

ENVIRONMENT — 1997

JANUARY — JUNE

Illegally dumped toxic chemicals to be moved to hazardous waste site

(56) About 600 drums of hazardous waste were illegally dumped close to Redan near Vereeniging in the Vaal Triangle, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry reported yesterday.

Spokesman Pieter van der Merwe said the waste would be disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner at the Holfontein hazardous waste site. The drums had a 210-litre capacity. The illegal dumping was reported by Spoornet and Meyerton police after Spoornet officials first noticed the drums on December 24.

Spoornet's environmental section was notified on Tuesday.

Clean-up operations were initiated on Thursday and would take three days, Van der Merwe said. The delay was caused by the festive season.

Clean-up company Enviro-

serv had been contracted to remove the drums and ensure the area was clear.

Water Affairs and Forestry officials yesterday met Enviro-serv and Spoornet staff at the dumping site to assist in evaluating the damage, and samples of the contaminated soil were taken, Van der Merwe said.

Preliminary investigations determined the waste to be a mixture of chemicals such as hydrocarbon resins, pine oil, mineral oils and inorganic substances including nickel catalyst and sulphur compounds. There was no immediate health or pollution risk because the site was isolated, he said.

Police forensic laboratories would help in analysing the samples taken and criminal charges could result, Van der Merwe said. - Sapa

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Hazardous chemicals dumped in Gauteng

ARG 4/1/97

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Police probe illegally dumped waste

(56) Star 6/11/97

Police have been asked to investigate samples of hazardous waste illegally dumped close to Redan station near Vereeniging in the Vaal Triangle.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry said South African Police Service forensic laboratories had been asked to analyse samples taken from the 600 drums, with a 210-litre capacity, dumped over the festive season.

Department spokesman Pieter van der Merwe said criminal charges under the Water Act and the Environmental Conservation Act would be launched against those responsible for the dumping.

He said the illegal dumping was reported by Spoornet and Meyerton police after Spoornet officials first noticed the drums on December 24.

Spoornet's environmental section was notified on December 31.

Clean-up operations with the assistance of Enviroserv, contracted to remove the drums and ensure the area was clear

of waste, started on Thursday.

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There was no immediate health or pollution risk because the site was isolated, he added.

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The waste would be disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner at the Holfontein hazardous waste site.
- Staff Reporter.

Environment paper deadline looms

BD 7/1/97

(56)

Ingrid Salgado

BUSINESS representatives expressed doubt this week that the environmental affairs and tourism ministry would meet its end-March deadline to publish a white paper on a national environment policy.

Despite the release of a green paper last October, the ministry and the Consultative National Environmental Policy Process (Conepp) still had to hold a conference of stakeholders, scheduled to take place later this month. A preliminary strategy document also had to be drafted and a costing exercise would be undertaken to avoid the white paper becoming a "wish list".

Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa manager Karin Ireton said the "ambitious" deadline would be tough to meet.

Ireton, whose forum acts as an

umbrella body for big business on environmental matters, said the ministry's ability to direct the environmental policies of other government departments was being eroded without a national policy in place. This had led to pressure on Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan to meet the target date.

The process is already lagging about seven months behind the original deadline.

The new policy's effects are not likely to be felt for at least a year after the white paper is approved since legislative amendments will have to be effected — the ministry is hoping to replace the Environmental Conservation Act of 1989 — and provincial functions spelt out.

Conepp national director Christelle van der Merwe said yesterday those people drafting the paper would have close contact with Min-

mec, a body of provincial and national government officials, to ensure the provinces could act as soon as a national policy was implemented.

Although the process had been drawn out, the end product would be more acceptable owing to the level of public participation. There was already evidence of greater consensus among parties than previously, Van der Merwe said.

However, a source close to the process said a factor that could delay the white paper was its potential to differ significantly from last year's green paper. Some players were concerned that the green paper mapped out too many objectives; others opposed its focus on command and control structures instead of self-regulation.

The mid-December deadline for comments on the paper has been extended unofficially until the Conepp conference.

PM Live presenters among staffers to quit SAfm

at a sensitive stage

Parks on the JSE

(56) (328) MH(BM) 10-16/1/97

Justin Arenstein

THE Mpumalanga Parks Board (MPB) has signed an agreement with a foreign conglomerate that contractually obliges it to support the full listing of the commercial rights to some of South Africa's prime environmental assets on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

Assets include the second-biggest canyon in the world, Blyde River Canyon, South Africa's fifth most popular international tourist attraction, Pilgrim's Rest, other prime natural features, such as Bourkes Luck and Blyde River Potholes, and at least five provincial game reserves.

The secret "shareholders' contract" between MPB and the self-proclaimed "multi-billion dollar" conglomerate, Dolphin Group,

signed on November 1, binds the MPB to secrecy for the full 50 years that the contract remains in force.

It grants Dolphin and its subsidiaries, Block Hotels and United Touring Company, the exclusive commercial management and development rights to all but one of MPB's game reserves.

Dolphin reserves the right to sell these management contracts later to sub-contractors for its own profit. In return, Dolphin undertakes to fund the MPB's budget deficit over the contract's 50-year term, as well as investing between R300- and R400-million in "bricks and mortar" projects in the parks.

MPB insists that it was forced to seek private-sector funding after the provincial government informed the parastatal that it would cease funding in 10 years' time.

Multi-billion Dolphin deal 'top secret'

MAG 10-16/1/97

The Dolphin Group has put together a deal that not only includes Mpumalanga's prime resorts, but could also be at public expense, reports **Justin Arenstein**

(56)
THE Mpumalanga government has handed over its main natural assets to an unknown foreign company and has promised not to talk about the deal for 50 years.

The contract which has been leaked to the *Mail & Guardian* allows the mysterious Dolphin Group to plunder the province's tourist attractions in a deal which has enraged conservationists.

Since the extraordinary deal was announced with lavish fanfare on November 27, the Mpumalanga Parks Board, which arranged and signed it, has consistently refused to reveal details of its agreement with the mysterious group which has a convenience address in Dubai but is registered in Bermuda.

The contracts' terms are massively weighted in favour of the Dolphin Group and contain highly controversial provisions, which dismayed leading members of the province's Environmental Council.

They are shocked at the scope it gives Dolphin to exploit attractions including the Blyde River Canyon, Bourkes Luck, the Blyde River potholes and Pilgrim's Rest.

In return for parks board's largesse, Dolphin will for 50 years subsidise the budget of the board. The province will stop funding the parks board in eight years.

Although the contract does give the board the right to veto or adjust any Dolphin project on environmental grounds, this right is circumscribed by four clauses, one of which, for example, obliges it to "carry on responsible and sound conservation practice so as to best enable ... Dolphin to exercise their commercial rights".

The parks board boss Alan Gray has repeatedly denied that Dolphin's bankrolling of the parks board could create a conflict of interests when the board conducts environmental impact studies prior to approving Dolphin developments.

The parks board agrees in two additional clauses to "maximise developmental opportunities ... and maximise financial returns" for Dolphin in Mpumalanga Province as it relates to the parks board.

A lawyer who read through the contract this week questioned the failure of the government to call for public tenders for the project. At the launch Gray said the parks board had to secure foreign funding because South African entrepreneurs were not interested and it was too big for them.

The lawyer also said the agreement could be restrictive in terms of the Competitions Act of 1979, because it puts so many public assets in one province in the hands of one business.

It contains one page of contributions Dolphin has to make and more than five pages of contributions the board must make.

Nowhere does it give any figures of the revenue or profits Dolphin expects. At the project launch Dolphin executives and Gray said the group would spend R300-million in "bricks and mortar" development in the first four years, which might rise to R400-million. Several thousand jobs would be created.

A diagram with the agreement allots up to 20% of shareholdings in some Dolphin subsidiaries to be established in Mpumalanga to "disadvantaged business and community" but gives no indication of what this means in money or jobs.

At the project launch both the board and Dolphin said the agreement would benefit disadvantaged communities.

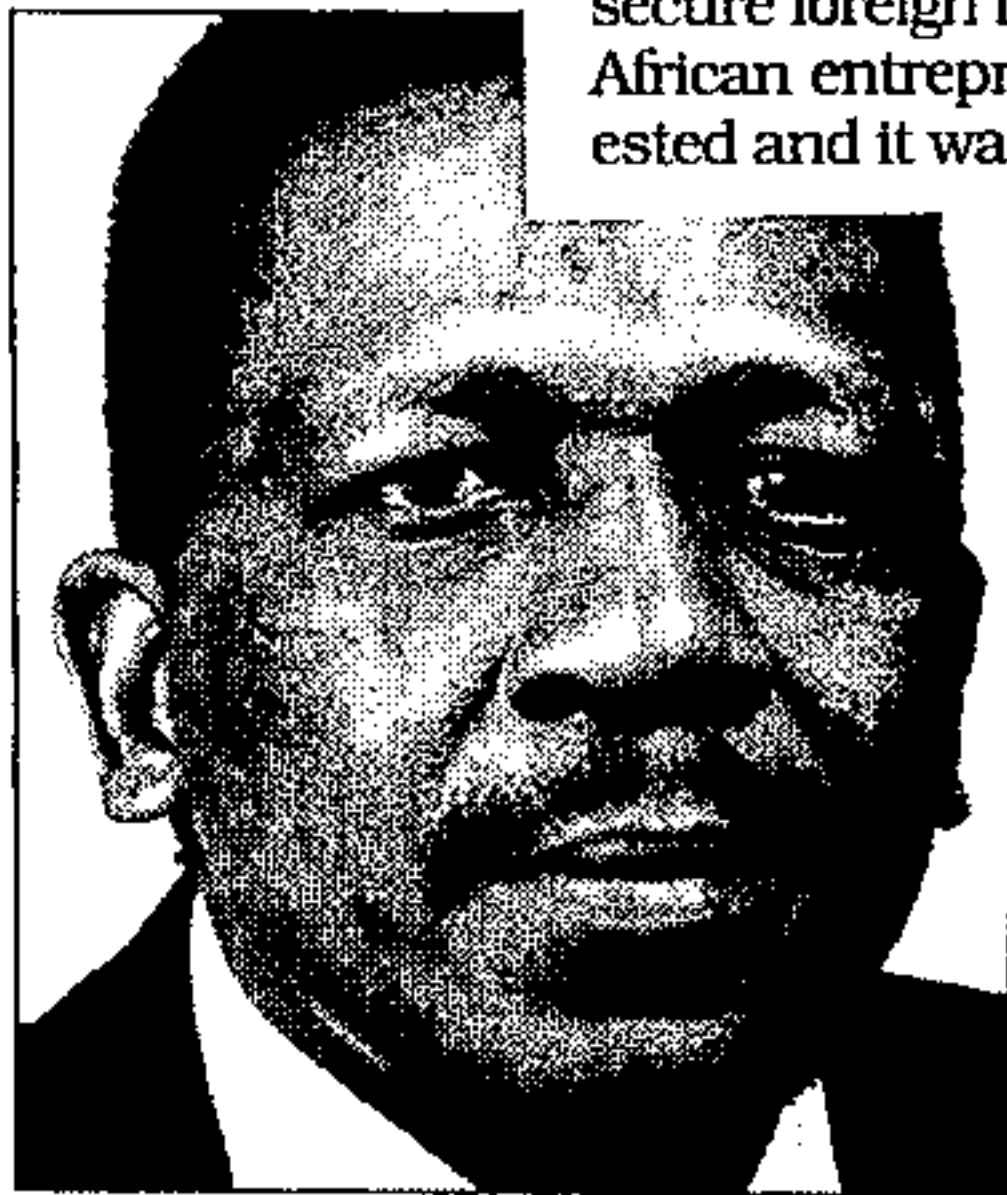
Another section of the contract commits the board to endeavour to ensure the current contracts for Mpumalanga tourist sites in board reserves such as Aventura Lodges in the Blyde River Canyon, the exclusive Bongani Lodge in the Mthethomusha Reserve, be shifted to Dolphin by negotiation or when they end.

These contracts will then be sold by Dolphin to sub-contractors for its own profit. The clause most seriously criticised by lawyers is that Dolphin may opt out of its financial obligations should there be any form of political instability, worsening security, civil unrest, or declining tourist arrivals over a period of only three months.

If the situation has not improved after a further six months, Dolphin will have to pay the board only 7% of any revenue generated from its Mpumalanga enterprises instead of wholly funding the board's operations. This 7% payment, moreover, will be for three months only while the board looks for loans to cover its deficit.

In a seeming breach of normal management practices, the board also has to advise and consult with Dolphin before making any internal policy changes that might hurt Dolphin's profits.

The contract will be debated on January 16 in Nelspruit at a joint meeting of the board and the Environment Council, whose members include environmentalists such as Dr John Hanks, of the Worldwide Fund For Nature, Rupert Lorimer, and Dr Sue Hart, founder of Ecolink as well as a National Parks Board member. The meeting is expected to be heated.



Mathews Phosa: Approved the deal without reading it

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW MOHAMEE

Parks Board faces split

(56)

MAG 10-16/1/97

National Parks Board CE
Robbie Robinson has
chosen to retire on a matter
that could split the board,
reports **Anita Allen**

THE imminent departure of Dr Robbie Robinson as chief executive means that the 17-member National Parks Board is going to be put to the test. Not only does it have to choose a successor when there is no recognisable crown prince, but Robinson's request for early retirement on a matter of principle has ensured the whole issue will be played out in public.

In an interview with the *Mail & Guardian* this week Robinson insisted that despite his every effort, he appeared to be the only opponent to the appointment of a commercial director, answerable to him.

"As envisaged, this would effectively split commercial and conservation functions throughout the organisation, which would create divisions. It's been tried before and it doesn't work in terms of my philosophy of national parks. After much soul-searching I decided I had no option but to request early retirement," Robinson said.

He believes he exhausted all

avenues open to him and by retiring he has done the right thing for the organisation he has served for 31 years. Sources close to the board this week said Robinson's request for retirement came as a surprise to everyone.

"I'm not a politician," said Robinson. "I don't choose words for political agendas. I'm basically trained in natural science. I believe I'm a competent national parks manager and that's what I do. I realised the board as an organisation can make a lot more money long ago. In the last three years we've shown tremendous increases in profitability."

"Basically 1995/96 was an all-time record, with the business unit making a R35-million net profit. This year we hope for something in excess of a R42-million net profit."

"On a global scale there isn't any national park organisation that gets even close to us. We are now generating 80% of total budget. Second to us is New Zealand with 20%."

While there was always room for improvement, Robinson said he was happy with the present policy of integrating functions within the organisation where all officials were responsible for generating funds, and drew up strategic plans monitored by the finance department. In addition, the board had a sub-committee tasked with making the organisation more



Natural successor? Rams Rammulla is tipped as a potential successor to Robinson

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

profitable.

The issue of commercialisation was not new, Robinson emphasised. It had been the subject of many workshops. Already various activities had been outsourced and privatised and others were constantly being identified so as to develop entrepreneurial opportunities.

The crunch point in discussions about restructuring for Robinson came when the finance committee, despite his total opposition, recommended to the board that it appoint a new director of a commercial arm.

"I was told we are going to divide the organisation in terms of two activities — commercial and conservation. I was being asked to do something that runs against my whole career. I joined the organisation as an outsider because I believed that a national park has to have a park warden and during the 31 years in the

organisation I always maintained that my park wardens represented me in each one of the parks.

"Now I was being asked to think about splitting the organisation and to get my senior staff on board. I belaboured this thing and agonised. Imagine, all the commercial people would report to the new director and not in terms of the line management functions we had set up. I'm prepared to outsource and privatise certain functions, but I don't want a director telling all my other directors what to do. It has been tried in so many organisations. Namibia tried it and now they have to privatise completely, we tried it in the 1970s, so did the Natal Parks Board."

"If you privatise something in the middle of a national park you annihilate the reason why that area was set out. You want peace and serenity, to observe nature in an unspoiled and unpolluted state. Everything in a national park must be developed in terms of facilitating this appreciation

of nature and all employees must subscribe to this."

When announcing that it had agreed to Robinson's request for early retirement, the National Parks Board said he was the initiator of transference and left a solid infrastructure to take the board into the next phase, which was to eliminate discrimination, create career opportunities and link conservation and development with material benefits for surrounding communities bordering on parks.

"The board intends accelerating this, but reaffirms that conservation of biodiversity is sacrosanct," its statement said.

Applications for Robinson's job close next week and three applications have been received so far. Toppling the list of probables is Rams Rammulla, present director of Operations: North. Dr Anthony Hall-Martin, present director of research and development, and Dr Salomon Joubert, former warden of Kruger Park.

Conservationists and board to meet over R12-bn deal

(56) Star 10/11/97

By JUSTICE MALALA
Provincial Correspondent

The controversy over the Mpumalanga Parks Board's R12,2-billion deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin Group, which would give the group exclusive commercial and development rights to four parks, is set to come to a head next week.

Conservationists, angered by the secrecy that surrounded the deal and concerned about the environmental impact of planned developments to the area, will meet the Mpumalanga Parks Board's full board on Thursday to discuss the deal. It is expected to be a stormy meeting.

The meeting will be chaired by Mpumalanga Environmental Affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi, who confirmed yesterday that what would be at issue was the extent of the environmental impact the envisaged developments could have on the four parks.

And sources in the conserva-

tion community who are opposed to the deal, led by the Mpumalanga Environmental Council, warned yesterday that the outcome of the meeting could scupper the agreement.

In terms of the three-month-old deal, the parks board sold the rights to the Blyde River Canyon, Songimvelo, Pilgrim's Rest and Manyeleti Parks to Dolphin for 50 years. Dolphin will pick up the tab for the parks' budget deficit over the next five years - which comes to R12,2-billion - and invest up to R300-million in developing the reserves over the next three years.

The group will have the right to make Songimvelo a private reserve with guides in traditional Kenyan garb, and a 1930s *White Mischief* theme at a daily rate of R1 500 a person.

MPB spokesman Gary Suttner said yesterday the board would give the meeting a full presentation on the deal as the council had complained about lack of consultation, among other things.

Working to rehabilitate wetlands

New farmers' guide

(56)

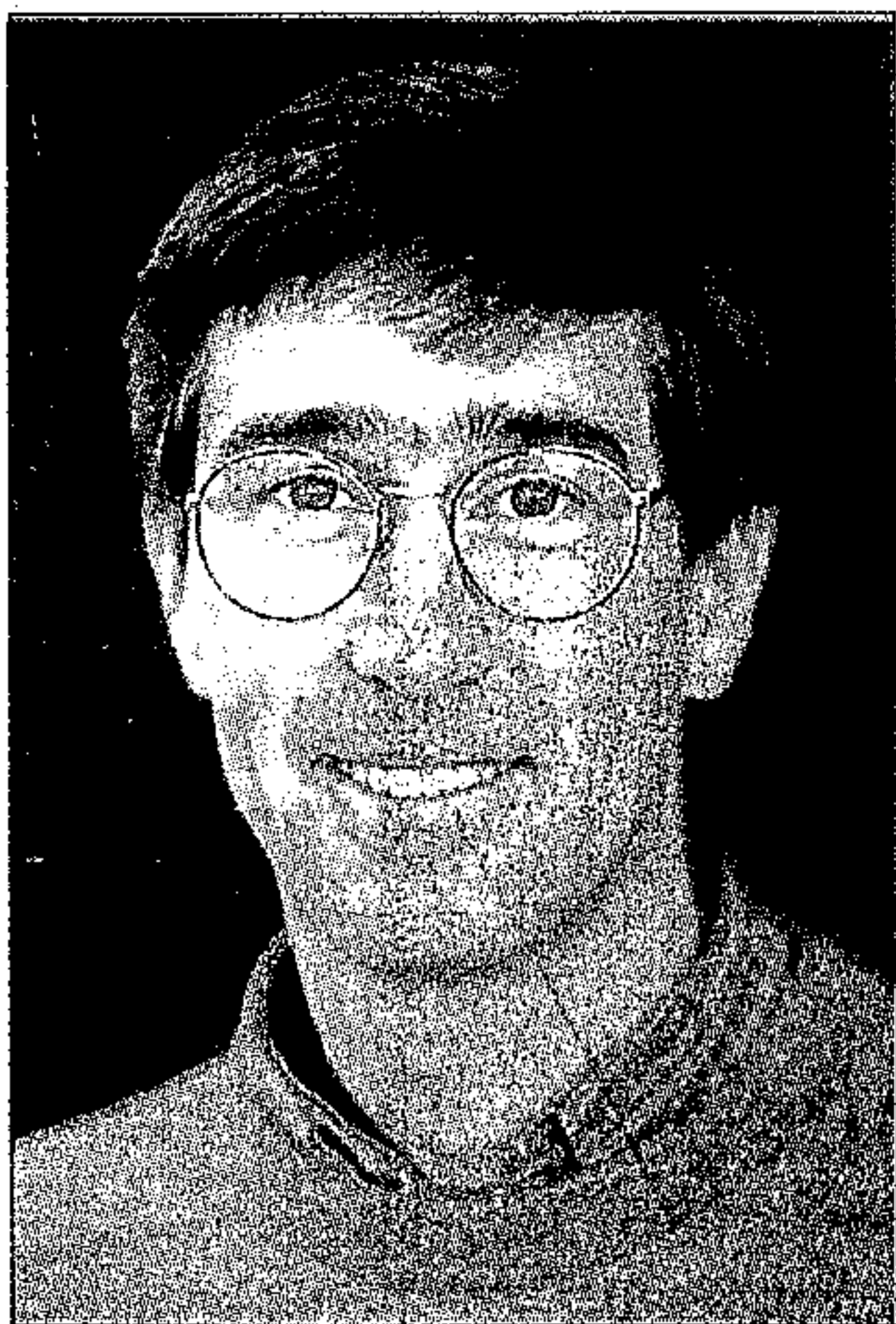
ARG 11/1/97

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

A unique field guide aimed at farmers and other land users will help foster a better understanding of wetlands, one of the most threatened natural resources in the country.

The guide, called Wetland Fix, is published by the Rennies Wetland Project, a privately funded project aimed at creating greater awareness of wetlands and trying to work with landowners to rehabilitate and conserve the important areas.

Project co-ordinator David Lindley said he was shocked by the ignorance among landowners about wetlands when he took over the job from Jon Wyatt, the author of Wetland Fix, ten months ago:



Spreading knowledge: Wetland project co-ordinator David Lindley was shocked by the ignorance of landowners and conservation officers

"It's shocking how little even conservation officers know about wetlands."

He said it was estimated that up to half of South Africa's wetlands had already disappeared.

"Even today nobody knows how many wetlands we have in the country."

Wetlands can be found almost anywhere - from the sources of springs on mountainsides to intertidal zones on the coast - and are not only associated with open water and pans as many people believe.

Their functions include preventing soil erosion, controlling floods and regulating stream flow, filtering and cleaning water, replenishing underground aquifers and providing a habitat for wildlife and grazing for domestic stock.

The six-part field guide, entitled *Assessment, management and restoration of South African wetlands*, tells people how to identify a wetland and assess human impact.

It also provides a guide to burning and grazing wetlands, stabilisation of the streambank with indigenous plants and the control of alien vegetation.

Mr Lindley said the project intended to work with farmers, agriculture officials and conservation officers to create awareness and identify important wetlands in key catchments.

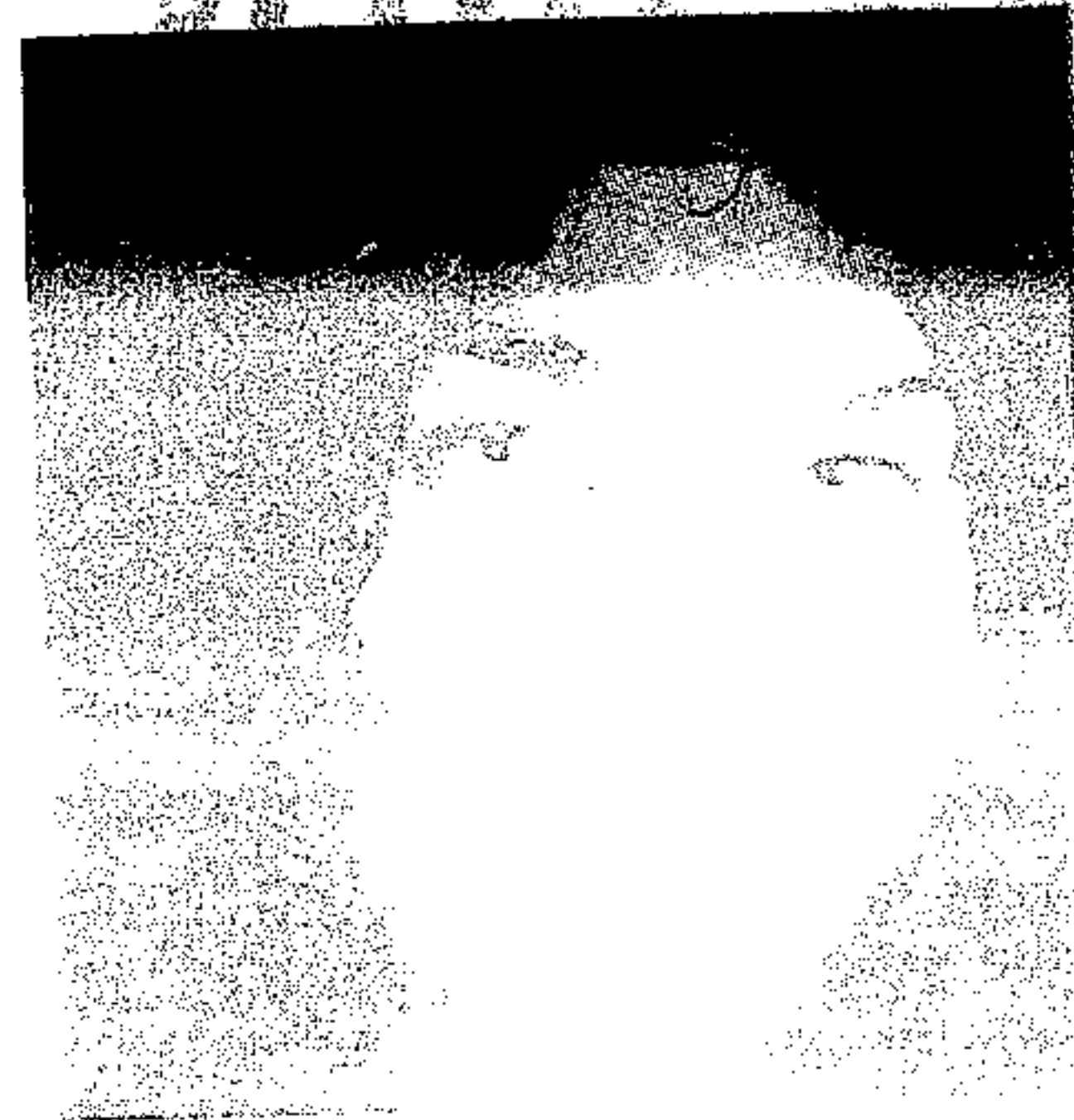
Although the project had focused its work on KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and the Free State, Mr Lindley will start work in the Western Cape later this year, identifying "hot spots" in the Peninsula and in the Palmiet River catchment area.

"At first we want to identify and assess the areas and then develop a management plan in conjunction with farmers and conservation officers."

"Having done that we will also be lobbying the Government to increase awareness about this precious resource at decision-making level."

People interested in obtaining their free copy of Wetland Fix can order it from the Rennies Wetlands Project, PO Box 44189, Linden, 2104.

country choking



...to the Vaal Triangle, dumped 500 drums containing potentially lethal toxic chemicals close to ... recently have still not been caught or prosecuted ... because of the gross in which the waste disposal industry finds itself, dumpings like these are a common occurrence ... through out the country, reports

RENITA VAN EYSEN

South Africa is simply not equipped to deal with the annual estimated 419 million tons of waste - 1.89 million tons of which is estimated to be hazardous, say experts. And they ...

... three vie for the same funding. The department is aware that there are people who are not playing by the rules, and stricter standards can be set," said Pieter van der Merwe, deputy director of water for the Department of Water and Forestry.

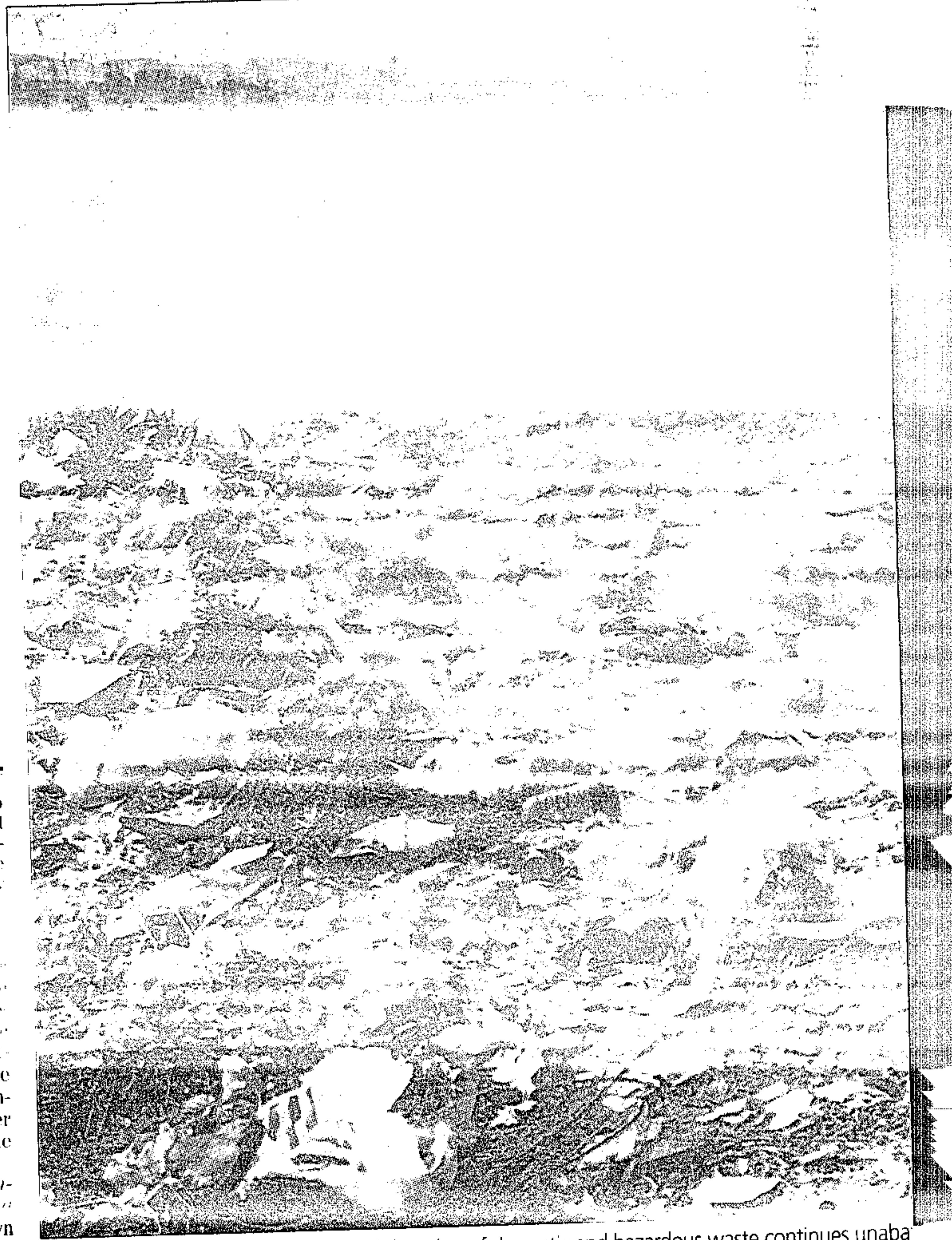
In his book, *Hidden Faces - Environment and the Global Context*, Chris Albertyn writes: "It is not unreasonable to assume that the amount of waste being produced in this country has a proportional relationship to a person's ability to consume. In other words, I assume that the quantity of waste generated is in direct proportion to personal income.

"Each white South African indirectly generates an average of 58 tons per year, or nearly 5 tons per month, or 166kg per day.

"By contrast, each member of the disenfranchised population, by means of their determined consumptive power, generates 4 tons per year, or 333kg per month or 11kg per day."

Gauteng generates 80% of the country's waste, enough refuse to fill Ellis Park stadium daily. Because the municipality cannot cope with the large volume, private companies are contracted to dispose of 20% of domestic waste.

But, because the Government has not yet tabled legislation on waste disposal, many of the companies who tender for the removal and eventual dumping of waste can get away



WASTE NOT, WANT NOT: The illegal dumping of domestic and hazardous waste continues unabated as companies take advantage of the country's lack of any clear-cut policy or set of guidelines for the ha

with illegal dumping around Gauteng.

Waste disposer Enviroserv has the upper hand on the toxic waste disposal business in South Africa, disposing of almost all the country's daily quota of toxic waste.

Sales executive Yolanda Young says: "We handle up to 1 000 tons of waste daily, an amount which would fill fifty 20-ton trucks daily. Of this, 400 tons is toxic waste, of which 15% is liquid."

In 1990 the company opened its 64-hectare Holfontein landfill dump, with a lifespan of 65 years, near Springs.

"Employing a method called co-disposing, domestic waste is mixed with liquid toxic waste for absorption and disposal in one of the four landfills in the 5 hectares which are presently being used.

"Landfill cells are concrete structures that can reach up to 40m. Once the cell has reached its capacity, the area is closed off

and rehabilitated," says Young.

Medi-Waste, based in Roodepoort, is a subsidiary of Enviroserv and claims to have half of the Gauteng medical waste market.

About 300 tons of medical waste is produced in Gauteng hospitals every month. Many of the incinerators used to dispose of medical waste at hospitals are outmoded, and hospitals rely on outside waste disposers to collect and dispose of expired drugs, swabs, used needles, tissue, containers and other materials.

Medical waste is contained at hospitals in specially designed containers, which are collected and sent to the estimated 550 legal landfill sites around the city.

But there have been incidents where contaminated syringes, discarded drugs and other medical materials have been found on township rubbish dumps.

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(56) Nov 11/1/97

Major hurdles are a lack of awareness and central control

The dirty state of the disposal game

A Council for Scientific and Industrial Research study identified the major problems with waste management in South Africa industry, including:

- No annual statistics or databases are available.
- Few industries have waste management strategies or plan for waste management before starting up.
- A lack of awareness of hazards but an awareness of inadequate facilities and practices.
- Few companies practise waste avoidance.
- Little control over the transport of waste.
- A lack of sites for disposal of hazardous waste and a lack of adequate controls over existing sites.

The report concluded that without legislation and control, most waste generators will spend as little as possible on waste management.

Finding a solution

Real management of South Africa's waste problem is being hampered by a lack of central control and comprehensive legislation.

The environment, health, water, agriculture and foreign affairs departments all have control over various aspects of waste and pollution control. In many cases, resource management, use and protection have not been combined in a single government department. There is also no effective separation of roles and responsibilities.


And, because South Africa lacks a clear waste management strategy, general standards for pollution levels are well below international standards.

In consultation with environmental groups, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is in the process of formulating policy on waste management which aims to effectively regulate the waste disposal industry and put an end to the present "free-for-all" status quo.

According to the department, education is an important part of the solution to waste and pollution related problems. The department's Integrated Pollution Control Project aims to achieve effective integration of the regulatory framework for pollution control. The department is formulating policy with the view that "effective waste management requires a holistic approach that deals with waste from its generation to its final disposal, with the aim of arriving at the best practical environmentally acceptable option.

"An effective strategy to deal with the problem must involve all people and all institutions in society.

"Concerned citizens, trade unions, community organisations, NGOs, business and the Government all have a role to play."



ed in South Africa as ignorant businesses or individuals and unscrupulous disposal handling and removal of waste

he responsibility of the Department of Affairs and Forestry to clear an e this. In an incident in Germiston, 3, a class 1 (very hazardous) waste was closed at the end of 1995. Plaintiffs took civil action against the liability, reporting cases of disease as a living so close to a dump. e-Tech, South Africa's oldest waste management company, now monitors the or leaching. Chief executive Rufus said: "Margolis will be tested daily next 25 years." e toxic chemicals that lie buried at s leak into the groundwater, Gaudomestic water would become a poison, Earthlife Africa believes. I business plays a major part in the ion and release of toxic substances average system. small businessman does not have

the money to pay for the removal of hazardous substances and he might not even be aware of the dangers of flushing such substances down the drain," said Maruma, referring to businesses such as laundromats, drycleaners, tanning factories and garages.

Pieter van der Merwe agrees: "Public perception also poses a problem. Households generate toxic waste as well.

"Paint and paint fumes are also toxic. But, when a waste disposal site is proposed, everyone is up in arms.

"Many people are apathetic and don't know that a proper, environmentally acceptable waste disposal site is necessary.

"There will always be waste from households and industry, and we have to dispose of it in a manner that causes minimum damage to the environment."

Giving away a jewel

A STORM of controversy has blown up over a multi-million rand deal, supposed to remain secret for 50 years, which grants a foreign company exclusive commercial rights to Mpumalanga's prime tourism assets, with one of SA's leading conservationists slamming the way the deal was steamrolled through.

Dr John Hanks, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) executive director in South Africa and a member of the Mpumalanga Parks Board (MPB), stated in a letter to the board's chairman, Dr Patrick Maduna, that the MPB's "lack of transparency is totally unacceptable, and as a board member, I take strong exception to reading about the deal in the press when I knew nothing whatsoever about it".

Hanks' letter, dated November 29 — two days after the deal was announced with public fanfare — comes on the heels of revelations that the MPB signed an agreement with the Dolphin Group, the terms of which are meant to remain permanently

secret and which virtually give control to Dolphin of most of Mpumalanga's prime natural assets and tourist attractions.

Another board member said "it's like giving the crown jewels to an unknown foreigner".

He and other dissatisfied board members are saying no more before Thursday's joint meeting of the MPB and the province's Environment Council (EC).

In his letter, Hanks raised several questions about the deal's validity:

- Why was no attempt made to send the draft of "the most important agreement in the history of conservation in Mpumalanga" to other board members before signature?
- How could the document be presented to the board for ratification after the chairman had admitted, under pressure from board members, that it was a fait accompli?
- Why was a foreign-based company granted exclusive commercial development rights without South African companies being given the chance to bid?
- If this was supposedly a genuine joint venture between the MPB and Dolphin, why did Dolphin get three directorships on the joint operating

company while the MBP got only one?

Hanks stated that a clause in the secret agreement states that the joint operating company would put all development plans to the MPB for prior approval. But, he asks, how could he have any faith in this when the original agreement was rushed through "without any form of consultation whatsoever"?

Hanks said he agreed to serve on the MPB in the hope he could make a positive contribution to its day-to-day running, but now questions "whether this is a wise use of my time".

"The way in which the majority of the board members were marginalised... makes me believe we will be bypassed when controversial development plans are presented for approval," he stated.

When approached for reaction to Hanks' charges on Friday, Maduna consistently refused to be drawn either on the issues raised in the letter or on the contents of the secret agreement between the MPB and Dolphin.

"The contents of Hanks' letter are not for public consumption or discussion, and I am not prepared to say anything in this regard until after our next board meeting.

"Until that meeting, I have no view on any of these issues," he said.

Adding that he wouldn't like to be "implicated" in speaking to the press, Maduna also refused to comment on why no reply to Hanks' questions had been drafted, six weeks after the issues were raised.

According to the secret agreement, Dolphin will subsidise the budget of the MPB for 50 years.

MPB's budget this year is R55 million and for 2006/7 is projected at R108 million with a R93 million shortfall. MPB head Alan Gray speculated that 50 years hence, the budget could top R12 billion.

Both parties to the agreement are bound for a full 50 years, despite the fact that the assets involved are public property and that the MPB is a publicly accountable parastatal.

The contract also inexplicably commits the MPB to establishing an office for the self-confessed "multi-billion dollar" Dolphin Group at public expense — including personnel and support services — for at least one year.

Although the agreement does give the MPB the right to veto or adjust any Dolphin project on environmental grounds, this right is circumscribed by clauses binding the MPB to "provide effective conservation

management... in keeping with the development plans to be formulated by Dolphin", and to do its best to "assist Dolphin in obtaining all national and provincial government clearances, permits, licences and other statutory requirements", and obliging it to "carry on responsible and sound conservation practice so as to best enable... Dolphin to exercise their commercial rights".

The MPB agrees in two additional clauses in the preamble to "maximise development opportunities... and maximise financial returns" for Dolphin in Mpumalanga as it relates to the Parks Board.

But the clause which is most seriously being criticised in legal circles is that Dolphin may opt out of all its financial obligations should there be any form of political instability, worsening security, civil unrest or declining tourist arrivals — over a period of only three months.

The contract will be debated on January 6 in Nelspruit at a joint meeting of the MPB and EC.

Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa, himself a lawyer, is understood not to have read the agreement personally but to have approved it on the recommendations of his advisors. — African Eye News Services.

576
CP 12/1/97

Land claim may derail Dolphin's parks deal

(56) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

CT (MR) 16/11/97
Johannesburg — A multimillion-rand deal between the Mpumalanga Parks Board and the Dubai-based Dolphin investment group could be scuppered if communities with pending land claims in the Blyde River Canyon apply for an interdict to halt any further development of the land.

A secret agreement signed late last year between the parks board and Dolphin, which has offices in Dubai and is registered in the Bahamas, grants exclusive commercial development rights of the Blyde River Canyon, Loskop Dam and several other flagship resorts to the Dolphin group for the next 50 years.

But the deal has overlooked communities around Blyde River, Manyaleti game reserve and Loskop Dam who submitted land claims in 1995 against sections of the parks. A lawyer representing some of the affected communities said yesterday that land owners could not undertake any acts, such as development and entering into long-term leases, which could negate a pending land claim.

Martin Dimba, the provincial chairman of the Environmental Justice Network Forum, said affected communities, including those who had lodged land claims over areas covered by the deal, had learned of Dolphin's 50-year lease through the media.

"We haven't heard of any consultation taking place," said Dimba, whose network represents more than 40 community-based organisations in the region. Dimba said that the forum was sending its own fieldworkers to communities with pending land claims to inform them of the deal.

It was unclear yesterday whether affected communities intend applying for an interdict, that would argue that their constitutional right to land restitution had been violated.

Representatives of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights will be attending a meeting with the Mpumalanga Parks Board today, as will the legal representatives of some of the affected communities.

Also attending the meeting will be members of the provincial environmental council to raise environmental concerns about the proposed development, which could include helicopter safaris through the Blyde River Canyon, a wilderness area.

Dimba has also attacked the parks board's failure to consult with communities, saying it was following "a similar approach to the old government".

Dolphin has promised to invest R300 to R400 million in tourist facilities and to underwrite the parks board budget deficit for the next 50 years. The deficit is expected to reach R377,2 million over the next 10 years.

Dolphin boss in R30m cash row in Kenya

M+G 17-23/1/97 (56)

Dolphin Group head Ketan Somai has denied accusations of fraud made by Nairobi, writes **Justin Aronstein**

THE man behind the mysterious deal to give the Dolphin Group control over prime Mpumalanga nature reserves for 50 years is at the centre of a huge financial controversy in Kenya involving more than R30-million.

Ketan Somai, chief executive and president of Dolphin, is alleged to be tied to two London-based companies which failed to deliver on a Kenyan government arms contract and owe £4-million.

A report before the Kenyan Parliament from its public accounts committee has ruled that no company associated with Somai may get any government tender. It is alleged that the committee and the Kenyan attorney general are pursuing him.

Dolphin's deal with the Mpumalanga Parks Board gives it exclusive rights to exploit famous sights such as the Blyde River Canyon. It also binds the Parks Board to setting up, staffing and supporting a commercial office for Dolphin for at least a year with public funds. In exchange, Dolphin will bankroll the board's budget deficit over the 50-year period.

Somai's Johannesburg lawyers fervently denied the allegations on Thursday and threatened to interdict this newspaper if it published them. However, reports in Kenyan papers allege that Somai now avoids returning to Kenya and has based himself in Dubai.

And a member of the Kenyan parliamentary committee on public accounts told the *Mail & Guardian* that they had tried three times to have Somai appear before them to answer the allegations and were still trying, as was the country's attorney general.

South Africa's High Commission in Nairobi confirmed this week Somai had been the subject of considerable media attention over the past two years, after allegedly misappropriating funds.

"It seems that Somai has good political connections with the ruling party here and so despite being sought by the public accounts committee, the government has not yet organised his extradition or anything similar," explained High Commission spokesperson Gerald Ockotch. "The opposition party, however, chairs the public accounts committee and is pursuing the matter via the press."

Dolphin's South African representative, Mike Sharpes, dismissed the allegations, saying that the public accounts committee had cleared Somai in December after discovering that he was not linked to the company which had defaulted.

And lawyer Janet MacKenzie of Cliffe Dekker & Todd, acting for Dolphin and Somai, threatened to interdict the *M&G* if it published these allegations.

She provided a copy of a letter from the chairman of the public accounts committee, M Wamalwa, saying that Somai "is not required to appear before the committee". The letter was dated December 3.

"We have been instructed by our

clients that a company totally unconnected to our clients had defaulted on the tender. Despite this fact, Mr Somai was requested to appear before the committee. Documentary proof was then submitted to the committee which demonstrated that neither Dolphin nor Mr Somai were connected to the company in question. Upon receipt of this documentation, a letter was addressed by the chairman of the committee to Mr Somai advising him that he would not be required to appear before the committee."

Wamalwa, the author of the letter, was out of Nairobi and could not be contacted.

The *M&G* spoke to opposition parliamentarian Joseph Martin Siluku, who sits on the committee, and he rejected any suggestion that Somai had been cleared. "To say we aren't looking for Somai is not true," he said. "He has still to come and testify before us and anything else is a lie." Committee minutes made it clear that he was still under suspicion.

Meanwhile, conservationists in Mpumalanga have threatened to refer the controversial deal to the Public Protector. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) executive director Jon Hanks is among a group of conservationists who say they will approach Public Protector Selby Baqwa unless the Mpumalanga Parks Board addresses their concerns.

Conservationists have expressed outrage at the secrecy and lack of consultation surrounding the deal. They confronted parks board chief Alan Gray at a special joint meeting between the board and the province's environmental council this week.

The WWF's Hanks said in a letter to the parks board chairman Patrick Maduna that the board had never given Gray a mandate to sign the contract which he described as "the most important agreement in the history of conservation in Mpumalanga".

The deal's other clauses bind the board to doing everything in its power to "maximise" financial returns for Dolphin while "using its best endeavours" to obtain all necessary permits, licences and approvals for Dolphin to make a profit in Mpumalanga.

Despite the presence of clauses aimed at preventing environmental damage, conservationists argue the parks board will be lenient with plans as Dolphin will be bankrolling it.

In an apparent break from normal management practices, the board also promises to consult Dolphin on any impending internal policy changes which could hit Dolphin's profits.

Legal experts are concerned the deal may be creating a tourism monopoly in the region. They note Dolphin has an unusual "back door" for quitting the deal in the form of a clause which allows it to get out if there is a drop in tourist numbers, civil unrest or political instability.

Gray has consistently refused to comment on the contract but did appoint a Johannesburg public relations firm after the *M&G* first reported on the deal. The public relations firm Gillian Gansy International also handled media relations for Dolphin, and for plans to develop Zoo Lake under the guise of black empowerment, which were scuppered in 1995.

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Greens warn on toxic waste cargo

(5b)

DURBAN: Environmentalists have warned that a shipment of toxic radioactive waste, due to pass Durban in the next week, is "dangerous" and that the public have not been sufficiently warned.

This week British, French and Japanese officials from the companies responsible for the shipment said they had an "impeccable safety record", and they had been shipping toxic waste for 30 years with no prior incidents.

However, the Green Coalition Anti-Nuclear Group said the shipment of radioactive waste past South Africa's coast was "irresponsible".

"Any leak would result in contamination of our waters and marine life, and ultimately our food supply, for hundreds of thousands of years."

— Own Correspondent

CT/7/11/97

War on waste - tide of trash swamping SA

Call to target litterers

ARC 18/12/97 (56)

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING
STAFF REPORTER

Waste management in South Africa is fast approaching a crisis as more than 400 million tons is generated annually, with the disposal of hazardous materials of major concern.

There is a serious shortage of hazardous waste disposal sites, which has led officials to suspect a high percentage is being dumped indiscriminately and illegally.

The lack of effective domestic refuse collection, especially in informal settlements, is a potential health hazard.

With little information available and no current waste management plan in place, the result is environmental, social and health problems because of uncontrolled waste generation and disposal.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan are now joining forces to develop an integrated pollution control and waste management policy for South Africa.

The policy will cover waste reduction, re-use of waste, recycling and waste disposal. Among the issues it will address is how to protect the country's poor and disadvantaged from the consequences of inadequate waste management practices.

It will also look at how to introduce better controls to ensure the polluter pays, as well as how to harness the resources of the community in the battle against waste.

The information on which the long-term strategy will be based will be collected over the coming months.

Shaun Schneier, principal environmental officer for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, said: "A major problem is plastic waste, which is non-biodegradable and results from littering on land and illegal dumping at sea."

Plastic waste found in the ocean includes packaging material like strapping bands and six-pack holders, as well as fishing gear and raw plastic in the form of pellets. The waste presents a major threat to marine life. Not only do sea creatures get entangled in the plastic - some even eat it, mistaking it for their normal prey. Marine life also gets trapped in discarded fishing nets.

Mr Schneier stressed the importance of controlling littering in the streets, because much of this rubbish ended up in the stormwater drains and was then discharged into the sea. He said a coastal zone management policy was being drawn up,

which would include an assessment of the economic value of the coast, a policy for the management of the coast and the identification of measures needed to give a practical effect to a coastal management policy.

"We desperately need more law enforcement officers to enforce litter laws contained in the Environment Conservation Act No 73 of 1989," he said.

Under the Act, littering in any public area is an offence and responsible authorities are liable not only to provide containers or places from which litter can be collected, but to ensure that it is removed within a reasonable space of time.

The Act includes removing litter from any pavement or road in between litter containers or pick up points.

Mr Scheiner said "Littering negatively affects the image and appeal of the city and therefore adversely affects tourism and the local economy."

Bruce Black, the city council's chief engineer for cleansing, said: "Spot fines are handed out on a regular basis and complaints to the department are followed up, but those involved in cleaning are outnumbered by the litterers at 2 000 to one."

He appealed to Capetonians to unite in an anti-litter campaign to deter litterers and said the department of cleansing would react to complaints as long as the complainant gave all the details.

Mr Black said this also applied to litter being thrown out of cars.

"Anyone wishing to lay a complaint must provide the department with the date, time, place, registration number and colour of the car. The complaint will be followed up and action taken."

It is not unusual to see passengers throwing rubbish out of cars when waiting in traffic jams. Littering like this was much in evidence during the festive season, when beachgoers held up in traffic jams on the Glencairn expressway were seen throwing plastic cooldrink bottles out of windows and into the bush.

He said the Grand Parade was an area of concern, but stressed cleaners operated there throughout the day. "The number of people using the parade has increased, bringing with it a corresponding increase in the amount of litter."

Methods of minimising litter included deposits on all cooldrink bottles, and making people pay for plastic bags, which would make them re-use them.

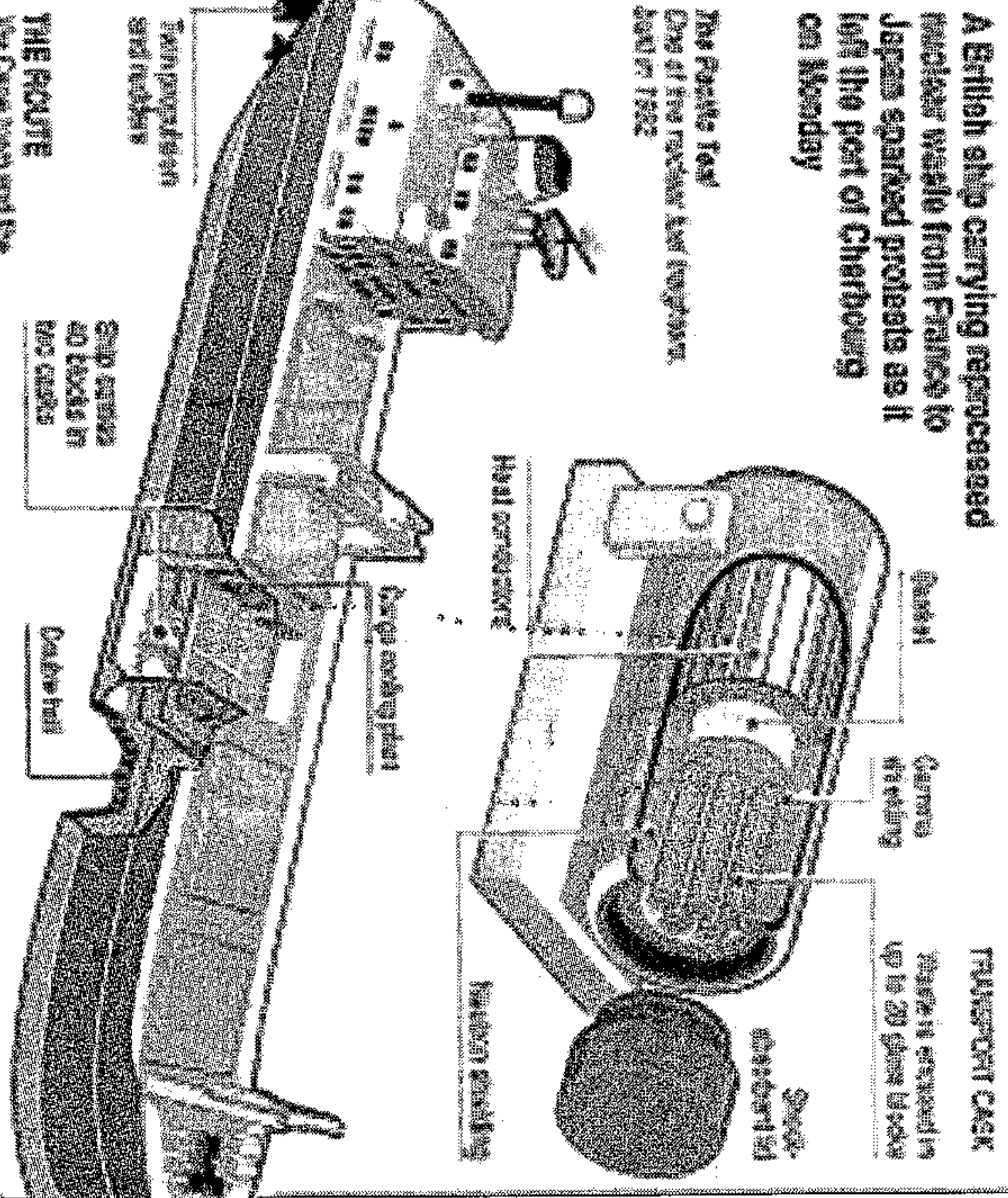
Shopkeepers said plastic bags were unlikely to be replaced by paper, but that paying for them would definitely encourage people to re-use them.

'Littering affects the image of the city and affects tourism and the local economy'

NUCLEAR WASTE SHIPMENT

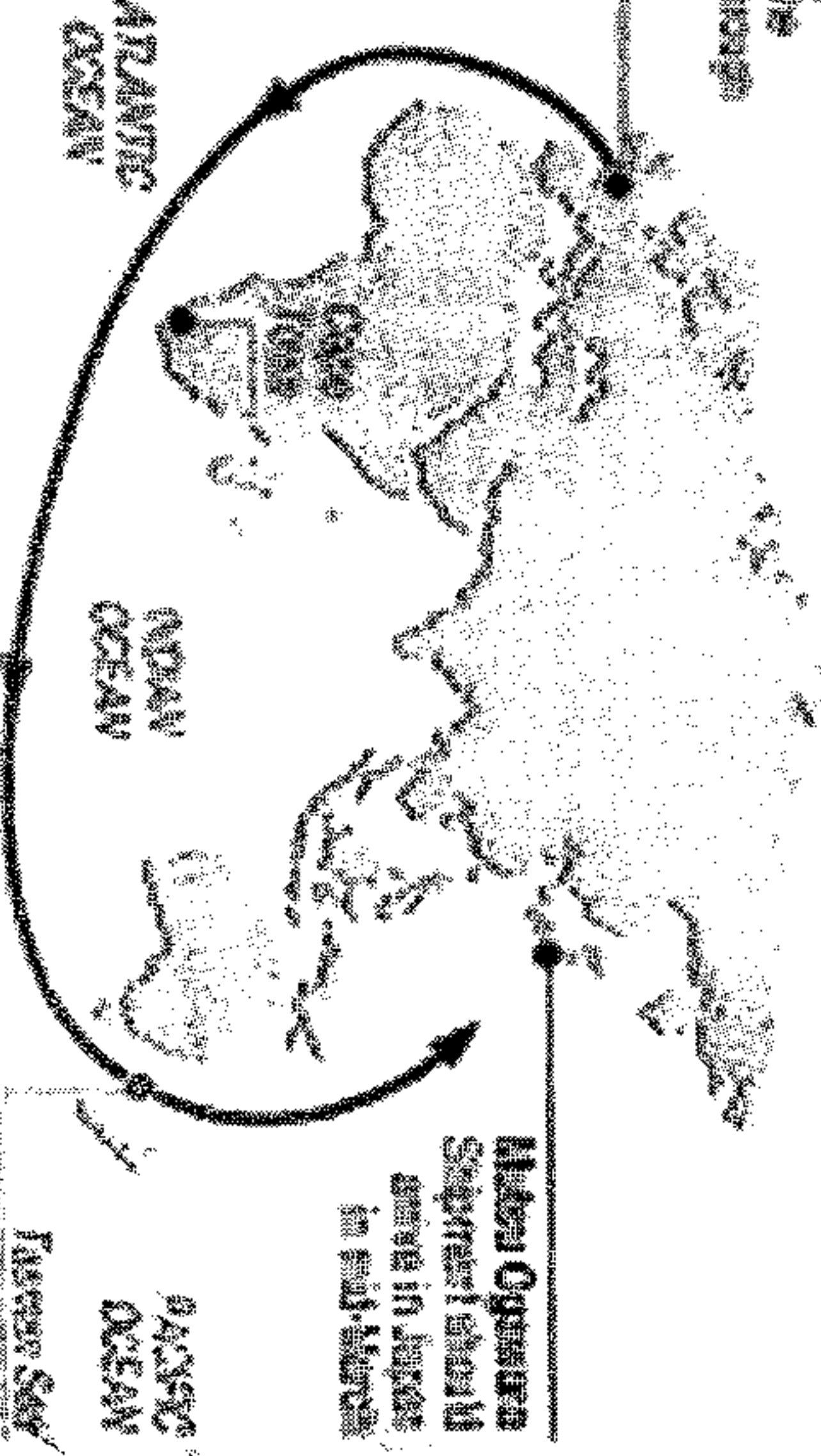
A British ship carrying reprocessed nuclear waste from France to Japan sparked protests as it left the port of Cherbourg on Monday

The Pacific Teal
One of the nuclear war freighters, built in 1962



THE ROUTE
The ship will travel the Southern Pacific, through the Indian Sea to Japan

Cherbourg
The Pacific Teal set out for Japan on Monday



Greens activists make waves over freighter carrying radioactive waste

By BENITA VAN EYSEN

The British freighter which is transporting a cargo of high-level radioactive nuclear waste past South Africa's coastline en route to Japan will be carefully monitored even before it arrives in local waters.

The navy has been told to keep a close watch on the ship when it sails past South Africa at the beginning of February.

SA Navy spokesman Captain Stan Slogrove said: "The ship will probably keep to the far east side of South Africa's coastline."

This week the Pacific Teal began a three-month voyage from France with 112 tons of waste from reprocessed plutonium destined for Japan, its country of origin, on board.

Environmental activists have warned that the Government's decision to allow the ship to pass through the high seas outside of South Africa's 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone is irresponsible.

National and international activists claim that any maritime disaster involving such a lethal shipment could have a devastating effect on the country and possibly the continent.

But the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is confident that the chances of a disaster are slim and that the British, French and Japanese

governments have taken care to contain the waste and secure the shipment, which is set to reach Cape Agulhas early next month.

Plutonium is a highly radioactive man-made element, ideal for making nuclear weapons. It is one of the most toxic and dangerous substances in existence: a single microgram, smaller than a speck of dust, can cause cancer if inhaled or ingested.

In the late 1970s, out of concern that the world's uranium supply was dwindling, British Nuclear Fuels Limited, the Japanese nuclear industry and France signed an agreement to allow Japan to send its spent fuel to be reprocessed in Europe.

Reprocessing, however, is creating large amounts of plutonium and even more nuclear waste which, in accordance with international law, will have to be returned to Japan in the coming years.

The African coastline is just one of three possible sea routes to ship the waste back to Japan. The others are through the Panama Canal and past Cape Horn on Chile's west coast.

Cecelia Assad, heading the Green coalition which has joined

forces with South Africa's Environmental Justice Networking Forum to campaign against the ship's mission, says: "A leak or accident would result in contamination of our waters and marine life, and ultimately our food supply, for hundreds and thousands of years."

"The so-called safety precautions which have been taken with regard to this shipment are inadequate in the light of the dangers a ship faces at sea."

The organisation is calling on the Government to "fulfil its obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment by disallowing the Pacific Teal access to South Africa's exclusive economic zone and to lodge a protest with the Japanese, French and British governments over the threat caused by this shipment".

Assad added her organisation believed the shipment was irresponsible and that, by providing inadequate information only days before the ship left Cap de la Hague in France, the British, French and Japanese governments had violated the "right to know" of South Africa's people and of the rest of Africa.

Two years ago, a first consignment of the same radioactive waste destined for Japan on board the Pacific Pintail was en route to the Cape of Good Hope, but changed direction, going around Cape Horn instead.

Many South Africans are not aware of this shipment and, as South Africans, we have a global responsibility to inform the rest of Africa and to point out to foreign governments that this kind of shipment is unacceptable," she said.

Deputy director of pollution control Willem Scott, however, says the chances of a disaster are slim. "The Pacific Teal will be sailing reasonably close to our coast for only two weeks. We cannot interfere unless it enters our waters, which would be in breach of the Nuclear Safety Act."

"After meeting with the governments concerned, we are confident that any problems on board the ship will be sorted out efficiently," he said.

Scott said a spill into the ocean from one of the individual 40 blocks of radioactive waste would have about the same effect as "dropping a jar of ink into Hartbeespoort Dam".

In a process called vitrification, radioactive waste is immobilised in glass blocks and sealed in containers.

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Operation Zeekoevlei: bid to save dying lake

Experts target polluted rivers

(56) RAG 23/1/97

PETER GOUSEN
METRO DESK

A rescue operation is being mounted to save Zeekoevlei, the most polluted coastal lake in the world.

Funds from the Water Research Commission will allow for the tackling of problems of pollution and degradation of the Great and Little Lotus rivers, which run into the vlei.

Lotus River Project leader Ania Grobicki said the rivers which drained into Zeekoevlei were known to be polluted and degraded.

Bacteriological counts and nutrient levels were very high, especially in the Great Lotus River. There were also problems with litter and solid waste.

The catchment contained the Philippi

agricultural area as well as densely populated urban areas including Borchard's Quarry, Guguletu and Grassy Park.

"The increase in Cape Town's urban population is one reason for the increasing pollution of the rivers, but other contributory factors are the official disregard for the amenity value of the rivers and the systematic destruction and filling-in of wetlands on the Cape Flats," Dr Grobicki said.

The level of nutrients and pollutants in Zeekoevlei was now so high the water body was literally being choked to death by the growth of algae, the formation of sediments and the spread of water hyacinth.

The Lotus River Project, which will run until the end of next year, will bring together research teams from the University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University and the Peninsula Technikon to propose feasi-

ble solutions to these environmental problems. The project also has extensive support and back-up from the Cape Town municipality and the Cape Metropolitan Council.

Dr Grobicki said an important objective of the project would be the establishment of a more natural ecosystem which could sustain a wide variety of plants, animals and bird life.

The interest and involvement of community-based organisations and schools in the Lotus catchment areas was welcome and would be actively encouraged during the course of the project.

For more information, Dr Grobicki can be contacted at Abbott Grobicki, Kimberley House, Greenmarket Square, Cape Town, or e-mail her at 100076.3304@compuserve.com

Zeekoevlei clean-up plan launched

(56) CT 23/1/97

A R1-MILLION project has been launched to clean up Zeekoevlei. DONNA KIPPS spoke to scientists who will be running the project and to people living on the waterside.

THE signs have gone up around Zeekoevlei and the Great and Little Lotus rivers — "This water is dangerous".

The vlei — which was a centre of boating and swimming activity — has now been labelled one of the most polluted coastal lakes in the world.

A survey by the city engineer's department shows horrifying levels of contamination in the rivers that feed the lake, in the form of faecal coliforms — bacteria generally transmitted in untreated sewerage.

The levels in the Lotus rivers range as high as 23 000 per 100ml in the Little Lotus, and 750 000 in the Great Lotus. Up to 1 000 per 100ml is considered a "normal" or "safe" level.

The vlei is also contaminated by toxic algal blooms, caused by an overload of nutrients such as phosphates in the water. The phosphates in the vlei are as much as 100 times the normal or healthy level.

"Zeekoevlei has become the most hypertrophic coastal lake in the world," environmental management consultant Dr Ania Grobicki of Abbot Grobicki said yesterday. "The level of nutrients and pollutants in the lake is now so high that the water body is literally being choked to death by the growth of algae, the formation of sediments, and the spread of water hyacinth."

"The Great and Little Lotus rivers, both of which flow into Zeekoe-

vlei, are well-known to be polluted. Bacteriological counts and nutrient levels are extremely high and there are problems with litter and solid waste."

The high nutrient levels in the water cause the hypertrophism which is killing the vlei. "Hypertrophic literally means 'too much food'," said Dr Grobicki. The levels of phosphates, nitrates and other nutrients in the vlei are causing tremendously prolific growth and spread of the algae and weeds in the vlei, particularly water hyacinth and to a lesser degree parrot feather. The algae grows so rapidly that a large amount of it sinks to the bottom, leading to an immense build-up of sediment in Zeekoevlei.

The catchment area from which the water enters the rivers, and eventually makes its way into the vlei, includes densely populated urban areas with both formal and informal settlements (eg Borchard's Quarry, Guguletu and Grassy Park). The run-off from these areas contaminates the river water with sewage and other waste, causing the faecal coliform levels to soar and making the water potentially unhealthy.

In Guguletu the council has put up warning signs next to the canal stating that the water is not safe to bathe in, but children still play in and near the canal.

The rivers also collect water that has run off from the agricultural area of Philippi that is overloaded with nutrients from fertilisers and other agricultural products. These nutrients make their way into the vlei, making the algae there grow at a prolific rate and form the toxic algal blooms that poison the water.

The destruction and filling in of the Cape Flats wetlands and the process of enclosing rivers in canals where they flow through the city also contribute greatly to the low quality of water that drains from the catchment areas. The wetlands trap and clean the water.

The roots of the reeds found in the wetlands have bacteria in them that act as a filter, so more wetland means cleaner and clearer water. The unnatural, hard surfaces that now enclose the rivers and cover the wetlands also cause run-off of pollutants such as oil into the rivers.

The council has launched the R1-million Lotus River Project, funded by the Water Research Com-

mission. The project is spearheaded by environmental management consultancy firm Abbot Grobicki, and involves researchers from the universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch and the Peninsula Technikon.

The scientists will work together to find solutions to

clean up the rivers and the vlei and make them safe for swimming, ultimately aiming to make the rivers and the vlei into a natural ecosystem that can maintain itself.

The Zeekoevlei environmental management team will then take these solutions and put them into practice. The team is formed of the City Council, the Zeekoevlei Environmental Forum, the Water Research Council, the Parks and Forests Department and research experts from UCT, and is chaired by the deputy city engineer Mr Mike Mosden.

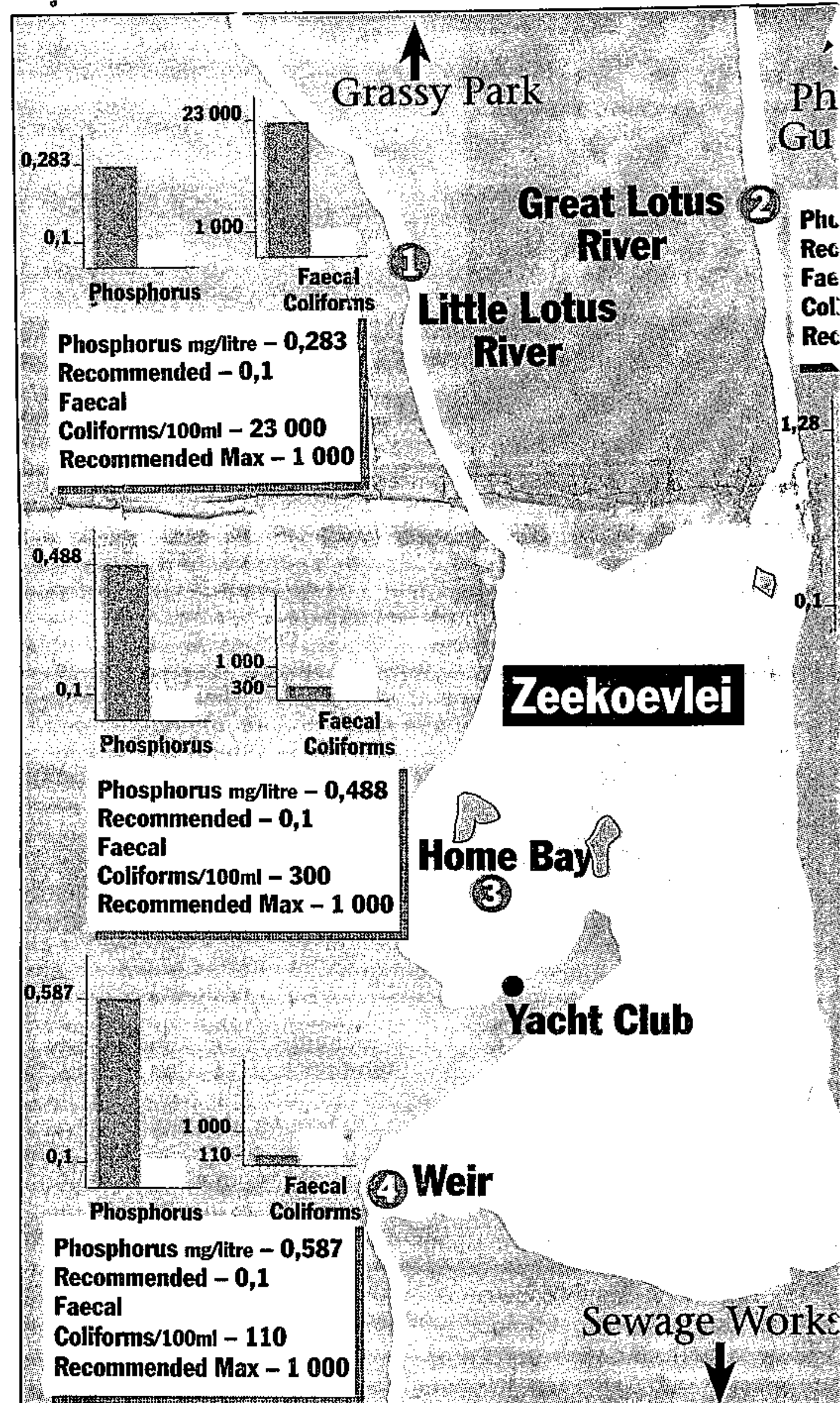
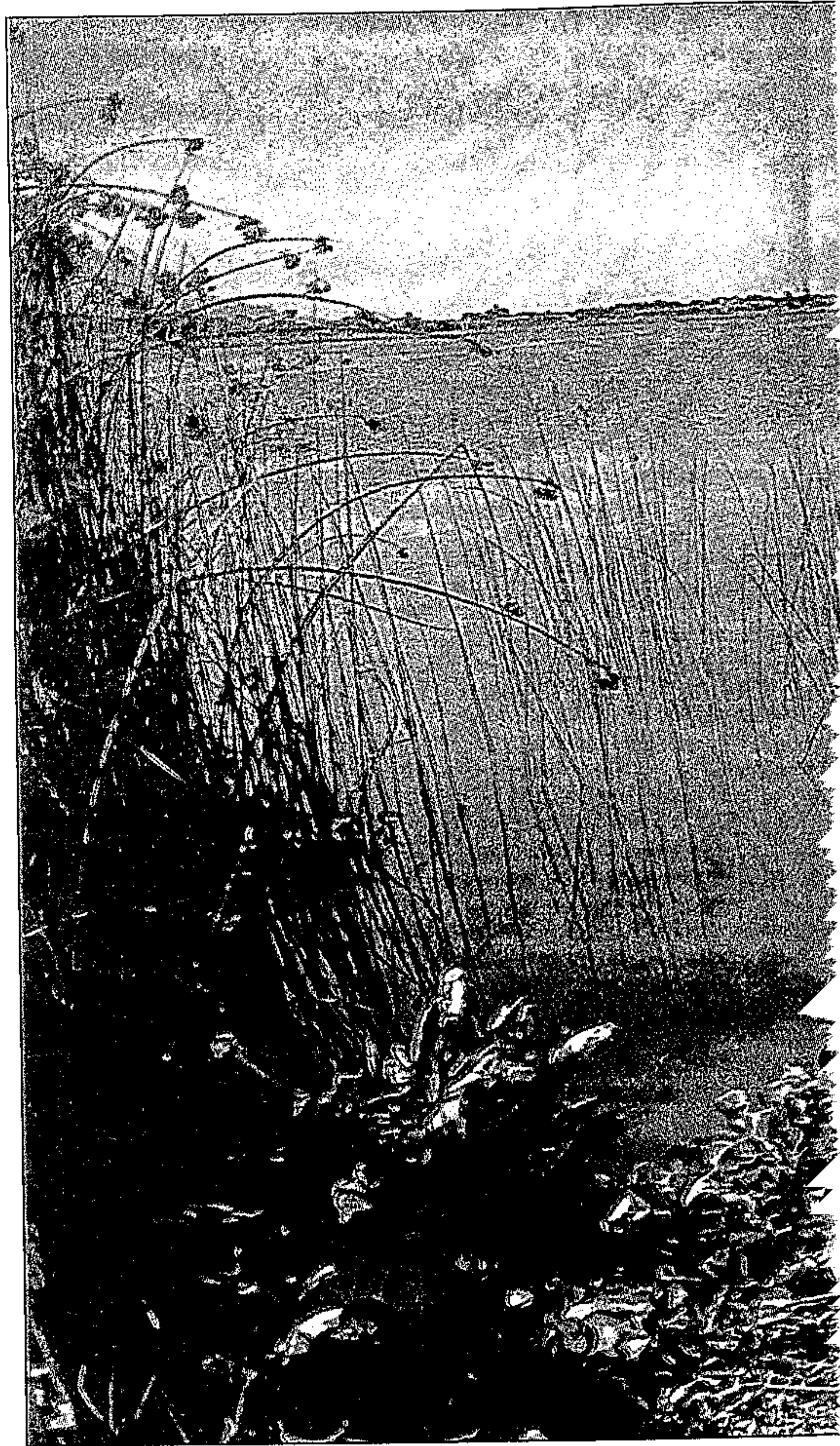
The Cape Metropolitan Council is spending large sums of money on dredging the rivers and clearing the weeds as they form on Zeekoevlei, with total expenditure for the last financial year amounting to R973 000, but these solutions are merely cosmetic, and do not treat the cause of the problem.

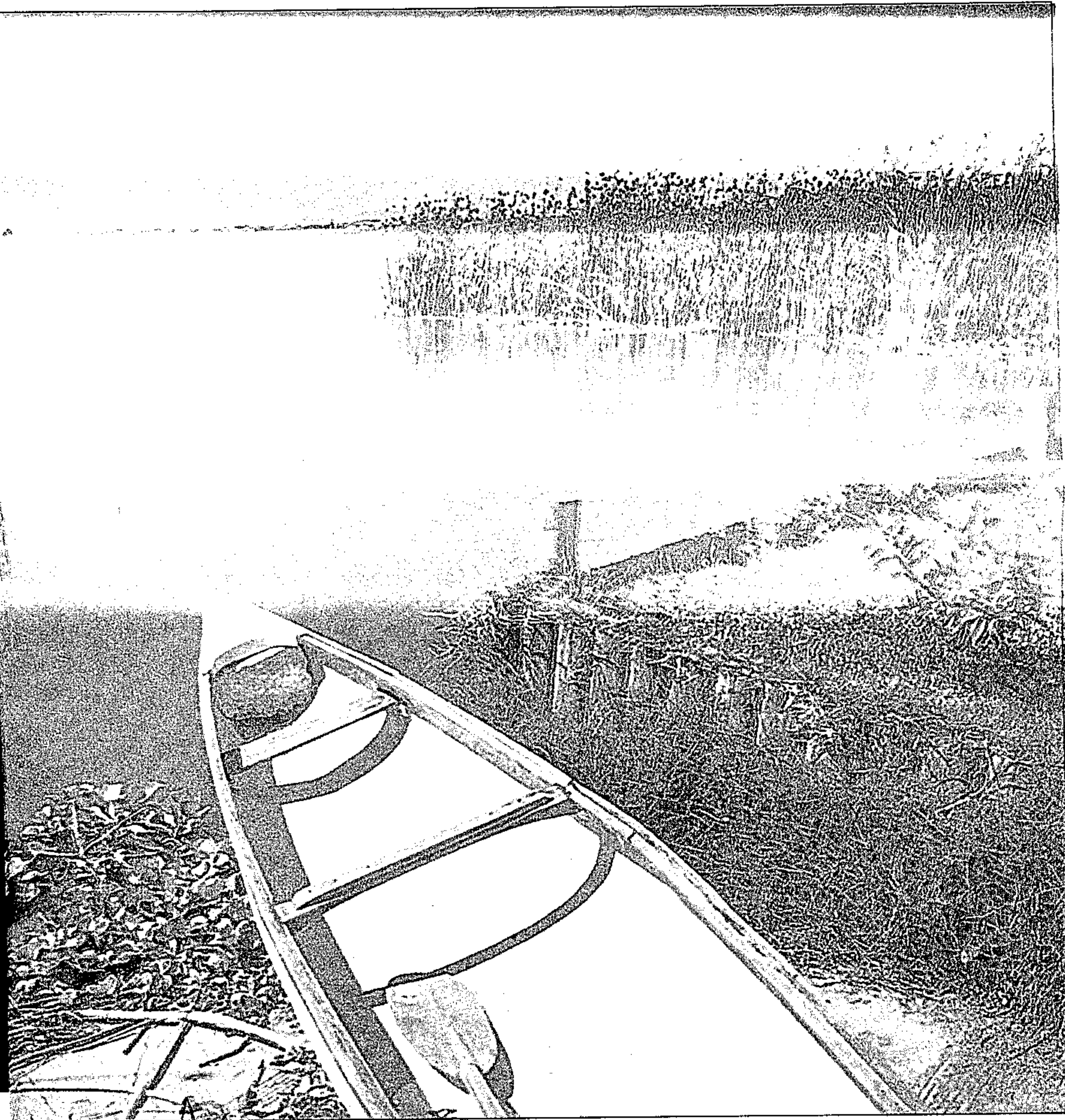
The organisers of the Lotus River Project hope to involve communities in the catchment area, schools and community-based organisations in the project.

Grobicki believes people need to be better informed about their environment before they can really care for it.

Faecal coliform levels in the Lotus rivers range as high as 23 000 per 100ml in the Little Lotus River and 750 000 in the Great Lotus. Up to 1 000 per 100ml is considered a normal or safe level.

