many awarded to Zaloumis and iSimangaliso for outstanding work during his term of service; One of the regular payments made to the Bhangazi Land Claimants through the revenue sharing process; Handing over equipment to Thandi Masuku as part of the Park's Rural Enterprise Programme.

"Under his tenure, Mr Zaloumis pioneered and institutionalised development-focused conservation at the Park," comments the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa, and during his leadership, Government has delivered significant benefits across the iSimangaliso region, both through the Lubombo Spatial Development Initiative and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority.

These include the construction of the Hluhluwe to Mozambique road, upgrades to the N2, the implementation of a malaria programme that reduced malaria incidence by 96% in KwaZulu-Natal, as well as the listing of iSimangaliso on the World Heritage role and the promulgation of the World Heritage Convention Act, the consolidation of 16 parks under one banner and management system, the investment and construction of Park roads, bulk services, tourism

accommodation and day-visitor facilities in the 320km long iSimangaliso.

In his drive to recreate the wholeness of nature and to begin the process of rewilding the Park, Andrew managed the reintroduction of historically occurring game last seen a century ago on the banks of Lake St Lucia, the removal of commercial forestry plantations from the Park, and the systematic rehabilitation of the Eastern and Western Shores sections of iSimangaliso.

Most of the land rehabilitation work is undertaken using labour-intensive methods, creating a significant number of temporary jobs in the area, and some 8 000 permanent tourism jobs have been created. There are three community-owned tourism lodges in the Park, as well as community-owned and operated boat cruises, turtle tours, game drives, and other excursions in the Park under licence. The Higher Education Access Programme has provided 87 young people with financial and other support for their university studies. The first 50 graduates are charting a path for themselves in

conservation-related fields. The Rural Enterprise Programme has mentored and supported 215 small businesses, 106 of which have been given seed capital and 3 000 odd crafters, artists, and tour guides have been trained.

The work in iSimangaliso has translated into a reversal of a negative tourism trajectory. The number of establishments in the iSimangaliso region has grown some 86%. The region has outperformed other KwaZulu-Natal destinations in numbers of arrivals, both domestic and international, and average spend by tourists has increased.

Last but not least, under Andrew's inscrutable direction, iSimangaliso has achieved 15 consecutive clean audits, helped to raise millions with the establishment of the iSimangaliso Rare and Endangered Wildlife Species Fund and enlisted the financial support of the World Bank's Global Environment Fund, for the rehabilitation of the Lake St Lucia Estuary – arguably the biggest estuary rehabilitation project in the world.



Above: Andrew Zaloumis, former CEO at iSimangaliso Wetland Park transformed the Park from a declining tourist economy into a flourishing and growing destination capable of competing with some of the finest global attractions.

#Khomani becomes South Africa's 9th World Heritage Site

Images by: © Francois Odendaal Productions



Above: The 9th South African UNESCO World Heritage Site, #Khomani Cultural Landscape. (Image: © Francois Odendaal Productions).



Above: The South African delegation led by the DEA's Director General Ms Nosipho Ngcaba (bottom row- far right) at the inscription of the #Khomani Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage Site.

At its 41st session that took place in Krakow, Poland from 02-12 July 2017, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee inscribed the #Khomani Cultural Landscape on its prestigious world heritage list.

In her acceptance speech, the Director General of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba assured the World Heritage Committee and the #Khomani community of South

Africa's commitment to support these efforts and ensure that the integrity of the outstanding universal value is not only sustained but also strengthened to boost the economic development of the area, contribute to job creation, enhance tourism experiences and contribute to skills development. The Director General expressed, on behalf of South Africa, congratulations to the governments of Angola and Eritrea for the inscription of their first world heritage sites. Further appreciation is extended to the governments of

Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger for the expansion of W National Park of Niger to W-Arly-Pendjari Complex.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa welcomed the recognition of the #Khomani cultural traditions at a global level and acknowledged the significant role played by the #Khomani community on the successful inscription of the site. The Minister has committed that government will ensure its protection and transmission to future generations. "The South African

Did you know?

Today, the two largest San groups in South Africa are immigrants from Angola via Namibia. These are the !Xû and the Khwe, currently living at Schmidtsdrift, 80 km outside the Northern Cape provincial capital, Kimberley. There are 3 500 !Xû and 1 100 Khwe. Both groups claim an indigenous identity on the basis of their languages and cultures.

The next largest group is the San population of the southern Kalahari. Today, most San in this area (Lower Orange District) describe themselves as the #Khomani. The group is descended from several original San groups, including the ||Ng!u (close relatives of the !Xam who lived south of the !Gariep River), the #Khomani who spoke the same language as the ||Ng!u but had distinct lineage, the !'Auni, the Khatea, the Njamani and probably others whose names are now lost to us. Most San of this bloodline now speak Khoekhoegowap and /or Afrikaans as primary language. There are 23 confirmed speakers of the ancient N|u language.



National Parks (SANParks), which already manages the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, will also ensure that the integrity of the outstanding universal value of the property is sustained and that the ǀKhomani community will continue to be involved and benefit from their cultural heritage," she said.

The ǀKhomani and San people

The ǀKhomani and related San people are unique in that they descend directly from an ancient population that existed in southern Africa some 150,000 years ago, the ancestors of the entire human race.

area of 959,100ha in Dawid Kruiper District Municipality covers the entire Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (KGNP) and forms part of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park which is bordered by Botswana and Namibia in the east and west respectively.

In his address to the session, a member of the ǀKhomani San community in the Kalahari, Mr Dirk Pienaar, remarked that "the decision that was taken today marks a long awaited historical moment for us the ǀKhomani San and all other San|Bushman communities. As one of the most researched and documented cultures in the world, it was finally acknowledged for its

Ouma! Una Rooi who died sadly whilst fighting for our cause."

This year, the World Heritage Committee added 25 inscriptions to the list, 17 new cultural sites, three natural sites, and changed the boundaries of five existing sites.

The ǀKhomani Cultural Landscape is the 9th South African World Heritage site. Below is a full list of all of them and the years they were inscribed:

- iSimangaliso Wetland Park- 1999;
- Robben Island-1999;
- Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape-2003;
- Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa- 2005;
- Vrededorp Dome-2005;
- Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape- 2007
- Maloti-Drakensberg Park-2013
- Cape Floral Region Protected Areas-2015 and
- ǀKhomani Cultural Landscape-2017.



Above: Bushman cultural village, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Northern Cape, Khomani, South Africa.

The red dunes of the ǀKhomani Cultural Landscape are strongly associated with this unique culture stretching from the Stone Age to the present, thus making it a landscape that has changed little from a time long ago when humans were mainly hunter gatherers. The ǀKhomani Cultural Landscape has been home to at most a few hundred people who have survived life in the extreme desert landscape of the southern Kalahari through their knowledge of the land. Particular to their practices is their ways of physically defining the land through designated uses of the different parts; how their movements were organised as well as other significant cultural practices.

The landscape which covers an

universal value and importance. This listing will thus provide a foundation for us to continue to preserve, protect and practise our ancient culture and traditions with minimum threat of extinction within the current society."

He promised that the community will never stop to respect and nurture their culture as transferred from generation to generation. "Conservation for us is not a planned action or a buzz word to use to impress when needed. It is neither a choice but a way of life which is instilled within all San people from a very tender age." He concluded by giving special thanks to all the elderly within the community including "Oupa Dawid Kruiper and



Above: Traditional leader of the ǀKhomani San of the Kalahari, the late Dawid Kruiper.



EnviroCareer Focus: Nature Guide

Images by South African National Parks



Above: Mr Fhumulani Mikosi is seen with the iconic rhino at Marakele National Park, which was the flagship national park that had zero incidents of rhino poaching between 2011 and 2013.

This quarter we celebrate World Ranger Day on 31 July and Heritage Day on 24 September. World Ranger Day is supported by the International Rangers Federation, and is marked annually on the 31 July to acknowledge game rangers as dedicated guardians of the world's natural heritage.

Heritage Day is one of the newly created South African public holidays. It is a day in which all are encouraged to celebrate their cultural traditions in the wider context of the great diversity of cultures, beliefs, and traditions that make up the nation of South Africa.

In light of this we spoke to Nature Guide, and patriot of our natural heritage, Mr Fhumulani Mikosi from the South African National Parks (SANParks), Marakele National Park about his career path and what it involves.

“In order to obtain the Nature Guiding qualification, one must enrol with nature guiding academies and Wildlife colleges.”

What is the education background that is required for your career?

