



WWF


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Panda Bulletin

WWF-SA SUPPORTERS' MAGAZINE



COP17 negotiations at a glance
Food security in a climate of change
The state of SA's marine resources

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From the CEO's desk

With undoubtedly the most important event of the environmental calendar around the corner, WWF South Africa is firmly focused on the climate change negotiations that will take place at COP17 in Durban in November and December.

There will be wide-ranging and far-reaching discussions related to global climate change and the measures and commitments that developed and developing nations will need to make to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. WWF is choosing to focus its resources on food, water and energy for all – and the threats that climate change poses to these fundamental building blocks of human well-being. Visitors to COP17 also will find some useful resources inside this edition of the Panda Bulletin, including an overview of the event and green-status of host city Durban.

Of course, we also reflect on the specific conservation challenges that face us on various other fronts in South Africa. As I write this, a founder group of 19 black rhino is being moved from the Eastern Cape to Limpopo to help expand the range of this threatened species. Our Sustainable Fisheries Programme has published a report on the state of our marine resources, many of which are overexploited or collapsed. Meanwhile, one of South Africa's major retailers, Pick n Pay, has committed to transform its entire seafood operations by the end of 2015, by meeting strict sustainability standards. Through a generous donation, WWF has also been able to purchase a significant conservation property on the West Coast that is rich in plant diversity and which will be declared a Nature Reserve and placed under the management of Cape Nature. Details of how we have worked to meet these conservation challenges can be found in this issue of the Panda Bulletin.

We are happy to report that with the recruitment of a number of highly-skilled and committed individuals our teams in various areas of our operations – conservation, communication and marketing, and business development – are approaching full strength. We welcome the arrival of two executive team members, viz. Augustine Morkel, formerly from SANBI, who joins us as executive manager of operations, and Dr Andrew Baxter, formerly of Cape Union Mart, who heads up our Business Development team.

Finally, it was with sadness that we learnt of the loss of Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai, of Kenya. She was a true champion of the environment and her contributions to conservation will be missed. At the same time we were honoured to celebrate the birthday of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, one of South Africa's most well-loved figures, who has been a keen supporter of our work and continues to inspire us as we work towards a future in which people live in harmony with nature. For a Living Planet

MEET WWF-SA'S NEW CHAIR

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Valli Moosa is WWF-SA's new Chairperson.

WWF South Africa has a new chair of its Board of Directors. Former President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Valli Moosa was elected chair at a recent meeting of the board. Moosa, who has served on the board since late 2008, has had a long-standing relationship with WWF-SA. He replaces well-known businessman Mark Read as the outgoing chair of the board.

“Valli Moosa has been a great champion of the environment in South Africa and has already greatly benefitted WWF through his enthusiasm, strategic insight and intimate

understanding of environmental issues,” said WWF South Africa CEO, Dr Morné du Plessis said. “We look forward to drawing even deeper on his extensive experience in the years ahead.”

Moosa is perhaps nationally best known for his spell as Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism between 1999 and 2004 and was also a member of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment as well as a member of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Environment Ministers Forum.

Happy 80th Birthday, Arch

In October, WWF South Africa celebrated the 80th birthday of one of the world's most iconic figures, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. Over the years, the Archbishop has helped raise awareness about environmental issues and has often lent his support to WWF's work. In 2009, Tutu became one of several ambassadors for WWF's Earth Hour initiative, calling for urgent action on climate change.

“Archbishop Emeritus Tutu understands that our planet and the natural resources it provides us with are essential for our very existence and that we need to take urgent action to ensure their sustainable use. He understands that environmental issues are not separate from human wellbeing and sustainable development,” said WWF-SA CEO, Dr Morné du Plessis.



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Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu shows off his panda pin.

Hamba kahle, Wangari Maathai

It was with shock and sadness that WWF learnt of the passing away of one of nature's greatest ambassadors, Prof. Wangari Maathai. Maathai, a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2004, was at the forefront of the conservation and protection of forests and water towers in Kenya. WWF was privileged to work with her to advocate for the sustainable use of natural resources, and the importance of saving nature with people.

