

# June is Environment Month

## Monday 5 June

World Environment Day  
Theme: **Connecting People to Nature**  
#worldenvironmentday  
#withnature



## Thursday 8 June

World Oceans Day  
Theme: **Our Oceans, Our Future**



## Friday 16 June

Youth Day



## Saturday 17 June

World Day to Combat Desertification  
Theme: **Our Land. Our Home. Our Future**



Join Minister of Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa and her department during Environment Month and become agents of change on South Africa's environmental issues. Photo: Zibuse Ndlovu.

## Connecting people to nature

South Africa has declared June Environment Month, when the country celebrates not only World Environment Day (WED), but also World Oceans Day (WOD) and the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCD). World Environment Day is the United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.

In South Africa, June is also Youth Month, an important time to celebrate the role of the youth

in bringing to the fore the fight for democracy and marks a time when youth, as the future leaders of our country, can exploit their potential in building a new, transformed society. Throughout Environment Month, the youth are encouraged to get closer to nature, harness the promise it holds, as they commit to building a climate resilient and healthier world for tomorrow. WED is the biggest, most globally celebrated day for positive environmental action. Through WED, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) flagship programme en-

ables everyone to realise their responsibility to care for the Earth, and reminds all of their individual power to become agents of change.

The 2017 theme 'Connecting People to Nature, as approved by the UN, implores all people to get outdoors and into nature, appreciate beauty and importance of the natural world, and to take forward the call to protect the Planet. By embracing a healthy 'planet, communities embrace a healthier population.

The theme further invites all members of the public, young

and old, to think about how they can be part of nature and how intimately they depend on it. It further challenges us to think about how we can collectively take action on environmental issues, such as harnessing the link between sustainable development and the environment. WED 2017 also encourages us all to find fun and exciting ways to experience and cherish this vital relationship we have with our natural world.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) aims to utilise World Environment Day 2017

celebrations to promote the activities and programmes of the different branches within DEA and its agencies - SANBI, iSimangaliso, SANParks and SAWS. The main event will be the joint celebrations of the WED and the WDCD on 5 June 2017 in collaboration with Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. The event will be held at Sekinoto/Schoonoord Village under the Sekhukhune District.

Watermark: Media Club SA

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