Nature Guiding is defined as the familiarisation of the natural environment to the people. One has to be knowledgeable in Dangerous Mammal Behaviour, Tracking, Bird names, sounds and calls, reptiles, insects, geology, taxonomy, astronomy, botany etc.

In order to obtain the Nature Guiding qualification, one must enrol with nature guiding academies and Wildlife colleges. After your studies,

certificates such as first aid training need to be submitted to the office of the provincial Tourist Guides registrar for licensing.

Tour guides who will be operating in potentially dangerous game areas where rifle handling is required must submit their rifle competency certificates to the South African Police Services (SAPS) for a competency certificate. In order to meet the SAPS requirements, one has to be older than 21 years of age. A Trails Guide certificate with a view potential dangerous game standard is required for those who will be conducting walking trails.

How long have you been working as a Nature Guide?

Ten years now. In 2007 I was employed by Mabula Game Lodge, then SANParks headhunted me in



Above: The surrounding wilderness, the remoteness and the seclusion of travelling through rarely seen areas are the main thrills of trails in Marakele National Park. The trail itself is guided by professional Nature Guide.



Above: Mr Fhumulani Mikosi during a game walk with some young visitors at the park. He says to be a successful nature guide, one has to be in love with the wonders of nature and be serious about subjects such as Biology from high school.

2009 where I based at Marakele National Park.

What inspired you to venture into this career path?

I come from the Mikosi Royal Family which originates from a kingdom formerly known as Tshivhase. From a young age I was interested in nature, particularly hunting, fishing and catching birds. The inspiration came from my parents who had a vision for me to study Tourism and Nature Conservation.

What are some of your duties as a Nature Guide?

Working as a Head Nature Guide in Marakele National Park, my responsibilities include conducting and managing activities such as game drives, morning walks and 4x4 trails, planning the development of new tourism products in the park, administration of guides, managing guiding operational budget and, assisting with environmental awareness. My everyday tasks include interacting with customers.

What is the most rewarding and challenging part of your job?

The most rewarding part for any Nature Guide is knowing that the education we are providing is changing the mind sets of both domestic and international communities to promote and enhance the conservation of our natural assets and heritage.

The most challenging part is dealing with the interesting and sometimes

aggressive behaviour of the Big Five animals. Animal behaviour is modified by the negative impact of what is happening in their surroundings such as poaching. Animals start associating the slaughtering of animals with human elements and start developing an aggression towards humans. The poaching scourge makes animals feel threatened when they pick up a human scent, making it difficult to always understand what you may be faced with each time you go into the bush.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in pursuing a career in Nature Guiding?

I would definitely tell them to start early and learn English and other languages as this is a multilingual discipline. Gather knowledge on subjects such as biology, ecology, geology, geography, astronomy, animal behaviour, reptiles knowledge, bird knowledge, taxonomy and customer care.

Some of your clients have described you as "the jungle encyclopaedia of southern Africa". How did you get to know so much about wildlife in our country?

I don't believe that being a Nature Guide is only about the Big Five as there is whole lot of fascinating tiny little animals which have to be studied by every Nature Guide, and South African.

Awards

- Best Guide in Limpopo 2009 - 2010
- Best Provincial Guide of South Africa- 2009 - 2010
- SANParks award for the Outstanding Customer Service-2009 - 2010
- Limpopo Field Guide Academy- Guiding Excellence - 2010
- Annual Kudu Awards Chief Executive Award for Excellent Performance at Workplace- 2010
- Annual Kudu Awards Chief Executive Award for Overall Best Performer in SANParks - 2010
- SANParks Best Customer Service award - 2011
- Welcome Overall Achiever for the Limpopo province - 2011
- Best Customer Service - 2012
- SANParks Outstanding Customer service - 2012
- SANParks Outstanding Customer Service -2013
- Lilizela Limpopo Provincial Best Nature Guide - 2016
- Lilizela Best Nature Guide of South Africa awards - 2017
- SANParks Kudu Awards - 2016

ENTRY FORM

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PlasticsSA
Private Bag X68
Halfway House 1685

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Involve your friends, family and community in a clean-up or a recycling activity. You can also do both!

2. Write a short report of your activity ... don't forget the photo's!

3. Post or email your entry form with your report to
PlasticsSA
jacques.lightfoot@plasticssa.co.za



This form can also be **DOWNLOADED** from www.plasticsinfo.co.za/competition2017

Once completed, attach your entry form to your report.

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First name and surname

Mobile

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Name of School / Business / Organisation

Grade

Date of Birth

Not for Business / Organisation

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Code

Physical address of School / Business / Organisation

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Code

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Name of Municipality

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Was this competition a school/company or classroom/team project?

School/ Company

Classroom/ Team

How many participated?

How did you hear about this competition?

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Signature

Date

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- The competition is open to all.
- Handwritten entries should be clearly written, on one side of the page only, using a black pen.
- The closing date for entries is 31 October 2017.
- The school principal or educator responsible for the entry must sign the entry form. Please fill in all items on the entry form.
- The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Prizes are not transferable.
- The sponsors, organisers or their employees shall not accept any liability arising out of any cause whatsoever in connection with the competition.

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3

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R 5 000

R 3 000

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Bringing sense into cents

Esther Makau: Chief Financial Officer

By Gaopalewe Moroane

The Department of Environmental Affairs has, for the past couple of years, achieved a clean audit from the Auditor General and this achievement is what the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Ms Esther Makau, draws her inspiration from.

She was one of the first CFOs to implement the Public Finance Management Act when it was established in government in 2000.

"It was both challenging and interesting to establish new benchmarks in financial and performance reporting, learning new systems of BAS and FMS reports and familiarising myself with government measures," said the

lady who holds the purse strings to the Department of Environmental Affairs' budget.

The mother of two began her career in government in 2000 after being headhunted from the private sector.

As a top female executive in a department that prides itself on its high level of performance, what is your career planning advice to other women, hoping to follow in your footsteps?

There is a Chinese Proverb which goes: "The miracle is not to fly in the air or walk on water but to walk on earth."

As women, we are always facing barriers in our walk on earth especially in male-dominated fields. A lot of the time we struggle to enter into high positions in the workplace, and once we are there, we have to maintain excellence.

What do you find most challenging and on the opposite end, most rewarding, about working for the Department of Environmental Affairs?

The department consists of different branches, each catering to different aspects of the environment and through interacting with officials and leaders from the branches, I got a better understanding of how to divide money amongst these branches.

The most rewarding is that the department has been able

to maintain its leadership stated objective through its governance strategies and better reporting frameworks. I am really grateful to be associated with its successes.

Many women find it difficult to balance their careers, studies and the demands of family life. How do you strike this balance?

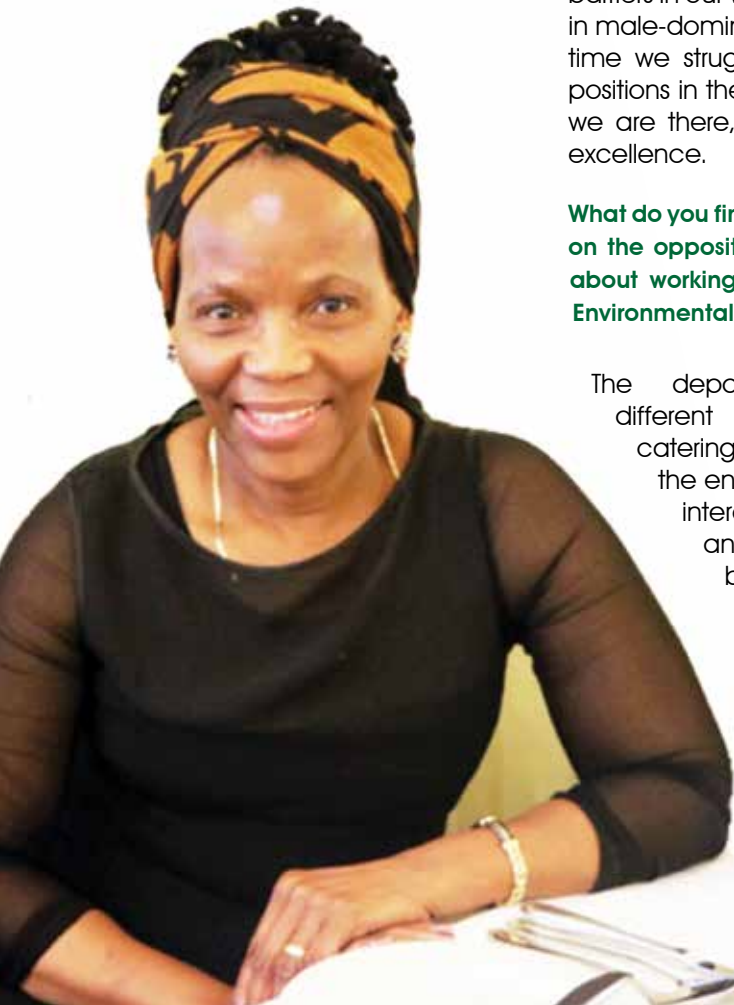
I have always believed that good leaders grow other leaders both at home, in their immediate surroundings, and at work. In applying this principle to my family and work life, it has in a way given me the space to work, study, and also provide much needed family life support.

