

# Environment Quarterly

EzemVelo Ngenyanga Ntathu • Mbango wa kotara • Mupo nga Kotara



**Celebrating  
Environment Month**

**Cabinet approves DG  
and COO appointments**

**Operation Phakisa: Moving SA's  
Oceans Economy forward**



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2016

# environment CALENDAR



January

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

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

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

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

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# Editorial: Zero tolerance for wildlife crime



## Dear Valued Stakeholder,

Welcome to another edition of Environment Quarterly, presented under the theme "Zero tolerance for wildlife crime". This is in line with the 2016 theme for World Environment Day (WED) on 05 June, and in synergy with the CITES CoP17 (the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). South Africa will host CITES CoP17 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, from 24 September to 05 October 2016.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which is the international convenor of WED, hopes to inspire behaviour change in people across the globe, in order to prevent the ever increasing strain on the

Earth's ecosystems, from reaching a breaking point. In South Africa, we have elevated the observation to take place throughout the month of June, as we observe Environment Month concurrently with Youth Month, and highlight environmental days such as World Oceans Day on 08 June and World Day to Combat Desertification on 17 June.

UNEP selected this year's WED theme in order to highlight the fight against the illegal trade in wildlife. The department's Environmental Management Inspectorate, also known as the Green Scorpions, are at the forefront of South Africa's fight against wildlife crime, being deployed countrywide at ports of entry as well as national parks amongst others.

This category of crime not only threatens biodiversity and the survival of elephants, rhinos, abalone and many other species but also has a negative impact on our economies, communities and security. It must be made clear that the impact of wildlife crime goes beyond the borders of national parks and the interests of environmentalists. The proceeds of wildlife crime are known to fund other types of international crime as such human trafficking and the illicit drug trade.

Thus it is important for all of us to do our part. Complementing the theme, is the slogan "Go Wild for Life" which encourages everyone to spread the word about wildlife crime and the damage it does, and to challenge

friends, colleagues and family to do the same. One can start with simple things such as refusing to purchase exotic and indigenous animals as pets (and products thereof, such as skins and jewellery) should those be prohibited where you live. One should also report any suspicious activities to the Environmental Crime Hotline: 0800 205 005.

Our regulars in this edition include the Vox Pops in which we ask the public and DEA staff, opinions on what measures should be taken against those who commit wildlife crime. We also bring you a pull-out poster on wildlife crime, as well as judgments of environmental cases in From the Courts.

You can also look forward to an article on President Jacob Zuma's visit to the port of Port Elizabeth where he shared with the nation progress on South Africa's Oceans Economy of Operation Phakisa. On page 24, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Mrs Barbara Thomson donates school desks and uniform to the learners of Theu-Theu primary school in Mpumalanga.

We welcome contributions of articles and photographs, and urge you to share this edition of Environment Quarterly with friends and colleagues. Remember that the edition is also available online at [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za) under the Media & Publications page.

## Editor-in-Chief

Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht

## Meet our team

### Head of Communications

Albi Modise

Veronica Mahlaba  
Zibuse Ndlovu

### Cover Design

Brian Chapole

### Design & Layout

Brian Chapole  
Gomolemo Mokeke  
Itumeleng Motsepe  
Sibusisiwe Nxumalo

### Contributors

Anton Nahman  
Carina Malherbe  
Cathy Grosvenor  
Eleanor Momberg  
iSimangaliso  
Madimetja Mogotlane  
Millicent Makoala  
Tshego Letshwiti

### Cover Image

Erica Mathye

### Photography

Eleanor Momberg  
iSimangaliso  
Kennedy Msibi  
Paul Sigutya  
Tshego Letshwiti  
Tshepiso Rampho  
United Nations

### Editor-in-Chief

Lavinia Mahlangu-Engelbrecht

### Editor

Erica Mathye

### Editorial Team

Beatrice Makgwale  
Gaopalelwe Moroane

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



## 5th Annual Waste Khoro

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Ms Barbara Thomson hands over a Waste Management certificate to Mr Tshepo Masilela from Limpopo Province during the 5th Annual Waste Khoro.

Held at the Durban International Conference Centre on 31 May, this year's theme was "Promoting Innovation and Up scaling Enterprise Development" Over 700 delegates including government officials, industry leaders, waste management officers and other stakeholders gathered for this Khoro. Representatives from the Vaal University of Technology, PETCO, Coca Cola, National Treasury, SALGA, Mpact Recycling are some of the key organisations that will be joining the discussions.

**Image by Gaopalelwe Moroane**

## Desertification, land degradation and drought awareness visit in Sterkspruit

An inter-ministerial delegation went down to Sterkspruit in the Eastern Cape on 29 April to assess the progress on land rehabilitation programmes. This was a visit on desertification, land degradation and drought awareness. The Deputy Director-General for Environmental Programmes Dr Guy Preston (centre) meets Ms Mahuma Ramashala and Mr Lungile Mzuzu. On the right is Eastern Cape MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Mr Sakhumzi Somyo, the Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs Mrs Nosipho Ngcaba and Minister Edna Molewa.

**Image by Nomvuyo Mlotshwa**



## DEA and the City of Tshwane handover the Multi- Recycling Buy-Back Centre in Atteridgeville

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the City of Tshwane handed over the Multi- Recycling Buy-Back Centre in Atteridgeville on 07 June 2016.

The Buy-Back Centres are a product of collaboration between the DEA and the City of Tshwane to deliver waste management infrastructure in the City.

**Image by Zibuse Ndlovu**



## Ministers discuss global issues at Environment House

The Minister of Environmental Affairs Mrs Edna Molewa and the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Prof Nguyen Minh Quang, held bilateral discussions at Environment House on 11 March 2016.

The Ministers discussed a number of issues of mutual concern, including environmental and biodiversity management, as well as the use of remote sensing applications in environmental management. Minister Molewa and Minister Nguyen confirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation on climate change, matters relating to desertification, protected areas and other global issues.

**Image by Zibuse Ndlovu**

# Government partners with private sector to create jobs

By Veronica Mahlaba



**Above:** Members of government and the private sector joined hands to open the Mpact Polymers plant in Germiston, Gauteng.

It was a joyous occasion as government and the private sector came together to open the Mpact Polymers plant in Germiston on 10 May 2016. The Mpact Polymers has provided direct employment for 85 people and it is estimated that an additional 1 000 jobs will be created through recycled polyethylene terephthalate (rPET) bottles.

The project came about as a result of close collaboration between Mpact, Coca-Cola, ABI, SABMiller, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), PETCO, Kronos and the City of Ekurhuleni. The operation is also backed by the Departments of Environmental Affairs, Trade and Industry and Economic Development in promoting job creation, reducing waste to landfill and improving rPET production that will ultimately help to reduce the carbon footprint of the food and beverage industry.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa stated that recycling is at the forefront of creating sustainable jobs and improving people's quality of life.

"As government, we are encouraged by this development which will assist us in ensuring that the work we are doing makes a significant contribution towards promoting sustainable cities, economic growth, poverty eradication and integrated land management," said Minister Molewa.

The Chief Executive Officer of Mpact, Mr Bruce Strong said the new bottle-to-bottle facility will produce rPET, which is recycled raw material used to manufacture new PET bottles. rPET is the substitute of virgin PET, which is derived from crude oil. "Mpact Polymers will process 29,000 tonnes of post-consumer PET bottles diverted from landfills each year, to produce 21,000 tonnes of rPET for food and beverage packaging. An estimated 186,000m<sup>3</sup> of landfill space will be saved annually as a result, while CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be reduced by approximately 53,000 tonnes each year," said Mr Strong.

He went on to say that the opening of the Mpact Polymers plant is a reflection of the partnerships that work in both the public and private

sectors. "Together with our industry partners, Coca-Cola South Africa, ABI and PETCO, we have spent a lot of time and effort researching the PET recycling industry and developing a PET recycling business that would be sustainable. Mpact Polymers is backed by the required skills, experience, and infrastructure, to take advantage of the prospects in the collection and recycling of PET bottles in South Africa."

"Mpact Polymers also reflect the importance of our government's manufacturing incentive programmes, which we hope will be granted a greater proportion of the national budget in the future, considering the importance of manufacturing in South Africa. The rPET facility has been granted a Section 12i tax allowance incentive through the Department of Trade and Industry, while the IDC has supported its development through a minority shareholding and debt funding," Mr Strong explained.

South Africa joined 24 other countries who already use rPET for Coca-Cola beverage packaging.



## About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

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

# CITES COP17 CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA & FLORA

[www.citescop17jhb.co.za](http://www.citescop17jhb.co.za)



**24 SEPT - 5 OCT  
2016**

**Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa**



environmental affairs  
Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# President updates SA on Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy milestones

By Lavinia Engelbrecht

Over 4000 community members in Port Elizabeth cheered in celebration, as President Jacob Zuma communicated milestones reached by government in developing infrastructure and setting the stage for significant job creation and contributions to the economy, through the Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy initiative. On a windy but bright afternoon in the friendly city, the crowds were led in song by the Transnet choir.

President Zuma visited the port of Port Elizabeth on 08 April 2016, to inspect the facilities first hand and to provide a progress report to the nation, on the implementation of South Africa's ground-breaking programme. Operation Phakisa which also covers the health and



Above: The President unveils the plaque on the new boat hoist.

education sectors amongst others, is inspired by Malaysia's Big, Fast Results Methodology. Phakisa is a Sesotho word meaning "hurry up".

"Operation Phakisa is a fast results delivery programme that we launched in July 2014 to help us implement the National Development Plan, with the ultimate goal of boosting economic growth and creating jobs," said President Zuma. "It provides the framework in which government, organised business, labour and citizens can work together to accelerate economic growth and resolve the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality. Operation Phakisa is one of the mechanisms we have put in place to implement the National Development Plan come alive."

Extensive work was done to clearly and effectively communicate this high level, strategic intervention to all South Africans, in a relatable manner. The nationwide and local



## About the contributor: Lavinia Engelbrecht

Lavinia Engelbrecht is the Director: Corporate Communication and Editor-in-Chief of Environment Quarterly. Ms Engelbrecht possesses a Master's degree in Public Administration, specialising in Public Policy Analysis and a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. She has been a journalist in mainstream media, and served as a writer, Chief Sub-Editor, and Communication Manager at national government departments and a state entity.





**Above:** The President and ministers observe the tugboat Mvezo going through its paces during the event.

communication ahead of the progress visit included radio and newspaper advertisements, loud hailing in the townships of Port Elizabeth, as well as social media. The event was so well received on the social media platforms, that it became the number one trending topic of the day.

Dignitaries at the event included the leadership of implementing and coordinating departments: Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa and Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson; Minister in the Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Jeff Radebe; Minister of Public Enterprises, Ms Lynne Brown; Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Mr Senzeni Zokwana; Deputy Minister of Transport Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga. Also present were the hosts: Eastern Cape Premier Phumulo Masualle and the Executive Mayor of the Nelson Mandela Metro, Dr Danny Jordaan.

