

Bojama

Protecting the Environment • Growing Tourism
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**environment
& tourism**

Department
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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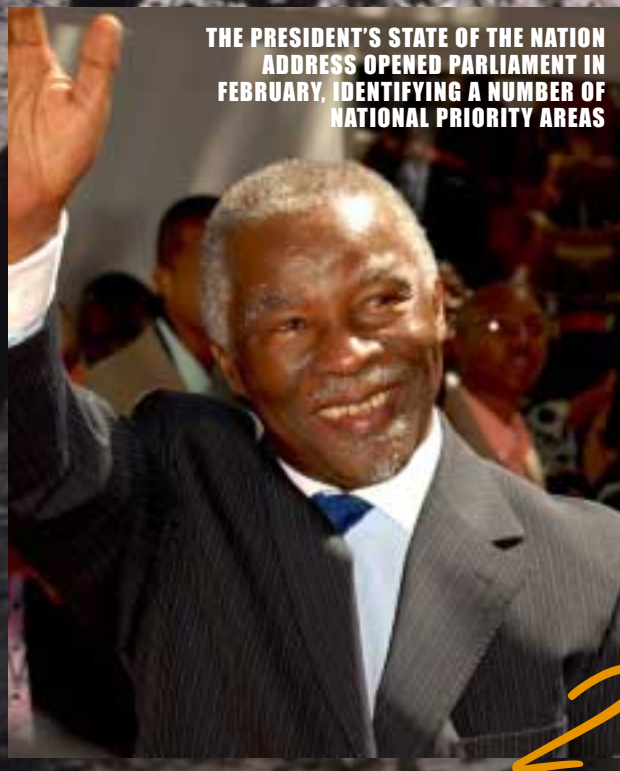
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FEBRUARY, IDENTIFYING A NUMBER OF
NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

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View across Lake St Lucia from Dugandlovu Rustic Camp, False Bay
Park - Part of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park

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ALL HANDS ON DECK!

After a well-earned festive season break, DEAT staff were given an alarming wake-up call by the electricity outage problems that struck after we returned to work in January. While the unexpected power cuts caused great inconvenience and lost productivity, the crisis also served to reinforce a truism that many overlook - building and sustaining a successful democracy takes hard work by everybody.

It is easy to point fingers and blame others for the problems that we experience. The simple fact remains that we are all collectively responsible for the success of our economy and our society. If a large percentage of the population chooses to sit back and let others take responsibility for important issues, then success will always only be temporary, and the potential for failure will always be imminent.

The electricity crisis serves as a typical example. There was public anger and criticism of the major electricity role players for their part in the problem. Yet South Africans collectively are among the most wasteful users of electricity globally. How many of us can honestly claim to have taken steps to become more energy-efficient in our homes and workplaces? The onus does not just



Letter FROM THE EDITOR

lie with electricity providers to sort out our national supply and demand equation. With minimal effort, we can all help to ensure that such a crisis is not repeated.

In his State of the Nation Address delivered at the opening of Parliament on 8 February, President Mbeki based his message around the theme of "Business Unusual - All Hands on Deck!" It was a clarion call to all South Africans that the apathy of leaving responsibility up to others, and then pointing fingers when things go wrong, is not a recipe for a successful democracy. If we are to plot a safe and successful course ahead, the good ship South Africa needs all hands on deck. There is no room for idle passengers.

This applies equally to most of the environmental and tourism issues faced by the Department. Individually, we cannot create the environment and the thriving tourism sector that the country needs. It will take a concerted cooperative effort between all stakeholders to succeed.

In this issue, our feature story on page 2 unpacks the Department's major plans and priority areas for the year. There are many issues to be tackled and many ways in which everybody, from Departmental experts to private sector and civil society partners to members of the public, can contribute. And indeed, should contribute if we want to avoid problems similar to the electricity crisis in our own field of environment and tourism.

President Mbeki noted another important consideration in his Address - that problems also create opportunities. Progress seldom happens without some pain. Let's make this the year when we roll up our sleeves, get personally involved and make positive contributions to the vision of a better life for all, rather than offering nothing more than apathy and accusatory finger-pointing. With all hands on deck, we can make 2008 a year to cherish.

Jay Singh
Editor

10 EL EPHANIT COAST

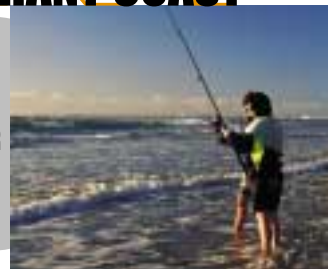
TOP TEN THINGS TO SEE AND DO ON KWAZULU-NATAL'S ELEPHANT COAST



1 VISIT ONE OF THE MANY RESERVES IN THE GREATER ST LUCIA WETLAND PARK - DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE SITE IN 1999

2 DIVE THE NUMEROUS REEFS OFF THE ENDLESS BEACHES ALONG THE WARM INDIAN OCEAN, OR SNORKEL AMONGST THE ROCKY OUTCROPS CLOSE TO SHORE

3 HONE YOUR FISHING SKILLS AT CAPE VIDAL OR ROCKTAIL BAY



4 GO ON A BIG FIVE SAFARI IN HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI NATURE RESERVE, WHICH BOASTS AT LEAST A FIFTH OF THE WORLD'S BLACK AND WHITE RHINO POPULATION



5 SPOT OVER 600 SPECIES OF BIRDS AT ONE OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED BIRDING MECCAS, LIKE THE MKHUZE ROUTE, NDUMO OR TEMBE

6 ENJOY HIKING TRAILS THROUGH INDIGENOUS FORESTS, ROLLING GRASSLANDS AND RIVERINE SWAMPS

7 WITNESS TURTLE BREEDING ON THE BEACH AT NIGHT, FROM OCTOBER TO MID-JANUARY, AT KOSI BAY NATURE RESERVE



8 DO SOME WHALE SPOTTING FROM A BOAT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN BOAT-BASED WHALE WATCHING ASSOCIATION



9 VISIT MKUZE'S GHOST MOUNTAIN BATTLE AND GRAVE SITES, SAID BY LOCAL ZULUS TO BE HAUNTED

10 STROLL THROUGH ONE OF THE SCENIC COASTAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES - JOZINI, SODWANA BAY, ST LUCIA AND INTUBATUBA



THE YEAR AHEAD

A LOOK
AHEAD AT
DEAT
PRIORITY
AREAS FOR
2008

AT THE START OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM ENGAGES IN VARIOUS MEETINGS AND LEKGOTLAS TO IDENTIFY THE ISSUES THAT WILL BE PRIORITISED AND TACKLED DURING THE YEAR. THESE SESSIONS ARE ALSO BASED ON THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED DURING GATHERINGS SUCH AS THE CABINET LEKGOTLA IN JANUARY AND THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS TO OPEN PARLIAMENT IN FEBRUARY.

These issues and areas have now been finalised for 2008. So, for the remainder of the year, these are the key issues that the Department has prioritised, and which you will be reading about in Bojanala.

TOURISM

Growing the Tourism Economy: Poverty alleviation and wealth creation are primary national priorities. The annual growth in tourism arrivals, coupled with tourism's current status as a bigger earner of foreign revenue than gold exports, led to the declaration of tourism as an immediate priority area under the Deputy President's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) project. While tourism growth has been nothing short of spectacular, South Africa has still not reached its full income potential from tourism. The tourism sector has also been identified as having great potential for the second economy, and thus is a key tool for alleviating poverty. So continuing to grow the tourism economy remains a major goal for DEAT and its statutory bodies, South African Tourism and the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa.

The 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup: With just over two years until the tournament kicks off, there is still much work to be done, not just in preparing the stadiums and organising the matches, but also in upgrading and bolstering our tourism facilities to offer a world class tourism experience and service to our international visitors.

Greening for 2010: As the eyes of the world will be on South Africa during the World Cup tournament, it's important that we not only provide adequate facilities, but also show a green and environmentally-conscious image to the world. Bojanala will be

launching a regular 2010 column, in which we'll keep you up to date with greening initiatives for the tournament.

Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs): The 2010 Soccer World Cup should offer a uniquely African (not just South African) tourism experience to visitors. There is also a need to join forces with our SADC neighbours to promote the tourism benefits of the entire region, not just of South Africa itself, in order to attract visitors and earn much-needed foreign revenue. The TFCAs, nature conservation parks that span national borders, provide an effective opportunity to meet both of these goals. Unfortunately, many of these parks have few (or no) facilities for visitors at present. So upgrading the TFCAs is vital, for the benefits of the entire SADC community of nations.



