

# Environment Quarterly

EzemVelo Ngenyanga Ntathu • Mbango wa kotara • Mupo nga Kotara



**Hamba kahle  
Mama Edna Molewa!**

**France bestows Minister Molewa  
with the Légion D'Honneur Award**



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





# 2018 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

13 June

18 July

31 July

1 September

10-22 September

16 September

22 September

21 November

World Day to Combat Desertification

Nelson Mandela Day

World Ranger Day

National Airbour Day

National Parks Week

World Ozone Day

World Rhino Day

World Fisheries Day



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# Guest Editorial: Tribute to MmaMolewa



## Dear Valued Stakeholder

South Africa and the international community has lost a true champion of the cause of environmental justice and sustainability as a foundation for equitable socio-economic development.

On becoming national Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs in 2010, she prioritised the global climate change crisis at both an international and national level. As part of this effort, she facilitated the development of our national climate change response policy that was approved by cabinet in 2011. This policy includes a range of measures aimed at achieving both South Africa's overall national goals reflected in the National Development Plan and our commitments made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Dr Molewa was internationally recognized and respected in the climate change fraternity; and has been in the vanguard of global efforts since the genesis of the Paris Agreement at the 2011 COP17 in Durban. In recognition of her dedication and commitment in August 2018 she was bestowed with the Officier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (or Officer in the French Legion of Honour) by the French Government. The Legion of Honour acknowledged Dr Molewa's commitment to the struggle for freedom and democracy, for women's rights and her role in advancement of global negotiations that led to the signing of

the historic global climate change pact referred to as "Paris Agreement".

Dr Molewa did not only focus on climate change, she provided extraordinary vision, inspiration and leadership for the whole spectrum of issues and challenges in the environmental sector. As visionary leader within government, Dr Molewa quickly saw the potential of the Malaysian "Big Fast Results" participative planning methodology that has been adapted for application in South Africa as the Operation Phakisa methodology.

Internationally, Dr Molewa led the South Africa's negotiation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), World Heritage Convention (WHC) and the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Her active role in these multilateral agreements resulted in South Africa being invited to host the 17th Conference of Parties to CITES (COP17) whose legacy includes the sustainable livelihoods programme which will positively impact communities globally. It is through these international platforms that she advanced the sustainable use approach as part of conservation and biodiversity management.

She launched an Operation Phakisa for the Oceans Economy and, working in partnership with other relevant government departments, drove the development of the Blue or Oceans Economy, including focus areas on maritime transport, shipbuilding, offshore oil and gas exploration, aquaculture, port development, industrial zone development adjacent to ports, marine and coastal tourism, as well as, research and technology and oceans governance.

She was convinced that securing zones for conservation of coastal and off shore areas through declaring Marine Protected Areas was essential to economic development that secures marine life for current and future generations.

She sadly passed on whilst in the process of finalising the 2018 National Framework

for Air Quality Management which was to bring a shift in air quality management space and gear the country towards cleaner production.

Dr Molewa was recognized internationally for her vision and leadership in the Chemicals and Waste Management sector. In 2013, she spearheaded South Africa's signing of the Minamata Convention text and the subsequent allocation of funds for key studies to be undertaken in South Africa towards its ratification.

At national level, through the Chemicals and Waste economy Phakisa, Dr Molewa has pioneered several innovative initiatives including transformation of the sector and addressing the plight of waste pickers.

One of her priorities was to focus on the generation of jobs in the green economy, particularly the waste sector. These initiatives centre on addressing inequality, poverty alleviation and creation of jobs. She has supported informal waste collectors through the "tools of the trade programme" that provides for improved logistic innovations on the transportation of the recyclables through motorised transport.

In recognition of her valued contribution to scientific knowledge through her environmental work, Mma Molewa received an honorary doctorate in Applied Sciences from the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) in 2016. A year later, she was installed as the first Chancellor of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University in Ga-Rankuwa.

She was a woman of substance, a visionary leader, knowledgeable, hardworking, a reader, driven to achieve tangible outputs and outcomes, her passion and immense knowledge in the field of environmental management was exemplary.

**Robala ka Kagiso Motlhaloga-Mmethi-  
abo-Malobane**

**Albi Modise**

**Head of Communications**

## Meet our team

### Head of Communications

Albi Modise

### Editor-in-Chief

Erica Mathye

### Editor

Zibuse Ndlovu

### Editorial Team

Madimetja Mogotlane

Veronica Mahlaba

Salome Tsoka

Tshago Letshwiti

### Cover Design

Brian Chapole

### Cover Image

Veronica Mahlaba

### Design & Layout

Brian Chapole

Funeka Simelane

Itumeleng Motsepe

Sibusisiwe Nxumalo

### Contributors

Buhle Hlatshwayo

Denzil Brandt

Ernest Mulibana

Lavinia Engelbrecht

Itumeleng Motsepe

Sejpati Sentle

Find more information on: [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za) or call 086 111 2468

Rest In Peace Minister Molewa  
**1957 – 2018**





# France bestows Minister Molewa with prestigious Award

By Veronica Mahlaba



**Above:** Minister Molewa was bestowed the award of *Officier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur* by the French Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Mr Nicolas Hulot.



**Above:** The two Ministers with their officials first sat down for a bilateral meeting before the festivities began.

There was double celebration at the French Residence as the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa was bestowed the award of *Officier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur* (or Officer in the French Legion of Honour) by the government of France. The French were also celebrating Bastille Day which marks the beginning of the French Revolution with the storming of the ancient royal fortress on the day in 1789.

Ministre d'État, French Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Mr Nicolas Hulot explained that The French Legion of Honour celebrates the accomplishments of distinguished individuals, irrespective of sex, social background and nationality. "Minister Edna Molewa's commitment to South Africa, the struggle for freedom and democracy, women's rights and the fight against climate change sets an example for us all. France will always be grateful for your contribution."

After receiving the award, Minister Molewa expressed that she was both honoured and humbled to receive the award of Officer in the Legion of Honour, more so on Bastille Day, an event with great historical significance.

"I want to dedicate this award that recognizes me for my work in the

**"Minister Edna Molewa's commitment to South Africa, the struggle for freedom and democracy, women's rights and the fight against climate change sets an example for us all."**

environmental sector but also for my role in the struggle for democracy and for women's rights to Mama Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu; a woman who dedicated her life to the betterment of her people," Minister Molewa said.

