



# Working for Water

## E-News

Welcome to the *Working for Water* electronic newsletter. This publication is aimed at keeping staff and stakeholders informed on the progress made towards controlling invasive alien plants (IAPs), the challenges encountered during implementation and the achievements of *Working for Water* nationally.

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May/June 2010

The Working for Water Programme and UNEP-BASF launched the Watershed Services Project on Tuesday the 11th of May 2010 at Ulundini - Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape. The launch enjoyed the support of the locals and the presence of the UNEP-BASF delegation. The month of May also saw the Minister of the Department of Public Works Jeff Doidge through the Expanded Public Works Programme host a media workshop, and Theresa Hendricks won the De Hoop dam tour competition.

As we strive to bring you updates on the events taking place and important information in the department we need your contribution and interaction.

- *WfW E-News Team*



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## DE HOOP DAM "I WAS THERE" COMPETITION

The Directorate: Large Capital Projects of the National Water Resources Infrastructure Branch held a competition to profile the Olifants River Water Resources Development Project with special focus on the construction of the De Hoop Dam. The competition was open to national and regional office staff from level 1 to 6, with a trip to the Valley of the Rainbow in Dullstroom and the De Hoop Dam construction site to be won.

*The winning entry from our office came from Theresa Hendricks who can now proudly say "I was there".*

The tour started at the Valley of the Rainbow in Dullstroom on Thursday 29th April 2010, where the winners were treated to lunch, a tour of the venue and dinner. On Friday 30 April 2010 the winners traveled from the Valley of the Rainbow to De Hoop Dam construction site in Steelpoort. On their arrival they were treated to a presentation about the process of the construction of the dam and the socio-economic issues affecting the project.



**Launch of the Watershed Project**

*by Kagiso Letsebe*

The launch of the Payments for Watershed Services project in the Umzimvubu catchment area took place at the Ulundini municipality village of Vuvu on the 11th May 2010. The day started with a briefing session for the Ulundini Municipality and UNEP-BASF delegation, followed by a visit to the project site. The event was filled with exciting performances by the locals.



**Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)**

The Minister of the Department of Public Works Jeff Doidge through the Expanded Public Works Programme held a media workshop on 3 May 2010. Minister Doidge briefed the media on the National EPWP Programmes in all sectors of Government. In the Environmental sector the *Working for Water* and Working on Fire programmes were identified. The workshop started with a presentation by the EPWP Programme Manager followed by a speech by the Minister. After the Minister's speech there was a field visit to a *Working for Water* project where the *Working for Water* Project Manager gave a profile of the project, which was followed by a speech by a beneficiary who spoke on the positive effect the *Working for Water* has made in her life. This field visit was followed by lunch and a visit to the Working on Fire base in Newlands.



**Working on Fire**

(pictures by Bruce Sutherland)





### **Myriophyllum spicatum**

#### **The danger that lies beneath**

*by Debbie Sharp*

#### **Where does it come from?**

*Myriophyllum spicatum* L. originates from Europe, Asia and North America. It was introduced as an aquarium plant. It invades all water bodies and is potentially harmful in slow flowing water bodies such as rivers, ponds and dams.

#### **What does it look like?**

It is a rooted aquatic plant submerged except for the leafless flowering shoots. Stems can grow to 3m in length. Leaves are feathery occurring in whorls. Roots are few and on lower parts of the stem

#### **Why is it dangerous?**

It can reproduce from seed and fragmentation of the stems. It can be confused with indigenous species ( *Ceratophyllum demersum* and *Lagarosiphon* species) and with other invasive submerged species

#### **What does it do?**

Spiked water milfoil causes major impacts on water use. Reduces flow in drainage canals, interferes with navigation of boats and fishing activities and other recreational activities. Displaces indigenous vegetation and adversely impacts sportfish populations. Economic and tourism impacts can be staggering. It is a category 1 species under CARA.