How would you describe your leadership style? Do you consider certain leadership traits to be more applicable to women, than men in general?

I would like to think that I lead from three angles. Sometimes I lead from behind, allowing my team to take the initiative. Other times I lead from the front, setting parameters and boundaries on how the unit is to operate to achieve the objectives of the department and other times I lead from the sides to ensure that everyone I am leading is moving forward.

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

My greatest achievement in the past 13 years in government is that I was given an opportunity to absorb a number of young accounting interns, contractors, and graduates into my unit.



CSIR-developed coastal flood risk viewer for improved disaster risk management and development planning

By Reyhana Mahomed



Above: It is common for sea storms to occur with heavy rainfalls, imposing additional risks of flooding on inland communities.



Above: The web-based interactive tool allows users to zoom into maps while adjusting the flood levels to visualise which areas will be flooded.



Above: Storm events are hitting our coasts seasonally causing flooding, erosion of the coast lines, and destruction of roads, infrastructure and homes.

The CSIR coastal flood risk viewer is an interactive web-based tool to visualise the extent of coastal flooding in specific areas. This information is relevant for coastal development planning and disaster management in the light of climate change projections which indicate that sea levels will rise and the frequency and intensity of ocean storm-related floods will increase.

While sea-level rise and storm-related flooding are related in occurrence, they are very different hazards, says CSIR senior researcher Dr Melanie Lück-Vogel. "We know that the sea-level rises constantly and relatively slowly with about 1-2 mm per year on South Africa's coasts.

However, storm events are hitting our coasts seasonally and while they batter the coasts for only hours or days and just locally these sea storms can have massive wave heights reaching up to 10 meters, causing flooding, erosion of the coast lines, and destruction of roads, infrastructure and homes." It is for these storm scenarios that the tool will allow for visualisation of flooding of up to 10 meters above sea level. Lück-Vogel adds that the tool can be useful to anyone from a home owner

to a developer, insurance companies and disaster risk managers. The web-based tool has been developed by pooling remote sensing, GIS and information technology expertise at the CSIR.

The coastal flood risk viewer is a user-friendly tool based on online maps and high resolution LiDAR-based, digital elevation models. It allows users to zoom into the maps while adjusting the flood levels with a slider to see which areas will be flooded, explains Lück-Vogel.

The tool forms part of the Oceans and Coasts Information Management System which is part of the implementation of the Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy programme for the Department of Environmental Affairs. The CSIR's coastal flood risk viewer follows international trends and is similar to those implemented by the Australians and Americans.

The BETA version of the web-based coastal flood risk viewer can be found at: <https://ocims-dev.dhcp.meraka.csir.co.za/hazardlines/> and feedback on the tool is welcome. Use of the tool is free and the CSIR carries no risk in the outcomes thereof.

The CSIR is currently part of a three-year research project to develop an innovative set of planning and design guidelines, called the Green Book. The Green Book aims to support local government decision-making by presenting evidence and guidance as to how to adapt existing and future at risk South African settlements to the impacts of climate change.

A group of experienced researchers have been tasked to conduct multidisciplinary research into the impacts of a changing climate on our settlements and the hydro-meteorological hazards they might face in the future. One such component is the extension of the work on coastal flood risk and vulnerability research to include the identification of at risk settlements, communities and infrastructure to current as well as future coastal flooding and to provide recommendation to high risk settlements on how to adapt and deal with these imminent threats.



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.

South Africa's contribution to the Indian Ocean expedition

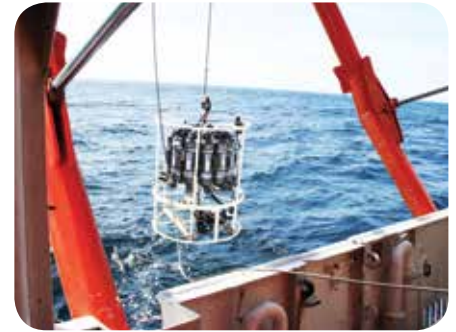
By Mthuthuzeli Gulekana and Tshego Letshwiti



Above: The RV Algoa will be participating in the research cruises alongside the SA Agulhas II.



Above: Deployment of mooring in the Indian Ocean.



Above: Work onboard the RV Algoa.

South Africa's huge oceanic basin provides ecological and socio-economic services but is also the least understood with a lack of basic descriptive information about its ecological dynamics, biodiversity and geology. It also experiences some of the largest ocean hazards (such as tsunamis and tropical storms) that have the potential to claim many human lives, destroy infrastructure and affect economic activities.

In 2015, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) adopted a resolution to undertake the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2), multi-national programme whereby most IOC member states agreed to support activities related to the collection of basic long-term environmental data in the Indian Ocean for the period 2016 – 2020. The first version of the IIOE-2 occurred during the end of the colonial time circa. Cabinet has subsequently approved South Africa's participation in the second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) taking place between 2017 and 2020.

The gathering of basic long-term marine data and information will take place with the developing nations of the Indian Ocean Rim and will be in a better position to conserve the integrity of its ocean and to find ways to unlock their potential ocean economies. As part of this marine expedition, South Africa will be deploying the SA Agulhas II to conduct marine research while training and building scientific capacity for South Africa and East Africa. This science cruise will be led by scientists based in the Department of Environmental Affairs, who will coordinate research activities with other national departments and East African countries.

Cabinet's endorsement allows South Africa to participate in the IIOE-2 through availing the research vessels SA Agulhas II and RV Algoa, as well as other platforms to conduct oceanic research and collect relevant data and information of national and regional socio-economic interest.

Furthermore, in the geopolitical space, the activities of IIOE-2 are envisaged to be the pillar to support the leadership of South Africa during the Chairship for the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for

the 2017/2018 tenure. The Chairship of the IORA is led through the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

Proposed activities include:

- Two scientific cruises on board the SA Agulhas II and/or RV Algoa in 2017 and 2018;
- A high-level delegation of Ministers from the IORA region who will launch the first regional IIOE-2 cruise in Durban, as well as to support South Africa's Chairship of the IORA.
- Three Centres of Competency will be established by the end of IIOE-2 in various countries across the Indian Ocean, and the proposed centres include one on "Operational Oceanography" in South Africa; Marine Biodiversity in Tanzania; and Marine Remote Sensing in Mauritius.
- The SA Agulhas II will dock in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in November 2017 in time for the 10th Conference of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) to be held between 30 October – 4 November 2017.

About the contributors: Mthuthuzeli Gulekana and Tshego Letshwiti

Mr Mthuthuzeli Gulekana is a Science Manager in the CD: Oceans and Coastal Research; Directorate: Oceans Research. He obtained his MSc degree (Physical Oceanography) from the University of Cape Town.

Ms Tshego Letshwiti is the Assistant Director within the Internal and External Communication Sub-Directorate at the Department of Environmental Affairs in Cape Town.

Walking and Cycling

Affordable transport and a healthy way to help the environment.

By Leanne Richards

Walking and cycling are the primary forms of Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) which is any form of transport that does not use a motor and includes animal drawn transport and "small wheeled" devices such as skateboards. In South Africa many communities are reliant on walking as their only means of travel. It is the most important way of getting around, and is the key link at the beginning and end of all of trips by car and public transport. Cycling in South Africa is for the majority focussed on professional cycling and to an extent focusses on recreational cycling. However, cycling as a mode of transport, may (and indeed in many other countries has) become a very effective and regular means of travel over short to medium distances.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has a partnership with the German Government through its development bank (i.e., KfW Development Bank). The partnership entails the implementation of a pilot programme that aims to advance the agenda of Non Motorised Transport (NMT), taking into consideration climate mitigation and the uptake for sustainable modes of transport. Phase 1 of the programme focussed on infrastructure development in the

cities of Johannesburg, eThekweni and Polokwane, which further addressed aspects of knowledge generation and sharing amongst various stakeholders and partners. Phase 2 of the NMT programme will continue to address infrastructure needs in the three pilot cities and in particular; bicycle routes, supporting infrastructure and raising awareness of NMT, as a favoured means of transport, whilst also taking into consideration the legislative environment.

