

# Environment Quarterly

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**Working for Water: 50 000 beneficiaries in 18 years**

**20 years of democracy, 21 wetlands of importance in SA**

**DEA and iSimangaliso welcome return of lions**

**Minister publicises SA's Environmental Performance Review**



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2014

# environment CALENDAR



## January

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2 February:

World Wetlands Day

22 March:

World Water Day

23 March:

World Meteorological Day

26 March:

Earth Hour

7 April:

World Habitat Day

22 April:

Earth Day

9 May:

World Migratory Bird Day

22 May:

International Biodiversity Day

5 June:

World Environment Day

8 June:

World Oceans' Day

17 June:

World Day to Combat Desertification

24 June:

Day of the Sea Farer

11 July:

World Population Day

18 July:

Nelson Mandela Day

1 September:

National Harbour Day

16 September

World Ozone Day

22 September

World Rhino Day

7 October:

World Habitat Day

21 November

World Fisheries Day

## Cover story

- 4** Working for Water: 50 000 beneficiaries in 18 years

## Features

- 6** 20 Years of sound Climate Change and Air Quality Management
- 8** Desertification and climate change: How we must respond
- 10** Green Scorpions: Safeguarding SA's natural heritage
- 12** 20 years of Democracy, 21 wetlands of importance in SA
- 15** DEA interns attend first African Climate Reality Leadership Corps
- 18** Working on Fire tackles pompom weed
- 22** Putting waste management on the national agenda
- 26** New George weather office to clear observation restrictions
- 28** R232.2 million donated towards the fight against rhino poaching
- 29** SA Agulhas II returns home under the watch of its first Black Master
- 32** Minister publicizes SA's Environmental Performance Review
- 33** Mangaung's Batho Township receives a R35 million park
- 34** Fee regulations introduced for applications in terms of NEMA, NEMWA
- 35** It takes a village to raise a child
- 36** DEA hosts forum on Marine Protected Areas

## Regulars

- 2** Guest Editorial
- 14** Leadership Profile: The passionate and inquisitive Mrs Wadzi Mandivenyi
- 16** Spotlight on: DEA and iSimangaliso welcome return of lions
- 20** Fun for kids: Key facts about wetlands
- 24** Research: Alien Fish harvesting alleviates poverty in Darlington
- 31** Branch Profile: Environmental Advisory Services
- 39** All Rise in Court: Constitutional court ruling on property rezoning



# Guest Editorial



Since our first democratic elections twenty years ago, we have sought to place human rights at the heart of our nation's development agenda.

We have enshrined in our Constitution the right to an environment that is conducive to the health and well-being of our people, and one which is protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

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

Despite constituting just 2% of the global land area, South Africa is home to almost 10% of the world's plants and 7% of reptiles, birds and mammals.

These national treasures make us the third-most mega-diverse country in the world after Indonesia and Brazil. It is important as we develop policies, regulations and standards that we are mindful of how we extend these goods and services to ordinary South Africans, while appealing to the tourism sector.

Our challenge as a developing state is to find a healthy balance between the three pillars of sustainable development economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability.

In the past two decades environmental law reform has been significant with far reaching implications for the attainment of our vision: "a prosperous and equitable society living in harmony with our natural resources."

These reforms include the phasing out of the Environment Conservation Act and coming into effect of the National Environmental Management Act which saw the implementation of the Air Quality Act, Waste Act and other key regulations.

Among the most pertinent progresses made has been the creation of the Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMI), popularly referred to as the "Green Scorpions."

Despite the strides made on the legislative front, South Africa has not been spared from the growing international illicit wildlife trade. This continues to pose a challenge to our successful conservation track record with rhino poaching chiefly being an area of concern to government and stakeholders.

We will work hard in ensuring that the work of the Environmental Management Inspectorate is accelerated to enforce compliance with environmental legislation.

The past twenty years have seen a dramatic and sustained process of formation of environmental guiding principles, institution building and restructuring, legislation and policy development, and domestic and international engagement – all with the intention of addressing the historical legacy of inequality, international isolation and the fragmented structures of environmental governance.

It is incumbent upon us all to ensure that as we march forward towards more environmental protection, economic development and social transformation and that, we place ordinary South Africans at the centre of all our policies and programmes.

Twenty years of democracy and freedom have also entailed a steady evolution of climate change mitigation planning and the governance of climate change response at the national, provincial and municipal levels.

The National Climate Change Response White Paper is a significant milestone in that it lays out a comprehensive climate change response for the country. This roadmap continues to guide all our efforts towards the low-carbon, pro-jobs and pro-development future we all embrace, within the space of a green economy.

As part of our programme of ensuring environmental protection and job creation, we will accelerate our commitment to improving the socio-economic benefits within the environmental sector, by creating work opportunities for Previously Disadvantaged Individuals. The targeted designated groups are women, youth, and people living with disabilities.

The twenty years of democracy celebrations afford us not only an opportunity to reflect on the work we have done, but also to enhance the implementation of our public education and outreach programmes with partners in pursuit of environmental education that empowers our people.

## Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Mrs Edna Molewa

*A more detailed account of the above is contained in the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan of the Department of Environmental Affairs, available on the department's website.*

## Meet our team

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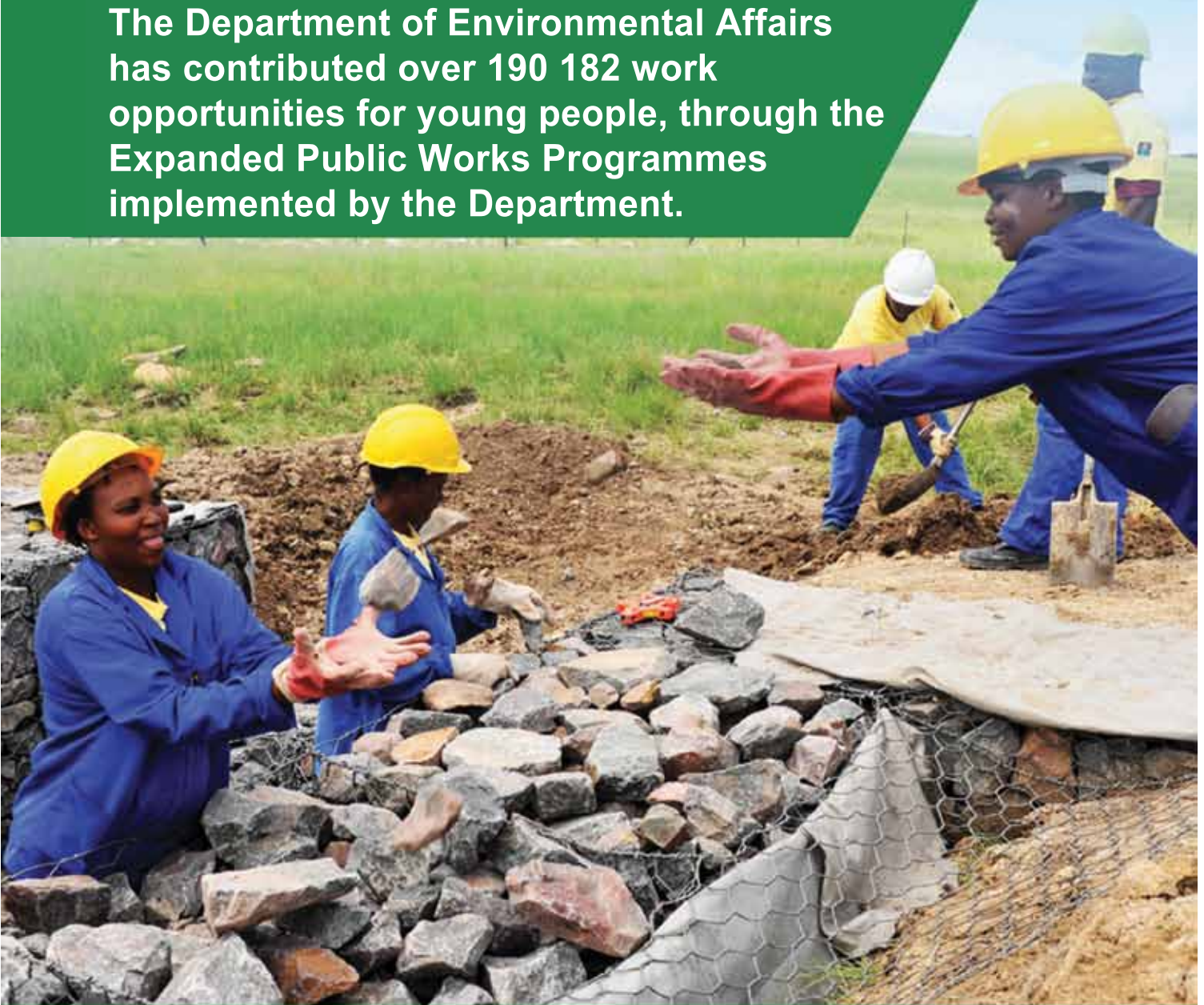
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Find more information on: [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za) or call 086 111 2468

# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## Celebrating 20 years of Environmental Management & Protection

The Department of Environmental Affairs has contributed over 190 182 work opportunities for young people, through the Expanded Public Works Programmes implemented by the Department.



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



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Working for Water: 50 000 beneficiaries in 18 years

By Ernest Mulibana

The Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) Working for Water (WfW) Programme celebrated its 18th anniversary in November 2013. The celebrations took place as the programme reached a milestone of 50 000 beneficiaries.



Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi visited Rhodes University, to tour a Working for Water project hosted at the university. Breeding ponds are used as biological control agents against water hyacinth.

**W**fW is an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) aimed at controlling and containing invasive alien plants. WfW is undoubtedly one of the most efficient and effective programmes in government. The WfW Programme was initiated by the late, former Minister

of Water Affairs and Forestry, Professor Kader Asmal, in 1995 to deal with water consuming alien invasive plants.

The WfW Programme, which was funded through the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), received an initial budget of R25 million.

The DEA and Department of Water Affairs have invested over R7.5 billion in the WfW Programme, which aims to control and contain invasive alien plants. Since its inception in 1995, the Programme created employment opportunities to an average of 26 000 people per year, with 54% of them being women.



## About the contributor: Ernest Mulibana

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



54% of WfW Programme beneficiaries are women.

During a dialogue with female beneficiaries of the WfW Programme in September 2013, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi expressed jubilation regarding the successes of the programme. "The success of Working for Water led to the establishment of a number of other Working for Programmes, including Working for Wetlands, Working on Fire and recently the sub programmes, Working for Land and Working for Forests," she said.

### Invasive Alien Plants

A study by the Land Use and Water Resources Research indicates that invasive plants consume the equivalent of over 200 litres per person, per day. Invasive alien plants severely compromise the country's biodiversity. The loss of indigenous trees and shrubs when alien plants become established has a negative impact on the economic benefits of tourism. It also affects the sustainable harvesting of plants such as wild flowers and thatch and the use of natural medicinal plants and herbs. More than half of the 3500 plant species on the Red Data List, are threatened directly by invasive alien plants.

In South Africa, invasive alien plants have become established on over 10 million hectares of land. There are 161 introduced species which are invasive in this country, although many more will become weeds in time. Some of the main problem species include the *Pinus radiata* (Monterey pine) from the United States of America; *Eucalyptus*

*camaldulensis* (Gums), *Acacia mearnsii* (Wattles) and *Hakea drupacea* (Hakea) from Australia, and *Lantana camara* (Lantana) and *Chromolaena odorata* Chromolaena from South America.

There are innumerable specimens of invasive alien species, of which almost 1000 listed invasive species are already within South Africa. Invasive species spread and grow, and the situation quickly deteriorates, and can reach a threshold point of no return. Estimates have put the impact of invasive species on the economy at hundreds of billions of rands and without controls, the costs would rapidly escalate as the invasives spread and grow, and could be further exacerbated by climate change. South Africa has only been able to eradicate one invasive species - a snail - thus far. Over R1 billion is spent on combating invasive species each year.



Working for Water beneficiaries clear alien invasive species that threaten water sources.

