

Environment Quarterly

Ubume bendalo ngekota

Omgewings kwartaalverslag

Tša Tikologo ka Kotara

**HAT Climbers fight
alien invasives**

**Take a turn into the
beautiful uMkhuze Jewel**

**Making public transport
affordable through biking**



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2016

environment CALENDAR



January

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2 February
22 March
23 March
26 March
22 April
9 May
22 May
5 June
8 June

World Wetlands Day
World Water Day
World Meteorological Day
Earth Hour
Earth Day
World Migratory Bird Day
International Biodiversity Day
World Environment Day
World Oceans' Day

17 June
18 July
31 July
1 September
12-16 September
16 September
22 September
21 November

World Day to Combat Desertification
Nelson Mandela Day
World Ranger Day
National Harbour Day
National Parks Week
World Ozone Day
World Rhino Day
World Fisheries Day

Cover story

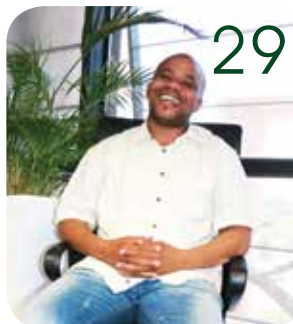
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Dear Valued Stakeholder,

This is our last edition of your favourite quarterly publication on matters environment for 2016 – Environment Quarterly.

As we brace ourselves for the birth of a new year filled with more hope and optimism, we should remember our commitment to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Plan of Action for People, Planet and Prosperity.

2016 has been an extraordinary year for the Department.

This year our country successfully hosted the 17th Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This CoP saw 152 Parties participating in this august gathering. The platform was used by all Parties to send a clear message that responsible conservation management goes together with sustainable use and beneficiation; and that those that do well will be rewarded.

All resolutions adopted were a victory for science-based decision-making in the

interests of species conservation and the international trade in those plant and animal species that may be, or are, threatened with extinction.

The year also saw the Department, ably led by Minister Molewa working together with Ministers in the Security Cluster, continue to successfully implement the Integrated Strategic Management Approach for Rhinoceros, which was adopted by Cabinet in 2014. We recorded a number of successes in addressing rhino poaching.

Our efforts, in collaboration with sister departments, including the SA Police Service, National Prosecuting Authority and the SA National Defence Force, as well as SANParks, have contributed to a significant reduction in rhino poaching in particularly at the Kruger National Park. This has gone hand-in-hand with the increase in the number of people arrested in connection with poaching in the Park.

This is no mean feat given that the number of incursions into the Park by alleged rhino poachers has increased substantially in the past year.

During 2016 our climate change programme continued to position South Africa as a responsible global player. This year we joined the list of countries that ratified the Paris Agreement to combat climate change when the country's instrument of ratification was deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General.

This landmark climate agreement has come into force nearly four years ahead of the scheduled 2020 implementation – an indication of the commitment by the signatories of the Paris Agreement, and Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensuring that greenhouse gas emissions are limited, and that particularly developing and least developed nations are assisted in adapting to an ever-changing climate.

We raise a toast to our climate change negotiators for the active role played by South Africa in negotiating the text of the 2015 Paris Agreement, and for the contribution made to ensuring that, at the international climate change talks in Morocco in November 2016, all Parties committed to continuing their work on strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, with the central focus placed on enhancing ambition, promoting implementation and providing support.

In this issue of EQ emphasis is placed on the oceans economy, which has been gaining strength through Operation Phakisa, the government's Big Fast Results methodology launched in 2014.

The Aquaculture Operation Phakisa projects are set to continue contributing to food security, job creation, skills development and domestic economic growth in the coming years as part of efforts to improve the lives of rural communities.

Investments are being made in manufacturing facilities in boatbuilding and the oil and gas exploration sectors.

2016 has also been a year in which we have had to adapt and implement measures in our work and personal lives to survive the crippling drought that has hit large parts of our country.

Despite the drought, it was a very fulfilling year to most of us. We lived and we learnt and are ready to use lessons from 2016 to make 2017 a better year for South Africa and the world.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the success of EQ during 2016, not least the editorial staff of the magazine.

Let us continue moving South Africa forward.

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Mr Albi Modise

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WORKING ON FIRE

HIGH ALTITUDE TEAM (HAT)

Participants are trained in High Angle Wilderness Rope Access

Participants abseil down mountain cliffs

A participant removes alien invasive plants off the mountain cliff

HAT participants are also trained in Wilderness Search and Rescue

HAT is leading the way in GIS remote sensing for the monitoring of invasive species

For more information visit www.environment.gov.za



environmental affairs
Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



High Altitude Teams climb high to fight alien invasive plants

By Linton Rensburg and Lauren Howard



Above: Gcobisa Ngubombi preparing for a High Altitude extraction exercise in Newlands, Cape Town.



Above: Gcobisa practising her high-altitude extraction skills in Newlands, Cape Town.

When 23-year-old Gcobisa Ngubombi joined the Newlands High Altitude Team (HAT) in February 2015, her goals were simply to make a difference in her life and provide for her family. Hiking up into the mountains on her first day, she had little sense then of the vital contribution her work in the project would be making to protect South Africa's scarce water resources.

Conceived in 1997, the High Altitude Teams (HAT) work is to stop the spread of invasive problem plants in the upper catchments and precipitous mountain ranges. Since 2011 the HAT project has been implemented by Working on Fire on behalf of the Department of Environmental Affairs with a national implementation mandate.

By removing invasive problem plants at the source of rivers and streams, the programme helps to protect our future resources by ensuring that water is not diverted to invasive plants, which generally consume more water, grow larger and faster and are more of a fire hazard than indigenous species.

The HAT project provides work opportunities to more than 400 participants from previously disadvantaged communities, more than 90% of whom are youth and 30% are women. Since its inception, HAT has grown to 30 teams deployed in five provinces, namely Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

Aside from providing emergency Search and Rescue services to Disaster Management in the above provinces, our high altitude teams are currently working on a few special projects in ecologically sensitive areas, including:

- Chapman's Peak Pass clean-up;
- Kruger 2 Canyon Biosphere Reserve; and
- uKhahlamba (Drakensberg) and Wolkberg (Limpopo).

HAT is leading the way in using technology, including GIS remote sensing for the monitoring of invasive species suppression and eradication at height. This incorporates a complex mix of variables such as slope of terrain, herbicide usage, anchor system usage, species and densities, emerging species, and health and safety.

At the heart of the programme though, are the brave men and women who often have to cut paths up steep slopes inaccessible to vehicles and physically remove the alien vegetation. Because HAT projects are mostly focussed on mountainous catchment areas, and access to these sites is difficult and a high premium is placed on safety, participants receive specialised training in High Angle Wilderness Rope Access, Wilderness Search and Rescue in addition to their training in health and safety, plant identification and the use of herbicides.

"When I joined HAT little did I know that our daily work would mean climbing steep and mountainous terrain to clear invasive plants. But once I got to understand and learn more about the importance of protecting our environment, my work became the high point in my life," Gcobisa said in a recent interview.

Gcobisa is no stranger to climbing obstacles and dealing with dangerous situations. "Before I moved back in with my mother, it was challenging living in Khayelitsha," she said. "There was a lot of gangsterism and drugs and I did not want to be a part of it".

About the contributors: Linton Rensburg and Lauren Howard

Mr Linton Rensburg is the Head of the Communications Department and National Spokesperson for Working on Fire for the past 3 years.

Ms Lauren Howard is the Working on Fire Western Cape Provincial Communications Officer.

Cleaning up the Great Fish River Canyon

By Thapelo Motebo



Above: Mr Thapelo Motebo at the start of the hiking trail.



Above: Mr Mashudu Thagwana descending the Fish River Canyon.

The Fish River Canyon is the largest canyon in Africa. Located in the South of Namibia within the Ai Ais –Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP), the Canyon spans some of the most spectacular scenery of the arid and the desert environment in southern Africa.

This arid zone is further characterised by a unique and impressive variety of succulent plant species, which makes the transfrontier park part of the succulent karoo eco-region and is jointly managed by Namibia and South Africa. The river flows intermittently and the rest of the year it becomes a chain of long narrow pools. At the lower end of the Fish River Canyon is the hot springs resort of Ai-Ais.

The Fish River Canyon hiking trail is one of the most popular hiking trails in southern Africa, drawing many visitors from all over the world. The hiking season starts annually on the first day of May until 15 September. Apart from the 2 kilometre descend and some potential shortcuts, the trail generally follows 88 kilometres of the Fish River

and is usually completed within five days. There are no amenities on the trail and hikers have to carry all their needs with them.

Because hikers leave quite a lot of trash at the end of the hiking season, stakeholders undertook a six day cleaning campaign of the Fish River Canyon. The clean-up campaign is an annual event and this year, stakeholders included the Department of Environmental Affairs' Transfrontier Conservation Areas unit, the South African National Parks, Namibia Wildlife Resorts, Gondwana Nature Reserve, Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism and people from the surrounding communities.

The campaign took place from 19 to 25 September with a total number of 52 volunteers. Three groups were divided into 10km, 20km and 60km segments to enter the canyon on different days and come out on the 24th. The volunteers carried all the items with them and were only relieved of their load at the exit point. This allowed time to thoroughly clean

the canyon covering inaccessible areas while enjoying the hike and scenery. The total amount of waste collected was approximately 183.5 kg (51kg was metal, 87kg glass, 5kg plastic and paper and 40.5 kg for other material such as shoes, clothes and bags). The waste was carried by hand to the exit point and transported to a recycling plant. No incidents, injuries or fatalities were recorded during the event.

Mr Mashudu Thagwana who was part of the campaign said: "Cleaning up the canyon has been an amazing activity jointly coordinated with our Namibian counterparts. Perseverance, team work and mental as well as physical strength are key for one to complete the cleaning. The amount of solid waste collected from the canyon could be washed down the Fish River during rainy period and end up being deposited on the Orange River basin which is our borderline with Namibia. DEA's participation in the event is crucial for regional cooperation as outlined in the ARTP signed Treaty".



About the contributor: Thapelo Motebo

Mr Thapelo Motebo is the Control Biodiversity Officer within the Directorate: Transfrontier Conservation Areas. He started working for DEA in 2011 and is responsible for the establishment and development of Transfrontier Conservation Areas as a vehicle for conservation and sustainable use of biological and cultural resources.

Non-Motorised Transport Programme in South Africa

Livable cities for all

Many urban dwellers in South Africa still live in suburbs and townships that are poorly connected to public transportation. Only in recent years has the expansion of public transport become an issue of greater importance. Safe cycling lanes and footpaths are still scarce. However, sustainable and inclusive mobility is a prerequisite for economic and social participation. Therefore, KfW supports selected South African municipalities in the process of expanding their infrastructure for non-motorized transport and thus also contributes to making cities more livable for all segments of the population.



Above: Ethekeini Transport Authority's CCTV Operator Musa Ngcobo, Transport Co-ordinator, Babalwa Latha and Civil Engineer Merissa Deonarain enjoying Durban's beachfront promenade, one of the City's popular "non-motorised" routes enabling people to run, walk, cycle, skateboard or use their wheelchairs. This route links the beachfront to Durban North and Albert Park.



Above: Royal Oak Street, Orlando, Johannesburg.

Background

In recent decades, South African transport policy - as in many other countries - almost exclusively prioritised the extension of its road network, which in turn promoted private transport also in cities. The expansion of public transport and infrastructure for non-motorized transport, such as by bicycle or on foot, has been neglected in cities. Only around 30 % of households in South Africa own a private vehicle. About 80 % of South Africans are dependent on public transportation, which usually exists but often only in the form of informal minibuses. These are at times overcrowded and too expensive for many inhabitants of the townships and outskirts. Transport costs for residents of the poorly integrated townships can make up a high percentage (30 % or more) of monthly expenses and are thus a major burden.