One of the dirtiest coastal lakes in the world



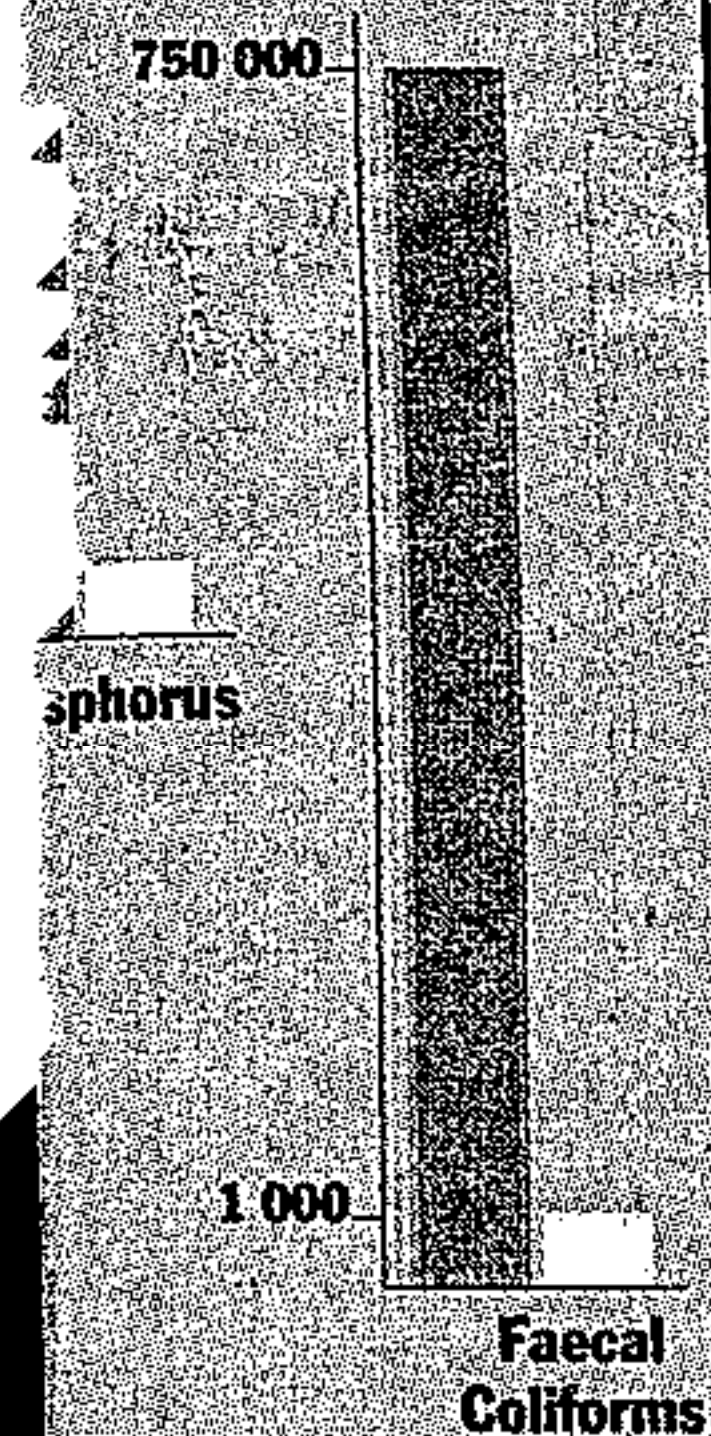


STILL WATERS: Zeekoevlei, encircled by beautiful homes and boats, has been called one of the most polluted coastal lakes in the world. **LEFT:** The levels of pollutants measured in the Great and Little Lotus rivers and Zeekoevlei are up to 750 times higher than recommended maximums for swimming. **PICTURE: GARTH STEAD**

ipl,
letu

orus mg/litre - 1,28
nended - 0,1

ns/100ml - 750 000
nended Max- 1 000



Kids still swim there — but they keep their mouths shut

DONNA KIPPS

RESIDENTS were drawn to Zeekoevlei because their children would be able to play and swim at will. Now the polluted lake has become a health hazard.

"Many people don't let their kids play there any more," says Mr Theo Stock, a Zeekoevlei resident. "At the moment, the vlei isn't very pleasant. My kids still swim in it, but they know not to let any water get into their mouths, and they have a jolly good shower when they get back."

"Over the last three to four years the quality of the water in the vlei has deteriorated greatly. We've definitely got a higher level of pollution. The water is dirty, with an immense amount of algae, and the water hyacinth has started to really get out of hand."

Measures taken by the council have not been particularly effective in alleviating the problem. "When the hyacinth started to cover very large areas of the water about a year and a half ago, they decided to spray it with herbicide. The hyacinth then just dies and sinks where it is, to rot on the bottom. It mostly disappears, but it's not gone."

"This really shot up the sulphur

content of the vlei, and lowered the oxygen content. People who wanted to use the vlei had to wade through thick, knee-deep black sludge. The water is now better than it was a year ago, but it's still not pleasant."

Mr Noel Mallinson, Commodore of the Zeekoevlei Yacht Club and a resident of Zeekoevlei, said yesterday: "This year, the water has been better, but there is still a lot of plastic pollution, and there's been a lot of sludge underfoot — not particularly pleasant."

"People aren't as enthusiastic about coming down to the vlei any longer. The pollution seems to be putting a lot of people off, and it is also reducing the depth of the vlei, which reduces the usability of the vlei for boating. We are very encouraged by the progress now being made, however. Things do seem to be happening, and I think most of us feel very positive about it."

Zeekoevlei homeowners have had to deal with the problem on their doorstep every day. The residents have taken the initiative, and tried to check the spread of waterweed and water hyacinth with regular clean-ups, but the situation has proved to be beyond their powers.

They have reported a decrease in the quality of the water, and a dramatic decrease in the numbers of species they see in and near the vlei, particularly in the number of frogs they hear in the evenings.

The Zeekoevlei Environmental Forum is a subcommittee of the Zeekoevlei Civic Association, and was initially formed in 1995 as a concerned residents group, focusing on the state of the vlei.

"The group see themselves as a facilitator to get all the people who are doing studies on the vlei, and the council, together and to get things moving," said Mrs Nicky Stock. "Right now, we've had a success in getting sluiceways put into the weir to reintroduce the natural seasonal flushing mechanism of the vlei."

When asked whether it seemed likely that the initiatives suggested by the Lotus River Project would actually be put into practice and make a difference, Stock replied: "If the Zeekoevlei Environmental Forum have anything to do with it, then definitely yes. But it'll probably take years to really sort the problem out. It took 40 to 50 years for the vlei to get to this state, and there won't be any quick-fix solution. But we're very positive."

Green group may take state to court

CT 23/1/97 (56)

DURBAN: The government has been threatened with court action unless it withdraws new environmental law proposals which have been described as "big business friendly".

Lawyers representing the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) — a coalition of 350 predominantly Green organisations — argue that the

proposed regulations governing environmental impact assessment (EIA) will create conflict and confusion rather than protecting the environment.

"It is clear to us that government bureaucrats have ignored the massive opposition to environmental governance principles of affordability, flexibility and a discretionary approach

which are being promoted by big business. It is worrying that our public servants should ignore overwhelming public opinion in favour of the profit interests of business and industry," said EJNF spokesman Mr Chris Albertyn.

At the heart of EJNF's opposition is the discretionary power granted to local authorities.

Dolphin deal: Hanks resigns

(56) M+G 24-30/1/97

Justin Arenstein

DISSENT over the Mpumalanga Parks Board's (MPB) decision to place its prime nature reserves in the hands of the shadowy Dubai-based Dolphin Group deepened this week with the resignation of one of the provincial parks board's most influential members.

John Hanks, who is also executive director of Worldwide Fund for Nature South Africa, resigned on Wednesday to protest the manner in which the parks board "steam-rolled" the secret deal without presenting it to the full board or consulting affected communities.

In his resignation letter, Hanks also asked why he had not yet received a response to a formal letter of protest he sent to board chairman Patrick Maduna on November 29 last year. In the letter he asked six questions about the board's handling of the deal, and about the financial credibility of Dolphin Group.

The contract, details of which were secret until reported by the *Mail & Guardian*, grants Dolphin exclusive commercial rights to Mpumalanga's most popular nature reserves, including the Blyde River Canyon, for the next 50 years.

The parks board not only failed to mention Hanks's letter, but the issues he raised were not addressed during a seven-hour crisis meeting between the parks board and the provincial watchdog Environmental Council (EC) late last week.

"The meeting was a complete waste of time," Hanks said. "It's really a hopeless situation when not even the [parks] board's own board is consulted on what is potentially the most important conservation deal ever in South Africa."

Hanks said board members were not informed that the meeting was to address the Dolphin case. "All we were told was that it would be a normal board meeting," he said. "I just cannot go on like this and so I submitted my resignation."

In any case, he said, the meeting failed to address the concerns of the EC and other environmentalists. And a press statement by Maduna afterwards has angered land-reform lawyers, who accuse the parks board of failing to take seriously potential land claims involving such areas as the Blyde River Canyon and Koskop Dam, dismissing them as "irrelevant issues that cannot stand in the way of development."

"What do they mean by 'irrelevant'. They're a state body operating on state land and as such cannot contradict core central government policies such as the land reform programme," said Durkje Gilfillian, an attorney with the Legal Resources Centre in Pretoria. "Some of these claims were lodged as far back as August 1995 but the parks board has ignored them."

MPB chief executive Alan Gray, who masterminded the Dolphin deal, refused to comment on Hanks's resignation, or on reports in the *M&G* last week that the Dolphin Group and its chief executive Ketan Somaia are under investigation in Kenya for misappropriating R35-million.

"I have done my homework," he told the *M&G*, refusing to elaborate.

Gray said he went to Kenya to check on Somaia and Dolphin, and was satisfied with his findings.

But at the time of his visit, the Kenyan media were reporting Somaia's business dealings under such headlines as: "Loathed and despised." There were also reports on his alleged refusal to heed three summonses to appear before a parliamentary Public Accounts Committee.

Committee chairman M Wamalwa confirmed that his committee had recommended that the government refrain from future contracts with any company associated with Somaia.

Meanwhile, Somaia and a delegation of Dubai businessmen visited Namibia two weeks ago, following a meeting with Namibia's trade and industry minister. Reports in the Namibian press indicate that he is interested in buying into the Swakopmund Entertainment Centre, which includes a casino, as well as a private game reserve reportedly owned by Stocks & Stocks.

The *M&G* confirmed this week that Dolphin is negotiating local financing for the developments with at least two commercial banks.

Sources indicate that Dolphin hopes to obtain at least 40% of its investment capital from the South African market.

Mpumalanga environmental affairs MEC David Mkwana said he could not accept that the entire contract was flawed. "It is all a matter of interpretation and now that we know there are certain problems we can renegotiate the points," he said.

Pallo Jordan, minister of environmental affairs and tourism, this week requested a copy of the contract and a background briefing on Dolphin.

Environment policy urgently needed in SA, says minister

(56)
Mboneni Mulaudzi

BD 27/1/97

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said there was an extreme urgency for government to have a comprehensive environmental policy in place to address problems inherited from our apartheid past.

He was opening a second two-day Consultative Conference on National Environmental Policy for SA (Connep) in Midrand, Johannesburg, on Friday.

Jordan said that with its macroeconomic strategy the government was committed to growth and development to improve the quality of life for all.

He said his ministry was embarking on a new communication strategy in line with the Connep vision, with the main focus put on consultation, especially with previously marginalised communities.

The purpose of the conference was to give different stakeholders the chance to express views on the Green paper that was launched on October 28 last year. The meeting would also make final decisions on the country's first environmental policy.

In his address, Jordan said it was imperative that "we develop an overarching environmental framework to unify government's approach to the environment across all departments and across all sectors of society". He said more public participation was needed as this would ensure that decisions reached were workable.

"The fact that we will be embarking on a new environmental policy this year enhances the prospect of increased delivery."

As the Green Paper highlighted, improving environmental management and sustainable development were central to RDP goals. He also said that when it came to environmental issues the ministry did not subscribe to self-regulation by industries.

Cracks appear in the Dolphin deal

CT (BR) 28/1/97

(56)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AFRICAN EYE NEWS SERVICE

The first cracks have appeared in the Mpumalanga Parks Board secretive multimillion-rand deal to give exclusive development rights to some of the province's most prized environmental attractions to the Dubai-based Dolphin group.

Patrick Maduna, the parks board chairman, has defended the secrecy surrounding the controversial sale of the exclusive commercial rights to Dolphin as irrelevant and a normal part of the government's development processes.

However, despite repeated assurances by the parks board that the scheme was supported without exception, last Wednesday's resignation of John Hanks, the internationally acclaimed conservationist and World Wildlife Fund executive director, has created embarrassment and as yet there has been no public announcement from the parks board.

Instead, Alan Gray, the parks board chief executive officer, insisted during a Nelspruit Business Chamber luncheon last Thursday that "we have had not one single internal objection to the scheme" and that "the board unanimously ratified the agreement without any problem".

In his resignation letter Hanks says he has been forced to disassociate himself from the parks board because of its consistent failure to answer his written concerns about the deal and about the manner in which Gray "steamrolled" it through without consulting his own board members.

Hank's letter of concern, sent to Maduna on November 29 last year, has not been shown to other parks board members and the six detailed questions raised in it were not answered at a special meeting convened between the parks board and the provinces' watchdog, the Environmental Council, earlier this month.

According to those who attended the meeting, board members were also not formally told that there would be a special joint meeting at all and some board members were forced to request copies of the

The unanswered questions:

- How can MPB officials arbitrarily give commercial control of public property to a foreign firm for half a century? "Like handing over the Crown jewels to a stranger", as one board member put it,
- What guarantees are there that the MPB will not lean in Dolphin's favour when making environmental judgments because it will be entirely dependent on Dolphin for revenue?
- What kind of profit will Dolphin make?
- How much, in hard figures, of the profit will be ploughed back into disadvantaged communities?
- Why does only one clause give the board the right to override development for conservation reasons, but several oblige the board to give Dolphin every assistance to achieve its ends?
- Why might the joint operating company and all rights vested in it be listed on the JSE?
- How will land claims be dealt with?
- Will all development plans be open to public examination before they are started?

controversial contract from the press as they had been unable to obtain copies from their own officials.

Insisting that all the public's concerns about the deal had been raised and dealt with "satisfactorily", Maduna however declined to elaborate on points in the 50-year contract, such as why the parks board had committed itself to establishing and staffing an office for the little-known Dolphin Group at public expense for one year, while also providing various support services at public expense.

Though individual members privately confirm that the meeting was heated at times and that "there was a lot of internal bleeding", both the parks board and the council confined themselves to a bland statement saying that the way had been cleared for the deal to be implemented.

The statement also says that the province's assets will "remain in the hands of the people".

Sue Hart, the chairman of the Environmental Council, said during the conference that the council's concerns had only been clarified and not really satisfied.

"The contract is very loosely woven in places ... and this meeting has not for ever satisfied the council ... we will now go into independent concave to make up our own minds and then report to our MEC."

In return for exclusive rights to tourist profit from prime nature areas such as the Blyde River Canyon, Pilgrim's Rest, Loskop Dam and at least six provincial reserves, Dolphin has undertaken to pay the parks board's budget deficit over 50 years.

Dominating the press conference, Maduna dismissed criticism about the clause in the contract binding Dolphin and the parks board to secrecy, saying that it had been read out of context.

The agreement, he added, was made public when the Dolphin project was announced on November 27. In fact, only the broad scheme was announced then, at a lavish banquet, while the parks board was pleading near bankruptcy.

Although the parks board paid to fly in journalists from as far away as Britain, the details became known only weeks later, when they were leaked.

Asked why the board had not sought

South African enterprise and capital for the development, Maduna said that when the board produced an "investment portfolio" brochure mid-last year about commercialising its operations, South Africans had been invited but none had responded.

In fact, the invitation was a sentence or two at the foot of the brochure.

Asked why he and Alan Gray, the chief executive of Boar, had signed the agreement without first referring it to the full board, he said that because the board had initiated the commercialisation process, they had been given a mandate to sign. Some leading board members reject this.

When questioned about whether Dolphin was raising an initial R300 million for a "bricks-and-mortar" development inside South Africa or bringing it from abroad, as was initially emphasised at the launch function, he would only say "it's Dolphin's money".

He refused to comment on reports that Dolphin's executive president, Ketan Soamaia, had been sourcing capital in Gauteng last week.

He also airily dismissed angry criticism by black communities in the Blyde and Loskop areas who have lodged land claims to some of the areas marked for development, saying that the claims were "irrelevant". He said that legal processes existed to handle them and that claims could not be allowed to stop development.

Maduna insisted the board had consulted affected communities through community structures. But he could not identify structures other than one adjacent to the Songimvelo Reserve and later referred to local authority structures instead.

Very little has been uncovered about Dolphin's activities above what the group says in its glossy brochures. But nowhere do their brochures give any idea of their turnover or profit. The agreement with the parks board does not contain any hard figures either. Mhlongo dismissed criticism that nobody had examined the credentials and financial status of the Dolphin Group before signing. The board, he said, welcomed investment wherever it came from and Dolphin's promise "is good enough for us".

'DANGER OF FREAK WAVES'

Dispute over nuclear ship

(56) CT 29/1/97

THE PACIFIC TEAL, loaded with tons of radioactive material, will be passing Gape Town later this week. DONNA KIPPS reports.

SHIPPING of nuclear waste materials may soon become a major industry, claims the environmental group Greenpeace. Shipments of radioactive materials have increased dramatically in recent years, a spokesman said yesterday, and claimed that these shipments put uninformed countries at risk when the ships pass their coasts.

According to a spokesman for BNFL Transport Division, a British company specialising in such shipments, the first contracts for transporting irradiated nuclear fuel from Japan and Europe to the UK were signed in the 1960s.

Since then, from Japan to Europe and between European countries, 291 ship voyages carrying 8 061 tons of irradiated nuclear fuel have been completed.

While there have been no incidents resulting in the release of radioactive material, environmental activists have become extremely concerned about the risks of shipping these hazardous materials.

There are four basic possible routes for nuclear waste shipments of this kind, according to Greenpeace:

● Through the Caribbean Sea and Panama Canal, then passing near Hawaii while crossing the Pacific.

● Around South America (Cape Horn) and across the Pacific.

● Around Southern Africa (Cape of Good Hope), across the Indian Ocean and either through the Straits of Malacca and South China Sea or around Australia and north through the islands of the

South Pacific.

● Through the Mediterranean and Suez Canal.

Meanwhile environmentalists have warned that heavy seas caused by cyclone Gretelle may pose a danger to the shipment of toxic waste.

The vessel, Pacific Teal, carrying 14 tons of toxic waste to Japan, will probably pass Cape Town on Saturday, according to Greenpeace International which is tracking its movements.

The vessel will then sail in an easterly direction towards Japan.

A forecaster from the Durban Weather Bureau said that cyclone Gretelle which was sitting 300kms off Maputo in Mozambique yesterday afternoon, could start moving south-easterly from tomorrow.

He warned that another low was forming over the southern tip of Madagascar and it would be monitored on a daily basis to see whether it was another cyclone.

Two more cyclones were forming off Australia.

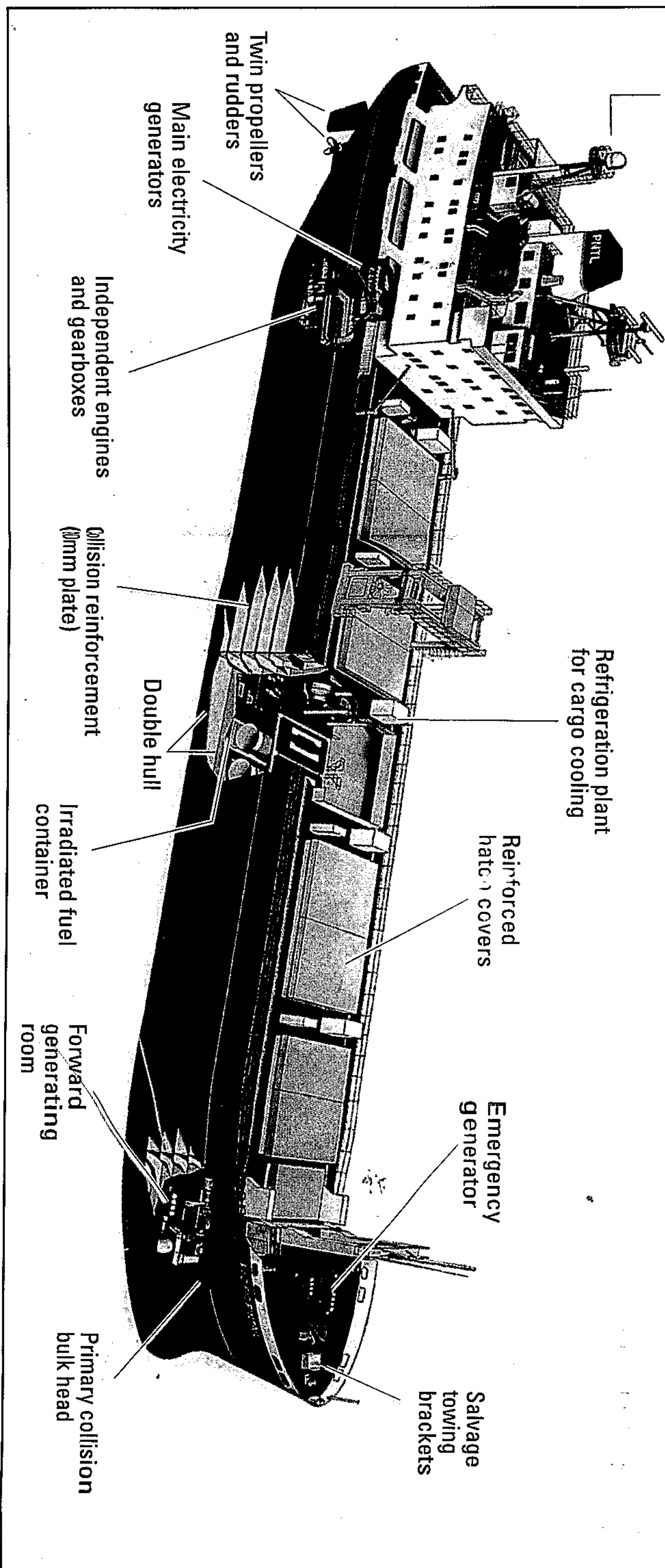
He said the sea was extremely rough off the north coast with swells reaching 4,5 metres. Further south the sea was also treacherous and many ski boats had chosen not to go out to sea at all, the forecaster said.

The ship also faced the danger of freak waves, a Cape Town researcher from the University of Stellenbosch warned.

The anti-nuclear committee will be holding a protest march at noon today outside the French Embassy to the Japanese Consulate.

The organisation has called on the South African government and Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Mr Pallo Jordan to "condemn and formally ban this and all future shipments of nuclear waste".

Satellite, navigation and communication



PACIFIC TEAL

Refrigeration plant for cargo cooling

Reinforced hatch covers

Emergency generator

Salvage towing brackets

Twin propellers and rudders

Main electricity generators

Independent engines and gearboxes

Collision reinforcement (10mm plate)

Irradiated fuel container

Forward generating room

Primary collision bulk head

What the industry says ...

BNFL Transport Division, the British company responsible for the shipment, is the world leader in the transportation of bulk quantities of radioactive materials. They were the first company to begin transporting irradiated nuclear fuel by sea, nearly 30 years ago.

● Since 1969, BNFL has transported over 8 000 tons of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea. In nearly 300 ship voyages covering some 3 million nautical miles, without a single leak of radioactive materials.

● The ship, Pacific Teal, is part of a fleet designed in consultation with Lloyds of London, the Salvage Association and leading salvage companies.

meets and exceeds international safety standards for transporters of radioactive materials.

● All the safety features of the vessel are doubled so that there will be a "backup" if any system fails. A double hull ensures that the vessel will stay afloat even if damaged.

● Materials are carried in specially protected flasks which are bolted into separate cargo holds with radiation shielding, energy absorbing barriers, fire protection and radiation monitoring systems.

● The waste is being transported in solid, non-reactive vitrified form. The liquid waste is mixed with glass-making materials and forms into very dense solid glass blocks. The radioactive material becomes a part of the crystalline

What Greenpeace says ...

structure of the glass, making it difficult for the radioactivity to escape.

The glass block could be placed in water and the radioactive material would leak from it so slowly that it would not be picked up by a radiation monitor at 10 metres.

● If the ship does sink, emergency teams will respond rapidly, there will be a lower risk of the waste being exposed to water.

● The worst case scenario (suggested by the Institution of Nuclear Engineers): If the ship sank, the glass blocks would erode, releasing radioactive material. The amounts released would be about 3 000 times less than what we are exposed to from natural radiation sources all the time.

THERE are serious technical problems with the waste, and particularly with the containers in which it is transported, which the industry has not responded to.

● Safety margins have been cut to the point where a serious accident could overwhelm safety systems and lead to radioactivity being released.

● By adding too much radioactivity to the glass itself and by putting too much glass in each container, the glass and canisters could shatter and leak during the kind of fires, collisions and sinkings that are common at sea.

being exposed to the sea, significant leakage of the radioactive elements would occur, devastating marine and other life.

● The weather and conditions off the Cape Coast are notoriously bad, with frequent and violent storms. This causes a great risk to ships in our waters, as shown by an incident in 1989, when the Pacific Teal ran into some severe weather conditions off the Cape Coast.

When the ship arrived in England, it was found that the two main engine blocks had cracked. No serious problems resulted, but this is proof that accidents which could result in loss of control of the ship, or worse, do happen.

● Moving nuclear waste around the planet is only done to save the industry money. Putting many countries along the route at risk is totally unacceptable.

● The argument that nuclear waste has been shipped from England to Japan for the past 30 years without incident is NOT an argument for increasing shipments.

● The worst case scenario would occur if the Pacific Teal were to be involved in a serious impact collision or a long-duration fire which damaged the transport containers and glass blocks. Radio nuclei could be released into the environment. Humans and animals would fall victim to fallout and inhalation of radioactive particles. Fall-out would also cause the contamination of food and water supplies.



JACK LESTRADE

No nukes please: a drum depicting nuclear waste is carted to the front of the French embassy

Protesters march through city as nuclear waste ship nears

ANDREA BOTHA
STAFF REPORTER

Nearly 200 demonstrators dressed to kill or, rather, to save the planet, marched in protest against the shipment of nuclear waste around the South African coast.

The colourful demonstration in Cape Town yesterday was organised to coincide with the arrival off the Cape of the British ship Pacific Teal which is carrying high-level nuclear waste from France to Japan. The ship will pass Cape Town on Saturday, but is sailing outside South African territorial waters.

The demonstration was organised by the Environmental Justice Network Forum in conjunction with Greenpeace International.

They called on the Government to formally condemn the shipment of nuclear

waste around the African continent and ban all future shipments.

The demonstrators sang, danced, chanted and bongo-drummed their way to Parliament, where a memorandum was handed to Gwen Mahlangu, chairwoman of the portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism.

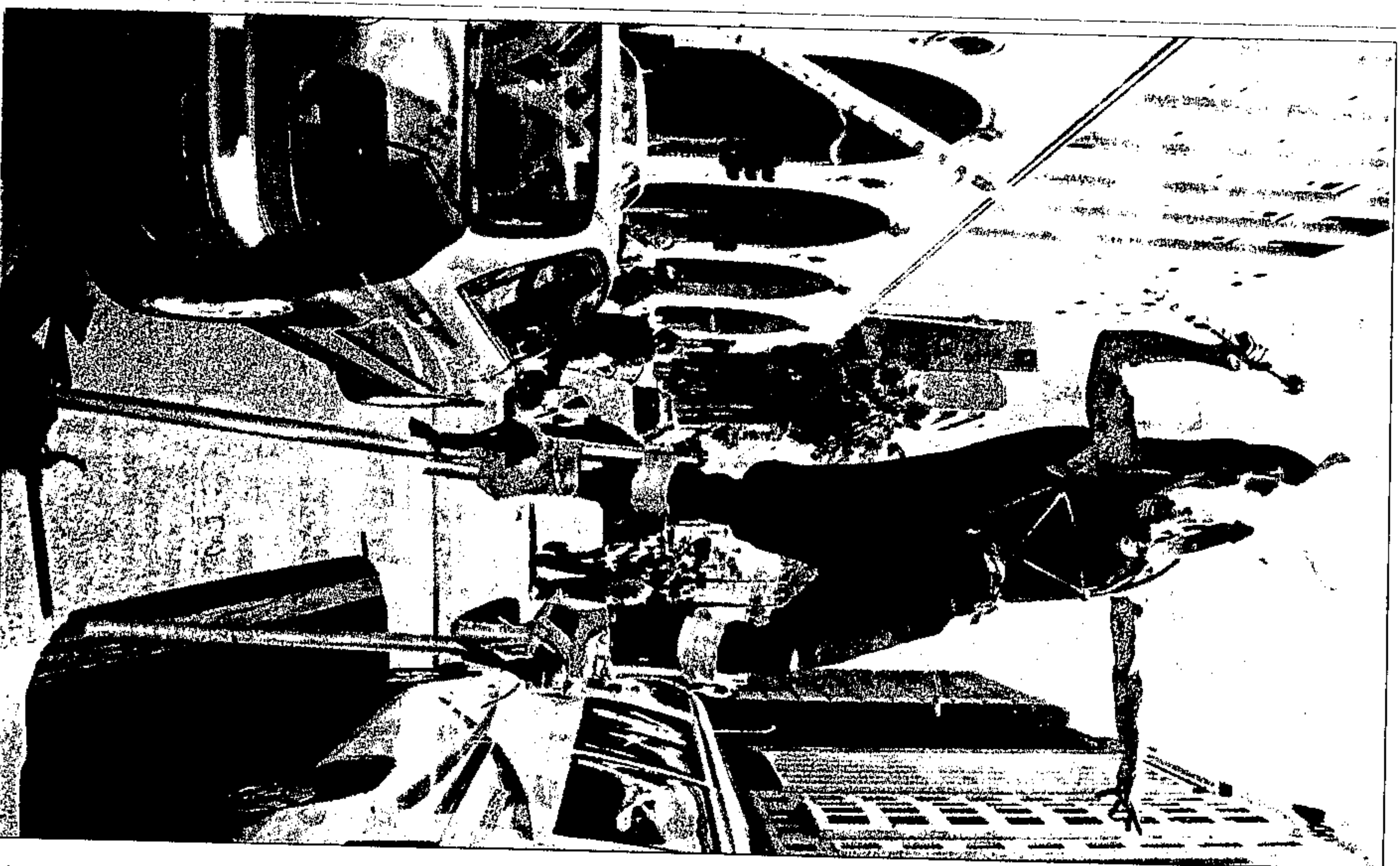
Afterwards, the colourful procession moved to the Japanese consulate to hand over a memorandum to the vice-consul. The French embassy had closed for the day.

Ms Mahlangu said she "absolutely supported" the campaign against shipping nuclear waste and said the Pacific Teal was not only a danger to South Africans but to people the world over.

"We request a complete ban on toxic waste globally," she said.

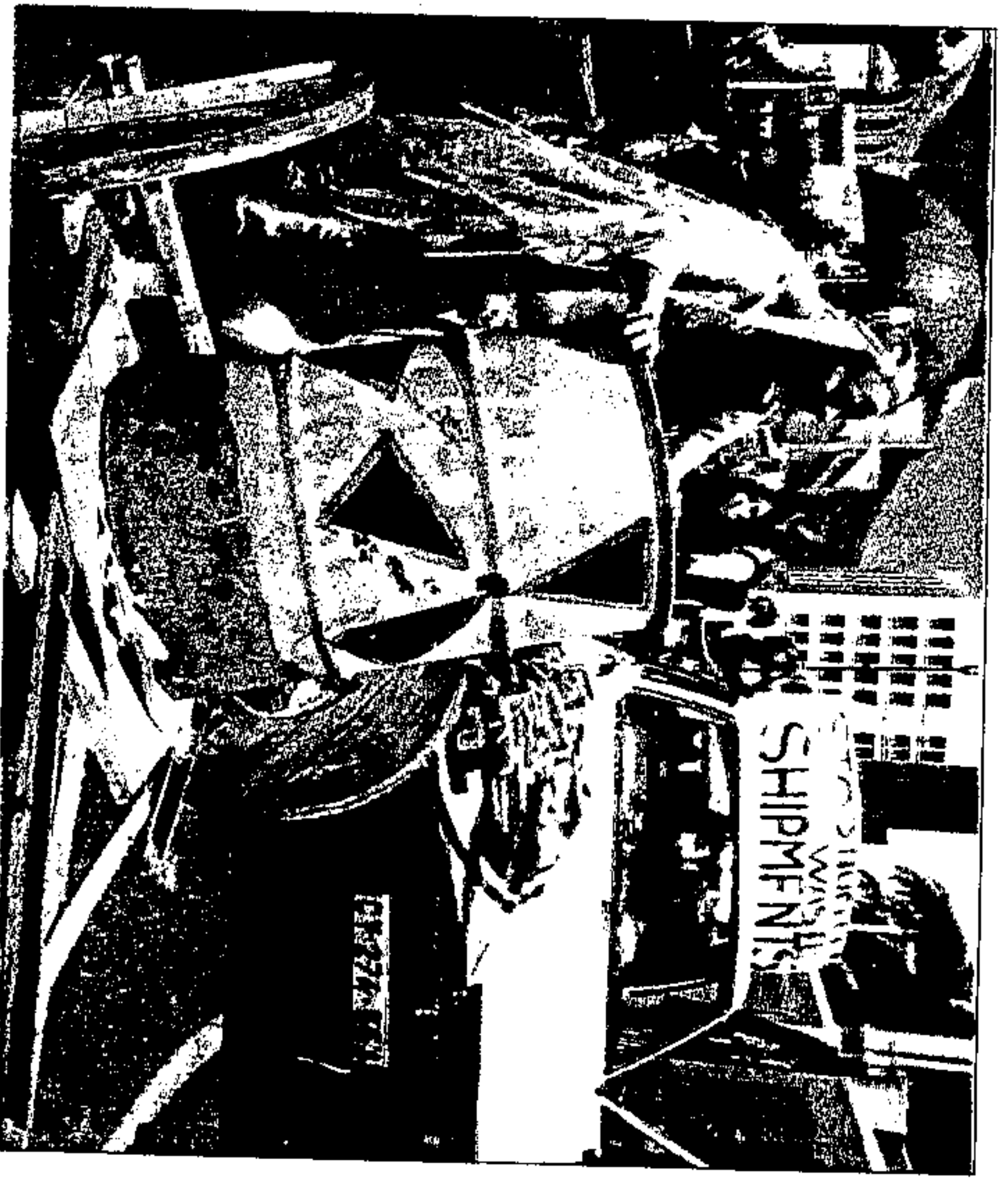
Various organisations, interest groups and individuals supported the march.

56 ARG 30/1/97



High moral ground: a protester takes an unusual stand against the shipping of nuclear waste

DOUG FITZGERALD



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STAFF REPORTER

56 RLT 30/1/97

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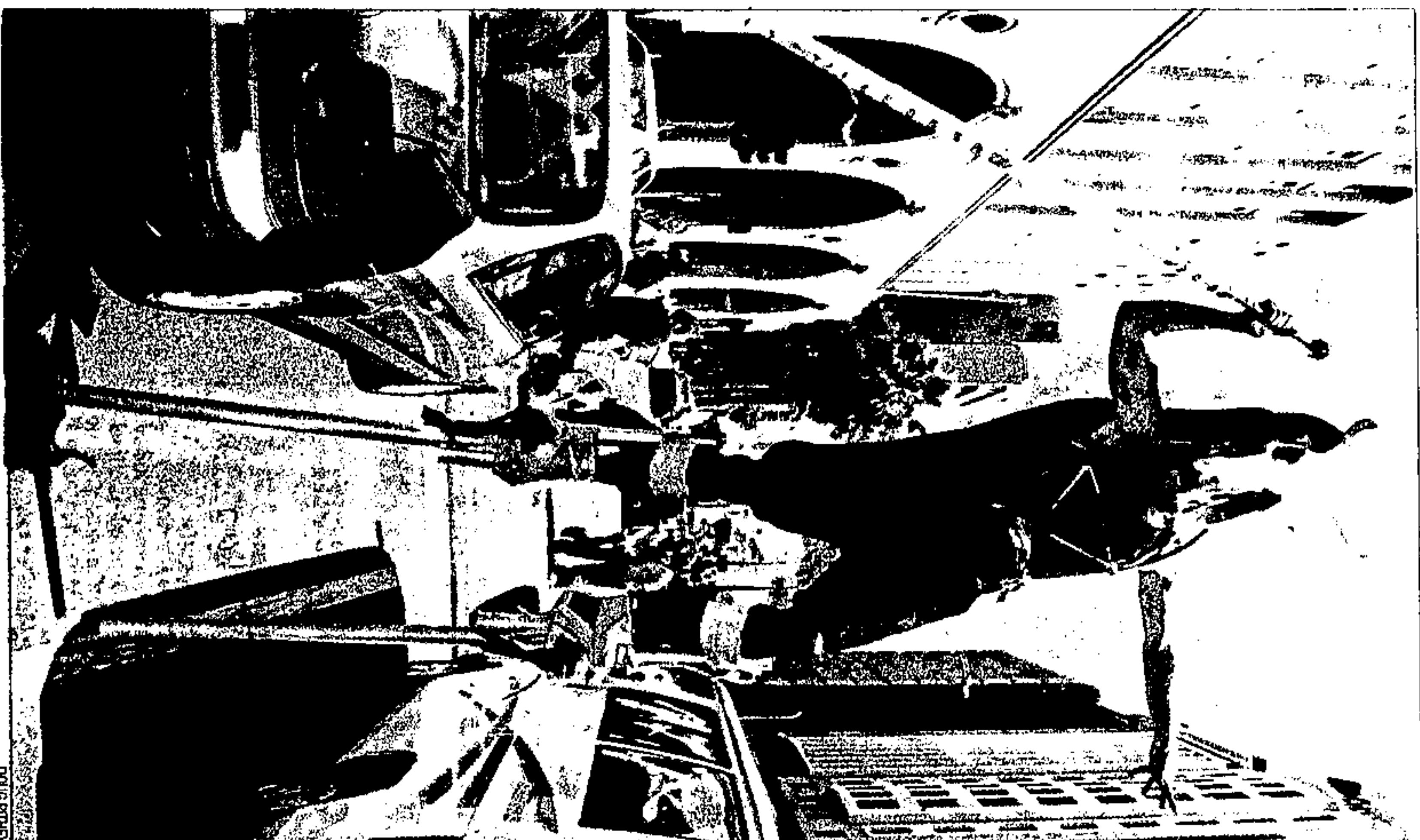
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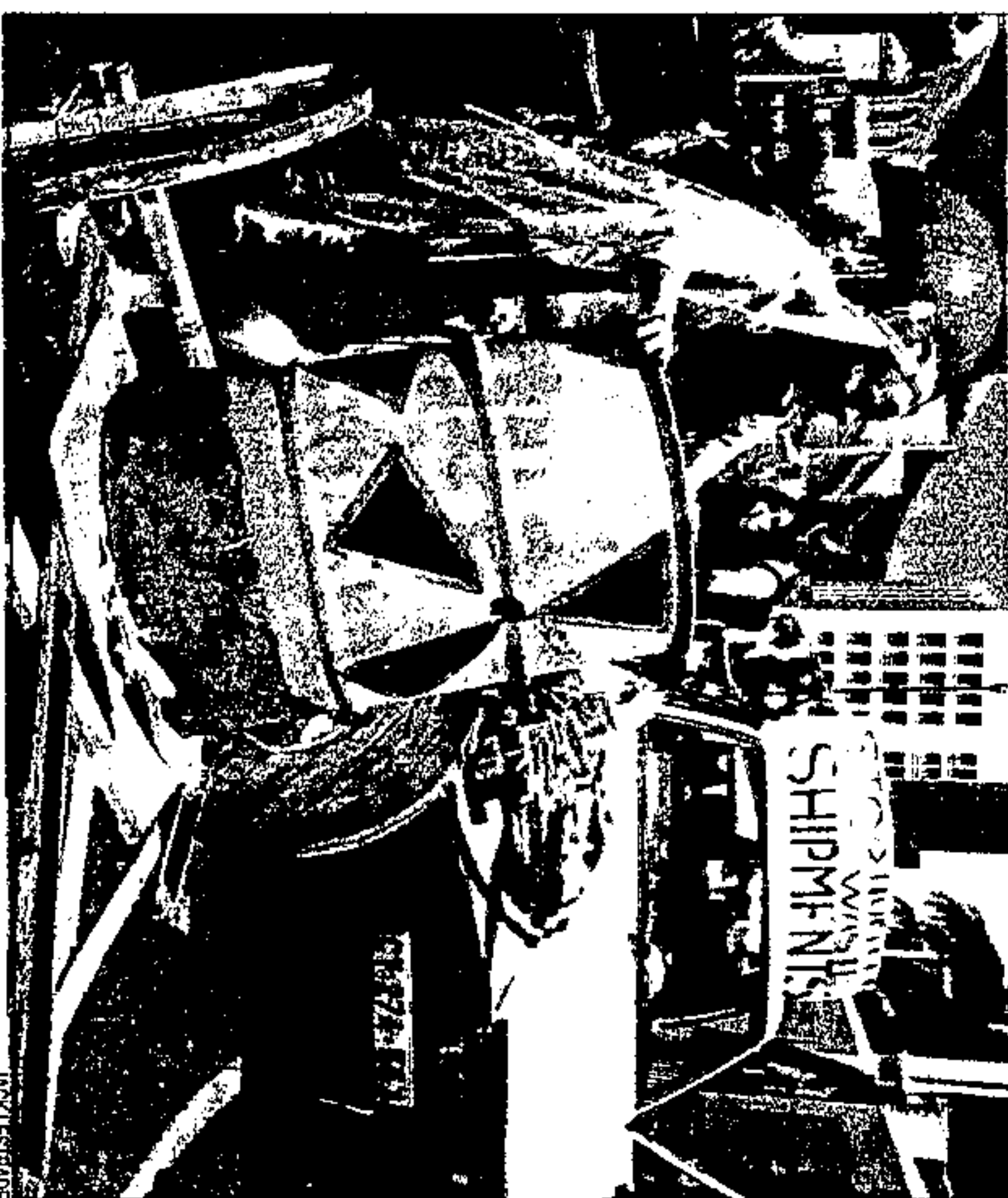
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ODDIE PRINER



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SIMP FEVEREI

56 ART 30 1197

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Eskom faces suit for coal pollution

MPHO MANTJUI

Johannesburg — The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) is considering bringing a civil suit against Eskom, the state-owned electricity generator, for environmental pollution in Mpumalanga province, a spokesman from the centre said yesterday.

Angela Andrews of the LRC said the centre had discussed the matter with the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, a network of environmental groups, and was looking at the best legal route to follow.

Thabo Madihlabo, the forum's co-ordinator, said: "Research done by the forum revealed that Eskom's nine coal-fired power stations in the province polluted the air. This leads to acid rains destroying vegetation (forest), soil fertility and aquatic life in rivers."

CT (BR) 30/1/97 (56)
A report prepared by the Development Bank of Southern Africa published last year indicated that about 80 percent of the region's electrical power is generated by coal-fired power stations, mainly in the highveld. These were said to cause atmospheric pollution in the province which had negative effects on the health of local inhabitants.

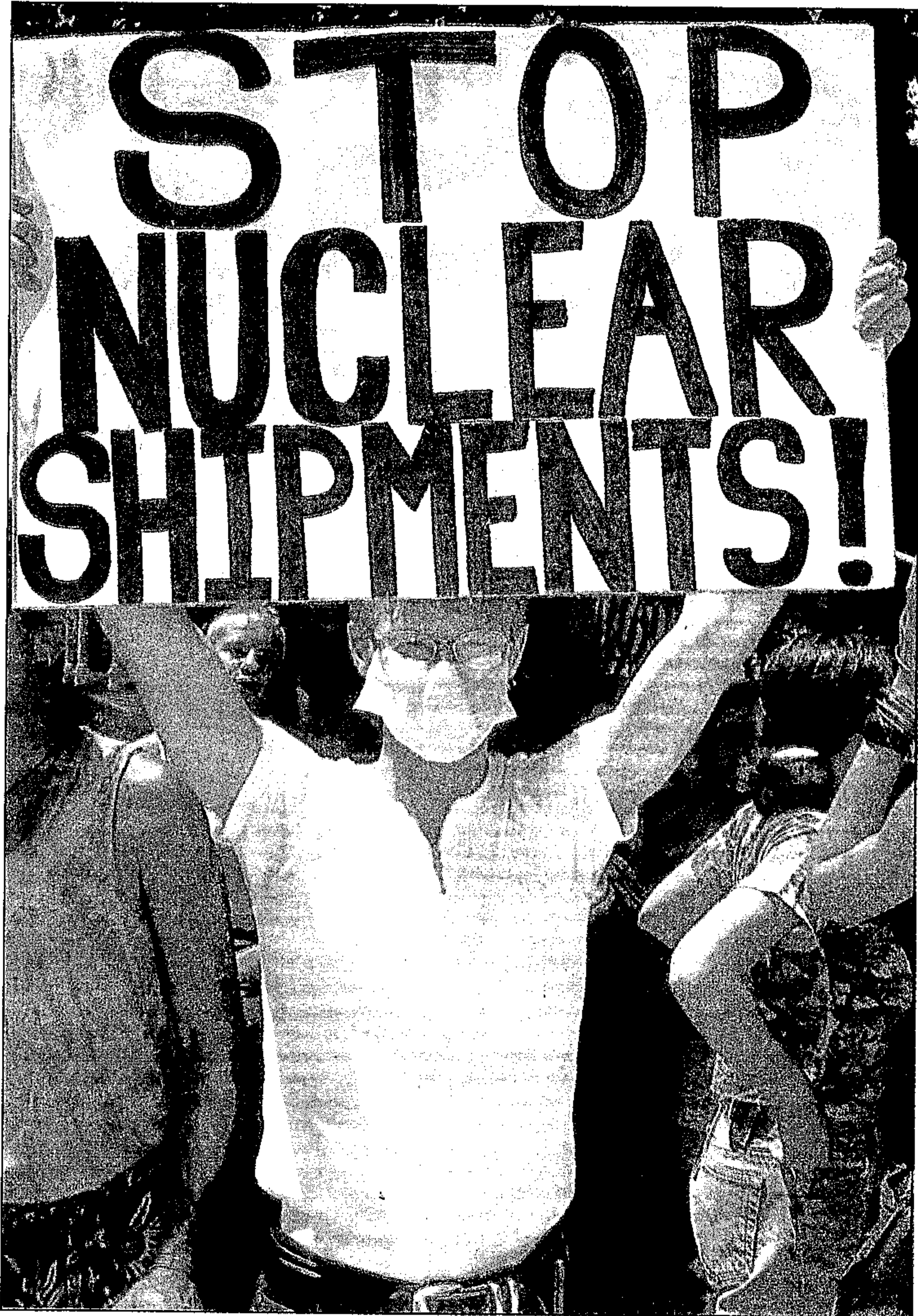
The report maintained that the production of energy in the province was benefiting the rest of the country's economy while at the same time was largely detrimental to that of the province.

Peter Adams, Eskom's media relations official, said the forum had not laid a complaint or brought the matter to Eskom's attention. He said Eskom was doing everything possible to avoid pollution and had the expertise to deal with it.

Matthews Phosa, the province's premier, said the environmental affairs ministry had started a study on pollution management to enable them to monitor and assess pollution.

This follows the business representatives' concern expressed earlier this month that the environmental affairs and tourism ministry would meet its end-March deadline to publish a white paper on a national environment policy.

The ministry agreed last Friday at a meeting with environmental organisations to draft a white paper no later than April, and invited written submissions from interested parties. Colin Cameron, the director-general of the environmental affairs department, said the challenge was harmonising conflicting interests without jeopardising economic prosperity.



NO NUKES: "People must understand that if they don't wake up, they're going to end up looking like this," said one of the protesters in yesterday's anti-nuclear march through Cape Town.

PICTURE: ANNE LAING

Call to halt all nuclear shipments

STAFF WRITER

CT 301197

(56)
THE risks may be minimal, but the only way to be one hundred per cent safe is to stop nuclear-cargo carrying shipping altogether.

This was the message from visiting Greenpeace spokesmen and more than a hundred protesters, who marched through the city yesterday in response to the perceived threat of the nuclear-cargo ship Pacific Teal, soon to sail past the South African coast.

The march — organised by the Environmental Justice Network Forum's Anti-Nuclear Campaign Committee — set off from the French embassy and marched to Parliament, and then went on to the Japanese consulate.

Representatives handed letters to officials of the three nations, calling on them to face their global responsibility by halting all future nuclear shipments.

Two Greenpeace representatives, both from the Netherlands, are in Cape Town until Monday to lend Greenpeace support to the South African environmental groups in their protests against the shipment.

One of the representatives, Mr Diederik Samson, said yesterday: "Our main aim is to get a formal statement from the South African government, forbidding the ship from coming within 200km of the South African coast and entering our Economic Exclusion Zone.

"Right now they're playing hide and seek, issuing press statements condemning the stopping, but withdrawing when we press for a formal decision.

"Time is ticking away. (Minister of Environment Affairs) Dr Pallo Jordan has only three days left for an official declaration before the ship enters South African waters," he said.

The debate surrounding the shipment of nuclear waste from France to Japan, with the sides often oceans apart. Pieter

'Deadly' cargo passes

Greenpeace slates waste shipmen

The Pacific Teal, the ship expected to sail around the Cape this weekend carrying plutonium waste from France to Japan, is said to be an extremely safe vessel - with a long, incident-free history of transporting nuclear material.

The ship's owners, Pacific Nuclear Transport Ltd, said the Pacific Teal had transported more than 4 000 flasks of nuclear waste, covering three million nautical miles, over the past 30 years.

The shipment is the end result of a system known as reprocessing.

As Japan has virtually no energy resources of its own, the country promotes the "nuclear fuel cycle", in which the value of the uranium fuel used in its nuclear power plants is maximised by recycling the uranium and plutonium.

According to industry experts, a core part of this is reprocessing - a chemical separation process that recovers the reusable materials contained in the spent uranium fuel. After this process recycled plutonium and uranium (which can be used as fuel again) and radioactive waste is left over, and is sent back to its country of origin for storage.

Because of its high radioactivity the waste is mixed with glass and melted. This mixture is poured into stainless steel containers which are welded shut. The waste does not have explosive properties and has no military use, but like the spent fuel it is hot and "intensely radioactive", according to experts. It is understood the Pacific Teal has 40 of these canisters on board.

Twenty-eight of these glass canisters are then loaded into a transport cask - a 6,6 m high cylinder which weighs 112 tons. It is constructed of forged stainless steel and has undergone extensive testing to ensure its strength.

Tests include a 9m drop on an "unyielding surface" and a 1m drop on a steel spike. The cask, with any damage sustained during the drop tests, is then subjected to a fire test for 30 minutes at 800deg/C and then immersed in 200m of water for eight hours.

The Pacific Teal, built in 1982, has a double hull structure to minimise damage in the event of a collision. All the safety features have been doubled and there is a back-up for all the systems that could fail.



No nukes: a crowd of about 200 demonstrators marched this week in Cape Town to protest against the nuclear shipment.

British ship only the second to make waste trip

STAFF REPORTER

The British-registered ship Pacific Teal, which is expected to sail round the Cape this weekend, is only the second ship to make the voyage ferrying plutonium waste between France and Japan.

The last one to do so, the Pacific Pintail, followed the route around Cape Horn and across the Pacific Ocean in 1995. Its voyage sparked a huge outcry from countries including Portugal, Spain and some South American states.

The last ship carrying radioactive material to pass our own shore was the Akatsuki Maru, which ferried 1,7 tons of plutonium

from France to Japan in November 1992.

It sailed past the Cape in November 1992, escorted by a lightly armed Japanese coastguard vessel and a tug from the environmental body Greenpeace.

Greenpeace campaigners have warned repeatedly in recent years that companies specialising in the shipment of nuclear products would take the route of least resistance when deciding which sea route to take between continents.

Although many of the voyages carrying spent nuclear fuel, nuclear waste and "reprocessed" plutonium have been covert, in recent years environmental watchdogs like Greenpeace have made it increasingly

difficult for these ships to travel undetected.

Even so, secrecy usually shrouds the intended routes and departure times of vessels, with shipping companies saying that secrecy is needed to combat terrorism.

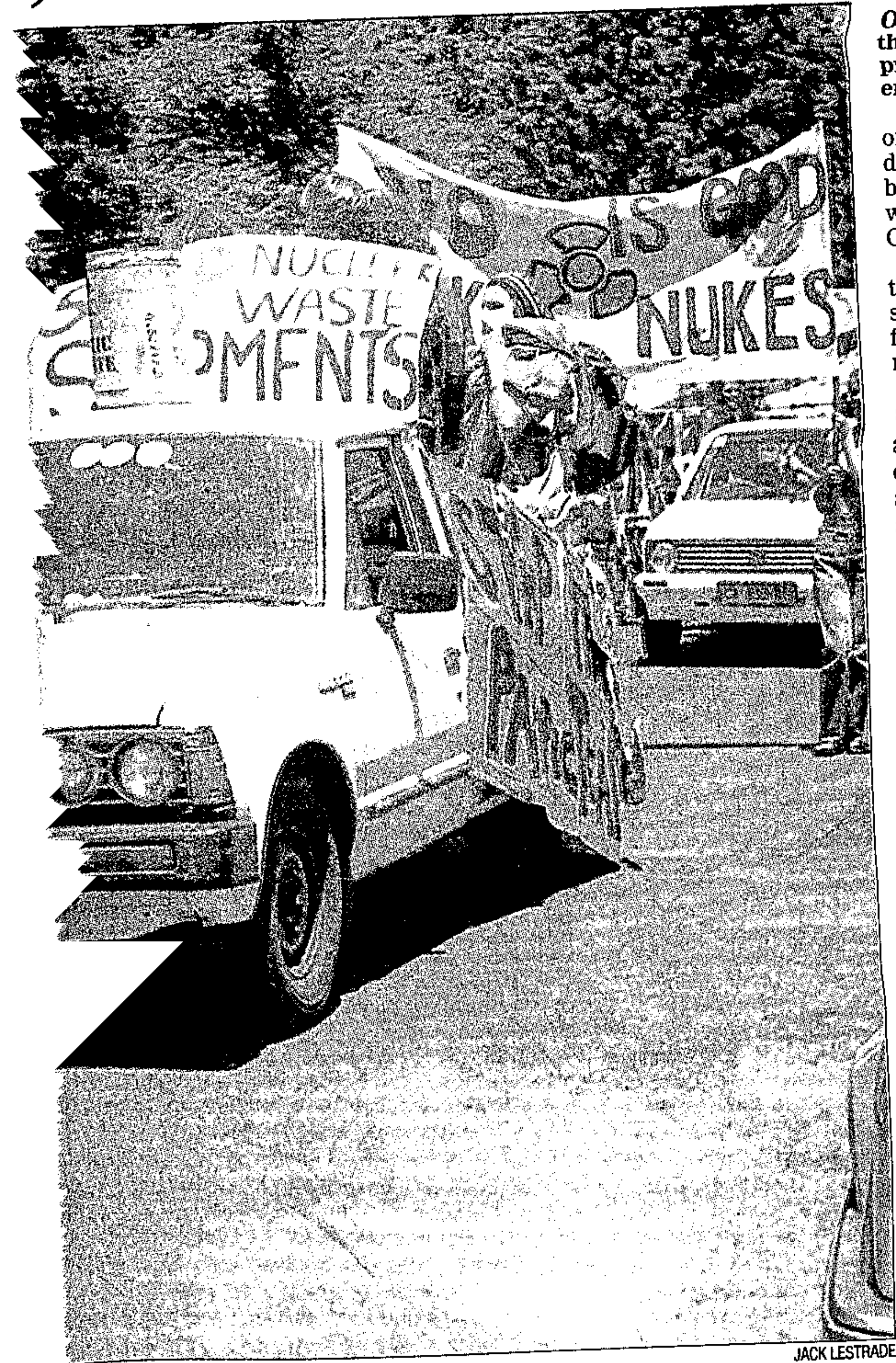
After rounding the Cape, the Pacific Teal's route will take it south across the Indian Ocean, around Australia and then north through the islands of the south Pacific towards Japan.

According to British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), one of the companies involved in the shipment, the voyage typically takes six to eight weeks. The ship is capable of completing each voyage without having to stop at any port en route.

clear products is a heated one with
Malan examines the issue.

Cape in nuke vessel

(56) ARG 1/2/97
t, owners say nothing to fear



JACK LESTRADE

ment the Pacific Teal is carrying. They called on the Government to ban future shipments

On board the Pacific Teal is some of the most radioactive waste ever produced by mankind, says environmental watchdog Greenpeace.

The Pacific Teal's cargo, they say, is only the second attempt ever to ship such deadly waste material - the previous one being the voyage of the Pacific Pintail, which sailed from France to Japan around Cape Horn in 1995.

They said the material was so deadly that a person coming within a metre of a single unshielded glass block would get a fatal dose of radiation in less than a minute.

Greenpeace said there were serious shortcomings in the transport and safety arrangements, compounded by the Japanese, French and British shroud of secrecy around the ship's movements and their arrogant disregard for the public and the authority of sovereign states.

The organisation claimed Japan's "re-processing strategy" was part of an ambitious programme to procure plutonium, which can be used in nuclear weapons.

It is estimated that a total of 1 280 tons of glassified waste would have to be transported to Japan and that this was just a small portion of the waste actually produced during re-processing - the rest being discharged in to the air, ground and sea.

It is also alleged that safety considerations doing the voyages had been seriously jeopardised by cost-cutting and secrecy.

Greenpeace said standards laid down by the International Atomic Energy Agency dictated that casks used to transport the glass canisters had to be able to withstand an 800deg/C fire for 30 minutes.

"But fires at sea burn for an average of 20 to 23 hours at temperatures in excess of 1 100deg/C. These glaring shortcomings have led independent experts to suggest that marine accidents involve significant forces and outcomes that appear to exceed the limits of the standards to which the casks are designed."

The group said a damaged and sunken waste ship could cause chronic exposure to the public far in excess of standards set by the international community. "Ultimately, communities affected by such an accident could face mass evacuations and massive decontamination efforts."

Jordan silent as nuke ship nears Cape

SA navy awaits orders

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

Environmental Affairs and Tourism minister Pallo Jordan is facing mounting pressure to take a strong stand against the shipment of nuclear waste around the South African coast.

The British registered vessel Pacific Teal, carrying about 14 tons of nuclear waste, is expected to round the Cape this weekend on its way to Japan.

The shipment has sparked protests around the globe and environmental groups have put pressure on the Government to publicly condemn the shipment.

But although the chairman of the portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism, Gwen Mahlangu, spoke out strongly against the shipment and has urged the ministry to do the same, by yesterday no statement had been issued by the ministry.

Dr Jordan apparently decided to stick to an earlier statement, released before Christmas, which said that he had been briefed on the "extensive range of safety measures" and was confident there was very little likelihood of the shipment having any impact on South Africa and South African waters.

This is in stark contrast to the official ANC view condemning the transport of nuclear waste.

Ms Mahlangu told Saturday Argus: "The minister's silence on this issue is implying exactly the opposite. I don't know what is holding him back."

She said she had also warned the deputy minister of environmental affairs and

tourism, Peter Mokaba, that the ministry's silence was creating a lot of suspicion.

Greenpeace nuclear campaigner Diederik Samsom said the South African Government's half-hearted response was creating the impression that the route around the Cape of Good Hope was the route of least resistance and that it could therefore soon become the route of choice for the shipment of nuclear waste between Japan and Europe.

"Dr Jordan would be justified in banning any ship from South Africa's exclusive economic zone," Mr Samsom said.

But he stressed that the South African Government should see that the restriction is enforced by sending out a warship or an aircraft to monitor the ship's position.

The South African Navy confirmed this week that it had ships on standby to meet the Pacific Teal and make sure it stayed outside

the exclusive economic zone.

"We are just waiting for an order from the Minister of Environmental Affairs. We can have a crew out at sea within four hours," navy spokesperson Lilla du Preez said.

Earlier on in the Pacific Teal's voyage a Portuguese naval vessel was put to sea to guarantee that the ship did not enter Portuguese waters.

The New Zealand and Malaysian governments have condemned the transport and demanded that the ship not enter the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of their countries. Earlier Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay jointly declared their opposition to the controversial shipment.

'The minister could justifiably ban any ship from the exclusive economic zone'

56

ARG 1/2/97

SA's stand on toxic waste ship is hailed

ANTI-NUCLEAR campaigners Greenpeace and the Environmental Justice Network Forum (EJNF) yesterday welcomed the stand taken by Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Peter Mokaba over the shipment of nuclear waste round the Cape.

Mokaba, in a faxed message to Greenpeace International representatives on Friday, "reiterated the opposition" of the South African government to the shipment of toxic waste. He was commenting on the imminent arrival off the South African coast of the British ship Pacific Teal, which is carrying a cargo of plutonium waste from France to Japan.

"Notwithstanding assurances given regarding the safety measures taken and the commitment that Pacific Teal will indeed keep out of our waters as she would sail at 300 nautical miles from our coast, it must be stated that trans-boundary movement of hazardous and toxic substances remains a dangerous enterprise that all civilised nations must seek to ban," Mokaba said, describing the trade as "immoral".

"No nation must enjoy the right to expose another to danger. Whether within or outside the specific Exclusive Economic Zone, any accident relating to nuclear or toxic substances will have a detrimental effect to the marine resources," Mokaba said.

"We applaud the statement issued by the SA government," Greenpeace representative Diderik Samson said in Cape Town. "In issuing this statement the government has acted to defend the environment and public health of the people of South Africa from the nuclear threat posed by France, Japan and the United Kingdom."

The anti-nuclear campaign committee of the EJNF, welcoming Mokaba's stand, called on the government to monitor closely the ship's course by air or naval surveillance. Greenpeace claims the waste is so deadly that a person within one metre of an unshielded waste block would receive a fatal dose of radiation. — Sapa

Row brews over nuclear ship

(56) SAN 3/2/97

Greenpeace urges Government to speak out over perceived breach of ban by waste-carrying vessel, which was inside SA's exclusive economic zone last night

SAPA
Cape Town

The nuclear waste carrier Pacific Teal was still inside South Africa's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) late last night and heading in a southeasterly direction, Greenpeace International spokesman Diederik Samson said.

The British-flagged carrier is transporting 40 blocks of vitrified plutonium waste, which is a by-product of the separation of weapons-usable plutonium from Japanese irradiated nuclear reactor fuel processed at the French La Hague reprocessing plant.

Samson said continuing monitoring indicated that although the carrier was being followed by a South African naval vessel, it was "still far inside South Africa's EEZ and was not being chased out".

The governments and nuclear industries of France, Britain and Japan, which were involved in the shipment of nuclear waste from France to Japan, had given the assurance that the ship would remain at least 300 nautical miles off South Africa's shores, he said.

Despite the assurance, the ship was about 160 to 170 miles off the coast. "What we are now publicly stating is that we need to know what South Africa is doing about this, which is a clear breach of any ban placed on the ship," Samson said.

"We are urging the South African Government to speak up about it."

A spokesman at the SA Navy's maritime intelligence unit in Cape Town refused to comment last night, saying information would be available this morning.

"We do monitor vessels, but

we are not allowed to give any information out," she said.

According to foreign news agency reports, an South African naval vessel had been following the Pacific Teal since Saturday as part of "routine monitoring" and did not force it to change course.

A navy spokesman was quoted as saying the navy could only intercept a ship inside South Africa's territorial waters, which is 12 nautical miles (20km) from shore.

Samson earlier said Environmental Affairs and Tourism Deputy Minister Peter Mokaba and the chairman of the parliamentary environmental affairs and tourism committee, Gwen Mahlangu, would arrive in Cape Town soon for talks with Greenpeace International.

In a faxed message to Greenpeace International representatives on Saturday, Mokaba

"reiterated the opposition" of the South African Government to the trans-border shipment of toxic waste.

He said trade in such waste remained immoral and always involved lack of sensitivity towards the people of the en-route nations.

Greenpeace claims the material carried by the ship is so deadly that a person within a metre of a single unshielded waste block would receive a fatal dose of radiation in less than a minute.

A spokesman for the anti-nuclear group Environmental Justice Network Forum called yesterday for the strongest possible action by the Government, saying diplomatic protests should be lodged with the representatives in South Africa of the governments of France, Britain and Japan.

Koeberg to expand capacity to store spent nuclear fuel

Linda Ensor

BD 3/2/97
CAPE TOWN — Koeberg's capacity to store spent nuclear fuel was almost fully utilised and the power utility would invest R80m in expanding capacity, Eskom spokesman Gina Lamparelli said at the weekend.

New high-density storage racks would be installed by next year. These would be able to store all the spent fuel used by the station through its full life-span of 40 years. Koeberg's first unit became operational in April 1984 and its second in July 1985.

Unlike other countries such as Japan, which had sent its spent fuel to either France or Britain for reprocessing, SA had not taken a decision about the future use of its spent fuel.

Lamparelli said Koeberg could store 728 spent fuel assemblies in each unit. A total of 527 assemblies were stored in the spent fuel pool of unit one and 475 assemblies in the pool of unit two. The assemblies were stored underwater to shield operators from radioactive particles in the fuel and to allow cooling.

Koeberg would produce about 3 000 fuel assemblies in its lifespan.

The spent fuel lost 99% of its radioactive content during the first 10 years in storage. However, radioactivity would remain for up to 100 years.

SA did not produce sufficient spent fuel to warrant a reprocessing plant and the glut of uranium internationally meant there was no demand for it.

A decision on a plant would have to emerge from discussions with all industry role players, Lamparelli said.

Apart from spent fuel, Koeberg also produced solid waste with low levels of radioactivity, such as discarded gloves, overalls and broken tools.

These were compressed into steel drums and taken to Vaalputs in Namaqualand, where they were buried in deep trenches covered with clay to prevent water seepage.

Intermediate level waste contained, for example, in filters and resins, was compressed into steel-lined concrete drums and also taken to Vaalputs. This material would take about 200 to 300 years to decay.

Committee given more clout to fill Wits hot seat

(56) / Star 4/2/97

Plan is for new vice-chancellor to be named in time to work with Charlton before he goes at end of year

By EDWIN NAIDU

The University of the Witwatersrand's selection committee is to start the search for a new vice-chancellor shortly, buoyed by its newfound extra powers to head-hunt any individual it considers fit to lead the institution into the 21st century.

The committee will also be asked to make appointments for three vacant deputy vice-chancellor positions, for terms of between 18 months and three years.

These developments follow the shock withdrawal of vice-chancellor-designate Professor Sam Nolutshungu last month because of "poor health".

The university's council and the Forum for Accelerated Transformation (Ffact) have agreed to give the selection committee more muscle to enable its members to come up with a list of names who could be interviewed by April or, at the latest, May.

Apart from calling for further applications in newspaper advertisements, the committee will identify possible candidates and include them on the list, said Ffact co-chairman Professor Shadrack Gutto.

He said previous applicants, including Wits Professor June Sinclair and the University of the North's Professor Njabulo Ndebele, would have to reapply if they wish to be considered.

Gutto said various structures had pledged to stick to the original process set up more than a year ago to search for a vice-chancellor and deputy vice-chancellors.

Ffact had dismissed calls from certain quarters that since Sinclair and Ndebele had appeared before the university community, they need not do so again.

Gutto said Ffact and the university's council had decided, after consultation with various groups, to kick-start the entire process because, despite Nolutshungu's withdrawal, the process itself had been a success.

He said advertisements would go out shortly and that the university's selection committee had been given additional powers to head-hunt suitable candidates and also proceed with applications for the three vacant deputy vice-chancellor positions.

He said Ffact and council expected the candidate chosen to be able to spend a few months working with Professor Robert Charl-

ton before he retires in December.

The new incumbent would have the bonus of having three new deputy vice-chancellors settled into their posts by then.

Meanwhile, students' representative council chairman Henrie van Vuuren said Sinclair and Ndebele were excellent candidates and should be automatically considered for the job.

South African Liberal Students Association spokesman Ken Morrison said the university would save a lot of time if it considered Sinclair and Ndebele for the position.

South African Students' Congress secretary-general Blessing Manale said Sasco believed that all eight who made the short-list should be interviewed.

He said Sasco would be opposed to Sinclair's nomination and would support Ndebele getting the job.

And in another development, council chairman Judge Fikile Bam confirmed that Professor Charles van Onselen and Professor Keith Bevan, both members of the group of academics involved in the clash with Professor William Makgoba a year ago, had resigned from the council.

Outcry over conservation funding deal

OWN CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: A major controversy is brewing over the Mpumalanga Parks Board's (MPB) decision to sell some of the country's "environmental crown jewels" to a foreign tourism company.

Internationally-respected conservationist Dr John Hanks has already resigned from the MPB as a result of the recent deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin Group.

In terms of an agreement announced late last year, Dolphin will take control of the commercial rights of several of Mpumalanga's prime tourist attractions, including the Blyde River Canyon, Pilgrim's Rest and the Songimvelo and

Manyeleti game reserves.

In return, Dolphin will pay for the MPB's budget deficit for the next 50 years and build new tourist camps for 2 000 people. MPB chief executive Mr Alan Gray said at the time that conservation faced an uncertain future without private sector intervention.

The Wildlife and Environment Society has sent strong objections to Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan, while the Natal Parks Board has also expressed misgivings about the Dolphin deal.

The Mpumalanga Parks Board could not be reached for comment yesterday, but chief executive Mr Alan Gray has scheduled a press conference here tomorrow to

respond to recent criticism.

However, Wildlife and Environment Society president Mr Dave Hatton said yesterday that the Mpumalanga board had been given a mandate to care for the province's parks on behalf of all South Africans.

The society is particularly concerned about the "murky" financial terms contained in the agreement and the lack of transparency.

"Conservation management decisions should be guided by sound management principles rather than profit-making motives," said Hatton. "We are appalled at the apparently secretive manner in which these decisions have been taken, without consulta-

tion with interested and affected parties.

"The MPB did not even consult with its own board members or Mpumalanga's environmental watchdog body, the Council for the Environment," he said.

The society also expressed concern that the deal could create a precedent in other provinces.

"The Eastern Cape is in a bigger financial shambles than Mpumalanga," said Hatton, "does this mean that they should sell the Wild Coast to the highest bidder?"

National Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said yesterday he would not be able to intervene as nature conservation was a provincial responsibility.

(56) CT 4/12/1970

Minister condemned

for nuke ship silence

'Why was ship allowed so close?'

(56)

STAFF REPORTERS

Earthlife Africa has condemned Tourism and Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan for his "deafening silence" at the intrusion of the nuclear waste ship Pacific Teal into South Africa's 200 mile exclusive economic zone.

After criticism of his silence on the issue, a spokeswoman for Dr Jordan said he would make a statement later today.

The ship has left South African waters en route to Japan after coming within 100 sea miles of the coast at the weekend.

There has been wide condemnation in environmental circles of Dr Jordan's failure so far to react to the breaching of the zone.

The South African Navy reported the ship's position as 36.54 degrees south, 21.41 degrees east at 8am yesterday and, according to calculations by Greenpeace, the vessel and its deadly cargo left South Africa's 200-mile exclusive economic zone at 3pm.

The governments and nuclear industries of France, Britain and Japan, who are involved in the shipment, gave the assurance that the ship would remain at least 300 miles off South Africa's coast but it was logged 140 miles off Cape Town at the weekend and, according to Greenpeace, was 100 miles off the coast at one stage.

Peter van Heusden of Earthlife Africa said Dr Jordan's silence about the threat the cargo posed to South Africa's oceans was deafening. He said his organisation wanted to know who was responsible for monitoring the progress of the vessel and why it was allowed to enter South Africa's exclusive economic zone.

"We reiterate our belief that the Pacific Teal is a threat to South Africans and our oceans. The high standards of protection demanded worldwide against nuclear contamination would mean that any accident, however minor, would have serious consequences to South Africa's fishing and tourism industries."

He also condemned the actions of those

in command of the ship, as they had breached their promise not to enter South African waters.

"To break an explicit promise to the people of South Africa shows their utter contempt for the safety of our citizens and oceans and raises a question over the truth of other assurances issued by the Japanese, French and British governments with regard to the vessel," he said.

However, environmental groups have praised the efforts of Gwen Mahlangu, chairwoman of the portfolio committee on the environment to secure action from the Government against shipments of nuclear waste across the world's oceans.

Appreciation was also shown for Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba's statement against the shipment of nuclear waste.

The vessel is transporting 40 blocks of vitrified plutonium waste, a by-product of the separation of weapons-usable plutonium from Japanese irradiated nuclear reactor fuel processed in France.

AKG 4/2/97

DP urges inquiry on secret parks deal

(56) BD 4/2/97

NELSPRUIT — Mpumalanga Democratic Party (DP) chairman Clive Hatch has called on premier Mathews Phosa to appoint a commission of inquiry into a secret deal granting commercial development rights in the province's parks to a Dubai-based group.

The deal was signed between the Dolphin group and the Mpumalanga Parks Board (MPB) in November, African Eye news service reported yesterday. It grants Dolphin exclusive rights for 50 years in the province's reserves.

MPB board member John Hanks resigned after the contract was signed.

Meanwhile, special adviser to the Mpumalanga environmental affairs office Rupert Lorimer said yesterday his invitation to a forum on the deal had been withdrawn.

The public relations agency for the deal, GCI, said the meeting was intended only as a media briefing to correct misrepresentations about the deal. — Sapa.

Ship broke pledge: 'SA will remember'

(56)

BARRY STREEK

CT 5/2/97

THE failure by the nuclear-waste-carrying ship Pacific Teal to honour its agreement to keep at least 200 miles clear of our coastline "will inform South Africa's future response to the shipment of radio-active waste", the Environment Ministry said yesterday.

The closest position to the South African coastline that the ship had passed was on Tuesday when it was 90 nautical miles off the coast.

The ministry said it had been briefed on the ship's voyage and its cargo by a joint team representing the French, Japanese and British companies involved, in December 1996.

"At that time we were given undertakings that the craft would sail well clear of South Africa's Economic Exclusion Zone.

"In terms of international law South Africa has no authority to exclude vessels from its economic zone and South Africa made no attempt to drive this vessel beyond the 200-mile limit.

"However, it is the considered judgment of this ministry that undertakings given to us by the operators of the Pacific Teal have been broken."

EEJ...

Disclose details of plan, Tsogo Sun is told

Court blocks Mpumalanga casino plans (56)

ROY COKAYNE AND ANN CROTTY

CT(BR)5/2/97 (56)

Pretoria — The possible granting by the Mpumalanga Gaming Board of a casino licence in the Nelspruit area to preferred finalist Tsogo Sun has been put on hold.

This was the result of an interim order granted in the Pretoria supreme court yesterday in response to legal action by Karos Hotels and its gaming subsidiary, Esikhehleri, as well as by a group of Nelspruit businessmen. Tsogo Sun, which is Southern Sun's gaming subsidiary, was also granted preferred finalist status for the Witbank casino licence.

The Wild Life and Environmental Society of South Africa has lodged an objection to the development of a casino project by Tsogo Sun in that area because an environmental impact assessment has not been carried out by Tsogo Sun. According to the objection, Tsogo Sun is required by law to undertake such a study.

At this stage the province's only preferred finalist status that has not been challenged was granted to Global Resorts in Secunda.

According to Selwyn Hurwitz, the executive chairman of Karos, the action brought by Karos-Esikhehleri was based on the need to get access to details of Tsogo Sun's application. Hurwitz argued that the information available in the application was extremely scanty and it was therefore not possible to take a decision on whether

to lodge an objection. Hurwitz said in his affidavit that there appeared to be discrepancies in the public notices concerning the size of Tsogo Sun's proposed casino and the accompanying development.

Industry sources said all of the finalists who did not make it to preferred finalist status were keen to establish the size of Tsogo's proposed development as they believed this was the critical deciding factor. The original licence proposals from all the applicants contained extensive details, but this information was only made available to the Gaming Board. The final application contained comparatively little information.

The Pretoria supreme court ordered that Tsogo Sun amend its application to provide the necessary information. Andre Walsenach, the chief executive of the Gaming Board, said the board would look at what could be provided, if "it is not confidential". He stressed that the board would not be able to provide the various parties with all the information as much of it was of a highly confidential nature.

Interested parties had 30 days from Friday January 17 to lodge objections to the preferred finalists' proposals. The lack of sufficient information from Tsogo Sun was immediately raised as an issue. The legal action brought by Nelspruit businessmen is based on the belief that the Tsogo Sun might not get rezoning permission.

CAPETONIANS' ATTITUDES 'MUST CHANGE'

Litter group to help city beat trash scourge



THE CITY will pay a high price if its litter problem is not solved, say experts. YAZEED FAKIER reports.

EFFORTS to reduce the increasing industrial waste and street litter choking the Peninsula daily could soon include steps to compel companies to carry out "waste audits" of manufacturing materials.

And researchers say the traditionally slack attitude of Capetonians to the disposal of litter must be challenged — and changed — if this tourist destination hopes to get a grip on trash.

South African local authorities spend some R8 million a year cleaning beaches to maintain them as prime tourist attractions and local initiatives are under way to keep a check on rubbish and the streets, suburbs and rivers clean.

The depth of feeling on the issue was highlighted last month when the city received a public slap from a regular US visitor.

In a letter to a local newspaper, Florida resident Ms Jane Campbell expressed her "disgust" at the "filthy" state of the city.

Drawing on Sir Francis Drake's description in 1580 of the Cape Peninsula as "the fairest Cape we saw in the whole circumference of the Earth", she says that today "I call it the filthiest and foulest I have seen in the world".

"The tourists pouring in must be as shocked as I am by the state of the city ... It is a slum," writes Campbell, who ends with the admission: "Come on Cape Town, clean up your city!"

Now, a plan to do just that, and make anti-litter campaigns more effective, has come to fruition with

the formation of the Marine Litter Network (MLN). The informal coalition includes representatives from Cape Nature Conservation, Sea Fisheries, Maitland, Blaauwberg and Cape Town municipalities, the Fairst Cape Association and concerned citizens.

Researchers say an often unrecognised fact is that most pollution generated on land by ordinary consumers is carried to Table Bay through our stormwater drainage systems.

In the greater Cape Town area, an alarming four million items of litter are carried daily in this way — aided by wind in summer and rain in winter — to our beaches, rivers and vlees. Plastics account for nearly half the figure.

"The common perception, however, is that the pollution that ends up on the beach is generated largely by beachgoers," says Ms Michelle Present, who is completing her masters degree in conservation biology at UCT.

"We need to work on the question of awareness, particularly that section of the adult population who are not well educated — and industry, who get away with murder in the way they pollute."

The MLN was spearheaded by New Zealand marine pollution researcher Ms Gael Arnold, who was invited by fellow UCT researcher Mr Peter Ryan to contribute to the project.

The MLN aims to work closely with the community to reduce the transfer of debris from land to sea via the stormwater system.

Ryan, who works at UCT's Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, says the economic impacts of marine pollution include the reduced tourist potential of heavily littered beaches and the "existence value" of litter-free oceans.

He notes in a newly compiled report on "plastic litter in marine systems" that while tourism is touted as an important vehicle for economic reconstruction in South Africa, "the country is well removed from lucrative foreign tourist source regions."

"If therefore has to rely on quality rather than quantity when promoting international tourism" and having beaches littered with debris, including potentially harmful medical and personal-care debris, "is not compatible with the image of unspoilt African land- and seascape."

In extreme cases, certain types of hazardous litter have resulted in the closure of beaches in Italy and New Jersey, hurting the local economy.

A survey of beachgoers in the Peninsula during the 1995-96 summer season showed that beach cleanliness was a major factor in choosing beaches for recreation.

"People were prepared to spend up to seven times more to travel to beaches perceived to be cleaner than other beaches," says Ryan.

The economic impact of beach litter was especially important among foreign respondents, who rated beach cleanliness highly, and saw it as an important criterion for choosing South Africa as a tourist destination.

Present says that at the moment "many companies are getting away with murder as far as dumping and pollution are concerned, compared with overseas, where companies are fined quite heavily."

