

Environment Quarterly

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**SA intensifies its battle
against rhino poaching**

**Plans to find new home for
rhino underway**

**Operation Phakisa to unlock
economic potential of SA's oceans**

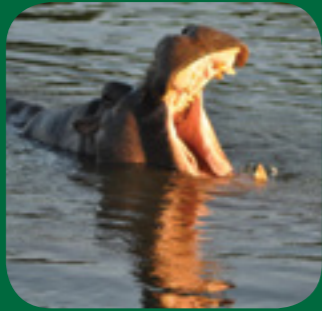


environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2014 environment CALENDAR



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

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

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Dear Valued Stakeholder

As a country, since the advent of democracy, we have placed human rights at the heart of our nation's development agenda.

We have come a long way in ensuring constitutionally enshrined right to clean environment is realised and protected, while at the same time creating needed space for economic development.

As Minister Molewa stated in her Budget Speech of 2013, our challenge as a nation in a developing state context is to find a healthy balance between economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. That is a delicate balance at the heart of what we call sustainable development.

It was with these noble ideas in mind that in June this year, South Africa celebrated Environment Month. We have elected to use the month of June to popularize and celebrate our success stories in an environmental protection and conservation, especially with the country also celebrating its twenty years of freedom and democracy.

We took our celebration this year to eThekweni where jointly with the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government and the City of eThekweni, we raised the profile of the environment portfolio. World Oceans Day celebrations took us to Port Elizabeth where we engaged our stakeholders in that part of the country, while the Deputy Minister led the World Day to Combat Desertification in Ladybrand, Free State.

Despite the strides we have recorded over the past twenty years of freedom and democracy, our natural resources have, in recent years, come under immense attack from poachers. We con-

tinue to be saddened by the alarming rate at which our rhino population is being decimated, by bandits and poachers operating with military precision.

In this edition of EQ, we unpack the recent approval by Cabinet of an integrated strategic management interventions aimed at thwarting the ongoing scourge of poaching.

Reminding us once again of the significance of our natural resources to our socio-economic development, in his response to Debates on the State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma announced the establishment of Operation Phakisa. In this edition, we also explore this announcement and the launch of Phakisa as was led by President Jacob Zuma.

With this edition, our editorial team has ensured a healthy and inclusive reflection of the various programmes of the Department. Essentially, we would like you dear reader to get that degree of fulfillment when you receive this copy of EQ every quarter.

It is our hope that with this edition we have, like over the past editions, surpassed your expectations.

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Albi Modise

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NOT ON OUR WATCH

WORLD RHINO DAY 22 SEPTEMBER

South Africa is the home of the rhino. We are home to 82% of Africa's rhino. It is time that we, as citizens of the world, take action and blow the whistle on rhino poaching. We should all stand up and shout: **Not on our watch!**



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environmental affairs
Department of Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Cover feature:

SA intensifies its battle against rhino poaching

By Eleanor Momberg

The battle against rhino poaching has been strengthened through the recent adoption by Cabinet of integrated strategic management interventions.

The interventions, discussed and approved by Cabinet in August 2014, were informed by, among other initiatives, the results of the 2013 rhino population census in the Kruger National Park.

Wildlife conservation and management is a national imperative for South Africa. The Government declared the illegal kill-

ing and trade of rhino's and rhino horn a national security threat in 2011. At the request of the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, rhino poaching and other wildlife crimes were elevated to the National Joint Security Committee (NAIJOINTS). This assisted in advancing the implementation of the Cabinet-approved National Strategy in the Safety and Security of Rhino in South Africa, adopted in 2010.

This integrated effort to address rhino poaching is constantly under review to

ensure it meets the needs of those working in the field to combat the menace of poaching. It includes the regular update and amendment of legislation and policies to meet national, regional and international challenges. It also ensures greater collaboration in efforts to halt the onslaught on the bulk of the world's rhino population.

The rhino population in South Africa was rescued from the brink of extinction in the early 1900s. At the time, the rhino population in the Kruger National Park was locally

extinct. Since the start of the relocation of 351 rhino from the Hluhluwe game reserve in the then Natal to the Kruger National Park 50 years ago, the Kruger rhino population had increased to between 8 700 and 12 200 in 2010. In 2012 South Africa's rhino population was estimated at 21 000.

During the latest survey in 2013, conducted by SANParks, the rhino population survey showed that there are between 8 400 and 9 600 white rhinos in the Kruger National Park.

The survey confirmed that rhino are found in different densities across Kruger National Park and that poaching pressure is also uneven across the Park's landscape. Some areas are relatively free of recorded poaching incidents while others are hard hit by poachers.

Poaching, natural deaths and the translocation of rhino from the Kruger National Park presently match that of rhino births. This means that the rhino population in the Kruger National Park has stabilised.

Translocation of 1 450 rhino from the Kruger National Park between 1997 and 2013 has contributed significantly to the growth of the South African rhino population. South Africa is home to 82% of Africa's rhino, 93% of Africa's white rhino and 39% of Africa's black rhino.

As World Rhino Day is marked across the globe on 22 September, South Africa's role in the conservation of the rhino cannot be ignored. Were it not for the foresight of rangers such as Dr Ian Player and his team, this ancient animal would not be a proud part of the Big Five or such a key contributor to job creation and economic development in South Africa.

While the government plays a major role in preserving the rhino through our national parks and provincial game reserves, the importance of the private sector's contribution to rhino conservation and preservation of the species is to be commended. Through cooperation between government and the private sector, and private sector investment in the wildlife and conservation sectors, around 25 per cent of rhino in South Africa are privately owned.

The reality of rhino poaching is harsh. Wildlife worldwide is under siege. As South Africa battles to eradicate rhino poaching, other African countries are struggling to curb elephant poaching. Wildlife crimes rank among the top four crimes commif-

ted worldwide annually, alongside drug smuggling, human trafficking and the illegal arms trade. It is a crime not to be taken lightly.

It is for this reason that all initiatives directed at addressing rhino poaching at legislative, policy and ground level is revisited intermittently to ensure everything possible is being done by the government to save this species from extinction.

Within this context, government is implementing more vigorous integrated strategic management approaches aimed at reducing the threat to rhinos and at strengthening biological management of the species.

Compulsory interventions include proactive anti-poaching initiatives, the implementation and improvement of actionable intelligence as well as the introduction of responsive legislation and policy amendments to address rhino poaching. Other actions include continued efforts to increase rhino numbers through, for example, translocation to low risk areas, range- and population expansion. New interventions include steps to disrupt crime syndicates.

The long-term sustainable solutions, to ensure the future survival of this key species, include the creation of economic alternatives for communities taking into account the government's sustainable utilisation policy.

Interventions on international collaboration will further strengthen efforts to address not only rhino poaching, but illegal wildlife trade in general. Memoranda of Understanding have already been concluded between South Africa and Vietnam, the People's Republic of China and Mozambique, while collaboration with countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia is being strengthened.

At national level, the protection of rhino inside parks through the creation of intensive protection zones and technology interventions is being complimented with collaboration on the national, regional and international fronts between law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system.

An intensive protection zone has been established in the Kruger National Park, while additional steps in all protected areas countrywide have included the introduction of forensic technology, including DNA analysis, in the judicial process to support

the successful prosecution of alleged wildlife criminals.

An example is the recent successful prosecution of Mandla Chauke who was handed an effective sentence of 77-years in prison by the Nelspruit Regional Court. He was convicted of the murder of his accomplice on the common purpose doctrine, three counts of rhino poaching, theft of horns, possession of firearms and ammunition as well as trespassing in the Kruger National Park.

The biological management of rhino is the key focus of the integrated strategic management approach and includes ecological management of rhino habitat.

An additional action is the translocation of rhino from areas where they are threatened (e.g. eastern boundary of Kruger National Park), as well as areas where environmental conditions and high rhino densities restrict breeding and increase mortalities. These include range states within the Southern African Development Community, such as Zambia and Botswana. Around 500 rhino are to be translocated within the next year.

The key objective is to increase the rhino population through translocation to strongholds such as national parks, communal areas, private land and to international reserves.

Translocation ensures the safety of a core portion of the rhino population in the short to medium term, while also expanding rhino range and overall population.

Secondary benefits of more rhino strongholds are the expansion of conservation-friendly land uses; improved capacity and infrastructure within protected areas; the implementation of sustainable use policies and the creation of alternative economic choices for communities living adjacent to protected areas.

In July 2013, Cabinet authorised the Department of Environmental Affairs to explore the feasibility of possible trade in rhino horn, or not. No final decision has been made. Cabinet has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee and a Panel of Experts to consider all possibilities.

South Africa's response cannot be implemented alone. Addressing the plight of the rhino jointly is a clarion call to all nations.

Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, has stated repeatedly: "Not on our watch."



About the contributor: Eleanor Momberg

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

Operation Phakisa to unlock economic potential of SA's oceans

By Zibuse Ndlovu

The first implementation of Operation Phakisa will focus on unlocking the economic potential of South Africa's oceans. This was revealed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa during the launch of the Operation Phakisa in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal on 19 July 2014.



Above: President Jacob Zuma delivering his speech during the launch of the first phase of Operation Phakisa. On his left hand is Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jeff Radebe, and the Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa.

President Jacob Zuma launched the first phase of Operation Phakisa, a government initiative aimed at fast-tracking the delivery of some of the priorities outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP). President Zuma announced Operation Phakisa during his reply to the State of the Nation Address debate in June this year.

In her address at the launch, Minister Molewa said the Department of Environmental Affairs, working with the Department of Transport and the Department of Mineral Resources had begun a study into how they could improve the potential of the ocean's resources to boost the economy. "One of the plans is to develop aquaculture on the Northern Cape coast to increase fishing stocks," she said.

Minister Molewa said another plan was to create shipyards and local ships since South Africa did not have a single vessel despite its large coastline. "We are like delivery trucks, we load and go," she said.

Operation Phakisa is modeled around the government of Malaysia's Big Fast Results methodology which they utilized to address their national key priority areas such as, poverty, crime, unemployment etc.

The Malaysian government was able to register impressive results within a short period. The methodology entails eight sequential steps, which include convening a laboratory (lab), thus bringing key stakeholder together in a "lab" for intensive planning at a practical and detailed level, setting targets, monitoring of progress with implementation and making the results public.



Above: South African Police Service Music Band performing during the launch of Operation Phakisa

"There is massive untapped economic potential related to the oceans, in the areas of marine transport and manufacturing, offshore oil and gas exploration, aquaculture and marine protection services and governance. Which are estimated to have the potential to contribute up to R177 billion to GDP by 2033," explained the Minister.