Advocacy and promotion are key components in creating a sustained uptake of cycling as an acceptable and preferred mode of transport. Therefore, a wide range of promotional events and initiatives aimed at creating enthusiasm and support for cycling as a trendy mode of non-motorised transport is included in the programme.

The overall intent of the programme is to support current processes and mechanisms in undertaking NMT infrastructure design and activities in cities supporting sustainable urban environments; given the current pressures that urban spaces are experiencing in terms of resource needs and an increasing urban population.

Some benefits of NMT include

- It is an effective and affordable way to travel shorter distances, with cycling often the quickest way to travel up to 8 kilometres with relative ease and thus reduces barriers to mobility.
- It is a particularly effective way for learners to travel to and from school, colleges and universities.
- It promotes a healthy lifestyle/ healthier option of transportation thereby providing a healthier population.
- It helps reduce traffic congestion.
- Good NMT design encourages development of people friendly neighbourhoods.
- It provides job creation opportunities through labour intensive construction of facilities, repair and maintenance of bicycles, tourism and events.
- It is good for the environment – avoiding carbon emissions, invariably leading to cleaner air and healthier places to live, work and play.

For more information on DEA's green economy programmes please visit: <https://www.environment.gov.za/projectsprogrammes>



Youth unite for the protection of biodiversity

By Thabiso Pooe



Above: Minister Molewa pictured with DEA's Biodiversity and Conservation Directorship, Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi, Ms Wadzi Mandivenyi, and the young Onthatile Makena (in front) alongside Miss Earth's top qualifiers.



Above: Participant, Ms Maryjane Enchill receives a participatory certificate during GYBN's award ceremony at the conclusion of the Forum.



Above: The Convention on Biological Diversity's Associate Programme Officer, Ms Chantal Robichaud thanked the SA government for their support of the GYBN.

The youth has been congratulated for their sterling work in supporting the fight against the increasing misuse of natural resources in our planet. This was during the week long Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Convention hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in Muldersdrift, Krugersdorp from 13-19 August 2017.

The youth based convention was established in 2010 and is made up of a coalition of various youth organisations world-wide, with the common interest of championing the sustainable use of biodiversity. International stakeholders from the European Union (EU) and DEA's own Protected Systems Management Directorate and Minister Edna Molewa honoured their allegiance to the convention through their attendance.

During her address, Minister Molewa shared an illustration to show the importance of spreading the information gained during the session to fellow countrymen.

"What is called a mealie seed or a seed of maize ceases to be a single seed when planted, because when you do, you get one cob full of seeds. You can furthermore use that same cob to plant others and ultimately have very full fields throughout the nation. That's what we really need. Today as you're here, whether you

came alone or with others, go back and make a difference, because advances back home must be made," said Minister Molewa.

In her opening remarks, DEA's Chief Director for Protected Systems Management, Ms Skumsa Mancotywa, pointed out crucial issues in establishing and developing GYBN Africa and GYBN South Africa networks as one of the key objectives of the workshop.

"I'm so excited to be here addressing a committed group of young people who are advancing issues around biodiversity conservation. It is exciting indeed for us to note that this workshop has attracted so many youth representatives who are participating and exchanging views and contributing on issues of biodiversity. We believe that young people aren't just leaders of tomorrow, but leaders of today and therefore have a central and a critical role to play in ensuring that our natural resources are conserved and sustainably utilised. Young men and women like you are bringing in a new surge of creativity and dynamism in addressing the environmental challenges that we're faced with today," she said.

The convention focused on Africa as the last site visit on its itinerary plan

to organise a search of regional workshops subsequent to the ones founded in Columbia-Latin America and Singapore-Asia. It's Steering Committee leader, Mr Christian Schwarzer underlined that it wasn't intending to teach tough concepts and theories but create a platform for young people to come together, share knowledge and fuse their passion for nature so as to come up with new ideas and build relationships that would spearhead the NGO towards a determining role in the future of biodiversity.

In 2015 a comprehensive assessment on the state of biodiversity in the planet was held which showed a great threat to insects, mushrooms, fungi, vertebrates and oceanic plants. The findings further ascribe these risk factors to man-made activities such as coastal overdevelopment.

"This is such an overwhelming issue that most of us don't know where to start. A lot of us are doing amazing work on the ground and it's mostly been local so it hasn't been enough to make a global impact at this point so that's why we have to start forming an international movement to force politicians and cooperation's to start thinking about that and start changing their policies," said GYBN's Focal Point, Ms Sakiyama.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS COULD BE DISASTROUS FOR FOOD & WATER SECURITY



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enviro graduates tipped to be solution to environmental issues

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: Environmental Learnership practice programme graduates start a new era of life.

The ululations of supporting parents and relatives reverberated the Mmabatho Palms in Mahikeng, North West as 96 learners from six municipalities received their certificates in NQ4 Level Environmental Learnership practice programme. Speaking at the ceremony held on 23 June 2017, the acting Mayor for Mahikeng Local Municipality, Cllr. Bongani Ngobeni said the achievement was a new era in the lives of the young people.

"I am sure many of you have firm plans and have a good idea of what you want to do next. The coming times will be exciting, as they will be trying, but it all depends on you and your determination," he said.

The one year learnership programme was offered by the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA), the University of Venda and the Department of Environmental Affairs to equip learners with the skills, knowledge and values required to contribute towards the wise and effective use and management of natural resources and the ecological systems.

Cllr Ngobeni added that the new graduates would be the solution to the environment sector.

"As qualified and competent environmental practitioners, I hope your generation will take the environment to new unimaginable heights, bringing about solutions to environmental concerns and issues," he said.

Director for Sector Education, Training and Development Mr Thomas Mathiba said the partnership with SETA will continue to benefit learners.

"Graduation ceremonies are the emotional end of very hard-working months and years for most learners. As the department, we are aware that there is an urgent need for reskilling and up-skilling to address competency requirements of the new local government competency framework for environmental occupations due to the neglect of environmental training in the Sector Education and Training Authority system.

"In an effort to address the above

challenge, we would in future continue to partner with the Local Government Sector Education Training Authority and local municipalities across provinces to enroll the unemployed learners into environmental learnership programme," he said.

Dr John Mudau from the University of Venda said the university worked with the department to upgrade the levels of the learnership programme. "I am happy to announce that today the department has NQ4 Level 6 of this programme which is a huge achievement for the department. Of the 96 learners that we enrolled last year, 90 of them completed the programme in record time and competently," he said.

Ms Kebaabetswe Baile from Bojanala Platinum District Municipality said the programme was a success as it exposed her to the world of recycling. "This learnership programme has impacted my life positively. I sell shoes from recycled tyres and my community is supportive of my innovation," she said.



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.

DEA talks climate change at Switch Africa Green Conference

By Thabiso Pooe



Above: DEA staff pose for a picture at Environment House in Pretoria after climate change talks at the Switch Africa Green Conference.

Take advantage of available platforms, learn from each other through robust engagement and raise questions around challenges facing you in your respective projects.”

These were the opening remarks made by the European Union (EU) delegation to South Africa’s Deputy Head, Ms Sofia Moreira during the Switch Africa Green (SAG) Networking Forum held on 28 June 2017 at Environment House in Pretoria.

The SAG Forum is a global initiative pioneered by the United Nations Development Programme and EU which seeks to tackle issues such as the strategic development of frameworks which determine the Green Economy as well as Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Africa.

The session was hosted by the Directorate: Greening Programme and Funds Environment and involved key stakeholders, policy makers and various other members from both private and public institutions. Trade and Economics Counsellor Ms Dessislava Choumelova from the European Delegation gave an overview of the recent Paris Agreement.

“The reason why the European Union is partnering in the Programme is because the partners and the 28 member countries of EU are deeply concerned and committed towards

saving our planet,” said Choumelova. DEA’s Chief Policy Advisor Mr Peter Luckey clarified some of the misconceptions around ‘Evidence Based Policy’, a new form of policy framework currently under deliberation by the South African government in curbing the lag in objectives achievement.

“A lot of our policies are not informed by actual evidence but by opinions and lobbies and as a result are not achieving the kind of objectives required.”

