



SUMMER 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL

Environmental Management Newsletter for the City of Cape Town

LEAFLET



At Rietvlei, the City's focus is on balancing the preservation of its indigenous biological diversity with the need for educational and recreational opportunities

RIETVLEI WETLAND RESERVE

not just for the birds

RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Cape Town's internationally important water bird conservation site, the Rietvlei Wetland Reserve, has become the centre of attraction of visiting school groups, sports enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. The decreasing availability of wildlife areas and natural sources of water in the City places urban wetlands in high demand. At Rietvlei, the City's focus is on balancing the preservation of its indigenous biological diversity with the need for educational and recreation opportunities, as well as providing for stormwater and treated effluent water runoff.

Rietvlei is one of the last functioning natural wetlands in the Western Cape. The seasonally fluctuating water levels on the central pans, the fresh- and saltwater interaction in the tidal estuary, and the variety of wetland plant communities make for remarkable feeding and nesting habitats for at least 173 bird species, most of which are water birds¹.

Red Data species are species that are listed in rare and endangered categories in terms of international conservation criteria. Because Rietvlei supports a number of Red Data bird species, it is an important

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conservation area for South Africa. Some of these Red Data species that are resident at Rietvlei include the Great White Pelican, the Lesser- and Greater Flamingoes, the Little Bittern, and the Caspian Tern. The African Black Oystercatcher also breeds at Rietvlei, while African Marsh Harriers and African Fish Eagles are frequently seen overhead¹.

MIGRATING BIRDS

Rietvlei also supports many bird species with international distribution ranges. Of these, the Ringed Plover, Wood-, Marsh-, and Curlew Sandpipers, Greenshank, Little Stint, Sanderling, Ruff, Sandwich-, Common-, and Whitewinged Terns are non-breeding Palaearctic migrants. They migrate away during our winters, covering up to 14,000 km across the globe, to the United Kingdom, Europe and Russia in the Northern Hemisphere to breed. The Whitethroated Swallow and the African Marsh Warbler, on the other hand, are intra-African migrants from central and tropical Africa that breed here in South Africa². The preservation of Rietvlei along with the other African and Northern Hemisphere habitats is therefore of great importance because the loss of either would cause severe population decreases in any of these species.

To this effect, the City of Cape Town is working in collaboration with the University of Cape Town's Avian Demography Unit to obtain the Ramsar Site designation for the Rietvlei Wetland Reserve. This globally recognised conservation status resorts under the International Convention for the Protection of Wetlands of International Importance for Waterfowl (Ramsar Convention).

THE RIETVLEI EDUCATION CENTRE

The Rietvlei Education Centre is situated on the northern shore of Rietvlei, adjacent to the Milnerton Aquatic Club. The centre opened its doors on 27 November 2003 and has seen 1800 visitors within the first month. The Friends of Rietvlei constructed this rustic timber cabin from funding donated by Caltex Oil (SA) (Pty) Ltd, resulting in a three-way partnership with the City. The Friends of Rietvlei, an affiliate of the Wildlife and Environment Society of Southern Africa (WESSA), now jointly run educational programmes with the City of Cape Town's nature conservation and environmental staff. Some of the activities undertaken from the centre include the Youth Environmental School (YES), Coastcare's Adopt-a-Beach initiative, Friends of Rietvlei meetings and open days, and the Rietvlei Education Programme. The programme focuses on looking at



the local environment through the eyes of a water bird. This offers a refreshing new perspective to teachers and learners alike. Other programmes, focusing on various aspects of the local environment, are also available. □

CONTACTS AND BOOKINGS

To book an educational outing or a guided walk from the Rietvlei Education Centre, contact the Rietvlei Nature Conservation students on 021 550 7564 or send a fax to 021 550 7517. For management-related information, contact Pat Titmuss on 021 550 1096 or Koos Retief at 021 550 1086. To join the Friends of Rietvlei contact Margaret Maciver on 021 557 4990.

REFERENCES

¹Allan, D.G. et al. 1996. Application for Ramsar status for Rietvlei Wetland Reserve, Western Cape Province, South Africa. Avian Demography Research Report No. 16, May 1996.