She is drawing up strategies that



RUBBISH GALORE: Capetonians often forget that most of the rubbish not caught by the city's sanitation workers eventually ends up in the city's rivers, on its beaches and in the sea. This is a particularly bad day at Zeekovenlei.

eventually could be used in campaigns to induce companies to carry out "waste audits" as a matter of course.

"Companies could also start employing environmental officers and introduce incentives for the return of materials that they produce, for example."

She says it's important for

attitudes to change because the marine environment also suffers as a result of land-based pollution.

"It affects marine and bird life, which gets tangled up in plastics. The birds ingest plastics and if it affects marine life, it affects ecosystems and that would affect fish resources eventually because their environments become unbalanced."

There are consequences for everybody, there's a chain reaction."

Yet part of the solution may be closer than it appears. Arnold suggests the city's sanitation workers may be a valuable yet overlooked source of ideas on managing waste.

"When making decisions about rubbish," she says, "more attention

should be paid to the suggestions of people who actually clean up after us when we litter the streets; they often have ideas that could be quite innovative."

"After all, they know where the trash is being dumped, the nature of the trash, and so on — these are the people who work with the stuff every day of their lives."

Arnold (aware that she is a visitor and eager not to appear prescriptive lest she treads on some local corns) hopes that Capetonians will take to heart the slogan "Your trash goes to the beach — even if you don't!"

● The weekly Grappling with Change feature will be resumed from next Wednesday.

Parks board furore grows

Janet Parker

~~BO~~ (56)
BO 5/2/97
TENSION is mounting between the Mpumalanga Parks Board and environmental interest groups following the board's agreement to award Dolphin Group exclusive commercial rights for 50 years over some of Mpumalanga's environmental assets.

The Dubai-based Dolphin Group and board barred various interest groups from their news briefing and "open forum discussion" yesterday, also attended by the ANC Youth League, a community representative and organised business.

Those banned included members of the Mpumalanga Environmental Council and representatives from the Wildlife and Environment Society.

The council's Rupert Lorimer accused the board and Dolphin yesterday of "not allowing full discussion which may be adverse to their cause".

Lorimer reiterated that the award had not been seen by most board members before finalisation.

Representatives of the board and Dolphin said it appeared as if some parties wished to disrupt the news briefing.

Dolphin investigated

M+G 31/1 - 6/2/97 (56)

An Mpumalanga task team flies out to check the credibility of would-be nature reserve magnate amid claims of dubious deals overseas. **Justin Arenstein** reports

A MULTI-PARTY task team from the Mpumalanga legislature is visiting Kenya and Dubai to investigate allegations against the Dolphin Group, the company that was handed control over the province's prime nature reserves.

The allegations — discovered by the *Mail & Guardian* while conducting a company search on Dolphin with the international Reuters database — include links to banking scandals in Britain and Kenya, as well as possible involvement in fraudulent gold and diamond exports.

The task team, headed by environmental affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi and including senior members of the African National Congress and National Party in the province, left to conduct their own "due diligence" investigation this week.

The investigation was launched after the M&G disclosed aspects of the 50-year contract signed between Dolphin and the Mpumalanga Parks Board — designed to stay secret — that granted Dolphin wide-ranging exclusive commercial rights to at least six provincial reserves as well as other key attractions, such as the Blyde River Canyon and Pilgrim's Rest.

The team is expected to visit Dolphin offices in Kenya and Dubai to gauge the company's credibility and that of its president, Ketan Somaia.

According to articles in the database, both Dolphin and Somaia have been accused by the Bank of England of abusing banking principles after allegedly siphoning funds out of Kenya to buy controlling shares in Kenya's Block Hotels (the subsidiary which will operate hotels and lodges in Mpumalanga) and the Equatorial Bank in London.

Another Dolphin subsidiary, Delphis Bank, has been accused of failing to remit more than R749-million in foreign exchange to Kenya's Central Bank, and is instead accused of using the money to generate profits by buying Kenyan treasury bills.

Somaia created Delphis — classified as a "political bank" in Kenya because of its close links to President Daniel arap Moi and the ruling party — after taking over control of interests in Kenya and Mauritius held by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) when it collapsed in 1991.

Delphis and three other "political banks" were also investigated by the Kenyan government for allegedly participating in a gold and diamond

THE Mpumalanga government has handed over its main natural assets to an unknown foreign company and has promised not to talk about the deal for 50 years.

The contract which has been leaked to the *Mail & Guardian* allows the mysterious Dolphin Group to plunder the province's tourist attractions in a deal which has enraged conservationists.

Since the extraordinary deal was

How the M&G broke the story

exporting scheme headed by a Kenyan businessman who shared the same Nairobi office block as Dolphin, Kamlesh Pattni and his company, Goldenberg.

Between November 1990 and December 1992, Pattni claimed to have exported more than R343-million of gold and diamond jewellery from Kenya to companies in Switzerland and Dubai.

For this effort he was paid a R119-million bonus by the Kenyan government — a system devised allegedly to encourage exports. Instead of the usual 20%, the government curiously undertook to pay Pattni 34%.

But the exports were fake. Kenya produces no diamonds and very little gold, all of which is panned by hand. The Switzerland companies Goldenberg claimed to deal with were not registered there and did not appear in the phone books.

When Goldenberg was paid out its export bonus in Kenya shillings, it used the money to buy foreign currency on the Kenya market, sending the shilling plummeting by almost 50% and severely rocking the Kenyan economy.

Delphis was one of three banks that lent money to the Exchange Bank, which Pattni set up to move the foreign currency and which handled sums far in excess of the official limits. The others, the Trade Bank and Post Bank Credit, were closed and some officers arrested, but Delphis survived. No evidence was found that Delphis knew of the scam or of the illicit transactions.

Dolphin has since, however, moved its base to Dubai and its registration from the Isle of Man and Guernsey to Bermuda, an ownership structure banking sources say allows Dolphin to disclose only a minimum amount of information about its activities to British and Kenyan regulators.

The Mpumalanga Parks Board does not appear to have discovered any of this information while re-

searching Dolphin. A board representative said this week: "We did our homework, including a trip to Kenya to visit Dolphin facilities."

The parks board's chief executive, Alan Gray, refused to speak to the M&G this week, saying he was afraid the press would begin "playing the man and not the ball".

According to the deal with Dolphin, which was signed without public consultation on November 1 last year, Dolphin will pay the parks board's budget deficit over the next 50 years, in return for the monopoly of state-owned conservation areas in Mpumalanga.

Gray estimates Dolphin will have to pay the parks board at least R12,2-billion over that period, with a further R55-billion in business spin-offs for the province.

Environmentalists and critics of the Dolphin scheme stress that their objections to the deal are not based on opposition to the commercial development of public parks but rather on Dolphin's credentials and the lack of public consultation.

Leading provincial environmentalists such as Dr Sue Hart point to the "alarming" international media and business reputation of Dolphin and its president, as reflected in news reports in Britain, Kenya and on Reuters: "At the very least, as a point of honour, thorough research on Dolphin should have been done before even sitting down to negotiate with them. After all, 50 years is practically forever for most people."

● The chairman of Kenya's Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, Michael Wamalwa, said this week Somaia had never been accused of fraud in Kenya, as reported in the M&G two weeks ago.

Somaia was summonsed to testify before Wamalwa's committee in connection with two companies that defaulted on a R35-million armaments tender with the government, and which were thought to be connected to Somaia.

No official link could be established between Somaia and the two companies, said Wamalwa. But the committee had still forwarded an official recommendation to Parliament that a resolution be passed that the government never again enter into any contracts or tenders with Somaia or any company even slightly related to him.

The recommendation will be debated in March. Wamalwa was confident it would be adopted.

(56) (288)

CT(BR)6/2/97

Minister probes secret parks deal

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

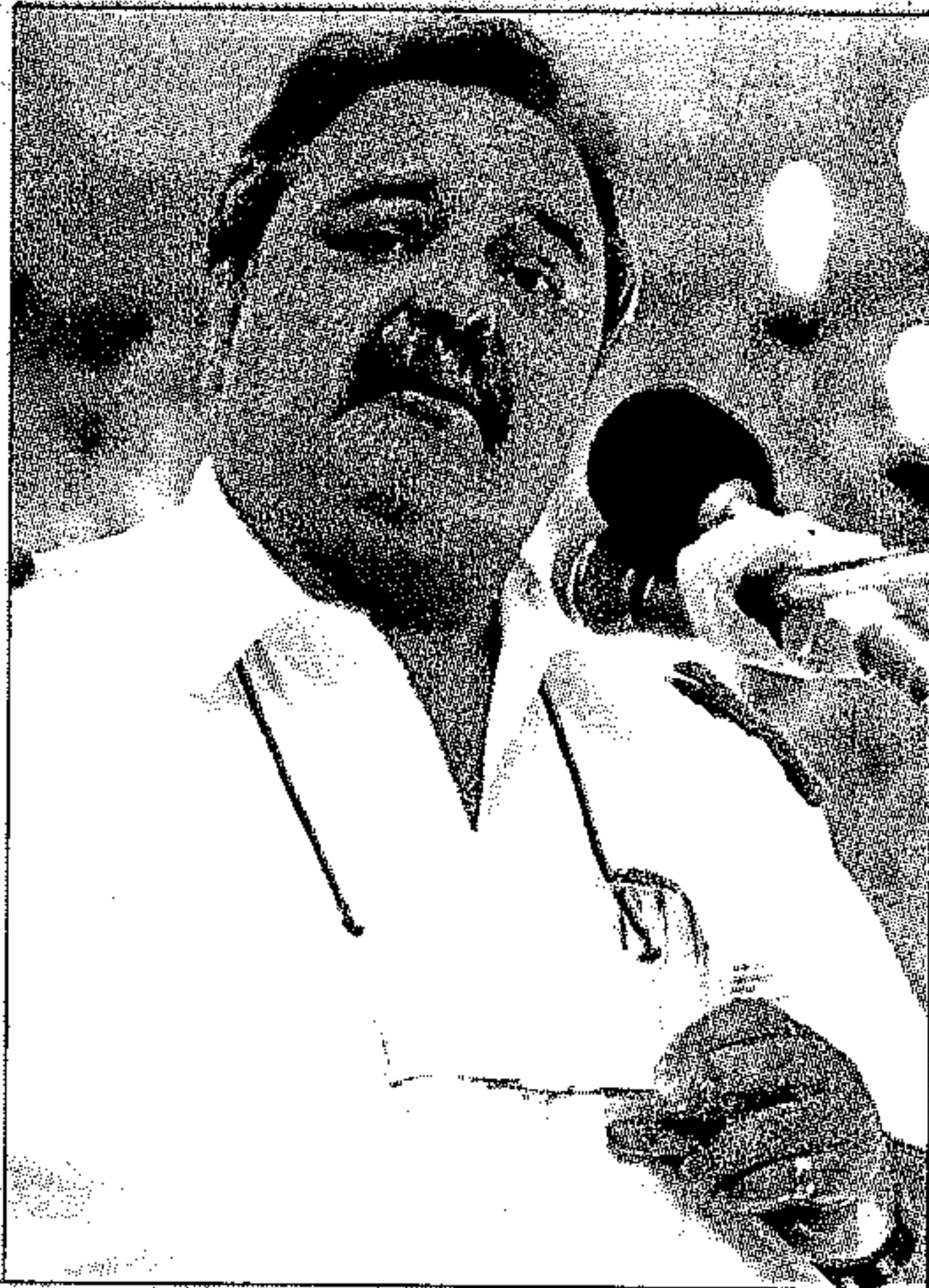
Johannesburg — An inquiry was launched yesterday into the effective sale of development rights to the Dolphin group of Mpumalanga's natural parks, by David Mkhwanazi, the province's environmental affairs minister, amid new allegations that the deal was unconstitutional.

The Dubai-based Dolphin group struck the secretive deal, which entailed the parks board selling the rights to Blyde River Canyon, Songimvelo, Pilgrim's Rest and Manyaleti parks for 50 years. Dolphin agreed to assume the parks board's budget deficit for the next 50 years and to invest up to R400 million in developing the reserves over the next three years.

The deal has come under fire from communities around the affected parks, some of whom have pending land claims against the parks, and environmentalists.

Communities around Blyde River, Manyaleti game reserve and Loskop dam are believed to have submitted land claims.

Mkhwanazi said yesterday that he would form a specialist team to deal with concerns raised by "interest groups in the recent past". The members of team would be announced within the next few days, and the team would be asked to report within the next 30 days. Although he defended the project as fundamentally sound,



COMMITMENT Alan Gray seeks responsible and sustainable development PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF



CRUSADER Environmentalist Rupert Lorimer is opposed to the deal PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

Mkhwanazi said some clauses could be "perceived to be insensitive to environmental and economic interests, especially that of local groups within the province". He said his political intervention was motivated by the need for "local ownership of the project, transparency and the real need for development in the province".

Geoff Budlender, the director-general of the land affairs department, said this week the department was hoping to bro-

ker a negotiated solution to the pending land claims between communities and the parks board. But legal representatives of affected communities said yesterday they were advising their clients to use the courts. Melinda Swift, a fieldworker with the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, an advice body, said she was advising communities to file their land claims as soon as possible.

Catherine Warburton, an environmental lawyer working for

the Wildlife Society, said the deal with Dolphin could be unconstitutional as it had been concluded in secret and threatened to undermine the constitutional rights of land claimants.

Alan Gray, the chairman of the parks board, yesterday reiterated his commitment to the deal as the only possible option to ensure "responsible and sustainable development" and conservation for the parks.

□ Business Watch, Page 16



LEON MULLER

Dump inspector: commission members inspect the AECI sulphur dump in Somerset West, site of the December 1995 fire in which two asthmatics lost their lives

R200 000 for AECI fire probe

Hearings investigating cause, impact of disaster

NORMAN JOSEPH

STAFF REPORTER

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is forking out about R200 000 to finance the commission investigating the 1995 sulphur fire at AECI in Somerset West.

President Mandela appointed the commission, which is headed by Mr

Justice Siraj Desai.

Commission secretary Bruce Fenn said the department was funding the hearings in the Macassar Civic Centre "in the interest of the community" and to help the Macassar Crisis Committee.

The commission is probing the origin and establishment of the sulphur stockpile at the AECI site, the events leading up to fire and its cause, its

impact on neighbouring communities and the environment, and the adequacy of the emergency response to the disaster.

Yesterday Judge Desai, commissioners Colin Johnstone and Barney de Villiers, commission advocate Jeff Immerman, crisis committee attorneys Lee Bozalek and Vincent Saldanah and Department of Trade and Industry attorneys Donald Jacobs and

Anthony Dunning inspected the site of the fire before adjourning until February 24.

Mr Fenn said final argument would be heard on March 5 and 6 before a final report was made and submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Mr Mandela. Two asthmatics lost their lives during the fire in December 1995 and Macassar was evacuated.

AR 6/2/97

(51) (1997)

Dolphin Group deal raises ire of conservationists

Josey Ballenger

THE Mpumalanga Parks Board (MPB) clashed with a group of environmentalists, lawyers and community members yesterday regarding its 50-year agreement with the Dolphin Group to commercialise certain park areas.

Community members complained of the lack of community consultation in the deal-making, while environmentalists and lawyers objected to the "secret" deal on conservation grounds.

In terms of an agreement signed and announced last November, two of Dubai-based Dolphin's subsidiaries, Block Hotels and the United Touring Company, planned to develop tourism in the area in exchange for underwriting the parks board's budget.

"The whole (deal-making) process was not transparent, there was no public tender, the deal was concluded in secret and many people in some of the communities did not know about it," Mpumalanga Environmental Council member

Rupert Lorimer said.

Board CE Alan Gray, who was not present, said last night the board had issued about 2 000 "portfolios of opportunity" last July. "We called for proposals, so it was widely publicised. With (this) type of arrangement ... you can't do a public tender. You have to get specific proposals."

Lorimer conceded that the board was "a statutory body, which divorces it somewhat from a normal government department", and interpretation was unclear.

BD 6/2/97 (56)

Dolphin deal outrages Blyde communities

(56)

MHG 7-13/2/97

Justin Arenstein

AUTOCRATIC management and a failure to consult with affected rural communities is threatening Mpumalanga's revolutionary attempts to make its conservation areas pay for themselves.

It was with the future of its conservation areas in mind that the Mpumalanga Parks Board granted commercial management of its reserves, which are largely undeveloped and which cost millions to run, to the controversial Dubai-based Dolphin Group for 50 years — in return for an estimated R12,2-billion contribution to the Mpumalanga Parks Board's budget.

The purpose of the move was to make the board self-sufficient within 10 years and to relieve the government of its current R55-million a year subsidy.

But the deal with Dolphin, and the failure of the parks board to consult, has outraged land claim activists, conservation organisations and affected communities.

A large media briefing, held this week in an attempt by the board and Dolphin to assuage their critics, only worsened the situation when a number of officials, including the land commissioner-elect of Mpumalanga, Durkje Gilfillian, were "disinvited" from the event by the board's public relations consultants.

Lucky Ngwenya, spokesman for the Sangeco Forum, lambasted critics and the press for threatening his community's chance at jobs and development opportunities.

But Sam Mashego, chairman of a land development committee in the Blyde River region, and the only other community representative present, said that he had been completely unaware of the deal until the previous day, when he was invited to attend the conference.

The three villages represented by Mashego have laid claim to land on and near the Bourke's Luck Pot Holes.

Dolphin reportedly has targeted the pot holes as one of its lead development projects.

"I cannot tell you where we stand on this whole issue because the meeting today was my first introduction to the idea," Mashego said.

"But our communities are desperately in need of roads, clinics and

other infrastructure and if a foreign company wants to lease some of our land from us, then we would be prepared to at least listen to them."

When the *Mail & Guardian* visited the Blyde River Canyon on Sunday, many in the affected communities knew nothing of the deal.

Those who did likened it to their forced evictions under the apartheid regime.

Moletele induna and affected community leader, Enos Chyloane, stressed that any attempt to cede commercial rights without consultation would be resisted.

"It is widely known that we want our land back," he said. "In 1965, when the government bulldozed our homes and destroyed our community by scattering our people as far away as Pretoria and Groblersdal, we had no voice.

"Today, things have changed and if anyone tries to steal our heritage again, they will hear our anger."

He rejected the notion of anyone enjoying 50 years of exclusive commercial control over the Blyde River Reserve or the nearby Blyde River Dam.

Winus Mashile, regional chairman of the Land Access Movement of South Africa, a land-reform committee co-ordinating land claims in the Blyde area by the Moletele, Mashilane and Siklari communities, says that the board's greatest blunder was its failure to consult.

"People are giving our rights away without first speaking to us," he said.

Both Chyloane and Mashile insist that the proceeds of any leases be paid directly to their communities. The parks board, they said, should be paid only for environmental management of the reserves.

Tourism operators, although critical of the board and Dolphin, still support commercialisation of the board's reserves.

"Economic sustainability is the only chance our reserves and conservation in general has," says Alan Johnston, owner of Zambesi Spectacular, the only tour group that is operating in the Blyde River Canyon itself.

"This type of deal goes a long way to promoting that sustainability and also to increasing tourist numbers to the region."

From shilling millionaire to Mpumalanga parks dealer

(56) CT(MR) 7/2/97

JOE KHAMISI

Nairobi — Keitan Somaia, the billionaire businessman, is a self-declared fugitive from Kenya, his country of birth, and one of the main figures in the secretive multimillion-rand deal to wrest control of Mpumalanga parks from the provincial authorities for 50 years.

With extensive interests in East Africa, Somaia's foray into Mpumalanga with the Dubai-based Dolphin group, which is registered in the island of Bermuda, entails the province selling the rights to Blyde River Canyon, Songimvelo, Pilgrim's Rest and Mayaleti parks for half a century. In return, Dolphin has agreed to assume the Parks Board's deficit for the next 50 years and invest up to R400 million in the development of the parks.

The deal for the parks was closed within nine weeks, a not unsurprising timeframe given Somaia's reputation as an aggressive businessman.

Somaia fled Kenya about three years ago to escape queries by the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) about lucrative deals involving defence equipment ordered by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi's office. Now in his early forties, Somaia became a shilling millionaire when he was 30 through a series of corporate raids on companies controlled by fellow Asian Kenyans.

Earlier this week David Mkhawanazi, Mpumalanga's environmental affairs minister, belatedly launched an inquiry into the deal amid allegations that the deal was unconstitutional because some communities had pending land claims

against the parks. The deal was also attracting a growing lobby of environmentalists opposed to the deal; and the speed with which the deal was done has raised questions to its transparency. The office of Mathews Phosa, the premier, of Mpumalanga, has become reticent to comment on it.

Somaia's meteoric rise from a hardware merchant in the Lake Victoria town of Kisumu to a franchise holder for French-built Peugeot motors quickly attracted attention from political players. These were later to help him win a

400 million shilling deal to supply security equipment to the office of the president.

But his ability to juggle deals simultaneously saw him acquire interests ranging from a casino in Nairobi to the United Touring Company — believed to be the largest safari outfit in Kenya — and the Delphis Bank, which he created from the disgraced Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

BCCI was closed after it was linked to worldwide money laundering activities.

suave, shrewd and extremely amiable, Somaia is known to transform difficult negotiations into walkover deals because of his easy charm and incisive knowledge of international corporate wheels and deals.

It is these qualities, Kenyan analysts say, that may have endeared him to Mpumalanga's political leadership.

He transforms difficult negotiations into walkover deals by means of his charm

He is worth \$1 billion, and is thus one of corporate Africa's wealthiest men

"Somaia is obviously taking advantage of people who may not have the kind of negotiating skills he possesses," a Kenyan business executive says. "But that is typical Somaia."

In a profile of his investments, Somaia says he is worth \$1 billion, making him undoubtedly one of corporate Africa's wealthiest men.

During the difficult years of price and foreign exchange controls in Kenya in the 1980s, Somaia's takeover bids were reportedly settled overseas in foreign currency to circumvent government restrictions.

But when he was adversely mentioned by government auditors for allegedly receiving millions of shillings of public money for security equipment he had not supplied, Somaia conveniently shifted base to London from Dubai.

The PAC, which wanted to interview him on the deal, sent him three summonses to return to Kenya and answer a series of questions. But, using influential connections, he has sidestepped them to this day.

Opposition leaders claim senior Kenya government officials visiting London often call at his office. But these allegations have not been proved.

At present there is a political debate in Kenya on whether Somaia has been exonerated from that deal. The security equipment in question has not been identified, but sources say it consisted of electronics and other security gadgets.

Recently, Somaia is said to have written a letter to Michael

Wamalwa, the PAC chairman and opposition Ford Kenya party chairman, requesting a letter of good conduct.

In his reply, reported in the Kenyan media, Wamalwa was said to have assured Somaia that he was no longer required to appear before the committee since the office of the president had confirmed receipt of 80 per cent of the equipment ordered. But other members of the PAC said the probe was continuing and Somaia was still a wanted witness.

Highly placed Kenyan officials claim Somaia wanted the letter to support the application from his Bermuda-registered Dolphin group for the purchase of Mpumalanga's parks.

Alan Gray, the chief executive of the Mpumalanga Parks Board, this week alluded to the letter, saying he

had documentary evidence exonerating Somaia of any wrongdoing. But Kenyan papers yesterday reported that Wamalwa had apologised to members of the public accounts committee for drafting the letter.

South African environmentalists have also begun to question possible links between Gray, who has business interests in Mpumalanga, including a share in a helicopter charter company, and Sean MacMurray, a Nelspruit businessman.

MacMurray has cut several hotel deals, including one for the sale of Nelspruit's Promenade Hotel, with the Dolphin group. MacMurray also leases offices to the Parks Board, which sources claim are rented out at above market rates — a claim that is denied by Gray. — Independent Foreign Service

'Somaia is taking advantage of people who don't have his kind of skills'

UK nuke firm denies sail-clear assurance

56

Star 8/2/97

By PIETER MALAN

Cape Town - The British company responsible for the transport of nuclear waste between France and Japan has denied promising the Government that the ship carrying the waste would sail clear of South Africa's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Pallo Jordan, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, has reacted angrily to the claim by British Nuclear Fuel plc (BNFL) that it gave no such undertaking, saying he would take it up with the company officials involved.

Earlier this week Jordan said he had been fully briefed by representatives from the French, Japanese and British companies involved and they had given undertakings that the craft would sail "well clear of the EEZ".

But Peter Osborne, a spokesman for BNFL, denied that the company had given any reassurances regarding EEZ entry. He told the *Saturday Star* that BNFL had used three routes in the past to move nuclear materials: around Cape Horn, through the Panama Canal and around the Cape of Good Hope.

"It is important to use all three to ensure that our crews are familiar with these routes."

He said the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea stated that any ship had the right of free passage anywhere in the world. Jordan,

however, stood firmly by his earlier statement that the companies gave the assurance at a meeting held in December. A statement released last week by Deputy Environment Minister Peter Mokaba had even stated that the operators of the ship had promised to stay 300 nautical miles (530km) off the SA coast.

Pressure is also mounting on the Government to make an even stronger stand in view of another shipment expected later this year. Greenpeace nuclear campaigners met with Mokaba before they left Cape Town this week to discuss SA government action in this regard.

Greenpeace campaigner Diederik Samsom said the meeting had been "very fruitful". "Mr Mokaba told us he would explore ways to put laws into place which would ban any such shipments passing through South Africa's EEZ."

Last weekend the Pacific Teal, carrying radioactive plutonium waste, came within 90 nautical miles (160km) of the SA coast. The ship was closely followed by a minesweeper of the SA Navy on its passage through the EEZ.

The ship carried 40 cylinders of plutonium waste encased in glass blocks weighing about 800kg each and loaded in two shielded containers. Greenpeace said a person coming within a metre of an unshielded cylinder would receive a fatal dose of radiation in less than a minute.



PETER MOKABA: Had talks with Greenpeace

It's a toxic wind that blows assurances away

Row over Pacific Teal sours relations between SA and British, French companies

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

The British company responsible for the transport of nuclear waste between France and Japan has denied that they ever promised the South African Government that the ship carrying the waste would sail clear of the country's exclusive economic zone.

The latest development in the row surrounding the shipment of nuclear waste around the Cape is set to sour relations even further between the South African Government and the British and French companies responsible for the shipment of the waste.

Pallo Jordan, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, has reacted angrily to the claim by British Nuclear Fuel plc (BNFL) that it had given no undertaking that the Pacific Teal would not enter exclusive economic zone, saying he would definitely take it up with the company officials involved.

Earlier this week Dr. Jordan said in a statement he had been fully briefed by representatives from the French, Japanese

and British companies involved and that they had given undertakings that the craft would sail "well clear of South Africa's exclusive economic zone".

But BNFL spokesman Peter Osborne denied having given any assurances regarding entry into the economic zone.

Mr Osborne told Saturday Argus they had used three routes in the past to transport nuclear materials: around Cape Horn,

International law guarantees safe passage of nuclear waste ships

In terms of international maritime law the Pacific Teal, the ship carrying nuclear waste through South Africa's exclusive economic zone last weekend, had every right to do so, says marine law expert Jan Glazewski.

Mr Glazewski, associated with the Institute of Marine Law at the University of Cape Town, said it was even debatable whether a country had the right to ban such a ship from its territorial waters.

The economic zone is a stretch of water 200 nautical miles wide in which a country

through the Panama Canal and around the Cape of Good Hope. "It is important to use all three routes to ensure that our ships and crews are familiar with them."

He said the United Nations convention of the Law of the Sea stated that any ship had the right of free passage anywhere in the world.

However, Dr Jordan stood firmly by his earlier statement that the companies had

given him the assurance that the ship would stay outside the exclusive economic zone.

A statement released last week by deputy environment minister Peter Morkaba even stated that the operators of the ship had promised to stay 300 nautical miles off the South African coast.

Pressure is mounting on the Government to make an even stronger stand

has exclusive economic rights, such as fishing and mining rights.

Territorial waters only stretch 12 nautical miles off shore, and even in this zone any ship has the right of "innocent passage" in terms of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention.

Mr Glazewski said the convention also obliged a ship transporting nuclear or other dangerous substances to carry special documentation and to observe special precautionary measures when sailing through a country's territorial waters.

"It thus appears that the mere transportation of nuclear waste would not amount to a contravention of the innocent passage rule through the territorial sea."

He said it could, however, be argued that a country could adopt laws to prevent even the possibility of environmental damage in its territorial waters.

"However, this must be read in the context of the convention which stipulates that any such law must be in conformity with general rules of international law," said Mr Glazewski.

against the shipment of such waste in the face of another shipment expected later this year.

Greenpeace nuclear campaigners met Mr Morkaba before they left Cape Town this week to discuss government action to prevent another ship carrying nuclear waste from coming within South Africa's exclusive economic zone.

Greenpeace campaigner Diederik Sam-

"A coastal state has accordingly no power in international law to exclude hazardous cargoes from its territorial seas. It could, however, demand that precautionary measures be taken."

Mr Glazewski said although the convention also stipulated that a country had jurisdiction with regard to the protection of the marine environment within the economic zone, any suggestion that this might include a right to refuse a ship carrying nuclear waste sailing through the zone "has to be rejected".

som said the meeting with the deputy minister had been "very fruitful".

"Mr Morkaba told us he would explore ways to put laws into place which would ban any such shipments passing through the South African exclusive economic zone in future."

Last weekend the Pacific Teal, carrying radioactive plutonium waste, came within 90 nautical miles of the South African coast. The ship was closely followed by a SA navy minesweeper on its passage through the exclusive zone.

The ship carried 40 cylinders of plutonium waste encased in glass blocks weighing about 800 kilograms each and loaded in two shielded containers.

The waste is a by-product of the process during which plutonium is separated from spent nuclear fuel. The spent fuel originally came from Japan, was "reprocessed" in France and is now being shipped back to Japan.

Greenpeace said the waste was so deadly that a person coming within a metre of an unshielded cylinder would receive a fatal dose of radiation in less than a minute.

(56) ARLT 8/2/97

Bacteria in Sandpspruit now 100 times the limit

Such serious pollution poses a health hazard to residents in the area

By ANITA COX

Rivers and streams flowing through Sandton have become dangerously polluted and pose serious health hazards to residents living near the water or using it for recreational purposes.

Recent pollution measurements on samples from the Sandpspruit river, which flows through Sandton, of coliforms and e.coli - which indicate faecal pollution and the possibility of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery and other viruses - showed counts of up to 100 times above the Department of Water Affairs' ideal levels.

According to the department's regulations, any count above acceptable levels required immediate action to be taken as recreation, domestic and agricultural users, as well as aquatic life, would be affected. Warning signs needed to be erected on the banks of affected rivers.

Sandton resident Mark Falk has been monitoring a stream which runs in front of his Strathavon home and has found it to be constantly pol-

luted. The stream starts in the Wierda catchment area and runs into the Mushroom Farm dam in the heart of Sandton, then into the Sandpspruit River, the Braamfontein Spruit, the Jukskei River and eventually into Hartbeespoort Dam.

Falk said sewage flowed past his house almost daily

**Sewage
flowed past
house and
stench is
unbearable**

and the stench often became unbearable. He said the river became contaminated every time there was a blockage in a sewer which caused spillages into the rivers. Despite years of trying to get the council to repair this, nothing has been done so far, he claimed.

A visit to the Mushroom Farm dam by The Star revealed soapy bubbles floating on the water and bits of toilet paper stuck to the grass where

the dam had overflowed. The stench was unbearable.

"Levels of deterioration have become unacceptable to residents who live near the rivers and use parks. As a resident in this high density area, I am no longer prepared to accept the council's inadequate approach to the problems with sewage pollution.

"The incessant smell and risks to health are totally unacceptable for a developed area. The uncontrolled flow of sewage into the Hartbeespoort catchment area is surely also not acceptable to the Department of Water Affairs," he said.

Deputy director of quality control for the Institute of Water, Dr Anneli Kuhn, said levels of pollution in the Sandpspruit river posed a serious danger to people.

She said coliforms and e.coli came from warm-blooded animals and were indicative of faecal pollution and the possibility of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea-type diseases, dysentery and other viruses in the water.

Levels could change on a daily basis, she said, and readings could be higher after

heavy rainfalls.

Eastern Metro Council communications officer Keith Peacock said the council was concerned with the situation and was investigating. "The matter will be treated with absolute urgency," he said.

•The ideal level for coliform is less than 150, but on one particular day in August last year, coliform levels in the Sandpspruit River measured 6,6 million.

Acceptable coliform levels are less than 600 and tolerable levels are less than 2 000.

E.coli counts taken at the same spot reached 64 000, with the ideal level being less than 126.

Of 22 coliform counts taken from January to September 1996 on the Sandpspruit near South Road, all measurements taken were more than 10 times the tolerable levels. Six measurements were more than 100 times the tolerable level.

E.coli levels were also measured during the same period in South Road. Of these 17 out of 21 readings were 85% above tolerable levels, with six greater than 50 times the tolerable level.

MAN 10/2/97

56

Ecologists slam Rondevlei pollution

JOHN YELD

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Rondevlei nature reserve has been severely damaged by a substantial inflow of old untreated sewage, killing breeding birds and fish.

The sewage entered the vlei via a stormwater canal leading through Grassy Park. It was apparently fed into the canal via a permanent overflow pipe built into the sewerage system.

Ecologists believe the sewage, which probably washed down on Sunday, will add significantly to the overloaded nutrient levels in the vlei, causing major problems with reed growth.

They also argue that the overflow pipe is illegal, as it is an offence in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance to allow any polluted water to enter a reserve. They say the design engineers responsible for the sewerage system must have known any overflow would end up in the vlei.

Rondevlei is one of the Cape's most important bird sanctuaries and a major environmental education centre and tourist attraction.

Well-known ornithologist Peter Steyn, a member of Rondevlei's advisory board, visited the reserve yesterday and said he was "appalled" at the damage.

"I've been visiting here for about 45 years and I've never seen anything quite as bad as this," he said.

"I cannot understand why this problem can't be tackled at its source. This is just incompetence."

When the Cape Argus visited the reserve yesterday, the channel leading from the stormwater drain was black and oozing stinking bubbles of hydrogen sulphide. In holes in the bank just above the channel, Malachite Kingfishers have their



BRENTON GEACH

Disaster: Jill Groenhof of the Zeekoewlei Environmental Forum examines dead wildlife from the vlei

nests, but there are no fish left for them to catch in the vicinity.

One of the dead birds found yesterday was a great crested grebe, of which there are very few pairs at the vlei.

"That's very disappointing, because these grebe are breeding now and this bird may have had a chick somewhere," Mr

Steyn said. Jill Groenhof of the Zeekoewlei Environmental Forum, who was also alerted to the problem at the vlei, described the pollution as "very sad". "I can't express how strongly we feel about this," she said. "Rondevlei is such a valuable resource."

The Cape Metropolitan Council has been asked to comment.

ARCS 11/2/197

(56)

Bid to end Dolphin row backfires

STAFF REPORTERS

Johannesburg — The Mpumalanga government's attempts to end the controversy surrounding the Dolphin deal by appointing an investigative committee backfired yesterday.

There were fresh allegations that the committee was loaded with supporters of the multi-million-rand deal to hand over control of the province's parks.

David Mkhwanazi, the province's environmental affairs minister, announced the formation of the committee last week after allegations that the deal was unconstitutional and that Ketan Somaia, the chief executive of the Dolphin group, was linked to the disappearance of public funds in Kenya.

"JC" Mhlongo, the head of

ET(BR) 12/2/97

(56)

the provincial environmental affairs and tourism department, will chair the committee. The other members are A Sobekwa, a legal adviser in the department, Elna Kotze, an environmentalist and board member of the Mpumalanga Parks Board, and Harvey Tyson, a member of the Mpumalanga Environmental Council.

"The majority of the committee members are not capable of viewing this matter objectively," Rupert Lorimer, a critic of the deal and Mkhwanazi's adviser, said yesterday.

"Elna Kotze has already nailed her colours to the mast as being solidly in favour of the agreement ... while Mhlongo was actually one of the people who went to Dubai," Lorimer said.

Kotze publicly announced her support for the Dolphin group and the deal itself in Johannesburg last week. She had just returned from an all-expenses paid trip to Kenya to examine Block Hotels, a subsidiary of Dolphin.

Yesterday Kotze said she would approach the inquiry with "an open mind" and that there was no conflict of interest between her duties as a member of the parks board, which favours the deal, and a member of the inquiry committee.

A provincial government spokesman said the committee had been set up to help the minister gather information.

Environmentalists disputed Mhlongo's impartiality because of his role in the meeting between the parks board and the environmental council last month.

Forum opposes law

Sewetan 12/2/97

(56)

Regulations 'give authorities wide discretion to avoid environmental impact studies'

By Russel Molefe

THE Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) has threatened to take legal action if the gazetted regulations of a new environment law are not withdrawn.

The new law, drafted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, makes it compulsory for developers to conduct environmental impact assessment studies (EIA) before major development takes place.

Disputes over St Lucia on the South Coast, Madimbo Corridor in the Northern Province and Kosi Bay in KwaZulu-Natal also influenced

the drafting of the new law.

However, EJNF national coordinator Mr Chris Albertyn does not agree that the new law will ease tension between developers and environmentalists.

Albertyn believes the regulations give provinces and local authorities wide discretion to avoid any environmental impact assessments.

"The regulations will promote confusion, conflict and consequently lose time and money

for developers and environmentalists alike. It is worrying that our public servants should ignore overwhelming public opinion in favour of the profit interests of business and industry," he said.

Mr Wynand Fourie of the Department of Environment confirmed that EJNF has communicated its intention to stop the new regulations.

He said the move could seriously delay the enacting of the new law.

Moves to curb oil spill threat

Harbour marine life faces constant danger

AR 13/12/92

(51)

FOREIGN SERVICE

Dar-es-Salaam - Mangrove trees and marine creatures in the Kigamboni peninsula near the Dar-es-Salaam harbour are being suffocated by frequent oil spills which fishermen say drastically affect their livelihood.

The latest spill, covering the southern part of the shore, is the result of a leakage of hoses connecting the single buoy mooring with the Tanzania-Italian Petroleum Refinery.

Five people, including the divers who were repairing the mooring, died on Christmas Day last year when a Tanzania Harbours Authority boat, which was surrounded by spilt oil, caught fire.

The National Environment Management Council (NEMC), working with the government and other institutions, has now prepared a policy proposal called the National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan. Its main objective is to develop a

system for rapid detection and reporting of oil spills and other damaging materials. Under the proposed policy, which is awaiting cabinet approval, the NEMC will be the co-ordinator while the marine police will take charge when an oil spill occurs.

Jeremiah Daffa, senior natural resources officer for the NEMC, said the lack of routine preventative maintenance of the mooring caused frequent oil spills at the port.

He said it was difficult to quantify the amount of oil that had been spilt, but it was enough to cause extensive damage to the marine ecology.

"Once the oil globules sink they cause the accumulation of tar which can affect the anchorage of ships in the harbour and drastically affect marine safety," he said.

"Oil is a toxic substance which affects the life of marine organisms because it hinders the penetration of oxygen into the water."

He said the coral reefs near the port were disappearing because of oil

spills. He said other ports were not heavily affected because most of the crude oil imported into the country came through the Dar es Salaam port.

According to figures compiled by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation, a total of 650 000 metric tons of crude oil, valued at US\$97 744 500, was imported through the port last year.

Dr Adam Bakari, Economic Law lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, said that although Tanzania was a signatory to most of the United Nations conventions on the protection of marine ecology, it had never enacted any of the laws produced by these conventions.

"Many of the environmental protection laws are outdated. Punishment of culprits is minimal. These laws need to be amended if we are to hold industrialists accountable for constantly polluting the sea," he said.

Fisherman in Kigamboni are complaining bitterly about the oil slicks which, they say, are causing the fish

to move to deeper waters making fishing even more difficult.

"Apart from causing a bad smell and coating the fish nets, the oil spills are resulting in the death of many of the fish and a major exodus of others to deeper waters," one fisherman said.

Resident Mohammed Athman said: "Apart from the slow death of marine life and mangrove trees and having beaches covered in oil and tar, it is also impossible to swim in the sea since the entire area is covered in oil. I wish something would be done about this."

Dr Harish Pratap, a lecturer on environment toxicology at the University of Dar es Salaam, warned that frequent oil spills were having a drastic effect on the entire marine ecosystem.

"The ecosystem provides a food-chain. Spilt oil endangers this chain. It hinders the penetration of oxygen into the water and reduces the intensity of sunlight.

"In the absence of sunlight, marine plants starve to death," he said.

Jordan to brief parliament on Dolphin deal

JUSTEN ARENSTEIN & SAPA

Cape Town — Pallo Jordan, the environment minister, will brief the National Assembly's environment committee next week on the Mpumalanga Parks Board's multibillion-rand deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin Group, Gwen Mahlangu, the committee's chairman, said yesterday. The committee will then decide whether it should intervene in the controversial deal.

The province's parks board has granted Dolphin the commercial management of its parks for a 50-year period, including Blyde River Canyon, Loskop Dam and Pilgrim's Rest. In return, Dolphin has undertaken to pay the parks board budget deficit over that period — estimated to be about R12,2 billion.

The deal, concluded within



STEPPING IN Pallo Jordan, the environment minister, has become involved in the affair

nine weeks, has been criticised by conservation organisations and affected communities. Land claim activists have also been outraged and pointed out that there are gazetted land claims on

at least two of the core development areas.

"We will go to Mpumalanga," said Mahlangu. "We need more facts about it before we can act."

Attempts by David Mkhwanazi, the province's environmental minister, to defuse the growing controversy earlier this week by naming a four-member team to investigate the deal have succeeded only in fuelling it.

Two members of the committee, JC Mhlongo, the committee's chairman, and Elma Kotze, another committee member, helped broker the Dolphin deal. Kotze publicly expressed her support for the deal last week after returning from an all-expenses-paid trip to various Block Hotels and lodges in Kenya. Block is a Dolphin subsidiary.

Harvey Tyson, a former Star editor and member of the prov-

ince's environmental council,

was appointed without his knowledge or consultation but declined yesterday. "I told the MEC that, after due consideration, I believed it would be more proper for the committee to be composed of completely independent and unconnected judicial officers and other experts," he said.

The fourth member of the team was A Sobekwa, the legal adviser in the province's environment affairs department.

The Environmental Justice Networking Forum also objected to the committee's appointment yesterday.

Mhlongo said yesterday he was shocked by the "mud-slinging".

He said the committee had simply been tasked with "collating criticisms and collecting information about the deal".

ET (EK) 13/2/97 (56)

Sewerage block overflow caused Rondevlei spill

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

(56)

ARL 14/2/97

The stormwater canal which fed untreated sewage into Rondevlei nature reserve last weekend, causing severe ecological damage, has been blocked off and an attempt is being made to pump the contaminated water back into the sewerage system.

So says the Cape Metropolitan Council, which also announced that steps were being taken during the upgrading of Prince George's Drive to filter stormwater via an artificial wetland before being discharged into Rondevlei.

The sewage, which killed wildlife in the vlei - a major tourist attraction and environmental education centre - entered the stormwater system via a "relief pipe" when the sewerage line was blocked.

Roy Mee, the council's director: engineering services, described the pollution of Rondevlei as regrettable and said it was "one of the very real threats to the environment resulting from urbanisation".

Rondevlei was at the downstream end of an urban catchment area and stormwater "inevitably" found its way into the vlei, as did blockages in the sewerage system.

"During periods of heavy rain the sewer pipes sometimes become surcharged because of stormwater entering the system, causing the sewers to overflow at local low spots," said Mr Mee.

The relief pipe in question had been provided at such a spot to prevent flooding of an adjacent property, as had happened about 10 years ago.

The relief pipe was inspected regularly and the last inspection had been on Thursday February 6, Mr Mee said.

The pipeline on which this relief pipe was situated was not prone to blockages, the last being recorded five years ago.

Consultants had been appointed to investigate a litter trap at the Italian Road canal entrance to Rondevlei.

ET.14/2/97

Conservationists angered by rights granted Dolphin group

NELSPRUIT: The Mpumalanga Legislative Assembly has given the Dubai-based Dolphin Group its endorsement, but environmentalists are still trying to amend the deal the province signed with the group.

The group has been given the rights to develop several Mpumalanga ecotourism sites, including the Blyde River Canyon, but the deal has been criticised amid allegations of secrecy and loss of control of the environment.

Environmentalist Mr Rupert Lorimer, who serves on the Mpumalanga Environmental Council, said the agreement between Dolphin and the Mpumalanga Parks Board needed substantial amendment before it was acceptable.

A number of Mpumalanga legislative assembly members recently returned from an all-expenses paid trip to Dubai and Kenya, where they toured the group's resorts. NP member Mr Chris MacPhearson said he and the rest of the assembly members who went on the trip were impressed

by the group's ventures in Kenya and Dubai and that there was no reason to question the Dolphin Group's bona fides.

Mpumalanga Environmental Affairs MEC Mr David Mkhwanazi, who on Tuesday announced the appointment of a committee to investigate the Dolphin Group deal in an attempt to dispel the controversy over the arrangement with the group, has been criticised by environmentalists, who say most of the committee members were compromised in that they had already expressed support for the deal.

Lorimer said the council's main objections to the deal were its apparent secrecy and the monopolistic control the deal gave Dolphin over several of Mpumalanga's major attractions.

Although the parks board believed it would have conservation control over the developments, Lorimer said the legal situation was that it would have to carry out its conservation job according to plans laid down by Dolphin. — Sapa

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & TOURISM

DOLPHIN LEAPS

56
FM 14/2/97

The embattled Mpumalanga Parks Board bounced back this week from a wave of criticism over its purported multibillion-rand deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin Group to commercialise the province's nature reserves.

Board chairman Alan Gray says that he's buoyed by a favourable report from a provincial government delegation which reviewed Dolphin's leisure operations in Kenya, run by subsidiary Block Hotels, which will spearhead the group's developments in SA.

The multiparty delegation was assigned to investigate Dolphin after media reports alleged that the group's president and CE Ketan Somaia was involved in shady international deals.

Senior provincial officials admit that there are weaknesses in the deal and say they will press the parties to "tighten up" contentious parts of the agreement.

But they insist that the concept and the partnership are essentially sound, that the development will reconcile tourism with conservation and become a model for environmental commercialisation.

Opponents of the deal, meanwhile, are stirring opposition among rural communities in the Blyde River Canyon and Loskop Dam areas (two of Dolphin's key development sites) and have asked central government to intervene.

They hope to scupper the deal, which they believe would ruin some of SA's most treasured sites.

Leading opponent Sue Hart, who heads Mpumalanga's advisory Environmental Council, has asked Environmental Affairs & Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan to launch an independent probe. She's also urging that the Mpumalanga parks be handed to the National Parks Board (probably not permissible under the Constitution).

Hart's efforts are intended to bypass Environmental Affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi, who reluctantly agreed last week to set up a local investigation into the constitutionality of the deal.

Hart and other like-minded environmentalists have been in uproar ever since the deal was announced on November 26 last year.

The deal (see diagram) sets up a joint operating company (75% Dolphin; 25% parks board, with veto right) that will establish development companies, with 20% representation from local businesses and communities, to manage and develop specified State reserves for 50 years, with a renewal option of 49 years.

Each development company is entitled to sublease camps and lodges within its reserve to outside companies. Outsiders may also tender for capital and operating projects. "Of course we'll want outside operators," says Block Hotels chairman John Small. "It's highly unlikely that we'd want to develop everything ourselves, because a lot of the accommodation facilities will not be in our niche, which is the four to five star range."

The agreement includes reserves in and around the Blyde River Canyon, Loskop Dam, Songimvelo (bordering Swaziland), Pilgrim's Rest and Manyaleti (adjoining the Kruger Park). Dolphin's

only payment for these rights is to assume the parks board's deficit for 50 years and sink R400m into reserve developments over the next three years.

Gray maintains that Dolphin will effectively be paying more than R12bn — his calculation of the board's accumulated deficit for 50 years. Critics reject the figure as "a wild thumbsuck" designed to panic the province into accepting Dolphin.

Gray strongly denies any suggestion that he might have personal interests in the deal, or hidden shares in the development or joint operating companies.

Gray's opponents base their objections to the deal on several factors, including:

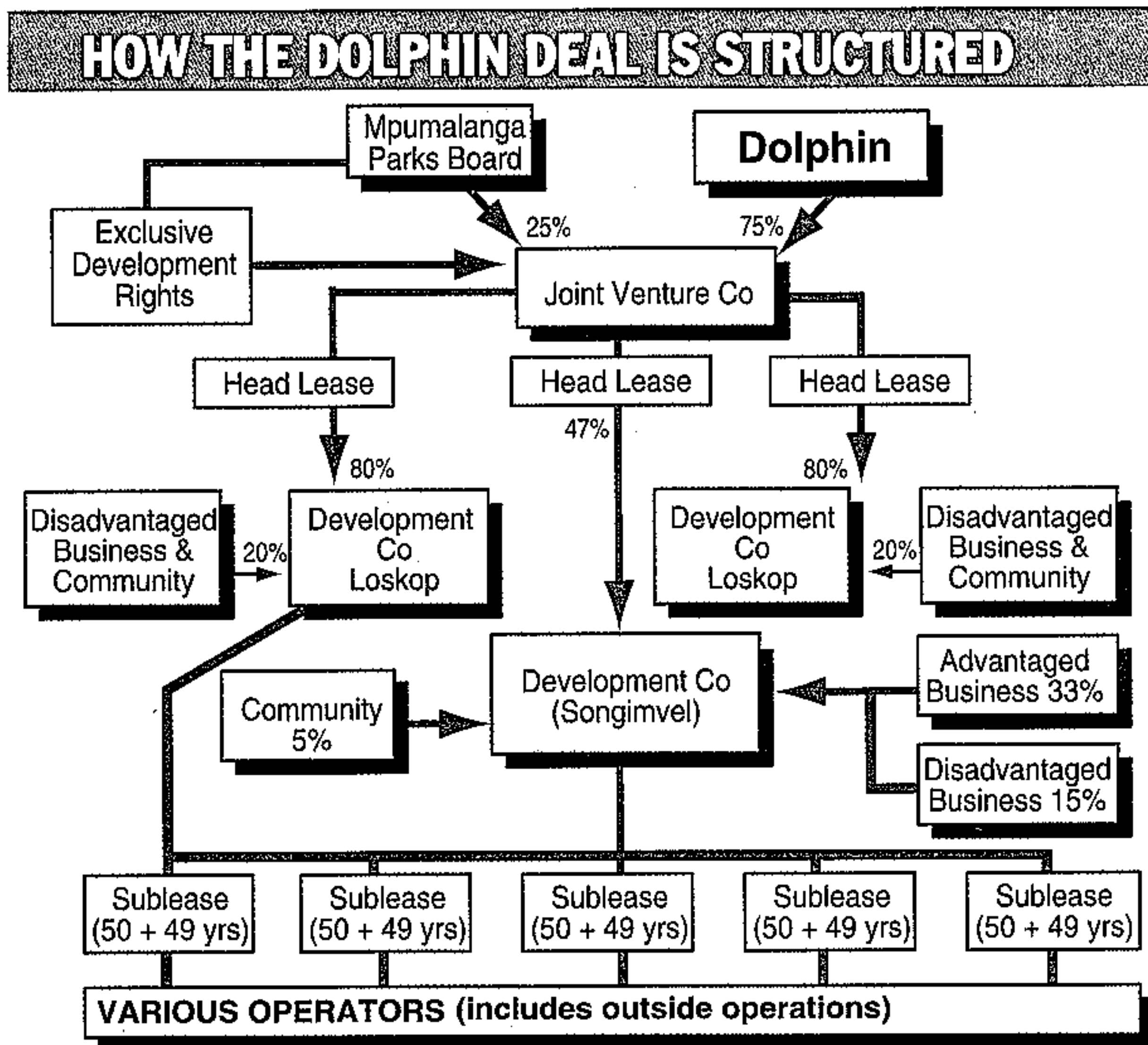
- The lack of transparency in the parks board's negotiations with Dolphin;
- The granting of developmental rights to a single, foreign-based company for a period longer than most lifetimes;
- Insufficient consultation with communities in the affected areas, some of whom have gazetted land claims pending on parts of the Blyde River Canyon and Loskop;
- The haste in concluding the deal;
- Weak clauses in the agreement (which was leaked to the media), one of which appears to leave Dolphin a cheap way out if the deal turns sour;
- The absence of any bank guarantee to support Dolphin's promise to underwrite

the parks board's mounting deficit for the duration of the contract; and

- The questionable background of Bermuda-registered Dolphin.

Less clearly delineated is an ideological clash within SA's small environmental community over the style and scale of commercialisation.

The critical lobby would have all wilderness areas nationalised, guaranteeing cheap access while allowing expensive, privately run camps on their peripheries — rather like the Kruger National Park with its privately owned adjuncts, such as Timbavati. Others, like the Mpumalanga Parks



SOURCE: DOLPHIN-MPUMALANGA PARKS BOARD SHAREHOLDERS' AGREEMENT

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Board, believe commercialisation can be inserted into reserves with minimal harm to the environment, with commercial lodges at selected sites. Block Hotels' successful Ol Tukai Lodge in Kenya's sensitive Amboseli game reserve demonstrates that this kind of commercialisation can work.

Small says that lower interest rates abroad and Dolphin's existing financial dealings will make it cheaper to raise money offshore. But it will also be in its interests to give some business to SA banks, he adds.

Environmental consultant Rupert Lorimer, a proponent of nationalised parks, says Mpumalanga is at fault for deciding to phase out conservation funding and setting a 2006 deadline for its board to become self-sufficient. This, he says, forced the board to jump at the first tempting offer that came its way.

"What the board is doing is selling the honeypots to a single developer — and that's bad for development and for conservation," Lorimer says.

Gray denies that the deal creates a monopoly for Dolphin, pointing to two other reserves in the province which have outside interests.

Gray acknowledges that community consultation was not carried out correctly before the deal. But this and the land claims issues are not insurmountable obstacles. He says equitable arrangements will be made once the communities are properly briefed on the developments and the prospects for increased tourism. *Peter Honey*

Northern Province launches its own investigation

Legislators say 'yes' to Dolphin

CT (BR) 14/2/97 (56)(C)

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

Johannesburg — A multi-party team of provincial legislators yesterday gave support to the controversial deal to sell control of Mpumalanga's game reserves and parks to the Dubai-based Dolphin Group. The legislators had just returned from an all-expenses paid trip to Dolphin's operations in Kenya and Dubai.

The 50-year lease of several premier parks to Dolphin in exchange for the Dubai company bankrolling the Mpumalanga Parks Board has been attacked by environmentalists and communities since it was announced late last year.

Yesterday the provincial parliamentarians endorsed the deal. They said that they had "no reason

to question the bona fides of the Dolphin group".

There have been allegations that the deal lacked transparency and infringed the constitutional rights of land claimants with land claims over part of the parks pending.

The deal has also been dogged by unanswered questions about Ketan Somaia, the man behind Dolphin. Chief among these were allegations that Somaia was linked to the disappearance of state funds in Kenya.

Chris MacPherson, the National Party's chief whip in the Mpumalanga parliament, who was part of the delegation to Kenya, said yesterday he had put the allegations to Somaia, and was satisfied with Somaia's response. He said the all-expenses-paid trip to Dubai and Kenya was not an investigation, and was originally intended to familiarise the group with Dolphin's activities.

"We visited all the re-

serves in Kenya ... saw how they handled environmental matters (and) while being there we took it upon ourselves to see how Dolphin works."

MacPherson said he did not know who had paid for his trip as he had gone on the invitation of David Mkhwanazi, the province's environmental affairs minister.

"Why don't you ask the minister? I do not know, I was too afraid of asking," he said.

Hendrik Mentz, a Freedom Front member of the provincial parliament who also toured Dolphin's Kenyan and Dubai

operations, said he was completely satisfied with what he saw.

"Block Hotels and United Touring Company

(two Dolphin subsidiaries) are both impressive companies with a successful track record of operating within the African free market system," he said.

MacPherson slammed critics of the Dolphin deal, saying they were not working in the interests of the province. "Such actions will only serve to chase potential investors away rather than to attract much-needed foreign money and expertise," he said.

Alan Gray, the chief executive of the Mpumalanga Parks Board, has previously said he has documents clearing Somaia of any wrongdoing. But the controversy in Kenya over a letter written by Michael Kijana Wamalwa, the chairman of the Kenyan parliament's Public Accounts Committee, al-

legedly clearing Somaia, took a new turn yesterday. The Kenyan newspaper East African Standard reported yesterday that the Public Accounts Committee had formally disowned Wamalwa over the letters.

Sources have also indicated that conflict between the national and provincial governments could be brewing because of the deal. A spokesman for Pallo Jordan, the national environmental affairs minister, said yesterday that Jordan was being briefed on the deal. But she said the deal was "a provincial competence ... the minister will not be getting involved directly".

MacPherson said the provincial government "will not allow them trying to tell us what we can do.

"They've got no powers to intervene," he said.

Meanwhile, African Eye News Service in Nelspruit reported that the Northern Province government was launching its own investigation into Mpumalanga's secret deal, which gives the Dubai-based Dolphin Group complete commercial control of key conservation areas, including a large game reserve in the

Northern Province.

The Manyeleti Game Reserve, which is included in the Dolphin deal, is situated in the Northern

Province and has not yet been transferred to Mpumalanga in a land-swap arrangement between the provinces.

"The reserve is a disputed area, but it still falls under our direct control, and as long as it does, any contract promising it to someone is null and void," provincial spokesman Tienie Burgers said.

'We have no reason to question the bona fides of the Dolphin group'

Row brews between central and provincial governments over the deal

Cape plant life faces battle for survival

SA fourth on danger list

RICH MKHONDO
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Washington - About 7 500 endemic plant flowering species in the South Africa's Eastern and Western Cape are being threatened with extinction, Conservation International has warned.

The organisation said South Africa was fourth among 17 "hot-spots" or worldwide areas threatened with extinction - only the tropical Andes, meso-American forests, and Madagascar were in greater danger.

Spokesman for Conservation International Gary Dodge warned that these hot-spots needed urgent protection.

Although all 17 spots cover only two percent of the land surface of the planet, they harbour more than 50 percent of the total "terrestrial bio-diversity on earth", he said.

"The East and Western Cape floristic region in South Africa is one of the most diverse and threatened areas on the planet. It is home to 7 500 flowering plant species - they live nowhere else."

"It is important to inform people about these hot-spots at a time when the extinction trend is at its highest, Mr Dodge said

The organisation, which works to protect global bio-diversity in ecological hot-

spots in more than 21 countries on four continents, pledged its assistance in working with the South African and its communities to protect the endangered plants.

In order to prioritise conservation of the most endangered areas, the group has just finished work on its *Global Bio-Diversity Hot-Spots Map*.

"It is time to put aside the gloom and doom and get down to business. The new map makes it possible to target conservation investments in order to have the greatest impact," said Conservation International president Russell Mittermeier.

"We are not saying 'Ignore everything else.' Every nation's bio-diversity is critically important to its future . . . but we recommend these threatened hot-spots receive international attention and investment in proportion to their overall importance," emphasised Mr Mittermeier.

Fifth on the critical list is Antilles, followed by the Western Sundaic region, the Philippines, the Atlantic coastal forest region, Cerrado, Darien, Choco and western Ecuador, the Polynesian and Micronesian island complex, the eastern Sundaic region, southwest Australia, the Mediterranean region, western Ghats and Sri Lanka, New Caledonia and the Guinean forests of West Africa.

(56)

ARG 15/12/97

Call for crackdown on toothfish pirates

Boffins want harsh penalties

ARG 15/2/97

~~© SISHING~~ (SB)

JILYAN PIMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Scientists and conservationists here and in other countries are gnashing their teeth over the volume of illegal poaching of Patagonian toothfish, or black hake, being caught in the southern ocean and say governments should work more closely to stop the poaching.

Denzil Miller, specialist chief scientist for Sea Fisheries and chairman of the scientific committee of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), said unless the Government provided a naval vessel or an "enforceable presence" South Africa's toothfish resources would be fished out.

"Thirty-five thousand tons of illegal toothfish were removed from South African waters around Prince Edward Island in the past season. At \$5 000 a ton this represents R175-million worth of fish. Some people are getting rich at the expense of all South Africans," said Dr Miller.

He said bilateral negotiations were under way with several countries before the fishing season opened on March 1 to address the problem of poaching in South African waters.

"We need presidential sanction to stop the scale of poaching and if the government doesn't take note, one of our most valuable resources will vanishing."

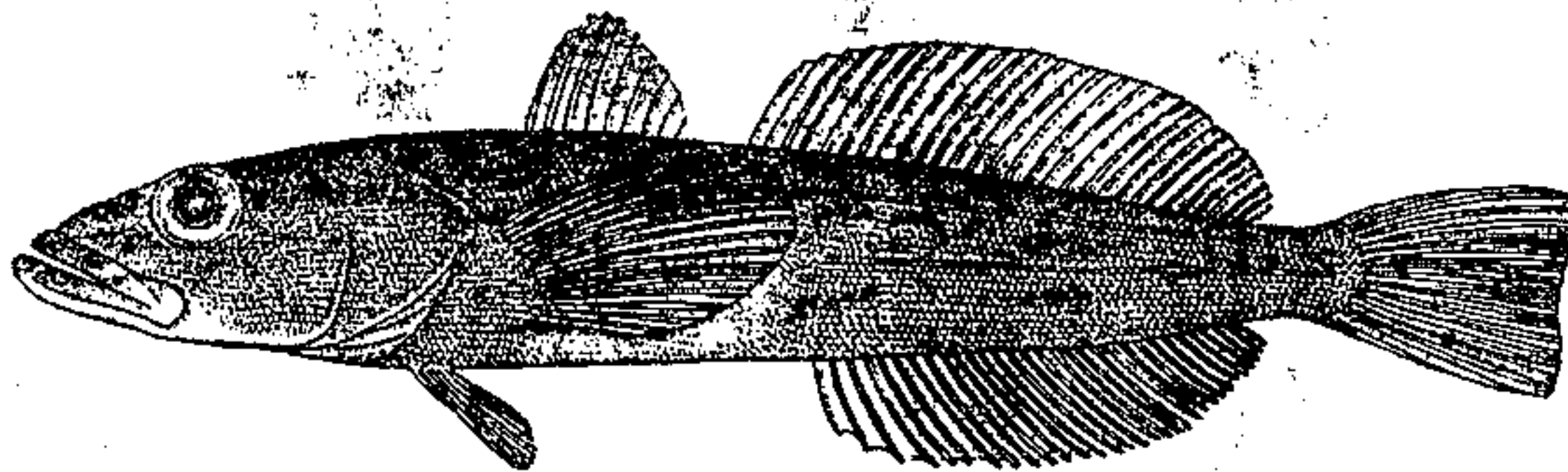
Dr Miller added: "Poachers are grabbing the young 50-60cm toothfish - in the

most vulnerable size range. They are very slow-growing animals which can live until they are 50. Poachers are catching them at eight or nine years old, at the height of their reproductive cycle. The grey-headed albatross, in particular, is also threatened because of what is happening to the fish population."

Dr Miller said that on March 1 new permits would be issued by the government and each vessel would carry an international observer - from pools of observers in other countries - to monitor fishing activities, but a vessel was urgently needed for surveillance and back-up.

At last year's CCAMLR convention it was estimated that poaching could now be outstripping legal fishing by two-thirds.

Even some of the 21 countries which belonged to CCAMLR were accused of



Endangered: the Patagonian toothfish is the target of extensive poaching

turning to exploitation rather than "sustainable usage and conservation". Those who did not belong to CCAMLR - Namibia and Mozambique - also stood accused of accepting illegally poached fish.

Most captains of ships asked in a survey from June 1996 to January 8 this year whether their vessels fished in CCAMLR areas, said they had not.

However, a letter in possession of Satur-

day Argus from a crewman of a boat fishing for the toothfish said: "In our opinion the Sea Fisheries are made fools of openly... those vessels who are fishing on SA permits have more or less a majority of foreign fishermen aboard... all kinds of vessels are fishing inside SA territory."

The foreign fisherman went on to write that other fishermen bragged to each other over their radios about their excellent catches.

He said he was "not proud" of sending the letter but felt it was the right thing to do, "as all others seem to not care at all what is happening to fishing".

He said his crew was not happy with the situation as they were losing out to the competition.

Called the "Patagonian Toothfish Goldrush" by Nan Rice of the Save Antarctica campaign, both scientists and conservationists say if this scale of poaching continues the fish will become "commercially extinct" and the Antarctic food chain might be disturbed.

"We urgently need more marine sanctuaries and reserves and there should be harsh penalties for those who do not conform to CCAMLR regula-

tions or their own countries' legislation," Ms Rice said.

South Africa recently promulgated legislation preventing vessels from entering its ports and offloading toothfish without a permit, she said.

"But now if boats get uphill at South African ports they can easily go to Namibian or Mozambican ports or trans-ship their catches at sea."

Stone Age relics put brakes on diamond miners

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A MAJOR row has erupted between the National Monuments Council and black prospectors who want to mine diamonds in one of South Africa's most valuable archaeological sites at Barkly West in the Northern Cape.

In a bid to save priceless early Stone Age artifacts at Kantienkoppie, the council this week obtained an urgent interdict in the Kimberly High Court against the African United Small Mining Association, two miners and the Barkly West Municipality.

The dispute has been further complicated by the fact that the mining project has been punted as a job-creation exercise for about 200 local people, although archaeologists at Kimberly believe the claim will be exhausted within a year.

According to council archaeologist Dr Jeanette Deacon, the contested area seemed to have an older and far less disturbed collection of artifacts than those which have been protected since 1948 in the adjacent 9ha Kantienkoppie site.

"Normally, alluvial deposits on the banks of the Vaal River are all jumbled up because they have been washed downstream. In this case, the deposits have been stratified into clear time zones which makes the site very important for dating.

"Items at the bottom of the sequence are unusually old, dating back some 500 000 to 1,3-million years. We don't have many col-

lections of that age and size," she added.

The site had been declared a provisional National Monument, but this had apparently not deterred the miners from going ahead.

But in terms of an agreement made an order of court on Thursday, the miners have agreed to stop excavation, remove an earth-digger and not to dump excavated soil on the site until Friday when the court will hear opposing arguments.

They have, however, been allowed to wash gravel extracted from the site, the council's Cape Town attorney, Peter Kantor, said this week.

According to an archaeologist at Kimberly's Mc Gregor Museum, mining had gone ahead at the site in spite of two years of exhaustive negotiations to find a compromise with local communities and mining representatives.

"We believe the site should be turned into a museum which, unlike the limited lifespan of mining, will have long-term benefits for the community.

"One of the big problems in this area is that people applying for mining permits almost habitually enter "geen" (none) when they have to state whether claims have archaeological deposits," he added.

The miners had been granted mining permits last year.

Trevor Pikwani, president of the African United Small Mining Association, could not be reached for comment.

ST(CM) 16/2/97

(56)

Dolphin's CEO responds to claims

Josey Ballenger



Dolphin Group CEO Ketan Somaia, left, and marketing manager Michael Sharpes discussing the Mpumalanga Parks Board deal and other investments in SA with journalists yesterday.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

KETAN Somaia, CEO of the Dolphin Group, which has entered a 50-year agreement with the Mpumalanga Parks Board to lease the development rights to certain natural areas, yesterday denied allegations of fraud in Kenya.

Somaia told journalists in Johannesburg the Kenyan public accounts committee "did request me to appear before them". He said the inquiry related to two contracts between European companies and the government which were unrelated to Dubai-based Dolphin and for whom he had acted as commercial agent in Kenya.

"I am not a director or a shareholder" in those companies, he said. Somaia said he had written to the committee to that effect, and therefore did not have to appear before the body.

Recent reports said Kenyan authorities were trying to ban any company affiliated with Somaia from doing business with the government again.

He said the allegations were of a political nature due to Dolphin's "entrepreneurial" and decisive nature, but said he was free to return

to Kenya. He left in October.

Somaia and Dolphin marketing manager Michael Sharpes also said the group would present development plans for some of the Mpumalanga areas — those which were already partially developed and thus did not need to wait for environmental impact studies — to the provincial parks board next month. On approval, the board would either "put up those plans for (construction) tender" or submit them to local architects.

This first round would be handled exclusively by Dolphin, although other developments could be joint ventures. They said management was meeting the parks board to sort out gazetted land claims in certain areas which would stall development plans.

They said the offshore group would finance the agreed-upon R400m "bricks and mortar" developments in the next three years as a result of the deal with the provincial parks board, as well as its separate, recent acquisitions of Promenade Holdings — which owned the Promenade Hotel in Nelspruit and the Royal Hotel in Pilgrim's Rest — and the Rivonia Inn (formerly Sleepy Hollow Hotel) in Rivonia.

at hi sa ch ol fr bl ti si pr ir lk n b th h e C t B C t F c t I t C C h

TOURISM Ketan Somaia says a dirty tricks campaign is under way to undermine Mpumalanga deal

Dolphin chief cries sabotage

(56) (8)
CT (BR) 20/2/97

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

Johannesburg — Ketan Somaia, the chief executive of the Dolphin Group, claimed yesterday there was a dirty-tricks campaign against him to sabotage the group's rights to develop Mpumalanga's nature parks.

Somaia said the campaign to scupper the controversial R12 billion parks deal was motivated by people who were jealous of his personal success, but he did not disclose their identities at a press conference that was partly a public relations exercise to improve the Dubai-based company's image in South Africa.

Somaia, a Kenyan-born businessman, secured the commercial management of Mpumalanga's parks for 50 years, including Blyde River Canyon, Loskop Dam, Manyaleti game reserve and Pilgrim's Rest, a deal that was concluded within nine weeks, in exchange for an immediate R400 million investment in the province's parks and an undertaking to pay the parks board's budget deficit over that period. The board's deficit is projected to amount to R377 million in the next decade.

Dear Sir,
RE: MR. KETAN SOMAIA
In reply to your letter dated 3rd December, 1996, I wish to confirm that Mr. KETAN SOMAIA is not required to appear before the Public Accounts Committee.
Yours faithfully,

W. M. Kijana Wamalwa
HON. M. KIJANA WAMALWA, M.P.
CHAIRMAN
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

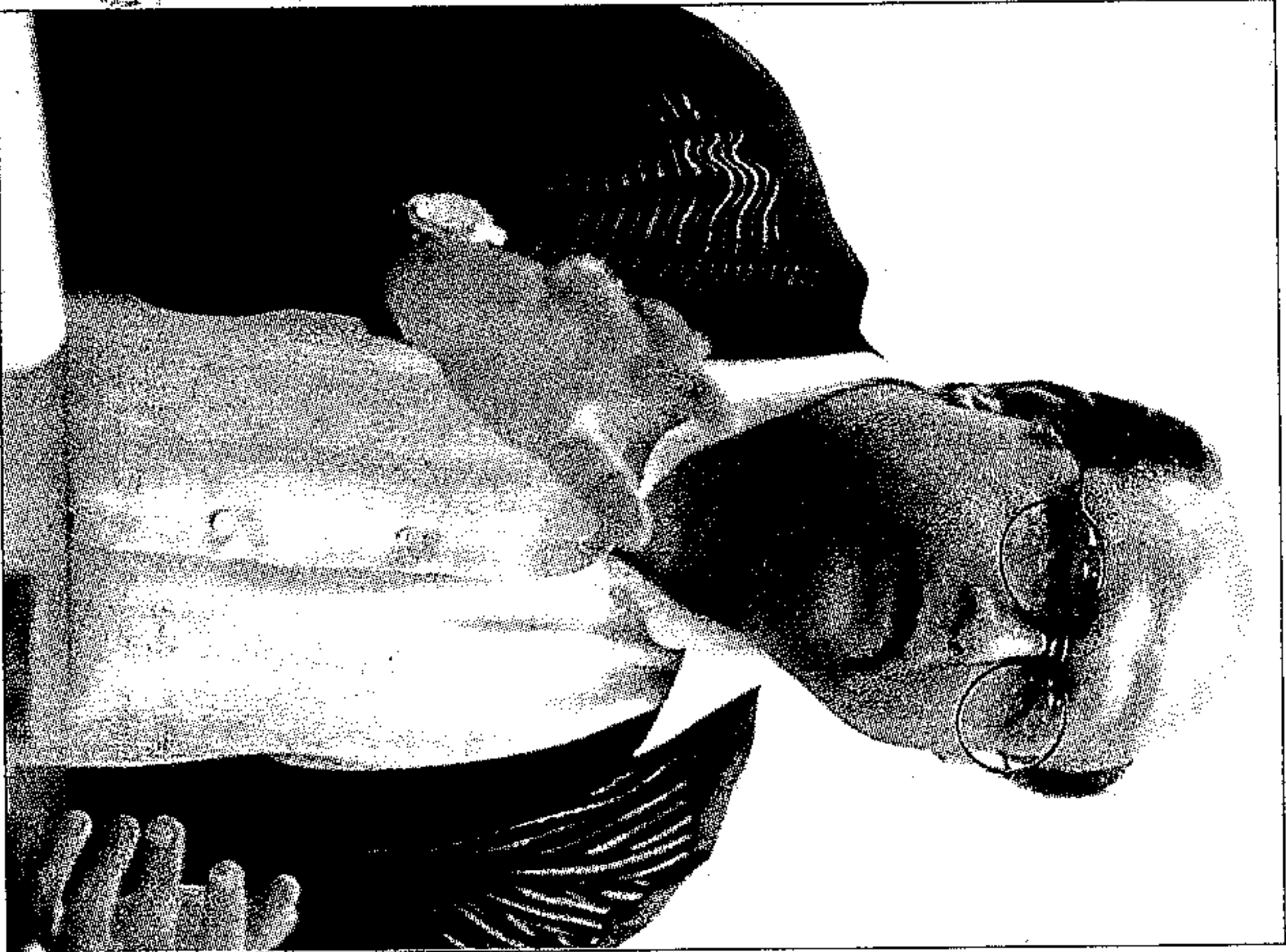
Somaia has been implicated in financial irregularities in Kenya, allegations he said were "blown out of all proportion by the media".

He said 95 percent of South African media reports about Dolphin were fair, but there were reports which could have served "an agenda for a few individuals". Many business commentators were jealous of his success. Somaia said he was prey to unwelcome media attention because Dolphin was Kenya's single largest investor.

In Kenya, Somaia has been dogged by allegations that he received millions of dollars in public money for security equipment which he allegedly failed to supply. Last month his lawyers denied that there was any link between Somaia, Dolphin and the unnamed default-

ing company. But at yesterday's press conference Somaia contradicted his previous statement by saying he was a "commissioned agent" of the European company involved in the transaction.

Somaia insisted he was not wanted for questioning by the Public Accounts Committee, a watchdog body of the Kenyan parliament. However, Kijana Wamalwa, the chairman of the committee, and other committee members had tried to get him to appear before it three times to answer questions. Yesterday Somaia said that, although he had acted as an agent, he had also tried to act as a facilitator between the committee and the company, which he declined to name. He said a letter from Wamalwa confirmed that he (Somaia) was not required to appear before the committee.



CRYING FOUL Ketan Somaia, chief executive of the Dolphin Group of Dubai

PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOF

Minister suspends Dolphin deal opponents

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

Johannesburg — David Mkhwanazi, Mpumalanga's environment minister, suspended his advisory council this week after it condemned the multibillion-rand deal to lease the province's natural parks to the Dubai-based Dolphin group for 50 years.

The Environmental Council is an unelected advisory body appointed by Mkhwanazi. But members of the council have been among the most vociferous critics of the Dolphin deal.

The advisory body publicly split with the minister after a special investigative task team was appointed to look into the deal. Members of the council alleged that the task team was loaded with the deal's supporters.

Earlier this week the council filed a report opposing the Dolphin deal. It said the deal may have violated the requirements of the State Tender Board Act, and could further hamper development and investment in the area. It also said that Dolphin's financial guarantees appeared to

be unsecured. "There is an urgent necessity at the very least, for comprehensive amendments covering all points raised above," the report said.

On Tuesday, after the council presented its report, Don Hlatwayo, the head of administration at the provincial environmental affairs department, wrote a letter to one of the council's staff members saying "the functioning of the Mpumalanga Environmental Council is suspended by the MEC, pending the appointment of the right-sized council".

On Wednesday Dr R Mbuli, Mkhwanazi's assistant who had signing powers for him, wrote to Sue Hart, the chairman of the council. His letter confirmed that Hlatwayo "was within his rights to write the letter to staff members about their transfer and the removal of government property (from the council offices)".

This came after a letter last week in which Mkhwanazi said the "functioning of the council has been suspended until the right-sized council is announced". But yesterday Mkhwanazi de-

clared that he had suspended the council. He said he had suspended several of its functions and reduced its size.

He said that the province could not afford to pay the almost 60 members of the Tourism Authority, parks board and environmental council, and had decided to make all three bodies smaller.

Rupert Lorimer, an outspoken critic of the deal who was axed from the council last week, had been appointed as a consultant and not a permanent member of the council, Mkhwanazi said.

(56) (888)

CT (68) 2/12/97

UP TO 250 000 DIE EACH YEAR

Seabirds threatened by hooks of death

(5)

CT 21/2/97

THE CREWS of fishing vessels are being taught to cast their lines in a way that will reduce the number of seabird deaths. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.



The other, funded by WWF-South Africa (the SA branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature), is an education programme showing crew how to fish in a bird-friendly way.

UP to a quarter of a million seabirds are caught and die on hooks from longline fishing vessels every year, raising fears that some of these bird species could become extinct within our lifetimes.

Of the 250 000 that die about 44 000 are albatrosses, those magnificent seabirds that roam the Southern Ocean.

In recent years there has been an explosion in the longline fishing industry in the Southern Ocean, where more than a hundred million hooks are set from vessels every year.

In longlining, a method used to catch tuna, Patagonian toothfish and hake, baited hooks are set 10m apart on lines about 25km long.

Dr Denzil Miller, a Sea Fisheries marine scientist and chairman of the scientific committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), said many of these lines were left attached to buoys with radio devices, and hauled in 24 hours later.

"When the lines are put out over the vessel's sides or stern, the birds see the free food in the form of bait, which is mainly squid and fish, and go for it, usually in the first 10 or 15 seconds after it enters the water. They have no way of knowing that there is a huge hook inside.

"The lines are weighted to sink to the sea bottom, and the birds which are caught on the hooks are pulled under and drown."

Birds also die from hooks in discarded fish heads. On most vessels the fish are processed on board, where they are gutted and their heads cut off. This offal is thrown overboard, which attracts seabirds.

"The fish heads often contain hooks, and when a bird swallows a fish head it swallows the hook. The

chances of catching it in the gullet and perforating its insides are very high, and ultimately the bird dies an excruciating death," Miller said.

An ornithologist at UCT's Percy Fitzpatrick Institute, Dr Peter Ryan, said that in the South African longline hake industry between 8 000 and 10 000 white-chinned petrels were caught every year.

"The big unknown is the tuna longliners. We don't know how many birds are taken because most of the vessels are not South African and it is difficult to get observers on board. Most are Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese. Most go to sea for six months and it's a problem to put an observer on board for that length of time," Ryan said.

He is running two major projects to try to reduce the high number of seabird deaths. One, funded by the Department of Environment, is a study by Mr Deon Nelon-Marton Island, where he is documenting the impact of the increased death rates of white-chinned petrels on the population of the birds.

Some of these measures include adding extra weights to the lines so they sink faster, setting longlines during the night when most seabirds don't feed; rigging up a birdline with streamers attached to act as a scarecrow.

Said Ryan: "Similar practices in Australia and New Zealand have reduced the bird catches by up to 90%."

He said in South Africa, the formal fishing industry was keen to co-operate in the programme. "The real problem is with the illegal fishing industry, particularly the recently established toothfish industry. On the Prince Edward Islands the mortalities of grey-headed and yellow-nosed albatrosses are cause for concern.

"If these mortalities are sustained for more than a year or two, we will see a serious decline in the populations breeding on these islands.

"This also has international repercussions. In terms of CCAMLR we are meant to be conserving these things, and we're not doing it," Ryan said.



HOOKED: This albatross is one of about 44 000 that are caught and die by drowning every year after they swallow baited hooks (at the bottom) from longline fishing vessels in the Southern Ocean.

PICTURE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC LIVING MARINE RESOURCES

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The Maid.

