

Environment Quarterly

Tikologo ka Kotara • Mupo nga Kotara • Kwartaalike omgewingsverslag

SA Agulhas II celebrates 1st year

Think. Eat. Save: Putting
food on Africa's table

**Groen Sebenza unlocks
green jobs for youngsters**

**BUDGET VOTE:
Environment & Economy meet**



environmental affairs

Department :
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2013

environment CALENDAR



January

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- 2 February: World Wetlands Day
- 23 March: World Meteorological Day
- 26 March: Earth Hour
- 22 April: Earth Day
- 11–12 May: World Migratory Bird Day
- 22 May: International Biodiversity Day
- 5 June: World Environment Day
- 8 June: World Oceans' Day

- 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification
- 24 June: Day of the Sea Farer
- 18 July: Nelson Mandela Day
- 1 Sept: National Harbour Day
- 16 Sept: International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 22 Sept: World Rhino Day
- 28 Sept: International Coastal Clean-up Day
- 7 October: World Habitat Day

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Editorial



Welcome to the first edition of Environment Quarterly, in the 2013/14 financial year. The first quarter of each cycle in government, brings with it Budget Vote season, as departments set out their plans for the year ahead, flowing from the national priorities outlined in the President's State of the Nation Address.

In this edition, we have the pleasure of presenting the priorities of the Department of Environmental Affairs, which were delivered by Minister Edna Molewa, in the National Assembly during the department's budget vote on 28 May 2013. As South Africa nears its 20th year as a democracy, the golden thread running through the department's budget vote, is the notion that caring for the environment and improving the livelihoods of citizens cannot be separated. Thus the budget vote speaks to the strides made by the department and its partners through various programmes in this regard, as well as how we plan to strengthen our interventions in the near future.

The budget vote highlights key areas which mark the confluence of environmental and economic issues, such as the Presidential Strategic Infrastructure Programme (SIPs); sustainable development and the green economy; climate change adaption and mitigation efforts; combating rhino poaching at home and in countries of destination; promoting sustainable hunting; and the contribution of the environment sector towards creating green job opportunities and skills, through the Expanded Public Works Programme. We hope the content of the Minister's plan for the department, invigorates heightened discussion and collaboration in the sector, and South Africans ensuring that the natural heritage of our country is in good hands and will be in a pristine condition for future generations.

Other highlights in this edition, include the first birthday of our research vessel, the SA Agulhas 2, which was dedicated in memory of the late South African songbird, Miriam Makeba, to much fanfare. The past year has seen the vessel travel to Antarctica, as well as the Gough, Prince Edward and Marion Islands to conduct scientific research and offer logistical support to the various stations. Still on marine and research issues, the edition reflects on the landmark Benguela Environmental Accord, signed by South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

Also included in this edition, is a look ahead to the annual Environment Month which we will mark with our entities and stakeholders in June, through an action packed calendar of events, showcasing environmental programmes in waste, job creation for unemployed youngsters and combating desertification amongst others. Last year, we showcased how you could join the green economy. This year, we ask you to "Think, Eat, Save".

Have you thought about the journey which your last morsel of food took, to arrive from the field to your table? Was it transported long distances, refrigerated along the way and packed in non-biodegradable wrapping? What will happen to your left-overs or the excess, unsold food from your local supermarket? This year's Environment Month campaign aims to turn the tide against food waste. By applying your mind and making responsible purchasing choices, you can make a huge impact in the food supply chain, which is particularly crucial in SubSaharan Africa. Our Environment Month preview article unpacks the environmental cost of food waste and why it is important to do all that we can minimise this.

You can look forward to all of these articles and more, including our regular Vox Pops, landmark environmental cases from the courts and a centre spread pull-out on the fight against rhino poaching.

The editorial team hopes that you learn from and enjoy the edition. We look forward to continuing to produce a publication that reflects our mandate and departmental values of being Pro-Active, Passionate, People-Centric, showing Integrity, and remaining a high Performance department. As always, remember to share the publication with your colleagues and recycle, or donate it to your local library or school, after reading. Do remember that we welcome contributions of articles, photography and artwork from all our readers in the environment sector. You may also contact us to regularly receive copies of our publication at your organisation, school or for events.

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June is Youth & Environment Month!

Did you know, the Department of Environmental Affairs empowers youngsters through the:

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

OBJECTIVES

- Practical skills that are needed in the environment and conservation sector
- High self esteem and a sense of self worth
- Learn a sense of responsibility and accountability through years of service
- A chance to enter the job market in the environment and conservation
- Skills required to set up their own businesses

KEY ELEMENTS OF YES

- Community service
- Learning and individual development
- Exit opportunities



environmental affairs

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Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION &
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME
CONTRIBUTING TO A NATION AT WORK

BUDGET VOTE SPEECH

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BY
THE MINISTER OF WATER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS,
MINISTER BEE MOLEWA



“We deliver the budget vote for the environment portfolio while also preparing ourselves for the end of term for the current administration. Next year’s elections will not only confirm our commitment to a democratic order, but they will happen in the year our democracy will be turning twenty.”



Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi, Minister Molewa, Environment Programmes DDG, Dr Guy Preston and Environmental Affairs' Director-General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba engaging the members of the media during the Budget Vote media briefing.



DEA's Zero Emission Car became the centre of attraction in parliament during the exhibition walk-about.

During the month of June we celebrate World Environment Day, a day that allows us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the work of our sector and how we are able to collaborate with other facets of our society.

We do that whilst also reminding ourselves of the centrality of people and economic development in the work we do – this is sustainable development.

The Basotho speaking people of our country tell us that “Noka e tlatswa ke dinokana” which means that the river is swelled by streams.

Our challenge as a nation in a developing state context is to find a healthy balance between economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. In pursuit of South Africa’s developmental pathway,

a shared vision and common goal of sustainability has emerged as a strong driver of industry values as well as societal behaviour.

Last year, the National Planning Commission finalised the National Development Plan, which was released as we look forward to celebrating the 20 year milestone of our democracy. This plan maps out the vision of the country for the 20 years ahead. As a department entrusted with the sustainable development programme of government, we must begin to creatively respond to aspects of the priority areas in the National Development Plan that deals with sustainable development.

Caring for the environment and improving the livelihoods of citizens cannot be separated, as we move ahead, which what sustainable development is all about.

The National Development Plan tells us that South Africa faces urgent developmental challenges in terms of poverty, unemployment and inequality, and will need to find ways to “decouple” the economy from the environment, to break the links between economic activity, environmental degradation and carbon-intensive energy consumption.

We recognise that South Africa’s rich environmental and natural resource endowment of productive land, clean and sufficient water, healthy air, rich mineral deposits, unique wildlife, beautiful landscapes, vibrant cities, towns, villages and cultures are very the foundation for our inclusive sustainable economic and social development, not only to benefit us today but also for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

Without a clean air we will be unable to breath. Without clean water there is

no life. Without the protection of plant and animal life, there is no tourism, no benefit to rural communities through the development of sustainable utilisation projects, and no jobs.



ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our ecological infrastructure is nature's equivalent of built infrastructure. It includes

our mountain catchments, wetlands and coastal dunes, and is increasingly being recognized for its importance to service delivery in both rural and urban contexts.

However, this has not always been the case, largely because the goods and services provided by ecological infrastructure have to date been freely available, and in relative abundance. Land degradation and climate change, however, are rapidly undermining the ability of South Africa's ecological infrastructure to support effective service delivery.

The escalating costs of maintaining built infrastructure in the face of increasing numbers of natural disasters such as floods and fires, as well as rising costs of delivering clean water to communities, suggests that the value of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure now urgently needs to be understood by those sectors facilitating the implementation of the New Development Plan for South Africa.

In support of this, SANBI is spearheading an innovative programme of work on ecological infrastructure that will unlock its benefits at a municipal level in the areas of water security and disaster risk management. Investment in our ability to manage our ecological infrastructure will secure and build natural capital in South Africa, and will provide a foundation for building climate resilient economies, while creating significant jobs.

One of the key programme interventions is to provide strategic information and decision support tools for streamlining decision making. SANBI will support effective decision making in the Presidential Strategic Integrated Projects or SIP's, using its already established Biodiversity Geographical Information System.

This decision support tool will be applied in the design of the Presidential Strategic Integrated Projects which has a large infrastructure focus. Colleagues, let us plan wisely for our future. We must invest in maintaining our ecological infrastructure to help us deliver socio-economic development and food security for all South Africans.

As we committed last year when we tabled our Budget Speech, we celebrated the International Day for Biodiversity by signing the Biodiversity and Mining Guidelines, which is an exciting part of this Biodiversity Geographical Information System. One capacity building workshop on the contents of the Guideline has been conducted so far. The roll out of the implications of the Guideline for all concerned will be effected through more capacity building workshops this year.

South Africa is surrounded by water -- the Atlantic, Indian and Southern Oceans. These resources are being over-exploited, impacting on the livelihoods of many coastal communities.

Our Green Paper on the policy for the National Environmental Management of the Oceans was submitted to Cabinet last year for approval to publish for public comment. At present we are working on the comments received and hope to present a White Paper on the matter back into the Cabinet process within the coming weeks.

The policy was generally well received with comments highlighting the need for Departments to work together in the management and sustainable use of the oceans environment the oceans have the potential to represent many new areas of investment and development.

I have had the honour to head the Ministerial segment of the Benguela Current Commission which culminated in the signing of the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) in March, in Benguela, Angola. The three countries making up the BCC – South Africa, Angola and Namibia – are committing to common regional goals, above national interests, to promote the long-term conservation,

protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

Noka e tlatswa ke dinokana

Working together we can do more for our environment.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's CoP18 Conference was held in Doha, Qatar late last year, securing the Durban legacy with an outcome that concluded the necessary provisions to give effect to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, including legal, operational, ambition and environmental integrity considerations.

The implication of these outcomes going forward for South Africa is our continued active and strategic engagement in the full implementation of the Durban and Doha decisions. Particular among these is to facilitate the implementation of urgent Climate Action Now as this process will inevitably inform the legal outcome being negotiated for the period beyond 2020.

This negotiation is focused on the further development and operationalisation of the Durban and Doha decisions in a manner that gives effect to the principles of the Convention, particularly common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as on-going more political issues such as equitable access to sustainable development, intellectual property rights and unilateral trade measures.

Key elements include institutional arrangements for finance and technology to enable meaningful mitigation and adaptation action by developing countries; pre-2020 mitigation ambition



by all developed countries; elaborating the concept of comparable effort of mitigation commitments by developed countries not participating in the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol; and operationalising the agreed transparency arrangements for mitigation by developed countries and developing countries.

Other CoP18 decisions included the completion of negotiations on a new legal outcome under the Convention by 2015, which is to come into effect from 2020. Careful analysis of the changing political landscape is needed to ensure that South Africa is well placed within a political alliance that would best serve our national interests. Due consideration of the impact that the broader Post-2015 Development Agenda process will have on the climate change process, as well as the prominent role that climate change will continue to play in all sustainable development debates, is also required.

The implementation of climate change response policy and our global commitment to Green House Gas emission mitigation is progressing well and we will finalise our emission reduction objectives and carbon budget approach for each sector to enable a transition to a low carbon economy.

The policy implementation actions and activities include the analysis of mitigation potential in key economic sectors as the basis for the establishment of Desired Emission Reduction Outcomes or what is called DEROs, and defining the optimal mix of measures for achieving those DEROs, with greatest benefit and least cost to the economy.

They also include developing a set of long term adaptation scenarios for key sectors, on the basis of a set of locally relevant climate scenarios that would inform an integrated approach to planning and implementation of South Africa's adaptation response. In addition, it requires developing a national monitoring and evaluation system that tracks South Africa's transition to lower carbon and climate resilient economy and society.

As the coordinating Department for the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy, we will host a National Climate Change Response Conference in November 2013 to showcase what is being done by all sectors of South African society to contribute to the country's transition to a lower carbon and climate change resilient economy and society.

The conference theme, through its theme of "South Africa is transitioning to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy and society", will provide a forum and space for show-casing by government, business, other stakeholder groups, and civil society of projects, plans and programs that exist, or are in the pipeline, and that are currently contributing, or may in future contribute to South Africa's process of transition.

Noka e tlatswa ke dinokana

Working together we can do more for our environment.

While there has been a delay in the development of a National Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Strategy to address key concerns and constraints within the current environmental impact management system, the process, involving all stakeholders including government, business and civil society, is well underway.

PRESIDENTIAL STRATEGIC INTEGRATED PROJECTS (SIPS)

In order to facilitate and support accelerated implementation of the sustainable development initiatives, particularly the Strategic Infrastructure Programme, a streamlined environmental authorisation process has been introduced and other tools, such as Environment Management Frameworks, are being developed to further accelerate authorisations while ensuring sound environmental impact management in line with sustainable development principles.

