

Celebrating 15 years of EPWP



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is amongst the South African government's major, cross cutting programmes for poverty alleviation, skills development and short-term employment creation, through various labour intensive public works projects.

The work is segmented into four sectors, namely Social, Infrastructure, Non-

State and the Environment and Culture sector. The department of Environmental Affairs is designated to lead the Environment and Culture sector.

The Environment and Culture Sector (E&C)'s contribution to the EPWP involves employing people to work on projects to improve their local environment through programme spearheaded by

various departments. The sector builds South Africa's natural and cultural heritage, and in doing so, dynamically uses this heritage to create both medium and long term work and social benefits.

• **Phase 1:** Through a dedicated branch of the Department of Public Works (DPW), the first phase of the EPWP was launched in 2004, accompanied by a five

year plan which included the target of creating 1 million work opportunities (Malebye 2009: xiii). Phase 1's objective was to alleviate unemployment for 1 million citizens, of which 40% would be women, 30% youth and 2% disabled people by 2009. The Environment and Culture Sector contributed 488 254 of the to-

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**Over
1 million
jobs
created**



**The Hamburg
Aquaculture
Project**
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Celebrating 15 years of EPWP

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tal work opportunities created by the programme.

• **Phase 2:** The second phase was announced in the 2008 State of Nation Address and implemented from 2009 to 2014. Phase II's objective was to create 2 million Full Time Equivalent (FTE) or 4.5 million work opportunities for poor and unemployed people, in order to contribute to halving unemployment by 2014, through delivering community and public services. During the first two phases in the decade between 2004 and 2014, government had allocated R163 billion on the EPWP (McCutcheon and Taylor-Parkins 2016:69). The Environment and Culture Sector contributed 817 588 817 588 of the total work opportunities and 235 388 of the Fulltime equivalents jobs created by the programme.

• **Phase 3:** The third, current phase was launched in 2015 and will conclude in the 2018/19 financial year. The third phase's objectives are to provide income support and work opportunities to unemployed and poor people, through delivering labour-intensive community and public assets and services (McCutcheon and Taylor-Parkins 2016:72-73). The Environment and Culture Sector contributed 891 498 of the total work opportunities and 297 588 of the Fulltime equivalents jobs created by the programme.

The end of Phase 3 in March 2019, will mark 15 years of the existence of the EPWP.

The key aim of the Environment and Culture Sector in EPWP is to build and protect South Africa's natural resources and



cultural heritage, and in doing so, dynamically use this preservation work to create both medium-term work and social benefits.

The objectives of the Environment and Culture Sector are as follows:

- Creating jobs and providing training and through these jobs facilitating long-term employment;
- Linking the marginalized people with opportunities and resources to enable their participation in the developed "main stream economy";
- Integrating sustainable rural development and urban renewal;
- Creating land-based livelihoods;
- Promoting community-based natural resource management;
- Developing the natural resources and cultural heritage;
- Rehabilitation of natural resources and protection of biodiversity; and
- Promoting tourism.

Key Environment and Culture flagship programmes include the following:

- Sustainable Land-based Livi-

hoods;

- Waste Management;
- Tourism and Creative Industries;
- Parks and Beautification;
- Coastal Management; and
- Sustainable Energy.

The contributing Sector Departments are:

- Department Environmental Affairs (Overall Sector Lead);
- Department of Water Affairs;
- Department of Tourism;
- Department of Mineral Resources;
- Department of Energy;
- Department of Arts and Culture;
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries;
- Provincial Departments with the same mandate as National Departments listed above and

Municipal units with the following mandates:

- Environmental Management units;
- Sport & Recreation units;
- Waste Management units;
- Tourism and Heritage Management units; and
- Arts and Culture units.



One of the staff members at the aquaculture farm.

KAROO CATCH

Karoo Catch is a freshwater catfish aquaculture farm situated in Graaf Reinett in the Eastern Cape. The primary aim of the project is to create sustainable self-employment of rural women and facilitate economic growth. This will be achieved through the establishment of aquaculture clusters, each consisting of a central management farm and a network of satellite farming systems. The project received funding from the department of agriculture, forestry & fisheries for R10m through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) to construct an aquaculture production system with a production capacity of 20 tons per month in 2012.

Following 10 years of research, development and piloting, the current intervention focuses on the establishment of a commercially viable business unit (incubator). To date the project has grown to commercialisation phase with 102 full-time employees from the local community. It has com-

pleted the building of three new tunnels, bringing the total production capacity to 120 tons per month; new farm and hatchery management were appointed and the construction of a large processing factory on site will be completed in January 2019.