### Proposed regulations to deal with invasive alien species

In a quest to address the challenges posed by alien invasive species, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, has recently invited comments from interested and affected parties on the proposed regulations to deal with alien invasive species. The purpose of the regulations is to prevent the illegal introduction of alien and potentially invasive species into the country, and to regulate listed invasive species and potentially invasive species within the country. Invasive species can have profound impacts on the environment, biological diversity, the economy and ecosystems and their services.

The Regulations provide for the categorisation of invasive species into four categories, to allow for the prioritised management of:

- 1a: those that are able to be brought under control quickly (and eradicated, where possible and appropriate);
- 1b: those that are most harmful species;
- 2: those that have value and can be utilised under specific circumstances and/or in specific demarcated areas;
- and,
- 3: those that are less harmful, and where management interventions are less demanding.

When it comes to improving South Africa's natural resources, the government did not only promise but has delivered. Since its inception, the WfW programme has treated more than two million hectares of invasive alien plants. If it was not for this investment and the introduction of biological control, South Africa's biodiversity and to some extent food security could have been under major threat.

In addition, over 50 000 people particularly from the rural parts of the country, have benefited through employment opportunities from the WfW Programme. In his state of the nation address on 13 February 2014, President of the Republic of South Africa, Honourable Jacob Zuma said, "The Expanded Public Works Programme and the Community Work Programme continue to be an effective cushion for the poor and the youth."

# 20 Years of sound Climate Change and Air Quality Management

By Veronica Mahlaba



Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa and President of South Africa, Honourable Jacob Zuma at the World Economic Forum (WEF) opening at UNFCCC COP 17.



The President of South Africa, Honourable Jacob Zuma officially unveils the Hazelmere solar plant in KwaZulu-Natal. The launch took place during the UNFCCC COP17 proceedings in Durban, 2011.

For the past two decades, South African government officials in the fields of Climate Change and Air Quality Management have worked tirelessly to improve the regulatory framework to facilitate the enhancement of South Africa's quality of air and support the transition to a low carbon economy. The South African government is proud to have succeeded in reaching milestones in this sector which ensures citizens' right to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.

Some of the milestones achieved over the past two decades include the enactment of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, Act No. 39 of 2004 (NEM: AQA 39 of 2004); the declaration of National Priority Areas; and the adoption of the

National Climate Change Response Policy, to name just a few.

## South Africa's participation in the global Climate Change discourse

The South African Government consented to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in August 1997. The UNFCCC provides the overall global policy framework for addressing climate change issues and marks the first international political response to climate change. Subsequent to the UNFCCC, nations approved the Kyoto Protocol, which put forward specific measures for developed countries (Annex I) to mitigate climate change. The South African Government acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in July 2002 as a non-Annex I Party.

Dubbed the Environmental World Cup, South Africa hosted the 17th session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP17) and the seventh Meeting of the Parties (CMP7) to the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP17/CMP7, also known as COP 17). This event was held in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

"The success of COP 17 was largely due to Team SA's response to our clarion call for a partnership akin to the one during the 2010 Soccer World Cup," stated Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa. The salient outcomes of the COP 17 Negotiations included the decision by the UNFCCC to launch a process to develop a protocol, or an agreed outcome with legal force through a subsidiary body under the Convention



## About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

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



to be known as the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (AWG-DP) for Enhanced Action; agreement on the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol; as well as the launch of the Green Climate Fund.

The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action sought to establish the future direction of the international climate regime by initiating a new round of negotiations to be concluded by 2015 and operationalised by 2020.

The Durban Platform is widely regarded in the international climate change negotiations fraternity as a text that ultimately brings all Parties from both the developed and developing world onto one track; recognises the emissions gap; the required differentiation; and tries to resolve the difficult conflict between equity and environmental integrity.

Speaking during the State of the Nation Address on 13 February 2014, President of South Africa, Honourable Jacob Zuma noted the significance of the Durban Platform, "As President of the COP17/CMP7 United Nations Climate Change conference which was hosted in Durban in 2011, South Africa successfully placed the world on an unassailable course, through the adoption of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action."

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a fund within the framework of the UNFCCC and was established to be the mechanism to transfer money from the developed to the developing world, in order to assist the developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change. The fund is intended to be the centerpiece of efforts to raise Climate Finance of \$100 billion a year by 2020.

### National Climate Change Response Policy

In October 2011, Cabinet adopted the National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP). The policy, currently being implemented, provides a roadmap towards a socio-economic transition to a climate resilient, low-carbon economy and society. This transition will involve a balance between South Africa's efforts to reduce greenhouse gases (mitigation) and to build the country's resilience to the

impacts of climate change (adaption). The Department provided an opportunity to present these products to stakeholders during a two day NCCRP Implementation Workshop held in June 2013. One of the key products revealed at this event was the 2050 Emissions Pathways Calculator. The Calculator is an interactive user-friendly tool that allows non-experts to develop their own combination of levels of change in different technologies and sectors of the economy to explore different energy and emissions scenarios up to 2050.

As part of implementing the provisions of the Policy, the Department also initiated a process of developing the Long Term Adaptation Scenarios (LTAS) for South Africa. These adaptation scenarios evaluate the socio-economic and environmental implications of climate change impacts, on the basis of a set of agreed climate change scenarios.

Phase 1 of this process produced reports on impact and climatic scenarios, that evaluate how changes in the climate may affect key climate sensitive sectors i.e. water, agriculture, biodiversity,

## South Africa successfully placed the world on an unassailable course, through the adoption of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

human health and marine fisheries, over the short, medium and long term. Phase 2 of the LTAS will use an integrated assessment approach and model to develop adaptation scenarios for future climate conditions using the information, data and models from Phase 1 and inputs from a range of stakeholder consultations and task-team workshops.

### Air quality governance

South Africa is plagued by a number of pressing and persistent air pollution problems in addition to facing various new emerging air pollution issues. The NEM: AQA was approved by Parliament in August 2004.



DEA's Chief Policy Advisor: Strategic Environmental Intelligence, Mr Peter Lukey and Chief Director: Air Quality Management, Dr Thuli Mdluli addressing delegates at the 8th Air Quality Governance Lekgotla.

Since its implementation, air quality management in South Africa has undergone drastic changes. The Act provides all three spheres of government with a full set of regulatory powers and tools to implement their Constitutional air quality governance functions.

The government has, since 1994, declared three National Priority Areas: The Vaal Triangle Airshed (2006), the Highveld (2007) and the Waterberg-Bojanala (2012) Priority Areas. In addition, the implementation of the Air Quality Management Plans for the Vaal Triangle and Highveld Priority Areas have been undertaken.

In order to assess the air quality in these areas, the DEA has purchased and installed three state of the art ambient air quality monitoring stations to ensure that the efficacy of interventions, as outlined in the Air Quality Management Plan, is assessed scientifically. Air pollution measurements from these air quality monitoring stations will over time assist air quality policy makers to detect abrupt changes in air quality levels and be in a position to act on time.

### Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla

In 2005, the Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla started as a small side event to the National Association for Clean Air (NACA) conference. The year thereafter marked the inauguration of the Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla. Through the Lekgotla, the DEA creates a platform for air quality officials from the three spheres of government to share information, strengthen cooperation and collaboration in order to improve the quality of air in the country.



# Desertification and climate change:

## How we must respond

By Eleanor Momberg

**R**ecent studies indicate that the global population is set to reach 9 billion by 2050, and land and soil experts are growing alarmed that there is increasing pressure on the land resource to meet growing food, water, energy and other demands. While the global population might be on the rise, the resources the planet provides us with are not.

As humanity, our impact on the world's climatic conditions needs to form a central part of policies and practices aimed at halting desertification and soil degradation in order to ensure future land and agricultural security for all people.

Climate change and desertification are not independent of each other, particularly in Africa. Only with the rare exception of oil-producing and mineral-rich countries, the continent's economy is predominantly reliant

on agriculture. This means it is highly dependent on vulnerable natural resources which, in turn, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions through farming methods, livestock and wood burning.

In September 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded its latest report that found human influence on the climate was undeniable and time to limit global warming to under 2°C had become limited.

The IPCC experts predicted in the Working Group 1 Assessment Report that global surface temperature change by the end of the 21st Century, with a few exceptions, would likely result in more frequent heat waves with already dry regions becoming drier, wet regions becoming wetter, and sea levels rising more rapidly. Less rainfall means more desertification,

land degradation and ultimately less agriculture and food security, and a reduction in the quality of life of all people, nationally and internationally.

At COP11, Parties adopted the Namibian Declaration on a stronger United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for a land degradation neutral world showing determination to, and the importance of, implementing the outcomes of Rio+20 on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) issues.

The Declaration called on member states, inter-governmental organisations, civil society and interested and /or affected parties to enhance sustainable land management and livelihoods at global, regional and national levels, and particularly at a local level. It also gave a new momentum to the



### **About the contributor: Eleanor Momberg**

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

Rio+20 document – the Future We Want – which had placed the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought at the forefront of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

South Africa has grappled with land degradation issues for a long time. Degradation of ecosystems and desertification are significant forms of land transformation and are among the world’s most critical environmental issues. They are intricately linked to food security, poverty, urbanisation, climate change, and biodiversity. We are all aware of the effects of

drought and land degradation on populations and economies. In recent years communities have had to rely on assistance from national, provincial and local government, as well as NGOs, when, for example, local dams – the sources of water supply – have run dry. No water means no life. It affects the lives of people who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods; the ability to produce food and other commodities; and the economy. Productive land is becoming a strategic commodity. Between 1985 and 2005, the world’s croplands and pastures expanded by millions of hectares. In the

next two decades or so, there will be a need to convert millions of hectares of forest and grassland into agricultural land in order to match increasing demands for food, energy, and water.

South Africa has semi-arid and arid land on a continent, where two-thirds of the land is desert or dryland (semi-arid and arid).

Like South Africa, the African continent is affected by frequent and severe droughts. It is therefore imperative that we fight land degradation and desertification by mitigating the effects



Working for Land beneficiaries rehabilitating land affected by desertification.



During the 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification celebrations, the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi handed over a R12 billion land rehabilitation project to the community of Sterkspruit in Eastern Cape.

of drought in order to ensure economic growth and the continued improvement of society.

South Africa’s National Action Programme for combating land degradation to alleviate rural poverty is integrated into the national sustainable development and climate change strategies that are aligned with the UNCCD’s 10-year strategy and Framework.

The government’s approach to addressing climate change is both developmental and transformational. The implementation of projects through the Expanded Public Works Programme is a clear example of the work being done to ensure land and waterways are restored. The Working for Land Programme, for example, has ensured the restoration of degraded ecosystems and involved communal farmers and community leaders in projects to control and ultimately halt bush encroachment. The Working for Wetlands Programme

**Desertification is predictable, avoidable and often reversible through the rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of degraded land.**

has, for example, contributed to the restoration of riparian zones and wetlands, thus contributing to increased healthier water supplies improving the economic benefits of natural and agricultural habitats.

Land degradation costs the global community up to 5% of global agricultural Gross Domestic Product. Research shows that an estimated 24 billion tons of fertile soil is lost annually through erosion in croplands worldwide. At total of 78% of degraded land is

located in terrestrial ecosystems other than drylands. DLDD directly affects 1.5 billion people around the world, by 2008 estimates.

Desertification is predictable, avoidable and often reversible through the rehabilitation, restoration and conservation of degraded lands and, where feasible, communities can be assisted to withstand the effects of drought by encouraging sustainable land management practices thus lifting them out of poverty.

Putting appropriate policies and practices in place to prevent the degradation of land, while dealing with land rehabilitation and the effects of climate change, will ensure that the effects of drought on the poorest of the poor are eased whilst building the resilience of our communities to deal with the threat of desertification and climate change.

# Green Scorpions: Safeguarding SA's natural heritage

By Reyhana Mahomed



Gauteng's Environmental Management Inspectors carrying out their duties on site.

Our natural environment is our greatest asset. South Africa prides itself on its natural heritage: the Big Five, the Cape Floristic Kingdom in the Western Cape and its many indigenous fauna and flora. In monetary terms, our natural heritage is measured by the value of ecotourism which contributes R21 billion per annum to the South African economy.

This further amplifies the need to ensure our natural environment is continually conserved and compliance to all the pieces of legislation governing the country's natural heritage are followed. In 2005, as a part of ongoing environmental law reform, the

Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) made an amendment to the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) that allowed for the creation of the Environmental Management Inspectorate, dubbed the "Green Scorpions."