Over the coming three years, some 845 billion Rands has been budgeted for public infrastructure projects and the PICC, has been established to support the delivery of the projects. We are part of this PICC and we are expected to provide regular feedback in terms of the processing of applications related to the SIPS.

A number of projects have been identified through the review of environmental impact assessment. Among the projects listed are plans to develop and integrate rail, road and water infrastructure to not only unlock coal, platinum, palladium, chrome and other minerals in the northern parts of the country, but also plans to unlock the potential of the Eastern Cape and North West, renewable energy resources to beef up power transmission. All would be subjected to rigorous

feasibility assessments with only the most cost-effective projects pursued.

It is crucial that the Department is equipped with the necessary capacity

“South Africa is transitioning to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy and society”

to help manage timeframe compliance, avoid costly errors, eliminate frustrations associated with the review of these projects and eradicate obstacles breeding negative perception that our Environmental Impact Assessments are responsible for delays in infrastructure development.

We aim to provide an integrated, more streamlined process for major infrastructure projects throughout the assessment process. In line with this approach we are pro-actively engaging the respective Strategic Infrastructure Project Coordinators in order to provide support and guidance in terms the requisite EIA legislative requirements and the process.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN ECONOMY

In line with our commitments to the successful outcomes of the 2011 and 2012 Climate Change, Desertification, Biodiversity, Rio+20 Sustainable Development summit meetings where the international community firmly set sustainable development and a green economic growth path as an apex priority, we have prioritised South Africa's transition to a sustainable, job creating, low carbon and inclusive green economy.

The success of our efforts made thus far will be reflected in the 2012 South African Environmental Outlook Report to be published this year. Early indications are that while we have made progress towards sustainably managing our

environmental resources in the process of transitioning to a lower carbon green economy, many challenges remain.

JUNE is Environment Month



AT RETAIL LEVEL, LARGE
QUANTITIES OF FOOD ARE
WASTED DUE TO
QUALITY STANDARDS
THAT OVER-EMPHASIZE
APPEARANCE



The theme for this year's World Environment Month celebrations is: THINK.EAT.SAVE.

Think.Eat.Save is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your foodprint.

Take action & see how each of our decisions to reduce food waste will save money, minimise the environmental impact of food production & force food production processes to become more efficient.

Learn more at: www.environment.gov.za or call us on: 086 111 2468



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
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Minister Molewa and the Environmental Affairs Director-General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba trying their hands at chess during the exhibition walkabout (with the Deputy Minister observing the moves)

The environmental challenges experienced in different regions of the world represent not only a significant and historic challenge to our generation, but also an opportunity for change. Next month we will also launch the South Africa Green Economy Modelling Report at our meeting with various MECs responsible for environment.

The report, commissioned by UNEP at our request, will be a useful contribution to supporting the vision and leadership of South Africa in paving the way towards a green and inclusive economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication in South Africa.

We must ensure in all interventions we come up with and all the studies we conduct, we aligned ourselves with the National Development Plan's target for job creation that is set at 11 million jobs by 2030.

Our green economy interventions must support this roadmap to ensure that our programmes positively contribute to this target and centrally position our sector as a hub of job creation, whilst not deviating from our mandate of protecting the integrity of our environment. We recognize the significance of the green economy in creating decent green jobs, ensuring real sustainable economic growth and preventing environmental degradation.

The sustainable use of indigenous biological resources is fundamental to the development of South Africa's economy. The bioprospecting and the hunting industries are also integral to our contribution to sustainable development and green jobs in South Africa.

In the previous financial year the hunting industry contributed 6.2 billion Rands to the South African GDP. Recent estimates have placed the bio-prospecting industry's contribution to the GDP at 2.1 billion Rands, which, if combined, places the contribution of the direct utilisation of indigenous biological resources at 8.7 billion Rands.

We aim will embark on a dedicated programme to provide support to the hunting and bio-prospecting industries to promote South Africa as the destination of choice for hunting, and as one of the most resource rich countries to contribute to bio-prospecting.

Last year we promised a concerted effort to build human capital development in the biodiversity sector. Working with our biodiversity institute, SANBI we have partnered with about 33 organisations to lead a massive effort to create a cadre of 800 confident and competent people to work at all levels of government and in the private sector, through our programme Groen Sebenza.

This we see as an injection of skills into this dynamic sector as part of growing the green economy. We will launch this Programme officially next month as part of our response to the national youth month programme as well as our celebration of environment month.

We must challenge the notion that there necessarily is a trade-off to be made between faster economic growth and the conservation of our environment. The notion that there is conflict between economic development and environmental health must be challenged and debunked.

I propose rather that good environmental management coupled with integrated development planning will allow us to build a low carbon economy that supports resilient ecosystems and economies. Healthy intact ecosystems give us more options for responding to climate change, alleviating poverty and building a green economy.

We are committed to improve the socio-economic benefits within the environmental sector, by creating 65 494 work opportunities which will yield 34 019 Full Time Equivalents Jobs. The targeted designated groups are women, youth and people leaving with disabilities.

We have accessed a total amount of the Expanded Public Works Programme Incentive budget of 301 894 million Rands in the new financial year, which will boost the job creation objective of Government.

The jobs will not be created in isolation to the Department's mandate hence Working for Water, Working on Fire and the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme, through their various sub-programmes, will also deliver environmental outputs such as rehabilitating 105 wetlands, cleaning more than 2100 kilometres of coastline, planting trees, removing alien plants and rehabilitating thousands of hectares of land this year. The jobs created will be coupled with skills development where-in 184 263 accredited training person days will be achieved.

During this financial year, we aim to spend just over 1.1 billion Rands on the Working for Water, and Wetlands programmes, while Working on Fire will get R406 million.

The biggest budget allocations are again going towards Eastern Cape and SANParks projects. I should mention that the SANParks budget includes the funding for the eco-furniture factories. We're planning to create the equivalent of around 20 000 full time work opportunities.

As we prepare to celebrate Youth Month, I would like to announce that we are concerned about the growing number of unemployed young people. The stability of our democracy that turns 20 next year is intertwined to the ability of the country to create a conducive environment for young South Africans to be absorbed into active economic participation.

As part of our contribution as the environment sector towards addressing the challenges of youth unemployment

in the country, we have initiated two programmes which encourage better environmental management practices within our communities. The Youth Environmental Services Programme (YES) which will benefit 900 young people through two programmes. Honourable members, we will launch this programme next month as part of our celebration of Youth and Environment Month.

We will also, as we committed in our Speech last year, be launching the Youth Jobs in Waste Programme, in June as part of our celebration of our young people and the environment sector. We will host this launch which is part of the pilot phase in the Phithaditjhaba area in the Free State as well as in the North West. This project is expected to create 330 job opportunities in waste in the Free State and 326 youth in the North West. The project, once rolled out nationally, will provide 3 577 Youths with job opportunities in waste management.

Another Youth initiative is the introduction of Environmental Monitors to deal with the scourge of Rhino poaching nationally. Through the programme 1000 people will be employed to strengthen the fight against Rhino poaching.

South Africa is endowed with rich natural resources, but lacks measures and tools for effective transformation of its biological capital into goods and services for social and economic development. This shortcoming contributes to the current levels of poverty.

The discharge of the mandate of the department to realise the Constitutional right of protection of the environment and to ensure that the potential of economic growth in the sector is maximised, requires collaboration between and among all branches of the department of Environmental Affairs, and with various key stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

This cooperation and collaboration can be achieved through the development of a National Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy.

The scope of the National Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy is the use and commercialisation and trade of the biological diversity, and of the components of such biological diversity of South Africa.

The overall aim of the strategy is to provide

an implementation framework for a period of 10 years -commencing April 2014 - to achieve optimum economic benefits from the commercialisation of biodiversity in South Africa.

The development and subsequent implementation of the National Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy will be coordinated with key stakeholders, particularly the provinces and the respective national departments of Economic Development; Rural Development; Trade and Industry; Science and Technology; Tourism; Health; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and their associated relevant entities.

This will be achieved through the sustainable use of environmental assets to enhance socio-economic benefits and employment creation for present and future generations from a healthy environment. The values of the strategy will be drawn from the National Environmental Management Principles as provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 2007 and embedded in the national government priorities.

COMPLIANCE

To ensure compliance, there has been further expansion of the Green Scorpions' capacity at local authority level since the first protocol was signed with the Limpopo provincial government in February 2012. Since then most provinces have made progress in relation to signing these protocols with the relevant local authorities. To date 48 Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) have been designated in different local authorities across the country and it is anticipated that in the next few months this number will increase considerably following the various training initiatives that are being undertaken.

But, there will need to be focused efforts in Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and the Free State where implementation protocols have not yet been signed with any of the local authorities.

The National Waste Management Strategy continues to contribute to the creation of varied industries that are deliberately structured to deliver sustainable livelihoods. At present three District Municipalities in the Northern Cape, two in Gauteng and two in Mpumalanga are being assisted with the development of the Integrated Waste Management Plans to ensure that the planning around

provision and management of waste complies with the requirements of the Waste Act. The Department will assist a further five municipalities this year.

The Integration of Water Use Licence and Waste Licence for waste disposal facilities is an example of a successful integration of licences.

We will continue with the project of reducing the number of unlicensed waste disposal sites. In this financial year, the Department will finalise the norms and standards for remediation of contaminated land, storage of waste, flaring of landfill gas, and waste classification and management regulations.

All these tools will contribute in easing regulatory requirements



for our stakeholders and promote the implementation of the waste management hierarchy as required by the National Waste Management Strategy

MANAGEMENT OF OUR BIODIVERSITY

Honourable Members, this year the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act is 9 years old. We are marking the anniversary of NEMBA with an in-depth review of the objectives and provisions of the law, and whether its implementation at national, domestic and local government level manages to realise the objectives of the Act. In addition, further options will be considered during the review and amendment of the legislation, in particular the addition of a chapter on the sustainable utilisation of indigenous biological resources.

The aim of the legislative amendments is to intensify the biodiversity sustainable development policy of South Africa through coordination and strengthening of existing industries within the biodiversity sphere. In addition, the amendment of legislation seeks to ensure increased contribution of biodiversity economic development initiatives to the rural economy through creating new industries for sustainable livelihoods in the context of new entrants to the biodiversity economy.

The diversity of life we find in South Africa's natural heritage is as rich and wondrous as our many languages, cultures and people. Our expansive landscapes, and the species that we find in them, share the same ancient historic roots as every South African.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute recently presented me with the State of Biodiversity Report, called "Life". This publication encourages us to celebrate our abundant biodiversity and to appreciate the inherent value of this natural wealth, as well as the role it plays in supporting our nation's development goals.

This publication distils the key messages from the National Biodiversity Assessment of 2012. These include that wetlands are the most threatened of all South Africa's ecosystems; coastal and inshore ecosystems are more threatened than offshore ecosystems; biodiversity stewardship programmes are a major

success story – making a significant contribution to meeting protected area targets, at low cost to the state; and that of the over 2000 medicinal plant species, 656 are traded. Of these 56 are threatened.

In March this year, we were recently part of the 2 000 delegates from 178 countries at the 16th Conference of Parties of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Thailand.

It was there that South Africa successfully offered to host the 17th CoP in 2016. Planning towards the hosting of this important meeting will start this year and, more importantly, strategic engagements will take place to prepare for the CoP to ensure successful negotiations on matters relating to sustainable utilisation, including the adoption of a decision-making mechanism for trade in ivory and a potential proposal for trade in rhino horn.

As you may know, South Africa is the third most mega bio-diverse country in the world. Managing such diverse people, culture, landscape, biological resources and economy requires a fine balance.

In South Africa, Cycads are considered to be the most threatened taxonomic group with many species extinct in the wild, mainly due to human activities.

Rationalization of the fragmented legislation relating to protected areas is progressing at national level. The final aspect of the National Parks Act, 1976 has been repealed. The schedule of national parks is now published in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act,

2003. In addition, a review of the legislation relating to world heritage sites and marine protected areas has been initiated.

Management effectiveness of South Africa's state run protected areas is a concern. In 2010 a review of our management effectiveness, as measured using the internationally accepted Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool, revealed that our national parks management effectiveness averaged at 68%, while the average for all state run protected areas was 14% effective.

Provincial management authorities have reported successful interventions increasing the national average to 30% effective by the end of 2012, still way below target. The challenge remains filling vacant posts and inadequate operational budgets. The second national review of management effectiveness is scheduled for early 2014 in order to meet the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

We have over the years had a successful track record of rhino conservation. Ironically, the very success of our national conservation effort which has resulted in over 73% of the world's Rhino population being conserved in our country has, in turn, resulted in South Africa being targeted by international criminal Rhino poaching syndicates.