Karoo Catch has developed a range of consumer products which are nutritious fish-based products for everyday consumption. These include "fish wors", "braai wors" and "fish burgers" made from catfish mince (clarias).

The farm is a registered Aquaculture Operation Phakisa project, under the Operation Phakisa Ocean's Economy programme. Launched in 2014, Operation Phakisa is a results-driven approach to development, involving various sectors such as business, labour, academia, civil society and government.

Two of the current Karoo Catch beneficiaries are Caroline Le Wack and Elize Minnaar.

HAMBURG AQUACULTURE PROJECT (DUSKY KOB AND OYSTERS)

The Hamburg Kob pilot project is driven by the department of agriculture, forestry & fisheries (DAFF) and is owned by the Siyazama Co-operative, who employs 20 people from the Hamburg community in the Eastern Cape.

The department has identified a number of aquaculture projects that aim to empower coastal communities through the transfer of technology, skills development and job creation. The DAFF decided to lead the industry on kob farming in order to share the risks associated with developing this fairly new type of farming in SA. A dusky kob pilot project on the site has the capacity to produce 20 tons of kob per annum in the pilot phase.

The Hamburg Aquaculture project has received continued funding and has been priori-

tised by Operation Phakisa and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The project is supported by other key policies such as New Growth Path, Industrial Poli-



cy Action Plan, Agriculture Policy Action Plan, Comprehensive Rural Development Plan and the National Development Plan. The workers received training programmes on occupational health and



safety, life skills, HIV/Aids awareness and first aid. The project was funded through the EPWP and approved by DAFF Working for Fisheries Programme (WFFP).

Profile on Thembekazi Paliso

Thembekazi Paliso (29), was born in Port Elizabeth and grew up in East London, where her grandmother raised her. She never knew her parents and still lives with her 95-year-old grandmother and her two daughters.

Paliso is a general worker at the Hamburg kob farm. Her duties include sampling the water; feeding the fish; checking water quality and harvesting of fish. She has been work-

ing at Hamburg for eight years and this is her first skilled job.

Her training and professional development include first aid training; basic computer skills; health and safety; and basic business skills, and she has just received her learners driving license. Paliso also went to China for training in aquaculture, which was a great experience. This job has profoundly made her proud to be able to support her children and grandmother.

She is an active member of the Hamburg community policing forum. She is the president of the Hamburg youth at church; and choir-master and sports manager of the local netball club.



DEA takes the lead in job creation

By **Madimetja Mogotlane**

The Department of Environmental Affairs has intensified its stance to create more jobs for the youth of our country through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which will offer the youth jobs opportunities through the establishment of the e-co furniture factory in Ga-Rankuwa Industrial.

It was reported during the department's budget speech for the 2015/16 financial year to Parliament in May that the department is on course towards the commitment made by the ANC in its manifesto to create 5 million job opportunities. In the 2014/2015 financial year, 69,158 work opportunities were created through the department's EPWP Environmental Programmes. One such project is the Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture programme Factory that DEA launched in 2014 jointly with the former Executive Mayor of Tshwane, Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa.

The Eco-Furniture programme is part of the Department of Environmental Affairs. The programme was started 10 years ago as an Eco-coffin programme with the support of the department of Education. So far the project has seen 226 full time jobs been created to the previously unemployed youth and the department has promised that more jobs are expected to be created.

It was expected that over 3 000 jobs will be created

An eco-factory project has been a life-line for the youth and local communities



Workers prepare the wood from a blue gum tree to be cut to cants and further processed into planks.

through the programme, across the country. Currently 226 full-time jobs opportunities have been created for previously unemployed people here at the Ga-Rankuwa factory, mainly from the City of Tshwane's Tshepo 10 000 programme. The programme is expected to create 900 EPWP jobs opportunities in Ga-Rankuwa, once the factory is fully operational. The Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture programme factory is also a credit to the City of Tshwane. It has developed an industry around the clearing of invasive biomass, converting the trees into usable material and manufacturing an assortment of furniture products and the programme would assist local schools with infrastructure resources.