AS ALL EYES ARE ON US DURING THE
WORLD CUP, IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHOW
A GREEN AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
CONSCIOUS IMAGE TO THE WORLD

DID YOU KNOW...

KZN'S ELEPHANT COAST
IS A VERY NARROW STRIP
OF LAND, BUT IT IS HOME
TO AN INCREDIBLE 21
DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEMS

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BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Upgrading the TFCAs is also a priority for the Biodiversity and Conservation Branch of DEAT. Although increased tourism is also a goal, the Branch will be focusing on harmonising conservation efforts across national borders. Natural systems do not recognise national borders. So these areas need to be managed using an ecosystem approach. Other priorities include:

Elephant Management: As controversial as this issue may be, South Africa cannot escape the fact that we now have more elephants than our conservation areas can accommodate optimally. While most of the preparatory research and stakeholder discussions have been concluded, there is still much work to be done to ensure that elephants do not pose a threat to the ecosystems that support them and other species.

Protected Areas: The Fifth IUCN World Parks Congress was held in Durban during September 2003. This event, held once per decade, is the major global forum for setting the agenda for protected areas. Five years later, South Africa will be revisiting the goals and recommendations set during the Durban Congress, to ensure that we are meeting our aims, both nationally and internationally, in terms of protected areas.

Land Claims in Protected Areas: Our limited land area must serve the needs of both nature and humanity. Where the two clash, this often results in land claims. While this is not an issue that is handled solely by DEAT, it nevertheless has significant impact on our efforts to reach our targets for total land area under protection. Successfully resolving land claims in protected areas will go a long way towards growing the conservation estate.

Threatened and Protected Species (TOPS): As one of the three most biodiverse countries in the world (Brazil and Indonesia are the other two), South Africa has a special obligation to ensure that our species diversity is maintained. This is achieved partly through the listing of Threatened Or Protected Species (TOPS) and the steps taken to ensure the continued survival of these species. This is a perennial priority which will again be high on the list for 2008.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND PROTECTION

Climate Change: This is a key area of concern internationally, and the EQP Branch will be focusing on its work of reducing pollution and improving air quality standards across the country. While climate change implications are an important component of this work, addressing respiratory diseases and fulfilling the people's Constitutional right to an environment that is not harmful to their health is also vitally important.

National Waste Management Bill: Gazetted in January 2007, the new National Waste Management Bill represents a major step forward in minimising our national waste stream, and effectively disposing of waste with due regard for environmental concerns. The transfer of stewardship of the country's landfill sites, from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to DEAT, created backlog problems. Resolving the challenges of the past, and moving into a new cleaner and greener future, will be a primary focus for 2008.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs): South Africa is a phase of growth and development. As welcome as this news is for the country's wealth prospects, we must also act responsibly, and not allow development to spoil the environment. EIAs have been developed to ensure minimal environmental damage from development. However, the EIA process itself was seen as a bottleneck to development. Rationalising and improving the EIA process, to maintain environmental protection while not hindering development, remains a high priority.



OUR TWO OCEANS SUPPORT A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE, WHO DEPEND ON FISHING FOR A LIVING

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Enforcement: The best environmental protection laws in the world can't help if these laws are not enforced, and polluters and other criminals feel that there is little risk of being caught. Unfortunately, environmental crimes were historically not viewed as serious offences in South Africa. Thanks to exhaustive and ongoing efforts by the Branch, this situation is changing for the good, and the establishment of the Environmental Management Inspectorate (EMI) has also helped to beef up enforcement of our environmental laws. Polluters beware - the days of the free ride are over.

MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Abalone: Wild abalone stocks have plummeted disastrously in our coastal waters, necessitating an urgent response. You can read all about this issue on pages 16 to 18.

Poaching: While poaching has been a significant factor in the current abalone crisis, it also threatens other marine species. With the completion of the MCM Environmental Protection Vessel fleet, the Department is now in a better position to patrol and apprehend poachers. However, more needs to be done, including closer cooperation with other law enforcement bodies. This is a very important focus for 2008.

Fisheries management and subsistence fishing: Our two oceans must support a wide range of people who depend on fishing for a living, from large commercial trawling companies to families who live at the coast and take their daily catch for subsistence. The Department is tasked with ensuring that our seas are not fished out, and that tomorrow's generation will be able to rely on fresh fish catches as we do. So fisheries management and subsistence fishing will again be a priority focus area for MCM this year.

Aquaculture/Mariculture: While "fish farms" may seem like a novel concept, the idea has been practised for thousands of years. With many of our natural fish stocks declining due to a number of reasons, it makes sound sense to investigate and promote the development of aquaculture and mariculture for alternative supplies of marine and freshwater species.

Legislation and Rights Allocation: In order to manage our fish stocks effectively, it is necessary to have a full suite of laws in place, along with an equitable and sustainable system to grant fishing rights and quotas to the various fisheries along our coastline. The recent allocation of fishing rights and the Integrated Coastal Management Bill have helped in this regard, although follow-up work is required to improve the systems and situation further.



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Marine Living Resources Fund: The MCM Branch is tasked with raising its own funds through the Marine Living Resources Fund (MLRF). Financial difficulties in 2006 highlighted the challenges of generating sustainable funding. Since then, the Branch has taken several steps to alleviate the situation and improve income. This work will continue this year, towards the goal of a self-funding MCM operation.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND RESOURCES

Climate Change: During December 2007, critical negotiations were conducted in Bali, with the aim of securing a climate regime beyond 2012 when the current Kyoto Protocol expires. These negotiations have serious implications for all nations but particularly for developing nations like South Africa. Read the full story in our "Behind Bali" article on pages 9 to 11.

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD): South Africa is a signatory to this international UN commission. The Review Session of the third implementation cycle, CSD 16, will be held in New York from 5-16 May 2008. ICR is responsible for coordinating South Africa's input at

CSD sessions. As CSD 16 will focus on the issues of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification and Africa, it will be particularly important for our country and our continent.

International Environmental Governance (IEG) and the Global Environment Fund (GEF): These international initiatives aim to promote and fund sound and sustainable environmental practices. South Africa became a GEF donor in 2006/7, partly to negotiate for a more equitable allocation of GEF funds for African countries. These efforts will continue unabated this year.

National Sustainable Development Framework (NSDF): This document was compiled and published by DEAT during 2006/7. However, as it maps out a sustainable development path for the country as a whole, it is of core importance to virtually all national Departments, along with local government and even the private sector as well. However, sustainable development is a highly complex issue, both in theory and in practice. For 2008, the Department will work on refining the NSDF map, along with our definitions and understanding of what sustainable development means and implies.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), DEAT runs various projects that not only have an environmental or tourism benefit, but which also provide training and employment to those communities who need it most. These projects will once again receive priority attention in 2008, demonstrating DEAT's commitment not just to our environment and tourism sector, but to the wellbeing of all South Africa's people.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The load-shedding power cuts implemented early in 2008 as a result of electricity supply shortages have prompted the need for a national energy-saving response. All DEAT buildings have implemented the comprehensive and non-cost energy efficiency measures devised by the Department, which are aligned with and serve as part of the roll-out for the Energy Efficiency Strategy of the Republic of South Africa. While it is frustrating that no organisation can resolve the problem alone, DEAT and all staff members are committed to adding our impetus to the national effort.



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THE WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME ADDRESSES THE PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF WETLANDS

CELEBRATING WORLD WETLANDS DAY

MAINTAINING HEALTHY WETLANDS FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY

Water is South Africa's scarcest resource, a fact that is very easy to forget when you have easy access to running water. We are a semi-arid country with an average annual rainfall of 497mm, which is well below the world's average of 860mm per annum. The scary reality is that at the current levels of supply and demand, South Africa will run out of fresh water by 2030.

Our global economy is totally dependant on a continual supply of water to support industrial growth, produce sufficient food and develop and maintain a tourism industry. Yet ironically, wetlands are one of the most threatened habitats in the world today. Our own valuable wetlands are constantly under threat from urban sprawl, alien plant invasions, environmentally-poor agricultural techniques, commercial deforestation and a general misconception that wetlands are 'wastelands' to be filled-in or converted. Cane is also often planted too close to or in wetlands, which can lead to excessive soil erosion and sedimentation.