Walking or biking can in turn be dangerous due to the lack of

infrastructure. In many districts, particularly in the townships, proper foot and cycle paths, traffic lights, or street lights are often lacking. International statistics show that pedestrians are particularly at risk in South Africa as they account for 40 % of road deaths.

The South African government has become aware of the economic, environmental, and social consequences of this transport policy and is taking action. More and more cities have begun to implement public transport, often in the form of bus rapid transit systems. The goal is to overcome the apartheid regime's urban planning legacy by integrating townships with central business districts through improved public transport.

In 2014 government handed over cycling facilities to Orlando Community in Soweto. Commenting on the handover, Minister Edna

Molewa said, "President Jacob Zuma announced prior to the Copenhagen United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2009 that South Africa will implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions which will result in the reduction of our carbon emissions by 34 % by 2020 and by 42 % in 2025, dependant on availability of finance and technology".

"As a country, we further introduced the National Climate Change Response Policy. The policy sets the country's vision for an effective climate change response and the long-term transition to a climate resilient and low-carbon economy and society. The Non-Motorised Transport Project is integral to the implementation of the Policy's Flagship Programmes with particular focus on sustainable transport," she added.



Project name	Non-Motorised Transport Programme in South Africa
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	South Africa
Lead executing agency	Department of Environmental Affairs

Project approach

On behalf of the German federal government, KfW Development Bank is financing the construction of infrastructure for non-motorized transport in the South African cities of Johannesburg (Soweto), Durban, and Polokwane. Thus, the project supports local municipalities in the implementation of a sustainable, inclusive, and safe transport policy. The promotion of non-motorized transport infrastructure allows citizens to reach public facilities in a safe and environmentally-friendly way, while also providing easier access to the public transport network.

The project entails the construction of sidewalks and bike paths. Special attention is paid to the further development and implementation of design standards and signage. Lessons learnt from the implementation of the project have been included in a best practice manual as well as shared as part of two national NMT conferences,

organised with the strong support of the project executing agency, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). In addition to financing infrastructure, the remaining project duration until the end of 2021 will be used to focus increasingly on awareness raising as well as on the availability of bicycles. In order to achieve this, the project will support existing civil society approaches

Impact

The provision of infrastructure for NMT enables poorer parts of the population to access public facilities such as schools and hospitals in a safer and more cost-effective way. Workplaces that could previously only be reached under difficult and time-consuming conditions become more accessible through bike paths. In addition, NMT infrastructure helps to connect households to the public transportation network.

The existence of infrastructure for non-motorized transport is considered a

basic prerequisite for encouraging more and more people in South Africa to use bicycles or walk. In this regard, the project can ultimately contribute to improved air quality and the reduction of emissions in South African cities

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Above: The recipients of the Non-Motorised Transport project's bicycles which were handed over by the Deputy Minister of DEA Ms Barbara Thomson in Mpumalanga.



Above: Royal Oak Street, Orlando, Johannesburg.

Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy Aquaculture

By Lisa Geswindt



Above: Abagold Staff weighing abalone.



Above: Abalone being harvested.

Operation Phakisa is an initiative of the South African government which aims to implement priority economic and social programmes better, faster and more effectively. The Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy was launched by His Excellency President J.G. Zuma, in October 2014.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is the lead department for the Oceans Economy Aquaculture focus area and its deliverables. The Lab concluded that South Africa's aquaculture sector has a high growth potential due to an increasing demand of fish products due to the increasing global population; increasing income by the middle class in developing countries and more awareness on the dietary benefits offered by fish products. Moreover the capture fisheries yield has been plateauing over the past decade

while aquaculture continues to grow over 7% per annum and it is expected to continue growing at an even a higher rate in the future.

The goal is to grow the aquaculture sector in South Africa to play a major role in supplying fish products; an enhanced role in job creation, increased contribution to national income and rural livelihoods. The targets over five years (2014-2019), seeks to grow sector revenue from R670 million to R3 billion; production by 20 000 tons; jobs from 2 227 to 15 000 and to ensure increased participation to support transformation in the sector.

During the Lab, 24 initial catalyst projects were registered on the Aquaculture Lab. Since the Lab more projects have been accepted as part of the Aquaculture Operation Phakisa and to date, 35 projects are registered. Fourteen projects discussed in detail below are

operational and on track in terms of implementation plans.

Abagold Hermanus (Abalone)

Abagold (Pty) Ltd is situated in Hermanus in the Western Cape and produces abalone at the most Southern tip of Africa. The company exports live, canned and dried abalone to Asian countries. The project is a leader within its sub-sector, serves as an ideal business model for growing the aquaculture sector and is progressing well without much assistance from Operation Phakisa. The production of local fish feed was identified as one of the key challenges facing the sector by Operation Phakisa. Abagold has not only expanded significantly but constructed and launched a new feed plant in September 2015. The project was awarded the Friend of the Sea certification and is the first abalone company worldwide to be awarded the certification.



Certified products sold locally and internationally will bear the branded eco-label.

HIK Abalone Buffelsjag (Abalone)

The HIK abalone farm has invested into upgrading their hatchery and built a new packing and processing facility. The project has also begun constructing the first phase of the new 100 ton abalone farm in the rural Buffelsjags area. After establishing that no clinic exists in the community nearby the farm, HIK are now consulting with stakeholders to set up a local clinic to serve employees and the local community. Their Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the second stage of development of the farm was recently approved.

lease from Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) and was approved for funding by the Aquaculture Development & Enhancement Programme (ADEP) administered through the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti). The funding was used for a boat and expansion of their operations.

Saldanha Bay Oysters (Oysters)

Saldanha Bay Oyster Company (Pty) Ltd is a land based site situated in Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape. The company is a leader in the South African oyster market and delivers a delicately sweet flavoured oyster which makes it one of the top choices for both South Africa and international palates. The oysters weigh between 65g

Doringbaai Abalone Farm (Abalone)

Doringbaai Abalone (Pty) Ltd farm is an abalone grow-out facility and hatchery in Doringbaai on the West Coast of South Africa. This project involved the development and establishment of infrastructure for Western Cape fishing communities and sustainable aquaculture projects within these areas. The community owns a 35% share in the company to ensure sustainability and upliftment. In 2015, the farm was expanded due to the high demand of abalone in the market. The objective was to increase the carrying capacity of the farm from 30 tons to 50 tons of abalone. Since Operation Phakisa, Doringbaai Abalone successfully



Above: Blue Ocean Mussels Harvesting



Above: Mussels growing on rafts underwater.



Above: Project workers prepare the fish feed.

Blue Ocean Mussels Saldanha Bay and Veldrift (Mussels)

Blue Ocean Mussels (Pty) Ltd is a premium mussel farming operation, located in Saldanha Bay. The unpolluted and pristine seawater is perfect for mussel farming because the windy west coast conditions create upwelling currents which support the fresh, clean, cold and nutrient rich water which is perfect for growing good quality mussels. This farm has received a long-term water

and 120g. Since joining Operation Phakisa, the project was supported with a long-term land lease from the Department of Public Works for its holding and purging operations. This lease allows the annual production to increase to 10 million oysters per year. Through TNPA, the project received a long-term water space lease which will go a long way to sustain current employment, secure investment and continue the expansion of primary production.

secured a long-term lease with the Department of Public Works and the EIA for the first phase of expansion was approved in record time.

Hamburg Aquaculture Project (Dusky Kob and Oysters)

The Hamburg kob pilot project is driven by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and is owned by the Siyazama Cooperative who employs 21 people from the Hamburg community in the



Eastern Cape. The department has identified a number of aquaculture projects that aim to empower coastal communities through the transfer of technology, skills development and job creation. The department decided to take lead with industry on kob farming in order to share the risks associated with developing this fairly new type of farming in South Africa. A dusky kob pilot project has been established on the 2 hectare site and will have the capacity to produce 20 tons of kob per annum in the pilot phase. The Hamburg Aquaculture project has received continued funding support and has been prioritised by Operation Phakisa and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

Wild Coast Abalone Ranching (Abalone)

This project uses the abalone ranching model which restores impacted natural abalone stock levels by augmenting with hatchery reared spat. The abalone stock is protected from poaching using high-tech private security solutions. The vision is for the business units to eventually make a profit from sustainably fishing the restored abalone resources working alongside coastal communities. The project incorporates three ranching projects in Port Elizabeth and East London as well as two stock enhancement projects in conjunction with coastal communities in Hamburg and the

Transkei. Through Operation Phakisa, the project has received a lease from TNPA for security and ranching operations.

Southern Atlantic Sea Farms (Mussels)

The Southern Atlantic Sea Farms located in Saldanha Bay, aims to utilise the existing 15 hectares of water lease area to produce 1000 tons of mussels per annum. This will be increased to 2000 tons in the second phase of the project alongside the increase of the water area to 30 hectares. The company is using technology and equipment which is new to the South African mussel industry but well proven and tested over a number of years in New Zealand and used all over the world. The farm area is away from industrial pollution and can offer a pollution free product. Operation Phakisa has assisted the farm through securing a long-term lease and an additional 15 hectares of space. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is providing support to existing and potential aquaculture operations in the Saldanha Bay area by initiating an EIA for the entire Aquaculture Development Zone.

Molapong Trout Sea Cage (Trout and Salmon)

This is one of only two marine finfish cage pilot farms in South Africa. Through Operation Phakisa, the project was assisted with a water

space lease from TNPA and a Marine Right through the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This project aims to produce 500 tons of ocean trout during phase one and up to 2000 tons of trout and salmon at phase three (2019) over a total area of 45 hectares. Molapong Aquaculture is currently the biggest producer of fresh trout in South Africa and the ocean trout and salmon products are aimed at extending their product offerings to their existing local customers, as well as having stock available to fill export orders.

African Olive Trading (Mussels)

The mussel farm is situated in the inner bay of Saldanha, in the Western Cape and is 100% black owned company. The vision of the African Olive Trading farm is to expand the farm from 5 hectares of water space to 25 hectares. In terms of tonnage, the farm will expand from its current 50 tons to a maximum of 1 000 – 1 200 tons per annum. Currently all produce is sold to Blue Ocean Mussels in Velddrif. The farm has six farm workers and through Operation Phakisa received a land lease and water space lease from the Department of Public Works and TNPA respectively.

Imbaza Mussels (Mussels)

Imbaza Mussels is based in Saldanha Bay. This majority BBBEE Operation Phakisa project received a 15 year



Above: Mussels are harvested on the boat.



Above: Mussels from underwater are harvested on the boat.



Above: Project owners feeding fish.





Above: Workers sorting mussels.



Above: South Atlantic sea farmers harvesting farmers.



Above: Project personnel doing a net change.

water space lease from TNPA for their existing 30ha and a long term land lease for their land based operations from the Department of Public Works. Currently the project employs 17 workers and they were approved for funding from ADEP through the dti. The vision is to build a packing facility for fresh mussels as well as to build 5 mussel rafts that will increase the production to 1200 tons per annum.

West Coast Oyster Growers (Oysters & Mussels)

West Coast Oyster Growers is an existing small mussel and oyster producer situated in Saldanha Bay which intends to expand its mussel and oyster operations to become a significant role player in the shellfish industry in South Africa. The project secured a 15 year long-term water space lease from TNPA through Operation Phakisa. The mussels are sold locally as fresh or frozen half shell whereas the oysters are sold as fresh both on the local and international markets.

Blue Sapphire Pearls (Oysters)

The Blue Sapphire Pearls project is located in Saldanha Bay. Since Operation Phakisa, the Small Medium Enterprise was awarded a water space from TNPA as well as a land lease from the Department of Public Works which will facilitate the expansion and diversification of the project. The vision is to expand the current 5 hectare water space of oyster cultivation for optimum growth; to commercialise the current

pearl culture operation; to integrate a farm tour operation and initiate a mussel cultivation operation. The oysters produced are of high quality and the business is poised to expand to take advantage of new opportunities and international markets.