The Green Scorpions are tasked with, amongst others, holding businesses, institutions and individuals accountable for pollution, waste and the negative impacts their actions or inactions have on both aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. The national network of Environmental Management Inspectors include park rangers and conservation officers, air quality officers, marine and coastal management officers, pollution

and waste enforcement officials and officials monitoring urban developments. The reason behind the creation of the Inspectorate was to rationalise the differing law enforcement powers and duties of these officials into a single set of legislative powers, now set out in Chapter 7 of NEMA. Today, the Green Scorpions have a unified approach to training, corporate identity and adherence to a code of conduct.

In 2005, the then Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk designated the first 25 Environmental Management Inspectors. Today there are over 1705 Green Scorpions protecting the country's natural heritage.



## **About the contributor: Reyhana Mahomed**

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

The Environmental Management Inspectorate has, since 2009, produced and published the National Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Report (NECER) of South Africa which bears testament to the strides made in the area of environmental law enforcement. The report, published on an annual basis, provides a national overview of environmental compliance and enforcement activities undertaken by environmental authorities across the country.

“The landscape of environmental legislation in South Africa has shifted dramatically in the past decade, with a major legislative review producing one of the most comprehensive regulatory environmental frameworks in the world,” said DEA’s Deputy Director-General of Legal Authorisation and Compliance Inspectorate, Mr Ishaam Abader. However, it is also recognised that, in order to translate these laws into tangible benefits for the environment and future generations in our country, that proper follow up compliance monitoring and enforcement needs to be implemented. In this respect, there has been an increasing emphasis on joint operations, which highlight the importance of working together with other enforcement agencies in order to ensure that the DEA’s efforts extend across a larger area and focus on high priority issues such as the tannery and taxidermist sector, sand mining and the reptile trade.

“It is clear from the direct imprisonment sentences that are being handed down by our courts, that the justice system is also now recognising the devastating impact associated with environmental crime and understanding the important deterrent effect of the punishment associated with convictions,” said Mr Abader.

### Landmark environmental cases

#### The State vs. Golfview Mining

The accused was charged with contravening various provisions of the NEMA and the National Water Act by illegally mining in a wetland. The accused entered into a plea and sentence agreement, and was sentenced to a fine of R1 million (which was suspended for five years on various conditions). The accused admitted that during the period March 2009 and August 2010, it wrongfully and

negligently used water otherwise than in a manner permitted by the National Water Act.

In addition to the main sentence, an additional court order was handed down by the Ermelo Regional Court for R1 million to be paid by the accused, respectively, to the Water Research Council, the Environmental Empowerment Services of Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency, to be used solely for the purposes of environmental research, awareness, protection and training.

#### The State vs York Timbers

The Nelspruit Regional Court, on 4 April 2013, granted a confiscation order against York Timbers (Pty) Ltd, ordering the accused to pay R450 000, being the amount that it was alleged to have saved by failing to obtain an environmental authorisation prior to the commencement of a listed activity, as required by the NEMA.

Although this type of order, granted under the Prevention of Organised Crime Act 121 of 1998 (POCA), has previously been used to deprive offenders from the benefits obtained in wildlife crimes, this is the first successful application for such an order relating to a contravention of environmental impact assessment legislation in South Africa.

#### The State vs Stefan Frylink and another

This case dealt with conduct unbecoming of an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) who was found to have supplied false and misleading information to the DEA. The information provided by the EAP negatively influenced the basis upon which the DEA relied when it issued the environmental authorisation as it did not reflect the correct status of the environmental features occurring on a property that was earmarked for the construction of the PAN African Parliament building.

The EAP was found guilty on two counts and effectively sentenced to either pay a fine of R80 000.00 or to serve 4 months imprisonment. This was the maximum penalty that could be imposed for such an offence at the time. This case highlighted



Thai national, Mr Chumlong Lemtongthai now has the distinction of having been handed the lengthiest sentence for rhino poaching in South Africa; 30 years of imprisonment.

the important role that EAP’s fulfil in providing information that forms the basis for important decisions in relation to whether or not to authorise activities that impact on the environment.

#### The State vs. Lemtongthai

Mr Chumlong Lemtongthai, a Thai national, was alleged to have been trading in and exporting rhino horns from South Africa, which were then sold to the underground traditional medicine market in Asia. He was using prostitutes to pose as hunters in order to smuggle the horns out of the country, and was believed to be one of the kingpins of an international rhino horn smuggling syndicate.

The accused was charged with contravening section 80(1)(i) of the Customs and Excise Act, Act 91 of 1964, making improper use of a licence, permit or other document issued in respect of goods in terms of the Act and section 57(1) of NEM:BA carrying out a restricted activity involving a specimen of a listed threatened or protected species without a permit issued. The accused entered into a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to 52 counts. This plea agreement, however, exonerated his five co-accused when charges against them were withdrawn after he claimed that they were unaware they were taking part in a crime.

The accused was sentenced to 40 years imprisonment. He successfully lodged an appeal against his sentence and it was reduced to 30 years.

# 20 years of democracy, 21 wetlands of importance in SA

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



Mbongolwane Wetland in Mbongolwane which was host to the World Wetlands Day celebrations held on 31 January 2014.

**D**eputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi joined the Mbongolwane community on 31 January 2014 for the 17th World Wetlands Day celebrations. Part of the celebrations saw the handover of a Ramsar certificate which certified uMngeni as the 21st Wetland of International Importance in South Africa. The uMngeni Vlei Nature Reserve was designated as a Ramsar site in March 2013.

"The timing of the designation of uMngeni Vlei is particularly

significant, because of the attention currently being focused on ecological infrastructure in the uMngeni catchment. This catchment provides water to millions of people, including the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg," said Mrs Mabudafhasi.

World Wetlands Day was celebrated under the theme: **Wetlands and Agriculture** which reflects the interdependence between wetlands and agriculture and the key role that wetlands play in agricultural practices. "Our celebration this year

also coincides with our celebration of the Twenty Years of Democracy and Freedom in our country with our programme in the area of wetlands rehabilitation aimed at creating jobs and protecting the environment," said Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi.

In an attempt to heighten awareness on the benefits and services provided by wetlands, the Department of Environmental Affairs visited schools in the Mbongolwane area between 27 - 30 January 2014. A Grade 3 pupil from Thembalesizwe Primary School,



## 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.

## Working for Wetlands

The Department of Environmental Affairs' Working for Wetlands Expanded Public Works Programme focusses on remedial interventions for maintaining healthy wetlands.

- Since 2002, Working for Wetlands has invested R530 million in the rehabilitation of 906 wetlands.
- This has improved or secured the health of more than 70,000 hectares of wetland area.
- In the process, the programme has provided 12,848 employment opportunities, with 2.2 million person days worked to date.
- In line with the emphasis of the Extended Public Works Programme on training, Working for Wetlands has provided 168,400 days of training in both vocational and life skills.
- Teams are made up of a minimum of 60% women, 20% youth and 1% people with disabilities.
- Wetland ecosystems, and the specialised species they support, are part of South Africa's rich biodiversity. If nations' wealth were measured solely in terms of this diversity, South Africa would rank as the world's third richest country.

Ms Zandi Hlophe, said, "We must not damage the wetlands as they are homes for the frogs and other little animals. They also help us for when we want to grow food."

This echoes the objective of World Wetlands Day 2014 which is to raise people's awareness of the interdependence between wetlands and agriculture, to highlight ways to ensure sustainable utilisation of wetlands and to understand that wetlands create an opportunity for small-scale farming if appropriate farming methods are used.

Further noting the strategic importance of wetlands, not only environmentally and agriculturally but socially as well, the Deputy Minister stated that, "Given their importance for water supply and food production, wetlands are a key element in achieving the goals in poverty eradication worldwide. They can literally be lifesavers – for example springs, particularly in arid regions that support dry season food production, water and grazing for livestock."

The Mbongolwane wetland is approximately 395 hectares in extent and 12 kilometres long. "These wetlands have helped the community, because they are perfect for planting crops that need lots of water such as potatoes and sweet potatoes", said a community member, Ms Thulile Gumede. Owing to the reasonably intact state of the wetland and the high level of human and agricultural activity in the catchment, the wetland is likely to have an important function in trapping sediment and improving water quality in the area.



The Tongaat Hulets employees showing off the beautiful reed bags, created by Inina Craft Agency, made from reeds from Mbongolwane wetlands.

## What are Wetlands ?

Wetlands are spaces where water collects for a long and frequent amount of time thereby influencing the soil, plants and animals that occur there. Given their importance for water supply and food production, wetlands are a key element in achieving the goals of poverty eradication, which is one of the key issues that South Africa faces.

Wetlands offer many services including the supply of fresh water, flood attenuation, buffers, erosion control, sustained stream flow, food security, fish nurseries, groundwater recharge as well as tourism and recreational benefits.



Inkosi Thembiso Ntuli of Eshowe, Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi, DEA Chief Director: Biodiversity Economy and Sustainable Use, Dr Moscow Marumo and Mayor of uThungulu District Municipality Cllr, Thembeke Mchunu addressing members of the Eshowe community on the celebration of World Wetlands Day.



Ms Sithaba Ntuli from Thembalesizwe Primary School reciting a poem which speaks about the importance of preserving and protecting wetlands.

# The passionate and inquisitive Wadzi Mandivenyi

By Veronica Mahlaba

Working in the Biodiversity and Conservation branch requires passion and inquisitiveness for what you do. "The Earth is the only home we have, and when you think of what a precious heritage that is; you can't help but to go the extra mile with your work in this Department," explains Ms Wadzanayi Mandivenyi.

**W**adzi, as she is commonly known, is the Chief Director: Biodiversity Specialist Monitoring and Services.

Ms Mandivenyi and her dynamic team provide specialist scientific and technical services, with the objective of monitoring and evaluating the status and trends of biodiversity conservation in South Africa and in terms of biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

## What do you find most rewarding and challenging about working for the DEA?

**Challenging:** Working in a field where the results of your work are not immediately visible yet the impact of such work has far reaching

consequences. It can take years for appreciable species and ecosystem regeneration.

**Rewarding:** It is challenging to think that South Africa is the third most mega biodiverse country in the world and that 90% of the country's maize is genetically modified. I have participated in the process that concluded that the products will not harm the environment and that food safety is not compromised. But the rewards are also amazing. Every time we negotiate an agreement that keeps our Millennium Development Goals on track, is a coup.

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

I don't have a single highlight. There are so many highlights that I wouldn't be able to identify one that stands out, but the first would be being head hunted by the Department in May 2005 as a Biosafety Specialist. At the time that I joined the department there was a Key Performance Indicator that read 'biosafety challenge managed'. I am happy to say that the Biosafety challenge has indeed been managed, and we have a credible system in place. I believe that I have played a key role in establishing DEA's credibility in the Genetically Modified Organism/ Biosafety space.

## Quick Facts

**Hometown:** Harare, Zimbabwe

**Hobbies:** Theatre, dinner parties with friends, romantic movies and reading

**Currently reading:** Elizabeth George - A Woman after God's Own Heart

**Facebook or Twitter:** Facebook

**Currently listening to:** Whitney Houston, ABBA

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

I'd tell myself that I'm not a nerd to have stayed in on a Friday night with my nose buried in books when everyone who is anyone went off getting wasted at Freshers' Week. I was very studious at school and university but sometimes felt that I was missing out. I see now that my gut instinct was right, you only really get one bite of the cherry in keeping with the famous African proverb that "You only eat an elephant one bite at a time."

## Who is your role model and briefly tell us why?

I don't have a single role model. In fact I am inspired by a number of people who touch other people with their lives.

## What is your favourite quote/motto and by whom?

My favourite quote is from the poem Desiderata. I specifically love the line that states "With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world."





# DEA interns attend first African Climate Reality Leadership Corps

By Nhlanhla Shabangu



The interns that attended the Climate Reality Leadership Corps/Project training programme, Mr Nhlanhla Shabangu, Ms Nosicelo Sinje, Mr Thilivhali Mudau and Mr Zuko Nomatyeli.

Over 900 delegates from all over the world descended on South Africa to attend a prestigious Climate Reality Leadership Corps/Project training programme. Four of the Department of Environmental Affairs' interns were amongst the first African environmental champions to attend the programme at the Sandton Convention Centre on 12-14 March 2014.

