

Environment Quarterly

EzemVelo Ngenyanga Ntathu • Mbango wa kotara • Mupo nga Kotara

**Keeping our environment
clean on Mandela Month**
**Celebrating inspiring women
in Forestry and Fisheries**



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

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



2022 environment CALENDAR



JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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02 February
03 March
21 March
23 March
22 April

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

MAY

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14 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
September

Desertification and Drought Day
Nelson Mandela Day
World Ranger Day
National Harbour Month

SEPTEMBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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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

Barkly Pass, a sensational drive in South Africa

Barkly Pass is a high mountain pass at an elevation of 2.018m (6,620ft) above the sea level, located in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

The paved road to the summit is called R58. The pass links Elliot and Barkly East. It was named after Sir Henry Barkly, governor of the Cape Colony from 1870 to 1877. The pass starts a few kilometers outside Elliot at 1,473 m above sea level and ascends moderately steep at a gradient of 1:22 attaining an elevation gain of 626 m in a distance of 12 km. After a few sharp hairpin bends it reaches an elevation of 2.018m at the summit.

Image by Freepik.com



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

You are holding in your hands another incisive edition of EQ. This is our second instalment of this publication this year. As the saying goes, so far so good. I would like to assure you of our unwavering commitment to continuously producing this informative publication on forestry, fisheries and the environment matters across the length and breadth of the Republic.

The month of August always brings with it numerous observances around the globe and top of our list in South Africa

is Women's Month which focuses the nation's attention on the empowerment, equality and influence of women in different levels and spheres of society. According to UN Women, a United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, it is estimated that 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women and girls.

2022 is the 68th year since the adoption of Women's Charter which gave women, wives and mothers of all races in South Africa the right to be counted and freedom from discrimination and prejudice.

We celebrate this year's Women Month under the theme: "Women's Socio-Economic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience". The concept of Generation Equality is a global campaign and links South Africa to global efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030. As a department, we are honoured to be led by a force of women which embodies the level of civilisation we have reached as a society.

Ahead of World Ranger Day on 31 July, the department received the sad news of the killing of Timbavati's head ranger Anton Zimba. In paying tribute to Anton, Minister Creecy has affirmed the department and police's commitment to working hard towards arresting the murderers of Mr Zimba. World Ranger Day is celebrated

worldwide on July 31st to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.

September is also known as Arbour Month in South Africa. We look at the links between the social importance of forests and climate change. Forests provide many options for rural people such as medicinal plants, firewood and harvesting wild fruits. Trees also serve the purpose of beautification and they provide us with oxygen. Every home should have a tree. The National Arbor Month campaign is aimed at sensitising South Africans about the need to conserve, protect and plant trees for environmental and human related ideals. The idea is to highlight the value and importance of trees and forests to South Africans in general. As the custodian of the greening function, the Department is responsible for the co-ordination of National Arbor Month Campaign, celebrated annually from 1-30 September

We hope you enjoy the read and remember that vaccination is the first line of defence against the Corona Virus.

Till next time!

Albi Modise

Head of Communications & Advocacy

Meet our team

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

#GoodGreenDeeds

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#ClimateCrisis

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



Celebrating inspiring women in Forestry and Fisheries

By Salome Tsoka

The Forestry and Fisheries sectors are some of the most male dominated sectors in South Africa and many parts of the world. These women found in these industries are not only breaking glass ceilings but are also inspiring many other young women in the country to follow suite.

Ms Nonkululeko Ntinga, an Operations Research Specialist at Mondi Group

What exactly do you do?

My job entails two main functions. Firstly, I drive the company's Ergonomics Programme, which involves risk assessments, mitigation, training and awareness, and incident investigations. Secondly, I lead the work-study department, which is a critical function in developing statistically sound productivity standards across Mondi Operations. In simple terms, I am the part of the team that collects and analyses operational data to build various visualization tools that guide best practices and continuous improvement initiatives.

How long have you been doing this?

I have been with Mondi for 15 years in various positions and have been an Operations Research Specialist for 5 years.

Describe a day in your life...

A day in my life can be on the field or in the office (sometimes both). A typical office day entails scheduling fieldwork with foresters, data analysis, and day-to-day admin. On the days I am on the field, I usually interact with various teams in the forestry value chain, i.e., nursery, silviculture, harvesting, to collect data and always seek areas of continuous improvement.

What qualifications do you have?

I have a National Diploma in Forestry, a BSc in Forestry and Wood Science, a Certificate in Ergonomics and I am a Masters Candidate at the Rhodes University.

What inspired you to join this career path?

I was exposed to the Forestry industry when visiting family in Greytown and Richmond where I was always curious about how the trees grow in a straight line. But I was never aware that one could have a career in Forestry because I grew up in a family with teachers, a lab technician, and a taxi boss. I was a Protec student in matric, a Saturday school programme sponsored by Mondi, a Maths, Science, and English enrichment program. As part of the career experience, I was exposed to the Science of growing trees (Forest Science) and how one can have a career that allows them to practice Science in nature.

What would you say most motivates you to do what you do?

I love nature and working with people; forestry combines both perfectly. Every day is different and has challenges because we work with two highly unpredictable elements, people and nature, to supply timber to the mill sustainably.

Are there a lot of women in your field? Why do you think that is?

No, there are not many women in my field of work. Forestry Research continues to be highly male dominated, especially at senior and management levels. Over the past couple of years, Forestry South Africa has done many significant initiatives that promote women in Forest Science, which is a step in the right direction. I feel the industry lacks women's mentorship initiatives that allow women to continually improve their leadership skills so that we start seeing them in senior and management positions.