²Macleane, G.L. 1993. Robert's birds of southern Africa (sixth edition). John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, Cape Town. ENVIRONMENTAL SITE OFFICER

For more information contact Koos Retief • Rietvlei Wetland Reserve
Email: koos.retief@capetown.gov.za

MESSAGE Themba Sikhutshwa



One of the annual highlights for Councillors is the Biodiversity bus tour, and this year's experience on 22 October was no exception. This tour was different to the usual view-from-the-bus-top format. On this trip we spent more time in one of

Cape Town's most important conservation projects, the Blaauwberg Conservation Area (BCA). Situated between Big Bay and Melkbosstrand, the BCA boasts more than 500 plant species with 45 of these being red data species. I was particularly moved by the presentation by 15 young trainees from Du Noon, who have found both employment and a new passion in being part of this exciting project.

The November publication of the first *City of Cape Town State of the Coast Report* was an important milestone. Cape Town boasts one of the longest and most diverse metropolitan coastlines in the world. This valuable document – of which the colourful Executive Summary version will be widely distributed – provides an excellent assessment of both our coastal water quality and the current state of our coastal amenities and natural resources. It is important to ensure that there is a

yearly improvement in our managerial practices and outcomes.

Finally, the latest edition of *The Enviropaedia*, which was published recently, is an essential guide for anyone involved in environmental issues in South Africa. This extensive compilation includes several inspirational essays on relevant issues and has a comprehensive A to Z guide of who's who in South Africa's environmental world. We are proud that our Executive Mayor, Nomaindia Mfeketo, is featured prominently, championing Cape Town as a leader in developing sustainable approaches to improve the quality of life for all forever.

Themba Sikhutshwa
Member of the Mayoral Committee:
Planning and Environment



Blaauwberg Conservation Area **BCA**
 a coastal focus

BCA provides exciting sightings for marine mammal and other ocean creature enthusiasts



Cliff Dorse, BCA's reserve manager, with a Green Turtle

The Blaauwberg Conservation Area (BCA) conserves approximately 7km of coastline between Big Bay, Bloubergstrand in the south and Melkbosstrand in the north. This coastal section is a valuable portion of the BCA, as it has tremendous recreational, ecological and heritage value, not to mention the world famous views of Table Mountain.

In the past, a significant amount of damage was inflicted on this important coastal section due to unrestricted access to the coastal dunes and beach by off-road vehicles. Since implementation of the national regulations of 2001 – which resulted in a 'Beach Ban' for off-road vehicles, and a substantial capital budget injection from the City to enhance and protect this coastal section, together with weekly ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure – much of the ecological damage is being reversed. A visible indicator of the success of these interventions is the recolonisation and rehabilitation of the vehicle tracks through the dunes by natural vegetation. It is fortunate that this is such a dynamic system and that with only a little help from mankind, nature can start to restore itself. A further indicator of the success of the coastal zone and enhancement programme is the successful raising of Black African

Oystercatcher chicks by two breeding pairs in the BCA. As four nest-scapes were made and eggs were laid, it is hoped that more pairs will be successful with a greater number of chicks will be raised, and that the BCA will become a haven for these beautiful birds that are on South Africa's endangered list.

Recently, Southern Right Whales have been very close to shore, with Cape Fur seals, Humpback whales, Dusky and Heaviside Dolphins also frolicking in the sea along the BCA Coast. The recent sighting of the diminutive Heaviside Dolphin, an endemic species to the West Coast of southern Africa, was a new addition to the mammal species list for the BCA. Another new and unusual visitor to the BCA Coast is a Green Turtle. This turtle species is generally found east of False Bay and north of Walvis Bay. The turtle story could have easily been a story of tragedy had it not have been for the effort of a concerned resident who came upon the beached turtle whilst walking her dog. She contacted the BCA Reserve management staff, who rushed to the turtles rescue. A little cold Atlantic water revived the seemingly 'dead' turtle and it started to try and swim vigorously. A local surfer was mobilised to release the turtle beyond the breaker backline.

Whilst the BCA's reason for being is the conservation of the important natural, cultural and historical resources, it is also to be promoted as an important area

for appropriate recreation in the City. The BCA's coastal zone is currently heavily utilised for beach-based activities such as walking, fishing, surfing, picnicking etc. Though these activities are encouraged, the reserve management must ensure they don't impact on the resources of the BCA.