We have already lost about half of our wetlands, mainly through agricultural development and inappropriate land management. This permanent damage has not only destroyed the natural habitat of many endangered animals and birds, but has also affected the livelihood of thousands of people who depend on wetlands for water, food and cattle grazing.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually to mark the signing of the Ramsar Convention in Iran on 2 February 1971. The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the preservation and wise use of wetlands and their valuable resources. The day not only highlights the plight of the wetlands and promotes conservation programmes, it also raises awareness of the critical value of wetlands as biodiversity hotspots and key components of river systems, and informs the public of the environmental value of wetlands to humankind.





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This year, the focus is on the direct, positive effects that the maintenance of healthy wetlands has on human health, as well as the direct, negative effects of mismanaging wetlands. The 2008 campaign slogan - "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People" - recognises the importance of the impacts of wetland-related diseases and poor sanitation on the quality of water, and encompasses the many benefits of healthy wetlands to humanity.

Wetlands are "water factories" that act like giant kidneys, storing and purifying freshwater, by processing nutrients and trapping sediments and pollutants. They act as natural sponges to soak up floodwater, and help prevent precious topsoil being washed away. They provide habitat for plants and animals, supply food such as fish, waterfowl and wild grains, and serve as nurseries for freshwater and marine fish.

Everybody is affected by wetlands. Urban communities depend on healthy wetlands for water, other ecosystem benefits and recreation, while rural communities rely on them for wild food and medicine, building materials, as well as craft materials from which they can earn an income.

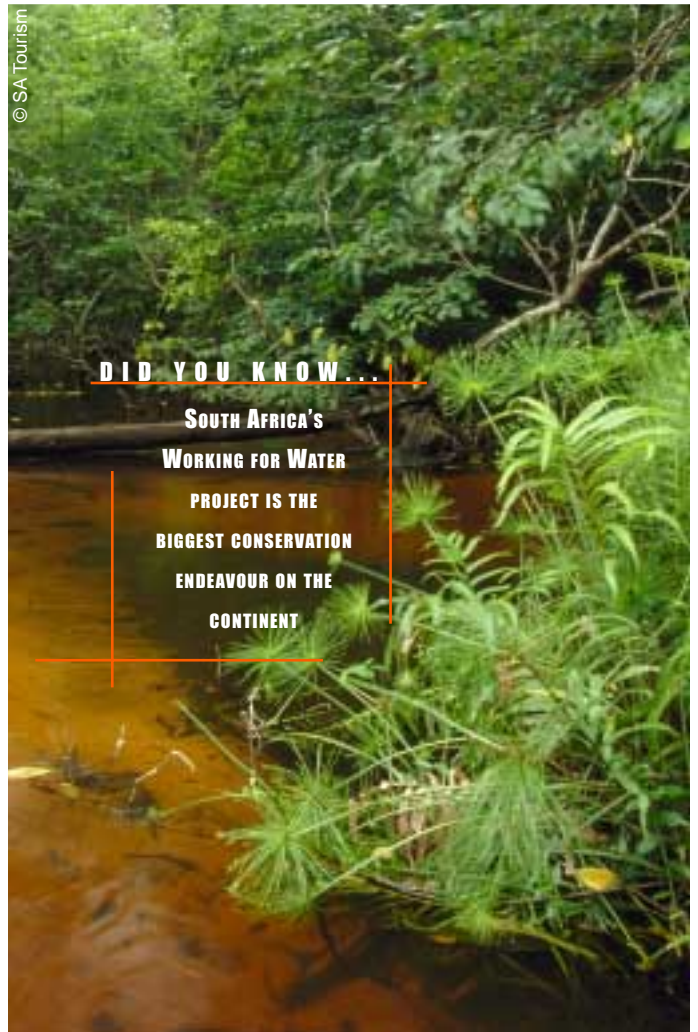
This is why management strategies that support both the health of wetland ecosystems and the health of humans are so important. There is a strong relationship between healthy functioning wetlands and human health, and the costs of poor management can be high - wetland-related diseases, for instance, claim the lives of over 3 million people every year.

The draining of swamps is a renowned example of human modification of wetlands to control disease, and it contributed to the eradication of malaria in many parts of Europe. Yet the deliberate destruction of wetlands because of the diseases that they may harbour, is not a sustainable approach to wetland management. It can backfire by leading to the loss of vital ecosystem services, like the provision of clean water, the supply of food and the control of flood waters.

The recent and devastating effects of hurricane Katrina in the USA in 2005 serve as a reminder of the price of mismanaging wetlands. Widely recognised as the worst engineering disaster in American history, the hurricane caused a tidal surge that breached the levees and flooded 80% of the city of New Orleans. To prevent a similar catastrophe, the US government has pledged to restore the area's natural surge defences - the marshes, barrier islands and cypress swamps.



THE MAINTENANCE OF HEALTHY WETLANDS HAS A DIRECT, POSITIVE EFFECT ON HUMAN HEALTH



DID YOU KNOW...
SOUTH AFRICA'S
WORKING FOR WATER
PROJECT IS THE
BIGGEST CONSERVATION
ENDEAVOUR ON THE
CONTINENT

TO AVOID THE FAILING OF WETLAND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES TO WETLAND MANAGEMENT ARE VITAL AND INCLUDE THE USE OF FISH THAT CONSUME MOSQUITO LARVAE, BETTER DESIGN OF DAMS AND IRRIGATION SCHEMES, POLLUTION CONTROL, AND THE IMPROVED REGULATION OF WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS. IF WATER IS EXTRACTED MORE RAPIDLY THAN IT IS NATURALLY REPLENISHED, WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS WILL IN EXTREME CASES COLLAPSE, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES WILL BE LOST AND HUMAN HEALTH WILL SUFFER.



Despite the serious threat that wetlands are facing, World Wetlands Day is also an opportunity to celebrate our successes. South Africa has succeeded in rehabilitating thousands of hectares of wetlands, with the promising commitment by the forestry and sugar industries to manage their land more sustainably. Add to this the conservation of 15 000 hectares of communal wetlands and their immediate catchments, and there is good cause to celebrate the great work done so far.



The Working for Wetlands programme - launched and funded by the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Water Affairs and Forestry, and Agriculture, together with partners in civil society - addresses the protection, rehabilitation and sustainable use of wetlands. A guiding principle of Working for Wetlands is the idea of raising awareness and ultimately influencing behaviour and practices impacting on wetlands, rather than focusing exclusively on engineering solutions. Typical activities undertaken within the programme's projects include the resaturation of drained wetland areas, the plugging of artificial drainage channels, and the eradication of invasive alien plants.



As a dry country, but endowed with exceptionally rich biodiversity, South Africa has particular reason to cherish its wetlands and the life-supporting services they provide. The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is one of the jewels of our coastline and was declared South Africa's first Natural World Heritage Site in December 1999. It encompasses an immense mosaic of habitats, ranging from marine systems and coastal forests to lush plains and drier woodland areas. The Park supports more species of animal than the much larger Kruger National Park or Okavango Delta, and is home to a large population of hippo, crocodile, elephant, and over 500 different species of birds.

In 1989, a mining company seeking titanium wanted to bulldoze the dunes along Lake St Lucia's eastern shore, but in 1996 the South African government followed the recommendations of an environmental assessment and barred the mining proposal. Thus began work on an integrated development and land-use planning strategy for the entire wetlands region. The St Lucia story is a perfect example of a management plan benefiting and sustaining both the natural ecosystems and the human inhabitants of the region - not just via job creation and increased tourism, but also through the provision of vital wetlands services.