Two labs will be convened. Firstly, the Department of Environmental Affairs has an elaborate plan for enhancing the ocean economy. Secondly, the Department of Health together with the Presidency will also focus on developing a detailed implementation strategy for improving the quality of care in all public sector clinics.

The second implementation of Operation Phakisa will be to pilot the health sector's Ideal Clinic Initiative to improve service delivery in clinics nationwide.



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

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

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

CELEBRATING 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE AND PARKS PROGRAMME

As South Africa celebrates 20 years of democracy, the Department of Environmental Affairs is hosting its 6th People and Parks Conference in Mthatha, Eastern Cape. This year's Conference is held from the 8th to 11th September 2014.

In the past decade, a number of major milestones were reached. Five National People and Parks Conferences were held and there has been a considerable increase in investment supporting community participation in conservation.

Whilst these landmark events have shaped the advancement of the People and Parks Programme in South Africa, the new imperative is the degree to which decisions taken at these gatherings actually translate into implementation at the local level.

Historically, the establishment of protected conservation areas came at great cost to indigenous and local communities who were displaced and dispossessed. The People and Parks programme is a means of redress, one of acknowledging the experiences of these communities and ensuring their future participation in and management of these parks - but also their involvement in decision making.

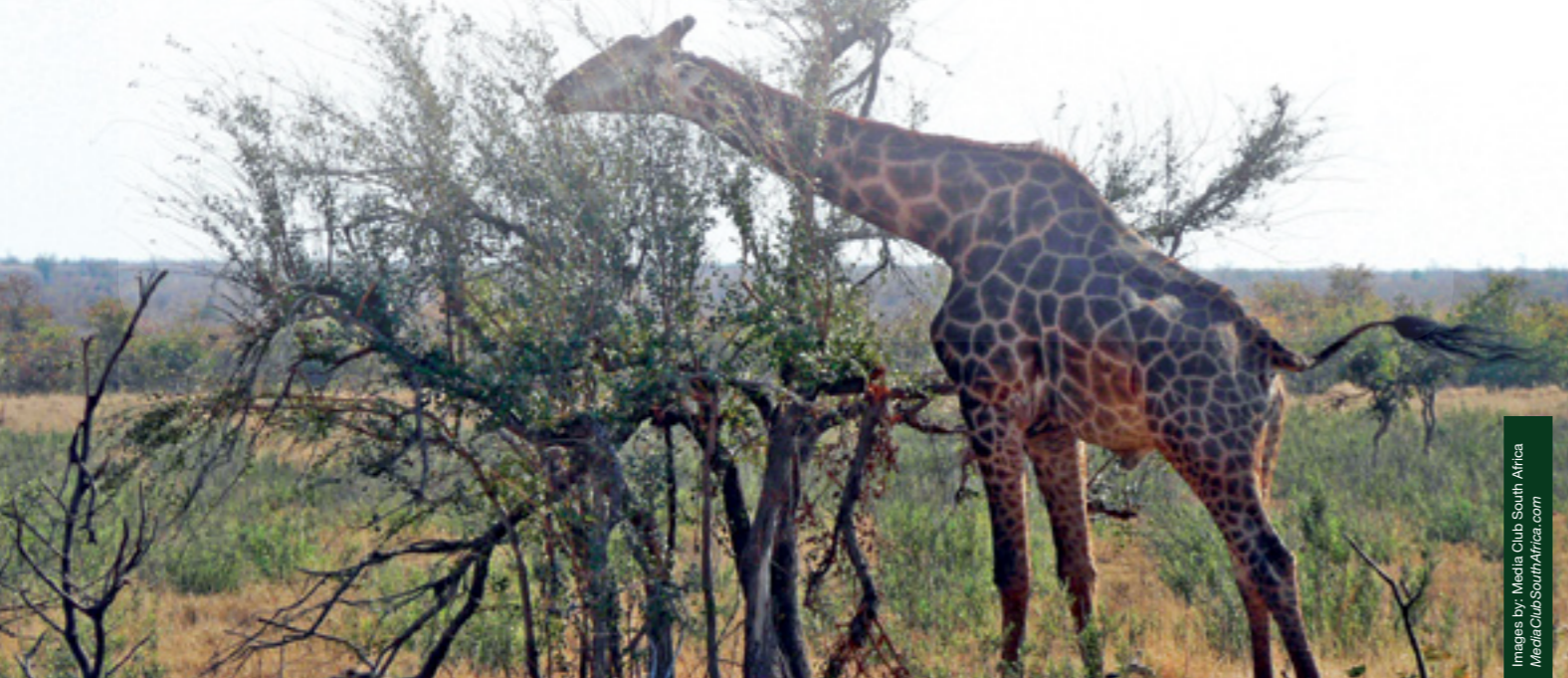
People are at the heart of conservation and environmental management. They are its cornerstone, its foundation and its building blocks. The People and Parks Programme offers government and communities a common platform on which to share, reflect and address mutual challenges in the field of environmental management.

South African conservation policy has been re-written. Now we know that communities are not just neighbours of protected areas, but are key role players in the governance and management of these areas and as such, should be significant beneficiaries.

There have also been other important policy changes at the national level. The main outcome of these fundamental policy changes is that all our conservation management authorities now have a clear mandate to work with local communities, and to look for ways and means of creating economic opportunities.

Today, South Africa has robust People and Parks Programme with strong community involvement, solid policies, structures and frameworks in place to ensure further success of the programme toward the future.

Our government is committed to ensure the participation of local communities in government business, investing heavily in supporting communities, facilitating their entry into the conservation space and frameworks in place to ensure further success of the programme toward the future.



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Future leaders in a battle of ideas to spare environment

By Bulelwa Ngobeni



Above: The winners of the Department of Environmental Affairs annual National Environmental Debate Competition from North West Province

Over 50 grade eight and nine learners representing all nine provinces of South Africa debated their hearts out during the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) annual National Environmental Debate Competition held in Durban, from 01 - 03 July 2014.

Apart from fostering environmental advocacy, the competition created an opportunity for grade eight learners to debate on environmental issues that have an impact on their social livelihood and the natural environment. The event was organised by DEA's Natural Resource Management's Environmental Education team in collaboration with the National Department of Basic Education, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Basic Education and universities from the respective provinces.

In her opening address the Programme Coordinator, Ms Florence Gamanie said one of the aims of the debating programme was to strengthen and support educational processes in South Africa. The competition had three stages. The first stage had 10 teams, stage two had

six teams and the final round with two teams. The first two rounds were based on the prepared topic and the learners were assisted by the teachers and their mentors and were also allowed to use internet for reference in preparation for the debate topic. The final round was unprepared topic aimed at testing the general environmental related knowledge. Learners prepared their debate points without any assistance.

The universities that supported this year's competition were University of North West, Stellenbosch University, University of Free State, University of Limpopo, University of Cape Town, University of South Africa and Boston College.

The North West province was the overall winner, Limpopo province as second and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) as the third runner ups respectively. The learners were presented with certificates and trophies and the represented schools also received certificates.

A learner from Sol Plattjie Secondary School in North West, Mr Robin Phillander

said debating was his passion, and was very happy to get the opportunity to show his talent while accumulating environmental knowledge. "It is an honour to be part of the team that came to fight for my province and won. I am extremely excited," stated Mr Phillander.

The three United Nations programmes that are signatories to South Africa, underpin the debating programme. The programmes include the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The overall aims of the EFA are encapsulated in MDG Goal One to eradicate poverty and hunger. The EFA goal is in line with the DEA aim to promote environmental awareness and educational programmes by means of raising awareness and improving access to information.

The National Best Speaker award went to Mr Veroshni Chetty, a grade 9 learner from Solvista Secondary School in KZN. "I am very excited to receive such an award and would like to thank the department and organisers for this competition. It was a great learning curve and I will surely follow a career in environmental studies with an objective of becoming a parliamentarian dealing with environment related issues," he said.

On the last day the learners were taken to a field trip along the South Beach to the sand dunes that were rehabilitated by the Department of Environmental Affairs. During the trip they were also taught what it means to rehabilitate sand dunes and why it is done. They then took to the Natal Sharks Board to witness the desertification of a shark.



About the contributor: Bulelwa Ngobeni

Bulelwa Ngobeni is a Director: Knowledge & Information Management at the Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria. She has wealth of experience in IT management, IT audit, records management and knowledge management. She is passionate about knowledge mining and sharing.

UNFCCC Cop20:

South Africa continues to work tirelessly to secure the Durban COP 17 legacy

By Irene Koenze



NO EMISSIONS: The UNFCCC sets out a framework for action aimed at stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

As South Africans continue to celebrate 20 years of democracy, the EQ looks at the strides made by the country in its participation in the international Climate Change discourse. To learn more about the role of South Africa in the negotiations, Irene Koenze spoke to the Chief Director of International Climate Change Negotiations & Relations, Mr Maesela Kekana who explained the country's role in details.

According to Mr Kekana since Durban COP17, South Africa has continued to work tirelessly to secure the Durban legacy. "The Durban Climate Change Conference finalized a political agreement on the way forward in the international climate negotiations. In 2012, the Doha COP18 finalised the Durban COP17 mandate in relation to the Kyoto Protocol by securing the necessary provisions for the second commitment period."



About the contributor: Irene Koenze

Irene Koenze is the Deputy Director: Administration and Coordination in the branch Climate Change and Air Quality. She is very passionate about her work and loves reading and writing.

In 2013, Warsaw COP19 secured the Durban legacy with an outcome that consolidated the adaptation agenda and mobilized US\$100 million for the Adaptation Fund. "We transitioned the negotiations on the 2015 legal agreement under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) for Enhanced Action from an informal to a more formal mode; and completed arrangements necessary to enable mobilization of resources for the Green Climate Fund (the Green Climate Fund is a financial mechanism under the COP tasked with mobilizing financial resources for developing countries to the tune of US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020)," explained Mr Kekana.

The outcomes of the Warsaw conference, and of the discussions under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action in particular, included a "big ask" for all countries to initiate what was referred to as their **'NATIONAL HOMEWORK'**. "This is a request for each country to start a national process that should end with an indication to the UNFCCC by May 2015 of what each country will be contributing to combating climate change," said Mr Kekana.

In 2014, South Africa will continue to support the Africa group during Lima COP20, and will advance a position that addresses both climate and development imperatives through a multilateral rules-based legal regime that ensures global emission reductions to avert dangerous climate change, while respecting the over-riding developmental priorities of developing countries.