## **Minister reaffirms SA's position on climate change**

Minister Molewa further expressed that the award has been bestowed on her in recognition of her role as part of the collective South African team, in the conclusion of the Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of this time; and that it was a privilege to lend support to good friends on this very important matter; and to share in the extraordinary achievements of the French Presidency at COP 21.

COP 21 is universally regarded as a seminal point in the development of the international climate change regime under the UNFCCC, concluding as it did with the Paris Agreement.

"There can be no turning back on the collective effort to combat climate change and overall position and prepare our respective countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals as contained in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The French government is our valued partner not just in the fight against climate change but on a host of other issues, as mentioned by the previous speakers. I want to thank you for always standing by us, and trust we can count on this support well into the future," said Minister Molewa.

## **Quick Fact**

The national order of the Legion of Honour was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, and is the highest decoration in France. It was first awarded on July 14 1804. Other prominent South Africans who have been awarded this honour are former President Nelson Mandela, late struggle icon Ahmed Kathrada, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the late Nadine Gordimer.

# DEA Staff pay tribute to late Minister Molewa

By Madimetjha Mogotlane



**Above:** Family members at the memorial service.



**Above:** Multitudes of DEA staff came in their numbers to remember and reflect on the life they shared with the late Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Edna Molewa.

**D**EA staff gathered to remember and reflect on the life they shared with the late Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Edna Molewa.

The memorial service was held at Christian Revival Church, Silver Lakes, in Pretoria on 27 September 2018.

The Minister passed away on 22 September 2018 after a short illness, and speaker after speaker described how energetic and hardworking she was prior to her demise.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Barbara Thomson described the late Minister as one of the hardworking Ministers in the country.

“Minister was highly respected globally through her contribution and the country is recognised and respected as a major stakeholder on environment issues because of her.

Her demise is not only a loss to South Africa but to the entire world. Her vast knowledge of the sector allowed her to lead the department with ease and passion. Without a doubt, Minister Molewa was one of the most hardworking individuals whose

day would end because a task has been completed and not because the time on the clock was dictating to. Working from the early hours of the morning was normal for her. . She was a perfectionist. She took the mandate with vigour, passion and determination till the end. She demanded work of high quality,” she said.

**“Minister was a breath of fresh air. She liked to empower women. She was a leader that always stood for justice. She was passionate about each and every area of environment”**

The Deputy Minister further acknowledged the role the Minister played in advancing the economy in the country as well as the fight against rhino poaching.

Through her visionary leadership the department has now been positioned as a critical vehicle of economic advancement in our

country. At the forefront of major programmes such as the Ocean Economy, wildlife economy as well as the waste economy. Her fight against rhino poaching and the negative impact of pollution is also well documented. For me personally, it was an honour to serve under her and I will always be ever grateful for that opportunity. She knew what it meant to be a team player. She always consulted and solicited views of all our stakeholders”, she said.

During her eight year tenure serving the department with aplomb, the late Minister championed the environment sector and the Director-General Ms Nosipho Ngcaba remembered how dedicated she was about her pragmatic work and the vast knowledge she had about the environment sector.

“Minister was a breath of fresh air. She liked to empower women. She was a leader that always stood for justice. She was passionate about each and every area of the environment. She knew the functions of all the branches, including administration and finance”, she said.



# President Ramaphosa launches the Ha-Matsila Development Trust Project

By Veronica Mahlaba



**Above:** Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, President Cyril Ramaphosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and King Toni Ramabulana launch Matsila Game Farm.



**Above:** President Ramaphosa and Minister Zulu doing a walk about in the Matsila Chicken Abattoir.

President Cyril Ramaphosa visited Ha-Matsila Village in Limpopo to launch the Ha-Matsila Development Trust Project.

The community projects form a part of the Integrated Rural Development Model and employ approximately 300 local people.

The projects include farming (crop and livestock), agro-processing facilities such as an abattoir for poultry and red meat; a milling plant, tourism and wood crafting facilities. These projects are funded and supported by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD), South African National Parks (SANParks) and Phala Phala Wildlife.

President Ramaphosa stated that, the government is working hard to ensure that all communities benefit from the country's rich and diverse biological resources.

The land has an abundance of different varieties of plants and animals, which serve as a source of natural products, including cosmetics and medicines. They also provide a great foundation for expanding eco-tourism in the country. Eco-tourism can be used to promote the economic development and empowerment of local communities. It can help to

ensure that people living adjacent to protected areas or who live in areas of high biodiversity benefit from the significant growth in tourists visiting the country.

## Biodiversity Economy Strategy

In 2015, the government adopted a Biodiversity Economy Strategy (BES) which seeks to increase the biodiversity contribution to the Gross Domestic Product while conserving the country's ecosystems. It focuses on enhancing growth in various sectors including wildlife and tourism.

The Strategy was designed to sustainably advance the wildlife and bioprospecting sectors of the economy and secure sustainable livelihoods specifically for rural communities as part of meeting the targets of the National Development Plan.

President Ramaphosa explained that the wildlife sector has experienced noticeable growth over the years, making it a sector open to expansion, particularly among previously disadvantaged individuals. However, entry into the wildlife sector is hindered by barriers such as insufficient finance, inefficient land use, a lack of skills and experience, poor access to markets and the lack of infrastructure development support for entrepreneurs.

"Overcoming these barriers requires coordinated efforts from government, the private sector and communities. As part of its contribution, SANParks has undertaken to donate 3,000 head of game to emerging wildlife farmers in the next three years. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife pledged to donate 1,200 head of game over four years, and the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency promised to donate 1,500 animals in support of transformation over the next five years.

"The Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism has also pledged to donate 1,000 animals to communities as part of the government support framework. The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority has pledged 80 head of game per year. On behalf of the private sector, Wildlife Ranching South Africa has committed to assist in unlocking socio-economic opportunities and to support the successful implementation of land reform and wildlife economy initiatives," said President Ramaphosa.

He further elaborated that opportunities need to be developed alongside the acceleration of land reform, which is crucial for inclusive





**Above:** Ministers from different Departments joined hands to fund and support the Matsila Community Development Projects at Ha-Matsila, Limpopo.

**Above:** President Ramaphosa and King Toni Ramabulana doing a walk about in the Matsila Game Farm.

economic growth. "It is therefore a great pleasure to use this occasion to hand over title deeds and financial compensation to communities who have successfully claimed their land. We will be handing over a cheque to the value of R168 million to the Mphaphuli Traditional Authority for phase 1 of their claim. This claim covers a large part of Thohoyandou town, including the Venda University of Technology and the Thohoyandou Botanical Garden. The Botanical Garden will continue to be operated for conservation purposes by the South African National Biodiversity Institute for the benefit of the entire nation, although the economic spin-offs will accrue to the successful land claimants.

