

Environment Quarterly

Zebhodulumo ngekota yonyaka • Temvelo ngekota yemnyaka • Mupo nga Kotara

Biodiversity Economy Indaba

Deputy Minister honoured for
20 years of wetlands work

Climate Change Long Term
Adaptation Scenarios released

Eco-Furniture Factory to boost
job creation in Grahamstown



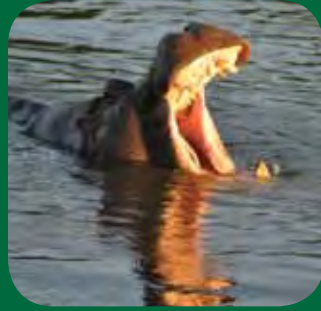
environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2013

environment CALENDAR



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- 2 February: World Wetlands Day
- 23 March: World Meteorological Day
- 26 March: Earth Hour
- 22 April: Earth Day
- 11–12 May: World Migratory Bird Day
- 22 May: International Biodiversity Day
- 5 June: World Environment Day
- 8 June: World Oceans' Day

- 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification
- 24 June: Day of the Sea Farer
- 18 July: Nelson Mandela Day
- 1 Sept: National Harbour Day
- 16 Sept: International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 22 Sept: World Rhino Day
- 28 Sept: International Coastal Clean-up Day
- 7 October: World Habitat Day

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Guest Editorial

Year End Message from the Director-General



Dear Valued Stakeholder

The conclusion of the year 2013, sees us at the eve of South Africa's celebration of 20 Years of our Freedom & Democracy. This has been a momentous period, capped off by a stellar year, for the Environment portfolio. Over the course of 2014, the Department of Environmental Affairs will showcase our achievements and strides made to create jobs, protect our natural heritage, promote equitable distribution of benefits, transform the sector and so much more, in the preceding two decades.

As a cross-cutting function, the environmental portfolio contributes to a number of outcomes that are led by our fellow Government departments. At the same time, we have continued to offer leadership across government and other sectors, especially taking into consideration the fact that all socio-economic developments have a bearing on the environment, positive or negative. We have continued to destroy the myth that environmental protection comes at the cost of economic development. Our

efforts have championed sustainable growth and development, green jobs and pushing innovation – all of which contribute to the long term health and wellbeing of people, the environment and the economy.

In the 2012/13 financial year, we further refined the strategic direction of the Department of Environmental Affairs. This included plotting our course towards providing sector leadership, while also responding to our Constitutionally enshrined responsibilities for the protection of the environment, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Looking inward, at the beginning of the previous financial year, we set measurable targets which enabled us to recruit and retain the best talent in the labour market. This included the reduction of our vacancies rate from a baseline of 11.5% to 9.7% (147 vacant posts out of 1521 available posts on the structure). We have nurtured our talent through training 635 employees, as part of the implementation of our annual Workplace Skills Plan. The department also achieved its planned target of employing 2% of people with disabilities as part of commitment in building an organisation that reflects the demographics of the South African society we serve.

In the 2012/13 financial year the department also finalised a Public-Private Partnership agreement and began with construction of the new green building. The building is the first government building, as well as the first in Tshwane, to be awarded a six-star Green rating by the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA). We are all looking forward to our relocation to this innovative building in mid-2014. The year 2013 also saw the launch of our fleet of carbon neutral electric Green Cars – the very first on the African continent. This is a move which has been followed by other state entities such as Eskom.

During this quarter, I have been truly humbled and honoured to have received a gold award at the National Batho Pele Excellence Awards, in the category: Best National Head of Department. The department has consistently received unqualified audits from the Auditor-General. The department was also announced as one of the country's Top 5 performing departments, through the Presidency's Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT).

I would also like to congratulate Chief Director –Environmental Management –Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Mr Haroon Karodia who won Silver for the KwaZulu-Natal Integrated Greening Programme. There must certainly be something in the water in KZN, as Mr Zama Bigboy Mthandeni, Environmental Officer: Environmental Empowerment Services Branch, in the same department, also scooped a Gold Award for the KZN Schools Environmental Education Programme.

These are not minor achievements, and certainly not those which one can achieve in isolation. These accolades are in line with our departmental values and a testament to the functional collective teams within the department. This a team which serves the South African Public with **Passion, Integrity and Pro-actively** remains a high **Performance** machine.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all our stakeholders for their partnership, cooperation and continued support, and to all employees of the department for the hard work and commitment. I look forward to another year in which we continue to build on our achievements and working together, in finding innovative ways to overcome our challenges, especially in areas where we have fallen short of our planned targets. Working together, we can indeed do more.

Director-General
Nosipho Ngcaba

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Find more information on: www.environment.gov.za or call 086 111 2468



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

ENVIRONMENT SECTOR MOURNS TATA MADIBA

The Environment sector joins millions of South Africans and the global community, in mourning the passing of our first democratically elected president, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

When the gates of his prison flung open, Tata Mandela took those memorable first steps which symbolised many first steps for our nation. Under his leadership, South Africa began moving towards a new era of sustainable development, in which game parks are open to all and benefits derived from protecting our environment are shared equitably amongst our people.

His release heralded the recognition in policy and in action, that caring for our environment today, will ensure that our children can inherit South Africa's wealth of biodiversity and natural assets.

On the eve of our celebrations of 20 years of democracy, we would like to take this moment to thank you, Tata, for having laid solid policy framework and ideologies, for us to build a country that lives and thrives in harmony with the environment.

Hamba Kahle Tata...
Rest in Peace Father of our Nation.



environmental affairs
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANBI
Biodiversity for Life



Government supports wildlife and bioprospecting industries

By Veronica Mahlaba



Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) President, Mr Hans Vermaak, DEA Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning and Management, Dr Moscow Marumo, Mpumalanga MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Ms Pinky Phosa, Limpopo MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Seaparo Sekwati and PHASA CEO, Ms Adri Kitshoff display an award received on behalf of Minister Edna Molewa from PHASA representatives. The award recognises an individual committed to the wise use of South Africa's wildlife resources. It is given in recognition of that person's selfless commitment and contributions to the concept of proper wildlife utilisation.

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism in Limpopo, Mr Seaparo Sekwati assured delegates attending the First Annual Biodiversity Economy Indaba (BEI) on 11 – 12 November in Limpopo that support will be provided to hunting and bio-prospecting industries.

"This is in order to promote South Africa as a destination of choice for hunting, and as one of the most

resource-rich countries to contribute to bio-prospecting. Our two-day conference, which started with a technical session yesterday, is just one of the many interventions we planned in this regard," stated Mr Sekwati.

Mr Sekwati was delivering the keynote address on behalf of Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa who, during the 2013 Budget Vote, made a commitment

to embark on a dedicated programme to provide support to hunting and bio-prospecting industries.

The theme for the 2013 Biodiversity Economy Indaba was aligned to the 2014 Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity theme - Biodiversity for Sustainable Development.

An estimated 200 delegates attended the two day BEI



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.



Limpopo MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Mr Seaparo Sekoati, Mpumalanga MEC for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Ms Pinky Phosa, Councillor Hardy and Executive Mayor of Capricorn District, Councillor Lawrence Mapoulo at the first Biodiversity Economy Indaba.

conference that took place at The Ranch in Polokwane, Limpopo. It brought together stakeholders from the biodiversity economy sectors in the hunting, game farming and related industries, as well as the bioprospecting, natural product and biotrade industries to consider the contribution of these sectors to economic growth.

Workshops on the Wildlife Economy and Bioprospecting and Biotrade Economy were hosted concurrently during the BEI. The focus of the Wildlife Economy session discussed the economic value of wildlife and the hunting industry in South Africa. This included industry transformation, community involvement, the introduction of a South African certification scheme and the identification of challenges and solutions for the implementation of an Action Plan to ensure ideal growth.

The Biodiversity and Biotrade Economy discussed the economic value of the sector, involvement by the community and the role of industry, the introduction of a South African certification scheme, and the development of an Action Plan to ensure optimum growth. Mr Sekoati said that biodiversity is recognised globally as the cornerstone for economic growth and sustainable development. "South Africa is one of the most mega bio-diverse countries in the world and we need to find ways

in which to harness the sector so that it can effectively contribute to economic growth.

"This requires dialogue at national, regional and international levels to consider possible means of biodiversity trading in Africa in a manner that is sustainable and can contribute to the continent's green economy, said Mr Sekoati. A concept document on the National Biodiversity Economy Development Strategy (NBEDS) was presented to the delegates. The strategy will focus on realising economic benefits from South African indigenous biological resources.

"We need a vessel to where everything goes into, to mobilise resources with. The strategy is a big vision and concept, not only for the country but for the continent at large," said Department of Environmental Affairs, Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning and Management: Dr Moscow Marumo. Dr Marumo spoke about the need as a country to be able to come to decisions that will sustain our future.

During Mr Sekoati's delivery he highlighted that the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources is fundamental to the development of South Africa's economy. The bioprospecting, wildlife ranching and the hunting industries in particular, are also integral to our contribution to sustainable development and



The Syringa Institute on medicine, one of the permit holders exhibit medicines produced from invasive alien plants.

green jobs in South Africa.

"The South African National Biodiversity Institute has calculated that South Africa's ecological goods and services are valued at R73 billion, equivalent to about 3% of the national gross domestic products," explained Mr Sekoati

The First BEI saw the awarding of seven bioprospecting permits. These permits will enable the organisations to legally engage in bioprospecting activities and afford certain benefits to the owners of the traditional knowledge and providers of indigenous biological resources. Representing Parceval (Pty) Ltd, one of the recipients of a bioprospecting permit, Ms Elke Gorlich was excited to be part of the BEI for the first time. "The Indaba has been interesting. I see many people who want to work together to grow the biodiversity industry and in order for this growth to occur, we definitely need government to support us," she stated.

What is Bioprospecting

Bioprospecting: It is the searching and harvesting of plant or animal species for use as a source of commercially exploitable products, such as medicinal drugs.

Waste Khoro:

Making waste management a collective effort

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

Waste management officers from across South Africa gathered in Durban from 13 - 16 October 2013 to share ways in which collective efforts can be channelled to improve waste management in the country. The 4th annual Waste Management Khoro also sought to take stock of where the country is in the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS).

"Government cannot address waste management challenges on its own but we need a collective effort," said the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi during the official opening of the Khoro under the theme: **Making the Management of waste a collective effort**. One way to do this, is to collectively participate in waste management campaigns, urged the Deputy Minister.

One of the breakaway sessions of the Khoro focussed primarily on the importance of participatory waste management campaigns. During the breakaway session, waste management officers highlighted the need for waste management campaigns to elicit interest from community members in waste management. These campaigns will not only highlight the waste management efforts by government, but will also encourage the public to participate in waste management endeavours such as recycling.

Ms Nana Ndlovu from the host municipality, eThekweni Municipality presented examples of how Durban Solid Waste (DSW) carries out waste management campaigns throughout the municipality. These include but are not limited to Buy-Back centre implementation, DSW exhibitions and Enviro-Theme Days in schools across the municipality.

Such initiatives will form part of reaching the goals of the NWMS which are to, amongst others, ensure that people are aware of the impact of waste on their health, well-being and the environment, promote waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of waste services. In the last financial year, the department has addressed the latter goal by establishing the Youth Jobs in Waste programme.

Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi, in addressing the waste management officers, acknowledged the challenges faced with regards to a lack of capacity in Municipalities. "The capacity gaps in Municipalities present a prospect for the creation of job opportunities, on-the-job training, continuous up skilling, as well as enterprise development for youth".

The Department recognises the potential of waste management activities to fuel economic growth.

As such, the Youth Jobs in Waste programme was launched in June 2013, creating an approximately 3577 jobs for the youth of the country.

Moreover, the Department recognises the potential of waste management activities to fuel economic growth. Landfill sites, especially those that are found in metropolitan cities, that receive large

amounts of waste, have huge potential to produce gas from methane that can then be used as electricity. This could be used ultimately to reduce the amount of energy that is used either at the disposal sites or to fuel the vehicles that transport waste from homes to disposal sites.