Hosted by the former Vice President of the United States of America, Mr Al Gore, the Climate Reality Leadership Corps/Project is a US based non-governmental organisation that conducts superior training on the environmental impacts of climate change globally. Global environmental activists are given an opportunity to robustly engage on recent scientific developments on the climate change arena and to further come up with solutions that will accelerate mitigation and resilience strategies.

Deputy Director: Learning and Development, Mr Joshua Moepya stated that the Directorate: Learning and Development are proud to be part of this initiative and contributing to the development of the interns. "This is in line with the government's Youth Employment Accord (6) of the New Growth Plan that seeks to improve education and training opportunities for the gap grouping between school leaving and first employment," said Mr Moepya.

Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Parks Tau, noted that weather patterns in South Africa has changed significantly. "The City is making tremendous efforts to minimise the cost of carbon pollution by the introduction of the Bus Rapid Transport System (BRT)," he stated.

He further explained that the impacts have been felt more by those in the eastern parts of Africa in countries

like Ethiopia and Kenya and are a continuous threat to food security and health due to an increase in temperature and therefore vulnerability to draught and diseases.

Chief Directorate: Hazardous Waste Management and Licensing intern, Ms Nosicelo Sinje had this to say about the training programme, "The emphasis is that we need to broaden our understanding of renewable energy and to fast track education on environmental issues to align ourselves with global trends in the climate change sphere".

Climate Reality Leadership Corps/Project works together with organisations such as Green Peace International, Generation Earth and Food and Trees for Africa and has conducted 14 trainings in Europe and America.



## About the contributor: Nhlanhla Shabangu

Nhlanhla Winston Shabangu is an intern in the Directorate: Transformation Employee Health and Wellness. He studied Public Management at UNISA. He is passionate about governance issues and takes interest in climate change matters.

# DEA and iSimangaliso welcome return of lions

By Thandile Mayalo

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) welcomes the opening of the new Western Shores section and the return of lions after 44 years of absence into the uMkhuze Section of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. It has been 44 years since the uMkhuze section has seen lions. Now the great cats have returned, affording the park 'Big Five' status.

The four lions were released to the uMkhuze section on 4 December 2013. The pride, including an adult female and three sub adults (a male and two females), is the first of a total of a planned eight lions. Two more brother males and two females will arrive at a later stage. They were captured in Tembe Elephant Park, KwaZulu-Natal and relocated to a boma in uMkhuze for a number of weeks so that they could familiarise themselves with their new home, prior to being released. "The iSimangaliso Authority dedicates the historic reintroductions of lion into iSimangaliso, to the memory of our leader and former President Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela," said iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority Board Chairman, Mr Mavuso Msimang.

In 2001, then President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela said "iSimangaliso must be the only place on the globe where the world's oldest land mammal (the rhinoceros) and the world's biggest terrestrial mammal (the elephant) share an ecosystem with the world's oldest fish (the coelacanth) and the world's biggest marine mammal (the whale)".

Mr Mandela played a huge role in creating a world renowned name for iSimangaliso Wetland Park, during his presidency. It is noted that before he became the first democratically elected president of South Africa, Mr Mandela and half a million of other South Africans contributed to the signing of a petition opposing the mining of Lake St Lucia's dunes. Furthermore under uTata's authority, iSimangaliso was nominated and listed as a World Heritage Site, alongside Robben Island and the Cradle of Humankind in South Africa.

"This historic introduction of lions 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



Giraffes at uBhejane Picnic Site.

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", commented Mr Zaloumis during the release of the lions.

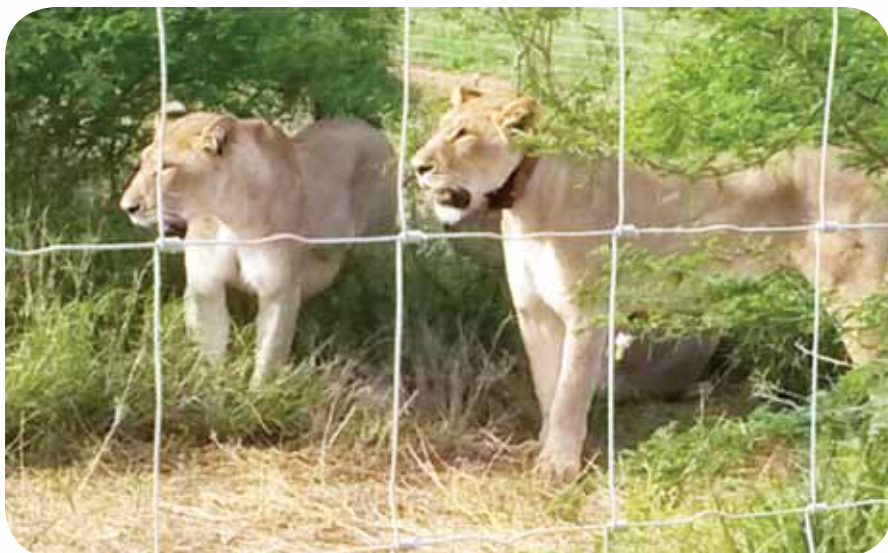
iSimangaliso Wetland Park, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) stamped World Heritage Site, formally known as the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, lives up to



### About the contributor: Thandile Mayalo

Thandile is an intern (experiential learner) in Department of Environmental Affairs Chief Directorate: Communications. Ms Mayalo is currently studying towards a National Diploma in Journalism at the Tshwane University of Technology. Ms Mayalo takes great pride in her written and photography work.





The lions that were recently introduced to the uMkhuze Section of iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The collars on the lions are to enable tracking for biological and safety reasons.

its international recognition and continues to produce beautiful, natural reasons why it is deserving of the accreditation. The Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, acknowledges iSimangaliso as including four Ramsar sites, (wetlands of international importance), yet another title that the iSimangaliso Wetland Park has under its belt.

iSimangaliso Wetland Park opened the 25 000 ha Western Shores section to the public on December 14, 2013, part of a programme that sees iSimangaliso strengthening as a world class destination.

Prior to its public opening, the Western Shores section was mostly under forestry plantations. Over the past eight years,

iSimangaliso has worked at removing alien plants from the plantation in order to restore the section's 'natural splendor'. Not only does the area have a rehabilitated natural landscape, it is also home to reintroduced historically occurring game such as elephant, buffalo, giraffe and black rhino.

According to iSimangaliso Marketing and Brand Manager, Ms Lindy Duffield, the Western Shores section has loads to offer visitors. She also mentions how popular the destination will soon become especially for photographers and birders, adding that the uMthoma Aerial Boardwalk that overlooks the Lake St Lucia narrows is a 'must-see' attraction.

"As a world heritage site, iSimangaliso is among the best of the best globally with superb and well conserved natural attractions. We are ensuring that these assets play a key role in community upliftment and economic empowerment across the region. 2014 will see the next R40 million phase of tourism improvements which include new gate complexes at Sodwana Bay, uMkhuze and the Eastern Shores and the complete rebuilding of all day visitor sites at Sodwana Bay. The process of ecological restoration of Sodwana's sensitive dune system will also begin," iSimangaliso Chief Executive Officer, Mr Andrew Zalounis commented.

## Quick Facts

### New Western Shores attractions

#### include:

- The new Dukuduku gate complex including craft market - the first "Park and Pay" complex operating in iSimangaliso
- uMphathe and uMdoni Loop game drives (2x4 access)
- uMthoma Aerial Boardwalk and viewing deck overlooking the Lake St Lucia narrows
- uBhejane Picnic site
- eMgadankawu Hide

### iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority

Tel: +27 35 590 1633



# Working on Fire tackles pompom weed

By Parapara Makgahlelai



Working on Fire team members stand by to apply herbicide after the flowers have been cut off the Pompo.

**R**oodeplaat's Working on Fire (WoF) team has been hard at work removing *Campuloclinium macrocephalum* commonly known as "pompom", an invasive alien plant on a 900 hectare Roodeplaat Nature Reserve east of Pretoria. The operation commenced on 1 January 2014 and is expected to be completed by just "31" March 2014. Roodeplaat is one of many reserves that have been affected by the pompom invasive alien plant.

Mr Thulani Nkosi, a member of the Roodeplaat WoF team is one of the beneficiaries that are trained to remove alien invasive plants. "Since

the beginning of the year our team has been focusing on removing the Pompo alien plant in the Nature Reserve. My work is to apply herbicide after my colleagues have cut the flowers off the pompom," said Mr Nkosi.

The herbicide used poses several health risks, but all WoF team members observe national safety data sheet and Occupation Health and Safety laws. Mr Nkosi said that it is worth fighting the pompom alien plant in the nature reserve because they love their environment.

He pointed out that the primary role of WoF team members in the Roodeplaat

Nature Reserve is to help with fire breaks and fire suppression during fire season. "Because we are patriotic, we go the extra mile to safeguard our environment from these alien invasive plants or else we stand a chance to lose the flora and fauna in the reserve. Pompom has potential to take over wetlands. We can't let that happen under our nose," he said.

WoF's General Manager in Gauteng Province, Mr Avhasei Maswime confirmed a commitment of the province on biodiversity management through removing invasive alien plants. "Our firefighters are instrumental in conserving nature," he said.



## About the contributor: Parapara Makgahlelai

Parapara Makgahlelai is a Provincial Communications Officer for the Working on Fire programme in Gauteng Province. Mr Makgahlelai is a former trainee journalist for the Sunday Times. He has worked at the Limpopo Department of Agriculture as a Communications Officer and freelanced for various newspapers in Limpopo.

## Pompom

**Description:** Erect, perennial herb with fluffy pink flowerheads. Stems green to purplish, up to 1.3 m high, dying back annually to a root crown. The plant flowers between December and March.

**Distribution:** The Pompom is native to South America (Argentina and Brazil), Central America and Mexico. In South Africa it is emerging in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Free State and established in Gauteng.

**How it spreads:** Produces fluffy seeds that are wind dispersed. People contribute to spreading the seeds through carrying them in the mud on their vehicle's wheels or by picking and discarding the mature flowerheads and thereby spreading the seeds. It can also regenerate from underground rhizomes.

**How to eradicate:** The only herbicide registered for use on pompom weed is Brush-off by DuPont. The two physical methods including uprooting and burning of the plant. Biocontrol is currently under investigation.

**What you can do to help:** Report sightings of these plants to the Early Detection and Rapid Response team (EDRR). Report on the exact locality and supply any landmarks or GPS information if possible.

South African National Biodiversity Institute  
[alienplants@sanbi.org.za](mailto:alienplants@sanbi.org.za)  
021 799 8762

## Working on Fire

The Working on Fire programme aims to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, livelihoods, ecosystem services and natural processes through integrated fire management.

The programme also seeks to develop capabilities, contribute resources and provide services to:

- Fire Protection Associations
- Land-management
- 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 optimise natural biodiversity, processes and ecosystem services

**WoF's General Manager in Gauteng Province, Mr Avhasei Maswime confirmed a commitment of the province on biodiversity management through removing invasive alien plant.**



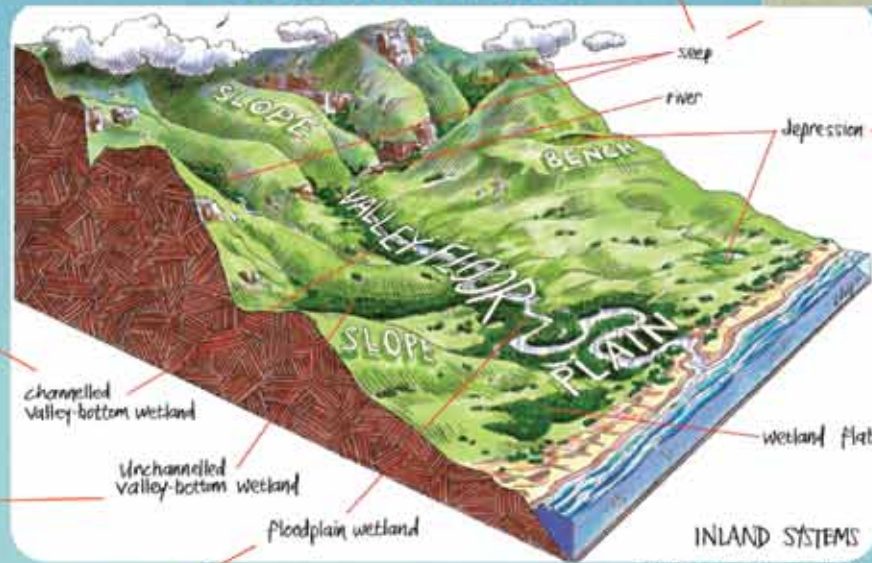
# KEY FACTS AND

## WHAT IS A WETLAND?

A wetland is defined in the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) as the land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is periodically covered with shallow water, and which land in normal circumstances supports or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil.