What advice would you give to women interested in this field?

Education will allow you the tools to improve personal and professional decisions. But, your attitude and willingness to learn from everyone in your space will always determine your direction. .

Where do you see yourself in the next 5-10 years?

I want to assume a more strategic decision-making role for the company. This will allow me to combine my scientific knowledge and understanding of forestry with leadership experience a position that will enable me integrate the two.



Ms Fisokuhle Mbatha is a mother, PhD student and Research Assistant

What exactly do you do?

I am a Research Assistant at the South African Deep-Sea Trawling Industry Association. I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. specializing in marine ecology.

How long have you been doing this?

I started working for SADSTIA as an intern in 2017, then I was appointed to a permanent position in 2018. This is my 5th year in the field of fisheries.

Describe a day in your life...

I am the jack of all trades (woman with all hats), I am a mom to a special needs kid, a Ph.D. student, and also working a full-time job. I try by all means to keep balance in my daily life. When I am home, my focus is on my family, all work related matters I deal with them at the office. Even when I am working from home, I stick to my working times. It is so difficult to balance professional and personal life as a career woman and also being a mom.

What qualifications do you have?

I pursued my studies from University of Cape Town, where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Marine biology & Oceanography, Honour's degree in Ocean and Atmospheric science, and Master's degree in Applied Marine Science.

What inspired you to join this career path?

My university applications were accepted by UCT and UP. I decided to travel all the way from KwaZulu Natal to study in Cape Town, instead of

choosing the academic institution close to my family relatives which is in Pretoria.

I was extremely excited because that time I didn't even know the feeling of the sea-breeze even to go to the beach.



One of our first-year Biology field trips, was in the rocky shores of Dalebrook, Kalk Bay, the various marine species that I saw for the first time in my life brought me pure curiosity of wanting to know more about life in the sea and the dynamics of the ocean, which led me to pursue a career in Marine Biology.

What would you say most motivates you to do what you do?

My son is my first motivation every day in my life. Accomplishing a tiny milestone it is a big achievement to me, especially when you worked hard. I have been mentored by Dr Johann Augustyn since the beginning of my internship, working alongside with him as a fisheries expert encourages me to become an internationally recognised Marine Scientist one day.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your work?

My first scientific article that was published in a well-recognized scientific journal of Africa and working alongside with internationally recognised professional experts in marine science to make this publication a success was a immensely rewarding.

Are there a lot of women in your field?

Men in my work field have been dominated for centuries, where work responsibilities used to be strictly based on gender class (e.g. sea-going to fish) and racial identity. We are still trying to catch up in gender transformation especially in leadership, ship manufacturing and maintenance roles.

Why do you think that is?

Looking at the socio-economic background, it took so long for the SA government to prioritize the gender transformation policies, legislation and statistical analysis of women in the male-dominated work fields. In my opinion, the rate at which this is happening is disconcertingly slow even though there is progress in some other fields.

What advice would you give to women interested in this field?

The advice that I would like to share is that... As a woman don't be discouraged that the marine science field is perceived to be male-dominated," Maya Angelou says, "If you're always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be". Be inspired by the few visible women in this field who are "game changers" and consider yourselves fortunate that doors are open. It depends on us to develop careers in this field."

PROTECTED TREES

Lydenburgia cassinoides
Sekkukhuni bushman's tea
Sekkukhuni-besmanstee (A)

406

Mimusops caffra
Coastal red milkwood
Kuaroomelkhout (A) / Umthusa (X) /
Umkhakhayi (Z)

583

Newtonia hildebrandtii
var. *hildebrandtii*
Labamba wattle Labamba-wattel (A) /
Umtomoti (Z)

191

Ocotea bullata
Stinkwood Stinkhout (A) /
Umbungulu (X) / Umtukana (Z)

118

Ozoroa namaquensis
Gariep resin tree
Gariep-berpuitboom (A)

373.2

Philenoptera violacea
Apple-leaf Appelblaar (A) / Mphato (NS) /
Mofuta (T) / Ikhomohoma (Z)

238

Pittosporum viridiflorum
Cheesewood
Kauur (A) / Kgalagangwe (NS) /
Umkhankwa (X) / Umtumny (Z)

139

Podocarpus elongatus
Breeders River yellowwood
Breedersrivier-geslout (A)

15

Podocarpus falcatus
Duhiniqu yellowwood
Ouhakwa-geslout (A) / Maggibegoba (NS) /
Umkhoba (X) / Umsani (Z)

16

Podocarpus henkeli
Henkel's yellowwood
Henkel-sa-geslout (A) / Umsani (X) /
Umsani (Z)

17

Podocarpus latifolius
Real yellowwood
Orege-geslout (A) / Maggibegoba (NS) /
Umhaya (X) / Umkhoba (Z)

18

Protea comptonii
Saddelsack sugerbush
Berberten-sulkaibas (A)