Richard's Bay: The Department of Science And Technology/ Stellenbosch University KZN Aquaculture Development Project (Dusky Kob)

The DST/SU KZN Aquaculture Development Project is a collaborative undertaking between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Stellenbosch University (SU) to determine the technical, environmental and financial feasibility of farming dusky kob in sea cages in Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal. The project is currently still in the pilot phase and has not yet been commercialised. The pilot project involves the grow-out of a single batch of fish to a targeted weight of 2kg. An initial baseline environmental assessment in August 2015 conducted and production commenced in September 2015 with the stocking of 25 000, 9g dusky kob fingerlings. The estimated production during the pilot project is 40 tonnes, with cultured fish being processed and marketed to test market response. Ultimately the project would like to contribute to the development of a 600 tonnes full commercial sea cage marine finfish farm in Richards Bay.

Conclusion

The progress made thus far through the Aquaculture Operation Phakisa is encouraging to the aquaculture industry, government and all related stakeholders. As challenges continue to rise, it is met with a commitment to collaborate and continue the momentum to further unlock growth of the sector. The aspirations set out for the Aquaculture Operation Phakisa are continually emphasised which is to contribute to food security and job creation; an increased contribution to the growth domestic product and improve the livelihoods of rural communities.



Disability is not a barrier

By Benneli van der Walt and Carina Malherbe



There are currently 11 members in the Ga Rankuwa team she works with. Even though she has only been part of the team for just a short while, she has made her mark in the hearts of her team members. "She is very sweet and friendly, and holds a special place in our team" says Mantombi Ntuli, the team leader. Khabonina Morabe, another team member, adds that Malete works hard, and definitely pulls her weight during shifts. "We make her feel



Above: Goitsewang Malete gets around the eco-furniture factory effectively on her motorised wheelchair.

Goitsemang Malete (30) is not afraid of a challenge, a trait that shines through her daily duties as general worker at the eco-furniture factory in Ga Rankuwa. General workers at the eco-furniture factory do a range of activities from hand-held sanding, movement of materials, and stacking to shaping small items such as early childhood development (ECD) toys.

Malete has a birth defect where her right leg ends below her knee. She gets around by using a motorised wheelchair, which she operates with great ease. "My employers provide the transport to the factory in the mornings, and back home after my shift ends. This makes things easier for me, and I am very thankful" she said.

Malete started working at the Ga Rankuwa factory in March 2016. She was not nervous during her interview or for the work that lay ahead. "I have waited for this opportunity so long. I knew that when I got my chance, I would grab it with both hands and make a success of it." She firmly believes that life gives you certain chances only once, and that it is up to you what you make of it. "I refuse to feel sorry for myself. This is my life, and I am living it to the fullest."

Unemployment and poverty are two of the major challenges faced by South Africa, and the City of Tshwane. An eco-furniture factory was established in partnership by the Department of Environmental Affairs, City of Tshwane and the North-West Development Corporation in 2013 as an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to contribute to (i) job creation by creating sustainable jobs; (ii) the use of local labour; (iii) skills transfer and capacity building of disadvantaged groups in Ga-Rankuwa; (iv) and eradication of alien invasive plants such as gum and pine trees. At present, operations of the factories are managed by the South African National Parks (SANParks), who act in their capacity as implementing agents on behalf of the DEA under the Eco-Furniture Programme.

Invasive alien plants are a major threat to South Africa's economy as it decrease the productive use of land; reduce available water supply through excessive use and siltation of dams; contribute to high-intensity wild fires; and erosion. The eco-furniture factories use wood from alien invasive trees to produce an assortment of furniture products including tables, benches, office desks, school desks, walking sticks and coffins.

welcome here. She is no different from the rest of us. We are a team, and that is all that matters" says Morabe. "I'm proud of my work. We pay a lot of attention to detail in order to ensure a quality product" says Malete.

The eco-furniture programme has employed 2 010 people in 7 operational factories. Employment at the factories are constituted of 70% youth and 52% women. A good number of school desks have been delivered to schools around the country, seating 504 000 learners on double combination desks.

The eco-furniture factories are currently delivering 273 000 double-combination eco-desks to rural schools around the country based on orders placed by the Department of Basic Education. Since April 2014, over 400 000 learners have been placed behind high-quality desks; most for the very first time in their school careers.

One can take a page out of Goitsewang's book to work hard, never give up and focus on the bright side of life.

About the contributors: Benneli van der Walt and Carina Malherbe

Benneli van der Walt is the Education and Awareness officer at the Biodiversity Social (BSP) Projects office based at the SANParks head office in Pretoria. Her main involvement with the Eco-Furniture Programme (EFP) is media coverage, branding and catalogue development.

Ms Carina Malherbe is the Director of the Environmental Sector Advocacy and Coordination (ESAC) in the Environmental Programmes Branch. Ms Malherbe joined the Department in 2006.

Minister Molewa opens Nyathi Rest Camp

By Zibuse Ndlovu

Photo by Bongeka Makabeni



Left to right: Chair of SANParks Board Joanne Yawitch, Minister of Environmental Affairs Ms BEE Molewa and SANParks CEO Mr Fundisile Mketeni.

Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa officially opened the Nyathi Rest Camp in the Addo Elephant National Park during the 10th annual National Parks Week launch held in the Eastern Cape, on 11 September 2016.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Molewa said part of government's growth plans for the coming year had included the Nyathi Rest Camp in the Addo Elephant National Park. "SANParks has repurposed what used to be known as Nguni Lodge, into the Nyathi Rest Camp. This infrastructure conversion means Nyathi Rest Camp now caters for increasing numbers of self-drive visitors who come to Addo," said Minister Molewa.

The infrastructure upgrades which cost more than R18, 5 million resulted in the employment of 106

members of the local community over 19 months.

The 5.7km access road to the new Rest Camp has been upgraded from track to gravel, with improved crossing over streams. Bulk electricity for the Rest Camp has been installed, as well as water and sewer reticulation upgrades done for the Lodge itself. Staff accommodation has also been upgraded.

National Parks Week was first launched in 2006, with the objective of cultivating a culture of pride for all South Africans under the theme: Know Your National Parks. The main feature of National Parks Week is free access for all South Africans to national parks as day visitors. The free access does not include accommodation and any commercial activities such as guided game drives, horse trails, etc.

SANParks CEO, Mr Fundisile Mketeni said it was important for people to know their parks. "We started this campaign to encourage all South Africans, especially those from the communities around the parks, to share in what we envision to be 'the pride and joy of all South Africans and the world,'" said Mr Mketeni.

During the week, nature lovers are welcome to visit 19 national parks in South Africa free of charge until Friday of the week. SANParks Managing Executive for Tourism and Marketing, Ms Hapiloe Sello said apart from the wildlife that people can enjoy, there were other activities that visitors can take advantage of such as bungee jumping. "We are also looking at introducing eco-healing which will give visitors a chance to focus on the soul and spiritual healing," she said.



About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

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



EPIP creates jobs through infrastructure development

By Nomvuyo Mlotshwa

The department of Environmental Affairs through Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes has funded an infrastructure development project in Kgaswane Mountain Reserve in North West province.

The reserve is within a 5km radius from the mining town of Rustenburg, which is referred to as the economic hub of the North West province. The department's approach to sustainable development through conservation and tourism is having a positive impact on the local economy.

The infrastructure development included the much needed staff accommodation, seven chalets, three cottages, the construction of a conference centre, paving, removal of alien vegetation, erection of fence and clearing of bushes along the roads.

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

of three and a participant in the project. "Before this project I was unemployed but now I have a learners licence. I am able to pay school fees for my kids and buy groceries at home".

Participants were trained on different accredited skills programmes. Another participant, Bhesiwe Mthwecu says, "The courses have taught me a lot about work ethics and nature conservation. I have learned how to maintain problematic plants and how to prevent soil erosion."

Visitor and staff accommodation have assisted North West Parks and Tourism Board with dwindling visitor numbers as well as the general management of the reserve. The current staff of the board is delighted with the units that have been built.

The economic value on the local economy was appreciated by the municipality and local businesses as everything was procured locally from protective clothing, transport for the



Above: Renovated fully furnished cottage in Kgaswane Mountain Reserve

participants, construction materials and catering. The proximity of the reserve and new environmental amenities from the city afford the local communities an opportunity to visit the reserve day or night. The environmental education centre will serve as an information hub for learners and communities around the greater municipality.

The erection of a 2.4 metres high game fence will assist a great deal in challenges relating to poaching activities.



About the contributor: Nomvuyo Mlotshwa

Nomvuyo Mlotshwa is an Assistant Director: Programme Publicity and Liaison within the Chief Directorate: Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes. She markets and promotes the programme brand internally and externally.

iSimangaliso's uMkhuze jewel – reaching new heights

By Debbie Cooper

Photos by Bridgette Church and PJ Roberts



If ever there was a time to visit the uMkhuze section of iSimangaliso, it is now!

For over a century, the uMkhuze section of iSimangaliso has protected wildlife and biodiversity. Through flood and drought, political upheaval and disease, this remarkable 43 000ha portion of the World Heritage Site has endured and displayed the utmost resilience. The soils are some of the richest to be found, regularly recovering from the stark barren destitution of drought periods to an abundance of nutritious grasses in times of rainfall. uMkhuze was renowned as one of the two last remaining bastions of black rhino in the 1960s before the campaign to repopulate other protected areas. Today it boasts the 'Big 5' and so much more.

Currently emerging from the worst recorded drought of our times,

there is no doubt that uMkhuze will compete the cycle of rejuvenation once again, with the gradual return of spring rains bringing about a natural transformation. The rewilding process is almost complete and with all tourist network roads completely re-tarred and gravelled, the rebuild of hides, ablutions, the Fig Forest Walk and other visitor attractions and a new eMshophi Gate building well underway, this section of the Park is proudly placed as one of iSimangaliso's greatest jewels.

Here's why you should visit, now:

New blood line for iSimangaliso

The three male lions that arrived at their new home in the uMkhuze section of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park on Friday 9th September 2016 were collared and released from their holding boma on the 18th of October. The lions, from the Tswalu

Kalahari Reserve are genetically distinct from the pride of 16 lions presently residing in iSimangaliso, all of which are from the same blood line. The lions remained in the boma for several weeks before being released to acquaint themselves with the existing pride. The three brothers have maintained an exceptionally close bond as displayed above.

This introduction is part of the plan to bring lions back to iSimangaliso after 44 years of absence, with the last lion shot by conservation in the 1960s for going "rogue" from what was then an unfenced park. The first lion introductions took place in December 2013 and 2014 respectively, beginning with a family of four lions – translocated from Tembe Elephant Park – comprising an adult female and three sub-adult offspring. Their arrival catapulted



About the contributor: Debbie Cooper

Ms Debbie Cooper is the Executive Assistant to the CEO at iSimangaliso. Her roots are in conservation and travel writing and she has been an integral part of the iSimangaliso team for eleven years. She's a writer and keen photographer, committed to the conservation of South Africa's first World Heritage Site.



Above: All adult lions in the uMkhuze Section are fitted with satellite collars to monitor their movements.

iSimangaliso to 'Big 7' status. This was followed by the coalition of two males (brothers) and three females during the course of 2014.

In order to slow down the breeding rate of the lions the females underwent partial hysterectomies. This requires the removal of one horn of the uterus. Lions breed prolifically and this action should halve the number of litters obviating the need for translocations to other parks in the short-term. Since December 2013, three sets of cubs have swelled the ranks.