The factory is currently capacitated to produce 200 school desks per day. This will be geared up to 400 double-combination desks per day. In

addition, DEA is looking at the manufacture of other products such as coffins, garden benches, chess tables, walking sticks and cement-fibre boards. The expansion of the Eco-furniture programme is being considered and may include furniture that Government can use for its own purposes. The expansion is going to go to building materials. One of the most exciting opportunities is the potential of converting shacks to long-term green houses, using a cement-fibre board that has remarkable properties for fire-resistance, thermal comfort, security, noise abatement and other benefits for our poor.

Supporting the department's effort to create employment the City of Tshwane, also released a statement that the programme is another initiative by the city to combat unemployment among the youth in the city.



The planks are being smoothed around the edges using the edge sander.



From left Tumisang Mokonyane, Betty Molapo and Katlego Nkotsoe say joining the Eco-Furniture Factory has changed their lives.



Beneficiaries also use the desks for various training sessions.

"As the City of Tshwane, we are also delighted to see the progress of this project with the achievement you have reached so far. As you meet the demands, there would be additional demands coming and we will be able to attract other participants in this project as we will be able to build a critical mass of the youth who are able to resolve unemployment challenges in this country. Few people know about this project, except the testimony of your work that is seen at different schools that you have assisted. Through this project I have committed to work together with the Department of Environmental Affairs to ensure that we build 10 houses using this kind of material".

Lauding the DEA for the establishment of the factory, one of the beneficiaries, Ms Bontle Moatli from Tshepo 10 000 thanked the department for being a trendsetter when it

comes to job creation.

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

Moatli was further grateful with how the launch of the project changed her livelihood since she joined the factory last year.

"Coming from humble beginnings, I have been applying for different jobs with many companies without any positive feedback, so the establishment of the Ga-Rankuwa e-co furniture came at the right time for me as it changed my life for the better. It has been a great working experience being part of this project". She said.



EPIP infrastructure project builds communities

By **Nomvuyo Mlotshwa**

DEA through the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes, has funded an infrastructure development project in

Kgaswane Mountain Reserve in the North West province.

The reserve is near the mining town of Rustenburg, the economic hub of the North West province through mining. The DEA's approach to

sustainable development hinging on conservation and tourism is having an impact on the local economy. The project included the much-needed staff accommodation, seven chalets, three cottages, con-



Top: Rehabilitation of chalets at the Kgaswane Mountain Reserve.

Left: A renovated and fully furnished cottage at the reserve.

struction of conference centre, paving, removal of alien vegetation, erection of fence and clearing of bushes along the roads.

Over the period of three years, 230 jobs were created with particular bias towards women (49%), youth (81%) and persons with disabilities (2%). Tebogo Khule (42), a father of three, is a participant in the project. "I was unemployed,

but through this project I now have a learner's licence. I am able to pay school fees for my kids and buy groceries." Participants were trained on different accredited skills programmes. Another participant, Bhesiwe Mthwecu, said: "I have learnt work ethics and nature conservation. I now know how to maintain problematic plants and how to prevent soil erosion."

Visitor and staff accommodation being the essential part of conservation have assisted the provincial North West Parks and Tourism Board as they had challenges with the dwindling visitor numbers and the general management of the reserve.

The project's economic value was appreciated by the municipality and local businesses as everything was procured locally. These range from procurement of protective clothing, transportation of participants, construction materials and catering.

Environmental Prog

The Environmental Programmes (EP), within the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), is responsible for identifying and ensuring implementation of programmes that employ Expanded Public Works Programmes (EPWP) principles to address unemployment in line with the “decent employment through inclusive economic growth” outcome, by working with communities to identify local opportunities that will benefit them.

The main goal is to alleviate poverty and uplift households, especially those headed by women through job creation, skills development, and SMMEs while contributing to the achievement of the departmental mandate. Some of these programmes are:

Working for Water:

The programme aims to improve the integrity of natural resources by preventing the introduction of new invasive species; and, management of the impact of established invasive alien species.

These are achieved through integrated prevention and control methods, and supported by the use of incentives, disincentives, advocacy and research.

Mpae Edith Matsepe (28), from Tafelkop in Limpopo, joined Project Lower Olifant as a herbicide applicator in September 2010.

“My induction training covered everything about the job and the programme. It taught me about the invasive alien plant and how to control them.

“I thank Working for Water for enabling me to support my family financially. I am able to take care of my two children and do many things for my family. I have also used my salary to pay for a drivers’ license.



