

Environment Quarterly

EzemVelo Ngenyanga Ntathu • Tša Tikologo ka Kotara • Ubume bendalo ngekota

Ministry & Branch Heads
Engage Enviro Stakeholders

**SADC Youth Ambassadors
Promote Trans-Frontier Parks**

Rhino Issue Management
Report Presented to Role-Players

**Deputy Minister
champions women & youth
empowerment to mayors**



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



Dear Valued Stakeholder

The Department of Environmental Affairs is proud to bring you the second edition of Environment Quarterly, in the current financial year. We are also proud to welcome a new member of the Editorial team, Ms Reyhana Mahomed, who takes up the role of Environment Quarterly's Editor.

Our edition follows the tabling of the organisation's 2012/13 Annual Report. Highlighting key achievements in the year under review, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Mrs Edna Molewa, touched on the strides made in the areas of climate change interventions; anti-rhino poaching; as well as our efforts to boost job creation in the green economy.

Shortly after the tabling of our Annual Report, the Presidency released its Performance Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT). The MPAT lauded this department as amongst the top five performers in government, in terms of effective management. The MPAT measured the state of management

practices across all 156 national and provincial government departments, in the previous financial year.

The MPAT named the five best-managed national departments as Science and Technology, Trade and Industry, Environmental Affairs, the National Treasury, as well as the Government Communication and Information System, which scored at levels three and four (the top level) across many of the categories. According to the report, level three means the department is "fully compliant", while a level four department is one that has taken this a step further and is "operating smartly in terms of its management practices." These two key reports, illustrate our departmental values in action, namely: being Pro-Active, Passionate, People-Centric, showing Integrity, and remaining a high Performance department.

During August, we joined the nation in celebrating Women's Month. The department's Annual Report reflected our continuing efforts to support government's call for equal gender representation in the workplace. In the 2012/2013 financial year, the department employed 776 women, exceeding our annual target of 50% by 6%. To date, 56% of DEA employees are women (776 of 1374 employees) and 88% of DEA employees are blacks (1134 of 1291 employees). In addition, about 1.5% of DEA employees are people living with disabilities (20 of 1291 employees).

Our current edition showcases how the department is taking this drive to empower women, out into the environment sector as a whole, as well as into local government. During Women's Month, Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi hosted the first dialogue of its kind with mayors, with the aim of championing the empowerment and development of women and young people. The dialogue was convened under the slogan "Protect the Environment

and Conserve water for socio-economic development, Empower Women and Youth."

Another first for South Africa, which we profile in this edition, is the convening of World Rhino Day. The department and its stakeholders hosted a national Anti Poaching Awareness Month campaign in September, encompassing World Rhino Day on 22 September. The campaign included a vibrant street march, with civil society, after which school children handed over a declaration of their commitment to this cause. The aim of this campaign is to help to educate people about rhino horn, and to debunk the myths, which create the demand in the first place. The Department of Environmental Affairs with its RIM (Rhino Issue Management) Report, have already made strides towards updating several environmental laws, addressing some of the issues raised in the report including introducing the new national registration system for all professional hunters and hunting operators.

South Africa is home to approximately 22 000 white and black rhinoceros, of which about 18 000 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 therefore the remaining hope for the world, in terms of rhino conservation.

You can look forward to all of these articles and more, including our regular Vox Pops on Mandela Day and the key environmental cases from the courts. The editorial team hopes that you learn from, and enjoy the edition.

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Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht

Meet our team

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WORLD RHINO DAY

22 September
2013



**UNITE AGAINST
RHINO POACHING** | **SAVE OUR RHINO**



environmental affairs
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



South African
NATIONAL PARKS



UNITE AGAINST POACHING

Cabinet green-lights trade talks, as Rhino Issue Management Report is published

By Eleanor Momberg



The battle to address the scourge of rhino poaching was recently given further impetus when the Department of Environmental Affairs was authorised by Cabinet, to request the legalisation of the rhino horn trade from CITES.

A rhino trade proposal will be submitted for consideration at the 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which South Africa has offered to host in 2016.

The tabling of the proposal is only one of a series of interventions being implemented to combat increasing rhino poaching. Until the end of September 2013, 688 rhino had been poached in South Africa. The Kruger National Park remained the hardest hit, having lost 418 rhino to poachers in the first seven months of this year.

The recent Cabinet meeting had also approved the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to provide

guidance, relating to preparations in respect of the trade proposal. The IMC is comprised of the Ministers of Water and Environmental Affairs; International Relations and Cooperation; Trade and Industry; Finance; Science and Technology; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Rural Development and Land Reform; Economic Development; and Tourism.

The proposal will take into account numerous aspects, including the appropriate model for trade; the anticipated changes in the markets and the demand for rhino horn; the additional control measures and requirements to be introduced; potential trade partners and the like.

International trade for commercial purposes is only allowed if approved by the Conference of Parties to CITES. At present, the international trade in rhino horn for commercial purposes is prohibited. The moratorium on the domestic trade in rhino horn and derivatives also remains in place.

The decision to table a proposal at the next CITES CoP was not taken lightly. It followed an extensive public consultation process, nationally and internationally. In 2012 a national consultation process, known as the Rhino Issue Management process relating to rhino conservation was initiated with various stakeholders. This resulted in the Rhino Issue Manager Report that was publicly released at a stakeholder engagement in July.

The RIM process was undertaken to facilitate a common understanding of the key issues related to the protection and conservation of South Africa's rhino population. It focussed on four key areas: conservation, funding, safety and security and commerce (trade).

The Rhino Issue Management team, headed by former SANParks CEO Mr Mavuso Masimang, hosted 16 workshops, and 400 roundtable and one-on-one discussions to form a common understanding of the problem facing the rhino population.



About the contributor: Eleanor Momberg

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



The final report was submitted to the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, in January 2013 and has greatly assisted the Department in reviewing and updating its rhino management strategy outlined in the National Strategy for the Safety and Security of the Rhinoceros Population of South Africa (NSSSRPSA). The RIM report was adopted by Cabinet earlier this year, and some of the recommendations are already being implemented.

Among these is the proposal to approach CITES to request the once-off sale of legal ivory stockpiles to secure additional revenue in the war on poaching.

The RIM report incorporates current thinking on sustainable rhino conservation by acknowledged rhino specialists, ecologists and a range of other experts. It encapsulates viewpoints from NGO's, civil society, traders, professional hunters, resource

economists and ordinary citizens and took into consideration the deep concerns raised during the consultations for the ethical and humane treatment of animals - whether they are domesticated or living in the wild.

The consultation process resulted in clear agreement that the country's rhinos should be conserved for the good of all humanity, and that every effort should be made to protect the threatened species from the sustained poaching onslaught by international syndicates earning huge profits from the sale of rhino horn.

While there were divergent views on the safety, security and trade in rhino horn, the recommendations take cognisance of the fact that not all positions could be satisfied. This point also emerged during the stakeholder engagement held during July to release the findings of the report.

It is important to note that integral to the RIM team's findings is that there is no single solution to the rhino poaching scourge.

It is therefore clear that all efforts undertaken by government and NGOs will require the employment of a range of strategies along several fronts. The decision to table the proposal to CITES COP17 is but one of the many interventions being undertaken by the government to address the ongoing scourge of rhino poaching.

All efforts to deal with the poaching crisis are not only aimed at protecting the threatened species from extinction, but also at securing the country's national security – threatened by incursions by armed poachers – as well as part of our natural heritage and the future of the country's tourism industry.



Department rewards municipalities for green economy endeavours

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



The Metropolitan Municipality winners, City of Ekurhuleni receive their first prize of R3.5 million.



Deputy Director of Stakeholder Engagement and Public Awareness Kgomotso Mokgoko delivering her speech on the history of the Greenest Municipality Awards.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) presented its annual Greenest Municipality Awards at the Marian Hill Landfill Site, Durban on 28 June 2013. The Greenest Municipality Competition (GMC) encourages municipalities to adopt green practices that ensure a smooth transition to the green economy.

"With this competition, we are driving home our strategic objective to help galvanize municipalities to initiate projects that address their integrated development plans (IDPs) and forge links with our Extended Public Works Programme mandate of creating temporary employment and offering skills development opportunities" said the Deputy Minister during the GMC proceedings.

There are two categories for awards, namely the metropolitan municipality and the local municipality awards. The winner of the 2011/2012 Greenest Municipality is the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, followed by the Newcastle and Drakenstein municipalities respectively. The 2011/2012 Greenest Metropolitan Municipality was awarded to Ekurhuleni, followed by Ethekwini and the City of Cape Town respectively.

Presenting the awards at the GMC, Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi explained that the prizes awarded are tied to the implementation of green economy projects such as renewable energy and the protective and sustainable use of environmental resources.

The first prize winners received R3.5 million, while the second and third runners received R3 million and R2.5 million respectively. The prize money awarded to the six municipalities must be utilised for projects that promote an environmentally friendly lifestyle and Green Economy initiatives in the municipality.

According to Mandla Shabangu who forms part of the judiciary panel of the GMC, Greater Tzaneen was chosen as the winner of the GMC national evaluation 2011/2012 as this municipality managed to establish innovative waste management programs.

"During the site visits it was noted that not even a single illegal dump was observed and that they managed to beat the challenge of illegal dumping by implementing the EPWP program effectively" said Shabangu.

"We are very pleased to have successfully met the national department of Environmental Affairs' criteria for assessment, which includes good waste management plans, policies and strategies; institutional arrangements and political support within municipalities on environmental programmes; greening initiatives including landscaping and planting of trees and community involvement on environmental projects and programmes", said Ekurhuleni member of the mayoral committee responsible for Environmental Development, Councillor Vuyelwa Mabena.

The Greenest Municipality Competition, previously known as the Cleanest Town Competition (CTC) primarily focused on the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS). This included principles of reducing, reusing and recycling waste materials. Although these principles are still relevant, other elements related to sustainable development and various greening interventions have been added.

The criteria for the GMC now incorporate elements such as water management, energy efficiency, tree planting, landscaping, beautification, public participation and institutional arrangement and leadership in the municipality. This was done to address for environmental protection, social upliftment and economic growth. This new criteria sees a move from a predominantly environmental focus to one with sustainable development goals in mind. The GMC focuses also on efforts to get municipalities to become central role players in the green economy.

One of the aims of the National Waste Management Act is to provide waste management services in rural and semi-rural areas. The Tzaneen municipality has delivered on this aim by extending their waste collection service to rural areas and establishing cooperatives of 10 people that collect waste material from rural households and organize it centrally at a mini transfer station.



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.

2050 Emissions Pathways Calculator revealed to stakeholders

By Veronica Mahlaba



Panelists: Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Acting Chief Director: International Climate Change Relations and Negotiations, Mkuthazi Steleki, DEA Acting Chief Director: Climate Change: Mitigation, Barney Kgope, DEA Deputy Director-General: Climate Change and Air Quality Management, Judy Beaumont, DEA Chief Director: Climate Change: Monitoring and Evaluation, Brian Mantlana and DEA Chief Director: Adaptation, Shonisani Munzhedzi

The Department of Environmental Affairs' stakeholders were in awe when the 2050 Emissions Pathways Calculator was revealed during the two day National Climate Change Response Policy Implementation (NCCRP) Workshop, held from 20 to 21 June 2013.

Scores of people from government, non-governmental organisations, industry, civil society organisations and academics gathered for the workshop at Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre

in Benoni, hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA).

The 2050 Emissions Pathways Calculator is a project sponsored by the United Kingdom government through the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The Acting Chief Director for Climate Change: Mitigation, Mr Barney Kgope stated that, "the Calculator is an interactive user-friendly tool that allows non-experts to develop their own combination of levels of change in different technologies and

sectors of the economy to explore different energy and emissions scenarios up to 2050".

"It will allow the country to answer fundamental questions of how far it can reduce emissions and meet energy needs," explained Mr Kgope.