Speaking during one of the breakaway sessions, Mr John Parkin from DSW gave an enlightening overview of how this still "untapped industry" in South Africa has the potential to grow. A prime example which he used was that of Marian Hill landfill site in Pinetown, Durban which is the first South African landfill site employing methods to use waste as energy. This landfill site has won numerous international awards for bringing innovation into waste management and seizing the opportunity to turn energy to waste.

In his concluding remarks, Deputy Director-General for Chemicals and Waste Management, Mr Mark Gordon stated that "cabinet is still not happy with the waste crisis in the country. It is for this reason that emphasis was placed on transforming waste management from one that focuses less on 'disposing' of waste to one that instead reduces the waste produced by South Africa. This will make all citizens liable for the waste crisis that is at hand in South Africa."



IPCC SREX Workshop comes to South Africa

By Reyhana Mahomed



From left: Leader of Norwegian Environment Agency delegation Mr Øyvind Christophersen, South Africa's Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Mrs Edna Molewa, and Co-Chair of Working Group 2 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Dr. Chris Field, following a media briefing at the high level workshop in Centurion, Gauteng.

A series of workshops have been hosted worldwide to help countries, cities, and international organisations understand the opportunities of improving adaptation to extreme events and disasters. This workshop was held for the first time in South Africa on 20 - 22 October 2013.

"This may be the first time that the country is hosting a regional meeting of this nature aimed at reflecting and sharing knowledge and experience on climate-related extreme events, and their implications to society and sustainable development," said Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa at the opening of the Regional Outreach Meeting on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2012 Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX).

The workshop was hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs, University of Witwatersrand and University of Pretoria with financial support from the government of Norway. The workshop came at an opportune time, following the recent

release of the fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC on the Physical Science Basis for Climate Change. According to the report, Africa, which accounts for the majority of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the world, is highly vulnerable to climate change and variability. The report indicates that the continent is projected to experience increased warming, decreased rainfall, increased intensity of droughts and floods, as well as sea level rise that is expected to contribute to extreme coastal high water levels.

In the absence of effective adaptation responses, the costs and losses associated with disasters and slower onset climate changes and climate variability could threaten and even reverse many development gains made in the region. "These impacts have the potential of affecting the social and economic viability of a country, and compromising hard earned socio-economic gains," said the Minister.

Disaster risk reduction and management are adaptations to climate change because both address vulnerability to climate change-related impacts. Resilience to climate change-related extreme

events, such as heat waves, floods, droughts, wildfires and storm surges, is an essential approach that can help reduce risks to both fast and slow onset disasters.

"A key element of any climate change response is a country-wide monitoring and evaluation system that tracks South Africa's transition to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy and society.

"We are making progress on this, and 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," ensured the Minister.

The meeting discussed the SREX approaches on extreme events. This was done by assessing the scientific literature on issues that range from the relationship between climate change and extreme weather and climate events to the implications of these events for society and sustainable development.

Deputy Minister honoured for 20 years of wetlands work

By Peter Mbelengwa

The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi was honoured by the South African Wetland Society for her work in furthering wetland conservation since 1994. The annual National Wetland Awards, as part of the Wetlands Indaba, took place on 22 October 2013, in St Francis Bay, Eastern Cape.

"I am delighted to be part of this initiative of the National Wetlands Indaba that began with five visionary scientists," said the Deputy Minister at the official opening of the Indaba. "Fifteen years later, we have an annual event, in the form of the National Wetland Indaba, which sees about 200 people meeting to discuss ways to better manage and conserve our wetlands."

The award conferred to the Deputy Minister was a surprise feature of the Indaba, recognising the outstanding contributions and achievements of those doing wetland work. The delegates were pleasantly surprised when the Chair of the South African Wetland Society, Mr Piet Louis Grundling, announced a special national award for the Deputy Minister for which she received a standing ovation.

The special award conferred to the Deputy Minister was in recognition of:

- Furthering wetland conservation at the highest political levels since 1994;
- Her willingness to engage with people and wetland projects around the country thereby gaining first-hand experience of

- matters on the ground; and
- Her ability to understand the issues at hand and build her knowledge of wetlands and the wetland community of practice.

Wetlands and their relationship with livelihoods, job creation and people's health and well-being is one of the Deputy Minister's particular interests. Mrs Mabudafhasi's involvement has strengthened not only wetland conservation in the country, but also the practitioners themselves, from wetland managers to researchers and communities.

"Rehabilitation and good management of peatlands can generate multiple benefits including poverty eradication, combating of land degradation, maintaining biodiversity and mitigating climate change", explained the Deputy Minister, "The collaboration between the Working for Wetlands Programme, the National Wetlands Indaba and the Provincial Wetland Forum is living proof of this."

"Indeed, South Africa is a better country today than it was twenty years back"

The Working for Wetlands Programme of the Department of Environmental Affairs was initiated in 2002. A total of R530 million has been invested in the rehabilitation of 906 wetlands, thereby improving or securing 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.



Chair of the South African Wetland Society, Mr Piet Louis Grundling congratulates Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi on receiving the award.

"The Working for Wetlands programme has changed the lives of many of our people for the better. Indeed, South Africa is a better country today than it was twenty years back," said Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi.

The National Wetlands Indaba event is held annually to recognise the outstanding contributions and achievements of those doing wetland work and to showcase successful or innovative work by the wetland sector to the public. The awards are unique bronze sculptures of Wattle Cranes designed by sculptor, Ms Sarah Richards. The awards highlight achievements in the better management of wetlands through stewardship, the development of skills for improved wetland management and conservation, and achievements in wetland scientific research.



About the contributor: Peter Mbelengwa

Mr Mbelengwa is the spokesperson for the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Honourable Rejoice Mabudafhasi. Having worked on different aspects of media and communications for more than ten years, he is a force to be reckoned with.

Climate Change Long Term Adaptation Scenarios released

By Reyhana Mahomed



Department of Environmental Affairs, Deputy Director-General: Environmental Advisory Services, Mr Alf Wills delivering the keynote address on behalf of Minister Edna Molewa.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) released South Africa's Long-term Adaptation Scenarios (LTAS) Phase 1 reports at a climate change breakfast briefing for all stakeholders in Centurion, on 5 November 2013. The focus was not only on the release of the LTAS, but also the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 19 which took place in Poland in November 2013.

"I would like to emphasise that this work focuses on understanding the impacts of climate change under plausible future climate conditions and development pathways," said DEA Deputy Director-General: Environmental Advisory Services, Mr Alf Wills, addressing the briefing on behalf of Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa.

Mr Wills explained that the process of developing the LTAS attempted as far as possible to build on past and current research, as well as ongoing sector adaptation planning in the country and beyond. The LTAS was initiated by the Department in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and key stakeholders in the sector.

The LTAS are a key deliverable of the National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP) of South Africa. The LTAS are being developed in phases and in consultation with a number of key stakeholders. The NCCRP has as its objectives, the inevitable climate change impacts and to make a fair contribution to the global effort to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. These objectives are to be reached in a manner that supports sustainable development.

Phase 1 of this process, having produced reports on impact and climatic scenarios, is now complete. The scenarios evaluate how changes in the climate may affect key climate sensitive sectors i.e. water, agriculture, biodiversity, human health and marine fisheries, over the short, medium and long term. The climate change breakfast briefing included a panel discussion from representatives from the four key sectors: Water, Health, Agriculture, Biodiversity as well as local government.

Health: Department of Health (DOH), Deputy Director: Environmental Health, Mr Ramsook Loykisoonal presented to the briefing, the ways in which the DOH is seeking to mitigate the impacts of climate change on health. "The Department has developed a National Climate Change Health Steering Committee and are currently piloting adaptation projects across the country that is looking at priority areas," said



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.



From left: South African Local Government Association, Specialist Environment and Climate Change, Ms Telly Chauke, Department of Environmental Affairs, Director: Biodiversity Management, Mr Muleso Kharika, Department of Water Affairs, Director: Climate Change, Dr Mangi Mgauba, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Acting Chief Director: Natural Resources Management, Mr Ikalafeng Kgakatsi and Department of Health, Deputy Director: Environmental Health, Mr Ramsook Loykisoonaal.

Mr Loykisoonaal. Rainfall and the prevalence of diseases are closely linked for example, disease-carrying mosquitoes spread to areas of high rainfall.

Agriculture: Climate change has far-reaching impacts, explained Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Acting Chief Director: Natural Resource Management Mr Ikafeleng Kgakati, "with higher levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere, there are less protein in the grass, this affects animal productions due to grazing". With regard to fisheries, Mr Kgakati warned that South Africa is already experiencing changes in the natural distribution of fish. The DAFF has identified a need to strengthen policies to deal with the negative impact climate change has on the sector and will host a global conference on food security and climate change at the end of this year.

Water: The Department of Water Affairs was represented by Director: Climate Change, Dr Mangi Mgauba who ensured the briefing that adaptation initiatives for the sector are ongoing. "It is a very complex sector, there is either too much water or no water at all," said Dr Mgauba. Effective long-term planning, management, use, and allocation of available water resources are key to responding to the potential climate change impacts on water.

Biodiversity: This sector is represented by the DEA. "Well functioning ecosystems provide natural solutions that build resilience and help society adapt to the adverse impacts of

climate change," explained Mr Wills. This is echoed by DEA Director: Resource Use, Mr Muleso Kharika who said that ecosystems are currently under pressure due to climate change and there is a need to reduce and manage vulnerability. Climate change, with the expected increasing temperature, rising CO₂ levels and changing rainfall patterns, will put additional pressure on already



From left: Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Chief Director: International Climate Change Relations and Negotiations, Mr Maesela Kekana, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Chief Director: Climate Change and Bioadaptation, Dr Guy Midgley, DEA Deputy Director-General Climate Change and Air Quality, Ms Judy Beaumont and DEA Chief Director: Climate Change Adaptation, Mr Shonisani Munshedzi.

vulnerable ecosystems. "In response, we need to rebuild the resilience of ecological infrastructure to support economic sectors and livelihood activities," explained Mr Wills.

Municipalities

The government of South Africa acknowledges that the vulnerabilities to the nation, inevitably trickle down to municipalities because "service delivery happens at the local level,"

said South African Local Government Association, Specialist: Environment and Climate Change, Ms Telly Chauke. Ms Chauke explained that municipalities, despite being many, are also differentiated by size and the revenue they receive. "There are 278 municipalities in South Africa and the problems experienced differ from municipality to municipality."

Some of the threats faced by municipalities include the damage to physical infrastructure, damage to ecological infrastructure such as wetlands and green spaces and disaster response and recovery. Ms Chauke explained to the briefing that municipalities face a plateau of challenges when it comes to responding to the threats of climate change. These challenges include human capacity, financial resources, and technical ability and risk and vulnerability assessments.

According to Ms Chauke, there is an information vacuum in local government with regards to the technical know-how, scientific data on models and projects. The

affordability of such information and skills is a challenge and competes with core mandates. "The LTAS is a godsend for us, it presents municipalities with an opportunity to 'know their problem' and measure its extent," said Ms Chauke praising the work done in the LTAS Phase 1. "LTAS allow local government to view climate change through different 'sector' lenses and inform their own adaptation actions and efforts in a cross-sectional manner."

DEA intervenes in dwindling populations of seals

By Mduduzi Seakamela



Artificial breeding platforms designed for flying birds.

After centuries of Cape fur seal harvesting that left the species on the brink of extinction, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) placed a moratorium on the harvesting of seals and undertook various conservation efforts that resulted in a mushrooming of the population. The burgeoning population is now being mitigated by the establishment of artificial nesting sites.

Cape fur seals were harvested for centuries until they were almost extinct on 20 islands. In response to the overharvesting of the species, contemporary policy has moved from direct human utilisation to indirect utilisation, through tourism. There are currently over 2 million seals ranging from the Eastern Cape, South Africa through Namibia to Baia dos Tigres in Angola.

A mushrooming population of seals, however excellent, is detrimental in the greater scheme of things. Seals previously cohabited islands with seabirds under a different management regime. Islands were kept for the exclusive use of seabirds for guano harvesting. Guano is seabird excrement that is collected for use as manure or fertilizers. This harvesting has also seized in South Africa allowing seals to recolonise islands from which they were actively excluded from for years, in favour of seabirds.