## INVADER PLANT/WEED IN MY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT



### **Bramble (*Rubus cuneifolius* Pursh)**

*by Debbie Sharp*

Bramble belongs to the family Rosaceae. Bramble originated from Northern America, Eastern USA. It is an aggressive invader that invades grasslands, forest edges, plantations, roadsides and riverbanks (Henderson, 2001). This species has invaded KZN, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. It is very prevalent in the Midlands area of KZN, threatening the Drakensberg. Bramble is an upright to sprawling thorny shrub with ridged stems (Henderson, 2001), often forming dense impenetrable thickets. The leaves are trifoliate and green. The flowers are white and are found at the ends of the short shoots. The fruits are edible and are red turning black. Bramble flowers from September – January. Bramble is a declared weed; the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983 governs the control of this species. It is a category 1 plant in terms of regulation 15 of CARA. This means that this plant cannot be grown, propagated or sold. It must be removed and destroyed.

#### **Control methods**

**Chemical** – The mature Bramble thickets are sprayed with a foliar application of a registered herbicide. The regrowth is treated in the same manner. This can be a costly exercise. A list of registered herbicides is obtainable from the Department of Agriculture.

**Biological control** - Is the use of natural enemies to suppress the growth of the alien plants thereby making other control options viable. The biocontrol for this species is still under investigation and the Plant Protection Research Institute is currently doing the research.

*References. Henderson, L. 2001. Alien weeds and Invasive plants. Paarl Printers, Cape Town*





## **SANParks - Invasive Species Control Unit (Cape Cluster)**

*by Patrick Marsh*

The Invasive Species Control Unit (ISCU) of South African National Parks (SANParks) is broken up into four clusters, of which the Cape Cluster is one. Currently this cluster has five government funded Expanded Public Works Programmes (EPWP) running within the cluster, employing a total of 698 people from the local communities.

There are five National Parks within the Cape Cluster and it is worth noting that four of the five National Parks are "open access" parks – Table Mountain, West Coast, Agulhas

and Tanqua Karoo. The Bontebok National Park is the only fully fenced park of the conventional protected areas kind in the Cape Cluster.

In line with the requirements of the EPWP, the aim is to employ 60% woman, a minimum of 20% youth and 2% disabled persons. The aim of the programme is twofold; it has a social and an environmental component to it. Socially we aim to give the poorest of the poor within the community work to sustain them and to give them training to make themselves more employable. Environmentally we aim to conserve biodiversity and increase water availability through the eradication of Invasive Alien Plants (IAP) species within the five National Parks.

### **Working for Water**

There are five Working for Water (WfW) projects employing 477 people from different local communities around the Parks. Teams are trained to clear Invasive Alien Plants from within the respective parks with the goal of conserving biodiversity and increasing the availability of water.

Teams are recruited from local communities with the assistance of a Project Advisory Committee made up of leaders in the community. Teams are led by Contractors selected through a recruitment process. Teams are given basic induction on Working for Water and intensive operational training in Alien Invasive Clearing before being deployed infield. Teams are trained in health and safety standards. Their personal safety takes priority at all times and they are supplied with personal protective gear to make their day at work as safe as possible.

### **High Altitude**

Standard clearing operations are undertaken in all parks. It is worth mentioning however that Table Mountain National Park have two High altitude Clearing teams that have had specialized training to clear alien plants on steep and sheer cliffs. These teams can be deployed to any park in the cluster or nationally to undertake this task.

### **Paradoxa Partnership**

Unique on Table Mountain is a project to clear Paradoxa (Kangaroo Thorn) off the slopes of Devils Peak. This occurs nowhere else in the country and affords us the opportunity to successfully eradicating an alien species from our shores. This is a partnership with SANBI ( Early detection Unit ) and the Centre for Invasion Biology at the University of Stellenbosch.

### **WWF Partnership**

The Invasive Species Control Unit of SANParks has also entered into an agreement with WWF to implement a clearing programme on Table Mountain and in the Tankwa Karoo National Park funded by corporates to reduce their water use. The Programme is referred to as Water Neutral Projects and the corporates involved are the South African Breweries and Woolworths. This affords sustainable employment for our beneficiaries.