We are intensifying the collaborative law enforcement effort to combat this increasing scourge of poaching as well as international cooperation with recipient and transit countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and China. To date we have signed Memorandums of





Minister Molewa delivering her budget speech

Understanding with Vietnam and China and we aim sign similar agreements with Mozambique and other Asian countries.

Since signing the Memoranda of Understanding with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the PRC we have also finalised plans to extend the partnership to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Mozambique by the end of this year.

The reality of rhino poaching, particularly in the Kruger National Park (KNP), continues to be a major challenge for the country, especially when considering prevalent financial constraints. This situation is fuelled by a thriving black market trade in rhino horn.

For this reason, the fight against rhino poaching continues to receive attention from my department and its public entities such as SANParks. To this end, the current rhino poaching challenge in the country has been elevated to the National Joins Security Committee where a National Joins Operational Instruction Strategy has been forwarded to all security structures for immediate implementation.

Furthermore, an amount of 75 million Rands has been allocated to SANParks for the purpose of combating this on-going poaching in the period of 2013/14 to 2015/16.

I am convinced that working together with our national security agencies, we should be able to strengthen the borders of the country to counter the avalanche of rhino poaching incursions from neighbouring countries.

The scourge of rhino poaching cannot be dealt with, without considering the worldwide increase in trans-boundary wildlife crimes. It must be noted that at the CITES CoP in Bangkok in March 55 new listing proposals, including on sharks, manta rays, turtles and timber were adopted.

As you are aware, rhino poaching has continued to challenge our enforcement and conservation capabilities in the recent years. In this light, we have strengthened enforcement measures through partnership with the reported consumer countries and other range states on common areas of interest to intensify the fight against rhino poaching.

During the past year the various national consultations with stakeholders by the Rhino Issue Manager process on the issues of rhino conservation, safety and security and rhino economics were held with a draft report from the RIM process presented to the Cabinet in February,

Prior to our departure to the CITES CoP we launched an international discussion on the future of South Africa's rhino population, particularly the issue of legal trade in rhino horn, or not. Should

such a proposal be adopted and the Government opt to table a proposal to CITES for the legalisation of the rhino horn trade as means of addressing poaching,



Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi delivering her speech

South Africa will recommend that this happen under very strictly controlled conditions.

In 2012, the Department implemented revised norms and standards for the marking of rhinoceros horn and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes.

In addition, the National Environmental Management Laws First Amendment Bill that aimed at strengthening the regulatory and enforcement provisions to prevent abuse of the hunting permitting system is at an advanced stage in the

Parliamentary process.

Once promulgated, the Bill will make provision that a person who is involved in an illegal restricted activity, but who does not physically carry out the restricted activity can also be found guilty of an offence. Presently, professional hunters, hunting outfitters and trainers only register in individual provinces and if they are non-compliant in one province, they can apply to operate or continue to operate in another province. To address this loophole, the Bill compels the national registration of professional hunters, hunting outfitters and trainers involved in the hunting industry. In this way, action can be taken against those who facilitate the carrying out of illegal restricted activities by their clients.

The Bill further prescribes that all specimens in transit through the country must be accompanied by the necessary documentation. This important provision will assist in addressing the movement of illegal specimens.

Besides strengthening the regulatory and enforcement provisions in the hunting industry, the Bill also allows the Minister to limit the number of permits that can be issued in order to protect a species; and provides for an issuing authority to suspend, defer or refuse a permit.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in order to deal with the growing demand for a cleaner environment that will contribute not only to an improvement in the lives of our people through improved health, but also to increasing our economic growth, the Department's slogan of Working together we can do more is becoming more relevant

by the day. It is only through working together that we will achieve the ambitious goals set for the Department, and our country.

I would like to thank the Deputy Minister, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi, the boards and staff of the public entities under the department, the Director General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba and her team for the commitment they continue to show in the attainment of our strategic objectives.

I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Advocate Johnny de Lange and the committee members for their support, guidance and robust engagements

EAT, THINK & SAVE:

Putting food on Africa's table, sustainably

By Lavinia Engelbrecht

"It is the time of the year when we, as individuals, communities and countries, can re-examine our footprints on the environment, to give ourselves a sense of our impact on the global environment at large and more so on the lives of the future generations who would be depending on the environmental resources whose services we are enjoying today," said Chairperson of the African Union Commission Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, at the celebrations in Tunis, Tunisia.

On 3 March 2013, the African Union hosted the first joint celebration of Africa Environment Day and Wangari Maathai Day, with the aim of reviewing and critically analyzing the continent's activities in the realm of sustainable development.

The commemoration of Wangari Maathai Day, follows the decision of the AU's January 2012 Summit, to combine Africa Environment Day on March 3, with a commemorative day honouring the legacy of the late environmentalist, Nobel laureate and proponent of peace.

Hunger remains a basic need on the African continent, which countries struggle to meet for all of their citizens. This life-threatening challenge takes place in a global economy, where many developed and emerging countries, waste and destroy

tonnes of food each year. The theme for this year's World Environment Day to be marked on 5 June, is Think.Eat.Save, an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages citizens reduce our "food-print."

Following on last year's "Green Economy: Does it include you?" Environment Month campaign, this year's "Think Eat Save" campaign rallies the public to take action and witness the power of their collective decisions and buying power, in the food supply chain.

Through consistently purchasing food that is produced, packaged and distributed in an environmentally sustainable manner, the public can make a massive impact towards minimising the environmental impact of food production. Thus, by putting your money where your mouth is, so to speak, you can have a direct influence on

the market, which will force food production processes to become more efficient.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger.

The African continent continues to endure serious environmental and sustainable development challenges," said Dr Dlamini-Zuma. "The unfolding phenomena of climate change, biodiversity depletion, desertification, land degradation and irrational use of finite natural resources remain serious risks for Africa as they pose real impediments to her sustainable development efforts."



Above: Through consistently purchasing food that is produced, packaged and distributed in an environmentally sustainable manner, the public can make a massive impact towards minimising the environmental impact of food production.



Minister Molewa engages President Jacob Zuma and Dr. Dlamini-Zuma on climate change issues at the World Economic Forum side event at COP17 in 2011



About the contributor: Lavinia Engelbrecht

Lavinia Engelbrecht is the Director: Corporate Communication, and Editor-in-Chief of Environment Quarterly. Ms Engelbrecht is a seasoned government communicator, having served as writer, Chief Sub Editor and Communication Manager for national government departments and a parastatal. Ms Engelbrecht began her career in the mainstream media as a reporter, covering courts and crime, finances and diplomatic news amongst others.

Food Waste Facts

The impact of food waste is not just financial. Environmentally, food waste leads to wasteful use of chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides; more fuel used for transportation; and more rotting food, creating more methane – one of the most harmful greenhouse gases that contributes to climate change. Methane is 23 times more potent than CO₂ as a greenhouse gas. The vast amount of food going to landfills makes a significant contribution to global warming.

- Roughly one third of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year — approximately 1.3 billion tonnes — gets lost or wasted.
- Every year, consumers in rich countries waste almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes).
- The amount of food lost or wasted every year is equivalent to more than half of the world's annual cereals crop (2.3 billion tonnes in 2009/2010).
- Food loss and waste also amount to a major squandering of resources, including water, land, energy, labour and capital and needlessly produce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global warming and climate change.
- In developing countries food waste and losses occur mainly at early stages of the food value chain and can be traced back to financial, managerial and technical constraints in harvesting techniques as well as storage –and cooling facilities. Thus, a strengthening of the supply chain through the support farmers and investments in infrastructure, transportation, as well as in an expansion of the food –and packaging industry could help to reduce the amount of food loss and waste.
- In medium- and high-income countries food is wasted and lost mainly at later stages in the supply chain. Differing from the situation in developing countries, the behavior of consumers plays a huge part in industrialized countries. Moreover, the study identified a lacking coordination between actors in the supply chain as a contributing factor. Farmer-buyer agreements can be helpful to increase the level of coordination. Additionally, raising awareness among industries, retailers and consumers as well as finding beneficial use for save food that is presently thrown away are useful measures to decrease the amount of losses and waste.
- In the United States 30% of all food, worth US\$48.3 billion (€32.5 billion), is thrown away each year. It is estimated that about half of the water used to produce this food also goes to waste, since agriculture is the largest human use of water. (Jones, 2004 cited in Lundqvist et al., 2008)
- United Kingdom households waste an estimated 6.7 million tonnes of food every year, around one third of the 21.7 million tonnes purchased. This means that approximately 32% of all food purchased per year is not eaten. Most of this (5.9 million tonnes or 88%) is currently collected by local authorities. Most of the food waste (4.1 million tonnes or 61%) is avoidable and could have been eaten had it been better managed (WRAP, 2008; Knight and Davis, 2007).
- In the USA, organic waste is the second highest component of landfills, which are the largest source of methane emissions.

Sources: *Global Food Losses and Food Waste - FAO, 2011*

World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly to mark the opening of the 1972 Stockholm Conference. Celebrating World Environment Day is about the inspirational power of individual actions that collectively become an exponential force for positive change.

Given this enormous imbalance in lifestyles and the resultant devastating effects on the environment, this year's theme – Think.Eat.Save – encourages global citizens to become more aware of the environmental impact of their food choices and aims to empower informed decision making, at the grocery store, local market or restaurant table.

While the planet is struggling to provide us with enough resources to sustain its 7 billion people (growing to 9 billion by 2050), FAO estimates that a third of global food production is either wasted or lost. Food waste is an enormous drain on natural resources and a contributor to negative environmental impacts.

Sustainable environmental management key to African stability

According to Dr Dlamini-Zuma, sustainable environmental management is fundamental to the pursuit of food security, peace, security, and stability in Africa.

"A lot of the crises happening currently on the continent, be they droughts, armed conflicts, or other natural disasters, are exacerbated by environmental deterioration. To address the twin effects of climate change and desertification, Africa is bracing itself to devote undiluted attention to integrate sustainable environmental management into the mainstream development policies at both regional and national levels."

Dr Dlamini-Zuma remarked that the recent United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, commonly referred to as Rio+20, marked 20 years of global efforts to strike a balance between human development and environmental sustainability.

"It emphasized the need to ensure that human development is holistic, encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. One of concepts embraced and endorsed at the Rio+20 Summit was the 'green economy'. This development model has been designed to put the global economy on a sustainable path, in the process mitigating the impact of climate change, generating jobs and wealth, reducing poverty, and ensuring food security especially in developing countries."

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), if food is wasted, it means that all the resources and inputs used in the production of all the food are also lost. For example, it takes about 1,000 litres of water to produce 1 litre of milk and about 16,000 litres goes into a cow's food to make a hamburger. The resulting greenhouse gas emissions from the cows themselves, and throughout the food supply chain, all end up in vain when we waste food.

In fact, the global food production occupies 25% of all habitable land and is responsible for 70% of fresh water consumption, 80% of deforestation, and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is the largest single driver of biodiversity loss and land-use change.

Making informed decision therefore means, for example, that one purposefully selects foods that have less of an environmental impact, such as organic foods that do not use chemicals in the production process. Choosing to buy locally can also mean that foods are not flown halfway across the world and therefore limit emissions.

Buffalo City's R14, 2 million Eco Parks brought jobs to locals

By Veronica Mahlaba



ECO-PARKS: Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Cllr Zukiswa Ncitha, Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi and the local Councillor, Mr Sakhumzi Caga unveiling the eco-parks.



During the construction phase of the parks 186 local people worked full-time for duration of not less than 20 months.



The Department of Environmental Affairs funded the Eco-Parks project in Mdantsane and Duncan Village to a tune of R 14, 2 million over a period of two years

It was jubilation galore at Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in East London as people celebrated the construction of the R14, 2 million Mdantsane and Duncan Village Eco-Parks which created employment in the area. The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi and the Buffalo City Mayor, Cllr Zukiswa Ncitha officially opened the eco-parks on Friday, 19 April 2013.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, the Deputy Minister said the objective of creating the eco-parks was to facilitate open space management, enhance the physical character of an area, provide green infrastructure and ecosystem services as well as provide for children and young people's play and recreational needs.

Out of the 186 people who worked

during the construction phase of the parks, 61% of them were women, 46% were youth and 3% were people with disabilities.

"To this end we have facilitated various accredited programmes such as Plant Production, Horticulture, and Conservation Field Assistant as well Bricklaying & Plastering to ensure workers are trained," explained the Deputy Minister.

