

Environment Quarterly

Ubume bendalo ngekota • Omgewings kwartaalverslag • Tša Tikologo ka

**Celebrating Operation
Phakisa: Biodiversity Economy**
Estuary Ecologist Jabulile Nhleko



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



environment CALENDAR



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2 February

22 March

23 March

26 March

22 April

9 May

22 May

5 June

8 June

World Wetlands Day

World Water Day

World Meteorological Day

Earth Hour

Earth Day

World Migratory Bird Day

International Biodiversity Day

World Environment Day

World Oceans' Day

17 June

18 July

31 July

1 September

18 - 22 September

16 September

22 September

21 November

World Day to Combat Desertification

Nelson Mandela Day

World Ranger Day

National Arbour Day

National Parks Week

World Ozone Day

World Rhino Day

World Fisheries Day

Cover story

- 4** President Ramaphosa launches the Ha-Matsila Development Trust Project

Features

- 6** France bestows late Minister Molewa with prestigious Award
- 8** Sustaining businesses in wildlife
- 9** SA is game for meat
- 10** Medicinal plant farming: a South African green mine
- 12** Taking action against climate change
- 14** Environmental Career Expo in Kokstad
- 16** Career expo in Polokwane
- 17** EnviroCareer: Estuary Ecologist Jabulile Nhleko
- 18** DEA empowers prospective beauty and nail technicians
- 19** Women in Environment Press for Progress
- 25** United Nations Nelson Mandela International Day
- 26** Voyage to enhance scientific training in Africa
- 28** Ministers unveil Sisulu Circle
- 30** Deputy Minister hands over a park worth R13,5 million
- 32** Durban gets a clean-up ahead of GMC Awards
- 34** Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies
- 35** Minister donates furnished asbestos-free classrooms
- 36** Deputy Minister commends the work of rangers
- 37** Poster: PAGE Conference 2019
- 38** Stop the damage caused by invasive species

Regulars

- 20** Pull out poster
- 22** Research: What do we know about the air we breathe?
- 24** Leadership profile: Meet iSimangaliso's new CEO
- 39** All rise in Court Newmax Trading CC fined for illegal disposal of pharmaceutical waste
- 40** Vox pops



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



Editorial: Minister Molewa

Springing into a new era



Dear Valued Stakeholder,

Welcome to another edition of Environment Quarterly. Much like the bees emerging this spring, the past quarter has been abuzz with activities particularly focused on the Biodiversity Economy.

The highlights on our calendar in this period were the Presidential Visit to Ha-Matsila, the Biodiversity Economy conference, and the concurrent People and Parks conference, hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs, along with our entities and the Limpopo provincial government. At these events, the environment sector showcased success stories and opportunities for communities, entrepreneurs and investors to create sustainable jobs and derive value, from the sustainable use of the unique flora and fauna which make up South Africa's rich biodiversity. You can read more on these events and the impact

of the biodiversity economy in this edition.

This quarter also presents a change of season in South Africa, as we move from winter into spring. It is in this time of year that we celebrate National Parks Week, spearheaded by our entity, the South African National Parks. During Parks Week, all South Africans are granted free access to all government administered national parks, with presentation of their national ID document or card. Spring is the perfect time to observe the desert explode into a paradise of colours with the profusion of indigenous flowers in areas such as the Namaqualand, and to enjoy the bright green hues in the bushveld and newly born animals emerge in herds in our inland parks. We encourage all South Africans, and particularly those with youngsters to visit our parks. Developing a love and respect for our natural heritage amongst our young people is key to ensuring we will have the next generation on environmental champions, conservationists, activists and scientists.

As part of our drive to encourage young people to consider careers in the environment sector, the department recently conducted a massive outreach campaign and expo in Kokstad, at the request of the local government. This community event saw us visiting schools and hosting an event where we shared information with high school learners on various environmental career paths. We also provided curriculum information, such as advice on the selection of high school subjects which will set them on the right track towards the environmental career of their choice. The event was well attended

and particularly significant for the young people of Kokstad, as they were addressed by Environmental Affairs' Benthic Ecologist Zoleka Filander, who hails from Kokstad herself. Her presence and inspiring career path, as one of the 2018 Mail and Guardian top 200 Young South Africans, served as an inspiration for the learners and showed that dreams can be attained through hard work, grit and tenacity, regardless of one's background.

This spring season also represents a change of season for Environment Quarterly and for myself. This is the last edition for which I will serve as Editor-in-Chief, as I will be pursuing a new opportunity. It has been a unique privilege and honor working at Environmental Affairs and serving as the founding Editor-in-Chief of EQ, which we launched in 2012, from the former Bojanala publication. I hope to continue sharing sustainable development news with EQ readers, from the perspective of BRICS countries, as I will be joining the New Development Bank in Shanghai.

I would like to thank the colleagues in the Ministry for their support, our DG Ms Nosipho Ngcaba for her visionary leadership, the senior management cohort, fellow DEA colleagues and all of the partners I have been fortunate to work with and learn from in the media, our entities and the wider environment sector. I owe the biggest debt of thanks to DEA's head of Communication Mr Albi Modise, my super star Corporate Communications team and the tireless, dynamic Chief Directorate

Editor-in-Chief

Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht

Meet our team

Head of Communications

Albi Modise

Editor-in-Chief

Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht

Editor

Erica Mathye

Editorial Team

Gaopalelwe Moroane

Salome Tsoka

Tshego Letshwiti

Veronica Mahlaba

Zibuse Ndlovu

Cover Design

Brian Chapole

Cover Image

Veronica Mahlaba

Design & Layout

Brian Chapole

Funeka Simelane

Itumeleng Motsepe

Sibusisiwe Nxumalo

Contributors

Bongekile Zikalala

Benedict Mlaba

Debbie Cooper

Fhatuwani Mulaudzi

Madimetja Mogotlane

Nomvuyo Mlotshwa

Reyhana Mahomed

Seipati Sentle

Photography

Eleanor Mornberg

Getty Images

Jabulile Nhleko

UN.org

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

African Ranger Awards

The late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa, delivered her keynote address at the first African Ranger Awards, on 7 August 2018 at the Westin Hotel in Cape Town.

The awards ceremony was also attended by the UN Environment Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Erik Solheim as well as founder of Alibaba Group and co-chair of Paradise International Foundation, Mr Jack Ma.

Image by Tshogo Letshwili



Farewell to EQ's Editor-in-Chief

Colleagues from the Chief Directorate: Communications held a function to bid farewell to the Director: Corporate Communications and founding Editor-in-Chief of the Environment Quarterly, Ms Lavinia Engelbrecht. Ms Engelbrecht had been at the helm of things for seven years, since joining the Department in 2011. Her colleagues wished her well on her new role at the New Development Bank in Shanghai.

Image by Eleanor Momberg

Minister hands over Mandela Book

Late Minister Molewa with Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Ms Magdeline Sotyu; Minister of Public Works, Mr Thulas Nxesi and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana hand over books about former President Nelson Mandela to Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr Christiana Pasca Palmer. The handover fitted in with the country celebrating the Mandela Centenary. The meeting was in-between the BRICS meetings on 25 July 2018 at South African Tourism, Bojanala House in Sandton.

Image by Veronica Mahlaba



Minister celebrates Women's Month

The late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa hosted a dialogue session with women in an effort to build and develop advocacy, leadership and excellence amongst women in the environmental sector. The dialogue took place over breakfast at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria on 24 August 2018.

Each year, the South African government, business and civil society not only commemorate the 1956 Women's March, but utilise the month of August to highlight the continued economic and social struggles experienced by women. The dialogue provided a platform for networking and mentorship opportunity amongst emerging and established women leaders in the environment sector.

Images by Zibuse Ndlovu



President Ramaphosa launches the Ha-Matsila Development Trust Project

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, President Cyril Ramaphosa, late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and King Toni Ramabulana launch Matsila Game Farm.



Above: President Ramaphosa and Minister Zulu doing a walk-about in the Matsila Chicken Abattoir.

President Cyril Ramaphosa visited, Ha-Matsila Village in Limpopo to launch the Ha-Matsila Development Trust Project on 25 August 2018. The community projects form a part of the Integrated Rural Development Model and employ approximately 300 local people.

The projects include farming (crop and livestock) and agro-processing facilities such as an abattoir for poultry and red meat; a milling plant, tourism and wood crafting facilities.

These projects are funded and supported by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), South African National Parks (SANParks) and Phala Phala Wildlife.

President Ramaphosa said government was working hard to ensure that all communities benefited from the country's rich and diverse biological resources.

The land has an abundance of different plants and animals, which serve as a source of natural products, including cosmetics and medicines. They also provide a great foundation

for expanding eco-tourism in the country. Eco-tourism can be used to promote the economic development and empowerment of local communities. It can also help to ensure that people living adjacent to protected areas or those who live in areas of high biodiversity benefit from the significant growth in tourists visiting the country.

Biodiversity Economy Strategy

In 2015, government adopted a Biodiversity Economy Strategy (BES) which seeks to increase the biodiversity contribution to the Gross Domestic Product while conserving the country's ecosystems. The strategy focuses on enhancing growth in various sectors including wildlife and tourism.

The Strategy was designed to advance the wildlife and bio-prospecting sectors of the economy and secure sustainable livelihoods specifically for rural communities as part of meeting the targets of the National Development Plan.

President Ramaphosa also said the wildlife sector has experienced noticeable growth over the years, making it a sector open to expansion,

particularly among previously disadvantaged individuals. However, entry into the wildlife sector is hindered by barriers such as insufficient finance, inefficient land use, a lack of skills and experience, poor access to markets and the lack of infrastructure development support for entrepreneurs.

"Overcoming these barriers requires coordinated efforts from government, the private sector and communities. As part of its contribution, SANParks has undertaken to donate 3,000 head of game to emerging wildlife farmers in the next three years.

"Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife pledged to donate 1,200 head of game over four years, and the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency promised to donate 1,500 animals in support of transformation over the next five years.

"The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism has also pledged to donate 1,000 animals to communities as part of the government support framework. The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority has pledged 80 head of game per year. On behalf of the



About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

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



Above: Ministers from different Departments joined hands to fund and support the Matsila Community Development Projects at Ha-Matsila, Limpopo.



Above: President Ramaphosa and King Toni Ramabulana doing a walk about in the Matsila Game Farm.

private sector, Wildlife Ranching South Africa has committed to assist in unlocking socio-economic opportunities and to support the successful implementation of land reform and wildlife economy initiatives,” said President Ramaphosa.

He further elaborated that opportunities need to be developed alongside the acceleration of land reform, which is crucial for inclusive economic growth.

“It is therefore a great pleasure to use this occasion to hand over title deeds and financial compensation to communities who have successfully claimed their land.

“We will be handing over a cheque to the value of R168 million to the Mphaphuli Traditional Authority for phase 1 of their claim. This claim covers a large part of Thohoyandou town, including the Venda University of Technology and the Thohoyandou Botanical Garden.

“The Botanical Garden will continue

to be operated for conservation purposes by the South African National Biodiversity Institute for the benefit of the entire nation, although the economic spin-offs will accrue to the successful land claimants.

“We are also handing over a cheque of R77.3 million to the Gomondwane community in respect of their Kruger National Park land claim. This is in addition to the claim settled in 2016. We are handing over title deeds to the Mooke community from the North West and Makhasa and Mqobokazi communities from KwaZulu-Natal,” President Ramaphosa said.

Over and above the Matsila development, the government has planned investments in the broader Vhembe and Mopani areas, in the Mphaphuli, Mutele, Mhinga, Mphephu, Mabunda and Mahumani communities.

There is a planned investment of R200 million that will provide additional opportunities for comprehensive rural development and sound environmental

management. Ventures such as this will not only boost the local economy, but also contribute to the upliftment of adjacent communities. The initiatives were demonstrated that day will be replicated around the country as part of the nodal approach to development. The president stated that this requires a partnership among government, the private sector and communities.

The launch of the project celebrated an integrated economic model which is led and implemented by the community. What makes the venture work is the dedication of all those involved to uplifting the poverty-stricken area.

“Through this work, we will realise the great potential of our natural resources and the boundless abilities of our people.

“For centuries, our people have gotten what they need from the land. Through such initiatives, we can ensure that they continue to do so far into the future,” said President Ramaphosa.



Did You Know?