## TYPES OF WETLANDS



National Biodiversity Assessment: 2011



## THE VALUE OF WETLANDS AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

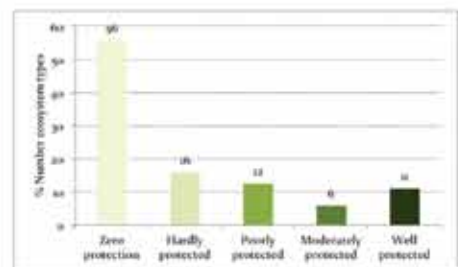
Wetlands were referred to as wastelands in the past, but far from being wastelands; wetlands are amongst the most productive ecosystems in the world. Wetlands play an important part in river catchments both directly and indirectly by contributing to flood control, drought relief, water storage, sediment & nutrient retention and export, soil protection, water purification, erosion control, sustained stream flow, food security, fish nurseries, groundwater recharge, reservoirs of biodiversity, wetland products, cultural value, recreation & tourism, climate change mitigation and adaptation amongst others.



## STATUS OF WETLANDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Wetlands make up only 2.4% of the country's area, but 40% of wetland ecosystem types are critically endangered.
- South Africa has lost approximately 50% of the original wetland area.
- Approximately 300 000 wetlands remain, making up only 2.4% of South Africa's area.
- Of South Africa's 791 wetland ecosystem types, 48% are critically endangered, 12% are endangered, 5% are vulnerable, and 35% are least threatened making wetlands the most threatened ecosystems of all in South Africa.
- Over 70% of South Africa's wetland ecosystem types have no protection and only 11% are well protected.

## WETLAND PROTECTION LEVELS



National Biodiversity Assessment: 2011



environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Website: [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)

# ABOUT WETLANDS

## ECOSYSTEM THREATS



Invasive alien plants



Erosion



Developments within and around wetlands and Draining of wetlands



Pollution and excess nutrients



Burning of wetlands



Mining

## WETLANDS AND AGRICULTURE

There are many ways in which poorly managed agriculture can negatively impact wetlands. This can lead to changes in the ecological character of a wetland and the possible permanent loss of its benefits to people.

Restoring wetland functions and securing water allocations to maintain the ecological character of wetlands can be viewed as investments in the natural infrastructure that wetlands provide for agriculture. Wetlands on agricultural land can help to manage flood waters in the wet seasons, improve soil moisture conditions, provide more local water storage for irrigation in the dry season, and provide water for ecosystems downstream.

## REDUCING IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURE ON WETLANDS

Water re-use and wastewater use in agriculture can reduce withdrawals from wetlands.

### Integrated water resources planning:

While large dams will remain an option for reducing the vulnerability of farmers to drought and for

increasing production, small local storage options such as tanks and farm dams provide local resilience.

### Reducing the impacts of agriculture on water quality:

Options such as conservation tillage and organic farming practices can reduce the pollution loads reaching wetlands. Integrated pest management and targeted life stage interventions can help to reduce the need for pesticide. Combined production systems can utilise livestock manure to fertilise crops and aquaculture. In small, intensive operations and family farms these strategies can reduce input costs significantly.

## WETLAND REHABILITATION

1. Address the cause of the damage e.g. over grazing or drainage ditches.
2. Attempt to re-establish the natural water flow patterns within the wetland.
3. Consider vegetation of buffer zones and wetland areas.
4. Remove invasive alien vegetation.
5. Follow up as necessary and monitor progress.

## RAMSAR SITES IN SOUTH AFRICA (21)

Barberspan (1)  
Blesbokspuit (3)  
De Hoop Vlei (2)  
De Mond (4)  
Kosi Bay (8)  
Lake Sibaya (9)  
Langebaan (7)  
Makuleke Wetlands (18)

Natal Drakensberg Park (13)  
Ndumo Game Reserve (14)  
Ntsikeni Nature Reserve (20)  
Nylsvley Nature Reserve (16)  
Orange River Mouth (10)  
Prince Edward Islands (19)  
St. Lucia System (5)  
Seekoelivlei Nature Reserve (15)

Turtle Beaches/Coral Reefs of Tongaland (6)  
uMgeni Vlei Nature Reserve (21)  
Verloren Valei Nature Reserve (17)  
Verlorenvlei (11)  
Wilderness Lakes (12)

The numbers in the map below correspond to the list of RAMSAR sites listed above



# Putting waste management on the national agenda



Deputy Minister Mabudathasi at the official launch of the NWMS at the Third Waste Management Officer's Khoro in East London, 2012.



DEA Deputy Director-General: Chemicals and Waste Management, Mr Mark Gordon setting the scene for the Fourth Waste Management Officer's Khoro in Durban.

As we celebrate 20 years of freedom in South Africa, **Gaopalelwe Moroane** set out to look at the achievements in the field of Chemicals and Waste Management (CWM) in South Africa.

**C**WM is one of the newly created branches of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The branch is headed by Deputy Director-General, Mr Mark Gordon, and comprises of a team which has grown from only five people in 1994 when it was a sub-directorate to 68 filled positions 20 years later.

Asked about the achievements in CWM in South Africa over the past two decades, Deputy Director-General, Mr Mark Gordon, quoted Minister Edna Molewa addressing Parliament on the Waste Bill in 2014, "After 20 years of democracy the time has come for a transformation of the waste sector to offer our people a more dignified living by drawing them into the mainstream economy and formalising the waste recycling economy as a viable and decent way to accelerate job creation in this sector for tens of thousands of people across South Africa."

Prior to 1994, waste was not viewed as a resource and levels of recycling were low. Democratic South Africa saw environmental rights being enshrined in section 24 of the South African Constitution. This was followed by the formation of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) put into place in 1998.

A considerable body of environmental legislation and policy has been developed since 1994. Perhaps the most pertinent of these developments is the London Protocol of 1996 which prohibits the dumping of certain hazardous waste and provides for a permitting system for a number of identified materials and wastes.

## 1998 Integrated Policy on Waste Management and Pollution

The 1998 Integrated Policy on Waste Management and Pollution advocated waste minimisation, recycling, treatment and disposal. The 2001 Polokwane Declaration on

Waste Management Working Group 9 built on this commitment to develop a waste management system that would reduce waste by 50 per cent by 2012 and result in zero waste by 2022. Although these principles inform local and provincial integrated waste management plans, the targets have not been achieved.

## 2000: National Integrated Pollution Management Policy

Integrated pollution and waste management is a holistic and integrated system and process of management aimed at

pollution prevention and minimisation at source, managing the impact of pollution and waste on the receiving environment and remediating damaged environments. The Integrated Pollution and Waste Management policy for South Africa represents a paradigm shift towards pollution prevention and waste minimisation.

## 2006: National Plastic Bag Regulation

To address the challenge of plastic bag litter, the former Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism effected new regulations on plastic bags- calling for a ban on all thin plastic bags. The regulations essentially made the provision for thicker, more durable plastic bags compulsory, at a levy of 3 cents (now 6 cents) a plastic bag. The new plastic bags were bio-degradable and recyclable, which meant they were more environmentally friendly. The new thickness also made them reusable thereby eliminating waste.

## National Environmental Management: Waste Act 2008

The Waste Act is a framework legislation developed under the National Environ-





Waste removal services: The current percentage of the number of households which benefit from waste collection stands at 72%.

mental Management Act. The promulgation of this act is one of the notable achievements of the country. The overall purpose of the Waste Act is to change the law regulating the management of waste in order to protect the health of people as well as the environment. The Waste Act does this by putting minimum requirements for any person who undertakes an activity which produces waste or a person who handles any waste which has already been produced to comply with. This includes storage of waste, transportation, processing, including people who are reusing or recycling waste.

The Act also requires that anyone who has polluted land to take responsibility to assess the extent of contamination and to pay for the cleaning and rehabilitation of such land.

### 2009: National Waste Tyre Regulations

The purpose of the legislation is to regulate the management of waste tyres by providing for the regulatory mechanisms. The regulations will apply uniformly in all provinces in South Africa. The regulations place responsibility of managing waste tyres to the producers of the waste, thus bringing into effect the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility.

### 2010: Waste Management Officers Khoro

The Waste Khoro has been on-going since 2010 the first of which was held on 15 -16 September 2010 in Boksburg, Gauteng. The Khoro aims to bring together all waste management officers nationally in an effort to deal with the implementation of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, Waste Regulations and related legislation in all spheres of government.

Speaking at the 2012 Waste Khoro held in East London, Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi said, "This gathering presents us with an opportunity to; on an annual basis; take stock of where the country is currently and map the way forward into the future on issues of waste. As we may know, the waste sector is a dynamic sector, influenced by population variations, economic development and technology. As society progresses, we face the challenges of new and complex waste streams which must be managed in a sustainable manner."

### 2011: New National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS)

The purpose of the NWMS is to achieve the objects of the Waste Act. Waste management in South Africa faces numerous challenges and the NWMS provides a plan to address them. According to the strategy, some of the targets to be met by 2016 include, amongst others the creation of 69 000 new jobs in the waste

sector, that all metropolitan municipalities, secondary cities and large towns have initiated separation at source programmes, 95% of urban households and 75% of rural households have access to adequate levels of waste collection services and have 80% of schools implementing waste awareness programmes.

### 2012: Municipal Waste Sector Plan

The sector plan has three strategic objectives. Firstly to reduce the amount of general and hazardous waste disposed in the country, secondly to ensure that all waste is disposed of appropriately and does not damage the environment or human health and finally to provide adequate domestic waste collection services across the country.

One of the issues that the South African government had to address was redressing the inequalities that 400 years of oppression put on communities in South Africa. CWM has made great strides in providing waste pick-up services in the rural and semi-rural areas to address these inequalities. "The current percentage of the number of households which benefit from waste collection stands at 72%," said DEA Director: General Waste, Ms Mamosa Afrika.

### Youth Jobs in Waste

Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa launched the Youth Jobs in Waste project in Phuthaditjaba in Free State in June 2013. The programme is aimed at giving young people exposure to waste management by giving them an opportunity to work with municipalities. In addition to redressing the inequalities that are faced with waste collection in townships and rural areas, this programme will address the unemployment issues that continue to plague the country twenty years on.

### Working on Waste Expanded Public Works Programme

Working on Waste is one programme through which the department seeks to manage waste in the country. The programme seeks to provide support to the creation of waste management infrastructure and initiatives whilst maximising on socio-economic benefits through job creation and awareness.

# Alien Fish Harvesting alleviates poverty in Darlington

By Veronica Mahlaba and Lauren Nel



Mr Frederik Afrika holding bait on a circled hook.



No fish stories here: Mr Frederik Afrika holding up a 17 kg barbel.



Barbel purging in tanks. This method reassures a clean, fresh taste and firm textured meat.

Rhodes University has formed a partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to include the community of Darlington in a research project to benefit the community. The project entails removal of the non-endemic, sharp tooth catfish, *Barbus barbatus* (commonly known as barbel) from the Darlington Dam.

Too often, communities are detached from scientific research taking place in their areas. The community of Darlington, surrounding the Addo Elephant National Park in the Eastern Cape, has reaped generous economic benefits, through

the conservation of natural aquatic species in the Darlington Dam.

This project, initiated in November 2012, involves community members harvesting and fishing barbel. Research undertaken by the university revealed that barbel are a threat to the indigenous fish of the dam. The barbel is an aggressive predator in the fresh water food chain but can provide a great source of protein.

The South African National Parks (SAN-Parks) Biodiversity Special Projects (BSP) established the Addo Alien Fish Harvesting Pilot Project in the Darlington Dam, situated in the Addo Elephant National Park.