The labour intensive methods in line with the requirements of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) were used to execute the project. "This is in keeping with President Jacob Zuma's announcement in the State of the Nation Address for 2011, that all government departments, provincial and local government must align their programmes to promote job creation which is essential for economic growth,"

added the Deputy Minister.

Responding to the government's call to provide job creation and alleviate poverty in communities, the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City said the people trained and who were part of the construction of the Mdantsane and Duncan Village Eco-Parks will be retained by the municipality through its EPWP.

During the celebrations in Mdantsane she further appealed to the community to look after the eco-parks as if they were their own homes. "These areas were used for criminal activities and as dumping sites, you must collectively ensure the parks are clean so they can be of interest to people of other areas. The government has put a lot of money in this project and more will be done if the people of Buffalo City look after them," explained Mayor Ncitha.



About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

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

Throughout the construction phase of these eco-parks various non-accredited training interventions such as Occupational Health and Safety, First Aid, Environmental Awareness, Life Skills, Community Project Management as well as Business skills were also facilitated in addition to the accredited ones mentioned above.

Relating to the residents of Buffalo City, the Deputy Minister elaborated that the opening of these eco-parks came from a promise the national government made to the people of Eastern Cape. "Our celebrations today emanate from your request to our department through our former Minister, Buyelwa Sonjica wherein you asked for Eco-Parks in Mdantsane and Duncan Village. When we got that request from you about three years ago we knew that all you were asking for was a Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future."

Furthermore through the Environmental Protection & Infrastructure Programme (EPIP) which is aligned to the EPWP, the Department of Environmental Affairs has recently been engaging with the municipalities, relevant provincial departments and public entities throughout the country to invite them to submit proposals for projects that will help realise the Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future.

This programme is open to all project applications that support the mandate of the department, but specifically within the areas of Working on Waste, People & Parks, Greening & Open Space Management, Working for Land and Wildlife Economy. "We put a strong emphasis on job creation as some of you may have observed with the project we are launching today. As the Department of Environmental Affairs, we have put a lot of processes and programmes in place to ensure the realization of 'a better life for all', as envisaged by our icon, Tata Mandela, explained the Deputy Minister."

An excited youngster of Mdantsane, Mbulelo Mbana described the eco-parks as a nice hangout place which will help keep them away from the streets and getting involved in criminal activities. "I can just chill here with my boys, have a braai and enjoy our day in a clean environment and our parents don't have to worry about our safety," said Mbana







The Department of Environmental Affairs funded the Eco-Parks project in Mdantsane and Duncan Village to a tune R 14, 2 million over a period of two years.


PEOPLE AND PARKS FOCUS AREA

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Biodiversity conserved, protected and threats mitigated
- Fair access and equitable sharing of benefits from biological resource promoted
- Biological resources sustainability utilised and regulated
- Improved socio-economic benefits within the environmental sector











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Department
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME

CONTRIBUTING TO A NATION AT WORK



SA, Namibia & Angola sign landmark Benguela Current Convention



By Zolile Nqayi

Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa, was among a large group of ministers and high-level government officials from South Africa, Namibia and Angola who met in the Angolan city of Benguela in March to sign a groundbreaking environmental treaty

The Benguela Current Convention is a formal agreement between the governments of the three southern African countries to cooperate on the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME). The Angolan government hosted a sumptuous event at the magnificent Palácio do Governo de Benguela (seat of the government of the Province of Benguela) to mark the signing of the Convention.

Speaking at the event, Minister Molewa said it was almost two decades since Angola, Namibia and South Africa first began to cooperate in the study of marine resources:

"It has taken vision, persistence and hard work to get us where we are today and I believe we can be proud of the fact that we are here, in Benguela, the city that

gives its name to the cold Benguela Current that washes the shores of all three countries, bringing riches in the form of fisheries, diamonds, oil and dramatic scenic beauty." The signing of the Benguela Current Convention formally established the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) as a permanent inter-governmental institution through which the countries will continue to work and collaborate. The Commission is based in Swakopmund, Namibia and has a mandate to promote the long-term conservation,



Minister Edna Molewa exchanges signed copies of the Benguela Current Convention with her counterparts: Mr Bernhard Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia and Ms Victoria de Barros Neto, Minister of Fisheries in Angola.

protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the BCLME.

In her address, Minister Molewa traced the evolution of the Benguela Current Commission, saying that marine scientists from Angola, Namibia and South Africa



About the contributor: Zolile Nqayi

Mr Zolile Nqayi is the Director: Communication Services responsible for Oceans and Coast and Environmental Programmes Branches. Mr Nqayi is a former journalist and writer.



The ministerial delegation arrives at the Palace of the Provincial Government of Benguela for the signing ceremony. The event was attended by a large number of ministers and deputy ministers from Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

had begun to collaborate in the study of the BCLME as early as 1995. With the support of the governments of Norway and Germany, they had established BEN

EFIT (the Benguela Environment Fisheries Interaction and Training programme), a regional marine science and training programme focused on the fisheries and marine resources of the BCLME.

In 2002, the BCLME region attracted support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), an independent fund that disburses financial assistance to developing countries that demonstrate a commitment – at the highest level of government – to introducing ecosystem-based management practices.

“I am proud to say that the Benguela was one of the first regions in the world to secure support from the GEF,” Minister Molewa told the gathering.

With financial support from the GEF and implementation support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the BCLME Programme was initiated. Between 2003 and 2008, the Programme laid the groundwork for the three countries to manage the BCLME’s valuable marine and coastal resources at the ecosystem level. It funded 75 projects which collectively improved knowledge of the BCLME and recommended strategies for the transboundary management of fisheries, marine mining, oil and gas production and exploration, coastal development, biodiversity and pollution.

In 2007, the countries signed an Interim Agreement and established the BCC with a mandate to promote the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the BCLME. Since 2007, the Commission has coordinated comprehensive science and training programmes and the drafting and negotiation of the text of the Benguela Current Convention, which was signed on March 18.

Minister Molewa has chaired the Benguela Current Commission for two years and, at the signing of the Convention, handed over the chairmanship of the Commission to Angola’s Minister of Fisheries, Victoria de Barros Neto, pledging South Africa’s continued support for the Commission.

The BCC is funded by the governments of South Africa, Namibia and Angola, but it has also attracted support from a wide range of organisations and institutions. For example, the Government of Norway supports the implementation of the BCC Science Programme; the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) supports implementation of the BCC’s Training and Capacity Building Strategy; the Global Environment Facility (GEF) supports the implementation of the BCLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and the European Union has provided a grant to fund the ECOFISH project which is expected to modernise and improve the management of key marine fisheries in Angola, Namibia and South Africa. The GEF and UNDP have played a key role in building

the BCC as an institution. Other supporters include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through its EAF-Nansen project, and the global conservation organisation WWF.

All three of the ministers who signed the Convention pledged their country’s commitment to ratifying the treaty by the end of 2013.

What is the Benguela Current Convention?

It is a formal, written treaty, or agreement between the governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa (“the Parties”). The Convention can be loosely compared to a contract between the three countries; it sets out their willingness to assume a range of obligations.

The objective of the Benguela Current Convention is to “to promote a coordinated regional approach to the long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, to provide economic, environmental and social benefits.”

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem ?

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, or BCLME, is an area of ocean space stretching from Port Elizabeth in South Africa to the province of Cabinda in the north of Angola. The BCLME is regarded as one of the richest ecosystems on earth, with ecosystem goods and services estimated to be worth at least USD54,3 billion (R488 billion) per year. Offshore oil and gas production, marine diamond mining, coastal tourism, commercial fishing and shipping are some of the most important industrial activities that take place in the region.

By signing the Benguela Current Convention, South Africa, Namibia and Angola have agreed to manage the BCLME in a cooperative and sustainable way for the benefit of coastal people who depend on the ecosystem for food, work and well-being.



Guests were entertained by a troupe of traditional Angolan dancers.



The magnificent, Palácio do Governo de Benguela (seat of the government of the Angolan Province of Benguela), a fitting venue for the historic signing of the Benguela Current Convention.

The process of ratification

The Benguela Current Convention will come into force once it is ratified by each Party.

During the process of ratification, each country will review the text of the Convention, making sure its contents are consistent with national laws and policies. The countries will then present the Convention to their heads of state for signature. The Benguela Current Convention will come into force 30 days after it is ratified by each Party.



Minister Edna Molewa handed over the chairmanship of the Benguela Current Commission to Honourable Victoria de Barros Neto, Minister of Fisheries in Angola, and pledged South Africa's continued support for the Commission.

For more information about the Benguela Current Commission, please visit www.benguelacc.org

JUNE IS ENVIRONMENT MONTH!

Environmental

Education

THINK • EAT • SAVE
REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT

As part of its Environment Month celebrations, the Department of Environmental Affairs, along with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), launched the Groen Sebenza Jobs Fund Project on 08 June 2013.

Groen Sebenza is a R300 million project that aims to develop skills and bridge the gap between education and job opportunities, in the biodiversity sector. It involves the placement of 800 unemployed youth in skilled jobs across public, private and NGO institutions in the local biodiversity sector, for a period of two and a half years. The project focuses on training, mentoring and workplace based learning with the objective of building a pool of young and capable professionals for South Africa's biodiversity sector, which will lead to further job creation in the green economy.

As June is also Youth Month in South Africa, this launch was not only about making a positive contribution to the environmental sector, but also our country's youth. Through such projects, the Department is working to develop our environmental sector and upskill our youth, whilst also answering the President's call to work together towards job creation and economic development.

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WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE

South Africa is home to approximately 22 000 white and black rhinoceros of which 12 000 are found in the Kruger National Park. This represents 93% of the world's total rhino population.

The South African population is one of the last viable rhino populations in the world which makes it vulnerable. South Africa is the remaining hope for the rhino conservation globally and recognises that the global community support and co-operation must be enlisted to address the scourge. While enlisting the support of the global community, the South African government has implemented a myriad of measures aimed at thwarting the ongoing scourge of rhino poaching.

South Africa has, among others, also put in place the following interventions to curb rhino poaching:

- New norms and standards have been gazetted for the marking of rhinoceros horn and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes. The norms and standards state that all rhino horns whether acquired by a legal dehorning procedure, natural mortality or any other means; must be micro-chipped. DNA samples of the rhino horn and blood must be collected from all live rhino darted for translocation, treatment or any other management purpose.
- The norms and standards also require that hunting applications must be accompanied by amongst others, proof of membership to a hunting association and proof of previous experience in hunting of any African species. In addition, a hunting client may only hunt one white rhino for trophy hunting purposes in a twelve-month period.
- The Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has approved funding to the tune of R25m that will be injected into efforts aimed at strengthening the current wildlife forensic capabilities in South Africa to combat wildlife crimes such as wildlife tracking.



Fedsure forum building
315 Pretorius
cnr Pretorius & Lillian Ngoyi streets
Pretoria
0001



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OUR RHINO FROM POACHING!

The Department of Environmental Affairs has appealed to the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to conduct inspections and verify that the white rhinoceros trophies exported from South Africa to Vietnam are still in the possession of the hunters. In addition to Vietnam, South Africa is also engaging China with plans to engage Thailand also unfolding.

Adding to the 500 rangers deployed at the Kruger National Park, an additional 150 rangers have been deployed to ght rhino poaching. The park has become the most targeted by rhino poachers having lost more rhinos to poaching than any park

The South African government would like to urge all communities, Non-Government Organisations and organisations involved in fighting rhino poaching to continue working together with law enforcement agencies and research institutions to utilise science based evidence for the conviction of alleged poachers.

Government views the poaching of this national treasure in a very serious light and continues to prioritise our fight against this crime through coordinated, joint efforts.

South Africans are urged to report incidents of rhino poaching or any tip-offs that could lead to arrests and prevention of illegal killings to:



Private bag X447
Pretoria
0001

www.environment.gov.za

WORKING ON WASTE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Create and support mechanisms and for the protection of environmental quality
- Create sustainable livelihoods through recycling of waste (waste collection & minimization)
- Support the use of environmentally friendly waste disposal technology
- Promote environmental education and awareness to the communities especially as they are the main waste generators



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION &
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES



EXPANDED PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME
CONTRIBUTING TO A NATION AT WORK

Chemicals and Waste Management - CWM

By Donald Sehaswana



The primary mandate of the Branch is to manage and ensure chemicals and waste management policies and legislation are implemented and enforced in compliance with applicable authorizations, directives and multilateral environmental agreements.