South Africa has a long history of formal and informal initiatives linked to innovation in what has become known as the biodiversity economy. The domestic and international trade of biodiversity economy products contributes an estimated R3 billion to national Gross Domestic Product and, by the year 2030, this sector hopes to have grown by 10% a year, thus creating an additional 110 000 jobs for marginalised communities in South Africa.

The Biodiversity Economy has three sub-sectors: Bioprospecting and biotrade, wildlife and eco-tourism.

France bestows late Minister Molewa with prestigious Award

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Late Minister Molewa was bestowed the award of Officier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur by the French Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Mr Nicolas Hulot.



Above: The two Ministers with their officials first sat down for a bilateral meeting before the festivities began.

There was double celebration at the French Residence as the late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa was bestowed the award of Officier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (or Officer in the French Legion of Honour) by the government of France. The French were also celebrating Bastille Day which marks the beginning of the French Revolution with the storming of the ancient royal fortress on the day in 1789.

Ministre d'État, French Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Mr Nicolas Hulot explained that The French Legion of Honour celebrates the accomplishments of distinguished individuals, irrespective of sex, social background and nationality.

"Minister Edna Molewa's commitment to South Africa, the struggle for freedom and democracy, women's rights and the fight against climate change sets an example for us all. France will always be grateful for your contribution."

After receiving the award, the late Minister expressed that she was both honoured and humbled to receive the award more so on Bastille Day, an event with great historical significance.

"I want to dedicate this award that recognizes me for my work in the

"Minister Edna Molewa's commitment to South Africa, the struggle for freedom and democracy, women's rights and the fight against climate change sets an example for us all."

environmental sector but also for my role in the struggle for democracy and for women's rights to Mama Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu; a woman who dedicated her life to the betterment of her people," Minister Molewa said.

Late Minister reaffirms SA's position on climate change

The late Minister Molewa further expressed that the award recognised her role as part of the collective South African team, in the conclusion of the Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of this time; and that it was a privilege to lend support to good friends on this very important matter; and to share in the extraordinary achievements of the French Presidency at COP 21.

COP 21 is universally regarded as a seminal point in the development of the international climate change regime under the UNFCCC, concluding as it did with the Paris Agreement.

"There can be no turning back on the collective effort to combat climate change and overall position and prepare our respective countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals as contained in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"The French government is our valued partner not just in the fight against climate change but on a host of other issues, as mentioned by the previous speakers. I want to thank you for always standing by us, and trust we can count on this support well into the future," said the late Minister Molewa.

Quick Fact

The national order of the Legion of Honour was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, and is the highest decoration in France. It was first awarded on July 14 1804. Other prominent South Africans who have been awarded this honour are former President Nelson Mandela, late struggle icon Ahmed Kathrada, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the late Nadine Gordimer.



SA IS THE HOME OF THE RHINO.

LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY!

ANTI POACHING HOTLINE
0800 205 005

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



Find us:
Department of
Environment-Affairs



Follow us:
@EnvironmentZA



Follow us:
@EnvironmentZA



Watch us:
EnvironmentZA

Play your part and be the voice of the rhino.

DESIGN BY: DEA COMMS



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Sustaining businesses in wildlife

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: President Cyril Ramaphosa and late Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Edna Molewa visited the Tannery Exhibition stand during the Biodiversity Economy Conference that was held in Ha-Matsila Village outside Makhado recently.



Above: Tanery Exhibitors showcase their work during the Biodiversity Economy Conference that took place in Ha-Matsila village outside Makhado. The Tanery Exhibitors deal with the tanning of game skins, exotic leather and manufacturing.

The 8th People and Parks Conference opened doors of opportunity to young rural entrepreneurs in the wildlife economy.

The late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa urged youth to seize the opportunities available to them in the biodiversity sector in order to improve their lives and also use natural resources to alleviate unemployment.

The late minister was briefing royal families, stakeholders and young emerging entrepreneurs during the Biodiversity Economy Conference at Kalahari Inn, outside Makhado in the Vhembe District on 23 August 2018.

"Opportunities in the biodiversity economy that the Operation Phakisa initiative has identified hold great potential to reshape our rural economy and lift many rural people out of poverty. If properly developed, the biodiversity economy can assist in accelerating transformation by providing not only employment, but also business opportunities, for black South Africans.

"Drawing on traditional knowledge about the use of indigenous plants, there is great scope for the country's scientists and researchers to develop products that can be manufactured in rural areas and sold across the world," she said.

The three-day conference which was organised to harness opportunities available in indigenous knowledge and to open up new opportunities for commerce, trade and entrepreneurship, also attracted many entrepreneurs who were exhibiting their work.

The late Minister visited several stalls to get a glimpse of the impact of the biodiversity economy in the country

from emerging entrepreneurs. During her address, the late Minister Molewa also pledged to inject funds in projects to assist entrepreneurs to sustain their businesses.

"In addition to the use of plants to produce cosmetics and pharmaceutical products, the biodiversity economy also involves the development of the wildlife economy through game farming, hunting, hospitality and the supply of game meat.

"Through the development of the biodiversity economy, it is anticipated that 16 000 jobs can be created and R47 billion generated by 2030.

"We aim to increase business and land ownership by previously disadvantaged individuals, boosting participation by communities, expanding cultivation of key indigenous plants by 500 hectares a year, and having 100 Blue Flag beaches designated across South Africa by 2030," she said.

National Chairperson: People and Parks Mr Lawrence Mogakane lauded the progress made by DEA in putting people at the forefront of biodiversity conservation.

"Participation of communities in the EPIP and Parks projects will avert violent civil protests that may in the end affect the parks adversely. The projects belong to the people as the primary beneficiaries. .

"Minister Molewa through SANParks invited the People and Parks leadership to a historic moment to witness the handing over of wildlife game to the !Khomani San community in Kgalagadi in the Northern Cape. We are also told that even in this province, Limpopo, the Minister has done game donation to the communities. Congratulations Minister, you deserve a standing ovation for these bold and progressive steps," he said.



About the contributor: Madimetja Mogotlane

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

SA is game for meat

By Nomvuyo Mlotshwa



Above: Obakeng "IT Chef" Kubatsi prepared delectable game meat platters. He is flanked by entrepreneurs Andrew Aphane and Reuben Malema.



Above: Curious visitors having a taste of everything from kudu steak, impala wors and wildebeest goulash.

Game meat is identified as one of the key cornerstones of the wildlife economy. Game is the meat of animals and birds that is traditionally hunted for sport or food instead of being raised on a farm under controlled circumstances. It is the meat obtained from animals that are mostly found in game reserves.

On call to accentuate game meat consumption, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) enthralled Fire and Feast Meat Festival visitors with scrumptious kudu, lip smacking impala and finger licking wildebeest bite-sized portions during the three-day meat festival. The festival was held at the Ticketpro Dome where more than 80 exhibitors plied their trade and thousands meat aficionados made their appearances.

This expo afforded a phenomenal platform to engage and interact directly with the festival visitors in promoting the Wildlife Economy, and specifically promote the consumption of game meat which remains low despite the many benefits to both consumers and the environment of doing so. The DEA Wildlife Economy stall was teemed by visitors ranging from consumers, farmers, butchers and other industry entrepreneurs.

Departmental officials in collaboration with emerging game meat entrepreneurs were much excited to educate visitors about the game meat industry as well as the advantages associated with Wildlife Economy. Many visitors did not realise that game meat is a high-quality meat, affordable and extremely versatile.

"It can be cooked as braai, roasted in the oven, or thrown into a potjie for a succulent stew," says Chef Absalom Kotsoane from Happy Spoon as he spoiled

the stand visitors with tantalising kudu, impala and wildebeest goulash, steak and wors taste meaty bites, "game meat isn't for biltong only". Visitors found the bites so irresistible that they just could not get enough; some visitors returned for third and fourth helpings!

The interactions assisted in translating a number of scientific findings into easily understandable messages highlighting the numerous health benefits of game meat, such as the fact that game meat is a healthier alternative to the more traditional red meat products as it is higher in minerals and protein and has a lower fat content.

The interface also enlightened and debunked myths associated with game meat such as that it has a gamey taste. The Chefs offered useful tips and live demonstrations of game meat preparation ideas. Consumers were encouraged to ask questions and were advised on where they can purchase or source game meat.

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the festival. We had a great time and generated good leads. Participation in the festival resulted in the establishment of a new game meat sourcing, trading, menu development and catering cooperative in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry", says Messrs Reuben Malema and Andrew Aphane, two of the emerging game meat producers who participated in the festival. Through the Wildlife Economy interventions facilitated by the Department, an agreement was signed between the emerging game meat producers and Food Lovers' Market for the supply of game meat.



About the contributor: Nomvuyo Mlotshwa

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

Medicinal plant farming: a South African green mine

By Salome Tsoka

South Africa is ranked as the third most biologically diverse country in the world with a rich supply of natural resources including medicinal plants that contribute immensely to the economic and sustainable development of local traditional healers and herbalists, with one who has described the bio-prospecting capabilities of the land as a green goldmine.

Local herbalist, Mr Lulama Masinga who conducts plant research and mixing for Muthi Futhi, a small community based business in Dakeni, a small village near Eshowe, in KwaZulu-Natal says that this green goldmine holds a lot of potential.

"I believe medicinal plant farming is one of the industries that people take for granted. They do not see it as an industry that can work for communities. I call it green gold because that is where the money is, especially when you do commercial farming."

"Opportunities are endless with traditional medicine, one can also create beauty products or creams that help with skin problems. One can also delve into making teas, energy drinks or even organic juice which has many health benefits," he said.

Mr Masinga explained that he started practicing as a herbalist in 1999 and his traditional knowledge of medicinal plants had been in his family for generations before his grandmother passed it down to him. He said that he uses his knowledge to not only work with Muthi

Futhi but to also work with researchers at the University of Pretoria.

"As a herbalist, I enjoy mixing and testing herbs to try new things. I come into the research team as a herbalist working with the University of Pretoria and advise them on the best herbs to test and mix for our research at the time. When the research proves successful then the work is patented but is yet to be commercialised," he said.

He further explained that he has been working with the University of Pretoria in mixing and testing herbs to treat illnesses such as tuberculosis (TB) and cancer.

"I believe medicinal plant farming is one of the industries that people take for granted. They do not see it as an industry that can work for communities."

"From our research we discovered that some of my plants can cure TB but this information can only be used as a supplement. We are now busy conducting research on cervical cancer and will be starting some research on how to treat nasal problems soon," he said.

Muthi Futhi currently employs more than twenty women from the Dakeni and Enzangakho communities who help cultivate the 17 hectares of land and plant nursery on the farm. Mr Masinga said Muthi Futhi was started to curb the unemployment of women living in

rural areas and the illegal and improper harvesting of medicinal herbs.

"We started Muthi Futhi to help rural women in the communities of Dakeni and Enzangakho because women in rural areas are unemployed and often live too far from the city and only their husbands go out and work



About the contributor: Salome Tsoka

Salome Tsoka holds a BA Degree in Journalism from the University of Johannesburg and has been writing for as long as she can remember. She is an intern in the Chief Directorate: Communications and has a unique passion for writing captivating stories.



Above: Herbalist, Mr Lulama Masinga said the country's green goldmine in medicinal plant farming holds many opportunities.

while they sit at home and do nothing. We also realised that we needed medicinal herbs and although we couldn't plant all of them we decided to start planting at least a few that we knew we use regularly to mix our herbal tonics," he said.

Despite the success of this community business, Mr Masinga said the commercial side of the medicinal plant industry in South Africa is currently lacking especially when compared to other developing countries like India.

"In India, the people there believe strongly in their own traditional medicine. Some hospitals in the country even offer both western and traditional medicine. The locals also consume their own locally produced organic products instead of western drinks. We still have a long way to go in South Africa because some of our own traditional products are not found in some of the country's biggest pharmacies," he said.

According to a study done by the Water Research Commission (WRC) in 2013, the illegal harvesting of wild medicinal plants is driving some species towards extinction. Mr Masinga explained that this is because the medicinal plants black market is huge and often times the harvesting of these plants is not done correctly with some of these plants never planted again.

"There is an illegal medicinal plant market in Faraday which is a large market where many people sell medicinal herbs. These sellers often go to the bushes to chop the plants and once they chop the plants, the plants are dead because they are also not chopped correctly.