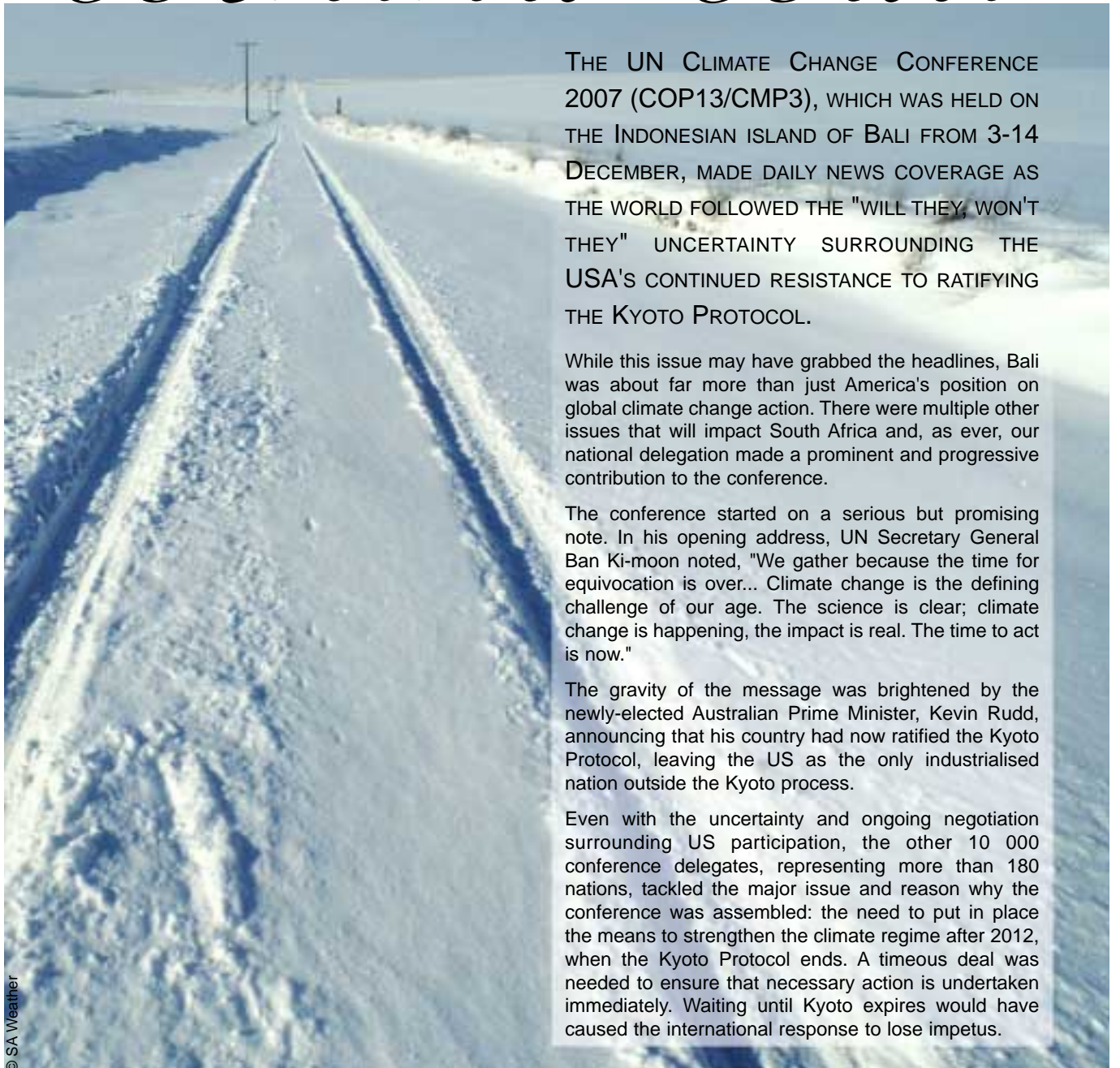


To mark World Wetlands Day 2008, iSimangaliso has launched its new map of the Park. The whole iSimangaliso Wetland Park is illustrated in a single front page map, with sections maps used to highlight the Park's major attractions such as Cape Vidal, Charters Creek, Lake St Lucia, uMkhuze, Sodwana bay and Kosi Bay. Fittingly, iSimangaliso held its World Wetlands Day celebrations at Tshanetshe pan, part of the uMkhuze wetland rehabilitation project, with the Eastern Wetland Rehabilitation project and community members.

Contact your provincial Environmental Affairs and Tourism Departments for details of World Wetlands day activities in your region. For more information on wetlands and what you can do help sustain them, contact Dr Guy Preston, Chairperson of The Working for Water Programme, on (021) 441-2700

COP13/CMP3
SECURES
PROGRESS
IN GLOBAL
RESPONSE
TO CLIMATE
CHANGE

Behind Bali



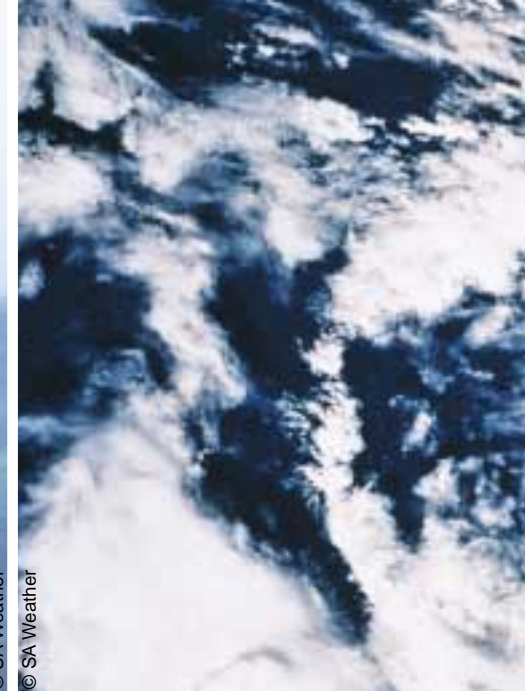
THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2007 (COP13/CMP3), WHICH WAS HELD ON THE INDONESIAN ISLAND OF BALI FROM 3-14 DECEMBER, MADE DAILY NEWS COVERAGE AS THE WORLD FOLLOWED THE "WILL THEY, WON'T THEY" UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE USA'S CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO RATIFYING THE KYOTO PROTOCOL.

While this issue may have grabbed the headlines, Bali was about far more than just America's position on global climate change action. There were multiple other issues that will impact South Africa and, as ever, our national delegation made a prominent and progressive contribution to the conference.

The conference started on a serious but promising note. In his opening address, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon noted, "We gather because the time for equivocation is over... Climate change is the defining challenge of our age. The science is clear; climate change is happening, the impact is real. The time to act is now."

The gravity of the message was brightened by the newly-elected Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, announcing that his country had now ratified the Kyoto Protocol, leaving the US as the only industrialised nation outside the Kyoto process.

Even with the uncertainty and ongoing negotiation surrounding US participation, the other 10 000 conference delegates, representing more than 180 nations, tackled the major issue and reason why the conference was assembled: the need to put in place the means to strengthen the climate regime after 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol ends. A timeous deal was needed to ensure that necessary action is undertaken immediately. Waiting until Kyoto expires would have caused the international response to lose impetus.



DID YOU KNOW...

SATELLITE MEASUREMENTS REVEAL THAT SINCE 1993, SEA-LEVEL HAS BEEN RISING AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF ABOUT 3MM PER YEAR

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climate change climate change climate change



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THE BALI ROADMAP

The primary goal of strengthening climate change action was achieved by the adoption, by the end of the conference, of the Bali Roadmap. This sets out the framework for two years of negotiations (ending in 2009) towards strengthening the climate regime after 2012. Elements of the Bali Roadmap include:

- A decision to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term co-operative action under the Convention, with building blocks of adaptation, mitigation, technology and finance
- Progress under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. This progress included review of work programme, methods of work and schedule of future sessions. For this Working Group, South Africa acted as coordinator for the G77 and China.
- Agreement on the approach to, and process for the Article 9 review of the Kyoto Protocol. This is a periodic review of the Kyoto Protocol to elaborate upon elements and enhance the implementation of the Protocol.

ADAPTATION FUNDING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Funding for countries to adapt to the effects of climate change, as well as the transfer of technology to developing nations, are key issues in global climate change action. To this end, the Subsidiary Bodies at Bali achieved two notable successes:

The first was the decision to operationalise the Adaptation Fund. This fund will provide an estimated \$80-\$300 million over the period 2008-2012, to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. South Africa was tasked to act as coordinator and chief negotiator for the G77 and China on the issue of the Adaptation Fund. South Africa was also elected as a member of the Adaptation Fund Board representing Africa.

The second achievement was the agreement to consider technology transfer under the agendas of both the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). This represented an important shift of emphasis in the long-stalled debate around technology transfer, and should ultimately result in the transfer of affordable, climate-friendly technologies to developing countries.

SOUTH AFRICA'S ROLE

Apart from their contribution as coordinators for G77 and China on the issues of the Adaptation Fund and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex 1 Parties, the South African delegation also contributed in other areas. Following the success of an earlier meeting in Bonn, at which the G77 and China reached agreement on a common position regarding adaptation, South Africa continued to coordinate this issue in Bali.