The unit has grown from a Directorate staffed with only twelve people in 1999 to a Chief Directorate with approximately sixty personnel in 2007 and now to a Branch with just over hundred funded positions in 2013. The Department is certainly serious about putting waste management at the top of government service delivery agenda. The Branch: Chemicals and Waste Management effectively came into operation in April 2012 after a robust restructuring process that resulted in the Chief Directorate: Pollution and Waste Management becoming a more focused and better resourced branch.

The Branch: Chemicals and Waste management is made up of four distinct Chief Directorates, namely:

- Chemicals & Waste Policy Monitoring and Evaluation
- Hazardous Waste Management and Licensing
- General Waste and Municipal
- Chemicals Management

Each Chief Directorate runs programmes and projects aimed at transforming and introducing new measures to tackle previously fragmented and uncoordinated chemicals and waste management methods which were primarily focused on the end of pipe solutions to managing chemicals and waste problems in South Africa in an integrated manner.

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: Chemicals and Waste Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation

The main purpose of the Chief Directorate Chemicals & Waste Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation is to lead the development of national policies, strategies, legislation, norms and standards and monitor and evaluate the impact of policy on chemicals and waste management. The Monitoring and Evaluation component is currently being resourced and will commence operations by the end of the current

quarter (Q1).

Development of regulatory framework for appropriate management of chemicals and waste can neither be postponed nor ignored. The department saw it prudent to establish a Chief Directorate that would be a Branch's focal point when it comes



Recycling is one of the effective waste management methods in South Africa.



About the contributor: Donald Sehaswana

Mr. Masilo Donald Sehaswana is the Deputy Director responsible for Chemicals and Waste Information Management. He started his waste management career with the Department and then moved to Western Cape and Mpumalanga provincial Departments before returning back in 2007. Donald holds an Honours degree in Environmental Sciences

	Description	Targets (2016)
Goal 1:	Promote waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of recyclables diverted from landfill sites for re-use, recycling or recovery. • All metropolitan municipalities, secondary cities and large towns have initiated separation at source programmes. • Achievement of waste reduction and recycling targets set in IndWMPs for paper and packaging, pesticides, lighting (CFLs) and tyres industries.
Goal 2:	Ensure the effective and efficient delivery of waste services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of urban households and 75% of rural households have access to adequate levels of waste collection services. • 80% of waste disposal sites have permits.
Goal 3:	Grow the contribution of the waste sector to the green economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69 000 new jobs created in the waste sector • 2 600 additional SMEs and cooperatives participating in waste service delivery and recycling
Goal 4:	Ensure that people are aware of the impact of waste on their health, well-being and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of municipalities running local awareness campaigns. • 80% of schools implementing waste awareness programmes.
Goal 5:	Achieve integrated waste management planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All municipalities have integrated their IWMPs with their IDPs, and have met the targets set in IWMPs. • All waste management facilities required to report to SAWIS have waste quantification systems that report information to WIS.
Goal 6:	Ensure sound budgeting and financial management for waste services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All municipalities that provide waste services have conducted full-cost accounting for waste services and have implemented cost reflective tariffs.
Goal 7:	Provide measures to remediate contaminated land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment complete for 80% of sites reported to the contaminated land register. • Remediation plans approved for 50% of confirmed contaminated sites.
Goal 8:	Establish effective compliance with and enforcement of the Waste Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% increase in the number of successful enforcement actions against non-compliant activities. • 800 EMIs appointed in the three spheres of government to enforce the Waste Act.

to the development of any policy instruments including the implementation of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) which is a framework legislation that requires various regulatory tools for effective and efficient implementation.

After the promulgation of the Waste Act, there have been a number of regulations developed, National norms and standards and the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) that ensures that implementation of the Act is water-tight and clear action plans spelt out to guide all identified role players during the implementation phases of the strategy. The NWMS developed in 2011 is structured around a framework of eight goals, which are listed together with the targets for each goal that must be met by 2016. Below are a Summary of NWMS's eight Goals

In the past, it was possible to dispose of healthcare risk waste and hazardous chemicals, contaminate the land through mining and a plethora of anthropogenic activities causing harm to the environment without proper systems; which has led to much of the land being

contaminated by different pollutants and sporadic occurrences of illegal waste dumping spotted throughout the country. The Chief Directorate: Chemicals and Waste Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation has made a firm commitment that "no stone will be left unturned" by introducing relevant regulations, strategies, norms and standards, with an intent to respond to the pressing challenges of unfavourable practices that may endanger communities and or the environment.

The implementation of the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS) developed in terms of Chapter 6 of the Waste Act for the recording, collection, management and analysis of data and information. This includes data on the quantity and type or classification of waste generated, stored, transported, treated, transformed, reduced, re-used, recycled, recovered and disposed of is considered as one step in the right direction to ensure that there's credible data to inform our future policy decisions.

The Chief Directorate prides itself as the regulatory engine of the Branch: Chemicals and Waste Management that drives the policy development and information management, which are central to upholding the environmental

rights to a clean and safe environment enshrined in section 24 of the Constitution.

Chief Directorate: Hazardous Waste Management and Licensing

The purpose of this Chief Directorate is to develop and implement processes and systems for the efficient and effective administration of the Department's authorisation of waste management activities and ensure reduced releases of hazardous waste streams into the environment and that contaminated land is remediated.

For licensing of waste management activities, the Chief Directorate derives its mandate from Chapter 5 and schedule 1 of the Waste Act. The Act clearly stipulates that the Minister is a competent authority regarding the licensing of hazardous waste management activities, activities undertaken by a national or provincial department, or activities that involves international obligations. On the other hand, the Members of Executive Councils (MECs) responsible for environmental affairs in all nine provinces are the competent authorities for licensing of general waste management activities.

This chief directorate manages the implementation of processes and systems for the efficient and effective administration of the Department's authorisations for waste disposal, recycling, treatment or waste recovery facilities and to ensure that all listed waste activities sites are duly licensed.

There is a committed group of young, competent and result-driven officers who process received waste management licence applications diligently and timeously within regulated timeframes. It is their zeal for excellence that motivates them to make a difference for the benefit of the receiving environment and communities that may be adversely affected by unsustainable waste management practices. They really pay meticulous attention to details when it comes to processing of waste management licenses.

Other functions of the unit relate to management of hazardous waste by ensuring that there are reduced releases of hazardous waste streams into the environment and to investigate existing hazardous waste management options

The Chief Directorate is spearheading the development of Healthcare Risk Waste Regulations in consultation with other national Departments and affected stakeholders with the aim of attempting to address these fundamental challenges of managing this waste stream from source to its final disposal or treatment.

One of the key functions of the Chief Directorate: Hazardous Chemicals and Licensing is to manage projects



In recent years, South Africa experienced a series of illegal dumping of Hazardous waste, specifically Healthcare Risk Waste which was often found buried in farms or in open fields.

addressing the remediation of contaminated sites and support industry on pollution and waste management, with particular attention to small, medium and micro enterprises, to respond to the challenges of chemicals and waste management.

The Chief Directorate is also driving the process of reviewing the Hazardous Waste Classification System and Management Regulations with the aim of providing mechanisms which could implement the waste hierarchy to move away from landfill to treatment, reuse and recovery, and to put measures in place to monitor this progress.

The purpose of Waste Classification Management Regulations is to formalise relevant provisions of the Revised Waste Classification & Management System into the South African legislative framework.

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: General Waste and Municipal Support

The crucial role of this Chief Directorate is to lead the development of national policies, strategies, legislation, norms and standards and build capacity in government, industry and civil society to respond to the challenges of pollution resulting from poor general waste management while also contributing towards the provision of basic waste services to all citizens of South Africa.

Essential tasks of the Chief Directorate: General Waste and Municipal Support are first to manage the development of a national legal framework, identify priority general waste streams, raise awareness and built capacity in industry and the general public in order to ensure reduced releases of general waste streams into the environment and secondly, to support municipalities in order to ensure the sound management of waste and the provision of the waste collection service to all citizens.

This Chief Directorate has recently embarked on a massive national drive where workshops were held to raise awareness to the municipal councilors. This was due in part to the fact that waste management has often received less prioritization in budgeting and also to offer support to councilors and municipalities officials on waste management issues in order to contribute towards accelerated waste collection services to all citizens and promote good waste management principles.



Chief Directorate: Chemicals Management

The purpose of the chief directorate is to manage, facilitate, plan and coordinate department's and South Africa's engagement and co-operation agreements in multi-lateral chemicals and waste agreements and related international cooperation and national programmes.

The main function of this Chief Directorate is to manage, develop, monitor and evaluate the implementation of strategies and action plans on chemicals and waste including South Africa's obligations to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) through engagement of chemicals stakeholders including the identification of chemicals for priority action and implementations of actions.

The unit continuously engages the chemicals and agro-chemicals stakeholders in the formulation and implementations of actions (Technical, policy and regulatory interventions) aimed

at tackling the pressing challenges of improper handling and management of chemicals and agro-chemicals in South Africa.

Lastly, this chief directorate's other responsibilities involves preparing, coordinating, managing and leading policy position research on the formulation of South African positions, and the lobbying and negotiation for SA foreign policy on chemicals and waste in the relevant multi-lateral forums, partnerships and agreements and related international cooperation.

2013 Upcoming conferences

Annual Waste Khoro

The Branch convenes an annual Waste Management Officers' Khoro (conference), which was launched in 2010 in the Gauteng province. This is a conference which brings together all waste management officers from national, provincial and municipal spheres of government; to share information and experiences on waste



The Environmental Affairs Director General Ms Nosipho Ngcaba addressing the delegates at the 2012 Waste Management Officers' Khoro in East London.

management as well as resolve on annual programme of actions. Since 2010, the department has successfully hosted one in Limpopo (2011) and the Eastern Cape (2012). These conferences are graciously hosted by the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi who is very passionate about waste management and service delivery.

The 4th Waste Khoro is scheduled to take place on 14-16 October 2013 in KwaZulu-Natal, Durban and it already promises yet another ground breaking platform for the improvement of waste services in the South Africa.

International Convention on Contaminated lands (ICCL) Conference

The Branch: Chemicals and waste management will host the 2013 International Convention on Contaminated lands. The ICCL is a forum for international exchange and cooperation with regard to management and treatment of contaminated land. The forum holds their meetings biennially and the first meeting was held in Geneva 2001. The meeting is by invitation only and is targeted at experts in remediation of contaminated land, government departments and non-governmental organizations that deal with remediation of contaminated land.

South Africa was approached to host the 2013 meeting due to, inter alia,

it ground-breaking and world class regulatory framework dealing with Remediation of Contaminated Land. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Durban in October. Hosting of the ICCL meeting in South Africa will benefit both the department and the regulated community with regard to the management and remediation of contaminated land and ensure successful implementation of Part 8 of the Waste Act. Approximately 200 participants are expected to attend to meeting and the preparations for the hosting of this conference are well underway.

The branch takes pride in having hardworking, dedicated, committed and diligent staff members whose culture is that of willingness to go that extra mile to achieve optimum performance.



Minister Molewa receives the Gift of the Earth Award

Buhle Hlatshwayo and Veronica Mahlaba



Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa receiving the Gift to the Earth Award in Cape Town

The World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF SA) bestowed the prestigious Gift to the Earth Award upon the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa in Cape Town.

The Gift to the Earth Award is WWF SA's highest accolade for conservation work of outstanding global merit. Minister Molewa received the accolade on behalf of the South African government, following the recent proclamation of the Prince Edward Islands as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) which is South Africa's first offshore MPA.

"The Prince Edward Islands MPA is not only South Africa's first offshore Marine Protected Area, but is also the seventh largest Marine Protected Area in the world. This is a major step towards realising the global commitments the South Africa government made under the banner of the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as the World Parks Congress, to improve the proportion of our oceans

under protection," explained Minister Molewa.

The islands, which consist of Prince Edward and Marion Islands, are located almost 2,000km south of South Africa in the Southern Ocean. The Prince Edward Islands form an important global biodiversity hotspot.

The Prince Edward Islands MPA will bolster the protection of the unique and fragile marine biodiversity of the islands, including more than 5 million seabirds, seals and whales that frequent the islands to breed. Many of these species are threatened. Notably, the Prince Edwards Islands are home to the largest breeding population of Wandering Albatross in the world, with approximately 40% of the global breeding population found on these islands. Sadly, populations of the Wandering Albatross and other albatross species have been declining as a result of unregulated fishing practices.

"It is hoped that the creation of the Prince Edward Island MPA will assist in halting this decline and provide a safe haven for these iconic species that are recognised by centuries of mariners as birds of "good omen." Perhaps, in recognition of our efforts, the wandering albatross will become a good omen for South Africa's marine conservation efforts," said Minister Molewa.