There are thousands of people around the country selling medicinal plants and the people don't think about where they will find the plant tomorrow when they have already cut it and are ready to sell it.

"This is why the Department needs to get involved to train people so that they learn about planting and harvesting these plants the right way. We need to educate them because this industry is not going to end anytime soon and plants are dying fast," he said.



Above: Herbalist, Mr Lulama Masinga mixes diluted medicinal plants for testing at the University of Pretoria laboratory.



Above: Harvested medicinal herbs are crushed and mixed to create energy tonics.

Taking action against climate change

By Erica Mathye



Above: Late Minister Molewa gives the keynote address at the 2018 Talanoa Address in Midrand where she urged everyone to play a hand in decreasing the detrimental impacts of climate change



Above: The EU Ambassador to South Africa Dr Marcus Cornaro says commitment and partnerships are essential to achieving clean energy.



Above: Dr Francois Engelbrecht from the CSIR says we have it in our hands to map the climate future that we want.

The Talanoa Dialogue 2018 was one of the most significant outcomes of the climate conference, CoP23 in Bonn, Germany. It is a global stocktaking exercise comprising of party and non-party stakeholders with the common goal to reinforce ambition and commitment to climate action.

South Africa held its own round of the climate change dialogues during the opening of the South African National Talanoa Dialogue where the late Minister Molewa gave a keynote address. The dialogue was an interactive meeting with key constituencies, stakeholders and development partners held at the Midrand Conference Centre on 23 August 2018.

The late Minister called to action communities and academia to help fight the devastating impacts of climate change that always hit hardest the poorest of the poor. She called for empathy in deriving sustainable solutions for moving together towards a carbon-free, and climate resilient economy.

"The poor of our countries and women are hardest hit by climate change. We need to share stories and build empathy and understanding for the collective good. Climate change requires cooperation by an entire international community," said Minister Molewa.

What is Talanoa?

Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. According to the UNFCCC website, the purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling.

The Talanoa dialogue focuses on answering three questions in the sphere of climate change:

- Where are we?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?

Countries and other stakeholders are discussing these questions throughout the year via online platforms and various workshops and meetings with the idea that all the inputs will be gathered and presented at a high-level discussion at the next climate conference, CoP24 in Poland.

The online portal allows for the upload of input in telling the stories. The South African leg of the dialogue was promoted on social media as #talanoa4ambition and #sa4talanoa.

The EU Ambassador to South Africa, Dr Marcus Cornaro said partnerships, ambition and commitment were

"On climate change, we often don't fully appreciate that it is a problem. We think it is a problem waiting to happen," Kofi Annan.

necessary actions for tackling global climate change.

"The carbon price will in the coming years, increase to become a stronger driver of combatting climate change. Clean energy is an accelerator of economic growth. The European Union will work with partner states to deliver on the promises of the Paris Agreement," he said.

Dr Francois Engelbrecht from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research said we still have it in our hands to shape our climate future.

"South Africa is a significant contributor to climate change. We are an energy intensive economy at four times the world average. Extreme temperatures, like the ones we are having threaten our water security, food security, cause biodiversity loss, temperature loss and natural resource scarcity.

"We are living in the days of unprecedented climate change. We need to map our lives and invest in alternative ways of energy such as solar, wind and hydro power," said Dr Engelbrecht.



About the contributor: Erica Mathye

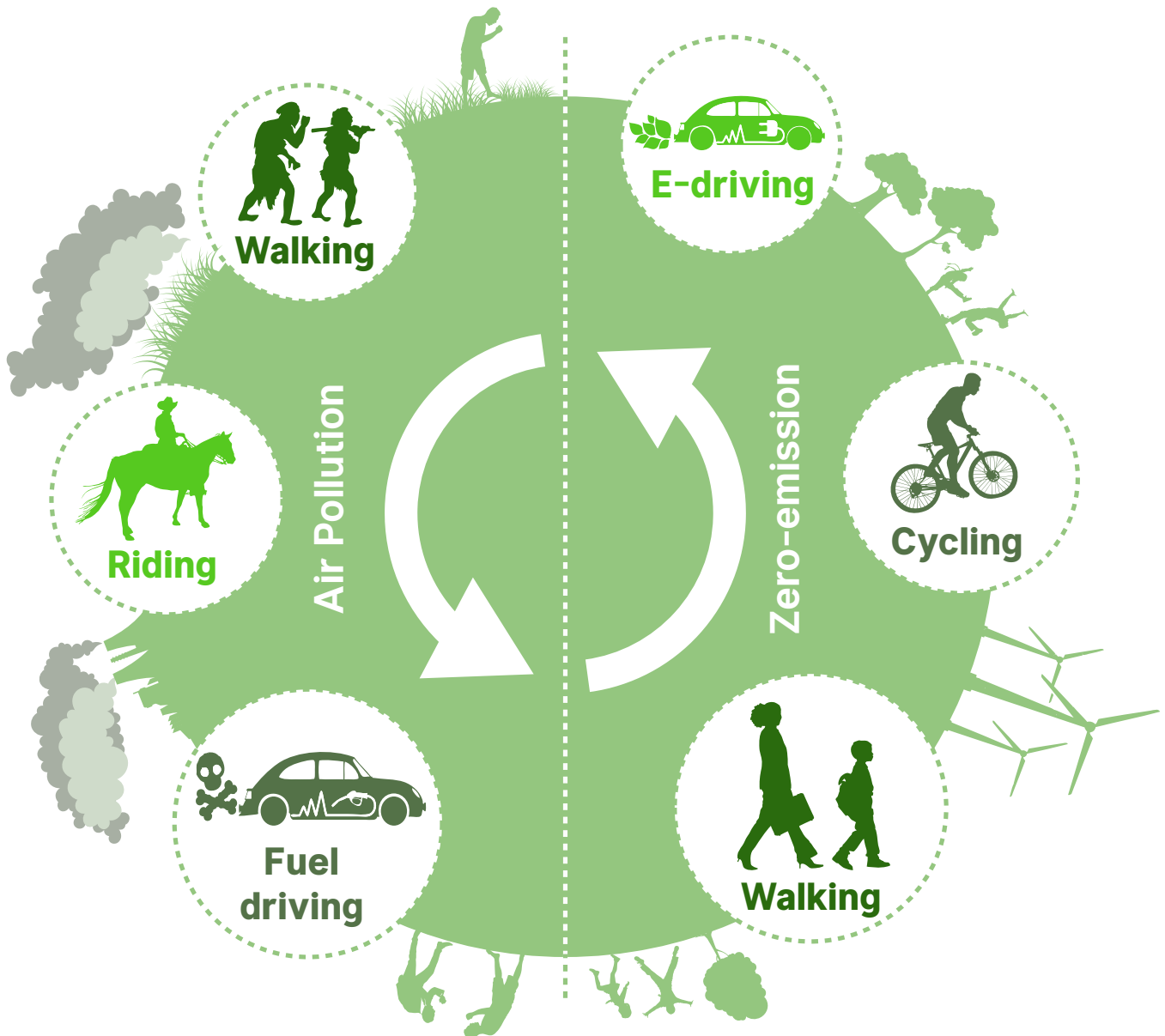
Erica Mathye is the Deputy Director: Editorial Services at DEA. Before joining the Department, she worked as a journalist, literature editor and sub-editor for various publications. Her interests include travelling and spending time on Pinterest looking for home improvement ideas.

October is National Transport Month

Sustainable Transport

October is declared transport month. Transport plays a critical role in daily life and its evolution over time tells an interesting story. Going back to the ancient times of our fore-fathers, walking was the only common mode of transport. Walking allowed people to travel from one place to another for various reasons. Given longer distances people had to travel, animal riding was introduced as an option to enable people travel these longer distances and in addition carry items along. Over time animal drawn carriages were introduced.

Technology and innovation introduced fuel powered motor vehicles into the system which are faster however, these fuel powered vehicles have negative impacts on the environment including human health. The world is now more aware of these negative impacts and a need for cleaner innovations. This realization has resulted in the introduction of electric vehicles, the use and promotion of non-motorized transport systems inclusive of walking, bicycle use and skate boarding. By using these sustainable modes of transports we can all play our part in protecting the environment.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Find us:
Department-of-
Environment-Affairs

Follow us:
@EnvironmentZA

Follow us:
@EnvironmentZA

Watch us:
EnvironmentZA

Call centre: +27 86 111 2468 | www.environment.gov.za



Environmental Career Expo in Kokstad

By Erica Mathye

Like most career expos, the #KokstadCareerExpo was a big event for learners to meet leaders in the environment sector. The 2018 expo was held on 31 August at the Kokstad Youth Centre and it was attended by curious learners and unemployed youth from the Greater Kokstad area. The event exposed them to different careers in the environment sector with many learners showing interest in waste management.

The expo was a direct result of the Mayor, BM Mtolo's intervention when he wrote to the late Dr Edna Molewa requesting for an event to sensitize learners in Kokstad to careers in the environment. DEA's Offshore Ecologist, Ms Zoleka Filander who also comes from Kokstad gave an impressive presentation on her work as a female diver and the kind of opportunities available in the marine sector.

Grade 12 learner from Carl Marlcomess High School, Ms Baxolile Jebe said she met different people from the department who inspired her about environmental

careers. "The expo came at the right time to broaden our scope about the careers when most learners are making decisions about their career paths. It's good to know we are not restricted in terms of the choices that we can make," said Baxolile.

She also highlighted her interest in waste and environmental management as most townships in the area are facing challenges of sanitation.

"We are fortunate the municipality provides bin bags for household waste and collects on a weekly basis. More still needs to be done in fixing our drainage systems so that children don't have to play in dirty water spilled on the streets from homes," she said.

The Mayor encouraged learners to chase after education and stay away from bad influence. "Those who rise to greatness acquire education," the mayor said.

Exhibitors making a difference

The Department teamed up with exhibitors to bring about the best possible variety to the expo.

We spoke to two of the exhibitors who are making a big difference to empower previously disadvantaged learners and bring them to light about career choices and funding they can apply for.

Nokuthula Siqwayi: Simama Career Centre, KwaZulu-Natal



Ms Nokuthula Siqwayi started being passionate about exposing learners to various career paths after she took a gap year to learn brick-laying after matric due to lack of funds from home for her to study. "I am proud to say

For more information on environmental careers, go to https://www.environment.gov.za/media/publications/environment_bookletsandbrochures_archive

that I am one of the brick layers who built Ebongweni Maximum prison in 1999 after I applied for an opportunity through my local municipality. My income helped me to apply for a teaching qualification but to be honest I do not like gap years as they expose matriculants to teen pregnancies and drug abuse," she said.

In 2015, Ms Siqwayi who is a Maths and Accounting specialist from Walter Sisulu University founded a Non-government organization, the Simama Career Centre.

She helps grade 12 learners with application forms to various institutions of higher learning as well as expose them to funding programmes such as NSFAS. She uses her own resources to download application forms and host workshops at schools where she hands out the forms. She then collects the application forms with proof of the application fee and submits to the various institutions.

"I don't want any matriculant to miss out on life because they didn't have knowledge," says Ms Siqwayi. She

normally hosts workshops around the Harry Gwala District in KwaZulu-Natal which has about 82 schools but says her services are not restricted to only one place. "I go to any place where I'm needed."

In addition to her services, Ms Siqwayi says she also works with government departments to showcase their bursary opportunities and shares that information with learners. "I have already processed 300 NSFAS applications since they opened on 3 September. My aim is to empower as many learners as I can. At the moment I am doing everything from my pocket and I would appreciate donations a photocopier or a small van to be able to reach those gravel hard-to-reach places in rural area," says Ms Siqwayi

Contact:

Facebook: Simama Centre for Career and Professional Development
Email: Simamacareercentre@gmail.com

Omphile Laka, Grades Match

Omphile Laka is a Communications and Research Officer at Grades Match, an online career guidance tool which allows learners to make well-informed career choices based on their performance and interest. How it works is that a learner will put in the marks and subjects they are doing at school and Grades Match will match them to an array of possible career choices and universities that are offering the courses. Mr Laka says on Grades match, learners also have access to mentors in various fields, for example, doctors, lawyers, etc.

In addition, Grades Match also has bursaries from various sponsors that learners can apply for. The online portal currently has 80 000 registered users from South Africa and Namibia. Mr Laka says the App is free to Vodacom users and requires very little data for users on other networks. "We still have a long way to go in terms of reaching all students in SA and Namibia but we are proud of the strides we have made," he said.