Dolphin's dicey credentials

The Dolphin Group which has secured huge interests to develop tourism in Mpumalanga is struggling to defend its chief, reports **Justin Arenstein**

THE public relations drive by nature reserve heavyweight Dolphin Group stumbled this week after Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi's office denied it had issued letters vindicating Dolphin chief Ketan Somaia.

The supposed letter was used by the Mpumalanga Parks Board — which has cut a deal giving Dolphin exclusive rights to prime nature reserves in the province — to dismiss concerns regarding Somaia's business dealings in Kenya.

Somaia's South African lawyers have previously used two other letters from Kenya supposedly vindicating Somaia to try to head off M&G articles on Dolphin and Somaia. The validity of both of these letters is now also in question.

Somaia did, however, concede this week that consultation over Dolphin's deal — which gives it exclusive commercial development rights to reserves including the Blyde River Canyon for 50 years — should have been better handled.

The deal has outraged rural communities, conservationists and land claim activists, who say affected communities have still not been consulted.

Somaia said he planned a series of presentations for local communities, and that he was prepared to revise Dolphin's contract with the board "in the interests of affected communities, the deal itself and South Africa at large".

Concerns about Somaia's past business dealings include allegations that he was involved in a defaulted R35-million arms contract with the Kenyan government.

Mpumalanga Parks Board chief Alan Gray said earlier this month that the letter from Moi cleared Somaia of involvement.

But Kenya's high commissioner to South Africa, Justice Mudavadi, said Gray's claim about the letter was "very strange and surprising", and that Moi would never address another country's officials directly.

"Protocol demands that my president would only write a letter to his counterpart, President Mandela, and



(56)
M&G 21-27/1
2/97

Ketan Somaia: Concerns about the Dolphin Group chief's past business dealings include allegations that he was involved in a defaulted R35-million arms contract with the Kenyan government

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

not someone who is a relatively junior official — especially without informing my office. I know of no such letter and find this whole thing very strange and surprising," he explained.

Repeated requests this week to Gray for copies of the alleged letter and comment from the board on the Kenyan denial were unsuccessful.

But Somaia, who was in Johannesburg this week spearheading Dolphin's public relations roadshow, also refuted the existence of the letter, saying that Moi would have no motivation for writing it.

Somaia however reiterated that he was innocent of any wrongdoing in Kenya, where he has declined at least three formal requests to testify about the R35-million contract before Kenya's Public Accounts Committee.

He said he was linked to the two London companies which had defaulted on the contract and that he still served as their commissioned agent in Kenya.

"But I am not a director or shareholder in either company. I decided not to testify because the formalities of finally delivering on the contract had begun and I therefore felt that

there was no need for me to appear before the Public Accounts Committee," he said.

The committee tabled a recommendation before the Kenyan Parliament last month calling for the government not to enter into any further contracts or agreements with Somaia or any companies associated with him.

Committee chairman Michael Wamalwa wrote to Somaia's South African lawyers on December 3 stating that the Kenyan billionaire no longer

needed to testify. In a second letter, dated January 17, Wamalwa said Somaia had helped the government recover 80% of the outstanding order.

Both letters were used by lawyers Cliffe Decker and Todd, to pre-empt articles the M&G planned to publish.

Alan Gray: His claims about the letter from Daniel arap Moi were 'very strange and surprising'

Other committee members however have denied the validity of Wamalwa's letters. Committee member Martin Chikuku said Wamalwa had been forced to apologise publicly for issuing the letters.

"We were shocked to hear that a letter absolving Somaia had been issued, because there is no way that he has been cleared," he told the M&G.

"The committee firmly believes that Somaia directly benefited from this episode because if a man has no interest or ownership in a company, then how can he force them to suddenly — after seven years — begin honouring their contracts?"

Wamalwa's election campaign coalition partners, the Democracy Party, also publicly cut ties with him last week after the apology, but retained their links with his party, Ford Kenya.

Moolman Mentz, a member of the Mpumalanga legislature team which recently returned from a tour of Dolphin's businesses in Kenya and Dubai, said he had quizzed Somaia and was satisfied with his explanations.

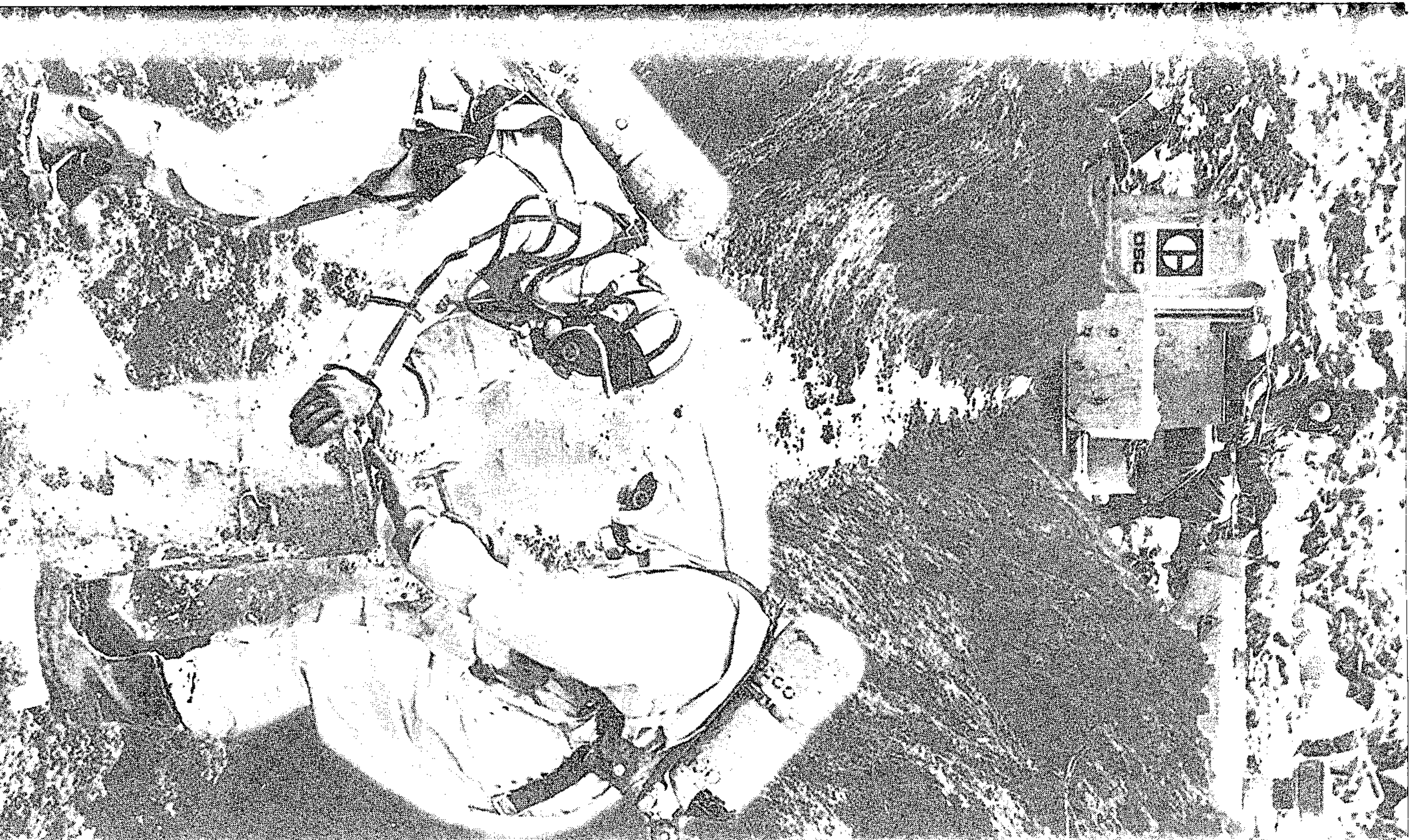
"Africa is not for sissies," Mentz said. "In any case, if you look at the amounts involved, then the alleged misappropriation is like a drop of water in the sea compared to the Kenyan economy — or even the Dolphin economy. All businessmen have at least some deals that go sour and some that work out."

Mentz said current negative publicity about Somaia and Dolphin were not in the province's interests.

"It is a fallacy to think the Mpumalanga government will ever subject investors to tender processes or in-depth investigations," he said.

"If we create the perception that investors will be investigated in this manner, it is doubtful that [we] will attract any investors at all," he added.





Toxic waste problem will be with us for some time

Alternatives to dumping might prove expensive in the short term but they could be vital if we are to make peace with the planet and preserve that which sustains life

By URBENA HO

Environmentalists bagged another victory in the war against toxic waste with the announcement that site operator Waste-Tech had been unsuccessful in its rezoning application for toxic dumping in Chloorkop.

The announcement came at the beginning of the month by MEC for development planning and local government Sisoelo Shiceka has been welcomed by the Toxic Dump Action Committee (TDAC), the Midrand Town Council as well as the Democratic Party.

The three groupings had made legal objections against Waste-Tech's application to the Townships Act. But it was also due largely to the protests, demonstrations and petitions organised by environmental watchdogs Earthlife Africa and the affected residents in Phomolong and Rabie Ridge at the rejection of the application was noted.

Now after a battle lasting four years no toxic dumping will be allowed at the site, though non-hazardous dumping has been approved.

Managing director of Waste-Tech, Ken Bromfield, said an economic feasibility study had been undertaken to evaluate the viability of opening the dump site.

The Chloorkop outcome may be a triumph for environmentalists, but it is more significantly a lesson for policymakers on how to take future decisions-making to ensure facilitation of proper toxic waste management.

Proper siting of a dump site has to be a priority. In the Chloorkop case, the dump site was only 400m from Phomolong. This informal settlement lacked the infrastructure to deal with any possible medical or environmental crises including ground water contamination and air pollution-related respiratory complications. Emergency evacuation could also not be carried out effectively in that area, according to Abigail Dudney, who headed the TDAC. The Chloorkop debris should also

serve as a learning experience for better public participation and transparency from government officials and waste operators.

Dudney said the public was not even informed that there would be a toxic dump in Chloorkop, and there was no public consultation from the beginning.

"Waste-Tech had obtained consent from the council and a temporary licence from the Department of Water Affairs before they even told the public, and they pretended that they didn't anticipate an outcry from the public," Dudney said.

Brian Gibson, communications facilitator for Waste-Tech, said: "We had underestimated the emotion with which the community would react."

He also conceded that there was an un-conducive atmosphere of "total non-trust" between Waste-Tech and the community because of clear polarisation of the two sides from the beginning of the public consultative process.

During the four-year battle, high-ranking politicians also became involved, though the matter was initially only dealt with by the local authority.

Last year Earthlife Africa uncovered a letter written by Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal to Premier Joko Sexwale in which he intimated that the premier should "use his influence to ensure that the process be expedited as far as possible".

Asmal was sorely censured for meddling through the democratic procedure which was taking place, and circumventing the democratic process that other objectors and the applicant were required to follow. Asmal responded that he had a right to express his opin-

ion on the matter to the premier.

"If was a democratic hearing and the minister had no business interfering in that way," said Michelle Buchler of Earthlife Africa.

Bureaucratic bungling, too, was prevalent throughout the legal proceedings at the Townships Board. Dudney criticised the process for being far too oriented on legal and formal proceedings and, in one incident, objectors were even forced to pay a R350 objection fee which few objectors in Phomolong and Rabie Ridge could afford.

"The process was bogged down by a lack of information and very complicated legalese," Dudney said.

“Legislation needs to be in place with a hard-hitting framework”

For the immediate future, though, the country has been plunged into a toxic waste crisis. With Chloorkop now being closed for toxic dumping there is a dilemma to find a suitable site.

"Waste-Tech made no provisions to find a suitable site during the four years that opening Chloorkop remained questionable," Buchler said.

Bromfield has denied any agreement exists between his company and another Gauteng waste operator, EnviroServ, to dump at EnviroServ's Hoffontein site.

Waste-Tech, however, has plans to open a medical waste incinerator in Gauteng and speculation is that the incinerator will be on the East Rand. Gibson, however, said an environmental impact assessment was being completed and details would be made public by the middle of March.

In the long term, South Africa will be challenged to find solutions to the greater problem of toxic dumping. Illegal dumping remains a pronounced environmental threat which Government has not yet managed to clamp down on.

"Legislation needs to be in place with a hard-hitting regulatory framework," Buchler said.

Dudney has also proposed an American alternative to toxic waste dumping in the form of the closed loop incinerator.

Scientists such as Dr Graham Noble, manager of waste management at the CSIR, have been investigating this alternative which could deal with some toxic waste. The closed loop incinerator has no stacks and no emissions and works by injecting pure oxygen into the loop-shaped incinerator which has two burners. Oxygen is added during the burning, and the by-product, carbon dioxide, is removed and frozen into commercially marketable dry ice. The other by-product is ash which Noble said is far less dangerous to dispose and is also reduced in volume.

Though the system could cost about R50-million to install, Noble believes the long-term savings and environmental benefits make it a viable option to be used in South Africa.

But individuals, too, can make a difference. Earthlife Africa believes that citizens should lobby for better recycling facilities and also to minimise their domestic waste.

"Consumers need to be critical of the products they consume. They need to reduce if not eliminate products such as leaded paints and some household detergents which could find their way into domestic landfills," Buchler said.

Government can no longer be confined to a narrow field of waste management choices which are driven purely by economics. Leadership integrity must prevail.

A holistic approach to waste management from individuals, industry and the Government is needed. Peace with the planet needs to be made now, before landfill sites and graveyards become the only monuments of the 21st century.

(156) Show 27/2/97

Group sets out to change ⁽⁵⁶⁾ R12,2bn parks board deal ⁽²⁾

ET 4/3/97

NELSPRUIT: A team of experts opposed to a secret R12,2-billion development deal between the Mpumalanga Parks Board (MPB) and the Dolphin Group are to fly to London to meet the company's president, Mr Ketan Somaia, African Eye News Service reported yesterday.

The team, which includes former Mpumalanga Parks Board member Dr John Hanks, environmental council chairwoman Dr Sue Hart, conservationist Mr Rupert Lorimer and provincial environmental affairs MEC Mr David Mkhwanazi, will try to convince Somaia to change 10 aspects of his 50-year contract with the parks board.

Hanks resigned from the parks board in protest against the

contract, which was signed without public consultation by MPB head Mr Alan Gray in November last year.

The deal gave the Dubai-based Dolphin Group all commercial development rights for 50 years to six state-owned game reserves, as well as to the world's second largest canyon at Blyde River and the historic town of Pilgrim's Rest.

In return, Dolphin pledged to bankroll the parks board's budget for 50 years — an amount estimated to be worth R12,2bn.

In addition, Dolphin undertook to build hotels and other infrastructure in Mpumalanga, worth R400 million, within the next three years.

Rural communities, land claim activists and conservationists have

all objected to the deal.

After branding both the deal's critics and the press "reactionary saboteurs", the provincial government conceded last week there were flaws in both the agreement and the process leading up to it.

The clauses in the agreement which the review team would try to renegotiate include one demanding complete secrecy about the deal's specifics for at least 50 years, as well as a clause allowing Dolphin to pull out of the deal, without any liability, should the group feel not enough tourists were visiting the area.

The team will reportedly try to get Somaia to agree to reduce the period of the contract from 50 years to a series of smaller, renewable contracts. — Sapa

Council plan to stop Rondevlei pollution

Artificial wetlands to be probed

ARG 5/3/97

(56)

JOHN YELD

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Constructing artificial wetlands to reduce the effects of stormwater pollution at Rondevlei nature reserve is an option that will be investigated by the Cape Metropolitan Council.

This was confirmed by the council in response to a series of questions from Cape Argus, following the recent spill of untreated sewage into Rondevlei when a sewerage pipe blocked and overflowed into a stormwater channel leading into the vlei.

Rondevlei is one of only three nature reserves on the Cape Flats and is of major ecological significance and an important environmental education centre.

In its initial response to the spill, which caused severe ecological damage, the council said an artificial wetland was being created as part of the Prince George's Drive upgrading project, "to filter the stormwater before it is discharged into Rondevlei".

But it has acknowledged to the Cape Argus that there are several water-

courses discharging polluted stormwater into the vlei - two of them "significant" - and that the artificial wetland being built will only reduce the effects of pollution from runoff from the new free-way.

"The possibility of carrying out similar measures on other watercourses will be investigated, subject to the limitations imposed by space constraints or gradients," it stated.

Responding to allegations that it was contravening the Nature Conservation Ordinance by allowing polluted stormwater into Rondevlei, the council said it was unfortunate that the reserve was at the downstream end of an urbanised catchment.

"Polluted stormwater inevitably enters the vlei. Sewer blockages in the Grassy Park area are common, as in the remainder of the Cape Metropolitan area. On average, 14 blockages are attended to daily in the Grassy Park area alone."

The causes of these blockages were beyond the council's control but it did respond promptly.

"In most cases, no significant sewage effluent enters the stormwater system

but on very rare occasions, such as the incident in question, there will be pollution."

Increased levels of nutrients flowing into Rondevlei were a fact of urbanisation and the reserve's management obviously had to take account of this, the council said.

It was concerned about the effective conservation of the whole False Bay Coastal Park area - which includes Rondevlei and Zeekoevlei - and intended applying "integrated and improved management, insofar as its powers and duties lie".

A report on the coastal park to the council's planning committee early last month stated that pollution problems had to be solved at source within the catchment area before reaching the vlei.

This would require "a high degree of co-operation" between the local authorities in the metropolitan area.

As a priority, the council should "develop its environmental capability within the (local government) restructuring process and compile a comprehensive environmental policy framework which will determine its future actions and priorities".

'Government won't be blackmailed'

State warns on Dolphin legal furore

CT (BR) 6/3/97 (56) (56)

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL AND SAPA

Johannesburg — The central government will not be blackmailed by the threat of R250 million in litigation costs over the R12 billion contract with the Dubai-based Dolphin group to lease out Mpumalanga's nature reserves for 50 years, Peter Mokaba, the environment deputy minister, said this week.

The deal grants exclusive development rights for the Blyde River Canyon, Loskop and Pilgrims Rest to the Dolphin group for the next half century. Dolphin has agreed to underwrite the Mpumalanga Parks Board's budget deficit for the period.

Mokaba's comments followed those by Chris McPherson, the chairman of Mpumalanga's select standing committee on finance, who told the African Eye News Service this week that the provincial government had decided not to cancel the deal because it could have faced up to R250 million in litigation costs.

"It would have been just too expensive to simply cancel. What it would actually have meant is that the (Mpumalanga Parks Board) would have had to fight the thing in foreign courts, which would have cost \$50 million, or R250 million, and because it is a government parastatal, that money would come out of public funds — costing the taxpayer," McPherson said.

Central government has yet to make public its position on the deal, but is being briefed weekly about developments.

The Mpumalanga Parks

Board, which met on Tuesday, said it had sent a review team to London to meet Ketan Somaia, Dolphin's president, in an attempt to persuade him to renegotiate 10 "flaws" in the contract.

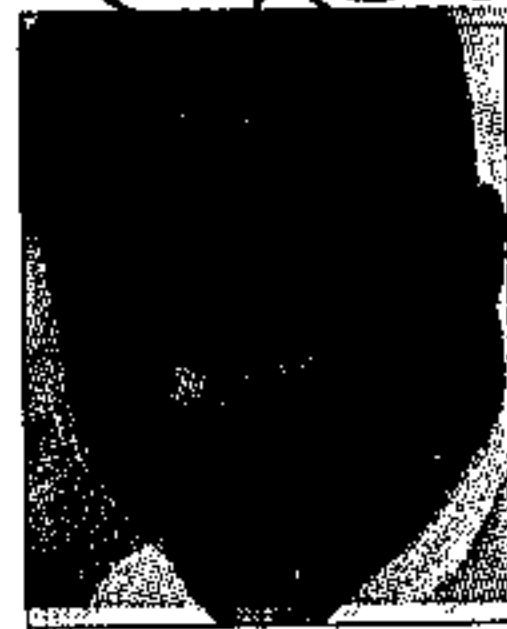
But the board emphasised the contract was legally binding on the government regardless of changes. "Although Mr Somaia has agreed to revisit clauses in the contract, if it is cancelled it could cost the province in the region of R250 million for breach of contract," the board said.

But Mokaba emphasised that central government would not be blackmailed by threats of litigation. "We are not in a fight with any developer, but nobody should stand in a position that they can blackmail government ... (if they do) we will be more angry and more willing to pull out," he said.

He said South African law allowed the government to cancel a deal if it threatened the environment. It would not be liable for damages if it cancelled the contract on that basis, he said.

Lisa Lombaard, of Mpumalanga Parks Board, said the agreement was constitutional.

"It contains a standard breach clause which could result in damages having to be paid to Dolphin for future loss of income," she said. The agreement was signed in South Africa and provided for arbitration to be held in Nelspruit, she said.



Peter Mokaba

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & TOURISM

FM 7/3/97
CRITICS SWIM TO DOLPHIN

Leading critics of the multibillion-rand deal to commercialise Mpumalanga's nature reserves went to London this week in a government-sponsored team to renegotiate controversial elements of the contract with developer the Dolphin Group.

The critics — environmental consultant Rupert Lorimer and Sue Hart, head of the province's semi-official Environmental Council — joined Environmental Affairs & Tourism MEC David Mkhwanazi and environmental lawyers Steve Raney and Jeremy Ridl in the talks which were expected to finalise the deal that has been dogged by controversy since its announcement last November (*Current Affairs* February 14).

Mkhwanazi's invitation to Lorimer and Hart sprang from the intervention of Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa, who has been working behind the scenes to resolve the dispute. "I'd rather have them pissing out of the tent than into it," says Phosa.

Another leading environmentalist, John Hanks, who resigned from the Mpumalanga Parks Board over the issue, declined an invitation to join the talks as he had to go to Geneva. The team left for London on Tuesday night and were due to meet Dolphin president and CE Ketan Somaia on Wednesday morning.

Mkhwanazi apparently assured Hart and Lorimer that they would be free to question the Dolphin executives and recommend that the contract be terminated if they cannot reach an agreement with the group. The contract allows for termination if government rejects the deal.

It is understood that Somaia has already agreed in principle to most of the proposed amendments to the contract during discussions with Mpumalanga officials in Johannesburg on February 20 and in subsequent telephone conversations. These include:

- Scrapping from the deal the envisaged inclusion of Pilgrim's Rest, Manyeleti game reserve and the proposed takeover of resorts in the ailing Aventura stable;
- Removing the confidentiality clause and any reference to secrecy in the agreement;
- Tightening the provision that dissolves Dolphin's commitment to underwrite the Mpumalanga Parks Board's annual deficit if tourism drops off due to civil unrest or political instability. Under the current deal, it would have to pay only 7% of gross turnover if tourism declined for these reasons;

- Firming Dolphin's commitment to spend between R320m-R400m on hotel and infrastructural development by 1999.

Mpumalanga also wants to raise the equity level of local communities and disadvantaged business in the envisaged nature park development companies from 20% to 50%. A compromise seems likely.

The primary focus of the London talks was expected to be the Mpumalanga team's request to cut the period of Dolphin's contract from 50 years renewable to 25 years renewable.

Somaia is believed to have already told the Mpumalanga Parks Board that such a reduction would necessitate a proportionate reduction in Dolphin's commitment to absorb the board's deficit and changes to dependent clauses in the contract. Parks board chairman Alan Gray has calculated that rising costs and

the gradual phasing out of State subsidies will push the board's deficit — and hence Dolphin's commitment — over the 50 years to R12,2bn.

The exclusion from the deal of Pilgrim's Rest and Manyeleti leaves Blyde River Canyon, Songimvelo Reserve and Loskop Dam as the choice sites.

Parks board chairman Alan Gray hit back at critics of the deal this week, saying that only 0,2% of the surface area of Mpumalanga's conservation areas was targeted for development by Dolphin.

Dolphin's developments in SA would be handled by well-established subsidiaries Block Hotels and UTC Travel. Somaia says the two companies will substantially boost tourism in Mpumalanga, with spin-offs for other SA destinations such as Sun City and the Kruger Park. Dolphin marketing director Michael Sharpes said on Tuesday the company was "prepared to listen" to the Mpumalanga team's proposals.

"We feel there has been a lot of misinformation about the deal and we welcome the opportunity of clarifying the issues," he said.

"If the contract can be improved, we'll be happy to go along with it."

Construction company Stocks & Stocks is already in the hunt for Dolphin's business. Sources involved with the deal say Stocks MD Bart Dorrestein met Dolphin representatives in London last week. It is not known if contracts were clinched. *Peter Honey*



Sue Hart . . . off to tackle Dolphin chief Somaia in London

Call to establish own W Cape parks board

LACK OF MONEY is retarding the development of eco-tourism in the W Cape. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.



CT 11/3/97 (56)

Conservation department under the provincial government will disappear. CNC staff will have the choice of either taking a transfer to the new body, or of remaining civil servants, but still working for the new organisation.

THE Western Cape may soon get its own parks board, a step which is likely to boost eco-tourism development in the province's nature areas and extend provincial control into "brown" environmental issues such as air and water pollution.

A report on the establishment of the new body — dealing with its future role and how the existing Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) department can be transformed — was handed to Environment MEC Mr Kobus Meiring yesterday.

Meiring, who is "very in favour" of the proposal, will now take the report to the Western Cape cabinet for a decision.

The proposed new body will not only deal with nature conservation, but also with human impact on the environment outside of protected areas.

It has also been proposed that the new body be allowed to raise its own funds, which government departments are not allowed to do. The body would get a government subsidy.

This would open doors for major eco-tourism development in nature reserves, which the cash-strapped CNC has not been able to get off the ground. The new body would be able to enter into loan agreements with private companies or individuals, and establish trust funds.

CNC head Dr Johan Neethling said changing the department into a parastatal was the "only way to go" to reverse the ever-dwindling budget for the environment.

Said Neethling: "Cape Nature Conservation is totally dependent on budget allocations from the fiscus and because of a shortage of money our hands are tied."

"This financial year our total budget for capital expenditure, which covers everything from new tractors to picks and shovels, was slashed from R5 million to R790 000.

"It was just enough to cover the cost of our new computers.

"At De Hoop Nature Reserve, we've spent a lot of money upgrading the old historic building into a guesthouse. Now we have no money to put beds in, so it stands empty.

"As Nature Conservation we are not allowed to raise money, but as a statutory board we would be.

"We could, for instance, go to one of the large companies and do a deal, where they pay for the fur-

nishing in exchange for one month's accommodation at the guest house for the next five years.

This is something National Parks Board has been doing in Kruger (National Park) for years. Kruger's entire Jakkalberry camp was built under such an agreement.

"We're sitting with some of the most beautiful natural areas in the country, but we can't develop their eco-tourism potential because we have no money."

The new board would have development functions, which the CNC does not have.

These include:

- Formulation of standards and policies relating to afforestation, coastal and urban development, agriculture, mining and services.

- Assessment of the environmental components of plans and proposed developments.

- Environmental planning, with new legislation to back it up. This would include comprehensive environmental inventories.

- Outdoor recreation planning, with legislation to back this up on a regional basis. As eco-tourism is likely to become a major economic

'We're sitting with some of the most beautiful natural areas in the country, but we can't develop their tourism potential because we have no money.'

— Johan Neethling

force in the Western Cape, this needs urgent attention, the report said.

The report also suggests bringing integrated environmental management (IEM) under the control of the new board, but it seems uncertain where to put it.

IEM, which aims to achieve harmony between development and environmental conservation, is an over-arching concept.

Professional environmentalists agree it should be placed at the highest levels of the new organisation.

If the new body is approved, the current Cape Nature

The body would be managed by an executive board of 12 to 15 members, who would be nominated by the public. Nominations would be sifted by the provincial standing committee on agriculture, environment affairs and tourism.

The new body also represents a chance for the provincial environment body to be more representative of the people in the Western Cape.

But, said experts, creating a statutory body would not be a panacea for the province's environmental problems. It depends on the make-up of the board members and its staff.

For example, the Natal Parks Board is a statutory body which has earned itself an international reputation for sound environmental management. But the newly formed Mpumalanga Parks Board got itself into hot water — with the "Dolphin scandal" — soon after it was established last year.

The Mpumalanga board clinched a secret deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin group, which effectively sold off the development rights at Blyde River Canyon, Pilgrims Rest, Songimvelo and Mayaleti Parks for the next 50 years.

In exchange, Dolphin will take over the board's budget deficit for the next 50 years and will also invest R400 million in the parks.

Asked how this could be prevented in the Western Cape's new board, Neethling replied: "You can't throw out the whole system because the Mpumalanga Parks Board made an ill-advised and secret decision."

A positive aspect is that highly qualified staff, who have joined the recent exodus from Cape Nature Conservation, may rejoin the new board.

A negative point is that it would cost the taxpayers, as many of the staff have been paid out voluntary retrenchment packages.

Although they may not be re-employed by the province, they can be employed by a statutory body.

Asked if he would apply for the post of chief executive officer of the new board, Neethling, who is due to take a R1 million package in May, replied: "No, I will not apply for chief executive officer."

"But if someone nominated me to be on the executive board, I would consider it."

Bid to ensure polluters clean up their act

(56) Star 11/3/97

BY HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Reporter

Companies producing dangerous waste are heading for a showdown with Gauteng's Environment Department, which yesterday suggested a special monitoring body to find those failing to comply with its environmental policy.

Presenting her department's policy framework on environment to the province's standing committee on her portfolio, Agriculture, Conservation and Environmental Affairs MEC Nomvula Mokonyane said the Government was busy compiling a list of companies producing dangerous waste to make the job of

an inspecting body easier.

Mokonyane said that although the province could possibly experience serious financial consequences from legal battles with affected companies, she was hoping that those involved would exercise self-discipline and restraint to ensure the safety of residents.

"The burden would

then shift away from the state providing environmental protection, to the polluter having to provide the environmental management systems," she said.

"Gauteng has a large number of companies producing polluting and toxic waste, and these are being run without proper regulations," she added.

Macassar committee to monitor sulphur removal

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

ARLT 14/3/97

(10) (56)

The Macassar Disaster Action Committee has pledged its commitment to ensuring that the sulphur stockpile at the AECI plant near Somerset West is safely moved.

This follows concern by Cape Town health authorities about a plan to ship the stockpile through Cape Town harbour to Namibia following its sale to the Rössing Uranium company.

The sulphur dump was the site of a fire in December 1995, following a bush fire in the area, which resulted in two deaths and the emergency evacuation of the entire Macassar community.

Action committee spokesman George Liddle said the committee would like to put

on record that it had made arrangements with the Department of Trade and Industry to ensure the safe passage of the stockpile of sulphur.

Community representatives would be monitoring the removal of the sulphur to safeguard the interests of residents in the Western Cape.

Mr Liddle said he would welcome any support from other interest groups which could help in monitoring the process of the removal of the sulphur.

He said the disaster action committee had been informed of the sale of the stockpile.

A meeting with the department was due to take place next week.

The community had been asking for the removal of the 8 500 tons of sulphur for some time.

Board chief's empire

M+G 14-19/3/97

(56)

Alan Gray, chief executive of the Mpumalanga Parks Board who led the controversial Dolphin nature reserves deal, has wide business interests in the area, reports

Justin Arenstein

THE man who led Mpumalanga Parks Board into a controversial nature reserve deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin Group owns companies that hold lucrative contracts with the parks board.

It also emerged this week that Alan Gray's attempts to use an alleged letter from Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi to vindicate Dolphin's Kenyan owner has prompted a full blown investigation by Kenyan authorities who deny the letter's existence. Gray has failed to co-operate with the probe.

Gray, the parks board's chief executive, operates tourism, transport and medical companies in the province, all of which enjoy the parks board's patronage. Gray is also a consultant to the state-owned board, commanding a private sector salary allegedly worth around R50 000 a month.

Banking group Absa told the *Mail & Guardian* this week that it is investigating Gray in connection with the transfer of funds between various bank accounts and the depositing of cheques.

Gray brokered the deal with Dolphin last November, handing the company a commercial monopoly over Mpumalanga's key tourism attractions, including the Blyde River Canyon, various state-owned game reserves and Pilgrims Rest. The deal — in which Dolphin would bankroll the parks board in exchange for exclusive rights over the sites for the next 50 years — was revised last week following a public outcry.

Gray declined to specify his salary this week. The province's environmental affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi, however, said Gray's pay was based on what a private sector managing director, who controlled a company with an asset base equivalent to the board, would earn, plus a performance-related element.

The *M&G* found that all parks board employees are contractually obliged to take out membership with Gray's medical rescue company, Life Crisis.

Gray said this week that the board had employed the company without following normal tendering procedures, but that he had recused himself from that decision.

Gray's company took over the contract last year after Lowveld Helicopter Services (LHS) — in which Gray owns a large stake — brought an urgent liquidation order against Life Crisis's predecessor, snapping up its assets just before the order was served.

LHS holds the majority of the parks board's aerial game counting, darting and capture contracts. Most other provincial government departments, including Mkhwanazi's department and Premier Mathews Phosa's office also extensively use LHS, without tender procedures being followed.

LHS contracts have included "flips" around the province for the now-disgraced former government consultant, Eugene Nyati, trips by Phosa



Grey areas: Mpumalanga Parks Board chief executive Alan Gray

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

and colleagues, as well as sightseeing tours by Dolphin executives. LHS also flew a parks board and legislative delegation to Cape Town two weeks ago in a King Air fixed-wing plane. It provided a helicopter to M-Net's *Carte Blanche* while they filmed an insert on the Dolphin deal.

Gray refused to say how much the board had spent with LHS, insisting such information could be demanded only by the provincial legislature.

This week, however, LHS staff suddenly stopped using the company's name when answering the phone, and instead welcomed callers to "Air Excellence". Staff said all LHS assets, staff, contracts and helicopters had been transferred to Air Excellence.

Gray also refused to comment on an alleged R3,5-million breach of contract lawsuit against LHS and against him by Russian-registered helicopter company TyvmenAviaTrans. Regional TyvmenAviaTrans manager Andre Denasov said the company had entered a joint venture with LHS in 1993 but was still allegedly owed profits and staff expenses.

Other companies in which Gray has interests include: Helicopter Investment Services, Eastern Transvaal Ambulance Services, Emergency Vehicle Hire Services, Corridor Management Services,

Eagle Helicopters and Zambian Tours.

The row with the Kenyans was sparked last month after Gray insisted that he had a letter from Arap Moi clearing the Dolphin president, Ketar Somaia, of any dubious business dealings or other scandals in Kenya.

He has since refused to make copies of the letter public, or take calls from Kenya's High Commissioner in South Africa, Justice Mudavadi.

The existence of the letter, which allegedly clears Somaia of all wrongdoing in a R35-million security equipment tender, has been repeatedly denied by Arap Moi's office.

"We do not care about the contract or the deal," Mudavadi says. "But the use of our president's name is serious. Despite phoning Gray numerous times over the past three weeks, "I have failed to speak to him or even get past his secretary — instead I am always told he is out or in meetings."

The possibility that Gray had been given a fraudulent letter, signed in the name of the president and clearing Somaia, had been considered by Kenyan authorities said.

Gray has previously insisted that he cannot make the letter public until he receives counsel from his and Somaia's legal advisors. He again refused to respond to questions about the letter this week.

Poisons all but wipe out blue crane population

(5b) Star 17/3/97

MELANIE-AWAN FORBES
Environment Reporter

Illegal trading and mass poisonings have severely curtailed the population of South Africa's national bird, the blue crane.

The blue crane population has decreased to such an extent over the past decade the bird has been listed as globally threatened.

In an effort to try to save it from extinction, researchers have started a satellite tracking device project.

"We need to know where they are from to be able to conserve them.

"We also need to know where their breeding areas are as well as the routes they use during migration," said Kevin McCann, national crane research co-ordinator.

The cost of fitting one bird with a tracking device, however,

is R10 000 per year.

Researchers are hoping to fit two birds in every geographical area in the country where they are found with the devices by next summer.

"We can't afford to do this without sponsorship.

"As a conservation organisation we are looking for funding all the time," said McCann.

National cosmetics company Avroy Shlain has come to the assistance by sponsoring two such devices.

"But it's not enough," said director Avroy Shlain.

"The birds don't have much time left.

"At their present population they could re-establish themselves fairly quickly, but any further decline makes conservation progressively more difficult.

"The cost and effort of trying

to keep a tiny population of cranes breeding successfully is going to be far greater than if we solve the problems now."

He has challenged other corporations in the country to become involved in the fight to save the birds.

McCann has estimated that there are between 14 000 and 21 000 blue cranes left in the country. Although they are indigenous to South Africa, a handful have been spotted in parts of Namibia.

The blue crane population has decreased by 90% in large parts of the country since the early 80s.

About 75% of the population are now found only in parts of the Karoo and south-western Cape, said McCann.

The decrease in crane numbers has been attributed to mass poisoning of flocks during the early 80s, the destruction of their natural

habitat, the illegal bird trade in the country and power lines.

According to McCann, hundreds of birds were poisoned en masse in such places as Natal and the Free State.

"These were not deliberate poisonings, but as a result of the misuse of agricultural chemicals. A lot of big flocks were taken out at once.

"In Natal there used to be flocks of about 1 000 birds, but today we consider ourselves lucky to see about 40 to 50.

"These (mass poisonings) do not happen very often now, but we are now seeing the unhappy results from the poisonings," McCann said.

He added it was impossible to establish the exact number of birds being lost to illegal bird trading as "no one wants to talk about it".

Board chief's powers cut

(56)

M+G 20-26/3/97

Mpumalanga Parks Board's controversial boss has had his powers cut while the Dolphin deal is modified, reports
Justin Arenstein

THE Mpumalanga government has moved to clip the wings of its outspoken parks board boss Alan Gray over the controversial deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin Group.

The deal would have given Dolphin exclusive commercial rights over the province's best-known tourist sites in return for funding for the Mpumalanga Parks Board.

This week, Mpumalanga MEC for Environmental Affairs David Mkhwanazi said he had always been against the deal, and had sent Gray a memorandum about aspects of the proposed contract before it was signed last year. He says his written warnings were ignored and the deal was "steamrollered" through.

Now Mkhwanazi said he is moving to "re-exert" his political control over the supposedly autonomous parastatal, including changing legislation to dismiss the board's internal tender committee, cutting Gray's powers and imposing severe financial restrictions on the board.

He also said the provincial government was taking over control of salaries at the board after complaints from employees in equivalent posts in the province who say they earn far less.

The Mpumalanga government stayed unusually quiet, despite widespread public criticism of aspects of the plan, until the contract was revised on Wednesday, four months after the *Mail & Guardian* first exposed details of the deal.

The original contract would have given Dolphin a commercial monopoly of Mpumalanga's prize resorts and reserves for 50 years. After the public outcry the deal was watered down, limiting the contract to 25 years, and cutting the number of sites to which Dolphin will have exclusive rights.

Even this revised contract has come under scrutiny. The national Portfolio Committee on the Environment has written to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan demanding a full inves-



Fat deal: Alan Gray led the Dolphin deal that created a public outcry

tigation of the contract, arguing that game reserves are a national asset that should not be commercialised — particularly to pay for the operation of a single government department employing less than 600 people.

Last week the *M&G* reported that Gray was employed by the board as a consultant at R50 000 a month. It has been established that he is employed as chief executive of the board on a five-year contract at a salary of between R34 000 and R40 000 a month, with added perks and benefits the value of which he and his employers have not released.

Gray owns, or is involved in, several businesses — including a helicopter charter company — which continue to provide services to both the provincial parks board and the provincial government.

Another figure in the Dolphin deal controversy has emerged following investigations by the *M&G*. He is Gray's good friend Sean McMurray. McMurray leases to the board its regional offices in Witbank. He also sold half his interest in two Mpumalanga hotels to Dolphin during the exploratory meetings with Dolphin executives, which took place in Dubai and London last year.

The board recently appointed McMurray as chairman of the Somalanga Development company which will develop the board's flagship resort, the Songimvelo Game Reserve, in a joint venture with Dolphin. Gray has denied any business links with McMurray.

Capetonians stand to lose access to 'green-lung' forests

Tokai, Cecilia sell-off threat

ARC 21/3/97

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Capetonians could lose access to the popular Tokai and Cecilia forests if the parastatal Safcol, to which state-owned forest land has been transferred, is privatised this year.

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel singled out Safcol in his budget speech as one of the parastatals to be considered for privatisation.

David Daitz, co-ordinator of the National Parks Board's Table Mountain national park project, said Capetonians had every reason to feel concerned about their long-term access to the popular forests, and that there was a good case for the Government to review its recent transfer to Safcol of state-owned forest land, in order to exclude these two areas.

For more than a year environmentalists, conservationists and other users of the Peninsula mountain chain have been concerned that the privatisation of Safcol could eventually lead to the alienation of the Tokai and Cecilia forests - including possible development of these important green-lung zones as residential areas.

Fears are that whoever invests substantially in Safcol may put heavy pressure on the Government, as the majority shareholder, to sell off some timber-producing

areas that do not give adequate returns on capital, and that these could include Cecilia and Tokai forests.

The pine plantations of the winter rainfall areas of the Western Cape show a significantly lower "mean annual increment" - foresters' term for timber growth - than the summer rainfall areas in other parts of the country, and are therefore, in simple accounting terms, not as profitable.

Mr Daitz said the National Parks Board had been negotiating with Safcol to include Tokai and Cecilia forests in the new national park on a contractual basis, and that timber production in most of this area would have continued.

The conservation-worthy area of these two forests - about 70ha of a total of 770ha - would have been managed as an integral part of the national park, while the land ownership would have remained vested in Safcol.

"We had some fruitful discussions in a good spirit," Mr Daitz said. "We believe forestry development is part of the cultural landscape of the Cape, like vineyards, and I think pine plantations play a very important role in the area by acting as a sponge to soak up visitor pressure."

"I'm perfectly comfortable that these forests should remain as pine plantations for wood production as long as it's done in an environmentally sensitive manner."

HEAVY-HANDED tactics by local mining company Durban Roodepoort Deep (DRD) were detailed this week in a docket forwarded to the state prosecutor, Una van der Schyff.

Van der Schyff is preparing to prosecute the managing director and a security guard for allegedly assaulting a city councillor, Allen Morris. But case number 22/3/97 at Roodepoort SAPS might more aptly be titled: Slimes Dams versus The People. Because a whole host of mainly coloured townships were built next to these lethal heaps of mud that slither and slide towards peoples' homes. Residents tolerated the danger through the apartheid years, because they had no choice. But democracy has given them a voice.

It was Morris' dedication to representing his constituents in Davidsonville that led him into direct conflict with Frikkie Coetzee, manager of the mine. Councillor Morris (39) explains: "I had phoned him and visited the DRD offices repeatedly, asking for an appointment to discuss the people's problems, but I was ignored."

And all the while in Davidsonville the rain still fell and the mud still flowed. The West Rand community of Davidsonville is built right next to a tumble-down slimes dam. The pile of mine waste looms over two-storey blocks of flats built some 16 years ago and nudges up against small houses each barely a year old.

The Sunday following the alleged assault, Morris nursed bruised ribs. But he still struggled for the residents, while rain continued to fall heavily, piercing the thick-skinned surfaces of ponds edging the slimes dam began to seep into the township.

Streets are awash with mud, the sludge oozing out of storm drains instead of into them. Each house in Cupido Crescent now has its own moat, reminiscent of a murky Venice.

People paddle with practised ease through sandy streams that divide neighbours. Young women in high heels seek the comparative safety of the road's highest camber.

In the midst of this deluge, which has become commonplace in Davidsonville, Morris walks from house to house along the unplanned water course. He listens to his constituents' concerns about the mud that fills their yards and the water that invades

Davidsonville battles tide of mud, on all sides

RECURRING mudslides from the neighbouring slimes dam of a mining company are destroying the West Rand settlement of Davidsonville, and plaguing its community. BROWNWN JONES reports on the situation, and those who are fighting to correct it.

People who rent or own newly built houses have found that living next to a slimes dam is a persistent discomfort.

At 594 Cupido Crescent, Mary Bush (80), her daughter Collen (47), granddaughter Sherlie (30) and great-granddaughters Kaylene (12) and Tracey (8) live with Sherlie's partner, Jerome Mackonie (24). The household has lived without a refrigerator for more than four weeks because it was damaged by the mud and water flowing into their kitchen. Her frail face worn with worries, Bush says: "The mining company took the fridge away. Then they said it wasn't working anyway. But they haven't brought it back."

She has to store fresh food in Mrs Mapson's fridge next door. Several calls by City Press to Durban Roodepoort Deep failed to discover the whereabouts of the fridge. When it rains, a metre-wide girdle of water surrounds Mary Bush's front door. Further down the hill from her house, the water is even deeper.

Two brightly coloured houses were repainted a year ago following damage in January 1996 by mud flowing from the dam. Insurance for number 610 paid out R6 225,64 for damages. This year, on February 3, the mud moved again. Morris says it took 31 mining company employees on an eight-hour shift seven days to shift the slime. They used two tractors and a truck - "bigger than 10 tons" - to transport 75 loads.

Councillor Morris accompanied different mine employees to the site, including chief environmental officer George Niewoudt, technical manager Al Zylstra, production manager Piet Bekker and metallurgical manager Mike Phillips. He said they had described it as a mini Merris-spruit - referring to the Free State dam failure that killed 17 people years before.

While most of Davidsonville's latest batch of mud has been cleared, the streets are still wet and sandy. Maurice Fourie's back lawn is a quagmire of low quality soil brought in to replace the sand and

Councillor allegedly assaulted for caring

lawn that the tractors scraped away. On his own initiative he has diverted one of the rain-and-seepage streams that used to flow through his yard. Fourie says: "The kids have no place to play now. And my son is always sick. His doctor says it is because of the dam."

Nine households who want to buy their rented homes claim damage to concrete slabs where the tractors scraped away the slimes. No one wants to pay the R70 000 per house expected by the Western MSS.

The dam itself is used by the community as a short cut to town. Residents walk over the sloping banks past four-metre-deep, unfenced holes of sticky mud. Children play near treacherous ponds of slime. There is not one warning sign.

Sixteen years ago two children died on the dump when a sand pile fell on top of them. Survivor Grant Ferrine, now 29, still lives in the suburb's Africa Street.

He says: "I was walking with two other boys, Ashley Muller (10) and Willie Menegen (7). We walked across the dump and it just collapsed on us. I was 13 at the time."

"They phoned the fire brigade and the tractors. It took some time for Willie and Ashley to die. But when they took them out they were already dead."

Ferrine's leg was broken in three places and he still suffers pain from the injury.

"But we never had compensation. They said we couldn't claim anything from the mine," he says. These days he works as a toolfitter and has his own son, Curthlin (4), and a daughter, Shorrey (2).

"I worry that they might go to the dam but I tell them they mustn't. It will be good if Durban Roodepoort Deep removes it, but they mustn't put the problem somewhere else," says Ferrine. Concern is slowly starting to weld the slimes dam townships into an effective force.

Councillor Morris walked the dump with Eugene Marais, chairman of the civic association at another township, Fleurhof. Marais has fought a long, as yet unfinished, war of words to prevent such a monolithically re-emerging next to his community.

Morris has battled similarly to secure more sympathy for the problems faced by the people of Davidsonville. He has fought apathy and rudeness. As a National Party representative, his life is not made easier in an ANC-dominated council. It is as if, for some, politics must come before the people.

But Morris simply wants solutions to the residents' concerns. He says he phoned or visited the offices of Durban Roodepoort Deep management on each of the 23 working days between February

3 and March 6 this year to try to make an appointment with general manager Anton Lubbe. While the secretary assured Morris she had passed the messages on, Morris claims no calls were returned.

But since the residents still demanded answers from their elected representative, Morris decided to visit Frikkie Coetzee, managing director of DRD, at the company's offices. Morris says he told him: "Frustration had been high because whenever it rains, mine sand floods into houses and damages property and the environment." The other side of the dump also flows into businesses such as truck component maker M&G Spares.

Coetzee then called a white security officer, Corrie Haramsse, to a statement later given to the SAPS. Morris says that the guard, who wore a First Force uniform, "look me with his gun and pulled my jersey off my body. When I phoned the SAPS, they took away my cellphone and my briefcase. Then another security guard came and took it away under arrest."

Morris agrees to go to the Roodepoort SAPS. As he starts his car, Haramsse allegedly took the car keys away. Morris says Haramsse started to force him towards the security offices and Lubbe walked past. Morris knew him well and asked for help - but says Lubbe said he could do nothing. Then Haramsse "hit me in my ribs and grabbed my glasses from my face and broke the frame."

When the police arrived, Morris reminded them of his right to a private life. The officer retrieved Morris's cellphone from the mine security, and after a conversation with Morris's attorney, he was released.

The briefcase was returned, allegedly minus a pair of cufflinks and two silver pens. The pens were Christmas gifts from Morris' sons. Morris says he has laid charges of assault against the company with the Roodepoort SAPS.

When City Press contacted Frikkie Coetzee, he said: "There was no assault. What he says is not true." He would not comment further on Morris' allegations. His lawyer, David Adams, suggested that the company might counter-claim for defamation. Durban Roodepoort Deep has, however, dropped the charge of trespassing against Morris.

Messages left with First Force director Johan van Vuuren at the main office were not answered. City Press had asked for the security group's policy on violence and theft by its employees.

Investigating officer Detective Sergeant Charl Scheepers, of the Roodepoort SAPS, says that the investigation into the incident is complete, but that the suspects have not made statements "on their attorneys' advice".

'Surprise guests' cause panic

BY SIFELANI MLAMBO

THOUSANDS of white South Africans are in a panic.

A letter written on a Department of Home Affairs letterhead and addressed to white families informs them that they have been chosen to host black families in their homes "as part of fostering greater racial understanding and integration". They are signed by a Phosa Luthlangu. The letters congratulate the recipient for having been selected by the South African Race Relations Bureau for the programme. The neatly-typed letters inform recipients that within two weeks of receiving the notification, a guest family of up to six members from the former Transkei will be knocking at their doors. Would-be hosts are kindly asked to let the Department of Home Affairs to know if they can accommodate an extra family. The guests will be resident for "a few months".

"During the 1996 census survey, we came to the conclusion that you have plenty of extra space..." says a letter sent to a Mr and Mrs F Markgraaf of Johannesburg. The hosts will be sent some "traditional recipes from the Eastern Cape": "What a welcome that will be. We will also provide adequate supplies of mealie meal, chicken and bread (on request)," says the letter to the Markgraafs. The letters inform the recipients that it is their duty as whites to make sure they contribute to racial unity and the upliftment of blacks. "We know that you will feel it is your duty as white South Africans to help bring our black brothers and sisters up to our standard of living," says the letter.

The Department of Home Affairs said it had received thousands of complaints from white South Africans. They said the writers of the message was in no way connected to the Department. "This is obviously a hoax and the Department of Home Affairs appeals to recipients of such a message to ignore it. The Department is trying to trace the origin of the letter," a statement from the Department said. The South African Race Relations Bureau also said they did not know the author of the letter.

(5b) 23/3/97

WALL OPENED FOR FIRST TIME

Zeekoewlei given new lease on life

CT 25/3/97

(56)

ALLOWING WATER to flow out of Zeekoewlei will help flush out pollutants and lower the level to enable weeds and debris to be removed. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

ZEEMAN — believed to be the world's most polluted inland water body — has been given a chance to become revitalised.

The dam wall across the vlei was opened yesterday as residents, councillors and environmentalists cheered in approval.

This step will allow the vlei's murky green water — and with it, pollutants — to be flushed out.

Like other wetlands on the Cape Flats, Zeekoewlei used to be a pan that almost dried up in summer and filled up with the winter rains. It also flowed out to sea, an action that flushed it naturally.

The dam wall was built in 1953 so that the vlei would remain full all year round, mainly for boating and yachting.

However, by preventing the water from flowing out to sea, the wall halted the flushing and stopped Zeekoewlei from functioning as a natural system.

As the Cape Flats became more urbanised, the level of pollutants carried into the vlei by the Lotus River and the Little Lotus River increased enormously.

Zeekoewlei became increasingly polluted, silted and choked up with alien plants like water hyacinth.

"Under these circumstances, a system can cope with only so much before it crashes and

becomes a dead system," said Ms Julia Wood, environmental officer for the city council's parks and forests department.

"We don't know if Zeekoewlei has crashed or is in the process of crashing. Eventually one would get a system that

was almost sterile and where only blue-green algae and nothing else grew."

Calls by local residents for the vlei to be cleaned up led to the founding of the Zeekoewlei Environmental Management Team.

The team comprises representatives of the city council, the Cape Metropolitan Council, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the Zeekoewlei Environmental Forum and other non-government organisations.

It identified the need to make openings in the dam wall as the highest short-term priority in attempting to improve the quality of the water.

Boards, or stoplogs, were placed in these openings. When lifted, these allow the water to flow out,

the first step towards the vlei's returning to a dynamic system.

The stoplogs were lifted for the first time at a ceremony yesterday.

"We expect the water level to drop by about 1,2 metres over the next 10 days," Wood said.

"This will enable much of the pollutants to be flushed out and allow us to clean out the weeds, garbage and water hyacinth. None of us really knows what is down there."

Mr Johann Botha, of the city council, said the

Lotus River had been deviated temporarily into the council's sewerage plant.

A lot of fertiliser from the farms in Philippi entered the river, which carried it into the vlei, he said.

With the high nutrient content, algae had flourished.

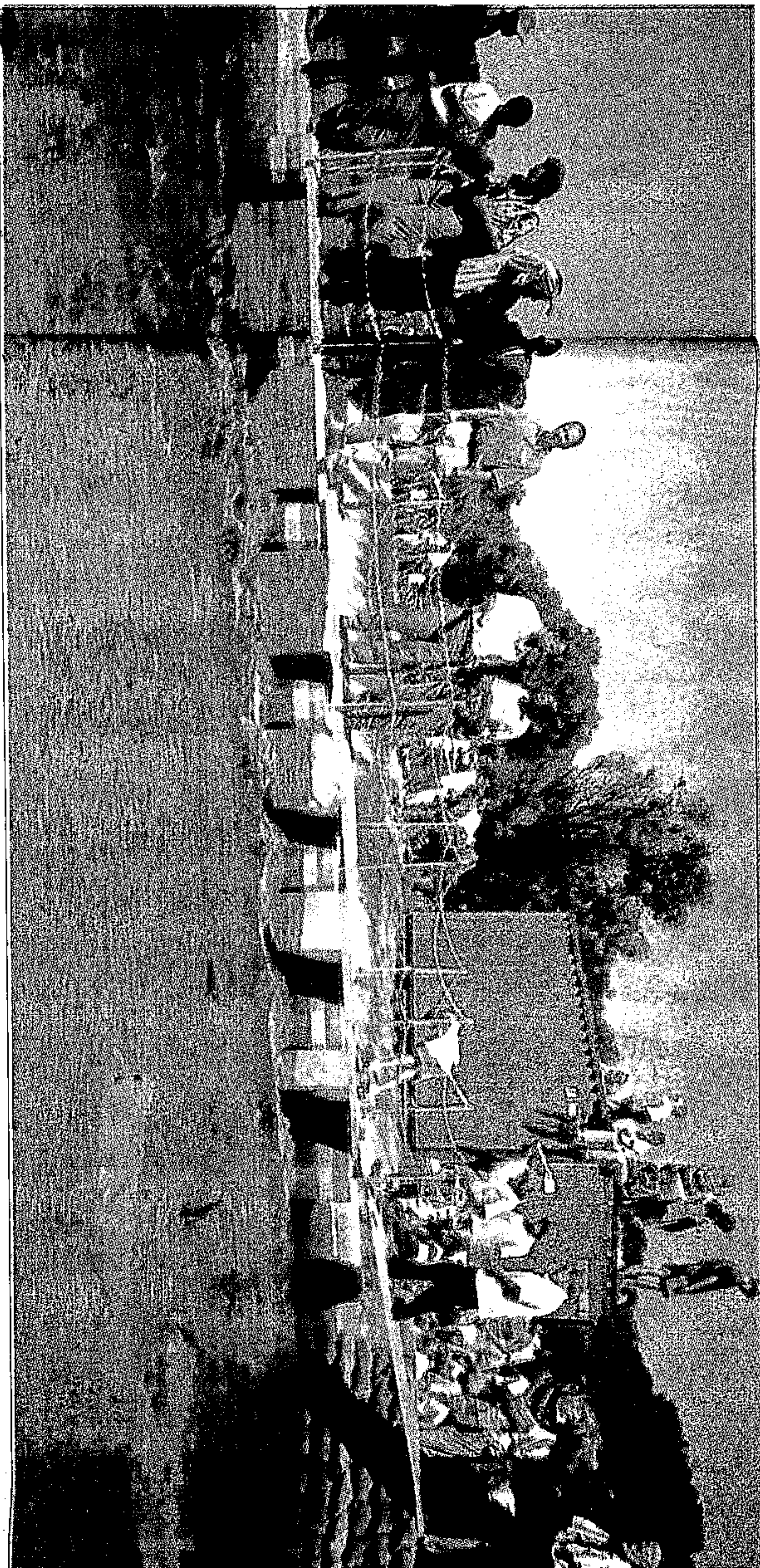
"When the water level drops, we expect a beach of about 50m to 60m wide to form on the western side," Botha said.

"We hope to get machines in to remove the sediment and generally clean up."

If successful, this exercise, the first in a series to try to clean up the vlei, would be repeated every year.

The authorities acknowledged that this was a short-term solution. However, the situation was so serious, it was necessary to do something urgently.

"We don't know if Zeekoewlei has crashed. Eventually one would get a system that was almost sterile and where only blue-green algae grew."



MURKY BOTTOM: Residents watch the water flow through newly constructed openings in the dam wall breaching Zeekoewlei. As the water level in the vlei dropped, silt, bricks, bottles and twisted metal became exposed. It is the first time the wall has been opened since it was built in 1953 and is an attempt to clean out the polluted vlei.

PICTURE: MELANIE GOSLING

Industry up to standard in efforts to cut pollution

MPHO MANTJIU

Johannesburg — The South African industrial sector had introduced measures that would minimise risks, help control the transport of hazardous materials and limit pollution by chemical industries, the South African Bureau of Standards' vice president, Barry Paul, said yesterday.

Speaking at the Raw Chemicals Exhibition in Johannesburg, Paul said South Africa's role had been recognised through the nomination of two industrialists to key posts.

Paul Kruger, from Sasol, had been chosen to serve as president of the International Standards Organisation (ISO).

Eskom's Eugene Julies would represent the southern hemisphere in a consideration of merging certification efficiency, time and cost-saving aspects of the ISO-9000 quality management system and the new ISO-14000 environment management systems, both important to the chemical and allied industries sector.

The nominations were indicative of South Africa's significance and progress in the field of stan-

dardisation in the industry, Paul said.

The chemical and allied industries and the SABS had jointly created standards to manage environmental pollution. The industries' commitment to establishing environmental-friendly conditions for businesses boded well for South Africa in attracting foreign exchange and job creation.

Paul said a process of consultation had led to the SABS generating standards and guides related to transport and storage of both chemical and non-chemical products. These were applied voluntarily, but some were expected to be taken up within the Road Traffic Act and made compulsory.

The industry was working on new sets of standards as guides for emergency purposes, he said.

The SABS had harmonised the transport and storage standards with those set out by United Nations' recommendations.

Paul said these would be of significance since South Africa had signed a World Trade Organisation agreement. The trade and industry department and the SABS would report to the WTO on standards compulsory in this country.

CT (BR) 25/3/97

(56)

UNSPOILT: A view of part of South Africa's world-renowned Garden Route, overlooking picturesque Knysna, before the bulldozers move in. Residents fear Knysna

'COUNCIL HAS LITTLE VISION'

Development threat to Garden Route jewel

CT 1/4/97

(56)

THE KNYSNA municipality is accused of lacking the political will to stop 'inappropriate' developments. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.



RUNAWAY and inappropriate development in Knysna — long regarded as the jewel of the Garden Route — is threatening the environmental integrity of the tiny coastal town which residents fear is on the way to become a brash, overdeveloped "Coney Island"-type resort.

Professional environmentalists, residents and the green lobby say they are fighting a losing battle against wealthy, powerful developers and a local municipality which approves inappropriate developments. They say the local council lacks the political will and the expertise to put the aesthetic and ecological environment first, which threatens to destroy the "golden goose" which lays the tourism egg.

Ratepayers say the council ignores public protest, forcing them to resort to expensive legal action or to appeal to the Western Cape government to halt bad developments.

The National Parks Board's warden at Knysna, Mr Peet Joubert, said of the inappropriate development: "If you look at how little of the 'garden' is left in the Garden Route, you will be dismayed. It's reaching a stage when it is all pine plantations and buildings, buildings and more buildings. There is no planning for this town. The council has dreams, but they have little vision."

Joubert says the ecologically sensitive Knysna Lagoon, which has the highest biodiversity of any estuary in the country, is being seriously impacted on by:

- Private landowners illegally filling in the sensitive salt marshes which are the cornerstone of the lagoon's food web.

- Huge silt loads being deposited in the lagoon from construction works.

- Disturbance in the lagoon's catchment area.

Many say the local council is "wooded" into rubber-stamping developments because of the promise of jobs for the locals. They complain, too, of council plans to develop public land without consulting the public, and of at least one councillor who is allegedly commercially involved in a development on council land.

They say at least one development was "whitewashed" as an educational institution in order to get it accepted.

The results of water samples taken from the lagoon during the floods in November last year, show suspended solids of as much as 19g per litre. The Department of Water Affairs' legal limit for discharge into a water body is 0,5 g per litre.

The bulk of the high silt load is believed to have come from the construction of the Jack Nicklaus signature Simola golf course under construction, but the management there denies this.

Professor Brian Allanson, who founded the Knysna Basin research project, believes the problems are compounded by weak environmental legislation and inadequate structure plans.

"The government will rue the day that they allowed environmental issues to be devolved to provincial and local levels, rather than making it a national responsibility like the Department of Water Affairs. Local authorities don't have the competency or expertise to understand all the environmental impacts from developments.

"It is also a huge myth that these huge developments create local jobs. This is the most untried

very wrong for developers to go around making sweeping statements about jobs. This needs some rigorous socio-economic investigation.

"Somewhere along the line central or provincial government must step in and say 'thus far and no further', but there seems little political will to do so," Allanson said.

The chairman of the Knysna Environmental Forum, Mr Toni Tonin, who also runs a commercial oyster business, said he had had to retrench a quarter of his staff because of damage to his oysters by the silt in the flood waters.

"Environment degradation could mean the end of the Knysna oyster industry, worth R10 million a year. It will be a sad day to see the death of an industry which relies on environmental health because we failed to protect a national asset — the lagoon and surrounds —

through cheap, blind and completely inappropriate development," said Tonin.

The chairman of the Knysna Ratepayers' Association, Mr Ralph Gout, said his association

'The council appears to take little account of ratepayers' views. The way this town is going, it could soon become another Coney Island.'

objected strongly to what they believed was haphazard planning, ad hoc acceptance of development proposals and council sanctioning transgressions of guidelines initially laid down for developers.

"The council appears to take little account of ratepayers' views. The way this town is going, it could soon become another Coney Island," he said.

Knysna town clerk Mr Wiekie Smit said last night it was "unfair" to expect him to comment on the allegations, when he was not fully aware of the circumstances surrounding them.

Smit, however, strongly denied the allegations that the Knysna council approved rash and inappropriate development without taking the environment into consideration. He said stringent mea-

Plunde

Landmark pe

A **STRETCH** of public land on Knysna's lagoon front, including the tiny landmark peninsula called The Point, will soon be a wall of buildings — a restaurant, shops and a tearoom.

Locals are fighting what they believe is yet another serious blow to the ecologically sensitive lagoon, which they say is threatened by a frenzy of inappropriate development.

Residents are also angry because they believe a local councillor is commercially involved in the development.

The Knysna Ratepayers' Association has at least two affidavits from individuals who say the councillor told them he was

'Rubbing silt' into wound

SIMOLA, the Jack Nicklaus signature championship golf course, hotel and housing development under construction in the hills of Knysna, has residents up in arms because of the high silt loads construction has deposited in the sensitive Knysna Lagoon — the estuary with the highest biodiversity in the country.

National Parks Board warden for Knysna Mr Peet Joubert said the development's environmental impact assessment (EIA) had recommended that vegetation be stripped fairway by fairway, to prevent massive soil wash-aways, but it was ripped out in one go, leaving the soil exposed.

With the high rainfalls in October and November, masses of silt had washed into the Salt River and into the lagoon. Water samples at the time recorded up to 19g of suspended solids per litre in the water, while the legal limit is 0,5 g.

Knysna Ratepayers' Association chairman Mr Ralph Gout said the developers had not taken sufficient steps to prevent the soil washing into the system.

The Simola chief executive officer, Mr Tony Klein, claims only "between 3% and 5%" of the high silt load came from the development.

He said the EIA recommenda-

... will be ruined by runaway development and accuse the council of rubber-stamping development plans because of the promise of jobs.

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involved in the development.
Town Clerk Mr Wiekie Smit said the land had been put out to tender by the council.
"I've heard that he (the councillor) is involved, but he recused himself from voting on the tender," said Smit.
However, the developer who won the tender, Mr Graham Boonzaier, denied that a councillor was commercially involved in his enterprise.
"It's rubbish. No councillor is involved and I'm sick and tired of arguing about that," Boonzaier said.
Smit said the land needed to be developed because "people are digging the bushes for toilets".

The Point has been used by the local community for generations to picnic, launch boats and to fish, as well as by subsistence bait-collectors.
It lies on the outskirts of the built-up area of Knysna, on the picturesque lagoon drive.
It has historical significance, as it is where the old ferry across the lagoon used to land. An old copper pot hung at The Point for would-be passengers to strike when they wanted to alert the ferryman in Ferry House at Belvedere to come across and fetch them.
Knysna Ratepayers' Association chairman Mr Ralph Gout said residents would "fight the development to the bitter end".

The Pinnacles is 'height of disaster'

THE Pinnacles, a massive R350-million hotel, housing and golf course development on what environmentalists say is the last remaining coastal plateau with fynbos and forest in the Southern Cape, has been given the green light by the Knysna town council.
The National Parks Board's warden for Knysna, Mr Peet Joubert, who described the 352ha of land as "an environmental jewel", said yesterday: "If we lose this piece of natural vegetation to development, it will be a disaster."
The land, originally owned by the Duthie family and then by Anglo American, is now owned by the Karnasuta family from Thailand.
The Pinnacles — the name of which has been changed to Sparrebos — comprises a luxury 120-room hotel, 15 chalets, a restaurant, conference centre, 500 housing units and an 18-hole championship golf course.

The developer, PK Development, has commissioned an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The vegetation study reports that although two sections have been overgrazed and swept by fires, the fynbos has a high conservation value. The site has about 240 fynbos species — a higher diversity than in similar coastal fynbos areas.

By comparison, the Robberg Nature Reserve at Plettenberg Bay has 300 plant species, but these include fynbos, forest, grassland and dunes species.
The area through which the golf course passes is "to a large extent sensitive vegetation". The fairway's proposed crossing of the second watercourse is cause for "serious concern", according to the EIA.

Red Data species — those that are internationally recognised as threatened — include the leopard, Cape clawless otter, blue duiker, striped weasel, long-tailed forest shrew and Duthie's golden mole.

The EIA report says that the development is on "one of the few remaining undeveloped coastal plateaux in the Southern Cape", which is "under particular pressure from residential and tourist-associated development, resulting in over-exploitation of the area (and) leaving few undeveloped natural areas".

The chairman of the Knysna Environmental Forum, Mr Toni Tonin, said the development was "entirely inappropriate" for Knysna.
"The Pinnacles developers gave R250 000 to the poorer community to develop a sports field and so, fairly cheaply, bought their support," Tonin said. "The jobs they say it will provide are a beacon attracting unemployed from other areas. (This will) simply end up swelling the population of the unemployed."

PK Development spokesman Mr Stanley Wang said only 60% of the site would be developed. The forest would be given to the community.

utery as council approves tower block on lagoon edge

KNYSNA residents have appealed to provincial government to halt building of a five-storeyed tower block on the edge of the lagoon.
The council has approved the tower block, part of the Knysna development, although it opposes the controls set out in the regional guide plan.
Residents say they believe the tower will set a precedent for high-density development along the picturesque lagoon front, which is rapidly becoming built up.
The tower was intended initially as a harbour master's tower to officiate in the proposed small port, designed for about 100

boats. The tower exceeds the height restrictions in section 30 of the Municipal Ordinance of 1934," Gout said.
More than 1 200 people have objected to the tower block. They include representatives of the Knysna Ratepayers' Association, Knysna Yacht Club, Ward III Ratepayers, Wildlife Society, Outeniqualand Trust, Knysna Child Welfare and the Knysna Environmental Forum.

Smit says the matter now rests with the MEC for Planning, Mr Lampie Fick, who can uphold or overrule the council's decision.
A client for the tower block, Mr Graham Boonzaier, said it would become a "college of excellence". It would have paying students and some would be given bursaries.

Asked why such an institution needed five storeys, Boonzaier said: "The town has no tower. Coming into Knysna you wouldn't even know where the harbour was."

Boonzaier denied that the tower block would be put to commercial use.
"What defines commercial? Even churches have commercial elements because they take money on a plate," he said.

Boonzaier denied that the tower block would be put to commercial use.
"What defines commercial? Even churches have commercial elements because they take money on a plate," he said.

intended function was to be used as an "academy of excellence", a franchise operation that is to be a crafts centre for boat builders, woodworkers, and goldsmiths and computer designers.
Town Clerk Mr Wiekie Smit said the tower would be used to house 100 people.
The Knysna Ratepayers' Association chairman Mr Ralph Gout says the tower claims it will be zoned as an industrial building and therefore set a precedent for commercial development on the waterfront.

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Top environmentalists named to run Cape Peninsula national park

Southern Municipality may get seats on new body

JOHN YELD

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Some of the Cape's leading environmentalists have been appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan to help create and manage the new Cape Peninsula national park.

They will serve on a national park committee which will advise the National Parks Board on managing the new park which will have as its core area the existing Cape Peninsula protected natural environment, essentially the Peninsula mountain chain.

The committee, which has a three-year term of office, will be convened by National Botanical Institute chief executive Brian Huntley.

In 1995 the Huntley committee recommended to then Environmental Affairs Min-

ister Dawie de Villiers that the Peninsula's remaining natural area should be managed as a single entity as a national park.

Members of the new committee selected from public nominations are Mountain Club representative Lester Coelen; UCT botany professor Richard Cowling; Red Hill landowner and conservationist Alida Croudace; Muslim historian and member of the Environmental and Mazaar Action Committee Achmat Davids; top climber Ed February; environmental educationist Nothembu Joyce Nduna; advocate and Sandy Bay Trust member Gabriel Roux; and former city councillor Eudalie Stott.

Nominations from statutory bodies are UCT academic and environmental activist Farieda Khan (representing the National Parks Board, of which she is a trustee); National Monuments Council chief executive

George Hofmeyr; outgoing Western Cape environmental affairs department chief Johan Neethling (Western Cape government); councillor David Erleigh (Cape Metropolitan Council); and architect Revel Fox (Cape Town Municipality).

Dr Jordan has not yet taken a decision on a request from the Southern Municipality for three seats on the new committee, as some 60 percent of its area of responsibility is within the protected area.

The municipality has nominated executive committee chairman Graham Lawrence and fellow councillors Neville Riley and Joan Heming.

One of the first tasks of the committee will be to recommend a formal name for the new park.

The National Parks Board's co-ordinator of the park, David Datz, welcomed the long-

awaited announcement of the committee.

"I'm delighted they've been appointed - it's not a day too soon and I've been waiting with bated breath," he said.

"It looks like a well-balanced committee and I look forward to working with them."

Five of the nine public nominees on the committee were officially endorsed by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa.

Spokesperson Marlene Laros said the society had lobbied strongly for the public to be involved in the management of the new Cape Peninsula national park. "The representation of local representatives of civil society on the new committee is an important component of this," she said. "Of utmost importance now is to ensure that these representatives from civil society fulfil the mandate given to them by the public."

(56) AR 5 2/4/97

Green ⁵⁶ lobby goes to school

Sowetan 2/4/97

By Russel Molefe

ORGANISATIONS with a direct interest in the environment have been laying the foundation for pupils to excel in environmental education when it is introduced as part of the new school curriculum next year.

Organisations and institutions such as the Delta Environmental Centre, Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa and Rand Water have already been involved in educating schoolchildren in matters concerning the environment over the past years.

While they hailed the integration of environment education in a new schools curriculum as a "great step", the organisations agreed there was an urgent need for teachers to be trained in the field.

Delta's Mrs Vivian Molose, whose institutions have been involved in environmental education since the 1980s, said the lack of teacher training in environmental matters was a challenge for the Government and NGOs.

"Although environmental issues are found in all the subjects taught at schools, the bulk of teachers are not trained in this field and this is a challenge facing us all," Molose said.

Rand Water, South Africa's largest water utility, has been running several projects for schoolchildren under the theme *Conserving Water, Conserving the Environment*.

The projects include the Schools Water Analysis Project (SWAP) in which pupils are issued with water testing kits for them to constantly determine the quality of water in their respective areas.

In an effort to prepare teachers for environmental education, EESA will host a conference under the theme *Bringing Environmental Education to Life* at Pretoria Technikon from July 1 to 4 this year. Interested persons can contact Mrs Anifa Claase on (012) 318-5306.

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'REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE'

Govt names team to run new Table Mountain park

THE NEW TABLE Mountain national park is to be run by a committee of nine public representatives and six representing the authorities. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE names of the committee to be "the driving force" behind the new Table Mountain national park have been announced by the Department of Environment.

The 15-member committee comprises representatives from the authorities and the public.

- Those from the public are:
- Professor Brian Huntley (convener), head of the National Botanical Institute.
 - Mr Ed February, an archaeologist at the SA Museum.
 - Professor Richard Cowling, head of UCT's Botany Department.
 - Dr Achmat Davids, programme manager of Voice of the

Cape community radio.

- Ms Alida Croudace, environmental activist and founder of the Red Hill Steering Committee.
 - Mr Gabriel Roux, advocate and legal adviser to several environmental organisations.
 - Ms Nothembha Joyce Nduna, lecturer at the Peninsula Technikon.
 - Mr Lester Coelen, chairman of the Western Cape branch of the Mountain Club of SA.
 - Ms Eulalie Stott, former city councillor.
- Committee members representing the authorities are:
- Mr David Erleigh, of the Cape Metropolitan Council.
 - Mr Revel Fox for the City of

Cape Town.

- Mr George Hofmeyr, National Monuments Council.
- Ms Farieda Khan, National Parks Board.
- Dr Johan Neethling, Western Cape Provincial Administration.

The member for the South Peninsula Municipality has not been announced yet.

The National Parks Board's (NPB) Mr David Daitz is the coordinator of the proposed Table Mountain park.

He said the role of the committee was to be the driving force for the new park within the general policy framework of the National Parks Board.

- The committee would:
- Propose significant policies to the board after wide public consultation.
 - Monitor and advise the NPB whether integrated environmental management (IEM) procedures



RADIO VOICE: Achmat Davids

were followed on major infra-structural developments in the park.

- Recommend the appointment of advisory subsidiary com-



EX-COUNCILLOR: Eulalie Stott

mittees.

- Recommend a name for the new park after extensive public consultation.

Daitz said: "They are there to



PROVINCE: Johan Neethling

ensure that the interests of the people of Cape Town and the Western Province are adequately addressed.

"We would not like to see any



CONVENER: Brian Huntley

policies or principles applied in the park without the blessing of this committee, but it is not intended that the committee will have operational responsibility,"

(51)

CT 2/4/97

he added.

Committee member Coelen said that his main role would be to act as a representative of the people and to see that what the parks board had promised to do in protecting Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain, was carried out.

"We have no direct legal powers. It will be more of a monitoring role and the offering of expertise," he said.

"My main area of expertise will be looking at the management of the mountain chain's footpath systems," Coelen said.

Croudace said she saw her role as involving the public in the new park as much as possible.

"I will ensure it is open and transparent, and will work closely with the groups in the Peninsula Mountain Forum to keep them in touch and to act as a conduit for public input," she said.

Sandy Bay is being denuded

Study shows that only naked rock could remain

AKG 3/4/97

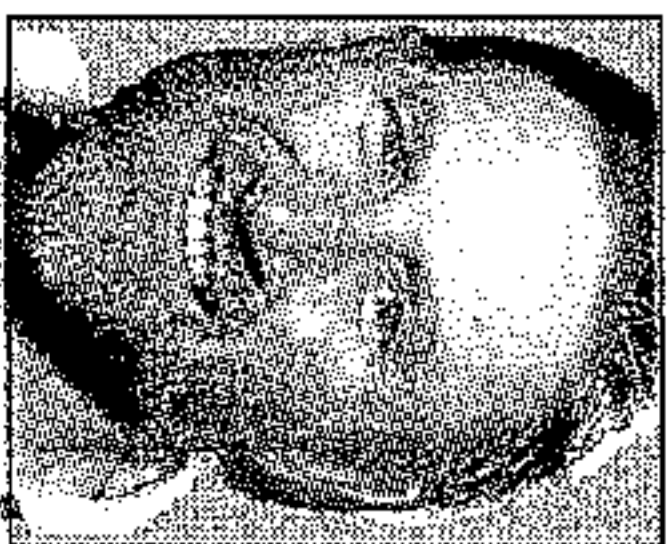
(56)

Sandy Bay beach – one of the unspoiled natural gems of the Cape Peninsula – is likely to get smaller and may even disappear, reverting to a rocky shoreline.

This is because of the large-scale sand stabilisation of the Karbonkelberg dune field between Hout Bay and Sandy Bay, increasing residential development in the Hout Bay valley and construction of the harbour area.

The prediction comes from University of Cape Town researchers Peter Holmes and Andrew Luger in a paper published recently in a German scientific journal. They point out that, historically, Hout Bay and Sandy Bay were linked by the exposed Karbonkelberg dune field.

This was a highly dynamic system, with sand being blown across to Sandy Bay during the summer months, helping to compensate for beach erosion there during winter storms. In turn, the dune field was maintained by sand from the Hout Bay beach.



ON THE ENVIRONMENT

But between 1944 and 1991, the dune field was reduced from more than 148ha to less than 18ha.

At Sandy Bay during the same period, the "backshore-foredune" area of the beach was reduced from 6,2ha to 1,4ha. The authors pointed out that, as early as 1988, scientist John Grindley had reported that residential development at Hout Bay and coastal structures such as the harbour had disrupted the

movement of sand by wind and current, modifying the entire system.

Also, the dune field had been heavily infested with alien Acacia trees, preventing the movement of sand, while human activity at both beaches had further adversely affected the system.

"While the beach foredunes at Hout Bay have been fenced off and stabilised, the natural vegetation on the beach foredunes at Sandy Bay has been impacted by footpaths, off-road vehicle tracks, the dumping of refuse, and fire," the authors noted.

"... the two elements of the headland bypass system (Hout Bay beach and Karbonkelberg dune field) have undergone change in the form of large-scale sand stabilisation, while the foredunes of Sandy Bay have suffered a degree of degradation."