"We are also handing over a cheque of R77.3 million to the Gomondwane community in respect of their Kruger

National Park land claim. This is in addition to the claim settled in 2016. We are handing over title deeds to the Mooko community from the North West and Makhasa and Mqobokazi communities from KwaZulu-Natal," President Ramaphosa said.

Over and above the Matsila development, the government has planned investments in the broader Vhembe and Mopani areas, in the Mphaphuli, Mutele, Mhinga, Mphephu, Mabunda and Mahumani communities. There is a planned investment of R200 million that will provide additional opportunities for comprehensive rural development and sound environmental management. Ventures such as this will not only boost the local economy, but also contribute to the upliftment of adjacent communities. The initiatives were demonstrated

that day will be replicated around the country as part of the nodal approach to development. The president stated that this requires a partnership among government, the private sector and communities.

The launch of the project celebrated an integrated economic model which is led and implemented by the community. What makes the venture work is the dedication of all those involved to uplifting the poverty-stricken area.

"Through this work, we will realise the great potential of our natural resources and the boundless abilities of our people. For centuries, our people have gotten what they need from the land. Through such initiatives, we can ensure that they continue to do so far into the future," said President Ramaphosa.



## Did You Know?

South Africa has a long history of formal and informal initiatives linked to innovation in what has become known as the biodiversity economy. The domestic and international trade of biodiversity economy products contributes an estimated R3 billion to national Gross Domestic Product and, by the year 2030, this sector hopes to have grown by 10% a year, thus creating an additional 110 000 jobs for marginalised communities in South Africa.

The Biodiversity Economy has three sub-sectors: Bioprospecting and biotrade, wildlife and eco-tourism.



# Minister leads Mandela Day clean-up in Khayelitsha

By Tshego Letshwiti



**Above:** DEA Minister Edna Molewa cleaning the streets of Khayelitsha.



**Above:** Deputy Director General: Environmental Programs Dr Guy Preston and DEA Minister Dr Edna Molewa.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Edna Molewa led the Khayelitsha community, beneficiaries of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and departmental officials in a clean-up campaign in celebration of International Mandela Day for 67 minutes on 18 July 2014, in Khayelitsha Cape Town. The clean-up was in response to the call by President Jacob Zuma to clean-up South Africa, with an aim to raise awareness on Anti-littering, Separation of waste at source and the Recycle, Reuse and Recover (3R's) concept.

Addressing the community in Khayelitsha Minister Molewa said, "Working on Waste is one of the initiatives by the Department of Environmental Affairs implemented through Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme (EPIP) under the auspices of Expanded Public Work Programme (EPWP). The initiative is a proactive preventative measure that recognises that inadequate waste services may lead to litter which is not only visual pollution but may lead to health hazards and environmental degradation."

In addition to the clean-up activity in Khayelitsha, officials from the Oceans and Coasts and Environmental

Programmes branches, made donations in the form of educational toys, books, clothing and toiletries to the Lukhanyo Edu-care Pre-school in Khayelitsha. The day ended with a cleaner looking community and delighted children who could not wait open their gifts.



**Above:** EPWP Beneficiaries pose for picture prior to the clean-up operation in Khayelitsha .





## Bilateral discussions on various environmental issues

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation, Ms Ulla Tørnæs had bilateral discussions on various environmental issues. The discussions were paving a way for a Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) that would cover matters such as biodiversity and conservation; transition to green economy; chemicals and waste management; climate change mitigation and circular economy between South African and Denmark.

Image by Ernest Mulibana



## Minister urges South Africans to sustain natural resources

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa has urged fellow South Africans to use natural resources in a sustainable manner and to safeguard them for current and future generations at World Environment Day in Kimberley.

Image by Veronica Mahlaba

## Minister Molewa donates 50 desks

Sakhelwa High School in Ezakheni, KwaZulu-Natal is the latest school to benefit from the Working for Water Eco-Furniture Programme piloted by the Department of Environmental Affairs. The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa donated 50 school desks to Principal Zanele Dlamini in Ladysmith. The Minister said the lack of infrastructural resources at the school prompted the Department to act fast. Sakhelwa High School has 1 840 learners and 56 teachers.

Image by Madimejja Mogollane



## South Africa donates six black rhinos to Chad

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and the Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Sagour Youssouf Mahamat Itno witnessed the loading of six black rhino from the Addo Elephant National Park, Eastern Cape to Chad. Minister Molewa said the day was a great leap forward for conservation on the African continent, and heralds a glorious new era of cooperation between our two countries. This occasion that marks the return of the black rhino to Chad for the first time in 46 years as having been a fundamental building block of Africa's Renaissance.

Image by Veronica Mahlaba



## Minister inaugurates the World's First Oxygen Production Plant

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa together with SASOL and Air Liquide inaugurated the World's First Oxygen Production Plant worth R2.9 billion in Secunda Mpumalanga.

The project is the largest investment of its nature by Air Liquide outside Europe. The company designed and built the oxygen unit, and will also operate it. The unit is the largest Air Separation Unit (ASU) ever built.

Image by Itumeleng Motsepe





# CITES CoP 17 hosted in SA

By Zibuse Ndlovu



**Above:** Chair: Committee I, Ms Karen Gaynor, CITES Secretary-General, Mr John E. Scanlon, CoP17 Chair and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of Environmental Affairs, and Mr Jonathan Barzdo.



**Above:** Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa, Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson, and Mr John E. Scanlon enjoying the drum beating during the CITES COP17 opening ceremony.

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.



**Above:** Performance during the opening ceremony.



**Above:** Poets and music artists provided entertainment during the opening of CITES COP17.





# Circular economy: Creating economic growth while protecting the environment

By Seipati Sentle

**M**inister Molewa believes that the country's economic plan such as the tyre industry could serve as an important case study of how Circular Economy can successfully turn waste into wealth. "The South African government has already identified a host of sectors where wealth could be extracted from the so-called dead capital of waste products. One of these is the recycling of tyre and plastics sector. We as the South African government are working hard to amend the Waste legislation to allow for independent operators to run clean-up and processing operations in the different waste management sectors," said Minister Molewa.



**Above:** Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa and the European Union's Environment Director- General Mr Daniel Calleja at the Circular Economy Seminar on 4 May 2017 in Durban.