BSP Frontier Cluster Manager, Mr Bruce Taplin said the project was initiated as a result of a study by Rhodes University's Ichthyology Department on the fishery potential for alien species in the dam. "The aim is to evaluate the viability and assist with setting up of a small-scale sustainable alien fishery, aimed at benefiting local communities bordering the Darlington Dam," explained Mr Taplin.

Consequently, the Natural Resources Management Programme (NRM) of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) was approached and agreed to fund the project for a three year cycle. SANParks BSP are working very closely with



## About the contributor: Lauren Nel

Ms Lauren Nel is currently working as a Field Assistant for the Darlington Alien Fish Harvesting Project inside the Addo Elephant National Park. Ms Nel is a mother of three, loves reading, sewing, nature and wildlife and has a passion for people.

the Ikhwezi Municipality and other important stakeholders to make this project a success.

The project has been divided into three phases:

- **Phase 1:** December 2012 – March 2013

Required an appointment of management staff, appointment of beneficiaries and a contractor to purchase assets, equipment and provide soft skills training

- **Phase 2:** April 2013 – March 2014

This is currently where the project is with the establishment of a steering and technical committee, the implementation, harvesting, distribution, marketing and sale of fish. This phase also involves monitoring and evaluation, and setting up a business enterprise.

- **Phase 3:** April 2014 – March 2015

This final phase will provide a continuation of implementation and monitoring, identification of a desired community beneficiary group, potential handover to

the community and continued guidance and support from SANParks BSP.

The contractor and five beneficiaries that were appointed from the local Waterford community received training in swimming, safety, hygiene and the processing of fish.

Mr Frederik Afrika who is the contractor of this first pilot project is very appreciative that he now has a job. "I'm glad that I'm working and I'm able to bring food home at the end of the month. There are five people working under me from the community as well. We have learned how to fish, package and gained a whole lot of skills we did not have," said Mr Afrika.

### Harvesting the barbel

Although a variety of techniques can be used for harvesting barbel, SANParks BSP has opted for the long-line method, which is a commercial fishing technique. The benefits of this method is that it targets a specific species by means of the bait and size of the hook used. Long-lines of 100 - 200m are set; baited circle hooks are clipped on and the lines are

then soaked for 24 hours before harvesting. The contractor and team make use of a small boat with an electrical motor to set lines and harvest the fish.

Once caught, the fish are transported to the fishery where they are purged in freshwater from 24 - 72 hours. The longer the fish are purged, the better the quality and taste of the fish. Processing is conducted in the fishery where the team cut, fillet and vacuum pack the fish. Fish will be sold to the communities and small surrounding towns as a high nutrient food source.

The mission of the BSP programme is to control invading alien species, to optimise the potential use of natural resources, through a process of economic empowerment and transformation. Subsequently, the programme will leave a legacy of social equity and legislative, institutional and technical capacity.

In the long term, the BSP endeavours to conserve ecological systems within and adjacent to SANParks and to promote community development through the implementation of projects.



Filleting and cutting takes place with very sharp knives.



The fillets are wrapped individually with foil sheets and oxygen deprivation, such as vacuum packing, weighed, priced and frozen.

# New George Weather Office to clear observation restrictions

By Tshepiso Gcabo



The Executive Mayor of George, Mr Alderman Charles Standers unveils the plaque (left). He is joined by Deputy Mayor of Eden District, Cllr Lionel Esau and SAWS General Manager: Operations, Mr Mnikeli Ndabambi.

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) opened the doors of a new weather office at George, Southern Cape, on 5 November 2013 in response to the growing restrictions posed by the previous George weather office. The Executive Mayor of George, Mr Alderman Charles Standers unveiled the plaque during a function at the George Airport.

In his keynote address, Eden District Municipality's Deputy Executive Mayor, Councillor Lionel Esau said, "Accurate weather information is essential for Eden District's Disaster Management Centre to prevent loss of lives. It is vital that the Disaster Management Centre is continuously updated on weather patterns and is forewarned by SAWS of storm weather

to timeously alert local authorities. The radar will enable us to predict fronts moving in from Cape Town."

The location of the previous office had posed several observation restrictions. To carry out effective observations, it is necessary that there should be a 360° view of the entire aerodrome. At the previous office no observations could be made to the North as buildings obscured the back-end of the office. The new office promises to address challenges that impacted on weather observations.

Weather technicians will now be able to scrutinise the weather minute by minute and issue warnings to aircraft, via the Air Traffic Service Unit (ATSU), and to the

forecasters in Cape Town who need the information in order to create airport specific detailed forecasts. The new premises therefore offers incorrigible facilities to fulfil SAWS' aviation weather function as stipulated in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) regulations and standards.

The Cape South Coast is one of the most dangerous coastlines in South Africa, as the weather along this coast can change from a most beautiful day, with the sea as calm as a dam, into an extremely dangerous and very rough sea within 30 minutes.

SAWS provides aviation meteorological services to all national airports in the country and operate under the



## About the contributor: Tshepiso Gcabo

Tshepiso Gcabo is the Communications Officer at the South African Weather Service (SAWS). Mr Gcabo is a Tshwane University of Technology graduate in Business Communications. Social media coordination, writing and communications research are his interests. Mr Gcabo is part of the Corporate Affairs team at SAWS and is responsible for internal and external communications at the parastatal based at Bolepi Headquarters.

requirements of the ICAO. One of the requirements is that no restrictions to daily weather observations should be present.

Past aviation disasters that have occurred in the area include the infamous aircraft accident on 1 June 2002, killing both pilots and the former cricket player, Hansie Cronje, when the Hawker Siddeley turboprop aircraft crashed into the mountain north east of the airport in very bad weather.

The opening of the new George weather office forms part of the landmark achievements by SAWS since its inception, and attests to the excellent cooperation between SAWS and the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). The new weather office, with its unique 360 degree view of the Outeniqua mountains, the two sea heads and the

landing strip, will contribute to aviation safety in the region and improve meteorological weather and climate products in South Africa, thereby enhancing the protection of life and property of all South Africans.

Speaking during the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Regional Outreach Meeting on managing the risks of extreme events in 2013, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa said, "We are making progress on crafting a national framework on climate services, in partnership with the South African Weather Services, and the World Meteorological Organisation, to enable researchers and the producers and users of climate information to join forces in order to improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of this information."



The children, from Hibernia Primary School, were participants of the Globe Project and were given a tour of the new weather station in George. The Globe Project is a worldwide hands-on primary and secondary school education and science programme.



Deputy Mayor of Eden District, Cllr Lionel Esau receives a gift from SAWS General Manager: Corporate Affairs, Dr Ziyanda Majokweni.

## Quick Facts

The George Weather office joins a family of 23 SAWS offices in the country as well as those on Antarctica, Marion and Gough Islands. SAWS has a vast and growing observation network, including:

- 214 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)
- 22 Climate Stations
- 1233 Rainfall Stations
- 173 Automatic Rainfall Stations
- 23 Sea Surface Temperature Stations
- 12 Voluntary Observing Ships
- 47 Weather Buoys in the South Atlantic and South Indian Oceans
- 14 Meteorological Radar Systems
- 1 Global Atmosphere Watch Station at Cape Point
- 2 Dobson Ozone Spectrophotometer Stations in Irene and Springbok. (A third to operate at Cape Point)
- A National UVB Biometer Network in Cape Town, Cape Point, Port Elizabeth, De Aar, King Shaka Airport, Pretoria and Polokwane
- 24 Lightning Detection Sensors (excluding 1 in Swaziland) and
- 6 Air Quality Measuring and Monitoring Stations (DEA infrastructure being maintained by SAWS).

**Information and Images supplied by SAWS**

**012 367 6000**

# R232.2 million donated towards the fight against rhino poaching



Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa welcomes the R232.2 million grant by the Dutch and Swedish Postcode Lotteries towards the fight against rhino poaching in South Africa.

**T**he Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa has welcomed the R232.2 million grant made to the Peace Parks Foundation by the Dutch and Swedish Postcode Lotteries.

The Dutch Postcode Lottery donated R217 million of the total donation, with R15.2 million being contributed by the Swedish Postcode Lottery, towards the fight against rhino poaching.

The R217 million (€14.4 million) cheque was received from the Dutch Prime Minister, Mr Mark Rutter and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, on behalf of the Dutch Postcode Lottery, by the government's Rhino Issue Task Manager and Peace Parks Foundation Member, Mr Mavuso Msimang, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of South African National Parks (SANParks), Dr David Mabunda, CEO of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Dr Bandile Mkhize and CEO of Peace Parks Foundation, Mr Werner Myburgh.

Commenting on the donation, Minister Molewa said the donation was the

largest single contribution made by the private sector to combat rhino poaching and wildlife crime. "We welcome this public-private partnership to help ensure the survival of the species. This very generous donation gives new hope to save our rhino. I believe this grant from the Dutch and Swedish Postcode Lotteries will be the catalyst to turn the tide on rhino poaching and wildlife crime," added Minister Molewa.

According to Werner Myburgh the Peace Parks Foundation was established in 1997 to assist the region's governments in their development of transfrontier conservation areas. "Our biggest supporter in this endeavour has been the Dutch Postcode Lottery and more recently the Swedish Postcode Lottery. We thank the lotteries and their players for this tremendous support to combat wildlife crime and we look forward to working with the southern African governments in ensuring the survival of the region's rhino," said Mr Myburgh.

The South African government and its public entities, SANParks and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, are working closely with Peace Parks Foundation to develop a multi-pronged approach to combat rhino poaching and wildlife crime.

The majority of the funding will be spent on enhancing the existing efforts to protect rhino in South Africa, which hosts 83% of the continent's wild rhino population.

Ezemvelo will be supported with similar interventions to conserve South Africa's second largest rhino population, that of KwaZulu-Natal. In September 2012, Ezemvelo became the first state conservation agency in Africa to trial the treatment of rhino horn to deter the rampant poaching of this species. Thanks to this innovative step, not a single rhino has been lost in the reserves where the treatment was piloted. Since the beginning of this year, a total of 172 rhino have been poached in South Africa.

# SA Agulhas II returns home under the watch of its first Black Master

By Tshego Letshwiti



(L-R) SA Agulhas II Ship Manager, Mr Bigboy Joseph, Training Manager for Starlight Aviation Group, Ms Kate Odendaal and their trainees pose for a picture on the helipad aboard SA Agulhas II.



The SANAE 52 Expedition Team wait to disembark from SA Agulhas II and be reunited with their families.



The first Black Master of the SA Agulhas II, Captain Knowledge Bengu.

The Department of Environmental Affairs welcomes the SA Agulhas II on her return voyage from Antarctica. In a major win for transformation in the sector, the R1.3 billion vessel's return voyage on 13 February 2014 was under the watch of its first Black Master, Captain Knowledge Bengu.

South Africa's polar research and supply vessel, the SA Agulhas II departed Cape Town on 28 November 2013 and returned from her second relief voyage to Antarctica with a number of multidisciplinary cadres of scientists, researchers and international counterparts who were on a 14 month research expedition on the island.

"Being a master of the SA Agulhas II has earned me a lot of respect amongst the seafaring community worldwide and it is very difficult to summarise such a big voyage in a few words. This voyage is the biggest highlight of my career and I hope it will give hope to those who are

still aspiring to make the most out of this career," said Captain Bengu.

Captain Bhengu is the first black master of a ship used for a South African National Antarctic Expedition (SANAE) relief voyage to the frozen southern continent where South Africa has maintained a base for more than 50 years. Although the voyage proved challenging at times, due to unusually thick ice and strong currents in the Southern Ocean, Captain Bengu and his crew were able to overcome the difficult sea conditions. The team of scientists and researchers were able to gather statistics and test Antarctic ice in order to advance knowledge about the composition of the Antarctic sea ice.

"The department would like to express its appreciation for the continued effort shown by the captain, Captain Knowledge Bengu and his crew for managing the operations and safe handling of SA Agulhas II through the very challenging sea and ice

conditions," said DEA's Chief Director: Ocean Conservation, Dr Jonas Mphepya who delivered the welcome address on behalf of Dr Monde Mayekiso, the Deputy Director-General of Oceans and Coasts branch.