Surfing is a non-consumptive activity that is totally sustainable and therefore encouraged in the BCA. However, most surfers climb the hummock dunes at Derdesteen's highest point to study the wave breaks, which has lead to trampling of the sensitive dune vegetation. The Friends of the BCA have seen this as an opportunity to undertake a small project that will benefit both the user and the natural environment. Together with the City of Cape Town and WESSA:WC, they are in the process of constructing a small structure that will allow the surfers uninterrupted views of their favourite surf spots, as well as ensure protection of the natural and sensitive dune vegetation.

The BCA is a key City of Cape Town partnership project contributing to achievement of the objectives of the IMEP and C.A.P.E. programme. It is, through WESSA:WC, recipient of donor funds from CEPF. Numerous other organisations including CapeNature, the Provincial Government: Western Cape, and the Friends of the BCA are key role-players.

For further information please contact the Reserve Management Staff on 021 – 554-0957 or bca@sybaweb.co.za. If you'd like to join the Friends of the BCA, please contact Louis Raubenheimer on 021 – 554-2221 or 082 651 5437 or lraubenh@mweb.co.za.





NEW ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FACILITY

at the false bay ecology park

The vision for the FBEP is that it should become one of the leading centres for conservation, environmental education and eco-tourism in SA.

The False Bay Ecology Park (FBEP), a key node in the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Network, comprises the Rondevlei Nature Reserve, Zeekoevlei Nature Reserve, the Cape Flats Wastewater Treatment Works, the Coastal Park Landfill Site and a coastal strip, effectively from Sunrise Circle to Strandfontein. The Cape Flats Development Association (CAFDA), to the north of Rondevlei, is integral to achieving the vision and objectives of the FBEP.

The vision for the FBEP is to become one of the leading centres of conservation, environmental education and eco-tourism in the country. The key objectives of the FBEP are to conserve and enhance biodiversity, to provide and promote environmental education, to create recreational and tourism nodes and opportunities, and to create job opportunities.

Environmental education is already flourishing in the FBEP, with two successful programmes being run at Rondevlei Nature Reserve and by the Zeekoevlei Environmental Education Project (ZEEP) at the Zeekoevlei Nature Reserve. In order to meet the increasing demand for environmental education in the FBEP, as well as to enable larger groups to participate, ZEEP – in partnership with the City of Cape Town and World Wildlife Fund of South Africa (WWF-SA) – is establishing the new False Bay Ecology Park Environmental Education Centre. This facility is in the heart of the False Bay Ecology Park and will be able to accommodate over 120 youth overnight.



It is being established in buildings no longer required by the Cape Flats Waste Water Treatment Works and is a showcase project of co-operation and partnerships between external stakeholders and the City, as well as between different line functions within the City.

As the buildings have fallen into disrepair and have been affected by vandalism, they are currently being repaired with the aim to start running educational programmes early in 2005. The programme is run by full time ZEEP staff, who are assisted by volunteers. The first international volunteers have arrived in South Africa and are actively working to get the centre in a suitable state for the start of the environmental education programme. The educational programmes will focus on environmental awareness, sustainable

living, team building and youth life skills. The varied resources of the FBEP - from the Nature Reserves, which illustrate 'green' environmental matters, to the Wastewater Treatment Works and Landfill Site, which offer education on 'brown' environmental matters - provide scope for holistic and integrated education on the environment.

The programmes to be run at the FBEP Environmental Education Centre are in support of the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity and Environmental Education and Training implementation strategies of the City's Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy (IMEP). □

For more information contact either Bevan Lill (021) 706-8523 or email fbepec@telkomsa.net, or Joanne Jackson (021) 487-2284 or email joanne.jackson@capetown.gov.za



ABSA Foundation's George Gibbs and Anastasia Peters-Francis, representatives from The Fairest Cape Association, council officials and community members visited the site. The visit culminated in the presentation and acceptance of the contract between the City, Absa, Fairest Cape, and community members.



GREENING PARTNERSHIP EMPOWERS

Vygieskraal community

Initiatives being driven by the community linked to the project include vegetable gardens, regular clean-ups of the area and a recycling centre.