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## Turning waste to wealth

Image by Erica Mathye

**A**s Minister of Environmental Affairs, one of Dr Edna Molewa's priorities was to put focus on the emerging contributor to the generation of jobs in the green economy, the waste sector. She ensured that the Waste economy is at the centre of addressing inequality, poverty alleviation and creation of jobs. The informal sector was close to her heart and she made it her mission to dignify the plight of waste pickers. A number of informal waste collectors have benefited from the "tools of the trade programme" wherein improved logistics innovation on the transportation of the recyclables through motorised transport.

She championed the conception of the Recycling Enterprise Support Programme (RESP) which has already made a material impact in the lives of black owned and managed enterprises. These enterprises are reaping the benefits of promise of economic emancipation by accessing developmental funding for projects in the form of start-up grants.

Under her leadership, the Extended Producers Responsibility took historic strides that ensured that more waste materials are diverted from landfill. Materials such as tyres, electronic waste, waste oils, batteries, paper and packaging continue to create the much needed jobs and grow economy. She ensured that the "phakisa" philosophy was inculcated into the environmental business and it has been business unusual to keep up with her energy levels.

She served with conviction and ensured that the environmental sector responds to Presidential THUMA-MINA Initiative. The Thuma Mina Green Deeds Programme and Campaign remains her contribution to the mobilisation of every inhabitant of South Africa to become environmentally conscious. She wanted to see a South Africa free of litter and illegal dumping. She led to change attitudes and behaviour towards waste - and enable people to take responsibility for keeping their communities clean.



**Above:** Minister Molewa during the clean-up of Madela Hostel in Randfontein.

# Celebrating 15 years of Environmental Programmes

In a bid to alleviate poverty and uplift households, especially those headed by women, the Environmental Programmes within the Department of Environmental Affairs is responsible for identifying and ensuring implementation of programmes that employ Expanded Public Works Programmes principles to contribute towards addressing unemployment in line with the “decent employment through inclusive economic growth” outcome, by working with communities to identify local opportunities that will benefit the communities.

The main goal is to empower these groups through job creation, skills development, and use of Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) whilst at the time contributing to the achievement of the departmental mandate. The funded projects need to always bring about the balance between the social, economic and environment for sustainable. Some of these programmes are:

## Working for Water:

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

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

The programme addresses problems of water security (quantity and quality, and impediments to its use, including through structural damage, thermal pollution and eutrophication),

threats to biological diversity and the ecological functioning of natural systems.

## Working on Fire:

The programme aims to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, livelihoods, ecosystem services and natural processes through integrated fire management. In doing this it has to develop capabilities and to contribute resources and provide services to: Fire Protection Associations, land-management and jurisdictional agencies;

The use of fire for the control of invasive alien plants and in natural resource restoration; the provision of resources for the maintenance

of natural fire regimes in order to optimize natural biodiversity; processes and ecosystem services; co-ordinating fire management interventions in order to optimize the use of resources; empowering communities affected by fire in order for them to understand the benefits of and potential harm caused by fire; advocating and assisting with the implementation of appropriate land-management strategies; the creation of a platform for fire awareness and education amongst land-users and the general public, and greater awareness of relevant laws, ordinances, by-laws, and compliance among partner groups and local communities.

“I was able to build a house for my mother”

## How did you join the Working on Fire programme?

I joined WoF in 2013 after my dreams of pursuing a career in Social Work were left stranded due to financial constraints.

## How has Working on Fire helped you to earn an income for you and your family?

Being a participant within the programme, I have since saved up enough money to build my mother a house. I plan on saving even more money so I can register for a short

course in a Health and Safety related field.

## What does being a firefighter mean to you?

Being a veld and forest firefighter enables me to protect the environment and save lives and properties, from the harm caused by wildland fires. Our teams comprise of 25 firefighters. Our work includes fire management planning, fire suppression, detection and fire prevention. We also conduct community fire awareness activities in schools and communities.”



Name: Naledi Lekuleni  
Gender: Female  
Age: 27  
Position: Forest firefighter  
Location: Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga.



## Working for Wetlands

Ms Cynthia Mashele (32) from Giyani in Limpopo is a safety representative at the Colbyn wetland project. She has been doing work for Working for Wetlands since 2014.

### How has Working for Wetlands changed your life?

This programme has helped me to put food on the table for my two children. I was unemployed for a long time before I got into this programme and it has completely changed my life. I would encourage other women to seek out such opportunities just like I did through my local municipality. I work with other women in this programme which means we are able to share ideas and support one another.

### What are your future aspirations?

This programme has taught me that impossible is nothing! On a daily basis, we handle bricks, cement and concrete on a daily basis and we are mostly women.

I dream of becoming a businesswoman in construction because Working for Wetlands has shown me that it is possible for a woman to lead in a previously male-dominated field," she said.



**Above:** Working for Wetlands beneficiary, Ms Cynthia Mashele.

# Changing Lives through DEA's Working for the Coast Programme

By Tshego Letshwiti and Denzil Brandt

**N**elson Mandela once said, "As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest." This quote rings true to the Department's role in combating poverty, and 35 year old Phindiwe Mlungu is living testament to this. Her life changed for the better when she joined DEA's Working for the Coast Project which operates between Silverstroom and Houtbay in the Western Cape. She had a chat with us to share her experience in the programme.

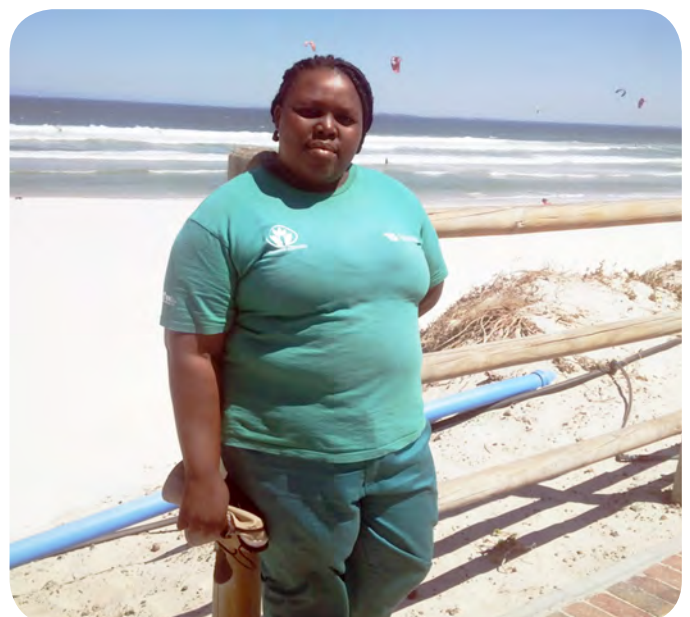
### Tell us a bit about yourself

I grew up in Umtata in the Eastern Cape and did my secondary education at Jangle High School unfortunately I did not finish my matric and left school while I was in Grade 11. My family then relocated and moved to Cape Town where we stayed in the Milnerton area, and at a later stage moved to Du Noon informal settlement where we still reside. During that period, my family endured numerous challenges as my father was the only breadwinner and could hardly cope in providing for all our basic needs. It was tough, but we survived against all odds.