Luckey also commended DEA on its consultative approach in policy development and expounded on the ‘Co-create’ organisational method within Evidence Based Policy as one which should rather be adopted by the country with regards to climate change. “With co-creating, institutions along with key stakeholders including the science community sit down and

say, we have a given problem; so there’s an agreement on the problem and an agreement on the solution then you ‘co-create’ the policy development programme. So I’m suggesting that as far as our climate policy approach is concerned that we co-create the ideas,” said Luckey.

Conservation South Africa’s (CSA) Ecologist, Mike Grover was also in attendance to endorse his organisation which operates in the rangeland sustainability projects within the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere. “There’s a lot of degradation that’s happened in these areas because of the bad management of cattle and unplanned grazing so our project is aimed at unlocking the potential of the rangelands through market access incentives and cooperative government structures that we’re developing to allow growth from an economic point of view,” he said.



Above: Honey bush tea granules- seen at Living Lands stand as key source of income for Green Business



Above: Net-like root system of Palmiet tree which captures soil and curbs erosion shown at Living-Lands exhibition

The flying invaders

By Bongikele Zikalala

Birds are kept as pets and ornamentals. Some of these birds have been able to survive, establish breeding colonies and spread in the newly introduced environment. This has led to the success of the invasive bird species in South Africa. These Birds are able to cover great distances and cross

geographical barriers, allowing them to expand their ranges relatively quickly. This means that invasive birds can spread quickly and establish colonies once they are introduced to a new area.

The undesirable impacts of invasive birds could include damage to

property and crops, severe impacts on other birds, noise and nuisance, and the spread of disease to humans and indigenous species. Certain invasive bird species such as Mallard duck can hybridise with native species. Other species such as House crow are causing mayhem as they out-compete indigenous birds for resources and nesting sites.



Dendrocygna eytoni: Plumed whistling duck – Category 1b. Exempted to be in possession only. The species must be controlled.



Acridotheres tristis: Indian myna – Category 3. Exempted to be in possession only.



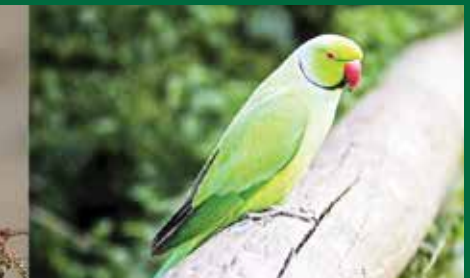
Anas platyrhynchos: Mallard duck – Category 2. Permit is required to conduct all restricted activities.



Alectoris chukar: Chukar partridges – Category 2 on mainland. Permit is required to conduct all restricted activities.



Sturnus vulgaris: Common starlings – Category 3. Exempted to be in possession only.



Psittacula krameri: Rose ringed parakeet – Category 2. Permit is required to conduct all restricted activities.



Carduelis chloris: European greenfinch – Category 2. Permit is required to conduct all restricted activities.



Passer domesticus: House sparrow – Category 3. Exempted to be in possession only.



Corvus splendens Vieillot: Indian house crow – Category 1a. Exempted to be in possession only. The species must be controlled or eradicated where possible.

Government spends millions each year in the containment and management of invasive species. The Department of Environmental Affairs encourages everyone to support and take a stand against the spread of invasive species in South Africa.

Minister Molewa opens Mpact Liquid Packaging Recycling Plant

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Minister Molewa cuts the ribbon officially opening the Mpact's Liquid Packaging Recycling Plant.

An on-site ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the Mpact paper mill where Minister Edna Molewa officially opened the Mpact's Liquid Packaging Recycling Plant in Springs on 25 July 2017.

The R46 million project is expected to recycle approximately 25 000 tonnes of liquid packaging products per year, which until now has seen limited beneficiation in South Africa. Mpact is one of the leading paper and plastics packaging businesses in southern Africa.

Minister Molewa said Ekurhuleni was a growing Metropolitan in South Africa and that waste is one of the urban ills that most metropolitan municipalities are grappling with. "Any opportunity that is directed towards the minimisation of waste within the boundaries of the Metro needs to be given a sense of urgency, largely because of the high costs that municipalities have to pay to provide for waste collection services, but also due to the effects of waste on human

health and the environment," Minister Molewa explained.

She added that the liquid packaging recycling plant would help to divert a lot of the packaging material that currently ends up in landfill sites.

"We need to work together not only in ensuring that waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner, but also by working towards a sound materials-cycle society."

The CEO of Mpact Limited, Mr Bruce Strong explained that recycling is at the forefront of creating sustainable jobs and improving the quality of life for communities. Recycling in South Africa plays an important role in realising a sustainable future for generations.

"Through our work with government and other stakeholders, we are making a significant contribution towards the vision of the National Development Plan to promote sustainable cities, economic growth, poverty eradication and integrated land and waste management."

Mr Strong also added that wastage of any kind was not good. "This project and many others across the Group dovetail Mpact's strategic drive to beneficiate recyclable materials in South Africa. This in turn reflects our long term commitment to sustainability and the development of a sustainable system in recycling," he said.

Minister Molewa congratulated the Mpact CEO and the team, as they launched yet another exciting and ground-breaking recycling initiative. "This cutting edge technology that you have invested in is assisting our society to close the loop linked to the recycling of paper material."

Mpact's beneficiation of recyclables also extends to the R350 million state of the art recycled PET (rPET) plant (Mpact Polymers) which processes 29 000 tonnes of used PET bottles into 21 000 tonnes of food and beverage packaging products a year. Consequently, Mpact now also recycles plastic lids on liquid packaging cartons and plastic bottles to make wheelie bins.

New accommodation units mark park's anniversary

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: The MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Sakhumzi Somyo cuts the ribbon to officially open the new rock chalets in the Mountain Zebra National Park with the assistance of the Department of Environmental Affairs Director-General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba (right) and SANParks CEO, Mr Fundisile Mketeni (middle).



Above: MEC Sakhumzi Somyo (right), DEA's Director-General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba (left) and SANParks CEO, Mr Fundisile Mketeni celebrate the 80th anniversary of Mountain Zebra National Park with SANParks officials.

The 80th birthday celebration of Mountain Zebra National Park was celebrated with the opening of new accommodation units in the park. Speaking at the event, MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Sakhumzi Somyo said the opening of the two luxury rock chalets has created job opportunities in Cradock.

"This park has increased its permanent employment by 20% and casual work opportunities. The construction of these income-generating facilities was made possible by the government's infrastructure development programme.

This is one small example of how the Green Economy benefits our local

economies that need it most," he said. The park is known for playing a significant role in protecting zebras from extinction.

"It is here that scientists and rangers work day and night to restore the South African population of the Cape Mountain Zebra. The Cape Mountain Zebra is well protected in state-owned protected areas. The largest population in the country is right here in Mountain Zebra National Park and this population has done remarkably well, increasing from only 11 zebra to 1159 today. This population has been used to start and augment many new Cape mountain zebra populations in national parks, provincial reserves and privately-owned game reserves and farms across the Eastern and Western Cape," he said.

