

# Environment Quarterly

EzemVelo Ngenyanga Ntathu • Mbango wa kotara • Mupo nga Kotara



**Focus on COP 26 Conference**

**Holiday activities to do at iSimangaliso Wetland Park**



forestry, fisheries  
& the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

# 2021

# environment CALENDAR



## JANUARY

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02 February  
02 March  
21 March  
23 March  
22 April

**World Wetlands Day**  
**World Wildlife Day**  
**International Day of Forests**  
**World Meteorological Day**  
**Earth Day**

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17 May  
22 May  
05 June  
08 June

**World Migratory Bird Day**  
**International Day for Biological Diversity**  
**World Environment Day**  
**World Oceans Day**

17 June  
18 July  
31 July  
31 Aug - 04 Sep

**Desertification and Drought Day**  
**Nelson Mandela Day**  
**World Ranger Day**  
**Arbour Week**

## SEPTEMBER

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16 September  
19 September  
07 - 11 September  
21 November

**International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**  
**International Coastal Clean-up Day**  
**South African National Parks Week**  
**World Fisheries Day**



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### About the back cover image

#### Tugela Falls

Tugela Falls is a complex of seasonal waterfalls located in the Drakensberg (Dragon's Mountains) of Royal Natal National Park in KwaZulu-Natal Province. It is now accepted as the world's tallest waterfall as a revisited validation was done and that it is actually the tallest waterfall in the world, rather than Venezuela's Angel Falls. The combined total drop of its five distinct free-leaping falls is officially 948 m (3,110 ft).

The source of the Tugela River (Zulu for 'sudden') is the Mont-Aux-Sources plateau which extends several kilometers beyond The Amphitheatre escarpment from which the falls drop.

*Image by Brand SA*



To use this QR code conveniently you must have a smartphone equipped with a camera and a QR code reader/scanner application feature.





## Dear Valued Stakeholder

Welcome to our last edition for the year 2021. With this issue, we bring you two options that you can choose to read from. We have introduced an e-book version and would also like to get your input and feedback about your preferred format.

We will still keep the PDF version for easy referral. We are excited about this digitalised copy and are hoping that you will find it easy to read through.

This edition focuses mainly on the 26th edition of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)

that was hosted by UK in Glasgow from 31 October – 13 November 2021.

Minister Barbara Creecy led the SA delegation at this summit that brought parties together to accelerate action towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The country went to Glasgow with a clear mandate to negotiate for the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including the global goals on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation for climate action.

For South Africa, the main priorities as mandated by Cabinet ahead of COP26, were to secure an ambitious and progressive finance and adaptation package to support African and other developing countries, as well as to complete the Paris Agreement Work Programme.

At the talks, South Africa argued that in a context where developing countries are showing leadership in addressing climate change far beyond their means or historical responsibilities, even in the midst of the devastating socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19, it is particularly

important that enabling means of implementation is available.

**We comprehensively cover COP26, decisions made and activities from page 4-8.**

On a lighter note, if you are looking for what you and your loved ones can enjoy during the festive holidays, then look no further than the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Page 12 and 13 covers activities that are available at iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

Page 14 offers bright ideas on how to save energy while protecting the environment, a guide that will come in handy this festive season. We can all work together to save tomorrow today.

The year 2021 is coming to an end and we hope that you will spend quality time with family and friends, while continuing to take care of our environment.

Thank for your ongoing positive feedback and we wish you a safe and relaxed festive season.

In closing, I want to thank the Environment Quarterly team for their relentless commitment and dedication.

Until next year – take care of our environment!!

**Albi Modise**  
**Head of Communications & Advocacy**

## Meet our team

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# BILLY BIN'S festive MESSAGE



The festive season is upon us, where we shall gather with families and friends to celebrate the spirit of love and togetherness. As we gather we must not forget that the world is still affected by COVID-19 and the more we are together the greater the chances of spreading the virus to one another. During this special time, I would like to encourage you to:

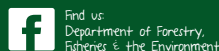
- Keep a safe distance or space from one another when you are in public or private. Always keep a social distance of 1.5m between you and the next person. No hugs but an elbow contact is allowed.
- Wear your mask at all times. No mask sharing is allowed. When you take off a mask, store it in a clean plastic bag and every day either wash it if it's a fabric mask, or dispose of a medical mask in a bin.
- Travelling or being around people means you are exposed to touching various surfaces at different places. Remember to wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use alcohol based sanitizers constantly to keep your hands clean. Also clean surfaces regularly with standard disinfectants.
- When you visit parks, beaches and or any outdoor space, always use a bin to throw litter. Litter can adversely affect the environment, as it can be blown or washed into rivers, forest lands, oceans and eventually pollutes the waterways, land, forest areas, soils or aquatic environments, which includes killing marine animals.
- When travelling, do not throw waste out the window. Carry a bag and put your waste inside, until you get to a place where there are bins.
- Bring a cloth bag to do all your shopping, but not just for groceries. Take a cloth bag on your trips to the mall when you shop for clothes, small electronics or other products. A sturdy, reusable bag will last for years, and only needs to be used five times to have a lower environmental impact than a plastic bag.
- Separate recyclable waste from the other waste that cannot be recycled in your household. This reduces pollution which could have resulted in the disposal of the material and saves landfill airspace, so that our landfill sites can last for longer and not need additional land which we can use for other things.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Reducing your consumption and impact helps take pressure off the world's natural resources. Reuse glass jars of jam, mayonnaise and other products to store odd and ends in your home. Recycle paper, cardboard, wood, glass, cans, tins, and plastic bottles. Compost food waste if you can.

Veronica Mahlaba



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& the environment

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# SA welcomes COP26 outcomes

By Zibuse Ndlovu  
Images by UNFCCC



“COP26 sets the international community on the right track to addressing the existential challenge of climate change.” These were the sentiments by Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment Minister, Ms Barbara Creecy during the COP26 outcome’s media briefing held on 17 November, in Cape Town.

For the first time the Governing Bodies of the Convention and Paris Agreement have agreed to the importance of supporting developing countries in financing Just Transition elements of their climate actions, and to support the implementation of Just Transitions that promote sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, the creation of decent work and quality jobs.

For South Africa the main priorities, as mandated by Cabinet ahead of COP26, were to secure an ambitious and progressive finance and adaptation package to support African and other developing countries, as well as to complete the Paris Agreement Work Programme.

“The key technical work included setting up carbon markets, an enhanced transparency framework and agreeing on common time frames for the Nationally Determined Contributions of Parties to the Paris Agreement. These over-arching objectives have been met,” said Minister Creecy.

South Africa, through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) participated at the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, Scotland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021, under the Presidency of the United Kingdom.

## Some of the key COP26 outcomes

- The international community has united behind a shared objective to inject a greater sense of urgency to address the global climate crisis and to do so on the basis of international equity and latest available science.
- The concluded Paris Agreement Work Programme will assist Parties to fully implement the Paris Agreement, in the context of a Just Transition and Sustainable



### About the contributor: Zibuse Ndlovu

Zibuse Ndlovu is the Assistant Director in the Communications and Advocacy Chief Directorate at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.





**Above:** World leaders signed off on a new climate change agreement after two weeks of intense negotiations in Glasgow, Scotland. While some countries committed to more ambitious cuts to heat-trapping pollution, many nations did not agree to rein in emissions fast enough for the world to avoid the worst damage from climate-driven storms, heat waves and droughts

Country Fund and \$450 million towards the Adaptation Fund. Dedicated climate finance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will be increased.

- Parties have agreed on a 5-year common time frame for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution starting in 2031. This is an effort to address the complexities of aggregating the collective impact of NDCs that are currently addressing different time periods.

“ The international community has united behind a shared objective to inject a greater sense of urgency to address the global climate crisis.

- Parties have agreed to work towards limiting the aggregate global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees and to align their Nationally Determined Contributions to this objective, as South Africa has already done through the submission of its enhanced NDC ahead of COP26.
- An annual mitigation ambition work program has been established, coupled with ministerial roundtables, to assess progress on implementation. Parties are encouraged to review their NDCs at any time, in line with Article 4.11 of the Paris Agreement. Parties are also asked to update on a regular basis their long-term low emissions development strategy and the UNFCCC Secretariat will provide a synthesis report on these strategies and NDCs on an annual basis
- A platform has been set up to address both the Just Transition and alignment of financial flows, consistent with a pathway towards a low greenhouse gas emission future and climate resilient development. This should assist in directing finances towards the achievement of climate imperatives, without compromising the other sustainable development imperatives of developing countries.
- A two-year work programme has been agreed to operationalise the Global Goal on Adaptation under the CMA, as the governing body of the Paris Agreement.
- The deliberations on a new collective global goal on climate finance support for developing countries have been initiated. The agenda item on long time finance for developing countries, which was to have ended at COP26, will continue under the Convention until 2027, with a specific focus on reviewing and monitoring the US\$ 100 billion per annum goal from 2021 until 2025.
- An additional \$300 million has been pledged by developed countries for the Least Developed



Minister Creecy has congratulated the United Kingdom for the successful hosting of COP26 in very challenging circumstances in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Minister also expressed her appreciation to President Ramaphosa and other Cabinet colleagues for their guidance and support to the delegation and to all members of the multi-stakeholder Team South Africa for their outstanding work at COP26.