### How did you join the programme?

I went to my local municipality in my area to add my details onto the database for unemployed people. I was unemployed for nearly 22 months and was desperate for work, I had to make an effort due to the difficult situation and financial shortcomings, and it was a very stressful time in my life.

My biggest wish during that period was just to get some form of employment. Eventually I got a call from Khoisan Implementation to come for an interview, I was then shortlisted and informed to come for an induction, which was the day I signed my contract with the company and currently still work for them. To be honest, I'm living my dream at the moment, because I still have my job which provides me with some form of stability for almost 24 months it really has changed my life in so many ways.



**Above:** Working for the Coast Project beneficiary Ms Phindiwe Mlungu.

# Kokstad Career Expo

By Erica Mathye

**B**efore her untimely passing, Minister Molewa had responded to a letter from His Worship, the Mayor of the Greater Kokstad Municipality, Councillor BM Mtolo requesting the department to conduct an Environmental Career Expo, which would target approximately 4000 grade 12 learners and unemployed youth with matric in Kokstad. The request also proposed for the environmental career expo to become an annual event.

After various plenary meetings, the Expo was held at the Greater Kokstad Youth Centre on 31 August 2018. The Expo was intended to create an awareness about environmental career opportunities, educate the learners and unemployed youth about conserving the environment and pursue careers in the environment sector.

**Career opportunities and bursaries offered by DEA that learners and unemployed youth were informed about are as follows and not limited to the list:**

- Environmental Law
- Resource Economics
- Waste and Pollution Management
- Environmental Sciences
- Chemistry/ Chemical Engineering
- Marine Biology and Marine Sciences
- Toxicology
- Geographic Information Systems
- Conservation Planning and Conservation Biology
- Statistics

The expo also provided exhibitors an opportunity to advertise their work opportunities on various fields of work, bursaries, internship programs, learnership programs and graduate programs.

## Groen Sebenza to unlock green jobs

By Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht



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

**I**n keeping with the observation of June as Environment and Youth Month, the Department of Environmental Affairs and its public entity, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), launched the groundbreaking Groen Sebenza project. The launch on 08 June 2013, which was attended by the 800 beneficiaries and partner organisations in their numbers, formed part of Environment Month celebrations at the Pretoria Botanical Gardens.

The R300 million Groen Sebenza Project, which translates into "Green Work" in Afrikaans and isiZulu, is a Jobs Fund initiative, aimed at developing skills and bridging the gap between education and job opportunities in the biodiversity sector. The pilot phase is absorbing 800 unemployed graduates and matriculants, consisting of 500 graduates and 300

matriculants. This is a groundbreaking partnership with 33 environmental- and biodiversity-focused organisations, from all spheres of government, business, academia and the NGO sector.

Groen Sebenza is not simply providing job opportunities and skills to 800 individuals. It is uplifting and improving, literally thousands of lives, through the power that lies within unlocking the benefits of the Green Economy.

"This project is set to have a profound, positive impact on the lives of the families and communities, from which these youngsters originate."

The Minister explained that many of the young people benefitting from this programme, are the sole breadwinners of their extended families. Some are single parents, others have lost their parents or guardians, while

others still, have beat the odds stacked against them in their communities, by pooling together what resources they had, to ensure they reached either matric or graduation from a tertiary institution.

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

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



# Minister Molewa takes lead in job creation

By Erica Mathye and Madimetja Mogottane



**Above:** Former Mayor of the City of Tshwane Councillor Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, Ms Edna Molewa and Mills Manager at the Garankuwa Eco-factory, Ms Boitumelo Rampeng.



**Above:** Minister Edna Molewa and Ms Boitumelo Rampeng plays chess on an eco-table.

Minister Molewa intensified the department's stance to create more jobs for the youth of our country through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The Minister visited the Eco-Furniture Factory in Garankuwa on 26 June 2015 and spoke to the workers there about the number of job opportunities the department will create.

The Eco-Furniture Programme was started 10 years ago as an Eco-coffin programme with the support of the department of Education. So far the project has created 226 full time jobs for previously unemployed youth.

"We expect to create over 3 000 jobs for the youth through the programme.

Currently, 226 full-time jobs opportunities have been created for previously unemployed people here at the Ga-Rankuwa factory, mainly from the City of Tshwane's Tshepo 10 000 programme.

The programme is expected to create 900 EPWP jobs opportunities in Ga-Rankuwa once the factory is fully operational. The Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Furniture programme factory is also a credit to the City of Tshwane. It has developed an industry around the clearing of invasive biomass,

converting the trees into usable material and manufacturing an assortment of furniture products," Minister said. She also promised that the programme would assist schools that lack infrastructural resources to execute their daily teaching operations.

"The factory is currently capacitated to produce 200 school desks per day. This will be geared up to 400 double-combination desks per day. In addition, we are looking at the manufacture of other products such as coffins, garden benches, chess tables, walking sticks and cement-fibre boards.

## Youth making eco-furniture

Minister Molewa launched the Eco-Furniture programme to develop communities and alleviate unemployment among women and youth and to link unemployed citizens to training opportunities.

Mill Manager at the Ga-Rankuwa Eco-Factory Ms Boitumelo Rampeng, says it takes both men and women to see the process through from the cutting of timber to loading the finished product onto trucks." Amongst the 247 men and women that report for work at the factory everyday (the dry mill operations) runs 24-hour rotational shifts to see the work through.



**From left:** Turnisang Mokonyane, Betty Molapo and Katlego Nkotsoe say joining the Eco-Furniture Factory has changed their lives for the better.