The space that was freed by excluding seals allowed seabirds to expand their space coverage at these islands. Changes in the management regime of seals and the resulting ballooning population meant that seals required more space for giving birth and raising their

young. This put seals and seabirds in conflict over the available space. Seals, by virtue of their size, would easily displace seabirds from these islands. This is apparent at Vondeling Island on the west coast of South Africa.

Vondeling Island is situated in the region of high biological efficiency called the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem. It is home to three species of seabirds and one of seals. Both the animal groups depend heavily on this region for food resources. However, in the last decade there were wide-scale shifts in the distribution of certain fish species from the west coast to the south coast such as sardines which are targeted as food by both seals and seabirds. This shift has put pressure on the animals, especially seabirds. Seabirds are finicky eaters preferring only



About the contributor: Mduduzi Seakamela

Mduduzi Seakamela is a Marine Scientist with Department of Environmental Affairs, responsible for Marine Mammal Research. His main interest animal is the Cape fur seal though is also involved in issues affecting other marine mammals such as tourism targeted humpback and southern right whales, as per DEA mandate.



Bank Cormorant



African Penguin



Cape Cormorant

specific types of fish. The further away from the island food moves, the more difficult it is for them to feed their young. Unlike seals, seabirds don't travel very far from where they give birth in search of food. It is inevitable that this will, if not already, create competition for food in the vicinity of the island.

Inter-animal interactions at Vondeling are as a result of many years of different management regimes. Reactive conservation has proved to hamper efforts of getting the country's marine biodiversity to a pristine state. However, in the case of Vondeling, reactive management intervention is the only option in an attempt to save some of our seabirds. The recolonisation of seals has passed the point of pro-active and precautionary management intervention.

Nevertheless, there ought to be trade-offs. A popular phrase goes: all animals are equal, but others are more equal than others. In this case, conservation management would have to look at far reaching implications for no intervention for the benefit of the greater seal management fraternity.

Too few options have been considered for managing the conflict over space use at the island. The Department of Environmental Affairs has plans to erect artificial breeding sites for seabirds, both flying and non-flying. The African penguin is the only non flying seabird on the island. They prefer natural burrows in which they breed while the flying Cape and Bank Cormorants breed on rock surfaces and open ground.

The department's scientists shall be conducting a series of tests to determine what works best as artificial nesting sites. This type of intervention has proved successful in South Africa and Namibia where similar interactions have been reported as early as the end of the 1980's. Raised artificial platforms provided breeding space for flying seabirds. Artificial "burrows" for non-flying seabirds have been successful in the past albeit some internal temperature control concerns. A series of tests will therefore look at, amongst others the optimal material to be used in the design. The proven ability of the South African conservation society to rally behind conservation efforts will ensure the success of this planned management intervention.

South Africa is home to a variety of species of seabirds that are exclusive to the southern African region. Unfortunately, their population numbers have been diminishing. The International Union for Conservation of Nature, the body that determines how well any animal or plant species is performing, has classified some seabirds in South Africa as endangered or threatened. At certain localities known for large concentrations of penguins, few or no birds remain. Lessons learned at Vondeling Island will be very useful in averting possible future adverse interactions.



Range of Cape fur seals ©Kirkman Steven.



Leadership Profile

Dr Mdluli, striving for excellence

For Dr Thuli Mdluli, average is not an option. She derives pleasure in transforming something strong and good into something superb. "I always strive for excellence and challenge others to do so. I believe excellence is what makes one stand out in their chosen career field." Dr Mdluli heads the Air Quality Management Chief Directorate that is responsible for the development and reviewing of national policies, regulations, air quality management plans and strategies for Air Quality Management in South Africa.

What, in your opinion, makes a good leader?

A person who believes in something bigger than oneself, one who has a great vision that is beyond oneself. Someone who is able to translate that vision to others and successfully persuades them to pursue it.

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

Rewarding: the fact that the work we do makes a direct impact on people's lives. It transforms society and compels the status quo to change in a sustainable way.

Challenging: Constraints within the system that lead to delays in the start up of some critical projects.

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

Getting a Doctorate in Environmental Science at the University of the Witwatersrand despite all the challenges and the arrival of my two daughters!!!

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

"Be more patient with others and pause sometimes and "smell the roses"". I have always worked hard. I feel that in some instances I have missed moments to celebrate my successes

because they were a little less than what I had intended to achieve.

What are some of the things you do to reduce your carbon footprint?

I use energy efficient lighting and LPG for space heating at home.

I also have a vegetable patch in my garden where I grow my own organic vegetables. I often commute in a lift-club or take the Gautrain when possible.

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

Building on People's Strengths: Strengths, whether mine or someone else's fascinates me and having found strength, I feel compelled to nurture it, refine it, and stretch it toward excellence. In my view, the first step in good leadership is understanding the team's strengths and what makes them tick and then one can make sure that those "triggers" are in place to maximise performance.

Learning: I never stop learning. I am constantly energised by the steady and deliberate journey from ignorance to competence. The thrill of the first few facts, the early efforts to recite or practice what I have learnt, and the growing confidence of a skill mastered entice me. I think every leader should always be learning, otherwise how does one transform themselves and become better at whatever it is they do if they presume they "know it all"?

Quick Facts

Lives: Johannesburg

Hometown: Piggs Peak, Swaziland

Role model: It would be impossible to name one person. There is a lot to learn from a lot of people as there are great leaders in out there.

Favourite quote/motto: A person who kneels before God can stand before anybody.

Hobbies: Gardening, reading and listening to music, playing with my children.





DEA awards Dr John Hanks for his contribution to ecology

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) this year sponsored the lifetime achievement award at the annual Eco-Logic Awards of Enviropaedia. The awards ceremony was held at the World Heritage Site, Maropeng Cradle of Humankind, in Krugersdorp on 26 September 2013.

The DEA awarded Dr John Hanks the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Ecology. "He is a man who is enormously and widely respected for his intellect and leadership yet still possesses the energy of a man in his twenties, with an unwavering optimism in the face of daunting challenges," said the DEA Director: Authorisation and Waste Disposal Management, Mr Mpho Tshitangoni who presented the award on behalf of the Department.

Accepting the award, the London born nature-activist shared with the audience the ways in which the study of the environment has changed since he began his career as an environmentalist several years ago.

"Had somebody told us that in 50 years' time, environmentalists would be able to place a metal chip on an animal and then be able to track this animal wherever it was on a computer screen, we probably would have

laughed in their face," he said eliciting a chuckle from the audience.

Dr Hanks related with stars in his eyes how he ventured into various national parks, such as the Kafue National Park and Luangwa National Park in Zambia armed with only a notebook, pencil and binoculars eager to gather as much information as possible.

"When we first arrived at the parks in Zambia nobody was looking over the fence to see communities, now we know the importance of knowing who is beyond the fence so we can build relationships with these communities and assist them in creating relationships with the environment," said the eco-logic lifetime awardee, Dr Hanks.

Quoting the founding chairman of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Russell Train he says, "The most important thing in conservation is to educate". He emphasises that there is great value in teaching not only school children but South Africans around us about nature and conservation and identifying, mentoring and encouraging future conservationists. "Let's find our South African Wangarai Manthai!"

The Eco-Logic award joins a long list of awards that he has received such as the Zimbabwe Award, the Edgar

Brookes Award, and the Endangered Wildlife Trust statesman award amongst others.

Dr Hanks is presently the Chairman of the board of the Lapalala Wilderness School and Senior Fellow of GreenMatter and one of his focusses is to encourage young conservationists looking to get into the field.

The Eco-Logic Awards are initiated by the Enviropaedia and judged by a panel of highly respected, environmentally aware individuals who investigate a range of products, services and organisations with a view to recognising and rewarding those that have been produced in an ecological manner.



Dr John Hanks, Winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award.



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.

UNFCCC COP 19: Four major outcomes



DEA Deputy Director-General for Climate Change and Air Quality, Ms Judy Beaumont addressing the media during a post-COP 19 media briefing.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 19 concluded in Warsaw, Poland on 22 November 2013 on four major outcomes. The conference concluded keeping governments on a track towards a universal climate agreement in 2015 and including significant new decisions that will cut emissions from deforestation.

"The Warsaw conference addressed a total of 68 agenda items and took 38 decisions (28 under the COP, and 10 under the CMP). In summary there were four major outcomes of the conference," said Deputy Director-General for Climate Change and Air Quality, Ms Judy Beaumont at a press conference in Pretoria on 3 December 2013.

The first of the major outcomes were a set of decisions aimed at finalising and enhancing the implementation of the international response to the climate crisis now and up to 2020. "This involved the finalisation of accounting rules under Kyoto to enable countries to ratify the amendments and their legally binding emission reduction commitments as agreed in Durban in 2011," said Ms Beaumont, delivering a speech on behalf of the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa. Countries also resolved to close the pre-2020 ambition gap by intensifying technical work, including through workshops, and increased opportunities for information sharing. Work will also be intensified through the more frequent engagement of Ministers by means of Ministerial Dialogues.

The second major outcome of Warsaw is the progress made in the negotiation of the climate change

system to be implemented beyond 2020. "This is to be captured in a new legal instrument for implementation post 2020 and is being negotiated under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).

Warsaw was able to transition from the exploratory phase of the negotiations to a more formal mode of work. This was achieved by focused discussions on elements for inclusion in the new legal instrument. A decision, highlighting key components of the 2015 outcome was adopted," said Ms Beaumont.

The third major outcome in Warsaw was progress in negotiation of means to scale up ambition in the post 2012 and pre 2020 period and finally, the fourth major Warsaw outcome was the finalisation of a very contentious negotiation on an international mechanism to deal with loss and damage caused by climate change.

In the context of 2015, countries decided to initiate or intensify domestic preparation for their intended national contributions towards that agreement, which will come into force from 2020. Parties ready to do this will submit clear and transparent plans well in advance of COP 21, in Paris, and by the first quarter of 2015.

The agreements also included a significant set of decisions on ways to help developing countries reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and the degradation of forests (REDD+), which account for around one fifth of all human-generated emissions. The agreement on REDD+ is backed by pledges of 280 million dollars financing from the United States, Norway and the United Kingdom.

In Warsaw, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reiterated his invitation to all governments, and leaders from finance, business, local government and civil society, to a climate summit in New York on 23 September 2014. This will be a solutions summit, complementing the UNFCCC negotiations. "I ask all who come to bring bold and new announcements and action. By early 2015, we need those promises to add up to enough real action to keep us below the internationally agreed two degree temperature rise," he said.

Speaking during the High Level Segment of the UNFCCC COP19 and Kyoto Protocol CMP 9 in Warsaw, Minister Molewa said, "We must deliver practical results that add up to adequate mitigation and adaptation action, which are fair, comparable, but different. Mr President [Marcin Korolec, President of the COP19 conference], we are mid-way in a four year negotiation process and South Africa is committed to work constructively with you to set the foundation for a fair, ambitious and legal outcome at the 2015 Paris Conference".

Ms Beaumont believes that it is important that next year's COP in Peru facilitates a political understanding of the shape of the 2015 agreement in advance, so that technical elaboration of that agreement can begin early in 2015. "This is the lesson of Copenhagen outcome in 2009 that realised a political agreement which was needed before being translated into a formal and more technical agreement on the post-2012 implementation system in Cancun and Durban," explained Ms Beaumont. The UNFCCC COP20 conference will take place 1 – 12 December 2014 in Lima, Peru.

Spotlight on:

Alien invasive plants used to boost job creation

By Reyhana Mahomed

The Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) ground breaking Eco-Furniture Programme aims to boost job creation by establishing factories across the country. The Programme uses wood from invasive alien plant species that would otherwise spread into rivers using up large volumes of water, to manufacture much-needed school desks and other furniture thereby meeting government's needs.