## Value Added Industries

Worth mentioning is an initiative in TMNP to mill wood from alien invasive trees on the mountain to be used in various ways. Planking has been used to build boardwalks at the Tented Camps which form part of the Hoerikwaggo Hiking Trail on the Table Mountain chain from the City to Cape Point. Wood has also been milled for the actual construction of the Tented Camps and ongoing supply of planks for boardwalks where they might be needed.

**For the year 2010/11, a total of 43,658 hectares will be cleared of alien plants.**

## Working for the Coast (WftC)

There are four Working for the Coast Projects in the Cape Cluster, Table Mountain National Park, Agulhas National Park, Namaqua National Park and West Coast National Park

### *Major activities include :*

- Beach clean ups
- Hiking Trail maintenance
- Maintenance of Recreational facilities
- Rehabilitation
- Marine Monitoring

As with Working for Water, workers are selected with the assistance of the Projects Advisory Committees. Workers are selected from local communities. Working for the Coast currently employs 166 workers in the Cape Cluster. Workers receive the necessary induction and training before being deployed infield. Due to the various activities undertaken by WftC the opportunity arises to develop and train workers in a range of sustainable work opportunities such as the building and hospitality industries among others.

## Working for Wetlands

A Working for Wetlands Project is implemented in the Agulhas National Park and the Kammiesberg in Northern Cape. Workers are sourced from the local communities and 55 workers are currently employed. Specialised training is provided in Gabion and concrete structure building and maintenance.

## Training and Social Development

Beneficiaries all undergo functional operational training to enable them to carry out the work effectively and safely. Key initiatives within the projects are Health promotion/Awareness ( HIV&AIDS and Substance abuse ), Gender mainstreaming through diversity workshops and commemorative events and business finance training and SMME Development.



**Cynthia Nocawe Lombo**

Community: Red Hill

Age: 45

**History in Working for Water:**

Cynthia worked with the Ukuvuka project as a CC in a team of 10 (2002). She started as a contractor in the Working for Water project in 2005. Cynthia is still working in this capacity in the TMNP Central Project.

**Training received:**

- Induction, Contractor Development, Health and Safety, First Aid, Fire Fighting, Herbicide Applicator, Peer educator, Substance Abuse, HIV and AIDS Awareness, Block Planning, Vehicle Safety, Primary Health, Business Finance, Personal Finance.

**Michelle Dené Barry**

Community: Kleinmond

Age: 27

**History in Working for Water**

Michelle Barry was employed in the P.R.O.T.E.A. Project for Working for Water in the year 2001 as a general worker. In the same year she progressed to a supervisor. In the year 2003 Michelle took the initiative to apply for a Chipping Contractor's position and she succeeded. She has utilized all training which she has received to empower and develop herself. She was a contractor for 5 years, in January 2008 she resigned as a contractor due to a lack of work in the project. Michelle was employed in August 2008 as an Administrative assistant for Table Mountain National Park – North. After one year in this position, she was promoted to Assistant Project Manager for the TMNP North project. She is currently in this position.

**Training: Received for 2006 – 2010****2006:**

- Herbicide Applicator, Health and Safety 1, Basic Fire Fighting, Plant Identification, Accounting comes Alive, Moneywise, Chipper Operator, Work Site Management

**2007:**

- Snake Awareness, Field Safety, Chainsaw Basic Awareness, Block Planning

**2008: Working for Water: Management**

- First Aid level 1, Free to Grow, Health & Safety Environmental Representative, Basic Fire Awareness, Induction

**2009:**

- Minute taking course, Incident Investigation and Coida, MS Excel 2000 Intermediate and Intermediate (Advanced), Forest Rehabilitation and Implementation, Alien Invaders in Fynbos, 4 x 4 Off-road driving

**2010:**

- Chairing and Initiating Disciplinary Hearings
- Project Management Course



## Rivers flow despite the drought

by Megan G. McCarthy - Project Manager - Working for Water, ISCU  
Addo Elephant National Park