88

A-Afrikaans, NS-North Sotho, T-Tswana, V-Venda, X-Xhosa, Z-Zulu

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<p><i>Protea curvata</i> Serpentine sugarbush Serpentynivulvarkos (A)</p>  <p>88.1</p> 	<p><i>Prunus africana</i> Red stinkwood Rose-stinkhout (A) / Umshakhoza (X) / Umbumezulu (Z)</p>  <p>147</p> 	<p><i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i> Wild teak Ksati (A) / Moráts (P/S) / Mákwá (T) / Mutindo (V) Umvengazi (Z)</p>  <p>236</p> 	<p><i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> Red mangrove Rooi-wortelboom (A) / Isikhangathi (T) / Uorbilume (Z)</p>  <p>526</p> 
<p><i>Sclerocarya birrea</i> subsp. <i>cafra</i> Marula Marula (A) / Marula (NS) / Marula (T) / Umganzu (Z)</p>  <p>360</p> 	<p><i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i> Violet tree Kriekhout (A) / Mvumba (T)</p>  <p>303</p> 	<p><i>Sideroxylon inerme</i> subsp. <i>inerme</i> White milkwood Wit-melkhout (A) / Ximfana (X) / Umakwaelafingqana (Z)</p>  <p>579</p> 	<p><i>Tephrosia pondoensis</i> Pondo poison pea Pondo-gifertje (A)</p>  <p>226.1</p> 
<p><i>Warburgia salutaris</i> Pepper-bark tree Peperbarkboom (A) / Moloka (NS) / Mulanga (V) / Nibaha (Z)</p>  <p>488</p> 	<p><i>Widdringtonia cedarbergensis</i> Clanwilliam cedar Clanwilliam-eder (A)</p>  <p>19</p> 	<p><i>Widdringtonia schwarzii</i> Willemsare cedar Beviansakloof-eder (A)</p>  <p>21</p> 	

National Tree numbers are indicated

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Compliance intervention to keep the environment clean

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: The Green Scorpions inspect a refrigeration plant room in Pick n Pay-Ermelo, Mpumalanga province during a compliance intervention for users of Ozone Depleting Substances campaign.



Above: Mr Larry Erasmus from JJ Erland Group demonstrates to Mr Phila Dlamini from the Chief Directorate: Sector Compliance how the pump down of the refrigeration system works.

As part of Environment month, the Chief Directorate: Sector Compliance embarked on a compliance intervention for users of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). The purpose of the campaign was to raise awareness on ozone depleting substances or gases and their harmful effect on the environment and, also to promote the use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) gases which are non-ozone-depleting substances.

The campaign started at Pongola, Kwazulu-Natal province on 20 June 2022 and ended in Komatipoort, Mpumalanga on 24 June 2022, where the green scorpions visited different supermarket retails in the Kwazulu-Natal and Mpumalanga provinces to gather information on matters related to ODS regulations, and visited truck stops to raise awareness to truck drivers to be aware of NEMA section 30 as well as environmental legislation in general.



About the contributor: Madimetja Mogotlane

Madimetja Mogotlane is a Senior Communications Officer, Internal Communications and Events in the Chief Directorate: Communication Services. Mr Mogotlane is a former intern in Media Liaison at the department and has journalistic experience.

Any facility or store which was found not complying with any regulation related to operation of a “Cool Room” or “Chiller” was issued with a compliance notice and given a stipulated timeframe to rectify the non-compliances.

The invitation was also extended to the South African Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (SARACCA), who are the technical experts on issues related to the operation of “cool room” or “chillers”.

The Green Scorpions visited supermarkets retailers to check the condition of their plant rooms and the compliance of their cold rooms and chillers, while at the same time inspecting whether the type of gas they uses is ozone free or ozone depleting with the assistance of the relevant officials of the respective stores.

During the inspection at Pick n Pay Pongola, the Green Scorpions, with the assistance of Ms Sonja Engelbrech, the Store Manager, inspected the quality of the refrigerator compressor to detect if there was not any source of spark and any evidence of gaseous leaks. Commenting about the general inspection, Ms Engelbrecht lauded the work done by the team.

“We are fortunate at Pick n Pay that we are working closely with a very credible company that services our refrigeration system. They make sure that there are no leaks on the compressors that will contribute to the depletion of substances on the refrigeration system which can ultimately have a negative impact on human health. What you are doing is very incredible, she said.

In Barberton, Mr Christo Kruger, Crown Butchery Manager said the inspection was of paramount importance to their butchery as they also strive to keep the environment clean.

“Your visit here is very important. Remember as a manager, there are certain regulations that we are not aware of to make sure that business is in line with how we should keep the environment clean, but the way you raised awareness about ozone depleting substances was very educational and we will make

sure that all is in order to maintain proper hygiene in this place”, he said.

Any facility or store which was found not complying with any regulation related to operation of a “Cool Room” or “Chiller” was issued with a compliance notice and given a stipulated timeframe to rectify the non-compliances.

The campaign ended in Lebombo border gate where the Green Scorpions raised awareness by distributing NEMA section 30 guidelines on the administration of environmental incidents in the country to the truck drivers who drives between South Africa and Mozambique.

The guidelines detailed the management of incidents, especially spillages from trucks and response to an unexpected, sudden, and uncontrolled release of a hazardous substance, including from a major emission, fire or explosion, that causes or may cause significant harm to the environment. The truck drivers were also handed promotional materials for compliance promotion.

Mr Marceline Matola who has been driving trucks for 13 years says he was shocked that there are guidelines that needs to be followed about taking care of spillages on trucks.

“Though I have been on the road for the better part of my life, the only thing I know about cross-border legislation is to have my passport checked at the border gate and other papers about the transporting of goods. I was not aware that in case of danger there are certain guidelines that need to be followed to keep the environment clean”, he said.

The campaigns are expected to continue in other parts of the country.



Above: Mr Mathanzima Nyambi explains to one of the truck drivers at the Lebombo border gate about what to do in case of spillages on trucks before handing-over promotional materials for compliance.