The Eco-furniture programme enables the Department to achieve its environmental mandate in controlling invasive alien plant species and assist government in the creation of jobs and skill development. This is done by optimising the utilisation of the cleared biomass, in producing furniture products required by government. The programme therefore capitalises on the latent value of the invasive alien plant species.

The DEA, through its Natural Resource Management Programme, is seeking to establish 18 value-added Industry Eco-Furniture Factories across the

country. At present, there are five fully operational factories in South Africa and eight areas earmarked for the establishment of new factories. The programme seeks to have a national footprint thereby affording as many South Africans as possible to reap the benefits, directly or indirectly, from the establishment of the Eco-Furniture factories.

This approach addresses government's needs whilst creating jobs and reducing the costs of clearing invasive plants. High quality, durable, solid-wooden desks are being manufactured for less than half of what schools are currently paying for chipboard desks. The costs of the Eco-desks include the full costs of harvesting the wood. The desks cost approximately R420 each and are packaged in a kit for easy transporting. The DEA has a team conducting workshops at schools on how to assemble the desks. The desks can last for up to 10 years if taken care of. **It is envisaged that production units** can be set up across the country to

meet the backlog and future needs for school desks including the repair of desks.

The establishment of the 18 Eco-Furniture factories, which started in 2012, are expected to be completed by 2014. A total of R383 million has been set aside for the project over a three year period.

Job creation and skills development

The programme aims to employ a total of 160 people from local communities in each factory, phased in over a period of two years. Extensive training will be provided for the core workforce, the training will include carpenter training, chainsaw training, machine maintenance and tree felling, amongst others. Broader life training will also be provided to beneficiaries, including First Aid, financial management and HIV/AIDS.

Each factory will make products that would address the needs of Government including the needs



A Working for Water beneficiary clearing an alien invasive plant species, brushcutter. The wood will be used for manufacturing purposes in eco-factories.



Milling operations at the Fairleigh eco-furniture factory.



The eco-coffins produced by the Eco-Furniture Factories Programme.

of the Departments of Health and of Basic Education. Each factory is expected to create approximately 160 jobs when fully operational. The Programme seeks to benefit the marginalised in terms of race, gender, disability and age and these will inform the uptake of programme beneficiaries.

Manufacturing

Suitable invasive alien plants are harvested for the manufacture of the furniture. The project will seek partnerships with private landowners in order to clear their land and use the timber in the manufacturing process.

Three teams of workers will harvest wood to be delivered to the mill where a team of workers will plank the cants, stack and manage the kilns. On the dry milling operations, the wood will be processed and the planks and laminated sheets will be made ready for product development. In order to maximise the available space, finished products will be removed

from the mill and delivered to the client as soon as possible.

Addressing the needs of government

Furniture will be manufactured to address government's needs. The initial focus will be on the needs of the Department of Education, and will extend to other Departments at their invitation. Examples of furniture that can be produced to meet the needs of government include, but are not limited to, school desks, benches for hospitals, clinics, pension payout points, police stations and other government waiting rooms, tables, chairs, beds, book cases, etc. While it is not the intention of the Eco-Furniture factories to sell directly to the private sector, eco-coffins are already being produced where the product is sold via faith-based organisations to the poor, to reduce the cost of bereavement.

At present, there are a number of operational factories with furniture

production capability located around the country. A substantial amount of work has been done in developing a feasibility study for the establishment and development of these, and additional factories.

Five factories are operational; these are located in the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. There are plans underway to open two in the Eastern Cape.

About the Eco-Furniture programme

The idea for Eco-Furniture factories came about after a proposal was submitted to the World Bank to support the manufacture of coffins using invasive alien plants. The project was first piloted in 2010. It is a partnership between the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs and the Invasive Alien Species Programme, with funding from the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Environmental Affairs shines at Batho Pele Excellence Awards

By Lavinia Engelbrecht



Above: Team DEA, led by Deputy-Director General of Chemicals & Waste Management, Mr Mark Gordon, who received the award on behalf of the DG.



Director-General: Ms Nosipho Ngcaba received the top Gold award for the Top Performing Head of Department.

The inaugural Batho Pele Excellence Awards was held on 14 November 2013 at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand.

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, and Deputy Minister, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi expressed their pride in Director-General Ms Nosipho Ngcaba and two provincial officials from KwaZulu-Natal, who were awarded top honours in their categories.

"We welcome the recognition given to Ms Ngcaba for her leadership in the Department of Environmental Affairs, which has consistently received clean audits and managed to fulfil its service delivery mandate, without compromising the key principles of good governance," said the Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs. The awards conferred by Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu were as follows:

- Director-General Ngcaba received the top Gold award in the category for the *Top Performing Head of Department*.
- Chief Director –Environmental Management –Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Mr Haroon Karodia won *Silver for the KZN Integrated*

Greening Programme.

- Environmental Officer: Environmental Empowerment Services Branch, in the same department Mr Zama Bigboy Mthandeni, scooped the *Gold Award for the KZN Schools Environmental Education Programme*.

The Director-General's award was in part, in recognition of Ms Ngcaba's strategic leadership in shaping the new Department of Environmental Affairs, following the macro-reorganisation of the State in 2009, which had resulted in the split from the Tourism mandate. Ms Ngcaba, a scientist by training, steered the department since that time, into a powerhouse of policy making, environmental enforcement and international negotiations, as well as fostered a strong and cohesive organisational culture.

Throughout this period, the department has received clean audits from the Auditor-General. The department was also recently announced by the Presidency's Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) as one of the country's Top 5 performing departments, through the Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT). The Ministry

once again commends the vision and leadership of the Director-General, as well as the departmental officials' commitment to the Batho Pele principles.



Above The pride of KZN: Left, Mr Zama Mthandeni with his gold prize and **below**, a colleague collecting the silver award on behalf of Mr Haroon Karodia.





DNA barcoding used to protect lives

By David Schindel

Google, the giant search engine, has made \$3 million available for the Barcode of Wildlife Project. The Google grant is conferred through the Global Impact Award program to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. This project seeks to enable the protection of endangered species around the world through the use of 'DNA barcodes' as a law enforcement tool for identifying species.

South Africa is among six countries in the world selected to partake in this initiative. It is aimed at developing DNA barcoding as the global standard for identifying and clamping down on the illegal trade in endangered species. The Barcode of Wildlife Project is intended to run for a period of two years, from 2013 to 2015. This project is closely linked to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and was initiated by the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) at the United States National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

The project aims to see the introduction of DNA barcode evidence in courtroom prosecutions of wildlife

crime. South Africa recognises the importance of establishing such a reference library and therefore, a National Project Committee has been established. If the project is successful in South Africa and other participating countries, it will initiate a chain reaction that would convince other countries to start using DNA barcodes for improved species protection through border inspection and the investigation and prosecution of illegal poaching and trafficking.

The short-term goals are to employ the use of DNA barcode evidence



A handheld barcoder, as shown here, has many uses. Promoting technology developments of portable devices for field use is a major initiative.

in investigations, prosecutions and convictions by November 2014 and to construct a reference barcode library containing 2000 priority endangered species and 8 000 closely related or look-alike species to support partner countries. South Africa has selected 200 priority endangered species for the early stages of the project - half plants and half animals.



The National Museum of Natural History has over 60 000 bird specimens representing more than 80% of the world's known species.



About the contributor: David Schindel

Dr. Schindel has been the Executive Secretary of the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL), an international initiative hosted by the U.S. National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., since 2004. Dr. Schindel is also the Principal Investigator for the Barcode of Wildlife Project, supported by a Global Impact Award from Google Giving.

THE BLITZ REPORT



Veld & wetlands - East London

SAND MINING BLITZ

DATE: February 26-28 2013
WHERE: Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Free State
WHO: The Environment Management Inspectors (EMI) at provincial and national government departments and other relevant government stakeholders including the Department of Water Affairs

Unlawful sand mining causes harmful impacts on the environment. Sand mining is the extraction of sand, which generally takes place in or under the ground, in water courses or in coastal areas. Unlawful sand mining result in rivers being diverted, and eventually resulting in the loss of ecosystem services. More common impacts include undermining the structural integrity of bridges and compromising the quality of water.

KWAZULU-NATAL:

Search warrants were obtained to enter sand mining operators along the Umkomaas and uMvoti rivers. Three operators were found without the requisite environmental and authorisation. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs issued a sand mining operator along the uMvoti River with a Compliance Notice. The operator refused to comply with this notice. Subsequently, the matter was transferred to the Department of Environmental Affairs who conducted a site inspection and issued the operator with a new compliance notice. Criminal investigations were initiated and are at an advanced stage.

LIMPOPO:

EMIs targeted the Mogalakwena River in Steilloop, Klein Lethaba River, Bungeni and Indermark in the Capricorn District. A criminal docket was opened in relation to the Mogalakwena River operation as sand mining is being conducted without the necessary authorisation. Four arrests have been effected in relation to the operations at Indermark and the criminal investigation is ongoing.

MPUMALANGA:

Sand mining operators in the Sikhwahlane area were not in possession of the required environmental authorisation, which resulted in the destruction of 3.6 hectares of indigenous vegetation including a wetland. As such, 19 arrests were made and vehicles were seized.

NORTHERN CAPE

Sand mining operations in Stryd River and Buffels River were targeted. The cases are being investigated by the Northern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation.

FREE STATE:

The EMIs sought to monitor compliance with the instructions contained in a Compliance Notice issued to a sand mining operator in Aliwal North. The operator was found to be fully compliant and the affected area was rehabilitated.



KEY FINDING:

Of the EMIs who reported their sub-sectoral mandates, 21% are responsible for brown (waste and pollution), 76% for green (biodiversity); and 3% for blue (coastal management) legislation. The ratio of males to females comprising the Environmental Management Inspectorate stands at almost 5:1, revealing a sector that continues to be dominated by males.

KEY FINDING:

There has been a 25% (214) increase in the number of Grade 5 EMI field rangers from 841 in 2011/12 to 1 055 in 2012/13.



Illegal sand mining



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DATE: August 13
WHERE: Free State
WHO: The Envir
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to respond to key threats to the environment in a coordinated manner, the Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) plan and implement joint compliance and enforcement operations that involve various spheres of government. In the last financial year, illegal sand mining, poaching in reptiles and the tanneries and taxidermist operations were highlighted for a number of joint operations.



Tree and river

ON SKHUMBA

On 17 April 2012, the Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts conducted inspections in about 28 facilities to ensure compliance with the legal requirements related to waste, pollution and animal husbandry.

The operation focuses on the taxidermy and tannery industry. The Nguni word meaning "animal hide". The blitz was aimed at reducing an increase in the number of rhinos poached. The operation was conducted in about 28 facilities to ensure compliance with the legal requirements related to waste, pollution and animal husbandry.

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HEALTH CARE RISK WASTE

The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI) for the past few years worked tirelessly at ensuring that all facilities comply with South African legislation relating to Health Care Risk Waste (HCRW) in relation to disposal of such waste.

As a result of these efforts, the EMIs are seeing a high level of compliance achieved by all treatment facilities operating in this sector. EMIs are also seeing less illegal HCRW in the open veld. Follow-up operations will be undertaken to determine the levels of compliance are being achieved. A database of all HCRW offenders has been developed (including members of the public and directors of companies).

WHAT: Burial of largest volume of health-care risk waste
DATE: November 27 2009
WHERE: Welkom
WHO: The National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), through its Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMI)

After executing a search warrant at Maximus Bricks, a brick manufacturing facility and thereafter on three other properties, the discovery of the illegal medical waste disposal sites were highlighted as well as the enforcement actions initiated by the department.

In response to a compliance notice issued by the DEA, Wasteman, through the services of an independent waste management company, began the clean-up and rehabilitation

operation of the four sites in Welkom in March 2010. The excavated materials consisted predominantly of chemical waste, sharps which included syringes, blood vials, needles and other general medical waste, such as swabs, intravenous bags, pharmaceutical matter and even anatomical waste.

The removal of the HCRW was closely monitored by an independent specialist as well as the authorities and the waste was safely disposed of at authorised high hazard landfill sites. The clean-up and rehabilitation operations were completed at the end of October 2010, with a total volume of about 18 000 tons (waste mixed with soil) being removed from the affected properties.