Addo Elephant National Park's Working for Water project was started in 2003 with a budget of just over R2,100,000, and focused mainly on the mountainous Zuurberg Section clearing giant Black Wattle & Eucalyptus. The AENP Working for Water project boundaries stretch today, from Darlington Section in the West, right down to the newly acquired Colchester Section in the South. This is approximately 143,000 of the 175,000 total area of AENP. The Colchester and South Eastern Woody Cape Sections make up for the remaining 32,000 hectares and are cleared by the Woody Cape Working for Water teams. Today the budget stands at R4,100,000. In the 2009/2010 financial year, WfW provided employment for 144 contract staff, cleared 11,440 hectares, worked 14,135 person days and completed 1,871 training days. 56 various invasive alien plant species (IAPs) have been identified and systematically treated within the AENP WfW project boundaries. Viewed at consolidated totals, as per the IAPs Management Unit Clearing Plan audits in 2009, of all identified IAPs within the project boundaries, the following species remain the biggest contributors in keeping the WfW project in full swing:

*Opuntia aurantiaca*; 2661.51 ha, *Tamarix spp.*; 1783.81 ha, *Acacia mearnsii*; 1074.19 ha, *Opuntia ficus-indica*; 193.81 ha, *Eucalyptus spp.*; 169.89ha – at 100% density

As at November, 2009, ±450 cleared contract areas exist within the project, totaling approximately 16,000 hectares. Further digital mapping in the last few months will add ±420 more contract areas to the project (±37,000 hectares in total), increasing potential clearing work in AENP to 53,000 hectares.

But the last while in Addo has been tough on everyone. Maximum temperatures have soared and the highest temperature recorded in February in the Sunday's River Valley, measured a whopping 46°C. An experiment done at the Sunday's River Citrus Council to determine how high temperatures could reach in an unventilated enclosure at these maximum outdoor temperatures sent the thermometer into the mid 50°Cs inside a citrus pack-house. The average required total annual rainfall for AENP is about 460mm. The drought that has affected the Park and surrounding areas for the last two years has brought this down to only 245mm over the last 12 months, having devastating affects on the natural fauna and flora, as well as agriculture in the area.

In an email dated 01 March, 2010, a private landowner from the Driefontein area near Kuzuko; Philip Keevy, on who's property AENP WfW clear IAPs, elaborates on invasive alien plant clearing work done in one of the most important Addo Elephant National Park water catchments, North of the Zuurberg.

*".....Dear Megan*

*This letter is to thank you and the Working for Water team for the good work done to ensure that the water is back in the Witrivier at Driefontein and neighboring farms. As a kid in the late 1960's my farther and four other neighbors had a communal cattle dip at Oudekraal. This dipping tank was filled from the Witrivier with a centrifugal pump. This was all stopped by 1972 when there was no water in the Witrivier because of the black wattle infestation. A time ago I sent my laborers to bring the cattle to the kraal and then I realized that they had to walk a detour with the cattle because the river had too much water to cross it at the old footpath. I mentioned this at our previous Farmers Association meeting and everyone agreed that it was a fantastic effort from you and the team to restore nature.*

*Thank you !!!!*

*Kind regards*

*Philip Keevy"*



## Vuvuzela Moment - "We've got the Feva"

June 9th marked only two (2) days before the 2010 FIFA World Cup kick-off. At exactly 12h00, all WfW National Office staff took to the streets of Cape Town to blow their vuvuzelas. The initiative known as the "Vuvuzela Moment" was intended to make the world stand up and take notice of South Africa's pride and heritage, the vuvuzela. It was also a way for South Africans to give the world a pre-world cup moment.

Those who were in their cars at the time were encouraged to hoot to show their support.



## We've got the Feva!



## Ke Nako . . . Feel it - it is here!



**Please forward contributions to**

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For more information contact the *Working for Water*

toll free information line on 0800-005-376

or visit our website [www.dwaf.gov.za/wfw/](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/wfw/) or send your queries to: [wfw@dwaf.gov.za](mailto:wfw@dwaf.gov.za)

To see pictures of invasive alien plants go to <http://www.agis.agric.za/wip/>