Mphepya thanked the South African Weather Services, South African National Defense Force, Chaplain Abbie Thela, National Department of Public Works team, Starlite Aviation and the departmental coordinating officer, Mr Jeremy Pieterse and his team. "To the SANAE 52 team members in our midst, you have sacrificed 15 months and taken great care of SANAE IV, for that I want to thank you and your families, you were true ambassadors of South Africa," said Mphepya.

Mr Richard Jacobs whose son, Mr Christopher Jacobs was part of the team returning on the vessel said that he is very excited and proud of his son. "This weekend we will have Christmas, birthday and New Year celebrations because he missed all of that."



## About the contributor: Tshego Letshwiti

Tshego Letshwiti is an Assistant Director: Internal and External Communications at the Department of Environmental Affairs in Cape Town. Ms Letshwiti is a Journalism graduate with experience in print and broadcast media.

# 4 BIOPROSPECTING: A global perspective



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# Environmental Advisory Services

By Zibuse Ndlovu



The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnam on cooperation in the field of Biodiversity Conservation and Protection on 10 December 2012.



The EAS Branch also manage, plan, coordinate and lead South Africa's Sustainable Development and greening policy and implementation agenda, both nationally and internationally.

**T**he Environmental Advisory Service Branch (EAS), formerly known as the Unit: International is led by the Deputy Director-General, Mr Alf Wills. It was reconfigured in 2012 into a new branch.

The EAS Branch focuses on Sustainable agenda, linking International and National Governance and Relations, as well as providing Strategic Advisory on Environment and Integrated Environmental Management Support to the sector.

The Branch manages the overall environmental intelligence and support knowledge management in the Department. According to Mr Wills, the Branch also manage, plan, coordinate and lead South Africa's Sustainable Development and greening policy and implementation agenda, both nationally and internationally as well as national state of the reporting. "We effectively manage and facilitate governance support for the

department's international relations and engagements and cooperation agreements. We also develop, promote and implement an effective and efficient integrated environmental management system within South Africa," said Mr Wills.

The EAS Branch focuses on three key strategic objectives namely: Effective knowledge and information management for the sector; enhanced international governance, instrument and agreements supportive of South Africa environmental and sustainable development; as well as enhanced contribution of the environmental sector towards sustainable development and transition to a green economy.

The branch has achieved the following milestones:

- The department's Chief Negotiator, Mr Alf Wills has been leading and supporting the negotiating of South

African positions in Multilateral Environmental Agreements especially in Climate Change fora.

- The Environmental Advisory Service's Strategic Environmental Intelligence (SEI) Unit was established in early 2012 to increase the department's organisation agility through a strategic environmental intelligence system that provides high-level early warning and initial response proposals in respect of significant new and/or emerging environmental management issues.

A key element of the transition to a sustainable, green and low carbon economy as envisaged in the National Development Plan is the work of the Branch in developing, refining and supporting the implementation of an efficient and effective integrated environmental management system for South Africa.



### About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

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

# Minister publicizes SA's Environmental Performance Review

Reyhana Mahomed



Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa addressing stakeholders and members of the media at the launch of the Environmental Performance Review of South Africa.

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa launched the Environmental Performance Review of South Africa. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, launched on 3 December 2013 in Pretoria, provides an independent perspective of South Africa's performance in the environmental sector from an economic angle. The report provides a view on what is working or not and whether improvements can be made.

Speaking during the launch at the Centre for Social and Industrial Research in Pretoria, Mr Simon Upton, Environment Director at the OECD said, "South Africa has made huge strides in implementing policies to make progress in the environment sector in the last 20 years... but the economy is very much dependent on energy." The report reveals that South Africa has made progress in reducing the carbon, energy and material intensities of its economy; in managing its natural asset base, including water, biodiversity and mineral resources; and in improving the environmental quality of life.

"South Africa will be using the review to provide important baseline data towards our own critical assessment of our integrated environmental management systems and policies. It will also help with coherence of our national, provincial and municipal state of the environment monitoring and evaluation reports. It offers us invaluable information for reflection and reference when aligning our integrated environmental management system with the vision and priorities set out in our National Development Plan," said Minister Molewa

addressing stakeholders and members of the media at the launch.

The Environmental Performance Review of South Africa places emphasis on green growth, environmental governance, biodiversity and mining. The report reveals that since the end of apartheid, universal access to an improved water source has been achieved in most urban areas, and access to sanitation has increased. However, around 12% of the population still use unimproved sanitation methods, such as bucket toilets, or defecate outdoors.

Mr Upton also lauded the Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) Environmental Impact Assessments procedures, "It is one of the best in the world." The report does however recommend that the DEA assess the environmental impacts of proposed national plans and policies, especially for energy, transport and mining; streamline and strengthen procedures for assessing environmental impacts at the project level. The report makes a total of 36 recommendations.

The report also mentions South Africa's successes in livelihood and green growth opportunities. Sustainable harvesting of South Africa's biodiversity creates real economic opportunities for local people. For example, the domestic trade in medicinal plants has an estimated annual value of R 2.9 billion and employs at least 133 000 people, many of them rural women.

While South Africa is praised for its rhino conservation efforts, it remains plagued by a scourge in rhino poaching. The report recommends combating poaching through a co-ordinated

approach addressing both supply and demand.

In terms of mining and biodiversity, the report signals a warning on the irreparable environmental damage mining causes. The OECD recommends taking a more coherent and systematic approach to biodiversity offsets for existing and post-mining activities, so as to attempt to restore sites to their original state and ensure no net loss of biodiversity.

"In general, the challenges identified in this Performance Review for South Africa, call for increasing our efficiencies and capacities, particularly in respect of environmental monitoring and compliance, in all three spheres of government," said Minister Molewa. This is echoed in the report stating that enforcement efforts have not kept pace with dramatically increased levels of poaching. Rhinos are a key target, as well as abalone, elephant and plant species such as rare succulents and cycads.

In essence, the OECD praises the progress made with environmental reforms. It also urges Africa's biggest economy to keep focusing on green growth to help it shift towards a low-carbon model that will improve the well-being of all South Africans and preserve its rich natural habitat.

"Progress has been remarkable, and yet much remains to be done," said Mr Upton. "As it works to bolster economic growth and raise income levels, one of the key challenges South Africa faces is to integrate biodiversity considerations into its mining, energy, transport and coastal management policies."

# Mangaung's Batho township receives a R35 million park

Zibuse Ndlovu



**GREEN PARK:** The Environmental Protection & Infrastructure Programme (EPIP) made R35 million available for the project.

**W**aste is wealth! Let's all sort it and reuse it," the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi told hundreds of people who gathered at the Lehlohonolo Cambridge Moloisane Park in Batho Township, Bloemfontein to witness the official handover of the park on 05 December 2013.

The multi-million rand greening and beautification project is set to create employment for the locals and entrepreneurs as they recycle waste. Speaking at the opening of the park, Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi encouraged the community of Batho Township to recycle and reuse their waste, "When we reuse we are protecting our biodiversity," she said. The Lehlohonolo Cambridge Moloisane Park, named in honour of the 1980's struggle hero Lucky Moloisane, has

created more than 300 jobs through government's Expanded Public Works Programme, during construction.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), as part of its Environmental Protection & Infrastructure Programme (EPIP) made R35 million available for the project. "The money has been spent, over the past two years, on this project to undertake activities such as park establishment, park furniture, installation of bins, tree planting, park lights and shade structures, pedestrian walkways, ablutions, electrical installations; general street cleaning; removal of alien plants; maintenance of the park, gateways and signage; fencing of the park; pedestrian bridge, pavilions and parking area," explained Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi.

The Executive Mayor of Mangaung, Councillor Thabo Manyoni, said the municipality did not expect to establish

parks in such areas only for the people to turn them into illegal dumping sites. Cllr Manyoni urged residents to stop the illegal dumping of refuse on every open area in sight, and to take care of their parks rather than seeking refuge in the ones that are situated in town. "Our most significant environmental challenge has always been effective management of waste. But, we hope through the Batho Township greening and beautification project our people will learn not only to concentrate on waste disposal, but waste prevention as well," added Cllr Manyoni.

A father of three who works at the park, Percy Bokopane, said he stepped in the shoes of his late brother, and is pleased to be among the 10 who will be working at the park full time. He is even more gratified that the job enables him to feed and clothe his family.

# Fee regulations introduced for applications in terms of NEMA, NEMWA

By Amanda Britz

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa published fee regulations for implementation in the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and waste management licences. The regulations were published on 28 February 2014, for implementation on 1 April 2014.

The new Regulations are published for implementation under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (NEMWA) respectively. Presently, government is carrying all costs related to the processing of applications for environmental authorisations and waste management licences. It was decided that a fee be attached to applications in order to recover basic administration costs of processing an application such as the cost of site visits, inspections and document production.

The purpose of the regulations is to prescribe the fee to be paid for the consideration and processing of an application for an environmental authorisation or waste management license, an amendment of an environmental authorisation as well as the transfer or renewal of a waste management license. The regulations will not apply to applications for community based projects

funded by a government grant or applications made by an organ of state. In the event that an integrated application is made triggering both listed activities/specified activities in terms of NEMA and NEMWA, applicants will pay 100% for the more expensive application and 50% for the second application. This discount applies only where the same competent authority deals with both applications. Where two separate competent authorities deal with these applications, both applications will be subject to the payment of the full fee. This discount is based on the fact that the administrative burden on a competent authority is significantly reduced where applications are combined.

The prescribed fees will be as follows

- R10 000 for a scoping & EIA (S&EIR) application in terms of NEMA or NEMWA;
- R2 000 for basic assessment (BA) application in terms of NEMA or NEMWA;
- R2000 for an application for amendment of an environmental authorisation in terms of NEMA;
- R2000 for an application for the transfer of a waste management licence in terms of NEMWA;
- R2000 for an application for the renewal of a waste management licence in terms of NEMWA.



## About the contributor: Amanda Britz

Amanda Britz is the Director: Integrated Environmental Management Support: Policy and Framework Support, in the Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Management. Ms Britz has experience in drafting and interpreting legislation and have focused on the Environmental Impact Assessment legal regime since 2002

# It takes a village to raise a child

By Madimetja Mogotlane



The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi and other dignitaries posing with learners from Siloe School for the blind.

In keeping with the African adage of 'It takes a village to raise a child', the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi, has implored the community of Ga-Chuene in Limpopo to take care of its own. The Deputy Minister was speaking during the official handover of a minibus to Siloe School for the Blind in Polokwane on 7 January 2014.

"Your neighbour's child is your child. The spirit of the olden days of embracing one another needs to be revived so that your child will also be regarded as mine," said the Deputy Minister, likening caring for children and the destitute to nurturing a seedling that would one day grow into a giant baobab tree.

Mrs Mabudafhasi said the minibus handover was a timely intervention that would "put an end to the daily challenges of transport in this school." The plea for the minibus was made by staff to the Deputy Minister during her visit to the school last year during Mandela Day celebrations.

The Siloe School for the Blind was founded in 1950 and caters for 150 blind, partially sighted and deaf-blind pupils with 23 educators and 30 support staff.

The school principal, Ms Ramokone Molepo, thanked the Deputy Minister for keeping her promise.

"You promised us [then] that that would not be your last visit to our school, and today you are here again," she said.

The Limpopo MEC for Education, Mrs Dikeledi Magadzi, echoed the school principal's words by lavishing praises on the Deputy Minister, describing her as a "pathfinder in community outreach programmes."

A learner at the school, Ms Lehlogonolo Phasha, expressed her gratitude at the gift saying that it would greatly assist in school outings. "I am happy with the minibus because it will help us with our school trips as we used to struggle a lot," she said.



## About the contributor: Madimetja Mogotlane

Madimetja Mogotlane is a Senior Communications Officer, Internal Communications and Events in the Chief Directorate: Communications at the Department of Environmental Affairs. Mr Mogotlane is a former intern in Media Liaison at the Department and has journalistic experience.

# DEA hosts forum on Marine Protected Areas

By Sivuyile Ngaba



Delegates at the annual National Marine Protected Area Management Forum included representatives from environmental implementing agencies such as World Wildlife Fund, South African National Parks, Provincial Conservation Authorities, Municipalities and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

Protecting the marine environment and enforcing the law was the highlight of the National Marine Protected Area Management Forum hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund. The Forum was held in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) from 11-13 February 2014.