Several of the Ministers, Deputy Ministers, as well as the Premier and the Mayor had taken part in a Morning Live broadcast on the day, to update the nation on the massive impact of Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy, ahead of the community event and exhibition.

The Ministers led President Zuma on a tour of the port, where he was able to see the progress made in several projects first hand. The Transnet National Ports Authority, which manages the nations ports and is an entity of the Department of Public Enterprise, showcased the newly revamped slipway to the President. "Earlier this morning, we viewed the refurbished and re-constructed

slipway and lead-in jetties within the Port of Port Elizabeth," said President Zuma. "The refurbished slipway will be able to accommodate more vessels. In fact twelve vessels can now be accommodated for hull inspection and maintenance as compared to the current two."

President Zuma also unveiled a plaque on the newly-acquired boat hoist at the port, which is only the second of its kind in the country, and is the first owned by government. It has a 90 ton capacity and forms part of the construction of a new slipway. The President also unveiled one of nine tugboats built by South African Shipyards for the TNPA at the Port of Durban. Two of the vessels are destined for the Port of Port Elizabeth. "I was happy to see one of these boats, named Mvezo, after the birthplace of our beloved Madiba," said President Zuma. The President also noted progress in the relocation of the manganese terminal from the port of Port Elizabeth, to the nearby Port of Ngqura at Coega, which is currently accommodating rig repair.

Operation Phakisa: Where it all began

The President launched Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy in July 2014 in Durban as a results-driven approach to development, involving

various sectors such as business, labour, academia, civil society, State-owned Entities and Government. The sectors worked together to develop detailed delivery action plans, set targets and monitor progress on an on-going basis. Operation Phakisa is an adaptation of the Big Fast Results methodology that was successfully applied by the Malaysian Government in the delivery of its Economic and Government Transformation Programmes

South Africa is uniquely bordered by the ocean on three sides - east, south and west with the inclusion of Prince Edward and Marion Islands in the Southern Ocean. The country has a coastline over 3000 km long and an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This vast ocean space is relatively unexplored in terms of its economic potential. In 2010, the ocean contributed approximately R54 billion to South Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounted for approximately 316 000 jobs.

An economic study was conducted of nine sectors that comprise South Africa's ocean economy and it was determined that the ocean has a potential to contribute up to R177 billion to the Gross Domestic Product and create up to one million jobs by 2033.



**Above:** The tugboat Mvezo is named after the birth place of late President Nelson Mandela.



# Budget Vote 2016/17

By Cathy Grosvenor and Erica Mathye



**Above:** On 03 May, Minister Edna Molewa delivered the 2016/2017 Budget Vote policy statement in Parliament in Cape Town.

As the world reflects on its efforts to protect the environment during Environment Month in June, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), with Minister Edna Molewa at the helm, is leading the charge locally and has much to be proud of.

The department has achieved a number of milestones with regard to both safeguarding the country's environment and growing the nation's green economy.

A total of 14 300 113 hectares have been declared conservation areas, which equates to a whopping 11.73 percent of South Africa's terrestrial surface. In addition, South Africa

is the third most mega bio-diverse country in the world.

As custodian of all this natural wonder, the DEA is mandated to ensure the protection of the environment as well as the conservation of natural resources on the one hand, while ensuring sustainable development and the advancement of the green economy on the other.

One of the key investments in growing the green economy is the development of sustainable economic infrastructure. To accelerate this development process, government launched the Strategic Infrastructure Programme (SIP).

The DEA is doing its bit by conducting strategic environmental assessments with a view to pre-assess potential environmental impacts. This helps streamline and integrate environmental authorisations for these developments.

"In support of the renewable energy roll-out, we have finalised the pre-assessment of the grid expansion corridors. A total of 137 renewable energy applications have already been authorised, representing an equivalent of 5719 megawatts," said the Minister during her Budget Vote in Parliament recently.

"Recent legislative amendments have enabled us to timeously finalise 35 SIP applications. Of these, 34

were concluded within the legislated period, translating to a 97 percent efficiency rate.”

These achievements represent a significant investment in the highly successful Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPP) that has so far attracted investment valued at around R200 billion.

The REIPPP is but one of many initiatives that underline the DEA’s commitment to international environment agreements, like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as encapsulated in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015.

### Getting industries’ buy-in

2016 marks the start of the first voluntary five-year cycle of implementing South Africa’s greenhouse gas emission mitigation system. After that, a five-year mandatory system will be in effect.

According to the Minister, key components of the system include a carbon budget for each company; submission of pollution prevention plans which will indicate how companies plan to achieve their carbon budgets; a reporting system to gather information on emissions from companies; and a variety of other measures to be applied to support and/or complement the carbon budget system.

South Africa’s sustainable development efforts have received much attention over the past years. In 2012, the DEA established the Green Fund with the objective of supporting the country’s transition to a green economy through the provision of catalytic finance to facilitate and stimulate investment in green initiatives.

“A total budget allocation of R1.1 billion has been made and the board of the fund has approved 31 investment projects, 16 research and development projects and eight capacity-building projects.

“Over 1 600 direct job opportunities and at least 11 300 indirect job opportunities have been created. More than 7 400 individuals have been directly trained and

capacitated in the area of green skills,” said Minister Molewa.

### Biodiversity boost

The R300 million human capital development programme, Groen Sebenza, which recruited young people from across the country into the green sector, ended in December 2015. The project was spearheaded by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and sponsored by the Development Bank of Southern Africa’s Jobs Fund.

It aimed at developing skills and bridging the gap between education and job opportunities in the biodiversity sector.

The project focused on training, mentoring and workplace-based learning with the objective of building a pool of young and capable professionals for South Africa’s biodiversity sector, which aims to boost job creation in the green

has begun implementing the NBES using the Operation Phakisa Delivery Model, which aims to implement strategic policies and programmes better, faster and more effectively.

“We continue to drive the biodiversity economy through our national parks, heritage sites, botanical gardens and a vast network of public and private protected areas. During the past financial year, in excess of 1.9 million people visited our SANBI-managed National Botanical Gardens. This is six percent higher than the previous year,” said the Minister, adding that the country’s 10th National Botanical Garden was declared last year at Kwelera near East London.

### Job creation initiatives

The DEA has created and sustained a number of job creation projects that focus on environmental protection and conservation:

The Working for Water programme employs and provides training to



Above: Minister Edna Molewa launched the Youth Jobs in waste in the Free State in 2013.

economy. Since its launch in 2013, it created over 950 job opportunities and over 650 permanent jobs.

In July 2015, Cabinet approved the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (NBES), which set out a number of strategic priorities required to develop the wildlife and bio-prospecting industries. The DEA

the youth, people with disabilities and small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs), and works in partnership with local communities, government departments, research foundations and private companies.

Since its inception, the programme has cleared more than two million hectares of invasive alien plants and



**Above:** The Recycling and Economic Development Initiative of South Africa (REDISA) Waste Tyre Management Plan defines a unique approach to waste stream management that is a world first, developed in South Africa and making the local tyre industry a national and world leader in recycling.

provided jobs and training to over 26 000 people per year from among the most marginalised sectors of society.

In addition, over 50 000 people, particularly from the rural parts of the country, have benefited from employment opportunities. The programme runs over 300 projects across South Africa and has been globally recognised as one of the most outstanding environmental conservation initiatives on the continent.

Launched in 2003, the Working on Fire programme employs more than 5 000 young men and women (85 percent are youth and 29 percent are women).

They have been fully trained as veld and forest fire fighters and are stationed in more than 200 teams throughout South Africa. This initiative addresses the prevention and control of wild land fires to enhance the sustainability and protection of life and the environment through the implementation of Integrated Fire Management practices.

Youth Jobs in Waste is a sub-programme under Working on Waste that focuses on providing employment opportunities to the youth. The programme addresses a skills gap in municipalities that allows for smooth landfill operations. The year after its launch in 2013, over 4

000 jobs had been created across eight provinces of South Africa.

The programme aims to create job opportunities, on-the-job training, continuous up-skilling, as well as enterprise development for the youth. An estimated 1 000 job opportunities will be created by placing young people in municipalities as landfill site assistants, waste collection administrators and environmental awareness educators.

Further work opportunities will be created from the construction activities associated with the building or erection of landfill site offices, ablution facilities, as well as weigh pad platforms at landfill sites across the country.



**Above:** The Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP), through Working for Water empowers people with skills through training, which in turn makes them more employable.

## Extended Public Works Programme

The Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) empowers people with skills through training, which in turn makes them more employable. The EPWP uses labour intensive measures and it is through this national government initiative that the DEA will launch the 2015/2018 cycle of the National Working for the Coast Programme on World Oceans Day in June.

More than R303 million has been budgeted to create and implement programmes to ensure sustainable and equitable maintenance of the coastal environments.

### Putting waste to work

“Despite a total estimated value of R25 billion to the South African economy, the current rate of waste recycling has not been maximised,” the Minister noted.

However, she added that the DEA has established a sound and comprehensive regulatory platform to accelerate the waste recycling economy and waste beneficiation, thereby unlocking economic opportunities in the waste sector.

“To encourage the scale-up of recycling enterprises in the waste sector, we launched the Recycling Enterprise Support Programme that will provide the initial capital set-up costs for emerging entrepreneurs.

“This year, we aim to approve and begin the implementation of the three prioritised Industry Waste Management Plans (IWMPs), namely



for the paper and packaging, electrical and electronic and lighting industries respectively.

"In line with the Pricing Strategy for waste and the SARS Waste Tyre Levy collection system, these IWMPs will set in motion a new economic paradigm for the management of these waste streams in South Africa," said Minister Molewa.

Plans have also been put in place for the management and disbursement of funds through the Waste Management Bureau that will be fully operationalised this year.

The Recycling and Economic Development Initiative of South Africa (REDISA) Waste Tyre Management Plan, launched in 2012, received international acknowledgement when it was named runner-up in the Circular Economy Governments, Cities and Regions Award at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January.

The REDISA plan defines a unique approach to waste stream management that is a world first, developed in South Africa and making the local tyre industry a national and world leader in recycling.

It supports and promotes tyre recycling, providing the collection and depot infrastructure required to collect waste tyres from across the country and deliver them to approved recyclers.

By February 2016, 226 small businesses and 3 112 jobs had been created through the REDISA Waste Tyre Management Plan. In addition, 20 935 tonnes of waste tyres had been collected and 12 728 tonnes processed.

### **No time to waste**

When it comes to waste that cannot be recycled, the DEA has finalised a Hazardous Waste Roadmap that deals with the import, storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste, including medical waste.

"In the past financial year, we issued 53 remediation orders for contaminated sites," said Minister Molewa, adding that the department was close to eradicating a backlog of 341 unlawful municipal landfill sites.

