



MAGAZINE

APRIL

2011

PANDA Bulletin

WWF-SA Supporters' Magazine

Going beyond the hour
100% Renewable by 2050
NGOs list no go mining zones
20 years of wetland conservation

Safeguarding the natural world 



A new year brings with it fresh opportunities and of course, fresh challenges.

In our case, we started 2011 with the majority of our staff working out of our conveniently located new offices in Newlands, Cape Town. We are literally a stone's throw from the cricket stadium.

Moving offices after over 40 years in Stellenbosch was a logistical challenge (to put it very mildly), but it was also somewhat cathartic. Moving forces one to sort through years of accumulated documents and relics. Inadvertently, a move results in a clean up. A reordering. A fresh look at priorities.

The move gave us the opportunity to customise our new home to our purposes. We now have a video conferencing facility which we have already used to host a media conference with attendees in both Johannesburg and Cape Town. In addition to the savings on travel costs and the broader audience such facilities enable, most importantly, this technology allows us to make a significant reduction on our carbon emissions.

Of course video conferencing is only one of several ways in which we prioritised the environment during the move. We also reused what we could, recycled what we could not and took environmental considerations into account in sourcing the rest.

In addition to our new offices, we have some new faces on staff filling key roles in the organisation: Yolande Jacobs and Zubair Sayed as Executive Managers of Human Resources and Communications & Marketing respectively, and Lynette Leibach as our new Manager of Individual Relations.

I am now in my 4th year at WWF and I remain in awe of the unfailing commitment of our supporters, their passion, their generosity and their concern for the environment. We have incredibly dedicated staff, but without your support we would be unable to achieve all that we do towards our shared vision of a future in which people live in harmony with nature.

I trust you'll enjoy this latest edition of our Panda Bulletin.

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Located along the foothills of the Drakensburg Mountains, the Lotheni River is a source of freshwater for many. It is also used recreationally for fishing and runs past numerous guest houses and camping sites.

The Panda Bulletin is printed on Sappi Camelot Cartridge 120g/m² – a fully recyclable paper sourced from sustainable forests.

CONTACT US

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CONSERVATION NEWS

Eastern Cape joins the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project



The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project received a significant boost late last year when the Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency (ECPTA) agreed to contribute 20 black rhino a year to create new founder populations. The project was initially a partnership between WWF and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The joining of ECPTA as another partner means that even more significant contributions can be made to the conservation of this critically endangered species.

The animals will be translocated from the Great Fish River Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape later this year to a new home and will be the founders of a significant new population. The aim of the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project is to boost overall population growth of black rhino by creating new populations on large areas of land. There are currently six partner sites.

Security of rhinos is an important criterion when choosing partner sites, and this is even more important given the recent surge in poaching. It is also vital that we keep managing for maximum population growth.



The ECPTA has agreed to contribute 20 black rhino to WWF's Black Rhino Range Expansion Project in 2011.

Green Trust founder leaves a living legacy

In 1990, when political issues were top of mind and environmental issues were not seen as that important, Dr Ivan May played a critical role in developing a trust that funded initiatives aimed at conserving nature. Twenty years on and R100 million later, The Green Trust continues to bring people and nature together. This achievement would not have been possible without the visionary role of Dr May who sadly passed away in December 2010.

"Dr May was the key catalyst for the creation of The Green Trust, a partnership between Nedbank and WWF. Many communities, NGOs and environmental projects have benefitted from The Green Trust's support over the past two decades thanks to his original vision," says former Green Trust Manager, Thérèse Brinkcate.

Born in Johannesburg in 1947, Dr May attended the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) and graduated with five degrees including a Doctorate of Philosophy in 1974. He also held an associate professorship in the Faculty of Science.

Dr May's commitment to social development was evident through his involvement in many areas of civil society, as recognised by his many citations and awards. These include a World Fellow of the Duke of Edinburgh Award

and WWF's prestigious Gold Medal.

Dr Morné du Plessis, CEO of WWF in South Africa, says: "Dr May clearly realised that WWF's work is never 'just about animals' but that preserving and protecting the natural systems that sustain us is linked directly to livelihoods and dignity in our country. That's why he worked so hard for sustainable use of natural resources and believed in a world where humans live in harmony with nature."



Dr Ivan May played a critical role in promoting The Green Trust and its projects, one of which was the Solar Cooker Box Project.