Minister Molewa noted that the oceans, which surround the southern tip of Africa, are perhaps one of the most neglected natural assets. The oceans which have provided livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of South Africans and provide food to millions more, remain vulnerable against increasing global pressures. She went on to say that the South African government remains convinced that Marine Protected Areas, when used in conjunction with other measures, play a vital role in securing our marine natural assets both now and into the future.



About the contributor: Buhle Hlatshwayo

Buhle Hlatshwayo is Assistant Director: External and Internal Communication responsible for the Oceans Coast and Environment Programmes Branches. She is also a writer and a former journalist.

Attesting to this, the CEO of WWF SA Dr Morne du Plessis said, "South Africa is playing a leading role in establishing this massive conservation area, one of the first of its kind for an African country. WWF praised the government for its commitment to securing our marine biodiversity for future generations and acknowledges the Minister for her visionary leadership," said Dr du Plessis.

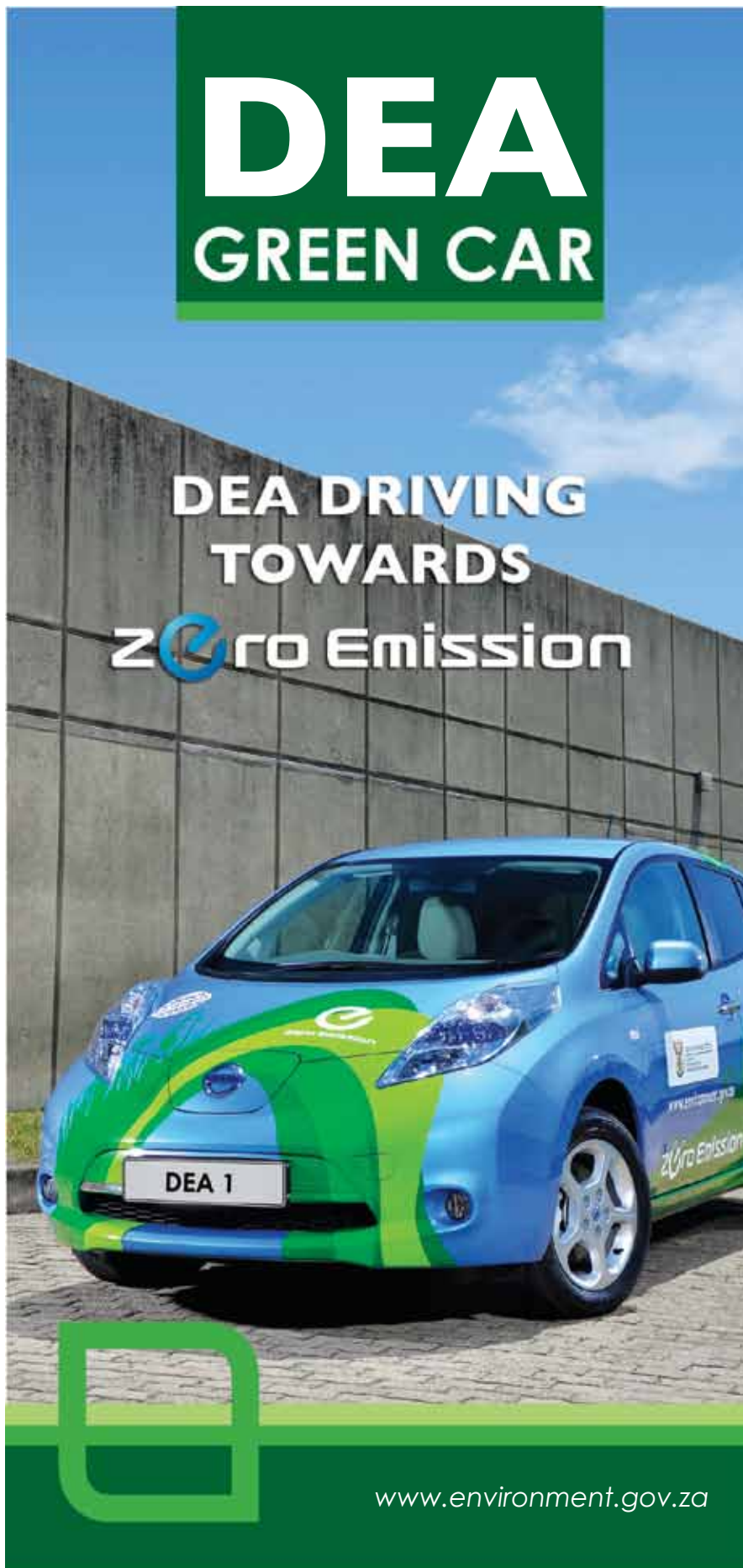
Some may be wondering about South Africa's ability to ensure that this Marine Protected Area is adequately protected. As part of the process leading to this declaration South African government has developed a comprehensive compliance plan that includes components relating to remote vessel monitoring; the use of technology such as satellite and radar; communications and co-management with commercial fisheries partners; and physical air and sea patrols.

The government is also seeking to further enhance co-operation with the Australian and French governments, who regularly patrol their sovereign territories of Heard Island and the Crozet Islands located to the East of the Prince Edward Islands. "I am also very aware of the fact that South Africa's offshore environmental protection vessels are currently under repair. I am working closely with Minister Joemat-Pietersen to ensure that these vessels are operational and back on the water as soon as possible to be able to conduct patrols to the Prince Edward Islands. In addition our new research vessel, the 'Miriam Makeba' known as Agulhas II is down there as we speak and this provides additional monitoring of the area," elaborated Minister Molewa.

The Department of Environmental Affairs is committed to continue working with partners such as WWF, to identify further priority marine ecosystems that can contribute strategically towards a more representative and comprehensive network of Marine Protected Areas within South Africa's continental. This process has already identified the proposed Namaqualand inshore Marine Protected Area, of which the department has already committed funds to manage this MPA through SANParks.

"We will be focusing our energy on these priorities over the coming months and years and I hope that within the near future I will be able to report on successful progress of this work," said Minister Molewa.

Minister Edna Molewa is only the 4th South African to receive the Gift to the Earth Award. Former Presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, and former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk were also honoured with the award.

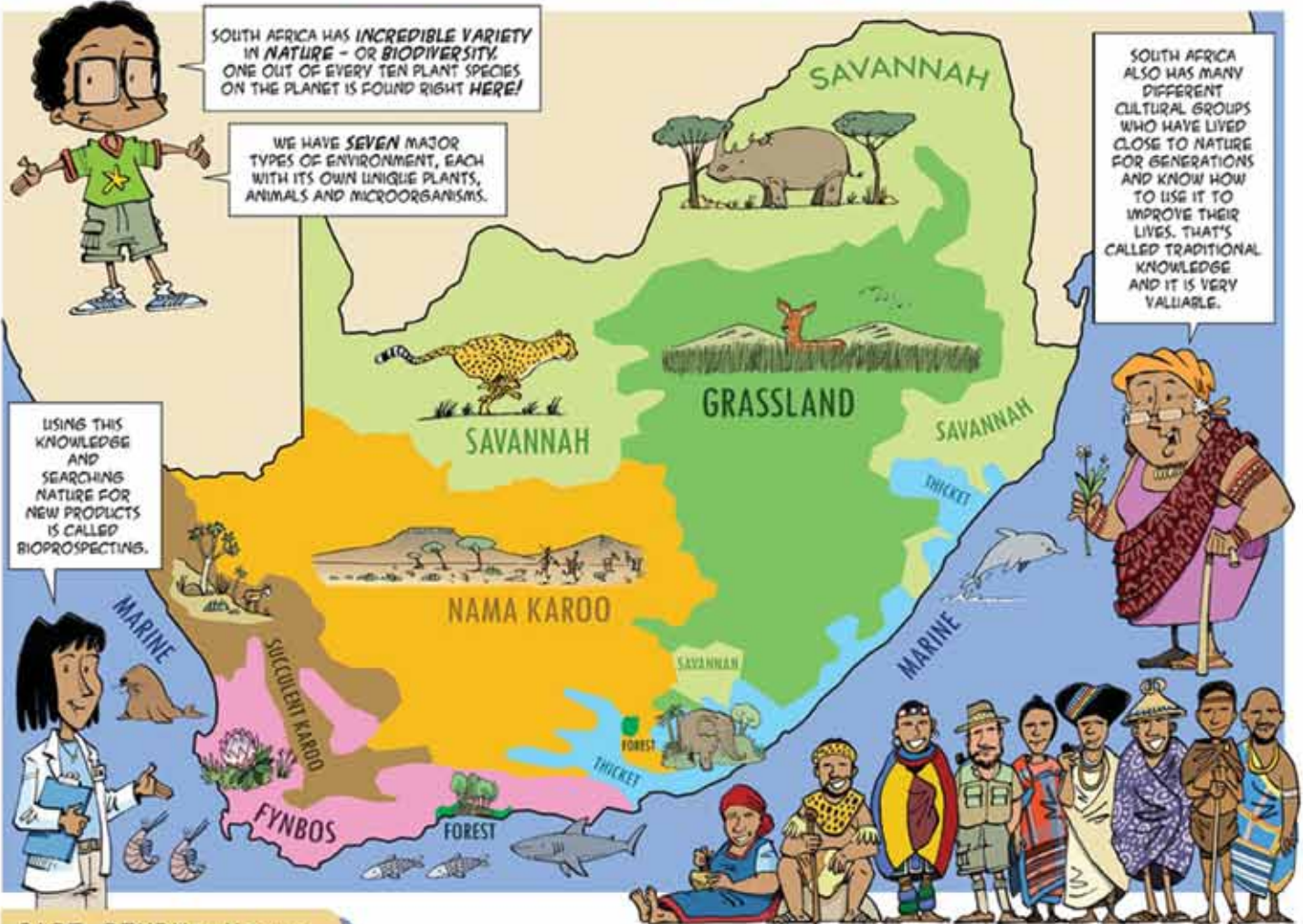


environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1 NATURAL and CULTURAL TREASURES

Celebrating our biodiversity and traditional knowledge



CASE STUDY: Kanna

KANNA IS A SMALL PLANT, USED FOR GENERATIONS BY THE KHOI AND SAN PEOPLE TO LOWER STRESS AND ANXIETY



Scellotium tortuosum (Kanna, Kougoed)

BIOPROSPECTING HAS RESULTED IN KANNA PRODUCTS BEING AVAILABLE AROUND THE WORLD, ENSURING CONSERVATION FOR THE KANNA PLANT AND BENEFITS FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA!



SO PERHAPS THIS BIOPROSPECTING IDEA CAN HELP US TO GET BENEFITS FROM OUR VALUABLE BIODIVERSITY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE WHILE KEEPING IT SAFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?

YES, BOBO. BIOPROSPECTING WILL HELP US TO USE IT, BUT NOT TO LOSE IT!



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Bioprospecting Access and Benefits Sharing (BABS) is regulated in South Africa by the Department of Environmental Affairs.
For more information Contact : 086 111 2468 or visit www.dea.gov.za. Environmental Crime Hotline: 0800 205 005

World Meteorological Day Celebrations

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

The Department of Environmental Affairs hosted a road show on the 14th of March 2013. The road show, hosted by DEA in collaboration with South African Weather Services (SAWS), placed emphasis on communities being more cautious and careful of the dangers that come with climate change.

Executive Mayor of Siyanda District Municipality, Councillor Gift van Staden joined the Deputy Minister during the World Meteorological Day celebrations and Weather Awareness Road Show in Upington.

The theme for World Meteorological Day 2013 is "Watching the Weather to Protect Life and Property", with the subtheme: "Celebrating 50 Years of World Weather Watch". The current joint weather awareness road show by the Deputy Minister and the South African Weather Service coincides with the theme for World Meteorological Day, hence it is deemed necessary to combine the World Meteorological Day and the Weather Awareness.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African Weather Service are committed to reducing the impact of these disasters by investing in the latest and most technologically advanced equipment that aids us in the monitoring and prediction of weather patterns and the collection of related climatic data.

The South African Weather Service has

implemented an enhanced national weather observation network, which has resulted in a synthesis of more accurate weather and climate information, helping us to provide early warning systems to the Republic of South Africa.

In her speech addressing those present, the Deputy Minister advised the communities to "Read, enquire and ask as many questions around the weather as possible."

"South African Weather Services are available at the airport and one needs to utilise these to know how to take precautions in the likely case that weather may take a turn for the worst," said the Deputy Minister.

Over the past years, South Africa has experienced an increase in severe weather such as flooding, thunder storms, tornadoes and in some areas,



Above: The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi together with the South African Weather Service (SAWS) team embarked on a Weather Awareness Road Show in Duduza, Ekurhuleni and Evaton, Emfuleni Municipality.