Contact:

www.gradesmatch.co.za
Twitter: @gradesmatch
Email: omphile@gradesmatch.co.za



Career expo in Polokwane

By Fhatuwani Mulaudzi



Above: Students consulting with the DEA team during the Career Expo in Polokwane.

The department of environmental affairs, together with other government entities, and private sectors participated in a student career expo at Unisa, Polokwane campus on 01 August 2018. The department of environmental affairs has been doing career expos since 2014, with the aim of raising awareness regarding the department's internships, learnerships, bursaries, and experiential learning.

Mr Dinilesizwe April who was the main speaker of the expo during the presentations said the main aim is to educate students about the work of the department.

"Most students believe that the department only deals and focuses on environmental issues, and offers careers that are only environmental based. Therefore it is the department's duty to tell them about all categories, and career offers," he said.

After the presentations, students had an opportunity to consult with various government employees and stakeholders about environment careers. Mr Widly Rakabe who is doing his final year in teaching said he was not aware that the department also had opportunities for students who are studying teaching.

"I learnt something new today, I wish everyone could come here and learn about the opportunities that the Department of Environmental Affairs offers. I thought they only had opportunities for people who are studying environmental related courses, but today they told me I can work as a language practitioner for the department," he said.

SANBI's Environmental Educational Officer, Mr Cyprian Mathaba said "we have been doing career expos since 2015 with the aim of telling students about environmental related courses, specialization, skills, careers, and what SANBI is all about."

Unisa's Advocacy and Resource Centre for students with Disabilities (ARCSWiD) Ms Margaret Motsepe said they have been doing career expos to advise employers and students about people living with disability.

"As the ARCSWiD, we have been doing career expos since 2010, with the aim of advising employers and students on how to treat people living with disability, accessibility for people living with disability, and also to accommodate people living with disability. "We give dignity to students living with disabilities, and also prepare them for their desired work places," she said



About the contributor: Fhatuwani Mulaudzi

Fhatuwani Mulaudzi is a Media Liaison intern at the Department of Environmental Affairs. She studied Journalism at Tshwane University of Technology, and has a passion for writing. She started writing for community newspapers when she was still studying.

EnviroCareer: Estuary Ecologist Jabulile Nhleko

By Benedict Mlaba
Photos by Jabulile Nhleko

This quarter, the Department of Environmental Affairs launched the Source to Sea initiative in its endeavour to contribute to the United Nations Clean Seas Campaign, aimed at tackling land-based litter in hot spot communities located near rivers and waterways.

The initiative is a new strategy geared towards investigating and combatting pollution, in particular plastic pollution, at the source in river catchments and waterways, before it reaches the coast and marine environment.

In light of this, and in an effort to understand the effect that rivers have on the ocean, we spoke to Estuaries Ecologist, Ms Jabulile Nhleko, from the branch: Oceans Research, about her career, to get an idea of what it involves, why one should be interested, and how can one pursue a similar career path.

What education requirements, college degrees, licenses are needed for your career?

Just like many other fields of study, it all begins with choosing the right subjects in high school. Estuaries is a scientific field, therefore, it is imperative to do Mathematics and Science in high school in order to gain University admission. A Bachelor of Science degree, which takes a minimum of three years to complete, is the qualification that one has to complete in order to pursue a career in Estuaries.

The minimum qualification required to be a scientist is usually an Honours degree, and earning a higher qualification (Master's, PhD) is usually propitious. It is therefore required that you pursue completing these post graduate qualifications.

How long have you been working as an Estuary ecologist?

I have been working for the department just over four years since May 2014.

What are the duties most often expected of you and how do you keep up with them?

My role as an Estuary Ecologist in the department includes developing and

implementing estuarine research. This involves writing proposals, going on field trips, sample processing and report writing.

I also provide the department with scientific support and advice on issues related to estuarine management.

To ensure that I complete my tasks, I create a priority list every morning, based on deadlines, and plan how I am going to execute them.

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

The most rewarding part of what I do is when we have outreach events and I meet students who may have never heard of estuaries but are interested in pursuing a career in estuaries.

I am passionate about what I do, and it is certainly rewarding when I get to share my passion and impart knowledge to the younger generation.

The most challenging part of what I do is that you never know what to expect on a field trip. Things don't always go the way you expect them to. While this is a challenge, I also find it exciting, because it requires me to

think on my feet, and come up with ideas that help me overcome those challenges.

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

There is considerable scope for research when it comes to estuaries. Identify what you are most passionate about, whether it's plants, animals, physics or chemistry. Obtain a qualification that is related to your passion, and pursue postgraduate studies in your chosen field in estuaries



Above: Jabulile launching a sampling instrument in an estuary.



About the contributor: Benedict Mlaba

Benedict Mlaba is an intern: Internal and External Communications in the Directorate: Communication Services in Cape Town. He holds a BA Communications Science Degree.

DEA empowers prospective beauty and nail technicians



Above: Young beauty and nail technicians from Pyramid Beauty School ready for the pampering sessions at Environment House

Prospective young beauty and nail technicians empowered by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) through the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme's (EPIP) Mass Training Programme visited the Environment House on 14 August 2018.

The 102 students have been training for their Further Education and Training certificates in Beauty and Nail Technology NQF 4 through the Pyramid Beauty School in Johannesburg since March 2018.

Interested DEA staff each received quick 20-minute pamper sessions at their work stations.

Ms Ursula Mainga, a student at the Pyramid Beauty School expressed her excitement for the future.

"For me being here is a huge opportunity and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for me. In the next five years, I see myself owning my own business especially dealing with make-up and nails.

I love make up, but I'd like for my business to offer people the whole package because I want it all," Ms Mainga said.

Mr Bonelela Fikizolo, also a student at the Pyramid Beauty School is the only male student attending the course and hopes his presence will encourage other men to join the beauty industry.



Above: Mr Bonelela Fikizolo buffs the nails of DEA staff in her express manicure session.

"The beauty industry is a lucrative industry but people are still stereotypical in that they still think it's only for women. My being here is going to show other guys that they are also needed here just like women are also needed in the mines," Mr Fikizolo said.

Pyramid Beauty School Assessor, Ms Anna Selematsela said the mass training programme by EPIP and the Department is a great initiative that

helps under privileged students.

"I think the Department's funding of the whole programme as a way of empowering young women and men from under privileged communities by giving them a bursary is great.

"It's an opportunity for students who have a passion to be in the beauty industry to be able to study and do what they love despite coming from an under privileged background," Ms Selematsela said.

The Mass Training Programme is part of a bigger initiative by Government to skill young people in the country in an attempt to increase their chances of employment and self-employment.

Since its inception in March 2018, the programme has recruited more than 14 thousand participants in the 135 projects run countrywide.

Each of the Gauteng hair and beauty project participants earn a stipend of R2 287.00 per month which is in line with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for a fixed period of 12 months.

Women in Environment Press for Progress

By Salome Tsoka



Above: Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson visits Ms Lillian Masebenza's exhibition which showcases handcrafted work done by women and disabled people from Cape Town.



Above: An exhibitor that specializes in making decorative ornaments from match sticks shows off her work.

Strategies are merely words on paper until concrete action is taken to implement them." These are the sentiments from Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson as she spoke to hundreds of women gathered at the 9th Women in Environment Dialogue under the theme: Press for Progress at the Ingwenyama Conference and Sports Centre in White River, Mpumalanga on 23 and 24 August 2018.

Speaking at the dialogue, Deputy Minister Thomson said although it was heartening to see so many women gathered to participate at an indaba about the role of women in the country's environment, it was important for the women to note that concrete action is needed to implement the national gender mainstreaming strategy. "Our task today is clear. We need to take stock of where we are in terms of implementation of the strategy. This will require an honest assessment of our achievements as well as areas where we have fallen short. It is only through such honest reflection that we will be able to gauge the true state of gender equality in the sector and arrive at a common understanding of what needs to be done to take implementation of the strategy further," Deputy Minister Thomson said.

Mpumalanga MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Mr Vusumuzi Shongwe also said it is important for women to be involved in protecting and sustaining the environment because it is women who bring the nation together. He also added that by empowering a woman, you have empowered the family and the nation as a whole.

"Women in environment should be ambassadors for the environment and take responsibility for it," MEC Shongwe said.

Background on Women in Environment

The annual dialogue brings together women involved in the environmental sector from all nine provinces to discuss and iron out some of the issues in the country's national strategy towards gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector.

The dialogue also gave these women an opportunity to exhibit some of their products which included handcrafted products made from recyclable and organic material. Ms Lillian Masebenza, an exhibitor at the dialogue said many of the products on display were made by women and disabled people from her organisation, the Mhani Gingi Social Entrepreneurial Network



Above: Handcrafted beaded work celebrating Ndebele culture on display at Women in Environment Dialogue exhibition.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS' S

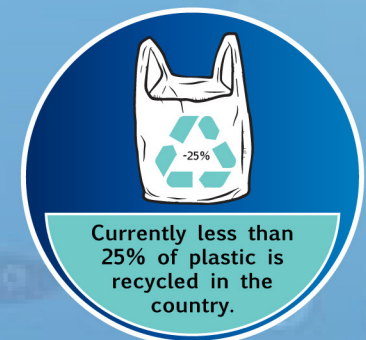
In its contribution to the United Nation's Clean Seas Campaign, the Department of Environmental Affairs will launch its 'Source to Sea' Initiative this year.

In December 2017, at the margins of the 3rd United Nations Environment Assembly South Africa endorsed the UN's Clean Seas Campaign, which exists as a platform for governments to engage the general public, civil society and the private sector to find solutions to the plastic litter challenge. The Campaign also seeks to dramatically reduce the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastic.

The Source to Sea initiative is aimed at tackling land based litter in hotspot communities located near the rivers and waterways, by investigating and combating pollution, in particular, plastic pollution, at the source in river catchment and waterways, before it reaches coastal and marine environment.

This Source to Sea approach also will reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal-riverine ecosystems through the implementation of waste management practices, advocacy, education and job creation across all levels of government.

The Department has noted that the drivers and pressure in catchments form the basis for setting realistic stress reduction targets in order to conserve and manage catchments or river basins.



Action Plan on Marine Litter

In July 2017, the G20 group of countries, of which South Africa is a member, adopted an Action Plan on Marine Litter, which focuses on the following main actions:

- Promote the socio-economic benefits of establishing policies to prevent marine litter.
- Promote waste prevention and resource efficiency.
- Promote sustainable waste management.
- Promote effective waste water treatment and storm water management. Raise awareness, promote education & research.
- Support removal and remediation action.
- Strengthen the engagement of stakeholders.



environmental affairs

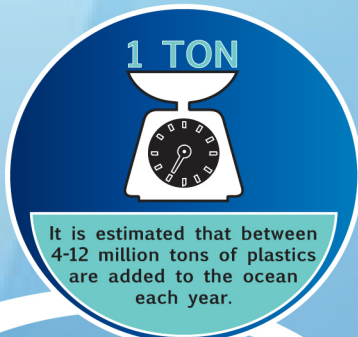
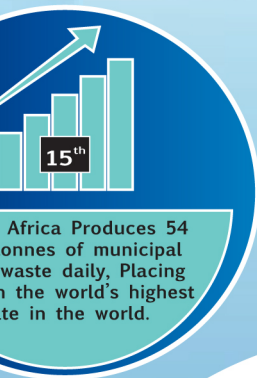
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



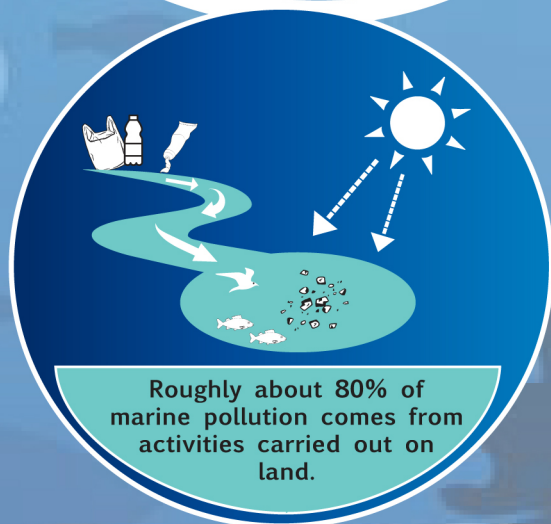
Call Cen



SOURCE TO SEA TO TACKLE MARINE POLLUTION

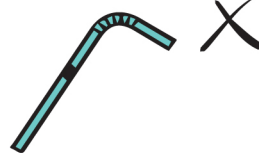


Marine Litter in South Africa



Tips on how you can reduce litter:

1



Say no to the plastic straws. A recent study assumes that between 437 million to 8.3 billion plastic straws are on the entire world's coastlines. As consumers we can stop use of plastic straws by using alternative material straws.