"In addition South Africa will emphasise the urgent need to prioritise enhanced action on adaptation to the unavoidable climate change impacts that are already being felt, particularly in Africa," added Mr Kekana

"If the climate change negotiations are to succeed our view is that we need to avoid repeating what happened in Copenhagen in 2009, where Leaders made a deal in the last hour, Political principals should

use both the United Nations Secretary General Leader's Summit in September 2014 and the Lima COP20 Conference to give clear direction to the negotiators," said Mr Kekana.

Mr Kekana believes that a political agreement must be reached on the elements of a future legal agreement that elaborates a durable, legal, multilateral rules-based climate change system that is inclusive (applicable to all Parties), fair, effective and adequate to keep temperature increase well below 2°C.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted in 1992 and entered into force in 1994. South Africa ratified the United Nations Framework on Climate Change in August 1997 and acceded to its Kyoto Protocol in March 2002 as a non-Annex 1 signatory. The UNFCCC provides the overall global policy framework for addressing the climate change issues and marks the first international political response to climate change. The UNFCCC sets out a framework for action aimed at stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Parties to the UNFCCC convene annually in a Conference of the Parties (COP), and twice a year in meetings of the subsidiary bodies – the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

"To do this a Lima political agreement needs to elaborate on a legal form that the post -2020 regime should take; how developing countries' contributions to the global effort to combat climate change will be financed, and whether the obligation to provide this support will be legally binding on developed countries. It cannot be expected of African countries to provide this funding. The developed countries need to understand that while developing countries are willing to miti-

gate climate change, we are however still faced with the huge challenges of poverty eradication through economic development. However, developing countries have the potential to contribute significantly in mitigating climate change and therefore it would be a win-win outcome if they are provided with predictable, sufficient and easily accessible support to make this contribution in tackling climate change and adapting to climate change impacts," Mr Kekana explained.

Paris COP 21 is the agreed end-date for the negotiation of the post-2020 legal outcome. "It is worth re-emphasizing that COP20, that will be held in Lima, Peru in November 2014, has no choice but to conclude a political agreement on the shape of the post-2020 agreement, if we are to succeed at COP21 in Paris in 2015," elaborated Mr Kekana. South Africa should be prepared to make tough choices for Paris COP 21. This include but not limited to opting for a climate regime that captures ALL countries but weak on legal rigor vs. a strong legal climate regime with a participation of a few countries.

Domestically, South Africa has acknowledged that climate change poses a major challenge and has committed to strengthening its social and economic resilience to the effects of climate change. "The National Climate Change Response Policy embodies South Af-

rica's commitment to a fair contribution to stabilising our own GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and to protecting the country and its people from the impacts of inevitable climate change. South Africa is committed to reducing its carbon emissions to below its anticipated growth trajectory in upcoming decades and preparatory work and research to set targets and measure reductions in emissions in different sectors is under way," said Mr Kekana.

Conservationists' fight against rhino poaching gets a good nod

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: First position in the category: Field Ranger is Rhino Monitoring Ranger at Moremi Game Reserve in Botswana, Mr Mpho Malongwa.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa has encouraged conservationists to carry on fighting the war against rhino poaching. Minister Molewa was speaking at the Rhino Conservation Awards, held at the Montecasino on 31 July 2014. Minister Molewa commended the objectives of the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) on raising awareness on rhino conservation and recognized a wide range of exceptional individuals and organisations for their efforts in the Rhino conservation field, across different categories. "It is befitting, and an honour, to also recognize that this evening's event coincides with the World Ranger Day, which celebrates and pays homage to the important work done by game rangers across our continent," said Minister Molewa.

The Rhino Conservation Awards recognise those that are willing to sacrifice of themselves and their resources to ensure that the iconic species is not lost to future generations.

Minister Molewa further explained that rhino poaching was no longer primarily directed at satisfying the medicinal market

through the supply of rhino horn: "It is a crime that has been elevated to address the greed of poachers, their syndicate bosses and consumers ready to show off their ability to access such a commodity.

"Our natural and cultural heritage is a significant contributor to our economy and important for sustainable development. A loss of the rhino, including other fauna and flora, may therefore also be equated to a loss of jobs," Minister Molewa explained.

The awards are a collaborative effort by the DEA and the GRAA which is a non-profit organisation with a membership of over 1500 across Africa, many of whom are rangers active in anti-poaching activities.

First held in 2012, the awards were founded by Dr. Larry Hansen in an effort to create awareness of rhino conservation issues while recognising exceptional individuals and organisations for their efforts in protecting Africa's rhino population.

"Determination is the word we should use for this meeting. Thank you to the Department of Environmental Affairs for their work, as these awards wouldn't happen

without them. Game Rangers Association of Africa, your support has really gone a long a way," stated Dr. Hansen.

His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco accepted the position of patron of the Rhino Conservation Initiative and the Rhino Conservation Awards this year. His Serene Highness Prince Albert is committed to the protection of species dangerously close to extinction, through the support of his foundation to various preservation projects. Having His Serene Highness as the patron of the awards will hopefully encourage international publicity and lead to the reduction of rhino poaching.

The Barclays Africa Group Ltd also joined as co-sponsor along with the existing sponsor, Ms Xiaoyang Yu, Founder Partner of China New Enterprise Investment (CNEI), a China focused growth capital fund, and one of the originators of the awards.

Nominations were divided into five categories namely: Field Ranger, Best Conservation Practitioner, Political & Judicial Support, Science Research and Technology and Awareness, Education and Funding. The nomination process was open to anyone to nominate any candidate that they felt was worthy of an award.

Youth Conservation were also given to young conservationists for their efforts in creating awareness and fight against rhino poaching. One of these youngsters is the 11 years old Jadin Jordaan from Boksburg, who is a youth spokesperson for Rhino South Africa. He said he wanted to educate and raise awareness to children and adults around the world.

Asked about how he felt about receiving the award, he said "I felt very honoured because there were very special people that I look up to, like the wildlife veterinarians as I want to become one someday," Jadin stated.

Leadership Profile

Mr Obed Baloyi: Traits of a great leader

The job of a great leader is to create the environment that makes success possible, and to trust people to rise to the occasion. For Mr **Obed Baloyi**, leaders must have a high level of self-awareness as part of their emotional intelligence, and confidence that giving trust and respect to others does not diminish ones leadership position.

As the Chief Director responsible for Chemicals Management within the Chemicals and Waste Management Branch, Mr Baloyi's job is to manage and to ensure that chemicals management policies and legislation, including international agreements are implemented and enforced. **Zibuse Ndlovu** spoke to him about being a leader in the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

What, in your opinion, makes a good leader?

A good leader is a person who is able to inspire others to dream more, to learn more, to do more and to become more.

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

Challenging: The bureaucratic nature of government.

Rewarding: The fact that as a Department we make a difference in people's lives by protecting what they might not even think it's important, but benefits their health and wellbeing.

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

My University degree, I got it against all odds.

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

Register and do your Master's degree on full time basis. It becomes extremely difficult to study while working, and it takes a little bit longer than it normally would.

Do you reduce, reuse and recycle your waste before disposing it off? What are some of the items you reuse?

Every time we take out our garbage bins for collection, there are people who would go through the bin to take out PET bottles for recycling, I try to make their lives easier by making sure that my PET bottles are separate all the time, so that the collectors don't have to go through my garbage.

6. What are 3 core tenets of your management/leadership philosophy that you would never compromise?

i) I believe in respecting and trusting people.

For me, leading people is a privilege. I know that I affect people's lives every day – posi-

tively or negatively. My actions can help people do their best work and grow or send them to drink due to stress and boredom. I believe that people want to do a good job and they will work hard to succeed. There are many reasons that leaders fail in this regard. But interestingly, our failure says less about the worthiness of others than it does about who we are.

ii) I believe in enabling people

I have always told people that "you are allowed to make as many mistakes as you can, you are just not allowed repeating any of them". As a leader there are some decisions that should be kept at the lowest possible level. When decisions are brought to me as a leader, I ask if this is really a decision I should make.

iii) I believe that we are highly talented and highly flawed.

This belief leads to two actions – greatness and tolerance. 1) I believe people are amazing – so I allow them to go BE amazing. They should not be a Greyhound who never runs. 2) I also encourage people to chill out and be tolerant. It is possible to drive half the people around you a little nutty and others will irk you on occasion, but one should never let personality or style get in the way of working well with others.

Quick Facts

Home town: Hammanskraal

Role model: Elizabeth Matamela Baloyi, my mother. A very wise woman who works very hard and loves her children to bits, no matter how old they are.

Favourite quote/motto: "Nobody ever wrote down a plan to be broke, fat, lazy, or stupid. Those things are what happen when you don't have a plan." – *Larry Winget*

Hobbies: Road running, hiking, playing and watching soccer.



About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

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

New Deputy Minister brings new energy in Environmental Affairs

The advent of the new cabinet term on 26 May, 2014 saw a change in political leadership when re-elected President of South Africa announced Ms Barbara Thomson as the new Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs. **Gaopalelwe Moroane** spoke to Mrs Thomson who has been a member of Parliament since 1995. She was Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Children and People with Disabilities. She served in various Portfolio Committees including Public Works, Land and Agriculture, Joint Monitoring Committee on the Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women. The Deputy Minister obtained a Certificate in Leadership Communication and a Certificate in Government and Business Policy from Rhodes University. She has dedicated her strength in the areas of Skills Development for Women and Rural Development.



Above: Newly appointed Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Ms Barbara Thomson tells EQ about the beginning of her term at Environmental Affairs.

How have you gone about greening your lifestyle at home and at the office?

I have transitioned to a green lifestyle at home. I have a vegetable patch at home where I grow my own vegetables for consumption. I have also installed energy efficient lights throughout. There are many other environmentally sustainable choices people can make as part of what they do on a daily basis.

The Department of Environmental Affairs is really leading by example when it comes to environmentally sustainable practice. We have just moved into a new building, appropriately named Environment House, which has been constructed through the use of environmentally sustainable design methods. Its construction has very little impact on the environment and it creates a healthy environment for DEA employees.

What does "going green" mean to you?

Going green does not only mean installing a solar water heater onto your roof or planting trees. For me "going green" means making conscious environmentally sustainable decisions as part of what you do on a daily basis such as not throwing a burning cigarette out of your car window. It also means the switching off a light that you are not using, properly clos-



About the contributor: Gaopalelwe Moroane

Gaopalelwe is a Senior Communication Officer under the sub-directorate, publication in the department of Environmental Affairs. Prior to working as intern in Environmental Department's media liaison team, 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: Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Barbara Thomson who has dedicated her strength in the areas of skills development for women and rural development.

ing taps after using. In other words it requires a behavioral change among people. Environmental considerations should become second nature, part of our DNA.