"The rewilding of iSimangaliso through major eco-systems restoration and the introduction of historically occurring species like lions, cheetah, wild dog and buffalo is resulting in more sustainable conservation and an economic turnaround of the Park

with meaningful empowerment and benefits to local communities. In addition to the ecological benefits of rewilding, the introduction of lion has boosted tourism arrivals to the uMkhuze section of iSimangaliso which is enjoying consistently high accommodation occupancy since the introductions," says iSimangaliso CEO, Andrew Zaloumis.

Recent research undertaken through the World Bank shows that iSimangaliso now generates nearly 7% of the province's tourism GDP and over 7000 direct permanent tourism jobs.

All adult lions are fitted with satellite collars to monitor their movements for biological and safety reasons. They are tracked daily by Park staff supported by Wildlife Act volunteers with the information feeding into Park management.

A translocation is the culmination of the efforts of numerous parties and iSimangaliso expresses its sincere thanks to the combined contributions of all who continue to assist conservation. "In particular," says Zaloumis, "we acknowledge the donation of the lions by Tswalu Kalahari Reserve, the Bateleur Society for aircraft and flights, Mr and Mrs Anton Van Langelaar for their donation to fuel costs and the many participants in iSimangaliso's eco-series events whose contribution to the Park's Rare and Endangered Species Fund has covered the cost of immobilising drugs and collars. Thank you also to the conservation staff of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Wildlife ACT who are also a significant part of the success of the project."

"This historic introduction brings iSimangaliso closer to achieving its conservation vision: the full restoration





of eco-systems functioning, and the re-establishment of the migratory patterns of historically occurring animal populations – from the top of the Lebombo Mountains to the sea – as they occurred in the times of Shaka and before fencing fragmented the landscape and constrained animal movements. It is



a reversal of the historic decimation of game for apartheid military bases, commercial plantations and other agriculture,” says Zaloumis.

One of the most exciting sightings in this section of the Park is that of the endangered wild dog. With an estimated 1400 fully grown adult dogs left globally, the two packs that have been established in iSimangaliso’s uMkhuze form a vital part of South Africa’s metapopulation. A new litter

of 14 healthy pups has recently been spotted!

Another special resident of uMkhuze is the cheetah, a reintroduction success story despite initial challenges. Cheetah are categorised as vulnerable by the IUCN with a population of around 1500 adults in South Africa. Today, fifteen individuals live within uMkhuze, some of which have tracking collars to assist management. There is a good chance of seeing these on a game drive, especially while the vegetation is still so sparse. On Wednesday 19 October, no fewer than four individuals were spotted, while the previous weekend a visitor at the Mantuma Rest Camp captured photographs of a magnificent cheetah within metres of the huts.

“The success of the lion, wild dog and cheetah introductions is very rewarding for staff more so because they have overcome early setbacks that placed them in jeopardy. Snaring, though largely under control in the now fully fenced uMkhuze section of iSimangaliso, remains along with rhino poaching, one of the daily challenges facing our rangers” Zaloumis concludes.

And as the cherry on top of a smorgasbord of offerings, the recent spring rains have begun to bring about a flush in vegetation, as well as slowly filling the iNsumo Pan with water from the uMkhuze River. There simply could not be a better time to visit this iSimangaliso jewel!

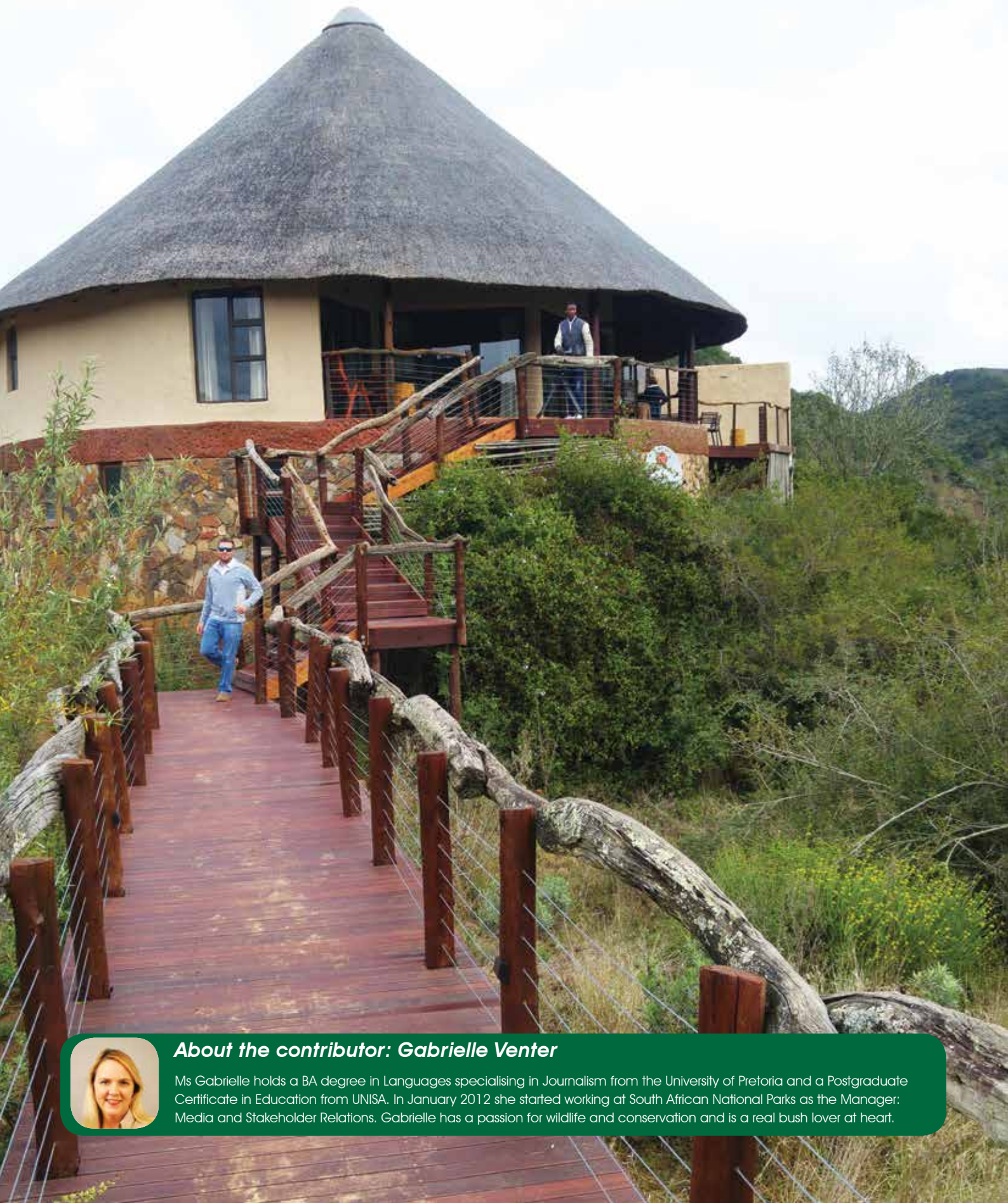
Several thousand heads of game have been translocated by iSimangaliso into the Park with the support of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife since 2000. All the game that historically occurred in the region (including oribi, tsessebe, black and white rhino, elephant, wild dog, cheetah, buffalo, waterbuck and blue wildebeest) with the exception of eland, have now been re-introduced. “Eland are currently being procured for introduction into iSimangaliso this capture session” comments Zaloumis. “Interestingly hyaena and jackal have returned on their own and with game numbers picking up, their populations are flourishing. In our marine section, fauna includes protected whale and shark populations, coelacanths, turtles as well as a myriad of species on our coral reefs. iSimangaliso can now proclaim itself as the most diverse park in Africa.”

Much of this work has been undertaken by community SMMEs, creating significant employment in an area marked by unemployment and poverty. Fencing was done by agreement with communities, involving negotiations with seven traditional council chiefs and dozens of isigodis (wards).

For Park information, visit www.isimangaliso.com, contact info@isimangaliso.com or call 035 590 1633. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and Youtube, or visit our website at www.isimangaliso.com.

Nyathi Rest Camp Opens at Addo Elephant National Park

By Gabrielle Venter



About the contributor: Gabrielle Venter

Ms Gabrielle holds a BA degree in Languages specialising in Journalism from the University of Pretoria and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from UNISA. In January 2012 she started working at South African National Parks as the Manager: Media and Stakeholder Relations. Gabrielle has a passion for wildlife and conservation and is a real bush lover at heart.

Imagine sipping on a refreshing drink as the elephants and buffaloes of Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) peacefully drink from a waterhole mere metres below you while the sun sets behind one of the country's majestic mountain ranges. This is a possibility at the new Nyathi Rest Camp.

Nestled at the foot of the majestic Zuurberg Mountain range and surrounded by hills, Nyathi Rest Camp is the new, exclusive, self-catering addition to the accommodation offering at Addo Elephant National Park. The name of the camp means buffalo, which is something you are sure to see.

A slow and steady drive through the Big Five Nyathi section of Addo will have you hoping for a glimpse of the king of the jungle or the elusive lazy leopard. Only 12km from main camp, Nyathi offers guests the seclusion and isolation that only nature can bring. Set on the banks of a floodplain, each unit has been built on stilts and provides a spectacular view from the bedrooms, lounges and even some bathrooms thanks to wide open glass panels. The seasonal river flowing just beneath the camp brings relief to many animals that

are found in this section, be on the lookout for baboons, kudu, warthog and the main star, elephants.

Nyathi Rest Camp was officially opened by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa on 11 September 2016. The rest camp consists of eleven units: eight two-sleeping units, one four-sleeper units and two family units which sleep six each. A total of eight new permanent staff members have been employed to service the camp daily.

Each unit is inspired by the African culture with the architecture reflecting the dome styled and thatch homes of old. The décor inside the units takes its cue from the round leaves of the spekboom – which is abundant throughout the park. The Copper pipes and taps also give the units a more authentic feel and make you feel right at home.

For a more relaxed viewing experience, guests can visit a waterhole which is accessible on foot inside the small camp. A variety of game and birds frequent this area so if you who want to enjoy all that Addo has to offer, from a more secluded section of the park, Nyathi Rest Camp is ideal for you.

Prices for Nyathi Rest Camp Addo Elephant National Park

To Book call Central Reservations on +27 12 428 9111 or visit <https://www.sanparks.org/>

	Shoulder season	High season	
Family cottage (sleeps up to 6). First 4 people (base)	R3 500	R3 800	2 units
Guest cottage (sleeps up to 4)	R3 650	R4 000	1 unit
Cottage (sleeps up to 2)	R1 650	R1 800	7 units

Additional adult: R480

Additional child: R240



2017

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January

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

1 | New Year's Day

February

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2 | Wetlands Day

March

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3 | World Wildlife Day
22 | World Water Day
23 | Meteorological Day

21 | Human Rights Day

April

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30	31					

22 | Earth Day

14 | Good Friday
17 | Family Day
27 | Freedom Day

May

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12 | World Migratory Day
22 | International Biodiversity Day

1 | Workers' Day

June

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

5 | World Environment Day
22 | World Oceans Day
17 | World Day to Combat Desertification

16 | Youth Day

Public Holidays

Jan 1 New Year's Day
Jan 2 New Year's Day observed
Mar 21 Human Rights Day
Apr 14 Good Friday
Apr 17 Family Day

Apr 27 Freedom Day
May 1 Workers' Day
Jun 16 Youth Day
Aug 9 National Women's Day
Sep 24 Heritage Day

Sep 25 Heritage Day observed
Dec 16 Day of Reconciliation
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 26 Day of Goodwill

School Holidays

All nine provinces have the same school calendar for 2017

Term 1 | 11 Jan - 31 Mar
Term 2 | 18 Apr - 30 Jun 11
Term 3 | 24 Jul - 29 Sep
Term 4 | 9 Oct - 6 Dec



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS CALL CENTRE : 086 111 2468
- ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES HOTLINE : 0800 205 205
- CITY OF TSHWANE CUSTOMER CARE : 012 358 9999
- CITY OF TSHWANE WASTE MANAGEMENT HOTLINE : 012 358 0591



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July

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30	31					

18 | Nelson Mandela Day

August

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9 | National Women's Day

September

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 | National Labour Day
19 | International Coastal Clean-up Day
22 | World Rhino Day

24 | Heritage Day

October

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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November

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December

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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Nurturing the skills needed for Operation Phakisa

By Sam Venter



A common thread running through all Operation Phakisa initiatives is the need to develop the skills to operate the engine room, as well as to navigate the way forward. The South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI), is at the helm for skills development, capacity building and empowerment of people to support the goals of Operation Phakisa and growth of the maritime economy.