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OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL NEGOTIATE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION ACTIONS THAT ARE MEASURABLE AND VERIFIABLE



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climate change climate change climate change

The Bali Roadmap also created a new body known as the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention. South Africa co-chaired (with Australia) this contact group on long-term cooperative action. The first session of this group is due to take place in March/April, and preparatory work includes consultations with relevant stakeholders.

THE WAY FORWARD

So what does the adoption of the Bali Roadmap entail for South Africa, in terms of climate change action? The key element is that climate change action is no longer the responsibility of developed nations alone. Over the next two years, developing nations will negotiate mitigation actions that are measurable, reportable and verifiable. The obvious conclusion is that South Africa (along with other developing actions) must join the developed nations in taking action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Naturally, there is still much work to be done around defining the nature of these actions, as well as defining what is "measurable, reportable and verifiable", both in terms of actions and finance/technology.

Equally importantly, South Africa will now make use of information contained in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) in all of our national policies. The aim is to ensure that climate change action is a truly national effort.

IN HIS CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE BALI CONFERENCE DELEGATES, INDONESIA'S STATE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, RACHMAT WITOELAR, SAID, "THE DECISIONS WE HAVE TAKEN IN BALI TOGETHER CREATE THE WORLD'S ROAD MAP TO A SECURE CLIMATE FUTURE. THE GOVERNMENTS ASSEMBLED HERE HAVE RESPONDED DECISIVELY IN THE FACE OF NEW SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN OUR THINKING TO COLLECTIVELY ENVISION, AND CHART, A NEW CLIMATE-SECURE COURSE FOR HUMANITY... THE WORLD WAS EXPECTING US TO SHOW TRUE VISION AND LEADERSHIP AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE HAVE PROVEN EQUAL TO THAT TASK. IT IS SAID THAT LEADERS ARE THOSE WHO CREATE THE FUTURE. HERE IN BALI, YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR US ALL."

If you would like more details on the Bali Roadmap or any of the other decisions taken at the Bali conference, point your browser to http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4049.php



AN EARLY STEP TO 2010 SUCCESS

FIFA TOUR OPERATOR PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

THE 19TH FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA) WORLD CUP WILL TAKE PLACE IN SOUTH AFRICA BETWEEN 11 JUNE AND 11 JULY 2010. FOR THOSE FOUR WEEKS, THE EYES OF THE WORLD WILL BE FOCUSED ON THE SOUTHERN TIP OF AFRICA.



FOR EVERY EIGHT TOURISTS, ONE PERMANENT JOB IS CREATED FOR A SOUTH AFRICAN

Since 1994, the country has managed some of the world's biggest sporting events, including the 1995 Rugby World Cup and the 2003 Cricket World Cup. However, in terms of sheer size, logistics and global interest, the Football World Cup remains in a class of its own. This applies not just to the organisation and running of the soccer matches themselves, but to the whole World Cup experience. FIFA General Secretary, Jerome Valcke noted, "It is extremely important for us to ensure that the first FIFA World Cup in Africa touches as broad an audience as possible in the most meaningful way."

So 2010 presents a vital opportunity, not just to promote the benefits and attractions of South Africa as an increasingly popular travel destination, but also to showcase the full range of accommodation and other tourism facilities that the country can offer. FIFA General Secretary Valcke explains, "FIFA's aim is to facilitate travel to the matches for more than 400 000 international visitors by making use of a strong alliance of available local accommodation in various forms, ranging from small bed-and-breakfast establishments to top world-class hotels, ground and air transportation facilities. At the same time, we want to ensure that the spectators will be in for a real African treat, experiencing the great culture that the continent and South Africa have to offer."

This goal received a timely boost on 26 November 2007, when the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus Van Schalkwyk, officially presented the 2010 FIFA World Cup Tour Operator Programme to more than 200 travel experts from across the globe at the briefing workshop held at SOCCEREX 2007.

The Tour Operator Programme is the first to be implemented by FIFA since 1998, when the World Cup was held in France. In essence, the 2010 FIFA World Cup Tour Operator Programme allows qualified and experienced travel companies and tour operators from around the world to sell Authorised Travel Packages, branded with the 2010 official emblem. This includes providing accommodation, transportation, tourism and other related travel services in the form of travel packages of their own creation, sold under their own terms of business.



The packages will be combined with tickets provided by FIFA and allocated exclusively to selected tour operators. Tour operators will also be introduced to the hospitality rights holder, so they will have the opportunity to earn commission on the sale of day-of-match hospitality packages. FIFA has decided to allocate a total of 350 000 match tickets to be used in packages offered by the Tour Operator Programme.

Danny Jordaan, CEO of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) said, "The Tour Operator programme will help FIFA, the LOC, MATCH (the official ticketing and accommodation facilitator on behalf of FIFA) and all tourism stakeholders in South Africa to present the 2010 hosts in the best possible light. What is more, the tour operator programme will also enable South African SMME tourism entities to be involved in this once-in-a-lifetime event and benefit from the 2010 FIFA World Cup. It is a chance to enhance international awareness of a world-class tourism destination."

FIFA has appointed MATCH Event Services Pty to administer the 2010 FIFA World Cup Tour Operator Programme on its behalf, and to operate local activities in South Africa in connection with the programme.

On behalf of FIFA, MATCH will:

- Screen applicants
- Select applicants subject to the final approval of FIFA
- Manage the contract process with qualified Tour Operators
- Facilitate and fulfill the Tour Operators' ticket orders
- Manage and monitor, on FIFA's behalf, the activities of Tour Operators who are given access to tickets, to ensure full compliance with FIFA's policies
- Manage and monitor enforcement activities relating to unauthorised tour packages that include tickets.

The goals of the Tour Operator Programme are to:

- Implement a controlled and successful FIFA World Cup travel services programme
- Facilitate safe and effective travel to the matches for the largest possible number of fans.
- Make best possible use of available accommodation, ground and air transportation facilities.
- To monitor and commit resources to restrict the sales of unauthorised tour operator packages.

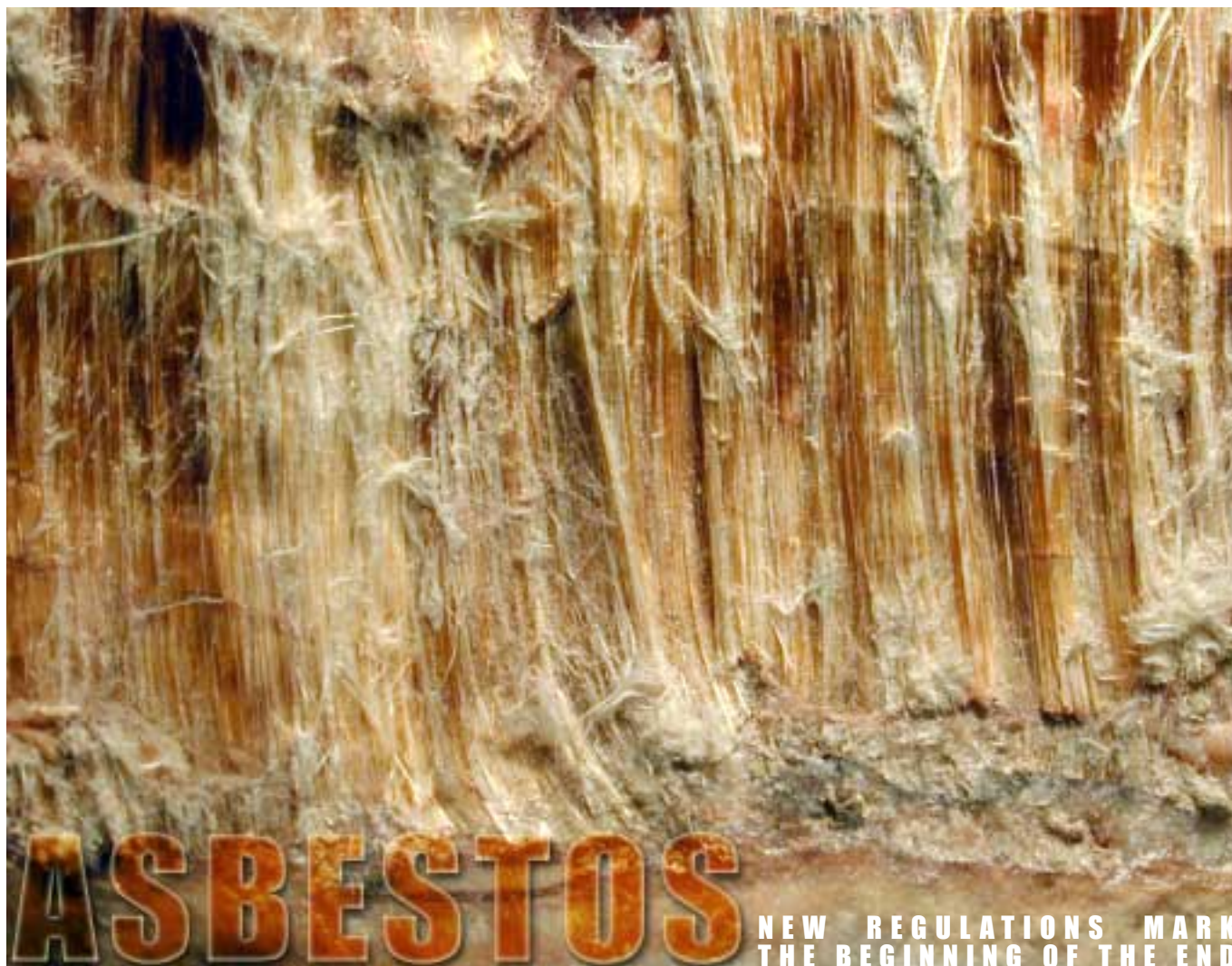
AS PARTICIPATING TOUR OPERATORS WILL BE APPOINTED ON A NON-EXCLUSIVE BASIS, MULTIPLE TOUR OPERATORS MAY BE APPOINTED PER COUNTRY OR REGION. THIS HOLDS THE BENEFIT OF PROMOTING COMPETITION AMONG OPERATORS, WHICH IN TURN MEANS COMPETITIVE PRICES FOR TRAVELLING FANS AND A BROAD DISTRIBUTION OF TICKETS AROUND THE GLOBE.