The City of Cape Town, in partnership with The Fairest Cape Association and the ABSA Foundation, has initiated the Blomvlei Canal Greening and Wetland Project in an effort to create a dignified living environment for the Vygieskraal Community and surrounds. Through the upgrading and rehabilitation of the Blomvlei Canal and wetlands system adjacent to Vygieskraal, the City commits to developing the area so that Cape Town can have an example of a real grassroots sustainable development project driven whole-heartedly by the people of the Vygieskraal. The project and development are also in response to some of the issues raised at the WSSD in 2002. Development does not refer to the physical and material alone, but to human advancement as well, which is integral to this process. Nurturing

minds and spirits is part of the vision for development within Vygieskraal. This particular aspect has become an important sub-project of the larger initiative. Ward Councillor Saleem Mowzer allocated R25 000 in 2004 to kick-start the process, with a particular focus on developing the skills of the people of Vygieskraal. The Fairest Cape Association was appointed to take this sub-project forward. In just a few months the project flourished and the members of the community have really committed themselves to making a difference. They've driven the project, done their own facilitation and public participation, and are drawing in more of their neighbours. This has resulted in a group of individuals who have the will to improve their own environment

and become empowered in the process. With more help from Cllr Mowzer, the ABSA Foundation has committed itself to this vision and has granted R80 000 to further develop vocational skills and to ultimately create employment. To date, a local contractor cleaning the canal has employed 10 Vygieskraal residents, which is an achievement in itself.

This project is particularly special for Cllr Mowzer and project manager Maurietta Stewart who attended the neighbouring Belgravia High School, and ABSA Foundation's George Gibbs, who lived in Belgravia. □

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CAPE TOWN / AACHEN LA21 PARTNERSHIP

under the patronage of
cllr Themba Sikhutshwa

LA21 partnership between Cape Town and the City of Aachen in Germany is growing from strength to strength.

The partnership was established in 2000 to promote sustainable development in a practical way, after which the partners signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The partnership extension was endorsed in June 2004 in Aachen, Germany, when Cllr Themba Sikhutshwa, on behalf of the City of Cape Town, signed the renewed MoU.

The partnership is a multi-lateral agreement that reflects the co-operation between local government and various civil and business organisations within Aachen and Cape Town. It recognises the importance of all the relevant stakeholders in ensuring a sustainable future by working together, sharing information and aiming at making a difference in a practical way. All the stakeholders, with specific reference to civil society, are encouraged to actively participate in the partnership. The partnership is supported by a Partnership Steering Committee that meets once a month.



OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are defined in the partnership agreement:

Projects: Implementation of partnership projects that promote sustainable development in a practical way;

Networking: Establishing a platform for promoting sustainable development and Agenda 21, with a focus on networking and partnership opportunities;

Awareness raising: Promoting a joint understanding of the implication of Agenda 21 on the North-South context through sharing experience in the techniques and principles of sustainable development; and

Exchanges: Promoting opportunities for exchanges between Aachen and Cape Town to support projects and organisations within the partnership.

AIM

The aim of the partnership is to promote sustainable development and the principles of Agenda 21 through facilitating partnerships and partnership projects that improve environmental, social and economic conditions, with a particular focus on poverty eradication.

PROJECTS

Some of the projects that have been implemented through the LA21 Partnership since its inception include the Mural Global Project at the Oliver Tambo Centre in Khayelitsha and support of the Youth Soccer Tour to Germany in 2003. The Bicycle Recycling Project will be implemented for the third time, with Aacheners donating bicycles, which are sent to Cape Town for refurbishment and used in training programmes in disadvantaged schools. The Aachen Greening Award promotes greening and food gardening in disadvantaged communities through providing funding raised in Aachen. Musical

instruments are also being collected in Aachen and sent to local disadvantaged schools. All these projects support the implementation of sustainable development through promoting economic development, social development and environmental protection in a practical way.

Over the last four years almost two hundred people have visited between Aachen and Cape Town as part of the partnership. This includes volunteers from Germany working in Cape Town, as well as local students and learners studying in Aachen. City employees and councillors have also visited Aachen, and a formal delegation from Aachen was received in Cape Town in 2003. □

For more information contact Grace Stead, LA21 co-ordinator in Cape Town, tel +27 (0)21 918 7313, fax +27 (0)21 918 7336 or email grace.stead@capetown.gov.za. The LA21 website is currently being translated into English and should be available soon.