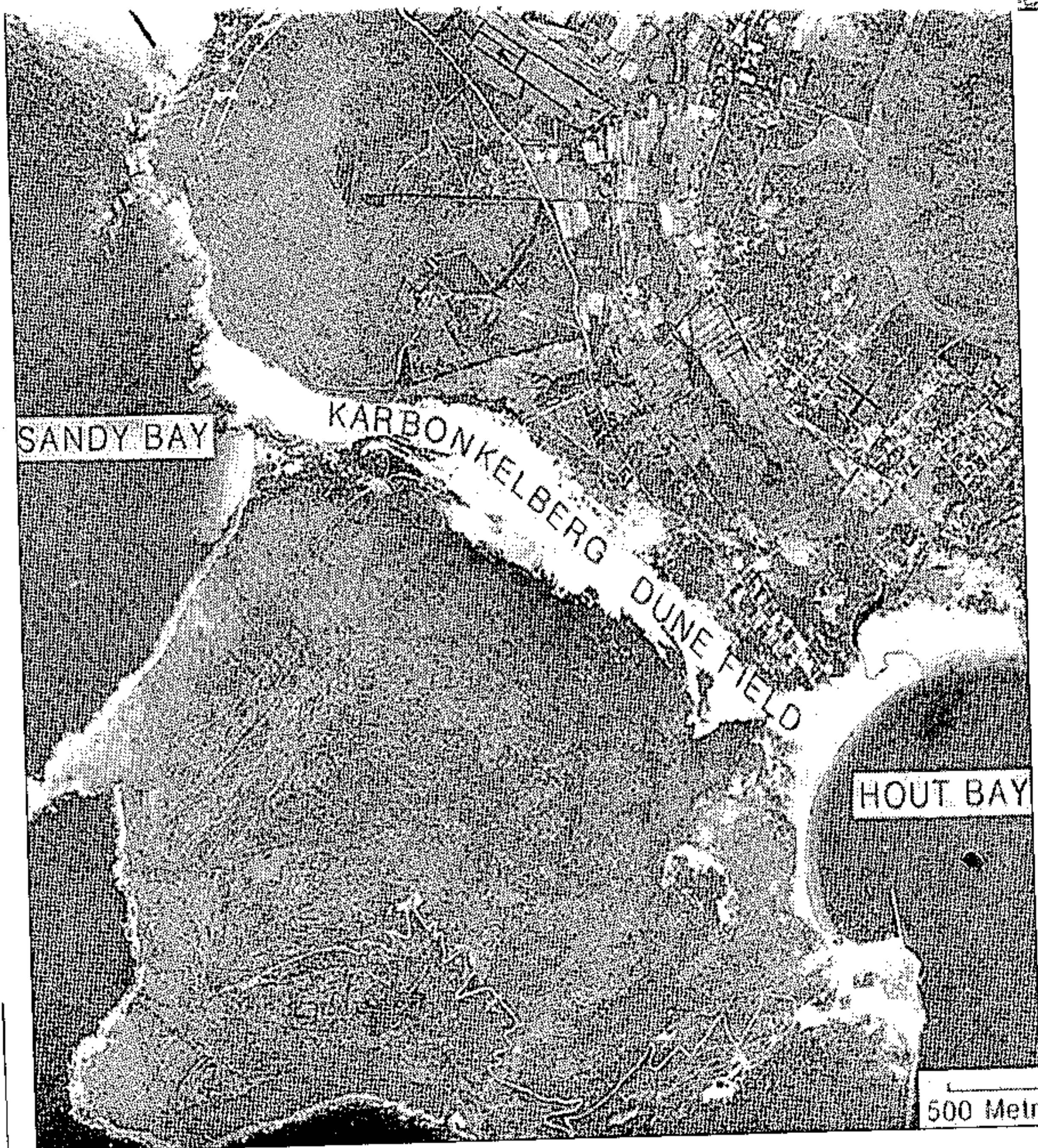
It was unlikely that Sandy Bay beach would remain unaffected by these changes, the authors argued.

"On the basis of the evidence, a likely scenario for change has been suggested. This includes a volumetric reduction in foredune and beach sand, and a smaller beach.

"Ultimately, the sandy beach may disappear and revert to a rocky, granitic shoreline. Should this happen, the Mediterranean region of the south-western Cape will have lost an invaluable asset through a process of land degradation which could have been avoided."

■ Last week the Absa group donated 250ha of land – most of it consisting of the dune field, the adjoining slopes of Karbonkelberg and the foredune area of Sandy Bay – to the new Cape Peninsula national park which is now being created.

Absa also donated R2 million towards a fund to rehabilitate and manage this area – including the removal of alien vegetation – and will match further donations on a rand-for-rand basis.



Threat: the Karbonkelberg headland dune system linking Hout Bay and Sandy Bay beaches

'National Trust needed to conserve our past'

ARL 3/4/97

JOHN YELD

A conference to discuss a proposed National Trust of South Africa to help conserve this country's rich mosaic of cultural heritage sites opens at the historic Josephine Mill in Newlands today.

Heritage sites are defined as "places, buildings and structures of cultural significance; places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage; historical settlements and townships; historic gardens; landscapes and natural features of cultural significance; sites of scientific importance; archaeological and palaeontological sites; and graves and burial grounds".

Conference convener Graeme Binckes of the Cape Town Heritage Trust said such heritage sites were the central concern of national trusts and similar organisations which had been established throughout the world.

"There is a growing perception internationally that, while the conservation of the natural environment is a matter of great importance, it is also necessary for social, cultural and economic reasons to conserve the buildings and sites exemplifying the cultural heritage," he said.

"We believe the present-day conditions in South Africa call for the estab-

lishment of a National Trust."

Many heritage sites were threatened with redevelopment resulting from rapid urbanisation, he said.

"Heritage sites are landmarks, often meeting places, confirming the special qualities of an area and stimulating pride of place," Mr Binckes said.

"They are long-term assets which should not be sacrificed to short-term pecuniary gain."

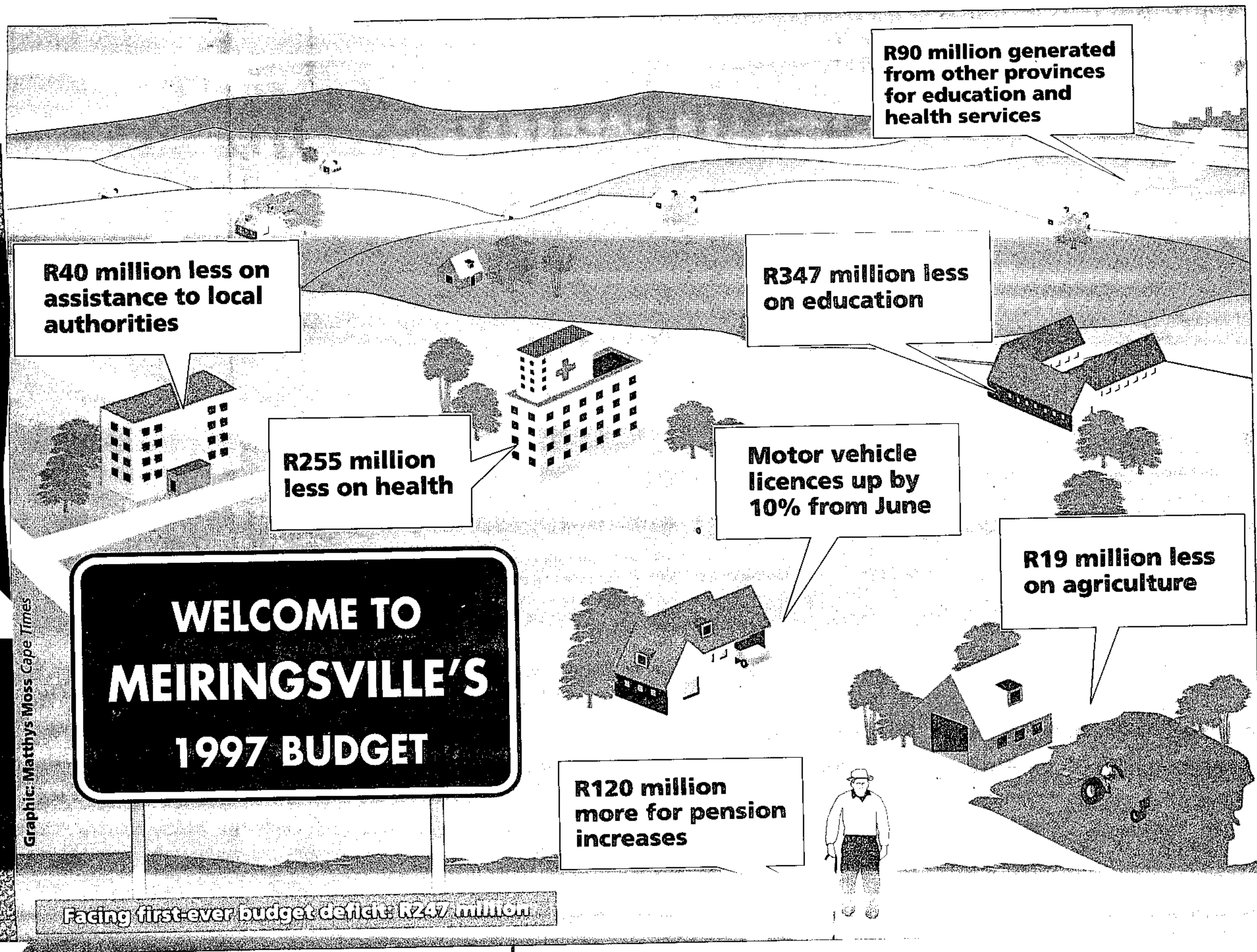
Government resources were under severe pressure and responsibilities for conserving heritage sites were often divided among departments.

"It is therefore necessary for civil society to accept a greater measure of responsibility for the conservation of heritage sites."

The conference will be opened by Lionel Mtshali, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, and the keynote address will be given by Constitutional Court judge Albie Sachs.

Other speakers include Douglas Dow, director of the National Trust for Scotland; Paul Edmondson, general counsel and corporate secretary of the national Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States; D Munjeri, director of Monuments and Museums in Zimbabwe; and G K Hoveka of Namibia's National Monuments Council.

The conference ends tomorrow.



Privatisation hope for environment

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE Western Cape's environment department was allocated only R1 million in yesterday's budget — barely enough to cover the running costs of protecting the world's richest floral kingdom.

But the head of Cape Nature Conservation, Dr Johan Neethling, sees semi-privatisation as a way out of the downward spiral of environment budget cuts.

"If we have to remain the way we are now, facing budget allocations that hardly keep pace with inflation, it would be extremely detrimental to the Western Cape's environment," Neethling said.

He said fynbos, one of the world's six floral kingdoms, fell almost exclusively under the jurisdiction of Cape Nature Conservation — the only sub-national government body in the world to have an entire floral kingdom under its control. It was essential that this priceless heritage be protected.

"Last financial year Cape Nature Conservation made R4 million. Unfortunately it did not come back to us, but went into the general provincial pot. We could make far more out of our nature reserves, but you only make money if you spend money and we got no budget for capital expenditure at all. That's why we're steaming ahead with plans to create a statutory

body to handle the province's environment conservation.

"In this way we would be able to keep the revenue we earn, take out loans and accept donations, none of which we can do as a provincial department," he said.

He said Natal Parks Board had borrowed money to build a camp in Hluhluwe Game Reserve, which they would be able to repay within a few years. "If we had a statutory conservation body we could do the same. We could also accept foreign donations to, for instance, pay for alien vegetation control — and the green dollars are there."

He hoped the statutory board would be in place before the end of this financial year.

56) CT 3/4/97

R2,9m waste probe down

the drain

THE failure of consultants to consult widely enough among community and other groups has placed the status of a major policy document in jeopardy. **HENRY LUDSKI** reports.



THE government has been forced to ditch the services of consultants after a botched three-year R2,9-million investigation into a new waste management and pollution control policy for South Africa.

Pressure from hundreds of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) — including a number of Cosatu-linked unions — has resulted in the government going back to square one and consulting scores of community and interest groups ignored by the original probe.

At an additional cost, the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism has now had to employ a new group of consultants to take over a new restructured process, which it is pushing to have completed by September.

The ditched consultants, L&W Environmental, were awarded the three-year contract in February 1994 to shape a new policy to replace existing legislation.

The right of individuals to a safe and protected environment, the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation, and securing ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development, is enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

To date only four of the eight workgroups L&W Engineering set

HOW DEPARTMENT BUNGLED

- Work by a consultant firm, paid R2,9 million, was effectively rejected before completion.
- Consultants were criticised for failing to consult all role-players.
- A powerful alliance of trade unions, civics and environmental groups forced a departmental rethink.
- Three new consultants were appointed while the original consultants were retained.
- Danish government salvaged the situation with R2,2m for the broadest participation.
- The white paper deadline was shifted from May to September, effectively delaying new legislation by a year.

up have completed their work, and the work of the other four — which is still a long way from completion — has been suspended.

The Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism has been heavily criticised by NGOs and unions for the time and money wasted on the project.

The project has now been brought under direct ministerial control, with Deputy Minister Mr Peter Mokaba serving as chairman of a new, more representative steering committee.

(56) CT 4/4/97

Last week the Danish government agreed to make available an extra R2,2m to allow for the broadest possible participation.

Mr Tinus Joubert, the department's deputy director overseeing the formulation of the new integrated pollution control and waste management policy, said yesterday the Danish government had agreed to underwrite the restructured process.

The process will also include holding workshops in each of the nine provinces and printing 20 000 discussion documents and a total of 40 000 copies of a summarised version in eight of the 11 official languages.

Joubert said the department envisaged having the draft white paper ready by September.

"The department had initially planned to table the new legislation during the current session of Parliament but this would have meant having the draft document ready by May, something that NGOs would not agree to."

The documents produced by the consulting firm paid to draft the white paper would now instead form the basis of the new document to be formulated by a three-member drafting team.

Joubert said contractual obligations bound the department to retain the original consultants.

Although the consultants had failed to consult broadly, the final product was "technically very good". But the department was agreeable to a full financial and performance audit being done.

However, Mr Chris Albertyn, national co-ordinator of the Environmental Justice Networking

□ To Page 3

P.T.O.

Department 'is attempting to rescue the unrescueable'

From Page 1

Forum (EJNF), said that by using the consultants' documents the department had been "trying to rescue the unrescueable".

"The process has been complex and highly contested. The past processes have been an absolute waste of money. By trying now to salvage a disaster by rushing through a new process, the department has increased the possibility of another disaster," said Albertyn. The EJNF represents about 370 community organisations, NGOs

and environmental groups.

Ms Jenny Hall, an NGO representative on the project steering committee, believed that in spite of the many difficulties the process appeared to be on track once more.

"Although much time and money have been wasted, the inclusion of all stakeholders on the project committee makes one positive and confident the process can efficiently deliver a quality document." Her views were echoed by industry representative Dr Lorraine Lotter, who said that the very strong commitment to the process

by the government and the broad participatory process would result in a far more practical policy.

"We now have a work-plan and a timetable and I am sure that everything will go according to schedule. The situation looks very positive," said Lotter.

Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said failure to consult the South African public was one of the key features of past practice. He said concerns about the lack of public consultation were justified. "The government may intend

to devise the most far-reaching policies with the best interest of the people at heart, but some policies may well be meaningless and unworkable if there is no public consultation."

Jordan said the best policies were those that incorporated the input of people who experienced the probable effects of those policies in their daily lives.

Ms Shirley Miller, health, safety and environment co-ordinator for the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union has described the work done to date as an "unacceptable

waste of money".

"The document produced did not justify the amount of money spent. A lot of good work came out of the work groups, but this wasn't reflected in the final document.

"We as civil society and unions are often blamed for slowing down the process. However, I think the issue is that government must develop acceptable means of involving major role-payers," said Miller. **CT414197**
L&W Environmental could not be reached for comment yesterday. **(56)**

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Conservation body needs R250m

David Greybe

(5b) B5 7/4/97

CAPE TOWN — The newly established Peace Parks Foundation would need to raise an initial R250m to finance the creation of the seven transfrontier conservation areas it had identified in southern Africa, foundation head John Hanks said at the weekend.

The work of the foundation is focused on the management of protected natural areas which straddle the borders of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, SA, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Letters to potential "founder members" offering them membership (plus benefits) of a Peace Parks Club at a fee of \$5 000 for individuals and \$50 000 for companies for a 10-year period would be mailed next month, Hanks said.

While the club would provide "only part of" the estimated R250m, Hanks said "most" of the required funding would

come from international aid agencies and trusts.

Market research had shown an "incredibly enthusiastic" response from potential donors and club members.

However, 99% of the donors and members targeted would be outside SA, Hanks said. The reason for this was two-fold: it would attract foreign exchange and tourists and South Africans were being "bombaraded" with funding requests.

While the foundation would not actively solicit funding from within SA, it would nevertheless welcome support from individuals, Hanks said.

Membership of the club would result in benefits which include a 15% reduction on SAA flights (first and business class) to and from SA to visit national parks and game reserves in southern Africa, a 30% reduction on Avis car hire associated with such visits, a 20% reduction at the lodges of the Conservation Corporation throughout

Africa, a 15% reduction at the lodges managed by the National Parks Board, a 15% reduction at Mala Mala and Mashatu lodges and a 50% reduction at the Carlton Hotel.

The seven transfrontier conservation areas identified are Ai-Ais/Richtersveld and Gariep straddling SA and Namibia; Kalahari straddling SA and Botswana; Dongola/Limpopo Valley straddling SA, Botswana and Zimbabwe; Kruger/Banaine-Zinhave/Gonarezhou straddling SA, Mozambique and Zimbabwe; Maputaland straddling SA, Swaziland and Mozambique; and the Drakensberg/Maloti which straddles SA and Lesotho.

Hanks said that the first project to benefit had been in the Maputo Elephant Reserve in Mozambique. The reserve forms part of the proposed Maputoland transfrontier conservation area, where the foundation had provided salaries for staff for a year.

He said the benefits of the foundation's work were vast, and included increased tourism because of bigger parks with easy cross-border access, opening up animal trade migration and a boost to local job creation in the areas identified.

The foundation was founded by Anton Rupert in February this year and is headed by Hanks, who is a world-renowned conservationist.

Last week the foundation moved into its head office, the historic Groot Paardevlei homestead in Somerset West.

The homestead had been made available for a period of five years by the insurance giant Sanlam as part of the company's "commitment to conservation of our environmental and cultural heritage".

Hanks said that because nearby Cape Town was on the itinerary of most tourists to SA, "Somerset West is a better place as head office at this stage than, for instance, Johannesburg".

Business urged to try new pollution strategy

Bonlie Ngqiyaza

BUSINESS needed to move beyond pollution prevention programmes towards a "cradle-to-the-grave" strategy to minimise the negative effects of a product from design to the last stages, according to a recent article on strategies for a sustainable growth.

The article, Beyond Greening, by Michigan University Business School academic Stuart Hall, said that while bottom-up pollution prevention programmes had proved

beneficial by saving companies billions of dollars, they were not sufficient if they did not result in sustainable development of the earth.

"Even if all the companies in the developed world were to achieve zero emissions by the year 2000, the earth would be stressed beyond what biologists refer to as its carrying capacity," the article stated.

Predicting that companies would increasingly be selling solutions to the world's environmental problems, it said: "The achievement of sustain-

ability will mean billions of dollars in products, services and technology that barely exist today."

The article split up the world into three different, but overlapping, economies — the market economy, consisting of developed nations, emerging economies and the survival economy found in rural parts of developing nations.

It also identified "nature's economy", consisting of the natural systems and resources that supported the market and the survival economies.

According to the article, almost 1-billion people, or one-sixth of the world's population, lived in the developed countries of the market economy.

"In fact, the three economies have become worlds in collision, creating the major social and environmental challenges facing the planet."

Demographers, it said, predicted that by 2025 there would be more than 30 megacities with populations exceeding 8-million and more than 500 cities with populations exceeding 1-million.

Meanwhile, at a discussion organised by the American Cultural Centre in Johannesburg at the weekend, Centre for Environmental Law president Durwood Zaelke outlined the trends in promulgating and implementing environmental law in the US.

He said that corporations in the world's industrialised countries were increasingly going "green" because of a realisation that they could reduce pollution while at the same time also increasing their profits.

Peace parks to straddle SA borders

(56)

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The newly launched Peace Parks Foundation is initiating moves that could change the face of conservation in southern Africa, creating thousands of desperately needed jobs while promoting nature-based tourism in the sub-continent.

The foundation is facilitating the protection of huge, ecologically important natural areas that straddle international boundaries and which are also prime tourist areas.

Officially known as "trans-frontier conservation areas", they are more commonly called peace parks.

So far, seven such areas have been identified: Kalahari (between South Africa and Botswana), Ais-Ais/Richtersveld (South Africa and Namibia), Gariep (South Africa and Namibia centred on the Orange River's Augrabies Falls), Pongola-Limpopo Valley (South Africa and Zimbabwe), Maputaland (South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique), Drakensberg/Maluti

(South Africa and Lesotho), and the Kruger/Banhne-Zimhave/Gonarezhou (South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe).

The Peace Parks Foundation was launched this year by the doyen of the Afrikaner business community, Anton Rupert, who is also president of the World Wide Fund for Nature-South Africa (WWF-SA), formerly the South African Nature Foundation.

Its chief director is John Hanks, formerly chief executive of the WWF-SA.

The foundation is housed at the historic Somerset West homestead, Groot Paardevlei, donated to the WWF-SA by insurance giant Sanlam.

Local conservationists have long fostered the peace parks ideal, but it has been thwarted for many years by continuing political tension and war in the sub-continent.

Then, in May 1990, Dr Rupert met Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano in Maputo to discuss the possibility of a permanent link between some of the protected areas in southern Mozambique and their

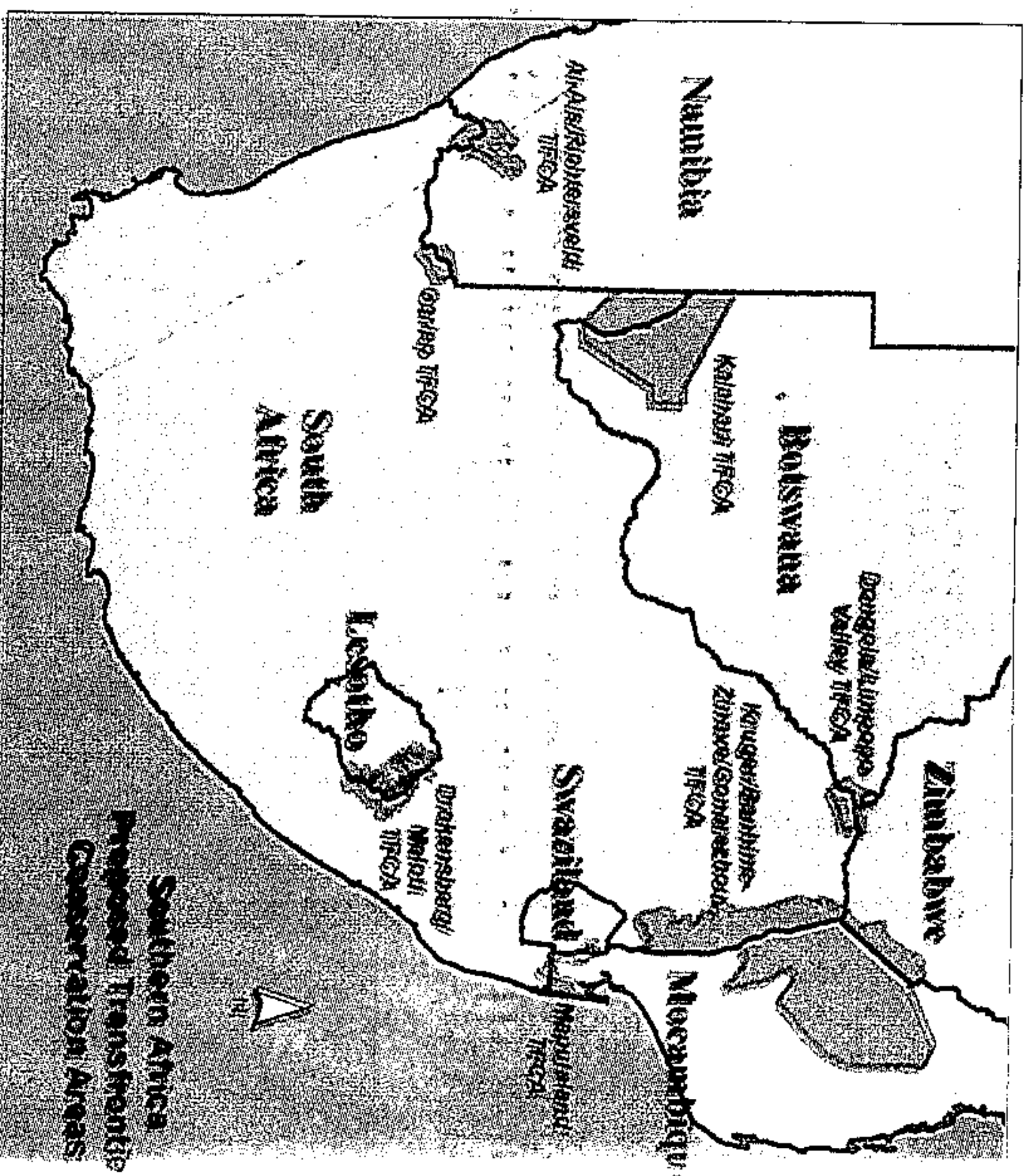
counterparts in adjacent South Africa - particularly the Kruger National Park.

The WWF was asked to do a feasibility study and early the following year it submitted a report to President Chissano's government with preliminary plans for the establishment of trans-frontier national parks involving Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique.

The WWF's report was followed by another study by the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility - the fund created at the 1992 World Summit to promote the international conservation of biological diversity.

In June 1996, the bank released its report recommending a greater emphasis on multiple resource use by local communities, through the introduction of the trans-frontier conservation area concept.

At a function last week, at which Sanlam chairman Martinus Daling formally handed Groot Paardevlei to the foundation, Dr Rupert and Dr Hanks pointed out that the sub-continent's rich animal and plant life and its ecosystem diversity formed the basis of its tourism sector.



How green was my valley: the green areas show the seven areas identified as possible Peace Parks

ARJ 7/4/97

NEW WAY TO PAY HOME BILLS

Meter keeps eye on

costs — and safety

CT9/14/97



AN ADVANCED water and electricity meter will be launched in Hermanus later this year as part of an experimental water conservation programme. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

REVOLUTIONARY pre-payment water and electricity meter is being developed in South Africa which will double up as an emergency meter with panic buttons and a mini-computer that can send and receive faxes, do remote banking and plug into the Internet.

The Security Meter, which is being developed by the Department of Water Affairs, Eskom and Telkom, will be launched in Hermanus later this year as part of the town's experimental water conservation programme.

Programme leaders of the experiment are Dr Guy Preston, leader of water affairs' National Water Conservation Campaign, and Mr Pierre Doman, of Eskom's research and development arm.

Preston, who says South Africa is a world-leader in developing pre-payment meters, said the Security Meter had grown out of the experimental water and electricity pre-payment meters used in the Kruger National Park and Royal Natal National Park.

"This is an evolution of those meters, bringing in an advanced communications ability and a security back-up system that will have considerable social benefits," he said.

The two main innovations of

the Security Meter over the normal pre-payment meters are:

- Panic buttons for fire, medical and security emergencies, which will be linked to a central computer console. When the button is activated, it will register directly at the console and help can be sent to the scene immediately.

- An advanced communication ability with a display window like a computer screen, for receiving and sending information.

The developers believe the meter will result in a substantial reduction in the consumption of water and electricity, household crime and health and fire hazards, theft of water and electricity, bad debts, and the cost to local authorities of sending out bills.

It is also likely to facilitate budgeting and payment for services by rate-payers, and the collection of payment for services by the authorities.

Consumers will be able to pre-pay water and electricity by typing in their credit card numbers and stipulating how much they want to buy.

They will also be able to buy water and electricity with cash, and type in the receipt number, in the same way that current meters work.

The meters would be able to tell consumers how much water and

electricity their household uses, and how their consumption compares with the average household in their community.

Preston said that when people were made aware of the quantity of natural resources they were using, and what it cost, they tended to change their consumptive behaviour and become more conservative users.

The meters will also warn households of leaks in their water systems.

In these ways the meters could become a powerful conservation mechanism.

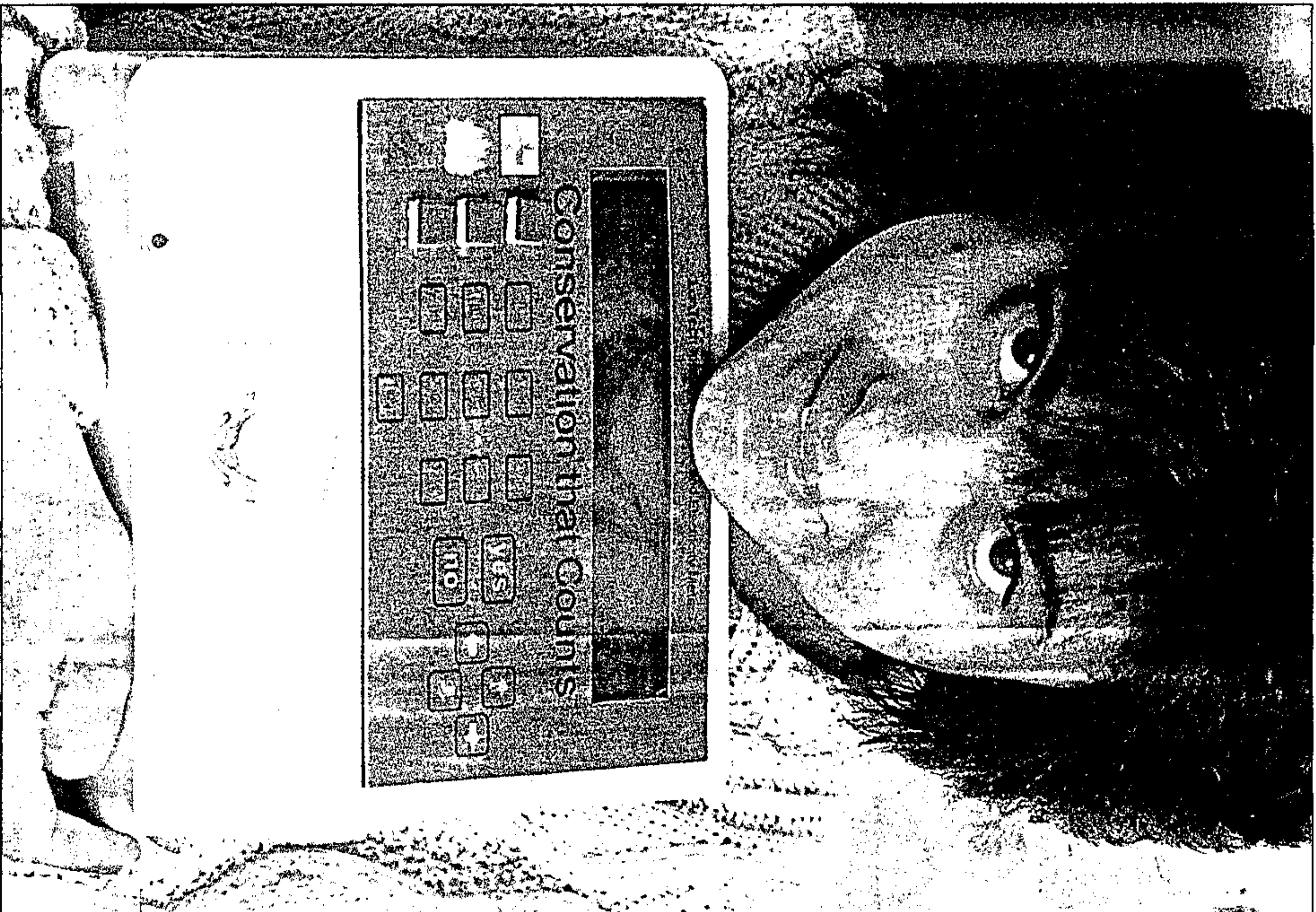
Doman said the new meters would have anti-tamper devices. If a meter was tampered with, it would inform both the household and the service-provider.

It could also be used to pay for other services, including rates and refuse removal.

Said Doman: "Depending on how sophisticated one wants them, the meters could also send and receive faxes simply by plugging in your personal computer — and you won't need a modem attachment on your computer.

"One could do automatic banking or book theatre tickets, and access long-term weather forecasts. The meter could also become the gateway to the Internet."

The experimental Security Meters for Hermanus would not initially have such extensive facilities, Doman said.



NEW AGE

METER: Gail Kaisten of the Department of Water Affairs with a revolutionary pre-payment Security Meter being developed by the department, Telkom and Eskom, which could drastically reduce consumption of water and electricity and non-payment of these services. It also has security "panic buttons" linked to emergency services. The meter will be introduced in Hermanus later this year as part of the town's experimental water conservation campaign. **PICTURE: KARIN RETZ**

Contracts for Olympic poll and study signed

Assessment lags behind schedule

AKA 10/4/97

(56)

The long-awaited contract to undertake a strategic environmental assessment of Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games has been signed by the Olympic Bid Company and a group of consultants.

The strategic assessment has been commissioned to provide an independent assessment of the short- and long-term implications of the bid, and is one of the "minimum requirements" negotiated between the company and the environmental sector for environmentalists' participation in the bid process.

Another of the requirements negotiated between the company and the environmentalists is an independent poll to test the opinion of residents of the greater metropolitan region on whether Cape Town should continue its bid to host the Games.

The environmentalists argued that a proper strategic assessment and related environmental impact assessments of all the proposed Olympic sites were essential if residents were to make informed choices about hosting the Games during the poll.

In terms of their agreement, the poll should be conducted a month after the results of the assessment have been released. The actual mechanism of how the poll is to be conducted has yet to be decided.

Issues to be investigated during the strategic environmental assessment include: economic performance; small business opportunities; public finance;

YEP



ON THE ENVIRONMENT

public involvement; urban development pattern; transport; nation-building; job creation; price effects; institutional capacity; population growth effects; housing; sport needs; and promoting sustainability.

According to the original programme, the strategic assessment should have been commissioned in February; a draft working report produced by March; a review draft report by April-May; and the final report by the end of May. But the process is way behind schedule.

At the beginning of March the Wildlife and Environment Society, a key player in the environmental sector, wrote to the bid company saying the completion of the strategic assessment was a priority and asking it to ensure it was given priority funding.

Last week, not having had an answer, the society wrote again, asking for an urgent response. "Recent decisions by city politicians

will prevent the full disclosure of the bid company's financial records. This is cause for further concern regarding the funding of the SEA," the society's letter, signed by its Western Cape conservation ecologist, Marlene Laros, stated.

The bid company's environmental planner, Mary-Jane Morris, told the Cape Argus there was a commitment to a strategic assessment, as stated in the Bid Book which had been handed to the International Olympic Committee.

"The SEA was discussed with the Wildlife Society prior to its first letter of March 3 and I explained that there is full commitment by our management team to ensure the SEA is completed," she said.

"The bid company has indicated both verbally and in writing its willingness to deal with any questions any environmental organisation may have, and a telephone query would have been appropriate." A letter of appointment for the consultants had now been signed by chief executive Chris Ball, Ms Morris said.

Mr Ball and the company's financial director, Mike Fuller, had been concerned that funds used for the strategic assessment were spent effectively and there had been extensive talks with the consultants.

"We went through a comprehensive process of looking at all the work that needs to be done, and it has taken us longer than we would have liked," Ms Morris conceded.



Health hazard: a member of the environmental group Greenpeace checks the radioactivity on a beach during a demonstration against the nuclear waste treatment plant at La Hague in France. Greenpeace blocked public access to the beach after checking for high levels of radioactivity.

RAINER

Edward West

ESKOM reduced particulate emission by 3% to 112,11 kilotons last year in spite of a 7,8% rise in electricity production from coal-powered stations over the same period, the electricity utility said in its third environmental report which was released yesterday.

The Matimba, Duvha and Tutuka power stations reduced particulate emissions, but a deterioration in coal quality coupled with a higher demand for electricity from Lethabo resulted in an increase in emissions from that power station.

Eskom says pollutant emissions are down 3%

BD 11/4/97

The Hendrina power station's smoke levels were well above those prescribed by the environmental affairs department, while the level of emissions at the Arnot station were also high relative to the other power stations. The report said these performances were expected to improve this year due to the introduction of fabric filters, and Hendrina power station had been granted temporary ex-

emption from complying with prescribed limits.

Rehabilitation of ash and waste disposal sites continued during the year and to date, 77% of the ash disposal areas ready for rehabilitation had been completed. All disused disposal sites, except one at Kragbron,

were managed according to national regulations.

Eskom said talks may result in the incorporation of Eskom's future nuclear sites in the Western Cape into larger conservation areas.

Emissions included 159-million tons of carbon dioxide, 1 295 000 tons of sulphur oxide and 647 000 tons of nitrogen oxide. The level of cobalt 60 liquid discharged from Koeberg increased by more than half.

Greens come under fire

CHARL DE VILLIERS

ST(CM) 13/4/97

A LEADING Swiss aerial transport engineer this week accused Cape Town's green lobby of "interfering" with the R74-million Table Mountain cableway upgrade.

"Environmental input is important, but that does not mean interfering all the time," said Garaventa project manager Beat Musfeld, in charge of the upgrade.

Musfeld said he was surprised at how "uncontrolled" public lobbying and official approval seemed to have been in the Table Mountain upgrade.

The project was stalled for about five months last year after objections from the National Monuments Council, the National Parks Board and environmentalists.

Musfeld said he found it strange that approval by the city council could be overruled by another organisation.

"I wouldn't say environmental controls are more sophisticated in Europe, but they are more clearly defined. But I'm very proud of the Table Mountain project — from a marketing point of view it's Number One for us.

"Since SA started opening up to foreigners, visitors are saying they haven't seen Africa until they've been to Cape Town and the top of Table Mountain."

The cableway will re-open on October 6.

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Rescue bid for Games environment impact study

MICHAEL MORRIS

ON THE OLYMPIC BID

ARG 14/4/97
Talks are continuing this week to rescue Cape Town's Olympic strategic environmental assessment, which is running way behind schedule.

This follows delays in finalising the contract between the Bid Company and specialist consultants.

The study appeared to be in the balance last week, when the consultants said they were reviewing their approach and were not ready to sign the contract.

Earlier in the week the Bid Company committed itself to the next phase of the assessment.

David Shandler of the assessment team said the two sides had met at the weekend and had made progress.

"I'm hoping we will be able to resolve this within the next few days," he said.

Mr Shandler said: "A considerable amount of time has passed since our appointment, and although phase one of the study has been completed, the context and conditions have changed, and we are having to re-look at our approach given these changes.

"We would certainly like to see the assessment going ahead," he said.

The study is intended to provide an independent assessment of the short- and long-term implications of the bid, and is one of the "minimum requirements" negotiated between the company and the environmental sector for environmentalists' role in the bid process.

Another of the requirements negotiated between the company and the environmentalists is an independent poll to test public opinion on whether the bid should continue, based on the results of the study. Details of how the poll is to be conducted have yet to be decided.

The study is to assess the bid in terms of economic performance, small business opportunities, public finance, public involvement, urban development, transport, nation-building, job creation, price effects, institutional capacity, population growth effects, housing, sport needs and the promotion of sustainability.

According to the original programme, the strategic assessment should have been commissioned in February, a draft working report produced by March, a review drafted by April or May and the final report by the end of May.

Eskom workers join fight against revamp

Reneé Grawitzky

HUNDREDS of Eskom workers marched on the Pretoria offices of Minerals and Energy Minister Penuell Maduna yesterday to highlight opposition to government's plans to restructure the electricity supply industry.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and other unions in the industry claimed that they had not been party to any consultation on the positions adopted by government in March.

Union spokesman George Molebatsi said a memorandum was presented to Maduna, who indicated that nothing

would happen regarding the restructuring until all the parties discussed the issues. Molebatsi said Maduna had hoped that discussions around restructuring would have been finalised by the end of August.

NUM said the report compiled by the electricity working group, which proposed autonomous regional electricity distributors, was about "taking us away from the employer we have been associated for many years without getting our views". This was contrary to what was discussed in Eskom's restructuring and transformation committee, the union said.

BD 15/4/97

Govt support for role of hunting in SA

Michael Moon

BD 15/4/97

HUNTING in SA was making a real contribution to the protection of ecosystems and wildlife, deputy environmental affairs and tourism minister Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

"The only way to make conservation work in Africa is to make it pay," Mokaba told a seminar of the Wildlife Utilisation Forum of SA at Suikerbosrand, near Heidelberg.

Hunting for trophies and venison had developed into a very lucrative industry. Annual income for SA from foreign hunters was almost R117m in a 1996 survey, which did not include airfares, taxidermy and other expenses.

In places, game farming was more profitable than stock farming.

Mokaba said the realisation of game as a valuable resource contributed much to securing the continued existence of many species. The availability of suitable habitat is therefore essential, he said.

He said draft policy on conservation, due to be tabled in Parliament during the current session, contained the sentence, "Government will continue to support programmes that utilise indigenous wildlife sustainably for subsistence purposes and commercial gain".

Mokaba also said SA would back a proposal by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to have the world ban on trade in elephants and ivory lifted at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting in Harare in June.

SA's neighbours managed their elephant populations well and government was convinced that controlled international trade in ivory would not have a detrimental effect elsewhere in Africa. Conservation in the three countries was in dire need of the funds which could be realised from ivory stockpiles, said Mokaba.

At the Cites meeting, SA is to argue for the easing of restrictions on the trade in rhino horn.

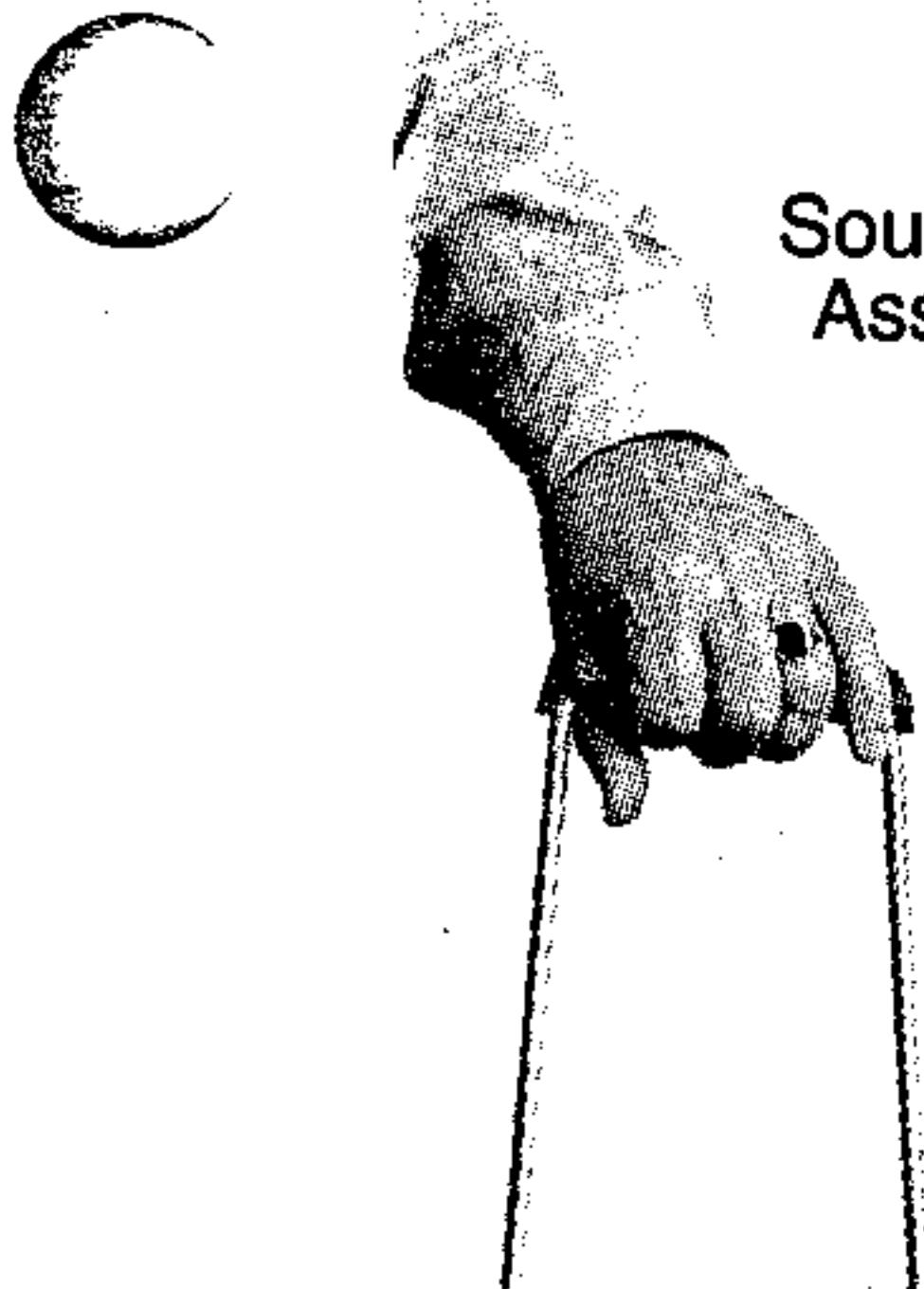
a dog to take or a walk.

lead fuller, more enjoyable lives depends on making a donation to the South African Guide-Dogs Association, you will ultimately be helping to enrich the lives of blind people from all walks of life. Bear in mind the average costs S.A.G.A. some R7 500 to train just one dog. Which means that every single Rand you donate will help shorten the wait of a blind person somewhere in South Africa. Cheques and postal orders should be made out to S.A.G.A., P.O. Box 67585, Bryanston, 2021.

Tel: (011) 705-3512 Fax: (011) 465-3858.



S.A.G.A.
South African Guide-Dogs
Association for the Blind



Natal Parks chief cites the benefits of ivory trade

SA to make proposal to body governing trade in endangered species to have the ban on white rhino products lifted (56)

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environment Reporter

There is no government opposition to Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana's drive to have the ban on elephant ivory trade lifted at the next Cites meeting, says George Hughes, chief executive of the Natal Parks Board.

The proposal was opposed primarily by animal rights organisations, he said during the Wildlife Utilisation Forum of South Africa (Wufsa) meeting at the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve outside Heidelberg yesterday.

The meeting was held to initiate solidarity on South Africa's

representation to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) conference to be held in Harare in June.

South Africa will make its own proposal to Cites to have the ban on the trade of white rhino products lifted.

The proposal was being made because of the enormous financial benefit rhino ivory trade, and trade in white rhino products, would generate for the country, said Hughes. He added: "We are not on top of the popularity poll for this."

Last year rhino worth more than R5-million were sold by the Natal Parks Board, Hughes said.

He added that they were convinced that because of the finan-

cial benefits, the ban on white rhino products should be lifted.

He said South Africa was probably the only country where rhino could be hunted legally. Up to 50 rhino were shot each year, he said.

"Many people are confused about legal trade, illegal trade and poaching - not all trade is illegal," he said.

He said 95% of the world's rhino population had been lost when the rhino was placed on Cites' list of animals in which trade was banned.

"The ban on trading just pushed the demand for ivory products up and people were prepared to obtain it illegally," he said.

Animal rights groups 'deliberately excluded'

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environment Reporter

Animal rights groups have expressed concern over their exclusion from a meeting of the Wildlife Utilisation Forum on Monday on South Africa's presentation to the Cites conference in June.

A Natal Parks Board proposal to investigate re-opening trade in white rhino products will reportedly be presented at the Cites conference in Harare. The proposal has been endorsed by the Government and has the backing of Botswana and Namibia.

Environmentalist and author Gareth Patterson, best known for his work with lions, said last night his environmental group Sekai had not been invited to the Wufsa

meeting.

"This meeting was a gathering of people who believe that animals must pay their way. The meeting was a bit exclusive," he said.

He said trophy hunting was a foreign concept to Africa and there was no need for more ivory in Africa. The need for ivory products stemmed mostly from eastern countries like Asia, he said.

Steve Smit, spokesman for the Front for Animal Liberation and Conservation of Nature (Falcon), said animal rightists and ethical conservationists were deliberately excluded from the meeting.

"Conservation has become a commercial enterprise catering for the needs of sports hunters, political opportunists and status

conscious orthodox conservationists, with little or no consideration for the rights of wild animals," Smit said.

He said Wufsa was afraid to debate its policies in a public forum and that the seminar had been intended to consolidate pro-utilisation efforts prior to the Cites conference.

He also criticised Peter Moka-ba, the deputy minister of environmental affairs and tourism, for attending the seminar.

Natal Parks Board chief executive George Hughes said at the Wufsa meeting that animal rights groups were opposed to the proposal because they did not want to see animals killed.

He said animal rights had no benefit for conservation.

Star 16/4/97

Environmental reports 'aids image'

(56) BD 17/4/97

Edward West

ENVIRONMENTAL reporting could do wonders for the corporate image, but for the large industrialist it was likely also to become an essential and sound business practice, industry sources said yesterday.

Industrial and Environmental Forum manager Karen Ireton said the days when an environmental report consisted of "a few pretty pictures" and "a few nice words from the chairman" were past. "Shareholders and stakeholders want sensible, relevant information supported by fact," she said.

She believed all industrial com-

panies should begin some form of environmental reporting, even though there were no enforcement measures in place and reports were often expensive to compile.

Reasons included the need to overcome a "huge gulf of mistrust" in public perceptions of the environmental effect of many industries, a lack of understanding about trade-offs that needed to be made by business over the environment, to inform staff and to meet growing pressure from shareholders and other external groups such as overseas buyers about environmental risk.

Reporting on sustainable development would become more im-

portant, she said.

Environmental lawyer Kate Farina said environmental reporting could prove essential in establishing due diligence in legal disputes in providing an audited record of remedial and preventative environmental action taken, and targets. Companies should move away from publishing reports solely as a public image tool.

Only a few of SA's top industries provided detailed reports, with the trend led by the chemical industry's Responsible Care Programme. Sasol, Eskom, Sentrachem, Ingwe Coal, Umgeni Water and AECI have all published environmental reports.

Severance packages strain Natal budget

Nicola Jenvey

BD 17/4/97

MARTZBURG — KwaZulu-Natal's strained education system could face a new crisis if more than 3 000 teachers accepted severance packages on offer by the provincial education and culture department, deputy director-general Mike Jarvis confirmed yesterday.

Jarvis said KwaZulu-Natal would be unable to build a single classroom in the current financial year unless additional funding was sourced from the reconstruction and development programme, as 91% of the R6,1bn budget was allocated to teachers' salaries.

Despite national guidelines that only 75% of the budget allocation be spent on salaries, KwaZulu-Natal's problems were mirrored by the experiences of other provinces. The Western Cape education department could not buy new textbooks in 1997/98 as salaries swallowed a greater proportion of its budget than in KwaZulu-Natal.

Staffing shortfalls were being further entrenched as national government's redeployment policy of sending "excess" teachers to schools where they were needed was not working. Teachers were reluctant to move from urban to rural areas.

During his budget review presentation yesterday, Jarvis told the finance committee the severance packages would not reduce the department's salary bill in the current year, but would provide scope for expenditure into other areas during 1998/99.

He believed the two-year plan to make equal the teacher/pupil ratio across KwaZulu-Natal schools to within national guidelines of 40 to 1 in primary schools and 35 to 1 in secondary schools would benefit disadvantaged rural areas in the near future.

"Research has shown that pupils taught under a privileged teacher/pupil ratio system do not benefit significantly more than those in the more affordable ratio system towards which SA is aiming."

ANC education spokesman Cyril Xaba said "warning lights were flashing" as significant numbers of teachers from technikons, colleges and universities were unable to find jobs.

SA urged not to support resumption of ivory trade

David Greybe BD 17/4/97

CAPE TOWN — Government had misled the public about a proposal by three of SA's neighbours to "downlist" the African elephant and resume international trade in ivory, International Fund for Animal Welfare director David Bar-

ritt told the environmental affairs and tourism committee in Parliament yesterday.

Kruger National Park elephants would be a prime target for "organised crime syndicates" if the ban was lifted. "The only reason we have got any elephants left in Africa is because of the 1989

ban on international ivory trade." He called on SA to reject the proposal by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference in Harare in June. These countries wanted to sell ivory stocks to the lucrative Japanese market, he said.

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(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration number 90/06276/06)
("LeisureNet")

Cautionary announcement

Shareholders in LeisureNet are advised that negotiations are in progress relating to the possible sale of its food interests which, if successfully concluded, could have an effect on the price of LeisureNet ordinary shares.

LeisureNet shareholders are accordingly advised to exercise caution in dealing in their shares.

A further announcement will be made in due course.

Cape Town
17 April 1997

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Controls too severe — mines

BD 18/4/97

CAPE TOWN — Mines are fighting moves by government to treat them and their mine dumps like mini-nuclear power stations.

The Chamber of Mines has complained to Parliament's minerals and energy portfolio committee that the Council for Nuclear Safety is imposing far too stringent regulations on the control of radiation in mines.

"The mining industry's experience to date with the council makes it necessary to register concern that ... (this) could be unduly restrictive and have severe economic consequences for the mining industry," chamber adviser Howard Hume told MPs.

Since around 1993 every gold mine in SA has been a licensed nuclear facility. The reason is that, when recovering gold, mines also dig up naturally occurring radioactive minerals like uranium, which are either extracted or dumped on mine dumps.

Hume said this was unheard of elsewhere in the world, and added: "So our tailings are very mildly radioactive, but probably 10 times less than Canada's, for example, where they mine uranium.

"We have to take measures that our competitors do not have to take, that cost an awful lot of money and of which there is no way of proving the benefit," he said.

He could not cost the effect of these measures, but said mines had to employ radiological technicians, had to have lower

public dose limits than anywhere else in the world and had to have a full-scale licence.

Mines were ordered earlier this year to undertake also environmental and hazard assessments, adding to costs at a time when many mines were becoming marginal because of the lacklustre gold price and deteriorating ore bodies near the surface.

"We are trying to get reasonable and cost-effective regulation," said Hume.

"We want people to pay attention to the fact that reality has some impact here, and, while we can say we want to be the squeakiest clean nation on earth the cost of becoming so may ultimately put us out of the market."

The Council for Nuclear Safety disagreed that its regulations were too stringent and said they were in line with international norms.

"Our main concern is to ensure that workers are not harmed," said a council official.

But there may be a light at the end of the tunnel for the mines. The council is planning to set up an advisory committee on radiological protection and safety.

"It is not a closed thing," the official said. "We have been speaking to them in the past ... This will be more formalised now and all objections like these can be discussed." —
Reuter.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Talking the mountain to the 'ecomarket'

PLANS to declare the Table Mountain chain a national park and also to apply for world heritage site status have kindled expectations of major tourism benefits for the Western Cape.

But instead of attracting large groups of tourists on cheap package tours — as was the case on the Mediterranean coastline — the Cape could, in the words of a top conservationist, "become a new haven for that niche group of well-heeled eco types."

Conservationists believed the establishment of a national park stretching from Signal Hill to Cape Point would go a long way towards protecting an outstanding natural asset that could be turned to the nation's advantage.

The Cape peninsula has one of the highest concentrations of endangered species in the world, as well as the highest concentration of endemic plant and animal species in any area of its size.

The relatively small area of 290km² which would become the national park contained a staggering 2 286 plant species — more than the whole of the UK.

Government's environmental affairs and tourism department was in the process of preparing legislation for ratification by Parliament later this year of the UNESCO Convention on World Heritage Sites. This would open the door for SA to apply, after certain criteria have been met, to have the Table Mountain park declared a world heritage site. There are 440 natural and cultural world heritage sites but none in SA.

Preparatory work for the proclamation of the mountain chain as a national park was well under way and was expected to be completed some time next year.

Only after this proclamation, which conferred SA's highest legal conservation status, would government be in a position to apply for world heritage site status.

The National Parks Board's project co-ordinator for the park, David Daitz, was confident that the process to provide national and international preservation for the mountain chain "has gone too far now to be derailed."

He expected to have completed negotiations relating to public land by the year-end, before he began to negotiate with private owners of land falling under the proposed park. A total of 80% of the land was in public hands, and the

remaining 20% was owned by individuals and companies.

Contracting private owners into the park was the most favoured route. Daitz said he would focus on discussions with about 80 individual landowners out of the about 170 private ones. "The rest (90) own less than two hectares each and, as a general statement, do not own land that is conservation worthy," he said.

An estimated 60% of the land in public hands was controlled by local authorities. Other owners included the SA National Defence Force and the national public works department.

Daitz has proposed to local authorities that they assist financially in the upkeep of the proposed park for a limited initial period of time — up to five years.

At that stage it was expected the park would be financially self-sufficient, which would allow local authorities to spend their money elsewhere while reaping the financial benefits of an upsurge in tourism because of the park.

Despite his optimism that the project cannot be derailed, he said there were some people on the local authority scene who were not supportive of the process.

"There appear to be some players intent on pursuing their own agenda, who are working at every turn to undermine our attempt to get the park off the ground," Daitz said. At worst, he said, the project may be delayed, "but it cannot be derailed."

Daitz expected government would be in a position towards the end of next year to formally apply for the new national park to be declared a world heritage site.

However, with the adjudication process normally taking about 18 months, the conferring of world heritage site status would probably take place early in 2000.

Daitz expected the most challenging aspect of the application would be the presentation of an integrated management plan for the whole area, which until recently was managed by no less than 14 authorities. The plan would also have to be financially viable.

Acquiring world heritage site status for Table Mountain is a lengthy procedure, but it is expected to pay dividends in the long run, writes David Greybe in Cape Town

The proposed national park does not include the controversial Oudekraal housing proposal on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles, adjacent to Camps Bay.

Daitz said he would like Oudekraal to be part of the park, but could not see talks taking place until the owners of the land had exhausted all legal avenues to get their project off the ground.

Environmentalists at the forefront of a campaign designed by Save The Mountain Organisation to stop the Oudekraal development had planned a protest later this year which was expected to involve tens of thousands of people in a hands around the mountain event.

Meanwhile, New York-based organisation Boss Models Worldwide, which had opened an office in Cape Town, had pledged its models to a campaign with a leading local advertising agency to create public awareness about the threats to one of the most important world treasures.

In January a photo shoot was staged on Table Mountain at sunrise which involved some of the agency's top models baring all, except for a covering of body paint, to demonstrate their solidarity with the cause.

Advertising agency Addison Want Stroebel Gorin-JWT was involved in the development of a print advertising campaign to highlight the need to protect the area. The campaign was supported by a number of other advertising companies, which donated time and services free of charge.

Daitz said the World Bank-administered Global Environment Facility recently awarded an \$85 000 grant to the National Parks Board to assist it with a joint application with the World Wide Fund for Nature for a larger \$10m conservation grant for the proposed park.

The smaller grant was usually not awarded unless the Global Environmental Facility was confident of making the bigger one too. The Global Environmental Facility was an international fund established largely by the richer

nations to assist developing nations meet their international obligations to protect the world's environment. If acquired, some of the grant will go into the Table

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Mountain Fund, launched in 1993, which has a target of R25m. The remainder will be constituted into a fund primarily for the eradication of alien vegetation.

The Table Mountain Fund, administered by the World Wide Fund for Nature, was a capital investment which would be used to safeguard the natural assets of the Cape peninsula.

This is only the beginning of foreign funding for the park," Daitz predicted.

Recently the environmental affairs and tourism department announced a new committee comprising nine public representatives and six representatives from local authorities for the management of the Table Mountain national park within the general policy framework of the National Parks Board.

The committee would:

- Propose policy to the board after wide public consultation;
- Monitor whether integrated environmental management procedures were followed on major infrastructural developments in the park;
- Recommend the appointment of any advisory subsidiary committees; and
- Recommend a new name for the park after extensive public consultation.

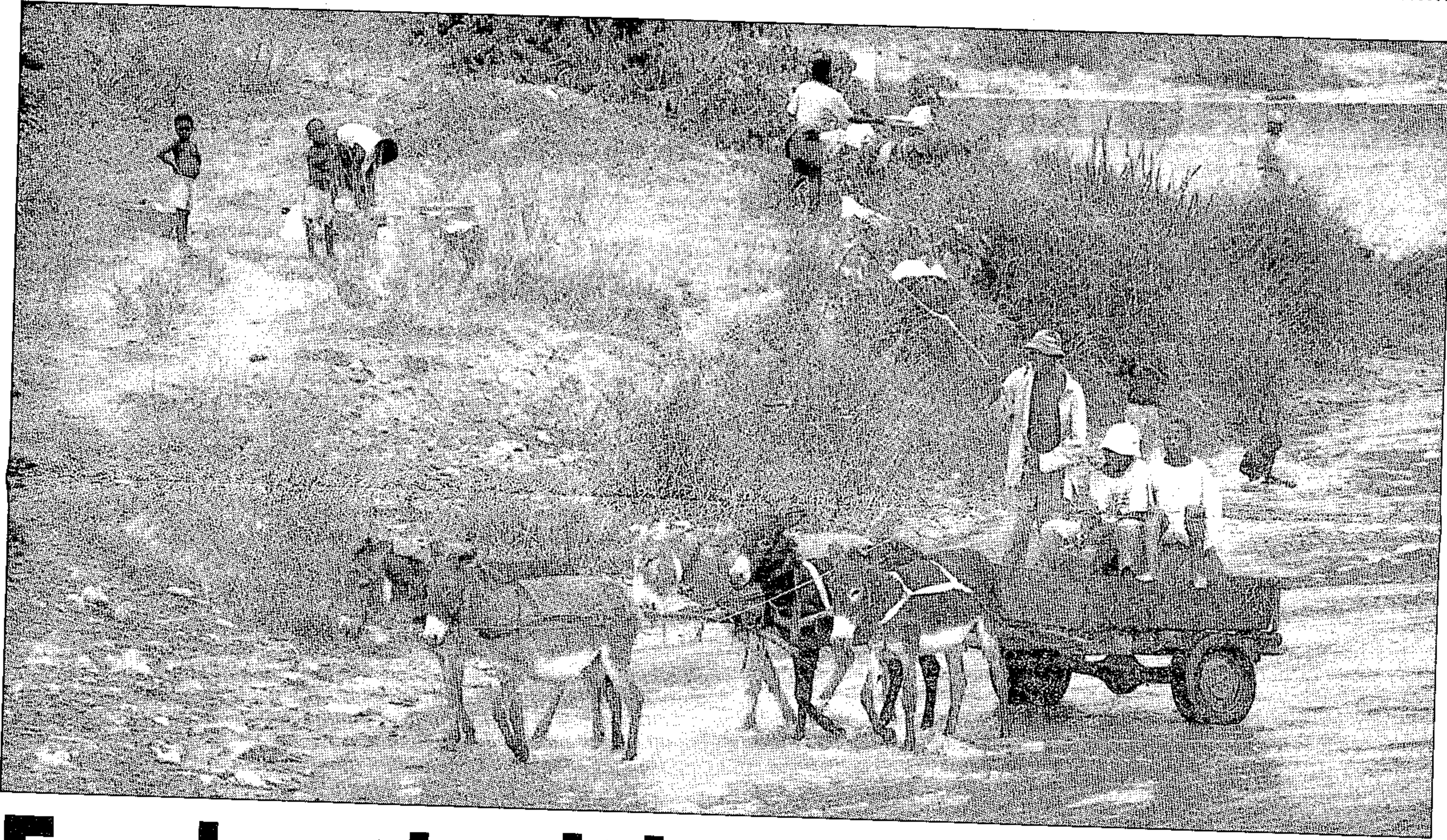
"The committee is there to ensure that the interests of the people of Cape Town and the Western Cape are adequately addressed," Daitz said.

"The declaration of the Table Mountain chain as a national park and world heritage site, coupled with effective monitoring by the newly appointed committee, will give the area greater marketability," he said.

The Western Cape would then be able to attract "the kind of tourists we want, such as that niche (group) of well-heeled ecotourists who spend their leisure time travelling between the world's heritage sites", Daitz said.



Preparations are being made to have the Table Mountain chain declared a national park so that it qualifies for consideration as a world heritage site.



Ordinary people, extraordinary problems: Thousands of residents of Mafefe in the Northern Province suffer from lung disease because of asbestos mining in the area

PHOTOGRAPH:
SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

Feud costs sick miners their pittance

Poverty-stricken workers in the Northern Province are living in the shadow of defunct — but still deadly — asbestos mines. **Jim Day** reports

A LONG-STANDING feud between a traditional leader and civic groups has halted aid for thousands of people suffering from lung diseases caused by asbestos exposure in the remote Northern Province community of Mafefe, 70km south-east of Pietersburg.

The region first leaped into prominence 13 years ago with a "dumps of death" exposé in the *Rand Daily Mail*. The newspaper reported that British and American multi-national companies had literally abandoned dumps of lethal asbestos fibres that were killing local people.

Some limited remedial action has since been taken. But in January this year, a local chief, Godfrey Thobejane, confiscated several bakkies and equipment used to test people for

lung diseases and to supply some of the region's 33 villages with uncontaminated water.

The equipment, as well as hundreds of kilos of mielie meal, is locked up at the nearby Malipsdrift police station while locals and the donors who paid for it clamour for it to be released so they can get on with their work.

The dispute stems from conflict between two community factions — one aligned with tribal leaders and the other with activists who formed committees to deal with problems created by the asbestos mines that operated in the area from early this century until the late 1970s.

Without their bakkie, members of the Mafefe Health Committee — founded by the activists in the late 1980s — cannot carry out their monthly shuttle of 10 former asbestos miners to the Groothoek hospital 80km away. There they undergo tests that show about half of them suffer from asbestosis and other untreatable lung diseases caused by exposure to asbestos fibres. Those with the disease are eligible for an average lump compensation of R10 000; the payment can go as high as R70 000, depending

on the extent of the disease.

"The fact that an ambulance can be held in a police station for four months is too much," said Zach Mabiletja, a Mafefe community leader. "Effectively, taking people for x-rays so they can be compensated for chest-related illnesses has stopped."

The four-month shutdown of the programme has so far cost residents of Mafefe an estimated R200 000 in lost compensation. This is in a community that one doctor who has worked in the area has described as one of "the poorest communities in the poorest province in South Africa". The annual per capita income in the province is about R700, but it is far lower in Mafefe.

The struggle between community groups and the tribal leaders has also prevented members of the Mafefe Water Committee from carrying out projects to provide clean water to surrounding villages. Without clean water sources, women and children continue to wash their clothes in streams contaminated by the asbestos mines

scarring the hillsides.

"If they brought [the equipment] today, we would drop this work and begin on water projects," said William Rapulana, the deputy chair of the water committee, as he did some private contract work along a Mafefe road.

Neither Thobejane nor the local police would discuss why the equipment, as well as the Mafefe Community Centre, was under lock and key. But local politicians, civic leaders and members of donor organisations blamed the problem on a power battle between the royal kraal and local development committees formed in the late 1980s.

The chief's opponents say he sees the committees and their work as a threat to his influence. They say the conflict grew worse after some civic group leaders opposed Thobejane's succession to the chieftainship in 1991.

Asbestos and the lung diseases it causes are part of life in Mafefe and other former mining communities nestled in the Strydpoortberge between Pietersburg and Burgersfort. Blue-grey tailings from mines pockmark the lush

hillsides. When the sun dries clothing washed in the mountain streams you can see asbestos fibres from the polluted water clinging to the cloth.

Dust kicked up by passing donkey carts carries the particles. Homes are built of asbestos bricks, and if you look closely at the ground in front of the Mahlatjane Primary School, where 600 pupils study, you can see chunks of the fibres hidden in the sandy soil.

There has been some improvement since the media's 1984 exposé of the health hazards. A programme directed by Potchefstroom University covered the most dangerous of the dumps with grass and bushes. Education through the civic groups has persuaded people not to build with asbestos bricks and parents tell their children not to play around the mines or exposed dumps.

But the problem still exists. In areas where asbestos fibres are not visible to the eye, asbestos levels are twice as high as acceptable standards in the United States; in the many areas where you can see asbestos, it is 20 times higher. Studies have shown that children, who play on the ground, have the highest exposure of any age group.

Overall, a study in 1987 by Dr Marianne Felix of the National Centre for Occupational Health showed that 41% of Mafefe's 12 000 residents had signs of lung damage from asbestos. Older people had a higher incidence of disease, implying that the problem builds up with long-term exposure.

And in people over 60, almost no difference in disease rates were found among those who worked in the mines and those who did not, proving that the dangers of environmental exposure are real.

People who did not work for the mines are not eligible for compensation when they develop lung diseases. None of the former mines have ever offered to clean up or pay compensation. The government has no plans for further cleaning-up or greater compensation.

Sitting in the shade of a tree outside the locked community centre in Mafefe, health committee members say they are doing what they can to ease the pain of the mining past. But until they can resolve their political problems and get their bakkie back, they can't even shuttle a few sick old miners to the hospital to enable them to qualify to receive their pittance.

56 MTG 18-24/4/97

Stinking factory told to clean up its act

It smells like rotten eggs. It burns our eyes. It's like fire'

CARMEL RICKARD
and SEEMA GANGARAM

A FACTORY that has been belching foul sulphurous fumes into the air has been ordered to quit causing a stink until it gets a proper government permit.

Chemical Specialties in Durban's southern industrial area of Rossburgh was taken to the Matanzburg High Court this week by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Gerrit Coetsee a departmental inspector, said the factory, which produces sulphurised oil, was operating without a permit. This means there had been no official check on the process, in-

cluding the disposal chimney, to ensure it met government standards. The department's application for the sulphur oil process to be stopped was granted by Mr Justice Chris Nicholson. The case will be back in court on May 22, but in the meantime the judge ordered that the factory may not continue making the specialised oil until it gets a permit.

Sulphurised oil is used as a lubricant for cutting and drilling metal. It is produced by heating oil and treating it with sulphur, and is one of more than 100 chemical processes controlled by the government which may only be carried out under permit. In court papers, various officials said that they had tried without success for some time to get the factory management to apply for

a permit.

People who live and work near the factory greeted the news of the court order with relief.

Val Keys, the caretaker of the building next door, said: "It smells like rotten eggs. It burns our eyes. It's like fire. It usually gets worse after 5pm. That is when they let it out at full steam."

Goodluck Siphwe Luthuli, a security guard at the CNA warehouse next door to the factory, said he had suffered from the gas for eight years. "It's like tear gas and hurts my throat. I had to go to the doctor last year because my chest hurt so much. That factory is affecting us, but I don't have the right to stop them. Only the government can help us."

Other people who live and

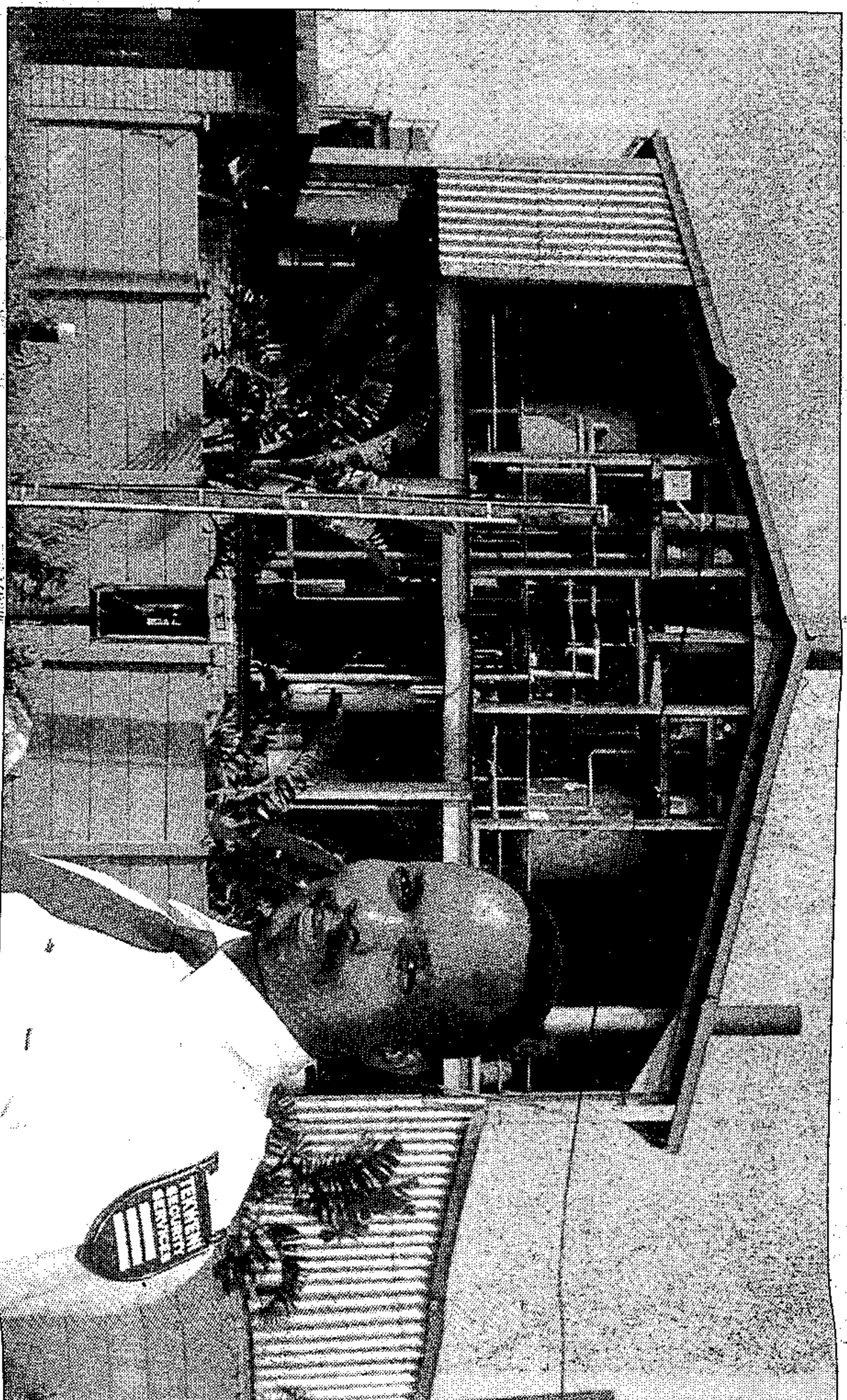
work near the factory said cars, pavements and clothing were damaged by "black spots" produced by the gas.

A woman who operates a tuck shop in the area said that local workers often complained of cramps and headaches which, they said, was caused by the stench of the gas.

"They tell me the fumes are so heavy that they have to come out to eat and drink to get away from it," she said.

Peter Dykins, the managing director of Chemical Specialties, confirmed that the company had stopped producing the controversial oil and added that it would be applying for a temporary permit "next week". He said the court order would not affect his business.

(52) ST 20/4/97



SUFFERING: Goodluck Siphwe Luthuli says the sulphur fumes are like tear gas

Picture: MICHAEL WALKER

Countries' bid to lift ivory ban slammed

'A catastrophe for elephants'

ARLT 22/4/97

(56)

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

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A unified response by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries to the highly controversial proposal to resume trading in ivory is a "myth" and will be exposed soon, says conservationist David Barritt.

Mr Barritt, African director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, was speaking at a press conference after addressing Parliament's portfolio committee on the environment recently.

He argued strongly against the proposed lifting of the ivory ban.

This proposal will be put by SADC members Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia to the 10th meeting of parties of the Convention on the International Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, more commonly known by its French acronym Cites, in Harare in June.

These three countries will be asking Cites to "downlist" their African elephant populations from Appendix I, for highly endangered species in which no trade is allowed, to Appendix II, for species which are less endangered and where a limited trade controlled by permit is allowed.

The downlisting will allow them to trade ivory with Japan.

At a meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi, in October, SADC environment ministers - including South Africa's Pallo Jordan - resolved to support this proposal.

After the meeting Dr Jordan said their consensus position had been reached "in recognition of



Soft target: 'the ban on ivory trade was put in place as a last resort and it works'

the rights of SADC member states to derive socio-economic benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of their natural resources".

South Africa's support for the SADC consensus would not compromise the Cabinet decision not to apply now for South Africa's own elephant population to be downlisted, Dr Jordan said.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare is opposed to any downlisting of the elephant and Mr Barritt said South Africa had to be "very, very aware of the grave dangers" of such a move.

"In our view, this will be a catastrophe for Africa's elephants.

The ban was put in place as a last resort and it works."

He also argued that poachers could target tourists: "We will be opening the floodgates of mayhem in our national parks."

Zambia was "terrified" of the prospect of the ban being lifted and planned to send a high-level delegation to South Africa before the Cites meeting to attempt to persuade the Government not to support the bid, Mr Barritt said.

"It's a lie that SADC is going to vote as a bloc," Mr Barritt said.

Dr Jordan was not available for comment. His public relations officer, Cassandra Gabriel, said he might issue a statement later.

STRICT CURBS ON DEVELOPMENT

Move to save 'Garbage Route'

(56) CT 22/4/97



MEC FOR PLANNING Mr Lampie Fick says all plans for sensitive areas are to be assessed in a "holistic" coastal development policy. **CHRIS BATEMAN** reports.

AN integrated development plan for what anxious conservationists have dubbed the Southern Cape "Garbage Route" will restrict all development north of Knysna/Wilderness to beach homes, halt skyline building and force builders to stick to traditional local architecture.

The Southern Cape sub-regional structure plan — which landed on Planning MEC Mr Lampie Fick's desk last week — also makes integrated environmental management compulsory and protects "productive" agricultural land from development.

Fick is expected to sign the plan into force within days.

In what he described as a "get-tough-on-developers" speech in the provincial legislature yesterday, Fick announced that all new building plans for sensitive areas like Knysna, Rooi Els and Langebaan would be judged in terms of his new "holistic" coastal development policy.

"The days of easy approvals based only on physical spatial factors are over."

In Fick's Draft Planning and Development Bill — which is being scrutinised to

ensure it complies with the Constitution — profit-hungry developers who flout any order, instruction, prohibition or condition of approval would face fines of up to R500 000 or five years' imprisonment.

If they continue to transgress after being found guilty, they could be fined R10 000 a day until they complied.

This draft bill is expected to be published within two months.

Fick's long-awaited move comes amid a burgeoning developmental "free-for-all" along the Garden Route in which entrepreneurs — many with local authority complicity — are riding roughshod over residents and owners of holiday cottages to produce unsightly and environmentally hostile leisure and business complexes.

Rogue developers place their mandatory advertisements in small print in local newspapers out of the holiday season (when most landowners are absent) and make allowance in their costing for the present paltry fines for flouting conditions of approval.

Fick said a "fundamentally holistic approach" to planning, requiring appli-



'DAYS OF EASY APPROVAL ARE OVER':
Lampie Fick, MEC for Planning

cants to read a resource balance sheet 50 years into the future, had been established firmly in his Chief Directorate of Planning.

The new act would place more emphasis on economic, social, physical and aes-

thetic implications — in fine balance with the natural resource needs of the future.

Full local community participation had been worked into the bill, which he expected to become law in July or August, Fick said.

He said he had been pilloried in the press for his department's "alleged insensitivity" towards green issues — and had been held responsible for developments "never approved by us".

In an attempt to reassure environmentalists worried that the abuse would continue while his officials fine-tuned the proposed laws, Fick cited turning down an application to build 38 homes near the Knysna Heads that would have an unacceptable visual impact.

A similar application in Somerset West had been refused because it would have entailed irreparable damage to the environment.

His engineers were investigating allegations that a Wilderness developer had flouted his eight-year-old conditions of approval, Fick said. "Where possible, we will act."

The bill upgrades the Land Use Planning Order and replaces 18 laws, ordinances and regulations in the Western Cape.

Fick claimed it would become a model for other provinces.

Copenhagen shares environmental expertise with local council

BY FIKILE-NTSIKELELO MOYA

Greater Johannesburg's Southern council has struck an agreement with the Danish capital city, Copenhagen, to help Johannesburg improve its environment, waste management and water supply.

"Denmark was sympathetic to our struggle and now they are transferring that sympathy to

technical help," said council environmental planning head Chris Warner.

Southern council acting mayor Prema Naidoo and Copenhagen environment chief Charlotte Ammundsen will sign an agreement on Monday to twin the two councils.

Warner said a Danish government funding agency, Danced, which was involved in environ-

mental and waste projects in South Africa, had agreed to help fund projects initiated by the two councils.

"Twinning programmes in the past used to be more of a symbolic and ceremonial thing, but now we are looking at a twinning arrangement emphasising technical co-operation," said Warner.

He said the council had chosen to learn more about water and

waste management from Copenhagen because the city was at least 20 years ahead in these fields.

"Another reason for (learning about water management) is that it's a priority area. Throughout the world, investors no longer look at the country at large, but at a specific city they want to invest in."

It was envisaged that other councils in Greater Johannesburg would benefit from the agreement.

(56) Star 25/4/97

Stop assaulting our seas, MP tells Portnet

Durban will be 'disfigured'

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

A Portnet proposal to build a container terminal on a sandbank in the middle of Durban harbour has been slammed as part of an overall "assault on our seas" by National Party MP Renier Schoeman.