SANParks CEO, Mr Fundisile Mketeni also used the occasion to pay tribute

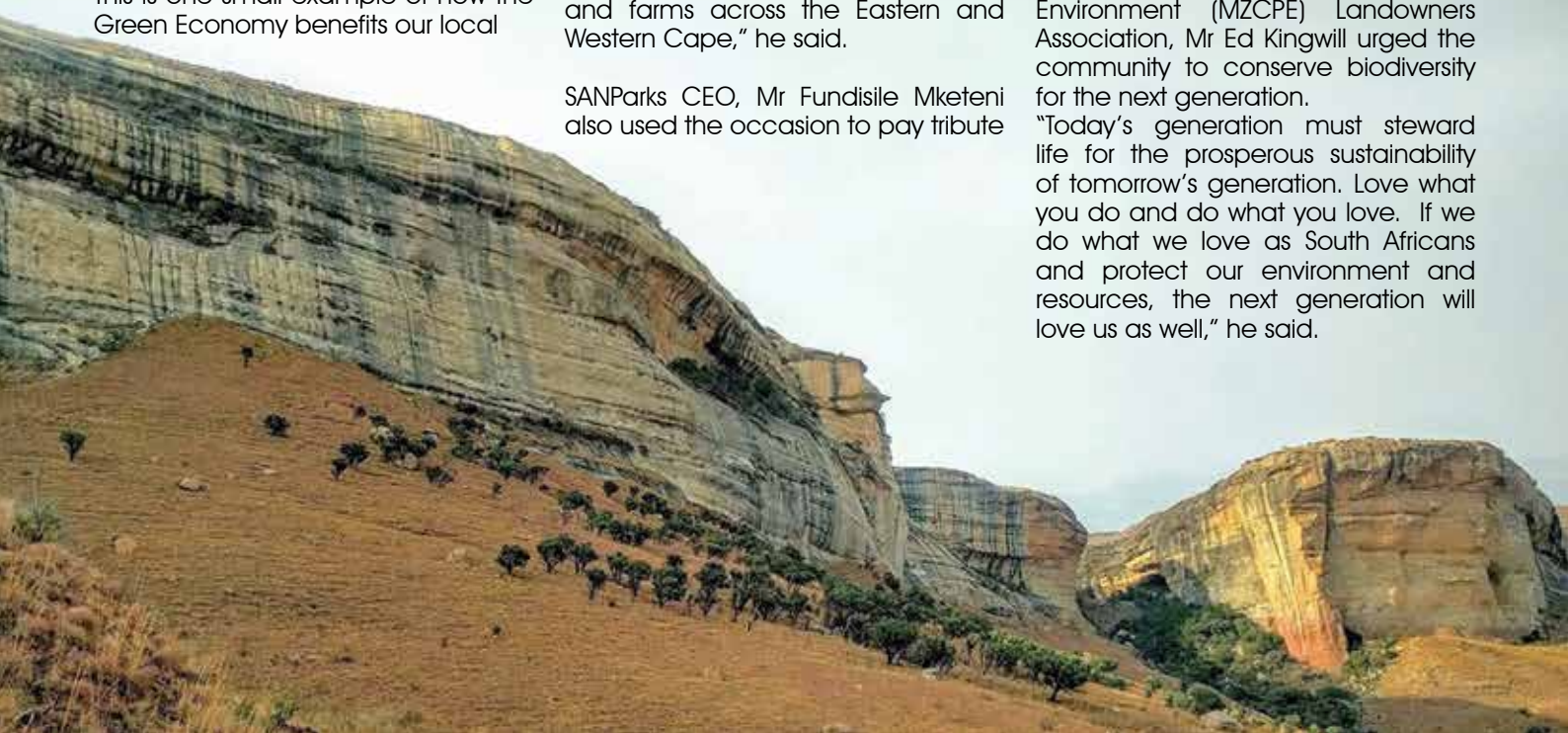
to the rangers who fight diligently to curb wildlife crime in the country.

"Today is World Rangers Day and the world celebrates the heroes and heroines who are always in the frontline protecting the heritage that belongs to all people of South Africa. With the prevalence of crime, rangers are there to defend what belongs to the future generation of this nation," he said.

Mr Mketeni further said one of the mission of SANParks is to forge the ecosystem amongst the people that will connect them with nature.

The Chairperson of the Mountain Zebra Camdeboo Protected Environment (MZCPE) Landowners Association, Mr Ed Kingwill urged the community to conserve biodiversity for the next generation.

"Today's generation must steward life for the prosperous sustainability of tomorrow's generation. Love what you do and do what you love. If we do what we love as South Africans and protect our environment and resources, the next generation will love us as well," he said.



Mountain Zebra National Park Opens New Rock Chalets and Cottages

By Gabrielle Venter



Above: Cottage bedroom.



Above: Cottage exterior.



Above: Cottage kitchen.

As the setting sun hugs the hills in the Grootkloof valley, the Cape mountain zebra calls out to the herd as you languidly soak up the tranquility of the extraordinary Mountain Zebra National Park (MZNP). Situated in the heart of the Bankberg Mountains, just 12 km from the historical town of Cradock, MZNP is a personal African wilderness experience.

The newest offer at MZNP Rest Camp is the Rock Chalets which are sure to have nature lovers thrilled. The new accommodation was officially opened by the Eastern Cape MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Sakhumzi Somyo, on 31 July 2017. It consists of eight units: 2 two-bedroom en-suite (4 sleeper) Rock Chalets and 6 single bedroom (2 sleeper) Cottages. One of the cottages is universally accessible.

Designed by Greg Milne of MMK Architects, the Rock Chalets and the

Cottages were designed to fit into the existing sight line of the rest camp so as to create minimal visual disturbance. They are built at a higher elevation to maximise the magnificent views and therefore stand out from the thicket line, but they are clad with rocks from the Park thus they blend in with the surroundings.

The Rock Chalets flow seamlessly to the outdoors, with stacking doors that open up between the open plan lounge/kitchen and outside verandah. High windows let light in and allow views of the adjacent rocky outcrops. As night time envelopes the camp and the sky lights up with millions of stars, why not gaze at the galaxies far away or if you prefer, cuddle up next to the cosy fireplace as you count your blessings.

As the sun welcomes a new day become one with nature and be one of the first people to freshen up for an exciting activity filled day in the outdoor shower. The warm water will invigorate and refresh you as the

nearby eland and red hartebeest casually graze in the valley down below.

For those with an adventurous spirit, MZNP offers a truly unique game viewing experience in the form of Cheetah Tracking or for those who appreciate South Africa's wonderful heritage you can enjoy a guided trip to the San Cave Paintings. Other activities in the Park range from self-drive game viewing and guided game drives on open safari vehicles to gentle walks or exhilarating hikes. Experience all the wonders of this scenic big sky Park in many different ways.

For a more relaxed viewing experience, you can sit on your private veranda and marvel at the Cape mountain zebra or hopefully spot a cheetah, lion or buffalo. A variety of game and birds frequent this area so if you who want to enjoy all that Mountain Zebra Rest Camp has to offer, then the Rock Chalets are ideal for you.

Prices (per unit) for Rock Chalets and Cottages Mountain Zebra National Park Rest Camp (valid until 31 October after which tariff increases apply). To Book call Central Reservations on +27 12 428 9111 or visit <https://www.sanparks.org/>

| | Shoulder season | High season |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Rock Chalet (Sleeps up to 4) | R2 950 | R3 200 2 units |
| Cottage (sleeps up to 2) | R1 175 | R1 250 6 units |



About the contributor: Gabrielle Venter

Gabrielle Venter holds a BA degree in Languages specialising in Journalism from the University of Pretoria and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from UNISA. In January 2012 Gabby started working at South African National Parks as the Manager: Media and Stakeholder Relations. Gabrielle has a passion for wildlife and conservation and is a real bush lover at heart.

Icon Nelson Mandela celebrated at United Nations

By Devina Naidoo

Nelson Mandela International Day commemorates the lifetime of service Nelson Mandela gave to South Africa and the world. It was launched on his birthday, 18 July, in 2009 by way of unanimous decision by the UN General Assembly. On this day, people around the world make it a norm for individuals to give 60 minutes of their day on the 18th of July to give back to those that are less fortunate. Giving back can be from assisting centres with food, services rendered, and clothes.

In December 2015, the General Assembly decided to extend the scope of Nelson Mandela International Day to also be utilized to promote humane conditions of imprisonment, to raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society and to value the work of prison staff as a social service of particular importance.

The General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/175 not only adopted the revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, but also approved that they should be known as the "Nelson Mandela Rules" in order to honour the legacy of the late President of South Africa, who spent 27 years in prison in the course of his struggle referred to above.

The theme for Mandela day celebration 2017 at the UN Headquarters during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was "Taking Action against poverty". This event was given extreme recognition not only because of the lifetime service from icon Mandela but because of the theme that was aligned with the HLPF 2017.

Because it is a United Nations global holiday and they were hosting a high-level forum, they set aside a special event for Mandela Day that recognised his efforts, struggles, challenges and achievements.

The Minister of Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Honourable Molewa attended the celebration and made a statement where she called upon the United Nations to reflect on how Mandela Day is an opportunity for us to celebrate Madiba's life and legacy in a sustainable way that will bring about enduring change.

She encouraged everyone to can emulate Madiba and make a difference in someone's life and live our lives to make everyday a Mandela Day.

The International society and vocal representatives from South Africa and abroad played their parts in commemorating this day. Individuals such as the famous Actor Mr Danny Glover who is currently a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Ms Earth Lauren Giani and foundations such as Mina Cup that promotes feminine hygiene also took part in giving back through Mandela day celebrations. Much of the Day was spend cleaning up the rivers.

Mandela's popular quote that resonates with the public is "I stand here today before you not as a prophet, but as a humble servant of you" Nelson Rolihlahla Madiba Mandela. This popular quote is amongst many that Mandela made during his inauguration speech of 1994 after winning the first Democratic elections ever to take place in South Africa.



