

Building a future of climate resilience

Communities must be at the centre of the new deal, says Creecy

“We must find ways to unlock access to land and strengthen opportunities for economic benefits.” These were the words of forestry, fisheries & the environment department (DFFE) minister Barbara Creecy, speaking at the official opening of the ninth People and Parks Conference held at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, last month.

The conference was hosted by the DFFE in partnership with the agriculture, land reform & rural development department.

The conference is a biennial event, which focuses on the interface between communities and conservation, and this year’s theme was “Banking on conservation areas for rural development and economic recovery”.

Creecy said she hoped the conference would result in the development of policy options and mechanisms to enhance stakeholder access to natural resources, participation and governance.

“Through the biodiversity economy programme, the department is supporting the expansion of the wildlife and bioprospecting economies in line with the government’s sustainable development and use of natural resources policies,” she said.

The biodiversity economy programme is an investment-ready platform that can be a significant contributor to job creation, unemployment and addressing economic and social inequality. It is guided by the constitutional principle of sustainable use of the country’s biological resources, while ensuring that these species are conserved for future generations.

Creecy said plans are afoot to implement pilot projects in bioprospecting in 19 traditional authorities in the Eastern



Minister Barbara Creecy, with chief land claims commissioner Nomfundo Ntloko-Gobodo, handing over a title deed to one of the land claimants present at the ninth People and Parks Conference. / SUPPLIED



LEFT: Biodiversity & Conservation deputy director-general Flora Mokgohloa speaks to Morning Live about the role of conservation areas in rural development and economic recovery. RIGHT: Creecy with the Northern Cape’s Gert Links, one of the founding members of People and Parks Programme, initiated in 2003. / SUPPLIED



Cape and Limpopo, which will result in 2,455 community members getting temporary relief opportunities through the presidential economic stimulus.

In addition, the implementation of more than R1bn in infrastructure investment in protected areas has begun, with various projects at different stages of planning.

“There are more than 50 projects within protected areas across our nine provinces. This

“This is projected to create at least 23,000 work opportunities”

investment is projected to create at least 23,000 work opportunities for communities once the contractors get on the ground over the next two years,” said Creecy.

The conference also provided an opportunity for advocacy and resource mobilisation for SA’s People and Parks Programme and to unlock complicated land claims within conservation space.

Joining the conference online was the minister of agri-

culture, land reform & rural development, Thoko Didiza, who, together with chief land claims commissioner Nomfundo Ntloko-Gobodo, handed over title deeds to land claims beneficiaries under the land reform programme. The land claims are all in protected areas across the country. The programme has enabled those who were dispossessed of land for political reasons to reclaim it in terms of the laws governing land restitution.

Three commissions

During the conference, the delegates were divided into three commissions focusing on:

- Investing in protected areas to unlock their economic potential for rural development and economic recovery;
- Putting communities and people at the centre of reimagining conservation areas for a new deal for people and nature; and
- Land tenure, redistribution and restitution of land: a road map to building biodiversity economy enterprises.

Creecy said that as SA looked to a new, nature-based and climate-resilient future, it was important that investment in protected areas was ramped up so they could return to full operation. “This would require collaboration between the government, communities and the private sector. In all our endeavours, we must put communities at the centre of the new deal for people and nature,” she said.

The People and Parks concept was born out of the World Parks Congress held in Durban in 2003.

The adoption of the Durban Accord called on governments to integrate local communities in the management of protected areas. Though people and conservation had been on the agenda of the government for some time, the World Parks Congress served as a catalyst to give further momentum, legitimacy, credibility and urgency to the efforts.

■ Editorial supplied by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment.



The first SA Agulhas's history was commemorated with a stamp, issued in 1991. /123RF



The modern SA Agulhas II docked inside the East London port. The ship is considered to be one of the world's top research vessels. / MARK ANDREWS

A proud moment for SA's Agulhas II

Endurance22's successful expedition thanks to 'excellent co-operation' from research vessel

SA's icebreaker, the SA Agulhas II, played a key role in the successful expedition to find Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship, the Endurance.

A proud moment for the country and the crew was when the ship — lost since 1915 — was discovered by members of the Endurance22 expedition, east of the Antarctic Peninsula in the Weddell Sea on March 5 this year.

The Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust chartered the SA Agulhas II for the expedition with the aim of locating, surveying and filming the wreck of the Endurance, which sank during the Antarctic expedition led by Shackleton.

"We are proud of the role that SA, through the SA Agulhas II, has played in the success of this expedition. It is a success that can be attributed to the excellent co-operation between

the department, the expedition leaders and the department's ship management company, Amsol," said the minister of forestry, fisheries and the environment, Barbara Creecy.

The SA Agulhas II is one of the most advanced and modern polar research vessels in the world and is used by the department for annual science and logistics expeditions into the Southern Ocean and Antarctica. The ship is a shared science platform with the department of science & innovation.

The vessel was chartered to perform a similar voyage in 2019, but the first search for the Endurance was unsuccessful.

In addition to locating and surveying the wreckage of the Endurance, the expedition team, comprising world-lead-

ing glaciologists, marine biologists, oceanographers and marine archaeologists, also ventured into remote regions of the Weddell Sea with the hope of uncovering vital new scientific data to improve our understanding of the area.

The information collected and knowledge gained will contribute to the further protection of the region.

About the SA Agulhas II

The SA Agulhas II is an SA icebreaking polar supply and research ship owned by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment. Construction of the vessel was started by STX Finland in Rauma in September 2010 to replace the ageing SA Agulhas, which was retired from duty with the SA National Antarctic Programme. The SA Agulhas has been used for training by the SA Maritime Safety Authority since 2012.

Unlike her predecessor, SA Agulhas II was designed from the beginning to carry out both scientific research and supply SA research stations in the Antarctic.

■ Editorial supplied by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment.



The crane, above, used to lift expedition members between the deck of the ship and the ice pack during the SA Agulhas II's trip to the Antarctic's Weddell Sea in January 2019. / WEDDELL SEA EXPEDITION



“The ship is a shared science platform”



Minister Barbara Creecy says SA has recognised the consequences of climate change will be catastrophic for the world, and for the country in particular. / 123RF/ITTIPOL

Committed to action on climate change

SA's mitigation targets get more ambitious

The recent release of the third of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment reports emphasises the global urgency of acting on mitigation.

In welcoming the report, the minister of forestry, fisheries & the environment, Barbara Creecy, said: "SA has taken a developmental approach to climate action, and this report provides valuable scientific information to guide our just transition."

The assessment report forms part of the series of reports to be adopted under the IPCC sixth assessment cycle. The IPCC will release a final synthesis report of the key findings in September this year.

The IPCC Working Group III (WGIII) report on mitigation found that the world has spent four-fifths of the carbon budget already, meaning that a small carbon budget remains. Given that poor countries and communities will suffer most from climate impacts at higher global warming levels, all

countries and stakeholders need to take action. It also highlights the systemic nature of mitigation.

"We have recognised that the consequences of climate change will be catastrophic for the world, and for SA in particular. We have also realised that we cannot continue on the current economic path, which is unsustainable and ecologically damaging," said Creecy.

This is evident from SA's updated nationally determined contribution (NDC) deposited with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2021. The updated NDC not only contains SA's first adaptation communication, but also updated mitigation targets for 2025 and 2030.

The country's mitigation target range for 2025 was updated from its original value of 398-million tonnes to 614-million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent to a range between 398-million tonnes and 510-million tonnes for 2025. And, most significantly, its 2030 mitigation target range was updated from 398-million tonnes to 614-million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent to a range between 350-million tonnes and 420-million tonnes. The country's revised NDC is

consistent with the Paris Agreement's temperature limit of "well below 2°C", and the bottom of the range is consistent with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature limit.

"Not only has SA very significantly increased the ambition of its mitigation targets, but we have also brought forward the year in which emissions are due to decline from 2035 in the initial NDC, to 2025 in the updated NDC," said Creecy.