Naledi Lekuleni

Working on Fire:

The programme aims to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, livelihoods, ecosystem services and natural processes through integrated fire management. It pro-



President Cyril Ramaphosa with late Minister of Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa talk to exhibitors during the launch of Operation Phakisa: Biodiversity Economy in Ha-Matsila Village in the Vhembe District two months ago.

vides services to: fire protection associations, land-management and jurisdictional agencies.

Naledi Lekuleni from Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, said: “I am a 27-year-old veld and forest firefighter within the Working on Fire (WoF) programme based in Mpumalanga. I joined WoF in 2013 after my dreams of pursuing a career in Social Work failed due to financial constraints. I have since saved up money to build my mother a house and also plan on saving up more, to register for a short course in a health & safety-related field.”

Working for Wetlands:

The programme seeks to protect, rehabilitate and enhance the sustainable use of SA’s wetlands.

Cynthia Mashele (32) from Giyani in Limpopo is a safety representative at the Colbyn wetland project. She has been with the programme since 2014.

“This programme has helped me to put food on the table for my two children after being unemployed for a long time. It has completely changed my life,” she said.



Cynthia Mashele

“We handle bricks, cement and concrete on a daily basis and we are mostly women.”

Working for Ecosystems:

The programme aims to restore the composition, structure and function of degraded land, thereby enhancing ecosystem functioning, such as carbon sequestration, water regulation and purification.

Biodiversity Economy:

The Biodiversity Economy (former Wildlife Economy) in SA is centred on the sustainable utilisation of indigenous biological resources including biodiversity-derived products for trade and bio-prospecting, the hunting industry, agriculture and agro processing of indigenous crops and vegetables; livestock breeds; indigenous marine resources and fisheries.

Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being.

Sustainable use of SA’s natural resources, though biased, contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth. Harvesting indigenous biological resources is a significant source of income for communities.

Working for Forests:

The programme promotes the conversion of invading alien plant stands, and degraded Category B and C state forests, into usable resources for meeting basic community needs as well as sustainable forestry land-use practices.

The programme also promotes the conservation of indigenous forests, and the sustainable use of the resources

and ecosystem services provided by these forests.

Working on Waste:

The programme main objectives are to create and support mechanisms for the protection of the environment and create sustainable livelihoods through recycling of waste. It also supports the use of environmentally friendly waste disposal technology and promote environmental education and awareness.

Finding wealth in Waste

In its 20 years of environmental protection and conservation, the DEA has also created and sustained projects benefit the citizens of SA. It is committed to improving socio-economic benefits within the environmental sector by creating 65,494 work opportunities for women, youth and people living with disabilities.

In 2014, the programmes created over 4,000 jobs across eight provinces of SA. For R3,080 a month, beneficiaries are able to improve their quality of life while getting necessary skills for waste management activities.

Working for the Coast:

The programme’s main objectives are the rehabilitation of the coastal environment; cleaning up of the coastline in general and the beaches in particular; upgrading and maintaining facilities and infrastructure along the coast.

Phindiwe Mlungu (35) says her life changed for the better when she joined DEA’s Working for the Coast Project, which operates between Silverstream and Houtbay in the Western Cape.

“I grew up in Umtata in the

Eastern Cape. My family relocated to the Du Noon informal settlement in Cape Town. We struggled as my father was unable to provide for his family as the sole breadwinner.

“I went to my local municipality to add my details onto the database for unemployed people. I was later called for an induction. I’m living my dream at the moment, because I still have my job which provides me with some form of stability for almost 24 months. It has changed my life.”

Youth Environmental Services (YES)

The Youth Environmental Services programme was launched in Tembisa in September 2013, with various youths from different provinces across the country. YES is one of the ways in which the DEA addresses SA’s youth unemployment challenge.

Lehlolonolo Sedite, who is part of the Gauteng group under the initiative City Year, said since he started his service he has improved his communication skills and is able to lead the youth in his community.

The youth environmental service brings about solutions to



Phindiwe Mlungu

grammes

environmental problems such as erosion; waste; deforestation; biodiversity management; education and awareness.

Lorraine Langa (22), who did her service as a nature guide under the Waterberg (Limpopo) group said: "As

well as serving the environment, I am empowering myself with skills for when I pursue jobs elsewhere in the environmental sector. It was frustrating being at home with a matric certificate, so now I am being an asset to the community and environment."

Changing lives through EPWP

By **Salome Tsoka, Benedict Mlaba and Siziphiwe Maxengana**

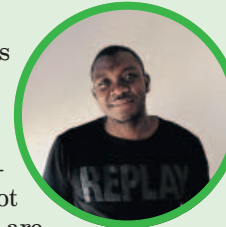
We spoke to South Africans around EPWP to find out if the programme has met its objectives of alleviating poverty.