"I am a woman and I do the same work as a man. Nothing is impossible if you are determined," says machine operator Betty Molapo (28). Ms Molapo is a Marketing Management graduate and says after looking for work for a long time and not finding anything, she decided to drop her CV at the Eco-factory. "I was very excited when I got the call to come for an interview. I learned on the job and my dream is to be part of management as a supervisor one day," she says. Katlego Nkotsoe, 27, says working at the factory has sharpened his skills about how to fix things in his home and knowledge about plant species. "Today I just received my certificate in dry mill machinery training. The Department is really dedicated to improving our lives and giving us skills that we'll use in the future.

# SA joins 172 nations in historic signing of Paris Climate Agreement

By Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht



**Above:** Minister Molewa signs the Paris Agreement on climate change at the United Nations headquarters in New York. On the sidelines of this high signature ceremony, Minister Molewa takes a photo with accomplished actor and UN Messenger of Peace Mr Michael Douglas.

**H**istory was made when South Africa became one of 172 countries to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change, as this was the highest number of parties to sign such an agreement in one day. Minister of Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, signed the Paris Agreement on behalf of South Africa at the UN headquarters in New York.

Celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. The recognition of the 1.5 degree target is of central importance to South Africa as an African and developing country which is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Signing the Agreement requires that countries will later need to adopt the agreement within their own

legal systems, through ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The agreement will enter into force when ratified by at least 55 countries, which together represent at least 55% of global emissions.

The Paris Agreement is widely regarded as a ground-breaking point in the development of the

"Today, at least 172 Governments have gathered here to sign the Paris Agreement. Stand back and take this in for just a moment. This is history. This is the largest number of countries ever to sign an international agreement on a single day. I congratulate all those that are signing this morning," said Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-Moon, acting in his capacity as depository of the Agreement. Mr Ban had convened a high-level ceremony to open the Agreement for signature on Friday 22 April 2016. The Agreement will remain open for signature by Parties to the UN UNFCCC until 21 April 2017. Minister Molewa paid tribute to the Secretary-General for his visionary leadership and personal engagement in the process.

The Agreement's main objective is to limit the global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees



**Above:** United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has designated Academy Award-nominated actor and committed environmental activist, Leonardo DiCaprio, as a UN Messenger of Peace.

**Photo credit:** United Nations



international climate change regime under the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Minister Molewa asserted that the Agreement marked the dawn of a new era of international cooperation, geared at addressing the urgent challenge posed by climate change. "It provides a common platform for enhanced action by all stakeholders to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to make it one of the most enduring and successful of all multilateral agreements," said the Minister.

The Paris Agreement was adopted on 12 December 2015 at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC CoP21) held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015. The Agreement was adopted after four years of intense negotiations, which were mandated by the UNFCCC CoP17, hosted by South Africa in Durban in 2011.

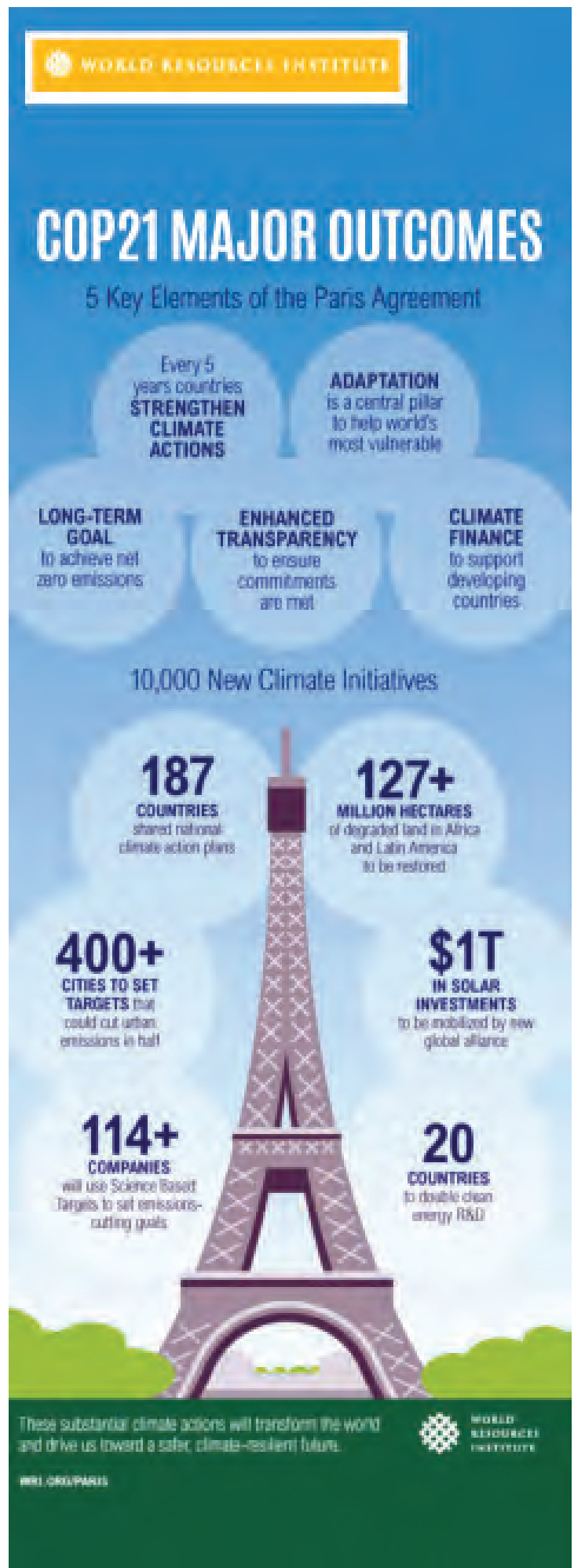
"Prior to the Durban Conference of the Parties in 2011 (COP17/CMP7), this kind of collective effort and unshakable political will seemed to be unthinkable. I therefore stand before you today with immense pride that the Durban negotiating mandate has been successfully concluded," said Minister Molewa.

South Africa is already acting on climate change. The country has significant investment in renewable energy, public transport, energy efficiency, waste management and land restoration initiatives. South Africa is also striving to enhance efforts to transition to a lower carbon economy and society, as well as to adapt in the short, medium and long term to the impacts of increasing temperatures, and reduced rainfall in many parts of the country.

Minister Molewa stated the Paris Agreement was linked to South Africa's efforts to accelerate and enhance action before 2020, adding that it is essential to take immediate action in order to close gaps with regard to emissions and finance, as well as to lay a firm foundation for the Agreement's entry into force. In this context, we appreciate that the Paris Decisions and Agreement provide international support that will enable implementation of our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions as a fair share of the global effort. We can achieve far more with support and we commend the priority the Paris Agreement provides on this key issue.