SAIMI works with educational institutions, government departments and the private sector across South Africa to facilitate collaboration and coordinate maritime education and training that responds to industry needs.

SAIMI has a three-year grant of R296-million from the National Skills Fund for the skills and capacity-building work to support Operation Phakisa. This has enabled significant progress to be made, for example, in the growth of the National Cadet Programme during 2016.

Developing future sea-farers

The cadet programme offers practical training and sea-time experience with international shipping lines, enabling maritime students to obtain internationally-recognised Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch-keeping (STCW) qualifications and become globally sought-after seafarers. Eighty new cadets joined the programme in 2016, bringing the total in training to more than 200, while 33 have completed their deck or engineering officer certification in the past year.

Innovative approaches to seafarer training, which have the potential for replication if successful, are being followed with two international shipping companies – Klaveness Shipping recruits a small number of cadets into an intensive programme aimed at developing their own future officer corps from cadet to apprentice to fully-fledged officer, as opposed to simply providing training berths and signing cadets off after sea service; and SAIMI has overseen the

modification of two MACS Shipping Line vessels to accommodate up to 10 cadets each, with an on-site training officer, in a model that enables a trading vessel to double-up as a training vessel.

The country's Dedicated Training Vessel (DTV) SA Agulhas I has taken a break from training duty over the past year but is being brought back into service, and 15 cadets were placed aboard in September/October 2016 to gain practical experience in her dry-docking and maintenance.

SAIMI is also working with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) to identify and access international maritime skills development opportunities, and to coordinate local programmes with international training opportunities.

Identifying future needs

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), initially commissioned by SAMSA, and supported by SAIMI and the Department of Science & Technology, has completed



About the contributor: Sam Venter

Sam Venter is the project coordinator for the South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI). She is involved in SAIMI's communication and stakeholder liaison, management of the National Cadet Programme and general SAIMI operations.



Above: The first recruits into the National Cadet Programme for 2016 were welcomed at an event in Durban in February where the programme was showcased to maritime industry stakeholders, and the cadets pledged to uphold their role as global sea-faring ambassadors for South Africa.



Above: Cadets gain practical experience and accumulate the sea-time needed for certification through experiential learning as deck or engine cadets aboard international trading vessels such as the Red Cedar, opening up career paths through the ranks towards Master or Chief Engineer of a vessel.

the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Management Roadmap for the maritime sector. The roadmap presents a vision, and sets objectives and action steps, for South Africa to be globally recognised as a maritime nation by 2030.

The roadmap provides direction for the research, innovation and technology development to support achievement of the Operation Phakisa growth objectives in the oceans economy, and will guide SAIMI's knowledge management strategy. The next step is dissemination and implementation of the roadmap, and SAIMI is working with the CSIR and stakeholders to drive this.

SAIMI coordinates five Operation Phakisa Skills Working Groups tasked with addressing the targets and deliverables in the 'three-feet' plans for each of the Lab areas, towards developing a national maritime skills development strategy for the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Progress to date includes:

- **Aquaculture:** A 'three-feet' skills plan for Aquaculture has been developed and a skills audit commissioned to determine the skills needs of the local aquaculture industry.
- **Marine Manufacturing:** A project to develop an industry-education partnership model for skills development for the sector is far advanced, working closely with education and employer stakeholders. Work is in progress on developing the means to deliver to Operation Phakisa targets for artisan training in scarce and critical trades, as well

as collaboration with other state agencies such as Transnet to share facilities and meet training targets.

- **Marine Protection & Governance:** Occupations that are required to support the sector have been identified and categorised for inclusion on the national Organising Framework for Occupations (OFO) to enable linking of occupations to specific skills.
- **Marine Transport:** Training in this sector is a complex issue relating to, amongst others, alignment of the South African academic qualification requirements with international (IMO/STCW) standards for sea-farers, as well as the resource and capacity constraints of higher education institutions to meet the Operation Phakisa targets for seafarer training. SAIMI is facilitating multi-stakeholder discussions and task teams aimed at overcoming these hurdles.

A distributed seafarer training model utilising government vessels to supplement training berths available from international shipping lines is being developed. SAIMI is actively driving the development of a coordinated national approach to maritime studies at secondary school level with the Department of Basic Education, as well as opportunities to raise awareness of maritime careers in general.

- **Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration:** A skills strategy roadmap for the sector has been completed. Funding has been secured for a national Research Chair

in Petroleum Geoscience & Engineering, and the establishment of a professional body for the industry has commenced. SAIMI and the DEA are collaborating on a proposal for SAIMI to fund Incident Management System training to support an integrated response to oil spills and natural disasters. SAIMI and SASOL have agreed to explore agrees of collaboration on the African continent.

SAIMI is also facilitating collaboration with the relevant sector education and training authorities (SETAs), ie in manufacturing and engineering, transport, agriculture, and energy and water, to support these initiatives.

On the international stage, SAIMI CEO Prof Malek Pourzanjani delivered a keynote address on Operation Phakisa and SAIMI at the Maritime Academic conference, MARACAD2016, in Dubai, and joined other international delegates in meeting Kenya's Principal Secretary for Shipping and Maritime Affairs alongside the Tokyo International Cooperation on African Development (TICAD VI) event in Nairobi.

SAIMI coordinated and led a South African delegation from government, state-owned enterprises, education institutions and industry to the 2016 Seminar on Marine Manufacturing for South Africa hosted by the Fujian Institute of Oceanography (FJO) in Xiamen, China. The seminar was designed to introduce the model for China's ship-building industry, port construction and administration. Participants were also introduced to government officials and experts in these fields in order to explore future collaboration opportunities.

CSIR boosts capacity for local air quality research

By Mogesh Naidoo

A boost for air quality research at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), particularly in the area of photochemistry modelling, will help South Africa better manage and regulate emissions. This is important since the country faces significant challenges in meeting the World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines for ambient air quality.

The problem goes well beyond dirty industry or a lack of policy and capacity, although these factors do currently play a major role. Rather, it is because natural regional emissions from vegetation, biomass burning, and a large amount of wind-blown dust will always give South Africa a high 'background' emissions level.

This is particularly true in cities, says Mogesh Naidoo, who was, until very recently, the CSIR's one-man photochemistry modelling team. Photochemistry modelling essentially simulates how radiation from the sun changes and transforms the chemistry of emissions and particles in the air, and how these are dispersed in space over time to affect air quality.

"The CSIR's climate studies, modelling and environmental health group wants to be South Africa's authority on natural emissions data and models," says Naidoo. "We want to generate and refine the models, and make them public. If we can provide this kind of baseline emissions data to the Department of Environmental Affairs, they will be better equipped to regulate and manage, through modelling studies, the industrial and other man-made emissions."

Environmental researchers refer to natural and made-made fires as 'biomass burning', and natural emissions from plants are termed 'biogenic emissions'. Naidoo says these two emission sources are the main contributors to South Africa's regional background emissions, but there are stark local variations.

"We find high ozone levels in Newtown and in Johannesburg's lush Delta Park. Johannesburg has a lot of cars, but there are also many trees," he says.

Ozone is an oxidant that is bad for human health, and it can form when radiation from the sun interacts with nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released by, among other things, plants. "Are ozone levels higher in those areas because there are more biogenic emissions?" asks Naidoo. "Could it be that many of the non-indigenous trees release more VOCs than indigenous species?"

Obtaining reliable data from industries, including petrochemical companies and power stations, is equally challenging. This is despite the power of photochemical modelling to determine how much these industries contribute to pollution and poor air quality, and ultimately to poor human health.

"Usually scientists can focus on the science – in our case that would be creating, modifying, refining and running the models using good data. But in South Africa it is difficult to get any emissions data, never mind good data, and it is also often up to the scientist to help industries report

data and to generate emissions inventories," explains Naidoo.

He says that two junior researchers have just been appointed to alleviate this capacity problem, and to give CSIR photochemistry modelling research a boost.

The new staff complement will allow the team to focus its research on local variations in biomass burning and biogenic emissions, vehicle emissions, the effect of emissions on climate change and possibly the looming issue of fracking-related emissions. Naidoo also wants to include wind-blown dust in regional air quality models for the first time – South Africa has many unpaved townships and barren areas, so dust is potentially a large contributor to particulate matter in the air.

These research efforts will likely lead to PhD qualifications for the new appointees within the next few years, along with much-needed skills development – because photochemical modelling is such a rare and fairly new science in South Africa, it demands a very unique combination of skills including computer programming, geography and chemistry.

Although South Africa may struggle to reach WHO standards, with some scientists questioning whether the guidelines are actually attainable, increasing research capacity and skills in this area will undoubtedly help to improve the country's air quality situation.



About the contributor: Mogesh Naidoo

Mr Mogesh Naidoo has an MSc degree in Environmental Sciences, with a focus on air quality modelling (particularly photochemical) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is currently performing his PhD research on regional photochemical modelling of ozone, with a focus on the Waterberg region at the North-West University.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 1
END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 2
END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 3
ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 4
ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 5
ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 6
ENSURE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 7
ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 8
PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 9
BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 10
REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 11
MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 12
ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 13
TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 14
CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 15
SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 16
PROMOTE JUST, PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

ELYX BY YAK

SUSTAINABLE GOALS 17
REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELYX BY YAK



Dr Newi is on a mission to save the seabirds

By Tshego Letshwiti



Above: Dr Azwianewi Makhado has participated in many research programmes on the protection and conservation of seabirds.

Seabirds Specialist Scientist, Dr Azwianewi Makhado also fondly known as Newi, was born in the rural village of Ngwenani in Venda. From an early age Newi knew that he wanted to study a science related course, and so having performed well in both science and biology, it was only natural that his next step would be to explore the world of research which then led him to a successful career spanning over 10 years.

He studied most of his undergraduate at the University of Venda and at the University of Pretoria, "My Honours project was about Current Status and Potential of Ecotourism at Albasini Conservation Area. After completing my Honours, I explored the sub-Antarctic region in 1999, where I spent 15 months at the Prince Edward Islands (Marion Island) working on the Pinniped Monitoring Programme (seal group) with Professor M.N.Bester.

When I came back from Marion I continued with my Masters' studies during which I presented some of my work to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research conference in Amsterdam, Holland in 2001. Under the title, The Diet of Two Fur Seals Species, Newi's paper was based on investigating the prey species of the two sympatric species of fur seals on the island and to establish if there was

an overlap with fisheries and other top predators breeding on the island. Just after he completed his masters, Newi was invited to Germany as a guest scientist to the Alfred Weigner Institute (AWI) in Bremerhaven for a month, where he presented a talk on, The Diet of Two Fur Seals species and got a chance to enhance his skills on the use of otoliths for fish identifications.

"I joined the University of Cape Town at the Animal Demographic Unit on a joint project with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for a PhD on the Investigation of the impact of fur seals on the conservation status of seabirds at the Prince Edward Islands and off western South Africa. The study aimed at addressing the extent of adverse interaction between seabirds with an ever-increasing population of seals off the coast of South Africa and Southern Indian Ocean.