2



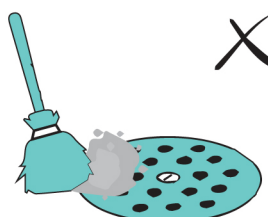
Use reusable carrier bags instead of plastic bags.

3



Reuse plastic bottles and plastic cups or even better opt for water bottles to store your water or thermal flasks for your tea and coffee.

4



Do not sweep dirt from sidewalks into drains, instead throw it in the trash bin.

Telephone: 086 111 2468 www.environment.gov.za

Find us:
Department of
Environmental Affairs



EnvironmentZA

Follow us:
EnvironmentZA



Follow us:
@EnvironmentZA

What do we know about the air we breathe?

By Reyhana Mahomed

Through its air quality modelling expertise, the CSIR is attempting to enhance the understanding of South Africa's air quality and its impacts on human and ecological health. The CSIR's skills base in air quality modelling will help South Africa to better understand, manage and regulate emissions.

Air pollution is a worldwide problem, but wearing facemasks and banning certain vehicles from cities may not be the best answers; at least not for South Africa. "Air quality monitoring stations are not plentiful in South Africa because they are very expensive," says Mogesh Naidoo, a CSIR air quality-modelling expert.

"This is where air quality modelling becomes relevant," he says. Leveraging the various climate and air quality models, Naidoo is able to map the air quality of an area or city by simulating how air pollutants disperse and react in the atmosphere to affect ambient air quality.

"We look at vehicle emissions and try to determine how far the emissions travel and what they transform into. Using this information, we can simulate air quality." The pollutants transform due to chemical reactions; many driven by sunlight.

"We need to know the concentration at which pollutants are present in the atmosphere to understand the likely impacts on human and ecological health."

Why do we need to understand our air quality?

"We need to know the concentration at which pollutants are present in the atmosphere to understand the likely impacts on human and ecological health," he says.

Bad air quality has an impact on agricultural production. Maize crops are sensitive to ozone; oxides of nitrogen and sulphur dioxide may enter leaves during photosynthesis and have the potential to affect maize crop yields.

Continuously monitoring air quality is imperative for human health; it tells us if the quality of our air is detrimental to human health and warrants major changes in areas such as road traffic.

Naidoo cites France as an example. In early 2018, the most visited tourist destination in the world experienced a heat wave that prompted several cities, including Lyon, Paris and Strasbourg, to ban certain vehicles from entering them. This was an attempt to limit the impacts of the heat wave on air quality and, consequently, human health.

Applications of air quality modelling data

Air quality modelling empowers a city or a municipality to make informed air quality decisions for the betterment of its citizens. The model allows one to build emissions scenarios, varying the data.

"A municipality may decide to ban diesel vehicles above two litres in engine capacity from entering the city, but want to know upfront what difference it would make. Our model enables the city to view the likely impacts of this scenario," says Naidoo.

Municipalities are also able to use this information to declare air quality hotspots. These hotspots are areas within which emissions from specific sources, such as factories and mines, are considered toxic and may expose citizens to health risks.



About the contributor: Reyhana Mahomed

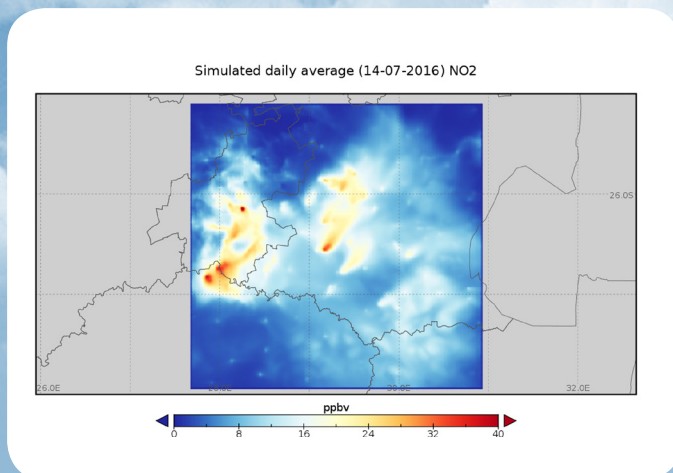
Reyhana Mahomed is a Communications Manager at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR): Natural Resources and the Environment. Before joining the CSIR, Ms Mahomed was a Deputy Director in the Department of Environmental Affairs' Chief Directorate: Communications.

“South Africa has made it a legal requirement for municipalities and provinces to have air quality management plans that indicate the status of air quality in their areas of jurisdiction.”

“This is why air quality monitoring stations are generally placed in locations which people frequent, such as schools and urban areas,” says Naidoo. He adds that these stations are not usually found near farms, but applying air quality modelling skills and expertise, one is able to estimate the impacts of air quality in areas lacking air quality monitoring stations.

Air quality modelling also allows for anticipated problems to be addressed proactively. For example, a power station may be proposed in a specific area. This will emit large amounts of pollutants. Using a model, the emissions can be quantified and their likely impacts on ambient air quality illustrated to enable informed decision-making. South Africa has made it a legal requirement for municipalities and provinces to have air quality management plans that indicate the status of air quality in their areas of jurisdiction. If the quality of air is poor, the plans need to detail how this will be addressed.

Naidoo is currently completing a PhD looking at the impacts of climate change on ozone in South Africa.



Air quality monitoring stations monitor the quality of air in communities. The data collected are used to identify the main sources of pollution and determine what interventions are required to improved air quality.

CSIR expertise in air quality

- Regional air quality modelling
- Environmental health
- Air quality
- Climate impacts



Above: Air quality modelling is important in the absence of air quality monitoring stations in South Africa. This is particularly important since the country faces significant challenges in meeting the World Health Organization's guidelines for ambient air quality.



Above: Agriculture is an end-user of air quality modelling data. Poor air quality can be detrimental to the sector.

Meet iSimangaliso's new CEO

By Debbie Cooper



Above: iSimangaliso's new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sibusiso Bukhosini at the annual iSimangaliso MTB Adventure Tour.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority has a new Chief Executive Officer – and he is committed to steering the iconic World Heritage Site to even greater heights as Africa's leading conservation and development organisation.

Mr Sibusiso Bukhosini took up the reins this month following his role as Municipal Manager at uMkhanyakude District Municipality and Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality prior. During his tenure as Municipal Manager at Umhlabuyalingana, he obtained three clean audits, steering it from a disclaimer and insolvency status into a very liquid and respected municipality.

With a Master's Degree in Environment and Development: Protected Area Management following his Bachelors and Honours degrees, his early work experience also includes dealing with restitution of state managed protected areas, whilst with the then Land Affairs (now DRLR.).

Mr Bukhosini later joined Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife for nine years in a management position before making the

move to local government. He is therefore eminently qualified to take the helm of iSimangaliso with its unique situation of balancing conservation and development in rural KwaZulu-Natal.

Declared South Africa's first World Heritage Site in 1999, the Park's mandate is to integrate the conservation of the outstanding universal natural values and socio-economic development and redistribution in one of South Africa's poorest districts, by ensuring that it is a key macro-economic driver within government's regional development plan.

Mr Bukhosini displays an enormous amount of energy and drive, and has hit the ground running in familiarising himself with the key issues facing iSimangaliso, broadly describing his strategy.

"The strategy is to synchronise the link between conservation, tourism and stakeholder relations. The transformation agenda seeks to be that one of inclusive economic growth through expanding opportunities for all. In this instance, understanding that our role is conservation, the focus will be to ensure that conservation is not compromised at the expense of development, but it must serve as a catalyst through being able to provide sustainable products for tourism and ecotourism. We will strive to work with other stakeholders and role players in encouraging development in the buffer and terrestrial part of the Park."

"In honour of our late Minister, Dr Edna Molewa, we pledge to pick up the baton and ensure that the legacy does not dwindle, through sustaining the values of the World Heritage Site for and with our people in South and Southern Africa and the globe," Mr Bukhosini said.



About the contributor: Debbie Cooper

Ms Debbie Cooper is the Executive Assistant to the CEO, iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority. A key component of her job includes content writing and photography for the Park's communications and social media platforms.

United Nations Nelson Mandela International Day

Image by Getty Images

Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 marked 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela (18 July 1918). The Centenary is an occasion to reflect on his life and legacy, and to follow his call to "make the world a better place". In recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, UN General Assembly declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day" in November 2009 through an adopted resolution (64/13).

This resolution by the UN General Assembly came to being as a gesture of honour dedicated to South African former statesman His Excellency Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, a global icon who contributed immensely towards the liberation of South Africa from Apartheid regime and equally played a critical role in advocating for universal peace, security, development and human rights.

The Mandela Day which is commemorated worldwide suggests that people devote 60 minutes of their time to extend philanthropic deeds to the less privileged, those affected by violence, natural disasters

"Nelson Mandela's legacy cannot be divorced from the urgent and pressing need to realize true emancipation and that is economic liberation"

worldwide, since this initially serves as a continuation of Nelson Mandela humanitarian legacy.



On an institutional level, the United Nations headquarters held numerous activities inter-alia Public Service activity, a Book Launch spearheaded by his granddaughter Zamaswazi Dlamini-Mandela and also the Exhibit in New York City (NYC).

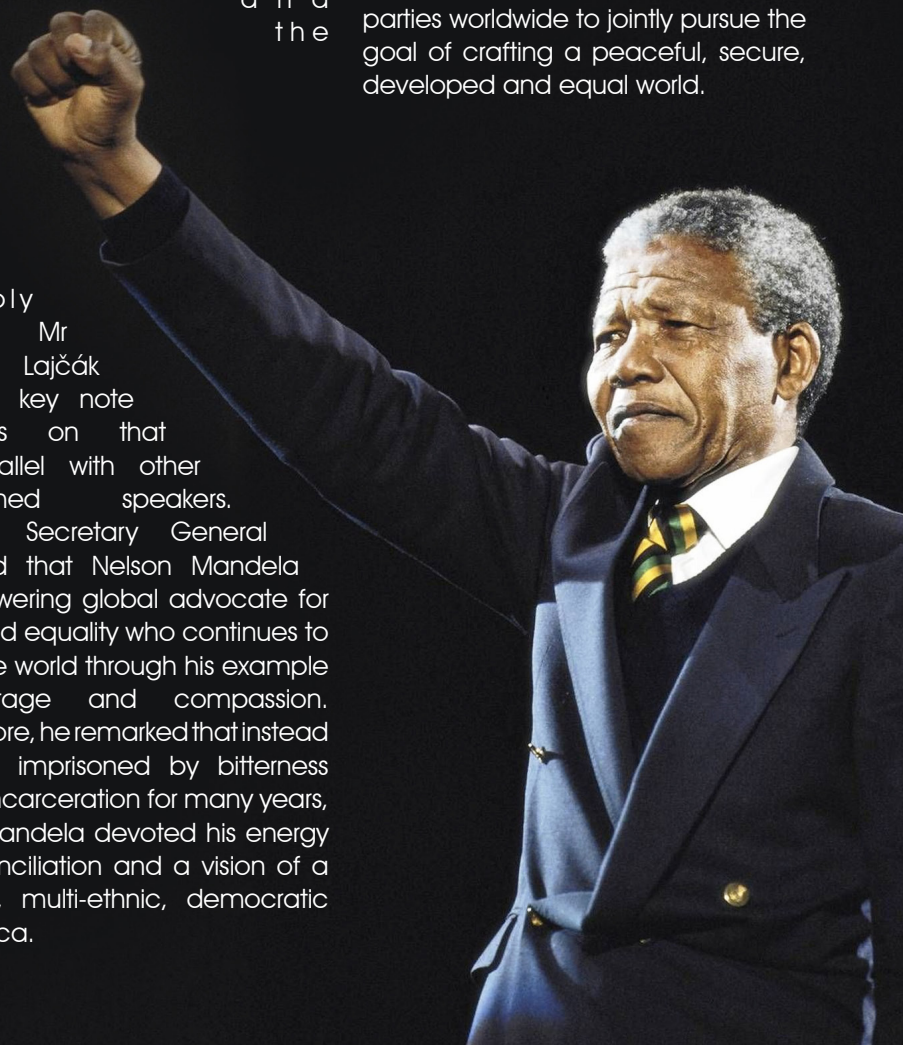
The General Assembly meeting was held as the main event, in which the Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres and the

General Assembly president Mr Miroslav Lajčák delivered key note addresses on that day parallel with other distinguished speakers. The UN Secretary General expressed that Nelson Mandela was a towering global advocate for justice and equality who continues to inspire the world through his example of courage and compassion. Furthermore, he remarked that instead of being imprisoned by bitterness over his incarceration for many years, Nelson Mandela devoted his energy into reconciliation and a vision of a peaceful, multi-ethnic, democratic South Africa.