Speaking in the National Assembly this week during Pallo Jordan's Environmental Affairs and Tourism vote, Mr Schoeman called on the Government to ensure that Portnet's controversial proposal was subjected to a full Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process.

He also urged Dr Jordan to form a committee, consisting of government officials and representatives of parastatals like Portnet and other interested parties, to assess the country's harbours. "They should not just be functional, unpleasant places. They have a major recreational and tourism role if properly managed," he said.

Mr Schoeman described Durban Bay as "a priceless natural asset" that would be "disfigured" by Portnet's proposal to build the container terminal.

"Although this is, in a certain sense, a local Durban/KwaZulu-Natal issue, it is also a national issue," he argued.

"I raise it today because there is an important question of principle at stake: namely, do our harbours belong to Portnet, or to all of us as South Africans? The answer can only be: to all of us, and not Portnet."

Mr Schoeman slated the Durban port manager for handling the issue in "a totally unacceptable way".

"He appears to be completely dismissive of the IEM process and the advice of the locally constituted Local Advisory Committee.

"The port manager justifies his attitude by saying the following: 'The economic necessities in

developing the region vastly overcome the environmental issues.'

"He is totally out of line, and so is Portnet if it accepts his view," Mr Schoeman said.

Mr Schoeman asked Dr Jordan to be briefed on the issue and to take it up with Public Enterprises Minister Stella Sigcau, "to try to persuade (her) of the folly of some of her officials".

"What happens to our harbours is part of the overall 'assault on our seas' and I urge the minister's department to deal with this before it is too late."

Turning to South Africa's 3 000km coastline, Mr Schoeman said it was the nation's most precious resource, "arguably more precious in the long-term than our dwindling gold reserves".

"Our coastal areas are in fact a 'capital asset', and rational management thereof is absolutely essential." Mr Schoeman said the value of this "asset" was diminishing, and that haphazard and opportunistic development had already reduced the value of large stretches of the coast.

"The unplanned and uncontrolled holiday resort developments, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation

are now affecting not only land, but also the soundness of coastal waters through industrial waste, uncontrolled sewage disposal and all sorts of chemical effluent."

This was a multi-dimensional problem which called for a response that "must include as one of its key elements the whole concept of Integrated Environmental Management", Mr Schoeman said.

"IEM should be basic to all policy-making, also in respect of coastal areas, and any reassurance which Dr Jordan can give us in this regard would be highly appreciated."

Mr Schoeman called on Dr Jordan's department to create strong partnerships with the non-governmental conservation organisations helping to promote conservation awareness among the public.

***'Do our harbours
belong to Portnet,
or to all of
us as South
Africans?'***

AKU 26/4/97

(56)

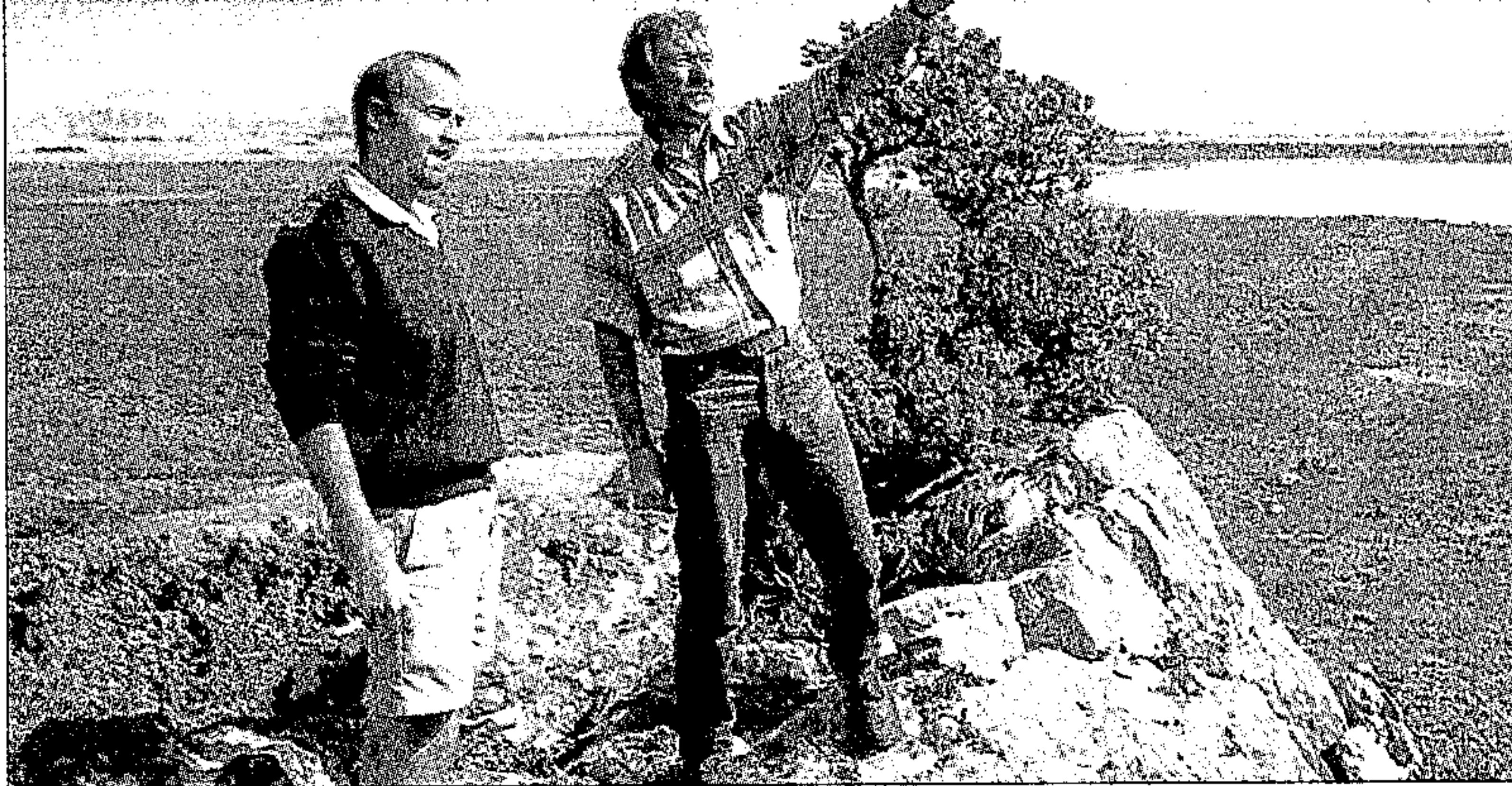
Decision to protect ecology praised

Star 28/4/97 (56)

Pietersburg - The announcement recently by Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Pallo Jordan that strict measures would be introduced to protect ecologically sensitive areas, such as the Madimbo corridor, from mining activities has been welcomed by Kruger National Park head Harold Braak and

Northern Province Environment MEC Dr Tienie Burgers.

Both said at the weekend that the department's efforts to identify ecologically sensitive areas and not to allow future prospecting or mining activities without thorough prior research were commendable. - Sapa.



JOHN YELD

Protection guaranteed: farm owner Bernd Muller, right, and nature conservation officer Riaan van der Walt on one of the peaks in the new Voelvlei conservancy area near Tulbagh. In the background is the Voelvlei dam, part of the conservancy

Landowners unite to save precious area

Conservation plan for Voelvlei

ARG 30/4/97

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Six landowners in the Voelvlei Dam area near Tulbagh have joined forces to declare a huge 11 000ha area as the Voelvlei Conservancy.

This is of major conservation significance because it protects what is believed to be the biggest remaining piece of renosterveld vegetation still in existence.

More than 95 percent of this species-rich vegetation, found only in the Western Cape region, has already been destroyed by agriculture.

The highly endangered geometric tortoise is restricted to renosterveld, and the conservancy will protect one of the few remaining populations of this beautiful reptile.

The new conservancy also includes pristine mountain fynbos areas and boasts more than 40 protea species, or some 12 percent of all South Africa's proteas.

They include the critically-endangered *Sorocephalus imbricatus*, of which only one small population remains and which could be about to become extinct.

Eight of the protea species are endangered and have Red Data Book status, and at least another 23 plant species are also considered endangered.

More than 200 bird species,

including the African Fish Eagle, Martial Eagle, Black Eagle and Blue Crane, have been recorded in the area.

The area is also archaeologically rich, with many caves and overhangs containing artefacts and paintings of Bushmen hunters, and some evidence of Khoi-Khoi herders.

Plans for the new conservancy include an environmental education centre for local children and the Tulbagh Reconstruction and Development Forum is involved in establishing a management plan for the area.

A conservancy is defined as an association of landowners or tenants who voluntarily set aside and consolidate the natural resources of their properties for conservation purposes, and the sustainable use of the natural assets involved.

The members of the Voelvlei Conservancy are Bernd Muller, owner of the farm Silwerfontein, Hennie Fourie of Doornboom, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Western Cape Nature Conservation, Cape Town Municipality and Safcol.

It is only the sixth conservancy to be established in the Western Cape, but nationwide some 3,8-million hectares are under conservancy management.

KwaZulu-Natal has pioneered the concept, and has 1,4-million

hectares in 229 conservancies with more than 3 500 members.

Mr Muller said the Voelvlei conservancy was rated marginal for conventional agricultural purposes.

"So the nature conservation function with its tourism potential assumes an important role."

The area was dominated by the dramatic Voelvlleiberg mountains in the centre and flanked by the Elandsberg and Obiquaberg mountains, he explained.

"Crowning the landscape is the historic Ontongskop peak, whose name was derived from a Khoi stock rustler who used a cave in the cliff face for his illegal activities in the 1700s."

The conservancy's management committee was setting priorities for urgent projects and designing programmes to allow access for the public and the sustainable use of the area's rich natural resources, Mr Muller said.

His farm, on which there was already a popular hiking trail, would be one of the keys.

There were plans to expand the trail and to create a resort close to Voelvlei Dam, the profits from which would help fund an environmental education centre.

"The prospect of creating a facility that will offer dual opportunities is a challenge which is being met head-on," Mr Muller said.

US experts set to boost city's R10-m clean-up campaign

Top team to train workers

(5b)

ARU 30/4/97

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

The Cape Metropolitan Council's R10-million cleansing campaign is to be given a boost when members of the United States Environment Protection Agency arrive next month to train cleansing staff.

The training programme is a direct result of the 1996 Gore-Mbeki accord which commits the US government to funding various initiatives in South Africa.

The four-member training team, which has extensive experience in developing countries, will also visit Pretoria and East London.

The first R3-million phase of the cleansing campaign, focusing on bulk cleansing, is nearing completion. The next R5-million phase will cover general cleansing of streets and open places in informal settlements and a further R1-million is to be spent on environmental cleansing.

The fourth phase is designed to provide training for cleansing workers, to motivate teams and help reorganise cleansing services. Attention will also be paid to investigating and promoting alternate refuse collection systems and policing and controlling illegal dumping. Cleansing staff from each of the six municipalities will attend the course which is aimed at helping them return to their communities to train others.

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Unleaded fuel sales below expectation

(56) ~~56~~ BD 30/4/97

Edward West

THE market share achieved by unleaded fuel had remained below expectation a year after its introduction, but there was no intention to increase the differential between unleaded and leaded fuel prices at this stage, industry sources said at the weekend.

SA Petroleum Industries Association director Collin McClelland said the market share achieved by unleaded fuel was 9,5% at the end of March and 9,3% at the end of last year, lower than the 15% average envisaged in an agreement between local oil companies and government at the fuel's introduction in February last year.

In terms of the agreement, oil companies can ask government to promote unleaded fuel

by increasing the price difference between leaded and unleaded, presently 4c/l, if market share is below expectation.

McClelland said the oil industry was unlikely to ask for an increase in the price difference at this stage, mainly because the international price of unleaded fuel had fallen against that of leaded fuel.

Higher production by local refiners would result in higher costs, he said. When unleaded fuel was introduced in SA last year, it cost refiners 2c-3c/l more than the production cost of leaded fuel.

A mineral and energy affairs spokesman said a decision on whether to take further action to promote unleaded fuel would be taken at the end of next month, which would be exactly one year after the full

introduction of unleaded fuel to the entire SA market.

Toyota SA said the main reason for unleaded fuel's low market share was that most South Africans still believed a higher octane leaded petrol gave them better vehicle performance. There was also "unwarranted bad publicity" overseas about aromatics blended with unleaded fuel to achieve super-high octane ratings.

Some of the aromatics were said to be carcinogenic, but the "fuel industry has assured us the aromatics are perfectly safe", Toyota said.

The company said that aside from the price advantage, unleaded would double the life of exhaust systems and spark plugs, lengthen engine life, result in cleaner oil and not emit any lead, a known toxin.

'RESOURCE MUST BE MANAGED'

City could run out of water by 2020

CT 1/5/97

(56)

TO DISCOURAGE WASTE and show that water has value, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry intends gradually to increase its price. **CYNTHIA VONGAI** reports.

CAPE TOWN will run out of water if its citizens don't start conserving it now, Water Affairs and Forestry deputy director-general Mr Claus Triebel said yesterday.

Triebel was addressing a mountain-top reception celebrating the building of Woodhead Dam on Table Mountain 100 years ago to alleviate a water shortage in the city.

He said that if present consumption continued the city could run out of water by the year 2020.

Capetonians needed to realise that the city's 3,5 million water users could not continue to waste its water.

"We will not have enough water to take us into the next century unless we begin to manage this very valuable resource," he said.

"We are looking into alternative water sources such as the desalination of sea water or recycling of sewage effluent, but both would be extremely expensive."

The only practical alternative would be to implement water conservation programmes immediately, but this would need the full co-operation of ratepayers.

The city used daily a minimum of about 800 million litres and a maximum of 1,35 billion litres, and the demand was rising because of the influx of people from other areas, he said.

"Water is probably the cheapest commodity on the market, costing less than 0,5 cents a litre, and because of this people tend to waste."

To discourage waste the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry intended gradually increasing the price of water.

"People must realise that water has a value, although it is not always reflected in the price," Triebel said. "Attitudes have to change, and they will, once people realise water is a valuable resource."

The price increase would also help to pay for the Table Mountain

National Park to eradicate alien plants.

The department had set aside R20 million to eradicate exotic plants such as gum and pine trees.

"The intrusion of invasive plants has a negative impact on the much-needed run-off from catchments to fill the dam. The city is making available R20m for the water programmes. In the past this cost was borne by the exchequer and with the change of policy the people that benefit from this resource, the ratepayers, must pay for its conservation."

Triebel said that despite the Cape having a high rainfall, most of the rain that fell in urban areas could not be trapped and stored.

The Mayor of Cape Town, Ms Theresa Solomon, said the engineers who had built Woodhead Dam had been "men of extreme courage and ingenuity".

Ten of the engineers' grandchildren attended the reception in honour of their grandfathers yesterday.

Ms Gwen Watermeyer, a descendant of one of the engineers, said she was proud to be part of the history of the dam.

(56)
Minister moves to
save rare butterfly

Knysna - Environment Minister Pallo Jordan yesterday ordered the halting of a planned development near Knysna in the Western Cape to save the habitat of the last remaining population of the rare Brenton Blue butterfly.

Jordan implemented Section 31A(1) of the Environment Conservation Act to halt development of 13 stands at Brenton-on-Sea.

After consultation Jordan decided that any disturbance would affect the survival chances of the endangered butterfly.

He directed that neither the present owner or future owners may cause any disturbance to the butterfly's habitat.

The directive is effective from yesterday for six months.

At the end of the six months Jordan will decide on whether to renew the moratorium. - Sapa.

Staw 1/5/97

Jacob Dlamini

CAPE TOWN — The Wildlife and Environment Society called yesterday for the introduction of legislation to force developers to carry out impact assessments of their projects on the environment.

Spokesman Lorna Watt said the assessments would protect areas of high sensitivity and ensure the appropriate

Environmental studies demanded

development of areas such as the southern Cape coastline.

The call followed a decision by Environmental Affairs Minister Pello Jordan on Wednesday to stop a R1,6m development at Brenton-on-Sea in Kraysna, which had threatened to destroy the habitat of the last known population of the

BD 2/5/97

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tation and the soil structure. Jordan also ruled that the driving of cars onto the stands would be disallowed.

Gabriel said the ruling was for six months. Permission to develop Brenton-on-sea was granted in 1988 by the former Cape Provincial Administration, but the plan came under attack from environmentalists who said it would damage the environment.

Brenton Blue butterfly. Jordan's intervention followed the expiry of a moratorium which had been agreed to by the Brenton development company and wildlife organisations opposed to the development of 13 stands in the area.

According to his spokesman Cassandra Gabriel, Jordan ruled

that the development would "detrimentally affect the survival chances of the endangered species of the Brenton Blue butterfly". In terms of Jordan's ruling, the current and future owners of the 13 stands would not be permitted to disturb the butterfly's habitat by interfering with the vege-

Empowering

Picture: Page 6
and when he was bitten by a dog.

the three leader,

Six-month reprieve for last of the Brenton Blues

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARC 2/5/97

(56)

Johannesburg – The future of the rare Brenton Blue butterfly has been secured – at least for the next six months.

On Wednesday, Minister of Environmental Affairs Pallo Jordan put a stop to any development at Brenton-on-Sea, on the Knysna coast – the only known habitat in the world where the butterfly is still found.

This haven for the tiny Brenton Blue is about two hectares in size.

Mr Jordan has decreed under a section of the Environment Conservation Act that present or future owners of the land may not cause any disturbance to the butterfly's habitat.

The decree came into effect on Wednesday afternoon and will be in effect for the next six months.

This is not the first time the species has run into trouble since its discovery in the Knysna area by Roland Trimen in 1858. Trimen reported seeing the blue butterflies, but no one could find them.

Then, more than 100 years later in 1977, a colony of the butterflies was discovered at Nature's Valley by Jonathan Ball.

A housing development, however, killed the beautiful creatures off.

In 1991, the Brenton-on-Sea colony was discovered by Ernest Pringle and conservationists have been fighting a fierce battle ever since to protect it.

All parties who have been affected by Mr Jordan's decision are invited to make submissions concerning the protection of the butterfly and development to him.

Submissions can be made in writing to the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag X9154, Cape Town, 8000.

Horrors of 'canned' lion hunting

A British TV documentary is about to lift the lid on the sordid 'canned' lion hunting industry in South Africa.

Gareth Patterson, who was involved in the investigations, reports

THE bullet slammed into the lioness and she spun in the air, falling against the electric fence behind which she was confined. Standing on the other side of the fence were her three young cubs — she had been separated from them an hour earlier.

Another shot was fired by the overseas hunter. She slumped to the ground in a crumpled heap. Both times, the hunter shot from a vehicle. He then posed with the dead lioness and pulled at her mouth to show her teeth.

Later, in the skinning shed, as the lioness's coat was removed from her body to become a "trophy" for the hunter, milk from her teats mingled with her blood on the ground.

I have documentary evidence of the horror and brutality of this hunt. On May 6, 10-million television viewers in the United Kingdom will see it too, when it is exposed by the investigative programme *The Cook Report*.

The Cook Report is a hard-hitting documentary series that goes for the jugular of issues. Among the allegations it has investigated is that hunting operators have lured lions out of the Kruger National Park to be shot by high-paying clients.

The programme dealing with hunting on May 6 is the first of a seven-part series. The seventh programme will deal in part with what has transpired since the lion breeding and hunting industry was first exposed. It is my hope that the last programme will report an end to this sordid industry in South Africa.

The findings of *The Cook Report* investigation were presented for comment this week to representatives of the South-African government in London. In documentary and video form, its findings will also be presented to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pallo Jordan.

Apartheid is dead, but now South Africa urgently needs to evolve its inhumane outlook and policies towards wild animals. International criticism could soon mount against a country which has freed its people, but whose wildlife is still left at the mercy of a utilitarian philosophy of "if it pays, it stays". The colonial conservation culture from which the concepts of "homeland" reserves and "game" reserves evolved is still too entrenched.

For several months, as a consultant for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, I have been looking behind the veil of the lion breeding and hunting industry in Southern Africa. What I have seen has left me shocked and enraged. The lethal use of wildlife in South Africa is a blood-thirsty, money-hungry blot on the national landscape.

Today in South Africa, an industry exists in which lions in captive conditions are bred for the hunter's gun. The demand to shoot lions is enormous, as is the economic return for providing the client with a



Stolen moments: Pictures taken off one of the videos used in *The Cook Report* show a lioness being separated from her pride, seen here in the background on the other side of the electrified fencing



The lioness and her three young cubs call to each other through the fence. Shortly afterwards, the lioness was shot up against the fence



The hunter poses with the dead lioness and pulls at her mouth to show her teeth

lion to shoot. More than 300 lions appear to be caught up in this sordid industry.

I have testimony from witnesses of lions having been bought from a zoo, transported to a Lowveld game farm and then "hunted" in confined areas by high-paying clients; of an elderly German hunter, who was unable to hunt on foot, being driven into an enclosure and shooting his "trophy" from the vehicle; of lions being hunted in confined areas with bows and crossbows; of lions being tranquillised, then removed from the "breeding camps" and taken to where clients are able to shoot them.

There is an account of a lioness being shot by a client's son (the boy was cajoled into shooting her) and taking 16 shots to kill her; of a client shooting a male lion 12 times before it died, with not one bullet aimed at the head, presumably so that he did not damage his future trophy; of exotic, non-indigenous species, such as black panthers, being offered for hunting at incredible prices in South Africa.

In Namibia, I was told it is a well-known fact that "trophy hunters" often pay large sums of money to shoot a trapped cheetah or leopard. I was also told that if a hunter wants

(56) MTC 2-8/5/97

a leopard really badly, he will pay up to R7 000 to shoot it in a cage, because hunting cheetah and leopard in the wilds in Namibia is regarded as difficult. A reliable source said "big-shot hunters don't have the expertise for it, and most are not fit enough anyway to follow these cats. So they pay the farmer to let them shoot one in a cage".

Returning to lions and South Africa, it seems that if this lion breeding and hunting business is not outlawed, white lion hunts could also be on offer. Lion breeders are simply waiting to build up enough "stock". The commercial price for a white lion is rumoured to be in the region of R300 000.

Some operations have two very separate faces: tourism on one side, the "canned" lion industry on the other. The tourism face is of lodges, game drives, bush walks, and fine cuisine and accommodation. "Orphan" cubs might be seen gambling around the grounds of the lodge.

But, unseen to the local and international tourists, the same place may be breeding lions to be shot by high-paying clients.

The tourism operation might even advertise its lion-breeding project as being of service to conservation — in that the lions could replace those of wild populations should they become affected by disease. But they won't tell you the real reason why the lions are being bred.

One breeder I spoke to, however, did not try to justify his breeding of lions with pro-conservation arguments. He simply told me he was in the business to make money.

He explained that over the past few years, there has been a tremendous growth in the demand for lions and he is simply capitalising on that demand. He was clearly emotionally detached from the lions and saw them as commodities from which to profit.

There are legal "canned" hunts and illegal ones. The fact that some are legal does not make them right; it's just that the law sanctions such practices.

Laws are in place that allow one to release a lion in, say, a 1 000ha fenced area to be hunted. The absurdity of this is that, because the area is fenced, the lion can not escape. To me, such laws are window-dressing for "fair chase" and legitimise a purely money-making exercise.

And the money is big. Generally, to kill a lion, one must first pay for a full 10-day to 14-day hunt, costing approximately \$5 000 to \$10 000. To hunt and shoot the lion costs an additional \$7 500 to \$10 000. These amounts do not include the cost of the client getting to and from the game farm, the costs of shooting other species, taxidermy, packing and shipping of trophies, the daily tariff of people accompanying the client.

A hunt for a lion alone is generally not offered as the hunting operator does not gain from the accommodation and other fees. But one-off hunts do sometimes occur.

I am aware of one where the client paid R8 000 to R10 000 to shoot a lioness. On another one-off hunt,

the operator charged \$9 000 as a deposit to shoot a male lion, with a further \$9 000 payable when the hunt was completed.

The South African Tourism Board (Satour) could easily be seen to be promoting this industry where lions are bred to be shot. It lists such operators, along with others, in its *Hunting Directory: South Africa*.

Bearing in mind the horror of the "canned lion" industry, imagine my surprise when I saw in the foreword of this directory: "Satour supports practices that enhance the conservation of our country's wildlife."

In a Satour advertisement entitled, "Go for the ultimate trophy and score in South Africa", it is stated: "Where the Big Five ... roam free over magnificent, unspoilt bushland." This is hardly a description of the situation where a lion is bred to be hunted, and is held captive in a fenced area while waiting to be shot, with no chance of escape.

The advertisement ends: "It is always in season in South Africa, where the world's finest hunting is in the bag." Well, the proverbial cat is now out of the bag, and lobbying will intensify until the lion breeding and hunting industry is outlawed.

I believe this industry could potentially threaten our country's tourism potential. What if an international tourism boycott became a reality in reaction to *The Cook Report*?

The nature conservation authorities and the professional hunting associations are aware of this kind of lion hunting, as are those in the ecotourism industry, and Satour lists the very places involved. Yet, despite the threat this industry poses to tourism, it seems there has been little opposition to it from these quarters.

I have been told that the video of the hunt I described at the beginning of this article was shown months ago to Pallo Jordan. Yet the killing continues.

People seem to have forgotten that trophy hunting is *not* part of African environmental culture. Hunting almost purely for sport is part of the culture of

Western secularism. African environmentalism has been eroded by recent human history, politics and the entrenched colonial conservation outlook prevalent in South Africa today.

Africa is being raped by outsiders demanding ivory and rhino horn, and by the exotic pet trade, the wild bird trade, the trade in seal penises and other wildlife products. These demands are not coming from Africa, but from the Middle and Far East.

Africans and non-Africans who respect authentic African environmentalism must now rally together for the sake of our wild animals. Why, as Africans, are we allowing such hideous crimes to be inflicted upon lions and a myriad other species as a result of the foreign culture of trophy hunting, and the foreign demand for the body parts of our wild animals?

Gareth Patterson is a co-founder of Sekai, an African environmental working group

Conservationists praise Pallo on butterfly move

Brenton Blue's habitat now secure

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Conservationists have hailed the decision by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan to issue a Section 31A notice in terms of the Environment Conservation Act to save the critically endangered Brenton Blue butterfly.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust, which has been at the forefront of the three-year battle to save the species, said it was "overjoyed" and "pleased" Dr Jordan's move "an historic step".

"This could become the first time that Section 31A of the Environment Conservation Act has been implemented successfully," the trust said after Dr Jordan's announcement late on Wednesday - the day the developer's voluntary moratorium on further development of the coastal plots at Brenton-on-Sea expired. The Brenton Blue butterfly is known to

exist only here, and the destruction of this habitat would probably have ensured its extinction as a species.

In terms of Dr Jordan's notice, no development or disturbance of any kind is permitted there for the next six months while negotiations take place to secure the butterfly's habitat on the privately owned property.

Restrictions include earthworks of any kind and the driving of vehicles.

It is only the second time that a Section 31A notice has been issued by an environmental affairs minister. The first was by Dr Jordan's predecessor, Dawie de Villiers, when he put a temporary moratorium on development of the Saldanha Steel plant while this proposal was investigated by the Steyn Board of Inquiry.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust said the non-government conservation organisations, including the Lepidopterists Society, Wildlife Society and Habitat Council, and the develop-

AR4 3/5/97

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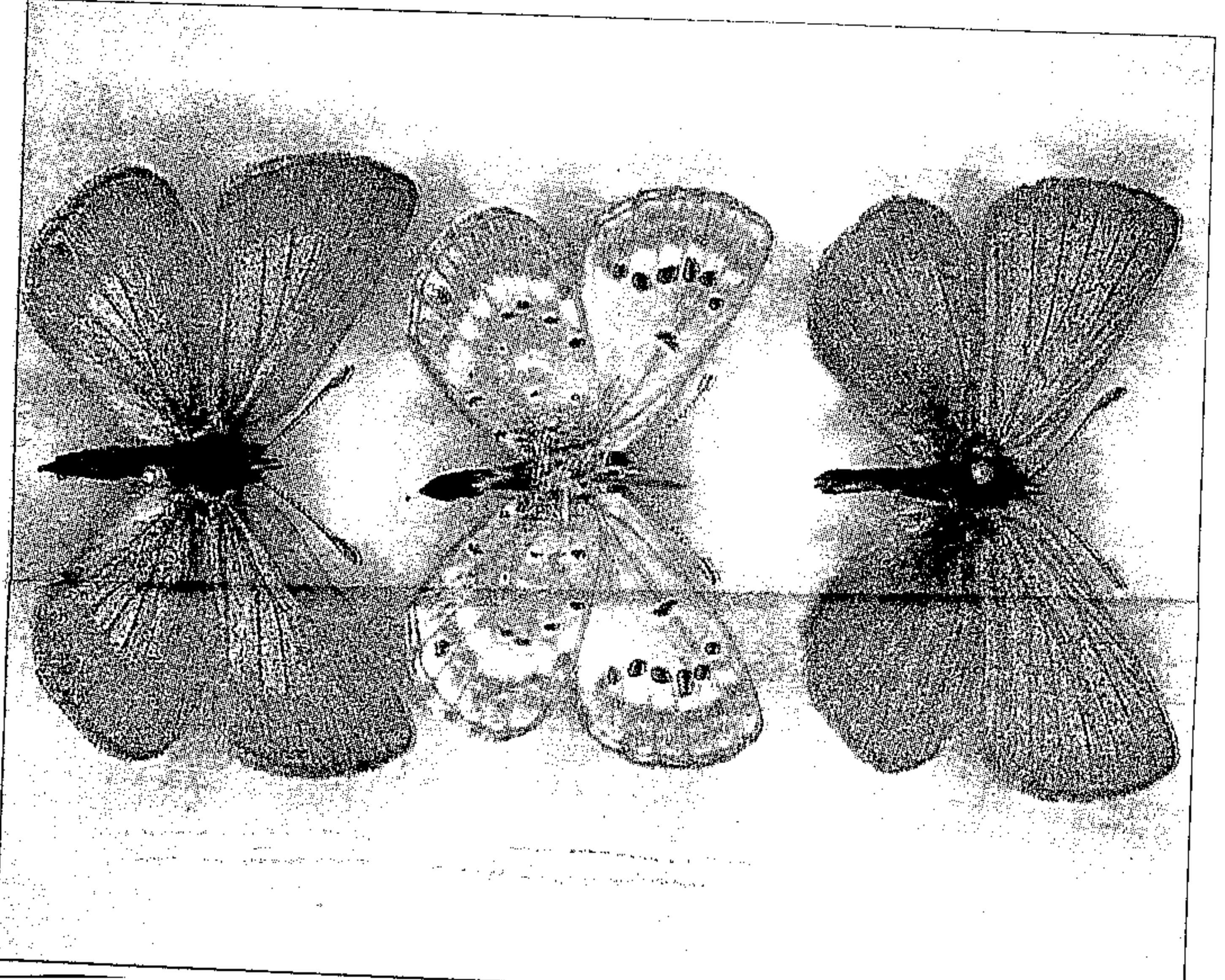
er had gone as far as possible to find a solution at Brenton-on-Sea, and had needed "clear government intervention".

The trust praised the "constructive role" of the developer and the local council, as well as the private sector which had contributed to the Brenton Blue Campaign over the past three years.

It said Dr Jordan had demonstrated the national government's dedication to preserving biological diversity and the rational development of South Africa's natural resources "in a practical and concrete manner".

"This sends a clear signal that developers and conservationists, when faced with such fundamental conflicts of interest, will not be left in the lurch."

To finalise the issue, the national government would have to appropriate the property soon to establish a butterfly reserve, the trust added.



Lifeline: a male Brenton Blue, top, an underside view, middle, and a female, bottom

Brenton Blue flap ⁽⁵⁶⁾ angers

prof
ST(CM) 4/5/97
CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE government's 11th hour reprieve for an endangered butterfly species was another example of the constitutional tensions bedeviling environmental management in South Africa, UCT environmental scientist Professor Richard Fuggle warned this week.

His comments follow Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan's six-month ban on any activities which could disturb the only known breeding site of the Brenton Blue butterfly — literally hours before a property developer was due to reconsider his voluntary, April 30, deadline on developing the 2ha site near Knysna.

Jordan's intervention has been widely welcomed by environmental groupings.

But according to informed sources, vacillation over which level of government was responsible for dealing with the issue was a major reason why the state had taken so long to act to save the Brenton Blue from probable extinction.

Fuggle said the stand-off between the central and Western Cape governments over the Brenton Blue was symptomatic of the constitutional confusion underlying effective environmental administration.

"It is sad that the Brenton Blue problem had to go as far as intervention by the national minister. This is just another indication that the administration of environmental affairs under the new constitution has not been properly thought out and resolved."

Kommetjie residents' eco-challenge pays off

Village stream saved from dredging bulldozers, pending investigation

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Kommetjie environmentalists – and the local otter population – are celebrating a conservation victory over bureaucracy, after the Southern Municipality agreed not to dredge the Bokramspruit running through the village without first undertaking a proper inspection.

Last year the then municipal authority sent in a mechanical shovel to clear reeds and other vegetation from the stream as part of its annual stormwater management programme.

This was done without an inspection and in the face of strong pleas by environmentalists, who argued that the clearing would severely disrupt the thriving mini-ecosystem in the spruit.

Species using the stream include the endangered Cape clawless otter, kingfishers – which feed on the numerous frogs there – weavers and terrapins.

This year concerned local resident and naturalist Pat Evans organised a petition against the dredging after the mechanical shovel arrived.

Fortunately, the operator agreed to hold off until Ms Evans had persuaded the municipality to send an engineer to do an inspection.

Ecologist Wally Petersen of the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group, who agrees that the stream should not be unnecessarily dredged, also attended the inspection.

Ms Evans reported afterwards: "I was threatening to throw myself in front of the shovel after last year's experience when the operator was so horrible, but this year they were great."

"The problem is that previously they never bothered to notify anyone beforehand. The same thing happened in Constarita and then residents there insisted on an inspection beforehand.

"That's what we've achieved now and the engineer's attitude was extremely encouraging."

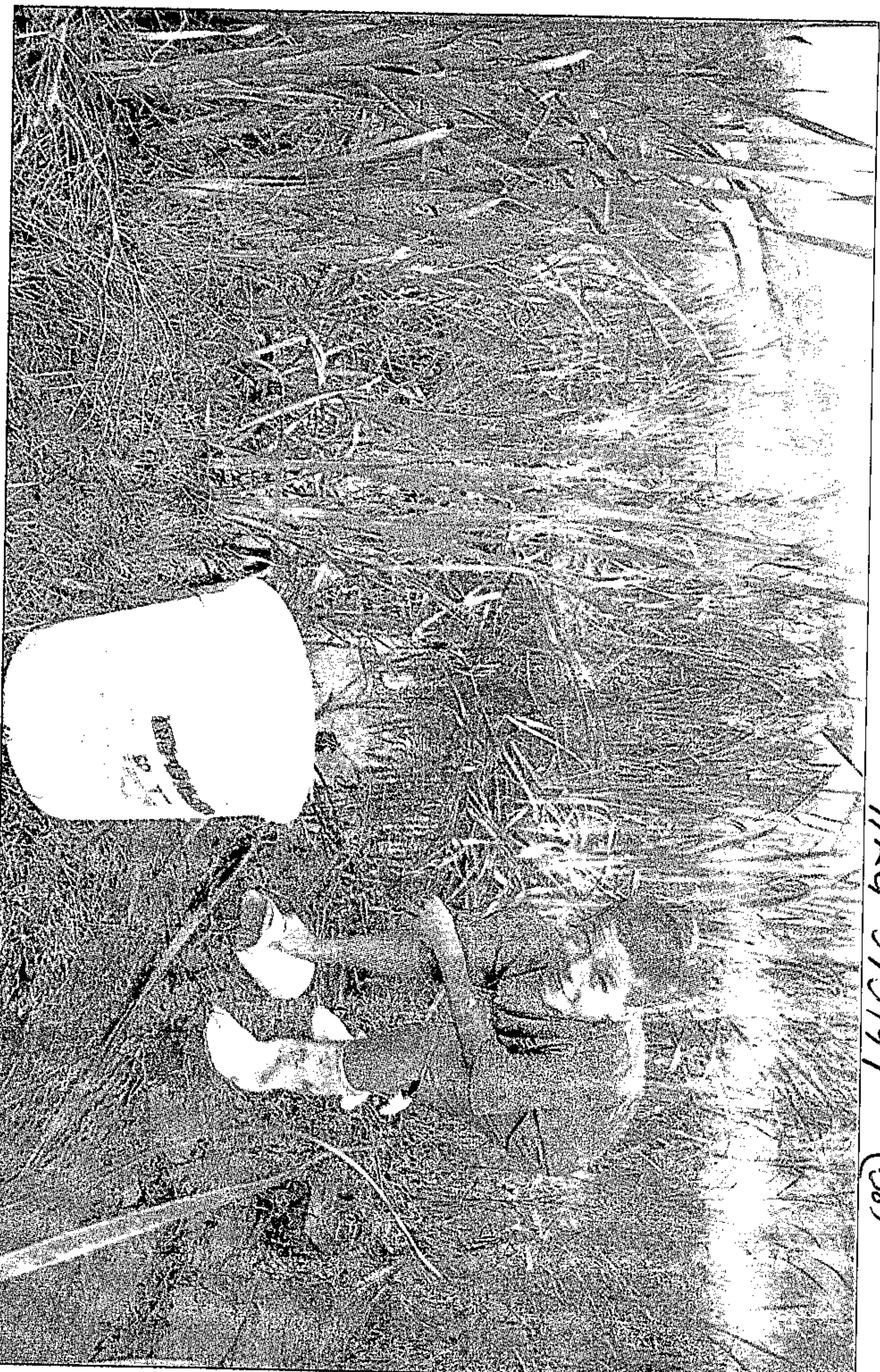
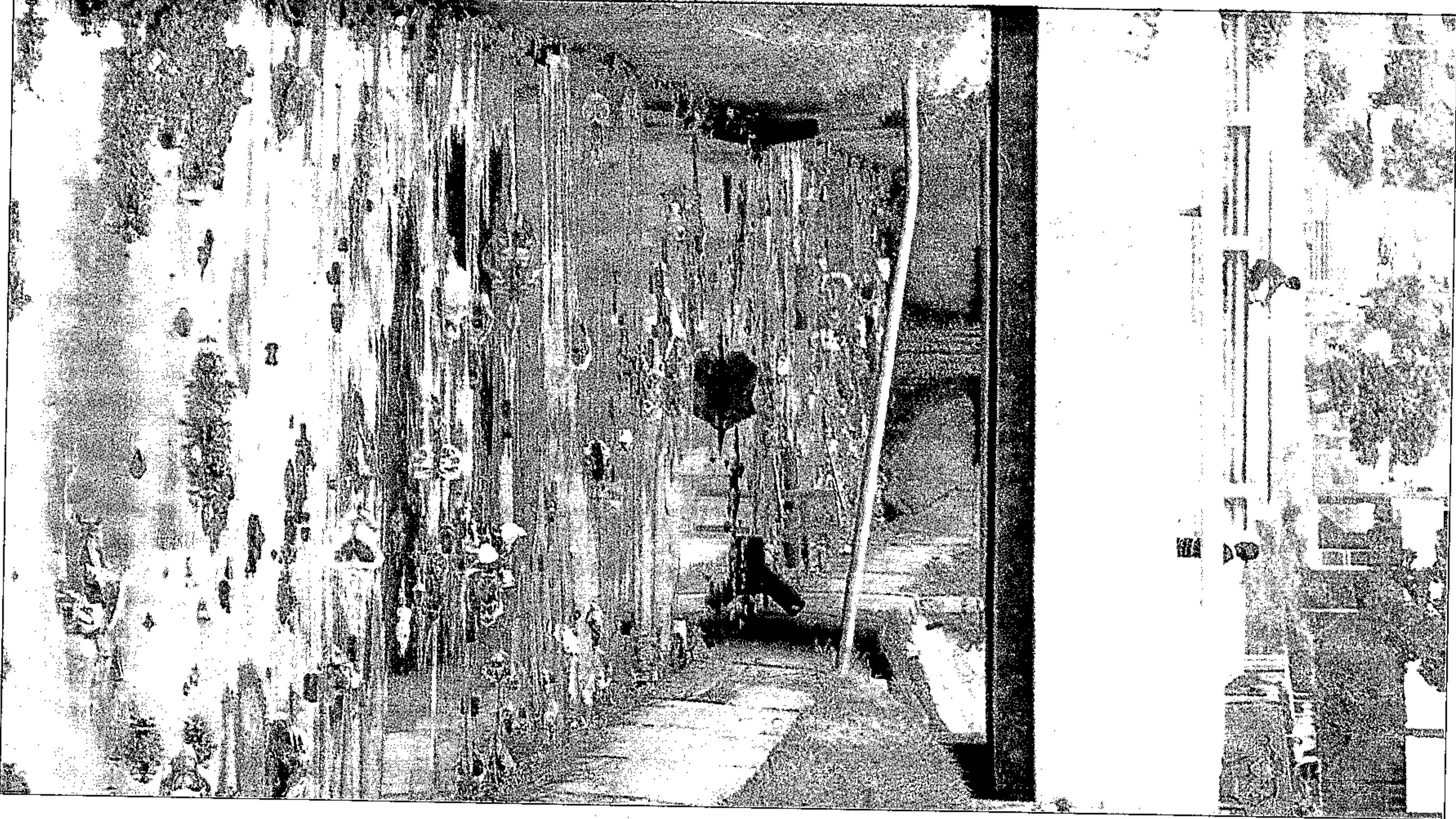
"He even suggested hand-removing some of the reeds, but pointed out that this would be costly."

"We replied that we have plenty of volunteers who would be happy to do it for nothing."

Among those most pleased at the municipality's new attitude is 13-year-old Wian de Villiers, an avid frog and tadpole collector who lives on the banks of the spruit.

Mr Petersen said the action group and the Kommetjie Residents' Association were planning a "greening project" for the stream.

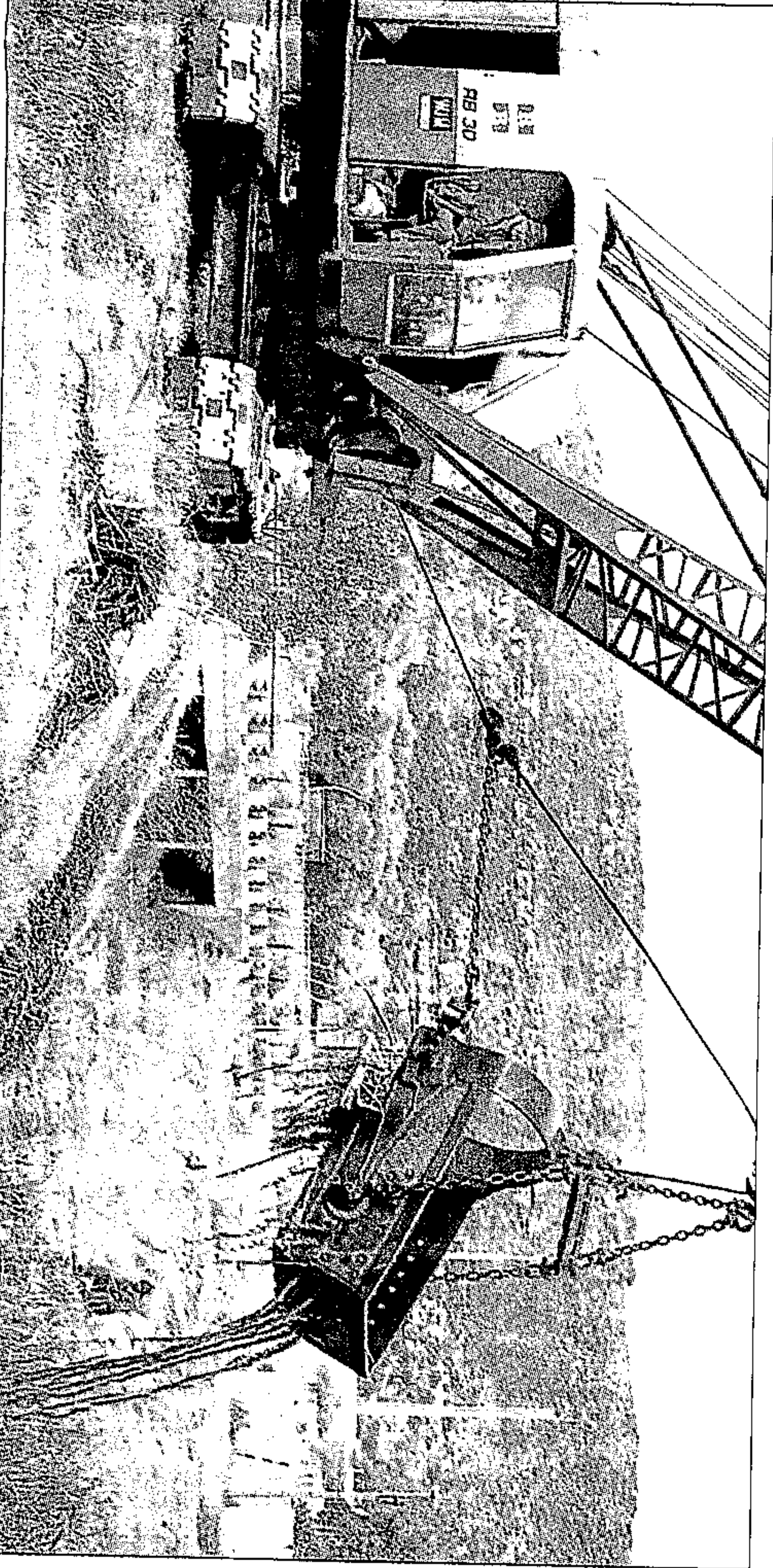
"We want to make it a feature walkway down to the beach," he said.



RAY 5/5/97 (51)

JOHN YELD

Childhood pursuits: 13-year-old Wian de Villiers of Kommetjie collects tadpoles in the Bokramspruit, which flows through the centre of the village



PAT EVANS

Fishback: last year's dredging of the Bokramspruit in Kommetjie, which angered conservation-minded residents

Yuck! huge quantities of litter lie trapped in the reedbeds in the upper reaches of the Bokramspruit between Kommetjie and Ocean View. Kommetjie residents want to preserve the spruit's eco-system

Bill intends to extend pollution control

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Draft legislation to bring SA's pollution control jurisdiction at sea in line with international standards was approved by the National Council of Provinces' transport committee yesterday.

The Shipping General Amendment Bill, amending six acts concerned with shipping and maritime matters now goes to the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces for adoption. The bill proposes an extension of pollution prevention and combating powers at sea by redefining the so-called "prohibited zone" to include SA's exclusive economic zone.

As a result, SA's pollution control jurisdiction would be extended from 50

nautical miles at present to 200 nautical miles. At the same time, prevention and combating powers would be extended materially to include "all harmful substances" and not just oil.

Consequently, transport shipping deputy director Carl Briesch told the committee, it would cover all incidents, posing a threat to life, resources, property or legitimate uses of the sea.

Briesch said the navy and air force would be responsible for monitoring the enhanced pollution control measures, which he said were in line with what was internationally permitted and acceptable.

The penalty for contravention has been increased from a maximum R200 000 fine to R500 000, or to imprisonment not exceeding five years, or

both. The proposed amendments concern the Prevention and Combating of Pollution of the Sea by Oil Act, 1981.

Another substantive amendment applies to the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951, and is meant "to broaden and clarify the scope of the act's occupational safety regime in respect of shore-based personnel, such as stevedores and ship repairers, and to enhance the act's enforcement".

Briesch said doubts about the proper application of the occupational safety regime had been removed by internationally including persons and their equipment who performed work on all areas of a ship.

Enforcement was enhanced in a number of ways. Employers had to report accidents involving employees; it

would be an offence to disturb an accident scene; and ships could be detained to allow for a proper preliminary inquiry into death or serious injury on board.

The Shipping General Amendment Bill proposes amending the Marine Traffic Act, 1981, to protect submarine telecommunications cables and pipelines from damage by fishing gear, specifically from bottom trawling.

A fishing boat would be prohibited from bottom trawling within 500m of such cables or pipelines. Briesch said Telkom specifically requested the amendment to protect the SAT-2 submarine cable. Telkom would be responsible for monitoring the amendment.

Briesch said most of the other amendments were administrative.

BD 6/5/97

(56)

World ban on ivory sales 'must stay'

Michael Moon

THE proposal by Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana for the international ban on ivory trade to be lifted was not justified by sufficient scientific evidence showing that it would not further endanger the African elephant, an elephant conference in Johannesburg heard yesterday.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) had agreed in 1989 that any renewal of ivory sales would have to be on the basis of scientific research, said African Elephant Foundation International director Perez Olindo of Kenya.

Valerie Sackey of Ghana's Wildlife Society said West African countries felt it was wrong for Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana to "impose their perceived solutions" on other countries and said a lifting of the ban would destroy elephant populations in those countries.

Elephants' appendix I Cites status was the most important factor in a decline in poaching, Sackey told the conference.

Zambian representative Norbert Mumba said fellow southern African countries were wrong to claim elephant populations as their own, as elephants were migratory.

Mumba also alleged that Zimbabwe's elephant numbers had been boosted by herding animals with

helicopters into the country from Zambia. Zimbabwean wildlife officials had also lured elephants across the border by building artificial watering holes in times of drought.

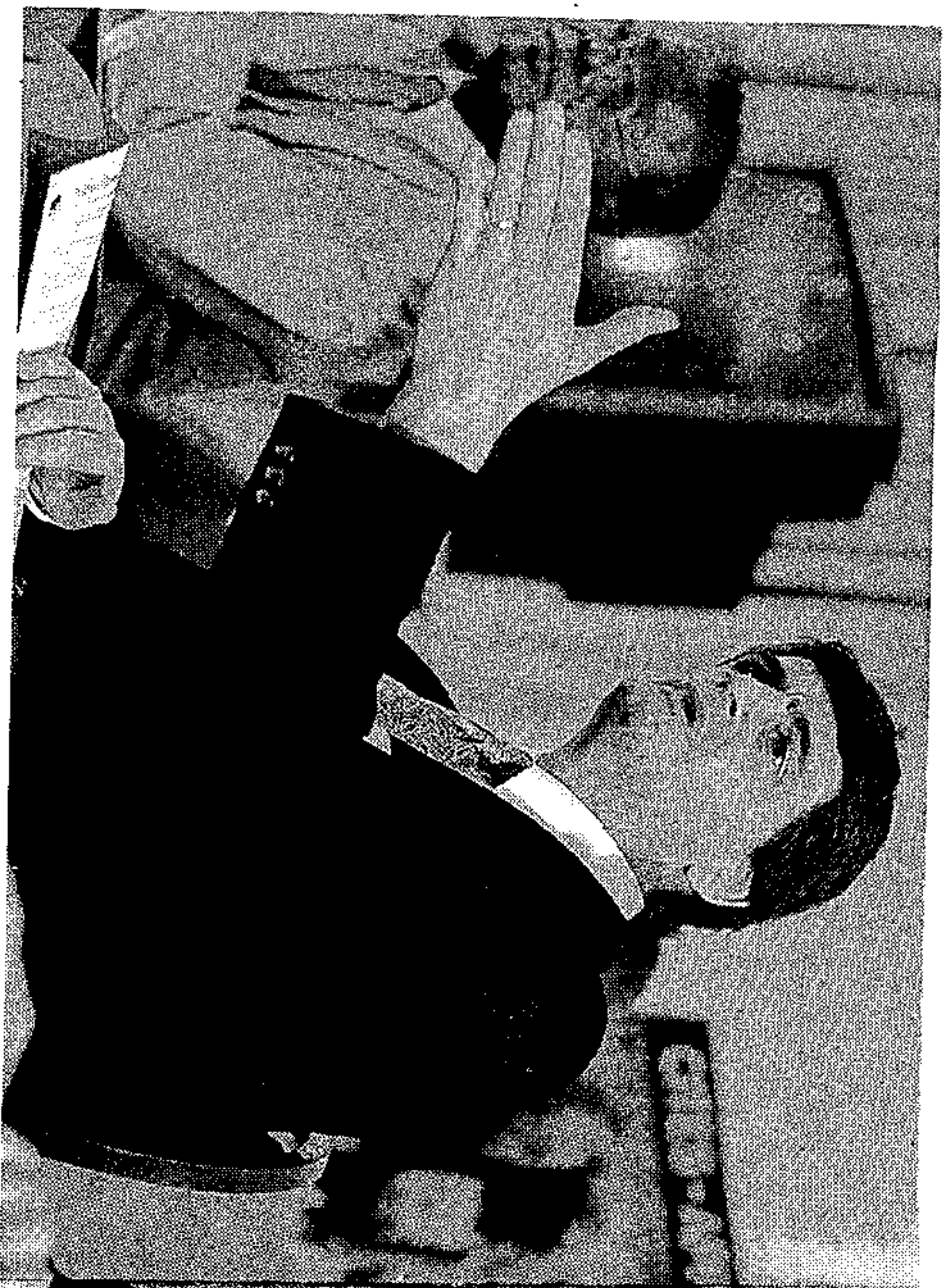
Mumba said that any attempt to allow international ivory sales from southern Africa only would simply create opportunities for illegally obtained ivory from other regions to be "laundered" into the marketing system.

SA is likely to give tacit approval to its three neighbours' proposal for an elephant downlisting at next month's Cites meeting in Harare, while at the same time making its own proposal for an easing of the restrictions on trade in white rhino products.

Meanwhile, Namibia's environment and tourism ministry has hit out at the organisers of this week's conference, the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency, for what it describes as "sensationalist propaganda" and "an attempt to discredit a sovereign country".

The ministry said the agency had attempted to portray Namibia as a country where "illegal wildlife trade is rife and law and order do not seem to exist".

The Namibian government said the greatest threat facing elephants was "the international apathy that followed the 1989 ban as a result of misinformation put out by organisations such as the (agency) that all trade has stopped".



Environmental Investigation Agency chairman Alan Thornton at the African Elephant Conference which opened yesterday in Johannesburg.

Picture: GARTH

New laws to protect SA coastline

CT 6/5/97

(56)



PROFIT-HUNGRY developers could face fines of up to R500 000 or five years in jail if the draft Planning and Development Bill becomes law. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

TOUGH new legislation and new-look policies which aim to clamp down on runaway and haphazard development on the South African coastline are in the pipeline.

The moves have been welcomed by environmentalists, who say this could mean that the rape of the country's coast will become something of the past.

Initial test areas for the introduction of some of the new regulations have been focused on the Garden Route, where inappropriate development on this sensitive part of the coast has mushroomed, raising fears that it will destroy the very qualities that attract tourists to the region.

The new moves by the Department of Environmental Affairs include:

- A coastal policy initiative, aimed at developing an overarching policy framework to guide development and management of the whole coast.

- Regulations to control certain activities on the coast such as dredging, dune stabilisation and disturbance of vegetation.

New moves by the Western Cape government include:

- The Draft Planning and Development Bill, which consolidates several bits of legislation into one law with more teeth.

- A coastal development policy to ensure development is sustainable.

- A Southern Cape regional sub-structure plan, whereby the aesthetics of developments on the coast will be regulated by law for the first time.

The Department of Environment's deputy director of coastal zone management, Dr Niel Malan, said yesterday that much of South

Africa's coastline had been drastically altered by development, and the pressure was increasing.

"This has resulted in problems like pollution and the siting of development in ecologically sensitive areas. Our scenic coastline is one of our most valuable tourism assets and needs to be conserved and managed wisely if it is to contribute to our economic prosperity," Malan said.

The coastal policy initiative, to which the British Overseas Development Administration has donated R10 million, is poised to kick off with an extensive public participation process.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Pallo Jordan, has appointed a policy steering committee, consisting of a representative from national government and one from each coastal province, from business and industry, labour, community-based organisations and non-government organisations.

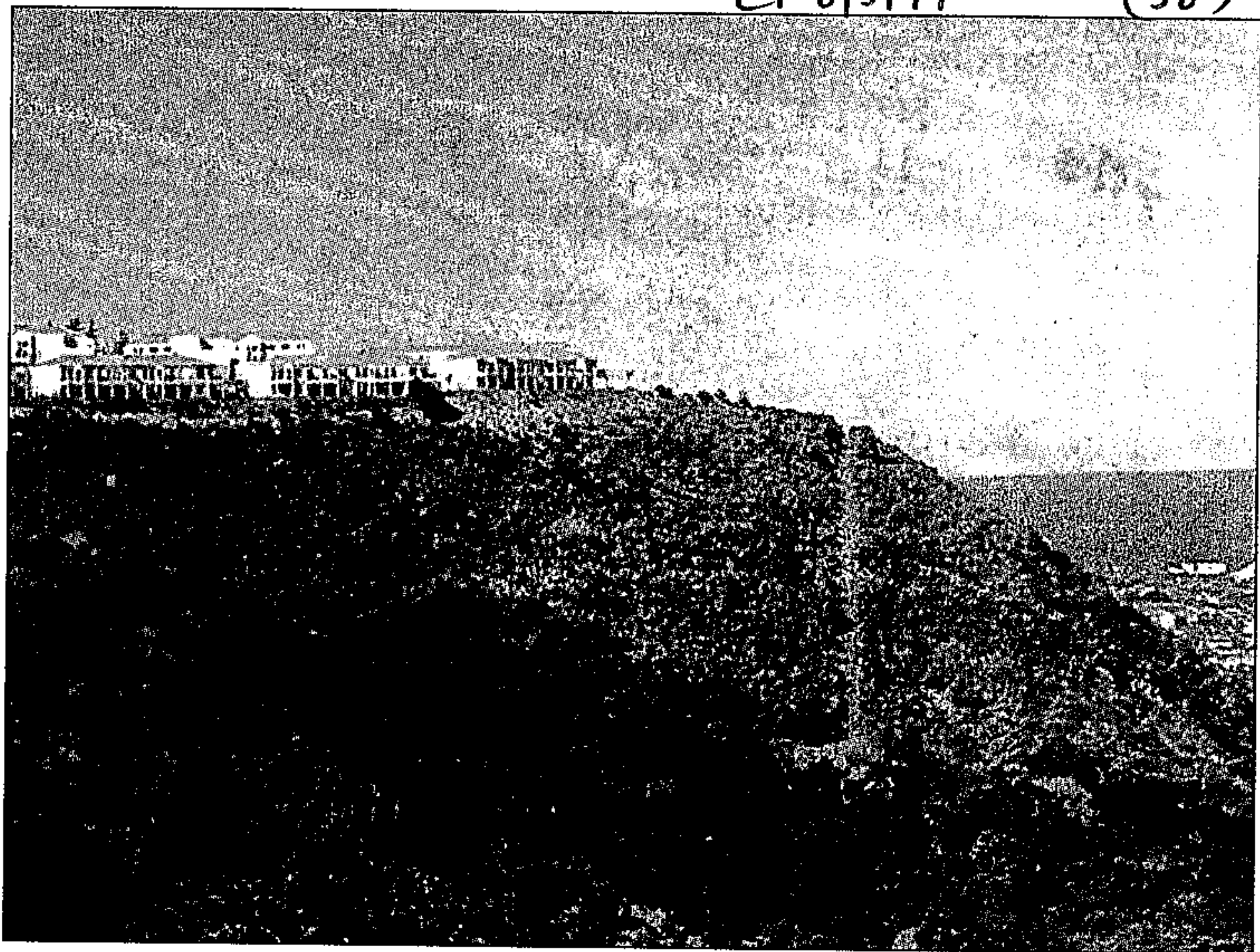
Said Malan: "Preliminary work on the project started in November, but the full public participation is only about to start now."

About 25% of the entire budget will be spent on the public participation process, which includes training and capacity-building.

Malan said the other initiative — regulations to control activities on the coast — had been applied to a test area on the Garden Route in May last year, and was poised to be extended.

"The regulations are of a type which have never been applied in the environmental field before, and the department has tested their viability in a pilot study from Tergriet near Great Brak River to Kaaiman's River in the Wilderness.

"We are now looking at extend-



INSENSITIVE: Castleton, a controversial new development at Plettenberg Bay, is the kind of "painful" development on the Garden Route's skyline which new provincial regulations aim to halt. **PICTURE: MELANIE GOSLING**

ing the test area to include the coastline of Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and beyond to the Bloukrans River," Malan said.

Similar talks were under way for pilot studies in KwaZulu-Natal.

The regulations are aimed at blocking loopholes not covered by existing legislation. They control activities on the coast such as disturbance of vegetation, dredging from rivers, lagoons and wetlands, the erection of structures on dunes and excavating soil, rock and sand.

Said Malan: "At the moment one can take a bulldozer and flatten vegetation and only then apply for rezoning. These regulations will prevent such activities which can have a harmful effect on the coastal environment."

Provincial MEC for Planning Mr Lampie Fick said there was a

general public perception that development in the Western Cape was outstripping the province's carrying capacity.

"The alleged rape of the Garden Route by developers, which has already been described as the 'Garbage Route', has led to great emotion in the past year. I'm very concerned about the pressure for development on the Garden Route and about the apparent lack of control on the aesthetics of development.

"I'm also worried about the lack of concern regarding the visual impact of development. For example, there are houses built on The Heads in Knysna which stick out above the horizon, and which should never have been allowed. They are almost painful developments, and should have been

below the skyline," Fick said.

Local authorities should realise there were limits to growth, and should not try to compete with each other to become the biggest or most powerful, he said.

"With the new legislation we're taking a strict line to ensure developments don't overshoot the limits to growth. Visual impact is also a limit we need to take into account. Not enough local authorities realise that the solution to their current financial problems may well lie in their limiting their growth," Fick said.

The Planning and Development Bill, which could become law by July, would clamp down on profit-hungry developers who flout conditions of approval, and they could face fines of up to R500 000 or five years in jail.

Fury over Kruger lions lured to death

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

(56)

ARG 8/5/97

Durban - A leading environmentalist is calling for a full inquiry into the luring of lions from the Kruger National Park so they can be shot by hunting expeditions.

Gareth Patterson, co-founder of the African environmental group Sekai, also called on Environmental Affairs Minister Pello Jordan to declare a moratorium on breeding lions for hunting.

The call comes in the wake of footage shown on British television on Tuesday night of a lioness shot by hunters who had paid

Spanish agents more than R100 000 for the opportunity.

The lioness was shot in Mokolo Game Reserve, bordering the Kruger Park, after being lured away from her cubs.

According to the programme presenter, who went under cover to expose the practice of so-called "canned" hunting, Europeans paid thousands to go on organised expeditions where endangered species, including lions and gorillas, were either drugged and shot, or trapped before being killed.

Mr Patterson said last night that footage of the Mokolo Game reserve killing had apparently been shown to Mr Jordan several

months ago, but that he had yet to take action.

"People are really upset that this is happening and that nobody is taking any action.

Mr Jordan last night admitted to having seen the video, but said it was up to the province to initiate action. He said that in every instance, as in the case of the Brenton Blue butterfly and the export of baboons to France, he had respected the power of the provinces.

He would act only if the province felt powerless to deal with the matter, he said. There has been no official response to the story from Kruger National Park officials.

City air pollution

double UN limit (56)

ARG 9/5/97
Table View residents who complained about air pollution this week were backed by monitors who reported that World Health Organisation guidelines were exceeded, sometimes by more than twice, on that day.

The petro-chemical complex at Milnerton has been pinpointed as the source of the pollution, and the Caltex refinery and Kynoch fertiliser factory are being asked to explain.

Monitors found that levels of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the air exceeded WHO guidelines for

To page 3

City air pollution double UN maximum

From page 1

10-minute, one-hour and one-day averages.

A 10-minute average, measured between 1.30pm and 2pm, was more than twice the WHO guideline level.

"This is the first time since continuous monitoring began in October 1994 that the WHO hourly and daily guidelines for SO₂ have been exceeded," said Ian Neilson, councillor and acting chairman of the Northern Communities Air Monitoring Task Group.

ARG 9/5/97
"The 10-minute guideline has been exceeded on several occasions."

He said the wind had been from the south-east all day, and sightings had confirmed the source of the pollution as the petro-chemical complex at Milnerton.

"The Caltex refinery and Kynoch fertiliser factory managers have been approached to explain, as well as to indicate what measures are to be implemented to prevent a recurrence," he said. There had also been complaints about pollution in other areas. - Environment Reporter

Malan risks civil action

Over SADF raids - Boraine

Ex-defence chief urged to seek amnesty

JOHN YELD
ON THE TRUTH COMMISSION

Magnus Malan may have laid himself open to civil claims for damages from victims of SA Defence Force cross-border raids and internal operations in which innocent civilians died, Truth Commission deputy chairman Alex Boraine warned today.

He called on General Malan to apply for amnesty "even at this 11th hour" - the deadline for amnesty applications is midnight tomorrow - for the sake of reconciliation in the country and in his own interest.

Dr Boraine's remarks follow a statement by General Malan after his voluntary testimony to the Truth Commission in Cape Town this week, saying he stood by his decision not to apply for amnesty.

Dr Boraine told the Cape Argus today there were two reasons why he believed General Malan should apply for amnesty.

The first was because the former defence minister had told the commission he had agreed to testify in order to further the cause of reconciliation.

"He played a dominant role as head of the SADF and as minister in the implementation of a policy that damaged and



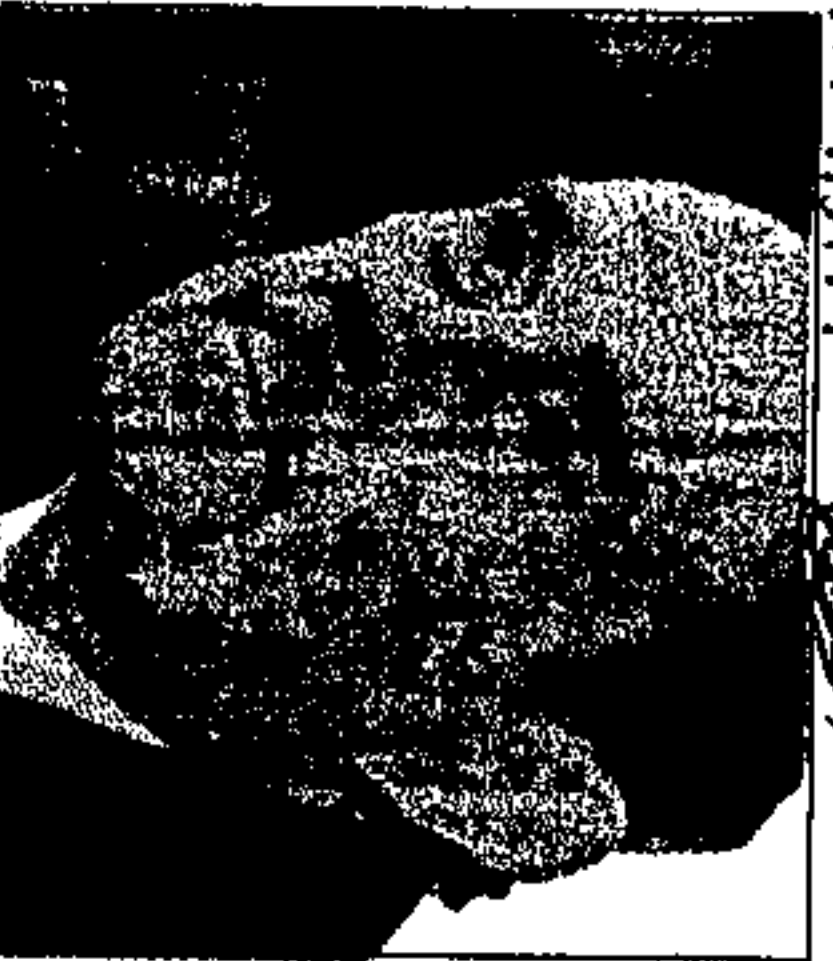
Warning: TRC deputy chairman Alex Boraine

destroyed many people, both in South Africa and in the surrounding countries."

General Malan had also publicly acknowledged he had given orders for raids and had accepted responsibility for the killing of innocent civilians by soldiers under his command.

"Violations of fundamental human rights were committed by the SADF and in the final analysis he was responsible ... they were his orders," Dr Boraine said.

"In my opinion he puts himself at risk of



Could be sued: Magnus Malan

possible civil claims from victims and their relatives of military manoeuvres, both inside the country and out.

"So he should seek amnesty both in terms of his own commitment to reconciliation, and in his own self-interest."

Former state president P W Botha has not yet replied to a comprehensive set of questions by the commission, but his attorney told Dr Boraine this week he and Mr Botha were working "flat out" on the submission, which was a "huge undertaking".

Round Slangkop and save the fynbos

To capitalise on the heightened environmental awareness that it's generated, Keag has organised a half-marathon event this Sunday.

The route - from Kommetjie to Misty Cliffs and Scarborough and back via Slangkop mountain - is through the heart of the fynbos project.

"What makes this road race so unusual is the strong environmental message we're promoting," said group spokeswoman Jenni Trethowan. "The first 500 entrants will be given indigenous plants to take home and grow. There will be several banners and signs along the route, all creating awareness of our natural environment."

The race starts at Keag's headquarters at Imhoff's Gift Farm opposite Ocean View at 9.30 am. For further information call Ms Trethowan at 783 3433.



Fynbos fit: at the launch of Sunday's 21km race are, from left, Keag ecologist Wally Petersen, Gary van Rooyen of Nike, Lisa Padfield of WWF-SA, Callax's Alfred Malangu and Keag chairman Peter Erasmus

Constantia

wants united front against housing plan

ASAF SMITH (56)
Suff Reporter
RAG 9/5/99

Constantia residents have asked fellow Capetonians to unite with them against a proposed housing development at Eagles Nest - one of the last unspoilt areas of the Peninsula.

They have also called on the area to be proclaimed "another Oudekraal" - referring to a decision by municipal authorities to oppose a development at that site near Camps Bay.

At a public meeting in Groot Constantia last night on the controversial plan to build 15 luxury houses at Eagles Nest near Constantia Nek, several residents called on the National Parks Board to intervene.

The developers presented detailed studies at the meeting, including one on the environmental impact of the proposal and an assurance that the natural beauty would not be infringed.

Resident Bobbie Fitchen said it was time to say "enough is enough" and stop developers from encroaching further on the area.

It was not only up to Constantia residents to decide the fate of Eagles Nest, but developers also had to consider the opinions of the broader Cape Town community who also had a stake in the future of the property, she said.

Miss Fitchen also fears the increase in traffic would impact on everyone using the M1 to and from Hout Bay.

David Baker, who has lived in Eagles Nest for 17 years and knows the area "very intimately" said the site proposed for the development was closed off by trees, was damp and would be a breeding place for tuberculosis.

"The people of Constantia and the citizens of Cape Town should say enough is enough. We have wonderful green areas, but we keep creeping up on them," said another resident.

One resident, Brent Meder, was more conciliatory, saying the developers had proposed building low density housing and it was up to Constantia residents to reconsider their objections.

Eagles Nest owner John Schooling emphasised houses would be built on plots of about 8 000 sq m and would not adversely affect the area. In fact, the site would be improved through the removal of alien vegetation and a better drainage system.

Experts call for ban on ivory trade to continue

(56) *Stow* 9/5/97

Elephant experts from Africa and Asia have called on the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to reject proposals by three African countries to lift the ban on ivory trading.

The call was made yesterday at the end of an African-elephant conference held by a London-based non-governmental organisation, the Environmental Investigation Agency, in Johannesburg this week. The conference was held to discuss the proposal by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe that Cites lift the ban on commercial ivory trade.

Perez Olindo, director of the International African Elephant Foundation, said that if the proposal was accepted at the Cites conference next month, it could result in the decimation of the African ele-

phant.

"This week we heard from all over Africa and Asia that Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe must be stopped before they cause irreparable damage to elephant populations across two continents," he said.

Delegates believe the acceptance of the proposals would cause a resurgence of poaching and a decline in elephant populations in both Africa and Asia, by encouraging ivory poachers and illegal traders and consumers to increase their activities.

Costa Mlay, director-general of the Serengeti Wildlife Research Institute, said elephants would die in large numbers, and the lives of people who protect them would be at risk, if Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe were allowed to trade in ivory. — Environment Reporter.

Lifting the veil on Arabian women

The women of Arabia are emerging from behind Islamic restrictions to take their place in the corporate world. **Kathy Evans** reports from Doha

It was not an auspicious start to the first ever conference on the rights of Arabian women in the workplace. "No cameras, no recording equipment," said a veiled policewoman, guarding the conference hall from male infiltrators. Sheikha Moza, wife of the emir of Qatar and initiator of the conference was inside, and pictures or recordings of her were forbidden.

The meeting provided a rare insight into life behind the veil. For four days, participants were isolated from men and driven around in black-windowed Mercedes like precious sexual cargos.

The meeting brought together about 250 women from 16 Arab countries.

From Tunisia, Algeria and Kuwait came delegates in sharp business suits with power shoulders.

From Saudi Arabia, too, came an unveiled woman, working as a

United Nations bureaucrat outside the kingdom. Other women from the conservative states travelled with a male relative, as tradition requires.

Most of the Qatari participants covered their hair and wore black cloaks. But some hid their faces under an impenetrable black chiffon scarf.

Their varying attire showed just how ideologically confused the Arab and Muslim world is about an issue likely to figure prominently on the political agenda: the status of women.

In some countries such as Tunisia, women enjoy Western-style family laws which grant them equal rights in divorce and custody actions, and the right to abortion on demand. They also vote. All this is, of course, sanctioned by the Koran, say Arab feminists.

More rigorous interpretations are followed in other states. In Saudi Arabia,

women are forbidden to drive or travel alone. They are even still fighting for the right to have a plastic identity card. ID cards, which carry photographs, lead to men seeing the face, and that leads to independence, and independence leads to adultery, as a disgusted newspaper reader pointed out recently.

Jordanian women, meanwhile, are about to embark on a campaign to ban the ultimate bonus for Muslim men — the right to have four wives simultaneously. Once again, they are arguing on the basis of Islam, asserting that it is impossible to treat all the wives equally as the Koran requires.

This ideological confusion about what Islam does or does not say about the status of women comes at a time when the women of Arabia are emerging from local universities in huge numbers, demanding their rightful place in the job market.

In Qatar, like many other Gulf countries, women graduates and postgraduates now outnumber the men by three to two. Despite their

qualifications, social traditions have made it hard for women to make headway in careers other than teaching.

The educational gap threatens to revolutionise gender relations. Some Qatari women are already earning more than their husbands.

Not all men, or even women, agree that it is socially acceptable for women to work. The emir's wife organised the conference to encourage consensus in favour of careers for women.

Not surprisingly, sparks flew. A heavily veiled Saudi speaker argued that Islam obliged women to have as many as children as possible. Working could mean leaving children in the hands of heathen nannies.

One problem with women working in the Gulf is the taboo about mixing with men. In Saudi Arabia, male and female employees in government ministries have separate entrances and work on separate floors. Banks and restaurants have areas restricted to

women. Many educated Gulf women ridicule such restrictions.

"What's the point about talking about our rights among ourselves? We have to start a dialogue with men," a Qatari graduate pointed out.

Not all agree. Fatima, a statistician, said she recently turned down a promotion as it would have involved extensive contact with men.

Sheikha Moza is thought to be behind the consideration the Qatari government is giving to women voting in the forthcoming local elections.

For the women of the rich Arab oil states, it would be a first, envied by all Gulf women. The future does, however, look bright and increasingly female. Yemeni women have just made it to Parliament in a straight contest with men. And in Doha, Qatari women were demanding government creches, and an end to restrictions on driving and single women travelling.

One went as far as to ask whether she should ask her husband to help around the house.

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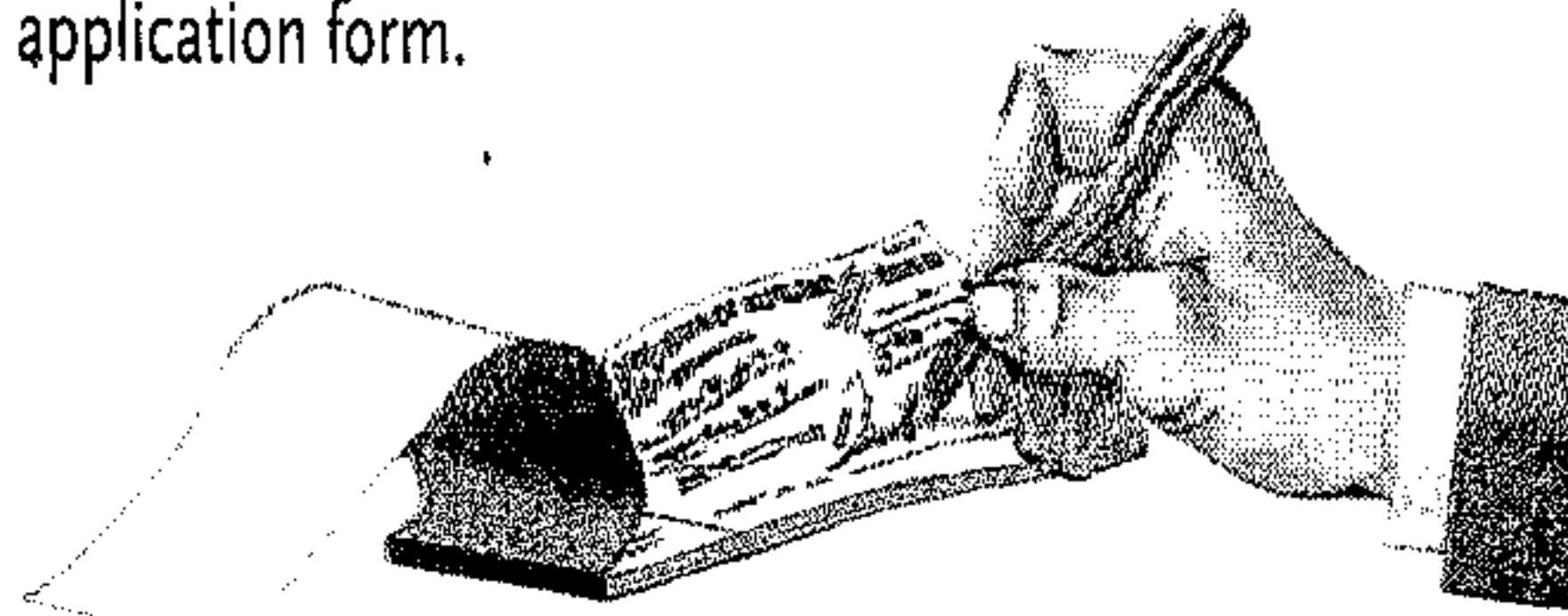
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 **BANK OF SCOTLAND**
IN JERSEY

Study shows phones are road menace

Luisa Dillner in London

BRITAIN'S Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is thinking twice about banning drivers from using their mobile phones while on the road.

But lobbyists there want cellphones off the road, whether hand-held or mounted on a car kit.

Is there any evidence that mobile phones actually cause accidents? "There's precious little evidence," admits David Rogers, road safety adviser for RoSPA. "We'd like to collect statistics on the extent of the problem. But a sensible person knows it's ridiculous to expect to be in control if you have a cellphone wedged in your neck."

The evidence that does exist is convincing. The *New England Journal of Medicine* published a study from Canada of 699 drivers who had cellphones and were involved in car accidents.

The study shows that making a call increases the risk of an accident by a factor of four. The risk is highest within five minutes of starting a call and is similar to driving with a blood alcohol level at the legal limit. It found that "hands-free" phones had the same risk as hand-held ones. The risk was higher on faster roads.

The study points out that while the causes of accidents are complicated, "error on the part of drivers contributes to more than 90% of events". The evidence has prompted Brazil, Israel, Sweden and two Australian states to ban drivers from using hand-held phones.

Many of the criticisms levelled at the RoSPA campaign come from business people who use their cars as extensions of their offices and constantly use their mobile phones.

RoSPA warns companies that employees should be encouraged to take regular breaks from driving and pick up their messages while stationary.

Meanwhile, psychological studies of drivers with type-A personalities — ambitious, competitive and with time urgency — show that they drive faster and have higher crash rates.