The NCCRP was adopted by Cabinet and published on 19 October 2011. It represents South Africa's vision for an effective climate change response, and the long-term just transition to a climate



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.



Policy Analyst at the Chamber of Mines, Mr Itumeleng Mabalane, Environmental Manager at the KZN Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Dr Timothy Fasheun, DEA Deputy Director-General Climate Change and Quality, Judy Beaumont and the Executive Director of the Association of Cementitious Material Producers, Dr Dhiraj Rama.

resilient and lower carbon economy and society.

This will map a socio-economic transition to a climate; resilient and low-carbon economy and society. This transition will involve a balance between our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases (mitigation) and our efforts to build our resilience to the impacts of climate change (adaptation).

The DEA Deputy Director-General: Climate Change and Air Quality Management, Ms Judy Beaumont explained that the workshop is an extension of the National Committee on Climate Change, to provide an opportunity for information exchange with a wider group of stakeholders.

The Policy provides a strategic framework for promoting climate resilient development, mitigation (our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases), adaptation (our efforts to build our resilience to the impacts of climate change) or a combination thereof that contributes to a fair and effective global solution to the climate change challenge. This, while simultaneously building and maintaining South Africa's international competitiveness, its social, environmental and economic resilience to the adverse effects of global climate change and any unintended consequences of global climate change response measures.

"In addition, the session will provide an insight into the work to facilitate policy alignment to support South Africa's emission reduction and adaptation efforts and climate change response programmes at local levels," said Ms Beaumont

"It will need both developed and undeveloped countries to tackle it. As a small country, we know that we can't do it alone".

The workshop was divided into breakaway sessions that facilitated issues on Mitigation, Adaptation, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems, feedback from different provinces on the work they have done to adopt the policy thus far and many other issues included in the policy.

To ensure effectiveness in responding to climate change, the NCCRP calls for the establishment of a country-wide Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system. The DEA Director for Climate Change: Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Thapelo Letete explained that the DEA climate change M&E team has commenced the work of developing this system, with the aim of publishing a draft M&E system by October 2013 as required by the NCCRP.

"The work to date has covered conceptual issues including definitions, objectives, principles and design questions for this M&E system. These conceptual issues were the ones presented to stakeholders and discussed at the NCCRP implementation workshop, with the aim of incorporating stakeholder inputs and comments, and ensuring a common understanding of these critical issues," said Mr Letete.

According to the National Climate Change Response White Paper, the phenomenon known as "climate change", the focus of this policy refers to an ongoing trend of changes in the earth's general weather conditions as a result of an average rise in the temperature of the earth's surface often referred to as global warming. This rise in the average global temperature is due, primarily, to the increased concentration of gases known as greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere that are emitted by human activities.

These gases intensify a natural phenomenon called the "greenhouse effect" by forming an insulating layer in the atmosphere that reduces the amount of the sun's heat that radiates back into space and therefore has the effect of making the earth warmer.

Currently, the global climate is changing much more rapidly as a result of global warming, leading to, among others, the melting of polar and glacier ice, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, changes in rainfall and snowfall patterns, more frequent floods and droughts and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as tornadoes, hurricanes and cyclones.

Ms Beaumont highlighted that climate change is a global challenge and requires a global solution. South Africa is working hard to have solutions that will address mitigation and adaptation. "It will need both developed and undeveloped countries to tackle it. As a small country, we know that we can't do it alone. So it requires international cooperation," she said.

DEA raising the bar with six green stars for the new green building

By Ludwe Matanzima



The Department of Environmental Affairs has received six green stars for “walking the green talk”. The department’s new head office, better known as the green building, currently under construction in Pretoria has become the first government building in Tshwane and in government to be awarded a six-star green star rating by the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA).

The Department of Environmental Affairs’ (DEA) Green Building Project Manager, Mr Mbulaheni Maseda expressed his pride in the project; “This is the highest achievement by the building, a realisation of a long cherished dream to deliver a green performing building”.

According to Mr Maseda, the Department expected a minimum of four green stars. But these modest

expectations have been exceeded as the upcoming building has also recorded the highest score to date for a large commercial office space. DEA has taken the lead in demonstrating a commitment to market transformation in the built environment in South Africa, setting an outstanding example of the “going green” concept thereby demonstrating the Department’s determination to move towards a low-carbon economy as one of its focal points.

At a sod turning ceremony for the Green Building held earlier this year, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa said “Our green building should send a clear message to State Owned Companies and the private sector, that government is unequivocal in

its commitment to greening the way we do business and empower our people.”

The green building project is a project “very close to my heart” said Mr Maseda adding that it has taken the green building eight years to conceptualise, from the initiation of a feasibility study to the signing off of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) in 2012. In concurrence to the Treasury Requirement 16, the project had to be feasible, affordable and demonstrate value for money. The best way to ensure investment on all these was to secure a risk transfer, transferring all the risk involved to the private party. A PPP structure is beneficial in that it ensures that the building is operated optimally over the next 25 years to ensure that it stays green throughout its lifespan, achieving its entire environmental savings envisioned in the planning stages.



About the contributor: Ludwe Matanzima

Ms Ludwe Matanzima is an intern in the Directorate: External Communication: Media Research and Writing. Ms Matanzima holds an honours degree in Corporate Communication and is very passionate about public relations and communications. She loves travelling.

"With an amount of R8 billion we are investing in the construction of this building over 25 years, we are taking a green and bold step that reflects and signifies our commitment towards a low-carbon and resource-efficient green economy. When we begin occupation of this building, we will literally be walking the green talk" said the Minister.

Aveng Grinker-LTA, the winning design bidder made use of 3D building modeling to illustrate DEA's building specifications, allowing for the team to recognise and resolve potential risks, thereby ensuring that the specifications were fully coordinated in view and structure.

The Green Star GBCSA rating assesses how "green" the building is by looking at factors such as; materials used, land use, water, transport, energy, indoor environmental quality (IEQ); and emissions. DEA's Six Star Rating was achieved due to the following:

- Overall energy consumption in the building will not exceed 115kWh/m²/per annum

- The roof of the building is almost completely covered with solar photovoltaic panels, which exceeds a 10% target, meaning that the building will supply 20% of its own energy needs
- The building includes a rainwater harvesting system and water-wise plants for landscaping, thus the building is expected to use 30% less water than a comparable conventionally designed building
- The northern parking area has a large photovoltaic panel (CPV) which tracks the sun during the day
- The use of selected South African materials and products

"This is a building that demonstrates urban greening, you can see what this Department is about without asking" said Mr Maseda. Furthermore, the building consists of furniture designed to fit worker profiles and the building is closer to most public transport facilities therefore encouraging the use of public transport.

The DEA's new green building has a unique Facilities Management Regime which rewards operational efficiency

and penalises poor performance. "Operating the building management system will require special training, as well as the facilities management system. Facilities managers will attend the GBCSA Accredited Professional course to gain insight into the green building and what they are required to do to keep this building green," explained Dijalo Property Group Director Peter Gray.

"We anticipate that the urban area around us will become a green hub of green buildings that will forever change the face of the City of Tshwane," said the Minister. With the ongoing construction, the new green building is expected to be fully functional by 1 June 2014.

Overall energy consumption in the building will not exceed 115kWh/m²/per annum

WASTE KHORO
2013 | MAKING THE MANAGEMENT OF WASTE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

14-16 OCTOBER 2013
OLIVE CONVENTION CENTER,
DURBAN, KWAZULU-NATAL

Deputy Minister champions women and youth development in municipalities

By Reyhana Mahomed



Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi addressing the mayors at the country's first Mayoral Dialogue on water conservation, waste management and women and youth development.



Deputy Director-General: Chemicals and Waste Management, Mr Mark Gordon delivers a presentation on the importance of effective and efficient waste management services in communities.

During her Budget Vote address to the National Council of Provinces earlier this year, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi pledged to the nation that she would establish a forum with the objective of prioritising and championing water conservation, waste management, and women and youth projects at a municipal level.

This pledge came to fruition on 6 August when the Deputy Minister along with mayors across the country participated in a first of its kind mayoral dialogue in Kempton Park. The dialogue was convened under the slogan "Protect the Environment and Conserve water for socio-economic development, Empower Women and Youth". With the four topics in mind, the dialogue aimed to ensure an integrated approach thereby identifying innovative ways in which to address challenges and gaps at the level of local government.

The Mayoral dialogue saw the signing of a significant pledge. The pledge, closely aligned to the theme and rationale for this dialogue, saw the Deputy Minister and mayors declare their commitment to waste management, water conservation and a commitment to working towards women and youth participation in water and environmental programmes.

Waste Management

The Department of Environmental Affairs has identified the waste sector as one of the critical sectors with the potential to contribute substantially to the generation of jobs within the green economy. The department further recognises not only the potential for job creation in the waste sector, but also that the successful delivery of waste services will provide dignity and quality of life to the people of South Africa.

Speaking during the Mayoral Dialogue, Mrs Mabudafhasi acknowledged the challenges faced by municipalities in the delivery of waste services. "Municipalities face major challenges with regard to capacity including but not limited to: landfill operations, waste collection planning and administration, separation at source and refuse collection," said the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, the capacity gaps in municipalities also present opportunities for job creation, on-the-job training, continuous up-skilling, as well as enterprise development for the youth. The opportunity for job creation was thus addressed through the introduction of the Youth Jobs in Waste programme launched in June this year.

Through this programme, an estimated 3 577 jobs will be created across the country. Amongst the job opportunities are landfill site assistants, waste collection administrators and environmental awareness educators.



About the contributor: Reyhana Mahomed

Ms Reyhana Mahomed is the Deputy Director: Editorial Services at the Department of Environmental Affairs. Ms Mahomed is a Rhodes University Journalism graduate with extensive experience in writing and editing.

"We urge all of you who will be hosting these young people in your municipalities to welcome them with the required exposure and mentorship they will need", said the Deputy Minister.

This programme therefore seeks to capacitate municipalities' waste management services and improve service delivery in the municipalities while creating fruitful employment opportunities for the youth.

Water Conservation

South Africa is a water scarce country and the Deputy Minister ensured mayors that the government of South Africa is working very hard towards the attainment of one-hundred per cent access to water throughout the country. The Deputy Minister believes that the water sector can and must be creative and innovative in tackling the various challenges facing the provision of water to communities.

One programme that is innovative and has seen success is the over R20 million War on Leaks programme headed by the Deputy Minister herself. This programme has seen a number of unemployed youth trained on basic plumbing skills thereby reducing the amount of leaking taps in communities as well as transferring much-needed skills to the country's youth.

The youth training includes, but is not limited to, conducting water audits; identifying leaks and fixing them; retrofitting inefficient water fixtures, fittings and devices, and undertaking water conservation advocacy within communities. Some of the youth are then appointed as Water Conservation Warriors with the task to implement the education and awareness programme and the retrofitting and leak repair initiative.

'I was a river cleaner now I am a Scientist'

The project is currently in operation in the West Rand, Kenneth Kaunda, Fezile Dabi, Waterberg, Ehlanzeni, Amathole, Central Karoo, Majuba and Pixley ka Seme municipalities. "Water leaks in both households and schools are unacceptable and this keeps us awake,

I wish to reiterate that this needs our collective ideas and strengths" said Mrs Mabudafhasi.

Women Empowerment

The Deputy Minister recognises the significant role women play in the preservation of water and the environment and therefore, the Department of Water Affairs' has implemented the Adopt a River project targeted at unemployed youth with female youth constituting a greater percentage of the beneficiaries. The project is aimed at addressing the challenges of pollution of water resources such as rivers, wells, pits and dams in the country. Thus far, a total of 24 rivers have been cleaned with 1148 job opportunities having been created for women.

"Last year I announced that we will put some of these women in our skills development programme to tell a story that says 'I was a river cleaner now I am a Scientist', I am proud to report that 44 women will be awarded bursaries in this financial year to study at various Universities and FET Colleges" announced the Deputy Minister. A total of 181 women in the Western Cape were trained in plumbing while a further 214 from across the country have been trained as process controllers.

