



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.

Volume 3- Edition 4

September/October 2010

September/October has been very eventful for the *Working for Water* Programme. The National Teachers' Conference which took place at the end of September was a resounding success and also kick-started the launch of the National WeedBuster Week 2010 campaign.

The 16 October 2010 marked an auspicious occasion for the *Working for Water* Programme as we celebrated our 15th anniversary since the inception of the programme in 1995. **Halala WfW, Halala!**

We also saw the appointment of new Regional Programme Leaders in the Eastern and Northern Cape respectively. We congratulate both gentlemen and wish them well in their new positions.

We trust you will find this edition informative and remind you that as we strive to bring you updates on the events taking place and important information in the department, we need your contribution and feedback.

- WfW E-News Team



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Our new physical address is: 14 Loop Street, Cape Town 8001

Our postal address is: Private Bag X4390, Cape Town 8000

Telephone Number: (021) 441-2700 (Switchboard) and Fax Number: (021) 441-2751

Dear All

I would like to wish us all a "Happy Birthday" for our 15th anniversary. I remember going to KZN to speak to the then Natal Parks Board about being a partner in the proposed programme to clear invasives, and a couple of the older conservationists dismissing the idea, saying that there would be no political commitment and that it would never last! That was when we had been granted the initial R25m, but before we had started on 16th October 1995.

- Dr Guy Preston

Congratulations go to all involved in the Working for Water Programme and credit to the visionaries like yourself who persevered despite the odds.

The NRMP's are creating an amazing aura around them and the outcomes from them would be felt when I children will be able to enjoy the clean and abundant air and water supplies. There is still work to be done in making some of these fledgling initiatives understood by a wider group of people, but I think our family is big enough now to continue with some of this advocacy work. Credit goes to politicians like Prof Kader Asmal for having shown insight and we hope that we can elicit similar support from other politicians in our years ahead. There is an increasingly worrisome trend of environmental irresponsibility, and the NRMP's allow us some leverage to nationalise our dissent on poor environmental decisions. This, again, our "NRMP family" need to confront directly.

We rally behind Working for Water to go beyond the gains that it has already made, working quietly for a better country.

Umesh R. Bahadur

**Manager: Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation
South African National Biodiversity Institute**

Hallo Guy and all WfW family members,

Congratulations with this milestone and Guy ,thanks for your leadership and lobbying with politicians and government officials to ensure that we get the necessary funding to keep growing and preserving this lovely country for our children.

regards

Pieter J. van der Merwe

**National Ground Operations Manager
Working on Fire**

Happy Birthday. Of course it's been interesting and challenging years but we've also grown in the process looking forward to still a significant long road ahead.

All the best,

Nosipho (Regional Co-ordinator EC and KZN then,...)

Ms N.N. Ngcaba

Director-General

Department of Environmental Affairs

**Professor Asmal cutting down
the first tree on 16th Oct 1995**







WEEDBUSTER EASTERN CAPE MEDIA LAUNCH 2010



INVADER PLANT/WEED IN MY AQUARIUM/FISH POND

Dense water weed (*Egeria densa*)

-Debbie Sharp

Where does it come from?

Egeria densa Planch, Dense water weed originates from South America. Introduced as an ornamental in fish ponds and indoor fish aquaria.

What does it look like?

It is a submerged aquatic plant with slender stems up to 1.5m long. Leaves occur in whorls and conspicuous white 3-petaled flower protrudes above the water surface

Why is it bad?

Invades rivers, shallow dams and lakes. 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?

Dense water weed 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. It is a category 1 species under CARA.