Chulumanco Myataza



With an unemployment rate of 26.7% SA has about 14-million citizens who are unemployed. This makes it extremely difficult for government to alleviate poverty, thus the EPWP provides much-needed relief by creating avenues for labour absorption and income transfer to households that live below the poverty line for a short-term to medium-term. However, the programme is unsustainable, because it provides temporary employment with no guarantee of permanent employment. For non-skilled workers, once their time period ends, it is back to square one. It would help if the programme provided them with accredited training that will allow them to either start their own businesses or gain much needed skills in the job market.

Tumelo Maile



The EPWP does not quite alleviate the poverty situation in the country because these programmes are not permanent but are rather contract-based. 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 fundamental. If the programmes offered permanent contracts, those people would probably even qualify for houses or to build themselves houses instead of waiting on the government to provide RDP housing.

Mukhethwa Ntsieni

Holistically, I think that the EPWP programmes do alleviate poverty in SA because they assist most people with employment. I think more than 30,000 people have been employed

through these programmes. I believe these programmes not only give people opportunities to alleviate poverty and put food on the table, they also give them an opportunity to save the environment by working on programmes 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.



Thabo Kgoadi



I think EPWP programmes help alleviate poverty in the country because there are a lot of unemployed people in the townships. 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.

Salome Moss



Yes, they do alleviate poverty. A lot of the beneficiaries would be sitting at home doing nothing, but these programmes give them work. Most of the people employed by these programmes don't have matric and I think that these programmes open doors and opportunities for them.

Dikeledi Ngoepe



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. I just wish the programmes gave longer job terms so that poverty in the country would be completely alleviated.

EPIP Beneficiary Testimonials

Trainees from the Pyramid Beauty School studying towards their Further Education and Training Certificate in Beauty and Nail Technology NQF 4 share their experiences and dreams

Bonelela Fikizolo, 35, Cape Town



I started with this programme in February 2018 because I was passionate about all things related to beauty. I think my passion started from a very young age because I have also worked in beauty salons. The beauty industry is quite lucrative, and for us men being in this industry, most people think that you're a gay guy. But now, I'm glad that my being here is going to show other guys that they are also needed here just like women are also needed in the mines.

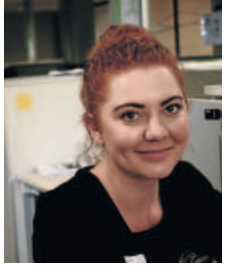
Ursula Mainga, 23, Ennerdale



Upon handing in my details, I was put on a database. I was one of the candidates who made it through. For me being here, it's really awesome. It's a huge opportunity for someone like me

and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for me when I'm done with this programme.

Maryke van der Merwe, 18, Johannesburg



I joined the programme because I want to improve on people's lives even though I'm just massaging them or giving them a substance to look after their skin. I just want to help people. In the next five years, I want to work overseas or own my own salon.

Boitumelo Cindi, 19, Soweto



I found out about the opportunity and I decided to come and try it out because I really wanted a career in the beauty industry from grade 11. The whole programme has been hectic but I enjoy it because I am doing what I love. I want to open a spa because a lot of therapy comes from massages and I don't just want to be therapeutic on the outside but even on the inside.



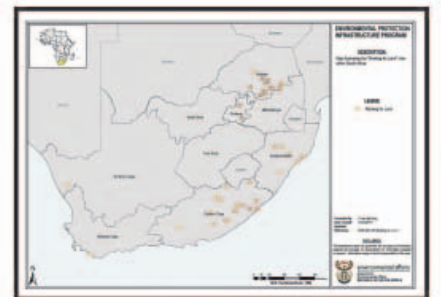
WORKING FOR LAND

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Working for Land programme is to restore and rehabilitate degraded land as well as the composition structure of the environment, leading to sustainable, performing ecosystems and increased land productivity.

CATEGORIES OF PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

- To restore and rehabilitate degraded land
- To encourage biodiversity conservation
- Curtailing of bush encroachment
- Mitigate loss of top soil
- Promote better land use practices
- Environmental education and awareness



Distribution map of projects

For more information visit: www.environment.gov.za | Call Centre: 086 111 2468



The future of clean energy starts in schools

Special programme that empowers communities to be self-sufficient

The Working for Energy (WfE) Programme is a clean energy initiative of the Department of Energy (DoE), incorporated under the Environment and Culture Sector of the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The Working for Energy projects are subjected to prescribed protocols in terms of job creation, skills development and environmental benefits through clean energy service delivery.