Youth Development

The Deputy Minister expressed her confidence and belief in the youth; "engaging young people in all aspects of the water and environmental sectors is important because the youth cannot merely be passive beneficiaries but rather need to be effective agents of change who should lead by example and as such, employ innovative solutions to complex problems".

The Department of Environmental Affairs launched a R300 million Green Jobs Fund Project called the Groen Sebenza Project in June this year. Groen Sebenza



Mayors & Councillors gather to sign the pledge.

is a combination of Afrikaans and isiZulu, translating into "Green Work" in English. The Project is being spearheaded by the South African National Biodiversity Institute. Groen Sebenza promotes major skills development and job creation in the biodiversity sector for 500 unemployed graduates and 300 matriculants, thereby addressing the problem of unemployed school leavers without a tertiary qualification. It is envisaged that this project will have a "profound and positive impact on the lives of the families and communities, from which these youngsters originate" said the Deputy Minister addressing the Mayoral Dialogue.

The Deputy Minister appealed to all the mayors to commit to the pledges signed and ensure that waste management, water conservation as well as women and youth development programmes are institutionalised into the business of their municipalities by advocating for inclusion in the strategic and business plans of their respective municipalities. "The success of these programmes is highly dependent on the support and political leadership from our mayors and councillors" said the Deputy Minister.

Game Translocation to Matatiele Nature Reserve

By Thapelo Mothebo



Above: The first Red Hartbeest to be delivered at the Matatiele Nature Reserve.

A total of 45 new game, including 30 Red Hartbeest and 15 mountain reedbucks have been translocated to the Matatiele Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape at the end of September 2013.

In line with the Tourism Month celebrations in September, the Matatiele Nature Reserve sought to introduce new game that would enhance the nature reserve's capacity to provide a holistic

tourism experience for its visitors. The game was donated to the reserve by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the translocation was funded by the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project.

Aside from providing visitors an exciting viewing of game and natural beauty, the nature reserve also offers trout fishing, bird watching and environmental education for students and pupils. In addition, the reserve tries to maintain, within the ecological carrying capac-

ity of the nature reserve, viable indigenous wildlife populations that historically occurred in the area and are suited to the particular habitats offered by the reserve.

As such, the introduction of indigenous wildlife species into the reserve takes into consideration their natural distribution range, genetic compatibility, social behaviour characteristics, and impacts on existing populations. The reserve also considers the habitat



About the contributor: Thapelo Mothebo

Thapelo Mothebo is the Control Biodiversity Officer: Transfrontier Conservation Areas at the Department of Environmental Affairs, serving under the Protected Areas System Management Chief Directorate. Mr Mothebo has experience in project management and reserve management and is a keen hiker.



Above: The first Red Hartebeest at the Matatiele Nature Reserve.

requirements, practical management and possible interaction with human communities adjacent to the reserve.

Matatiele Nature Reserve is situated on the foothills of the southern Drakensberg, in an area formerly known as East Griqualand in the northern Eastern Cape. The reserve lies adjacent to the town of Matatiele. The Eastern Cape is known for its extremely diverse landscape and is home to many rare species of fauna and flora. This is what led to the establishment of the Matatiele Nature Reserve in 2006. The nature reserve also houses the Mountain Dam that supplies the town of Matatiele and its surrounding areas with water.

The Matatiele Local Municipality has had a long association with various provincial conservation authorities. The

importance of the mountain grasslands, wetlands and rare species of fauna and flora in the area has been recognised by the municipality since the 1950's. This awareness led to the establishment of a nature reserve on the northern section of the municipal commonage.

There were various efforts since then to establish a larger protected area but this never came to fruition. The establishment of the proposed larger protected area gained momentum in 2003 when the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project (MDTP) identified it as an important area to expand the protected area network in the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area and as a pilot MDTP project for KwaZulu-Natal. The project would contribute to the MDTP

20-year strategic outcomes for the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area through more effective natural and cultural heritage conservation and mountain catchment management.

During the re-demarcation of certain provincial boundaries in 2006, Matatiele was transferred to the Eastern Cape Province. The Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA) then took over the pilot project together with the Matatiele Municipality and followed the legal procedures for establishing a nature reserve in terms of the National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003. The then MEC of DEDEA signed the declaration of a consolidated, larger Matatiele Nature Reserve in July 2007.



Above: The Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project Coordinator, Mr Rabson Dhlodhlo with Matatiele Environmental Manager Mr Thando Msomi at the Mountain Lake.



Above: The delivered Red Hartebeest enjoying their new home

Leadership Profile

Chief Financial Officer, Esther Makau

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

For the past thirteen years, The Department of Environmental Affairs has achieved an unqualified audit from the Auditor-General (AG). The Department has also achieved accolades such as being recognised as one of the top three performing government departments by the AG, and the top five performers by the Presidency's Performance Management Assessment Tool. These achievements are part of what inspires Ms Esther Makau, the Department of Environmental Affairs' Chief Financial Officer (CFO), when she wakes up for work every day.

It is this, and the fact that she was one of the first CFOs to implement the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) when it was established in government in 2000, that drives Ms Makau's passion for her job. "It was both challenging and interesting to establish new benchmarks in financial and performance reporting," said the woman who holds the purse strings to the Department of Environmental Affairs' budget. This process, she explained, included "learning the new systems of BAS (Basic Accounting System) reports and familiarising myself with government measures."

As a top female executive in a department priding itself on its high level of performance, what is your career planning advice to other women, hoping to follow in your footsteps?

When it comes to us women, we are always facing barriers in our walk on earth, especially venturing into positions dominated by men. A lot of the time we struggle to enter high positions in the workplace, and once we've entered we still face challenges in maintaining excellence in such positions. This is because of the time that needs to be split between work, home, and studies. It is very important to develop the teams in our units and separate our leadership strategy from the rest.

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

I found that I struggled with my financial background, to understand how money is to be divided amongst the different branches. It is through interacting with officials and the leaders from the branches that I was provided with a better understanding of how to do this.

The most rewarding result is that the department has indeed been able to maintain its leadership, and its stated objectives, through its governance strategies and better reporting frameworks.

Many women find it difficult to balance their careers, continuing studies and the demands of family life. How do you strike a work/life balance?

I have always believed in the saying that good leaders are those that grow other leaders both at home, in their immediate surroundings, and at work. In applying this principle to my family and work, it has in a way given me the space to work, study, and also provided much needed family life support.

How would you describe your leadership style? Do you consider certain leadership traits to be more applicable to women, than men in general?



I would think that my leadership style is that I lead from three angles. Sometimes I lead from behind, allowing my team to take the initiative. Other times I lead from the front, setting parameters and boundaries on how the unit is to operate to achieve the objectives of the department, and other times I lead from the sides because leadership is not only about operating within solid lines of authority.

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

Have a the correct attitude to life and its people, start at the bottom and let the top take care of itself and always force yourself to grow up in a nurturing environment.

Minister Molewa walks the green talk

By Reyhana Mahomed

While the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs is entrusted with the responsibility to lead South Africa in attaining environmental sustainability, Minister Edna Molewa also takes this responsibility home. The Minister has taken a bold step in greening her lifestyle and her home thus ensuring that when she encourages ordinary South Africans to do the same, she walks the talk.

Between participating in climate change negotiations and leading the fight against rhino poaching, Minister Edna Molewa makes the time to ensure that her consumption habits minimise waste generation and supports Small, Medium and Micro-sized enterprises that produce goods from waste. The Minister and her family also try as much as possible to re-use items before recycling them, proving that "going green" does not have to be an expensive lifestyle.

"In my family home, acquired prior to becoming a Minister, I have installed a solar water heater and energy efficient lights with external security lights set on motion detectors to only come on when needed" said Minister Molewa.

Due to security requirements, Ministers live in accommodation provided by the Department of Public Works. The Minister's official accommodation has been fitted with energy efficient lights and motion sensor external security lighting. In addition, Ministers' modes of

transport are also subject to external regulations, however Minister Molewa ensures "my official vehicle is rated for the highest fuel efficiency in its class".

Minister Molewa acknowledges that her responsibilities in "going green" extend well beyond her personal life, "the challenge is to lead South Africa's efforts to address the challenges of environmental sustainability and, in particular, the global climate change crisis which threatens to undermine our development gains since 1994".

The Minister believes that it is important to promote environmentally sustainable lifestyles and habits amongst the people of South Africa as a whole. Therefore, the Minister has prioritised intensive public education and awareness campaigns in both the departments of Environmental Affairs and Water Affairs. Some of the campaigns include the clean coal initiative, water conservation awareness campaigns and various school competitions raising awareness on environmental sustainability.

The Minister through the departments under her guidance also encourages municipalities to guide communities in leading environmentally sustainable lifestyles. Through the annual Greenest Municipality Competition, the department of Environmental Affairs spends R10 million rewarding municipalities who demonstrate good water and waste management practices, energy efficiency and greening of their communities.

Furthermore, the Minister recognises that in order for South Africa to attain environmental sustainability, it is important for businesses to get involved too. As such, the Minister explains that she is leading initiatives to support clean consumer behaviour change. "We have made proposals to Parliament to amend the National Environmental Management Act to provide the legal basis for these consumer and producer driven tools and initiatives," said Minister Molewa.



The Minister also believes that it is important to promote an environmentally sustainable lifestyle to her staff. Monthly campaigns are held at the department of Environmental Affairs whereby posters are put up with tips on energy saving and sustainable behaviour.

"Efforts are made through carbon footprint offsetting, not only the offsetting of my own carbon miles but those of my staff as well" explained Minister Molewa. Carbon footprint offsetting for the department of Environmental Affairs staff is done by the solar power installation at the site of the new Environmental Affairs building in Pretoria. Although staff are yet to move into the building, carbon offset through renewable energy are already fed into the Tshwane grid. A total of 465kwh per month have been fed into the grid since November 2012. In addition, the Minister explains that from July 2014, it is expected that 10% of the energy consumption of the new building will be sourced from renewable and carbon clean sources.

The new building will be the first government department green offices. Our new green building has been awarded six green stars by the Green

Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA) for its use of sustainable building materials which promotes urban greening, energy and water efficiency. "This is the first six star rated building in the City of Tshwane and achieved the highest score for a large commercial office space of its magnitude awarded by the GBCSA to date" said Minister Molewa.

"In addition, I launched in February a pilot project in the Department of Environmental Affairs an electric vehicle initiative for the government with four electric vehicles," said the Minister. The Zero Emissions Electric Vehicle pilot project includes the use of renewable solar power to charge the electric vehicles and also the installation of dual feed-in charging stations. The dual feed-in charging stations mean that "power stored in the vehicle batteries can be used as clean energy feed-in to the grid, particularly during peak load periods", explained Minister Molewa.

In an attempt to encourage the use of public transport, the department of Environmental Affairs also provides a shuttle service for its staff to and from the Gautrain station thereby reducing carbon

miles and traffic congestion. Minister Molewa sees great potential in the Zero Emission Electric Vehicle pilot project, "It is my hope that through proving the feasibility and viability of this programme, it can be rolled out across the government fleet".

Minister Molewa is proud of her personal, official as well as her staff's pro-green attitude but admits that it is important to be able to measure the effectiveness of all these initiatives. "I have introduced a carbon footprint monitoring and reporting initiative for government that links to the Voluntary Carbon Disclosure cooperative programme that I have set up with the Private Sector. "I will shortly be publishing this report for the Department of Environmental Affairs as a pilot and hope to be able to facilitate its roll-out across government".

The Minister encourages all South Africans to make responsible environmental choices, such as switching to solar power, using electricity responsibly, composting, buying local produce, and recycling. It is important for everyone to realise the benefits of our collective efforts in going green, urged the Minister.



