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

“The department has seen an emphasis in this financial year on joint operations, which highlight the importance of working together with other enforcement agencies in order to ensure that we extend our efforts across a larger area and focus on high priority issues,” said Ishaam Abader, the Department’s Deputy Director-General of Legal Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement.

Such priority areas include tanneries and the taxidermist sector, sand mining and the reptile trade, among others.

The Necer is a joint publication that aims to provide an overview of environmental compliance and enforcement activities undertaken over the period of a financial year.

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

“As the EMI institutions become better at reporting the information each year,” explained Abader, “so the accuracy of the statistics in the report improve, providing us with a more comprehensive understanding of the important work being done by the environmental compliance and enforcement sector.”

He noted that substantial efforts were also made during the year to focus enforcement activities in order to combat rhino poaching.

“It is clear from the direct imprisonment sentences that are being handed down by our courts, that the justice system is also now recognising the devastating impact associated with environmental crime and understanding the important deterrent effect of the punishment associated with convictions,” Abader said.

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

“I would like to commend the EMIs for their dedication and for the valuable contribution they are making to upholding and protecting the environmental rights in our Constitution.”

The Necer is aimed at a broad spectrum of stakeholders and is designed to meet this objective by providing:

• The general public with an overview of the measures being taken by the environmental compliance and enforcement sector;
• Community-based, non-governmental organisations with information related to specific compliance and enforcement activities being taken in respect of certain sectors or facilities;
• National, provincial and local environmental authorities with an overall perspective of their compliance and enforcement performance, both in relation to previous financial years as well as in relation to their counterparts; and
• A deterrence for would-be offenders.

Constraints that should be noted are the fact that the report focuses solely on the activities of “environmental” authorities, and does not reflect the compliance and enforcement work being undertaken by other “related” sectors.

In addition, the indicators included in the report are primarily output-based.

Finally, the statistics reflected in the report emanate directly from the input received from environmental authorities – no independent verification is conducted.

Despite these constraints, the department hopes Necer 2012/13 will continue to be a valuable information source for its readers and highlight the critical work currently being undertaken by the environmental compliance and enforcement sector.

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NECER shows increase in environmental compliance and enforcement activities in the last financial year

ALL IN A DAY’S WORK: Gauteng’s environmental management inspectors carrying out their duties on site.
IT’S ALL ABOUT HONOUR

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

To become an Honorary Ranger one must first become an applicant to a region by completing an application form for admission to the management committee. The application form can be downloaded from the following website: http://www.environment.gov.za/fieldofficer/apply/applicants.html. You will then be invited to an interview to ascertain where your skills may be placed. Applicants generally have a certain field of expertise, and you may be asked to provide training for those in your region.

The Honorary Rangers are committed to encouraging the role of Honorary Rangers in environmental conservation and management.

If you are interested in becoming a Honorary Ranger, contact your Regional Honorary Ranger Committee for more information.

THE PROGRAMME

Note: To apply for Honorary Ranger membership, you must be over 18 years of age.

The Honorary Ranger programme is open to citizens of all ages. To apply, make sure you have read the Honorary Ranger regulations and have completed the application form.

The Honorary Ranger programme is designed to encourage and facilitate volunteering of time and effort towards ensuring the future sustainability of our country's natural resources. The programme is open to citizens of all ages and is designed to encourage and facilitate volunteering of time and effort towards ensuring the future sustainability of our country's natural resources.

The Honorary Ranger programme is designed to encourage and facilitate volunteering of time and effort towards ensuring the future sustainability of our country's natural resources. The programme is open to citizens of all ages and is designed to encourage and facilitate volunteering of time and effort towards ensuring the future sustainability of our country's natural resources.
In order to respond to key threats to the environment in a coordinated manner, the Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) plan and implement joint compliance and enforcement operations that involve various spheres of government. In the last financial year, illegal sand mining, illegal trade in reptiles and the tanneries and taxidermist industries were highlighted for a number of joint operations.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
February 28, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
August 12-17, 2012

**WHERE:**
Free State, North-West, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
April 19, 2013

**WHERE:**
KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, North West, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga

**WHO:**
The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
December 14-19, 2012

**WHERE:**
KwaZulu-Natal

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
May 21-26, 2013

**WHERE:**
Free State, North-West, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
March 26-31, 2013

**WHERE:**
KwaZulu-Natal

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
February 19, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
April 15, 2013

**WHERE:**
KwaZulu-Natal

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
March 29, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
February 28, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
October 2, 2012

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
May 17-22, 2013

**WHERE:**
KwaZulu-Natal

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
February 5, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
February 19, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
February 19, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
March 25-30, 2013

**WHERE:**
KwaZulu-Natal

**WHO:**
The National Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and its provincial counterparts.

**SAFETY AT WORK**

**DATE:**
February 28, 2013

**WHERE:**
North Cape, Moomoe, South Africa

**WHO:**
The Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) at the Department of Environmental Affairs and its provincial counterparts.
Q: How long have you been an EMI?
A: I was interested in joining the then GDACE in 2006 to 70 at present. There has also been a growth and development of the Inspectorate.

Q: Why or what made you interested in joining the organisation?
A: Sometimes I can be very impatient and enjoy the challenge of finding the truth, even when the evidence is inconclusive.

Q: What kind of suggestions or advice would you have for newly appointed EMIs?
A: I would definitely say my wife, because it's been a huge support. It's been quite a juggling act for her. She has had to adjust to a new lifestyle.

Q: What are the most meaningful things that ever happened to you as an EMI?
A: The deputy minister called me on my cellphone one evening to establish the facts in a case that I was investigating. At that time I was the only person calling me from a newspaper on a regular basis who wanted information on the illegal trade in endangered species. The DNA Barcoding and Endangered Species Project is intended to run for a period of two years, from 2012 to 2015. The project is being conducted under the auspices of the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and was initiated by the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution and the Environmental Management Inspectorate in Washington, D.C. The goal is to describe the species that would elicit participation from other countries towards using DNA barcodes for improved species protection through better inspection and investigation of illegal practices and trafficking.

The project aims to use the introduction of DNA barcode evidence in courtrooms to prosecute violators of wildlife crime. Africa has the highest biodiversity in the world and CITES is an acronym for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora. CITES is a United Nations Treaty obligation ratified by 174 countries. South Africa is among six countries in the world selected to partake in this initiative. It is aimed at developing DNA barcoding standards and protocols to identify, track, and monitor the Illegal trade in endangered species.

The DNA Barcoding and Endangered Species Project is the global standard for identifying and clamping down on poaching and trafficking. What are the least.

What are some of the other countries that have participated in this initiative?

The department’s enforcement officers acted on the information and Booi and Mafuya were arrested in the Kei River Park and Tourism Management Project. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period. The cases summarised below are just two examples of both civil and criminal cases heard during the reporting period.
IT’S YOUR EARTH, PROTECT IT!

REPORT CRIMES AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT

24-HOUR HOTLINE: 0800 205 005
OR E-MAIL: environment@tip-off.com

www.environment.gov.za