The signing of the agreement was celebrated by politicians, environmentalists and celebrities alike. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio used his Academy Award acceptance speech earlier in the year to bring the message of climate change to the popular discussion, and continued in this vein at the UN in April. "Our planet cannot be saved unless we leave fossil fuels in the ground where they belong," said Mr DiCaprio, adding "This is the body that can do what is needed, all of you sitting in this very hall. The world is now watching. You will either be lauded by future generations or vilified by them."

Minister Molewa celebrated the signing of the Agreement on behalf of South Africa with luminaries including veteran actor Michael Douglas and Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Baroness Patricia Scotland, amongst others.



Graphic by World Resources Institute.

# Black Mambas are Champions of the Earth

By Erica Mathye

Two members of the Anti-Poaching Unit popularly known as the Black Mambas spent some time with the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa at Environment House before their flights to New York where they were set to receive an Award as Champions of the Earth. This is the United Nations highest environmental honour given to visionary people and organisations all over the world that exemplify leadership and advocate action on sustainable development. Winners include a range of people, from leaders of nations to grassroots activists.

The Black Mambas are a 26-member ranger group dominated by 25 females and 1 male. They are based in Timbavati Game Reserve, west of the Kruger National Park. Founded by conservationist, Mr Craig Spencer, the Black Mambas protect our planet's wildlife in South Africa and are making a real difference in the community. Since they started the patrols in 2013, the number of poaching incidents is reportedly low.



**Above:** The Black Mambas Ms Felicia Mkgakane (left) and Ms Colet Ngobeni with the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa. They are flanked by Deputy Director and Programme Manager at UNEP-GEF Rhino, Mr Michael Strang and UNEP representative in South Africa, Ms Cecelia Njenga.

# SA donates six black rhinos to Chad

By Veronica Mahlaba and Madimetja Mogotlane

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa and the Ambassador of the Republic of Chad to South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Sagour Youssouf Mahamat Itho witnessed the loading of six black rhino from the Addo Elephant National Park, Eastern Cape to Chad on 03 May 2018.

Minister Molewa said the day was a great leap forward for conservation on the African continent, and heralds a glorious new era of cooperation between our two countries.

The translocation of black rhino was achieved through a collaboration between the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the government of Chad, South African National Parks (SANParks) and the African Parks Foundation.

After travelling a long distance, the six black rhino arrived safely in Chad from the Addo Elephant National Park under the watchful eyes of the SANParks and African Parks Foundation veterinarians who made sure that their



**Above:** Minister Molewa and CEO of SANParks, Mr Fundisile Mketeni are interviewed by the media at the loading of rhinos at Addo Elephant National Park, Eastern Cape.

welfare is well managed. Their arrival on 04 May 2018 in Zakouma National Park culminated with wild celebration amongst the Chad people that have last witnessed the existence of the endangered species in the early 1970s.

Current Chad Minister of Environment, Water and Fisheries, Mr Siddick Abdelkarim Hagggar lauded the reintroduction of rhinos as a great step towards the conservation collaboration between Chad and South Africa, and also pleaded with the Chadians to take care of the rare species in their country.

"Despite the corporations between South Africa and Chad, we are intensifying the relationship between the two countries that was realised by the reintroduction of the rhinos in the country. This is the fruitful development and progress regarding the conservation policy.



# Minister Molewa receives Gift of the Earth Award

By Buhle Hlatshwayo and Veronica Mahlaba

**M**inister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa receiving the Gift to the Earth Award in Cape Town.

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

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



**Above:** Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Dr Edna Molewa receiving the Gift to the Earth Award in Cape Town.

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

# Minister launches #Khomani

By Madimetja Mogotlane and Gabrielle Venter

**T**he #Khomani Cultural Landscape site has become the 9th World Heritage Site in South Africa. Minister Edna Molewa officially launched the landscape in Tweerivieren in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Northern Cape on 04 October 2017.

The site was inscribed on the UNESCO list in July 2017, which was preceded in 2002 by the historic land settlement agreement between the government, SANParks and the #Khomani San and Mier communities.

The minister also officiated the handover of game to the #Khomani community at Erin Game Ranch. She said the purpose of the launch was to celebrate the recognition of the #Khomani cultural traditions at a global stage and the acknowledgement of the #Khomani community on the successful inscription of the site.



**Above:** Environmental Affairs Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa unveils the #Khomani Cultural Landscape site. She is seen here with Northern Cape Premier, Ms Sylvia Lucas and the newly elected Leader of the San Community, Mr Petrus Vaalbooi.

The minister unveiled the plaque at Twee Rivieren Rest camp in Kgalagadi and gestured a symbolic handover of 11 red hartebeest to the community at the Erin Game Ranch near Mier. Since 2012, as part of the organisation's Wildlife Economy Programme, SANParks donated 438 game to the #Khomani Community's game farm. The donations included species like Red hartebees, blue wildebeest, gemsbok, springbok, ostrich, giraffe, Hartmann zebra and plains zebra.

The ranch is an important source of income for the community and provides training and capacity building to community members so that they can effectively manage the ranch and bring more tourists to the area.

# Chemicals and Waste Policy and Information Management

The Minister hosted a successful national conference on e-Waste on 4 September 2015. The purpose of the conference was to chart a way forward on e-waste management in South Africa especially addressing the stockpiles from all Government institutions nationally.

The Conference was attended by approximately 400 stakeholders from National Government, Municipalities, Provinces, Universities, Civil Society, Industry and South African State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and Government Information Technology Officer (GITO) representatives.

This conference dealt with the complex and dynamic issues emanating from e-waste and developed strategies to address them. The Minister elevated this issue into her budget vote speech.

Minister Molewa hosted 5 Waste Khoros and 2 Waste Summits. These provide a platform for engagement between the Waste Management Officers and the Department. These events were well attended and included exhibitions from the waste sector. These events provide for robust discussions and deliberations.

For the next Khoro a theme on "Now is the Time to Advance the Circular Economy Agenda in South Africa" has been identified because of Minister's commitment to promoting Circular Economy.

The challenges facing the waste industry, the plight of the waste pickers and international developments in the waste sector normally dominate the programme. Engagement opportunities for stakeholders are provided to ensure their inclusion.