The objective of the programme is to provide sustainable clean energy solutions to rural and low income communities with special emphasis on job creation, skills development and community enterprise development.

The programme therefore gives preference to labour-intensive construction methods with the intent of creating employment, particularly among the youth, women, and people with disabilities.

Funding for the programme has mainly been from earmarked funds from government.

Up until the current EPWP phase, a number of projects have been implemented, with special emphasis on minimising energy poverty, improving the quality of life of the beneficiaries and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The other emerging benefit is the facilitation of food security through the energy, water food nexus approach.



Balloon Biogas system installed at the Sharpeville Primary and Tygerkloof High Schools with bio fertiliser produced.

Sharpeville Biogas project

Sharpeville, located south of Johannesburg in the Vaal, was chosen because of its historical place in the socio-politics of SA.

Poor schools were identified to benefit from the project.

The Sharpeville schools project comprises the upgrading of all the lighting to high-efficiency LED, installation of solar water heaters, cool surfaced to reduce the indoor ambient temperature without electricity, installation of biogas digesters and the promotion of the use of bio-fertiliser to support sustainable food gardens.

The biogas project produces biogas from food and animal waste mixed with waste water produced by the school food kitchen to produce biogas.

The biogas is used to offset the use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for cooking in the

schools soup kitchens. The biogas production process also produced bio-fertiliser that is used in the schools' food gardens to sustain food security.

Schools have been encouraged to sell the excess bio-fertiliser to operators of community food gardens as part of the extension of the sustainable development.

This project, in conjunction with interventions installed earlier, help to reduce the carbon footprint of the school, reduces the operation costs of the schools which have been struggling with the upkeep of utility service.

The projects also assist to introduce the options and use of cleaner energy technologies to the scholars as the next generation of energy users of the future.

Training has also been provided to the staff and management of the schools on the operation and use of biogas,

which also helps to popularise the application of clean technologies in the Sharpeville community.

A quick and clean alternative to wood burning in open flames has been provided, improving the health benefits of the users and their dependents; eliminates the need for firewood, improving their safety; produces bio-fertiliser which is used in the household gardens to enhance crop yield and ensure food security; reduces the energy cost associated with bringing in fuel wood and or LPG; improves the community and stakeholder perceptions and promote awareness about the use of alternative cleaner technologies – especially the waste to energy component; and helps to solidify the case for the energy sector with the advocacy for sustainable development, water-energy and food nexus and the circular economy.



Fully functional biogas system in Mpfuneko.

Mpfuneko Biogas project

The Mpfuneko Biogas project produced 55 units of 6m³ biogas digester systems (Comprising 53 households, one place of care, and one Early Childhood Development Centre) to assist the community with provision of clean biogas as an alternative to open fire and electric cooking systems. The systems are fed animal waste and water to produce biogas.

While there were job opportunities arising from the construction of the systems, there are also new opportunities for sustainable jobs to operate the systems into the future.

Greening of the Tygerkloof School project

The greening of the Tygerkloof project was officially launched by the minister of energy during the year and provides biogas (derived from anaerobic digestion of the kitchen waste and animal waste from the farms) to the school kitchen. The project provided purified water to the solar water geysers that provide hot water for all the school's dormitories. The school saves over R100,000 a year as a result.

Collaboration with universities and colleges

In execution of its Working for Energy (WfE) mandate, South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) also facilitates the broader skills development of



Biogas systems have been installed at the Fort Cox College

the academic community through investment in and partnership with universities and colleges of agriculture.

Two biogas systems have been installed at the Fort Cox College of Agriculture, one at the University of Fort Hare and a number in the Melani village and surrounding areas to enable the training of stu-

dents in the biogas sector.

Greening of selected Early Childhood Development Centres

Through its partnership with the National Development Agency (NDA), SANEDI through its Working for Energy Programme embarked on a greening project for a number of ECDCs in Kudube Village



During the handover of the Greening Technology at Masisizane ECDC in KZN

Sharpeville has a historical place in SA's socio-politics

in Gauteng, Mhinga and Mpfuneko villages in Limpopo, Kwa Maphumulo, Kwa Ximba villages in KwaZulu-Natal, Melani village in the Eastern Cape, Mpfuneko using clean energy technologies and practices.