Rediscover nature in Parks Week & beyond, urges Minister

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas (left) and the Department of Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa (right) officially open the Mokala Interpretive Centre at Mokala National Park in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

All South Africans have been urged to go out and rediscover the beauty and splendour of our natural heritage, during National Parks Week and beyond. Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, made the call at the eighth National Parks Week on 9 September, at Mokala National Park in Kimberley.

"Just because SA National Parks Week is celebrated this time of the year, it does not mean that we should only visit our parks during this time," said the Minister, addressing the launch on a chilly

spring morning, which quickly warmed up as if to welcome the celebrations. "Through this gesture, we are saying to the people of South Africa, go out and discover the beauty of our country. Re-discover the fauna and flora of our country's most spectacular scenery, the historic landmarks and the cultural treasures that make us proudly South Africans."

Guests in attendance at the launch included Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas and MEC for Environment & Nature Conservation, Mr Peter Mabilo and South African National Parks

(SANParks) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr David Mabunda.

From 9 to 13 September this year, all it cost for South Africans to enter any of the 19 national parks, was a valid South African identity document.

The aim of National Parks Week, which has been sponsored by First National Bank since its inception in 2006, is to bridge the gap between communities and the country's national parks, which in turn will give communities a sense of ownership and entitlement over the parks. This initiative is intended to



Northern Cape MEC: Environment & Nature Conservation, Mr Patrick Mabilo welcomes the honourable guests and introduces Minister Edna Molewa during the National Parks Week launch celebrations held on 09 September 2013 at Mokala National Park, Kimberly, Northern Cape.



Minister Edna Molewa delivers the keynote address during the launch of National Parks week, celebrated on 09 September 2013 at the youngest South Africa National Park, Mokala National Park, in Kimberly, Northern Cape.



MEC: Environment & Nature Conservation, Northern Cape, Mr Patrick Mabilo welcomes the honourable guests and introduces Minister Edna Molewa during the National Parks Week launch celebrations held on 09 September 2013 at Mokala National Park, Kimberly, Northern Cape.

instill a sense of pride in communities whilst at the same time encouraging communities to preserve and conserve the parks and the wildlife and fauna that live within these parks.

Minister Molewa also officially opened an Interpretive Centre at the park, which will serve as an educational centre. SANParks' planning team member, Ms Sarah Letsoalo, explained that the centre is home to artefacts that were gathered around the Northern Cape, which tell stories of the province's indigenous people as well as their rich heritage. The celebration of the country's natural heritage coincides with Heritage Month and Tourism Month in September.

In her keynote address, Minister Edna Molewa noted that since its inception in 2006, just over 100 000 people in our country have accessed our national parks, during National Parks Week alone. "Also worth noting is the steady growth of black visitors to the National Parks, which grew by 25% in the last financial year," said Minister Molewa. These strides can be seen as the veil of

exclusivity of National Parks having been removed for all South Africans, not only since 2006, but also during our past two decades of democracy.

"It is also a painful reality that the process of establishing parks before the advent of democracy in South Africa was characterised by the alienation of black people from their land and property," explained Minister Molewa. "During the colonial and apartheid era, the creation of parks saw thousands of communities forcibly removed from their land and relocated to new areas, or losing their land. Owners were now reduced to labourers and the pride they had in land ownership was taken from them."

The Minister emphasised that the historical conservation strategies failed to consider the interests of local people and disrupted the existing way of life, and management of the environment, as employed by indigenous people. "It is therefore safe to say," she added, "that the history of conservation in South Africa is closely tied to our political history and control over access to land and natural resources."

Echoing the Minister's sentiments, SANParks CEO, Dr Mabunda gave a colourful description of how in his youth, his community viewed national parks as merely places where animals were kept, adding "we didn't know what goes on behind those fences."

He gave an account of his first visit to a national park as a boy. Due to the socio-political realities in South Africa at the time, the tour was narrated in Afrikaans. Thus, said Dr Mabunda, his group was not able to properly understand the natural heritage that resides in the parks and therefore claim it as their own.

This year's celebrations took place at the youngest South African National Park. Mokala National Park, was opened in 2007. Mokala is a Setswana word, meaning "tree." It stretches across 27 hectares of the Northern Cape's starkly beautiful and biodiverse terrain. Mokala National Park is home to a number of game species including Eland, Giraffe, Roan Sable, Buffalo (which are disease free), Gemsbok, Red Hartebeest and Tsessebe.



List of South Africa's National Parks

1. Addo Elephant National Park
2. Agulhas National Park
3. Augrabies Falls National Park
4. Bontebok National Park
5. Camdeboo National Park
6. Garden Route National Park (Tsitsikamma, Knysna, Wilderness)
7. Golden Gate Highlands National Park
8. Karoo National Park
9. Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
10. Kruger National Park
11. Mapungubwe National Park
12. Marakele National Park
13. Mokala National Park
14. Mountain Zebra National Park
15. Namaqua National Park
16. Table Mountain National Park
17. Tankwa Karoo National Park
18. West Coast National Park
19. |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park

Learn more about the SA National Parks, visit: <http://www.sanparks.co.za>



Dea's Oil Spill Contingency Plan Proven Effective

By Ernest Mulibana

The Department of Environmental Affairs' coastal oil spill contingency plan was put to test during two major wreckages where bulk carriers ran aground in Buffels Bay, Western Cape and Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal respectively in August 2013.

The plan proved to be effective as necessary measures were implemented to mitigate the damages caused and protect the marine environment.

Kiani Satu, Buffels Bay

The bulk carrier, Kiani Satu was carrying 330 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and 15 000 tonnes of rice when it ran aground just west of Goukamma River estuary, heading from Hong Kong to Ghana. The hull of the vessel had been breached, leading to more than three tons of fuel spilling into the sea.

The Department's Oil Response team worked around the lock

in collaboration with the local municipality, South African National Parks (SANParks) and CapeNature in cleaning up the oil spill to ensure that the marine environment was not significantly damaged.

Other protective measures to prevent oil from spilling further into the ocean were also in place. These included booming off the Goukamma and Swartvlei estuaries. "It is very important to contain damage to the Goukamma Marine Protected area of 2500ha, which is vital for the conservation of marine resources" said CapeNature Spokesperson, Marietjie Engelbrecht.

It is unfortunate that two penguins were lost as a result of oil spill from the Kiani Satu vessel. A further 11 penguins and one Cape gannet were admitted to the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) who oversaw rehabilitation efforts.

The vessel was carried away and sank to a depth of about 1000m and 100 nautical miles away from the Knysna coast.

MV Smart, Richards Bay

The bulk carrier vessel, MV Smart, ran aground carrying more than 60 000 tons of coal shortly after sailing from the Richards Bay harbour. The oil spill contingency plan was again firmly in place as oil was being transferred from the vessel.

A team comprising of relevant environmental, disaster management agencies and salvage experts boomed off the uMlathuze Sanctuary, Richards Bay harbour and nearby estuaries to assist with possible oil spills.

As salvage operations for the wreckage Richards Bay advanced, DEA received an emergency request from the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) to dump 10 000 tons



About the contributor: Ernest Mulibana

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



A satellite image of the oil spill in Richards Bay.

of coal from the vessel into the sea as an interim measure. The vessel broke into two soon after running aground, leading to about 50 000 tons of coal to spill into the ocean. It was therefore almost impossible for the salvage team to carry out any other alternative dumping solutions.

While dumping coal into the sea is not preferable, the approval was granted in cognisance of the fact that had coal been left on board, the oil would have spilled into the coast line resulting in a much more dire situation. Therefore, an emergency permit was issued that complied with the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act

(ICM) and the London Convention Protocol on Marine Environment Protection.

Pollution was very minimal in both the Buffels Bay and Richards Bay incidents, attesting to the effectiveness of the DEA's coastal oil spill contingency plan.

The Department's oil spill aerial surveillance aircraft, Kuswag 9 (K9), flew over both Buffels Bay and Richards Bay areas to gather valuable information that was used during the salvage operations. The aircraft also monitored and assessed the possibility of any

possible environmental threat in the area. In addition, the Department also

took samples of the coal on board MV Smart to determine the impact it may have on the marine environment.

DEA, along with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and other responding environmental agencies and local authorities are on high alert to provide

rapid response in the event of any oil pollution from the vessel. The costs for cleaning up operations were covered by the vessel owners in accordance to the Department's polluter pays principle.



Spotlight on:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SA Agulhas II

By Mthuthuzeli Gulekana

This year, the SA Agulhas II celebrated its first year as South Africa's polar research and supply vessel. The SA Agulhas II was constructed in Finland and arrived in South Africa on 5 May 2012, replacing the SA Agulhas I after having served over three decades meeting South Africa's polar research requirements.

The SA Agulhas II was commissioned by the South African government in 2012, as a multi-purpose ship that will be used for logistical support and research activities. It boasts a combination of attributes and capabilities that distinguishes it from many other ships of its era and in its category. The new ship is designed to break up to a meter of ice at five knots, the SA Agulhas I could not do this.

In the past year, the SA Agulhas II has conducted several major cruises including a research-cum-trial cruise as well as Marion and Gough Island Relief and Research cruises. The research-cum-trial cruise carried 60 scientists and was aimed at testing the ship's capability to break ice, its

mechanical ability and a suit of other research equipment on board.

The Gough Island Relief Voyage was undertaken during the months of September and October 2012. The Gough Island research base is particularly significant because the South African weather forecasts originate in the South Atlantic Ocean. Therefore the South African Weather Services (SAWS) meteorologists and forecasters do hourly measurements of the weather and meteorological conditions for the duration of their stay on the island. The importance of this work is to measure and detect the weather patterns, severe or otherwise as early as possible in order to warn the aviation, maritime users and the general public in South Africa of these daily weather patterns. This voyage was complemented with a scientific team that conducted oceanographic research throughout the voyage, whilst the usual terrestrial research ashore continued.

In April 2013, the S.A Agulhas II returned to the Prince Edward and Marion Islands,

which have been declared an offshore Marine Protected Area (MPA), one of the 7th largest MPAs in the world. The MPA is intended, among other things, to contribute to the protection of unique species, habitats and ecosystem processes. It will provide scientific reference points that can inform the future management of the area and to be able to better understand the impacts of climate change on the whole southern Ocean. It will also contribute to the integrated and ecologically sustainable management of the marine resources of the area.

The vessel has welcomed ordinary citizens on board and is often showcased on South Africa's coastal towns and cities welcoming learners, students and the general public to view it. These engagements seek to create awareness about our oceans as well as the work of the SA Agulhas II.

Since its arrival, the S.A Agulhas II has served major research and logistical duties and has been declared as one of the





best amongst the modern ships in its category. It has been adequately used; spending more than 60% of its time in its first 366 days at sea conducting marine and terrestrial research.

With regards to its research capabilities; the ship can measure environmental parameters in the atmosphere, in the seawater column and in the seafloor at sea. For logistical support, the ship can carry helicopters, several liters of polar diesel to refill at the research bases, food that should last more than 12 months as well as material for maintenance and servicing of the research bases and infrastructure.

The new vessel is dedicated to the life and work of Miriam Makeba who was a freedom fighter and a world renowned musician. The SA Agulhas II is one of the first vessels globally that have been constructed to the new International Maritime Organisations' Safe Return to

Port requirements. These requirements are intended to ensure maximum safety for passengers in the event of fire or flooding. One of the basic principles is that the ship is its best life boat and that every precaution should be taken to maintain the integrity of the structure until such time that the ship can reach a safe port. The research facilities on the new ship allow for extensive, deep water oceanographic and geological research voyages.

The SA Agulhas I remains an embodiment of one of South Africa's proudest achievements: three decades in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic region. While the Department of Environmental Affairs has released the SA Agulhas I from its research activities, the vessel has been re-deployed to the South African Maritime Safety Authority where it has been renamed the SA Dedicated Training Vessel with the function of training seafaring cadets.