Schools awarded for greening excellence

By Veronica Mahlaba

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has partnered with Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) to pilot the South African Green Schools Programme (SAGSP) for environmental education and awareness. The country and the world at large has serious environmental concerns such as pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss etc. This has triggered great concerns about the relationship between humanity and the environment.

Speaking to the DFFE's Assistant Director: Development Communication, Campaigns and Awareness, Ms Morwesi Ramotse, she explained that the need to continuously heighten environmental awareness on environmental issues and also promote actions that seek to minimize damage on the environment is vital. "There is no better way than to begin at schools to

teach learners about the importance of conserving our environment as they are the future generation that needs to continue preserving our Earth," she said

As part of the SAGSP initiative, learners from at least 105 schools in and around the Limpopo province showcased their projects that focus on environmental conservation. Schools with outstanding projects were awarded prizes to the value ranging from R35 000.00 to R100 000.00. These funds were channelled towards small-scale projects that support meaningful learners' action on environmental issues in their respective schools.

The Environment Quarterly team travelled across the Limpopo province to see what projects the different schools decided to implement to enhance their environmental activism for the benefit of the environment, school and surrounding communities.



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.

Phutikwena Primary School



Above: The fence has helped in maintaining the beauty of the school by preventing learners and goats from interfering with the planted flowers.

Prior to the SAGSP, the school had received R15 000 from Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism from the Limpopo Green Schools for the Earth. They used to place a fence at the back of the school where they were beautifying the school's yard, to prevent learners and goats from interfering with the planted flowers.

The school was then awarded the Blue-Crane Award worth R50 000 from the SAGSP which they also used to erect a fence where there was a school garden. The garden was for the learners where they grew vegetables such as spinach and beetroot.

Speaking to the principal of Phutikwena Primary School, Ms Maria Masina said it is very important to have schools

participate in the SAGSP as the learners learned a lot while preparing for it. "This included how learners can save water at home and at schools, as the country is facing scarcity of water. They also learned how to save electricity. They know when to switch on and off. All of what they learned through the Programme they can be able to take it home and implement it there and also be able to teach others," said Ms Masina.

A grade 6 learner, Ms Karabo Nene told us that through the SAGSP it has helped them to keep the school clean. "We don't use electricity for unnecessary things. We only switch on the lights on cloudy days. We use water bottles to drink water and use one basin to wash our hands and dishes so that we don't waste water."

Mr Isaac Tlaka, a member of the School's Governing Body appreciated the assistance that the SAGSP provided in securing the school with the fence and to ensure that it looks beautiful. "The fence has also helped to ensure that we safe guard wood that is kept at the school for cooking meals for the learners."

"Previously we used to have a big issue of the wood being stolen and that affected how the school's kitchen functioned. Now with the fence erected at the back where the wood is kept, we no longer have such an issue of it being stolen," Mr Tlaka explained.

PAX College

PAX College was a recipient of the Renewable Energy Award worth R75 000. For their project they decided to install a bore hole that is 130m deep and a jojo tank. These help water the vegetable garden that the school uses to feed the learners that stay at the hostel and needy families in the community. The bore hole in the school even helps the community when there are water issues in the area. The school opens its gate to give access to the community members to be able to enter the school premises and get water.

The school principal, Mr Lesiba Ledwaba pointed out that they bought steel rods that were used to erect shade covers for vehicles and the lunch area. The school also did paving around the school that assists in directing water to the garden when it rains. "The programme has taught us a lot about looking after our environment. The environment is like our bodies. If you don't look after it, you see the impact. If we don't look after the environment, we get climate change because of our own actions," he explained.

Mr Lesiba Molepo, a grade 11 learner said through the SAGSP, the school has taught them to switch off

the lights and computers whenever they are not using them to save electricity. "In the dormitories the school has installed digital programmable geyser timers. They save energy because they switch on and off at a particular time, so that when the learners are in class, electricity can be saved." he said.



Above: The 130m deep bore hole that supplies water to the school garden and to the community when there is a water issue.

EPIP churns out 90 plumbing graduates

By Nomvuyo Mlotshwa



Above: The group of graduates which was recruited through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP) celebrate the completion of their artisan training programme.

The 2022 graduate cohort majoring in plumbing trade celebrated the completion of their artisan training programme. The group of graduates were recruited through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP).

Speaking during the graduation ceremony held at Mogale City Municipality, in Krugersdorp, Ms Vinolia Malatjie from EPIP, lauded learners for their persevering spirit and encouraged them to continue seeking opportunities to grow their skills. "The plumbing trade is still foreign to young South Africans now that you are skilled, you are more than capable. Go out there and make a mark in the plumbing industry," said Ms Malatjie.

The EPIP enrolled 125 learners for skills training in 2018; learners were from four municipalities within the Gauteng province. The graduates were awarded a trade certificate for artisan plumbing issued by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). Among the graduates, 57 are females.

"The plumbing learnership programme provided tuition, equipment and stipends. It was an all-inclusive skills development programme that offered a holistic combination of personal, practical and entrepreneurial skills; aligned to meet the economic development strategies and needs of the country," said Ms Malatjie. Through the three-year apprenticeship, some learners formed cooperatives. Moreover, it birthed the flourishing Zamava Construction and Projects company, proudly co-founded by two young ladies from Kagiso in Krugersdorp, 29-year-old Thozama (Zama) Gomba and 32-year-old Lwazi Lutya. The EQ team had an opportunity to chat with the two groundbreakers.

What got you interested in plumbing?