In 2004, I was permanently employed by DEA, under the supervision of Dr Rob Crawford.

Since joining the research team at DEA, Newi has received the following awards:

- Individual excellence (Best employee of the year) Department of Environmental Affairs: Oceans and Coasts (December 2012)
- Best Upcoming and Improved Young Scientist 2009 –

Research Marine and Coastal Management (November 2009)

- Deputy Director General (DDG) Award for Young Innovator (December 2009)

DEA conducts research on Top predators at the Prince Edward Islands that include Marion Island. The research focuses mainly on monitoring the population status of seabirds breeding at the island and this includes monitoring demographic parameters such as population trends, foraging distribution of seabirds, their diet, breeding success and key drivers of climate change. Furthermore, understanding the migratory patterns and important corridors, which includes conducting regular assessments of the conservation status of all seabirds at South Africa's Prince Edward Islands, with each species assessed at least once every ten years.

The major part of the work is contributed to national, regional and international efforts to improve the conservation status of South Africa's seabirds. Similarly, Seabird monitored parameters are used to develop indices of marine ecosystem health and advance South Africa's Southern Ocean Research Programme, through undertaking investigations of



About the contributor: Tshego Letshwiti

Ms Tshego Letshwiti is an Assistant Director within the Internal and External Communications Sub-Directorate at the Department of Environmental Affairs, in Cape Town. She joined the Department in February 2014 after working in print and broadcast Media. She holds a BA Honours Degree in Journalism from the University of Johannesburg.

Newcastle buyback centre to improve the lives of people

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson and Mayor of Newcastle Local Municipality, Cllr. Makhosini Nkosi with the Council members officially open the Newcastle Buyback Centre.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson has told the people of Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal that the Buyback Centre and four recreational play parks are there to improve their lives. The Deputy Minister officially opened the R19 million worth projects on 02 November 2016.

Deputy Minister Thomson told the community members that the Buyback Centre will assist in keeping the town clean and for people to learn how to separate waste.

"People need to know that there is no shame in collecting waste. Waste is wealth. So I encourage you to clean up your community by picking up waste, separating it and send it to the buyback centre to earn yourself money."

She further told the people of eMadadeni and Osizweni that the parks have been built for leisure as back in the apartheid days Black people had no parks as they were only reserved for the privileged. "The holidays are coming; you can now spend quality time with your families and friends here. Have picnics and braai's without worrying about spending money to go far for fun. However, this also means you as the community have the responsibility to safeguard the Buyback Centre and the parks against vandalism," the Deputy Minister said.

The Buyback Centre is aimed at assisting Newcastle Local Municipality on waste management challenges. The total project budget amounted to R7 million. A total of 98 beneficiaries were employed on the project.

For the creation of the four recreational play parks, the total project budget amounted to R12 million. The project deliverables are: erection of steel palisade fencing on all four parks, four ablution blocks in all four parks, park furniture, park lights, paving of walk ways. A total of 142 beneficiaries were employed.

Ms Khanyisile Dlamini, a beneficiary employed to work on the parks expressed her gratitude as she was unemployed prior to these projects. "I was able to buy food, a new bed and also was able to pay for my child's school fees. I never used to pay school fees because I had no money. We gained new skills that we can even use at home. What was better we also got certificates to recognise our skills, something we never had before," Ms Dlamini explained.



CITES CoP 17 Opening in pictures

South Africa hosted the CITES CoP17 at the Sandton Convention Centre, where CITES Parties and observers engaged in the robust discussions that led to resolutions that will take forward the work already underway around the trade in flora and fauna.

The conference ran from 24 September to 05 October 2016. Minister Molewa said that CITES CoP17 afforded South Africa an opportunity to showcase the country's rich biodiversity and successful conservation initiatives based on sustainable use management practices. "This has resulted in us becoming one of the leading conservation countries in the world today; having saved species such as the black and white rhino and elephant from near extinction in the past century," Minister Molewa said.

The CITES CoP17 was the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held on the African continent since CITES came into force on 1 July 1975, but the first on the continent since 2000.

Images by Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa welcomes President Jacob Zuma to the podium to deliver the keynote address.



Above: Minister Molewa, Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson, and CITES Secretary-General Mr John E. Scanlon enjoy the drum beating moment during the CITES COP17 opening ceremony.



Above: Poets and music artists provided entertainment during the opening of the conference.



Left: Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa and, Mr John E. Scanlon at the opening of the CITES Cop17 in Sandton.

Right: Minister Molewa welcomes delegates at CITES Cop17.



South Africa's conservation success leads to Cape Mountain Zebra's down listing



During CITES Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Edna Molewa on behalf of the South African Party successfully proposed that the Cape Mountain Zebra be downlisted from Appendix 1 to Appendix 2. The transfer of Cape Mountain Zebra to Appendix II supports the

management and conservation of this subspecies, as it opens up additional economic opportunities that can support the expansion of available habitat and better management of subpopulations on private land. The recovery of the Cape Mountain Zebra is one of South Africa's conservation success

stories. In 1950, the population was reduced to less than 80 individuals; and in 2015, the population of Cape mountain zebra comprised a minimum of 4,791 individuals in no less than 75 subpopulations.

Images by: Bridgena Barnard

Southern African Wild ginger listed to Appendix 2

Wild ginger is one of the top ten most popular traditional medicines in the traditional medicine trade. The rhizomes (creeping rootstalks and rootstocks) are widely used to treat coughs, colds and hysteria, as well as a protective charm against lightning. The conservation status of wild populations of this species in South Africa is of concern due to over exploitation for medicinal purposes. It is due to the increased cross-border trade from Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, that a CITES Appendix II listing of the populations of these countries, as well as South Africa, was recommended to the 17th CoP to CITES.

Image source: <http://www.vegtalk.org>



Pangolin uplisted to Appendix 1

In South Africa, this charismatic and poorly known animal is unfortunately severely threatened by electrified fences, local and international bushmeat and traditional medicine trades, road collisions and incidental mortalities in gin traps. They are very vulnerable to over-exploitation given their low reproductive rate. South Africa therefore decided to be a co-proponent of a proposal to list the species in Appendix I of CITES. The proposal was adopted by consensus by the 17th CoP to CITES and no commercial international trade in pangolins or any specimens of pangolin will therefore be allowed from 2 January 2016.

Image source: <http://www.awf.org/>



Mr Luvuyo Mlilo: Traits of an inspirational leader

By Zibuse Ndlovu

For Mr Luvuyo Mlilo, a leader is the one who is able to give clear direction and shares that common vision whilst able to persuade, inspire and guide people towards the attainment of a common goal.

As a Chief Director: Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes, Mr Mlilo is responsible for managing the identification, planning and implementation of the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes. The programmes run throughout the country under the Expanded Public Works Programme using labour intensive methods, targeting the unemployed youth, women, people with disabilities and SMMEs.

What, in your opinion, makes a good leader?

There are many ways in which the different scholars would have defined leaders or even the concept of leadership and in my view everyone is a leader in his or her own right but the only thing that one has to do is to discover that leader from within.

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

The most challenging part of my work within the department is working on developmental projects with communities who at times are easily swayed by people and or leaders who have personal and individualistic thinking in terms of beneficiation.

However, it is very rewarding to be part of a team of dedicated individuals that bring about change in the lives of people through the creation of job and skills development opportunities for communities.

What do you consider to be your single greatest achievement in life thus far?

Having been involved in the Expanded Public Works Programme which is considered part of the solution to the national challenge of poverty and inequality.

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

Never to doubt one's ability, living life with a purpose and central to it being the momentum and not just motivation.

Quick facts

Home town: Cala in the former Transkei.

I am currently reading: Under New Management – David Burkus.

Favourite quote/motto: "A good plan started today is better than a perfect plan started tomorrow" Keith Abraham.

Role Model: Walter Sisulu.

Hobbies: Reading and playing soccer.

Do you use Facebook or Twitter? No.



What does going green mean to you and how do you practice it in your daily life?

Influenced and to an extent coerced by my daughter, separation and sorting of waste for reuse and recycling has become a norm at home.

What are 3 core tenets of your management/leadership philosophy that you would never compromise

- Leadership is about people.
- Leadership is about learning from experience.
- Creating an environment for success.

Protect Ozone Layer:

Learners inspired to pursue environmental careers

By Zibuse Ndlovu



Above: Rosendal Intermediate School promotes ozone friendliness and change of lifestyle to preserve the ozone layer.



Above: Aj Ferreira High School learners performed a play, creating awareness on the depletion of the ozone layer and encouraging people to protect the earth.

Northern Cape MEC of Environment and Nature Conservation, Ms Tiny Chotelo has encouraged learners to pursue careers on amongst others chemicals management to ensure that healing the ozone layer is continued. Ms Tiny Chotelo was speaking during the International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer held in Upington, Northern Cape Province, on 21 September 2016.

Delivering a keynote address on behalf of Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister, MEC Chotelo told pupils that the Department aspired to have more specialists, experts, and researchers in the environmental fields. "Today I am looking at the future right before

my eyes and that is the learners that are here to honour and participate in this Worldwide

Awareness Event. The future is yours and it awaits creative and innovative minds such as yours," said MEC Chotelo.

The theme for the 2016 celebrations was: **Ozone and climate: Restored by a world united.** It was supported by the slogan: Working towards reducing global-warming Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol.

On the day, the Department also raised awareness on the effects of the ultraviolet radiation in sunlight on human health and the need

to consider not just environmental factors, like the ozone layer but also to encourage, inform and prepare the learners and the community to undertake protection from harmful UV radiation from the sun.

Deputy Director: Ozone Depleting Substances, Mr Lubabalo Maweni, said the emphasis was that people should avoid continuous exposure to the sun as in some cases this can lead to skin cancer, eye cataract etc. "It is advisable to use umbrellas, hats and sunscreens during exposure to the sun," said Mr Maweni.

One of the learners, Mr Kali Bosnian said more awareness on the preservation of the ozone layer was needed. "As young people we need more awareness on this subject. Today I've learned that without ozone layer the UV rays can kill us...and it is important that we preserve it," said Mr Bosnian.