## **"Based on the Cabinet decision, South Africa will not be applying for the opening of a legal, international commercial trade in rhino horn."**

While the chemicals sector remains an important contributor to the economy, the unmanaged release of hazardous chemicals into the environment cannot be taken lightly.

To curb the illegal trafficking of controlled and banned chemical substances, Minister Molewa said the department has worked with SARS and trained 170 inspectors from SARS and the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Chemicals. These inspectors are based at various ports of entry to South Africa.

### **Air pollution in the spotlight**

One of the department's important mandates is to ensure that South Africa's air quality is in line with internationally accepted standards. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been established to ensure full industry compliance while not hindering sustainable economic growth.

There is general compliance at a national level, with the exception of the Vaal (Zamdela and Sebokeng), Highveld (Emalahleni and Secunda) areas, as well as the emerging Waterberg-Bojanala area.

"To address challenges in these areas, the department is leading a Source Apportionment Study to assess different contributors to the air pollution levels. We have also initiated a Health Study in the Highveld area to assess the impact of pollution on human health," said Minister Molewa.

In the past financial year, the South African Atmospheric Emission Licensing and Inventory Portal was established. This innovation is a one-stop web-based portal to apply for licences and report for compliance.

This portal will go a long way in reducing the reporting burden on industries' side and ensuring the

necessary information to assess and enforce compliance.

The South African Weather Service, which is an agency of the department, hosts the South African Air Quality Information System. It has increased the number of stations reporting to the system to 143. This includes both government and privately-owned stations.

### **Curbing rhino poaching**

By the end of 2015, rhino poaching figures had stabilised somewhat, the Minister said.

She attributed this preliminary success to the Integrated Strategic Management Approach involving the various relevant government departments, private sector partners and stakeholders, the local and international donor community, as well as South Africans from all walks of life.

The Minister said this year, the DEA planned to conduct anti-poaching awareness campaigns in a number of East Asian countries.

She added that Cabinet had appointed an Inter-Ministerial Committee to provide guidance relating to the possibility of proposing a legal, regulated, commercial international trade in rhino horn to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17).

"Based on the Cabinet decision, South Africa will not be applying for the opening of a legal, international commercial trade in rhino horn at this coming CITES COP17 which will be hosted in South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016."

The Minister said COP17 would be preceded by a high-level Ministerial meeting to discuss the role of CITES in advancing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

"A total of R15.2 million has been allocated to enhance South Africa's legacy programme of the 17th COP to CITES and beyond. This includes the establishment of the Youth and Conservation Programme that will ensure the mobilisation and formal integration of the youth in conservation and the biodiversity economy initiatives," she added.

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

By Lavinia Engelbrecht



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

History was made on 22 April 2016, when South Africa became one of 172 countries to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change, as this was the highest number of parties to sign such an agreement in one day. Minister of Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, signed the Paris Agreement on behalf of South Africa at the UN headquarters in New York.

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Photo credit:** United Nations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Graphic by World Resources Institute.

# Cabinet approves DG's extension & COO appointment

By Gaopalelwe Moroane  
Photos by Gomolemo Mokete

**O**n 29 April 2016, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa welcomed Cabinet's decision to appoint Ms Limpho Makotoko as the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). She also welcomed the extension of Mrs Nosipho Ngcaba's contract as DEA's Director-General (DG).

"These appointments show the seriousness with which the Department views its transformation imperatives, as the DEA has a target to achieve 50% representation of women in the organisation," said Minister Molewa.

In her 10-year tenure at the Department, Mrs Ngcaba received the Gold Award as the Top Performing Head of Department, at the inaugural Batho Pele Excellence awards in 2013. She won this award again in 2015.

"Under the leadership of Mrs Nosipho Ngcaba, the Department of Environmental Affairs has consistently received clean and unqualified audits and managed to fulfil its service delivery mandate, without compromising the key principles of good governance," said Minister Molewa.

## Chief Operating Officer: Ms Limpho Makotoko

Ms Makotoko has been in the employ of DEA since 2009. She previously filled the position of Chief Director of Business Performance and Strategic Monitoring. Ms Makotoko shares with EQ more about herself and thoughts on her recent appointment.



**Above:** The new Chief Operating Officer of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Limpho Makotoko and the Director-General Mrs Nosipho Ngcaba represent a step towards transformation as DEA strives towards a target of 50% representation of women.

### What do you enjoy most about working for the Department of Environmental Affairs?

I must admit it's a challenging environment. DEA has a very high performance culture and one is always challenged to do better. This is probably because I like being busy. At DEA I am constantly being pushed beyond my limits. Also working with a team that is brilliant and is always inquisitive about how things are done and why they are being done has kept me on my toes and I love that.

### Who in the public sector leadership do you look up to?

I have to say our Director-General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba. She is very focussed and driven. She's very much like a mother who always pushes her children to achieve bigger things yet in the same light remembers that a child needs to be taken care of. Another thing that I admire about her is her story about how she worked her way up from junior levels into senior management positions in the department.

### What advice would you give to a young person who has ambitions to be in a leadership position like you?

I would say take your education seriously. Go to school and master your craft. Be the change you want to see in the world and remember that hard work always pays off.

#### Quick facts

**Home town:** Leribe in Hlotse, Lesotho

**Role model:** My grandmother

**Favourite quote or motto:** "If you don't like something change it, if you can't change it, change your attitude." – Maya Angelou

**I am currently reading:** Linda Kaplan: Grit to Great

**I am currently listening to:** Anything my children are listening to.



### About the contributor: Gaopalelwe Moroane

Gaopalelwe Moroane is a Senior Communication Officer under the sub-directorate, Editorial Services in the Department of Environmental Affairs. Prior to working for DEA 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.





# 17 June 2016 World Day to Combat Desertification



## Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People

Every year on 17 June, the Department of Environmental Affairs joins the rest of the world in celebrating World Day to Combat Desertification (WCD). This year's slogan is, "Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People". The 2016 WCD advocates for the importance of inclusive cooperation to restore and rehabilitate degraded land and contribute towards achieving overall Sustainable Development Goals.

"Despite the beautiful and abundant natural resources we have in South Africa, ours is a relatively dry country, and extremely prone to desertification. This is a common problem on the African continent," Minister of Environmental Affairs Mrs Edna Molewa speaking at the Inter-Ministerial site visit and public awareness event on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought in Sterkspruit, Eastern Cape.

Statistics indicate that 91% of South Africa falls within the category of drylands, making it susceptible to desertification. Desertification, land degradation and drought are intricately linked to food and water insecurity, poverty, urbanisation, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

Through the Working for Land programme, the Department of Environmental Affairs is clearing away alien invasive plants, rehabilitating land, and cleaning, maintaining and refurbishing our towns, townships and rural areas. We are all responsible for land conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.

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# UNCCD Envoy pays a courtesy visit to the Director-General

By Muleso Kharika  
Photos by Kennedy Msibi



**Above:** Chief Director: Protected Areas Systems Management, Ms Skumsa Mancotywa, Acting Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning and Management, Mr Muleso Kharika, Director-General, Ms Nosipho Ngcaba, UNCCD Secretariat, Mr Melchaide Buruku; Deputy Director: UNCCD Implementation, Ms Thizwilondi Rambau, Deputy Director General: Biodiversity and Conservation, Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi.

The Director-General (DG) of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Nosipho Ngcaba held a bilateral meeting with the Head of Liaison for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) based at the UN Headquarters in New York, Mr Melchiade Bukuru, Mr Bukuru's visit followed a meeting the two held in Ankara, Turkey during the twelfth session of the Conference of Parties (COP12) in October last year.

In his opening remarks, Mr Bukuru expressed gratitude to the Government of South Africa for the leadership being played in the UNCCD. Among many examples, he cited South Africa's exemplary role during its tenure as Chair of the African Group for the biennium 2015-2016 which included hosting the Africa Regional Preparatory meeting to the COP12 of the UNCCD resulting in Africa being recognised by the global community as the most prepared and organized region at

COP12. Mr Bukuru also cited South Africa's voluntary contributions made to the UNCCD in recent years over and above its timeous payment of annual contributions as a demonstration of the country's commitment to the Convention.

In her welcoming remarks, the DG emphasised the importance of the UNCCD not only to South Africa but to the African continent as the most affected region. She highlighted a number of country driven UNCCD



## About the contributor: Muleso Kharika

Mr Muleso Kharika is Acting Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning Management. His functions also encompass the coordination of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

related initiatives that South Africa is implementing through funding from its national fiscus as well as some that are funded through partnerships. Ms Ngcaba informed Mr Bukuru that in order to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD in South Africa in a holistic and integrated manner, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa was already working together with her counterparts from Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Public Works, Rural Development and Land Reform, Labour, and Mineral Resources among others. Ms Ngcaba observed that the challenge of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) is multifaceted and emphasized the need for up-scaling sustainable land management (SLM) best practices to the SADC sub-region, the entire African region while strengthening North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation.

Among many views and ideas exchanged between the DG and the visiting envoy were methodological issues relating to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), status of assessed contributions to the core budget of the Convention, progress with respect to the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as administrative and other procedural matters of mutual interest.

Their technical discussions revolved around the opportunities presented by the adoption of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target by the 2015 UN General Assembly as part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These discussions also included the report by the UNCCD Secretariat on the overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties; proposals in respect of guidelines and reporting tools for progress and performance indicators; improvements needed to the procedures for communication of information dissemination as well as the quality and formats of reports.

Also discussed between the DG and Mr Bukuru were issues relating to the accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific and Knowledge Brokering Portal and

### **“Their technical discussions revolved around the opportunities presented by the adoption of the Land Degradation Neutrality”**

the Capacity Building Marketplace; the Land Degradation Neutrality target-setting exercise and pilot projects as well as progress relating to the work/initial findings of the Inter-governmental Working Group (IWG) on the future strategic framework of the Convention.

The DG and the UNCCD visiting envoy further exchanged ideas about the centrality of the UNCCD highlighting a number of advantages that Africa and the global community stand to gain by effectively implementing the UNCCD at all levels. Ms Ngcaba and Mr Bukuru were of the same mind and unwavering in their convictions that implementing the UNCCD in a holistic and integrated manner given the advent of the LDN target, affected country Parties stands to address not only issues relating to the degradation of ecosystems and landscapes but those relating to food security, climate change, forced migration, natural disasters like drought and floods, poverty and livelihoods among many others.

In his farewell remarks, Mr Bukuru, on behalf of the Executive Secretary congratulated South Africa for its election into the COP12 Bureau represented by Ms Skumsa Mancotywa alongside Mr Jean Ilunga-Muneng of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as mandated by the African Region. Mr Bukuru also thanked South Africa for its leadership within the UNCCD fraternity and for always ensuring that the sticky issues which sometimes come up under negotiations during COP sessions, result in positive outcomes and lasting solutions.