REPORT BACK ON JOHANNESBURG +2

Sustainable Development Conference

‘Johannesburg +2 presents an opportunity to examine our progress, re-energise and re-mobilise our partners and take the next steps on the road to sustaining the development of our common future’

JOHANNESBURG +2

In September 2004, a delegation of 10 representatives from the City of Cape Town attended the Johannesburg +2 Sustainable Development Conference in Sandton, Johannesburg. The objectives of the Conference were concisely captured by our National Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus van Schalkwyk in his opening address. The Johannesburg +2 Conference presents an “opportunity to examine our progress, re-energise and re-mobilise our partners, and take the next steps on the road to sustaining the development of our common future”, he said.

Though Johannesburg +2 is not comparable to the WSSD conference in magnitude, it did have world renowned representatives as well as senior delegates from the African continent. Nitin Desai, the WSSD Secretary; Ambassador John Nash, the CSD 13 Chairperson, Valli Moosa and more than 800 delegates mainly from South Africa attended the conference.

The conference consisted of a spectrum of activities that included the plenary sessions, round-table discussions, side events and exhibitions. The City of Cape Town delegates, who were visible in all these events, made some valuable contributions.

EXHIBITIONS

Stakeholders were provided with space to exhibit their projects that conform to sustainable development principles. It was encouraging to see that in South Africa, there are best practised sustainable development projects that can be showcased to the world. These projects were not only inspirational, but also confirmed that sustainable development is not a theoretical concept but is an important aspect that enhances our development initiatives.

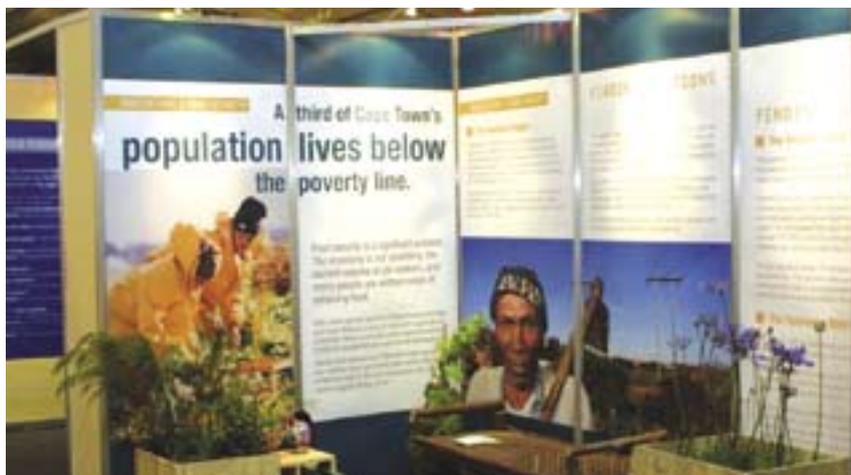
Our joint exhibition stall with Provincial Government Western Cape (PGWC) was the most popular stall. It was featured on SABC’s ‘Morning Live’ as well as in the ‘Beyond WSSD’ publication. The biggest attraction to our stall was a huge and colourful doll that represents the story of Lulama Silwana from Khayelitsha. Lulama has been in the business of designing African dolls and clothes for the past 19 years.

The partnership that we have managed to build with PGWC as a result of this conference should be nurtured to become a formal partnership.

The conference prioritised the implementation of the WSSD outcomes. Also, it gave us an opportunity to meet potential partners who can assist us in ensuring that we commit Cape Town, and the world towards a sustainable development path.

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The conference had eight round-tables, namely; water, energy, agriculture, biodiversity, science and technology, governance and the role of business in sustainable development. They all focussed mainly on assessing progress made since the 2002 WSSD conference as well as on formulating strategies aimed at fast-tracking the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Worth mentioning is that in all the above-mentioned round-tables, time set aside for discussions and inputs from the floor was limited, resulting in the conference missing out on hearing views of more than 800 conference delegates.



For more information email monwabisi.booi@capetown.gov.za



In February 2001, in his State of the Nation address, President Thabo Mbeki identified eight urban poverty nodes for special and more focused attention. In the Western Cape, Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain were two such nodes.