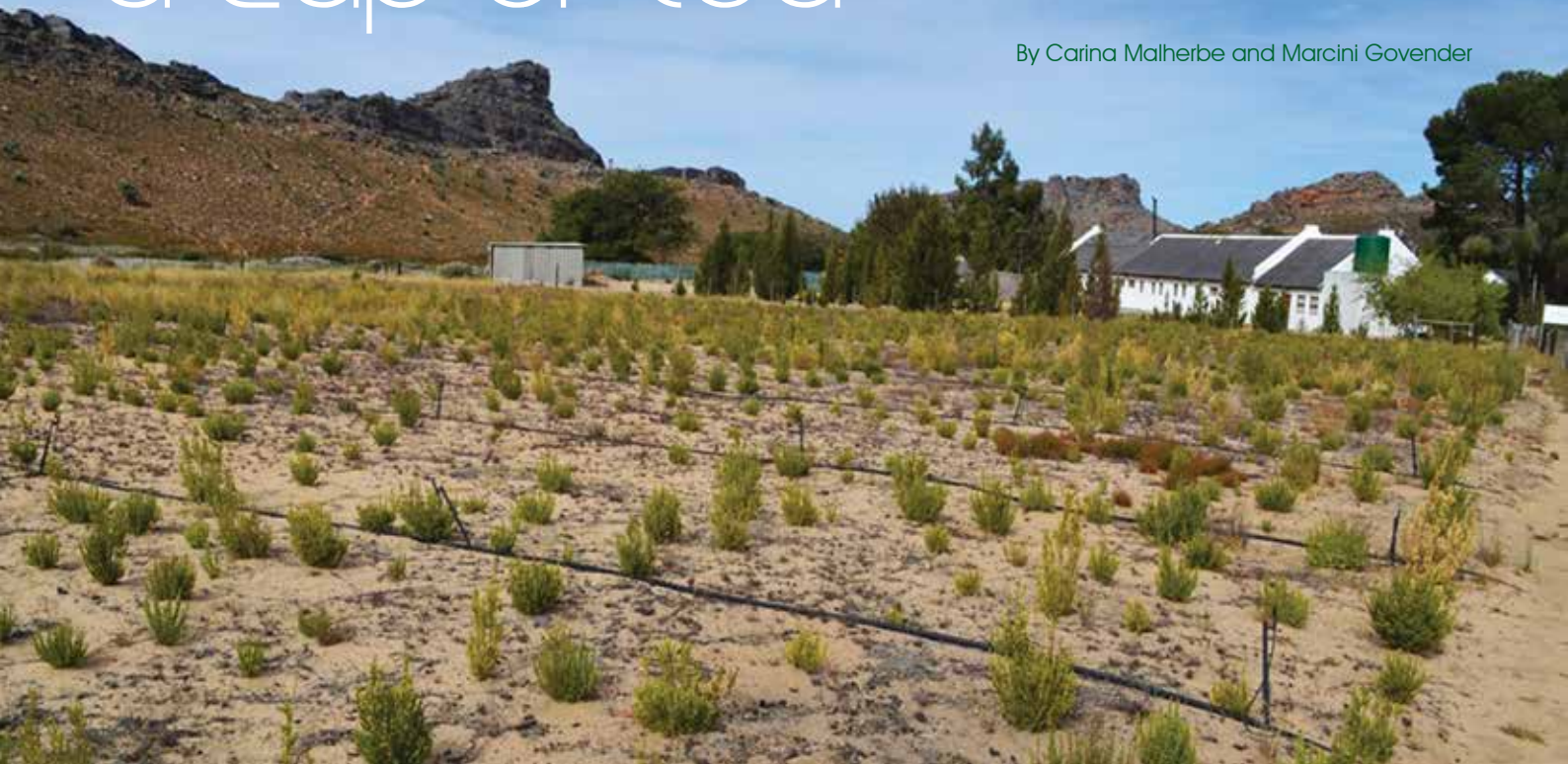
Northern Cape is the largest province in South Africa but the least populated. Furthermore, the climate is extreme with the highest and some of the lowest temperatures in the country recorded there. The region also has the lowest rainfall of all the provinces.



Above: Aj Ferreira High School received R12, 000 and a certificate for their educational play on the depletion of the ozone layer.

Health and wealth from a cup of tea

By Carina Malherbe and Marcini Govender



South Africa is known for its incredible biodiversity – ranking 3rd most biodiverse in the world – but also for its high levels of unemployment and poverty. Combining biodiversity with poverty eradication may just be the remedy that is needed!

Entrepreneurs have known this for centuries, and South African plant extracts and powders have been used as medicine and food since the dawn of time. Rooibos tea has been commercially utilised since the 1700s and marketed since the 1900s. What did the people of way back then know about these plants that modern people are missing out on? Let's see what we know about the properties

and economic value of Rooibos, the most utilised indigenous plant from South Africa.

Rooibos (*Aspalathus linearis*) is a plant endemic to South Africa – it grows only in the Cederberg region, Western Cape. It was historically used by the Khoi and San people as a herbal remedy for a number of ailments. The knowledge of rooibos tea almost dwindled with the Khoi and San tribes, but was 'rediscovered' in 1772 and the drinking of rooibos revived. During World War II, when importing tea from Asian countries became almost impossible, rooibos tea became popular as an alternative. However, the industry exploded in the

1960s when a South African mother published a book on rooibos tea's health benefits and developed a well-known cosmetic range.

Rooibos tea contains extremely high levels of antioxidants, powerful substances that fight free radicals in the bloodstream and keep bodies healthy and strong. It has been reported to fight cancer, depression and asthma as well as cosmetic benefits.

The antioxidants in rooibos tea have been shown to increase the productivity of carcinogen-detoxifying enzymes, as well as protecting cell proteins, cell fats, and

About the contributor: Marcini Govender and Carina Malherbe

Marcini Govender is the Assistant Director under the Directorate Environmental Sector Advocacy and Coordination in the Department of Environmental Affairs. She is a registered Principle Natural Scientist in the field of Botany and prior to working at DEA.

Carina Malherbe is the Director of the Environmental Sector Advocacy and Coordination (ESAC) in the Environmental Programmes Branch. Ms Malherbe joined the Department in 2006.

DNA effectively providing protection against cancer. As a tea with no caffeine, rooibos drinkers have found that enjoying a cup before bed has helped to relax them and relieve any tension to allow for a great night of sleep. By helping to normalise tea drinkers' sleep habits, rooibos often reduces headaches and irritability.

Rooibos tea's effective combination of antioxidants and important minerals gives your immune system a boost, which means that you'll be able to fight off any illnesses in an efficient manner. With high levels of antioxidants and minerals like manganese, fluoride and calcium, bones and teeth become stronger. Rooibos tea is sometimes called "the mother's miracle" because its

are attractive, they have apparently seldom been grown in gardens. This is thought to be due to the difficulty in propagation by seed or root cuttings and in providing the optimal growing conditions for the plants. In order to grow Rooibos successfully, seeds must be scarified before being planted in acid, sandy soils.

Plants are generally rainfall dependent and prefer not to be too wet. No fertilising is required and the plants grow quite well in nutrient poor conditions. After 12 – 18 months the first harvest can be collected. Harvesting is then done once a year from December to April. After 5 years the plants are pulled out and replaced.

tons is consumed locally and the rest is exported.

The market for herbal tea is showing significant growth, particularly compared to black tea. For example, consumer black tea sales in the United Kingdom fell by 10.3 % between 1997 and 2002, while herbal teas increased by 50%. In South Africa, the hot drinks market is estimated to be worth around R3 billion annually, with an estimate of the total black tea market in South Africa to be around 21,000 to 22,000 tonnes per annum. There is significant scope to increase domestic and international market awareness and presence of rooibos. Trends in cosmetic manufacturers towards the use of natural ingredients can increase market demand. However, the lack of local extraction



antioxidants makes the tea an anti-spasmodic agent, which relieves stomach cramps and lessens colic in infants.

Studies have shown that rooibos tea helps to treat various skin disorders, including eczema and acne. Rooibos tea is rich with the enzyme superoxide dismutase. Though the enzyme's name sounds complex, what it does for skin is simple: it is an excellent anti-aging substance. Superoxide dismutase is necessary for the production of healthy skin-producing cells, and high levels of the enzyme guarantee healthier skin for rooibos drinkers.

Although many of the plants in the Rooibos group (genus *Aspalathus*)

The basic method of rooibos harvesting has remained largely the same as the process used centuries ago that involves cutting only the young branches. Traditionally the Rooibos tea industry has employed more than 5 000 people both in the farms and processing plants, with a turnover estimated at R500 million per year. The Rooibos tea industry is one of the biggest employers of people from the rural provinces of South Africa, providing both permanent and seasonal employment opportunities in the industry. On average 12 000 tons of rooibos tea is produced per year of which nearly 5 000

facilities excludes South Africa from competing in the value added markets.

The benefits from rooibos make it an attractive combination for job creation and economic development. While there is much more to explore with rooibos tea on health and wealth you can start reaping some of the health benefits right now by becoming a regular rooibos tea drinker.



Transport Month Special:

DEA welcomes the BMW i3 to the green car family

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



Above: One of the two new departmental green car acquisitions which will ensure the DEA decreases its carbon emissions.



Above: Electric charging: Like its Nissan Leaf counterparts the new BMW i3 runs on electricity.

This year the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) added four new BMW i3's to the fleet of electric cars that the DEA pioneered in an effort to decrease the department's carbon footprint, this month we introduce you to its awesome new features.

As part of Transport month which was celebrated in October we profile the awesome new BMW i3 that is available for use in and around Pretoria for DEA Pretoria staff

Speaking at a BMW i3 presentation i3 Product Manger Mr Alan Boyd said, "One thing that BMW stresses how is how the i3 has not compromised on the style that has become synonymous with BMW."

"The i3 offers passenger cell (Life module) made from carbon-fibre-reinforced plastic (CFRP); drivetrain technology, high-voltage battery, chassis, crash and structural functions integrated into the aluminium Drive module; DIN kerb weight: 1,195 kilograms; low centre of gravity; even

Energy consumption:

12.9 kilowatt hours per 100 kilometres in the EU test cycle efficiency further optimised through specific BMW EfficientDynamics technology, such as Brake Energy Regeneration ECO PRO and ECO PRO+ mode including coasting function; range under everyday conditions: 130 – 160 kilometres when COMFORT mode is engaged using the Driving Experience Control switch range can be increased by 20 kilometres when ECO PRO or ECO PRO+ mode are activated; additional option: two-cylinder range extender petrol engine developing 28 kW maintains a minimum charge level and boosts range to around 300 kilometres.

Source: <http://www.bmw.com/com/en/>

weight distribution; spacious interior with four seats; slightly raised seating position; opposing "coach" doors;

torsional stiffness of CFRP passenger cell structure allows the omission of B-pillars; centre tunnel has also been omitted, thanks to the positioning of the electric motor directly on the driven rear axle," he said.

We also spoke to Fleet services officer, Mr Mojalefa Lefalatse, who has driven the car a number of times and he shared that the one thing he noticed which makes the BMW i3 a more competitive choice is its new range extender feature.

About Transport Month

In October 2005 was declared Transport Month during the Transport Lekgotla. This year Transport Month will be hosted under the theme: "Together we move South Africa Forward". The month long programme will showcase transport infrastructure projects, promote the use of public transport and advance the country's road safety initiatives. The DEA has carried on with its' stride to lead South Africa towards a greener future by acquiring two more green cars.



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.

People and Parks deliverables contribute to CITES

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Gugile Nkwinti; Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and Deputy Director-General of Biodiversity and Conservation, Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi at the opening of the 7th People and Parks Conference.

During the 7th People and Parks Conference Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa urged the more than 500 delegates to actively engage in deliberations that will result in formulation of South African People and Parks Midrand Declaration. The 7th People and Parks Conference took place in Midrand on 20 -22 September.

"The Midrand Declaration will be taken to the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (COP 17 CITES), to ensure the South African voice is heard in the space of endangered species management," said Dr Molewa.

The People and Parks Conference formed part of the building blocks towards the CoP17 CITES from 24 September to 5 October 2016. COP17 focused its attentions on the

future operations of the organisation, but also deliberated on the role of CITES in securing the livelihoods of people living with wildlife and ensuring communities are considered in terms of interventions implemented in terms of this Convention.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) will once again co-hosted the conference under the theme: Unlocking Protected Areas Economic Potential. The conference provided a platform for stocktaking on the progress being made in addressing land claim issues affecting protected areas and measures instituted to facilitate the contribution of protected areas in the enhancement rural livelihoods.

Addressing more than 500 delegates, Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Gugile Nkwinti encouraged delegates to stand up

and fight for their rights and thanked community representatives who gave his department a hard time in terms of the land claim issues.

"We must all understand that we are co-managing most of these properties and the land. If you come in and don't work, you must know that you are letting yourselves down," Minister Nkwinti.

Mr Mbongeni Nyawo, the chairperson of Mbulungwane CPA in Mkhuzwe, KwaZulu-Natal expressed that their wish as a community is to ensure that the land that was given back is utilised. "Coming to the conference has helped us to get ideas on how we can work together as a community and as a province to utilise our land for economic reasons after we have received our title deeds. I am happy I was part of the conference because I was able to be referred to relevant people in various departments that can assist us," Mr Nyawo explained.