“Wangari Maathai was a great inspiration for many of us at WWF. Her death is a great loss not only for the African but also global environmental movement,” said James Leape, WWF's Director General.



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Wangari Maathai, an inspiration to environmentalists all over the globe

Calling for an end to rhino poaching

On the occasion of the second annual World Rhino Day, on 22 September, WWF joined the residents of rhinoceros range countries in calling for an end to rhino poaching, which threatens the survival of rhino species.

By October this year, South Africa had already lost more than 300 rhinos to poaching, including 16 or more critically endangered black rhinos.

Officials in South Africa have responded to the recent poaching crisis by increasing protection for rhinos, conducting more rigorous prosecutions and imposing stricter sentences on wildlife criminals. But this action must also be met with a corresponding commitment by countries in Asia where consumer demand for rhino horn is inciting poachers.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Boost for black rhinos

A founder population of 20 black rhino was recently translocated from the Eastern Cape to a new site in Limpopo, as part of WWF-SA's Black Rhino Range Expansion Project. Security was tight around the translocation in order to minimise the risk of drawing the attention of rhino poachers. Details of the sites involved have not been widely publicised, but the site of the release will ultimately link up with greater Kruger Park and thus create a huge potential black rhino range. The animals form the seventh new black rhino population formed through the project, which began in 2003. The aim of the project is to boost the growth rate of the overall black rhino population in South Africa.



WWF's Jacques Flammand assists a black rhino as it awakes after translocation.

management tasks, in business management, as well as in health and safety and practical life skills. The three teams now serve in the Boland Region where seventeen stewardship properties have been given assistance to meet their stewardship obligations as laid out in their land management plans.

The project has directly benefitted 35 men and women and indirectly improved the lives of approximately 175 individuals, while improving the conservation status of our natural vegetation.

reducing their own water consumption to also making an investment back into water provisioning ecosystems.

Talking tea with the Dutch

Representatives from WWF, CSA and the South African Rooibos Council had the privilege of meeting the Dutch Minister of Agriculture and Foreign Trade, Mr Henk Blek, and other members of the Dutch Embassy at a lunch event held at the Vergelegen Wine Estate in Somerset West.

At the event, WWF's Market Transformation Manager, Tatjana von Bormann, made a presentation on the achievements of Right Rooibos, an initiative partly funded by the Ministry and supported by GreenChoice, an alliance of conservation organisations that includes WWF. Support from the Ministry has enabled GreenChoice to develop, amongst other things, a baseline study of the socio-economic status of the Rooibos industry, the development of an internationally recognised certification system for Rooibos as well as a link for certified Rooibos tea in Europe.



From left: Henk Blek and Tatjana van Bormann

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People working for their environment

With a vision of successfully bringing together conservation, small business development and job creation, the Table Mountain Fund initiated its 'People Working for the Environment' project in January 2010. The project, implemented by NCC Environmental Services, has to date empowered three previously disadvantaged rural contractors to provide environmental services on private land in the Boland. The landowners receiving their services have signed into contractual stewardship agreements with CapeNature's Stewardship Programme.

The contractors and their teams have received training in various environmental

Nedbank joins WWF Water Balance Programme

Further strengthening its commitment to environmental sustainability, the Nedbank Group has invested R9 million over five years in the innovative WWF Water Balance Programme. Water is widely acknowledged as South Africa's scarcest resource and the one that probably will be the most impacted by climate change.

Nedbank's investment will fund the removal of alien invasive species. This clearing of alien vegetation is expected to release more than 550 000 kilolitres of water a year back into two of SA's high priority water catchment areas, the Umgeni in KwaZulu-Natal and the Enkangala Grasslands in Mpumalanga.

The Water Balance Programme encourages water users to take ownership of South Africa's common water challenge by going beyond