In her closing remarks, Ms Ngcaba extended appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the kind words to the people and Government of South Africa and the confidence shown hitherto. She further thanked Mr Bukuru for his support to the Africa Region, which she said was an approach that will undoubtedly advance the objectives of the Convention globally and particularly in Africa as the most affected region. She acknowledged the daunting task that South Africa and the DRC carries for Africa in the UNCCD COP12 Bureau and assured that working closely together with the entire African Group and other elected Bureau members from the other regions in the context of implementing the recently adopted SDGs, in particular the LDN target, the UNCCD will assume its rightful role in addressing SDGs related issues.



**Above:** Ms Nosipho Ngcaba welcomes Mr Melchiade Bukuru to Environment House.



# GO WILD FOR LIFE

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

## JUNE IS ENVIRONMENT MONTH

- 5 June | World Environment Day
- 8 June | World Oceans Day
- 17 June | World Day to Combat Desertification



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# DG wins Lifetime Achievement Award

By Sivuyile Ngaba



The Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs Mrs Nospicho Ngcaba has been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement award from the Eco-Logic awards.

The Eco-Logic awards identify individuals, organisations and communities that positively contribute towards a sustainable world - and encourage consumers to purchase their products and services.

Ms Ngcaba is a deeply values-driven leader. She has given meaning and content to the principles of Batho Pele. She has created a value system and matching behaviours for all levels of the management structure in her Department. She embodies the values of Ubuntu, and excels in harnessing the strengths of those with whom she works.

Ms Ngcaba started her environmental career in the award-winning Working for Water programme in 1996, notably consolidating the work of the programme in the Eastern Cape, where she was the Regional Programme Leader. She then moved to head up environmental management in the Eastern Cape provincial government, before joining the Department of Environmental Affairs as Chief Director, to lead the Social Responsibility and Protection Programmes of the Department. She

then became the Chief Operation Officer for the Department, before her appointment as Director-General.

Under her watch has been the strong development of the Expanded Public Works Programmes in the Environment Sector, through which close on 90,000 previously unemployed people are being trained and given meaningful jobs each year. There have been extraordinary successes in biodiversity and conservation; the work of the Oceans and Coast Branch; the building up of the focus on chemicals and waste; and, of course, the climate change focus (where, together with Minister

Molewa and her colleagues, the Director-General has ensured that South Africa has become a leading international force). Her talent for prioritising foci, for pragmatic and reasoned interventions, and inspiring leadership, must be acknowledged.

Ms Ngcaba is the youngest person to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award. She has packed into the past twenty years as an environmental leader what very few achieve in their lifetimes. What is reassuring is that there should be another twenty years of passion and performance to take environmental conservation and management to even greater heights.



**Above:** Mrs Nospicho Ngcaba shines at the Glamourously Green Gala Award Event in Cape Town where she collected a Lifetime Achievement award as an environmental manager. On her right is the Deputy Director-General: Environmental Programmes Dr Guy Preston and the Deputy Director-General Oceans & Coasts Dr Monde Mayekiso (left).



## About the contributor: Mr Sivuyile Ngaba

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

# GO WILD FOR LIFE

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In 2015, poachers in South Africa killed at least **1 175** rhino.



**THERE ARE FIVE RHINO SPECIES THE:**

*Black Rhino, White Rhino, Greater One-horned Rhino, Sumatran Rhino and the Javan Rhino.*



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## The Black and White Rhino:

There is an estimate of between **19,682 and 21,077** white rhino in the world and an estimate of between **5,042 and 5,455** black rhino in the world.

South Africa is home to more than 80% of the world's rhino population, and 93% of Africa's rhino.

## The Elephant:

South Africa boasts a prodigious elephant population within its national parks. For a number of reasons the famous Kruger National Park, an expansive **19,633** square kilometers (**7,580 sq. mi**), is the largest target in southern Africa and most of the statistics available focus on this region.

Over the years South Africa has culled for a variety of reasons, but ended this practice in 1994. At that time South Africa had an estimated population of nearly **8,000** elephants and had culled **7,325** elephants between 1980 and 1994. During that same period **1,259** elephants had been translocated out of Kruger National Park to protected areas, zoos, or other regions within the country or to other countries such as Namibia.

## The Black Mambas:

The Black Mambas are a **26-member** ranger group dominated by **25 females** and **1 male**. They are based in Timbavati Game Reserve, west of the Kruger National Park. The Black Mambas protect our planet's wildlife in South Africa. Last year the group were named Champions of the Earth by the United Nations. The Champions of the Earth Award is the United Nations highest environmental honour given to visionary people and organisations all over the world that exemplify leadership and advocate action on sustainable development.

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## Leadership Profile:

# Ms Mishelle Govender

## Chief Director: Hazardous Waste Management and Licensing

By Zibuse Ndlovu

A good leader is one who is passionate about what they do and isn't afraid of working alongside their colleagues to achieve a common goal. Zibuse Ndlovu spoke to Ms Mishelle Govender, Chief Director: Hazardous Waste Management and Licensing, one of the Department's leaders who is very passionate about empowering others with knowledge. She believes that spreading and building experience is one of the traits of a good leader.

### What, in your opinion, makes a good leader?

A good leader is one who lets their work and achievements speak for themselves. A person who has the ability to listen. A good leader does not need to know everything but he/she must be able to inspire those around them to give off their best at all times.

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

The most challenging is making sure that the public know and understand our commitment to them in terms of making their lives better through

protection of the environment. The most rewarding is the sense of accomplishment one feels when a task or project is completed and the benefits thereof can be seen in the public domain.

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

I have set many goals in my life and have managed to achieve most of them. I don't think that I can single out any one of these as being my greatest because achieving each one of my goals has moulded me into the person I am. What I do know is that I will continue to strive to be the best person that I can be and maybe one day one of those achievements may turn out to be my greatest.

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

Take more chances. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, but also make sure that you learn from those mistakes as it is all part of learning and growing up.

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

Going green to me means doing something small every day that would help protect our environment for us to enjoy it for longer. My entire house has LED lighting. Whenever, I have extra food, groceries, clothes, and extra appliances, I ensure that it is given away to people within my district who will be able to use it instead of it ending up in the garbage. I do not have any

air conditioners in my house. I do not water my garden using my sprinklers but use wash water instead.

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

- Be honest, even if the results are not in your favour.
- Never be afraid to say what you believe.
- Respect is earned.

## Quick facts

**Home town:** Verulam, KwaZulu-Natal.

**Role model:** I have too many to mention. However, people who are dedicated, have a high level of passion for what they do and who have high morals are role models for me.

**Favourite quote/motto:** Learn one, Do one, Teach one. What this basically means is that one must learn to do something in the field that they are in. Once they have mastered that activity, they must teach another person to do that activity. In this way we share knowledge and build experience in every sector, or in this case, the environment sector.

**Hobbies:** Reading and writing poetry.

**I am currently reading:** Fact Finder History.

**I am currently listening to:** REO Speed wagon, ACDC and Pit Bull.





# Deputy Minister hands over Eco-desks

By Teko Ramaidi



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Ms Barbara Thomson handed over 60 desks, school uniform and 1 185 school bags with stationery to the learners of Theu-Theu Primary School in Mpumalanga. This was in response to the school Principal, Mr Masondo's plea for school desks and uniforms for learners from poor backgrounds.

The Deputy Minister highlighted the importance of education and also explained how education can change the lives of young people. It is important for the learners to study in a conducive environment where their learning experience won't be disturbed. That is why the Department saw a need to visit the Theu-Theu Primary School and community to address their needs.

The school desks are made out of invasive alien plants. These are plants that are brought into an ecosystem which is not their natural habitat. The Deputy Minister said that through the Eco-furniture programme, the

Department has been able to provide employment to many unemployed youth in the country. She encouraged community members to take care of their schools and never be negligent like other communities around the country when they experience lack of public service delivery.

"Although every citizen of this country has a right to protest and demand public services from the Government, this doesn't give anyone the right to burn public institutions," she said.

The Deputy Minister shed light on some of the achievements recorded by the department and government since 1994.

She noted that government continues to provide social grants to both the elderly and young children and that there is an increased access to running water and electricity to millions of people. Over 3 million RDP houses have been built for disadvantaged communities.

Mr Masondo thanked the Deputy Minister for her positive feedback within such as short period of time. Mr Masondo had lodged a plea with the department for eco-desks and school uniforms on 16 October 2015 and received a response within 4 days, on 20 October 2015.

"I never thought I would receive a response in such a short period of time, this really shows that the department cares," said Mr Masondo after receiving the desks, school uniforms and bags from the Deputy Minister.

Among the dignitaries who graced the event was the Deputy Minister of Department of Transport, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga. Her presentation was centred around career opportunities within the Transport sector and also various bursary programmes that her Department offers for the disadvantaged youth. She encouraged all learners to take their studies seriously and make use of these bursaries to better their lives.



## About the contributor: Teko Ramaidi

Mr Teko Ramaidi is an Assistant Director: Internal Communications and Events in the Department of Environment Affairs. He has extensive experience in internal communication, corporate branding and exhibitions, events management and photography. He has worked for numerous government departments.

# Battle against rhino poaching slowly being won, says Minister Molewa

By Eleanor Momberg

South Africa cannot yet declare victory in the war against rhino poaching, but can claim recognition for the continued downward trend in poaching, and the increased success in the conviction of those arrested for poaching.