It can be controlled manually and with water level fluctuations

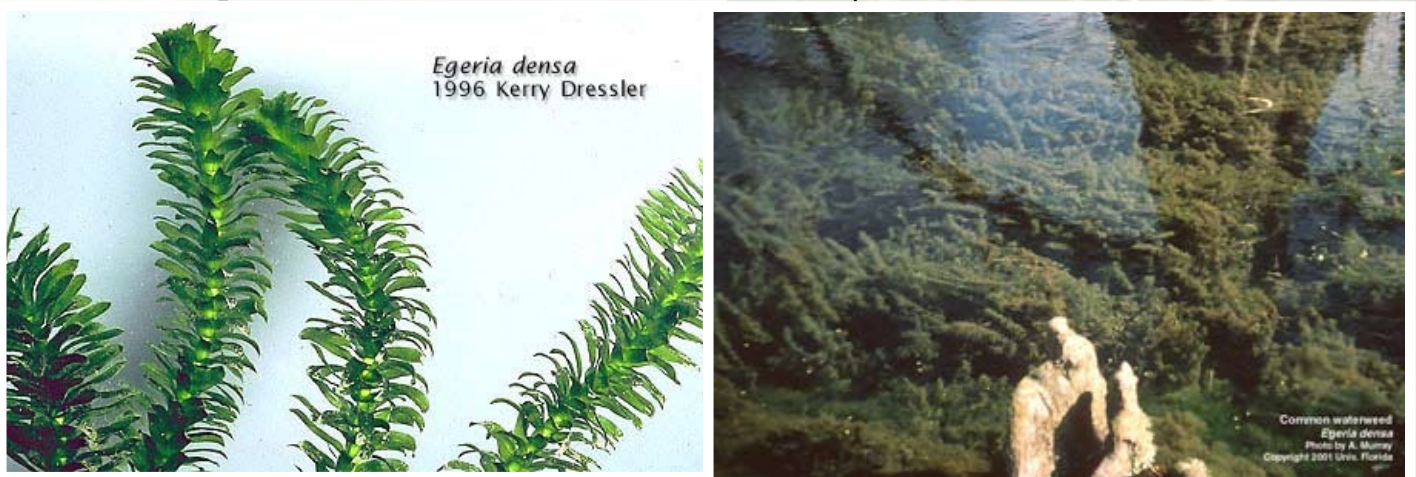
You and the law

Our laws relating to IAP's are aimed at:

- Preventing introductions of potential invasive species
- Managing species that have become invasive in the country

Always remember

1. Unlawful to bring alien species into SA without a permit
2. Unlawful to sell certain IAP's
3. Unlawful to have certain IAP's on property
4. Unlawful to grow certain IAP's in sensitive areas (wetlands, riparian)



**PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT
CONGRATULATIONS TO WORKING ON FIRE - NELSPRUIT**



Front (from left to right)
Eunice Ndlovu, Joan Scott, Tracy Tshabalala
Back (from left to right)
Bheki Mhlabane, Joshua Mavimbela, Jack Ramolefo (Limpopo Provincial Stock Controller who attended training), Ernest Mogane, Goodman Shube, Vusi Nkosi and Donna Joubert

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Congratulations to the Procurement and Logistics department of Working on Fire in Nelspruit for raising the standard of maintaining their stores. The neatness, cleanliness and tidiness can only be ascribed to the teamwork by Donna and her team.

Well done – keep up the good work. You have made us proud!

“Siyakubongisa Skim” (the name given to Joan Scott of WfW)

STAFF MOVEMENT AT BELLVILLE REGIONAL OFFICE

| POST | OFFICIAL | DIRECTORATE/SUB DIRECTORATE | MOVEMENT |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| IT Manager | Mr R Adam | Corporate Services | Appointment |
| Admin Clerk | Mr X Madela | Institutional Operations | Appointment |
| Admin Clerk | Ms M Knowles | Water Sector Support | Resignation |
| Community Development Officer | Ms A L Isaacs | Institutional operations | Promotion |
| Environmental Officer (Production) | Mr L K Lekubu | Water Sector Support | Appointment |
| Senior Accounting Clerk Grade III | Mr A Mbejeni | Finance and Supply Chain Management | Appointment |
| WMA: Manager | Ms L Bezuidenhout | Working for Water | Resignation |

Congratulations to Michael Kawa who has been appointed as Regional Programme Leader in the Eastern Cape and Brandon Mashabane appointed as Regional Programme Leader in the Northern Cape.

Both Michael and Brandon have been employed by Working for Water for many years and have worked their way up in the Department and in Working for Water, with Michael starting as a Forester in the Eastern Cape and Brandon as an assistant project manager in Working for Water.

Congratulations to both of you – we wish you well in your new positions.



Michael Kawa



Brandon Mashabane

NATIONAL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE (LEISURE TIME)



Please forward contributions to

FaredT@dwa.gov.za or JohnsoN@dwa.gov.za

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/ or send your queries to: wfw@dwaf.gov.za

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