RoSPA argues that our minds are simply not on the road. "The issue is

Developed countries may have learnt that environmental friendliness pays, but South Africa still lags far behind

Going green brings about better corporate profits

M+G (PM) 9-15/5/97

(5b)

Roger Cowe in London

THE "greening" of business has received a boost from research which shows that British companies taking environmental issues seriously have better financial performance than their non-green rivals.

In the first substantial study of this kind, the research, by Imperial College and Jupiter Asset Management, a financial services company, found that a large sample of greener

companies did as well or better than competitors in the same business over a four-year period.

The conclusions will give new impetus to the environmental business movement, which has seen an initial enthusiasm for green marketing and simple waste-reduction measures give way to doubts about more fundamental environmental strategies.

The research will also help the green investment sector, which has been able to show good performance

but still has to overcome worries among investors that addressing environmental issues might damage profits.

That fear is conclusively rejected by researcher David Edwards. "The results strongly support the hypothesis that good environmental performers perform better than bad environmental performers."

Edwards based his research on firms such as Argyll, British Polythene, British Telecom, Iceland, Kingfisher and London Interna-

tional. These all fit the funds' criteria for good environmental performance, which cover management, disclosure and reduction in energy use and pollution.

The study focused on 51 such firms and compared their profitability between 1992 and 1995 with similar companies in the same sectors. The green companies achieved substantially higher return on capital, and even the best of the non-green companies did no better than those on Jupiter's list.

The green store groups, for example, achieved returns of almost 26% over the four-year period, compared to only 15% for comparable non-green companies.

Edwards cautioned that the results do not prove that being green necessarily produces better profits. The opposite could be the case — that more profitable companies can afford to be more active on environmental issues.

But Simon Baker, Jupiter's green manager, said the causal connection was irrelevant for his purposes. "All I need to know is that the companies on our list will show a better return."

Environment on agenda, at last

(5b)

M+G (PM) 9-15/5/97

Aspasia Karras

ADDITIONAL DRIVE to help local communities deal with their environmental needs, so that they do not become recipients of everyone else's problems, is contained in a White Paper to be presented to the Cabinet next week.

The White Paper, which is likely to be made public later this month, comes at a time when tree-huggers and environmentalists are not the only people taking the environment seriously. The environment has become an everyday issue for many — so much so that there's a fast-growing market for sophisticated environmental home products going far beyond the simple water purifier of the past.

Among products developed in the United States is a high-tech home test-kit for lead, carbon-monoxide, UV radon and radioactive strontium-caesium. The latter is a critical measurement for those living in the Pacific North-West who are not entirely convinced of the all-clears given by their governments about the nuclear fallout from Chernobyl in 1986.

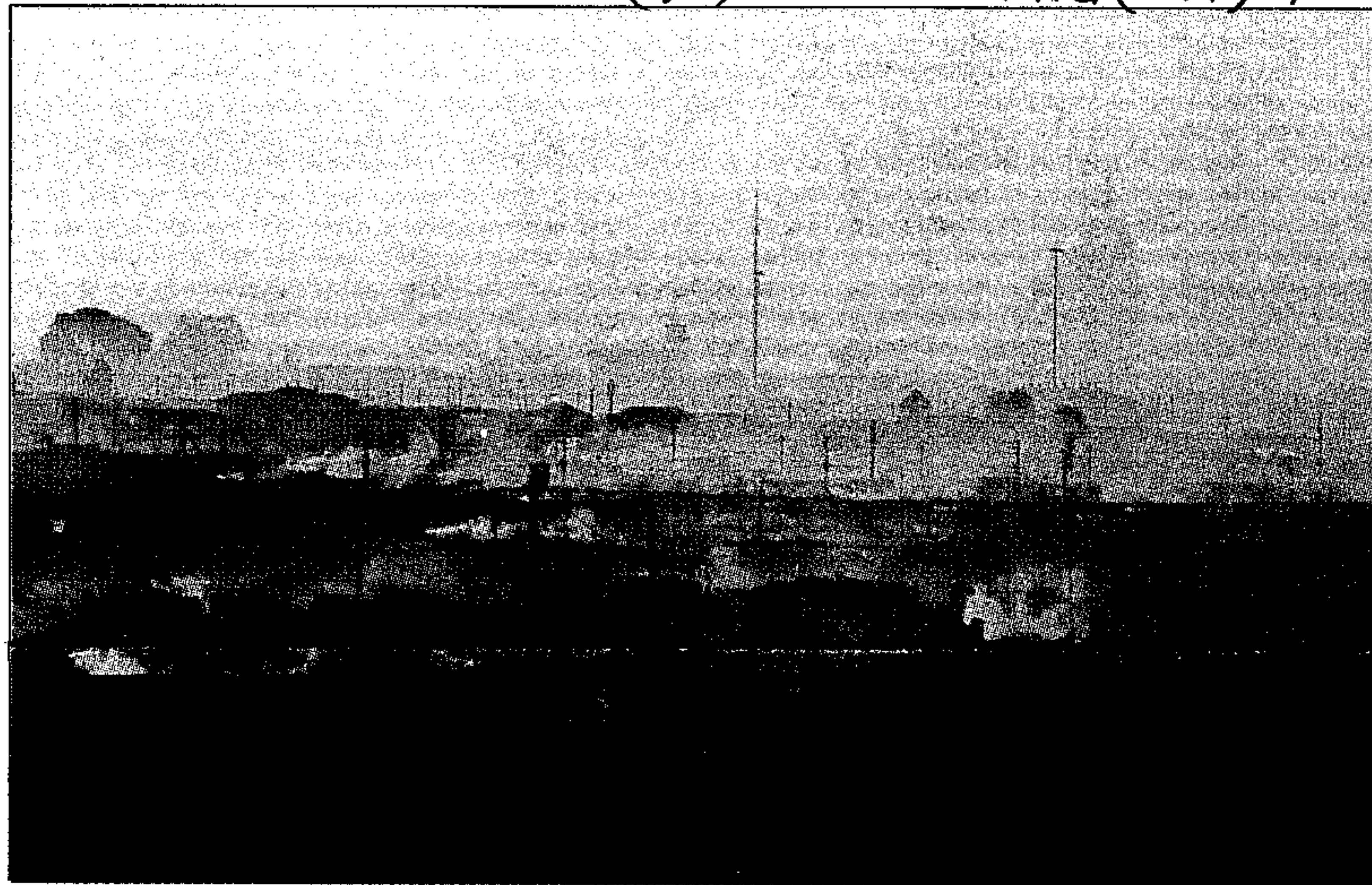
Another interactive product provides real-time information about a neighbourhood's environmental status. It is a monitoring system designed for informed decision-making that shows current and historic levels of pollution, hospital mortality statistics, and local disease clusters — all overlaid on a map of the area.

No wonder that big business in many parts of the world has placed environmental concerns high on the agenda. According to Nicky Robins, environmental manager for Nissan SA, business has recognised that "environmental considerations are a strategic necessity in a global industrial market".

In South Africa, an Industrial Environmental Forum was established in 1990 by several key industries. The forum was relatively small to start with. But membership has flourished since its 1991 business and environment conference when more than 400 delegates discussed the impact of international standards such as the ISO 14001 and the development of the international environment system standards.

Karin Ireton, manager of the forum, explains: "Business has certain driving forces. You dance to the tune of the market that you are servicing. For example, if your market is in West Germany, which is an environmentally sensitive market place, you have to follow suit. The consumer calls the tune, if they want environmentally appropriate products, business has to listen to that."

Robins agrees: "A shift has definitely taken place during the last five years. While it could be argued that



Acid rain: South Africa's coal fires are environmentally damaging

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFELD

companies have jumped on to the environmental bandwagon for marketing purposes, the reality of the situation is that any company exporting to industrialised markets and countries must improve its environmental performance."

She argues that consumers in Europe and the US have two considerations, apart from price, when buying. First, they want to know how much "blood" is on a product; in other words, what safety standards are applied in making a product. And second, they demand to know the extent to which the product is being manufactured to the detriment of the environment.

Some critics argue that imposing such standards on the developing world is problematic, in the context of radical differences between developed and developing states and their respective market hold.

More ironically, almost all rich countries will overshoot their year 2000 greenhouse gas emission targets, agreed to at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1990, some by as much as 40%.

The South African government has also climbed on to the international protocol circuit by signing three international conventions: the Montreal Protocol, which looks at ozone depleting substances; the Basel Convention, concerned with trans-boundary waste; and the International Convention, focusing on the climate.

Environmental activist groups like GEM would argue that many of the

standards South Africa has adopted are too low in terms of the real crisis facing the country. Studies reporting on the condition of the South African environment in the 1990s claim that where coal-burning power stations are situated, annual emissions of sulphur dioxide, the main ingredient of acid rain, total between 31 and 57 tons/km — a very high figure by international standards.

In a paper on development and the environment, Peter Ngobese and Jacklyn Cock of Wits University argue that the South African case is a microcosm of the planet's environmental degradation. The combination of northern problems like acid rain and southern problems like soil erosion makes the country one of the most polluted areas in the world.

For example, 400-million tons of top soil is being washed away in South Africa annually. A calculation of the replacement value estimates that at a cost of R30/ton of top soil, the value of the soil eroded only from the KwaZulu-Natal catchments each year is not less than R500-million and could easily be three or four times that figure. In the Eastern Cape, with far higher soil loss rates, the amount could run into many billions of rand annually.

Despite the crisis, a holistic government approach to the issue has been a long time coming. Although a Green and White Paper process has been under way during the last three years, it does not help that the min-

istry responsible has changed hands and management so often.

An initial discussion document produced last year has led to the establishment of a Consultative National Environmental Policy Process. The White Paper on the environment which has been prepared is now heading for the Cabinet.

The key concern of the White Paper is to ensure that local communities are informed and are involved in the major decisions affecting their lives.

An integrated environment management approach will ensure that the national department sets the norms and standards and, in partnership with the provinces and local government, works out ways to monitor and lead.

Lofty aims, but they are dependent on the capacity of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. With limited staff and skills to draw on, the department will be hard-pressed to monitor and evaluate many of the standards it sets.

The real crux of the problem is that environment is low on the government's strategic priority list. As a result, the department has a small budget which needs to be stretched.

Robins argues: "It is understandable that they need to rationalise and that they have low capacity and few human resources, but if they deprivatise the environment now, it will cost more in the long term."

"The government must integrate its development strategies with its environment strategies, or the cost of fixing up what went wrong in the past will be too high to bear."

However, this is not necessarily the

approach the government is taking: the growth, employment and redistribution strategy programme does not mention the environment as a consideration at all.

South Africa shares this problem with many other countries. Most states send only their environmental ministers to sign the international protocols, without the big guns — the industry and treasury ministers — and this ensures that most promises are empty ones.

Meanwhile, business has set its own standards and evaluates itself. The Industrial Environmental Forum promotes the use of a holistic systems approach like the ISO 14001.

The concept, according to Ireton, is that a company sets standards based on environmental management systems developed to international benchmarks. The idea is that environmental management must be incorporated into a systematic framework that makes it an integral part of the whole business function.

The second element of the ISO standards addresses the need to monitor and evaluate the systems put in place. They set criteria for ideal environmental monitors.

Ireton explains: "ISO at its best functions as it is designed — to be a voluntary system whereby businesses, to gain a clearance certificate, measure themselves against criteria that they themselves set."

Going the route of getting the ISO certificate can be expensive and therefore only relevant to companies where the business incentive is large enough. The problem with smaller firms is that there is less incentive to be environmentally friendly, and the state has very little capacity to monitor them.

Ireton points out: "There is a role for government to play, but you should make it the responsibility of the people carrying out the business. If you create an atmosphere in which people only do things because an inspector is at the door, the attitude change that sees environmental issues as essential to their business practices will not occur. The government does not actually have the capacity to have so many inspectors."

The fact remains, however, that it is the market and business that got the environment into trouble in the first place. The fossil-fuel industry is worth more than R7-trillion a year. Setting their own standards, according to international benchmarks, may satisfy a sensitive Western customer, but may be entirely irrelevant to the real South African and global environmental problems.

This is the debate to follow with the publication of the White Paper. It certainly is a policy vacuum which the government should be addressing.

Koeberg's safety record goes down the drain after 'big blow'

ARU 10/5/97

(56)

Koeberg power station managers are under pressure to defend the station's safety standards after workers were exposed to radiation levels which exceeded legal limits. **Pieter Malan reports**

The incident last week during which three workers were exposed to radiation in excess of legal limits has tarnished the Koeberg power station's unblemished record as one of the safest power stations in the world.

What has put power station managers' noses further out of joint is that this was the second incident in less than two months in which workers received excessive exposure to radioactive material.

Three men were exposed to 91, 71 and 43 milli-Sieverts of radiation respectively. According to Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) guidelines no one should be exposed to more than 50 milli-Sieverts a year. Eskom's own in-house guideline sets this figure at 20 milli-Sieverts a year.

The high doses they received mean that some of the workers will not be able to enter the reactor precinct for the next five years.

"This has been a big blow for us and has hurt our otherwise exemplary radiation protection record," said power station

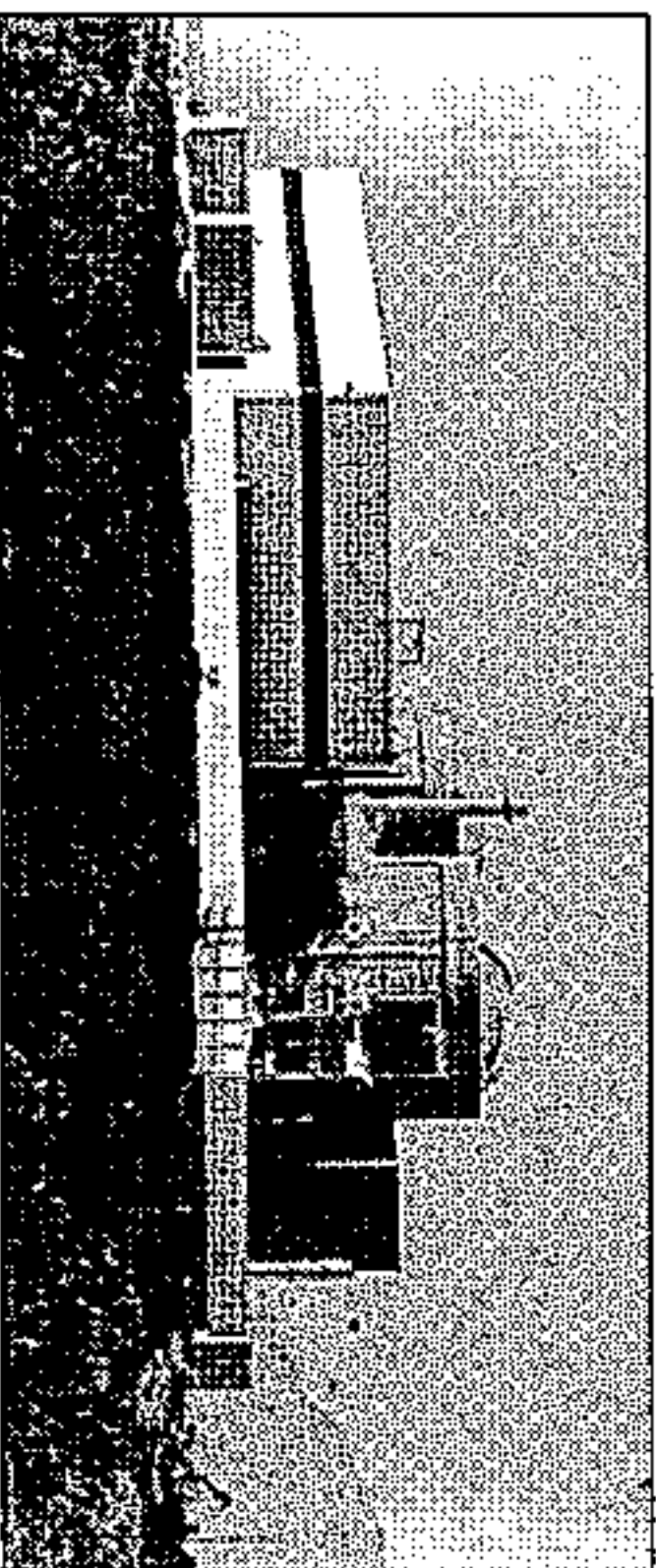
manager Peter Prozesky. He said new equipment was already on order to make early detection of possible radioactive sources easier.

He said extensive medical tests, including blood tests, had shown the men involved in the incident should suffer no serious after-effects.

Blood tests revealed a slight response in white blood cells - similar to that experienced during a common cold - but not the dramatic decrease in white blood cell numbers which would happen after excessive radioactive exposure.

Mr Prozesky said an investigation by the independent CNS into the incident already was under way and its findings were expected in the next day or two.

Last week's incident happened when three workers were replacing water filters in a building situated between the two reactor buildings. The water filters remove impurities from the water in which spent and unused nuclear reactor fuel is kept and are, therefore, also radioactive.



Tarnished image: Koeberg power station

After removing the concrete lid covering the filter the workers measured the radiation coming from the filters and, believing they were safe, proceeded to remove the filters and place them in a bag.

While still working in the vicinity, one of the men did a routine check on his dosimeter, the device that all radiation workers carry with them to measure their level of radiation exposure.

Realising that something was seriously wrong, they immediately left the area.

The room was then secured and searched until the source of the radioactivity was traced to the bag containing the filters.

Mr Prozesky said the CNS inquiry would try to find out why the preliminary probe by the men to determine the radioactivity of the filters failed to warn them of the imminent danger.

"There are only two possibilities. Either the guy taking the reading misread the meter or the instrument they were using was faulty."

After exhaustive testing, the instru-

ment did start to malfunction, but more tests would have to be done before investigators would be able to say for sure where the problem lay, he said.

After the incident in March, Koeberg managers proposed that all radiation workers should be issued with advanced dosimeters.

These instruments would be fitted with a loud alarm that went off as soon as a worker went near a source of excessive radioactivity.

"After the recent incident, getting the advanced dosimeters is a top priority and these already have been ordered," Mr Prozesky said, adding that the new equipment would cost about R1.5 million.

He dismissed allegations that inadequate training could have contributed to the recent incidents, saying that radiation workers undergo regular retraining and "requalification".

He said the inspector involved in the latest incident had more than eight years working experience in the reactor precinct.

The incident was classified as a level 2 incident on the International Nuclear Event Scale. This is described as one "resulting in a dose to a worker exceeding a statutory annual dose" and means a "significant failure" of safety provisions, but with sufficient defences remaining to cope with additional failures.

Small businesses



When it comes to disposal of hazardous waste created by small businesses, environmental policy seems absurd. **SALLY SHAW** investigates

We use and discard items every day which seem insignificant by themselves – but when you consider that millions of other people are discarding the same thing, even a cup of paint thinners down a municipal drain becomes a major pollutant and a killer.

Some of us would not hesitate to do the same with a litre of used motor oil – as might another 50 000 motorists.

Similarly, all over South Africa, small businesses, such as dry-cleaners and printers, are producing small amounts of toxic substances – let's say 500ml each a day. If there are only 1 000 unsafe dry-cleaning units in Gauteng, we can extrapolate that 500 litres of hazardous chemicals need disposing of every day.

Where is the small businessman disposing of these substances?

Those promulgating environmental laws applicable to hazardous materials seem unperturbed about the answer.

There are no fewer than seven different government departments which administer 28 separate pieces of legislation to effect proper disposal of haz-

ardous wastes. But when it comes to toxic waste created by the small business sector, environmental policy seems even more absurd. Says Department of Water Affairs director Leon Brudenham: "It is true that in the small business sector we have no idea who is generating what, where or how much. It's a problem, and although urgent action is needed, it is not a priority."

William Scott, director of the Department of Environmental Affairs' pollution control division, also acknowledges the problem and says he is "personally concerned with the disposal of used oil and the burning of tyres for steel recovery, but it's not anything that we're currently in the position to deal with". Even environmental groups are relatively uninterested.

"I have actually seen someone dumping used motor oil down a public drain," says Richard Sherman of Earthlife Africa, "but at this stage we've got more pressing issues to deal

with, monitoring what's going on at policy level."

Even within the waste industry some are unconcerned. Jarmer president of the Institute of Environmental Management, a body concerned with the science and ethics of waste management, says: "Because of basic principles of dispersal and dilution, these amounts) generated by small businesses absorbed by the environment pose a significant threat."

US waste-related research is also concerned with companies with more than 10 employees, says Heron, a chemical consultant who has done extensive research for the CSIR. "But South Africa's

Dry-cleaning: lethal spin

The word "dry-cleaning" is misleading. Clothes that are being dry-cleaned are not only thoroughly wet, they're wet with the toxic cleaning agent perchloroethylene, or "perc", a carcinogen which has also been discovered to cause liver and lung damage if inhaled in large quantities.

It is classified as a class I extremely hazardous waste. But unclear government policy makes for lax regulation of its use and disposal.

No official statistics are available to verify the number of dry-cleaners in the Johannesburg area, but estimates show there are at least 300.

The Polyfin company in Sasolburg is the sole producer of "perc" in South Africa. Accounts manager Graham Waugh says 2 500 tons are sold annually through three distributors to the Gauteng market. He estimates that 30% is exported to neighbouring countries with the remainder being used locally.

Most of this is used primarily to top up levels in up-and-running machines – levels that run down all too quickly because of shoddy equipment.

Steven Ramsey, a distributor of dry-cleaning equipment, says that for the past four or five years, mostly brand-new, "clean" technology has been imported. But in the years before that, used machines from Europe – phased out due to strict environmental standards – flooded the South African market.

Some establishments – those based in upmarket suburban areas – have made the R200 000 capital input required for a clean-running machine. But, according to industry estimates, a conservative 60% of dry-cleaners in Gauteng use older, inefficient technology and have little hope of upgrading.

Known as "open-cycle" systems, an open cooling tower is used to recover the chemical, a method which allows extensive evaporation. At a certain level, the "perc" becomes a hazardous source of air contamination.

After a wash, the latest closed-cycle machines cool and recover the chemical for re-use in a single, isolated system, losing only a fraction of a percent of the chemical through the clothes themselves.

Poorly maintained equipment of either type can lead to leakage.

There are machines in Johannesburg in such poor condition that buckets are being used to recover dripping "perc".

Surprise visits in different areas of town proved this was not such an unusual occurrence.

Dirt and oil are removed from the clothes during a wash and filtered out, leaving white powder waste laced with small quantities of "perc". Actual amounts are machine dependent: the less efficient the machine, the higher the level of "perc" in the waste.

The dry-cleaning industry in South Africa believes this white powder is non-toxic, and even the most reputable establishments routinely put it

out for regular refuse collection.

Levels of 0,5% "perc" in waste is deemed hazardous by SA's own standards.

In the US, this solid waste and the actual filters used are regarded as toxic and treated as such. Heavy fines are imposed for non-compliance.

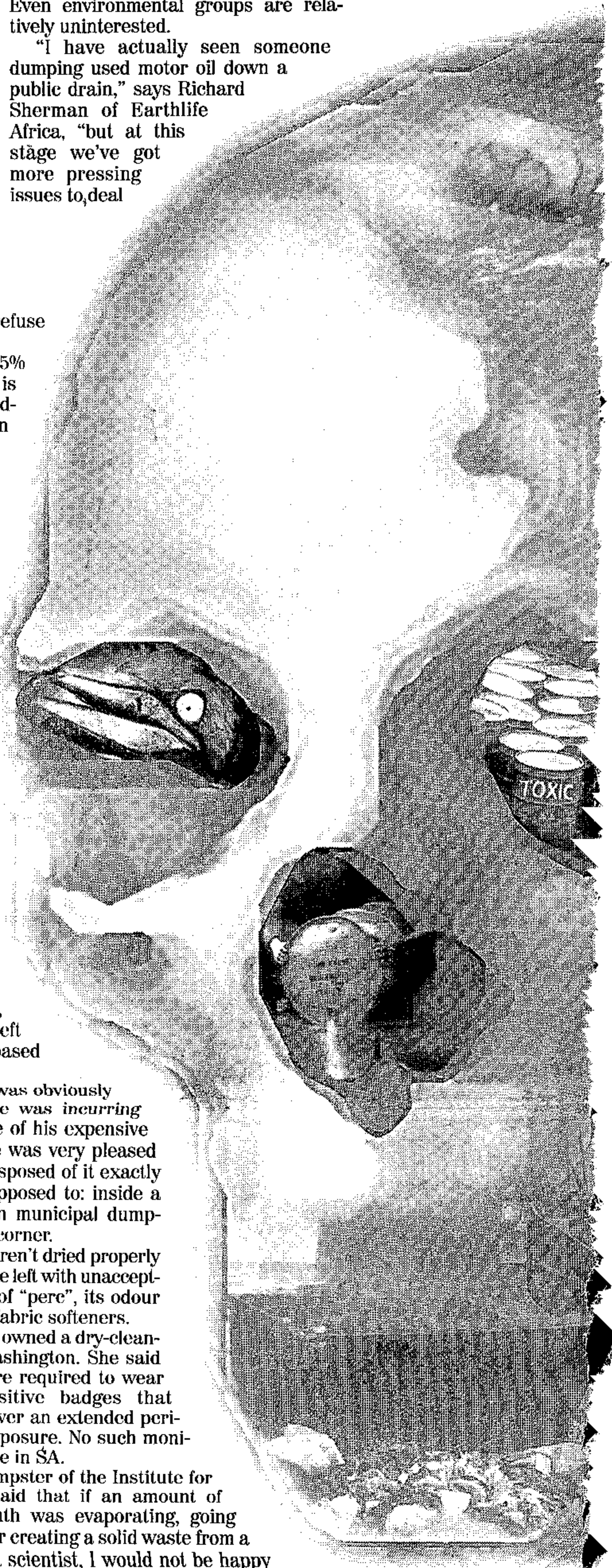
In one case, a dry-cleaner in Johannesburg's southern suburbs was visibly upset because his filter system had not been working properly and instead of a dry powdery waste, he was being left with a "perc"-based paste.

His concern was obviously over the cost he was incurring through wastage of his expensive chemical, but he was very pleased to say that he disposed of it exactly the way he's supposed to: inside a regular-collection municipal dumpster around the corner.

Clothes that aren't dried properly in the machine are left with unacceptably high levels of "perc", its odour often hidden by fabric softeners.

Vyv Stumbles owned a dry-cleaner in Seattle, Washington. She said her workers were required to wear chemically sensitive badges that were analysed over an extended period to monitor exposure. No such monitoring takes place in SA.

Dr Phillip Kempster of the Institute for Water Studies said that if an amount of 200 litres a month was evaporating, going down the drain or creating a solid waste from a single site, "as a scientist, I would not be happy with it".



GRAPHIC: VIJAY GOVENDER

Environment bodies have little hope of effective legislation

A white paper funded partially by the Danish government and researched jointly by the Department of Water Affairs and the Department of Environmental Affairs is due to be tabled in Parliament by August.

Titled "Integrated Pollution Control", it will be the culmination

of two years' work and will cost more than R2,6-million.

Aimed at quantifying all aspects of environmental degradation, a waste management strategy will then be designed to align policy accordingly.

"They've spent a whole lot of money on consultants and they really don't have that much to

show for it," said an Earthlife Africa spokesman.

"They're now under pressure to finish it. Though we will be watching for results, this is really one attempt of many and we're not too optimistic."

And it has all happened before. A market research company was hired by the CSIR in

1992 to conduct a study looking at various waste streams.

"I've now been asked to update the figures," a company spokesman said, "but the ridiculous thing is that none of my previous work has ever been used."

Given our unique social problems, we generally excuse ourselves when it comes to First

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are big culprits

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economy differs structurally," he says. "Small concerns can make up to 80% of all players in a given industry. "Take the chemical manufacturing industry. There are 80 big producers and they generally toe the line, not only because they're watched by the Government but because their product is exported and has to adhere to international guidelines. But there are about 2 000 small manufacturers with nobody watching them. These are the guys who cause problems."

Intermixed with trendy jargon such as "proactive strategies" and "integrated management", it appears the official line is that small businesses themselves are ultimately responsible for disposal of their waste products. Of 100 small businesses in Johannesburg which use chemicals listed as

class I hazardous waste, half told the *Saturday Star* their waste is put down the drain or goes out for collection with the rubbish.

Others may have been aware of the theoretical illegality of their disposal methods, but were clued up enough not to tell the truth to a reporter. Nine could offer receipts verifying proper waste disposal.

General education on the subject is greatly needed. Phone conversations left the impression that small businesses often have little understanding that hazardous waste is possibly being dumped. After it had sunk in that a reporter was on the line and that the subject was pollution, vague tales of worthy disposal methods were articulated. But a certain nervousness and outright ignorance were thinly veiled.

When questioned on the status of their required "effluent permit", a much touted regulatory document issued by the Department of Water Affairs, the majority had never heard of it.

While there can be little doubt that mining and big industry are respon-

sible for most hazardous waste produced, no facts exist on the small business sector, negating statistics which show that 70 to 80% of South Africa's waste stream is generated by big business.

The big waste disposal companies keep track of their waste streams regionally and not by specific industries. They know the amount of waste collected from a certain area, but they are not able to break it down, for example, into quantities picked up from printers or dry-cleaners.

Of the estimated 1 million tons of hazardous waste produced each year, if even 20% is entering our urban environments directly via small-scale industry, there's cause for concern.

Garages, dry-cleaners, printers, tanneries, panelbeaters, carpet and upholstery cleaners, painters, cleaners of toxic drums for re-use, small-scale chemical manufacturers, the people who burn used tyres for steel recovery, not to mention the millions of do-it-yourselfers: they all produce hazardous waste - and something must be done about it.

The poison in print

Charlie Carr of Advance Printers in Johannesburg is one of more than 700 printers in and around Johannesburg. He sought to dispose of his business's toxic waste.

Dangerous amounts of toluene, a highly flammable, class I hazardous waste substance widely used in the printing industry, were accumulating in the back of his shop.

"It was a nightmare. It took five months to get it off my premises. My fire insurance was ready to drop me if I didn't get rid of the stuff."

He was referred to different levels of government and various departments, until he finally received the information that the Greater Johannesburg council simply recommends that any producers of hazardous

waste are to deal directly with waste removal companies such as Enviroserv or Waste Tech.

For a fee, these specialist companies will pick up and dispose of toxic waste, generally by incineration. But dealing with them proved no easier. "These guys with their lucrative government contracts are nothing more than parastatals," Carr says.

"My turnover is big compared to a lot of the printers out there and I could hardly afford what they charge. I was told that the only incinerator available was in Cape Town so I pay an additional R200 for transport of one 200-litre drum."

Given this level of bureaucracy and the expense involved, Carr "wouldn't want to hazard a guess" at where smaller business concerns dispose of their hazardous waste.

Willie Uys of the Printing Federation, an industry support organisation, says large printers of newspapers, books and magazines use a method called flexography. Notoriously dirty, flexography uses quantities of toxic chemicals that can escape the eye even of the authorities.

It's the small-scale outlets that pose a problem, he says. These concerns tend to do mostly offset printing, a method which uses smaller amounts of toxic chemicals.

"But what they do use - largely in dyes and the maintenance of their machinery - is disposed of just like regular refuse."

Uys estimates that of the 1 100 members of the Printing Federation, more than 80% have 25 employees or fewer. He had no comment on where these little guys dispose of their waste.

Service stations show little care

Service stations abound. And it's not like the old days when there were rinky-dinky-looking joints on every other corner.

Now they're all so well lit, sophisticated and respectable looking, surely dumping of used motor oil must be a thing of the past.

I went out to see. First stop was a middle-of-the-road-looking establishment, in need of a coat of paint perhaps, but boasting a bright, internationally known sign.

A Mr Nkeli leases part of the premises where he services a major fleet of taxis. When asked how he disposes of used oil after a change, he pointed over the wall enclosing his work area. Situated not 5m from the

Klipspruit is Nkeli's refuse site.

"The rubbish I burn," he said and, pointing down to illustrate the obvious point, "the oil goes into the ground."

The young man with the contract to sell Shell petrol on the fill-up side of the garage is Nkeli's landlord. He said he had no idea this was happening. He said he was paying his R70 every month for water and refuse collection and was quite sure the oil was being properly disposed of ... in the municipal dumpster down the street.

This rusty, smouldering container is surrounded by litter and looks as if it hasn't been emptied for months. It is by no means a hazardous waste bin. The contents will be carted off to a regular landfill.

In the days of sanctions, the government put a levy on lubricants such as oil. Because of perceived shortages of supply into the country, every drop was recovered for re-use. But when the duty fell away, most of the recycling companies went bust.

There are now only a handful of companies recovering oil and they turn a profit only on large volumes. Small producers fall through the gaps, and, as the example above highlights, just because a garage boasts a big name, it doesn't mean used lubricants are being disposed of correctly or taken for recovery.

Legislation on waste and pollution control in SA

World standards. But our industrial and technological capacity exceeds that of many countries which have coherent implementation policies in place.

Some hazardous waste produced on a small scale is recoverable. Most garages accept used batteries because they contain levels of lead recoverable at

a direct profit. Thus, there are companies that will buy a firm's waste, recycle and recover valuable metals or chemicals and, hopefully, incinerate what remains.

As with the aluminium can collection programmes, schemes might be developed to create a marginal incentive to recycle

used oil. It takes only a few cents to motivate poverty-stricken thousands. If a nominal profit motive were established, waste would be disposed of.

In Europe and the US, producers are required to recover their product and - in Europe - even the packaging.

For instance, shopping cen-

tres have depots for the return of used household batteries and now no German or Californian would ever dream of putting a battery in the rubbish.

Although corporations fought against these policies overseas, the large quantities returned make this a cost-effective possible disposal method.



Mokaba seeks quick action on pollution

Michael Moon

GOVERNMENT indicated yesterday that it was adopting a vigorous new approach to pollution control and waste management.

The new approach would be grounded in the "true principles of environmentalism", Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba told a news briefing in Johannesburg.

Mokaba said he had appointed a special task team to draft a "fast-track" white paper on pollution and waste for Cabinet approval by September.

He said there had been general apathy towards the environment. Government hoped to set this straight by "democratic participation" at all levels of the integrated pollution control and waste management process.

The "project committee" comprised representatives from mining and business, government departments, labour, Sanco and non-governmental organisations.

A previous white paper drafting team was dismissed last month after labour unions accused it of not involving all stakeholders sufficiently.

The simultaneous drafting of an overall environmental policy for SA would inform and be the ba-

sis for the committee's work.

Mokaba said fragmentation of responsibility between the environmental affairs and water affairs departments had been a problem in pollution control and waste management.

He believed waste management properly resided with his department, but the committee would determine where best to place which functions.

Toxic waste would have an important focus in the new process, but Mokaba did not want to preempt the committee's findings regarding the preferred method of hazardous waste management within the country.

"As a signatory to the Basel Convention and a party to the Lomé Convention we certainly will not permit the importation of hazardous waste in contravention of these international agreements," said Mokaba.

Government wanted to send out a message to the southern African region, and internationally, he said, that it had taken up the challenges of integrated pollution control and waste management seriously.

As soon as the white paper policy process had been completed in August, all parties taking part would immediately begin work on

implementation of specific projects, Mokaba said.

"To face the environmental tasks confronting us we need a total strategy. We need to reduce the environmental impact of pollution and waste while simultaneously meeting the developmental needs of our people.

"We cannot solve one problem while creating another problem, which is what has been happening because of the lack of integration," said Mokaba.

Water affairs deputy director-general Leon Breidenhann said the committee would probably aim at promoting partnerships between government and the private sector.

For example, government could provide financial incentives to industry to improve waste efficiencies.

In the light of the rapidly escalating costs of establishing waste disposal facilities that meet stringent safety criteria, government could look at providing private waste firms with help in the form of finance or expertise, or both, to set up new sites.

The policy process also would look at the role local authorities should play in waste management as service providers to their communities, said Breidenhann.



Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba outlining government's new pollution control initiative yesterday.

Picture: TYRONE ARTHUR

Govt to assess township coal pollution

BD 14/5/97

(56)

Josey Ballenger

THE high incidence of respiratory diseases, poor visibility and aesthetic deterioration due to coal consumption in SA townships has prompted the minerals and energy affairs department to invest more than R4m in a low-smoke fuel programme.

The programme aims to increase awareness in poorer areas — which disproportionately use “D-grade” coal, filling township air with smoke in winter — of the fuel’s detrimental effects on health and the environment, and

promote the need for cleaner fuels such as electricity and gas.

About R200m will be invested in a 10-day assessment of less hazardous fuel use in Qalabothja in the Free State, in July, when the department will supply 2 500 households with four types of low-smoke fuel.

The department would test air pollution before and after the study period. The results would be used to develop policy on clean fuels, the department’s chief energy officer Joe Asamoah said.

The department would assess whether government should sub-

sidise townships in using more environmentally sound — but more expensive — fuel alternatives, including devolatilised coal, paper- and wax-based fuel products and processed coal briquettes.

Respiratory infections were the second highest cause of death for SA infants, and the mortality rate from such infections was 270 times higher for black SA children than for children in western Europe, the department said.

The programme’s long-term goal was to enforce “relevant legislation to improve air quality to global standards by 2005”.

NP blamed for Thor's chemical stockpile

Jacob Dlamini **BD 14/5/97** (56)

CAPE TOWN — The National Party (NP) government had grossly mishandled the importation of hazardous material by allowing Thor Chemicals to import toxic mercury while failing to ensure that the company was adequately held accountable for its activities, a commission of inquiry has found.

The commission, set up to probe Thor's mercury recycling operations at its Cato Ridge plant in KwaZulu-Natal, said it had found that both the company and the previous government were to blame for the stockpiling of more than 3-million kilograms of toxic waste in the country.

In a report presented to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan yesterday, the commission said Thor had exploited loopholes in SA's fragmented legislation to bring in toxic waste it could not handle.

The commission, chaired by academic Prof Dennis Davis, had uncovered evidence showing that government departments had failed to co-ordinate their activities to stop Thor's continued importation of waste material. Davis said the evidence had revealed a total absence of co-ordination between the departments responsible, as well as "inexplicable inefficiencies and unexplained omissions".

The commission recommended that the existing stockpile be treated in an environmentally friendly manner by incineration or roasting the waste.

Meanwhile, Jordan said the government had initiated a process designed to develop integrated pollution control policy which was nearing completion. Jordan said this would be followed by the development of a joint waste management strategy.

Josey Ballenger reports that the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, a network of 360 organisations, was outraged at the commission's recommendations that Thor Chemicals "burn millions of kilograms worth of imported toxic waste materials".

The forum's national co-ordinator Chris Albertyn said the standards set for further incineration of toxic wastes at Thor posed a potential risk to public health and the environment.

The forum questioned government's probing other options for the disposal of the foreign waste, which included burning and burying the materials.

See Page 7

Cosatu given 'green light' for strike

Reneé Grawitzky **BD 14/5/97**

THE Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) was given the "green light" yesterday to go ahead with its 24-hour protest strike on June 2 after the National Economic, Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) had considered its notice to embark on such action.

The meeting was held in order to ensure Cosatu complied with section 77 I (c) of the Labour Relations Act, which required that a matter giving rise to protest action had to be considered by Nedlac.

At the same time Cosatu formally announced its intention to approach the Labour Appeal Court for the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court on the court's interpretation of the right to engage in socioeconomic protest.

Cosatu general secretary Sam Shilowa said last night it was not the federation's intention to seek to overturn the Labour Appeal Court judgment handed down on Friday, but to appeal to the Constitutional Court on the interpretation of

A majority decision of the Court held that Cosatu, in calling for protest action on May 12, had not complied with section 77 I (c) of the Labour Relations Act. Cosatu has rejected this position and yesterday reiterated its view that the matter had been endlessly considered since the release of the green paper on employment standards last year.

Two of the three judges presiding ruled that the matter had not been properly considered by Nedlac.

In compliance with this ruling, the overall labour, government and business convenors met in Nedlac yesterday where they considered Cosatu's notice of intention to protest on June 2. They agreed that the series of meetings held since last Monday had considered the issues giving rise to Cosatu's planned protest action. The parties acknowledged the differences remained unresolved.

Labour department director-general Siphon Pityana said yesterday's meeting was a properly constituted structure to

consider Cosatu's notice of intention to embark on protest action on June 2, as well as to acknowledge that negotiations were taking place through structures created under the auspices of Nedlac. Even though the parties agreed the issues remained unresolved, extra effort would be put into trying to resolve the matters by June 2, with the overall convenors joining the negotiations. However, if differences could not be resolved, Cosatu had the right to proceed with the action.

Meanwhile, Jacob Dlamini reports from Cape Town that Cosatu warned yesterday it would withdraw from parliamentary consultations unless the budgetary process was reformed to allow for effective public participation.

Cosatu deputy president Connie September said there was little value in making submissions on budgets which could not be changed, or holding hearings and taking part in debates after the budget had already been set by government.

September told the parliamentary labour committee the constitution re-

quired a transformation of the "secretive, top-heavy" budget process inherited from the previous administration.

She called for reform to allow effective participation by civil organisations and to ensure Parliament and its committees played an overseeing role in determining expenditure and revenue priorities.

Cosatu's warning came in the wake of Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's announcement of plans to reform budgeting to make it an active exercise matching policy priorities to available resources.

Cosatu expressed concern over the decline in the labour budget from R657m to R620m. The reduction in the allocation to the human resource development programme would affect training offered to the unemployed and contradicted government's commitment to skills development economic growth and job creation.

Cosatu's concerns were echoed by the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, which said it had found it difficult to deal with the budget in detail as it had not been involved in its formulation.

New welfare paper wants fundraising policy shift for NPOs

David Greybe **BD 14/5/97**

CAPE TOWN — The welfare department released a policy document for NGOs arguing for a fundamental shift from the Fundraising Act, from government control and intervention to a climate of freedom and voluntary association with the emphasis on accountability.

The proposals would provide the basis for writing new legislation for the re-named "nonprofit organisations" (NPOs), to replace the Fundraising Act, welfare chief director: social development Graeme Bloch said yesterday.

The welfare department planned to

present Cabinet with a draft bill next month, and to bring it before Parliament in September for final approval and adoption, he said.

The ministerial forum (Mimnec) for Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and her provincial counterparts recently approved the policy document.

The new legislation would be administered in the form of a national register by the welfare department, "but with a clear supportive role by the provinces in the process".

The new system, the policy document states, would signal government support for NPOs and promote confidence in the

nonprofit sector "by encouraging certain basic governance standards".

Bloch said: "It will create an environment in which NPOs can function more effectively with minimal government control and regulation, but with the necessary checks and balances."

Many NPOs had struggled to make the transition to a new environment of government-to-government aid routing, tighter donor funding and demands to quantify performance and delivery outcomes before competing for scarce resources, he said.

This crisis led to the demise of many effective organisations which often deliv-

ered services to the most disadvantaged and those least able to afford services.

The new system would be based on a voluntary registration system requiring the submission of basic documents and the meeting of requirements promoting "accountability and good governance".

Registration, Bloch said, would be encouraged through a system of incentives. Failure to register would be to the detriment of NPOs.

There would be no restrictions on fundraising under the new legislation, and "fraudulent fundraising" would be dealt with under the normal provision of the law.

Thor slammed for toxic waste imports

BETWEEN 1980 and 1995 there was no co-ordination between government departments responsible for the environment, a probe has found. Environment Writer MELANIE GOSLING reports.

THOR Chemicals, the British-owned company in KwaZulu-Natal which became a hotbed of controversy after two workers died of mercury poisoning and local rivers were polluted, has been slammed by a commission of inquiry for continuing to import thousands of tons of toxic waste when it was clear there was no way it could be processed.

The company had shown a "disturbingly careless attitude" to the environment and instead of taking steps to solve its problems, had continued to import more toxic waste.

In a report released in the city yesterday, commission chairman Professor

David Davis to the South African Parliament

Denis Davis also slammed the government of the late 1980s and early '90s for creating a situation "by omission or commission", whereby companies were able to bring toxic waste into South Africa in a fairly uncontrolled fashion.

The report said events relating to waste mercury between 1980 and 1995 revealed "a picture of total absence of co-ordination between the relevant government departments responsible for the environment" and "inexplicable inefficiency and unexplained omission".

Davis said there was a "litany of evidence" that various government departments had not been up to the task of co-ordinating and controlling the industry

will investigate the regulations and enforcement of monitoring and control of mercury processing, and recommend steps that could help to minimise the risk to workers and the environment. This should be completed by the end of June or July.

● The discovery in 1989 of mercury pollution in the rivers near the Thor factory led to a government investigation, which acknowledged there had been mercury spillages, but it was felt there was no cause for alarm.

Later a Greenpeace video of the plant showed mercury levels 8 200 times higher than the US standards for hazardous waste. Thor at the time admitted no responsibility.

Later two Thor workers, Mr Peter Cele and Mr Engelbrecht Ngcobo, died of mercury poisoning in the early '90s, and a third, Mr Albert Dlamini, was

and Thor Chemicals had exploited this.

"The commission was never able to pinpoint what (Thor's) motives were, but there is no doubt that they were able to exploit a situation when they knew full well they were not able to handle the toxic waste. It is also clear there was not sufficient surveillance or policing of Thor (by the authorities)," Davis said.

The commission was appointed by President Nelson Mandela in March 1995 to investigate the background to Thor Chemicals (Pty) Ltd acquiring a three-million-kilogram waste mercury stockpile.

Davis said: "There were officials who knew there were problems and who reported them, but they were lost in the archipelago of government departments."

Although then-Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotzé had banned the importing of hazardous waste in 1990, he later wrote

severely disabled.

Thor's executives were acquitted on a charge of culpable homicide in 1994, but were found guilty of negligence and fined R13 000.

Concerns over Thor were first raised in the 1980s at its factory in England, after allegations of excessive levels of mercury in the air and in workers' urine.

When the British authorities threatened the company in 1988 with legal action, Thor moved its mercury production facilities to South Africa, where there was little control over the industry.

In July 1994 Thor was refused permission to continue importing mercury waste into South Africa because it posed a serious threat to public health and to the environment. Tests had found that mercury emissions from Thor's incinerator were well above the maximum allowable concentrations.

to Thor Chemicals, allowing them to continue to import waste mercury.

"One can only ask, what was Mr Kotzé doing? There are only three explanations: Either he had extremely poor advice, or he had a very cavalier attitude, or representations were made to him showing some benefit to the country which were never made clear to the commission.

"What is clear to the commission is the level of government culpability," Davis said.

The commission decided to recommend that the best practical environmental option for dealing with the huge stockpile of mercury waste on Thor's premises was to incinerate it.

Returning the waste to sender, as suggested by environmental groups, was rejected as transporting the mercury posed serious environmental problems. There was also no legal guarantee that

the countries would be willing to accept the returned waste.

The costs of disposing of the mercury should be borne by Thor. Because of the government's culpability, all other costs should be borne by the government.

Responding to the commission's findings, Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said yesterday the fragmentation of national waste management and pollution control had been identified as a weakness early in the life of his ministry.

He had initiated developing an integrated pollution control policy to address this. The policy was nearing completion and would be followed by a joint waste management strategy.

Jordan said that although a ban on importing toxic waste had been announced in 1990, there had been no legislation to enforce this at the time. A second phase of the commission

SECRET PROJECTS
1977 (15/11/97)
@ 1997

Minister assured Thor that ban did not apply

Star 14/5/97

(66)

Inquiry finds that company knew it couldn't recycle
hazardous waste but continued importing it

By JOVIAL RANTAO
Cape Town

Damning evidence against the former NP government and Thor Chemicals has been released by a commission of inquiry into the history and background of the hazardous mercury stockpiled by the Pietermaritzburg-based company.

The commission, headed by Professor Dennis Davis, found that Thor Chemicals, which recently paid out a R9,4-million settlement to 20 former workers, exploited the total lack of co-ordination between departments, and continued to import waste knowing it would be unable to recycle it.

The former government's gross mishandling of the matter meant that Thor was never adequately held to account by the relevant concerned.

In the report released in Parliament yesterday, the commission found that in 1990, soon after the then environmental affairs minister Gert Kotze announced in Parliament a total ban on the importation of toxic waste, he wrote to Thor Chemicals assuring it that the ban

did not affect the company.

Davis said the concession to Thor was never explained to the commission because Kotze was not called to testify.

"Whatever the explanation, it reveals the extent of government culpability in the creation and development of the environmental problem at Thor Chemicals, which caused the appointment of this commission," Davis said.

**'They were
never held
to account
adequately'**

The commission of inquiry was instituted after three workers at the plant died of mercury poisoning. Thor told the commission it had acted within the law as permitted by government departments at the time.

The commission recommended that the only option to get rid of the 3,4 million kilograms of mercury waste would be via incineration or roasting.

Davis warned that the Gov-

ernment should act speedily to address the stockpiling of toxic waste.

He said evidence obtained by the commission had revealed a pattern of government commission and omission which allowed the problem to develop.

The acts of commission afforded Thor Chemicals the authority to continue with the practices, while the omissions meant that Thor was never adequately held to account.

The commission found that the patchwork nature of existing applicable legislation and its unsystematic nature had contributed to the lack of co-ordinated supervision.

The commission said Thor Chemicals, after realising that it did not have capacity to recycle the waste, should have refused to accept further waste and initiated fresh but urgent steps to solve the problem.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said the Government had identified a weakness in waste management and pollution control. He said his department had set processes in motion to correct the situation.

Policies on waste and pollution being formulated

(56)

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS

Environment Reporter

Star 14/5/97

Environmental organisations believe that illegal dumping of toxic waste by companies will continue in South Africa until there is an integrated pollution control and waste-management system in place.

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Peter Mokaba, however, has given the assurance that strict policies are being formulated. He was speaking at a briefing in Johannesburg yesterday.

He said that as a signatory of the Basle Convention and as party to the Lomé Convention, the SA Government would not permit the importation of hazardous waste in terms of these international agreements.

The pollution control white paper, which is partially funded by the Danish government and is being jointly researched by the departments of environment and water affairs, is due to be tabled in Parliament in August. It is designed to combine all tasks and role-players involved in pollution and waste management.

The task team working on the process started its work on April 4, replacing a former drafting team that had not "produced enough".

Thor Chemicals objects to commission's 'inaccuracies'

(56) (12)
CT 15/5/97

DURBAN: Thor Chemicals company in Cato Ridge — slammed this week in the findings of the Davis Commission of Inquiry — has objected to what it described as "inaccuracies" in the commission's findings.

The commission, chaired by Professor Denis Davis, found that the British-owned company had shown a "disturbingly careless attitude to the environment" and that instead of taking steps to solve problems related to mercury waste, it had continued to import more waste.

Responding in a press statement, Thor managing director Ms Lesley Thornton said: "The report contains many inaccuracies which do not do justice to Thor — for example, the allegation that customers chose to stop returning (mercury) catalyst to us, when the truth is that we refused to accept further deliveries when it became clear that there would be no

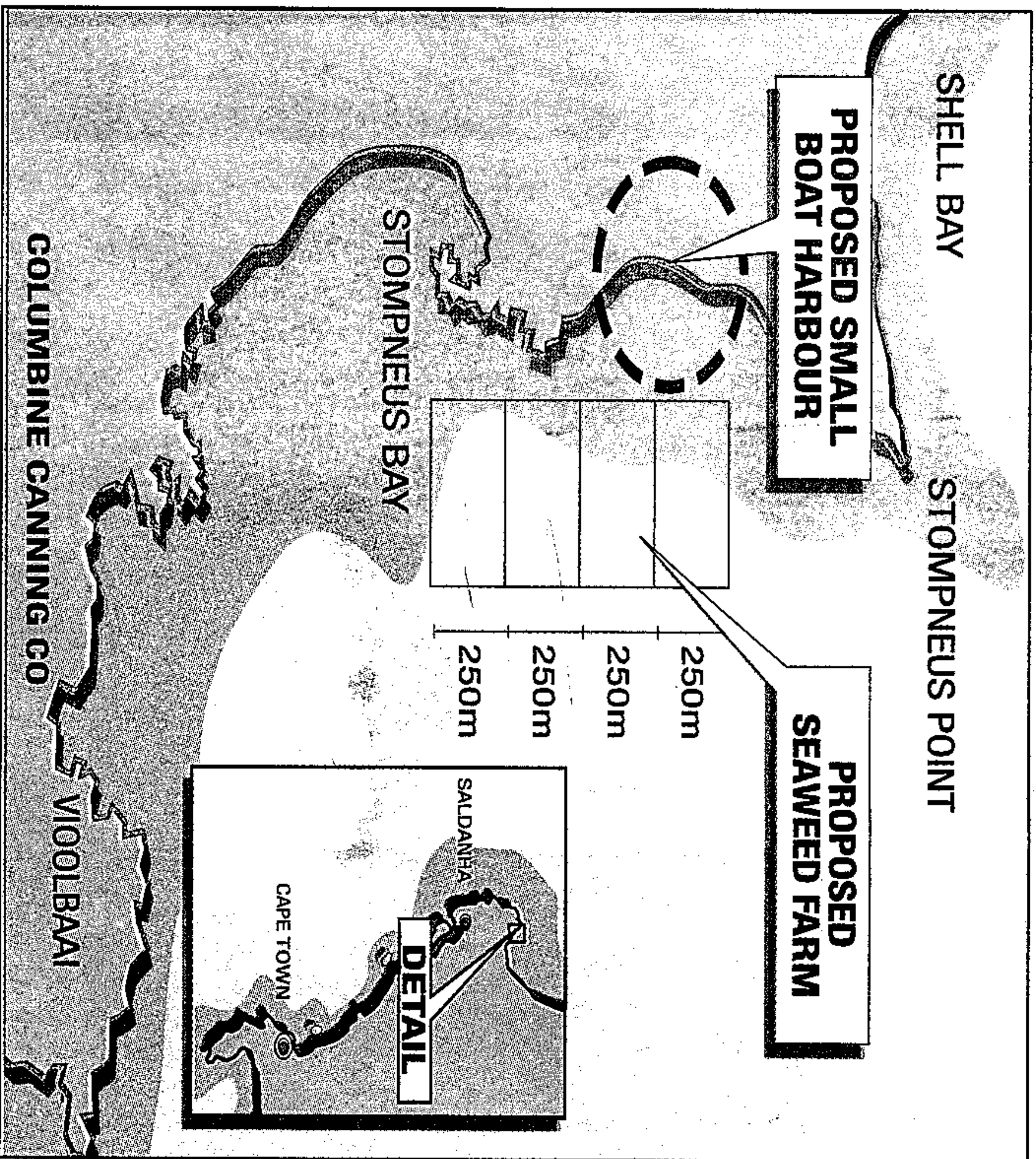
speedy resumption of re-cycling.

"In this context, it is nonsense to suggest that Thor deliberately built up a catalyst stockpile knowing there was no prospect of ever processing it."

However, she said that the commission's conclusion that re-cycling the waste stockpile was the best option "fully vindicates our stance and bears out what we have been saying all along".

"We have always insisted that re-cycling is the only viable option and that the stockpile would not have accumulated had we been allowed to continue operating the recovery plant."

● A spokesman for the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, which was instrumental in exposing environmental and workers' health problems at the factory in the late 1980s, could not be reached for comment. — Own Correspondent



Cape kelp farm row hots up

Battle could end up in constitutional court

ADELE BALETIA
STAFF REPORTER

A protracted and bitter battle between a development company and an entrepreneur over the development of a 40ha seaweed farm on the West Coast could land up in the Constitutional Court.

Entering the fray this week, Western Cape Environment and Finance Minister Kobus Meiring took a side swipe at the national Environment and Tourism Ministry for "deliberately undermining" the province's power.

Mr Meiring was referring to a notice in a local newspaper recently, stating that the national ministry was considering letting the 40ha on the south-west corner of St Helena Bay to the commercial company Agartek for the cultivation of seaweed.

But Mr Meiring had already turned down an application by Agartek to use the area for mariculture, in favour of Britannia Bay Developers, which

objected to the seaweed farm. Britannia Bay Developers contended that a seaweed farm would make a mess of their plans to build a small boat harbour in the area as part of the R40-million Shelley Point development, which includes a small golf course and single residential plots.

Mr Meiring said the action of the national ministry in supporting Agartek was "illegal" in view of President Mandela's having given the province jurisdiction over the entire Western Cape coastline - except in cases that refer to Portnet harbours - when he signed Proclamation R27 of the Coastal Act in 1995.

Mr Meiring said that when Agartek had lodged its application last year, the matter had been taken up by the provincial ministry and an impact study was conducted.

"It was decided that the economic advantage of the tourism potential of St Helena Bay outweighed, by far, plans for a seaweed farm," Agartek

had been advised to go to Saldanha Bay, which was already a site for mariculture.

Frik Basson of Agartek has said the proposed seaweed farm is an environmentally friendly development that would create at least 200 jobs.

Mr Meiring said that the only way to avoid chaos would be for one institution to handle the situation.

National Environment and Tourism Affairs spokeswoman Cassandra Gabriel said that it was made clear to Agartek that the national ministry could not allow the company to go ahead if the province had rejected their application.

She said it was not clear yet who was responsible for the notice in the paper.

Ms Gabriel said the Sea Fisheries Directorate encouraged mariculture in general, and supported Agartek's venture at a scientific level, due to the fact that St Helena Bay was the only place in the country "suitable" for mariculture.

She said Sea Fisheries had jurisdiction over the sea. However a land base was needed for the seaweed farm and this fell under the province.

"The competency therefore falls in a grey area, and whether the harbour or the mariculture venture should go ahead or not is an area of dispute."

Ms Gabriel said the matter would have to be considered by constitutional lawyers.

"If Agartek pursues the matter it could well end up in the Constitutional Court," she said.

Gert Joubert of Britannia Bay Developers was furious at what he regarded as Agartek's attempts to circumvent the province's decision to turn down its (Agartek's) application.

He threatened to get a court interdict in the event that the national ministry overturned the provincial ministry's decision.

Mr Basson of Agartek was on a trip overseas and could not be contacted for comment.

Refinery row set to go to Jordan

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The Government may be asked to intervene in the row between the Caltex refinery in Milnerton and neighbours who blame the refinery for high air-pollution levels.

The Northern Communities Air Monitoring Task Group says it has found an increase in sulphur dioxide in the air over Table View, and has threatened to ask Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan to

intervene and review the refinery's permit.

The rise in air pollution was measured in the area on Sunday last week.

Blaauwberg councillor Ian Neilson, who is acting chairman of the monitoring group, said this was the second such measurement taken within a week, and added: "The levels of sulphur dioxide exceeded the World Health Organisation guidelines for 10-minute and one-hour averages."

Caltex spokesman Niall Kramer said the increased sulphur levels were the first reported since monitoring began in 1994.

ARU 19/5/97

(56)

Sulphur stockpile stays put - for now

(56)

STAFF REPORTER

ARC 19/5/97

The deadline for the removal of the controversial sulphur stockpile near Somerset West has been extended to July 30.

The stockpile caught alight in 1995. Two people died in the fire, which led to the temporary evacuation of the suburb.

The stockpile was due to have been moved to Namibia by last week.

Rössing Uranium of Namibia, which bought the sulphur, agreed on the new date with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Macassar Crisis Committee and the Helderberg Conservation Forum.

Rössing Uranium spokeswoman Gida Sekandi said the extension was requested to allow time to review and accommodate all the concerns raised by interested parties in the area.

Ms Sekandi said the transport of the stockpile was still being investigated.

Anger over moves to redevelop slimes dam

Star 21/5/97

(56)

Approval granted despite campaign by civic association supported by local government and environmental group

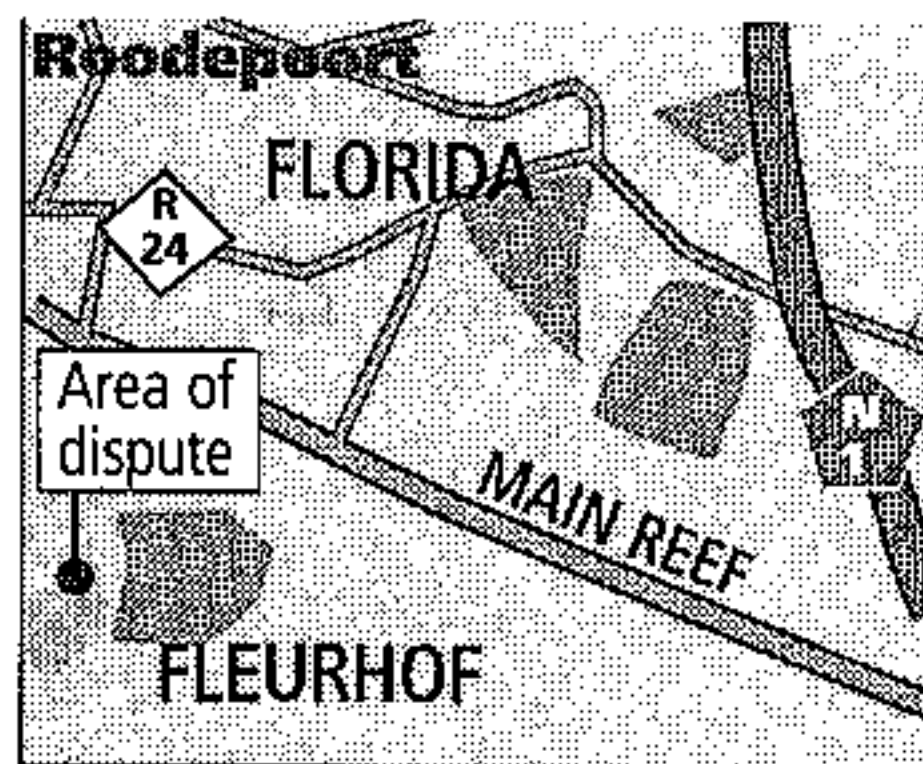
BY CECILIA RUSSELL

Residents of Fleurhof are up in arms over Friday's official approval of an application to redevelop a slimes dam next to the tiny western Johannesburg suburb by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs (DME).

Reg Feldman, chairman of their civic association, said: "We had hoped that this case would pave the way towards a new policy for mining which would take communities and the environment into account. Does this mean that mines are given carte blanche to just carry on regardless of the wishes of the people?"

The community has been campaigning against the application by RMP Properties to redevelop and extend the CMR slimes dam and had the support of local government and the environmental lobby group Earthlife Africa.

Gauteng MEC for agriculture and environment Nomvula Mokonyane said she was disappointed the application



had been approved, especially as concerns and comments raised by her department appeared not to have been adequately addressed or considered.

The application was approved by the DME on Friday subject to certain conditions, which are that RMP would have to regulate the height of the slimes dam, implement a risk management system, ensure dust is kept to a minimum, and apply to the Council for Nuclear Safety to have the site licensed in terms of its regulations.

In his report, the DME's director of mineral development, Neels Hoek, said the activities of RMP's land clearing

and gold recovery division would have a positive impact on both the environment and the economy of Johannesburg.

He said approval would lead to the clearing of 100ha of valuable commercial, industrial and residential land within 10km of the Johannesburg city centre. The division would be forced to close prematurely if the application were not approved, resulting in a loss of foreign exchange and jobs.

Vanessa Black, of Earthlife Africa, said there were environmental concerns which remained unanswered. There had been no studies on the effects of living near slimes dams.

"Apart from dust and the potential of disaster, we can't tell what the effects would be of living near an area with the high radioactivity and chemical loads associated with slimes dams," said Black.

RMP spokesman Charles Symons said in a statement the company would "honour the conditions set out by the DME report".

Bid to tighten pollution laws

David Greybe

(56)
2022/5/97

CAPE TOWN — Proposals for a tougher new pollution control and waste management policy for SA would be presented to national and provincial ministers on Monday, the environmental affairs and tourism department told Parliament yesterday.

Deputy director Tinus Joubert told the environmental affairs and tourism committee a follow-up draft white paper on integrated pollution control and waste management was planned for the end of August.

A keenly awaited key element of the discussion document at Monday's intergovernmental forum was whether Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan had managed to convince Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and Energy and Mineral Affairs Minister Penuell Maduna to let his department be the lead agency on pollution control.

At present responsibility for pollution control and waste management legislation is spread among the environmental affairs, water affairs, mineral affairs, health and agriculture departments.

Joubert said the aim of the project was to develop a holistic approach to pollution control and waste management.

A review of pollution control and waste management legislation at national, provincial and local level was nearing completion, and could result in a new act.

A separate process, to develop a national waste management strategy and action plan was also under way. Foreign funding from Denmark had been secured.

CT 23/5/97
Mercury curbs
(56)
for Thor 'tax'

DURBAN: Evidence unearthed by environmental groups suggests that the Davis Commission has set dangerously lax standards for the burning of toxic mercury waste at Thor Chemicals.

The Environmental Justice Networking Forum said Thor has got permission to release mercury into the atmosphere at levels between 50 and 100 times higher than the recommended levels in Europe.

Thor managing director Mrs Lesley Thornton said the company would "adhere to whatever standards are specified by the panel of scientific experts".

— Own Correspondent

Smooth flowing from

now on for Lourens

River to be protected under act

ARLT 24/5/97 (56)

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The future protection of the lovely Lourens River in the Helderberg valley has been ensured, following its declaration as a Protected Natural Environment in terms of the Conservation Act.

The declaration, announced by Western Cape Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring, includes properties on the banks such as the historic farms of Vergelegen, Lourensford and Morgenster and other landholdings in the Somerset West and Strand area.

The Lourens River, which has its source high in the Hottentots Holland mountains and discharges into False Bay, is the first river in South Africa to be fully protected as a proclaimed Protected Natural Environment and is one of only four

such proclaimed areas in the Western Cape. The others are in the Cape Peninsula - including most of the mountain chain - and also Rietvlei and Langebaan on the West Coast.

Announcing the declaration, Mr Meiring said there had been some objections and reservations, but that most affected landowners now agreed with the move.

"Because of the increasing pressures of development, pollution, the spread of alien vegetation and water extraction, the river has been severely impacted in places.

"In spite of this, the river is still in a reasonable condition that will allow full recovery if protected and managed correctly."

The Western Cape government had assigned management of the Lourens River to the Helderberg municipality and had asked it to form a management advisory committee, as specified in the act, Mr Meiring said.

It had also asked the municipality to appoint a nature conservator for the river, as agreed by its legal predecessors.

Landowners in the catchment areas had been given 10 years to prevent the direct discharge of drainage canals on their properties into the river.

"This has been considered necessary to prevent silt or accidental spills of pollutants being washed directly into the river," said Mr Meiring.

The main consequence of the declaration would be that landowners along the river would have to obtain permits for any development that could affect it.

"In this way, developments that would have a negative impact on the ecology and character of the river will be prevented and there will also be a greater obligation on riparian owners to control proclaimed weeds and invader plants on their properties," Mr Meiring said.

Take care.



Protected: the lovely Lourens River in Somerset West now has official conservation protection. In the background is the historic bridge

Going mad for Mpumalanga

ST 25/5/97

Violent protests over provincial boundaries threaten the economic wellbeing of the game park industry

(2118) (56)

GRAEME ADDISON

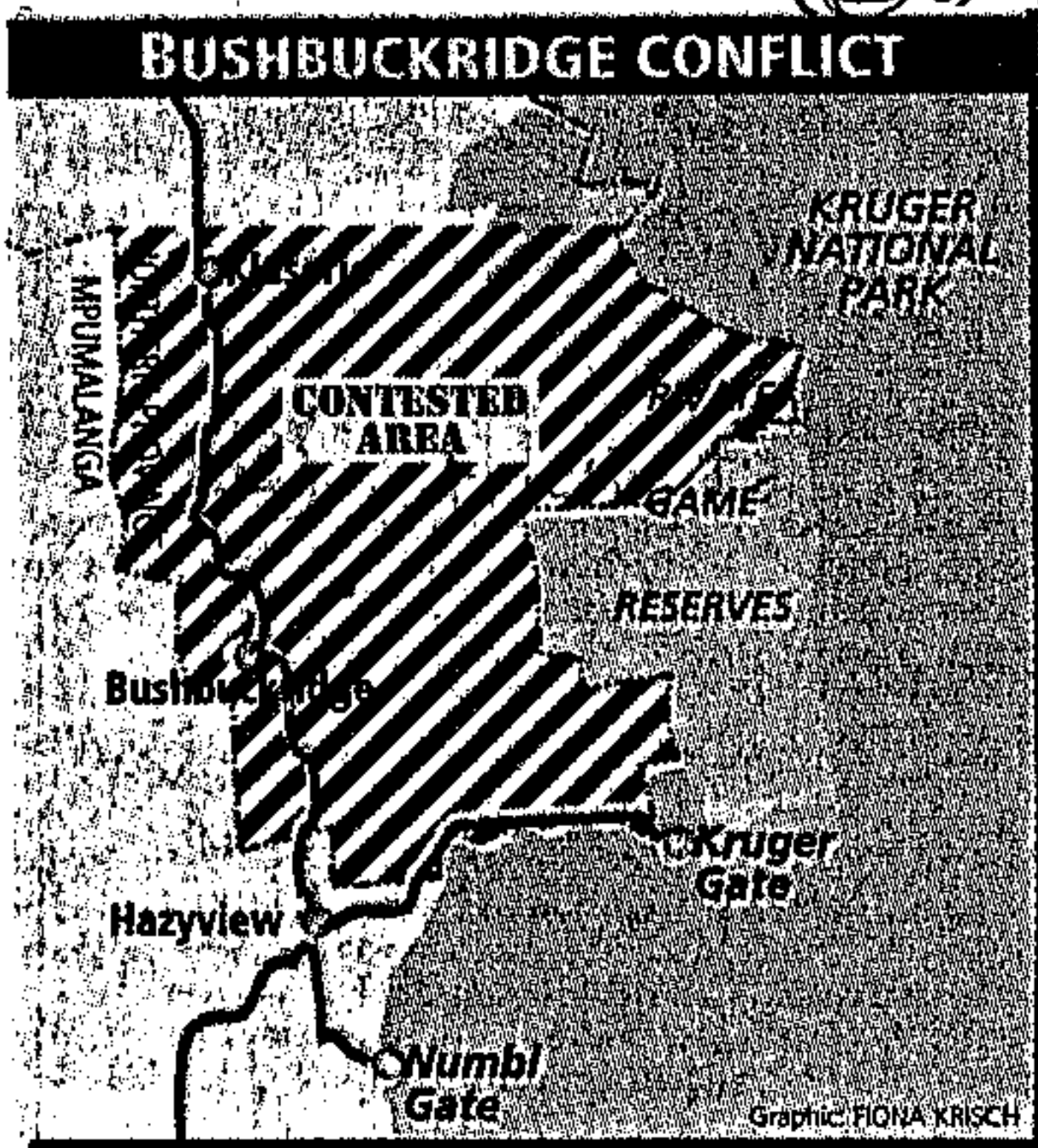
THEMBA Ndlovu didn't waste time. As soon as police moved the tree blocking the road leading to the Kruger Park, he set about carving an elegant giraffe from it, hoping the tourists would return.

Around him lay piles of burnt tyres — which had been used to blockade the road — and rocks which had been hurled at police in the "border war" in the Northern Province where locals are demanding incorporation into Mpumalanga.

Business has been bad since the protests turned violent earlier this month and scared off the tourists.

A German woman had to be treated for burns suffered in a petrol-bomb attack on a tourist bus, and delivery trucks have been stoned and set alight.

There are signs of protest at nearly every intersection between Hazyview and Klaserie, and at most of the intersections on the way to the Kruger Gate. The main road at



BATTLE ZONE: Stone-throwing protesters have wreaked havoc in this once peaceful region

Bushbuckridge, a major taxi terminus and market, was barricaded with a pile of trees and billboards early this week.

People in the area — who used to be governed by the former homelands of Lebowa and Gazankulu — do not wish to be ruled by the Northern Province because they say it marginalises the Tsonga, Shangaan and Pedi.

They also believe that Mpumalanga, with its coal, timber and game reserves, is richer and offers better services.

This week, the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, Mohammed Valli Moosa, rejected the protesters' demands, telling Parliament the ANC had opposed balkanisation under apartheid, and that provincial identities should not take priority above a common South Africanism.

The battle lines on the border have been forming for years. Soon after the elections in April 1994, Northern Province and Mpumalanga reached an accord to swap Groblersdal for Bushbuckridge. But protests swept through Groblersdal and the deal was put on ice.

Residents of Bushbuckridge became impatient and started organising, spurred on by Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa, who made no se-

cret of his wish to see his boyhood home territory included in the province he ruled. When the handover failed to materialise, the people of Bushbuckridge sent petitions to the provincial leaders and, during 1996, took to the streets to demand incorporation.

Those in Groblersdal did the same, to oppose being shuffled off to Northern Province.

Finally this week the ANC's national committee ruled that neither Bushbuckridge nor Groblersdal would change hands. It was the last straw for the taxi operators whose routes lie mainly to the south of Nelspruit, and who objected to paying licence fees to Pietersburg in Northern Province. Women too, who constitute 53 percent of Bushbuckridge's population, wanted access to clinics and hospitals in the south.

Perhaps the key to everything is the huge potential of the region's game parks for tourist growth and jobs. The Kruger Park alone creates direct employment for about 4 000 people and has spawned one of Africa's largest tourism infrastructures — with the private game lodges and reserves concentrated along the western fringes of the park.

The main benefits of

tourism in the region accrue to Mpumalanga.

The main national road from Johannesburg to the game parks in the area is the N4 from Gauteng to Nelspruit. The section from Nelspruit to Maputo is being upgraded in the Maputo corridor construction project. A major aim of the project is to spread subcontracting work and training to black communities along the corridor.

Northern Province does not get a look-in on the project, while its own roads — especially those in the Bushbuckridge area — are in an alarming state of disrepair.

Mpumalanga also gets the lion's share of commerce emanating from big-game hunting in the Lowveld; trout fishing around Dullstroom; adventure activities like hiking and rafting on the edge of the Drakensberg escarpment and tourist accommodation everywhere.

At stake in the dispute are the provinces' reputations and powers.

Northern Province is impoverished and more crowded than Mpumalanga, and its administration is a shambles.

To help it along, central government this year increased its budget allocation by 2,7 percent (to R10,3-billion) while Mpumalanga's was cut by 4,3 percent (to R4,8-billion).

Given the populations of the provinces — 5,2 million and 3 million respectively — the budgets imply that for every rand spent on people in Northern Province, only 80c will be spent in Mpumalanga.

But the difference is not as great as it seems. Most of Northern Province's people live in poverty with little immediate hope of improvement.

Mpumalanga, on the other hand, is one of the provinces most favoured for investment.

But now chaos threatens the economic wellbeing of the tourism belt in the disputed areas.

The villagers are resolute that they will make the area ungovernable and the ANC is gamely trying to pretend business can carry on as usual under the tight clamp of the security forces.

4 x 4 louts may face dogs of war

CHARL DE VILLIERS

CONSERVATIONISTS are threatening to hire mercenaries to stop off-road vehicle enthusiasts ruining a sensitive, isolated beach near Cape Agulhas.

A five-year battle to save the beach is threatening to erupt into a full-scale confrontation between the Department of Environmental Affairs, angry conservationists and the Western Cape government.

The row over an 8km strip near Cape Agulhas has reached boiling point, with conservationists threatening to hire mercenaries to protect the beach — and senior Environment Affairs officials warning that it may need legal action to force the Western Cape authorities to carry out their constitutional duties.

The row also comes amid reports by coastal conservation

managers that uncontrolled driving on beaches between Hermanus and Cape Agulhas had reached "nightmare" proportions — and that they were powerless to stop it.

Local landowner Doug Jeffery said this week: "It's reached the point that we'll have to call in Executive Outcomes to protect the beach and our properties."

Jeffery — who owns one of four private nature reserves in the area — said shots had been fired at the homes of local landowners opposed to the "4x4 invasion", fences had been cut and he had been threatened with assault when challenging people who drove across pristine dune-land in the reserve area.

The Department of Environment Affairs, Cape Nature Conservation field scientists, the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, South African Museum, the SA Angling Union and the Boland Rock and Surf Angling Associa-

ST(CM) 26/5/97

tion are in favour of a ban on vehicles between Brandfontein and Suiderstrand on the south coast.

But according to senior Environment Affairs officials, the Western Cape government has for the past six months ignored their appeals to seek a High Court order that would compel the Overberg District Council to close the beach to traffic.

They said the national department had gone as far as drafting papers which only needed Western Cape Environment MEC Kobus Meiring's signature to go to court.

This was in November last year, but nothing had happened since, Environment Affairs coastal management specialist Shaun Schneider claimed.

Environment Affairs director-general Colin Cameron this month again told Western Cape director-general Niel Barnard that the national authorities

(56)

would not tolerate further delays — and that a court order against the district council was the only way to avoid a "dangerous precedent".

Outgoing Western Cape conservation chief Johan Neethling was reportedly negotiating with the Overberg authorities.

Responding, Overberg District Council conservation chief Andre van der Westhuizen said the council had to weigh up the interests of a "handful of landowners against those of thousands of anglers and tourists". He confirmed friction between landowners and 4 x 4 trespassers.

Environment Affairs management chief Sydney Gerber said he agreed with Neethling that negotiation was preferable to litigation, "but in this case there has been endless talking".

"Even (former Cape) attorney-general Niel Rossouw gave up in exasperation when he tried to mediate a solution in late 1995."

Zenzele Training Centre
Bonga Drive
Khayelitsha
7794

Tel: (021) 361 1834

Lion hunt film to be probed for 'doctoring'

Star 28/5/97 (56)

Several videos made into one, say police

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environment Reporter

Police and the Mpumalanga Parks Board are investigating claims that video footage shown on TV which showed a Kruger National Park lion being lured on to a neighbouring game farm to be shot may have been "doctored".

There is also a suggestion the lion was not a "wild" lion but one bred in captivity.

The Cook Report, as the video is titled, sparked international outrage with its scenes of the "canned" hunting.

The commander of the SAPS endangered species protection unit, Superintendent Piet Lategan, said yesterday there were discrepancies in the making of the video. It was evident that footage from several video tapes were edited into one film.

Excerpts were shown on British television and on M-Net's *Carte Blanche*.

The video shows how a lioness, apparently lured from the Kruger Park, is drugged and then shot in front of her cubs.

The footage resulted in international calls on the South African Government to intervene and stop "canned" hunting. Lategan said investigators would meet the attorney-general next week to discuss the evidence.

Mpumalanga Parks Board communications director Karl Lane said yesterday in future the hunting of captive-bred cats would be made illegal.

He said the board would revise its policy on hunting to ensure "unethical" hunting practices were not repeated.

He said the board also intended to stop the breeding of wild cats in captivity unless it could be proved that they formed part of recognised research projects, and that any wild cat that needed to be destroyed would be put down by a qualified veterinarian.

Cabinet 'must rethink position on ivory trade'

BD 29/5/97 (56)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Cabinet should reconsider its support for a partial lifting of restrictions on international ivory trade and the possible reopening of the rhino horn trade, Parliament's environment committee decided yesterday.

The proposals were premature and needed further investigation, it said. Domestic and international controls to prevent illegal trade also needed to be tightened up.

Committee chairman Gwen Mahlangu stressed that the unanimous committee decision was not a "rejection" of Cabinet's decision on the two proposals.

However, ANC MP Winnie Madikizela-Mandela said it was "totally unacceptable" that Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Minister Pallo Jordan had not discussed the two issues with the portfolio committee before the Cabinet decision.

The two proposals are scheduled for discussion at a two-week meeting of the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species starting on June 9 in Harare.

Mahlangu said she would send Jordan a report advising him of the committee's position. She also hoped he would be able to address the committee next Tuesday.

Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe have drafted proposals asking for the ban on international ivory sales to be relaxed to enable them to sell 29,58 tons a year over the next two years to Japan. The Natal Parks Board drafted the proposal, arguing that a strictly

controlled trade in rhino products would make a significant contribution to the survival of the southern white rhinoceros.

But the committee was concerned over whether Japan would be able to keep illegal ivory out of its market. A recent report by international wildlife trade monitoring organisation Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce said Japan had one of the most advanced domestic ivory trade control systems, yet it was still a destination for illegal ivory.