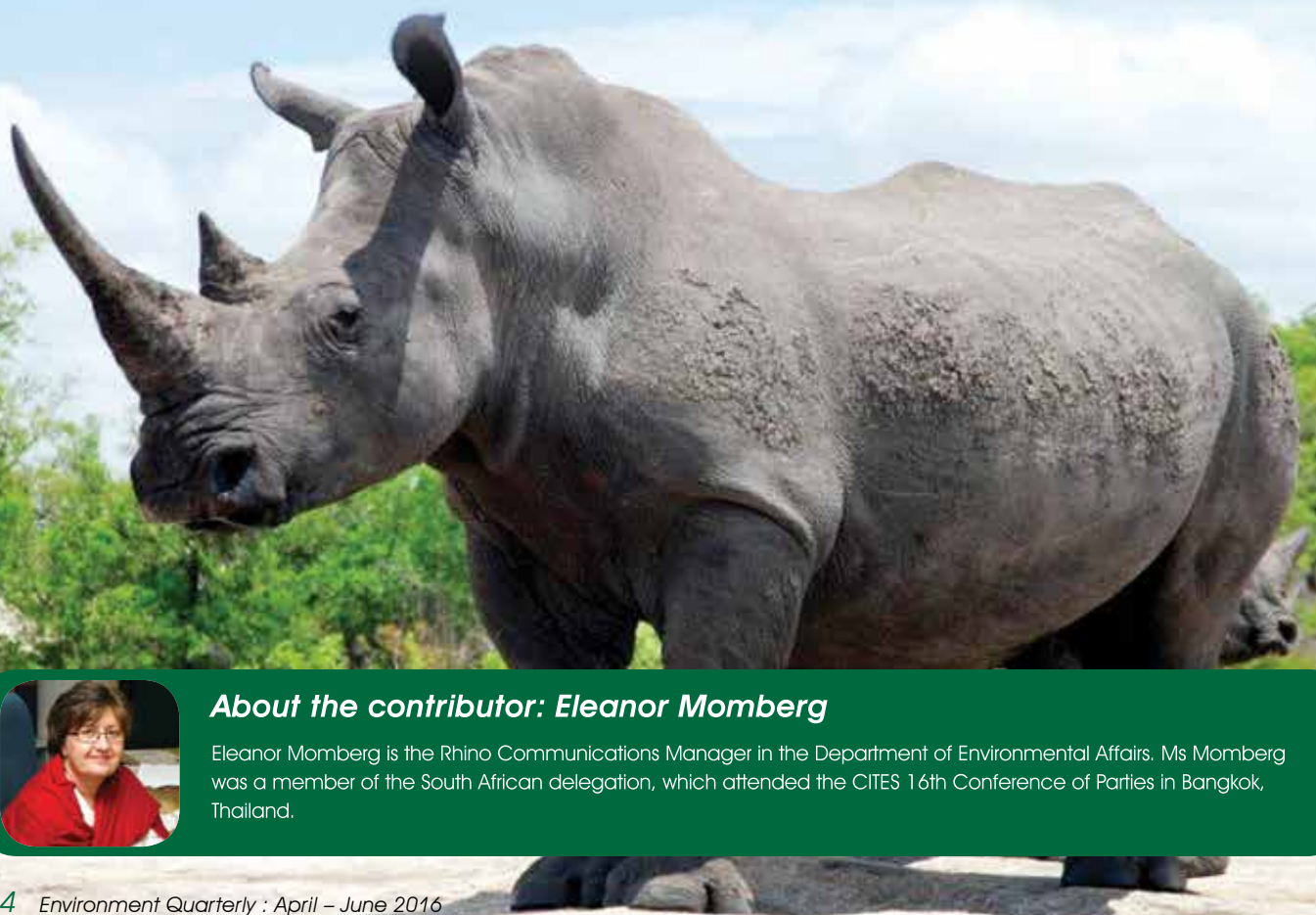
So said the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, during a briefing by members of the Security Cluster in May 2016, during which South Africans were updated on the latest developments related to the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Management Approach to fight rhino poaching.

This was the second report back in 2016 by the collective in recognition of the seriousness of the issues being dealt with. Tackling rhino poaching necessitates a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral intervention involving various sectors, including South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and SA Police Service (SAPS), who are providing invaluable support to us in the Kruger National Park (KNP). Minister Molewa was joined at the briefing by the Chair of the Security Cluster and Defence and Military Veterans Minister, Ms Nosiviwe Maphisa-Nqakula, the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services,

Advocate Michael Masutha, the national head of the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI or Hawks), Lieutenant-General Mthandazo Ntlembeza.

Minister Molewa pointed out that since the first briefing for 2016 in January, the implementation of the ISMA has enabled those addressing this scourge to progress from stabilisation to a downward trend in the number of rhinos poached.

This is despite the increase in poaching activities in the Kruger National Park alone where, in the first four months



## About the contributor: Eleanor Momberg

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

of 2016, the number of poaching activities or incursions in the Park has increased by a staggering 28% -- from 808 in 2015 to 1 038 between 1 January and 30 April 2016.

The number of poached rhino in the Kruger National Park for the same period decreased from 302 to 232 – a decrease of 23% brought about by the combined effort of all parties involved. In the first four months of 2016, 363 rhino were poached countrywide, down from 404 in the same period last year.

Efforts to apprehend suspected poachers have been stepped up, resulting in the arrest of 206 alleged poachers between 1 January and 30 April 2016.

under investigation, 4 cases on the court roll and 11 major investigations underway.

In terms of rhino prosecutions, 49 cases involving 103 accused, were finalised in the 2015/16 financial year. A total of 80 of these accused were convicted, resulting in a conviction rate of 78%.

“We are not claiming victory, but we are claiming success that account for the downward trend,” the Minister said.

The Intensive Protection Zone concept being utilised in the Kruger National Park is being expanded to other national parks, provinces and private reserves, while the use of technology by the combined forces has ensured more proactive success.

disciplinary border officials since January. This is in addition to the 1 047 trained by the Environmental Management Inspectorate (Green Scorpions) on the Illicit International Cross Border Movement of Endangered Species last year.

### Managing rhino populations

Briefing the media on the management of rhino populations, the Minister said that the translocation programme, which is being used as a tool to enhance the safety and population management of rhino, continued in March 2016. Rhinos are being translocated to well-selected locations that meet strict suitability criteria. Lessons learnt from an evaluation of internal translocations in the Park, supported by the Peace



Protecting rhino from poachers has become part of the South African Government’s National Development plan, as well as its environmental assets.



The trailers will assist when urgent forensic sample results are required for bail hearings involving suspected poachers.

“These successes are the result of the improved collaboration within the Security Cluster, as well as working with communities and non-governmental organisations. The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) with their focus on dismantling complex organised crime enterprises remain committed to addressing the national and transnational wildlife trafficking threat through an integrated approach to prevent, combat and investigate wildlife trafficking,” said Minister Molewa. The Hawks presently have 6 projects

Among the technologies being utilised are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV’s), night vision equipment, early warning and detection, as well as tracking equipment.

“We appreciate the contribution by SARS, SANParks and the SAPS, in enhancing the K9 capabilities within the Kruger National Park, which is proving to be a formidable threat to the poachers,” said Minister Molewa. Detection capacity at ports of entry and exit has been improved through the training of another 712 multi-

Parks Foundation, are to be used to plan future translocations.

Through the Rhino Protection Programme, being implemented with the Peace Parks Foundation, the government continues to provide crucial support to the rescue, care and rehabilitation of rhino orphans. There are currently 20 orphans under the care of Kruger National Park, with 10 being cared for by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The reintroduction of these young rhinos is vital to re-establishing the rhino populations affected by poaching.

On the policy and legislative front, amendments to the Norms and Standards for the Marking of Rhinoceros and Rhinoceros Horn, and the Hunting of Rhinoceros for Trophy Hunting Purposes are being finalised. This is particularly important in addressing the movement and safekeeping of rhino horns and the management of the hunting of rhino. In the longer term, work is being done to operationalise the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy.

The NBES, which is at the heart of promoting guardianship of wildlife within all communities, can contribute to the growth of the GDP contribution of the wildlife and bio-prospecting sectors while ensuring effective transformation of these sectors.

“By creating real opportunities for our people in the conservation and wildlife management space, they will be less vulnerable to exploitation by poachers,” she said.

A total of 107 community projects adjacent to parks have been identified for socio-economic development support, and the transfer of donated animals. A total of 60 projects are either completed or under implementation, while 47 are at various stages of planning.

Minister Molewa pointed out that the Department was continuing to collaborate strategically with rhino range and consumer states.

The second phase of a Vietnamese Youth Education Project, implemented in partnership with Peace Parks Foundation and Wilderness Foundation was launched in schools throughout Ho Chi Minh City in May 2016. The campaign aims to educate and engage the youth and empower them as ambassadors for rhino protection and conservation. Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of Biodiversity Conservation and Management between South Africa and Mozambique a number of action plans have been implemented resulting in an “overall decrease in

poaching from our neighbour” Later this year South Africa will host the 17th Conference of Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

**“A total of 107 community projects adjacent to parks have been identified for socio-economic development support, and the transfer of donated animals. A total of 60 projects are either completed or under implementation, while 47 are at various stages of planning.”**

During the two week COP, 175 documents will be considered, including 60 proposals to amend the lists of species subject to CITES trade controls. This includes proposals submitted by South Africa.

In April 2016, Cabinet approved the recommendations made by the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) appointed by it to provide guidance relating to the possibility of proposing a legal, regulated, commercial international trade in rhino horn to CITES COP17. The IMC had earlier received a report and recommendations from the Committee of Inquiry into the feasibility, or not, of a legal rhino trade.

It had been agreed that South Africa will not be applying for the opening of a legal, international commercial trade in rhino horn at CITES COP17.

Cabinet considered four possible options based on different solutions to challenges of demand (demand reduction versus trade) and funding (donor funds, tourism levies, trade) and noted that any potential mechanism to legalise international trade in rhino horn would have to ensure not only a reduction in poaching and the risk of extinction, but also benefit the conservation of free-ranging rhino. It

would have to ensure secure financing for the expansion of rhino range; address threats in rhino range states and ensure the establishment of governance structures that reduce corruption. In addition, this mechanism would have to ensure that marginalised communities neighbouring conservation areas received tangible and sustainable direct and indirect benefits that enhance interest in and protection of live rhino and conservation areas.

Parties attending CITES COP17 will also deliberate on the role of CITES in securing the livelihoods of people living with wildlife and ensuring communities are considered in terms of interventions implemented under the Convention.

The CITES Secretariat recently said a vast array of issues will be discussed, including legal and sustainable wildlife trade, measures to tackle illicit wildlife trafficking, such as fighting corruption, enhanced enforcement, targeted demand reduction and supporting local livelihoods.

“South Africa will demonstrate our commitment to the sustainable utilisation of natural resources in contributing to socio-economic development of poor and rural communities as part of the development agenda of government,” said the Minister about the COP.

Emphasising the Security Cluster’s optimism that 2016 will be the year in which the tide is turned against rhino poaching, the Minister said: We are under no illusions of the challenges ahead, but we are confident that slowly but surely, progress is being made”.

The government has encouraged all South Africans and citizens of the world to be part of its effort and to live the clarion call: “Not on our Watch” by providing information about rhino poaching and wildlife crime in general, raising awareness and continuing with the work being done to ensure rhino are saved for generations to come.

## Alien and invasive species



**Above:** The red-eared slider, also known as the red-eared terrapin, is a semiaquatic turtle belonging to the family Emydidae. It is a subspecies of the pond slider.

**C**ITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is a multilateral treaty (an international agreement to which three or more sovereign states are parties) to protect endangered wild plants (flora) and animals (fauna). It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The text of the Convention was agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., the United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force.

International trade in wildlife makes a substantial contribution to the global economy and human well-being. CITES aims to ensure that no species of wild animal or plant becomes, or remains subject to over-exploitation through international trade. CITES plays an important role in supporting sustainable development by ensuring that trade in wild animals and plants

is legal, sustainable and traceable. The animals and plants protected by CITES are known as CITES-listed species because they are included on lists called CITES Appendices. CITES protects these species from being excessively traded and exploited unsustainably in the wild as their extinction would have irreversible ecological consequences and economic and social effects. CITES regulates international trade in whole animals and plants, and also in their parts, such as the skins of a leopard, the tusks of an elephant or the timber of a Bigleaf mahogany tree, and in their derivatives, such as the essential oil extracted from Brazilian rosewood and the bark powder made from the African cherry tree. This is collectively referred to as the trade in "specimens of species".