About the contributor: Gaopalelwe Moroane

Gaopalelwe is a Senior Communication Officer under the sub-directorate, publication in the department of Environmental Affairs. Prior to working as intern in Environmental Department's media liaison team; she worked for short periods with the Pretoria News, Grahamstown's local paper, Grocott's Mail as well as writing reviews for the National Arts Festival publication, Cue Newspaper.

such as the Northern Cape excessive unbearable heat.

According to the South African Weather Service, more than 260 people are killed by lightning in the country each year.

The Northern Cape, which was the location for this year's road show, is known for severe weather conditions. In 2011, two people went missing and 400 people on 21 islands were evacuated after the Orange River flooded between Upington and Kakamas due to heavy rains and flash floods.

"Weather affects all of us and is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they equip themselves with sufficient information, in order to be well prepared for conditions such as those mentioned above," advised the Deputy Minister.

She carried on to say, "If we just look at the beginning of 2011, we recall reports on the enormous impacts that floods had on South Africa during the period December 2010 until February 2011. Infrastructure damage of around R3.6

million was done, while the preliminary estimate for agricultural damage amounted to R400 million. More than 14 400 households were influenced by flood damage, while in the Northern Cape alone, 923 farms were affected as was reported by the Department of Agriculture."

The rest of the country did not have it any easier, as the records of the South African Weather Service show that in the Limpopo Province, North West, Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal hundreds of farms, farm workers, animals and infrastructure were affected.

Flooding occurs when water overflows its normal channels, such as streams and storm water drains, due to prolonged periods of rain or in the form of flash floods, which are usually associated with severe thunderstorms.

The deputy minister also appealed to all to spread the word that lightning is dangerous and that one must take proper precautions.

Just 15 cm of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet, and a depth of 60 cm will float your car! Never try to walk, swim or drive through such swift water. Stop! Turn around and go another way.

- Stay indoors in a cool room near a fan if possible
- The old and infirm must take extra care
- Listen to the radio or TV for warnings
- Cease strenuous outdoor activity if advised
- Dress in light weight clothes
- Drink plenty of liquids, but not alcohol further dehydrates the body
- Don't make fires in the open
- Don't throw cigarette butts out of cars or in the open veldt
- Don't throw bottles in the veldt as they can start fires
- Report any fires immediately



Above: Mr Mnikeli Ndabambi an official at the South African Weather Service engaging the community of Duduza during weather road show. The theme for the road show was, "power our future with weather, climate and water".



Above: A community leader facilitating the question and answer session during the SAWS Road Show held in Mount Frere, in Eastern Cape.

Minister Molewa tees off for charity

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



MIGHTY SWING: Minister Molewa taking a mighty swing right into the woods.



WORTHY CAUSE: Deputy Minister trying her hands on the greens during the Charity Golf Day at Centurion Golf Estate.

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa recently took to the golf cause to be part of the Charity Golf Day held on 03 May 2013 at the Centurion Golf Estate, in Pretoria.

The Charity Golf Day was a fund-raising initiative by Minister Molewa held to benefit four identified rural schools in the North West Province, namely: Ennis Thabong, Nantes, Noka Ya Lorato and Khulusa Primary Schools.

The day got off to a sunny start with members of the Ministry and corporate sponsors gathered for breakfast and tea, before getting on the greens.

Different sponsors from various corporate companies participated and contributed towards Minister Molewa's first annual Charity Golf Day. Some of the companies included: First National Bank; AURECOM; MTN; EOH; Rand Water

Foundation; Rand Water; PHAKISA, and TECHNOCAT.

"The event was excellently organized and provided the players with great opportunity for networking. In fact, the excitement of participating in such a prestigious event also allowed me to significantly reduce my score by 14 strokes compared to my normal average," said Thulani Mafalala from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

"We urge business and companies to co-ordinate with government to alleviate poverty," Minister Molewa said during her address to the media prior to the game.

According to the Ministry, the aim of the golf day event was to raise money to create self-help programs that the community can benefit from which include; equipping schools, launching the food gardening programme and sewing and knitting projects among others.

As part of its social responsibility, the Ministry will, through financial help from corporate sponsors, announce the plan to uplift schools and enhance the quality of life of the communities in the area of Hartebeespoort. There is one Primary School for the community and no High School nearby.

On 02 March 2013, Minister Molewa hosted a Public Participation Program where she handed over resuscitated boreholes to the rural community of Refentse in the Madibeng local Municipality.

During her visit to the area, Minister promised to come back within three months to fulfil her promise of starting various community projects which will serve as Ministerial Outreach Programmes. The Haartebeespoort event entailed fixing and resuscitation of the existing boreholes that are not working as well as the launch of a cleaning campaign in the area.



Above: Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi and Minister Edna Molewa with sponsors, and the corporate companies' representatives who participated and contributed towards the first annual Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs Charity Golf Day.

Groen Sebenza to unlock 800 green jobs for youngsters

By Lavinia Engelbrecht



Incumbents in the Groen Sebenza Project: Tshepo Mmola, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, Nolwandle Zulu, Gauteng MEC Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ms Nandi Mayathula-Khoza and Sanelisiwe Mkhize

In keeping with the observation of June as Environment and Youth Month, the Department of Environmental Affairs and its public entity, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), launched the groundbreaking Groen Sebenza project. The launch on 08 June, which was attended by the 800 beneficiaries and partner organisations in their numbers, formed part of Environment Month celebrations at the Pretoria Botanical Gardens.

The R300 million Groen Sebenza Project, which translates into "Green Work" in Afrikaans and isiZulu, is a Jobs Fund initiative, aimed at developing skills and bridging the gap between education and job opportunities in the biodiversity sector. The pilot phase is absorbing 800 unemployed graduates and matriculants, consisting of 500 graduates and 300 matriculants. This is a groundbreaking partnership with 33 environmental- and biodiversity-focused organisations, from all spheres of government, business, academia and the NGO sector.

"Think about those numbers once again," said the Minister of Water and

Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, who was visibly moved by the youngsters' stories and achievements, while addressing the launch. "Groen Sebenza is not simply providing job opportunities and skills to 800 individuals. It is uplifting and improving, literally thousands of lives, through the power that lies within unlocking the benefits of the Green Economy. This project is set to have a profound, positive impact on the lives of the families and communities, from which these youngsters originate."

The Minister explained that many of the young people benefitting from this programme, are the sole bread-winners of their extended families. Some are single parents, others have lost their parents or guardians, while others still, have beat the odds stacked against them in their communities, by pooling together what resources they had, to ensure they reached either matric or graduation from a tertiary institution.

Sabelo Linda (aged 28) from Osizweni, a semi-rural area in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, who is working at NCC Environmental Services in Cape Town, said he is "very grateful" for

the opportunity he has been given. Although he holds an Honours degree in Science, Sabelo was unemployed for the first few months, after completing his qualification, and had to rely on the help of friends to support his siblings. Sabelo said he felt encouraged by the structured and earnest manner in which his host organisation, NCC Environmental Services, approaches the intensive learning and mentorship of the Groen Sebenza 'incubants'.

Another participant, Sanelisiwe Mkhize, is training in nature conservation with Ezemvelo Wildlife with only a matric school certificate to her name. Sanelisiwe felt she had been given a second chance to prove herself and realise her ambition of following a career in nature conservation. This comes as she followed her second choice of study, public management, at the Durban University of Technology in 2012, but was forced to drop out when her family experienced financial problems. The young woman and three other participants are currently focusing on commercial offshore fishing and compliances which sees them inspecting the fish offloaded in the



Dj Sbu was the programme director for the day and provided words of encouragements to the youth

harbour or sold in restaurants for species and sizes.

The Groen Sebenza project is giving many young people like Sabelo and Sanelisiwe hope and purpose, as 800 graduates and matriculants have been placed with partner organisations to gain practical work experience. It is believed that training and working for two-and-a-half-years will kick-start their careers.

"However, as we are all aware, the battle against poverty is not won once one gains a qualification from an institution," said Minister Molewa. "The challenge within this sector is that students with the right qualifications struggle to bridge the gap between education and employment in the sector." Thus, she explained, part of the motivation behind the project is the realisation that the green economy offers substantial opportunities for job creation and development, particularly in biodiversity and natural resource management.

The Minister indicated that the department would ensure interventions developed and studies conducted, are aligned with the National Development Plan's target for job creation that is set at 11 million jobs by 2030. Minister Molewa reiterated the department's commitment to improving the socio-economic benefits derived from the environmental sector, by creating 65 494 work opportunities which will yield 34 019 Full-Time Equivalent Jobs. The targeted designated groups are women, youth and people living with disabilities.

"This is definitely a landmark project that DEA, SANBI and our partners are proud to be pioneering and using to play a leading role in contributing towards building a pool of young, vibrant, capable and confident professionals for South Africa's biodiversity and natural

resource management sector," said Minister Molewa. "It is the Department of Environmental Affairs' hope that the effective implementation of the incubator concept will have a catalytic impact on skills development and job creation."

The CEO of SANBI, Dr Tanya Abrahamse said, "This is an exciting time for SANBI and all its participating partners. The Groen Sebenza venture effectively brings into life, the ideals of the vision of a green economy, by mobilising for and engendering the involvement of young people, in the management of biodiversity, through job creation. We are confident that this project is the right step towards addressing the skills shortages in the sector and more significantly, it will help to diversify the sector. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all partners for a shared vision, for shared value."

Groen Sebenza involves the placement of 800 unemployed youth in skilled jobs across public, private and non-governmental institutions in the local biodiversity sector for a period of two and a half years. The project focuses on training, mentoring and workplace-based learning with the objective of building a pool of young and capable



Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa addressing the Groen Sebenza incumbents

professionals for South Africa's biodiversity sector, which aims to boost job creation in the green economy.

From that group, 463 of the Groen Sebenza interns commenced with the programme on 02 May and the remaining participants will begin in the course of this month. A month into the project, the young participants and the 33 Groen Sebenza partner organisations said they are thrilled to participate in the initiative, which will equip them with the work experience and skills to secure permanent jobs in the biodiversity industry. The R300 million project is sponsored by the Development Bank of Southern Africa's Jobs Fund. It is spearheaded by SANBI and is a first in the local biodiversity industry.

The launch coincided with Environment Month, as well as Youth Month, celebrated in South Africa on 05 and 16 June respectively. The 5th June 2013 heralded World Environment Day (WED), which aims to be the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. In South Africa, this celebration is amplified as June is recognised as National Environment Month.

The theme for this year's WED, as set by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is "Think. Eat. Save". The Department of Environmental Affairs has adopted this theme for the 2013 Environment Month celebrations.

The launch also featured the Department of Environmental Affairs' Zero Emission Electric Vehicle (Ev) Programme, more commonly known as DEA Green Cars. These were displayed as part of the work that the Department is doing to encourage the reduction of environmentally harmful gases, by promoting the use of cleaner sources of fuel by the automotive industry.



The public had an opportunity to view the DEA Green cars displayed in the dome

Why we celebrate International Day for Biodiversity



By Veronica Mahlaba; Pamela Kershaw, and Lucia Motaung

Throughout the world people celebrate International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) on 22 May. It was first created by the Second Committee of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in late 1993, 29 December (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was designated the International Day for Biological Diversity. In December 2000, the UN General

Assembly adopted 22 May as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This day was proclaimed by the UN to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. This was partly done because it was difficult for many

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is short for biological diversity, a term used to describe the variety of life found on earth and all of the natural processes. This includes ecosystem, genetic and cultural diversity, and the connections between these and all species. It can also be explained as the variety of species, their genetic make-up, and the natural communities in which they occur. It includes all of the native plants and animal and the processes that sustain life on earth.

of nature that support life and they also provide valuable services such as:

- The air we breathe is a product of photosynthesis by green plants.
- Insects, worms, bacteria and other tiny organisms break down wastes and aid in the decomposition of dead plants and animals to enrich soils.

- More than 90 percent of the calories consumed by people worldwide are produced from 80 plant species.
- Almost 30 percent of medicines are developed from plants and animals, and many more are derived from these sources.

Why is Biodiversity Important?

While the term "biodiversity" may not be well known or understood, the ecological services provided by biodiversity are vital to everyday life. In every minute of our lives we depend on biodiversity for survival.



The term ecosystem is defined as a community of living organisms combined with their associated physical environment.

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It is our "home system" that makes life possible. Ecosystems are the full tapestry



Forest ecosystems supply fresh water, provide oxygen, control erosion, and remove carbon from the atmosphere.

About the contributors: Veronica Mahlaba, Lucia Motaung and Pamela Kershaw

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The theme for IDB 2013

The IDB 2013 theme “Water and Biodiversity” resonates well with the impacts of mining on biodiversity and water resources. The theme Water and Biodiversity was chosen to coincide with the United Nations designation of 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation.