For more information regarding this article please visit the following websites.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay/>
<https://www.mandeladay.com/>
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/13

Nelson Mandela celebrations in Msunduzi

By Zibuse Ndlovu

Images by Itumeleng Motsepe



Above: Deputy Minister Thomson handed over educational toys and books to the J.C Joshua Pre-Primary School kids in Pietermaritzburg.



Above: The J.C Joshua Pre-School learners waving joyfully after receiving school bags, educational toys and books from the Deputy Minister.

Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson has urged the Msunduzi community to always remember to give selflessly to the indigent, to look after the elderly people and to take good care of the environment. Ms Thomson was speaking during the Nelson Mandela Day celebration held at Msunduzi Municipality, in Pietermaritzburg on 18 July 2017.

"You must take good care of those who don't have, help them out. It is our responsibility as the community to look after the needy. We must never let a child go to school without shoes or a neighbour to go to bed without having anything to eat," said Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister Thomson handed over educational toys and books to the J.C Joshua Pre-Primary School kids.

"The only weapon that is at our disposal is education. We were here earlier this year and we made a commitment to help the pre-school. We need to give these little ones what we could not get-education. All that we are trying to do is follow in the footsteps of our icon, Tata Nelson Mandela. He was a social gift to us from God," said Deputy Minister.

The Principal, Ms Joan Mohamed said they were overwhelmed by the support from the Department of Environmental Affairs. "We are grateful for the educational resources donated, the children will use the books to develop their vocabulary.

The puzzles will help open-up their minds to critical thinking," said Ms Mohamed.

The Deputy Minister also participated in various activities including tree planting around Eastwood that was aimed at raising awareness about waste management issues within the community.

This year's Nelson Mandela Day was celebrated under the theme: Clean, care, unite together as one. The theme encourages individuals to work together as one to create a clean and safe environment.

The annual Nelson Mandela Day is an International day of humanitarian action in celebration of Nelson Mandela's life and legacy. The United Nations declared 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day in 2008.



Above: Deputy Minister handed over soccer and netball kits and gifts to the Eastwood Elderly Club.



Above: Deputy Minister Thomson officially opened the J.C Joshua Pre-Primary School's resource centre and unveiled a plaque.

FEMpowerment - Securing a future for South Africa's youth

By Nomvuyo Mlotshwa



Above: Over 200 youth from EPIP's FEMpowerment programme join Telkom. Mr George Fombe of Cross Connect Communications welcomes them.



Above: EPIP has birthed a ground breaking relationship between Environmental Affairs and Telkom to train unemployed South African youth as field technicians.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) released 292 youth to Telkom Independent Field Technician suppliers (IFTs) for workplace experiential learning. A remarkable joy overwhelmed the unemployed youngsters from Gauteng and Western Cape provinces.

In responding to the call for government to formulate strategies to curb the national youth unemployment, the Director General for the Department of Environmental Affairs, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba mandated the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP) branch with the establishment of a youth employment programme. So far, five component programmes have been established; namely Youth Environmental Services, Environmental Monitors, Municipal Support, Environmental Public Entities and the FEMpowerment programme.

The FEMpowerment implements the employer-centric approach while

EPIP researches on jobs and skills sought by potential employers in the market and then pairing unemployed youth with the employer for career exposure through on-the-job training and mentorship.

The Director: Programme Training and Youth Develop Ms Nomfundiso Giqwa, highlighted that the number of unemployed graduates was increasing due to the lack of expertise and skills. FEMpowerment exists to bridge such gaps. She said that while the department specialises in environment, it is prepared to overlap its services and explore other fields in high demand for the benefit of South African youth.

FEMpowerment birthed a ground-breaking relationship between government and private sector when DEA partnered with Telkom IFTs. The candidates are placed on a job-shadowing programme with the IFTs for six to nine months, learning the practical skills of an ADSL and Fibre Technician.

The department will provide a stipend for the candidates and also facilitate theoretical, technical and workplace ethics training. Upon completion, Telkom will assess candidates on technical proficiency and conduct a trade test to endorse the qualifying learners as field technicians.

Ms Nozimanga Madubane of Telkom Future Makers programme appealed to the young people to work hard. "This is an opportunity of a lifetime, and this is a chance for you to prove yourselves as future leaders. A chance missed is a chance lost," she said. Telkom IFT supplier Mr Thembelani Ngulube advised them not to rush into opening credit accounts but rather to save their money for life improving assets.

The Head of Telkom Future Makers, Mr Litha Kutta, concluded that the FEMpowerment is a programme for grooming young people to be future employers, and also so that the IFTs can absorb professional and competent candidates upon completion.



About the contributor: Nomvuyo Mlotshwa

Nomvuyo Mlotshwa is the Assistant Director: Programme Publicity and Liaison. She is responsible for managing and promoting the brand of the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes. She is passionate about community outreach and stakeholder liaison.

Effective waste management at Mafube

By Errol Baloyi



Above: Before rehabilitation.



Above: After rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation of an illegal dumpsite and the establishment of a landfill site have created a total of 93 employment opportunities to the community of Mafube Local Municipality in the Free-State province. The project contributed positively to waste management in the area by rehabilitating the illegal dumpsite that was a nuisance to the community and the environment. With a total budget of R17 million, the project includes the establishment of a new landfill site that will be compliant with the minimal requirements for waste disposal. Street cleaning, waste collection, illegal dumpsites clearing and provision of skip bins all form part of this project deliverables.

Some of the workers employed are assisting the municipality with street cleaning and waste collection including clearing of illegal dumps within the community of Mafube.

As part of deliverables, the new landfill site that is to be established will be installed with a weighing pad

to assist the municipality with waste management planning. With this equipment in place, the municipality will get accurate waste quantities and will be able to plan for future waste management interventions. Waste management planning is the cornerstone of any national, regional or local policy on waste management.

Waste management in South Africa is governed by the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) which came into effect on 1 July 2009.



Above: During rehabilitation.

South Africa's commitment to sustainable development is aimed at balancing the broader economic and social challenges of a developing and unequal society while protecting environmental resources. For the waste sector in South Africa this means care must be given to raw material use, product design, resource efficiency, waste prevention, and minimisation where avoidance is impossible.

However, economic development, a growing population and increasing rates of urbanisation in South Africa have resulted in increased waste generation which requires establishing and implementing effective waste management policies and programmes. A number of issues continue to be challenges for effective waste management. These include ineffective data collection systems and lack of compliance and enforcement capacity, lack of education and awareness amongst stakeholders within the waste sector, operational costs for management of waste, support for waste reduction at local government level, availability of suitable land for waste disposal, lack of structured incentives for reduction, and recycling and/or reuse of waste (DEA 2009a).



About the contributor: Errol Baloyi

Errol Baloyi is the Deputy-Director for Planning and Quality Assurance under Working on Waste. His projects include landfill site development and rehabilitation, recycling projects, street cleaning and domestic waste collection as well as separation at source projects and composting projects.

GMC motivates municipalities to become greener

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality was the 1st runner up in the Metropolitan category. They received their prize from Deputy Minister Thomson.



Above: Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality was the 2nd runner up in the Metropolitan category. They received their prize from Deputy Minister Thomson.

The Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson has acknowledged the Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC) as an important enabler in the transition towards greener municipalities in the country. This was during the 6th GMC Awards at the President Hotel in Bloemfontein on 29 August 2017.

“The competition has evolved into a significant contributor towards our collective response to the challenges posed by climate change and our path towards a sustainable future. Through the competition we have also strengthened cooperation and coordination across the three spheres of government. Through the implementation of the Local Government Support Strategy for the Environment Sector, hands-on support was provided to municipalities with officials permanently deployed to all District Municipalities,” the Deputy Minister explained.

GMC is an annual event that facilitates the participation of municipalities, provincial counterparts and relevant stakeholders in waste and greening and open-space management. A special awards ceremony is hosted each year in the Metropolitan and

Local Municipality categories.

A panel of adjudicators supported by officials of the department visited the municipalities from February to March 2017. A total of 10 municipalities entered the competition where six winning municipalities received prizes, certificates and trophies.

As one of the adjudicators, Ms Duduzile Ndala who is an Environmental Officer Control in the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in Mpumalanga, said they would have liked to see more municipalities participating in the GMC.

“Some municipalities don’t have a designated Waste Management Officer and other times the existing structure or vacancies are not filled. Other municipalities have waste disposal sites licensing but compliance is a challenge,” Ms Ndala explained.