During this enforcement process, a total of 16 administrative enforcement notices (including pre-notices) were issued, of which four of the final notices were not complied with by the other parties involved in the illegal operations.

The total cost of the clean-up and reme-

diation was in the region of between R50 and R60-million. Although the criminal case was struck off the court roll as further investigation was required, the National Prosecuting Authority is aiming to enroll the case in the High Court in Bloemfontein in 2014.

TRENDS OBSERVED IN RELATION TO THE HCRW SECTOR:

- More illegal activities linked to landfill sites - untreated HCRW disposed at landfills;
- Individuals who are associated with companies being investigated - create new entities and continue with illegal activities;
- Businesses being awarded tenders that do not always have the necessary infrastructure / licensed facilities / contracts;
- Increased enforcement against generators of waste who must take more care in appointing legally compliant service providers.

OPERATION COLD BLOOD

DATE: April 8-19 2013
WHERE: KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga
WHO: The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.

Operation Cold Blood focussed on the illegal trade of reptiles. A number of facilities, including pet shops and reptile keepers, were inspected. Numerous exotic and indigenous species were found and the blitz was used as an opportunity to raise awareness regarding the legislative requirements related to reptiles.

OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PET OWNERS AND TRADERS:

- Permits are required for all indigenous reptiles in all provinces except KwaZulu-Natal, with the exception of Gaboon vipers, monitors, tortoises, African Rock Python and crocodiles, where a permit in KZN is required as well;
- It is illegal to collect an indigenous reptile without a permit in another province and transport it to KwaZulu-Natal;
- A permit is needed to export an indigenous reptile out of KwaZulu-Natal;
- A permit is needed to import any exotic amphibian, invertebrate or reptile into KwaZulu-Natal;
- It is a criminal offence to provide false information on a permit application;
- All South African tortoise species are protected by law;
- For a permit, contact your nearest nature conservation

- office;
- Gauteng Nature Conservation allows the public to keep Leopard tortoises with a permit, if they can be legally acquired. However, one may only keep one sex of Leopard Tortoise and breeding is not allowed;
- Gauteng does not require permits for exotic reptiles, only indigenous;
- The Western Cape requires that all reptiles are on permit, whether indigenous or exotic;
- In the Northern Cape you need a permit for all reptiles or any action with them;
- Matters of the environment are a concurrent competence between national and provincial government. The implication of this is that some species are governed by national legislation and some by provincial legislation, and in some cases both. It is the responsibility of the permit applicant to obtain the correct permits; and
- A permit is subject to the provisions of any applicable law in force during the period of the validity of the permit.

For detailed information on the regulations for reptiles, contact your provincial office of Environmental Affairs. https://www.environment.gov.za/contacts/provincial_offices



environmental affairs

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PE to receive early warnings on ocean-based hazards

By Ernest Mulibana



DEA Deputy Director-General, Dr Monde Mayekiso delivering the key note address during the launch of the National Marine Week.



DEA Director: Oceans Research, Ashley Johnson educating learners from Nelson Mandela Bay on marine science and research.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) celebrated National Marine Week in Port Elizabeth on 7 – 12 October 2013 where the Department announced the planned deployment of a data buoy system off Algoa Bay to trigger early warning systems on imminent ocean-based hazards.

Delivering the key note address on behalf of the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, Deputy Director-General responsible for Oceans and Coasts, Dr Monde Mayekiso said, "The system will give a better understanding of the ocean environment, with an envisaged Early-Warning System, the products derived from the scientific data collection will inform all stakeholders and the public of the most recent ocean conditions and whether any ocean-based hazards are imminent, therefore linking science to direct benefits to society.

National Marine Week was celebrated under the theme: **Better Understanding of Your Oceans – Protecting Life and Property!** The theme for this year's celebration speaks directly to the deployment of a line of fixed observational instruments such as

the ones planned for Algoa Bay. This data buoy is the first of a number of such arrays planned around strategic points of our country.

Dr Mayekiso explained that as the system expands into other regions and into the Southern Oceans, the ultimate aim is to produce an early-warning system in conjunction with other role-players in South Africa. This will allow South Africa to be pro-active in its approach towards combatting increased storm surges and rougher seas coming from the Southern Oceans as well as the tropics. "We have seen the destructive forces of nature and how it impacted the lives of many living around the coast as well as the rich biodiversity and it is projected that these incidents will become more frequent in the future. We will actively seek local, regional and international partners to make this early warning initiative a reality as the safety of our people, infrastructure, property and economy is of paramount importance," said Dr Mayekiso.

The celebrations were aimed at promoting sustainable use and conservation of marine resources for the benefit of present and future generations. As such, Dr Mayekiso, on

behalf of Minister Molewa, revealed the Department's plans in developing an Oceans Policy for South Africa.

"The Green Paper discussion document received extensive, valuable comments and we are currently progressing well on the White Paper. In deliberating on the Ocean Policy, Cabinet further requested that the Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs coordinates national discussions to produce detailed information on existing and potential future ocean economic opportunities," he said.

The Oceans Policy will ensure that marine resources are used optimally and sustainably. "As the custodian of the ocean and coastal environment, we have to ensure that South Africa's rich marine resources, both living and non-living must be utilised optimally and sustainably in order to promote job creation and increase social benefits emanating from this," said Dr Mayekiso.

National Marine Week is an initiative of DEA celebrated annually to raise awareness about the marine environment and inter-connectivity of oceans with the rest of inland South Africa.



About the contributor: Ernest Mulibana

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

Eco-Furniture Factory to boost job creation in Grahamstown

By Sivuyile Ngaba



Department of Environmental Affairs Deputy Director-General: Environmental Programmes, Dr Guy Preston pointing out the site of the proposed factory to Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi (right) and her spokesperson, Mr Peter Mbelengwa (left), at the WeedBuster campaign in Grahamstown.

Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi announced the opening of an Eco-Furniture Factory, set to boost job creation in Grahamstown. This announcement came at the Department of Environmental Affairs' annual WeedBuster awareness campaign on 16 October in the Eastern Cape university town.

Delivering the keynote address, the Deputy Minister said, "About 25,000 jobs have been created per year through the Working for Water programme. In the 2013/2014 financial year over 40,000 jobs will be created. These are jobs for previously unemployed people, with a particular focus on the marginalised – by race, gender, age, disability, people living in rural areas, those living with HIV and AIDS, and more".

The celebration coincided with the 18th anniversary of the Working for Water Programme. Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi was accompanied by Mrs Louise Asmal, wife to the late and former Minister of Water and Forestry, Professor Kader Asmal under whose watch the Working for Water Programme was initiated. Professor Asmal launched the Working for Water Programme on 16 October 1995, by cutting down an invasive alien plant on the banks of the Theewaterskloof Dam.

"Later today we shall be visiting the site of a potential factory to use invasive alien biomass to make furniture," said the Deputy Minister eliciting cheers from the crowd. The Department of Environmental Affairs has established a number of Eco-furniture factories across South Africa.

The Deputy Minister visited the Nombulelo High School in Grahamstown, where she handed over 200, high quality school desks made by previously unemployed workers, from invasive alien wood. "We hope to create jobs in Grahamstown in a factory to expand this work. We also hope to be using biomass from invasive wood and bush-encroachment species in the area to generate energy, in partnership with the Industrial Development Corporation, thereby creating further jobs," said Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi.

As part of the celebrations, the Deputy Minister unveiled a plaque that was erected at Gray Dam by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa in honoring the Working for Water Programme. Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi also 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. The breeding ponds project hosted at the university is an initiative that has been

implemented by Rhodes University Botany Professor Martin Hill and his staff –almost all exclusively disabled workers. Biological control is a crucial aspect of the fight against invasive alien species, through introducing the natural enemies of these invasives.

Much remains to be done towards increasing public awareness on the issue of invasive alien plants, promoting voluntary pro-active responses and community ownership of initiatives aimed at the management and containment of invasive alien plants (IAPs). WeedBuster Week is aimed at supporting these objectives.



The school desks handed over to Nombulelo High School.



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.

Working together, to put a sting in Environmental Crime

By Lavinia Engelbrecht



DEA Director: Enforcement, Mr Mark Jardine, DEA Deputy Director-General: Legal Authorisation and Compliance Inspectorate, Mr Ishaam Abader and DEA Chief Director: Air Quality and Enforcement, Ms Frances Craigie addressing the media at the National Environmental Compliance Enforcement Lekgotla held on 11 - 14 November 2013 in Kleinmond, Western Cape.

For the past six years, the national Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has collaborated with its provincial counterparts and statutory bodies to develop the National Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Report (NECER).

"The department has seen an emphasis in this financial year on joint operations, which highlight the importance of working together with other enforcement agencies in order to ensure that we extend our efforts across a larger area and focus on high priority issues," said Mr Ishaam Abader, the Department's Deputy Director-General of Legal Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement. Such priority areas, according to the department, include the tannery and taxidermist sector, sand mining and the reptile trade, amongst others.

The NECER is a joint publication that aims to provide an overview of environmental compliance and enforcement activities undertaken by the various environmental authorities over the period of a financial year. It can be viewed as an Annual Report of all of the work done in the enforcement of environmental laws, and building capacity to do so effectively.

This year's report, outlines the work and achievements of the environmental compliance and enforcement sector over the 2012/2013 period. It is the sixth of its kind since the inception of the Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMI), otherwise known as the Green Scorpions.

"As the EMI institutions become better at reporting the information each

year," explained Mr Abader, "So the accuracy of the statistics in the report improve, providing us with a more comprehensive understanding of the important work being done by the environmental compliance and enforcement sector."

He noted that substantial efforts were also made during the year to focus enforcement activities in order to combat rhino poaching which remains a priority for the Inspectorate, and the more significant cases that were finalised during this year are highlighted.

"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



About the contributor: Lavinia Engelbrecht

Lavinia Engelbrecht is the Director: Corporate Communication, and Editor-in-Chief of Environment Quarterly. Ms Engelbrecht is a seasoned government communicator, having served as writer, Chief Sub Editor and Communication Manager for national government departments and a parastatal. Ms Engelbrecht began her career in the mainstream media as reporter, covering courts and crime, finances and diplomatic news amongst others.

Environmental Management Inspectorate

There has been a 22% increase in the total number of EMIs on the national register from 1399 in 2011/12 to 1705 in 2012/13.

- Of the 1705 EMIs on the national register, 1055 (62%) are Grade 5 EMI/field rangers employed at national and provincial parks authorities.
- There has been a 25% (214) increase in the number of Grade 5 EMI field rangers from 841 in 2011/12 to 1055 in 2012/13.
- Of the EMIs who reported their sub-sectoral mandates, 21% are responsible for brown, 76% for green; and 3% for blue legislation. The ratio of males to females comprising the Environmental Management Inspectorate stands at almost 5:1, revealing a sector that continues to be dominated by males.
- SANParks (670), KZN Wildlife (423) and Eastern Cape Park and Tourism Agency (107) have the most EMIs (majority are Grade 5 field rangers) followed by Limpopo (92), DEA (63) and Western Cape (57), while Mpumalanga (12), Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (11), and Isimangaliso (5) have the least.
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency showed an annual increase from 62 EMIs in 2011/12 to 107 in 2012/13 followed by Gauteng with an increase of 63%. CapeNature recorded a 175% increase from 8 to 22 EMIs and KZN Wildlife which had a 36% annual increase of EMIs.

understanding the important deterrent effect of the punishment associated with convictions," Mr Abader said.

He explained that a review of the statistics set out in the report, shows an increase in much of the work being undertaken by the Inspectorate. "We have embarked on an important project to assess the impact of the work of the Inspectorate since its creation and to develop a strategy to guide this work into the future.

"I would like to commend the EMIs for their dedication and for the valuable contribution they are making to upholding and protecting the environmental rights in our Constitution," said the Deputy Director-General.

The NECER is aimed at a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including a range of private, public and community-based institutions. In this respect, the report seeks to fulfil some of the information requirements of regulators, the regulated, the general public and other interested organisations.