All coal mining takes place as a result of dead plant material of wetlands, falling to the bottom of the swamp, and decayed by bacteria forming thick peat beds. The peat then gets buried by sediment and the resulting heat converts it to coal. Furthermore, mining uses water for the extraction and on-site processing of naturally occurring minerals, including coal. Mining, if not carefully managed, also might have a devastating effect on biodiversity, leading to habitat loss and ecosystem fragmentation, resulting in disruption of ecosystem services. Mining and water are therefore inextricably linked.

In South Africa a “Mining and Biodiversity Guideline-Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Mining’ was launched on this day to commemorate and conserve our biodiversity. Marine Biodiversity was the theme for International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) in 2012 and was commemorated at the South Africa’s first World Heritage site, Isimangaliso Wetland Park, with the Honourable Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa launching the National Biodiversity Assessment. The National Biodiversity Assessment: An Assessment of South Africa’s Biodiversity and Ecosystems 2011 (NBA 2011) is a comprehensive technical assessment of the state of South Africa’s biodiversity and ecosystems, across terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine environments.

This launch also will serve to adhere to the CBD’s call on businesses, governments and other stakeholders to do more to maximize the benefits posed by biodiversity while minimizing



Water is essential for life. No living being on planet Earth can survive without it. It is a prerequisite for human health and well-being as well as for the preservation of the environment.

or mitigating the risks. The CBD has facilitated the development of national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives that help businesses “to better understand biodiversity and the business case for its conservation; build capacity; share best practices; and help facilitate dialogue amongst all interested stakeholders, as well as situating biodiversity in the larger context of the environment.

In this context, the mining sector as a business, can contribute hugely to promote the integration of biodiversity into business practices. In response to this call, a number of regions (e.g. European Union) and governments (e.g. Canada, France, Germany and Japan) have set up regional and national business and biodiversity platforms or roundtables. The launch of the Guideline can catalyse the beginning of the establishment of such a platform or roundtable in South Africa.



Ecosystems: all native plants, animals and the processes that sustain life on earth

SA and Vietnam sign 5-year action plan on Biodiversity and Conservation

by Zibuse Ndlovu



South Africa and Vietnam have signed an action plan to implement the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed earlier in the area of Biodiversity Conservation and Protection. The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi, and the Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Ha Cong Tuan signed the action plan on 06 May 2013 in Pretoria.

The Implementation Plan, effective until 2017, gives further impetus to the fight against wildlife crimes, particularly rhino poaching. The Plan is reviewable during, and at the end, of the said period.

Speaking at the media briefing, Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi said the signing was a direct result of cooperation and continued negotiations following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa and the Minister of Agricultural and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Dr Cao Duc Phat in Vietnam.

"The objective of the MoU is to promote cooperation in the field of biodiversity

management, conservation and protection. It is also expected to assist in curbing the scourge of rhino poaching because the MoU seeks to promote cooperation in law enforcement, compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other

relevant legislation and Conventions on the basis of equality and mutual benefit," said the Deputy Minister.

"The signing today of the action plan is the culmination of intensive negotiations and discussions between the two governments. It aims to put into operation the agreements defined in the signed MoU," explained Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi.

The signing of the implementation plan was the direct result of co-operation and continued negotiations following the signing of the MoU by Water and Environmental Affairs Minister, Edna Molewa and the Minister of Agricultural and Rural Development of Vietnam, Dr Cao Duc Phat, in Vietnam.

"Put into action is the development of joint legislative efforts to conserve biodiversity, to build capacity and promote participation of international organisations and non-governmental organisations in the process," said Deputy Mabudafhasi.

Priority areas of cooperation include:

Biodiversity management, conservation and protection;

Compliance with CITES and other relevant internationally binding Conventions;

Forestry and biodiversity law enforcement and compliance with domestic frameworks and applicable conventions;

Strengthening the cooperation on the above through exchange of information, best practice and research;

Technology use, transfer and development;

Natural resource management, wildlife trade, protected areas management, community development, sustainable livelihoods; and

Other areas mutually agreed by both Parties.

In addition, the two countries will, in the next six months, share information on each country's legislation in regards to the management of sport hunting for trophies of rhino and other wildlife with the aim of improving the management of imports of hunted specimens to Vietnam. It is hoped this will serve as an added measure to dealing with the smuggling of rhino horn and related specimens into Vietnam. A review is also to be undertaken of existing measures and initiatives for fostering biodiversity management, conservation and protection so that these could be updated.

Awareness and education campaigns on biodiversity management, compliance with international regulations and legislation, forestry, skills development, sustainable utilization and the improvement of livelihoods while conserving the environment, and related matters will also be conducted to ensure wildlife-related crimes are reduced.

"In addition, cooperation with regard to sustainable utilisation and biosprospecting in terms of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their utilization is to be strengthened to ensure the protection and development of sustainable livelihoods," added Ms Mabudafhasi.



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

Zibuse Ndlovu is the Assistant Director: Publications and Chief Photographer at the national Department of Environmental Affairs, within the Communications Chief Directorate. Mr Ndlovu has travelled extensively, providing coverage of key environmental events and has experience as a newspaper reporter.



Timber company to cough up R450 000 for operating without environmental authorisation

By Veronica Mahlaba



The Nelspruit Regional Court has recently passed a groundbreaking judgment which granted a confiscation order worth R450 000 against York Timbers (Pty) Ltd in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, Act 121 of 1998 (POCA). This follows a sentence of R180 000 to York Timbers, after the company plead guilty to the commencement of a listed activity, in absence of an environmental authorisation. This was in contravention of Section 24F of National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).

The accused, York Timbers operates a saw mill and plywood manufacturing facility in Mpumalanga and was charged with contravening certain provisions of NEMA. The payment of the R450 000 is due to the amount that York Timbers saved, by failing to obtain an environmental authorisation prior to the commencement of a listed activity as required by the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998.

The contraventions were detected in 2008 by the Environmental Management Inspectors at the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in conjunction with the then Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Land Administration. The two arms of government had been conducting a joint investigation at the premises of the accused.

"As part of compliance with a civil court order against York Timbers and others, DEA conducted an inspection on the premises of York Timbers which resulted in discovering several non-compliances with environmental legislation," said the

Deputy Director of Criminal Investigations at DEA, Ms Tsholo Matlou. "Thereafter both administrative and criminal enforcement actions were taken against the accused company."

"York Timbers was charged with several offences and they pleaded guilty on one count, conducting a listed activity without the necessary environmental authorisation. Other charges were provisionally withdrawn for the purpose of gathering more evidence."

York Timbers began to widen a forest road in 2007, without having employed the services of an environmental assessment practitioner or obtaining an environmental authorisation from the relevant authorities. When York Timbers eventually did submit an application for such an authorisation, it omitted to inform authorities that it had actually already commenced with the activity more than six (6) months prior to the application.

Arguing the case in court, Senior State Advocate Kobus van der Walt of the Asset Forfeiture Unit in the National Prosecuting Authority, equated York's failure to incur the costs involved in obtaining an environmental authorisation before the commencement of a listed activity with the more well-known evasion of tax or customs and excise duties. In both of these circumstances, there is a deliberate avoidance or evasion of a regulatory regime and the financial consequences thereof.

"In this instance, the financial benefit sought by York Timbers was the pecuniary savings that accrued to it by avoiding the

costs it would have needed to incur in order to comply with its statutory environmental obligations," said Advocate van der Walt.

The court also disapproved of York Timbers' behaviour in this matter and awarded a punitive order of costs against them on an attorney and client scale, including the costs of counsel.

Spokesperson for the Department of Environmental Affairs, Mr Albi Modise explained, "Although this type of order, granted under the POCA, has previously been used to deprive offenders of the benefits obtained from wildlife crimes, this is the first successful application for such an order relating to a contravention of environmental impact assessment legislation in South Africa."

The POCA is a suitable tool to deter and prevent big companies, like York Timbers, from evading their obligations in terms of environmental legislation and harming our natural heritage.

DEA hopes the judicious application of the POCA will encourage such companies to not only pursue profit, but to also care for our precious environment in undertaking their operations.

"It was hoped that this court order would not only provide an appropriate sanction for existing offenders, but would also send a strong deterrent message to people and companies who may be thinking of engaging in similar unlawful activities, said Mr Modise.

Vox Pops

Members of the public

By Veronica Mahlaba

The theme for this year's World Environment Month celebrations is : **THINK.EAT.SAVE.**
 In this edition, in recognition of Environment Month we asked staff and the public:
What do you do to reduce food waster?



1. Dr Xoli Khambule

I use portion control, which means I cook just enough for everyone. Therefore there are no leftovers. If there happen to be food left over, I refrigerate it and make sure it is eaten the following day. If you leave food for too long, it will become stale. I also don't buy food that I know I won't use, that saves me financially and food is not wasted.

keep and let it decompose for the purpose of using it in my garden as food for the soil. Recently what I'm practicing is that when I buy any fast foods I try to reduce the amount I order so I eat enough and don't have to throw away food. You know it's not nice eating potato fries that were left the day before because you were full to eat them.

what I can manage. If I ever have leftovers, I make sure I eat it the next day.

anything away. When I cook food and have any left over, I keep and my children eat it the following day. If I have cooked a lot of food my housekeeper gets a share as well.



3. Nhlamulo Mayimisi

If I have more than what I require in my home, I give to charity. I also don't like buying too much food at once, so I buy what I need at that particular time or period. When cooking I make food for maybe two days, that I know I will finish in those days. The reason I cook like that it's because it saves energy.



5. Kealeboga Kabare

Most of the time I do the cooking at home; I make sure I cook what is enough for the family. My uncle though eats a lot so I know when he is around nothing will be leftover. At times at home we share our food with a neighbour that we know is in need of a proper meal or we store it in the fridge to be consumed the next day.



7. Charles Hlongwane

I always make a shopping list to take with me to the groceries store. It is important to stick to the list when you're in the store. Don't be tempted by offers, especially foods are on special prices and don't shop when you're hungry — you'll come back with more than you need.



2. Hendrik Robbertze

When I'm cooking vegetables I cook everything, including the skin that people throw away. It's very healthy for you. When it comes to seeds and stalks of vegetables I

4. Nurolan Govender

I don't waste; I mostly enjoy what I eat so I finish it. I usually don't take more than



6. Gretha O'Reilly

Throwing away food is not an option, I never throw



Vox Pops continued

DEA staff members

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



1. Herman "Attie" Alberts
EIA

By making slight alterations to my shopping list I significantly reduce the amount of waste created in and around my home. I try to avoid pointless purchases. I normally buy in bulk and bring bags or containers to fill. I buy all-purpose household cleaners instead of buying many different ones for each cleaning role, which means I save money too. Items that rarely get used I borrow or share with others.

2. Eleanor Momborg
Communication

We have been taking old newspapers to the SPCA and the vet for several years for use in their animal cages. We also put out a Ronnie paper recycling bag of paper for collection on Fridays -- when the bag is full. Organic waste such as egg shells and boxes, fruit and vegetable cut-offs and peels (except apples, onions and oranges) is fed to the worms in our vermiculture farm. They produce compost and worm tea, which we use

for our plants. We also put all old leaves and grass cuttings into the compost heap in the back yard. We have our own vegetable garden, and I am in the process of restarting my herb garden.



3. Eph Mochaki
Human Resource
Management



I cook enough food for myself and whoever it is that I will be eating with at the time to avoid having to throw leftover food away. Also if there are any leftovers I will take them to work for lunch. Because some food spoils quicker than others I purchase those that rot quicker in smaller quantities, and freeze excess, so that I can warm it up in future.

4. Tebogo Mbuyane
Finance

It is better to cook enough food and not excessively so as to limit throwing away food. If there is food left over it is better not to through away but rather eat it or give it to the needy. Instead of throwing away organic foods in the rubbish bin, its better to have a compost.



5. Thambisa Mdluli
Waste Management

I cook just enough for food for my son and I or whoever is visiting us at the time. If there are leftovers I ensure that they are consumed at a later stage before they become rotten.



Many people think of food waste as a benign substance. It rots down in the landfill anyway, so no problem, right?

Wrong! For food to compost properly, it needs light and air. In the landfill, it has neither. Instead, food devoid of light and air produces methane gas, which contributes to global warming. It is estimated that we throw away a third of the food we buy each week!

Through poor portion control or buying too much fresh food that goes off before we use it we create a lot of waste. Follow these tips to help you reduce food waste, save money and protect the environment:

Read more: 10 Easy Ways to Reduce Food Waste - Save Money and Food - The Daily Green

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