CITES regulates trade in listed species through a system of permits. In South Africa, the Department of Environmental Affairs (the CITES Management Authority) and the provincial conservation authorities

are responsible for issuing permits within the jurisdiction of their respective provinces; whilst the Scientific Authority is responsible for assisting in regulating and restricting the trade in CITES-listed specimen, by conducting research in order to determine whether trade of such specimen would not compromise their survival.

Some CITES-listed species (around 1,000) are threatened with extinction that their international trade is generally prohibited for commercial purposes, and these species are listed in CITES Appendix I. These include animals such as tigers, pandas or gorillas, and plants such as some cacti, some aloe species and all South African population of Cycads. Many CITES-listed species from the crocodile and orchid families are no longer threatened with extinction thanks to the collective efforts of the CITES community, and they may now be traded under the strict rules of the CITES universal permit and certificate system.

# Did you know?

CITES species are listed in 3 categories (Appendices) (see below) in according to their current status of conservation in order to protect them from over-exploitation

## APPENDIX I

- Species threatened with extinction, which are or may be affected by trade - Species threatened with extinction, which are or may be affected by trade
- International (commercial) trade in wild-taken specimens is generally prohibited
- 625 animal species and 301 plant species
- Example: cheetah and Cycads

## APPENDIX II

- Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for which trade must be controlled to avoid their becoming so, and species that resemble species already included in appendix II
- International trade is permitted but regulated
- 4685 animal species and 29105 plant species (97% of all listings)
- Hoodia and Nile crocodile

## APPENDIX III

- Species for which a country is asking parties to help with its protection
- International trade is permitted but regulated (less restrictive than appendix ii)
- 147 animal species and 119 plant species
- Colophon Beetle

## What to know about AIS?

Alien invasive species are any organisms (plants, animals, pathogens) that are exotic, non-indigenous or non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. They grow quickly and aggressively, spreading and displacing other native species thus posing a threat to indigenous ecosystem functioning and biodiversity. In South Africa, alien invasive species are regulated through the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) and its associated Alien and Invasive Species (AIS) Regulations, which were gazetted on 1 August 2014 and became law on 1 October 2014.

The AIS Regulations list 559 alien species as invasive, under 4 different categories of invasive species, that must be managed, controlled or eradicated from areas where they may cause harm to the environment as well as those that are prohibited to be brought into South Africa and these can be found at [www.invasives.org.za](http://www.invasives.org.za).

### Four categories of invasive species:

1. **Category 1a:** Invasive species that must be combatted or eradicated. Any form of trade, transportation, importation and propagation is strictly prohibited.
2. **Category 1b:** Invasive species that must be controlled and where possible, removed and destroyed. Any form of trade,

transportation, importation and propagation is strictly prohibited.

3. **Category 2:** Invasive species, or species deemed to be potentially invasive, for which a permit is required to carry out a restricted activity.
4. **Category 3:** Invasive species which may remain in prescribed areas or Provinces. Further planting, propagation or trade is, however, prohibited.



# Did you know?

Certain species are listed in both CITES and Alien and Invasive Species List (AIS) (see examples below).



Scientific Name	Common Name	CITES Appendix	Category in terms of AIS Regulations	Most Common type of trade
<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	Patas Monkey	Appendix II	Category 1a in KwaZulu-Natal, Category 1b elsewhere and Category 2 if bred for export.	Educational Purpose Pet trade Zoo
<i>Oryx dammah</i>	scimitar-horned Oryx	Appendix I	Category 2	Hunting Trophies Live Animals for Game Farming. Zoo
<i>Kobus leche leche</i>	Red Lechwe	Appendix II	Category 2	Hunting Trophies Live animals for Game Farming. Zoo
<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Crab-eating macaque	Appendix II	Category 2	Zoo Medicinal purpose Scientific purpose



Above: *Erythrocebus patas* (Patas Monkey)

Above: *Oryx dammah* (Scimitar-horned Oryx)

Above: *Kobus leche leche* (Red Lechwe)

Certain CITES specimens, often transformed and packaged, are used daily as medicines, food, building materials, cosmetics, clothes or furniture, for example. They include specimens derived from nature (taken from the wild), animals bred in captivity (animals produced and raised in a controlled environment), or plants that have been propagated artificially (reproduction of plants which does not occur naturally).

On the other hand, AIS are used as pets, for gardening, decoration, hunting, furniture, hunting trophies, medicinal purposes by other communities, game farming etc.

### What to remember

If you want to import any of the species that are listed as both CITES and AIS, you must obtain relevant permits issued in terms of both CITES and AIS Regulations.

### AIS Permits information: Category 2 invasive species

Permits are required to carry out restricted activities with Category 2 listed invasive species.

#### Download permit applications from:

- [https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/forms/permitapplication\\_restrictedactivities\\_alienandlistedinvasivespecies.pdf](https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/forms/permitapplication_restrictedactivities_alienandlistedinvasivespecies.pdf)
- <http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation/permit-application>

#### Cost to be paid when applying for a permit:

- Importing into the country - R200
- All restricted activities - R100
- Renewal of permit - R50
- Appeals - R50

### Permit applications can be submitted through the following methods:

**By Hand Delivery** – Issuing Authority: Biosecurity Directorate; 14 Loop Street (4th Floor); Department of Environmental Affairs; Cape Town; 8001.

**By Post** – Issuing Authority: Biosecurity Directorate; Private Bag X 4390; Department of Environmental Affairs; Cape Town; 8000

**By Email** –  
 AISpermits@environment.gov.za  
 By Fax – 086 604 4080  
 Contact details – Tel: 021 441 2812/2748/2717/2726

# iSimangaliso joins National Environmental Monitors programme

By iSimangaliso



**From left:** iSimangaliso's Environmental Monitors were among those visited during their field ranger training at the Southern African Wildlife College by HRH Prince Harry when the British royal undertook a personal fact-finding mission on the state of rhino poaching in Southern Africa last year. **Above right:** One of iSimangaliso's new Environmental Monitors, Thembelihle Mkhwanazi, is flanked by her mentors (left) Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Field Ranger: Mfabeni, Clive Khanyile and (right) Acting Sergeant: Mfabeni, Michael Nyandeni.

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park recently welcomed thirty young men and women into its conservation ranks as Environmental Monitors (EMs). Deployed throughout the World Heritage Site at key field ranger stations, this injection of more feet on the ground adds to the Park's thin green line of protection and law enforcement.

The initiative is being implemented by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Their Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme has deployed 1 659 EMs – 612 of whom are women – throughout the country since its inception in 2013. Monitors are trained as armed or unarmed field rangers mostly through the Southern African Wildlife College in Hoedspruit, Limpopo. Further training, mostly non-accredited, is provided by various host institutions both in the public and private sector.

Key objectives of the DEA programme are:

- Provision of additional support for conservation corps through patrolling and monitoring.
- Provision of capacity to conservation communities to enhance their mandate for biodiversity and ecosystems services.

According to the Department of Environmental Affairs' Deputy Director: National Programmes, Pitso Mojapelo, reports show that through the deployment of EMs, rhino poaching has decreased by an estimated 50% in private host institutions.

The efforts of the Environmental Monitors have been recognised

and appreciated nationally and internationally.

The programme won the Expanded Public Works Programme Kamoso Award for Best National Programme in 2014, and won two awards in 2015 - the King of Monaco Best Conservation Programme as well as the United Nations Environment Programme – Champions of the Earth Award.

**“They are also ambassadors for the real value of conserving and optimising jewels like the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.”**

Dr Guy Preston, Deputy Director-General: Environmental Programmes at the Department of Environmental Affairs, says, “This programme integrates many of the issues that Minister Edna Molewa has tasked us to do. The Environmental Monitors programme combines the need for the protection of our biodiversity in general (acknowledging the very strong focus on combatting the poaching of black and white rhinos) with the need for employment and empowerment in rural communities.

Furthermore, the EMs are the eyes and minds that can help to address

multiple threats to the environment, including invasive alien species, wetland degradation, unwanted wild fires, soil erosion, path degradation, dangers posed by fencing breaches, and other impacts.

They are also ambassadors for the real value of conserving and optimising jewels like the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. This partnership, where the iSimangaliso Authority has provided the management, training and equipping of the EMs, is a significant strengthening of the value of conservation.”

Applicants hoping to join iSimangaliso's environmental monitor intake were put through strenuous physical tests to ensure that they had the required fitness levels and stamina to undertake work in the field under extreme weather conditions.

iSimangaliso CEO Andrew Zaloumis says, “An additional thirty pairs of boots on the ground working with seasoned Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife field rangers has significantly bolstered the protection of iSimangaliso's rare and endangered species. Our trainee cadets are a valuable asset and we appreciate being part of the Department of Environmental Affairs Programme.”



# THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH AN AFRICAN LENS



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## “ CSIR ZOOMS IN

The CSIR is developing Africa's first Earth System model that would make input into the sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The CSIR has taken up the enormous task of zooming into the development of a global climate circulation model to project African climate change reliably. This model will deliver more reliable and accurate climate projections that will enable the people of Africa to be better prepared in dealing with the impacts of drought and floods.

Only 30 of these models exist in the world and this will be the only one developed through an African lens because African and southern hemisphere processes deserves the same attention as the northern hemisphere processes.



**For more information:**  
Prof Francois Engelbrecht  
[FEngelbrecht@csir.co.za](mailto:FEngelbrecht@csir.co.za)

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# CSIR model to provide support to municipalities for household waste recycling

By Anton Nahman



Recycling of waste is seen as an important way of contributing to economic growth, job creation, and a cleaner environment. Separation at source (for example, encouraging households and businesses to separate recyclables from other waste) is critical to the growth of the recycling industry, and therefore

to the development of a 'green economy' in South Africa.

The National Waste Management Strategy (DEA, 2011) sets targets for all metropolitan municipalities, secondary cities and large towns to initiate separation at source programmes. Such programmes require a collection system that is able to keep the separated recyclables

separate from other waste. However, current collection systems are often not conducive to the separate collection of recyclables, and will therefore need to be adapted.

There are a number of different options for



### **About the contributor: Anton Nahman**

Mr Anton Nahman is a senior resource economist in the sustainability science and resource economics group within the CSIR's Green Economy Solutions competence area. He holds an MSc in Environment and Development from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

implementing separation at source (and the accompanying collection system). These range from relatively 'low tech,' inexpensive options (such as using a truck and trailer), to more costly and high tech approaches (e.g. using separate vehicles or split-compartment vehicles).