Lwazi: Previously, I studied Civil Engineering in a college; it had an element of plumbing. However, due to financial constraints, I dropped out without completing the Diploma. Also, growing up, my father was a pit toilets maker in the community, and my dream was to one day change the game and put up flushing toilets in my rural community.



About the contributor: Nomvuyo Mlotshwa

Nomvuyo Mlotshwa is the Assistant Director, Internal Communications and Events in the Chief Directorate: Communication Services.

What plumbing skills have you learned from the EPIP project that you now utilise at Zamava?

Zama: It was my first time exposed to the field; I learned a lot from this EPWP project. Now I know how to fix a tap, install a shower, install a geyser, and install and fix toilets. The basics of any plumber are to install, test and repair water supply systems, drainage, sewerage and rainwater systems.

How did the EPIP learnership improve your life?

Zama: It improved a lot, because with the stipend earned from the project, we bought tools to start our company, and I was able to provide for my family. It was a lifetime opportunity we are treading in spaces we never dreamed of.

Lwazi: I only had ten days of work experience in plumbing. This project took me from being a semi-skilled plumber to a certified artisan. The course was extensive; we even learned how to make gutters and chimney flashing.

How was the start of Zamava and its growth?

Zama: While we were still in the learnership, we got persuaded and registered the company in 2019. However, we could not get job offers, then to speed up our experience, we decided to go door-to-door around our community in Kagiso, volunteering our services for free to fix and change leaking taps. Through our clientele, we were referred to install a geyser for a school. Taking a leap of faith, we took the offer, and it was our first paying job.

Lwazi: Zamava is quickly developing. To our amazement, today Zamava is subcontracted to lay pipes for a Rand Water project; the learnership has taken us places we never thought we could be in.

How are two young females received in the male-dominated trade?

Lwazi: We were well received though some clients undermined us. Our capabilities have been questioned a lot, but as soon as we get down to work and dig trenches, they realise that we mean business.

What qualities should women in plumbing have?

Zama: You need to be skilled and know what you are doing. We have a good understanding of the work; we can determine what material we will need for the project and able to quote accordingly.

What are the benefits of working in the plumbing profession?

Lwazi: The industry in the country is still white and male-dominated, so as women, we are bringing about change. The nature of this field is diverse one can work for a particular company or start your own business.

In completing the learnership, we went further to write an exam with Plumbing Industry Registration Board (PIRB), and we now have a plumbing certificate of compliance.

Has Zamava employed anyone?

Lwazi: We have 35 contractual workers, and we have just signed one of them as permanent.

What is your most memorable time in training or at Zamava?

Zama: My proudest moment was graduating from the programme and receiving this qualification. Another was getting the first subcontracting job; it was our first time to lay bigger pipes than those we used in training, it was intimidating, but we took it head-on.

Lwazi: Mine is our first time doing a complete bathroom installation on our own with no help. We dug trenches, did grinding and drilling walls; we made it all ourselves. At once, the guy who assisted when installing a geyser did not pitch at work, and we had to lift it up ourselves and connect it for the first time, and it was fulfilling.



Above: Ms Thozama Gomba and Ms Lwazi Lutya installing waste water pipes for the shower.



Above: Ms Thozama Gomba and Ms Lwazi Lutya of Zamava of Construction and Projects, drilling concrete wall for installation of copper pipes of hot and cold water.

RESP grows waste economy sector in Limpopo

By Tshegofatso Ndhlovu

Waste economy is a fast-growing sector as more and more people all over South Africa realise the benefits that the sector can bring in their livelihoods and to their communities as a whole. Amongst the numerous environmental challenges currently facing the country, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has long prioritised waste management as a focus area that deserves attention.

The waste recycling and recovery sector has been identified as an under explored area demonstrating significant potential to contribute substantially to the generation of jobs within the green economy.

Over the years DFFE has increasingly expanded its programmes within the waste sector, one such a programme is the Recycling Enterprise Support Programme (RESP). Established in 2016, the programme runs annually and seeks to support new and emerging black owned and operated enterprises in the waste economy by providing developmental funding in the form of a grant of up to R5 million. To date 24 SMME's across the country have benefited from the programme. DFFE spoke to two beneficiaries from the Limpopo province to find out their experiences with the programme.

Waste Aside Recycling Enterprise

Situated in Ha-Rabali, Limpopo, Waste Aside is a Recycling Enterprise owned by Mr Movha Ramovha who said that he first discovered the value of waste from the women around his village who would go around

collecting waste. These women are what pushed him to create what he wanted to be the first youth owned buy-back centre in Ha-Rabali.



Above: On an average, Waste Aside Recycling Enterprise, recycles a total of up to 95 tons of combined waste per month.

Where did you first hear about the Recycling Enterprise Support Programme?

Mr Movha Ramovha: I first found out about the programme from the internet. It was at a time when I was doing my research about companies and organisations that can help me in pushing my business, all the doors kept closing in my face till I came across this programme which ultimately changed my life.

Below: The owner of Waste Aside Recycling Enterprise, Mr Movha Ramovha (In the middle) with some of his employees. His recycling enterprise employs 20 people, who are all from the community of Ha-Rabali.



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 has this programme helped your business?

Mr Movha Ramovha: Everything that you see around this centre came about as a result of us receiving the grant from the programme. The electrical connections, transportation vans, maintenance of the yard and all the machines that we use here are a result of the grant that we received from the DFFE. The grant has also helped us in paying the salaries of all the people that we employ here.

What is the estimated amount of waste that you recycle monthly?

Mr Movha Ramovha: We recycle different types of material, mainly boxes which are estimated to be at 34 tons per month, glass bottles estimated at 32 tons per month and lastly plastics which are estimated to be at around 29 tons per month.