# Minister launches SA Pavilion in Glasgow

By Zibuse Ndlovu  
Images by UNFCCC



**Above:** Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment Minister Barbara Creecy interacting with the South African climate change negotiators ahead of the High-Level Segment week at COP26, in Glasgow.



**Above:** Minister Barbara Creecy at the official launch of the South African Pavilion at COP26, in Glasgow.

**F**orestry, Fisheries, and the Environment Minister, Ms Barbara Creecy launched the South African Pavilion in partnership with the National Business Initiative (NBI) at COP26, in Glasgow, Scotland.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Creecy described the partnership as a practical embodiment of collaboration to jointly address climate change.

"The public, private sector and civil society are exposed to the physical and transition risk of climate change, but the degree of exposure and the resultant costs will manifest unevenly, with communities in developing countries being hit the hardest," said Minister Creecy.

In her address, Minister Creecy further stressed the importance of investing in the green economy and green technologies, as it provides strategic advantages for South Africa and continent. "It opens access to new green financing opportunities; it offers the possibility of significant proven job creation; it has potential to localise production and services which will build small and medium enterprises and of course it enhances our long-term competitiveness while mitigating our transition risks." said the Minister.

South Africa went to Glasgow with a clear mandate to negotiate for the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including the global goals on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation for climate action.

"We share with other developing countries a view that our own ability to fulfill our climate ambition, related to both mitigation and adaptation is integrally linked to developed countries honoring their obligations under the convention. Developed countries must provide financial and technical support to developing countries," said Minister Creecy.

South Africa Pavilion was co-hosted by government and business affirming the value of collaboration to realize a low carbon, climate resilient, and inclusive economy and society.

Meanwhile, the Northern Cape Green Hydrogen Strategy, with SASOL as anchor investor, was also launched at COP26. In her remarks during the launch, Minister Creecy said the development will contribute towards job creation and skills development. "It will enhance economic transformation that will benefit the previously marginalised sectors of society, particularly women and youth, especially in a province, like the Northern Cape, which is one of the poorest in terms of demographics in South Africa," said Minister Creecy.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the Northern Cape Green Hydrogen Strategy at the South African Strategic Infrastructure Development Symposium on the 7th of October 2021. This after the decision by Cabinet on the 14th of September 2021, to approve the extension for the next 10 years of the South African Hydrogen Society Roadmap (HSRM).



**Above:** A number of dialogues and side events were hosted at the South African Pavilion to showcase the work being done by South Africa to raise awareness, adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.





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UK 2021

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# World leaders commit to deforestation action

By Zibuse Ndlovu  
Images by UNFCCC



**Above:** World leaders at COP26 have reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable land use, and to the conservation, protection, sustainable management and restoration of forests, and other terrestrial ecosystems.

The Summit at COP26 announced its first major agreement, where 105 countries covering 85% of the world's forests have committed to act on reducing and reversing deforestation.

Leaders committed to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

World leaders further emphasised the critical and interdependent roles of forests of all types, biodiversity

and sustainable land use in enabling the world to meet its sustainable development goals; to help achieve a balance between anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removal by sinks; to adapt to climate change; and to maintain other ecosystem services.

The focus of COP26 is the completion of the Paris Rule Book, and on completing and accelerating climate action at a time when the international community is off track to meeting its goals on mitigation, adaptation and support set out in the Paris Agreement.



**Above:** SA Climate Change Chief Negotiator, Mr Maesela Kekana together with the governments of the UK, France, Germany and USA as well as the European Union briefed media on the historic international partnership to support South Africa's Just Transition at the France Pavilion.



**Above:** The 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, Scotland, on 31 October to 12 November 2021



# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS COULD BE DISASTROUS FOR FOOD & WATER SECURITY



## LET'S STEP UP OUR EFFORTS



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# Directorate: Sustainability Programmes & Projects



Headed by Dr Jenitha Badul, the Directorate Sustainability Programmes and Projects provides technical, administrative and governance support to the implementation of a number of donor and fiscal (support to the Green Fund implemented by the Development Bank of Southern Africa) funded green economy-related interventions. Albeit a small team, the dynamic ladies in the Directorate have proven that they are indeed a force to be reckoned with. The Directorate implements a number of programmes and projects which can be described as technical and sometimes challenging in nature, these are inclusive of:



**Non Motorised Transport Programme:** : funded through the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of the Federal Republic of Germany and implemented by the KfW Development Bank, the Programme is focused on promoting the uptake of cycling through awareness and outreach campaigns as well as infrastructure development.