Each option differs in terms of their financial, social and environmental implications. In turn, the most appropriate option will differ from one municipality to another, depending on the volumes and types of waste that are generated, the current waste collection system, the size of the municipality, and a number of other factors. It may even differ between different areas within the same municipality.

However, working out the costs and benefits of each option can be complicated. Municipalities therefore require decision support in order to identify the most appropriate option in their particular context. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has therefore developed a model to assist municipalities in assessing the costs and benefits of different options for implementing separation at source, based on the unique context of each municipality.

"The tool calculates the costs and benefits of each option, for any municipality in South Africa," explains Anton Nahman, senior environmental economist at the CSIR. "It therefore provides guidance on how separated recyclables should be collected. For example, should the municipality use separate vehicles, split-compartment vehicles, or truck-and-trailers".

The model contains data on each suburb for every municipality in South Africa, thereby allowing for detailed suburb-specific costing of kerbside collection of separated waste. "The model also allows users to override the default data with their own information," added Nahman.

The model also compares these separate collection methods with a 'post-separation' option, in which households do not need to separate their waste at all. Instead, the waste is collected as normal and then separated at a 'dirty' Materials Recovery Facility. The model also takes into account the costs of this type of facility, as opposed to a 'clean' facility which would be used in the case where recyclables are pre-separated by households.

The model is currently being expanded to take into account the social and environmental implications of each option, in addition to financial costs and benefits. Once that is complete, municipalities will be able to identify the most appropriate option from an integrated social, economic and environmental perspective.

It is hoped that this model will also provide useful information to industry associations, who may have partial or full financial and operational responsibility for source separation



Above: Waste can be separated into different categories in order to make its collection efficient.

under the planned new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes.

The tool currently has a spreadsheet-interface, although a more user-friendly web-based interface is being developed. The next step involves rigorous one-on-one testing with a number of case study municipalities, in order to obtain an understanding of, amongst others, the effectiveness of the tool in practice, the accuracy of the results obtained and the sensitivity of results to changes in options selected.

The model currently focuses on the separate collection of recyclable packaging waste from households. Nahman adds that future iterations of the model will incorporate other waste streams (e.g. organics), other waste sources (e.g. industry), other collection options (e.g. incorporating the informal sector in the collection system), and alternative options for processing of waste materials.



# Government unites to combat desertification

By Gaopalelwe Moroane



**Above:** EPWP beneficiaries alongside DEA staff who work at the site in Sterkspruit to combat the effects of drought and desertification.

The Eastern Cape Town of Sterkspruit was a hive of activity as an Inter-ministerial committee, led by Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa did a site visit and public awareness initiative on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) on Friday, 29 April 2016.

The purpose of the site visit and public awareness initiative was to showcase to the public how government is working together to combat land degradation, desertification and drought. Speaking during the address, Minister Molewa said, "Our visit here today is but one of the multiple interventions we are rolling out to ensure that this country's food and water security is not threatened by the changing weather."

Minister Molewa was joined by Minister of Public Works Minister, Mr Thulas Nxesi and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana.

The Ministers visited a pilot land rehabilitation project funded by the Department of Environmental



**Above:** MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Mr Sakhumzi Somyo, Minister of Environmental Affairs Mrs Edna Molewa and Minister of Public Works Mr Thulas Nxesi address the audience during an inter-ministerial visit in Sterkspruit in the Eastern Cape.

Affairs' Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme (EPIP) to the tune of R21 million between 2011 and 2016 over two phases. The project is implemented through the labour intensive Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), and employs 158 local people (93 were women, 72 youth, and 4 were people living with disability).

Minister Nxesi addressed the job opportunities that these projects bring.

"There is annual demand for more investments and more jobs that need to be created and therefore our collective efforts with the Department

of Environmental Affairs, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry and Rural Development and Land reform, working with our Provinces, will ensure that we succeed."

A total of 10 such projects have been started up in the country through the Working for Land Programme and R108 million.

"These programmes have sustained and continue to sustain a large number of households who would have otherwise been suffering due to poverty and unemployment," said Minister Molewa.

Minister Molewa went on to emphasise the importance of communities working together with government to ensure that desertification and drought are combatted.

"We are here to work with you. I would like to emphasise that we are all responsible for land conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. Working together we can do more, success in this regard is in our hands."

# DEA launches green skills research project

By Veronica Mahlaba, Beatrice Makgwale and Carina Malherbe

In partnership with the National Environmental Skills Planning Forum, the Department of Environmental Affairs launched the Green Skills research project at the University of the Witwatersrand on 21 April 2016. The Green Skills research project will build the capacity of the skills system to pro-actively and strategically produce required skills for the green economy. The Green Skills project is one of the research projects funded through the Green Fund through the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Director: Sector Education, Training and Development and National Environmental Skills Planning Forum Chairperson, Mr Thomas Mathiba stated that the Department is working with Rhodes University; Environmental Learning Research Centre, University of Witwatersrand; Centre for Researching Education and Labour, University of Cape Town's African Climate & Development Initiative, the Further Education and Training Institute at the University of the Western Cape, as well as several environmental partners in researching and developing skills for the green economy.

"This launch is therefore pioneering in that it introduces a system-wide capacity building initiative that will build the ability of the national system to strategically produce green skills to enable green business, green jobs and growth, in a coordinated manner," said Mr Mathiba.

In the project the term 'green skills' is used to refer to any skills needed to for sustainable, climate resilient development and the management and care of South Africa's natural resources and biodiversity. It involves a broad range of occupations across a variety of segments of the green economy and even beyond economic activity.



**Above:** Stakeholders from the green skills community attended the launch at the University of the Witwatersrand. In the middle is Mr Thomas Mathiba, Director: Sector Education, Training and Development and Chairperson of the National Environmental Skills Planning Forum.

The Green-Skills research project (2015-2018) will help role-players build the national system to plan for and develop green skills. The area of work are outlined below in Four Work Packages.

New Knowledge Field Development for Green Skills Research – To map out Green Skills research methods currently in use in South Africa, to review them conceptually and to identify possible gaps.

- Green Skills Analysis and Planning Capacity Development - Drawing On the research in Project 1, Develop a course, training materials and a professional development programme for green skills planners and researchers.
- Green Occupations and Unlocking Demand for Green Jobs- Clarify descriptions of green occupations for OFO development and support employers, SETAs, Department of Higher Education and Training, and other parties to better determine green skills needs, at a firm and sector level.

- Green Skills Coordination- Create a platform for broader coordination, communication, thought leadership, and advocacy for green skills inclusion in major systems and mechanisms for skills planning and development.

Participants from the green skills stakeholder community and university PhD candidates came together to share programme outcomes of year 1 (2015-2016), which included academic research case studies. Additionally new initiatives for year 2 (2016-2017) were introduced. Stakeholders were also invited to have comments and inputs in the green skills research project.

Mr Donovan Fullard from the South African National Biodiversity Institute said the discussions were insightful. "As a researcher I learned so much. Seeing what other people are doing out there is amazing. I am much more informed and educated about green skills, as they are needed everywhere. I am currently busy doing research, now I have new information to add on," said Mr Fullard.

## About the contributors: Beatrice Makgwale and Carina Malherbe

**Beatrice Makgwale** is an intern under the Directorate, Editorial Services in the Department of Environmental Affairs. She holds a National Diploma in Journalism from Tshwane University of Technology.

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

# Sailing with the SA Agulhas II

By Tshego Letshwiti

Pictures by Paul Sigutya, Tshego Letshwiti and Tshepiso Rampho



**Above:** Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa with the Captain of the SA Agulhas II Mr Knowledge Bengu.



**Above:** Crew members of the SA Agulhas II prepare to launch the Ski-Monkey into the ocean.

Nothing quite prepares you for the beauty and incredible feeling when sailing aboard the Department of Environmental Affairs' SA Agulhas II. Although it's a working vessel, the comfort, food and fascinating research conducted aboard the ship, offers a truly unforgettable experience.

The vessel sailed for two nights to Cape Town and came to a halt near Mossel Bay. Aboard the ship, which docked in Port Elizabeth after returning from Marion Island, was some members of the Marion 72 expedition team, DEA researchers, officials, scientists from numerous tertiary institutions and some members of the Portfolio Committee of Environmental Affairs (PCEA).

It all started with an eventful Open Day in Port Elizabeth, on 14 May 2016 where members of the public were offered a rare opportunity inside this majestic vessel dedicated to South African music icon Mariam Makeba.

The open day highlighted the Department's work in the ocean and coastal environment, and also

provided a guided tour of the vessel, from its state of the art laboratories, to the Miriam Makeba lounge and the bridge where everyone was given a first-hand experience of how the ship's operations are run. Visitors were also introduced to various career opportunities from a wide range of exhibitors in Oceanography, Biology, and other Marine sectors. The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa, also joined the festivities of the day and emphasised the importance of protecting our marine species and oceans.

"It's important for people to understand the importance of protecting our oceans and biodiversity. People need to know that even plastic from Thohoyandou can end up on Marion Island, and the harmful impact that this creates on the environment," she said.

The state-of-the-art polar research and supply vessel, plays a crucial role in support of South Africa's involvement in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic Islands, carrying out research of national interest in the Southern Ocean.

What's great about this is that science and research has expanded considerably over the past number of years, which is a healthy sign for South Africa.

The vessel was returning from its relief voyage on Marion Island, which offered scientists yet another opportunity to conduct multi-disciplinary shore-based research focusing on population ecology of seals, killer whales, seabirds, ocean utilisation by top predators, geomorphological processes, biotic and the spatial distribution of some species in and around the island, which included the spread and distribution of invasive species.

One of the highlights of being aboard the vessel was witnessing how pictures of the sea floor are taken using an underwater camera known as a Ski-Monkey.

During the trip an emergency drill was conducted to ensure that everyone aboard was prepared. It's at that point when one realises the dangers that our scientists, officials and stakeholders face on daily basis when out at sea.



## About the contributor: Tshego Letshwiti

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

# Saving the African Penguin

By Millicent Makoala



In April 2016, South Africa joined the world in celebrating the World Penguin Day. Penguins around the world are commemorated twice annually with Penguin Awareness Day on the 20th of January followed by World Penguin Day on the 25th of April. These two annual events aim to signify the importance of penguins and the various threats that are impacting on their populations.

There are 18 penguin species in the world. However, the one that is most common to southern Africa is the African penguin. African penguins breed in both South Africa and Namibia and are endemic to southern Africa. The South African breeding colonies are spread from Malgas Island on the west coast to Bird Island near Port Elizabeth in the east, while their non-breeding range extends from Namibia to KwaZulu-Natal. Some vagrant birds have been recorded along the West African coast near Gabon and in the east towards Limpopo River mouth.

Over the last century, the African penguin population has been in rapid decline. In the 1920s the African

penguin was South Africa's most abundant seabird and the shared population between South Africa and Namibia was well over one million breeding pairs.