Do you think it is important to promote environmentally sustainable lifestyles among South Africans Why?

It is obviously important to encourage sustainable lifestyles. Sustainable living is defined as a lifestyle that seeks to reduce an individual or society's consumption of the earth's natural resources. Our population is growing fast and we have limited natural resources to provide for this growing population. We therefore need to live in a way that respects our symbiotic relationship with earth because if we don't, future generations will wake up one day to find there is nothing left. As the department responsible for the protection of the environment, we need to take the lead and demonstrate our own commitment to sustainable lifestyles.

South Africa has made many great in the 20 years of freedom and democracy. However we face many social issues/challenges. What are your views on this?

It is true that we have made significant progress during the 20 years of freedom and democracy. What is also true is that this progress was achieved on the basis of policies that sought to create a balance between growth and development on the one hand and principles of sustainability on the other.

However 20 years is not sufficient time to completely reverse the inequalities

caused by Apartheid, which are many and varied. Included in this is the inequitable access to environmental resources. A key challenge therefore is to encourage greater public participation in all planning decisions, which affect the development and management of natural resources. In this regard, there is a sense of urgency at the level of the Ministry towards development of appropriate public education and awareness programmes.

What are some of the things you do to offset your carbon footprint?

Everybody has a responsibility to reduce their individual carbon footprint and there are lots of ways to do so. I have made it my mission to encourage people I meet to think about their lifestyle decisions and find ways to reduce the environmental impact of their lifestyle decisions. I have for example replaced all my light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL's), which saves about two-thirds of the energy of a regular incandescent bulb. I also make energy efficiency a primary consideration when purchasing appliances.

Coming from the Department of Energy dealing with the issues of renewables, fuel, natural gas, etc. can you mention two or three biggest challenges accompanying your move to the DEA?

It was not really a challenge moving to the DEA. Government works in an integrated manner and this approach exposes Ministers and Deputy Ministers to the work of other departments. For example I am a member of the PICC, the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission,

which needs to troubleshoot blockages within government processes, which could potentially delay the roll-out of our massive infrastructure development programme. Most departments are represented on the PICC.

Also, being a member of the Cabinet Committees provides insight into the mandates and programmes of other departments that are part of the Cabinet Committees. Furthermore, most of the issues we dealt with in Energy have environmental implications requiring co-operation and collaboration between the two departments.

If there were any challenges it was more of an administrative nature. At Energy, the Ministry had a very efficient executive support system in place. I understand that Environment did not have a Ministry before and it is a bit of a challenge for the Department to fully understand how they should relate to the newly established Ministry. The Ministry has particular operational needs, which may sometimes be frustrated by existing processes in the Department. I think we would need to sit down at some stage to evaluate the impact of internal departmental processes on the work of the Ministry.

What do you think of our world-class purpose built green building and our green cars?

I am very excited, the building and our green cars sets an excellent example not only for the rest of government but also for the business sector to move towards more sustainable use of resources in carrying their work forward.

Spotlight on:

MEC urges people to jealously guard the environment

By Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: Executive Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Councillor James Nxumalo, MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs, Mr Mike Mabuyakhulu, and the Environmental Affairs' Head of Communications, Mr Albi Modise handing over plants to learners.

"We need to pay particular attention to how we continue to nurture and protect our environment, which has come under severe strain owing to, among other factors, environmental degradation and changes in weather patterns," warned the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs, Mr Mike Mabuyakhulu during his address at this year's World Environment Day celebration event held at the Durban's Beach Front in KwaZulu-Natal on 20 June 2014.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) partnered with the KwaZulu-Natal

Province and the eThekweni Municipality to celebrate the World Environment Day under the theme "International Year of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)" and the slogan "Raise your voice, not the sea level."

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment with the aim of becoming one of the main vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and to encourage positive environmental action.

Speaking during the event, MEC Mabuyakhulu said Climate change

posed a great threat to economic growth and sustainable development and was likely to reverse the gains made over the past 20 years of democracy. "The international thrust of our Celebrations for this year is on Small Island States since these states and developing countries are most vulnerable to climate change. The combined emission of small islands represents less than 1 per cent of global emissions. Yet, it is these islands that bear the brunt of changes in climate patterns. It is common cause that rising sea levels can and do disparege land along coastlines of low-lying islands, disrupting economies and livelihoods," the MEC explained.



Above: The learners from Buhle Bethu Primary School dancing and singing traditional hymns.



Above: The Ningizimu Special School pupils playing Marimba music.

In South Africa, coastal human settlements are also affected by the increase in sea-level due to climate change. The 3,650 km coastline is increasingly becoming vulnerable to storm surges, coastal erosion, sea level rise and extreme weather events such as flooding, that may result in the loss of coastal infrastructure.

"As a country, our policy approach is both developmental and transformational. It is developmental in that we are prioritising climate change responses that have significant mitigation or adaptation benefits, and have significant economic growth, job creation, public health, risk management and poverty alleviation benefits," added Mr Mabuyakhulu.

The Department of Environmental Affairs' Head of Communications, Mr Albi Modise said government has declared June as the environment month. "In the month of June we celebrate World Day to Combat Desertification, and we celebrate World Environment Day, but also there is World Oceans Day. All these key environment days are found in the month of June, which is why we have set aside this month as an environment month."



Above: Scores of people flocked to Durban's Beach Front to be part of the World Environment Day celebration.



Above: Learners joined scores of community members who came to listen to the address by the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs, Mr Mike Mabuyakhulu.



Above: Ms Maleka Papo, Ms Banele Mabena, and Ms Evelyn Chauke manning the exhibition stand and handing over welcoming packs to the community.



Above: Ms Banele Mabena and Ms Evelyn Chauke handing over publications to the community [assisted by eThekweni Municipality official]

Minister joins community to rid Khayelitsha of dirt

By Tshego Letshwiti and Sivuyile Ngaba

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa led the Khayelitsha community, beneficiaries of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and departmental officials in a clean-up campaign. The campaign was in celebration of International Mandela Day for 67 minutes on 18 July 2014, in Khayelitsha Cape Town. The clean-up was in response to the call by President Jacob Zuma to clean-up South Africa, with an aim to raise awareness on Anti-littering, Separation of waste at source and the Recycle, Reuse and Recover (3R's) concept.

Addressing the community in Khayelitsha Minister Molewa said Working on Waste was one of the initiatives by the Department of Environmental Affairs implemented through Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme (EPIP) under the auspices of Expanded Public Work Programme (EPWP).

"The initiative is a proactive preventative measure that recognises that inadequate waste services may lead to litter which is not only visual pollution but may lead to health hazards and environmental degradation."

Khayelitsha Development Forum (KDF) Chairperson, Ndithini Tyhido, thanked the department for joining the Khayelitsha clean-up in support of the late Nelson Mandela's legacy. Tyhido said they'll continue with such activities in the area and there are many planned for the rest of the area. He urged the minister and the department to continue with its relations with Khayelitsha, and highlighted that the area faces severe waste problems and flooding in rainy weather.

Waste management is a concurrent function amongst all spheres of government and the Department as the custodian for environmental management is mandated to ensuring a safe and healthy environment that is not harmful to the well-being of the citizens of the country. In recognition of this Constitutional obligation, the department promulgated the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008 (Waste Act) and in 2010 developed the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS).

In addition to the clean-up activity in Khayelitsha, officials from the Oceans and Coasts and Environmental Programmes branches, made donations in the form of educational toys, books, clothing and toiletries to the Lukhanyo Edu-care Pre-school in Khayelitsha. The day ended with a cleaner looking community and delighted children who could not wait open their gifts.



Above: Children from the Lukhanyo Edu-care Pre-school in Khayelitsha gather around the gifts donated by officials from the Oceans and Coasts and Environmental Programmes branches.



Above: Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa alongside EPWP beneficiaries pack the garbage collected in Khayelitsha.



About the contributor: Sivuyile Ngaba

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



"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."
Nelson Mandela

Above: Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa cleaning the streets of Khayelitsha.

Winning images from iSimangaliso's Sodwana Bay Shootout Festival 2014

The iSimangaliso's Sodwana Bay Shootout Festival was dedicated to the late Peter Timm who tragically passed away in June, 2014 in a diving accident on the South Coast. Peter was a licensed iSimangaliso scuba diving operator, and an experienced technical diver, who famously discovered a coelacanth in deep canyons off Sodwana Bay in 2000.

The competition, which received fifty three entries, recognised competitors at various skill levels from novice through to advanced and professional entrants. The six day competition now includes an increasingly popular land category along with the original underwater photography and videography. Material shot anywhere in iSimangaliso is eligible for the land category entries, as long as it is photographed within the week of the competition. Fabulous prizes included magazine portfolio spreads, holidays, accommodation packages, dive packages, open ocean excursions, photography equipment and accessories, electronic equipment and magazine subscriptions.

<http://www.isimangaliso.com/>

Image Captions

Image 1: Sodwana Bay, internationally renowned as one of the top 10 dive sites globally for its magnificent coral reefs, is an integral and highly valued part of iSimangaliso. **Image 2:** The overall winning shot of a diver alongside a beautiful coral reef (top) was taken by Eve Marshall. **Image 3:** The stunning overall winning shot in the 'Land' category, by Clayton Barnard. **Image 4, 5 and 6:** A selection of winning and commended underwater shots by (from top): Peter Laubscher; Eve Marshall and Jason Mulherron. **Image 7:** Jenny J. **Image 8:** Cathy Bloemhof **Image 9:** Sean Abernethy **Image 10:** Adriaan Johnson.



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6



Image 7



Image 10

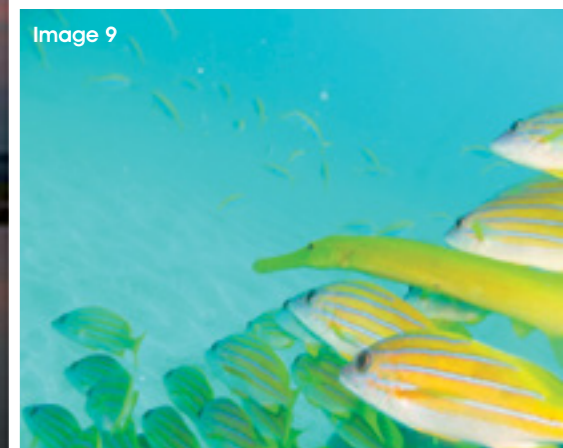


Image 9



Image 8

KZN's Msunduzi Municipality spruced up on Mandela Day

By Zibuse Ndlovu
Pictures: Zibuse Ndlovu

The Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister, Mrs Barbara Thomson joined scores of community volunteers who dedicated 67 minutes of their time collecting waste in an effort to rid the Msunduzi Municipality of its filth. The clean-up campaign held in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal on 18 July 2014 was also in response to a call by President Jacob Zuma for a major clean-up of cities, towns, townships, villages, and schools.