- overview of the measures being taken by the environmental compliance and enforcement sector to give effect to section 24 of the Constitution;

The NECER is accordingly divided into various sections, including information on the compliance and enforcement capacity; the enforcement (criminal, administrative, civil) and compliance monitoring activities (proactive, reactive inspections) being undertaken by various authorities; the most prevalent types of environmental crimes being reported and responded to; the legislation and court cases relating to environmental matters; as well as the capacity-building interventions and engagement with key stakeholders in the sector.



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

Overall National Compliance and Enforcement statistics

- There has been a 13.85 % increase in the number of reported environmental incidents, from 3944 in 2011/12 to 4479 in 2012/13.
- There was a general increase in the number of criminal dockets registered in the three year cycle, from 718 in 2010/11, to 1080 (50.42% increase) in 2011/12 and 1488 (37.7% increase) in 2012/13 financial years.
- The total number of J534s issued dramatically increased by 389% from 1498 in 2011/12 to 5825 in 2012/13.
- The number of criminal dockets handed to the NPA increased by 33.33%, from 201 in 2011/12 to 268 in 2012/13.
- The total number of arrests by EMIs increased by 35.77% from 1399 in 2011/12 to 1818 in 2012/13.
- The total number of acquittals increased from 7 in 2011/12 to 8 in 2012/13.
- Convictions reported have slightly decreased from 82 reported in 2011/12 to 70 in 2012/13.
- There has been a 7.69% (14) increase in the number of plea and sentence agreements reached in 2012/13, compared to the 13 reported in 2011/12.
- The total value of admission of guilt fines paid in 2012/13 was R 654 250.00, which has increased by 39.17% from R 470 080.00 in 2011/12.
- The total number of warning letters issued has significantly decreased from 495 in 2011/12 to 187 in 2012/13 which equates to a 62% drop.
- The total number of administrative notices issued has increased slightly from 521 in 2011/12 to 577 in 2012/13.
- The number of civil court applications launched decreased from 7 in 2011/12 to 4 (42.86%) in 2012/13.
- There was a dramatic decrease in the total value of section 24G administrative fines paid from R17 627 233 in 2011/12 to R 5 385 215 in 2012/2013 (69.4%)



Celebrating 75 years since the discovery of live coelacanth

By Thandile Mayalo

The coelacanth, thought to have been extinct along with dinosaurs in the Mesozoic era more than 65 million years ago, was discovered in South Africa in 1938. The discovery of the coelacanth (scientifically known as *Latimeria chalumnae*), captured the imagination of aquatic scientists and the public across the world and resulted in extensive evolutionary, biological and conservation research. This year marks the 75th anniversary since that discovery.

The coelacanth story began when Captain Hendrik Goosen of Irvin & Johnson (I&J) found a live coelacanth that had been brought up on deck in his nets off the east coast of South Africa, near East London. A fish expert, Dr JLB Smith was consulted and dubbed the coelacanth "Old Fourlegs". He gave it this nick-name because of its lobed fins which resemble legs. Only two species of the fish are known and scientists believe that they can learn more about evolution from studying this remarkable fish.

While the events of 1938 sparked the world's fascination with the

coelacanth, it was only in 1987 that live coelacanths were sighted in the wild. In order to encourage international efforts to conserve this unique fish, in 1989 the coelacanth was placed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species' (CITES) list so that it could not be traded for money. In 1990 it was declared 'Vulnerable' in the International Red Data Book on Fishes. The current world population is estimated to be less than 500 animals. This means that without protection, this prehistoric animal that has survived for over 350 million years could be wiped out in our lifetime.

A proudly South African story

The 75th anniversary of the discovery of the coelacanth was celebrated at a special event and Open Day for the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP), held at the Port Elizabeth Yacht Club in Algoa Bay on 26 November 2013. Speaking at the event, Dr Angus Paterson, Managing Director of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), which has its foundations firmly entrenched in the discovery, had this to say, "The 75th Anniversary of the discovery of

the coelacanth off the Chalumna Estuary in 1938 is a 'proudly South African' event. The discovery of the first specimen by Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer, Professor JLB Smith's confirmation of its importance as the foremost zoological find of the 20th century, and his 14-year search for another, is the stuff that films and books are made of and in fact, they have been! Add to the mix the discovery of another species in 1989 off Indonesia; then in a twist of fate, South African tri-mix divers finding a population of coelacanths off Sodwana in December 2000, ending a 63-year wait for a second specimen to be found in our waters; and finally, South African scientists being part of a global team that unravelled the coelacanth genome, and you have a proudly South African story of global significance."

In the wild

Coelacanths have a deep blue or brown colour with white markings in the wild, which is thought to help camouflage them from predators. The eyes of the coelacanth are extremely sensitive to light. They contain a special adaptation known as the *tapetum lucidum*, which is also found in cats, dogs and dolphins. It is this reflective layer that causes the eyes of a cat to glow when exposed to bright light. The coelacanth's fins have well-developed, muscular, limb-like lobes projecting from the body wall and these can be bent or rotated so that each fin works like a paddle when they swim. It was thought that coelacanths "walked" along the sea floor, using their



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.

limb-like fins, hence the nickname, "Old Fourlegs"; but they do not "walk" - they use these fins for swimming slowly. They can also make a sudden dash, with a quick sweep of their big tail fins.

Another prehistoric feature of this unique fish are its scales. These highly modified scales are similar to cosmoid scales (bony layered scales), which are only found on extinct fish species. The scales with their small, tooth-like projections, called denticles, create strong body armour to help protect the coelacanth from rocks and predators.

Diet

Coelacanths are opportunistic feeders and they feed at night. Because they swallow their prey whole, they possess hinges in their skulls that allow them to consume very large prey.

Their diet is believed to consist mainly of squid, eels, small sharks and other animals that are found in their deep sea habitat.

Since food can be scarce at the great depths of the sea in which coelacanths live, scientists believe that the coelacanth has a low metabolic rate. This allows the fish to go for long periods without food.

The African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP)

The African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP) is a flagship programme of SAIAB and is directly funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The most important aspect of ACEP has been the collaborative research and platform provision provided by the DST; the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA); Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF); the Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (ASCLME); the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON); National Research Foundation (NRF) and SAIAB, which



The coelacanth, thought to be extinct millions of years ago, was found in East London in 1938.

is vital for inter-institutional, trans-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research. ACEP is now into its third phase which will run until 2015.

Quick Facts

Diet:	Carnivore
Average life span in the wild:	Up to 50 years
Size:	(2 m)
Weight:	(90 kg)
Group name:	School
Protection status:	Critically endangered

Did you know?

A coelacanth's miniscule brain occupies only 1.5 percent of its cranial cavity; the rest is filled with fat.

Size relative to a 6-ft (2-m) man:



Reference:

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/coelacanth/>



Professor JLB Smith caught the second coelacanth in the Comores in 1952.

Law enforcement officers trained to clamp down on rhino syndicates

By Gaopalelwe Moroane

In an effort to clamp down on illegal rhino horn trade, law enforcement officers from eleven African rhino range states as well as those from the key Asian countries, participated in the first international rhinoceros DNA sampling workshops. The workshops which were generously sponsored by the Netherlands, were held at the Southern African Wildlife College near Hoedspruit, on the 5-6 November 2013.



The Kruger National Park team sampling DNA of the dead carcass of the poached rhino at the DNA Sampling Training workshops held at the Kruger National Park in Skukuza.

Department of Environmental Affairs, Deputy Director-General: Biodiversity & Conservation, Mr Fundisile Mketeni said, "South Africa welcomes the hosting of an international rhino DNA sampling workshop since we are the country most seriously affected by rhino poaching that is largely driven by international wildlife trafficking. The presentation of this workshop supports the decision by CITES at the 16th Conference of Parties in Thailand in March 2013 that all range States, transit and consumer States should strengthen compliance and enforcement."

The workshops were divided into three sessions that were led by, Kwa-Zulu Natal Ezemvelo Wildlife Crimes, Investigative Officer, Mr Rod Potter and University of Pretoria, Director of the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, Dr Cindy Harper from University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science. Investigative techniques, increasing the use of forensics in wildlife crimes and follow up actions that are to be taken when rhino horn seizures are made were the emphasis of the two-day workshop.

Increasing use of Forensics in Wildlife Crimes

DNA sampling has over the years proven to be an effective tool in law enforcement, and it is for this reason that it was the key session of the workshop. One such tool which has been practiced in South Africa is Rhino DNA Index System (RhODIS®), which was developed Dr Harper and her colleagues at the University of Pretoria's Veterinary Science Faculty.

RhODIS® involves the collection of DNA samples of live and poached rhinoceros across the country as well



The skull of the poached rhino with a marker placed where the bullet went through the skull at the DNA Sampling Training workshops held at the Kruger National Park in Skukuza.



Measurements being taken of a rhino horn at the DNA Sampling Training workshops held at the Kruger National Park in Skukuza.



Kruger National Park, field ranger: Mr Oupa Manzini looking for bullets at the crime scene using the metal detector at the DNA Sampling Training workshops held at the Kruger National Park in Skukuza.

as all stockpile horns, to create a DNA database with the unique profiles of individual animals. RhODIS® was developed to assist in addressing the increase in rhino poaching, smuggling of rhinoceros horn and recovery/confiscation of horn and related products by consumer countries. These are analysed at Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) at the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science which currently has over 10 000 samples from black and white rhinoceros from Africa on its database.

The Department of Environmental Affairs introduced amendments to the norms and standards for sample collection and identification of live and poached rhinos under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 on the 27 of June 2012. The act requires that samples are collected from all poached rhinos and other rhinos that are immobilised or die using RhODIS® kits. These then have to be submitted to the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory for inclusion on the RhODIS® database. These have been collected over the last three years and have provided important forensic evidence which have played a vital role in a number of prosecutions.

The second day of the workshop saw the law enforcement officers obtain practical experience on how to collect DNA from rhino carcasses and from Rhino horn. This was in order to collect DNA and

send them to laboratories in their respective countries in a way that will not jeopardise law procedures or contaminate the DNA.

Delegates were also taught how to insert a micro-chip, and get rhino horn drillings from rhino horn, that can be used for DNA sampling.

Investigative Techniques

With regards to investigative techniques, Mr Potter explained that there are various techniques when following up a wildlife crime. He emphasised that the one mistake that is made by authorities during prosecution of the accused is to not

familiarise themselves with the law of the particular. "As law enforcement officers, if someone wakes you up in the middle of the night, and asks you about a particular, you must be able to respond, either at the top of your head, or by referring to the document that keeps these laws."

He went on to note how law enforcers, do not follow a certain protocol when handling crime scenes, which when in court can be used by the defence to jeopardise the trial. Incidents like moving items around the crime scene or failure to use gloves in order to not contaminate DNA samples are such examples.



Workshop delegates and Kruger National Park field rangers by the rhino carcass crime scene the DNA Sampling Training workshops held at the Kruger National Park in Skukuza, South Africa from the 5- 6 November 2013.

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Legal Authorisations and Compliance Inspectorate

By Veronica Mahlaba



Illegally disposed medical waste.



Skills capacity development through interaction with other environmental management inspectors.

The Legal Authorisations and Compliance Inspectorate is a relatively new branch in the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) headed by Deputy Director-General, Mr Ishaam Abader. It currently consists of five Chief Directorates, namely: Compliance, Enforcement, Corporate Legal Support and Litigation, Law Reform and Appeals and Integrated Environmental Authorisations.

The purpose of the branch is to promote the development of an enabling legal regime, licensing and authorisation system that will promote enforcement and compliance. The branch functions to provide a high quality legal service that enables the protection and conservation of the environment and an effective and efficient legal service support that allows the Department to deliver on its mandate. The branch strengthens, enhances and coordinates the environmental regulatory framework related to environmental impact management. It also promotes compliance and enforcement of compliance with environmental legislations. Lastly, the branch provides cooperative governance and administrative support to the Department.

In terms of Environmental Quality Protection, the DEA's role is to protect and improve the quality and safety of the environment to give effect to the right of all South Africans to an environment that is not harmful to health and

well-being. To achieve this, the department, through LACI seeks to promote compliance with environmental legislation and to decisively act against transgressors.