The African penguin population at present numbers about 25,000 breeding pairs, of which 80% are in South Africa. Various modern day challenges affect African penguin populations: pollution (including oil spills); habitat degradation; food shortage; climate change; human disturbance; diseases; high levels of predation of eggs, chicks and/or adults mainly by gulls and seals. Other predators, particularly at land-based colonies such as Stony Point and Boulders Beach, include mongoose, feral and domestic cats, caracal, domestic dogs and rodents.

In 2010 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) re-assessed the conservation status of the African penguin, which resulted in the up-listing from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'. On account of this up-listing CapeNature and the Department of Environmental Affairs hosted a meeting of a group of

experts from various organisations and management authorities at Arniston (Western Cape) in the same year to develop the first national Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the African penguin. This BMP aimed to unify existing efforts by various authorities in an attempt to halt the decline of this species.

The African Penguin BMP was gazetted in October 2013 and is in its third year of implementation. The plan aimed to halt the decrease of the African penguin in South Africa within two years of implementation of the plan. The plan also envisaged an average of 1% growth per year over five years for African penguins in each of three regions around the South African coast. This would increase the population from a baseline of 21 000 breeding pairs (the value in 2010) to about 35 000 breeding pairs over 50 years. By 2015, population estimates for South Africa were about 19 000 breeding pairs, a decrease of about 10% since 2010, making it unlikely that the vision and the desired state stipulated within the African Penguin BMP will be realised in the time frame originally envisaged.



## About the contributor: Millicent Makoala

Ms Millicent Makoala is a Control Environmental Officer for the Directorate: Oceans Conservation Strategies. She joined DEA in February 2014. She studied Nature Conservation at NMMU and is currently doing her Master's in Environmental Management at Stellenbosch University.



# World PENGUIN Day 2016

The Department of Environmental Affairs joined the rest of the world on 25 April 2016 to celebrate World Penguin Day. The celebrations come in the face of the declining African Penguin population in Southern Africa.

- In the 1920s the African penguin was South Africa's most abundant seabird
- Recent records show that some breeding colonies have experienced about 90% decrease in their population sizes. As a result, the current penguin population is just under 20 000.
- Due to the rapid decline of the African penguin and indications that the current trend will not be reversed despite the conservation efforts, in 2010, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) re-assessed the conservation status of the African penguin, which resulted in the uplisting from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'.
- In October 2013 the African Penguin Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) was gazetted, following stakeholder engagements as well as a public participation process and is therefore in its third year of implementation.

- The aim of BMPs is to ensure the long-term survival of species to which the plan relates.
- This collaborative approach to conserve the African penguin brings together the skills of policy-makers, local experts and managing authorities in sharing knowledge to work in a more effective way to save the declining African penguin population.
- The African penguin is considered to be at serious conservation risk as they are not immune to pressures caused by humans which mainly occur outside of protected areas.
- African penguins like other seabirds, are apex predators and are very sensitive to ecosystem changes; which means that they respond to changes in their environment, including their prey, thereby assisting in providing valuable information on the overall health of our marine ecosystems.



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**environmental affairs**

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## Appropriate amount of security for the release of vehicles, vessels or aircrafts that have been seized



**D**uring 2014, GL Conradie Plant Hire (Pty) Ltd ("GL Conradie") contracted by the owners of a farm called Hazendal Wine Estate ("the Farm") situated in Stellenbosch, commenced levelling and terracing certain sections of the Farm for agricultural purposes. In executing this contracted work, GL Conradie hired a bulldozer from Umhlaba Plant Hire CC ("Umhlaba Plant").

The Director of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, Western Cape Government ("the Director") acting in terms of a warrant, seized the bulldozer which was on reasonable grounds believed to be concerned with, or intended to be used in, the suspected commission of offences in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 ("NEMA"), more specifically commencing a listed activity without authorisation.

In response, Umhlaba Plant applied to the Cape Town High Court ("Court") for the release of the bulldozer in accordance with section 34F(1) of NEMA. The Director was not opposed to the release of the bulldozer as long as Umhlaba Plant provided security

in accordance with section 34F of NEMA: Security for release of vehicles, vessels or aircraft.

Umhlaba Plant contended that section 34F(4) of NEMA found application in this case and that circumstances existed which warranted a deviation from the formula for security set out in section 34F(3) of NEMA.

In trying to determine an appropriate sum to be paid as security, it was noted by the Court that if the bulldozer was not seized, its market value would have been in the range of R750 000 and R1, 2 million. However, after its seizure, the condition of the bulldozer deteriorated as it was neither used nor serviced. Accordingly, its market value decreased to approximately R250 000. Umhlaba Plant offered the decreased market value of R250 000 as security for the release of the bulldozer, which was rejected by the Director.

In the opposing affidavit, the Director asserted that the formula contained in section 34F(3) applied and that based on this formula, an amount of R40, 750, 000 was required. This amount was based on the following calculation: R 750 000 (minimum market value) + R10 000 000 × 4 (maximum statutory fines in respect of the four alleged offences). However, during argument the Director conceded that the circumstances did in fact warrant a deviation from section 34F(3) and a revised amount of R1.2 million was proposed.

Counsel for Umhlaba Plant disagreed with the proposed amount and contended that, in the circumstances of this matter, the bulldozer should be

released without payment of security on the condition that Umhlaba Plant insured and maintained the bulldozer and undertakook not to alienate it until the Director of Public Prosecutions, Western Cape ("the DPP: WC") or the Director confirmed in writing that the criminal matter has been finalised.

### Judgment

The Court noted that pollution and degradation of the environment is a serious offence and that substantial sentences may be imposed for offences contained in NEMA. The Court noted further that the stringent provision, section 34F(3), is understandable in view of the mischief that the legislature seeks to address. However it may, in some circumstances lead to grossly unfair results. Thus section 34F(4) exists to enable the Court to deviate from the provisions of section 34F(3) where the facts require such deviation (i.e. in appropriate circumstances).

Counsel for the Director argued that in the application of section 34F(4), the formula in section 34F(3) should still be applied and that reference to "a lesser amount" simply enables a Court to reduce the amount of security, but not to say that no security is required at all if the seized item is to be released. The Court disagreed with this argument and was of the view that the legislature did not have the intention to restrain the Court's discretion as this may lead to absurd results; in cases where it transpired that seized goods had in fact been seized by mistake. However, it noted that in exercising its discretion a Court should be mindful of the mischief the legislature sought to address.



### About the contributor: Nicole Limberis

Nicole Limberis is the Environmental Control Officer (grade B), EMI Legal Support within the Directorate: Capacity Development and Support in the Chief Directorate: Enforcement. Nicole practiced as an attorney until joining the Department in January 2014.

# Vox Pops

DEA staff members

## What do you think should be done to people who trade endangered animals illegally?



1

1. Mr Itchell Guiney

**Climate Change: Carbon Sinks Mitigation**

They should be penalised and the penalty should fit the crime. There should also be formal or legal penalties at domestic, regional and international levels. The level of the penalty should be dependent on the specific violation and the violation history of the alleged. For instance, whether the individual is captured with the animal alive or dead.

The penalty for the aforementioned violations or crimes would consequently differ, and have a monetary or prison sentence attached to it. Time and effort should be invested in drafting the penalty regulations and these should be updated on a two to three-year basis.

Sufficient and sustainable resources are critical for the implementation and regulations of these enforcements.



2

2. Mr Ronald Mathe

**Chemical and Waste Management**

Everyone who commits any illegal trade should be sent to jail. But most importantly we need to establish their markets where these criminals are trading in. This will assist in the discontinuation of this illegal trade and horrific crimes. If the perpetrators do not have the market to trade with, there won't be a need or desire to capture and illegally trade our wild animals. Name and shame these perpetrators. We need to ensure that they are known to the world



3

3. Mr Theo Rossouw

**Office Support Services**

Those involved in the illegal trade of invasive species for self-enrichment need to be fined heavily. Government is playing its role in combating the issue by monitoring entry points such as airports to ensure that any trade in endangered or invasive species is brought to book. There is however, a large portion of the population that is unaware of the potential impact of invasive species on our biodiversity. Seeds or plants are often brought into the country for ornamental purposes, which could lead to massive invasions, such as water hyacinth.

Advocacy and awareness campaigns need to be intensified to educate our citizens and ensure that we join hands in the fight.



4

4. Mr Tyron Rajah

**Intern: Chemical and Waste Management**

Illegal wildlife traders should be dealt with severely and without leniency. They should be fined according to their net worth and not according to a predetermined value. We want a value that will push them towards the brink of bankruptcy. The intentions would be to limit their resources and networking abilities to get back to the trading of animals.

They should not be allowed access to the environment that normal citizens enjoy.



# Vox Pops continued

Members of the public



**1. Etienne and Nelson**

The government must intervene by setting strict laws that make it illegal to trade endangered species. This intervention would make it a criminal offense that will require further actions to be taken against those who are violating the law.



**3. Mr Thato Zulu**

If they are not committing a criminal activity you cannot legally stop people from owning and trading in endangered species. People with exotic and endangered species only possess them as a status symbol and rarely have a need to breed them. Give them alternatives that will encourage them to part with their "precious" jewels.



**2. Ms Busi Sithole**

They should be imprisoned for a long time. Their greed and selfishness for quick money is of no good to the country's future and the generations to come. All these animals will be extinct, therefore five years in prison should be the standard or minimum term, which must apply to anyone despite their status in society.



**4. Ms Marcelia Theron**

They should be punished and interrogated. This could be an inside job that can continue for years. They must find the origin of the problem, and everyone who is involved in all these crimes. Traders should go to jail for about 5-10 years. A fine is not enough because they will pay it and continue to trade these animals.



**5. Mr Malabana Nhlayiso**

It is against the law and they are aware of that but they continue to do it. There should be a strong punishment to all those that continue to trade endangered animals illegally.

They must just go to jail for years as their behaviour will have a negative impact on the country's future. Laws should be implemented to protect these animals against perpetrators. Environmental crime, including its links with other forms of crime is serious and a growing danger for development, global stability and international security.



**6. Mr. Irfaan Mohangee**

These animals are classified as extinct so we cannot afford to lose any of them because of selfish people. There should be legal proceedings conducted against them as this is not allowed at all and it does affect the country in a undesirable way. Everyone who trades endangered animals illegally should be sent to prison and fined to bankruptcy. In that way, they will feel pain of their actions.



**7. Mr. Andile Zungu**

Illegal trade in wildlife involves a broad list of illicit activities in Environmental crimes.

The government must regard the prevention of such crimes as a national priority.



**The Minister of  
Environmental Affairs**

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

**The Deputy Minister of  
Environmental Affairs**

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

**Director-General  
of Environmental Affairs**

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

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



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**For any enquiries or contributions, please contact:  
Mrs. Lavinia Engelbrecht, Tel: 012 399 9951 email: [LEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za](mailto:LEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za)**