- **BUILDER:** STX Finland
- **OWNER:** Department of Environmental Affairs

S.A. AGULHAS II FACT SHEET

- **DIMENSIONS:** LENGTH 134m - BREADTH 22m
- **SPEED:** 16 knots open water
5 knots in 1m thick ice
- **MAIN ENGINES:** 4x six-cylinder Wartsila 32 marine engines
- **PASSENGERS:** 100
- **PASSENGER CABINS:** 46
- **CREW:** 44
- **CREW CABINS:** 46
- **CARGO HOLD:** 4000m³
- **CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY:** Det Norske Veritas



About the contributor: Mthuthuzeli Gulekana

Mthuthuzeli Gulekana is a Marine Scientist for the DEA who studies the physical dynamics of the oceans. He has been involved in local and regional multi-disciplinary scientific projects studying the dynamics of the Atlantic Oceans and the Southern Oceans and their influence in the global climate change. He has a MSc from the University of Cape. He recently became a Scientific Manager : Oceans Interaction

Environmental Programmes

By Reyhana Mahomed and Sivuyile Ngaba



Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi at the International Coastal Cleanup Day in Cape Town, 2013.



The Working on Fire helicopter used during rescue operations.



Beneficiaries of the Youth Environmental Services Programme show the Deputy Minister some of the products they are creating from waste.

The Environmental Programmes branch, under the leadership of Dr Guy Preston has as its main strategic objective, to improve sector education and awareness. It is through this branch that the Department of Environmental Affairs implements its various "Working for" programmes intended to meet its strategic objectives.

The Environmental Programmes branch oversees the initiation, implementation and ongoing monitoring of eight Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes and seven Natural Resource Management Programmes. These programmes include, amongst others, the Working on Waste, Youth Jobs in Waste, Youth Environmental Service, Working for Water, Working on Fire and the Working for Forests programmes.

The objectives of these programmes and therefore the branch, is to improve compliance with environmental legislation, ensure that the biodiversity of South Africa is conserved, protected and that threats are mitigated. The branch also seeks to improve sector education and awareness, prevent and control invasive alien species and ensure improved management of waste. Some of its socio-economic objectives are to ensure ecosystems services are restored and maintained, provide working experience and training for unemployed

people in the environmental sector and thereby, improve the socio-economic benefits in the sector.

The Departments of Environmental Affairs and Water Affairs have invested over R7.5 billion in the Working for Water Programme, which aims to control and contain the invasive alien plants. Since its inception in 1995, the Programme has created the equivalent of more than 174 000 person years of employment, and created employment opportunities to an average of 26 000 people per year, with 54% of them being women. The programme has treated more than two million hectares of invasive alien plants, thereby reducing risks of land degradation and desertification. Furthermore, through this programme, the departments plan to produce 19 000 school desks supporting other sister departments in government.

The DEA has invested more than R2.2 billion in Working on Fire Programme. The programme supports land users to contain more than 9 700 wild fires over an estimated area of more than 4.6 million hectares in order to secure life and livelihoods in some of the country's hottest conditions. Most of the beneficiaries of this programme are women and persons with disabilities. In addition, the Department invested more than R560 million in the Working for Wetlands Programme for the restoration

and protection of wetlands since its inception in 2005.

In the past financial year (2012/13), the Environmental Programmes branch created 99 548 work opportunities and 35 532 full time equivalent jobs of which 61% constituted youth employment. The branch expects to create 65 494 work opportunities and 34 019 full time equivalent jobs in the current financial year.

The branch also undertakes extensive skills development and training in the environmental sector where skills development is based on the idea that beneficiaries will exit programmes with the potential to be absorbed into the labour market. Therefore, the expected outcome of training includes skills development which will contribute to the effective implementation of programmes.

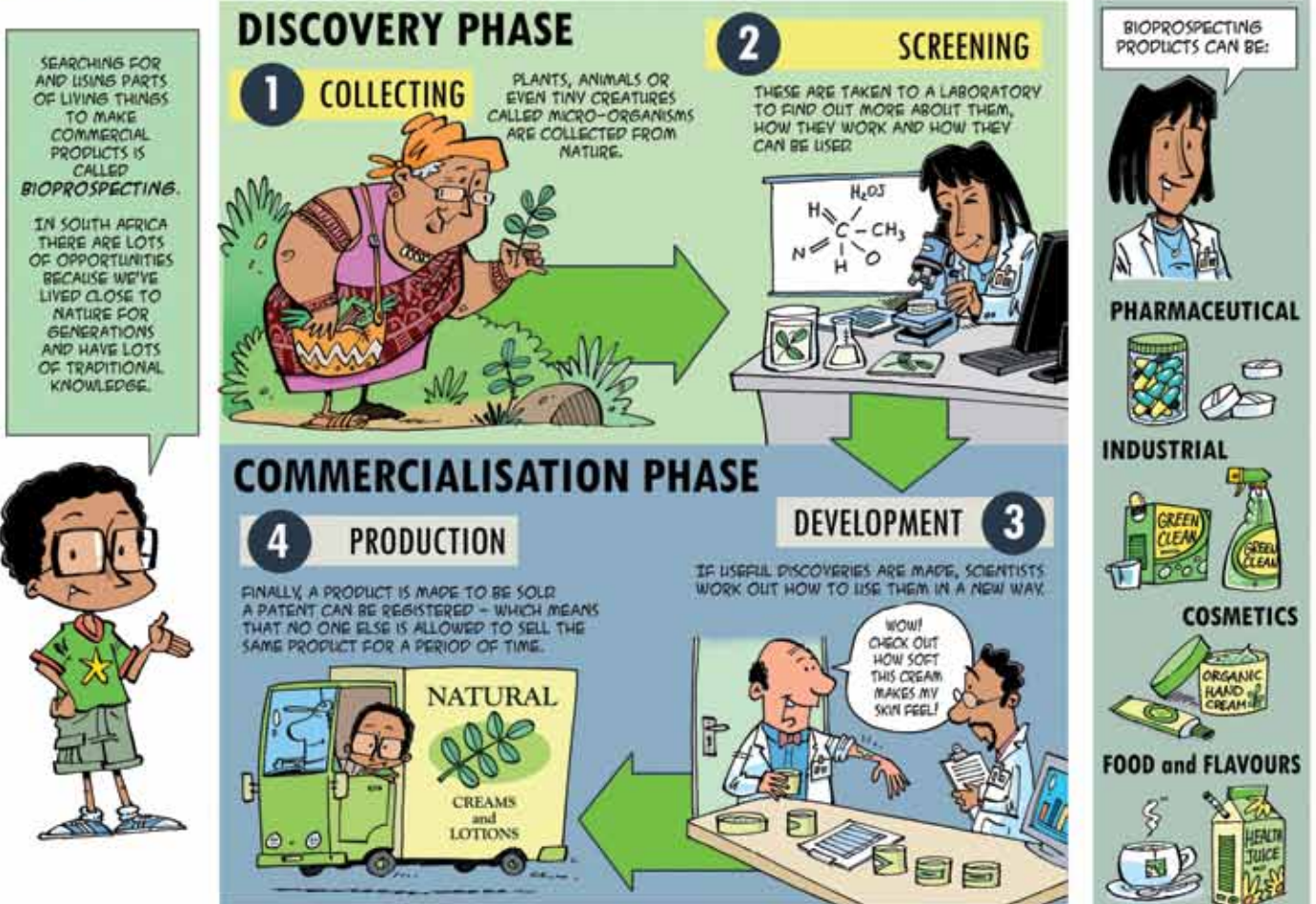
It must be noted that all skills development programmes offered are SAQA accredited, thus providing beneficiaries the opportunity to pursue their desired careers and plough back into the environmental sector. It is envisaged that programme beneficiaries will gain an enhanced level of environmental consciousness and preservation and establish their own business based on their newly acquired skills.



About the contributor: Sivuyile Ngaba

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

2 BIOPROSPECTING: *New ways with nature*



CASE STUDY: Crocodile Oil

OIL EXTRACTED FROM CROCODILE FLESH IS VERY HIGH IN OMEGA FATTY ACIDS, WHICH OUR BODIES NEED TO FUNCTION WELL.

CROCODILES ARE ALREADY BEING FARMED FOR THEIR MEAT AND SKINS SO CROCODILE OIL CAN BE COLLECTED WITHOUT THREATENING THE SPECIES, AND USED IN A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS.

IT IS BELIEVED TO HELP MANY SKIN PROBLEMS LIKE ACNE, ECZEMA AND BURNS.

SO BIOPROSPECTING IS ALL ABOUT FINDING AND USING NATURE'S SPECIAL PROPERTIES IN NEW PRODUCTS ... BUT WILL NATURE BE PROTECTED AND WHO WILL BENEFIT?

GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE SET UP RULES ABOUT HOW BIOPROSPECTING SHOULD BE DONE ... TO MAKE SURE THAT NATURE IS PROTECTED AND THAT THE BENEFITS ARE SHARED FAIRLY.



Valuable data derived from whale strandings

By Lieze Swart

Earlier this year a stranding of False Killer Whales on Long Beach in Noordhoek, Western Cape province, was reported to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Despite the best efforts of environmental, rescue, marine and volunteer organisations, all 20 of the stranded animals did not survive.

"Our duty crew launched sea rescue craft from Kommetjie and from Hout Bay and NSRI rescuers responded," said Mr Tom Coetzee, Station Commander of the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) in Kommetjie. "The City of Cape Town Disaster Management, The Department of Environmental Affairs – Oceans and Coasts, the SPCA, Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement Marine Unit, Table Mountain National Park Rangers, the SA Police Services, Police Sea Border Line, Cape Town Traffic, 2 Veterinary Surgeons and various marine agency volunteers were activated to respond."

Autopsies were conducted on five out of the 20 stranded animals, following the stranding, which took place from 24 to 25 March, 2013. The scientific value of these animals remains immeasurable. Data collected included stomach contents - shedding light on their diet; as well as blubber and muscle samples - which were screened for toxicity and other pollutants. The scientists also collected

the whales' skulls, genitalia, and general measurements of the sea mammals' external shape and dimensions. Although the loss of these majestic creatures remains tragic, the experience gained from this operation further enhances South Africa's capability in dealing in natural disasters affecting marine mammals.

Twenty False Killer whales were stranded of which five died during the night. Triage was conducted upon arrival on the fifteen surviving whales to assess their condition. Groups of volunteers were designated to each whale to keep them wet and calm. Whales are not designed for prolonged exposure to the sun. Wet sheets were therefore used as protective cover. The operation was conducted under the supervision of two wildlife veterinary surgeons. The rate of deterioration of their condition, heart rate, breathing rate and liveliness of each animal were monitored throughout the course of the operation.

By the next morning, one whale in shallow surf was returned to sea. It swam off well, but re-beached itself in the night and died. A continuous triage indicated that the condition of nine whales had deteriorated beyond the rescue option and were thus euthanized. Following the collection of scientific data, the carcasses were transported to the local dump site at Vissershok.

The remaining five live whales were transported to Simonstown for release under supervision of a veterinary surgeon and a whale scientist.

Whales were loaded onto two navy tugs with synchronic lifts and taken 1.5 nautical sea miles out to sea. The animals were closely monitored after their release. However, the saved whales washed out again at Longbeach, Zeekoeivlei and near Muizenberg the following day and were euthanized. By the end of the operation, no whales had survived the stranding incident.

False Killer whales are highly social animals living in groups of about 20 animals, which form part of a larger group of more than 100 animals. Members of a group hardly leave their natal group and are known to remain with a troubled group member to their death. Often, when a whale is injured or sick, it will swim close to the shore to take refuge in the shallow water. The strong group cohesion makes the species more vulnerable to stranding as the group refuses to abandon a member. Thus, False killer whales stranding in South Africa have mostly consisted of groups rather than single animals.