**Biogas to Energy Programme:** a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Programme, implemented through the United Nations Development Organisation (UNIDO), which aims to advance the biogas to energy sector in South Africa, through the provision of support to pilot projects, production of knowledge products and provision of technical training.



**Green Economy Transformation Programme (GET):** funded through the Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Programme aims at supporting a number of green economy related initiatives including capacity building interventions, production of technical reports, and facilitation of engagement sessions amongst experts comprising of both the private and public sectors to discuss Green Economy related issues. The GET Programme recently supported the Green Jobs Dialogue series to engage Youth on the potential for green jobs in specific sectors.



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**Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (PAGE):** PAGE is a multi-donor funded Programme implemented in partnership with five United Nations Agencies. The Programme has three main objectives: i) contribute to better policy coordination, ii) identification of potential and enabling factors for green economy sectors and iii) strengthening capacity through green economy training and knowledge sharing. Amongst various achievements and outputs, the Programme has recently supported the development of an economic modelling report of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP), which provides a view of how green the ERRP is and also identifies the potential to transition to a low carbon and inclusive economic recovery.



**Driving Force for Change (DFC) – Youth Pilot Initiative:** on 16 June 2020, Minister Creedy officially launched a call for proposals which targeted youth entrepreneurs and youth led organisations. 13 Beneficiaries were selected through a competitive evaluation process and are currently being supported through entrepreneurship training and development of business plans.



**Switch Africa Green (SAG):** funded through the European Union, the Programme provides support to the transition towards an Inclusive Green Economy, through promoting a shift to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices and the promotion of SDG 12. The SAG Programme has elements of business support, capacity building on climate smart agriculture and circular economy and networking facilities.



**Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals (P4G):** The P4G is a multi-donor funded programme which aims to accelerate progress in the Sustainable Development Goals (i.e., SDG 2, 6, 7, 11, 12 & 17) by supporting partnerships that aim to transform key economic sectors to drive the green growth transition.



Implementation of the aforementioned initiatives does not only require for a need to have sound technical understanding but also for good communication skills and management of relationships with various partners and donors. As such, the Directorate is committed to continued capacity building of all team members by leveraging on courses and skills development opportunities being provided.

During the past year, the Directorate Team members have undertaken a number of online training interventions to ensure that the team is well capacitated with the necessary skill sets to drive the work areas of the Directorate and ultimately support the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in achieving its Mandate.

# Holiday activities to do at iSimangaliso Wetland Park

By iSimangaliso Wetland Park and Veronica Mahlaba  
Images by Brand SA and iSimangaliso Wetland Park

The festive holidays are quickly approaching us. If you are looking for what you and your loved ones can enjoy for the holidays, then look no further than the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The Park was listed as South Africa's first World Heritage Site in December 1999 in recognition of its superlative natural beauty and unique global values. The name iSimangaliso means miracle and wonder, which aptly describes this unique place.

## Create memorable experiences with the following:

### 1. Beaches

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park coastline stretches from Maphelane in the south to the Kosi Bay mouth near the Mozambique border and has a wide range of pristine beaches. The water temperature of the Indian Ocean is approximately 29°C in mid-summer (Dec–Feb). Unspoiled stretches of beach can be found at Black Rock, Nine Mile Beach, Lala Nek, Bhanga Nek and Mabibi along the Coastal Forest section of iSimangaliso.



### 2. Boat Cruises

Depart from one of two jetties on a two-hour estuary boat cruise, stopping at interesting sightings along the way. The ferry is able to venture into the shallow waters of Lake St Lucia. Visitors will discover close encounters with hippo and crocodiles on this tour. Knowledgeable guides provide commentary on the workings of Africa's largest estuarine system. A wide variety of bird life including fish eagles, kingfishers and herons are normally spotted on the tour.



### 3. Bird Watching

iSimangaliso Wetland Park offers some of SA's finest birding, with at least 530 bird species recorded throughout the Park. Wetlands are magnets for huge numbers of water birds such as flocks of pelicans, storks and flamingos congregating alongside specials such as Pinkthroated Longclaws, Pygmy Geese and Lesser Jacanas. The uMkhuze section of the Park is a renowned birding destination, hosting 420 of the Park's recorded species. It is also one of the country's only pelican nesting sites.



### About the contributor: Veronica Mahlaba

Ms Veronica Mahlaba is a Senior Communication Officer in the Communications and Advocacy Chief Directorate at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. Ms Mahlaba has experience as a Lecturer in the Media Studies Department at a private college.