PRESIDENTIAL URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAMME

In the Western Cape, Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain were two such nodes (both are located in the City of Cape Town). The basis for the selection of the URP nodes by the President was mainly the nature and extent of poverty in these urban areas. Both Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain, which are pervaded by a spectrum of social ills, are located in the poverty stricken Metro South East, many kilometres away from centres of economic opportunities. For example, a quarter of the population of Khayelitsha is infected with the HIV/AIDS virus, and together with Mitchell's Plain, have a high rate of crime.

Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain are home to a third of the City's population. This is a factor which justifies URP to be seen as the City's strategic programme (not just a programme for Mitchell's Plain and Khayelitsha), because out of three Capetonians one is benefiting from the programme. The three spheres of government, National, Provincial and the City have made funding available for initiatives that alleviate poverty and improve the environmental integrity of the two nodes. The approach of implementing the URP is to integrate the two nodes and strengthen linkages with the coastline and the core botanical sites in the area.

The URP is expected to usher a development phase that shifts from business as usual and that embraces the triple bottom approach to development. As it is still a pilot programme, it is expected that its positive outcomes will be replicated to other areas of need. As a result of the input from the representatives of environment management, City of Cape Town's definition of URP is based on sustainable development principles. To translate the definition into reality, an Environmental Management Framework is being developed to guide development by identifying strategic areas to be protected

and streamline processes so as to enable development in appropriate areas.

A variety of projects initiated by the environment section include the following:

- Sustainable Development Training for URP role-players from both Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain
- Wolfgat Eco-tourism Centre
- Rocklands Look Out Hill environmental upgrading
- Khayelitsha Air Pollution Strategy
- Khayelitsha DIY Home Insulation Project
- Feasibility study for renewable/energy efficiency initiative along the Spine Road

There is an abundance of opportunities in these two poverty nodes to continue with initiatives that alleviate poverty whilst ensuring environmental integrity. For example, both nodes are pervaded by invasive alien plants that threaten the biodiversity of the two urban areas, Khayelitsha is situated in one of the prime wetland areas in the Western Cape and the Mitchell's Plain community has identified the Wolfgat Nature Reserve as their anchor project which will be linked to a number of eco-tourism and cultural tourism projects. At the door step of both Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha, Mnandi Beach has been awarded the full Blue Flag Status. This means that Mnandi Beach has been recognised internationally as one of the best beaches in the world. Sustaining this status becomes critically important in order to boost tourism and economic development in the neighbouring poverty stricken communities. Close collaboration with all the stakeholders will no doubt deliver a decent quality of life for the Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain communities.

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Environmental Management Framework (EMF) for Urban Renewal



The clock is ticking for the Urban Renewal Programme to deliver much-needed services in the two Presidential nodes of the Western Cape, Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain. There are about six years left for the URP to produce results and irrespective of the pressure and challenges, development must take place in a sustainable and responsible manner. In addressing these challenges an Environmental Management Framework will be used as a tool that will help produce more sustainable projects.

WHY AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK?

The Urban Renewal Programme has a spatial focus especially with a view to integrate the two Presidential nodes. Some of the Capital Projects of the Urban Renewal Programme will require mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment in order for any development to take place. Cumulative effects of projects are difficult to address when individual Environmental Impact Assessments are processed. This is mainly due to the reactive nature of Environmental Impact Assessments which can slow down service delivery.

An Environmental Management Framework is a proactive tool in terms of the new draft Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations whereby geographical areas are identified in which specific activities may be exempted from the full Environmental

Impact Assessment process. What this means is that once the Environmental Management Framework report has been finalised, it will be a tool that will be used to empower the community as well as officials by indicating what the state of their environment looks like, thereby including them in decision making and environmental discourse. Ordinary community members will have an understanding of environmentally sensitive areas that will enable them to have a say in the protection and preservation thereof.