What are some of the challenges that you still face as a company in the waste sector?

Mr Movha Ramovha: Getting access to waste materials to recycle. The area that we are based in is not very busy, especially when you compare it to urban areas where material is literally everywhere. Here, one must travel long distances in order to find material.

How would you say that your company contributes to the community?

Mr Movha Ramovha: One of the biggest contributions that Waste Aside brings to the community is the creation of jobs and a source of income. We are currently employing 20 people who are all from the surrounding communities. A company like this one also aids us in playing our parts when it comes to keeping our community clean and the environment in general.

If you could come up with a solution to solve the waste problems in our communities, what would it be?

Mr Movha Ramovha: I think harsher laws on pollution would be a solution. People who pollute and who create illegal dumping sites need to be punished as this is an environmental crime. I think another solution would be to educate people and the youth, especially about opportunities in the waste sector, there is money to be made from waste and I think that is the message that we need to start pushing.

Bagodumo Trading Enterprise

Created in 2004 by Mr Robert Mohlala, Bagodumo trading Enterprise is based in Lebowakgomo, Limpopo. It was created with the intention of making an impact in the lives of the community, by always exploring and taking advantage of opportunities available to eradicate poverty, while also contributing to saving the environment.



Above: Mr Robert Mohlala says he aims to inspire people to have a positive mind-set when it comes to recycling and waste processing.

Where did you first hear about The Recycling Enterprise Support Programme?

Mr Robert Mohlala: The provincial Department of Economic Development led me to this programme, I was already on their doorstep seeking for help and support when they told me about this programme.

How has this programme helped your business?

Mr Robert Mohlala: Businesses such as this one requires quite a lot of money to operate, and it is very unfortunate that banks are not willing to offer funding to us. This grant has allowed me to turn my company into what it is now, from the very small start up company that it was when we first started. I was able to employ more than 60 people, buy machines and expand to another location all because of the funding from the DFFE.

What is the estimated amount of waste that you recycle monthly?

Mr Robert Mohlala: We mainly recycle paper and plastics, which when combined can sum up to a total of 300 tons of recycled material per month.

What are some of the challenges that you still face as a company in the waste sector?

Mr Robert Mohlala: One of the biggest challenges that we face as businesses in recycling is getting access to recyclable material. The material that we use here is very high in demand, sometimes I have to buy recyclable material from other waste pickers.

How would you say that your company contributes to the community?

Mr Robert Mohlala: Not only does this company help in saving the environment, but it also contributes to the economy of our country. Our biggest mission is to eradicate poverty within our community, we do this by employing people who live here, and we also buy material from outside waste pickers, making sure that no one goes to bed hungry.

Fun in the sun beckons for chair recipients

By Siyabulela Malo



Above: Educators and pupils from Happy Valley, Merryvale and Luthando Luxolo Special School accepting amphibious wheelchairs handed by the Department at Summerstrand Beach.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) joined Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality to hand over two amphibious wheelchairs on 11 June 2022 at Summerstrand Beach, in Gqeberha. This was one of the activities for this year's World Ocean Day celebrations.

Learners from Happy Valley Special School, Merryvale Special School and Luthando Luvuyo Special School were there to receive the amphibious wheelchairs on behalf of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality physically challenged community.

The Luthando Luvuyo Special School educator, Ms Noxolo Deliwe, thanked the Department and other stakeholders for their efforts: "As an educator, I have never thought that one day we would gather here and receive these much-needed wheelchairs, these will help many disabled people with access to the beach whenever they intend to go to the beach. On behalf of parents and principals, I extend thanks and gratitude to the Department and the Municipality for the wheelchairs. I cannot wait to bring learners to play and enjoy the beach," said Ms Deliwe.

Learners from several primary and high schools from Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality also took part in the Good Green Deeds beach clean-up at the St Georges beach, at Wells Estate, in Gqeberha.

The Good Green Deeds initiative was created by the Department to promote knowledge of proper waste management as well as to influence the behaviour of people to avoid dumping and littering.

World Ocean Day is celebrated annually on 8 June. The day has a history spanning over two decades. It was initially proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since then, it has been coordinated internationally by The Ocean Project and the World Ocean Network with global participation. It was officially recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 and is observed, since 2009, by all member states, including South Africa.

This year's World Oceans Day was celebrated under the theme: **Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean.**



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.

Lehana youth hope to harvest green opportunities

By Salome Tsoka



Above: The Lehana Plantation in Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape which Deputy Minister Ms Makhotso Sotyú handed over in June 2022.



Above: Green fingered Mr Keorapetse Moletsane hopes the Lehana plantation will create green opportunities for people like himself.

Earlier this year, Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Ms Makhotsó Sotyú handed over a set of three plantations measuring a combined 362,31 hectares to three communities in the Eastern Cape. One of these communities is the Lehana community which is the birth place and home of green thumbed 22 year-old Mr Keorapetse Moletsane.

Dressed in his rugged clothes with rips and tears here and there, Mr Moletsane said he had stopped tending to his piglets before coming to the handover ceremony. Despite his dishelved appearance, Mr Moletsane showed a knowing and a keen interest in the ceremony and the significance of the occasion.

“We have been waiting for I think over six years for this day to finally come. So believe me when I tell you that we are very happy and over the moon with this handover of the plantation,” Mr Moletsane.