#### 4. Game Drives

You are almost guaranteed to see hippo on the Pan Loop and the Vlei Loop, sometimes even a hippo out of the water in the middle of the day. A number of excellent game viewing roads traverse the Eastern and Western Shores sections of the Park. The coastal Dune Loop provides sweeping vistas and the Grassland Loop skirts the southern shore of Lake Bhangazi before crossing over rolling grasslands and a small section of swamp forest along the Nkazana Stream.



The giraffe and elephants are seen only on the Western Shores. Licensed Operators offer guided tours of these sections including full day beach and bush experiences to Cape Vidal as well as night drives providing the opportunity to see the endemic Setaro Dwarf chameleon and the frequently spotted nocturnal leopard and hyaena.

#### 5. Guided Walks

Taking a walk along one of iSimangaliso's many designated walking trails is the best way to see the magnificent game animals at the Park. The absence of a noisy 4x4 safari vehicle ensures that the animals won't be disturbed. As visitors you will be accompanied by a highly trained armed guide that will ensure peace-of-mind, just in case you should happen to encounter any of the park's predatory inhabitants.



#### 6. Horse Riding

The Eastern Shores of the Park offer a fantastic equestrian experience. Horses are especially chosen to suit the terrain and will be carefully matched to each rider so that whatever your experience, you can enjoy the adventure. The range of horse trails for day visitors includes beach, game or combination rides.



#### 7. Scuba Diving

iSimangaliso's coral reefs are sustained by the warm, nutrient-rich waters of the Agulhas Current, creating some of the world's best diving spots. These waters are home to 95 identified species of hard and soft corals, sponges and many other invertebrates. There are over 1200 species of fish including ragged tooth sharks, whale sharks, tiger sharks, manta rays and giant morays. Resident reef fish include tiger rock cods, rubber lips and huge potato bass.



The southernmost coral reefs of Africa can be found off Sodwana Bay. The most commonly dived reefs at Sodwana are 2 Mile, 5 Mile, 7 Mile and 9 Mile Reefs. Each of these have unique features. There is also excellent diving at Rocktail Bay and Mabibi. The best snorkelling spots throughout the iSimangaliso coastline are at the Kosi mouth, Rocktail Bay and Mabibi, Sodwana and Cape Vidal. Diving is possible all year round.



# Save energy, save the environment

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

Images by GreenBiz.com and iStock Photos

The fight against Climate Change and Global Warming is a fight that none of us can run away from as these phenomena affect everyone who lives on this planet. Over the years, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has introduced various plans of action in trying to fight climate change, but this is not a fight that government can fight on its own, you too can help in ensuring that we protect our precious planet.

One of the more effective ways you can do this is by saving energy. Reducing our energy intake plays a huge role in the cutting back of carbon emissions into the

environment, resulting in cleaner air for us to breathe. 90% of South Africa's energy comes from non-renewable energy sources which include coal, gas and oil. These all take years even centuries to regenerate hence it has become very important for all of us to play a part in helping to conserve non-renewable energy sources.

Saving energy is not as difficult as people make it to be, it can be done by changing a few things around your household and adjusting a bit of a lifestyle. Take a look at some things that you can do around your house to save energy and money.

## Geysers

Geysers consume more electricity than any other household appliance so it is important to ensure that all the necessary steps are taken to reduce the energy being consumed by them. One of the easier ways to do this is by switching off the geyser when it is not being used as a geyser can store warm water for hours. Another option is to replace an electrical geyser with a solar panel geyser which captures solar energy and converts it into electricity and can save up to 70% in water heating costs.

## Lights

Lights play an important role in every household as it is very difficult to get things done in the dark. Resorting to natural lighting wherever possible and switching off lights in rooms that are not occupied are great ways of saving energy. Replacing your standard incandescent light bulbs with either LED or Compact Fluorescent lamp lights can save up to 75% energy as these last longer than standard light bulbs while saving you money in cooling costs as they produce a lot less heat.

## Appliances

Household appliances are some of the things that we can't live without because they make our everyday lives easier, this makes them some of the biggest energy consumers around the house. Buying energy efficient appliances such as fridges, dishwashers and washing machines can help in saving energy. Another important thing to is to remove appliances from wall sockets when not in use, not only does this save energy but it can also keep your appliances from being damaged in the case of electricity cuts and loadshedding.



### More tips on saving energy around the house

- Use a microwave wherever possible to cook small quantity foods as they don't use up as much power as stoves.
- Use cold water to wash your clothes.
- Take shorter showers.
- Make sure that fridge doors are always closed tightly.
- Use a blanket instead of a heater to stay warm during cold days.
- Front loading washing machines use less water and cost less to operate.
- Use kettles to boil water and not pots on a stove.
- Paint the walls in your home a lighter colour as dark colours absorb light requiring you to use more energy from light bulbs.



