



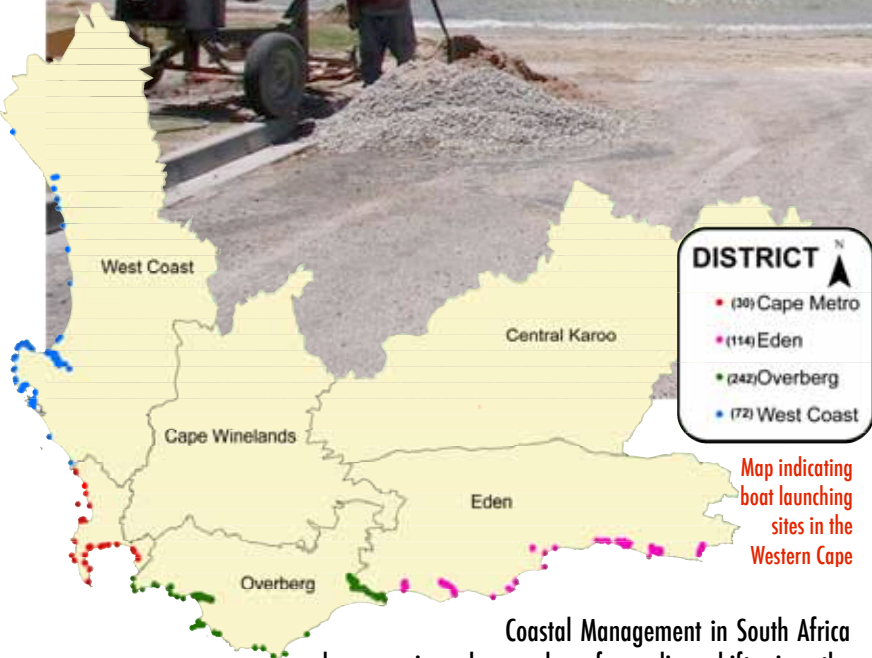
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NOVEMBER 2010

CMU WORKING TO PROTECT OUR OCEANS



Various Boat launching sites in the Hout Bay and Langebaan areas.



Map indicating boat launching sites in the Western Cape

Coastal Management in South Africa has experienced a number of paradigm shifts since the 1970s, each with different policy approaches and management practices. This "evolution" of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (NEM: ICM Act 24 of 2008) has culminated in a legal tool or Act of parliament that recognises the ecological, social and economic interactions between the ocean and humans.

This legislative framework essentially provides "guidelines" to the different spheres of government to govern mutually sustainable relationships that (1) allows communities to harness the economic benefits of the ocean, (2) at the same time focus on preserving the natural state of the ocean ecosystems to prevent degradation of the marine habitats.

In response to effecting the legislative frameworks for the Western Cape, the Provincial Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Mr Anton Bredell recently designated the Department's Coastal Management Unit (CMU) as the lead agency in the Province to promote sustainable coastal development and integrated coastal management. Our Coastal Management team is now responsible for the important task of managing the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Act in the Province.

The most important view of the ICM Act is to foster the inclusion of all stakeholders (private and public) to be part of the coastal management process by influencing positive working relations and express the shared responsibility of the National Department, the Western Cape as a coastal province and its respective coastal municipalities to wisely manage the coastal areas with its unique natural resources. Co-operative governance is the clearly one of the primary elements that will determine the efficacy of the implementation of the Act.

The team, in terms of the Act, will monitor coastal management in the Province to ensure that it is undertaken in an integrated, effective and efficient manner and most importantly, in accordance with the NEM:ICM. Their responsibilities, together with the other relevant stakeholders would be to:

- monitor the state of the environment and relevant trends affecting the coastal zones,
- identify provincial priority issues relevant to the Act and stakeholders
- co-ordinate the preparation of a provincial state of the coast report in terms of Section 93(2).

The Provincial Coastal Committee (PCC)

Through the establishment of a Provincial Coastal Committee (PCC), the CMU team will provide logistical and administrative support, in collaboration with other appropriate bodies and organisations, to train, educate and implement awareness programmes relevant to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the coastal environments. The PCC will also be at the heart of advocating for the sustainable use of the coastal resources to ensure that the coastal habitats are preserved for future generations.

Milestones achieved

This unit has also shown significant willpower and a tenacious spirit to deliver provincial imperatives by recently concluding a provincial boat launching inspection and survey. The survey indicates that an estimated 500 boat-launching sites (licensed and unlicensed) exist along the coastal zones of the Province. These sites are either located in estuaries, along municipal coastlines or on private property. Of these sites an estimated 20% are licensed and 80% unlicensed.

Boat-launching sites are managed in terms of the National Environmental Management Act. Regulations provide for the general prohibition of the recreational use of vehicles in the coastal zone, provide for demarcation of limited recreational use areas, certain permissible uses and certain activities where the application of a permit is required to use vehicles in the coastal zone and/or a license is required in order to operate a boat-launching site. The Act seeks to coordinate and regulate the various human activities that take place on the coast in order to achieve its conservation and sustainable use.