What started off as a simple offer to enter into a Community Forestry Agreement (CFA) in terms of Section 29 of the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act 04 of 1998) by the Makhoba Traditional Council and Batlokoa Traditional Council led to the historic transfer of the Makhoba plantation, Fort Usher plantation and Lehana plantation.

The historic handover supports government priority of economic transformation and job creation as proposed by the forestry master plan, which aims to ensure inclusive growth and transformation while attracting the necessary investment to develop the sector, creating economic and employment opportunities in especially rural areas. The plan balances environmental, economic and social benefit from the forestry resources.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Deputy Minister Sotyú had said the transfer of the management of these plantations will go a long way to improve the livelihoods of the Batlokoa and Makhoba communities. She also said that this will also create jobs and urged the youth and women to seize the opportunity.

Part of the transfer includes continued support by the Department which includes the communities being linked with interested industry role-players in a fair and transparent manner. These industry role-players will assist with additional expertise and resources to recapitalise plantations. This will be their contribution as part of the Masterplan.

As a small scale livestock breeder and small scale farmer, Mr Moletsane hopes that the government can send companies that will work with the community to best harvest the eucalypts trees and oil within the trees.



About the contributor: Salome Tsoka

Ms Salome Tsoka holds a BA Degree in Journalism from the University of Johannesburg and has been writing for as long as she can remember. She is a Senior Communication Officer in the Chief Directorate: Communications at the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

Forests vital for planet's health

By Veronica Mahlaba
Image by The Paper Story

According to World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) forests are vital for the health of our planet. They provide food and shelter for so much of life on Earth. Forests have a big influence on rainfall patterns, water and soil quality and flood prevention. Forest loss and damage is the cause of around 10% of global warming. There's simply no way we can fight the climate crisis if we don't stop deforestation.

In the Department we spoke to Deputy Director: Climate Change Development and International Mechanisms, Mr Itchell Guiney to explain to us more about deforestation and it's impacts to climate change.

What is deforestation?

Mr Itchell Guiney: In simple terms, deforestation is the permanent loss of forest cover. For example, when a forest is cut down to develop infrastructure or for agricultural activities.

Explain how deforestation impacts climate change in general?

Mr Itchell Guiney: Forests and other vegetation are usually classified as the "lungs of the earth". Through photosynthesis, these vegetation types absorb carbon dioxide and store it. Than produce and release oxygen into the atmosphere. Forests and other vegetation types therefore act as both sinks and sources of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which are responsible for global warming. Carbon sinks in the sense that they take up and store carbon dioxide in mainly above and below ground biomass as well as soil and sources, because when these areas are transformed or deforested the carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere.

How is South Africa dealing with the issue of deforestation in relation to mitigation and adaptation of climate change?

Mr Itchell Guiney: By conducting South Africa's first ever Carbon Sinks Assessment, we found that most of the countries carbon dioxide (about 80%) is stored in the Savanna Woodlands and the Grasslands biomes. Fortunately, South Africa has a history of strong environmental legislation and policies to protect

our natural resources. However, due to sustainable economic development, some of these sinks are lost due to agricultural expansion for food security, industrial purposes, mining, etc. over time. Nevertheless, it is important that we conserve and restore these areas for both mitigation and adaptation for both current and future generations. As a country, we are also developing climate change mitigation and adaptation specific legislation, policies and strategies to address drivers of deforestation in the context of sustainable development.

What are we doing as a country and internationally to ensure there's sustainable management of forests?

Mr Itchell Guiney: As South Africa we have ratified and participate in a number of international conventions, in an attempt to ensure that an enabling environment is created at the international level in supporting countries to ensure that forests and other carbon sinks are sustainably managed for all and in the context of sustainable development. We have ratified and participate in all three Rio conventions at the international level, which includes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), as well as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification. However, most of the actions to ensure that forests and other carbon sinks are sustainably managed happens at a national and local level.

What basic advice would you give to people about the importance of trees and forests?

Mr Itchell Guiney: One thing I learnt in my early career as a forestry scientist, was to never plant a tree where it will have to be cut down one day. Therefore, let's carefully consider where we plant trees, especially in an urban environment. Let us conserve, restore and sustainably manage our natural areas as best as we can for current and future generations. There's a famous quote which states: "We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors, but We Borrow It from Our Children."



Keeping our environment clean on Mandela Month

By Veronica Mahlaba



Above: Taxi drivers collected waste from an illegal dumping site by Boom Street during a clean-up organised by SANBI with the help of DFFE, FELLDTA, SOLLDTA, Central Top 11 Association, and PADNATO Local Taxi Association in Pretoria.



Above: Mr Vusi Mabaso and Mr Vuyo Ndlala said these types of clean ups should be done regularly and not only on Mandela Month because such pollution is dangerous and affects people's health.

What can one do in memory of the man who served 27 years in prison, fighting for equal human rights and democracy for all people who live in this country? Well fellow South Africans took to the streets to clean-up areas where there is illegal dumping and to conserve the environment for Nelson Mandela Month.

The theme for Mandela Day 2022 was: Do what you can, with what you have, where you are and that's what people did. The Department partnered with South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) National Zoological Garden in Pretoria and various local taxi associations in Pretoria for a Good Green Deeds Clean-up on Boom Street in town. Speaking to the Boom Street Taxi Rank Marshall, Mr Sello Sono, he said they have been wanting to clean up a particular spot next to the taxi rank where people dump waste and also use it to urinate.