SCOPE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The new draft Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations makes provision for the Environmental Management Framework and should they be promulgated it would mean that the Western Cape, like its counterpart Gauteng which has been using a similar approach, will play a proactive role in terms of environmental processes. This would mean that screening of Environmental Impact Assessments will be speeded up or could be excluded from environmental authorisation. Also the process of an Environmental Management Framework will be linked with the Spatial Development Framework for the Urban Renewal Programme and will provide the Environmental Management layer. The Environmental Management Framework aims to provide a mechanism for environmental monitoring and auditing of

There are only about six years left for the URP to produce results in a sustainable, responsible manner.

BENEFITS OF AN EMF?

The EMF will be a value-adding product that is practical and action orientated that will facilitate development approval processes. It will also create an opportunity to build a strong partnership with Province who will not only participate in the production of this EMF but also at the end use the Framework to base their assessment and decisions on. Stakeholders will have a document that they can use to monitor and manage their own environment. At the end of the day by using the EMF, the URP will be able to produce more sustainable Projects.

URP Projects that will be used throughout the URP. Through the process of this study, roles and responsibilities will be defined for Environmental Management, for example partnerships with PGWC where they are the decision makers for environmental authorisations.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Stakeholder involvement will take place during the production phase of the Environmental Management Framework. This will mainly be with key stakeholders like the Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain Development Forums, Wards, Sub-Council's, Multi-stakeholder Parties, as well as the Planning and Environment Portfolio Committee. Over the next months, we will supply them with reports for their information as well as getting their input.

Apart from the Stakeholder Involvement, a Capacity Building Programme will be run in tandem with the production of the Environmental Management Framework. The aim of the Capacity Building Programme is to ensure that all stakeholders know how to use the Environmental Management Framework to either implement projects in a sustainable manner or to monitor URP Projects. The Project will run for the next six months to be completed by the end of June 2005. □

For more information email thandeka.tukula@capetown.gov.za



BLUE FLAG BEACHES

for Cape Town



Mnandi Beach and Clifton's Fourth Beach awarded full Blue Flag status



Mnandi Beach and Clifton's Fourth Beach are the first Cape Town beaches to be awarded full Blue Flag status by the National Blue Flag Awards Committee. Blue Flag is an annual international Eco award whose status is awarded to beaches that meet a stringent range of social, educational and environmental standards. Prior to being awarded Blue Flag status for the 2004/2005 season, Mnandi and Clifton 4th – together with Bikini Beach - had to operate as pilot Blue Flag beaches for a year before applying for full status. Bikini Beach narrowly missed full Blue Flag status and will be in the running again for the 2005/2006 season. Camps Bay, Strandfontein and Muizenberg beaches have been given pilot Blue Flag status for the 2004/2005 season and will hopefully receive full status for the 2005/2006 season. □

Anti-clockwise from top: Clifton Fourth Beach, Mnandi Beach's excellent pool and recreational facilities, Camps Bay Beach.



About 12 to 15 learners at a time can go into the whale through the mouth.

WANDA THE GIANT SPERM WHALE

arrives in Kommetjie

Wanda the massive concrete sperm whale arrived in Cape Town in October. She was built in 1978 by Anton Rupert's Nature Foundation and used as an educational tool at Treasure Beach in Durban. Wanda was unfortunately not used anymore and started to deteriorate badly. Through a

sponsorship by Parmalat, she was brought by road to the Parmalat Enviro Centre at Kommetjie where she will be used again for educational purposes until October 2005. About 12 to 15 learners at a time can go into the whale through the mouth. □



TYGERBERG OLYMPIAD



2004 winners

Settlers High School is the 2004 winner of the coveted Tygerberg Olympiad for the environment for the second year running. 17 High schools from across the City took part in the annual Olympiad, which was held for the fourth time this year. Previous winners include Sans Souci Girls High in 2001 and Stellenbosch High School in 2002. □