The strict controls exerted over the programme, the competition among operators and the wide distribution of tickets is great news for soccer fans, and equally good news for South Africa's tourism prospects. It means that international visitors will receive customised, value for money travel packages that encompass the unique attractions of the African tourism experience. This, in turn, encourages return business and builds South Africa's image as a desirable travel destination.

Minister van Schalkwyk summed up by stating, "Today marks a further step towards ensuring that the benefits of the FIFA World Cup are felt by all sectors from multinational to family businesses. It is an excellent example of government working hand in hand with the tourism industry and broader stakeholders towards a common goal - an African World Cup that we all can be proud of. The initiative provides tremendous global marketing potential for SMMEs."

Tour operators must apply and be selected to participate in the Tour Operator Programme, and the Application phase of this programme commenced on 15 February 2008. Tour Operators who are interested in applying for the Tour Operator Programme can register by completing the registration form available at <http://touoperator.match-ag.com>.

Logistical difficulties and unauthorised tour operators can mar the success of any major event such as the World Cup. Through launching the Tour Operator Programme timeously, South Africa has already taken steps to ensure a memorable and enjoyable tournament for all of our expected 400 000 visitors in 2010.



ASBESTOS CONSIGNED TO HISTORY

ASBESTOS IS THE FIBROUS FORM OF MINERAL SILICATES BELONGING TO ROCK-FORMING MINERALS OF THE SERPENTINE GROUP AND/OR AMPHIBOLES SUCH AS CHRYSOTILE (WHITE ASBESTOS), ACTINOLITE, AMOSITE (BROWN ASBESTOS), ANTHOPHYLLITE (BLUE ASBESTOS), TREMOLITE AND ANY MIXTURE CONTAINING ONE OR MORE OF THESE. ASBESTOS FIBRES ARE STRONG, DURABLE, RESISTANT TO HEAT AND FIRE, AND CHEAP TO PRODUCE. DUE TO THESE QUALITIES, ASBESTOS HAS BEEN USED BY HUMANS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. INDUSTRIES THAT HAVE USED ASBESTOS INCLUDE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (STRENGTHENING, FIREPROOFING, INSULATION, SOUNDPROOFING), THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY (BRAKE PADS), SHIP-BUILDING (INSULATION) AND ASBESTOS WAS ALSO USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PIPES TO CARRY WATER.

South Africa was a rich source of asbestos, particularly the white, blue and brown types, and was once the third largest producer of asbestos in the world with peak production of around 380 000 tons in 1977. While this provided asbestos products for local manufacturers and also brought in foreign revenue, there was a severe health penalty associated with the asbestos industry.

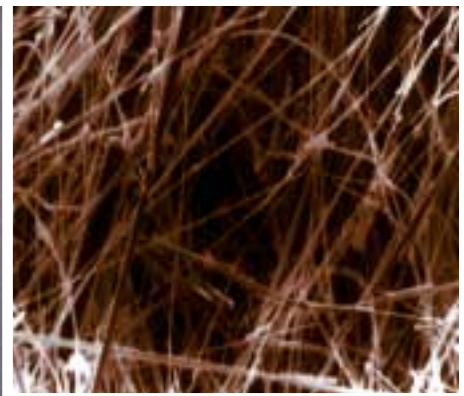
Inhaling asbestos fibres has been shown to cause high rates of lung cancer, asbestosis and/or mesothelioma, a type of cancer that affects the linings of the internal organs. The problem was particularly acute in the four South African provinces where

asbestos was mined - Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West and Northern Cape. Asbestos miners were susceptible to these diseases, but even those who do not work or live near asbestos mines can be affected by fibres released into the air by products containing asbestos. As more than 5 000 products have contained asbestos, there was a clear health risk to all South Africans.

National government addressed the problem by convening a National Asbestos Summit, held in Johannesburg during November 1998. The Summit developed a strategy, involving several national Departments,

to deal with asbestos and asbestos-related health problems in South Africa. The progress towards fulfilling this strategy has been as follows:

- The Department of Minerals and Energy has closed all asbestos mines in the country.
- The Department of Trade and Industry completed a study on the socio-economic impacts of phasing out asbestos in South Africa.
- The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry finalised a code of Best Practices for the maintenance, demolition and disposal of asbestos-containing materials.



- The Department of Labour established a single compensation office for those suffering from asbestos-related illnesses, and was also responsible for the Asbestos regulation promulgated in 2002.
- The South African Bureau of Standards formulated a specification stipulating that motor vehicle brake products must be asbestos-free.

For its part, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) commissioned a study on secondary asbestos pollution in the four worst-affected provinces. DEAT was also tasked with drafting the Regulations for the Prohibition of Use, Manufacture, Import and Export of Asbestos and Asbestos containing Material.

This process has moved one step closer to completion with the long-awaited publishing of the new Regulations for public comment. In essence, the Regulations specify that no person may:

- Import or export asbestos or asbestos containing materials, except for research purposes not intended to develop a new use for asbestos;
- Acquire, process, repackage asbestos or mine asbestos in the country;
- Manufacture asbestos containing materials or products; or
- Distribute asbestos or asbestos containing materials.

Once the Regulation is promulgated and passed into law, South Africa will join other countries who have prohibited asbestos, including Iceland, Norway, El Salvador, Denmark, Hungary, Switzerland, Australia, Finland, Italy, Croatia, France, Poland, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, The Netherlands, Lithuania, United Kingdom, European Union, Ireland, Brazil, Chile and Argentina. This is also in line with our obligations under the Rotterdam Convention, which aims to list asbestos as a dangerous chemical and to thus prohibit products and substances that contain asbestos.