Among the speakers was South African Minister of Environmental Affairs, Honourable Bomo Edna Molewa. In her speech, she postulated that "Nelson Mandela's legacy cannot be divorced from the urgent and pressing need to realize true emancipation and that is economic liberation". She also noted that it was incumbent upon the United Nations to assume a special responsibility of translating words and actions towards the shaping of a world free of fear and want, just as Nelson Mandela would have desired.

In her closing remarks, Minister stated that as long as there is a widening gap between the rich and poor, it will not be possible for the world to enjoy prosperity and human rights.

The Nelson Mandela vision calls for all parties worldwide to jointly pursue the goal of crafting a peaceful, secure, developed and equal world.



Voyage to enhance scientific training in Africa

By Tshego Letshwiti



Above: The IIOE Expedition team aboard the SA Agulhas II after arriving in Dar es Salaam.



Above: Trainees from Tanzania and the University of Fort Hare pose for a picture with their trainer, while examining some of the samples found after the Dredge was sent out.

The Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) research and polar vessel, the SA Agulhas II entered into its second year of participating in the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE2), as part of South Africa's training and capacity building voyage. On-board were DEA research staff and trainee-participants from Tanzania, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Congo, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The second voyage aboard the SA Agulhas II started on the 10th of June and ended on July 13th, where a total of 46 stations (stops made to assess the ocean and its inhabitants) were completed at the end of the research cruise, having covered Tanzanian and Comorian waters.

The IIOE2 is a multi-national programme of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) which emphasises the need to research the Indian Ocean and its influence on the climate and its marine ecosystem.

The IOC recognised that there was a persistent lack of basic long-term environmental information in the Indian Ocean, particularly for developing countries surrounding the Indian Ocean. As a result, the IOC decided to declare the beginning of the IIOE2, 50 years after the first IIOE. This renewed interest in the area has brought numerous research voyages with state-of-the-art technology. The data collection covered physics, chemistry, plankton, biodiversity, large animals such as whales and seabirds as well as geology.

Gathering of basic long-term environmental data and information will place the developing countries of the Indian Ocean, in a better position to conserve the integrity of its ocean, find ways to unlock their respective potential Ocean Economies to improve the lives of their citizens; and to better detect and adapt to ocean related threats to coastal communities and infrastructure. All this data provides important information in understanding the ocean environment and its links to developing a successful sustainable Ocean Economy.

In 2017 South Africa accepted the Chair of IORA and cabinet approved the utilisation of the DEA's research vessels, SA Agulhas II and RV Algoa, as research platforms in the region during the IIOE2 period to not only further our own information in South African waters but to assist our African neighbours in understanding theirs.

Chief Scientist of the cruise Ms Keshnee Pillay said the voyage was a great success. "The second South African led IIOE2 training cruise was a success leaving all involved with more skills, confidence and friends, than when we began. It's the first and vital step to an African Network where we work together for common causes and goals," added Ms. Pillay.

Some of the research conducted includes using an instrument which measures the conductivity, temperature and water depth (referred to as CTD) which is deployed on every survey point. It can be used to show the differences in temperature of the water from the surface to the bottom of the ocean. During an era of potential warming ocean,



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.

this is an important factor to monitor as it could have severe impacts on livelihoods.

The CTD which has an oxygen sensor and fluorescence sensor that measures how much chlorophyll is in the water, can also be used as a measurement of phytoplankton (organisms that produce half of the world's oxygen). Bottles are triggered at different depths and fill up with water. The water is used to calibrate the sensors on the CTD as well as for analysis of the kinds of phytoplankton and micro-plankton plastics microbes are in the water.

The Bongo and MultiNet, are nets with a probe for temperature depth and amount of water flowing through the nets. The nets collect zooplankton which is being used for plastic analysis, zooplankton biomass (amount of food available in the environment to bigger organisms), amount of fish eggs and larvae in the water, microorganisms, DNA and genetics testing of Plankton.

Additionally, top predator surveys conducted during this expedition made for an exciting part of the cruise. Observers search for whales, sharks, turtles and marine birds as environmental sampling continues. This is an equally important exercise as generated data, whether it be diversity or abundance can be used in the ecosystem level management approach; and will help in getting a holistic view of ecosystems. For example, understanding the distribution of marine mammals in the region can contribute towards the determination of marine mammal important areas.

Consequently, efforts can be pursued to temporarily or seasonally suspend certain activities during key animals' activities including breeding and feeding. The IIOE2 is amongst the initial steps taken towards a region wide co-ordinated research effort which is aimed at better conservation management of common species between the Indian Ocean nations in Africa. One such species is the migratory humpback

The scientific expeditions will also contribute towards the establishment of Regional Centres of Competence to build capacity, as contained in the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa (IOCAFRICA) strategy document within South Africa, Mauritius, Mozambique, Madagascar, Comoros, Tanzania and Kenya. In order to facilitate cooperation and strengthening of capacity the centres were defined, based on existing initiatives within the selected country:

- Cape Town, South Africa: Operational Oceanography
- Port Louis, Mauritius: Satellite Remote Sensing
- Zanzibar, Tanzania: Biodiversity
- Mombasa, Kenya: Data and Information Management

These centres will also act as regional training facilities, collaborative areas and to allow for regional and international experts to run hands-on training workshops, etc.

South Africa, too, has committed to this very important initiative with research voyages in our own waters of the Indian Ocean. Within the ocean context and its links to climate change, national efforts must be coordinated with regional programmes, as many of the processes occur and impact several countries at once. The impacts of extreme ocean-based events will affect both economic and social aspects of the country. This is very relevant in South Africa when considering the Ocean Economy strategy within the broader NDP-Vision 2030, in addressing economic growth, poverty alleviation and job creation.



Above: CTD being lowered into Tanzanian waters. The CTD has an oxygen sensor and fluorescence sensor that measures how much chlorophyll is in the water, it can also be used as a measurement of phytoplankton (organisms that produce half of the world's oxygen).



Above: DEA's researcher deploys the Argo float which measures ocean temperature, salinity and oxygen while drifting with Oceanic Currents.



Above: DEA researchers with a North-West University trainee sampling the presence of magnetic metallic elements and micro-plastics in the seawater.



Above: DEA Researcher explains to trainees from Tanzania, Kenya, and Mozambique, about seawater filtration for chlorophyll analysis after taking samples from the CTD.

Ministers unveil Sisulu Circle

By Veronica Mahlaba and Seipati Sentle



Above: Late Ministers Edna Molewa and Derek Hanekom along with members of the Sisulu family officially unveiled the bust of Walter Sisulu.

It was a joyous occasion when the Sisulu Circle was officially unveiled by the late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and Minister of Tourism, Mr Derek Hanekom at the Water Sisulu National Botanical Gardens (WSNBG) on 10 July 2018, in Roodepoort.

The Sisulu Circle includes a bust sculpture of the late Walter Sisulu, a water feature with aquatic plants and information and interpretation points.

Late Minister Molewa said the introduction of the Sisulu Circle is an ideal opportunity for the public and in particular the youth, to reconnect

“It had been a great privilege to have met the Sisulu couple and that without Walter there would have been no Nelson Mandela.”

with the country’s important heritage. It is an opportunity to not only honour a great man, but to learn more about

the role played by Walter Sisulu in the attainment of the democracy and freedoms people have enjoyed since 1994.

“South Africa is the third most mega bio-diverse country in the world. Our unique fauna and flora, some it to be found here and nowhere else on earth, draws tourists to our shores every year. Our natural heritage is a popular attraction not just for foreign tourists but for our own people as well. The launch of the Sisulu Circle here is an ideal opportunity for the public, and in particular the youth, to reconnect with nature,” said Minister Molewa.



About the contributor: Seipati Sentle

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



Above: The Witpoortjie natural Waterfall, 70 m high, is the source of the Crocodile River. Beautifully manicured lawns ideal for picnics, walking, relaxing



Above: Wild Orchids Southern Africa presented a drawing of the Albertina Sisulu Orchid to the Sisulu family to honour her.

According to the late Minister, garden tourism has become increasingly popular amongst South Africans over the years. In the 2017/2018 financial year, total visitor numbers were at 2 156 894. That is an increase of 3% from the previous year, which is also the highest visitor number ever received by SANBI's network. One of the Gardens that showed a marked increase in visitor numbers is WSNBG. It was visited by 301 965 people in the 2017/18 financial year.

The garden was voted the best place to get back to nature in Gauteng for nine consecutive years, the best picnic spot in Johannesburg Reader's Choice; second amongst a list of 13 of the best botanical gardens in the world by the Huffington Post; and the second best tourism place to visit in Gauteng by the SA Tourism website.

A tourist attraction

The Sisulu Circle was funded by the Department of Tourism as part of its plans to develop tourism destinations across the country and enhance visitor experience. The Department has further signed a Master Agreement with SANBI to implement improvements at Thohoyandou (National) Botanical Garden, Mokopane National Zoological Gardens and the Mokopane Biodiversity Conservation Centre (MBCC).

Minister of Tourism, Mr Derek Hanekom said that the day celebrated what many people did to get the 26 years of freedom. He said it had been a great privilege to have met the Sisulu couple and that without Walter

there would have been no Nelson Mandela.

"I am very proud of my friend Edna and the work she has done under her, led by SANParks. We stand next to the greatest countries of this world. If there are no institutions like SANParks, we wouldn't have any tourism in this country. It is our job to be the custodians of this very special heritage. Our natural legacy is all ours. This country belongs to all of us, Black and White. So it is up to us to ensure that we conserve the biodiversity of this country," Minister Hanekom said.

Mama Albertina Sisulu honoured

On the day Wild Orchards Southern Africa presented the Sisulu family with a drawing of a rare orchid, named after Mama Albertina Sisulu. It was a gesture in celebrating the legacy of Mama Albertina Sisulu on this year of the centenary of her birth.

A renowned writer and activist, Mrs Elinor Sisulu who is married to the former Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, Mr Max Sisulu thanked the government for both honouring Walter and Albertina Sisulu.

"As the Sisulu family we have always loved this Garden. We come as members of the public but also come to celebrate family members' birthdays. We thank the Ministers for ensuring that the Garden continues to do what it does. Ensuring that tourist come to enjoy this place.

We would also love to see it used for educational purposes and ensuring that previously marginalised communities also get a chance to enjoy it," Mrs Sisulu stated.



Above: Botanical Gardens named after a real gentle man, Walter Sisulu.

Quick Fact

The Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden was previously known as the Witwatersrand National Botanical Garden as founded in 1982. Witwatersrand National Botanical Garden was renamed in 2004. The process to rename the garden was initiated in 2003 by then the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Valli Moosa. He proposed the name change of this tourist destination into a name to facilitate marketing the garden locally and globally, whilst acknowledging South Africa's rich history.

Deputy Minister hands over a park worth R13,5 million

By Fhatuwani Mulaudzi and Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: The Park is named after Mr Alfred Mkhize, one of the ANC stalwarts, and played a major role in the community. Community members came out in numbers to witness the handing over of the park.



Above: : Learners sharing tips with the Deputy Minister on how to manage waste in parks.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson, together with the Executive Mayor of Mbombela, Cllr Mathonsi officially handed over the Elijah Alfred Mkhize Recreational park worth R13.5 million, in Barberton, Mpumalanga on 16 August 2018.