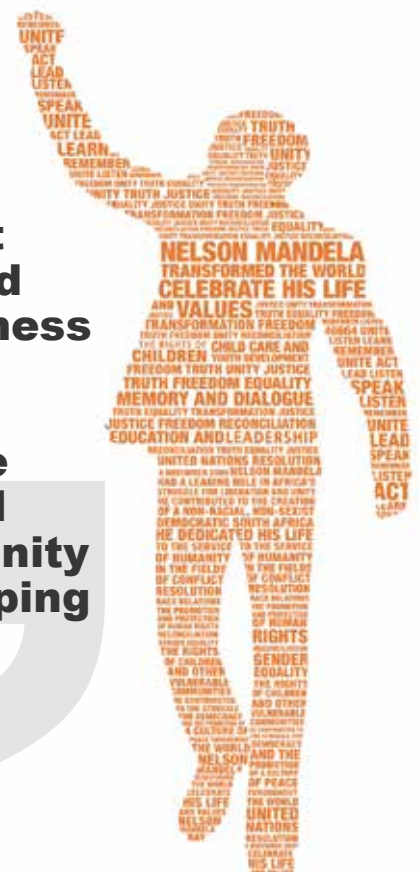
"It was important that we take some time to clean up the environment we work in. The taxi industry is not only concerned about making money but to also make sure that people who are our clients are able to be in a safe and clean environment. There was no better day to unite us and give back as different taxi associations than Mandela Day," said Mr Sono.

The Department also partnered with Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) and City of Mbombela where there was a clean-up done in Kabokweni to celebrate Mandela Month. They saw it fit to educate and create awareness on waste management to fight a huge problem faced by

the community of illegal dumping in the Kabokweni area.

The resident of Kabokweni, Mr Vusi Mabaso explained that he came out to assist with the cleaning because the area is not safe for the children. "There are broken bottles and disposable nappies here and our children play around this area. There are people who also rely on the water that comes from the nearby river. So if it rains, all this waste gets washed away into the river, making the water contaminated for drinking," he explained.

They saw it fit to educate and create awareness on waste management to fight a huge problem faced by the community of illegal dumping



Unconscious gender bias ‘chokes’ progress

By Madimetja Mogotlane



Above: The dialogue attracted the participation of a variety of interested and affected stakeholders from all spheres of government, industry, business, and Non-Governmental Organisations.

“Gender should not be about men and women, or about biological differences, but it should be about our ability to internalize our roles as men and women.” These were the sentiments by Ms Nelly Mwaka of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Ms Mwaka was speaking during the Climate Change Gender Mainstreaming Dialogue hosted by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 13 July 2022, at Birchwood Hotel, in Boksburg.

Gender mainstreaming was established as a major global strategy for the promotion of gender equality in the Beijing Platform for Action from the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Delivering a keynote address on behalf of Deputy Minister Makhotso Soty, Mr Mkhuthazi Steleki from the Chief Directorate: International Climate Change Relations and Reporting said women were ostracized in some institutional sectors. “Women face social, economic, and political barriers that limit their coping mechanisms. For example, after climate-related disasters, women are usually the first to lose their jobs and have to work long hours to control the situation and get their households back in order.



Above: Ms Nelly Mwaka from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) advocate for the inclusion of women in policy making.

Many women continue to head the households in many rural villages across the country, and most of these women rely on the reduced natural resources and subsistence agriculture to sustain their families,” said Mr Mkhuthazi.

The dialogue attracted the participation of a variety of interested and affected stakeholders from all spheres of government, industry, business, labour, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community Based Organisations, civil society, and academia.

Giving the overview of current status of gender-climate mainstreaming in the South African environment landscape, Ms Funanani Muremi from Chief Directorate: International Climate Change Relations and Reporting flagged poverty, inequality, and unemployment as South Africa’s biggest development challenge. “South Africa’s economy is dependent on primary sectors such as agriculture and mining which are highly vulnerable to climate change,” she said.

AQUACULTURE: Q's and A's

DID YOU KNOW?

Sustainable livelihoods can be achieved through aquaculture growth and fisheries economic development.

WHAT IS AQUACULTURE?

The definition of aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms, including fish, mollusks, crustaceans and aquatic plants.

NB: The definition does not include fisheries, which is the harvesting of organisms from the wild of which there is no ownership or intended intervention to increase production.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Do you need a university degree in zoology or ichthyology to become a successful fish farmer?

A: No, a good practical ability is more important, although a basic understanding of and 'feel' for animal husbandry is essential. If you have no 'feel' for animals, do not become a fish farmer.

Q: Does one need lots of water for fish farming?

A: No, the Israelis (for example) farm fish in one of the driest parts of the world. The quantity of water available determines the methods used, whereby intensive water recirculating methods tend to predominate where water is scarce, and extensive ones where water is abundant.

Q: Is fish farming profitable?

A: Fish farming is a business just like any other, and the growing of the fish is only one aspect, just like the growing of crops is only one aspect of traditional farming.

Q: If I have no money, can I start fish farming?

A: Clearly, if you want to start your own operation of any type, you need some sort of start-up capital, otherwise you should gain experience on someone else's fish farm first. A small-scale operation can develop into a viable business if carefully designed.

Q: What expertise do I need to undertake my own fish farming venture?

A: A spirit of hard work coupled with preparedness to undertake more than just fish farming itself. Fish farming demands that one be a master at many trades. Be prepared to try to learn how plumbing works, dams are built, fish breed, and don't depend on others to fix the daily problems associated with the lifestyle of a fish farmer.



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Barkly Pass, situated in the high sandy mountains of the Eastern Cape, South Africa,
on the Regional R58 tarred road between Elliot and Barkly East
(Image by Freepik.com)

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