### About the contributor: Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

Mr Tshegofatso Ndhlovu is an Intern in the Chief Directorate: Communications. He holds a diploma in Journalism from The Tshwane University of Technology. He is an avid Tennis Player who looks up to the Williams Sisters.



# How to organise a community clean-up

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu



Living in an environment that is clean is not only beneficial for our health, it also allows for good investment in our communities while creating a pleasant place for us to live. One of the key mandates of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment include the ensuring of a clean environment that is not harmful to the health and well-being of people.

One of the many ways that the department carries out this mandate is through the Good Green Deeds programme which aims to change people's attitudes and behaviours towards the responsible management of their waste while keeping their neighbourhoods clean, green and safe. Illegal dumping and littering are some of the most common problems affecting communities all over South Africa. Not only do illegal dumping sites release hazardous substances and chemicals that cause damage to the soil, air and groundwater.

They also put the safety of communities at risk by creating crime hotspots and creating fire hazards while also diminishing the value of properties. Here are some simple steps to organizing a community clean up that will ensure a healthy environment for all.

## STEP ONE

Identify an illegal dumping site or an abandoned area that is polluted and poses environmental and health threats to the community (These can include an old park, abandoned sports grounds and open fields where people litter).

## STEP TWO

Inform the community at large about the clean-up and encourage them to join in keeping their environment clean and healthy. Approaching surrounding schools about the clean-up is encouraged as it would be beneficial for the learners to take part in the clean-up.

## STEP THREE

Organise and gather around some safety gear and equipment that will be needed to help in conducting the clean-up in a proper and safe way. This includes hand gloves, masks, refuse bags and waste pickers.

## STEP FOUR

Approach local organisations and shops and ask them to donate some water or other refreshments for all the people participating in your clean-up. Clean-ups are a lot of work and most clean ups take place on hot days so keeping hydrated is essential.

## STEP FIVE

Get to cleaning! Always remember to have fun and enjoy the clean-up, keep in mind all the benefits that come with the clean-up that you have organised.

## STEP SIX

Find someone who will be able to educate the community at large about the importance of keeping their environment clean, this is very important as it will help in decreasing the number of people who dump their waste at illegal dumping sites. It is also very important for the community to know all about the 4R's Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover.

## STEP SEVEN

Planting trees in the area is advisable as trees have many benefits on the environment. These benefits include providing oxygen, bearing fruits and providing shade for the animals and people who live in the community.

## STEP EIGHT

Turn the now clean area into something that the community can benefit from as this will hinder people from dumping their waste and litter. You can turn it into a recreational park, vegetable garden or even a sports ground.

## STEP NINE

Create a form of barrier or put up signs that will discourage people from littering and turning the area into an illegal dumping site again.

## STEP TEN

Keep on spreading the word of a clean and healthy environment to everyone in your community and encourage them to throw their litter in their dustbins. Always remember to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover!

# Celebrating Clean-Up and Recycling Week

By Tshegofatso Nahlovu and Salome Tsoka



**Above:** Members of the community, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the City of Tshwane and Thandanani Drop Inn Centre planted trees and cleaned up the illegal dumping site.

Every year, from 13-18 September close to 120 000 volunteers come together to celebrate Clean-Up and Recycling Week South Africa. The annual initiative formed by the local plastics industry is supported and endorsed by various packaging and retail retailers, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) together with provincial and local government, environmental organisations, businesses, schools and communities.

The initiative promotes the benefits of keeping the environment clean by diverting waste away from landfill sites through means like reduction, re-use, re-purpose, recycle or the upcycle of waste materials. The Department embarked on a number of clean-up activities around the Gauteng province in celebration of Clean-Up & Recycling Week South Africa.

The theme and messaging for this year's celebrations is still continuous as that of the previous years which encourages citizens to clean up their environment as every piece of plastic, paper, glass, etc littered eventually makes its way down to our precious rivers and streams and goes straight into the oceans.

The DFFE has been celebrating Clean-Up and Recycling Week South Africa through awareness campaigns to encourage communities to know the benefits of keeping their environment clean. Communities are also encouraged to not only clean but to also green their environment through tree planting.

The Department joined by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the City of Tshwane and Thandanani Drop Inn Centre cleaned up a park which had been turned into an illegal dumping site in Mamelodi S&S, in Pretoria on 16 September 2021.

Caption for all three images: Members of the community, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the City of Tshwane and Thandanani Drop Inn Centre planted trees and cleaned up the illegal dumping site.

The Department joined forces with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the City of Tshwane and the JNF Walter Sisulu Environment Centre in cleaning a dumping site and along the river Khalambazo, Mamelodi, in Pretoria on 17 September ahead of International Coastal Clean-up Day on 18 September 2021.