The programme seeks to

use available technologies and develop local skills to harness available renewable energy resources to produce useable energy forms and reduces energy consumption for the benefit of low income communities.

These interventions have significantly enhanced the center's ability to operate efficiently and optimally.

Conclusion

The potential for the Work for Energy Programme towards Environment and Culture Sector is enormous and yet under-realized. With the integration envisaged in Phase IV of the EPWP, it is expected that the contribution of the DoE and its related state-owned enterprises towards the broader EPWP targets will be more pronounced.

EPWP injects R12m into revitalising Pietermaritzburg's Alexandra Park



Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson and Mayor, Councillor Njilo during the tour of the Peter Taylor Rockery at Alexandra Park.

By **Gaopalelwe Moroane**

The Environmental Protection & Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP) Greening and Open Space Management directorate has once again breathed life into another community by revitalising a park and making it safer and more pleasant for the Pietermaritzburg community to use.

The latest project, worth R12m, is Alexandra Park that was launched in Pietermaritzburg.

Speaking during the launch, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Barbara

Thomson urged the residents to look after the park and not allow vandals and people who use drugs to destroy it.

"I want to come back here in a few years and find this park, which has become a jewel for

uMsunduzi Municipality, still this beautiful."

A total of 115 job opportunities were created for Pietermaritzburg residents from this project, 57 of them women, 74 youth and 2 people with



Barbara Thomson and Mayor Themba Njilo officially open the revitalised Alexandra Park.



A total of 115 work opportunities were created from this project for Pietermaritzburg residents.

disabilities. Mayor of the uMsunduzi, Themba Njilo, said: "It's a great job that you have done taking care of our park this way and I urge you to use the skills you have gained as beneficiaries in our communities and be entrepreneurial with them."

Implementer, Tito Ndlovu from Qhawe Investments took Thomson and Njilo on a tour of the park to show them how the revitalisation of the park will be of benefit to the community of Pietermaritzburg.

Some of the features of the revitalised park include the Percy Taylor Rockery, which is a beautiful site with an amphitheatre which is set to attract drama theatre productions as well as pergolas and a wide range of plants and flowers plants.

The Children's Park features state-of-the-art equipment that will ensure that children can play safely and in a secure area.



EPIP Provincial Project Manager, Salome Meso.

Breaking barriers

When Salome Meso joined the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP) as a young, dynamic provincial project manager six years ago, she had to change a lot of stereotypes about the role of a woman in the workplace, particularly in Mpumalanga.

Meso explained that she worked in rural areas where most leadership roles are for males and a woman's place is with the children or lower on the hierarchy of employment.

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

It did not help that Meso was a Tswana-speaking woman from Ga-Habedi in North West.

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

At work, she does not tolerate inefficiencies and ineffectiveness among project participants and even from herself.

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

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

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

Her projects last between six and 24 months.



EPWP coastal management project: A life-line for locals

Background

Eland's Bay is one of the most beautiful towns along the West Coast. The Baboon Point Mountain, the sea with its long stretch of beach, the Verlorenvlei Estuary, and most importantly the wonderful people of Eland's Bay, is what makes it such a wonderful and beautiful town.

Eland's Bay is a small fishing town within the Cederberg Municipality area of the West Coast District Municipality. It is classified as one of the poorest towns in the Cederberg Municipality's area, as a result of a low number of available job opportunities. The majority of the town's population rely on fishing resources, but as these resources dwindle, their chance of income and supporting their families decline. Furthermore there are no new development projects in the area.

Team composition

The West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) received the Environmental Protection & Infrastructure Programmes (EPWP) grant funds to start a coastal management project and contribute to job creation. In total 10 participants have been employed for this project, five from Eland's Bay and five

from Papendorp, from July 1 2017 to June 30 2018. During the last few months of the project the team was made up of six women and four men with a total of 70% youth.

Socio economics

The WCDM spend R200,000 of its total EPWP budget on 85% of the EPWP EAC Coastal Management Project participants' salaries. About 10 households have benefited.

Operational activities

The WCDM EPWP Alien Clearing: Verlorenvlei project is a great opportunity for the people to work outside in the beautiful setting of the Verlorenvlei and Olifants Estuaries and surrounding coastal environments. The team's biggest responsibilities are to clear the reeds; cut reeds with sickles and pangas at the Eland's Bay bridge, Redelinhuis bridge and Grootdrif farm crossing; spraying the reeds through the use of herbicide; clearing of all alien trees and plants along the Verlorenvlei and within the Eland's Bay area; cutting of invasive alien plant species in and around Eland's Bay; and treating inva-

sive alien plant species with herbicide after it is cut down.