“The Department continues to ensure that whilst addressing the mandate of maintaining a healthy environment for all, it also focuses on job creation.”

The open space was previously used as a dumping site and will now play a significant role in sports, entertainment and other events. The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) funded the Greening and Open Space Management of Umjindi project through its Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister Thomson said the “projects implemented under this focus area contribute not only to the maintenance and the integrity of the natural environment but also play a significant role in the biodiversity conservation, social and physical well-being of the human population and by creating much needed job opportunities for our people. Previously disadvantaged individuals have benefited from the project through the creation of at least 218 employment opportunities in the area. Beneficiaries, who included youths, women and

people with disability, received unaccredited training opportunities, equipping them with the necessary skills that will enable them to find other employment on exit from the project. In addition, Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) also benefitted from the project as

their services were used on supplying goods and rendering services during implementation,” said Ms Thomson.

“The Department continues to ensure that whilst addressing the mandate of maintaining a healthy environment for all, it also focuses on job creation, small businesses and skills development opportunities,” said Deputy Minister.

A good park for the community

Community members came out in numbers to witness the handing over of the park. For them it was one of the most amazing things to ever happen to the community. Ms Thandolwethu Vilakazi, a grade 6 learner from Umjindi said that the park was good for them: “My friends and I live in different places, so it was difficult for us to play after school, but now that the park is close to our school, we will be able to play nicely with each other after school in this



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

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

nice park, and there are so many activities that we can do here,” said Thandolwethu.

An EPWP employee, Ms Thembi Thwala said “it is always good to wake up and go to work, knowing you will be providing for your family, some of us are bread winners and we grab every opportunity that comes by, whenever there is a project, we get really excited, because we know we will be deployed.”

At the launch, learners from various schools were awarded for their contributions into the environment. They were asked to come up with different ideas or designs using waste in the form of a project. Ms Thandi Mavimbela who is a teacher at Mhola primary school said they received R8000 from the Department. “The money was used to buy crayons, dictionaries, and gardening tools for learners. As requested by the department, we selected 10 learners to do a project, using waste, and they all came up with brilliant ideas, but we had to select one learner from the 10,” she said.

Ms Nothando Ngomane is the grade 6 learner that impressed her teachers from the 10, and she says she designed a poster displaying how to manage waste in parks and did a speech that talked about how to manage waste in parks. “I was happy with us winning the R8000 because I knew it was going to help us with things that we needed in our school. We now have dictionaries, gardening tools and other things that we did not have before,” she said.



Above: The Elijah Alfred Mkhize Recreational Park has braai facilities.



Above: The open space previously used for illegal dumping has been transformed into a recreational area for the community to relax and enjoy the natural environment.



Above: Deputy Minister also handed over sewing machines to learners who completed a mass training programme in the Mpumalanga Clothing and Textile Dressmaking, NQF1. A total of one hundred and twenty (120) machines have been donated. The machines will be distributed between six (6) municipalities namely City of Mbombela Municipality Dr JS Moroka Local Municipal, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Dipaleseng Local Municipality and Msukaligwa Local Municipality.

Durban gets a clean-up ahead of GMC Awards

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson led the clean-up in Durban's Mangroves Nature Reserve ahead of the GMC Awards.



Above: By working at the Silver Jupiter Investments, a buy back centre in Clermont, Ms Sthembile Ngcobo has learned the importance of recycling.

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson led a clean-up campaign around the streets and beaches of eThekweni ahead of the 8th Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC) Awards in Durban on 14 August 2018.

Whilst doing the clean-up, the Deputy Minister expressed that the ocean plays a vital role in the country's economy. "South Africa is surrounded by a vast ocean which has not been fully taken advantage of. There is immense potential of this untapped resource. The oceans have the potential to contribute up to 177 billion rand to the gross domestic product and create just over one million jobs by 2033.

"A clean coastal environment is at the heart of the Operation Phakisa Oceans Economy. We cannot build an oceans



“Most of the time us Black people don’t understand climate change matters, however today I hope people will see the results of keeping our wards clean and how jobs can be created”

economy in a dirty environment. We should continuously engage in activities that will not only keep our environment clean, but also attract investors into the oceans economy space,” said Deputy Minister Thomson.

Following the clean-up, the Deputy Minister visited the Clermont and Westmead buyback centres, where individual waste collectors and street waste pickers sell their recyclable waste. The buy-back centres in turn sell these waste products to other recycling companies.

Ms Sthembile Ngcobo an employee at Silver Jupiter Investments, a buy back centre in Clermont said that she has learned a lot about the environment and how people can do better to live in harmony with it.

“I have been taught about recycling and how you can make money from waste. Now I am able to teach my family and friends about the benefits of recycling and that they shouldn’t throw away all types of waste but to separate it and send it to buy-back centres,” she explained.

Greenest Municipality Competition Awards

To wrap up the day, the GMC Awards were held to celebrate the contribution that local government is making to climate change and ensuring cities are cleaner and greener. The GMC Awards are an annual event that facilitates the participation of municipalities, provincial counterparts and relevant stakeholders in waste and greening and open-space management.

The Department works together with the municipalities to promote reduction, recycling and re-use of waste. This is in line with the promotion of the waste hierarchy that has been introduced through the promulgation of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 Of 2008.

Speaking at the awards, Deputy Minister Thomson expressed that municipalities play a crucial role in building climate resilient communities through the planning of new residential areas and urban development.

After winning the overall prize under the metropolitan category, the Executive Mayor of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, Cllr Zandile Gumede couldn’t contain her excitement.

“Winning the overall prize is encouraging. It will encourage the councillors to work even harder. Most of the time us Black people don’t understand climate change matters, however today I hope people will see the results of keeping our wards clean and how jobs can be created. My wish is to see people of Durban separate waste in their households to ensure that we minimise waste in landfills.”

These winners are as follows:

Metropolitan Municipality Category	
eThekweni Municipality	Overall winner
City of Cape Town Municipality	1 st runner-up
Nelason Mandela Bay Municipality	2 nd runner-up
Local Municipality Category	
Swartland Local Municipality	Overall winner
Tzaneen Local Municipality	1 st runner-up
Umlalazi Local Municipality	2 nd runner-up



Above: The Executive Mayor of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, Cllr Zandile Gumede receiving the cheque from Deputy Minister Thomson and Mpumalanga MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Mr Vusumuzi Shongwe as the overall winner under the metropolitan category at the GMC Awards.



Above: The Swartland Local Municipality was the overall winner under the local municipality category.



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Image by UN.org



“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”

From 9-18 July 2018, world leaders gathered at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. The forum assembled under theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The HLPF is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is anchored on the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2018 HLPF reviewed six (6) SDGs, namely: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 15 (life on land), with the cross-cutting SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) which focus on the means of implementation for all SDGs.

Honourable Minister of Environmental Affairs, the late Dr Edna Molewa was the Head of South Africa delegation, supported by three deputy Ministers and Ambassador Jerry Matijila Matthews, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations.

The late Minister Molewa participated in key side events, such as the PAGE High-Level Event On “Transforming our Economies and Lifestyles: Greener and Fairer for Future Generations”, in which Minister announced the new dates for hosting the PAGE Conference in South Africa. Minister also participated in the Ministerial Breakfast on Achieving SDG 12 with the One Planet Network and in various UN - Mandela Day Events.

Bilaterals were also held with various interested states, such as Republic of Estonia – to discuss preparations

related to the upcoming UNEA-4 meeting, as South Africa is a bureau member. Minister also held bilateral talks with Arab Republic of Egypt – to discuss preparations for UNCBD COP14 in Egypt. South Africa also assumed the Vice-President role of ECOSOC, during the HLPF.

During the proceedings of the HLPF, 46 countries presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) highlighting their plans and means undertaken to implement SDGs. The forum also conducted thematic review on distinct areas.

Some of the critical issues included quest to curb poverty, unemployment and all forms of inequalities worldwide. These issues resonate well with South Africa since the country is in the process of closing its socio-economic gaps through the National Development Plan (NDP).

Moreover, the forum facilitated a discussion centralised around the noble principle of “Leaving no one behind” thereby opening the floor for the High Level General Debate.

The last day of the forum (18 July) saw the voting for the adoption of Ministerial Declaration. The declaration affirmed states’ commitment towards the implementation of the SDGs.

The upcoming HLPF will convene under the theme “Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equity” in 2019. Next year, forty-two (42) countries will be presenting their Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) at the forum. South Africa will also be presenting its VNR for the first time. Preparations within the country are underway.

Amongst other things, the 2019 HLPF will consider the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) report which is issued every four years.

Minister donates furnished asbestos-free classrooms

By Salome Tsoka



Above: The late Minister Molewa officially hands over the keys of the five asbestos-free classrooms to principal, Ms Victoria Legodi and SGB Chair, Mr Freddy Kgotsoko.



Above: Minister shares a joyous moment with Sealane Primary School learners.

School children, parents, teachers and the principal of Sealane Primary School in the small community of Mafefe in Limpopo were delighted to receive five asbestos-free classrooms from the late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa during the official hand over ceremony on Friday 10 August 2018.

Late Minister Edna Molewa officially handed over the keys of the asbestos-free classrooms to the school principal, Ms Legodi and the School Governing Body following the Department's project and efforts to not only eliminate the community's exposure to asbestos fibres but to also raise awareness and educate the community about the dangers of being exposed to asbestos.

Speaking to the school children, the Minister explained how the project came about before planting a tree in the school yard.

"We have been brought together here by the Department of Education, MEC Sekwati, the Premier's office, the Municipality and your councillors who identified that there was a need to eradicate the asbestos problem in this school," she said.

Each of the asbestos-free classrooms is furnished with desks manufactured from the biomass of invasive alien plants and manufactured at the Department's Working for Water Eco Furniture Factory in Ga-Rankuwa.

In addition to the five asbestos-free classrooms, Minister Molewa also opened an 8km asbestos free road in the Mafefe community.

Speaking to SABC radio, the late Minister Molewa highlighted that more work still needed to be done in order to eradicate the asbestos problem in the country.

"The troubling thing is that, once a person has inhaled even a single thread, the effects can be felt twenty years down the line and this is very worrying

"It is important that as government and our cabinet, we work together to fight this asbestos once and for all," Minister Molewa said.

The department and school respond

Acting Premier, MEC for Education Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe expressed his gratitude to the Department and the Minister for the work done at the primary school.

"We'd like to thank you for the work you've done at this school. We know how challenging these projects are so we really appreciate it. We also as the Department of Education in the province will continue with the work you have started," Mr Kgetjepe said.

The school principal, Ms Victoria Legodi, Sealane, also expressed her gratitude to Minister Molewa.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for these modern-day classrooms free of asbestos. Minister, we also promise you and the Department that these classrooms will go a long way in bringing a better life to this small community. We know that education is very important and by giving us this token, we will make sure it is used to better the lives of all the school children you see gathered here," Ms Legodi said



Above: Late Minister Molewa cuts a ribbon, unveiling the 8km road in Mafefe Village.

Deputy Minister commends the work of rangers

By Madimetja Mogotlane

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Ms Barbara Thomson lauded the bravery of rangers who risk their lives to protect our natural heritage, often under dangerous environments. The Deputy Minister was addressing multitudes of rangers and stakeholders during World Ranger Day in Addo Elephant Park, Eastern Cape on 31 July 2018. The Deputy Minister also witnessed the relocation of 27 elephants in the Darlington Dam area of the Addo Elephant Park which will provide a new habitat and open up tourism opportunities for Addo.

"Many rangers regularly face armed poachers at a tragic cost to their own safety. Often outnumbered by well-armed and well-organized 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," she said.

The Deputy Minister further acknowledged the loyalty of rangers who snub bribes from potential poachers.

Fallen ranger honoured

SANParks Marketing Executive: Mr Property Mokoena said SANParks will erect a monument in honour of slain field Ranger Respect Mathebula who was killed in the Crocodile Bridge area of the Kruger National Park by poachers while patrolling the area.

"We want to honour this day and dedicate it to Mr Respect Mathebula. It is families like the Mathebulas and other fallen rangers that we must continue to keep in our minds and honour their passing in the work we do each day. Since 2014 there has not been any cases of rhino poaching in Addo Elephant Park, so thanks and big up to the rangers who are working 24 hours to make sure that poaching does not take place here", he said.