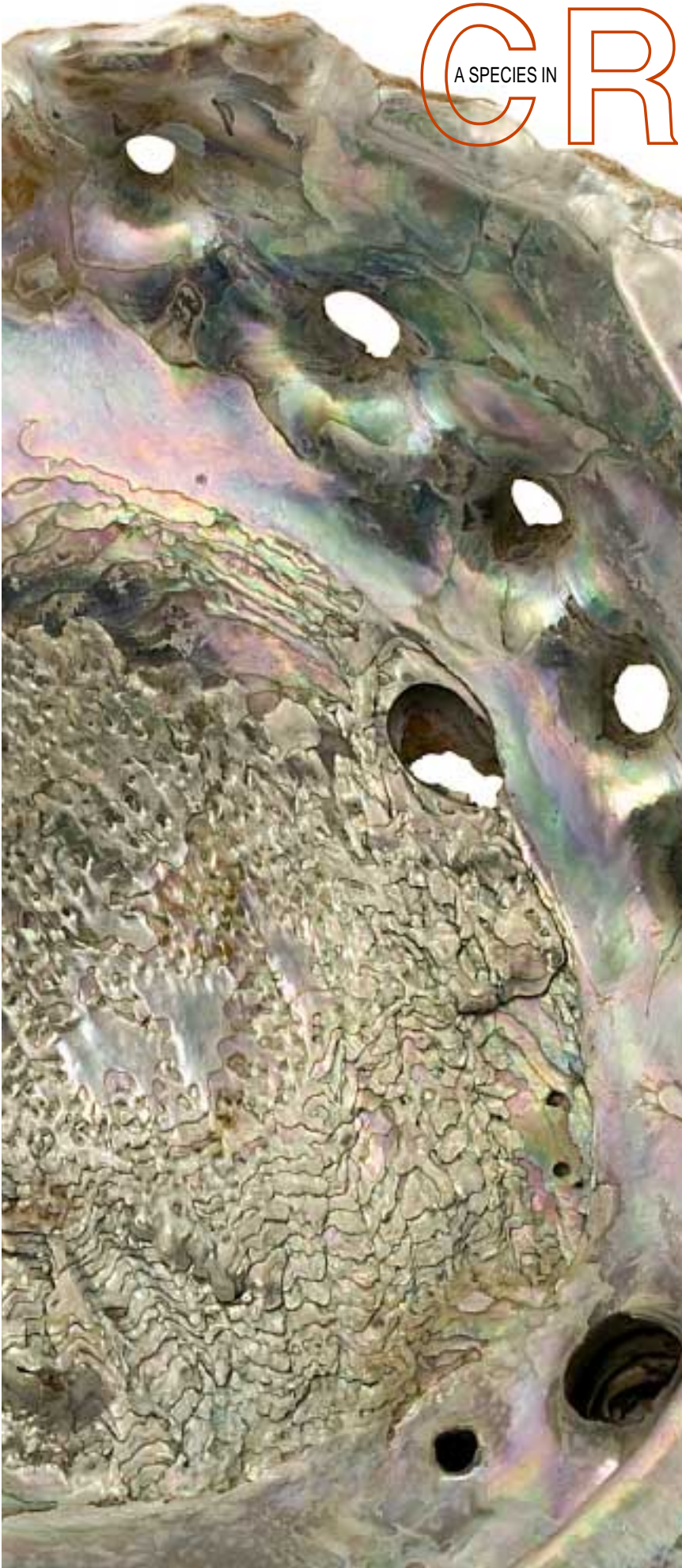
The prohibition of asbestos is not expected to have major socio-economic impacts. Mining of asbestos in South Africa has decreased dramatically, with fewer than 200 people still employed in the asbestos industry. Alternatives to asbestos are already produced locally and available to manufacturers. As a result, national asbestos consumption declined from 12 689 tons (2000) to just 7 744 tons in 2002, and has declined further since then.

Unfortunately, there are some uses for which asbestos alternatives have not yet been developed, including heat and arc resistant electrical insulation boards, acetylene gas cylinders, gaskets, seals and insulation materials. While the Regulation allows the continued and temporary use of asbestos for these applications, it must be accompanied by an Asbestos Phase-out Plan which seeks to develop and use alternatives to asbestos.

As there are some SADC nations which still export asbestos, it will also be allowed to move asbestos in transit through South Africa, as long as no repackaging of the asbestos is undertaken. South Africa will also import some SADC waste asbestos for safe disposal locally.

According to a study conducted by the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC), prohibiting asbestos will result in a cost saving of approximately R27 million per annum in health care and compensation costs. Even with the lingering harmful effects of mesothelioma (which sometimes only manifests 20 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos), cost savings will still amount to around R10 million per annum over the longer term.

Once the Regulations for the Prohibition of Use, Manufacture, Import and Export of Asbestos and Asbestos containing Material are passed into law, South Africa will have taken a major step towards fulfilling the Constitutional right of an environment that is not harmful to our health. **In the words of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk, "For too many years, communities across South Africa have lived with the dangers of asbestos and asbestos products. We are now taking the final steps to ensure that this health hazard never again threatens our people and our communities."**



A SPECIES IN CRISIS

WILD ABALONE FISHERY CLOSED

The recent closure of the wild abalone fishery, coupled with a ban on diving, increased collaboration between enforcement bodies and signs of desperation from abalone poachers, are all symptoms of a species in crisis. In this article, we examine why wild abalone is threatened with extinction in South African waters, and what steps the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) is taking to prevent this from happening.

The abalone (*Haliotis midae*) resource is widely distributed around the South African coastline, the largest concentration being located between Cape Hangklip and Quoin Point in the Western Cape, where most of the commercial fishery has been based. Abalone is a valuable foodstuff that fetches high market prices. So, apart from the legal harvest taken by the commercial fishery, abalone is also poached by unscrupulous operators looking to cash in on this profitable natural resource.

Our abalone is threatened with commercial extinction, due to two reasons: ecological factors and poaching.

ECOLOGICAL FACTORS

An intricate relationship exists among abalone, sea urchins and rock lobsters on the south-west Cape coast. Juvenile abalone (measuring from 5-30mm) shelter at the base of spines of sea urchins, where they are safe from predators. Until recently, these predators did not include rock lobster, due to differences in distribution of the two species.

During the early 1990s, rock lobsters (which are predators of sea urchins and other small invertebrates, including juvenile abalone) began to increase in abundance in the area to the east of Cape Hangklip, which led to a dramatic decline in the sea urchin population. With fewer sea urchins to provide shelter from predators, this in turn led to a severe reduction in the recruitment of juvenile abalone in the two zones closest to Cape Hangklip. The impact of the encroachment was that two of the four zones east of Hangklip now have such low recruitment of juvenile abalone that the population has little hope of natural recovery, even in the absence of harvesting or poaching.

POACHING

The levels of poaching have increased rapidly since the mid-1990s and escalated even more over the last three to five years despite DEAT's concerted attempts to curtail it. This trend has been exacerbated by easy accessibility of abalone in shallow water and a very high market demand with associated high prices for the product.

Over the past decade, these two factors (ecology and poaching) have led to annual reductions in the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for abalone, from 615 tons in 1995 to a record emergency low of 75 tons for the 2007/8 season.

The situation is worsened by some features of the abalone life cycle. Abalone are slow growing, requiring some 8 years to reach the legal size limit to catch. This means that, even when there is still a reasonable stock available, the annual sustainable productivity is much lower. Secondly, abalone are broadcast spawners, which means that sperm and eggs are released into the water for fertilisation to take place. If the density of adults in any given area becomes too low, fertilisation cannot take place at a high enough level to sustain recruitment. This may already be the situation in many areas where poaching has been rife.

Scientists and environmentalists agree that the abalone population has become severely reduced and, in certain areas, a fishery is no longer possible. While there is uncertainty about the exact extent of poaching, the best-case models indicate that numbers of abalone removed by poachers are, at the very least, many times the number required to sustain the species. Even though there may be small pockets of abundance left in some areas and a low density in others, the overall status of the abalone population is now critically low.

"The Department is charged by the Marine Living Resources Act with ensuring the sustainable utilisation of all marine living resources. This includes conserving resources for present and future generations, and applying precautionary measures when managing marine living resources," explains Dr Monde Mayekiso, Deputy Director General of the Marine and Coastal Management Branch of DEAT. "After careful consideration, it was decided that the complete closure of the South African wild abalone commercial harvesting activities would be the only responsible course of action. If there is to be any chance of a sustainable abalone fishery in the future, it is imperative that key abalone populations be prevented from declining below this critical level."



Sadly, the abalone problem is not restricted to South Africa. Other abalone fisheries are threatened and some have closed, for example in the United States and Canada. The North American fisheries have now been closed for more than ten years. "It has been suggested that such fisheries are slow to recover because closure was delayed. The main objective of our bold action is to allow the abalone to recover to a point where it may be exploited responsibly," says Mayekiso.