Minister Molewa published the National Pricing Strategy for Waste

Management with a suite of tools for the sector to consider in addressing the challenges facing the waste sector. Minister Molewa strongly believed in the Extended Producer Responsibility principle and published the National Environmental Management Waste Act, Act 59 of 2008 Section 28 Notice calling on the Tyre Industry, Paper & Packaging Industry, Electrical and Electronic Industry and Lighting Industry to prepare and submit Industry Waste Management plans for her consideration and approval. The Plans have been submitted to the Department and the Department is currently evaluating these in her memory and taking into account what she would have wanted to see about the growth of this sector and its contribution to improving the lives of the people of South Africa.

The Minister was sympathetic towards the waste pickers and strived to improve their working conditions.

## Environmental Affairs leads the drive towards zero emissions



The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, led the launch of the department's Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Programme, to much fanfare and excitement on 26 February, at Gerotek Test Facilities in Tshwane. The programme is the first of its kind for South Africa's government, and will see the introduction of a fleet of zero emission electric vehicles, servicing the transport needs of the national department.

**Fact:** A zero emission vehicle is an automobile that does not have tailpipes which release carbon dioxide and create pollutants. The emissions from oilpowered cars are not only a cause of the diminishing of the ozone layer, but also a frequent cause of lung disease. This, in addition to waning fuel supplies and increased petrol prices, has lead automobile manufacturers to begin making zero emission vehicles.

**Fact:** Electrical cars can be charged from any power outlet or any solar panel source, by making use of the appropriate adapter. A unique feature of the Department of Environmental Affairs' fleet of zero mission Electric Vehicles is that they are fully powered by solar energy, from a high-tech assembly of solar tracking panels housed at the department's head office, rather than power from the national grid. The solar panels powering the vehicles generate enough electricity to power the fleet back into the national grid, further incentivising the move for other government departments and ordinary citizens to consider travelling green.



# Youth Jobs in Waste Programme

## Finding wealth in Waste

**M**inister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa launched the Youth Jobs in Waste (YJW) Programme in Phuthaditjhaba, Free State in 2013. We spoke to 28-year-old Themba Danster who has been selected as a beneficiary of the programme.



“Unfortunate family circumstances stopped me from completing my tertiary studies so I was overjoyed when I got the opportunity to be in this programme,” said Themba who is a collections administrator based at the Greenworks! Project.

GreenWorks! is the service-learning component responsible for training students to implement environmental improvement projects by combining community service with an academic curriculum.

He got involved in the programme after seeing a newspaper advert calling for youths who were interested in waste management jobs. “I was one of 17 successful candidates out of 85 applicants in the Free State province.”

An average day in his job involves conducting door-to-door visits with his team around the Kroonstad community and teaching them about the importance of separating waste, and not using illegal dumping sites to dispose of their waste. He says they work very closely with the municipalities and provide feedback about the waste collection needs of communities.

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# Tribute to Minister Molewa: An icon of women's rights

By Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht



A giant of not only the environment sector, but also of the movement for gender equality and non-violence against women has fallen. I pay tribute to Minister Edna Molewa, recalling my interactions with her as a life-long champion of women's rights and later, an environmentalist.

The news of Minister Molewa's untimely and unexpected passing came to me three weeks after I had last been with her at a DEA event which our communications team had organised, and a few days after I had arrived in Shanghai to begin a new job. To hear of the passing of our lively, imposing and iconic leader in the women's rights movement and the environment sector, while being so far away from home and my DEA family has felt surreal.

I first met Mme Molewa in October 2005, when I was a young court reporter covering the trial of William Nkuna, for the murder of Constable Frances Rasuge. Mme Molewa was the Premier of North West province at the time. Mme Molewa was a woman who always knew her power, and who had the voice, clarity of thought and strength of character to influence any issue to which she put her mind. She was well aware that her presence alone in that courtroom sent a strong message.

Mme Molewa provided leadership, lent her power and showed solidarity with the struggles of ordinary women, by supporting the Rasuge family almost daily, at the Mmabatho circuit court sitting in Ga-Rankuwa. Minister Molewa would arrive with a delegation from the African National Congress Women's League in full regalia, comforting the Rasuge family during emotional moments in the trial and the adjournments of the proceedings. When I spoke to her during the trial, she mentioned that she did not want to take many interviews, as she wanted to ensure the focus remained on the family and finding justice for Constable Rasuge, whose body at the time of the trial, had still not been found. In 2005 Nkuna was sentenced to life imprisonment for Constable Rasuge's murder following the trial.

Mme Molewa remained an advocate for justice and seeking closure for the Rasuge family. Years later in 2012, Constable Rasuge's remains were found in Nkuna's yard. Mme Molewa, who by that time had become the Minister of Environmental Affairs, supported the family and was amongst the women leaders who attended the funeral

of the young Constable. She remained a champion for the rights of all women not only to survive in our society, but to thrive as well.

When I last spoke to her, we were together in Pretoria at the inaugural Women Leading Towards Environmental Excellent Dialogue. Minister Molewa was extremely vocal and passionate about ensuring women from all sectors of society were well represented at that event. She did not want economic opportunities in the environment sector to remain the domain of the elite and well connected. She grilled us as the organisers of the event in the morning, and by the afternoon she was joyful and singing with the diverse women in attendance, giving advice on overcoming challenges and celebrating the successes shared by the established and emerging women in the environment sector on our panel.

I will always remember her as colourful (her clothes, hair and nails were always on point), intelligent and larger than life. She was a fire that made all of us around her, so much brighter.

**Robala ka kgotso  
Mme Molewa.**











**Rest in Peace Dr Edna Molewa**

**The Minister of Environmental Affairs**

Ms Barbara Thomson  
Private Bag 313  
Pretoria, 0001  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia Ext 6  
Pretoria  
Tel: (012) 399 8743

**The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs**

Ms Barbara Thomson  
Private Bag X313  
Pretoria, 0001  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia Ext 6  
Pretoria  
Tel: (012) 399 8854

**Director-General of Environmental Affairs**

Ms Nosipho Ngcaba  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria, 0001  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia Ext 6  
Pretoria  
Tel: (012) 399 9007  
E-mail: dg@environment.gov.za

**Call Centre:** 086 111 2468 • [callcentre@environment.gov.za](mailto:callcentre@environment.gov.za)  
**Website:** [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)



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**For any enquiries or contributions, please contact:  
Ms Erica Mathye, Tel: 012 399 8976 email: [EMathye@environment.gov.za](mailto:EMathye@environment.gov.za)**