Meeting these mitigation targets will depend on considerable levels of multilateral support, as specified in the Paris Agreement, in the form of the provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

However, support to ade-

Issues of climate justice have never been more compelling

Sowetan Page 3, Friday May 13 2022



SA's first adaptation communication for the UN framework agreement on climate change already shows updated mitigation targets for 2025 and 2030, with a significant drop in numbers. / 123RF/INKDROP

quately fund a just transition remains vital to ensure that no-one is left behind, and that the country's urgent development goals are met at the same time.

The WGIII report provides new framing of shifting development pathways towards sustainability (SDPS), which goes together with the climate resilient development pathways (CRDP) in the WGII report released earlier this year.

The IPCC reports show climate action is part of a developmental agenda and that mitigation and adaptation must be addressed together with means of implementation.

"In the context of this report, issues of climate justice have never been more compelling. As we transition our energy generation and at least seven sectors of our economy, we are encouraged to see the IPCC report highlights a growing

number of just transition commissions, laws, institutions and processes," said Creecy.

Work is well under way in SA to implement the Just Energy Transition Partnership to support the accelerated phase-down of coal-fired power and to support social justice. Eskom has already commissioned significant research on social labour plans for the transition of coal-fired power stations facing decommissioning later this decade. Labour unions have published a blueprint for workers in a just transition, which has been welcomed.

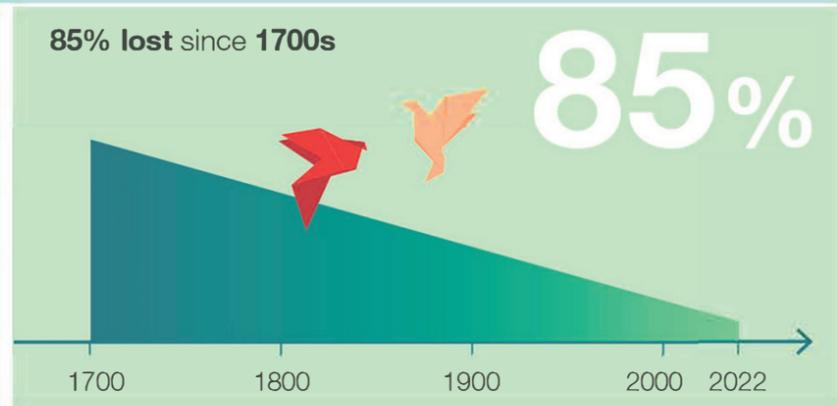
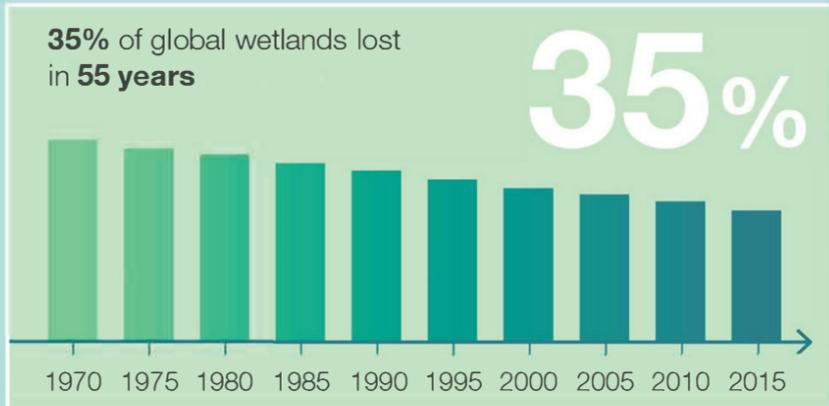
Climate action remains a national and international priority and SA remains firmly committed to contributing its best effort towards the global cause of addressing climate change.

■ Editorial supplied by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment

WETLANDS

A CALL FOR ACTION

NATURAL WETLANDS ARE DISAPPEARING THREE TIMES FASTER THAN FORESTS



WHAT LOSS OF WETLANDS MEANS

FOR PEOPLE

- Water scarcity
- Exposure to flooding and extreme weather events
- Lost livelihoods and well-being
- Food insecurity



FOR THE PLANET

- Biodiversity decline
- Increased carbon and methane emissions
- Loss of natural freshwater filtration