Addressing scores of volunteers, the Deputy Minister welcomed the patronage

and support demonstrated by the partners in making the event a success. "This provides people with the opportunity to make an imprint in transforming the world. Therefore, 2014 is particularly symbolic as we work to honour a great South African statesman and make every day a Mandela Day as we mark South Africa's 20 years of democratic freedom," said the Deputy Minister.

The Department of Environmental Affairs supports uMsunduzi Local Municipality

with key programmes that focuses on job creation within the waste section, youth unemployment, waste collection, and skills development within the context of the Green Economy.

The programmes are funded through the National Green Fund and The Environmental Programmes under the Expanded Public Works Programme, respectively.



GOOD DEEDS: Armed with a broom, a rake and rubbish bags, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson alongside Chemical Waste Management Deputy - Director General, Mr Mark Gordon got to work picking up litter, and removing rubbish to mark Mandela Day.



Above: They came with white masks covering their mouths and protective gloves on their hands, ready to launch war on dirt.



GOOD DEEDS: It was a day of hard labour and sweat as hundreds of volunteers took to the street and open spaces of the Msunduzi Municipality to mount an offensive against litter.



Above: Above: Environmental Affairs Senior Policy Advisor: Greening Programmes and Fund, Dr Jenitha Badul, Secretariat Manager: Green Fund, Ms Michelle Layte, Green Fund-Fund Accountant, Mr Aubrey Maredi, Green Fund-Financial Analyst: Ms Li-Long Huang, and the Environmental Affairs Chief Policy Advisor: Sustainable Development, Mr Mr Tlou Ramaru



Above: Hard at work, sorting out rubbish bags are Assistant Director: Waste Management, Ms Sindiswa Duma, Ms Celiwe Ngcamphalala and Assistant Director: Greening Programmes and Fund, Ms Elizabeth Ntoyi.

Celebrating a decade of implementing the Air Quality Act

By Patience Gwaze

In order for the government of South Africa to effectively and efficiently manage the quality of the air, it is important to understand what pollutants are present in the atmosphere and their levels. This can be achieved by ambient air quality monitoring, commonly referred to as air quality monitoring. Prior to and since the promulgation of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No. 39 of 2004, hereafter AQA) and the subsequent development of its National Framework for Air Quality Management in South Africa, several spheres of government have initiated air quality monitoring programmes across the country.



Above: Particulate matter and gaseous pollutants are emitted from both natural and man-made activities. Sources vary from widespread surface sources like deserts and arid surfaces, oceans, biosphere and biomass and fuel burning. Particulate matter is a broad term used to describe the fine solid particles found in the atmosphere, including soil dust, sea-salt, soot, pollen, ash and plant debris.

The main objectives of air quality monitoring include:

- Determining air quality in an area and assessing its effects on human health and the environment.
- Ascertaining whether prescribed air quality standards are being violated and to control and regulate pollution from various sources.
- Reporting on the state of the environment to the public and interested parties.
- Estimating future worsening or improvement of air quality and informing necessary preventive and corrective measures.
- Assessing the present status to assess the effectiveness of air pollution control strategies, policies and the long term management of air quality.
- Providing air quality information for air quality research and air quality modelling activities.

To distinguish between air that is harmful to health and well-being from that which is not, the government also set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria pollutants. These standards are used to measure if the air is safe for human health through ambient concentrations. Criteria pollutants include particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead and benzene. If the levels of pollution are higher than the levels set in the standards, the air is considered to be unsafe.

Air Quality Monitoring Networks

Air quality monitoring stations have been commissioned by all government spheres including the national department, provincial departments and district/metropolitan municipalities to fulfil their mandate in the AQA. There are currently 109 fully automated air quality monitoring stations. The stations are located in areas with the highest density of people in order to measure human exposure to air pollution.



Figure 1. Locations of ambient air quality monitoring stations across the country.

A total of 84 of government stations are currently reporting monitoring data into the South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS, www.saaqis.org.za). The SAAQIS makes this information available to all stakeholders in a consistent manner. SAAQIS has been developed in a partnership between the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the South African Weather Service (SAWS) who hosts and maintains the system. At each station, special instruments measure the amount of different pollutants in the atmosphere. Each pollutant is measured by a specific instrument, and these instruments are housed in a monitoring shelter. Meteorological parameters for wind speed, wind direction, ambient temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, solar radiation and atmospheric pressure are also measured.

What do we know today about South Africa's air quality?

Since the commissioning of ambient monitoring stations across the country, South Africa is in a better place in understanding the quality of air the republic is breathing, as well as developing informed strategies for managing criteria pollutants. Since 2000 the battle against sulphur dioxide pollution has slowly been gaining ground as evidenced by the continued decrease of sulphur dioxide levels across several monitoring stations.

However, continued and increased national, provincial and local interventions are required in order to bring particulate matter and ozone concentrations down to acceptable levels as it is clear that many South Africans may not be breathing air that is not harmful to their health and well-being.

The future of air quality monitoring

The DEA is working with municipalities in order to migrate all stations towards real-time reporting of ambient air quality information to the public through the SAAQIS website. This is best international practice and will afford the public the opportunity to make informed decisions regarding their outdoor activities based on the state of air quality in their area. In addition, the DEA is also developing acceptable principles to ensure integrity, consistency, correctness and representativeness of ambient data measured across all stations.

Ambient air quality instruments are expensive to procure, and require special skills to manage their operation so that data retrieved from the stations can be relied upon. In this regard, DEA is rolling out a comprehensive authorities' training program on air quality monitoring between 2014 and 2015. It is only when these aspects can be guaranteed that decision-shapers and decision-makers can have access to accurate, relevant, current and complete information in managing air quality.

South African Weather Service collects weather data on Southern Ocean Islands

By Ernest Mulibana

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) collects data on weather and the climate in Antarctica and on the Southern Ocean Islands and has weather offices at SANAE IV, Marion and Gough Islands. It also gathers data on ozone levels at SANAE, which can be used to study trends in ozone depletion.

The two islands, Marion and Prince Edward, have a combined area of 316 square km and politically form part of South Africa's Western Cape Province. The islands are volcanic in origin, with Marion having many hillocks (secondary craters) and small lakes. Prince Edward Island has spectacular cliffs up to 490 m high on its south-western side.

Marion Island was annexed in 1948 and since then biological/environmental research and weather data collection are its main functions. Its long-term biological monitoring programmes provide exceptional research potential into the rate and impacts of climate change because of global warming.

The research on Marion Island focuses mainly on the following themes:

- Weather and climate studies
- Interactions between marine and terrestrial systems
- Life histories of seals, seabirds and killer whales
- Life histories of birds found on Marion
- Structure and functioning of terrestrial ecosystems

- Structure and functioning of near shore ecosystems

In 2011, the new Marion Island research base was completed. It houses approximately 80 participants, including the expedition teams, as opposed to the old base, which could only accommodate 64 relief personnel. The overwintering team stays there for approximately 14 months until the new relief team arrives.

South Africa has been operating a weather station on Gough Island (also known historically as Diego Alvarez) since 1956. This weather office operates the same as stations in South Africa with hourly climate observations and twice-daily upper-air ascents.

It is a volcanic island rising from the South Atlantic Ocean to heights of over 900 metres above sea level with an area of 91 sq km. It is a dependency of Tristan da Cunha, which in turn is a dependency of the British overseas territory of St Helena. The land the station is built on is leased by South Africa under contract and is magisterated as a district of Cape Town.

It is uninhabited, except for the 6-8 expedition members of the weather station and is thus one of the most remote places with a constant human presence. It is a lonely place, about 400 km southeast of the other islands in the Tristan da Cunha group and 2700 km from Cape Town.

Gough and Inaccessible Islands form a protected wildlife reserve, which has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Above: The place is also home to the almost flightless Gough Island Moorhen.



Above: The Island has been described as one of the least disrupted ecosystems of its kind and one of the best shelters for nesting seabirds in the Atlantic. In particular, it is host to almost the entire world population of the Tristan Albatross and the Atlantic Petrel.



About the contributor: Ernest Mulibana

Ernest is a Deputy Director: Internal and External Communication based in Cape Town. He worked for the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) as an Assistant Director responsible for rapid response before rejoining DEA in June 2013. Ernest has BA Hons degree in Communication Science with specialization in Media Studies from University of South Africa, and a BA Journalism degree from the University of Johannesburg.



Above: The research and weather station at Marion Island. South Africa has been operating a weather station on Gough Island (also known historically as Diego Alvarez) since 1956.

DEA and SANParks pay homage to the guardians of biodiversity

By Queen Mabusela & Happy Shikundu
Pictures: Gaopalelwe Moroane

It was a buzz of green at the Kruger Gate in Skukuza, Mpumalanga on Thursday the 31 July as South African National Parks(SANParks) and the Department of Environmental Affairs(DEA) celebrated the World Ranger Day.

Speaking about the many dangers that the Rangers face, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Barbara Thomson pointed out that, many Rangers regularly faced armed poachers at tragic cost to their own safety. "Often outnumbered and outgunned by well-armed and well organised poachers and criminal gangs, they continue to soldier on and for this they deserve nothing but our deepest respect and admiration. It is appropriate therefore that we have a day set aside to acknowledge and salute these guardians of our environment."

"Rangers are the men and women that work at the sharp end of environmental crime and it is a great privilege and honour for me to be part of an event of this nature where we can celebrate and pay homage to these true guardians of our environment," said Deputy Minister.

The Ranger Day acknowledges the hard work being done by the rangers in protecting fauna and flora and the environment as a whole. Describing the purpose of World Ranger Day, SANParks Acting CEO, Mr Abe Sibiyi said, "World Ranger Day offers a chance to recognize the contribution to conservation from rangers and to celebrate the heroes and heroines that go out of their way to protect our heritage.

Militarization of the rangers was explained as one of the strategies to help minimize the risk of the endangered animals.

"Through their struggle, their resilience the hardships and dangers they face almost daily, the rangers will survive and continue to stand tall," said Deputy Minister.