Elephant relocation a good move

Mayor of Beyer's Naude Municipality Councillor Deon de Vos welcomed the move to relocate elephants in the Darlington area of the park and described it as an opportunity to create economic activity in the park.

"Addo is proud of its conservation success story in the country because of the recovery of the elephant population from a mere 11 elephants in the park more than 80 years ago. This is the only national park in the country to host the big 7 and today we are proud to celebrate the field work that is being done by the rangers," he said.

Did you know?

World Ranger Day is celebrated worldwide on July 31st to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.



Above: The work of rangers was celebrated during World Ranger Day in Addo Elephant Park, Eastern Cape.





2019 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

#SAIGE

PAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
ON GREEN ECONOMY

10 - 11 JANUARY 2019
CAPE TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA

2018 PAGE Ministerial Conference

The South African Government is pleased to announce that the 2018 PAGE Ministerial Conference will be hosted in South Africa. The conference will bring together stakeholders from across the world, providing participants with a platform to discuss actions and interventions that will advance the global agenda of inclusive growth and a low carbon, climate resilient economic pathway.



PAGE FUNDERS



Government Offices of Sweden



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EDAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



European
Commission



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



Ministry of Environment
Republic of Korea



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Designed by DEA Comms



environmental affairs
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PAGE
PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
ON GREEN ECONOMY

PAGE | www.un-page.org
PAGE National Coordinator
ILO | pageSA@ilo.org | +27 12 818 8000

DEA | www.environment.gov.za
callcentre@environment.gov.za | 086 111 2468

Stop the damage caused by invasive species

Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) calls on Parties/Members to "as far as possible and appropriate: Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. Furthermore, a ten-year framework for action (Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020) was developed with associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Aichi Target 1 of the CBD provides that "by 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably".

This target recognises that addressing the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss will ultimately require behavioural change by individuals, organizations and governments. It is against this background that the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has embarked on numerous awareness events and campaigns aimed at promoting compliance with the relevant legislation and to

educate the public and relevant stakeholders about the threats posed by invasive species. These awareness interventions are also aimed at creating awareness on what can be done by our stakeholders and the public at large in safeguarding South Africa (SA) from the invasive species.

As part of these awareness interventions, DEA will be launching the National Invasive Species Week (NISW) campaign, scheduled for the week of October 8th – 12th of October 2018, which signifies the annual culmination and highlight of the ongoing awareness campaign aimed at the management and containment of invasive species in SA.

DEA has invested in activities to raise awareness of invasive species amongst international travellers, traders, landowners and public at large. Awareness activities will be conducted during the month of October to support compliance efforts deployed throughout the

country to deal with threats associated with invasive species.

This year's theme for the NISW is, "Stop the damage caused by invasive species" which is aimed at highlighting the damages caused by invasive species on biodiversity, economy, agriculture and human health. A spotlight will be shined on these threats throughout the campaign to encourage compliance, partnership and support from all stakeholders. Everyone is impacted directly or indirectly by invasive species, which means that we all have a shared responsibility to manage the problem, and taking steps to control and eradicate, where feasible. It is thus the duty of every citizen to familiarise himself or herself with the listed invasive species and to comply with the corresponding duty of care relating to invasive species as outlined in the relevant prescripts. Everyone is encouraged to support the campaign and fight back for our natural resources.

STOP THE LAND SNATCHERS | Let us fight back for our natural resources
Stop the damage caused by invasive species in South Africa



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF LISTED INVASIVE SPECIES ON YOUR LAND:

Call centre: 086 111 2468 Website: www.environment.gov.za



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Find us:
Department of Environmental Affairs



Follow us:
@environmentZA



Follow us:
@environmentZA



Watch us:
@EnvironmentZA



Newmax Trading CC fined for illegal disposal of pharmaceutical waste



Above: Excavated hole filled with the pharmaceutical waste, the spade used to dig the 1.5-meter hole, and some files of the company dumped on-site.



Above: Seven (7) 40L plastic drums (with signage) used for the temporary storage of the capsules/tablets whilst in transit.

After three years of intense negotiations, collapsing of the negotiations and regular appearances in the Wynberg Court, the efforts of our Criminal Investigations unit have finally borne fruit. On 14th June 2018, a Plea and Sentence Agreement in terms of section 105A of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 was entered into between the accused, Newmax Trading CC and the National Prosecuting Authority, in conjunction with the Criminal Investigations unit. The Court later endorsed the Agreement.

On 24 February 2015, a law enforcement official from the City of Cape Town Metro observed two men alighting from a white panel van and dumping boxes and large plastic bins on the side of Weltevreden Road in Philippi. Upon closer inspection, the law enforcement official determined that the said boxes and plastic bins contained expired pharmaceutical waste in the form of various types capsules and tablets, which had expired. The suspects, an elderly man and his accomplice (later identified as his son), had dug trenches in the road reserve of Weltevrede Road and started emptying these boxes and plastic bins of expired capsules and tablets into the trenches. As the waste was of a hazardous nature, the law enforcement officer immediately contacted the Department's Green Scorpions in the Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement.

Within minutes of being notified Green Scorpions (Jason Liebenberg, Achmad Bassier, Dr Eshaam Palmer and James Langridge) rushed to the crime scene. The suspects were apprehended and their statements taken. In essence the suspect, the driver (the elderly gentleman) and employee of the company was ordered by the accused to purchase a spade at Cashbuild in Philippi for use to dig a trench to dispose of the pharmaceutical waste in a trench.

Following the information provided by the suspects the Green Scorpions made their way to the dispatch warehouse which was located in the Airport Industrial area. On site, officials met with the warehouse manager and informed him of the incident. Upon further investigation of the warehouse and questioning of the staff on the site, officials found a second batch of expired pharmaceutical waste amounting to 23 large-size boxes of expired tablets and capsules, which was also going to be disposed in the Philippi Horticultural Area.

Upon finalising the investigation, the Department referred the matter to the National Prosecuting Authority and the company, the sole director of the company and the driver was charged with several provisions in terms of National Environmental Management Act, 1998, the Waste Act, 2008 and the City of Cape Town Integrated Waste Management By-laws, and appeared in the Wynberg Magistrate's Court on 23 March 2017.

The accused pleaded guilty and received a compound sentence of a fine of R150 000 fully suspended for five years on condition that the accused is not again convicted in this 5-year period, of a similar offences. In addition, the accused was ordered in terms of section 34(3)(b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 to pay the Directorate, as a remedial measure, an amount of R150 000 to be used for the purpose of their law enforcement duties.

The accused was further sentenced to a fine of R30 000 fully suspended for five years on condition that the accused is not again convicted in this 5-year period, of a similar offence in terms of the City's Integrated Waste Management By-law, 2009, and that the accused makes a refund to the City in an amount of R10 000 in respect of the expenses the City had incurred in the removal of the waste in question.

VoxPops

DEA staff members

Salome Tsoka, Benedict Mlaba and Siziphiwe Maxengana

In your opinion, how has the Expanded Public Works Programme helped to alleviate poverty in the country since its inception?



1. Mr Chulumanco Myataza

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

With an unemployment rate of 26.7% South Africa has approximately 14 million citizens who are unemployed. This makes it extremely difficult for government to alleviate poverty, thus the EPWP does provide much-needed relief by creating avenues for labour absorption and income transfer to households who live below the poverty line for a short-medium term basis.

However, despite providing the much-needed relief, the programme is unsustainable, because it provides temporal employment with no guarantee of permanent employment. For non-skilled workers within the programme, once their time period has ended, it is back to square one. It would be very helpful if the programme

provided non-skilled workers the opportunities for personal development, for example, providing them with accredited training that will allow them to either start their own businesses or gain much needed skills in the job market.

I think if the programmes offered permanent contracts then I would say they help alleviate poverty because those people would probably even qualify for houses or to even build themselves houses instead of waiting on the government to provide them with RDP housing.

that remove alien invasive species and the planting of much needed trees in some areas. These programmes give people skills and an opportunity to do something out of nothing.



2. Mr Tumelo Maile

Logistical Clerk

The EPWP programme does not quite alleviate the poverty situation in the country because these programmes are not permanent but are rather contract based. If it is a five-year contract and one starts making credit then one wouldn't be able to sustain themselves after that. From what I've noticed, these programmes are often cleaning programmes and cleaning services are required on a daily basis and I see these services as a fundamental need.



3. Ms Mukhethwa Ntsieni

Protected Areas System Management

Holistically, I think that the EPWP programmes do alleviate poverty in South Africa because these programmes assist most people with employment. I think that more than 30 000 people have been employed through these programmes. I believe these programmes not only give people opportunities to alleviate their poverty and to put food on the table but also gives them an opportunity to save the environment by working on programmes



4. Mr Bongumenzi Gumbi

Compliance: Oceans and Coasts

Yes, I think the programme does help to alleviate poverty, given the high rate of unemployment and lack of opportunities in South Africa. The EPWP has played a big and vital role in reducing poverty. Such government initiatives give opportunities to graduates who have never acquired any work experience. It also gives job opportunities to woman and youth in rural areas that have no tertiary education. As such, it closes the gap of unemployment and reduces poverty throughout the country.

Vox Pops continued

Members of the public



1. Mr Thabo Kgoadi

I think EPWP programmes help alleviate poverty in the country because there are a lot of unemployed people in the townships. The programmes help them put food on their tables. It also helps these people gain some work experience and enables them to support their families. Some of the clean-up jobs these people do also help to keep the townships clean which I think is a bonus.



2. Ms Salome Moss

Yes, they do alleviate poverty because these programmes are creating jobs. A lot of the beneficiaries would be sitting at home doing nothing but these programmes give them work and I think they enjoy what they are doing. Most of the people employed by these programmes don't

have matric and I think that at the end of the day, these programmes open doors for them so that they can get something better.



3. Ms Dikeledi Ngoepe

In all honesty, I believe these programmes help alleviate poverty but only to a certain extent. Many of those employed by the programmes are mothers and fathers and because of the programmes they are able to be better parents who not only provide for their families but can also change their children's future.



4. Mr Mark Latief

I think this is a good initiative by government. Firstly, because the unemployed will at least be able to provide

for their families, even though it's temporary and secondly, because the initiative will grant the unemployed an opportunity to develop skills that they may use to apply for other jobs in future. So in my opinion, anything that aims to help people is always positive.



5. Mr Monwabisi Cithi

This is one of government's key programmes aimed at providing poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed. Although temporal employment is not ideal and has many challenges, the initiative does have its benefits and it shows that the government is trying. Half a loaf of bread is better than nothing.

The government should try and develop new strategies to improve the programme. Giving people jobs then taking them away again is not really a solution to unemployment because those people will still be unemployed in a couple of months after getting that job. I think the government should rather equip people with skills that will also benefit them in the long run, than providing them with little amounts of wages that will only last for a short period of time.



6. Mr Liam Peterson

The only issue I have with the initiative is that it is not a permanent solution to address unemployment in the country. Instead people are given contracts that last for a short period of time, and in the end makes some of them even more depressed, because when you give someone a taste of earning an income then take it away again, they are left with the question "what now?".

The government needs to come up with a more proper and permanent strategy to address unemployment in this country.

The dual need for job creation and investment in public services (such as road maintenance) is what drives should drive public works programmes worldwide if we are to move away from the system of social grants as the largest and most successful social protection programme.



In memory of Mama Edna Molewa



The Minister of Environmental Affairs

Rest in Peace Dr Edna Molewa

Ms Barbara Thomson
Private Bag 313
Pretoria, 0001
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia Ext 6
Pretoria
Tel: (012) 399 8743

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs

Ms Barbara Thomson
Private Bag X313
Pretoria, 0001
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia Ext 6
Pretoria
Tel: (012) 399 8854

Director-General of Environmental Affairs

Ms Nosipho Ngcaba
Private Bag X447
Pretoria, 0001
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia Ext 6
Pretoria
Tel: (012) 399 9007
E-mail: dg@environment.gov.za

Call Centre: 086 111 2468 • callcentre@environment.gov.za
Website: www.environment.gov.za



Find us:
Department of
Environmental Affairs



Follow us:
@EnvironmentZA



Follow us:
@EnvironmentZA

YouTube Environment

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PUBLICATION



For any enquiries or contributions, please contact:
Ms Erica Mathye, Tel: 012 399 8976 email: EMathye@environment.gov.za