TAKE THREE ACTIONS

VALUE WETLANDS

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS
FRESH WATER STORES
CARBON SINKS
SOURCE OF LIVELIHOODS

STOP DRAINING

THE LIFE FROM WETLANDS
USE WISELY

REWET REFOREST RESTORE WETLANDS

SOME WETLANDS TO LOVE

PEATLANDS
Pastaza-Marañon
Foreland Basin - Peru

CORAL REEFS
Great Barrier Reef - Australia

MANGROVES
Sundarbans - Bangladesh

MARSHES
Okavanga Delta - Botswana

FLOOD PLAINS
Pantanal - Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay

ESTUARIES
Severn Estuary - UK

COASTLINES
Amalfi Coast - Italy

SWAMPS
Everglades - USA

BOGS
Cuvette Centrale - Republic of Congo



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Department welcomes appeals over fishing rights



A view of the harbour in Gansbaai, Western Cape, with trawlers at anchor. The government's allocation of fishing rights is to ensure sustainable harvesting of the country's marine resources, while also addressing historical inequalities by allowing new entrants to the sector / 123RF/DPREEZG

Closing date for objections to FRAP 2021/2022 has been extended by 30 days

Those dissatisfied with the outcome of the 2021 fishing rights allocation process (FRAP 2021/2022) have until May 29 to lodge appeals.

The closing date for objections has been extended by 30 days by the minister of forestry, fisheries & the environment, Barbara Creecy, after a request for additional time to submit appeals.

Any applicant unhappy with the process is encouraged to lodge an appeal online on the prescribed appeals form through the website <https://www.frap2021.co.za>.

The grant of right letter and scoresheet on the 2021 fishing rights allocation process was loaded on the online platform in March. Appeals received

after May 29 2022 will not be accepted.

According to the general policy on the allocation of commercial fishing rights for 2021/2022 and the fisheries sector-specific policies, any applicants, affected or interested person may appeal to the min-

The successful rights holders have started applying for their new catch permits

ister against the decisions made by the delegated authority in any respective fishing sector.

The appeal may be lodged against an exclusion, a refusal to grant a right or against the decision, process, and/or methodology on quantum or effort. The minister, as the appeal authority, will consider the facts and supporting documents presented by the appellant and announce the decision thereafter.

The department earlier concluded the FRAP 2021/2022 in the nine commercial fishing sectors that were due for reallocation.

Department spokesperson Albi Modise said the aim of the

process to allocate fishing rights was to ensure sustainable harvesting of the country's marine resources, while also addressing historical inequalities by allowing new entrants to the sector.

"The fishing industry's transformation is a constitutional and legislative requirement. It balances the government's priorities and it ensures the global competitiveness of the country's fishing sector," said Modise.

A total of 2,473 applications were received and adjudicated in the following sectors:

- Hake deep-sea trawl;
- Hake longline;
- South coast rock lobster;
- Small pelagic (sardine and anchovy);
- Demersal shark longline;
- KwaZulu-Natal crustacean trawl;
- Squid;
- Tuna pole-line; and
- Traditional linefish.

"In assessing and allocating the commercial fishing rights, the department evaluated and assessed all applications received," said Modise.

Besides the personal information of each application, the documents assessed also contained information related to their current and previous involvement in the fishing sector, investment in the fishing



Forestry, fisheries & the environment minister Barbara Creecy in 2020 with OR Tambo district mayor, Thokozile Sokanyile, during the handing over of 15-year-long fishing rights to 53 small-scale Eastern Cape fishing co-operatives. / SIKHON TSHOBANE

sector, performance and compliance history, transformation profile and contribution to the fishery industry. This information helped determine who would be granted a commercial fishing right.

The successful 2021/2022 FRAP rights holders have started applying for their new

catch permits. It is imperative that all rights holders ensure that all the required grant of right fees are paid on or before 60 days from the date of receipt of their right or their permits will become invalid.

■ Editorial supplied by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment.

Department aims to create clean, green communities

Campaign targets a change in people's attitudes towards waste

Leading clean-up campaigns in municipalities and communities across the country is one of the platforms being used by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment to meet its constitutional mandate of ensuring everyone's right to an environment which is not harmful to their health or wellbeing.