The Department works together with the municipalities to promote reduction, recycling and re-use of waste. This is in line with the promotion of the waste hierarchy that has been introduced through the promulgation of the National Environmental

Management: Waste Act 59 Of 2008. Deputy Minister Thomson stated that the funds for the prizes of the awards were sourced from Environmental Programmes and Infrastructure Programmes of the Department.

“The winning municipalities will receive the awards in the form of an Expanded Public Works Programme project to the value of the award won. This is of great strategic importance as it encourages municipalities to initiate projects that address environmental issues within their Integrated Development Plans and links with the objectives of EPIP of creating better environment management practices, creating temporary job opportunities, skills development and SMME development,” she said.

Metropolitan Municipality Category

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| City of Johannesburg | Overall winner |
| Mangaung | 1st runner-up |
| Nelson Mandela | 2nd runner-up |

Local Municipality Category

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Polokwane | Overall winner |
| Govan Mbeki | 1st runner-up |
| Hessequa | 2nd runner-up |

Minister Edna Molewa welcomes arrest of a rhino horn smuggler at OR Tambo International Airport

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa, has welcomed the arrest of an alleged rhino horn smuggler at the OR Tambo International Airport on Tuesday, 25 July 2017.

"The arrest of the 24-year-old woman, who was in transit to Hong Kong from Lusaka in Zambia via South Africa, is an indication of the determination of our investigators on the ground to nip the illicit trade in wildlife, particularly the smuggling of poached rhino horn, out of Africa," said the Minister.

The investigation and arrest at OR Tambo on 25 July 2017 of a Chinese national was the result of collaboration between officials from the SAPS, Customs division of the South African Revenue Services, security screening companies and Environmental Management Inspectors (Green Scorpions) of the Department of Environmental Affairs, based at OR Tambo International Airport.

The rhinoceros horn was confiscated and will be subjected to genetic profiling by the Forensic Science Laboratory of the South African Police Service (SAPS), to determine the origin of the rhinoceros horn or possible linkages with other investigations.

Eleven rhino horn weighing 23kg were confiscated. The woman will appear in the Kempton Park Magistrate's

Court on Thursday, 27 July 2017, on charges related to the smuggling of rhino horn.

Minister Molewa, in a media briefing on 24 July 2017 on the successes related to the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Management of Rhinoceros in South Africa, had indicated that the Green Scorpions continue their collaboration with other government agencies, such as SARS customs officials, in order to combat the illegal import and export of wildlife products.

There has been a marked increase globally during 2017 in the number of rhino horn detections and seizures at ports. We have also seen this trend in South Africa as well with 5 such detections already having taken place at OR Tambo International Airport this year. This incident on 25 July 2017 brings the number of seizures to six for 2017.

In May 2017, 7 kg of Rhino Horn and Pieces were hidden in tea bags and found at Swissport Cargo / Qatar Airlines. On 21 May 2017, 13.2 kg of Rhino Horn was found in a box booked in as additional baggage. Unfortunately, in this case the passenger had left South Africa and could not be arrested.

On 11 June 2017 two Chinese passengers en route to Hong Kong, China with Turkish Airlines were arrested each with about 12kg of Rhino Horn in

their check-in baggage. And again on 14 June 2017, a Vietnamese passenger was arrested en route to Hong Kong, China with Cathay Pacific flight as he was found with 5 Rhino Horns in his check-in baggage.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (Biodiversity Act), requires that the original documentation from the country of origin must accompany a consignment. If there is no such original accompanying documentation, an import permit issued in terms of the Biodiversity Act and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), is required.

Upon conviction in terms of the Biodiversity Act, a person is liable to:

- (a) a fine not exceeding R10 million, or a fine equal to three times the commercial value of the rhinoceros horn in respect of which the offence was committed, whichever is the greater; or
- (b) an imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or
- (c) both such a fine and such imprisonment.

"The action of alert officials at the Airport on Tuesday is to be applauded. It is a feather in the cap of all those investigators involved," said the Minister.

Vox Pops

DEA staff members

What does Heritage day mean to you and how do you celebrate your heritage?



1

1. Mr Xolela Wellem

**Oceans and Coasts:
Enforcement**

It means we as South Africans celebrate our different cultures. It's a day where we celebrate our history and our heritage sites, such as Robben Island.

I will celebrate my heritage by cooking a potjiekos in a three-legged black pot, I will share the meal with family and friends.

We used to be cattle herders, and our animals used to eat the shrubs and plants, so without the variety of plants and animals we wouldn't have things like fur, milk and meat, etc. In the homelands, to get food they depend on livestock which feeds on grass and shrubs, that alone shows that we must take care of our nature.



2

2. Lwandile Lubobo

**Oceans and Coasts:
Compliance Monitoring**

Heritage Day reminds me of my background as an African and of our beliefs and customs.

I celebrate my heritage by attending the events that are relevant to heritage day and they always make African beer, or I will go to church because in church they always celebrate these kinds of events, and I will cook a special dish which is Samp and Ulusu.

It contributes to conservation of species that are relevant to different cultures, and some animals are totem to our cultures like Umajola (the snake), it's the totem of the Majola clan name.



3

3. Ms Unathi Mahlathi

**Oceans and Coasts:
Enforcement**

I always dress in a cross-cultural way on Heritage Day because I want to experience different cultures. This year, I will celebrate my heritage in Indian couture and cuisine.

To me heritage day is about celebrating and remembering my tradition and honouring that I am a proud umXhosa. It also means dressing up in different cultures to embrace other people's cultures.

I celebrate my Heritage Day by wearing traditional attire, and cook Imifuno.



5

4. Mr Grant Solomon

**Facilities Directorate:
Auxiliary Clerk**

Heritage Day reminds me of my background as an African and of our beliefs and customs. I celebrate my heritage by attending the events that are relevant to heritage day and they always make African beer, or I will go to church because in church they always celebrate these kinds of events, and I will cook a special dish which is Samp and Ulusu.



4

4. Ms Lorna Skolo

I.T. Service Delivery

Vox Pops continued

Members of the public



1. Ms Naledi Igweokolo
South Africa & Nigeria

Heritage Day is a great deal for me because my mother is South African and my father is Nigerian. My house is very diverse and consists of a lot of heritage. In our home I can speak both Sesotho and Ibo which is my father's language.

I plan on celebrating Heritage Day by going to the University of Johannesburg and representing the Nigerian aspect to the event. On the last Friday of the month, the University hosts a culture festival to celebrate Heritage Day. It's a really fun day where everyone can participate.

Heritage Day is a great deal for me because my mother is South African and my father is Nigerian. My house is very diverse and consists of a lot of heritage. In our home I can speak both Sesotho and Ibo which is my father's language.

I plan on celebrating Heritage Day by going to the University of Johannesburg and representing the Nigerian aspect to the event. On the last Friday of the month, the University hosts a culture festival to celebrate Heritage Day. It's a really fun day where everyone can participate.



3. Ms Maryjane Enchill
Ghana

We have a lot of monuments, natural sites and traditional customs back home in Ghana that form part of our self-identity. Normally the communities host celebrations to track what was done by the forefathers and the importance of these monuments and natural site. It is an occasion where we brainstorm, and educate the youth who don't know about customs.



4. Ms Swetha Stoira Bhashyam
India

As an Indian I've grown up with a keen awareness of our culture throughout the years. We also have several celebrations and occasions where we learn a lot about our heritage. The integrity we have with culture and heritage is such an integral part of our lives.

Our heritage as a whole is supported by biodiversity for doing the various annual festivals, celebrations and rituals.

The usage of several species of plants are part of these observances and what people don't realise is that they're all under threat. There's a growing need for people to understand that when you lose biodiversity, you will eventually lose your heritage also.



5. Mr Hani Koosaletse
Botswana

Botswana is a young nation, having achieved independence only just over six decades ago.

The Batswana nation has history of unsympathetic British colonisation, conflicts between tribal groups and disturbing migrations by ethnic groups. In spite of its history, the multi-ethnic nation is joined together by its loyal patriotism

Heritage Day is about coming together and celebrating a shared past and culture, it is also about ensuring that each culture and belief is recognised.

With this in mind, I will make sure that me and my family celebrate our personal beliefs and traditions. I will also encourage them to wear traditional dress, practice traditional rituals in trying to teach them more about our ancestors.

This is a good month to get together as a family or as friends and look to the past to see how our personal heritage has shaped how we live today.



2. Ms Marian Marioki
Kenya



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