ENVIROPAEDIA latest edition



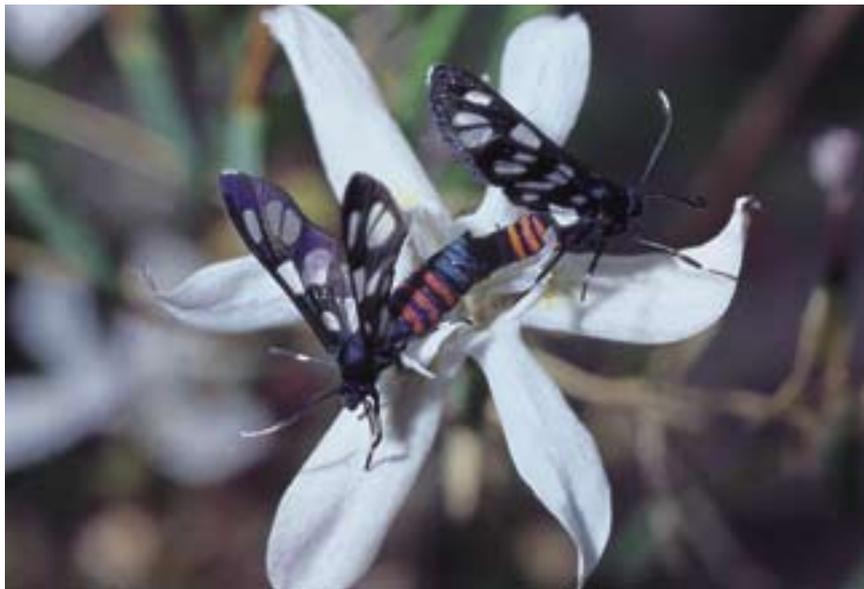
The latest and most recently published edition of The Enviropaedia (Eco-Logic Publishing cc) is a valuable resource which boasts a range of prominent contributors such as environmentalists, academics, consultants and politicians. The Enviropaedia is made up of an A to Z section of well-researched articles; a Sustainable Development section with essays and commentary from industry experts including Martinus van Schalkwyk and the United Nations Chairman of the Sustainable Development Commission. The second section is an ample directory of environmental experts, organisations, goods and service providers. An essay by the City's Executive Mayor, Nomandla Mfeketo, is also included. For more information email David Parry-Davies on enviropaedia@iafrica.com



GREEN FLAG SCHOOLS



We are pleased to announce that three of the 11 Atlantis / Mamre schools participating in the Eco-schools programme received their Green Flag Status during an award ceremony held in December last year. Cllr. Milley Desai and Hettie Gets from WWF-SA handed over the flags and certificates to the three schools in the Robinvale Community Hall in Atlantis. The well-deserving schools are Kerria Primary School, Reygersdal Primary and Saxonsea Secondary School.



NEW STAFF

andy greenwood A Planning Professional responsible for environmental matters in the previous Tygerberg area, Oostenberg and Helderberg, Andy re-joined the City in October last year after nearly four years in private environmental practice.

Prior to going into private practice, Andy worked in the City's Environmental Planning Unit for seven years before starting a new Environmental Management Directorate at the South Peninsula Municipality in 1996.

As a volunteer with the Deep South Disaster Management Corps, Andy spends his weekends driving and operating fire engines, delivering babies, cutting people out of car wrecks, giving CPR and fighting shack, house and mountain fires.

andile mangengeza Andile joined the City in October 2004 as an Assistant Environmental Planner. Andile has a joint Honours Degree in Environmental Studies and Geography, and majored in Environmental Management and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Prior to joining the City, he worked for GISCOE, a Cape Town-based GIS Company as a GIS Technician. Andile wanted to work for the City because he wanted to do something that could help protect the environment and make a difference to the communities around him at a grassroots level. He felt that the City was the correct channel to help him deliver his services to people.

WE SAY GOODBYE

It is with bitter sweetness that we bid farewell to two of our valued staff members. **lorraine gerrans** and **martinus fredericks** left the Environmental Management department at the end of 2004. Lorraine had been with the department for five years, where she worked as the Sustainable Resource Management Specialist. She has taken up a position as Town Planner / Project Manager at BKS, an engineering and management firm.

Martinus left the department after two years as a Biophysical Specialist in order to pursue full time studies. He is in the process of completing his diploma in Nature Conservation and his B Tech in Agriculture.

We wish both Lorraine and Martinus all the best with their chosen paths and know that they will make a success of whatever they put their minds to.

LETS HEAR FROM YOU

As from the Autumn 2005 issue, we will add an exciting new interactive section to the Environmental Leaflet and it involves you, our cherished readers. Please send us your letters, comments, environmental jokes, etc. to enviro@capetown.gov.za. Please note that due to space constraints, the editor reserves the right to edit letters.