At the official opening of the forum, Dr Monde Mayekiso, DEA Deputy Director-General: Oceans and Coast highlighted activities of the last 20 years that are significant to developments in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). "The signing of the Law of the Sea treaty of 1982, by members of the United Nations took 12 years or more to negotiate. The treaty that was signed gave control to our 200 km zone to the coastal states, prior to that a person would be able to go and fish in Japan's seas and they would not be able to stop a person from doing so", said Dr Mayekiso.

There are 21 marine MPAs in South Africa promulgated under the Marine Living Resources Act No. 18 of 1998 (MLRA). The objectives of MPAs as described in the MLRA are to protect marine life, facilitate fisheries management and reduce user-conflict. In South Africa, the management of MPAs and fisheries is controlled by the same policy and legislation. The concept of "no take", meaning no fishing is important in South African MPAs. Eight of the 21 MPAs are completely "no take" areas.

Addressing delegates, Dr Bandile Mkhize, Chief Executive Officer of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife said, "Our oceans are showing significant signs of overuse and declining health due to habitat destruction, climate change, and depleted fisheries. Marine Protected Areas are powerful tools for conserving and restoring ocean biodiversity, much like our Provincial and National Parks protect wildlife and habitats on land".

Another important event in the development of MPAs in South Africa was the 1992 agenda 21 conference. Dr Mayekiso explained that many issues were discussed at this conference of which one was the need to integrate the management of the coast with the management of oceans. Even after the conference there were some gaps on the management of the oceans and as a result the UN in 1996 passed the Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement," he explained.

The Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) forum is held annually and its objective is to ensure progressive management of MPA's, share expertise, knowledge and experiences in managing our coastal resources as well as meeting key long term national biodiversity objectives. This ensures consistent management of the MPA's across the country. At this forum, managers, scientists, government agencies and NGO support agencies participated to ensure "Best Practice".



## About the contributor: Sivuyile Ngaba

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

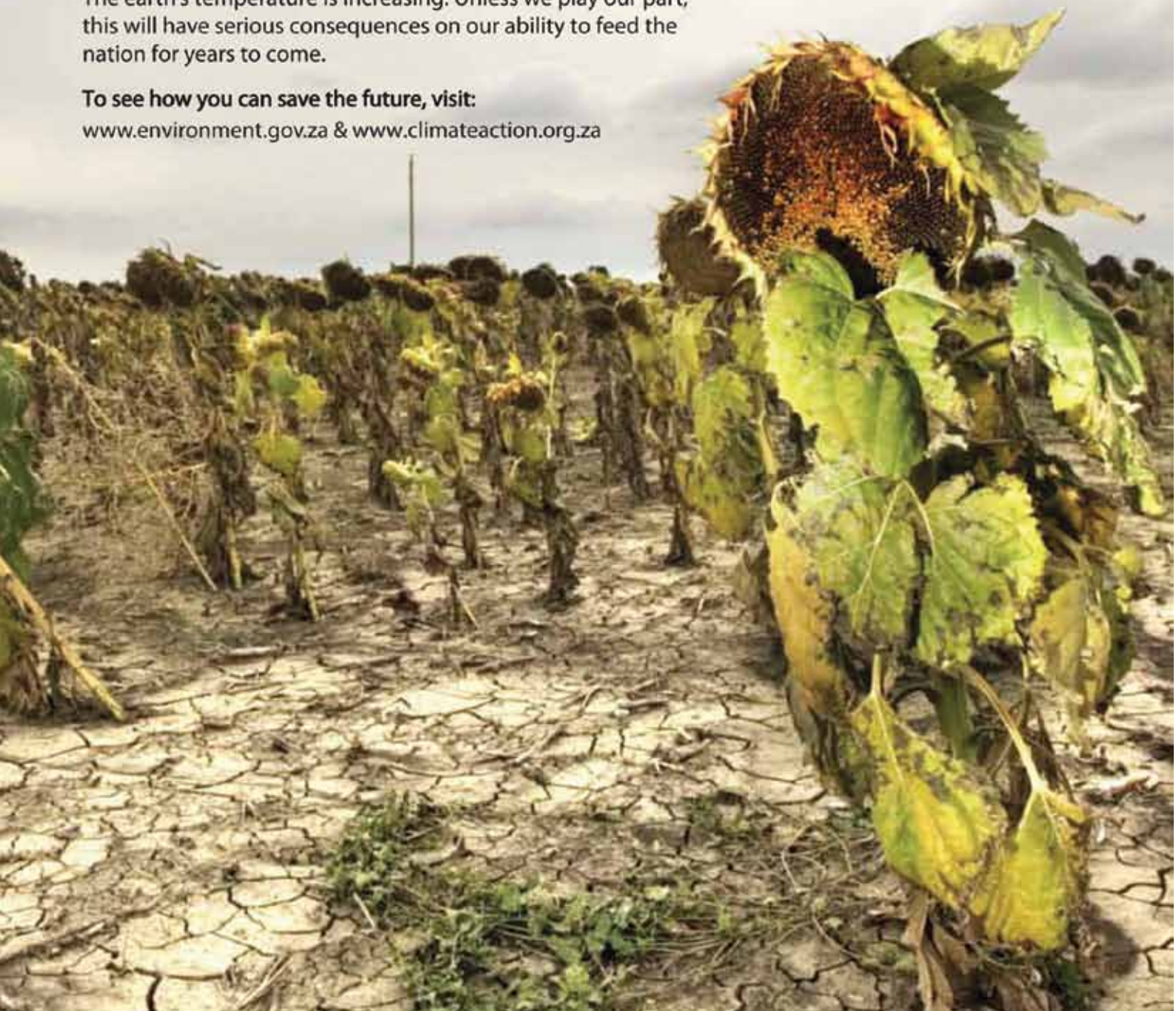


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## Constitutional Court ruling on property rezoning



By Heloise van Schalkwyk

The Constitutional Court ruled against a property developer that appealed the decision by the MEC of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape to refuse an application for subdivision and rezoning. The case was first enrolled in the Western Cape High Court, leave to appeal was granted and the matter was heard in the Appeal Court and finally concluded in the Constitutional Court on 20 November 2013.

The provincial decision came after the George Municipal Council granted approval under the Cape Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO). The court held that the municipality, although the competent authority for the subdivision, was not the competent authority for the rezoning; and further, that the decision by the provincial Minister complied with the requirements of Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA) as just administrative action.

The matter concerned a proposed property development in the municipal area of the George Municipality. The proposed development in question, known as 'Lagoon Bay Lifestyle Estate', is situated east of Glentana. It spans approximately 655 hectares, of which 166 hectares will be used for two 18 hole

golf courses; 194 hectares for a residential housing development, commercial activities and roads, 7 hectares for a five-star hotel and clubhouse precinct, 63 hectares to be landscaped into private parks and open spaces and 200 hectares to be rehabilitated and conserved as a private nature reserve.

Lagoon Bay Lifestyle Estate (Pty) Ltd (Lagoon Bay) applied to the George Municipality and to the MEC of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Western Cape Provincial Government (Provincial Minister) for certain land use approvals in order to undertake a large-scale property development in the Southern Cape. The George Municipal Council granted Lagoon Bay approval for the subdivision and rezoning of the land in terms of the Cape LUPO. It was thereafter referred to the Provincial Minister for further authorisation, but the Provincial Minister refused both applications.

Lagoon Bay challenged the MEC's refusal in the Western Cape High Court, where it was argued that the MEC did not have the power to involve himself in the rezoning and subdivision decisions, and that the decision for refusal failed to meet the standards for just administrative action as prescribed by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA). Lagoon

Bay's arguments were dismissed by the High Court, but leave to appeal was granted.

The appeal was heard on 25 February 2013, and what occupied the court attention in the case is the interrelationship between the three spheres of government. South Africa consists of wall to wall municipalities which are made up of regions, and regions in turn constitute provinces. The authority to regulate the use of land within a municipal area is conferred upon a municipality whilst the authority to regulate the use of land within a particular region is a provincial competence.

The Constitutional Court did not decide the issue of whether the Constitution conferred the competence to decide on the rezoning and subdivision of land to provincial or municipal authorities, reason being that the issue was not properly pleaded in this Court. Finally the court dismissed the challenge brought in terms of PAJA, finding the Provincial Minister had a broad discretion to grant or refuse the applications on the basis of their desirability. The constitutional Court therefore dismissed the challenge to the Provincial Minister's rezoning decision and remitted the subdivision application to the Municipality for reconsideration.



### About the contributor: Heloise van Schalkwyk

Heloise van Schalkwyk, is an Assistant Director: EMI Legal Support, under the sub-directorate EMI Capacity Development and Support in the Department of Environmental Affairs. Ms van Schalkwyk is an admitted attorney. Ms van Schalkwyk completed the EMI Training- and was subsequently designated as a Grade 2 EMI. Her duties entail providing legal advice and support to Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) (National, Provincial and Local EMIs) and to assist with the EMI basic training.

# Vox Pops

DEA staff members

The theme and slogan for this year's World Wetlands Day is **Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth**, emphasising the increasing threat facing water and wetlands in food production. For agricultural activities, wetlands play an important role in assisting to manage flood waters in the wet seasons, improve soil moisture and provide local water storage for irrigation in the dry seasons.

In this edition, we asked the staff and the public: **Why do you think healthy wetlands are important for agriculture?**



**1. Vongani Maringa**  
*Biodiversity and Conservation*

They help to curb flooding. This means they protect the soil from erosion which supports agricultural activities. A wetland also supplies water for various agricultural activities.

**2. Hlanganani Khosa**  
*Climate Change and Air Quality Management*

The wetlands provide food and indirectly ensure that the soil surrounding them is fertile, which makes it good for farming. They also improve the water quality, this means that quality crops can be produced in the process.



**4. Matshepo Mofokeng**  
*Human Resource Management*

Wetlands help to provide water to the plants, so that animals can feed on them. Water is also for the animals. It acts as a natural resource of energy to both animals and plants. They also help to minimise soil erosion.

**5. Sindiswa Duma**  
*Chemicals and Waste Management*

Wetlands act like a sponge. It absorbs up rain as it occurs and slowly releases this water in drier seasons to aid in agricultural activity. It also helps keep river levels normal. Wetlands filter and purify the surface water for irrigation purposes.



**3. Thilivhali Mudau**  
*Chemicals and Waste Management*

They support agriculture as they provide clean water for irrigation. The wetland -provides a source of water security and act as water storage during the drought seasons. They also reduce environmental impacts. Wetlands protect the soil and purify water.



**6. Nick Booyesen**  
*Human Resource Management*

Wetlands support agricultural activities by providing a source of water for irrigation and livestock, as well as consumption. Pastures on inland floodplain wetlands are more productive than those in the adjacent areas. Wetlands also support sustainable forestry.



# Vox Pops continued

## Members of the public



**1. Innocent Khadani**

Wetlands trap water, therefore the soil surrounding them become fertile and produces good food. They are a source of life for anything that grows around it.



**3. Adriaan Diederick**

Wetlands provide life for the plant and animals living in and around it trapping water for use during dry seasons. Wetlands create jobs for the people who will be in charge of them and they produce natural health products.



**5. Gabisile Ntuli**

When there is a drought, you know that there is water that has been stored by the wetlands and it can be used for irrigation of plants. It also helps cattle to get water and therefore not die from the drought. The fertile soil also helps in plant growth.



**Lucky Simelani**

A wetland is important for water storage. Cattle will be able to come and drink water there. Around the wetlands the soil is very rich and can produce rich crops. The plants that grow in the wetlands are also food for the livestock.



**2. Cerina Rabilall**

If the wetlands disappear, our ecosystems will be destroyed; therefore our living species will disappear as well. If livestock does not have grass that grows in the wetlands, they will not survive.



**4. Felicia Ngobeni**

It provides water; it keeps plants and animals alive. The wetlands have fertile soil, so that means it is good for growing crops and that is food to be sold, for consumption.



**6. Tebogo Sekgobela**

Wetlands provide nutrients for plants which then grow healthy vegetables, that are good for our body and minds.

**Wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, riverbanks, mangroves, floodplains, rice fields and anywhere else that saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities there.**



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