About the contributor: Lieze Swart

Lieze Swart is a scientific technician control Grade A and is working in the Biodiversity and Coastal Research Directorate of Oceans and Coasts Branch at the Department of Environmental Affairs. She joined the department in 1992 and works in the Top Predator section working with whales, dolphins, seals, penguins and sharks. She is part of a team that assists during strandings of dead and live dolphins and whales



Fact Box

Common name: False Killer Whale

Scientific name: *Pseudorca crassidens*

Description: The false killer whale is black with a grey throat and neck. It has a slender body with an elongated, tapered head and 44 teeth. The dorsal fin is sickle-shaped and its flippers are narrow, short and pointed.

Diet: The false killer whale feeds mainly upon squid, octopus, and cuttlefish, as well as fish such as cod. They have also been known to feed upon marine mammals.

Size: The average size is around 4.9 m. Females can reach a maximum known size of 5.1 m in length and 1,200 kg in weight, while the largest males can reach 6.1 m and as much as 2,200 kg.

Commonly confused with: The short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala*). The False Killer Whale superficially resembles these whales, but lacks the bulbous forehead, and the teeth are nearly twice as large.

Boundlessly exploring Southern Africa's natural treasures

By Veronica Mahlaba



On the first day of the Boundless Southern Africa Expedition, ambassadors entering the border of Botswana.



Rise and Shine at the Umvuvu Camp in Xau, Botswana.



Martin Rooinasie, Lufuno Muhangane and Pilot Biller handing out sweets to the Divava Village children in Namibia

Boundless Southern Africa's 21 young ambassadors, recently wowed tourism ministers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), attending the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) General Assembly. The event was co-hosted by Zimbabwe and Zambia, and took place from 24 for 29 August 2013.

Leading up to the high level UNWTO meeting, the 21 youngsters representing the seven Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in Southern Africa, took part in the Boundless Southern Africa Expedition, from 18 to 31 August. This reporter had the unique privilege of joining the expedition, in order to experience the region's diverse natural treasures first hand, and to assist in educating communities within the conservancies.

"The wonders we have, for them to enjoy. Boundless they roam, protected and free.... Africa, Africa, southern Africa," goes the original composition of Boundless Southern Africa Ambassadors. Their theme song incorporated the languages widely spoken in the SADC. The song encapsulates the need to conserve Africa's natural and cultural heritage for future generations. Their stellar performance of the song was part of their participation in the UNWTO General Assembly.

"To our utmost joy, the delegation enjoyed our performance. It was fulfilling to receive applause and personal feedback," said Ms Nozipho Mziyako, a Boundless ambassador from Swaziland.

"The hosting of this global tourism event in the region in general and in the TFCAs in particular, provides an opportunity to once again use an expedition to profile TFCAs as unique, cross-border ecotourism, and hospitality investment

destinations," said Mr Roland Vorwerk, the Marketing Manager of Boundless Southern Africa. "It is against this background that the idea of executing the 2013 Boundless Southern Africa expedition as a parallel event to the UNWTO GA was conceived," he said.

The 21 TFCAs ambassadors met in Johannesburg before beginning their overland safari to showcase a truly boundless Southern African experience, using TFCAs as an anchor product. "A series of events have been held by the full complement of ambassadors, aimed at raising the profile of transfrontier conservation initiatives in the region," explained Mr Vorwerk. The thematic focus of events was on nature, culture and community.

This marked the beginning of an adventurous expedition for many of the unemployed ambassadors, who have demonstrated an interest in conservation or tourism related outreach programmes in their areas.

Boundless they roamed, protected and free

At the crack of dawn on 18 August 2013, the Boundless Southern Africa team left Johannesburg. The group of 21 ambassadors as well as the tour organisers, travelled approximately ten hours, crossing the border into Botswana, where they camped overnight at Khama Rhino Sanctuary.

The following morning, the ambassadors went on a game drive through the sanctuary, which was converted from a former hunting area into a conservation project. The sanctuary protects Botswana's only remaining populations of both black and white rhinos. It is also home to zebras, giraffes, leopards, wildebeest, and ostrich amongst others.

Mokoros a hit with the ambassadors in Botswana

The highlight for many of the ambassadors was boarding a mokoro (a traditional dugout canoe) and heading out into the Okavango swamps to Xau Island to camp. This was followed by the leisurely ride across the Okavango Delta. The delta, which is 16,000 sq km,

is often referred to as the "Jewel of the Kalahari" and holds amongst the world's renowned and complex ecosystems.

Knowledge sharing in Namibia

The young ambassadors' next stop was the Caprivi Strip in Namibia where they learned how the community lives in harmony with wild animals, while conserving the country's natural heritage. The ambassadors also had an opportunity to share how their TFCAs are run, with the conservancy's management. They also shared valuable information on the measures taken to preserve the natural ecosystems in their home countries,

Led by a local tribesman, the group headed for the Divava Village. The community showcased their various efforts at promoting eco-tourism in the area, such as performing traditional dances for visitors, making and selling beaded items and conducting the mokoro rides.

Responsible travel: Offsetting our carbon footprint

The Boundless team visited Zimbabwe's largest national park, Hwange National Park, which falls under the Kavango-Zambezi (KaZa) TFCA. The purpose of the visit was to gain insight into the conservation and research projects the park undertakes and further discuss the aspects threatening the local biodiversity.

The ambassadors crossed the Zimbabwean border to the co-host country Zambia. The group offset their carbon footprint by planting trees with the Vice President of Zambia, Mr Guy Scott.

Boat cruise galore

Boat cruises quickly became part of the culture of the Boundless Southern Africa Expedition. In Namibia the ambassadors enjoyed a relaxing sunset boat cruise across the Zambezi to the Bwabwata National Park in Namushasha. On their way back to South Africa, the ambassadors stopped in Kasane, Botswana and experienced the wonders of Chobe National Park, the country's first national park. It is known for its great number elephant population.



"We enjoyed a relaxing sunset cruise on the Chobe River which is shared by both Botswana and Namibia. While on cruise we got to see hippos, buffalos, giraffes, crocodiles and elephants," said Angelo Arao Boca, from Mozambique. The TFCAs represented include: /Ai / Ais-Richtersveld, Kgalagadi, Greater Mapungubwe, Great Limpopo, Lubombo, Maloti-Drakensberg and Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA). These TFCAs straddle the borders of nine Southern African countries, including: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Boundless Southern Africa is a forward-thinking marketing initiative that promotes seven TFCAs within southern Africa, to potential investors and tourists around the world. A TFCA is an area or

component of a large ecological region that straddles the boundaries of two or more countries, encompassing one or more protected areas as well as multiple resource use areas.

What makes the concept so progressive is that it is marketed in terms of ecosystems and not in terms of political or geographical boundaries. It unites African nations as viable and worthy collective tourist destinations and thereby boosts economic growth. It also promotes greater collaboration between African countries when it comes to conserving and protecting this continent's rich and extraordinary environments, nature, heritage and cultures.

Boundless Southern Africa is also a positive response to the African Legacy Programme that was devised by the

2010 Local Organising Committee. It was launched at the 2008 Tourism Indaba in Durban, Boundless Southern Africa is the marketing brand chosen by nine southern African countries to represent some of the best tourism products the region has to offer. Boundless Southern Africa Unit is hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs on behalf of the nine countries participating in this initiative.

The UNWTO is a leading international organization in the field of tourism. It promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

Emphasis on education at Mandela Month Celebrations

By Veronica Mahlaba



“Our responsibility is to make sure that our young ones go to school and be able to change our country.”

That was the message carried out during the Mandela Month celebrations, when the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi visited schools in Kimberley and Limpopo. Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi adopted both the schools in honour of the father of our nation, Tata Mandela. Upon adoption of the schools, a needs assessment was commissioned, wherein it was established that the schools were in dire need of several resources that would make teaching and learning take place in a more conducive environment.

Boitumelo Special School is a disadvantaged school in the Northern Cape that caters for 201 mentally impaired learners aged between six and 18 years. The second school the Deputy Minister adopted, Siloe School for the Blind in Limpopo caters for 150 blind, partially sighted and deaf-blind pupils.

The theme for Mandela Month 2013 was *‘Take Action, Inspire Change. Make everyday a Mandela Day.’* The month kicked off with a visit to Boitumelo Special School in Kimberley on 19 July 2013. The Deputy Minister said she was thankful that Tata Mandela was able to open his eyes in hospital on his birthday. “The problem we have today is poverty. If you, the young children don’t go to school, we won’t break the cycle of poverty. We must not disappoint his aspiration, to eradicate poverty, to provide quality education. We must not let down Madiba’s legacy,” said the Deputy Minister addressing pupils at the Boitumelo Special School in the Northern Cape.

The donations handed over to Boitumelo Special School included the following: R165 000 from various sponsors, 30

desks from the Working for Water factory, air conditioners from SANParks, Game Kimberly pledged to donate a mobile kitchen, Maphalane Trust pledged to buy a school bus, a permaculture food garden from Woolworths, paint from the Provincial Department of Education as well as trees from the Provincial Department of Agriculture. The donations also included a R100 000 cheque from Rand Water and laptops, screens and paint for the classes from Sedibeng Water. Other partners included Sasol and Eskom.

Overwhelmed with joy the principal of Boitumelo, Mr Ernest Jahnig said the contributions are really going to improve the situation at school and make a difference in the lives of the kids. “This day shows how people can work together to better the lives of others and their educational circumstances. It also demonstrates cooperation of various government departments in a very professional and effective way.

“This is the legacy of Madiba in action because if it wasn’t for him, we wouldn’t be doing this today,” stated Mr Jahnig.

The celebrations then moved to Siloe School for the Blind on 26 July 2013, in Limpopo. The MEC of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Seaparo Sekwati thanked all the sponsors who came on board and said they brought hope to the people in the name of Nelson Mandela. “I would like to appeal that this act of kindness must not stop in July, but must carry on every day of our lives,” appealed Mr Sekwati.

The Deputy Minister handed over the following donations: R165 000, 35 beds, 35 mattresses and bedding, 30 study desks, kitchen trolleys, two Braille writers,

two television sets and two DVD players, an industrial washing machine, 200 spoons and plates, 20 wheelie bins, 200 blankets and 28 steel tables, a permaculture food garden sponsored by Woolworths, Lepelle Northern Water pledged to undertake water connections and rehabilitate boreholes in the school yard, the provincial Departments of Education and Agriculture pledged to donate paint and trees, respectively. Other partners include Rand Water, Lepelle Northern Water, Sasol, MTN, SANParks, Coca Cola Polokwane, Anglo Platinum, Rotary Club, Multichoice, Limpopo First Lady Trust, and Eskom.

Ecstatically the principal of Siloe School for the Blind, Ms Ramokone Molepo thanked all who attended and participated in the activities at the school. “I’m overjoyed by the many sponsors and donations received by the school. The visit from the MEC and the Minister makes us feel special and appreciated,” said Ms Molepo.

Whilst addressing the school, Mabudafhasi reiterated that people must make every day a Mandela Day “We must not only dedicate this day to organisations but can also help our neighbours on a daily basis. This is what Mandela fought for, a better life for all. Love thy neighbour as you love yourself, that’s what the bible says,” she said.

It was entertainment galore at both the schools, learners displaying their talents in dance, song, playing of musical instruments and in poetry. One of the memorable parts of the Mandela Month Celebrations was a citation by a blind learner of Siloe School for the Blind, of the speech of Tata Madiba which stated:

A healthy atmosphere, the future we want

By Lubabalo Maweni



Throughout the world people celebrated International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on 16 September 2013. The ozone layer is best described as the “shield in the sky” as it is a layer of gas in the form of oxygen which is naturally produced in the atmosphere. All life on earth depends on the existence of this thin layer of gas.

However, various human activities release a number of gases into the atmosphere that provide a threat to the ozone layer. These ozone depleting gases include chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, hydro chlorofluorocarbons and methyl bromide. Many of these gases are used on a daily basis as they are present in, amongst others, air conditioners, refrigerators and aerosols.