A great achievement for the LACI branch was the processing and adoption of The National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill, 2013 by parliament this year. The objective of the Amendment Bill is to amend the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 in order to achieve further alignment between the environmental legislation and the mineral, petroleum resources development legislation.

The following Bills are currently before Parliament:

- National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Amendment Bill, 2013: This Amendment Bill proposes amendments to the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 in order to address implementation challenges with respect to the conservation of the coastal environment within the country.
- National Environmental Management: Air Quality Amendment Bill, 2013: The Amendment Bill proposes amendments to address regulatory gaps with respect to the

implementation of the atmospheric emission licensing system.

- The National Environmental Management: Waste Bill to address matters in the National Environmental Management: Waste Act.
- South African Weather Services Bill: to amend certain provisions in the Weather Services Act.
- The National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill, 2013 [B26-2013] in main is intended to further amend and align the legislation that deals with the environmental aspects relating to prospecting, mining and production activities.

As a result of enhanced compliance and enforcement efforts there has been an increase in voluntary compliance with environmental legislation by industry. This is an encouraging trend the department continues to promote by increasing the capacity and skills of the environmental management inspectorate operating at local, provincial and national levels and in collaboration with other security and justice agencies.

The National Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Report is produced by the Legal Authorisations and Compliance Inspectorate branch.

DEA lauded for meeting the President's Outcome 10 delivery target

By Ernest Mulibana



DEA Chief Policy Advisor: Strategic Environmental Intelligence, Mr Peter Lukey and DEA Chief Director: Air Quality Management, Dr Thuli Mdluli address the Air Quality Governance Lekgotla.

The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi has lauded the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for meeting the President's Outcome 10 delivery target of having 80% of government-owned weather monitoring stations reporting to the South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS).

This was during the annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla which was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre on 30 September – 2 October 2013. The 8th Lekgotla brought together air quality officers from across the country to deliberate on issues of air quality at national, provincial and local levels under the theme: *Towards the First Decade of Unified and Sustainable Air Quality Governance in South Africa*.

Deliver the opening remarks on behalf of the Deputy Minister, Member of Parliament, Honourable Mr JJ Skhosana said, "Your great work is reflected in the Annual National Air Quality Officer's report. So, we are here to celebrate your successes and trust that you will continue to devise possible solutions to protect our people's health and well-being... I congratulate you in this excellent work which you have achieved ahead of the end of the term".

Outcome 10 refers to the environmental assets and natural resources that are well-protected and continually enhanced. The target stipulates 80 per cent of government-owned monitoring stations reporting to SAAQIS, the DEA has exceeded this target by two per cent.

"While monitoring stations report to the SAAQIS the members of the public are able to see for themselves how the quality of the air is in the areas where they live... This is very important as it answers directly to the call for transparency in our democracy," said Mr Skhosana.

According to United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) estimates, more than one billion people world-wide are exposed to outdoor air pollution annually. In South Africa, and many other developing nations, indoor air pollution adds to this number. Statistics have shown that urban air pollution is linked to up to two million premature deaths world-wide each year, and is estimated to cost approximately two per cent of GDP in developed countries and five per cent in developing countries.

"I congratulate you in this excellent work which you have achieved ahead of the end of the term."

Given the detriments associated to poor air quality, the South African government, through DEA and other relevant stakeholders, has built air quality monitoring stations across the country. There are currently 102 government-owned air quality monitoring stations of which 84 are already reporting to South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS) – an initiative of South African Weather Services. Ambient air quality monitoring is also being used to identify areas in need of restoration and their

prioritisation, such as in the national air quality priority areas of Vaal Triangle, Highveld and Waterberg-Bojanala.

Furthermore, DEA is setting up an asset management system for these government-owned monitoring stations to ensure proper planning and management of these costly state assets. Actions such as these show the commitment by the South African government to improve the quality of air in the country.

The 8th Air Quality Lekgotla took place alongside the 2013 International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA). The IUAPPA congress aimed to establish holistic sustainable solutions for air quality in the developing world though the integration with Climate Change and Biodiversity.

The IUAPPA congress was also an opportunity for South Africa's air quality and climate change officials to engage with international counterparts and learn about recent scientific developments in the fields of air quality and related environmental policy. IUAPPA also presented an opportunity for the international delegates to learn from South Africa's unique experiences in the fields of air quality, climate change and environmental policy enforcement.

It is through such engagements as the Air Quality Governance Lekgotla that DEA seeks to advance its capability to achieve its Constitutional mandate of ensuring the right of all South African citizens to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.

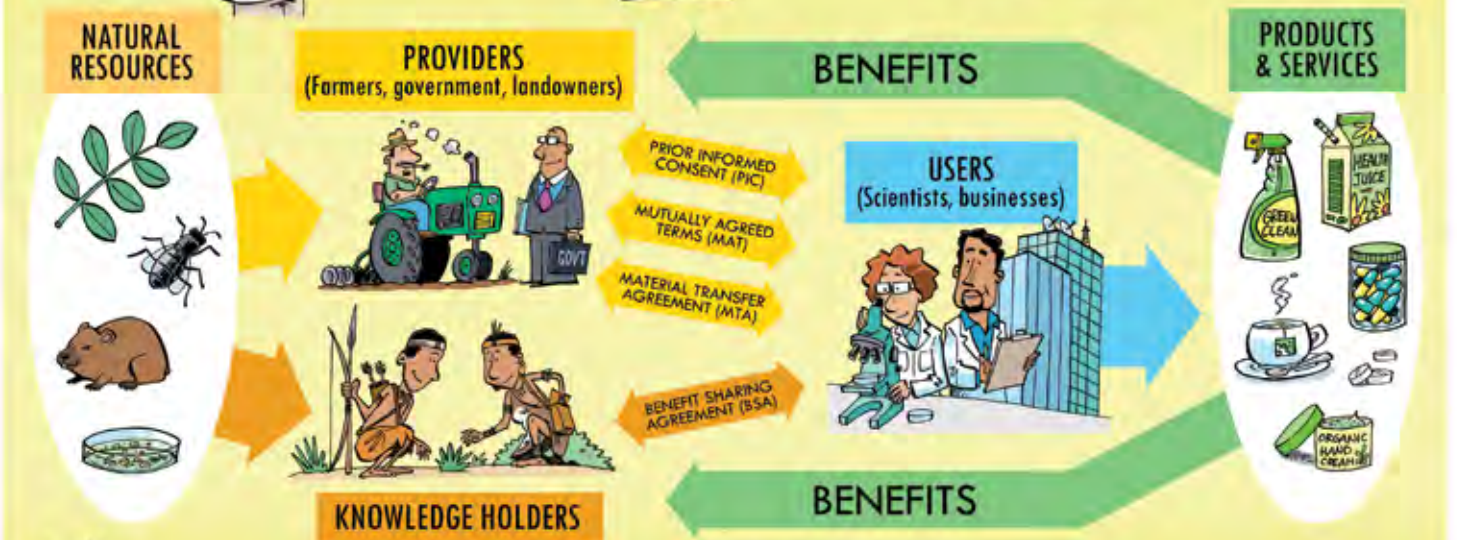


About the contributor: Ernest Mulibana

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

3 ACCESS and BENEFITS SHARING

Fair by nature



BEFORE BIOPROSPECTING CAN BEGIN, USERS MUST GET CERTAIN PERMITS.

PIC: Prior Informed Consent
Permission by the provider for the user to get the resources.

MAT: Mutually Agreed Terms
An agreement between the provider and user about how the resources and traditional knowledge will be used and how benefits will be shared.

MTA and BSA: Material Transfer Agreement and Benefit Sharing Agreement
Agreements which set out the details of the mutually agreed terms (MAT).

CASE STUDY: Galenia africana

A SHRUB CALLED **KRAALBOS** FOUND IN THE NORTHERN CAPE WAS FIRST USED BY THE KHOISAN PEOPLE FOR ITS ANTI-FUNGAL PROPERTIES.

Galenia africana

KRAALBOS IS A PIONEER PLANT, WHICH PROTECTS THE SEEDLINGS OF OTHER PLANTS, HELPING THEM GROW ON INFERTILE LAND

THROUGH **BABS** REGULATIONS, FORTY-THREE MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENTS (MTA) AND TWO BENEFIT SHARING AGREEMENTS (BSA) HAVE BEEN SIGNED TO COMMERCIALISE ANTI-FUNGAL PRODUCTS FROM KRAALBOS - BENEFITTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

MORE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL BIOPROSPECTING RULES: **POSTER 4**

MORE ABOUT BIOPROSPECTING REGULATIONS: **POSTER 5**

An African Forum on contaminated land to be established

By Veronica Mahlaba



Delegates at the International Committee on Contaminated Land.

It has been revealed by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) that an African Forum on issues pertaining to contaminated land will be established. This was during the 11th International Committee on Contaminated Land hosted in Durban, on 9 – 11 October 2013.

After a discussion with other African countries represented at the committee, DEA Director of Land Remediation, Mpho Tshitangoni announced that there is a need for an African Forum to be established by the next financial year. "It is the responsibility of both the authorities and the industry to see to it that we get value out of what we have learned and do our best to improve land remediation in Africa," explained Mr Tshitangoni.

Land contamination is caused by an alteration in the natural soil environment such as the presence of man-made chemicals in the soil. This is commonly brought on by industrial activities or the improper disposal of waste. To address this, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa on 18 July 2013 published her intention to table the National Environmental Management: Waste Act Amendment Bill, 2013 in parliament. The amendments seek to, amongst others, provide for institutional arrangements and planning matters with regard to waste management measures and the remediation of contaminated land.

"The remediation of contaminated land forms part of a comprehensive environmental strategy for the sustainable management of environmental resources in South Africa. Therefore, Part 8 of the NEM: WA is anticipated to come into effect soon," said DEA Chief Director: Hazardous Waste Management and Licensing, Mr Tshepo Moremi.

The DEA has finalised the norms and standards for the remediation of contaminated land and soil quality. "The new legislative regime will ensure that government partners with industry in a form of co-regulation whereby the Minister will issue orders and remediation orders for areas which have been declared as contaminated. The aim of which will be to remediate or manage the sites to contain contaminants from spreading," explained KwaZulu-Natal Acting Head of the Department for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Ms Yasmin Bacus.

The ICCL conference deliberations consisted of four themes, namely: public-private partnerships for site remediation/ collaborative clean-up process; contaminated site remediation; legal, technical finance and social issues;

green technology and encouraging community involvement in site remediation as a core decision making tool.

FACT BOX:

Contamination: In relation to Part 8 of Chapter 4, means the presence in or under any land, site, buildings or structures of a substance or micro-organism above the concentration that is normally present in or under that land, which substance or micro-organism directly or indirectly affects or may affect the quality of soil or the environment adversely.

Remediation: The management of contaminated site, to prevent, minimize, or mitigate harm to human health or the environment.



DEA clamps down on bogus anti-poaching funding operations

By Eleanor Momberg



Deputy Director General: Biodiversity and Conservation, Mr Fundisile Mketeni addresses delegates at a Rhino Stakeholder meeting in Kempton Park

An increase in rhino poaching in South Africa has been accompanied by an increase in the number of anti-poaching funding operations. In an attempt to clamp down on the bogus operations, the Department of Environmental Affairs has compiled a database of legitimate anti-poaching funding operations.

The Department of Environmental Affairs extended an invitation to all non-governmental and non-profit organisations (NGOs and NPOs), businesses and individuals involved in the rhino space to register their projects with the Department by 30 September 2013.