THE LEVELS OF POACHING HAVE INCREASED RAPIDLY SINCE THE MID-1990S AND ESCALATED EVEN MORE OVER THE LAST THREE TO FIVE YEARS DESPITE DEAT'S CONCERTED ATTEMPTS TO CURTAIL THE PROBLEM

POST-CLOSURE PLAN

As certain key areas of the coastline (from the west coast to the eastern Cape) support vital nodes of abalone populations which could be the core of a recovering stock, specific strategies need to be implemented for protection of these key areas. These strategies include enhanced enforcement of the closure and the implementation of a diving ban. In addition to this, an abalone post-closure research plan, aimed at ensuring that abalone population dynamics are monitored through regular research surveys with specific focus on areas that show potential for recovery, is being implemented. This plan sets out short, medium and long-term research interventions.

On the enforcement front, government has stepped up its efforts, leading to both an observed reduction in poaching activities and some success stories in apprehending poachers. Recently, 17 poachers were arrested on Robben Island, with another 26 in the Overberg region. These arrests have sent a strong message to poachers - DEAT and other law enforcement bodies will show zero tolerance for poaching.

However, the most powerful and committed enforcement efforts cannot succeed if they are not supported by the community in which they have to work. The only way to fight poaching effectively is through committed, collective efforts by all, including those coastal communities in which the poachers operate. Poaching is not an isolated criminal activity, and poachers often work in association with illegal drug dealers and other organised crime elements. It is in our national interests to tackle organised crime collectively.

While the diving ban has affected law-abiding citizens, the ban is part of a suite of actions necessary to rescue the abalone resource, in the same way that many innocent motorists are inconvenienced by road blocks to combat crime. Unfortunately, but necessarily, the diving ban must be implemented in the affected five areas for the greater good. Although this seems a drastic action, the ban is limited to only a few areas where recovery is critical for the future of the resource.

The closure of the abalone fishery has also impacted on the rights holders in the sector, especially those who do not hold rights in the West Coast Rock Lobster fishery sector as well. "Although DEAT could not possibly accommodate more rights than the status of the resources allow, the Department has committed substantial funds and resources to accelerate further development of marine aquaculture," explains Monde Mayekiso, "These funds will facilitate the establishment of four farms along the coast, one of which will be based in the Gansbaai area."

According to Dr Mayekiso, the further development of aquaculture farming is one of the answers to increase employment. In this regard, abalone has been a success story. Ten years ago, production was a mere 10 tons. By the end of 200y, this had increased to more than 1000 tons, with a further increase expected in 2008.



IF POACHING CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY CURBED, THE ABALONE POPULATION WILL RECOVER SIGNIFICANTLY IN 5 YEARS



If poaching can be successfully curbed, it has been projected that the abalone population will recover significantly in 5 years in some areas, and return to its former levels in about 15 years. "This level of recovery would allow the Department to re-instate the abalone commercial fishery," confirms Mayekiso.

With the help of the South African Police Services and the enthusiastic commitment of communities and other role players in the affected regions, DEAT is confident that the abalone resource can be rescued from the brink of disaster.



South African youth taking back the future
SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH TAKING BACK THE FUTURE



DID YOU KNOW...

SOUTH AFRICA IS ONE OF THE THREE MOST BIODIVERSE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, ALONG WITH BRAZIL AND INDONESIA

South Africa, although a developing country, prides itself when it comes to youth involvement in environmental issues. This was confirmed when the Imvelo Yethu, the youth version of the South Africa Environment Outlook (SAEO) was launched in October 2007. A first for South Africa, the Imvelo Yethu is a National Youth Commission (NYC) initiative, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), by youth and for the youth.

It is a process that was inspired by the development of a Global Environment Outlook (GEO) for Youth report and the more recent GEO juvenile process (for the Latin America and Caribbean region). The success of the GEO juvenile, in terms of the quality of the presentation of information and popularity amongst young people in that region, also led to the development of specific country reports on environment for youth, for example the GEO juvenil para Peru. The youth version of the SAEO report has been an unprecedented initiative that is geared towards mobilising the South African youth into a strong environmental network and engaging them in a collective process. The process of drafting the youth version of the SAEO report was guided by solidarity, respect for nature and shared responsibilities, and the recognition that people are at the centre of the environment, hence the lead role that youth played in this process.

South Africa is a country blessed with natural richness, which include beautiful landscapes, scenic routes found in coastal areas, mountain ranges, biodiversity, meandering rivers and a rich animal kingdom. This has put South Africa on the map as one of the preferred tourist destinations in Africa. Apart from that, South Africans enjoy natural resources found in our biodiversity such as food and medicine, flowers, clean water from our wetlands and rivers, and other resources especially the rural poor, who depend directly on our environmental resources for survival.

LAUNCH OF THE IMVELO YETHU, YOUTH VERSION OF THE SOUTH AFRICA ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK (SAEO)

IMVELO YETHU IS A
TOOL TO EMPOWER
AND INVOLVE THE
YOUTH IN
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENTS AND
DECISION MAKING

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South African youth taking back the future



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It is against this backdrop that, as South Africans, we owe it to ourselves to protect the environment by capacitating, educating and conserving our environmental resources. Youth involvement is of pivotal importance in achieving these as it has been recognised that if a citizen only becomes sensitised to environmental issues as an adult, they would have already missed years of opportunity to contribute meaningfully towards a cleaner and healthier environment. The sooner environmental education and awareness begins, the more effectively the youth can tackle environmental issues.

The state of South Africa's environment is deteriorating. Solutions and guidance of how we as a nation can go about improving it lie with environmental reporting - informing the general public about the condition of our environment. The youth version of SAEO contains chapters such as protecting our environment, fragile lands, natural riches, human vulnerability to environmental change, and the future of the Environment in South Africa etc. Imvelo Yethu is written in a youth friendly way that tackles environmental issues head-on, and provides solutions and information on what the youth can do to contribute towards sustainable development.

Imvelo Yethu is a tool to empower and involve the youth in environmental assessments and decision making. The process of compiling the Imvelo Yethu began in August 2005, when about 200 youths from various Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), the National Youth Commission, Provincial Youth Commissions (PYC), DEAT, provincial environmental departments, selected municipalities and schools were informed about the main environmental trends and findings of the national state of the environment report. Youth representatives formed part of the editorial team, and reviewed chapters to ensure that the report would be understood by youth. In her keynote address delivered at the launch of Imvelo Yethu, the honorable Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi, emphasised the need to involve the youth in environmental issues and assessments. She reiterated the importance of the youth being in the forefront of tackling environmental issues and how it was now up to the youth to accept the challenge. "The biggest challenge now is to ensure continuation of this legacy to benefit future generations". (Launch of the Imvelo Yethu youth SAEO event, 26 October 2007).



south african youth taking back the future

In order to broaden its reach, launches have also been scheduled in each of the nine provinces, through the NYC. These launches are imminent, and will be announced when mutually convenient dates for the stakeholders have been finalised. It is expected that at these launches, that youth run projects will be showcased. This is so as to provide the youth with a platform at which their hard work can be made known.

The youth report will be made available at PYCs, NYC, at DEAT and at multi-purpose centres in all nine Provinces. It is also envisaged that partnerships with various environmental NGOs will be forged to provide a wide distribution platform.

If you would like to know more about the Youth version of the South Africa Environment Outlook, or would like to obtain a copy, please contact the National Youth Commission at:

Tel: 012 309 7800
Fax: 012 324 4759
Youthline: 0800 000 001
Web: www.nyc.gov.za

Or you can contact DEAT at:

Call centre: 086 111 24 68
Tel: 012 310 3734/ 310 3220
Web: www.deat.gov.za



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EVENTS

PLUS

APRIL



A
P
R
I
L

**CAPE DUTCH
FESTIVAL IN
TULBAGH**

5-6



EARTH DAY
22



**KAROO
FESTIVAL
IN
DE AAR**

24-26



**PRINCE ALBERT
TOWN & OLIVE
FESTIVAL**

25-27

27
**FREEDOM
DAY**

MAY



1-3

**NORTHERN CAPE
EXPO, GREEN
KALAHARI**



3-4
**RIBEEK VALLEY
OLIVE FESTIVAL
WESTERN CAPE**



**NATIONAL BIRD
WEEK**

5-11

8-11

**KAMBERG
TROUT
FESTIVAL
KZN**



10-13
**INDABA
2008
DURBAN**



**BRONDAL AVO
FESTIVAL
MPUMALANGA**

17



**INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

22