Above: The Ranger Day celebrations were wrapped up with the unveiling of the Ranger Monument which was built from the kind donations from the SANParks Honorary Rangers. The monument which was designed by Ian Alexandra stands at the Kruger Gate in Skukuza, Mpumalanga and is a symbol of acknowledgement of the contribution of the rangers who are true guardians of the environment.

About the Monument:

- The Ranger Monument comprises parts of the Leadwood Tree; a tree that has survived where others have disappeared from the landscape. The Leadwood is the epitome of longevity, outlasting many challenges and is a true icon of the Lowveld savanna.
- The rangers of the Kruger National Park, like the Leadwood, have survived for more than 100 years. Through their strength of spirit, their resilience to the hardships and dangers they face almost daily, the rangers will survive and continue to stand tall," said Ms Thomson.
- The Monument depicts the two Life Lines of the hand of rangers.
- The dominant wall represents the Life Line on the rangers hand, representing the rangers lives which are dedicated to serve the broad ideals of conservation.
- The complementary wall illustrates the Stewardship responsibility of all people, particularly the rangers life as defending and conserving all creatures and natural places.
- The two walls together form the Place. This is a reflection and contemplation of the lives dedicated to serve the responsibilities of all Mankind.



Above: Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson officially opens the Ranger Monument on Ranger Day, at the Kruger National Park Gate on 31 July 2014.



Above: "Phambili Rangers Phambili" sing the SANParks rangers, after doing their drill led by Sergeant Maluleleke.



Above: The scroll that was opened by Deputy Minister, Ms Barbara Thomson, which compares the ranger to the lead wood tree.



Above: Deputy Minister, standing alongside Executive Mayor: Bushbuckridge, Councilour Khumalo, reads the inscription at the Ranger Monument which was officially opened on 31 July 2014.

About the contributor: Queen Mabusela and Happy Shikundu

Queen Mabusela, an intern in the external communication, media liaison, within the department's Chief Directorate: Communications. Ms Mabusela assists with media monitoring and media liaising.

Happy Shikundu, an intern in internal communication, corporate communication within the department's Chief Directorate: Communications. Happy is responsible for branding, corporate identity and exhibitions.

Hotel for insects launched at Botanical Gardens

By Veronica Mahlaba



Picture courtesy of South African National Biodiversity Institute.

To a surprise of many, the KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Garden (KZN NBG) has launched its first ever Insect Hotel on their grounds. The Insect Hotel was launched on 14 June 2014 as part of the Happy Earth Forum initiative led by Dr. Megan Griffiths.

An insect hotel is a man-made structure created from natural materials to provide a habitat for insects and other wildlife. Insect hotels come in a variety of shapes and sizes depending on the specific purpose or type of insect being catered for.

Environmental Interpretation Officer at the KZN NBG, Mr Mbuso Zondi who was extensively involved in the construction of the Insect Hotel stated that the human popu-

lation was growing at an alarming rate, and that triggered a demand to build houses as part of human basic needs.

"Building an insect hotel was another means of conserving biodiversity by providing the insects with a new home, breeding space and opportunity to multiply. Another purpose was to educate people about insects and other innovative means to conserving them. This also proved to be another way of recycling, since, you basically need natural and recycled material to build the hotel.

"Since insects play a special role in decomposing and pollination, we wanted to raise awareness to the public about conserving and embracing these crea-

tures and acknowledge their crucial yet unappreciated role in the universe," Mr Zondi explained.

With the Insect Hotel, the garden has a new feature that will attract insect enthusiasts and provide education to schools and the public. The garden will be able to generate income through visitors that will book to have a special tour, have a talk about the Insect Hotel and also be taught on how to build them in their own homes.

"As the KZN NBG we designed a story board that has all the information on what insect hotels are, what they do, how they benefit the insects and how to build them," explained Mr Zondi.

Since the hotel is new and it is winter, not many insects have been checking in at the hotel. However, the way the Insect Hotel has been structured with the fillings inside, KZN NBG made sure that a diversity of insects will be accommodated.

To build the Insect Hotel, the following material was used: bark from trees, leaves, rocks, rotten wood, bricks, broken tiles, pine cones, bamboo, drilled logs and pine needles. These materials attract different insects and also the arachnids (spiders). The structure will be monitored to see what has settled in.

The KZN NBG Insect Hotel is situated in Pietermaritzburg, Prestbury suburb in the succulent garden next to the kid's play area, just behind Plane Tree Avenue which acts as a backdrop. If you want to get practical lessons on how to build an Insect Hotel, make a booking with the KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Garden on (033) 344 3585.

SANBI celebrates 10th Birthday as a champion of biodiversity

By Reyhana Mahomed
Pictures: Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: The Pretoria National Gardens in Silverton.



Above: Together, the nine botanical gardens conserve over 7500 ha of natural vegetation and associated biodiversity within their boundaries. The gardens also receive over one million visitors per year, with Kirstenbosch considered one of the world's "Magnificent Seven" botanical gardens

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (Sanbi), an entity of the Department of Environmental Affairs, this year celebrates its 10th birthday. Sanbi was established in 2004 and plays a leadership role in generating, co-ordinating and interpreting the knowledge and evidence required to support policies and decisions related to all aspects of biodiversity.

Sanbi provides knowledge and information, gives planning and policy advice and pilots best-practice management models in partnership with stakeholders. The institute also engages in ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation, leads the human capital development strategy of the sector and manages the South African National Botanical Gardens as "windows" to South Africa's biodiversity for enjoyment and education.

The diagram above illustrates the work that Sanbi does in the environment sector.

The science taking place at Sanbi

The science taking place at Sanbi forms part of a value chain that starts with very basic information on biodiversity and builds on these foundations with assessments, experiments, models and tools. In this way, the work of Sanbi influences policy makers and contributes to Government's higher objectives of poverty allevi-

ation, job creation and improving human wellbeing. Sanbi translates science into policy and action by creating tools and information resources, and giving policy advice that then assists those who make decisions about land use and natural resources while aiming for objectives such as poverty alleviation, job creation and improved human wellbeing.

The various units and programmes within Sanbi seek to provide answers to pertinent questions such as:

- How can biodiversity help us adapt to climate change?
- What ecological infrastructure are needed for ecosystem services?
- How can biodiversity contribute to our dire need for jobs in South Africa?

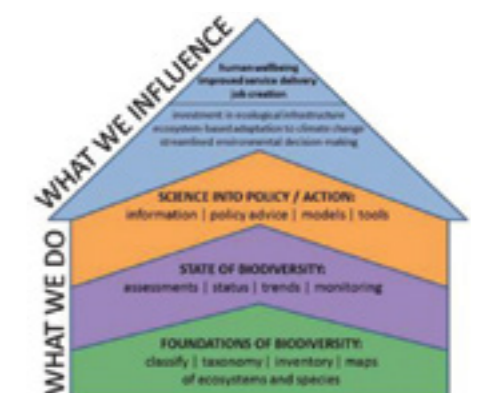
National Botanical Gardens

South Africa is one of the most biological diverse countries in the world, after Indonesia and Brazil. Our country occupies only about two percent of the world's land area but is home to nearly 10% of the world's plants; seven percent of the reptiles, birds and mammals and 15 percent

of known coastal marine species. South Africa is comprised of nine biomes, three of which have been declared global biodiversity hotspots.

South Africa has nine botanical gardens

1. Free State Botanical Gardens
2. Hantam Botanical Gardens
3. Harold Porter Botanical Gardens
4. Karoo Desert Botanical Gardens
5. Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
6. Lowveld Botanical Gardens
7. KwaZulu-Natal Botanical Gardens
8. Pretoria Botanical Gardens
9. Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens



The diagram above illustrates the work that Sanbi does in the environment sector.

Investing in people: Greening the future of iSimangaliso

By Zakithi Mngomezulu

The work of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, a Department of Environmental Affairs entity, has proven itself as the leading example of the new age of conservation and development in South Africa with the announcement that it has won the prestigious Mail & Guardian "Greening the Future" award for "Youth Leadership and Job Creation". This follows the success of iSimangaliso's innovative Higher Education Access Programme, which integrates the strong conservation of the ecological wealth of South Africa's first World Heritage Site with the empowerment and development of historically disadvantaged youth who live in and adjacent to the Park.

Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa congratulated iSimangaliso for earning the Green Award, and for its Higher Education Access Programme. "The programme will ensure that future CEOs, senior managers, professionals and scientists come from those most directly impacted by the Park – its neighbouring communities," said Minister Molewa.

In May 2014, iSimangaliso welcomed 13 new graduates as interns, as part of the 'Groen Sebenza Pioneers' programme funded through SANBI (an agency of the Department of Environmental Affairs).

As CEO Andrew Zaloumis puts it, "iSimangaliso is creating Africa's greatest conservation-based tourism destination driven by communities. We are at the coalface – there is no other park quite like this. New ideas from a younger generation of minds with new thinking and fresh cutting edge skills are vital to achieving this. The future of conservation is in the hands of our young people. It is also essential that local communities see a bright future for their children associated with the protection of world heritage."



Above: Simangaliso's bursary students are provided with work-based experience during the course of their studies, such as the clearing of alien plants (top) – a project funded by Department of Environmental Affairs' Environmental Programmes Unit – as well as orientation trips such as wilderness trails in the park to experience the land of their ancestors.



Above: Selected from hundreds of applicants, these go-getting youngsters have boosted the iSimangaliso's staff complement and lowered the average age significantly. Bringing with them vigour, energy and a willingness to learn as well as share their knowledge, the group has quickly got to grips with the realities of managing a cutting edge conservation and development agency in South Africa



About the contributor: Zakithi Mngomezulu

Zakithi Mngomezulu is the Technical Officer: Entrepreneurship Development Programme at iSimangaliso. She is responsible for developing strategies for implementation of the Enterprise Development Programme and Managing the implementation of all Programme activities thus ensuring that programme objectives are achieved. She has an Honours Degree in Geography and Environmental Management from the University of KwaZulu Natal and is passionate about rural development.



Above: Environmental Affairs Chief Operating Officer, Ms Lize McCourt.

The COO Branch which is headed up by Ms Lize McCourt serves the department by coordinating and managing the strategic functions and operations of the department. The branch is divided into seven Chief Directorates namely Business Performance and Strategic Monitoring, Communications, Government Information Technology Office, Facilities Management, Environmental Sector Coordination, Special Projects and Human Capital Management Services (HCMS).