The initiative was as a response to concerns expressed at a Rhino Stakeholder meeting held earlier this year about the legitimacy of some operations. This was not a registration drive per se, as the Department has no legal mandate to register NGOs or NPOs. The initiative was aimed at getting all parties involved in the rhino industry, particularly those organisations collecting funds for anti-poaching initiatives, to provide the Department with information about their projects. In so doing, a national database would be created to serve as a source for potential donors wanting to ensure their money was being utilised suitably. The information requested by the Department was who organisations and individuals within the rhino space received their funding from, how much money they received, and what the money was being spent on. The aim of the information sharing drive was to:

- Rid the industry of illegitimate operations and ensure that funding for rhino interventions are channelled to the relevant, identified projects;
- Establish a register of rhino projects, including but not limited to fund-

raising, anti-poaching, safety and security, support and conservation initiatives;

- Identify gaps that exist between the work of government, NGOs, NPOs and individuals;
- Identify priority areas that requires additional assistance;
- Identify opportunities to collaborate, cooperate or consolidate projects / initiatives or parts thereof;
- Confirm the registration of rhino-related NPOs with the Department of Social Development and obtain information relating to the registration and reporting requirements; and
- Develop criteria to assist in determining whether NPOs, NGOs or individuals involved in rhino related activities are contributing towards the fight against rhino poaching and the conservation of the species.

By 30 September, more than 130 organisations had provided their details to the Department. The information has been correlated and is to be provided to the Department of Social Development so that it can determine the legitimacy of the organisations.

Furthermore, a national database of rhino stakeholders will be created in order to rid the sector of so-called fly-by-night operations. Stakeholders had also supported the establishment of a credible national financing mechanism for rhino anti-poaching – the National Rhino Fund. The Fund, being established in consultation with the National Treasury, will augment existing strategies being implemented by NGOs, NPOs and individuals.

The creation of the Rhino Fund is an offshoot of the Rhino Issue Management (RIM) report. The RIM recommended the establishment of a Global Rhino Fund to which civil society, the corporate sector and international funders could make financial and in-kind contributions to save the rhino.

Following adoption of the report, it was decided to create a National Rhino Fund instead. This fund will provide greater legitimacy to the funding of rhino-related projects and will ensure that projects of national importance, identified in terms of the National Strategy for the Safety and Security of Rhinoceros Populations in South Africa (NSSSRPSA), are properly financed. It includes ensuring that rangers are adequately trained and equipped and all other necessary resources are available, to effectively address rhino poaching and related wildlife crimes.

Despite concerns raised by stakeholders at a Rhino Stakeholder meeting on 31 October 2013, the Department has given the assurance that the funds will not be mismanaged. The Fund is not being created to take money away from existing NGO and NPO initiatives, but rather to fill the funding shortage and in-kind requirement gaps.

The Department, all rhino stakeholders and South Africans in general have a single goal – to stop rhino poaching and thus prevent the iconic animal from becoming extinct. “The interventions we are making are not about creating competition. We need to get to the bottom of where the money goes,” said Deputy Director General: Biodiversity and Conservation, Mr Fundisile Mketeni. “Whether it is the state, private landowners or NGOs, all will be able to get money because it is about the animals that will be saved at the end of the day.”

'Adopt So Our Rhino Don't Die'

By Veronica Mahlaba



Family Board Member of Bavaria Brewery, Mr Stijn Swinkels, SANParks CEO: Dr David Mabunda, DEA Deputy Director-General: Mr Fundisile Mketeni, Strategic Project Manager of Adopt So Our Rhino Don't Die: Craig Clay-Smith and Chief Financial Officer of SANParks: Mr Themba Mabilane join forces to save the rhino.



Family Board Member of Bavaria Brewery, Mr Stijn Swinkels accepting a certificate to certify the adoption of a rhino from DEA Deputy Director-General: Mr Fundisile Mketeni and SANParks CEO: Dr David Mabunda.

In a bid to eradicate fraudulent fundraising schemes, the South African National Parks (SANParks) launched the 'Adopt so our rhino don't die' campaign, at the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria on 25 October 2013.

The Deputy Director-General, for Biodiversity and Conservation, Mr Fundisile Mketeni delivered a message on behalf of the Minister, Mrs Edna Molewa who had these words to say, "I am filled with mixed emotions. I am filled with extreme sadness based on my knowledge of the carnage we are currently facing with the senseless slaughtering of our rhino, and the fact that, as a country, we have lost over 700 rhino to illegal poaching since 1 January 2013, more than the days in the year.

"On the other hand, I brim with jubilation to know that help is at hand and that at last South Africans across the land and our international partners will unite and stand together to make a difference, and protect the world's last viable rhino population for the benefit of generations to come. To millions of South Africans and the people of the world, rhino is not just an iconic species, but part of our priceless heritage".

This is the first campaign to bear the official SANParks fundraising Seal of Approval to ensure that all funding will go directly into rhino-poaching activities. The fundraising campaign serves to protect all rhino that roam

under the care of SANParks, across 21 national parks throughout South Africa.

The battle to save the rhino comes in a form of a joint collaboration between SANParks, Bavaria 0.0% and South Africa's Big 5 Retailers – Woolworths, Pick 'n Pay, Spar, Massmart and divisions of the Shoprite Checkers Group.

The Chief Executive Officer of SANParks, Dr David Mabunda said, "As the custodian and sanctuary for the majority of Africa's rhino population, and 91% of the world rhino population, it is distressing to report that with the exception of the Honorary Rangers and LeadSA's initiatives during 2012, SANParks has not received a cent from independent rhino fundraisers this year."

Whilst addressing members of the media, Dr Mabunda further explained that SANParks is in a crisis situation that requires funding for expert human and technical resources. "This historical joint collaboration brings hope to the crisis. All money will be held in a ring-fenced account and strictly utilised for SANParks anti-poaching rhino programmes and interventions," said Dr Mabunda.

A Family Board Member of Bavaria Brewery from the Netherlands, Mr Stijn Swinkels stated that their responsibility as a brewery does not stop at a bottle of malt drink, nor at the shores of

the Netherlands. Bavaria 0.0% is the enabler of the **Adopt So Our Rhino Don't Die** campaign. According to Mr Swinkels, the decision falls directly in line with Bavaria's intrinsic value of 0.0% tolerance to rhino poaching, the illegal killing of any wildlife or humankind. The partnership also sees a decision by SANParks to clamp down on irresponsible alcohol-induced behaviour in its parks.

Mr Swinkels has urged other businesses both in South Africa and globally to step forward and offer a margin sacrifice on sales for a limited period. "Join us in this crusade to protect our beloved rhino and urge your friends, family and organisations you work for to get behind the programme and **Adopt so our rhino don't die**," urged Swinkels.

To adopt a rhino, payment can be made by credit card online or alternatively a R20 SMS or the option of buying a six-pack of Bavaria 0.0% from any of the participating Big 5 Retailers and Bavaria, who will jointly pay for your adoption.



All rhino fundraising campaigns must have the SANParks Seal of Approval to be legitimate.



Arcelormittal ordered to grant Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance access to information

By Heloise van Schalkwyk

The Company Secretary of Arcelormittal South Africa Ltd and Arcelormittal South Africa Ltd has been ordered by the South Gauteng High Court to grant Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (VEJA) a copy of the Environmental Master Plan including progress reports and updated versions relating thereto. VEJA made requests for access to the master plan in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000.

The VEJA's lawyers argued that the master plan informed the respondent's activities and emphasised a citizens role in holding corporates to account. Arcelormittal argued that the requested plan was irrelevant, outdated and scientifically unfounded and told the court that the plan was never used to obtain current operating licences. They further argued that they had never adopted the plan and argued against the applicant's right to monitor their activities. Arcelormittal is a multinational steel manufacturing cooperation.

The applicant's lawyers (VEJA) told the court that the documents would provide them with baseline test results, which they could compare with current results to see if Arcelormittal

was living up to its environmental commitments.

In view of the evidence provided by VEJA, the court ordered Arcelormittal South Africa Ltd to provide VEJA with records in respect of the closing and rehabilitation of their second Vaal Disposal Site in Vereeniging, the compliance inspections by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Furthermore, the court was of opinion that a community based civil society organisation is entitled to monitor, protect and exercise the rights of the public, at least by accessing information to enable it to assess the impact of various activities on the environment.

A further objection of the respondents was that the applicants approach envisages usurping of the State's roll in order to directly enforce regulatory provisions of environmental legislation. The court disagreed with this argument as the participation in environmental governance, the assessment of compliance, the motivation of the public, the mobilisation of the public and the dissemination of information

does not usurp the role of the State but constitutes a vital collaboration between the State and private entities in order to ensure achievement of constitutional objectives.

The court was of the view that the respondent declined the applicants request wrongfully, and it did not apply its mind to the request, and the respondent has not demonstrated any real prejudice which it may suffer should the order be granted.

The court therefore ordered:

- The first respondents decision to refuse to grant the applicant request for access to information dated 15 December 2011 and 13 February 2012 invalid and set aside;
- The first respondent is directed to supply the applicant with copies of all the records requested in the applicants request for access to information within 14 days from date of this order;
- The second respondent is to pay the cost of this application including the cost of two counsel.



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

By Thandile Mayalo and Gaopalelwe Moroane

Being environmentally friendly is a global goal that aims to create a cleaner and eco-safe world for the present inhabits of earth and generations to come. At an individual level it is important to note what you can do to contribute towards creating a green world, because the littlest change begins with you: How will you be Greening your lifestyle in 2014?



**1. Karabo Sanyane
Special Projects**

In 2014 I would rather walk to places where it is practically possible than use motor vehicular transportation, in my aim to reduce my carbon emission footprint. At home I separate my waste according to paper, plastic and tin.



**2. Wendy Tripe
Greening Program**

I always maintain the Recycle and Re-use motto especially in my office space as I work with a lot of paper here at the office.

**2. Gert Rossouw
Fleet Services**

I always encourage my children to switch off the lights that they are not using in the house. I have also recently bought a new gas stove and geyser because that helps a lot in terms of saving energy and money. I will continue doing this in 2014.



**3. Elizabeth Ntsoyi
Greening Program**

Since I work in the Directorate Greening Programmes and Fund, I try to practice what I preach to the community of South Africa by doing the following: Walk to work, by so doing I reduce Carbon emissions. I use recyclable material e.g. using a lunch container instead of paper or foil wraps and cloth bag for my grocery shopping. It's better for me to buy local products not only to support local economy, but because local products do not travel across the globe to get to me, in that way energy is saved. Again in our Directorate we do not just throw anything away, we find ways to re-use our used products like the 2L bottle I am holding.



**5. Fatima Rawjee
Special Projects**

I create green (environmental friendliness) awareness to the people in and around my life and by so doing, have dedicated myself to a sustainable approach to life. I was recently motivated by a quote that reads, "I don't want to protect the environment I want to create a world where the environment needs no protecting."

Vox Pops continued

Members of the public



1. Cornel Hewitt

Currently I spend a lot of my time trying to save as much electricity as I can, and I intend to keep on doing that in 2014. I do this by means of using less electricity-consuming appliances such as my tumble dryer. I'd rather hang the clothes out to dry.



3. Mpho Makua

At home in Limpopo we try and plant trees on an annual basis because generally we are lovers of fruit plants. By so doing I have notice that I do actually help the environment because more trees means more natural, clean, oxygen which is at threat now because of climate change.



5. Linda Erasmus

In my home I use those energy saving light bulbs that use battery power and last up to eight hours, instead of using the normal lights. I own a lot of pot plants that I water using containers so that I don't leave the tap running when watering them. My company recycles paper.



7. Reabetswe Suping

I strive to promote anti rhino poaching. I would like my friends to feel the same way. This also applies to saving electricity and conserving water. Recycling is also the way to go for me it doesn't make sense to misuse paper.



2. Thato Mokgetle

I do not take my car to the car wash, rather I wash it with water from a bucket and use a brush instead of a vacuum cleaner for the mats, to consume less electricity.



4. Mpho Mabuya

I am for anti-rhino poaching. My company does a lot to raise funds for the security of the rhino's that we have left in our country. Because the war is not over, I will continue issuing my support for this initiative.



6. Sisipho Gcanga

I plan on encouraging my friends to recycle more. At home my mother is very conscious of how we use water and electricity so I try not to waste both, for example I switch off lights when I'm not using any and I shower more than I bath.

Saving water, diminishing the use of electricity, planting more trees, cutting down on carbon emissions, protecting the world's endangered animals and recycling are some of the many ways that a green economy can be obtained, maintained and sustained.

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