The EPWP coastal teams based at Eland's Bay and Papendorp also do other tasks such as:

- Giving support to DAFF with the Red Tide through the monitoring of the algal blooms, picking up and counting the washed-out crayfish, putting back the crayfish that survived, and any other tasks.
- Picking up rubbish along the Verlorenvlei wetland and estuary.
- Cleaning of the beach
- Picking up rubbish within the Eland's Bay, Strandfontein, Papendorp, Doring Bay towns.
- Planting trees in the town and caring for the trees.
- Providing support to the Cederberg and Matzikama municipalities with their environmental tasks within the municipal towns.
- Planting poles at the parking area and entrances to the beach
- Planting boards containing legislation with regards to illegal driving on the beaches.
- Planting grass in the local playground for the children of the community.

- Helping the Engelbrecht and Doring Bay Primary Schools with painting, cutting trees down, planting trees, construction and maintenance.
- Cleaning a heritage site, Busman caves at Baboon Point, and putting up poles and fixing cables.

Social days

This year, 2018, the team was involved with two clean-up operations. The first was in July with the Engelbrecht and Ebedaght primary schools. The second clean-up was on September 15th, when the International Coastal Clean-up took place with the department of agriculture, forestry & fisheries, Cape Nature, and the Engelbrecht and Doring Bay primary schools. Madiba day on July 18 was marked with a clean-up within the coastal towns, and fixing up of the play park for the children.

Lessons learnt

The team has learnt that every bit they do is important and makes a difference in the communities and in each of the participants' own lives. The project is a good initiative within the two coastal towns and gives the people of these towns hope for future work opportunities and a better environment.

An oasis that keeps the province's trees standing tall

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) received the incentive grant R284 million from the department of public works. The money has been channelled to seven state nurseries, namely Rusplaas (Limpopo), Kleutjieskraal (Western Cape), Uppington (Northern Cape), Qwaqwa (Free State), Ulundi (KwaZulu-Natal) and Mahikeng and Bloemhof (North West). A total of 98 people were employed as part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The contract is for the period of 10 months. The beneficiaries are recruited from the local areas where the projects are.

Ulundi Nursery is located in the Ulundi Local Municipality under the Zululand District Municipality. It was established in 1982 by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the then KwaZulu government with an aim of supplying trees to local schools, government institutions, traditional authorities and local rural poor communities and sell them to other stakeholders and local communities. Trees were sold to local communities for the beautification of their household and as windbreaks, and trees were supplied free to government institutions (schools,



Ulundi nursery plants seeds of the future

culture of tree planting is normally done during arbor events and as symbols of different culture, including remembrances and the honouring of certain events in historic areas.

This nursery produces 20,000 seedlings on annual basis which contributes about R30,000 to the department, sold to the community annually, and donates 50,000 trees to other government institutions and municipalities (such as low cost houses).

In 1996, when the forestry department moved over to the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry, it was suggested that all government nurseries be closed down. However, the Ulundi Nursery could not be closed due to the local tree demands.

Currently, Ulundi employees collect seed from the local indigenous forests and in other places where there is a source of seed. In addition, Ulundi nursery benefitted from the incentive grant from Department of Public Works (environment and culture sector) and 14 people are employed for the period of ten months.

This nursery further promotes food security to the local community particularly women in the area.

Through this Ulundi Nursery, one home, one garden is promoted where trees are planted together with the agricultural crop in the households.

The nursery has supported and accommodated a group of eight women and youth as well as disable youth who has established vegetable gardens.

However, it is appropriate, in this regard to reflect that the provincial DAFF has strategically placed its staff within the district municipalities, of which there is one forester based in the Zululand District Municipality.

This is the only nursery available in the province

clinics, government offices and official premises, traditional authorities, etc).

This nursery was established to promote planting of trees to individuals for fuel wood and building material through the establishment of woodlots and donga reclamation projects to stabilise the soil erosion. This is the only nursery available in the province. Although the nurs

ery generates income for the DAFF, this was not the main purpose of this nursery. Its main purpose was to support local communities on tree-related activities and promote tree-related initiatives.

The promotion of tree planting involves different institutions including prisons, schools, crèches and municipalities at different levels. This



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