Clean-up campaigns have, in recent months, been led by minister Barbara Creecy and deputy minister Makhotso Soty in parts of Mogale City and Tshwane in Gauteng; Kagisanong in Mangaung and Matjhabeng (formerly Welkom) in the Free State; and in Taung in North West.

These form part of the "Good Green Deeds" campaign launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2019. The president called on all citizens, business, industry, labour and civil society to perform just one good green deed a day such as recycling waste or conducting clean-up activities in their neighbourhoods.

The aim of the campaign and clean-ups is to educate communities about the importance of a clean and healthy environment and to change people's attitudes and behaviours towards the responsible management of waste.

It also aims to promote efficient waste and environmental management within municipalities, with the ultimate goal of creating an environmentally conscious society.

Besides donning gloves and picking up litter, the department is contributing to efficient municipal waste management through the provision of training and equipment, such as trucks to collect waste, front-end loaders and waste compactors.

Illegal dumping and littering have created serious environmental and health hazards in various parts of the country. The hope is that this will



Deputy Minister Makhotso Soty, middle, and Minister Barbara Creecy working together with EPWP workers to clear an illegal dumpsite in Kagisanong in the Free State during the 'Good Green Deeds' clean-up. / SUPPLIED

contribute to effective waste collection and landfill management.

Speaking at the clean-up in Mangaung, Free State, recently, Creecy said the department has a 12-month R10m investment in the Mangaung

metropolitan municipality to improve the overall waste management system there.

"If your waste management infrastructure is not up to scratch and you're not ensuring the landfill sites are safe and compliant with all regula-

tions and laws, then you have a problem," said Creecy.

In addition, the department will also be creating employment opportunities by placing 120 beneficiaries of the expanded public works programme to assist in areas

without regular household waste collection to prevent illegal dumpsites. They will also educate communities about proper waste management.

■ Editorial supplied by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment

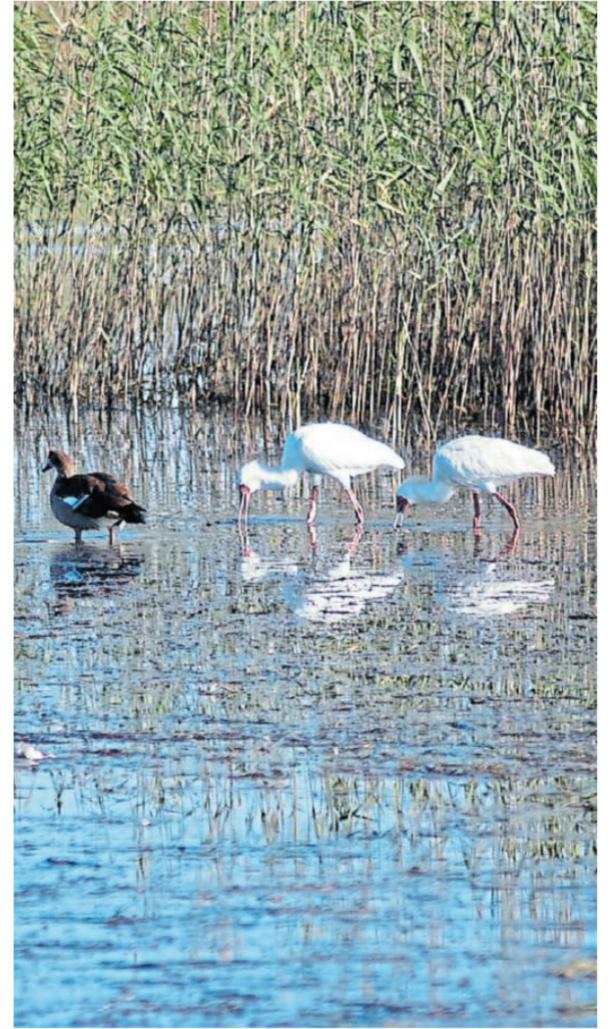


Deputy Minister Makhotso Soty recently handing over a new waste compactor truck to the mayor of the Free State's Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Thanduxolo Khalipha. / SUPPLIED

Ramaphosa
called on all to
perform one
good green
deed a day



Despite their significance to human life, wetlands are threatened nationally and globally. The 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment found that at least 79% of SA's wetland ecosystems are threatened. / DFFE STOCK IMAGES