About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

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

WHALE IMMIGRATION SEASON

Every year, in a predictable fashion, large baleen (toothless) whales migrate between East & West Africa where they breed and on southern polar feeding grounds. They arrive on Africa coasts in winter and depart around Spring/Summer with November being their peak. The warm waters of Africa are conducive for giving birth and nursing their young until they are strong enough to swim back to the feeding grounds.



Stovebolts (Tubercles) are small bumps with sensory hairs protruding from the head.



Spy Hopping-whale pop their heads out of the water to inspect the environment.



Weighing over 30 000 kg, humpback whales can propel their bodies out of the water with ease.



Whales have grooves that run from the chin. These grooves assist the throat to expand during the intake of water during feeding.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

“Our Ocean, Our Future”

By Sivuyile Ngaba



Celebrated under the theme: “Our Ocean, Our Future,” the 2016 National Marine Week awareness campaign recognised the impact of humans on the global oceans. The annual week-long campaign was this year hosted in the Northern Cape, one of South Africa’s four coastal provinces. The campaign aimed at increasing awareness that:

- We all rely on healthy oceans with a rich diversity of life to provide our rainfall and many other essentials we require to survive, such as, food and oxygen
- Oceans provide endless opportunities recreation to be enjoyed by all of us
- Oceans through storms and flooding, present a risk that cannot be prevented but can be managed through better planning

The week also seeks to draw the attention of South Africans to the fact that the planet’s environment climate and weather are changing at a faster pace because of how we as people of the earth live.

Speaking during the launch of the National Marine Week campaign in Kimberley, the Northern Cape’s MEC of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation, Ms Tiny Chotelo highlighted the role of coastal and inland communities in dealing with the global challenge of pollution. “It is an undeniable fact that people

“As part of the campaign, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Northern Cape Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation officials conducted school workshops.”

inhabiting the earth need to grow crops, build houses, heat their homes and drive cars. But we must not unnecessarily pollute or waste resources,” she said.

“In the Northern Cape there are two major rivers, the Vaal and Orange. These rivers play a significant role in the composition of the coastal waters due to the volume of inflow. The activities that happen around the inland rivers ultimately affect the estuaries that are a continuation of these rivers, which eventually lead to the local coastal environment. Water pollution impacts (freshwater and estuaries) will take place with activities like agricultural activities, sewage from municipalities, effluent discharges from the industries and all the developments that are taking place within the area. These impacts are unavoidable in many instances but must be managed responsibly,” said MEC Chotelo.

As part of the campaign, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Northern Cape Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation officials conducted school workshops from 17 - 21 October 2016, in all 5 districts in the Northern Cape Province. An exhibition awareness programme was also held for learners in and around Kimberley. More than 600 learners attended the one day exhibition.



About the contributor: Mr 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.

Cheng Jie Liang v The State

High Court of South Africa, Western Cape

By Mmashadi Masenya
Images by The Guardian



On 14 September 2012, Cheng Jie Liang (Liang) was stopped by the police while driving a vehicle not registered in his name. Liang was found in possession of keys to storage units 12 (not leased in his name) and 349, as well as cell phones. One of the cell phones contained photos of a whole elephant tusk. In both storage units, boxes of cut up ivory were found by the police. During a later search on the 3 October 2012, the police found another box containing ivory in Unit 349. Liang was charged for contravening section 42(1)(b) of the Nature and Environmental Conservation Ordinance 19 of 1974 (the Ordinance) for the ivory found on both the 14 September 2012 (count 1) and on the 3 October 2012 (count 2). Liang did not lead any evidence

during trial in the Khayelitsha Regional Court (the Trial Court), which led to his conviction on both Counts 1 and 2. Liang was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, of which 3 years were conditionally suspended upon the payment of a R5 million fine. Liang appealed the judgment.

Judgment

Liang approached the Cape Town High Court (the Appeal Court) to decide, amongst other things, whether the -

Trial Court was incorrect in convicting him on both counts 1 and 2 and this amounted to a splitting of charges.

The Appeal Court held the view that an offence should not be split up and charged against Liang in one and

the same trial as several offences, which will result in a duplication of convictions. The test is whether taking a common sense view of matters in the light of fairness to an accused, a single offence or more than one offence has been committed. An example of this is where a theft of apples from an orchard on one occasion is only a single offence whereas the theft of one apple a day over 10 days amounts to 10 offences. The Appeal Court held that there was no evidence that Liang or any other syndicate member had placed the box of ivory in Unit 349 after the initial search was conducted on the 14 September 2012. The charges should have been one in the same charge. Thus, the Appeal Court found that Counts 1 and 2 should not have been split and that Liang should have been acquitted on Count 2.

“The Appeal Court considered the penalty provisions of the Ordinance, which provides that a person convicted of an offence involving an African elephant is liable to a fine of R100 000 and/or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years.”

Trial Court erred in finding that he had acquired and possessed the ivory

The State’s argument and evidence showed that:

1. a cellphone which was seized from Liang had photographs depicting the whole elephant tusks. The only reasonable inference to be drawn was that Liang was involved in taking the photographs, before the elephant tusks were found cut up in Unit 12;
2. the operation was that of a syndicate where each member derived some benefit and thus Liang possessed the tusks for his own benefit, in accordance with section 42(1)(b) of the Ordinance;
3. Liang regularly visited Unit 12 and had been at the storage unit hours before the search was undertaken by the police on the 14 September 2012; and
4. Liang’s prints were found on both storage units as well the boxes containing the ivory.

Liang also submitted that the possibility could not be excluded that he held the ivory on instructions and not for his own benefit. The Appeal Court held that no suggestion was made that he

was carrying out the lawful instructions of an employer in relation to the ivory and that if he received instructions as an ‘employee’ to hold the ivory then the instructions were in any case unlawful.

Based on the abovementioned evidence, the Appeal Court held that the State had a *prima facie* case against Liang, which he had to answer. However, because no evidence was led, the Appeal Court was satisfied that the Liang acquired and possessed the ivory for the purposes of section 42 of the Ordinance.

The Trial Court erred in imposing the fine of R5 million

Liang argued that a fine not exceeding three times the commercial value of ivory amounted to an additional sentence. Liang further submitted that the Trial Court should have enquired into his ability to pay such a fine and that the imposition of the R5 million exceeded the Trial Court’s monetary jurisdiction.

The Appeal Court also considered that in terms of section 92(1)(b) of the Magistrates Court Act, 1944 which regulates the penalty jurisdiction of the district and regional courts, the jurisdiction of the Trial Court as a regional court relating to the imposition of fines at the time Liang pleaded to the charges was R300 000.

The Appeal Court considered the penalty provisions of the Ordinance, which provides that a person convicted of an offence involving an African elephant is liable to a fine of **R100 000** and/or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years and, in addition, **to a fine not exceeding 3 times the commercial value** of an African elephant or the carcass (i.e. the tusks). It also considered the commercial value of the ivory which was in excess of R21 million. The Appeal Court held that the Trial Court could have used section 1(2) of the Adjustment of Fines Act, 1991 to increase the **maximum fine of R100**

000 to R200 000 and that in respect of the fine imposed with reference to the value of the ivory, the Trial Court was instead limited to its ordinary maximum penalty jurisdiction of R300 000.

The Appeal Court, ultimately held that the Trial Court exceeded its powers by imposing a fine of R5 million and that this fine was not separated between the R100 000 fine and the commercial value fine and that two separate fines should have been issued. Accordingly, the Appeal Court reduced the fine from R5 million to R300 000. The Appeal Court, confirmed the imprisonment sentence.

Relevance for EMIs:

Splitting of charges

One in the same act constitutes a single offence, whereas the same acts which are otherwise committed over a period of time on different occasions, constitutes more than one offence.

Acquisition and possession

Even though a member of a syndicate is found in possession of an article, such a member possesses the article for his or her own benefit, even if it was on instruction as an employee and must thus comply with legal requirements of possessing the prescribed documents, i.e. permits.

Sentencing

Although the sentencing in this matter was in terms of the Ordinance, it is better to charge offenders in terms of NEMBA where the maximum fine is R10 million and/or the maximum imprisonment of 10 years or, in some instances, three times the commercial value. Furthermore section 34H provides that, notwithstanding the Magistrates’ Court’s penalty jurisdiction, a Magistrates’ Court shall have jurisdiction to impose any penalty prescribed by NEMA or any specific environmental management act, i.e. NEMBA.

Vox Pops

DEA staff members

What were your expectations or experiences at the CITES COP 17?



1. Mr Roland Vorwerk

**Marketing Manager:
Boundless Southern Africa**

It was inspirational being on the DEA team at the CITES CoP17 in JHB. Everyone showed incredible team work and commitment to make sure that we were able to host delegates from around the world at this important event. The ushers presented a very professional image, colleagues organised informative and well-attended side events, a diverse range of speakers contributed to a varied workshop programme, the SADC TFCA team made sure that our regional collaborative efforts enjoyed a high profile and finally the dedicated focus and commitment from the core negotiating team ensured that our key country positions were supported.

2. Mr Kokeitso Moeng:

Admin Officer: Protected Areas Systems Management

I learnt a lot about the categorisation of species and the level of protection each level offers and the risks associated with the change in level and the criteria used to determine which species should be placed on which level. Countries voted on all issues raised and emotions were high on rhino and elephant poaching where those in countries felt that their plight was falling on deaf ears as they were losing animals and skilled personnel in the fight against poaching. It was an insightful experience with grievances and joys as progress was made on the decisions of CITES.

3. Ms Nozipho Sibiya

Intern: Biodiversity Risk Management

I did not have much expectations for the CITES COP 17 as I had minimal information about it. All I knew was that it was an international conference, where decisions will be taken on the trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora. But I did learn a lot, especially on the application of protocol. I learnt how to present myself in front of delegates, how to accompany them and assist them according to international protocol. The most interesting experience was when the proposal to add the elephants in Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana to appendix 1 was defeated.

5. Mr Mpho Tjiane

Deputy Director: CITES Policy Development and Implementation

What I expected from COP 17 was the down-listing of the Cape Mountain Zebra from Appendix I to Appendix II which was approved by the COP by consensus. The fact that this proposal was not disputed by any Party, indicates the amount of preparations that went into the COP 17 by South African delegates and this further illustrates the successful conservation model South Africa has implemented over the past decades. This has strengthened the relationship between policy makers (DEA) and the wildlife sector in South Africa.

Vox Pops continued

Members of the public



1. Mr Nana Koh AD-Nsiah

Ghana

My expectations were for the conference to be successful, for us to be able to negotiate and have agreements and make divisions based on science not on personal agendas that will enable us to protect our species.



3. Rebecca Johnson

Australia

To be able to find or solve all the illegal trafficking of animals all over the world.

For the Department of environmental Affairs to fully support Worldwide forensic investigations not rather than short term.



5. Mr Ralf Sonntag

Germany

I want my children to be able to see sharks in future. So am expecting to be informed about how sharks will be protected as they are engaged species. I hope to get more information that will help us to make sure sharks are looked after.



2. Mr Jean Herby

Haiti

To be able to learn from other countries and know more about networking, so that I can apply everything to my country.



4. Mr Schaltz Cornhins

South Africa

To be able to reach decisions that will contribute to a sustainable development that will enhance conservation of engaged species and their livelihood.



4. Ms Boshugo Matlou

South Africa

I expect to learn how we as black women can contribute or be involved in this industry in terms of protecting endangered species. We should be able to find

solutions when it comes to the trading of animals and take all this information and teach people especially the youth.

***“The truth is that the greatest triumph is that at this Conference we have truly heard the voices and heeded the calls of people from all walks of life, united in their commitment to species conservation.*”**

Whether you were an independent delegate making your journey to South Africa from hundreds of thousands of miles away, or a representative of an indigenous people’s movement at the forefront of species conservation in your country, you have played a key role for which we as both hosts and as a Party to CITES are immensely grateful.”

Ms BEE Molewa



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