The branch manages the provision of strategic and operational support services, including strategic and business planning, risk management and organisational performance management. The branch is also responsible for managing the development and implementation of an integrated state of the environment reporting system and facilitating the national sustainable development and greening policy processes and initiatives

The branch provides outreach and strategic communications support, build and manage a positive image of the Minister, Deputy Minister and the department. They also provide effective and sound corporate and cooperative governance and effective management of projects implemented by third parties. They provide administrative and executive support services for the department.

Chief Directorate: Communications

The Communications Chief Directorate is responsible for rendering effective and efficient strategic communications service for Department and the Ministry. The strategic support is aimed at ensur-

COO Branch Profile

By Gaopalelwe Moroane
Pictures: Veronica Mahlaba

ing that internal and external publics are informed, educated and mobilized to play an active role in realising the goals and objectives of government to deliver a society that lives in harmony with its environment.

Human Capital Management Services

The function of the Chief Directorate: HCMS is to ensure that the department is equipped with adequate and appropriate skilled staff. The branch is expected to ensure that equity is met, and that a certain percentage of the hired staff comprises of women, blacks and people with disabilities as per the Employment Equity Act.

Facilities Management

DEA's Facilities Management Chief Directorate is responsible for developing a security policy and ensuring that all members of the DEA staff comply with it. They also facilitate the staff and contractors with access to sensitive information and security.

They are responsible for recording and giving a report on the water and energy consumption of the department. They also facilitate the implementation of aux-

the development and implementation of the Oceans Information Management System and the development and implementation of the organisational performance Management System.

Environmental Sector Coordination

The Chief Director, Environmental Sector Coordination conducts a number of Environmental Awareness activities such as Learnerships, Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) and Campaigns. They also review Environment Sector Skills Plans and the number of Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) sector skills plans with an environmental focus. Environmental Sector Coordination compiles compliance reports on the implementation of the sector performance measures.

Governance & Special Projects

This Chief directorate manages and coordinates special projects. As well as prioritising key business processes reviewed. Risk Management identifies; assesses and monitors risks in the Department. They raise awareness on fraud and corruption and risk management. This is done so that officials understand the Risk Management



Above: The IT Infrastructure, Service Delivery and Security team. The Chief Directorate: Government Information Technology Office (GITO) forms part of the COO Branch

iliary services.

Government Information Technology Office

GITO is responsible for delivering efficient and effective information technology service to the DEA staff. It implements a number of funded Master System Plan (MSP) and ensures that the requests for IT services are resolved. GITO also manages

process and also the process of reporting fraud and corruption.

The Risk Management Directorate within the Business Performance and Strategic Monitoring Chief Directorate is expected to report fraud and corruption cases dealt with within an expected timeframe. The chief directorate also implements a risk based internal audit operational plan

Plans to find new home for rhino underway

By Madimetja Mogotlane

Plans are in progress to evacuate rhinos to a secluded place to safeguard their welfare. This was revealed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa during the media briefing held in Pretoria, on 12 August 2014.



Above: National Police Commissioner Ms Riah Phiega, Environmental Affairs Director-General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba, and the Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa.

Addressing the media at the briefing, Minister Molewa said the Government will implement integrated strategic management of rhinoceros in South Africa. "On 6 August 2014, Cabinet discussed the 2013 rhino population census undertaken in the Kruger National Park and decided on integrated strategic interventions for the management of rhinoceros," she explained.

Translocation of 1 450 rhino from the Kruger National Park between 1997 and 2013 has contributed significantly to the growth of the South African rhino population. South Africa is home to 82% of Africa's rhino, 93% of Africa's white rhino and 39% of Africa's black rhino. "The reason that white rhino exist is because of this country's exemplary conservation record. As of 2012, South Africa's rhino population was estimated at 21 000," Minister said.

SANParks conducts periodic population surveys. During the latest survey in 2013, conducted by SANParks, the rhino population survey showed that between 8 400 and 9 600 white rhinos are presently living in Kruger National Park.

"South Africa, with its large rhino populations, has borne brunt of rhino poaching. We remain confident that our efforts in implementing the integrated strategic approach will build on our successful track record of conserving rhino. We anticipate that challenges will not remain static, thereby necessitating an adaptable rhino management response that changes in response to these challenges. South Africa remains committed to the sustainable utilisation of its natural resources," added the Minister.

Following the pledge Minister made earlier in the year to those community mem-

bers living adjacent to the Park to report any suspect activities that are linked to rhino poaching, she reiterated the intervention by the communities to get involved in fighting the rhino poaching scourge.

"Another key priority is the creation of an enabling environment that fosters alternative economic choices for communities. Communities who are located next to protected areas bear the brunt of exploitation from where crime syndicates recruit potential poachers. Providing alternative incentives will encourage the recognition of all the values of rhino. In short, the aim is to make a live rhino more valuable to communities than a dead rhino. The biological management of rhino is the key focus of the Integrated Strategic Management approach. This includes ecological management of rhino habitat, such as water distribution and fire regimes, that are fundamental to the ecological management of protected areas," the Minister elaborated.

The National Police Commissioner Ms Riah Phiega has also made a commitment to help the department in fighting rhino poaching. The partnership will see members of the SAPS working together with the current crop of rangers across the country to fight poaching.

"I have therefore directed that a team of detectives trained in Wildlife Crime Investigations, our forensics experts, the SAPS

airwing, the flying squad and our dog unit led by Lieutenant General Moonoo to assist our South African National Parks Board colleagues with current investigations. This additional team will attend to all the outstanding and new crime scenes and continue to do proper crime scene investigation and management," She pledged.

The Commissioner also praised the diligent work by the police task team in dealing with rhino poaching cases and promised that more arrests are imminent. This is after the most successful prosecution recently of rhino poaching Kingpin Mandla Chauke who was handed a harsh sentence for dealing with rhino horns.

"Many of you are aware of the rhino poacher who was sentenced to 77 years in prison in the Nelspruit Magistrates Court in one of the heaviest penalties aimed at curbing poaching rhinos for their horns. Earlier in July a court sentenced two Mozambicans to 16 years in prison for killing a rhino and taking its horn last year in Kruger Park, where many poachers cross from neighbouring Mozambique," said the Commissioner.

Poaching, natural deaths and the translocation of rhino from the Kruger National Park presently match that of rhino births. This means that the rhino population in the Kruger National Park has stabilised.

6 BIOPROSPECTING SUPPORT A South African roadmap



YOU ARE HERE

Support is available to help you get identification, submit applications, resolve conflicts between users and interests and monitor compliance.

South Africa's Representative Access and Benefit-Sharing Regulatory Framework

Take a look one-step-step for bioprospecting information. It gives step-by-step advice on what you need to know including the relevant protocols, relevant laws and legislation for collection laws.

SANBI

The Department is responsible for protecting the environment and conserving our natural resources. They are in favour of sustainable development and do support the benefits from natural resources.

These departments can help you resolve a patent law copyright claim. They also help to implement the traditional knowledge system policy that to protect traditional knowledge, including our natural resources.

The Department owns agricultural, pests, and controls the importation of biological goods such as plants, seeds, insects and infectious diseases.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) manages and protects South African biodiversity for the benefit and enjoyment of all South Africans.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS:

- Department of Health
- COGTA
- SAPS
- Provincial Environmental Affairs Departments

Department of Environmental Affairs
www.environment.gov.za

The Catalogue on Biological Diversity website:
www.sanbi.org.za

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.

Youth inspired to be employers in the green economy space

By Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: The Green Youth Indaba provided an opportunity for youth to be empowered on potential career path within the green economy industry.

There are huge opportunities for the youth in the green economy industry, whether it is waste management within the community or be provision of electricity or maintenance," The Innovation Hub Chief Executive Officer, Mr McLean Sibanda reminded scores of youth and environmental experts who attended the Annual Green Youth Indaba held at The Innovation Hub in Pretoria on 31 July 2014.

The Annual Green Youth Indaba, organised by the TOSACA Media Group in partnership with Agape Youth Movement (AYM), Department of Environmental Affairs and Water Research Council (WRC) is aimed at advancing Youth Interest in Green Economy. The theme of the summit was "Advancing youth interest in green economy and sustainable development."

In his welcoming note address, Mr Sibanda urged the youth to make use of opportunities in the green industry to create jobs for themselves. "Government provides a whole range of services, and it is only through these engagements that people become aware of the opportunities that are available for them. These opportunities allow them not only to be employed, but also to be employers in the green economy space," said Mr Sibanda.

The conference brought together over 300 exceptional young people who are changing the face of the environment in South Africa and those that are aspiring to get into the environmental industry. "This engagement is also a platform for the youth and industry experts to discuss the most pressing green economy issues and the opportunities available for the youth within government, private sector and cities in South Africa," added Mr Sibanda.

The indaba among others focused on the four topic; Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Climate change, Waste Management and Water.

Ms Makgolotso Mofokeng, an Industrial Engineer said the indaba has opened her eyes on issues of green economy: "As an Industrial Engineer I plan to take further the concept saving resources and doing more with less. It is our responsibility as the youth to make the environment more green and safe for everyone. This will also help eradicate poverty at large," said Ms Mofokeng.

The Green Youth Indaba featured two panel of speakers, one being industry leaders which include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nissan SA, South African Weather Service (SAWS), Department of Environmental Affairs and

other green champions in corporate South Africa.

The Environmental Affairs Chief Policy Advisor: Sustainable Development, Mr Tlou Ramaru said the Green Youth Indaba was the right platform for the youth to exchange ideas and views on the potential business ideas. "It could be harnessed within the green economy space. With the challenge of youth unemployment in South Africa, such a platform serves as an incubator for business ideas within the green economy," said Mr Ramaru.

10 Reasons why the Green Youth Indaba is the must attend event

- It is a platform for the youth to learn about the green economy and how they can get involved
- It instils a sense of environmental ownership amongst the youth through teachings of own your street and own your environment
- To discuss and ignite green innovative ideas and business ideas that are practical which can be implemented in homes, communities and then provinces
- To allow private sector and government to inform SA youth about the current initiatives and how the youth can get involved
- For addressing the stigmas about taking up careers in the environment or green field
- Discuss and debate the issues around climate change, how it affects youth and what youth can do in their homes and communities
- Creating a mind-set of: "it begins with me, my room, my home and my community"
- Spreading the message of Reduce, Re-use and Recycle to our homes, our peers and our communities
- Discussions on Food security, Agriculture and the role of youth
- Expose opportunities within the green economy



Above: Green Youth Indaba 2014 brought together more than 200 youth green activists from the universities, FET and young professionals across South Africa.