WWF celebrates 50th anniversary

In 1961, representatives from Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, Poland, UK, USA, South Africa, Sweden and Sudan signed an international agreement to save the world's wildlife. This agreement led to the creation of the World Wildlife Fund which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Now called the World Wide Fund for Nature (and more commonly WWF), this conservation organisation is one of the biggest in the world with over five million supporters in more than 100 countries.

WWF has funded thousands of projects to stop the accelerating degradation of the Earth's natural environment, and to inspire people to live in greater harmony with nature.

Led by WWF's Conservation and Communication & Marketing Committees, planning is underway to mark this auspicious anniversary through a global communication campaign around 50 of WWF's big conservation wins – which will also pay tribute to WWF's supporters, partners and members.

WWF Business News

Woolworths supports Earth Hour

In support of Earth Hour, Woolworths has created beautifully designed reusable shopping bags which are available in stores nationwide. By donating the proceeds from the sale of these bags, Woolworths and their customers will support WWF's climate change work.



Executor – Your legacy or his liability?

Nominating an executor is an important decision to make when compiling your will. Nominating an incompetent executor could delay the administration of an estate by months, if not years.

WWF and Sentinel International Trust Company have entered into a strategic relationship to benefit WWF. In terms of this agreement, Sentinel has agreed to draft wills free of charge for any individual who nominates WWF as a beneficiary in their will and appoints Sentinel as the executor. Furthermore, Sentinel has agreed to rebate 35% of their executor fees back to WWF.

A bequest to WWF does not only help to ensure the continued financial security of the organisation, but it will also qualify as a tax deduction in your estate thereby minimising any estate duty tax that may be payable.

If you are interested in leaving a bequest, Sentinel representatives can be contacted on the following numbers:

Johannesburg:

Irene Du Plessis, 011 784 0004

Pretoria:

Irene Du Plessis, 086 111 3864

Durban:

Dirk van Ryneveld, 031 265 3320

Port Elizabeth:

Johann De Vos, 041 365 2532

Cape Town:

Ulrich Hoffmann, 021 674 0390

Isibindi assists in protecting Africa's rhinos

Despite conservation organisations raising awareness about the increase in rhino poaching across South Africa, 333 rhinos were poached in 2010 and an additional 71 in 2011 alone. It is for this reason that Isibindi African Lodges formed a partnership with WWF South Africa to help protect Africa's rhinos.

Isibindi's Rhino Walking Safaris launched an SMS competition in December 2010, encouraging the public to enter and stand a chance to win a three nights trip for two with Rhino Walking Safaris valued at R 17 220. The package included luxury walking safaris in 12,000 hectares of pristine bushveld in the only wilderness concession in the Kruger National Park. Elephant paths and rhino trails can be followed on foot through this environmentally sensitive area that offers the Big Five as well as a diversity of fauna and flora.

The competition ended in March 2011 and all the funds raised will go to WWF and be used to provide support, equipment and training for those that work on the frontline to keep our rhinos safe.

WWF would like to thank Isibindi African Lodges and the public for supporting this competition and assisting in our work to protect Africa's black rhinos. If you would like to know more about Isibindi African Lodges, log onto: www.isibindiafrica.co.za/.



City Lodge saves on water and energy



The phrase 'throw in the towel' usually conjures up defeatist thoughts, but at City Lodge it's intended to make you think twice and empower you to do your bit for the environment.

On the bathroom doors of City Lodges hangs the phrase "Don't throw in the towel" to encourage guests to save both water and electricity by choosing not to have towels washed daily.

"As an environmentally responsible company, we are extremely aware that water is a scarce resource and that South Africa is a water-stressed country. By encouraging our guests to use towels sparingly through the towel card initiative, we are hoping to assist in the saving of water and energy. It also enables us to help our guests make a conscious decision to assist us in the conservation of vital resources," says Peter Schoeman, City Lodge's Divisional Director of Sales and Marketing.

The company has also listed WWF as one of three beneficiaries they are supporting. With every online booking, City Lodge makes a R5 donation to the beneficiary of the guest's choice. WWF has already received over R20 000 from this initiative.

WWF would like to thank City Lodge for supporting our work and for helping give hotel guests greener options.

DONATE NOW

If you would like to make a donation towards WWF's work, please turn to the back page or visit www.wwf.org.za/donate