The destructive capacity of a chemical depends, amongst other factors on how long the chemical persists in the atmosphere before being broken down itself. The ozone depleting potential of a chemical gives a measure of the ability to destroy the stratospheric ozone. Ozone depletion leads to excessive warming of the atmosphere, which leads to an increase in skin cancer and eye cataracts, less productivity in plants, loss of immune to diseases and it has an adverse effect on plastics. Therefore, there is a continued effort to undertake awareness campaigns in communities country wide.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer in South Africa

This year, South Africa commemorated the day on 17 September in the Ehlanzeni District, Mpumalanga. The theme for the 2013 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer Awareness is “A healthy atmosphere, the future we want”. The purpose of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is to raise awareness on South Africa’s efforts to effectively manage ozone depleting substances, to raise awareness on activities that cause the destruction of the ozone layer and discourage these, and encourage the youth to follow a career in chemical management, environmental management and waste management.

What is South Africa doing to prevent threats to the ozone layer?

The government of South Africa through the Department of Environmental Affairs recognises its responsibility to protect the environment and the well-being of citizens. As such, South Africa is party to the Montreal Protocol and seeks to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the ozone depleting substances in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol.

Parallel to that, the country restricts and controls the use of ozone depleting substances by the promotion of ozone-friendly substances. In order to exercise greater control over the ozone depleting

substances, the department is in the process of developing the Ozone Depleting Substances Regulations. South Africa does not produce ozone depleting substances but only imports them into the country. As such, the department has collaborated with the South African Revenue Services (SARS), International Trade Administration Commission and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to set up an import permit system to control the trade in ozone depleting substances in order to meet the obligations the Montreal Protocol. The Department has further developed the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan which has been approved by the Ozone Secretariat and is currently being implemented. Chemicals management in South Africa requires a combined effort between government and industry in order to effectively control consumption and thus, introduce non-ozone depleting substances also known as environmentally friendly alternatives.

The history of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

In 1987 representatives from 24 countries met in Montreal and announced to the world that it was time to stop destroying the ozone layer. South Africa was one of the countries committing themselves, through the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, to rid the world of substances that threaten the ozone layer.



About the contributor: Lubabalo Maweni

Deputy Director: Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). He is responsible for the Montreal Protocol, which deals with the ODS. Mr Maweni has a background in chemistry and engages with Hydrochloro Fluorocarbons and Methyl Bromide stakeholders. He enjoys networking and socialising with people from different backgrounds.

Waste projects to create nearly 1000 youth jobs

By Zibuse Ndlovu



YOUTH JOBS: The Youth in Jobs programme aims to create job opportunities, on-the-job training, continuous up-skilling, as well as enterprise development.

Over a thousand of South African unemployed youth are set to benefit from the Youth Jobs in Waste Programme launched by the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa.

The launch formed part of both Environment and Youth Month celebrations in South Africa. Speaking at the launch in Free State on 16 June 2013, Minister Molewa said 1000 jobs would be created by placing young people in municipalities as landfill assistants, waste collection administrators and environmental awareness educators.

In response to the lack of technical knowledge in landfill site operation and management, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) conducted training sessions in all provinces in the 2011/12. "It is crucial to ensure continuity in landfill site operations and management, and thus it is crucial to also involve young people to this technical field. DEA wants to extend the training to 462 young people who will be placed in municipalities across the country in the current year," said Minister Molewa.

Upon completing the short course, young people will be based at the Landfill Operations and will assist with day to day management and administration related

to the operations at the landfills. "Key tasks they would undertake there relate to the operation of weigh-pad technology, as well as monitoring workforce activities," explained the Minister.

A 2007 departmental study had found that there was a backlog in solid waste service delivery in all municipalities. The Youth Jobs in Waste programme initiative was developed to create capacity within municipalities and to lessen the burden of providing waste services.

"It was also developed in recognition of the fact that the waste sector is now, more than ever, ready for major investment as well as capacity building programmes to create decent jobs and fuel the green economy," said the Minister.

The programme is initially being rolled out in the Free State, North West, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo.

"It is important that the state improves its capacity to deliver waste services. This is not only to meet service delivery needs, but also to provide dignity and quality of life to our people," Molewa said.

Mr Tubatsi Moloi, one of the beneficiaries of the Youth in Jobs programme in Bethlehem said the programme was going to help with preserving the earth, "much

more it will provide many job opportunities for the youth through the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP)."

Another beneficiary from Phuthaditjhaba, Ms Mendi Ntombizodwa Nkolonzi said she was very excited about the project as it was going to give her the experience and exposure she needed to get a proper job. "It is going to help me because I will be able to support my children and help around the house," she said.

Young people in each of South Africa's nine provinces will benefit from the programme. The provincial distribution of the jobs is as follows:

- KwaZulu-Natal – 728, jobs created
- Eastern Cape – 566
- Western Cape – 366
- Limpopo – 350
- North West – 326
- Northern Cape – 273
- Mpumalanga – 262
- Gauteng – 326
- Free State—380

Further work opportunities will be created from the construction activities associated with the building or erection of landfill site offices, ablution facilities as well as weigh-pad platforms at landfill sites across the country.



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

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

Farming the Wild Project gets R22 Million financial boost from the Green Fund

By Zibuse Ndlovu



Minister Molewa and Dr Meshack Radebe during the media briefing at the Somkhanda Community Game Reserve.



The Chairperson of the Emvokweni Community Trust, Lindiwe Gumbi and the CEO of Wildlands, Dr Andrew Venter, signing an agreement to formalise the already strong partnership. Witnessing the signing is Minister Molewa and the local community leadership.

The “Farming the Wild” Project, aimed at greening the rural community of Somkhanda in KwaZulu Natal through the establishment of the Somkhanda Community Game Reserve has received R22 Million financial boost from the Green Fund.

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa launched the project, as well as the South African Green Economy Modelling Report (SAGEM) in the uPhongolo Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal on 23 August 2013.

Minister Molewa assured scores of people who came to witness the launch that South Africa viewed the green economy as a sustainable development path that is based on addressing the interdependence between economic growth, social protection and natural ecosystems. “The SAGEM Report was therefore developed to explore the transition to a green economy for South Africa, with special attention for its ability to meet low carbon growth, resource efficiency and pro-job development targets,” she said.

The Environmental Affairs’ Chief Policy Adviser for Sustainable Development, Mr Tlou Ramaru, said that the Somkhanda Game Reserve application for financial support was successful and was funded as a green economy solution suitable for the rural areas of South Africa.

The Green Fund is a national fund, under the Department of Environmental Affairs

and is managed by the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), which supports South Africa’s transition to a green economy. The fund provides catalytic finance to facilitate the investment in greening initiatives such as the establishment of the Somkhanda Game Reserve.

The land on which the game reserve was founded was restored to the community of Somkhanda through the Land Reform process in 2005. The area has been kept completely “wild” thereby restoring and conserving the green infrastructure on which the green economy should be based.

The community decided to place the majority of the land under conservation and create a game reserve that would serve as an economic engine driving development in the area.

“The Somkhanda community has formed partnerships with the Wildlands Conservation Trust and the World Wildlife Fund to guide the community in establishing the Somkhanda Game Reserve. Through this partnership, various skills development projects have been introduced to members of the community,” said Mr Ramaru.

The Somkhanda Game Reserve is also a participant of the Black Rhino Range Expansion Programme thus introducing rare and endangered black rhino to the reserve. In addition, Somkhanda has been promoted as a flagship project for land restitution and transformation in South Af-

rica as well as an example of conservation-based community development.

Some of the game already purchased includes buffalo, impala and zebra. Revenue can be generated from hunting, live game sales, game products and ecotourism.

“The project contributes significantly to alleviating poverty through the creation of employment opportunities, revenue generation and the establishment of supporting and secondary industries as stimulated by their ecotourism development. The project will create approximately 80 jobs. Thus far, 28 permanent and 15 temporary jobs have been created,” explained Mr Ramaru.



Minister Molewa arriving at the event after taking a drive through the Somkhanda Game Reserve.

Ministry & Branch Heads Engage Enviro Stakeholders

By Zibuse Ndlovu



TEAM PRAISED: (L,R) the Environmental Affairs Deputy Director-General for Legal Authorisation, Compliance and Enforcement, Mr Ishaam Abader and the Chief Director for Air Quality Management, Dr Thuli Mdluli.



The Deputy Director-General for Environmental Advisory Services, Mr Alf Wills (left) exchanging contacts.

The Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) Climate Change and Air Quality Branch received many approving nods from the stakeholders for maintaining good relations through their effective stakeholder consultative processes.

Speaking during the Stakeholder Engagement Forum held at the Protea Hotel, O R Tambo International in Kempton Park, on 01 August 2013, Ms Shirley Moroka from ENGEN congratulated the Branch for its comprehensive consultation when developing legislation and work packages for Air Quality and Climate Change.

"We congratulate the department and the Air Quality Management team on the consultation they do on air quality management," said Ms Moroka.

DEA's Air Quality Management Chief Director, Dr Thuli Mdluli said DEA ensured that there was proper consultation with the stakeholders when it established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in terms of both the section 556 and 557 of the Air Quality Act. "The establishment of section 521 of the Air Quality Act listed activities and associated minimum emission standards, and our stakeholders were widely consulted on the process," said Dr Mdluli.

The Stakeholder Engagement Forum hosted by Minister Edna Molewa and the Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi is an annual event that provides the Depart-

ment with a platform to engage with various stakeholders whose work is interlinked with the programmes of the Department.

The DEA's Head of Communications, Mr Albi Modise said "the forum provides the Department with an opportunity to share with its stakeholders the areas of priority going forward, as per its Strategic Plan."

Responding to questions at the forum, Minister Molewa acknowledged a call by non-governmental organisations and the private sector for the department to "take the lead" on pertinent issues in the environmental sector. "What I am hearing from you, is that you want the departments of Water and Environmental Affairs to lead on certain aspects, and I consider this constructive criticism. We owe this to you," she said.

Minister Molewa added that the success of DEA initiatives would also be contingent on private sector cooperation and collaboration.

"Ours is not a leadership by the department for the department, it is for the collective. Your input makes this role and our work easier," she said.

In response to concerns around a lack of intergovernmental cooperation and compliance with environmental policies and procedures, Minister Molewa emphasised that DEA was in a constant process of engagement with other national departments to ensure that the mandates of the departments were pursued in accordance with environmental legislation.



MEETING STAKEHOLDERS: Minister Molewa greets stakeholder representatives during the Stakeholder Engagement Forum.

DEA, CSIR identify development hotspots for solar and windpower

By Surprise Zwane

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), undertaken by the Centre for Social and Industrial Research (CSIR) has revealed areas in South Africa that holds the highest development potential, coupled with land available for the roll-out of wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) projects in South Africa.

These areas include the Northern Cape, North-West, Free State, Western Cape and parts of the Eastern Cape. These provinces have been identified as areas whereby the most exposure to radiation would be possible.

"Solar irradiation is very good in many parts of South Africa and the potential areas identified for solar PV projects were more strongly influenced by the need for socio-economic development," says CSIR Solar SEA manager Lydia Cape-Ducluzeau.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) appointed the CSIR in December 2012 to undertake the first SEA commissioned by the DEA as part of facilitating the efficient implementation of the Strategic

Integrated Projects (SIP) that were introduced in the 2012 National Infrastructure Development Plan.

The SEA was initiated to provide a platform for coordination between the various government departments involved in approving renewable energy projects. Therefore, it is intended that through the SEA process, all participating departments will be able to pre-assess the requirements for which they have a mandate and be in a position to either issue general authorisations, exemptions, or delist energy applications based on adherence to certain conditions or guidelines.

Therefore, the objective of the SEA is to identify corridors for the rollout of renewable energy and its supporting energy grid which will allow for development without requiring additional environmental authorisations subject to the development being undertaken in line with certain conditions or guidelines.