Wetlands are considered super-ecosystems because of their contribution to the provision of water and habitats to a large variety of migratory birds, especially water birds. / DFFE STOCK IMAGES

A water wonderland in Western Cape

Berg Estuary declared a wetland of international importance

The Berg Estuary in the Western Cape was recently declared SA's 28th Ramsar site under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

"The declaration of SA's 28th Ramsar site is an indication of the importance of conserving and protecting these unique environments that are considered super ecosystems because of their contribution to the provision of water, and because they provide habitats to a large variety of migratory birds, especially water birds," said the minister of forestry, fisheries & the environment, Barbara Creecy.

The Berg Estuary, which is one of 290 estuaries in the country, is the second wetland of international importance to be declared in the country in two years. In 2021, the Ingula Nature Reserve in the north-



Estuaries supply water that sustains 60% of the country's population, more than 90% of urban water users, 67% of national economic activity and 70% of irrigated agriculture. / DFFE STOCK IMAGES

ern Drakensberg was declared the country's 27th Ramsar site. Situated at Velddrif, close to St Helena Bay where the Berg River flows into the sea, this estuary spans 1,162ha.

The West Coast fishing village is situated in the Berg-rivier local municipality.

The Berg River forms one of only four estuaries on the west coast of southern Africa that

At least 79% of SA's wetland ecosystems are threatened



Major threats to these freshwater systems include over-extraction of water, pollution, invasive alien species, habitat loss, land-use change and climate change. / DFFE STOCK IMAGES

always have water. This is in addition to the main estuarine channel, which is a floodplain encompassing five major wetland types, all of importance to 250 species of waterbirds.

The Berg Estuary, in particular, contributes about 60% of the estuarine habitat on the West Coast and is therefore vitally important to the biodiversity, cultural and economic activities it supports.

Despite their significance to human life, wetlands are threatened nationally and globally. The 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment found that at least 79% of SA's wetland ecosystems are threatened. Of these, 48% of wetland ecosystem types are critically endangered, 12% are endangered, 5% are vulnerable, and 35% are least threatened, making wetlands the most threatened ecosystems of all in

the country. More than 70% of SA's wetland ecosystem types have no protection and only 11% are well protected.

By addressing threats to the productive use of land and water, and the functioning of natural systems, SA will not only support sustainable livelihoods for local people, but secure strategic water resources and wetlands, said Creecy.

By building a new deal for people and nature, work is being done to secure strategic water sources and wetlands in SA, a water-scarce country. These important areas supply water that sustains 60% of the population, more than 90% of urban water users, 67% of national economic activity and 70% of irrigated agriculture.

■ Editorial supplied by the department of forestry, fisheries & the environment

MYTH?

RHINO

'MYTH' INFORMATION

SADLY, THERE ARE A FEW MISGUIDED MYTHS ABOUT RHINO HORN. THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF THIS MAJESTIC CREATURE.

FACT OR FICTION?

TRUTH?

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT



1

RHINO HORNS DO NOT HAVE MEDICINAL PROPERTIES

For centuries, rhino horn has been a key ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine. Ground up and added to water with other ingredients, it is believed to cure many illnesses and fevers and detoxify the blood. But, in fact, rhino horn is made of keratin, the same protein as our hair and fingernails, and as research has shown, has no medicinal properties at all.

2

RHINO HORNS CANNOT CURE CANCER

Whilst there has always been a demand for rhino horn as a cure for illnesses, demand shot up in 2008. This spike in demand is linked to rumours that spread across Vietnam that rhino horn had cured a well-respected person's cancer.

4

RHINO HORN IS NOT AN APHRODISIAC

Some cultures believe that rhino horn can serve as an aphrodisiac. This could not be further from the truth.

3

RHINO HORN MAKES NICE TRINKETS

Another cause for the senseless slaughter of rhinos is the desire to turn horns into all kinds of trinkets, from cups and knife handles to figurines. Despite the availability of better alternatives, many cultures continue to display rhino horn ornaments as symbols of class.



POACHING

South Africa's rhinos are in crisis and could be extinct within a decade.

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