**Above:** The DFFE officials were joined by Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the City of Tshwane and the JNF Walter Sisulu Environment Centre members as well as community members to clean-up the rubbish along the river.



# Effects of Air Pollution on Human Health

- FACTS**
- 92% of people worldwide do not breathe clean air
  - Air pollution costs the global economy \$5 trillion every year in welfare costs
  - Ground-level ozone pollution is expected to reduce staple crop yields by 26 per cent by 2030

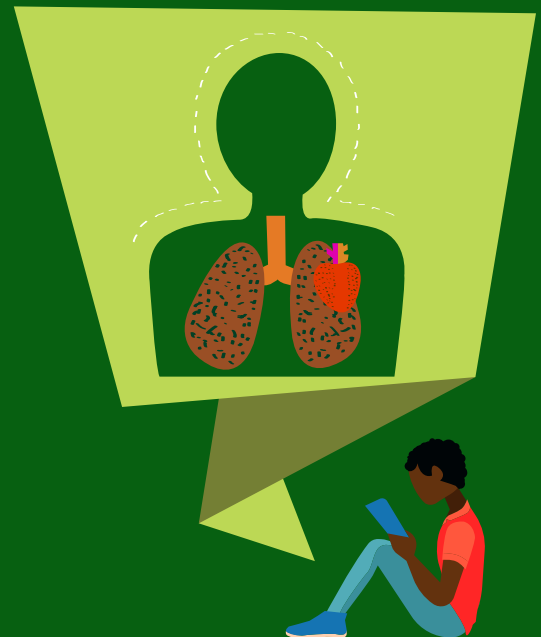


**Pollution**



**Solution**

- Air pollution can affect human health in a number of ways with both acute (short-term) and chronic (Long-term) effects. Different groups of individuals are affected by air pollution in different ways depending on their level of sensitivity. Young children and elderly people often suffer more from the effects of air pollution.
- People with health problems such as asthma, heart and lung disease may also suffer more when exposed to polluted air. Continual exposure to air pollution affects the lungs of growing children and may aggravate or complicate medical conditions in the elderly.
- Short-term exposure to air pollution can aggravate medical conditions of individuals with asthma and emphysema. Long-term health effects can include chronic respiratory disease, lung cancer and cardiovascular problems.



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# Traditional leaders informed on Marine and Coastal legislation

By Siyabulela Malo



**Above:** Amakhosi from uMkhanyakude District Municipality participate in the Marine and Coastal Compliance and Enforcement Workshops



**Above:** DFFE's Compliance and Enforcement Director, Mr Mzondeleli Dzulane during the Marine and Coastal Compliance and Enforcement Workshop.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), hosted the final leg of the Marine and Coastal Compliance and Enforcement workshop in Hluhluwe, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) from 17-18 August 2021.

The workshop was hosted in partnership with the KZN Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs COGTA and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs EDTEA and saw over 40 Amakhosi and Izinduna from uMkhanyakude District Municipality participating.

The aim of the workshop was to equip Amakhosi and Izinduna with information on the various environmental, marine and coastal legislations that exist and discuss challenges experienced by communities living in coastal areas.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of conserving and preserving the coastal area, the ecosystem, and other related activities, not only by the authorities, but by the communities as well, with practical examples provided on the strides made so far

Presentations led by officials from the Department of Mineral Resources, DFFE, KZN Wildlife and iSimangaliso Wetland Park focused on the allocation of fishing rights, mining permits, and undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments for purposes of development or mining.

The Chief of Luthuli Village, Inkosi Luthuli urged government to work closely with Amakhosi and Izinduna moving forward because they are also leaders in their

communities. "The presentations are eye-opening," he said.

"I did not know that all sand mining is illegal, and I always encounter people in my village performing such activities. Now that I am aware, I will have to work tirelessly with Izinduna to hinder our people from continuing to do such activities."

Inkosi Mkhwanazi from Mpukunyoni also encouraged government departments to strengthen relationships with Amakhosi, "Our government has to continue to create these kinds of engagements because they help us as Amakhosi and Izinduna in our villages to impose environmental compliance based on the knowledge we have been taught."

The DFFE's Compliance and Enforcement Directorate Director, Mr Mzondeleli Dzulane praised Amakhosi and Izinduna for their participation. "We would like to encourage you to come forward and inform the department should you encounter any environmental crimes in your communities," he added.