Above: (L-R) Ms Tebogo Makgohlo, Ms Makgolotso Mofokeng, and Kea Mogetswe at the Green Youth Indaba.



Above: The Environmental Affairs Chief Policy Advisor: Sustainable Development, Mr Tlou Ramaru doing a presentation on green economy.



Above: The Green Youth Indaba provided an opportunity for youth to be empowered on potential career path within the green economy industry.



Above: The platform brought together key stakeholders who exhibited the cutting edge innovation technology within the green economy space.



Above: Research Scientist from DEA Sarika Singh gives a presentation on Sharks to some of the youth.

Youth schooled on economic benefits under SA's oceans

By Tshego Letshwiti

"A number of key areas such as Aquaculture, Marine Transport, Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration would be crucial in growing the economy," the Deputy Director-General for Oceans and Coasts, Dr Mayekiso told the youth who attended this year's World Oceans Day held on 07 – 09 June 2014 in Port Elizabeth.

Engaging with the youth, Dr Mayekiso said the exploration of economic benefits of South Africa's oceans would be crucial in providing much needed jobs and improving prosperity while ensuring environmental sustainability and integrity. "The implementation of the National Environmental Management of the Ocean (NEMO) will play a crucial role in ensuring

an effective and efficient governance of ocean activities for optimal and sustainable outcomes and benefits," added Dr Mayekiso.

The NEMO policy governs all activities and role players with a stake in our ocean, for optimal and sustainable use of the marine environment. The Cabinet approved the NEMO policy in December 2013, and called on relevant government department, public entities and stakeholders to work together in exploration of economic benefits of South Africa's oceans. "This year's theme, Together, we have the power to protect the oceans, highlights the need to preserve the oceans that link us to the rest of the world," said Dr Mayekiso.

DEA's Oceans and Coasts branch officials presented and discussed issues such

as the benefits of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), coastal pollution, economic benefits of the oceans and the department's bursary opportunities at the youth engagement.

Participants also received a first-hand learning experience about the ocean and marine life which included penguins, sharks and seals, during the official WOD celebration at the Bayworld Aquarium.

The Local Councillor Kolisile Frans, of Ward 15 in New Brighton described the session as thought-provoking and informative. "I wish I was young and could grab the opportunities that are being presented by the Department of Environmental Affairs today, encouraging our youth to keep our oceans clean and pursue a career in the Environmental sector," said Mr Frans.



About the contributor: Tshego Letshwiti

Tshego Letshwiti is an Assistant Director: Internal and External Communications at the Department of Environmental Affairs in Cape Town. Ms Letshwiti is a Journalism graduate with experience in print and broadcast media.

All rise in Court



Cape Town man guilty of illegal possession of ivory

By Heloise van Schalkwyk and Nicole Limberis

The Cape Town man has been found guilty of illegal possession of ivory. Mr Mark Goldberg was convicted and sentenced under the Nature Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974 for charges of possession of items made of ivory as well as exposing the ivory for the purposes of sale without the requisite permits.

After receiving an anonymous tip off on 17 August 2009, two conservation officials from CapeNature found the ivory at a curio shop (belonging to his late mother) in Green Point, Cape Town at which Mr Goldberg was employed, at Mr Goldberg's home and at his mother's home.

The majority of the ivory items was on display and could be seen even before entering the shop. Mr Goldberg could not produce the necessary documentation to prove that this possession was lawful.

He was arrested and the items seized. Mr Goldberg's counsel argued that section 21(1) of the Ordinance unjustifiably violated Mr Goldberg's constitutionally entrenched right to privacy.

The court balanced Mr Goldberg's right to privacy with the law officials' duties. It noted that the shop was open to the public, that the items were on public display, and were thus in plain view of the officials.

The court held that there was no reasonable right to privacy in relation to the items displayed in the shop; that the officials were entitled to enter the public part of the premises to make enquires and when the documents required could not be produced they were entitled to arrest Mr Goldberg and to seize the ivory. The conduct of the officials was accordingly found not to have violated Mr Goldberg's

reasonable right to privacy in the circumstances.

The court further explained that even if the search was not lawful, section 35(5) of the Constitution provides that evidence obtained in a manner that violates any right in the Bill of Rights must be excluded if the admission thereof would render the trial unfair or otherwise be detrimental to the administration of justice. In the circumstances, the court allowed the evidence to be admitted as it was considered not to be subject to the section 35(5) exclusion.

The court noted that the illegal trade in ivory is a scourge which has attracted united international attention. It is important that it should be combatted.

About the contributor: Heloise van Schalkwyk and Nicole Limberis

Heloise van Schalkwyk, is an Assistant Director: EMI Legal Support, under the sub-directorate EMI Capacity Development and Support in the Department of Environmental Affairs. Ms van Schalkwyk is an admitted attorney. Ms van Schalkwyk completed the EMI Training- and was subsequently designated as a Grade 2 EMI. Her duties entail providing legal advice and support to Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) (National, Provincial and Local EMIs) and to assist with the EMI basic training.

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

Vox Pops

DEA staff members

Madimetja Mogotlane and Thabiso Mathiba

"Why do you think it is important to protect rhinos?"

So far 658 rhinos have been killed in South Africa with the Kruger National Park the most hit with 769 rhinos slaughtered. Lekgotla team took to the street to hear the views from the members of the public about protecting rhinos and its importance.



1. Ms Ofentse Kgomo Mashiyane.
Research intern: Strategic environmental intelligence.

Rhinos are not just a species they are also engineers of the ecosystem, they have an important role in the food chain, their conservation will not only save the species but biodiversity at large, they play a vital role in our eco-tourism; they are our global treasure and thousands of people travel from all over the world just to see them, while we have it in our backyards. Rhinos are critically endangered largely through anthropogenic activities such as poaching and deforestation which have greatly reduced their natural habitat. I believe we should all take part in precipitating the extinction and treat wild-life crime as seriously as illegal drugs or alcohol trafficking and not wait until they are extinct.



2. Ms Katlego Kekana
Project administrator Intern: Ocean & coast

I personally think it is important to protect the rhinos simply because they form part of our ecosystem, meaning they have an impact on other animals as much as other animals have an impact on them. They are also a great tourist attraction since they are part of the big five. It is also important to save them for the future generations so that they can also witness the beauty of nature as it is.



3. Mr Khulekani Mponshane
Project administrator Intern: Transfontier Conservation Areas.

Rhinos have a vital role in the ecosystem. They open up access for other species by continuously browsing shrubs and small trees. Rhino dung also enriches the soil, returning nutrients and organic matter that improve the soil structure. By conserving Rhinos it means you protect all the other species that share their habitat with rhinos.



4. Mr Hlayisani Ntsanwisi
Office Administrator: Office of the DDG : Chemical & Waste

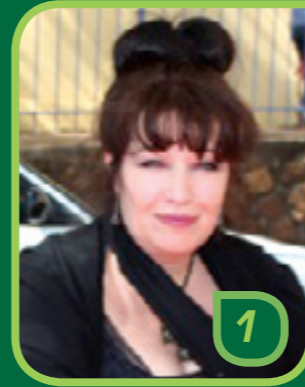
Saving the rhino promotes sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. This will allow the future generation the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature. Industrialized countries are spending more to see wild animals in Africa, so I think saving the rhinos can also contribute to economic development of local communities, regions and also to attract tourists in the country.

We should remember in our dealings with animals that they are a sacred trust to us...[They] cannot speak for themselves.

- Harriet Beecher Stowe

Vox Pops continued

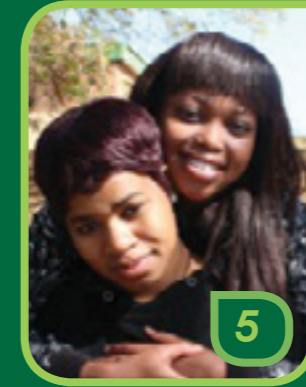
Members of the public



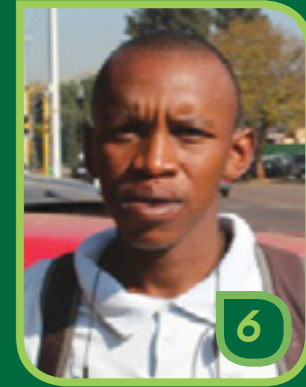
1. Ms Hannelie Abouchabki
It is important to look after nature. The killing of the rhino is unnecessary, we must preserve them for generation them to come. The earth is not ours to exploit. Legacy should be left behind for the next generation to also witness the existence of rhinos.



3. Ms Nosipho Dlamini
It is important to protect and preserve our wild species. They deserve to live and should be well looked after. As the generation of 21st century, we do not want to witness the extinction of rhinos. What are we going to tell our children about rhinos? We want to show them a living rhino, not its picture. It is not fair what these poachers are doing. This is pure selfishness for poachers. This past week I was at the zoo with my sister and it was strange to be shown a hornless rhino. Maybe we need to chop off the noses of those poachers to also make them feel the pain that the rhinos feel. .



5. Ms Thembelihle Sibiyi and Ms Pretty Silindile Sithole
It is selfish for our generation to deny the next generation the right to see the existence of rhinos. Some other countries do not have this wild species, so if they are being poached, how are these countries going to see them? Rhinos need out protection for the sake of tourists' attraction and economy. This is abuse at its best. There was nature before the existence of a human being, so let us protect the heritage of this country and stop persecuting animals. Animals represent us as Africans. If we do not protect them, I foresee their extinction in 5 years to come.



6. Mr Tshegofatso Mashigo.
It is very important to protect rhinos. There will be an ecosystem problem if rhinos extinct. Let us protect our nature, not only rhinos but other wild animals like elephants and lions as well. If those poachers need a horn, why do not they take it and let the poor rhino go? Last time I was watching television footage of a pregnant rhino killed with its calf inside. It was so bad that one asks himself about the direction we are taking as a country. Proper plans need to be implemented to get rid of these rhino syndicates, poaching is an inside job. People need to be orientated about rhinos.



2. Mr Katlego Moeketsi
I Just as human beings get protected, the same should also apply to animals. Poachers do not have the right to kill these vulnerable creatures. For them it is about money at the expense of animal's life. Rhinos deserve our protection as they form part of our heritage as Africans. I just love animals and I get angry when I see them being poached. I am glad to see them being evacuated to an unknown location and this is good news.



4. Mr Bryan Magwail
How is it possible for us to kill our own roots? Africa is seen a united nation and people associate us with animals. It is important to protect and preserve rhinos.

Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.

~Theodore Roosevelt



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