"The next phase of the SEA is to refine the potential areas to identify Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs), in

which development will be incentivised and requirements for environmental and planning approval will be streamlined," says CSIR manager for the wind energy SEA, Cornelius van der Westhuizen.

The aim is to create zones where conducting business will be easier and quicker for developers of wind and solar projects. These zones, the REDZs are expected to be submitted to cabinet in the first quarter of 2014 for approval.

The REDZs will allow for wind and solar PV energy projects and the associated grid infrastructure to be developed in these preferred areas without requiring environmental authorisations, subject to certain conditions and development protocols.

The SEA process, including the development of the site specific guideline document and associated approvals, will be designed to function within the existing legal framework and satisfy all relevant legislation to allow the competent authorities to provide authorisations for the REDZs.

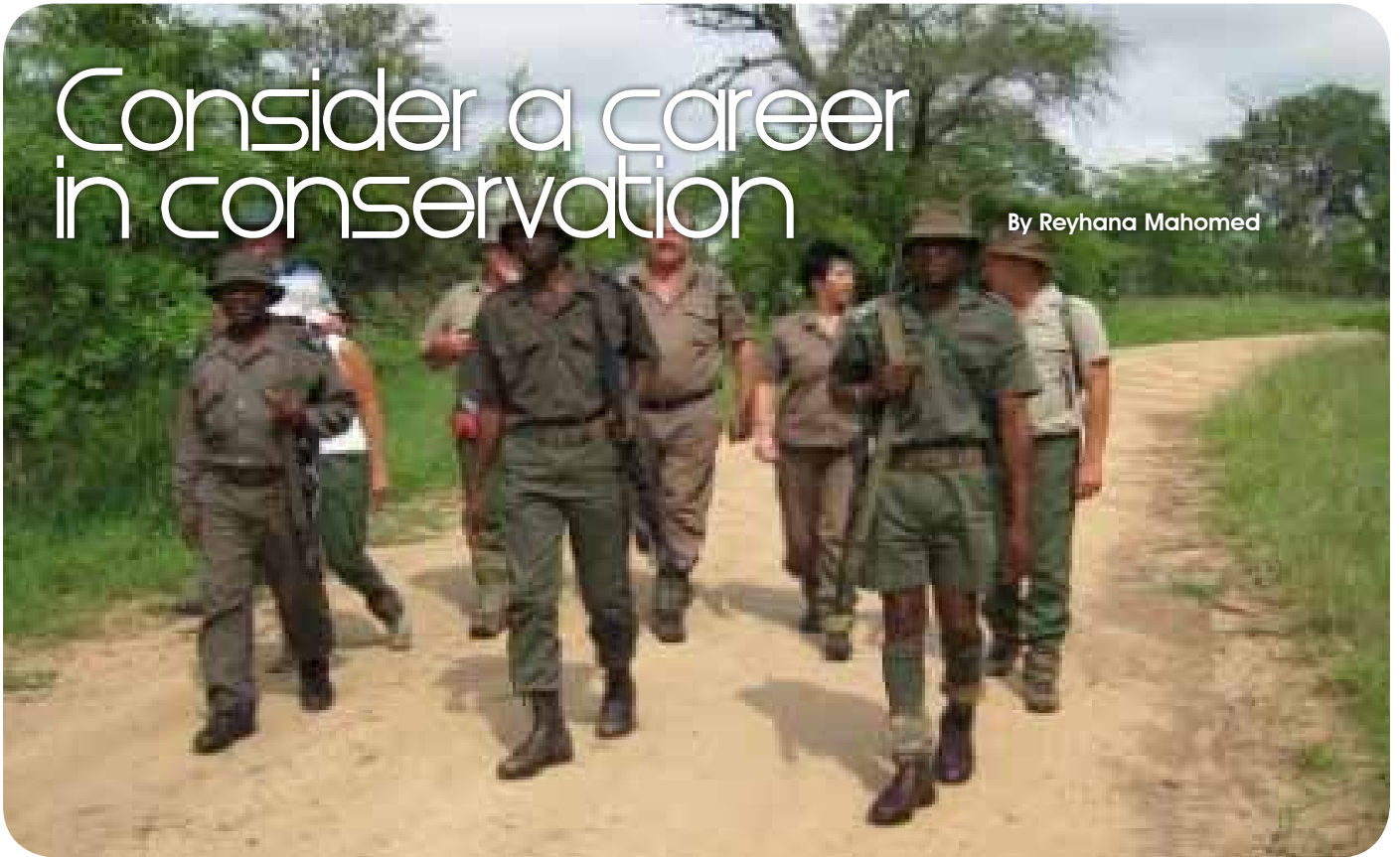


About the contributor: Surprise Zwane

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Consider a career in conservation

By Reyhana Mahomed



As stewards of the earth, we have an opportunity to use our talents and skills so that future generations inherit a flourishing and abundant planet. It is possible to protect the environment while at the same time establish a rewarding career for yourself.

Nature conservation takes place through various services ranging from scientific studies of various environmental factors on land, air and at sea, to wildlife preservation and green technology. If you are in high school and have an interest in a career in conservation, you would be well advised to emphasise courses in the sciences.

With a career in conservation you can work outdoors, educate others or become a scientist and spend your days in laboratories. Some conservation careers include:

Conservation Biologist – The main objective of conservation biologists is to determine how to reduce or eliminate threats to biodiversity and wherever possible, restore the health of ecosystems and their species.

Conservation Officer – Responsible for developing and implementing programs and regulations for the protection of fish, wildlife and other natural resources.

Environmental Advisor/Officer

– Studies and develops policies and plans for the control of factors which may produce pollution, imbalance or degradation of the environment.

Environmental Consultant

– Help people understand what they are doing to the environment, and environmental laws and regulations.

Environmental Lawyer

– Environmental lawyers advise clients on a wide range of legal matters, including the law relating to water and air pollution; land use concerns and parks, and wilderness conservation.

Ecologist

– Ecologists study the relationships of living things with the environment, and with each other. They also conduct research studies into problems such as the effects of mining, forestry and recreational use on natural habitats.

Environmental Economist

– Environmental economics is about trying to balance the needs people have for products and services with the necessity of protecting and conserving natural resources and the environment.

Game Ranger – A game ranger manages animal populations and checks for diseases. The game ranger is also responsible for controlling threats, for example poaching and ensuring obedience to the park rules.

Park Ranger – Controls and protects state or national parks, scenic areas, historic sites, nature reserves, recreation areas and conservation reserves in accordance with authorised policies and priorities.

Nature Conservator – The nature conservator is responsible for the conservation and management of natural ecosystems, habitats and communities, to ensure the maintenance of biological diversity.

Oceanographer – Examines the ocean, its contents and movements, and pursues ways to better utilize and conserve the ocean and the life it carries.

Wildlife Specialist – Wildlife specialists monitor different animal habitats, track populations and conduct research on species that are at risk of becoming endangered.

Ask your Life Orientation teacher about the subjects you would need to study in High School and the entry requirements in tertiary institutions, for these exciting career options.

R4 million fine for mining company's environmental transgressions

Nkomati Anthracite, a mining company in Mpumalanga, has pleaded guilty to eight charges related to the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the National Water Act (NWA) respectively. The mining company was handed a fine of R1 million which has been suspended and was further instructed by the Nelspruit Regional Court on 29 August 2013, to pay a sum of R4 million to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

"This ruling sends a strong message to would-be offenders that the Department takes the enforcement of environmental legislation seriously," said Albi Modise, spokesperson for the Department of Environmental Affairs. The R4 million is to be used for the purpose of the proper execution of enforcement duties, environmental rehabilitation and enforcement training

The contraventions, as they relate to the NEMA, include amongst others, activities wherein the accused unlawfully engaged in restricted activities within a watercourse such as the dredging, excavation, infilling, removal or moving of soil, sand or rock, exceeding five cubic meters. In addition, the accused unlawfully removed indigenous vegetation of approximately 24 hectares and constructed roads and infrastructure within

an environmentally sensitive environment in the absence of the necessary environmental authorisations.

The accused was also charged under the NWA for unlawfully diverting the flow of water, storing water and disposing of waste in such a manner that would result in detrimental harm to the environment. The accused admitted that the company had acted wrongfully and negligently in each of the counts.

In settling this matter, the Department stressed the importance of wetlands and the critical role that they perform, relative to the continuous supply of water as well as their contribution to biodiversity conservation.

The Department further took into account South Africa's international commitments, being a party to the Ramsar Convention. One of the obligations that this convention imposes on the Department, is to ensure that South Africa's reputation in relation to wetland conservation is not jeopardised.

Attached to the importance of wetlands was also the recognition that South Africa is considered to be a water scarce country. Thus, every effort has to be made to conserve water resources in their ecologically functioning state as far as possible, for the benefit of future generations. This is a position that promotes the fundamental principles set out in the NEMA.



Vox Pops

Members of the public

By: Kagiso Letsebe, Paul Sigutya, Sivuyile Ngaba & Zibuse Ndlovu

What did you do for the environment on Mandela Day?



1

1. Boipelo Dondolo

I helped the Working for Water and Working on Fire teams collect litter in and outside the school premises; I also assisted in planting about two trees for the school.



3

3. Almien Van Bosch

I worked with my Working on Fire team mates around the school in trimming trees, making fire-breaks aimed at managing the growth of grass so as to avoid unmanageable fires. I also helped with cleaning school grounds by getting rid of all scrap material.



5

5. Deon Dombas

What I did for the environment on Mandela Day was joining a Working for Water clearing team just outside the Cape Town in clearing invasive alien plants which threaten to destroy our beautiful floral kingdom.



2

2. Samantha De La Fontaine

I collected litter in and outside the school premises; planted about trees for the community.



4

4. Kate Emmett

Mandela Day provided me with an opportunity to help my fellow disadvantaged South Africans by helping at an orphanage by cleaning, painting and also help in managing our biodiversity and natural resources.



6

6. Barry Thorne

Going to an Orphanage like Saartjie Bartman House for Children on a Monthly basis to assist the home and do collections for funds at the office

The celebration of Mandela Day aims to serve as a global call to action for people to recognise their individual power to make an imprint and help change the world around them for the better.

Mandela said at the time of the campaign's launch that he would be "honoured if such a day can serve to bring together people around the world to fight poverty and promote peace and reconciliation"

The Mandela Day campaign message is simple: Mr Mandela gave 67 years of his life fighting for the rights of humanity. All we are asking is that everyone gives 67 minutes of their time, whether it's supporting your chosen charity or serving your local community. Mandela Day is a call to action for individuals – for people everywhere – to take responsibility for changing the world into a better place, one small step at a time, just as Mr Mandela did.

Vox Pops continued

DEA staff members



1. Leon Zuma
Human Resource Management

I would like to educate the communities in Townships about the importance of Green Plants and Trees. Its contribution to our human lives, animals and other well beings, and also educate children at Primary level of such importance because every fresh breath we take is made possible by green plants.



2. Dipolelo Moshidi
Environmental Programmes

I would actually practice an every day clean environment in terms of reducing recycling, and reducing (sound a little cliché) well not only in my home but in my work environment and I believe that the little bit I would do will make a difference.



3. Shaleen Hammond
Human Resource Management

To be an advocate for Global warming by training and raising awareness at all educational establishments.



4. Hennie Botha
Transport Services

On the Mandela Day I planted some trees in my backyard at home. I replaced all the light bulbs with energy saving light bulbs; I did some recycling and switched off my geyser.



5. Vinal Rathod
Government Information Technology

On the Mandela Day I switched off all the lights for 2 hours at my home.



6. Sunita Govender
Performance Management

I switched off the geyser and replaced all the light bulbs with energy saving light bulbs.



7. Ms Dina Ndlovu
Human Resource Management

left my car and took a taxi on Mandela Day, reducing my carbon footprint. I also planted two fruit trees at home.



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