Staff Birthdays

NOVEMBER

Nathalie Johnstone	28
Shireen Pullen	28
Sue-Ellen Osman	28
Thandile Mda	28
Wendy Mhlaba	30

DECEMBER

Luwanda Dyabooi	2
Dale Wakefield	3
Carmen van Uys	5
Heidi Saul	6
Ettiene van der Merwe	8
Kim Thompson	10
Lorenzo Arendse	11
Yorin Horniet	12
Dipolelo Elford	12
Noel Smit	12
Faith Madubula-Swanepoel	13
Andre van der Merwe	13
Lambert Klerk	16
Rainer Chambeau	16
Malcom Lamour	18
A Adams	20
P Mpinde	20
Johan de Jongh	22



GREEN SCORPIONS IN REVIEW



Illegal dumping sites such as these are continuously inspected by the EMI team.



Illegal walkway constructed at Melkbosstrand

We all have the right to a healthy environment and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations by preventing pollution and ecological degradation, the promotion of conservation; and securing ecologically sustainable development and the use of natural resources. Our Constitution serves as a testament to these rights and responsibilities, and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) is the environmental management framework which gives effect to these rights.

The NEMA specifically identifies the means of protecting the environment from instances of pollution and environmental degradation. Environmental Management Inspectors (EMI's), more commonly known as the "Green Scorpions" enforce this protection of the environment and monitoring of environmental violations. The Green Scorpions also play the role of making the public aware of environmental protection by having regular interaction with the public and educational institutions.

A total of 230 complaints have been received over the past 12 months, excluding the daily enquiries and the complaints that do not necessitate further investigation. Of the total complaints, investigations determined that about 120 warning letters were sent to transgressors. About 50 transgressors failed to comply after receiving a warning letter, which resulted in the issuing of 50 compliance notices and directives. A total of 47 transgressors complied with the compliance notices and directives and 3 transgressors were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions with a view to criminal prosecution for failing to comply.

Penalties for failing to comply with a compliance notice range between a fine of R5m and imprisonment for a period of 10 years.

The other more common environmental violation complaints received include, the illegal removal or clearing of indigenous vegetation, the illegal construction of facilities or infrastructure for the storage of dangerous goods, the construction or earth moving activities in the sea or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea, the illegal infilling or excavation within a watercourse or the sea, and the illegal disposal of general and hazardous waste.

The Green Scorpions will continue to conduct these inspection blitzes and ensure that the necessary follow-ups are conducted within the prescribed time frames. The environment is vulnerable to being severely, and in some cases, irreversibly harmed by these unlawful activities. Environmental degradation and pollution are particularly harmful as it negatively affects both current and future generations, while at the same time hindering economic and social development.



REPORT ON UNAUTHORISED ACTIVITIES/DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH NEMA GENERAL DUTY OF CARE

INVESTIGATION DETAILS

Complainant: Full name: Postal address: Telephone: E-mail:	 	Cell: Fax:	
Signature of Complainant		Date	
Name of Property: Farm/ErF name and number: Property size: Nearest Town/City: Physical address: Town/City:	 		
Registered property owner: Contact Person: Postal address: Telephone: E-mail:	 		
Details of person/company performing the illegal activity: Name: Address & tel. no.:	 		
Local authority/municipality: Contact person: Postal address: Telephone: E-mail:	Cell: Fax:	 	

DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENT/ACTIVITY

1) Please provide a brief description of the development/activity:
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

2) Is the project a new development or an extension/upgrading of an existing development?
.....

Example of complaint form used during inspections.

HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

As a child, my hero was the American singer Whitney Houston. I loved the way her powerful lyrics inspired me in each verse (yes, I strongly believed that "the children are our future") and the highs and lows of that impeccable voice. In my opinion, she was one of the most influential forces in the music industry, a true "diva" who could bring grown men to tears.

During my teens, my hero became someone closer to home - our very own beloved international icon Nelson Mandela. Clichéd as it may sound, he is the epitome of everything that could be good in a country hungry for any ounce of hope. I learned from him that tolerance and forgiveness are strong characteristics in the face of adversity; that "turning the other cheek" is sometimes a more powerful weapon than raising a fist.

Now, as an adult, I am in search of a new hero - someone who inspires me and moves me to the extent that makes me say: "Wow, I wish I could be like that!" I have listened as others shared their views on the traits that a

true hero should possess in order to become worthy of the title. Some say a hero is a strong leader, someone who can positively influence people to do and be better. Some have noted that heroes are those wealthy individuals who have the drive to build empires and become household names (think along the lines of Oprah Winfrey, Bill Gates or Richard Branson). Others believe that heroes are those who sacrifice their own needs to ensure the happiness of their fellow man.

While all these interpretations describe characteristics one can aspire to, I have had to find my own interpretation. I sometimes conjure up images of flying men clad in tights and flowing capes rescuing babies from burning buildings. Or maybe people with the ability to make me smile when all I want to do is wallow in self-pity are the true definitions of what constitutes heroics. Perhaps I should look right under my nose and take a page or two from the books of my family members' lives to discover what makes someone great.

I am sure that I am not alone in my endeavour to find that *X-factor*. We all, in one way or another, want someone to look up to. The truth is, though, that there is no formula for perfection. Heroes are not born, rather, they are the products of their own life experiences. Surviving hardships seems to be the common thread shared by people we consider heroes. And if this theory is true, then we are all heroes in some way.

I have now realised that many of the qualities I look for in others are those I have already identified in myself. I have been fortunate enough to have been surrounded by people who possess wisdom, ambition and emotional strength, and I have latched onto these and made them my own. Heroes are not necessarily those "other people". Sometimes we only have to look as far as our own reflections to find the ingredients that make us extraordinary.

The Desk

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021 483 2120

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Vision:
A Western Cape where a clean environment contributes to healthy living.