The workshop also assisted in capacitating traditional leaders to be considered for appointment by the Member of Executive Council of the province as Voluntary Coastal Officers as stipulated in Section 43 of the Integrated Coastal Management Act. The section stipulates that the MEC mandated to deal with environmental affairs in a coastal province may appoint any member of the public, who has appropriate expertise, as a voluntary coastal officer.



## About the contributor: Siyabulela Malo

Mr Siyabulela Malo is a Media Relations & Editorial Services Intern in the Directorate : Communication Services in Cape Town. He holds a BA Communications Management Degree from the University of Fort Hare.



# RESPONSIBLE USE OF PESTICIDES



Follow the  
**9** easy steps

**2** When transporting pesticides make sure they are securely stored away from people, animals and food.



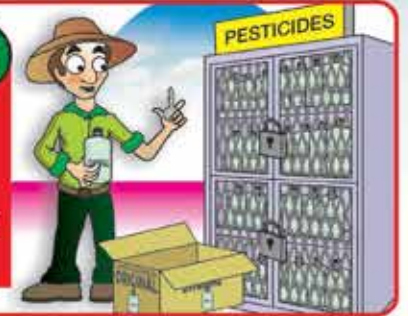
**1** Only use registered pesticides when needed. Get advice before buying pesticides and only purchase them at authorised retailers.



**4** Carefully read the product label and leaflets and follow the instructions. Never use for any other purpose or manner than that stated on the label.



**3** When storing pesticides make sure they are kept in a well-ventilated, securely locked place, away from children and pets.



**5** Check sprayer regularly for leaks and that nozzles work properly. Wear personal protection equipment while mixing and loading.



**6** Triple rinse empty pesticide containers into the spray tank. Then puncture the container so it cannot be used for water or food storage. Take empty, rinsed containers to the nearest CropLife SA certified collection site.



**7** While spraying pesticides, always wear personal protection equipment and only use calibrated equipment with no leaks. Spray early in the morning or late in the evening when it is less windy. Do not eat, drink or smoke while spraying.



**8** Do not spray pesticides near water sources. Do not pollute the environment by misusing pesticides or leaving empty containers in the field.



**9** After spraying pesticides, take a shower and put on clean clothes. Wash the spray equipment and personal protection equipment while protecting water sources and the environment. Store all equipment separately and safely.



In case of accidental contamination, wash and apply first aid according to the label. Then take the person to the nearest medical centre and bring the product label with you.

For more information visit: [www.dffe.gov.za](http://www.dffe.gov.za) or [www.croplife.co.za](http://www.croplife.co.za)



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## CALL OUT – TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL TEN MILLION TREES PROGRAMME TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS!!!



The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is currently running *the Ten Million Trees Programme*. This programme is a national call from the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa with the aim of attaining environmental sustainability and protection, and to realise socio-economic benefits for South Africans. The Department is calling out all Corporate Organisations, Government Organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisations, Educational Institutions and individuals to take part in planting Ten Million Trees which will be implemented over five years to ensure a green South Africa.

*The Department is asking all South African Organisations and Individuals to:*

- Plant trees in honour of loved ones and to mark important events in your communities!
  - Plant trees to celebrate milestones or a win!
- Plant trees to fight the effects of climate change!
  - Plant trees to beautify your homes, towns or cities!
- Plant trees to fight food insecurity in your areas!
  - Plant trees to protect the environment and promote biodiversity conservation!
- Plant trees in honour of our future generations



*How to participate:*

- Go to the DFFE website [www.dffe.gov.za](http://www.dffe.gov.za)
- Download the Ten Million Trees Programme Entry Form
- Plant your commemorative tree/trees and take a picture/s
- Fill in the entry form and email it with your picture/s to [nndzimbomvu@dffe.gov.za](mailto:nndzimbomvu@dffe.gov.za) or submit your entry form and pictures at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, 110 Hamilton Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0001.

Participants will be rewarded with a certificate by the Department which indicates their contribution towards a greener South Africa

*For enquiries contact:*

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**Tel: 012 309 5883 or Email: [nndzimbomvu@dffe.gov.za](mailto:nndzimbomvu@dffe.gov.za)**



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# THE TEN MILLION TREES PROGRAMME | ENTRY FORM



1. NAME AND SURNAME:

2. ORGANIZATION NAME (if applicable):

3. PROVINCE:

4. CITY/TOWNSHIP:

5. PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

6. NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED:

7. TYPES OF TREES PLANTED:

Indigenous

Fruit

Exotic

8. MOTIVATION FOR PLANTING TREES:

9. Tel:

Mobile No:

Email:

10. Tree planting pictures attached

(please tick if attached)

Signature:

Date:

For enquiries contact:

Ms Nosipho Ndzimbomvu – Directorate: Small Scale Forestry, Forestry Management Branch

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