Meanwhile, the environmental affairs and tourism ministry said yesterday investigations into the recently publicised "canned lion hunts" would be accelerated. Jordan had tabled the issue for discussion at this week's meeting of ministers and MECs.

Police crack crayfish smuggling syndicate

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — A major crayfish smuggling syndicate has been cracked by the SA Police Service's sea border and coastal patrol unit.

It confiscated more than 11 500 of the creatures worth about R250 000 in the past month.

Two people were arrested at a cold storage on the East Rand yesterday when police seized 433kg of mostly undersized crayfish.

The arrests were the first in a

three-week countrywide investigation under Capt Piet Loubser of East London, which resulted in the confiscation of almost 1 500kg of crayfish.

The 2 500 crayfish and boxes of tails were donated to the Pretoria Zoo, where the crayfish were fed to fish in the aquarium.

Police spokesman Leon Engelbrecht said the syndicate involved restaurant owners in Johannesburg and Pretoria. More arrests were expected soon.

The East London sea border and coastal patrol unit made its first breakthrough earlier this month when it took possession of 4 500 crayfish in the area.

Further investigations resulted in the confiscation of 4 500 more crayfish near Velddrif in the Western Cape a week later.

Most of the crayfish were for local distribution, but some were for export, Engelbrecht said.

He said police believed yesterday's arrest cracked the syndicate.

Nuclear waste policy needed

BD 29/5/97 (56)

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — High-level radioactive waste was building up at Koeberg nuclear power station in the absence of a long-term solution to nuclear waste disposal, Thomas Auf der Heyde of Cape Town University's science advice unit told Parliament yesterday.

In a briefing to Parliament's mineral and energy affairs committee, Auf der Heyde said a solution could take five years and more than R1bn to develop.

He said the suitability of the Vaalputs site in the Northern Cape for the disposal of "high-level" waste

had not been established. The necessary studies would take between three and five years to conduct.

Auf der Heyde said absence of a nuclear waste policy was creating problems for the Council for Nuclear Safety. Low-level waste was being disposed of at the Vaalputs site, with high-level waste temporarily stored at Koeberg and at the Pelindaba research reactor site. A disposal site had yet to be identified.

Auf der Heyde said the critical issue of high-level nuclear waste disposal and a policy to deal with it was a matter which would definitely reach Parliament within the next 12 months.

Further problems were emerging for Koeberg, as residential expansion in the Cape Town metropolitan area was making population densities around the power station unacceptably high. This raised the question of when the Koeberg plant would be closed and decommissioned. A council report also showed three Koeberg workers had been exposed to more than their annual allowable dosage of radiation in an incident earlier this month. However Eskom had not violated its licence conditions, the report said.

RESULTS AND DECLARATION

roup for the year ended 31 March 1997

(56)

Jordan vows crackdown to halt illegal lion hunts

ARG 29/5/97
Johannesburg - Stricter hunting regulations will be adopted in areas where illegal hunting activities are being practised, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan says.

The decision was endorsed by the MECs of environmental affairs in the nine provinces in an effort to stamp out inhumane hunting methods.

The move follows scenes of "canned" lion hunting in a British television documentary screened on M-Net last week. The report, which is under investigation by the SAPS, sparked international outrage.

A spokesman for Mr Jordan said the hunting practices shown in the programme were unanimously condemned and that MECs had made a commitment to rooting out those responsible for such illegal practices. - Argus Correspondent

'Canned lions' spur Jordan to crack down

JOHANNESBURG: Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Palo Jordan is to tighten regulations in illegal hunting areas with the support of his provincial counterparts.

It is an effort to stamp out inhumane hunting in the wake of the Cook Report televised last week.

Now probed by police, the report sparked international outrage with its scenes of "canned" lion hunting.

A spokesman for Jordan said yesterday the Cook Report was unanimously condemned. The authorities were committed to rooting out those responsible for such illegal practices.

(56)
It was noted that in public game reserves there were no hunts similar to those depicted in the programme.

It was limited to private game farms where it was difficult to monitor illegal hunting practices, the spokesman said. — Own Correspondent

CT 29/5/97

SA's nuclear waste a 'major problem'

(56) CT 29/5/97

THE fact that South Africa had no clear policy on the storage and disposal of nuclear waste was creating major problems for the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS), nuclear researcher Dr Thomas auf der Heyde said yesterday.

Auf der Heyde — from the University of Cape Town's science advice unit — told the National Assembly's minerals and energy committee that the CNS was driving the process of developing a policy, but this was nowhere near completion.

Although low and intermediate level waste from Koeberg power station was being stored at Vaalputs in the Northern Cape, this site's suitability as an ultimate storage and disposal site had yet to be determined. Tests there would take between three and five years.

Low level and intermediate waste from the Atomic Energy Corporation's Safari research reactor was stored at Pelindaba.

High-level waste and spent fuel were currently stored on site at Pelindaba and Koeberg, pending a long-term solution.

Auf der Heyde said nuclear waste was a sensitive and crucial issue and he expected the matter to come before Parliament within the next 12 months.

He said Koeberg, with an annual budget of R100 million, supplied four to five percent of Eskom's electricity.

However, a recent study had found that it was arguably 30% less efficient than comparable plants in Germany and Korea.

It was difficult to determine the cost of power supplied by the plant, because there was no clarity yet on whether the cost included such factors as long-term waste disposal and eventual decommissioning.

But it was estimated that nuclear power was about 30% more expensive to produce than power generated from fossil fuels, such as coal.

In addition, at current usage levels, known uranium deposits would run out much sooner than known fossil fuel deposits, Auf der Heyde said.

Since South Africa's uranium was solely a by-product of gold mining, the issue of radioactive mining waste also needed to be addressed.

He said the CNS had found many contaminated sites in the past 18 months and many others could still be discovered.

Rehabilitation of these was under way, but was subject to negotiations about exactly who was liable and who would carry the costs. — Sapa

Stricter laws to stamp out canned hunts

(56) Nov 29/5/97

Stricter hunting regulations will be adopted in areas where illegal hunting is practised, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

The decision was endorsed by the nine environmental affairs MECs in an effort to stamp out inhumane hunting methods.

The move follows the release of the *Cook Report*, which was screened on national television last week.

The programme, which showed lions being drugged before they were shot in a small enclosure, sparked international outrage and prompted a police investigation.

Jordan's spokesman said the MECs had made a commitment to rooting out the people responsible for the illegal hunting. They said they would also accelerate investigations into "canned" lion hunting in provinces where such activities were reported.

The spokesman said hunts similar to those shown on the programme had never taken place in public game reserves. They were limited to private game farms where it was difficult to monitor illegal hunting, he said. - Environment Reporter.

Hotel industry body calls for ban on lion hunting

Star 30/5/97

(56)

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS

Pressure is growing on the Government to impose an outright ban on lion hunting after the recent *Cook Report* videotape exposed the illegal slaying of drugged Kruger Park lions.

The report has prompted an international outcry with its scenes of "canned" lion hunting.

Yesterday, the hotel industry body, the Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa (Fedhasa), joined the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Protea hotel group in a call to ban all lion hunting.

They warned that continued lion hunting could dent South Africa's image as a tourist destination.

Fedhasa executive director Deon Viljoen said the atrocities exposed in the *Cook Report* negatively affected game lodges and the tourist industry.

He said the tourist industry

was already reeling from the negative effects of crime.

The report is being investigated by the police, who believe the tape may have been doctored.

But, Gareth Patterson, a renowned author and lion expert who went undercover to investigate illegal hunting, said he was "sickened and disgusted" by what he had found.

Patterson said he witnessed how zoo animals were transported from Gauteng to a game farm where they were hunted in confined spaces.

He recalled how an elderly German tourist "too decrepit to hunt a lion on foot" was driven to an enclosure containing lions.

He was able to fire at the animals, which were then fairly close, from the vehicle.

Patterson said lion hunting was not only immoral but offensive to African tradition.

Yet lions were being defiled, abused and murdered every day.

Conservation groups make a killing in paramilitary training

(56) M+G 30/5-5/6/97

Ann Eveleth

SOUTH AFRICAN conservation groups are pursuing lucrative business in paramilitary training across Southern Africa, according to a report released this week by the Network of Independent Monitors (NIM).

The report names a number of organisations involved in the trade, including Wildlands Trust, an organisation headed by Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi; its partial funder, the KwaZulu Department of Nature Conservation; and the South African Police Service's Endangered Species Protection Unit.

The report fails to detail what training the groups have actually undertaken, beyond South Africa's borders. But NIM says all such paramilitary training should be outlawed. Legislation is already in the pipeline to ban organisations exporting paramilitary know-how, which could see these conservation bodies falling foul of the law.

The report says a central link in the conservation network is Ian Thompson, a Game Rangers' Association committee member, trustee of Wildlands Trust, former acting director of the KwaZulu conservation department and acting chief executive of the African Rhino Owners' Association.

It also lists as Wildlands trustees the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation and Traditional Affairs MEC, Chief Nyanga Ngubane; the KwaZulu conservation department's director, Nick Steele; and its conservation head, Wayne Elliot. British gambling magnate and IFP funder John Aspinall is a "principal funder" of Wildlands, the report says.

The report says the Game Rangers' Association "is currently negotiating with the Department of Environment Affairs and the Department of Foreign Affairs for permission to provide paramilitary training outside the country ... [and] claims to have the unequivocal support of organisations such as the World Wildlife Fund (South Africa)".

The WWF was previously implicated in establishing a covert anti-poaching unit, known as Operation Lock, which allegedly served the paramilitary interests of the apartheid government.

Lion-baiting on parks board man's farm

MTG 30/5 - 5/6/97

(56)

A prominent member of the National Parks Board has been implicated in 'canned' lion hunting, reports **Ellen Bartlett**

THE game reserves named in the controversial television documentary on "canned" lion hunting in South Africa are not the only places where professional hunters are willing to bend the rules to help an inexperienced — or inept — hunter bag his trophy.

British TV's *The Cook Report* team went to the Kapama Game Reserve, near Hoedspruit in the Northern Province, where they were told lions are "drawn in" using bait. In a conversation taped without his knowledge, the reserve's professional hunter, Keith Boehme, also told the team that, if necessary, a lion could be shot from a hide.

Kapama Game Reserve is owned by Johan Roode, a prominent member of the National Parks Board and a founder of the trust which raises money for the South African Police Service's cash-strapped Endangered Species Protection Unit. Roode, who is executive chairman of Genfood, could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press.

Kapama this week hosted the annual Interpol conference of wildlife law-enforcement specialists, held in South Africa for the first time.

The British-made documentary has stirred heated debate on hunting practices, with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw) calling this week for an immediate moratorium on lion hunting in South Africa.

The Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, which had distanced itself from the matter, has issued a statement in which it pledges with provincial MECs to "root out those

responsible" and to "stamp out illegal and inhumane hunting methods".

The Cook Report team did not hunt at Kapama because the lions designated for hunting there this year had been spoken for. But Boehme assured *The Cook Report* producer Howard Foster that in a future hunt, their client — whom they had described as fat and unfit — could be accommodated: "He just has to do a little bit, get the lion on to the bait, make a half-hearted attempt to track the damn thing, or just shoot it from a blind [hide]."

"So even the weakest of clients can still be satisfied and still at least have it done, you know, semi-ethically ..." Foster read the transcript of the conversation to the *Mail & Guardian*.

Boehme said he did not "recall saying that at all", though he acknowledged saying if the condition of their client necessitated it, he would let him shoot the lion from a hide, a practice he noted was not illegal.

As for baiting, he said, it is "common practice" and "as far as I know it is within the law ... Wherever you go, the professional hunter will put out a bait ... You hang a carcass in a tree in an area in which you think there are lions; you have to then physically track him and go and find where he is."

According to the law of the former Transvaal province, which still applies in Northern Province, any luring of a wild animal "by bait, whether alive or dead, or anything else on account of the edibility, smell or taste thereof" is illegal.

Northern Province MEC for Agriculture, Land and Environmental

Even the weakest of clients can still be satisfied and still at least have it done, you know, semi-ethically'



No way out: The Mpumalanga Parks Board this week banned the captive breeding of wild cats

Affairs, Tienie Burgers, confirmed "baiting is not allowed". Those found contravening the conditions of their hunting permit could have the permit revoked. They could also be arrested, he said, though any action taken against Kapama, he noted, "is on the premise that the allegation is true".

Burgers suggested this is a good time to examine hunting practices generally. "It is important that one should sit around a table and discuss it rationally and take an informed decision," he said.

That is not likely to satisfy Ifaw, or Gareth Patterson, the lion devotee and protégé of the late George Adamson, who brought "canned" lion hunting to the attention of *The Cook Report*.

"The only way to salvage our international image and to protect the animals is to call an immediate halt to [lion hunting] pending an investigation," Ifaw's Africa head, Dave Barritt, said this week.

Patterson is calling for further investigations of lion-breeding farms; for the Kruger National Park to secure its western borders to prevent the escape of lions; for an end to all "captive and semi-captive breeding" of

lions; and for South Africa's lion population to be relocated to reserves no smaller than 20 000ha.

The Mpumalanga Parks Board has had the most radical response to the hunting scandal, announcing this week its "intention" to "no longer permit the captive breeding of any wild cat unless it could be proven that it formed part of a recognised research institution or project". The board also plans to stop the hunting of captive-bred cats.

The National Parks Board has reacted with more circumspection. The park's anti-poaching and investigations unit said in a report prepared for the board the contentions of *The Cook Report* that lions were lured from the park "were a gross misinterpretation of the facts".

"The fact that the Kruger National Park was even mentioned in this incident indicates some other hidden agenda. With the upcoming Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species question involving our elephant and rhino management, focus of attention on alleged illegal activities relating to the park can be expected to escalate," the report said.

Fears grow of SA nuke waste dump

Concern over world use of facility

ARL/31/5/97

(56)

PAUL OLIVIER
STAFF REPORTER

There is growing concern that South Africa could become a dumping ground for high-level radioactive waste from around the world.

Environmentalists and other groups have expressed fears that recently announced plans by the Government to investigate the storage of high-level nuclear waste at the Vaalputs nuclear storage site near Springbok could lead to the dumping of large quantities of highly radioactive material on South African soil.

It could also seriously harm tourism to Namaqualand. The Vaalputs storage site is near Springbok, the "capital" of Namaqualand.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Penuell Maduna has announced that work will start soon on a deep geological facility at Vaalputs.

High-level radioactive waste from the Koeberg power station, the SAFARI research reactor, radium sources and specific waste produced at some mines could be disposed of at the facility.

But environmentalists believe the development of a deep-level storage site for high-level radioactive waste could open the floodgates to allow other countries to dump nuclear waste in South Africa - at a price.

The Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa said it would keep a close watch on waste imported from abroad.

Conservation ecologist Marlene Laros said the society would "continue to lobby government to pursue alternatives to nuclear energy".

She said the society believed alternative energy options should be considered as a priority.

"While nuclear energy supporters highlight the safety of Vaalputs, we believe the long-term environmental costs has never been considered," she said.

The facility, 80km from Springbok, would be similar to a mine with tunnels, between 500 to 1 000m below ground. Construction would have to be completed by 2025.



Waste disposal: the Vaalputs site

Vaalputs is the only "final disposal site" in South Africa and has been described as the "Rolls Royce" of nuclear disposal sites in the world because of its geological features and lack of ground water.

Koeberg nuclear power station, which has stores for low- and intermediate-level waste and also pools for the storage of nuclear fuel elements, is one of a number of interim radioactive waste storage facilities in the country. This waste would ultimately have to be disposed of at Vaalputs.

Springbok Town Council secretary Jaco Victor said the council would insist that a feasibility study of the project to determine the "viability of Vaalputs as a high-level storage area" would have to take the community's opinions into account.

"Vaalputs can have a detrimental effect on the growth of the town and for tourism in general in Namaqualand," Mr Victor said.

"We do not have a problem with the way the site is managed at the moment, but when the study is being done for storing high-level nuclear waste the community will have to be consulted."

Brian Hambleton-Jones, senior manager nuclear waste management of the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC), said a national policy for radioactive waste under the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) was currently being developed.

The planning included talks between national stakeholders such as the nuclear industry, mining, the building industry, the medical fraternity, trade unions, civic groups, NGOs and government departments such as environmental and water affairs.

A national policy would be drafted, to be ratified by Parliament, with possible changes to legislation governing nuclear matters. "The type of decision which will be required would be what we are going to do with uranium waste, spent fuel and where to dispose of it," Mr Hambleton-Jones said.

"The final decision will have to meet with national consensus," he said.

Dr Hambleton-Jones said the complexity of the safety investigation called for studies "in the near future", which should commence by the end of the year or early next year.

In order to establish confidence in such an investigation, the study would draw on the expertise of international organisations like the International Atomic Energy Agency of Vienna.

CNS spokesman Tienie Fourie told Saturday Argus the council had recognised for some time the need to have a national radioactive waste policy.

"Last year, after discussions with government, we were given a mandate to draft such a policy.

"The way we are doing it is to meet with all interested parties and to discuss issues during workshops. Afterwards we will make our recommendations and lay down minimum safety standards."

He said the CNS was playing an active role in development of the international Joint Convention for the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and for the safety of radioactive waste management.

This would enable the CNS to tackle the problem of high-level nuclear waste in future, he said.

Canned lion hunt not the way to

By GIEN ELSAS

Television viewers in South Africa and Britain were shocked by the exposure of the "canned lion" industry in a documentary, the *Cook Report*, screened to millions of viewers recently.

And the report is starting to have an effect on South Africa's image abroad as a tourist location, according to Deon Viljoen, executive director of the Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa (Fedhasa).

The video was an investigative report on the not uncommon practice of allowing trophy hunters to shoot game, in this case lion, in small enclosures, in some cases only 100ha.

These lions have often been bred solely for the purpose of landing up

stuffed or hanging on the trophy hunter's wall and are often dragged before being shot.

One particularly gruesome piece of footage showed a lioness who had just been removed from her cubs. They were still feeding off her. She refused to leave the fence and was shot by a German "hunter" virtually next to the fence.

Canned lion hunting is, however, not a new phenomenon in South Africa. It has been going on for years, mostly with the full knowledge of the various nature conservation departments which have, until now, turned a blind eye to the problem.

Mpumalanga, where the lioness was shot on Roy Plath's farm, has now put a moratorium on canned lion hunting. Plath is, according to the offi-

cial, the only lion farmer in the province.

"What happens to these lions now?" lion expert Gareth Patterson asked. Who is now accountable for these animals?

Sterilised

"The authorities who knew what was going on should be made to create a lion haven of at least 1 000ha where these lions can live for their expected 20 year lifespan.

"They should be sterilised as well so that the problem will not be compounded," he added.

At a press conference arranged by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, David Barritt, its Africa director, said the public could become involved by protesting to Minister of

Environmental Affairs Pallo Jordan and by insisting that an independent body be set up to investigate this industry.

"If South Africans don't apply pressure and don't keep this pressure going, the whole industry will just lie low for a while and then flare up again," Barritt warned.

He added that the laws pertaining to hunting had to be changed.

"The law's a mess. Regulations are woefully inadequate and are poorly enforced," he said.

But lions are not the only animals canned in South Africa. Fanie Roberts in KwaZulu Natal offers canned animals of a different kind, according to investigators in South Africa who assisted the *Cook Report* team. There, for a price, you

can order a tiger, a black leopard from north Africa, a jaguar, a cheetah, a leopard and even a puma, according to Crispian Barlow.

"Roberts told us that he was working in conjunction with the Pretoria zoo on a breeding programme to produce white tigers. He told us we would not need Cites (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) permits as these animals were bred here, and that he knew a taxidermist. Export papers for the animal we chose we would have to get ourselves," Barlow added.

"The 'hunters' of these trophy animals are often duped into believing they have shot a wild lion or other big cat. Meanwhile, these animals are more or less tame and have to be slightly doped so that they will not get

ture tourists
Jan 31/5/97 (56)

up and walk too close to the hunting vehicles," he said. Cheetahs were also apparently canned and shot under the most appalling circumstances.

But it is not only the big cats that are canned. What about crocodiles, which are kept in unnatural surroundings and are then killed off to fulfil people's desires?

Cruelty

One conservationist said he knew of a farm where trophy "hunters" were occasionally allowed to come and shoot a crocodile for their collection.

Fedhasa's Viljoen warned of the damaging effect the canned lion industry would have on tourism.

"The tourist industry is already feeling the adverse effects of the

crime wave in our country. With the international community exposed to the immense cruelty of the South African canned hunting industry, this effect can only be exacerbated," he said.

"There are two main attractions for the tourist. One is the country's cultural diversity, the other is the wildlife," said William Ford of the Protea Hotels group.

What will happen now depends on the launching of an independent investigation committee. But the canned lion farmers are not the only people who should be investigated - the authorities should also be looked at too, because they have known about canned hunting for years and known that the law has been broken in most of these "hunts".

SA firm on ivory trade — Jordan

BO 4/6/97 (56)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The SA government would not rescind its decision to support a resumption of ivory trade as it was bound by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) stand, Environment Minister Pallo Jordan told Parliament yesterday.

There was also virtually no chance of the cabinet revoking a second decision, to support a resumption in legal trade in white rhino horn because, as far as Jordan, was concerned the proposal made perfect sense.

Jordan was reacting to a plea by the parliamentary environment committee for the cabinet to review its decision to press for legal trade in white rhino horn and to support limited trading in ivory.

The two issues are to be put in the form of proposals to next week's meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in Harare.

Animal welfare groups have warned that any relaxing of the present complete bans on trade in elephant and white rhinoceros products would encourage poachers and could signal the death of those animals remaining in certain African countries.

The proposal for a resumption of trade in ivory was drafted by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, while the rhino-horn proposal came from the Natal Parks Board.

Committee chairman Gwen Mahlangu told Jordan that neither the committee nor the public at large had been consulted on the two issues. As far as the committee was concerned the decision to back the two proposals at the Cites conference was "premature" and "rushed".

Jordan undertook to take the committee's concerns back to the cabinet today, but held out little hope that the executive would change its mind.

"No matter what I might think, that is the route SA is going to go

on the (ivory trade) question," Jordan said, indicating the decision had more to do with regional foreign policy than with what was in SA's environmental interests.

SA had decided in the interests of regional solidarity to support the proposal by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe for the three to resume legal trade in ivory with one country, Japan. It had decided, though, not to follow suite in SA, Jordan said.

Members of the parliamentary committee said there were serious questions about Japan's ability and willingness to police its enforcement regulations and stamp out illegal ivory trade.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare said in reaction that the consequences for the future of the African elephant and the white rhino "could be absolutely disastrous", and it accused Jordan of misleading the environment committee.

See Page 7

responsibilities of governing bodies. Employment should be

Outrage at cabinet stand on rhino trade

(56) CT 4/6/97

THE Environment Ministry had not been consulted about a government decision to support renewing international trade in ivory and rhino horn, Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the National Assembly's environment committee that the cabinet would not change its mind.

The issues are to be raised at next week's meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Harare.

Jordan promised to brief the cabinet tomorrow about the committee's concerns.

Members of the committee said they were disturbed that the executive had reached a decision without consulting Parliament or the public. Renewing the trade could lead to widescale poaching.

The Southern African Development Community had resolved last year to ask that elephants be downgraded from "endangered", but SA had since decided not to include its own herds, Jordan said.

The proposal to renew trade in rhino horn had been made by the Natal Parks Board, which envisaged harvesting horn from living white rhino to halt poaching.

The present policy on elephant and rhino had curtailed illegal trade, but had not answered the question of how best to use Africa's natural resources and meet developmental needs.

"I think it is within the power of the minister to turn this around," Mr Nic Koornhof (National Party) said. "We need more time (and) consultation."

Mr Aubrey Mokoena (African National Congress) said the committee could not allow itself to be sucked into the depletion of natural resources in Africa.

The African director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Mr David Barritt, said later he was alarmed by the cabinet's decision. "How can we square that with the new democratic SA?" — Sapa

Gauteng seeks delay in implementing new system

CT 4/6/97

JOHANNESBURG: Gauteng's education authorities have called on Minister of Education Dr Sibusiso Bengu to postpone introducing the new curriculum next year as its schools will not be ready to do so.

Teacher unions, which have said teachers throughout the country will not be ready to implement the curriculum next year, have welcomed the call.

It is believed that the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape are to make similar reports to Bengu to persuade him to delay the process.

Bengu tried to reassure teachers yesterday that they would learn the new curriculum as they taught it. However, he opened the door to a postponement.

"If in our assessment we are not ready, we will not hesitate to inform the public accordingly," he said.

It was decided last year to introduce the new system only in Grade One and Std 5 next year.

Speaking at an education conference here yesterday, the co-ordinator for the Gauteng Department



'LEARN ON JOB': Sibusiso Bengu

of Education's Institute of Curriculum Development, Mr Haroon Mohammed, said the province had assessed its state of readiness and decided the curriculum should be delayed.

"We will manage implementation in Grade One, but it is doubtful we can manage Grade Seven (Std 5)."

It would be recommended to Bengu that the curriculum be introduced in Std 5, as well as Grade Two and Std 6, in 1999.

"Given the 48 000 teachers we have to reach in the province, it would be better to set a strong foundation with Grade One," Mohammed said.

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union, although keen for the new system to be introduced as soon as possible, said it might be more realistic to delay it.

The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa's executive director, Mr Andrew Pyper, said he was "delighted" by the decision by Gauteng authorities.

"We hope their recommendation will bring about what we have been requesting," he said.

The Association of Professional Teachers also welcomed the move.

Asked at the conference if the government would ensure teachers understood the new system before it was implemented, Bengu said it would be necessary to do so. He did not want criticism that educators "are not informed because they are going to be informed". — Own Correspondent and Sapa

Drug companies decry forced generic medicine

CT 4/6/97

DURBAN: DRUG companies have slammed the government for trying to enforce the use of generic medicines and have warned that the importation thereof could damage the local manufacturing industry.

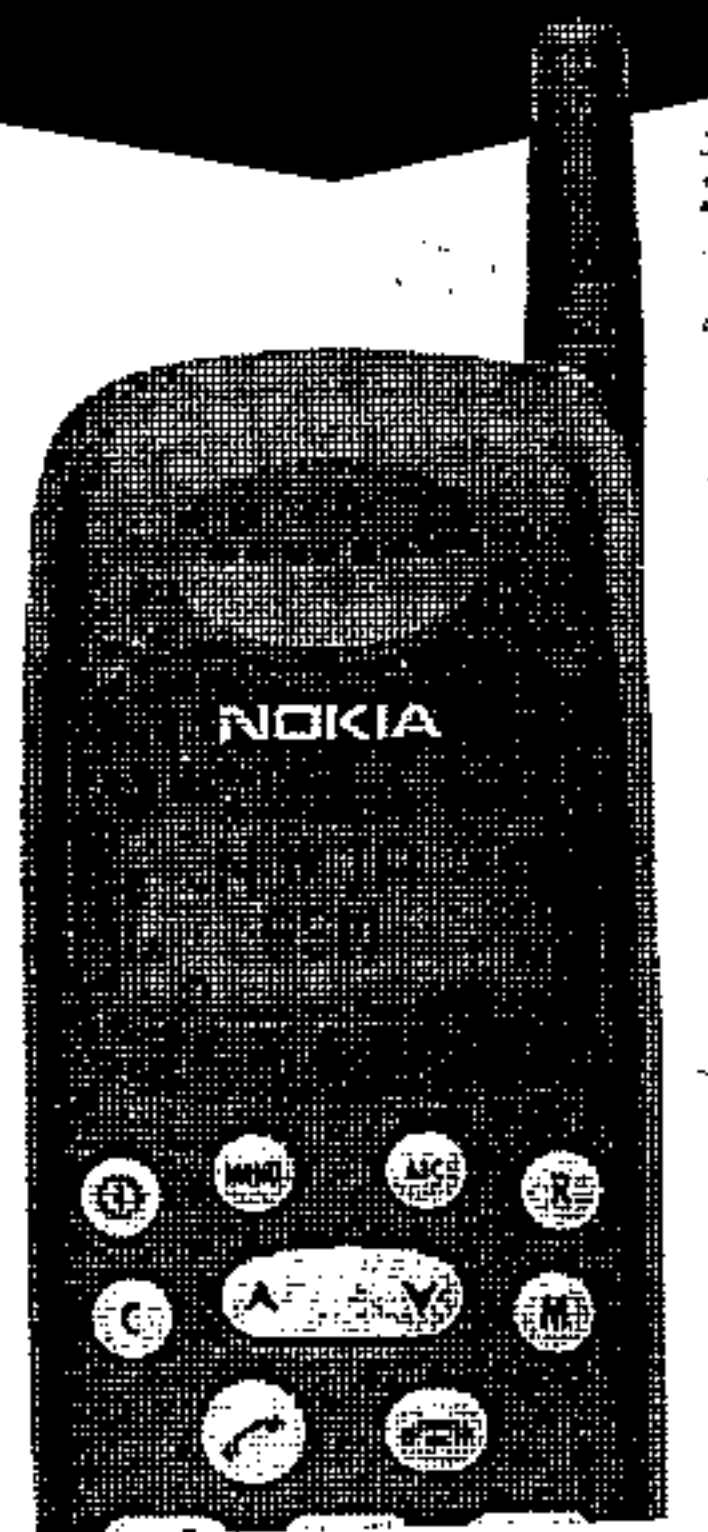
The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA) said it was "concerned" with proposed legislation that would make generic substitution compulsory.

PMA chief executive Ms Mirryena Deeb said in a statement that although industry was not opposed to the use of generics it was against measures that forced the use of generics because this amounted to "government favouring one competitor ahead of another".

The draft medicines bill, to be debated in Parliament on Friday, states that the pharmacist should substitute every prescription with a cheaper generic, and must also inform the patient of the benefits of substitution. — Own Correspondent

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Parks will straddle frontiers

BO 5/6/97

(56)

A NEW generation of national parks is being planned to straddle geographic barriers.

"Trans-frontier parks cut across national borders to embrace regions defined in terms of biodiversity," says John Hanks, Peace Parks Foundation executive director.

"Community participation is of paramount importance. Communities will be integrated into the natural environment, using the resources on a sustained basis," he says.

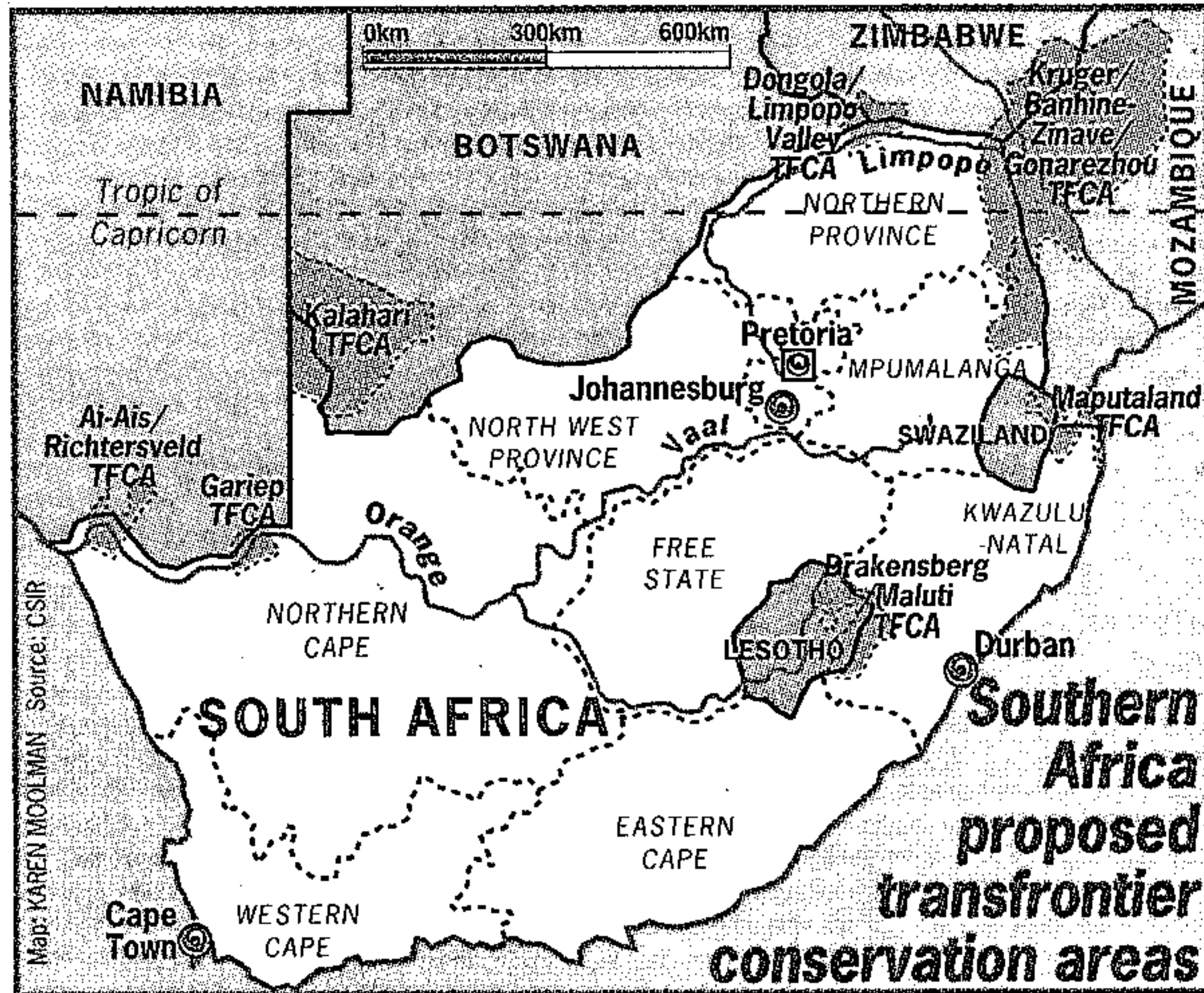
The proposed southern African trans-frontier conservation areas (TFCAs) are a Southern African Development Community (SADC) initiative. Hanks says this is an important opportunity for regional co-operation.

Essentially, TFCAs are relatively large tracts of land that straddle frontiers between two or more countries and cover large-scale natural systems encompassing one or more protected areas.

In 1988, a commission established by the World Conservation Union identified 70 protected areas in 65 countries that straddle national frontiers.

Their management provides potential for regional co-operation between neighbouring countries, giving rise to the nickname "peace parks". Traditionally, human and animal populations often migrated across or straddled these political boundaries.

Seven conservation areas are proposed — in the Richtersveld; in Gariiep, on the border between the Western Cape



and Namibia; in the Kalahari, straddling the border between the Northern Cape and Botswana; in the Limpopo Valley, straddling Botswana, Zimbabwe and the Northern Province; a massive extension of Kruger Park, straddling the Zimbabwe and Mozambique borders; in Maputaland, between Swaziland, Mozambique and KwaZulu-Natal; and in the Drakensberg, between Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal.

The first to be opened will be the extended Kalahari National Park — already an established park — which visitors will be able to access from either Botswana or SA.

Those countries involved in a park will agree on entry fees and

accommodation charges and will share the costs and revenue. The nuts and bolts of border controls over these areas is still under discussion.

These cross-border reserves will play a variety of important roles. In addition to encouraging co-operation between neighbouring states, they will create opportunities for resources and expertise to be shared; they will stimulate tourism to the area; they will improve the quality of life for many rural communities; and they will protect important zones of biodiversity.

"Increasing the size of any protected area makes a big difference in terms of genetic diversification," says Hanks.

"For instance, extending the Kruger Park to incorporate the Ban-

hine-Zinave and Gonarezhou reserves is important in terms of elephant conservation.

"Once SA is confident of Zimbabwe's and Mozambique's abilities to manage the area, the fences can come down. This would create a conservation area nearly five times the size of Kruger Park, and could radically reduce the need for culling."

The revenue-earning potential of these conservation areas is substantial, based on soaring demand for a variety of ecotourism destinations.

"I would challenge anyone to find a form of agriculture capable of generating an equivalent income per hectare in these areas. No other form of land use could compete," he says.

Tourism is already

one of the biggest employers and earners of foreign currency on the African continent. In 1996, about 225-million people were directly employed in tourism and travel, earning US\$3 600bn in that year — and tourism is set to grow at an annual rate of 5.1% over the next 20 years. The sector is expected to employ more than one billion people worldwide by 2010.

The greatest expansion is expected to be in nature-based tourism, and here SA has the potential to become a top tourist destination.

"Southern Africa is still in the dark ages in terms of marketing itself to tourists. As a result, it gets less than 1% of the world tourist trade at present," says Hanks.

"The awareness of tourism as a rich potential source of economic growth is increasing.

"We're not envisaging the sort of situation here that you have in, say, Masai Mara in Kenya, where zebra-striped buses roar at will through the bush. Our controls are good and it's important to keep them that way — but most of our reserves are nowhere near full capacity."

In 1995, just under 4.5-million tourists came to SA, contributing 4% to GDP and creating 480 000 jobs.

Hanks estimates that, with effective incentives and proper management, the SA tourism industry has the potential to create 2-million jobs by 2000. He says this growth has the potential to affect SA's neighbours, especially through the development of TFCAs.

World Environment Day

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(56)

Global pressure can force companies to clean up their act

AS SA enters the global market, local companies are increasingly finding environmental management a prerequisite for international trade.

"Large high-profile multinationals want to be sure of a squeaky-clean green image.

"Financial risk and legislative pressure are only one side of the equation — the public in developed nations is now empowered to challenge an offending organisation's right to exist.

"Companies have responded by cleaning up their acts, and refuse to be embarrassed by their suppliers," says Di Soutter, a partner in Specialists in Environmental Management & Audits and SA representative to the ISO14001 committee.

In the past there was no global, accredited standard to assess companies' environmental management performances.

ISO 14001 was published internationally in September last year, and was adopted verbatim as a SABS standard in October.

It is purely a management system, and its sole minimum requirement is that certified companies must comply with national legal requirements.

"A company certified in terms of ISO14001 is not necessarily cleaner, but it has systems in place that comply with an accredited document," she says.

"Each company develops its own internal standards, puts procedures in place,

trains everyone whose job could impact on the environment, measures its performance and takes corrective action where necessary."

As a management system, ISO14001 may not be used to guarantee a product — but it gives customers and members of the community insight into its environmental management standards and priorities, and challenges the company's credibility as a responsible corporate citizen.

Certified companies are also obliged to meet the standards they claim to set, and can be held accountable for failing to do so.

Reinforced by the Constitution, which gives members of the public access to information affecting their lives, ISO14001 will open the way for companies to be challenged on their environmental management policies.

But, says Soutter, it will be valuable to companies that genuinely want to improve, by giving them a game plan, as well as additional credibility.

"We expect to see exponential growth in the number of companies adopting ISO14001," she says.

"There are 50 000 sites worldwide using the ISO9000 quality management series.

"We expect 14001 to be far bigger, because there are far more stakeholders involved in environmental management, such as the authorities, financial stake-

holders who do not want their investment sunk for environmental reasons, labour and neighbouring communities."

Legislation worldwide on who is responsible for cleaning up an industrial mess is onerous.

Governments do not want to be left holding the baby, and legislation increasingly dictates that anyone who has ever had anything to do with a dirty site can be held responsible.

"This approach was adopted in the US about 20 years ago through the Superfund Act, which was passed following a survey of contaminated sites.

"The cost to the country amounted to billions of dollars," says Soutter.

The next big issue driving environmental responsibility is eco-labelling, which will be covered in the ISO14020 series.

"There are dozens of eco-labelling schemes worldwide, with varying degrees of credibility.

"The consumer is confused, and the concept is in danger of becoming discredited.

"The ISO14020 series represents a consensus by representatives from various countries," she says.

Soutter does not expect much demand for eco-labelling from SA consumers, who tend to be unaware of environmental issues, but says it will be crucial to success in Western export markets.

Litigation pitfalls could trap unwary

SA business tends to underestimate its exposure to damage and third party injury claims as a result of environmental pollution.

At present local civil law does not cater for punitive damages as it does in the US, but industry could become more vulnerable to major class actions and other claims.

"As the SA public becomes increasingly litigious, no industrial operation can afford to ignore the risk and fail to insure this liability," says Peter Nusser, risk management consultant for MIB Insurance Brokers.

"As SA re-enters the international trading arena, our local production methods and their degree of environmental impact may have to comply with international standards.

"Companies must develop a better understanding of the pollution potential of, for instance, mechanical breakdowns."

Nusser says companies must call on qualified personnel to assess environmental impairment. Their role would be to isolate hazards and suggest improvements. "Environmental audits

have the added advantage of demonstrating, in future years, that the company has taken reasonable precautions to minimise pollution," he says.

Insurance cover on the market today is intended to cover sudden, unintended and unforeseen occurrences.

Cover is also available for liability arising from gradual pollution, but this can be expensive, says Nusser.

"An industrial operation is also liable for clean-up costs, which could be substantial enough to threaten its financial viability.

"Some countries have adopted the 'polluter pays' approach, which is likely to become a standard international policy," he says.

"The future could also see current cover being curtailed — a possibility that intensifies the need for environmental audits."

The basic principle of pollution insurance is to protect companies that carry on legitimate business with the potential to pollute, and that recognise their obligations but cannot identify all the risks, and structure their cover accordingly.

(56) BD 5/6/97

Impact assessments may become mandatory

(56) 80 5/16/97

AN environmental impact assessment (EIA) can lay the foundation for cost-effective, environmentally sound, development.

Within a year, legislation is likely to be passed to make EIAs mandatory for all new developments of major infrastructure and manufacturing facilities.

As part of the process, the ministry of environmental affairs and tourism is expected to produce a list of environmentally sensitive areas, cultural and natural heritage sites and national treasures, for reference.

"The process followed by an EIA is almost as important as that which it studies," says Industrial Environmental Forum manager Karin Ireton.

"We expect the process to require people to register their idea or intention with the authorities, and they will then be told what level of EIA study is needed. The study will involve listing and assessing impacts, a public participation exercise, communicating with key stakeholders to identify issues of

concern and looking at ways to mitigate negative effects.

"Responsible business supports the principle of EIA, and many businesses already conduct them before embarking on a development" she says. "But the EIA does not make the decision — it is simply a decision-making tool that can highlight positive and negative aspects of a proposed project.

"Yet they are expensive — a full EIA can add 6% to 10% to the cost and up to two years to the time involved in planning a project," she says.

"Firms and the state need to set up a procedure so that the study can be useful — in the initial phase of deciding whether to proceed and later in designing the project to minimise negative environmental impact," says Ireton.

"One approach could be to set up professional peer review panels, comprised of academics and industry members, to streamline the approval process. Such a panel could also highlight issues affecting the final decision."

Butterfly decision brings hope to conservationists

A SMALL, blue butterfly became a symbol of renewed hope for conservationists when a high court judgment prevented a landowner from destroying its habitat.

"This is the first time a court has acted to protect a species. It has created a legal precedent to stop environmentally destructive development," says Endangered Wildlife Trust director John Ledger.

The Cape Town high court interdict in January prevented the owner of a 2ha-site in Brenton-on-Sea, near Knysna, from clearing the vegetation on his property before developing it for sale.

Then Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan applied sec 31A of the Environmental Conser-

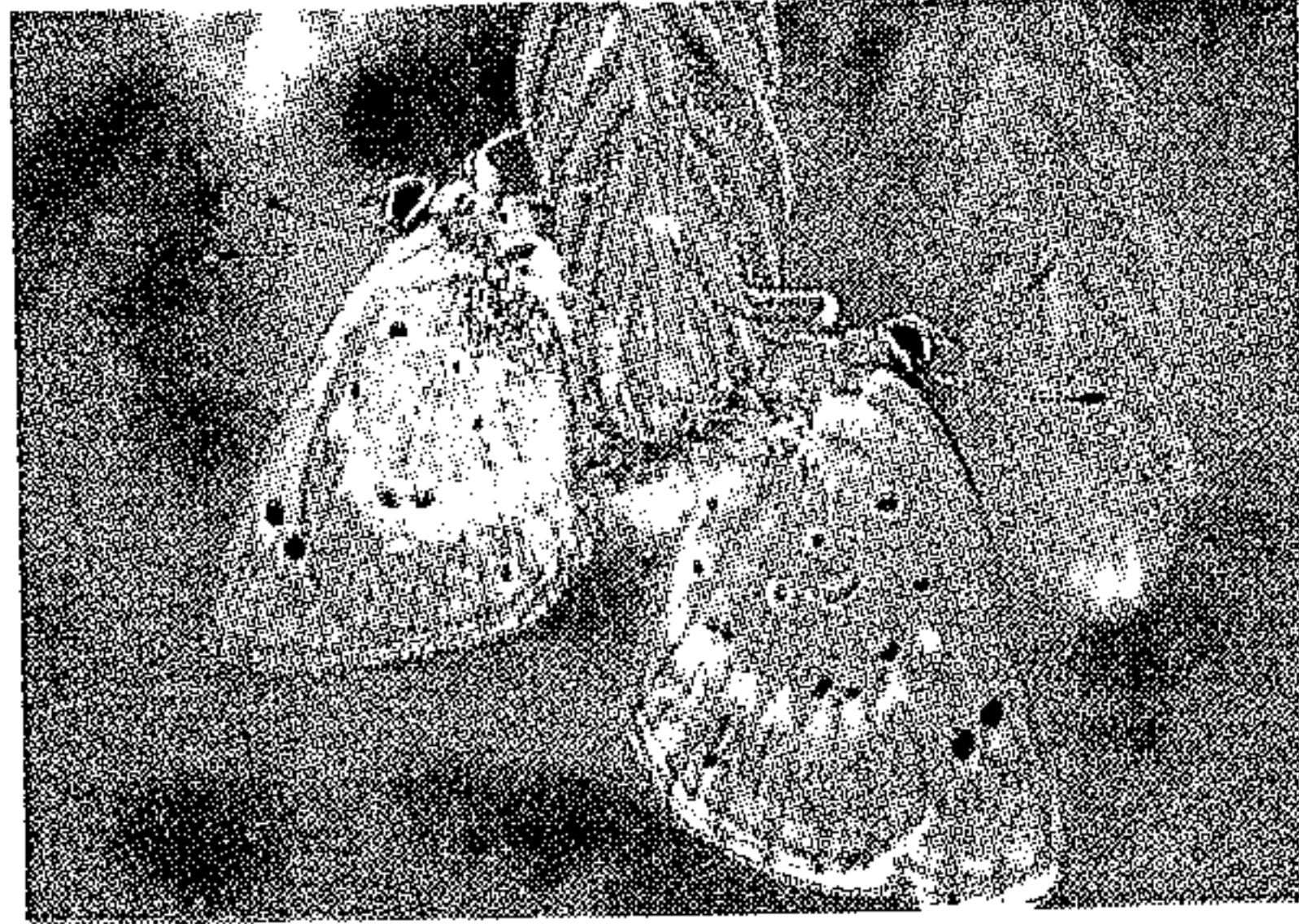
vation Act in April in order to freeze development at Brenton-on-Sea because of the rare Brenton Blue butterfly.

"This is the first sign that government can get serious about stopping the rape of the Cape — and it's happened because we finally have a minister of environment who is prepared to fight," says Ledger.

The next step will probably be for government to expropriate the land for its continued protection, he says.

Brenton-on-Sea is widely seen as a classic example of the need for central government involvement in environmental management.

Jordan set a precedent for future ministers



A high court judgment stopped a landowner from destroying the Brenton Blue butterfly's habitat.

of environmental affairs and tourism when he stepped in and took court action against the landowner, says Ledger.

"As a signatory to the

Convention on Biological Diversity, SA has an international obligation not to let any species go extinct. But it can be difficult to raise enough

public awareness to follow through on this responsibility," he says.

"If you tell the man in the street that species are going extinct at a rate of 40 000 a year, it doesn't mean a thing to him. Who cares if the anopheles mosquito goes extinct? At that level, the debate is esoteric," he says.

"But if one sees biologically diverse systems as a store of building blocks for essential products, it is another story.

"The Brenton Blue may seem insignificant in itself — but it is an indicator species for a unique assemblage of insects and plants, and is extinct everywhere except at Brenton-on-Sea," says Ledger.

Teaching the gritty-gritty of conservation management

THIS year's launch of the SA Wildlife College will be the crowning point in the biggest project the world-wide fund for nature (WWF-SA) has ever undertaken in southern Africa.

It is southern Africa's first college for training conservation managers, and has been built in the Timbavati area on the boundary of the Kruger National Park.

Its official opening is scheduled for September this year, although it will begin operating in July.

"Our fundamental strategy is to create a generation of black conservation managers.

"One of the most damaging legacies of apartheid has been the perception of conservation as a white preserve — and to change this we must have black leadership," says WWF-SA CEO Ian Macdonald.

The college is a SADC initiative. It was kick-started with about R3m from corporate SA, led by Gold Fields and the Nedbank Green Trust.

WWF then discussed the project with a number of aid agency donors.

The German government contributed R25m to phase 1, which was reinforced by subsequent donations from Denmark and The Netherlands.

In addition to cash, donors have contributed vehicles, equipment and salaries.

The core programme offered by the college is a two-year modular course, that will begin in February next year. It will comprise a series of modules presented by leading experts in specific fields.

"Our philosophy is to keep the permanent staff force at the college to a minimum

and draw on experts who are active in their fields," says Macdonald.

"This course is not about theory — it is about the gritty-gritty of conservation management, such as road construction and maintenance, rest camp management, fence line maintenance and constructive interaction with neighbouring communities.

"It also includes basic business skills, and specialist scientific knowledge is not a big priority."

The college will begin operations this year, with a series of short courses running from July to December. This is a capacity-building initiative, designed in line with its goal to upgrade the level of skills in conservation bodies.

Each module will last from five to 20 days. The courses will be directed at people from a wide range of backgrounds, from senior park scientists to junior rangers, but will focus mainly on people from previously disadvantaged groups.

"In the past, many conservation workers hit a glass ceiling; they could not break through to executive level. The college provides an innovative bridge to this level for people with strong practical skills and intellectual capability who lack formal education."

The college has been designed on environmentally-sound lines. The thick thatch roofs overlap to encourage air circulation, and provide extra shade for the west-facing walls. As a result, the rooms remain cool without the need for air conditioning.

"These construction techniques, and the use of devices to minimise water and energy

consumption, will do more to instil the right mindset in our students than any number of lectures," says Macdonald.

The techniques have also been passed on to members of the local community who built the college, using materials that were locally made and sourced.

"We believe this could be a world first in terms of community involvement in building an institution of this size," he says.

The total live-in capacity of the college is about 100.

At most times it will accommodate about 50 students from all over southern Africa.

"This region has far too few conservation managers, and most of them are poorly trained. This is partly because African governments consistently underestimate the importance of conservation to the national endeavour.

"Now they are waking up to the fact that nature-based tourism is one of the fastest-growing industries in the world. The flow of ecotourists from the northern to the southern hemisphere is estimated to be growing at about 23% a year," he says.

"SA has a minuscule percentage of this traffic. We are already experiencing growth in the hotel industry, but the tourism industry in SA could drop the ball if it fails to appreciate that 90% of foreign visitors come here for the natural experience.

"We must have well-run parks, and we must recognise that protected areas are not just a luxury — they are a fundamental part of SA. We must protect our extraordinary biological diversity and wonderful natural landscapes," says Macdonald.



Monitoring game and managing their habitat are two primary skills needed by conservationists in Africa.

A crucial role to play in business success

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SA businesses are beginning to take environmental responsibility more seriously as a factor in planning, operations and marketing.

However, Development Bank (DBSA) environmental specialist Bridget McBean says a change of attitude towards environmental issues is crucial if it is to become more than an add-on to good business.

"The environment is not about national parks but about our surroundings, the air we breathe, the water we drink," she says.

Effective environmental management demands a senior-level decision to have a long-term impact. Whether the business is large or small, involved in manufacturing or a clean service organisation like a bank, is irrelevant. The cumulative effect of poor environmental management throughout a society adds up to overwhelming costs and waste.

A common statistic is that the typical South African produces 2,5kg of household waste a day.

"When multiplied by 40-million people, the amount of landfill is enormous — even disregarding business and industrial waste," says McBean. "We have seen a very positive change of attitude that reflects a greater environmental awareness as well as a response to international pressure," she says.

"Environmental issues have a strong effect on investment and trade-related decision-making, especially among EU countries. For instance, we have seen the rise of green and ethical funds that may refuse to invest in companies on the basis of their social or environmental standpoint.

"The argument is that environmental management is sound management, and therefore

indicates a good investment," says McBean.

The trend towards taking environmental issues more seriously is reflected in the listing requirements for many European and US stock exchanges, which increasingly demand that listed companies meet environmental criteria. Accountants and auditors worldwide are trying to determine how to evaluate environmental costs. For instance, setting up a waste management programme can involve up-front costs, but if these costs are allocated correctly they can highlight savings.

Environmental economics is another sensitive field in which SA is far behind the rest of the developed world.

"The US, Europe and Australia have introduced taxes, such as carbon taxes. Companies receive a permit to emit a certain amount of carbon, allocated according to what

the total environment can tolerate, and are taxed accordingly," says McBean.

Some communities allow companies to sell their permits as their own emissions diminish. McBean finds this practice questionable, arguing that it counteracts efforts to keep reducing pollution, but in a nation where development is a priority it can help control air pollution while keeping the door open to new industry.

SA still has a long way to go. "We have a fairly strong basic legislative framework, but it is almost completely unenforced.

"The authorities responsible for policing environmental law need more resources, and at the same time we need a continued, fundamental change in attitude, and we need tax benefits and rewards to reinforce responsible attitudes," says McBean.

US lays down law on ivory trade

(5b) BD 5/6/97
Simon Barber

WASHINGTON — The US government has come out firmly against proposals by Namibia, Botswana and Zambia to permit them to sell elephant ivory to Japan in order to raise revenue for conservation.

This was the position the US would take to Harare for next week's tenth conference of parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), the interior department's US fish and

wildlife service said.

While recognising the "professional efforts" of the three countries to manage their wild elephant populations, "the administration remains firmly opposed to a resumption of commercial trade in ivory", Don Barry, the acting service head told Congress.

The three countries want to have their elephant herds removed from Cites' most endangered category so that they can sell Japan set quotas of ivory as well as generate income from

hide, trophies and the export of live animals.

"The administration is concerned that an airtight system of export and import controls for ivory does not exist ... increasing the chance that illegal shipments might be blended in with lawful (ones)," said Barry. The downlisting "could undermine existing enforcement", he said. In addition, the US was worried the proposals would give the countries too much discretion.

Comment: Page 11

National Parks Board maps out strategies for change

CHANGING social priorities within SA are forcing the country's institutions to adapt, and the National Parks Board (NPB) has taken up the challenge.

"We are transforming ourselves as an organisation. Our goal is for our staff to drive the process of change, first within the organisation and then in its relationship with the greater SA community," says chairman Enos Mabuza.

"The biggest challenge facing us today is the need to inculcate a sense of ownership of our parks as a national asset belonging to, and benefiting all, South Africans."

Historically, conservation areas have been seen as the playgrounds of a white elite, competing against rural communities for resources such as wood, grazing, land, game and vegetation. Changing this perception to enable rural villagers

to view reserves as a welcome asset has demanded effort, time and creative thinking.

"We have been engaged in a lengthy process of consultation and communication, bringing representatives of neighbouring communities into the parks and exposing them to their value, as compared with dry-land grazing," says Mabuza.

"We want our staff to understand that we live in a changed political society."

"In the past, the tone of the NPB was set by the government of the day. This must change."

"We have adopted a pragmatic approach to affirmative action. People who are productive will not be replaced, but we expect white males, whose places in the organisation were politically assured in the past, to become part of a performance-based process of training and mentoring."

"We are working towards commercially competitive salaries and incentives for staff in our hospitality and commercial services," says Mabuza.

At present, the Kruger National Park is the most profitable operation in the NPB portfolio, contributing about 80% of the organisation's total profits. Government subsidisation of the NPB amounts to about 20% of its total budget. While Kruger would be profitable without subsidisation, most other national parks either break even or operate at a loss.

A priority facing newly appointed chief executive Mavuso Msimang, who takes up his post in July, will be to assess each national park individually and determine how to improve its commercial viability.

Finding a balance between conservation, community needs and commercial viability is a major challenge facing the NPB.

BD 7/16/97

(51)

World Environment Day

Brain drain creates a crisis in conservation

(56)

BD 5/6/97

THE decision to make conservation a provincial rather than a national responsibility has fulfilled the worst fears of many conservationists.

SA's conservation history is at a crucial stage. Always something of a cinderella department, environmental affairs and tourism has seen its environmental budget diminish steadily over the past few years.

At the same time, short-term social needs for housing, education, infrastructure, health care and a host of other demands are driving decision-making at almost every level of government.

Conservation management is fragmented, morale is low and all the provinces are experiencing a massive brain drain of skilled, experienced, senior staff.

"The conservation management structure is collapsing at a frightening rate," says Ian Macdonald, chief executive of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF SA).

"Conservation is on a knife-edge. We urgently need to recreate provincial capacity in environmental and nature conservation.

"Environmental deterioration is a slow process, and as such is not as obvious as other national priorities," says Macdonald.

He says SA has already lost 60 plant species.

Under the old system, each of the four provincial departments of the environment had established

themselves as fairly sound conservation agencies. In addition, the TBVC states had small conservation bodies, he says.

They had formed communication links with each other and with other conservation bodies, locally and in other parts of southern Africa and the world, they sat on various joint committees, and they all subscribed to the central department's national co-ordinating plan for nature conservation.

In addition, each province had its own battery of specialists in various fields.

"When SA was restructured into nine provinces it became necessary to create nine new agencies, and enormous problems arose," says Macdonald.

"Where do you allocate the specialists? How do you find five new people competent to operate at chief executive level? The change literally pulled the established agencies apart.

"And those departments that incorporated the former TBVC states' operations inherited hundreds of supernumerary staff, mainly labourers, with very few managers," says Macdonald.

Voluntary severance packages dealt the next blow to conservation management.

"In some provinces the entire upper echelon of staff have taken packages. They represent an irreplaceable asset and, after the costly process of offering packages, the

state will probably have to employ many of them as consultants," says Macdonald.

There is a bright side to the picture though.

"The crisis in conservation has forced everyone to think about the future of the provincial agencies in practical terms. They will have to become more effective as parastatals and they will have to take steps to raise funding, both from the private sector and offshore.

"They will also have to develop an economic profit motive. SA's natural resources are being under-utilised because the conservation authorities and the individual park officials have no motive to increase the number of people going through a reserve.

"As part of this process, there will have to be market-related salaries, which will help to attract quality skills back into the conservation sector," says Macdonald.

The new leaders in SA's conservation bodies are taking steps in the right direction. SA recently became a signatory to the international convention on biological diversity, and it continues to play a pivotal role in giving priority to conservation issues throughout southern Africa.

"The fragmentation of SA's environmental management is a fait accompli: the challenge, now, is to establish and exercise some degree of control at national level," says Macdonald.

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The Engineer of the Year award is presented to Bell Equipment CE Gary Bell, left, by SA Society for Professional Engineers president John Burdes at the World Environment symposium at Midrand yesterday. Bell Equipment won the award for its lifetime achievement in engineering.

Picture: JIMMY SOULLIER

Josey Ballenger

METROPOLITAN authorities considered waste management services a relatively low priority, "but the people themselves rate public health services, including waste management, as high-priority needs," National Recycling Forum chairman Ray Lombard said yesterday.

Waste disposal standards had improved in metropolitan areas but continued to be poor in the areas under smaller local authorities as metropolitan authorities maintained that high standards were unaffordable, Lombard said at a World Environment Day symposium in Midrand. But developed countries' experience showed that "poor disposal was often more costly than anticipated".

Waste management 'still a low priority for councils'

80 5/6/97 (66)

In SA's informal areas, waste storage facilities, collection and waste disposal services, including street sweeping, were virtually nonexistent — which caused "entirely unacceptable" health risks and environmental degradation.

Lombard said the environmental affairs and tourism and water affairs and forestry departments' development of an integrated waste management policy needed to consider SA's rapid urbanisation. SA had a "phenomenal" urban growth rate of up to 9% a year, which would "place heavy de-

mands on resources, in particular the allocation of funds to services as menial as waste management".

He said industry "must take the lead" in recycling and stood to gain on many grounds: energy conservation, reduction of waste and pollution and financial profit.

He conceded that the cost of recovering material to be recycled "sometimes makes it not worthwhile versus producing new products". But greater demand would bring costs down, he said.

See Page 11

Natal University

Farouk Choithia

DURBAN — Natal University would shed 600 jobs, half the number of departments and cut the number of deans by three, the number of deans would be implemented because the university had faced a budget cut of 5% for this financial year, and central government

Gourley said the jobs would be shed through attrition across the board.

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Cost-cutting drive

to be cut from 120 to 30, and faculties

SA adopts 'green building' programme

Josey Ballenger

SA's market-based "green building" programme put the nation "at the forefront" of global efforts to prevent climate change caused by environmental hazards, and improved business's bottom line, environmentalists said yesterday at the programme's formal launch on World Environment Day.

Buildings designed to reduce energy costs and the dissemina-

tion of harmful gas emissions were in business's best interest, said International Institute for Energy Conservation executive director Stewart Boyle. They reduced employee illness and absenteeism, boosted morale and productivity and brought down costs.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has pledged R550 000 towards a revolving loan fund to catalyse the SA private sector's involvement in the programme.

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World Bank brings new image to Cape

(56) MTC (PM) 6-12/16/97

Grant funding will help to safeguard the flora of Table Mountain while also benefiting the community, writes **Aspasia Karras**

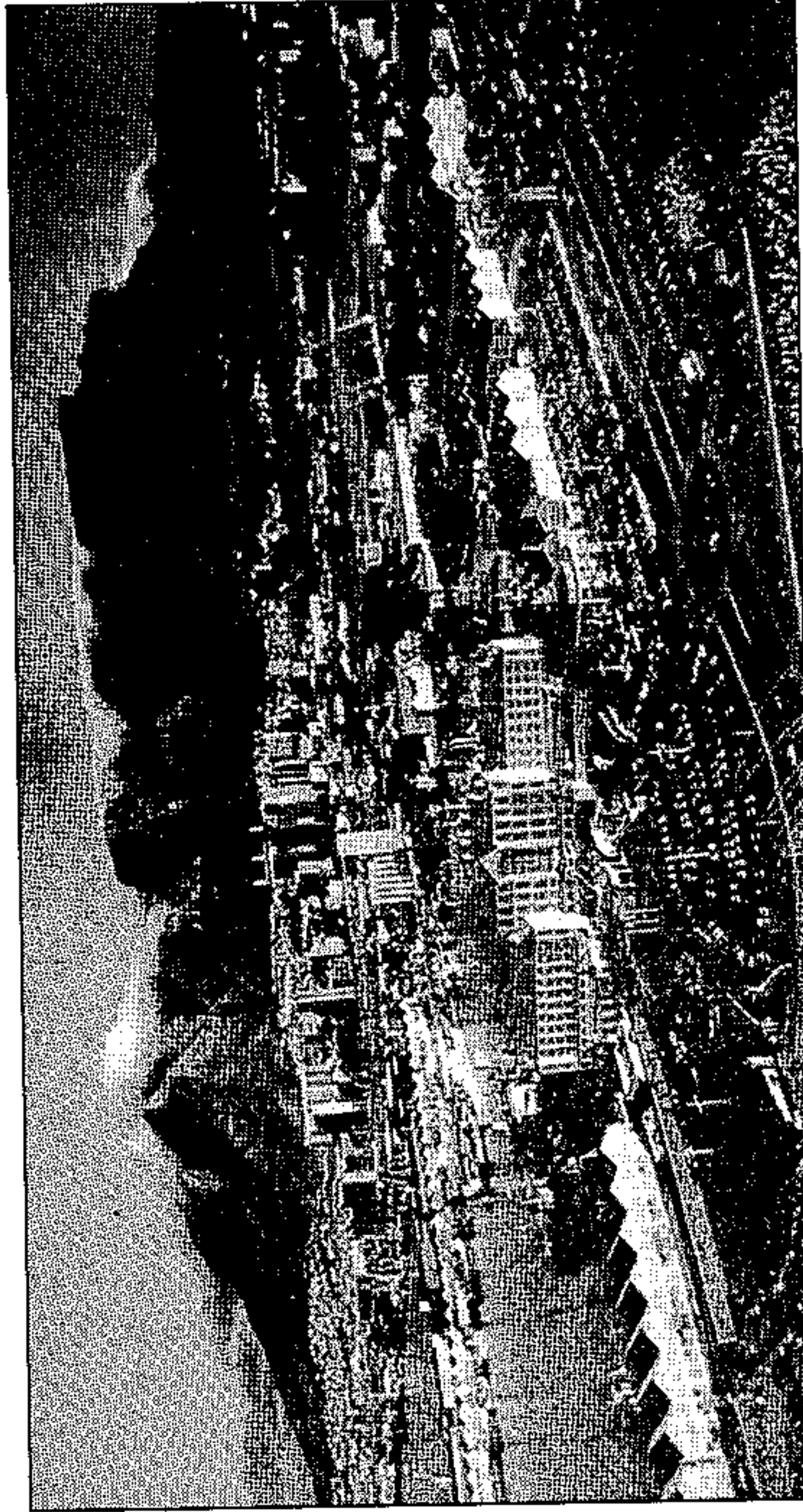
structural-adjustment programmes. Francois Falloux, senior environmental adviser with the bank, explains that the transformation was grandiose in its execution. A small office of four fringe environmental lobbyists at the Washington head office has become a mammoth operation with more than 400 environmental specialists on tap at any given moment. They also have veto power and impose strict procedures of assessment on each project.

The bank is currently financing environmental operations worldwide to the tune of \$10-billion. In sub-Saharan Africa alone it has dedicated capacity of 70 to 80 specialists.

It now runs a constantly updated watch-list of "hot potatoes", including past projects that are still environmentally challenging. It seems to be getting a more positive response on this level at least. In an open letter to Wolfensohn on May 30 1997, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) applauded the president for "his vision for improving the World Bank's develop-

THE Cape Floral Kingdom project, which aims to establish a single national park of 30 000ha on the Cape Peninsula and Table Mountain, is a prime example of the new approach the World Bank is taking to environmental management. The days when it would finance large-scale projects with disastrous environmental results appear to be over.

At least that is what the bank's president James Wolfensohn announced at the Rio Environmental Summit this year. The bank is certainly trying to clean up its image, so much so that it has appointed a task team comprising its traditional critics to evaluate the impact of its much maligned



Environmental interests: The World Bank thinks the Western Cape is a good place to invest

ment effectiveness". But they went on to say Wolfensohn had been "less successful at implementing bankwide changes with respect to improving accountability, project quality, public participation and providing significant debt relief".

It is no wonder, then, that the bank is making sure its interventions in the Western Cape are up to scratch. The Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK) project is about conservation, and was proposed by the National Parks Board and the World Wildlife Fund, and aims to rescue the globally significant biodiversity of the Western

Cape. This is not a simple "save the fynbos campaign". The scope of the project is huge.

The bank aims to launch a major conservation initiative to create a unified management structure in the form of a national park on the Cape Peninsula, while structuring its actions to bring social benefits to the surrounding communities. The project will initially draw on a grant from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in the order of \$10-million. The GEF was established to provide lump-sum grants to countries in support of the "green and brown agenda".

David Daitz, project manager for the National Parks Board, explains that only a country's government can apply for a grant by presenting a project.

Like the rest of the global set the bank thinks that the Western Cape is a good place to put money. Deitz feels that while there is a lot of suspicion in Africa about the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, because of the conditionality attached to some projects, there is no reason to suspect this one.

This funding is not a loan but a grant; the only conditionality lies in the use of the money. It comes with no strings attached. Phase one of the project involves establishing a national park on the Cape Peninsula, which will integrate the conservation of the areas under a single management authority.

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Sixty percent of the GEF funding will for the first six years be dedicated to activities integrally associated with the effective management of the park; this will only constitute 10% of project costs during these years. The success of the project team's initiatives depends on its ability to successfully integrate the 14 different management authorities into one. The most important conservation activity will be the eradication of invasive alien woody plants — the single most significant threat to the terrestrial biodiversity. These operations also offer the greatest opportunity for the delivery of social benefits to local disadvantaged communities through capacity building and job-creation programmes.

The second activity involves the Table Mountain Fund established by World Wide Fund for Nature SA, in 1993. Since inception, this fund has successfully mobilised significant private sector capital inside South Africa for the support of conservation activities in the Cape Peninsula and now more widely. In the CFK. The project plan envisages using the remaining 40% of the external funding component to top up this fund to a level where it will generate sufficient interest on an annual basis in perpetuity to support NGO and other conservation activities on the Cape Peninsula and further afield.

The final cluster of activities which will be undertaken during the first 18 months involves the compilation of a strategic plan for the conservation of the biodiversity of the CFK. This will require extensive mapping of the western extent of the range of the CFK where the greatest concentrations of threatened plant exist. This essential base data will be followed by extensive modelling of invasive alien plant spread, an analysis of threats and opportunities and the compilation of a strategic and financial plan to save the biodiversity of the CFK. It is an explicit intention to be in a position to mobilise additional domestic and foreign funding as soon as this activity ends.

Satisfactory progress with the funding requirements will allow the project to initiate phase two of the project, intended to support activities outside the Cape Peninsula. Falloux and the bank have a clear reason to get involved. They see it as a win-win situation: we eradicate alien plants, restore the ecosystem, while creating opportunities for micro-enterprise, because the process is very labour intensive.

In the long run it will consolidate international tourism. It also helps to improve the bank's constantly wavering image in environmental circles.

Top-level plea to clear way for national park

Red tape stalls Peninsula land transfers

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

An urgent appeal is to be made to two cabinet ministers to help remove red tape procedures blocking the transfer of state land for the new national park in the Peninsula.

The plea will be directed to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan and Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe by the newly appointed committee that is helping the National Parks Board establish and manage the park.

The committee, appointed by Dr Jordan, decided on this step at its inaugural public meeting earlier this week, after being briefed on progress on land transfers by David Daitz, who is co-ordinating the park project for the board.

Most of the new park will consist of the

proclaimed Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE), which is centred on the Peninsula mountain chain, as well as some additional areas and a marine component.

Mr Daitz told the committee he was "very encouraged" by the way negotiations with local authorities in the Peninsula were proceeding over the transfer of their property within the CPPNE to the National Parks Board.

This comprised about 40 percent of publicly owned property within the CPPNE.

In turn, such publicly owned land comprised 80 percent of the CPPNE, with the remainder in private ownership.

But Mr Daitz said that despite a cabinet resolution last year approving the new Peninsula national park, he had been unable to convince the Department of Public Works to transfer land previously

vested in other state departments to the National Parks Board for proclamation as a "schedule one" park.

This was because of the department's internal policy not to release any state-owned land before it had been investigated for its potential for low-cost housing and other development.

The parks board had been willing to assess with the department each portion of land proposed for the new park, but the department had not yet appointed town planners who were qualified to make such assessments.

Negotiations with the department had been "a long-drawn-out process" and they needed to find a way of "getting through the loop", Mr Daitz said.

The committee agreed to take up the issue with Dr Jordan and Mr Radebe in an attempt to free the land.

AACT 6/6/97 (56)

'Environmental racism' under attack

THE Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) and its 380 affiliated organisations have launched a national "environmental racism" campaign to upgrade or shut down "unhealthy" dump sites in or near townships. "It was a design of apartheid that sites for industrial and domestic wastes were established in townships throughout SA," said EJNF's Ace Khabane. "It is always poor black people who suffer from environmental damage; this we call environmental racism."

Referring to the establishment this year of an integrated waste management and pollution policy, EJNF's Nomxolisi Mapuza said: "The voice of black communities was excluded under the old regime. This time we are going to make sure our concerns are part of the new policy. If this means closing down badly managed dumps, so be it."

BD 9/6/97

'BOLD' NEW PLAN

Medicine law 'would save billions'

~~(189)~~ CT 9/6/97

BATTLE LINES are drawn between medical aid schemes and the pharmaceutical industry over the Health Minister's plans. **CAROL CAMPBELL** reports.

HEALTH Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma's moves to make medicines in South Africa cheaper were "bold" and "courageous", and would save medical aid schemes "billions of rands".

Dr Aslam Dasoo, the director of policy for the Representative Association of Medical Schemes (Rams) made these comments at a public hearing on changes to South Africa's medicine laws.

"The cost benefit to medical schemes ... will translate into lower contributions by workers and employers," he said at the hearing which was held in Parliament.

Zuma plans to import cheap, quality medicines from factories overseas at prices far lower than she is being offered in South Africa.

The Cape Times has established that the state buys most of its medicines on local tender. The cheapest South African supplier acquires stock and sells it to the government for about one tenth of the private sector price.

This year the Department of Health will spend about R20 billion on public health. About one-third of this will be on medicines, Dasoo said.

The health minister is also demanding that pharmacists offer private consumers cheaper generic medicine as an alternative to brand-name drugs prescribed by

What Zuma has:

- At the moment the state buys medicines on local tender, which means a company based in South Africa sources the drugs from overseas, imports them and then sells them to the government.
- Right now pharmaceutical companies offer doctors and pharmacists "bonuses" for selling their drugs to patients. Generics, which are cheaper than brand-name drugs, are not always offered even though they are as good.



What Zuma wants:

- In future Zuma wants the state to source drugs for the public sector from factories overseas - cutting out all middlemen. She believes she will be able to get medicines at a much lower price she is currently paying. This is called "parallel importing".
- Zuma wants all pharmacists to offer patients the choice of taking a cheaper generic drug other than the brand-name drug which their doctor prescribes. This is called generic substitution.

The problems:

- Unless this system is scrupulously controlled the state could unwittingly import counterfeit drugs. Overseas factories could "dump" their excess drugs in South Africa which will upset local pharmaceutical economics.
- Pharmaceutical companies are concerned that their trademarks on medicines are not being respected by Zuma.
- The problem with generic substitution is that if something goes wrong and the patient gets sick because she took a drug not prescribed by a doctor but suggested by a pharmacist, the pharmacist will not be held liable.
- Local pharmaceutical companies say Zuma will not be able to source drugs directly from their factories elsewhere in the world which means she might be forced to go through a "middle-man" and expose herself to the risk of buying "dud" drugs.

How are medicine prices made up:

- One of Zuma's major problems with the pharmaceutical industry is that they are not transparent about how the cost of a medicine is worked out. All she knows is that wholesalers mark-up the price by 17,5% and pharmacists by about 50%. However, medicine prices are not regulated and mark-ups vary by as much as 1 000%. Also, she does not know how much it costs to make a medicine and how much it is then sold for.
- Zuma wants a pricing committee to monitor the price of medicines in the country. She is also considering other cost-curbing measures like set dispensing fees and placing limits on the prices manufacturers may charge.

their doctor.

She wants to cut out "bonus-ing", a practice in which a doctor "wins" an overseas trip or a gift from a pharmaceutical company for repeatedly prescribing its drugs.

Dasoo said medical aid schemes would in future insist on buying medicines in a "normal free market" and not in the current "disempowered" and "subservient" manner.

"Rams is satisfied that the Medicines Control Council, which is a world-class regulatory authority, will protect the citizens of the country as it is obliged to do, by preventing any questionable drug

to be improperly registered in South Africa."

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, represented by Mrs Mirryna Deeb, told the Cape Times that the industry in South Africa had an annual turnover of R10 billion and 80% of this came from foreign investment.

"These laws are frightening investors off. Already 10 factories have closed in the past six months because the new laws are perceived as unfair. What Dr Zuma is doing to the pharmaceutical industry in this country is at odds with the government's macro-economic policy."

The local pharmaceutical industry, which is subjected to stringent quality checks by the Medicines Control Council, has also accused Zuma of endangering the lives of South Africans by sourcing drugs from "unknown" factories.

An international expert on drug counterfeiting warned that seven percent of pharmaceuticals worldwide were counterfeit. In the Philippines it was established that parallel imports were a major source of these "dud" drugs.

Deeb criticised the way the parliamentary portfolio committee handled the public hearings on the bill.

Dr Gunther Faber, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham International, interrupted a business trip to Europe to address the meeting, but was asked to speak only at 7pm when only five of the 26 members of the portfolio committee were still present.

• The Cape Times will carry a special report on counterfeit drugs tomorrow.

Bitter battle looms over ivory trade ban

(56) CT 9/6/97

HARARE: A bitter battle over a proposal to resume trade in African elephant ivory looks set to dominate a world conference on endangered species, opening in Zimbabwe today.

The 10-day Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) has attracted more than 2 000 delegates, including

members of the world's leading environmental watchdogs.

Many have already declared their position on the ivory dispute and focused media attention on the issue - much to the irritation of Cites secretary-general Mr Ezgrev Topkov.

"For us, all the issues on the agenda are important, but for

many people the conference has become a conference on elephants alone," Topkov told a press conference last week.

"We have 115 agenda items ... The media should not report only on elephants," he complained.

The elephant debate has been brought to the fore by a proposal from three Southern African states

— Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe — for the partial lifting of a seven-year-old ban on ivory trade.

The three countries and their supporters, notably Japan, say they must be allowed limited trade because their elephant herds, now estimated at around 150 000, are rising steadily.

Since the ban was imposed

these countries have accumulated nearly 100 tons of ivory from annual culls and legally hunted trophies.

But the proposal is strongly opposed by some influential green movements and countries, who argue that lifting the ban will leave elephants at the mercy of poachers.

— Reuter

'Battle of the giants' to begin at Cites meeting (7b)

BD 10/6/97

Michael Hartnack

HARARE — A refusal to let those who practised conservation benefit from their resources "will mean doom for the international environmental movement and disaster for Cites conventions", President Robert Mugabe warned at the opening of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference yesterday.

Conservation must be based on respect for the local community and its resources, he said, referring to the ivory ban which, Zimbabwe alleges, makes the region's 150 000 elephants a dangerous pest rather than a resource for poor rural farmers.

Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana are lobbying fiercely for a partial lifting of the ban on ivory sales, saying limited and strictly supervised trade should be allowed because their elephant populations are growing rapidly.

Mugabe said guarding elephants against poachers had caused Zimbabwe to fight a virtual war, while providing them with borehole water in semi-desert reserves was also costly.

"Elephants, because of their huge bodies, consume large amounts of this water and we believe every species must pay its way to survive," said Mugabe.

Reuter reports Mugabe told 2 000 delegates: "There must be encouragement of sustainable utilisation and development for those whose policies and actions uphold scientifically accepted standards, while penalising those that abuse the environment. To refuse to accept the principle of differentiated responsibilities will mean doom for the environmental movement and certainly disaster to natural resources covered by the Cites convention."

Battle lines were drawn yesterday in what has been termed "the battle of the giants" — the dispute over the commercial exploitation of whales, elephants and the lofty broad-leafed mahogany trees much sought by furniture manufacturers.

The three represent the most contentious among 150 topics for discussion by the 139 parties.

Greenpeace spokesman Isabel McCrea denied allegations by Mugabe that environmentalists from western Europe and north America represent a new moral "colonialism", imposing their norms on developing states. Profits from trade in rare species such as hardwoods went to wealthy middlemen, not to local people, she said.

Greenpeace, which believes relaxation of the ivory trade ban will lead to renewed poaching in west and east Africa and Asia, accused Japan of lobbying for a "trade-off" under which southern African states will support renewed commercial whaling in exchange

for downlisting of elephant from Cites' schedule one which bans all trade, to two, which permits resumption under close monitoring.

Greenpeace wants the Amazon basin's broad-leafed mahogany placed on schedule two, ending uncontrolled trade. The move was frustrated at the two previous Cites meetings under pressure from the powerful timber trade, said a spokesman.

Cites secretary-general Ezgrev Topkov of Bulgaria appealed for debate on the 1989 total ban on all trade in ivory, elephant hide and meat not to monopolise the agenda.

At the opening ceremony, he said: "Let us have less resolutions and more solutions. Let us do our best to ensure a balance of interest, to continue building bridges between producer and user countries."

Topkov said Cites had itself set a bad conservation example with a 3 000% increase in conference documentation.

Cites chairman Nobutoshi Akoa of Japan joined Topkov in an appeal for "reason and cool-headed judgment based on scientific data" but representatives of Greenpeace International claimed Wildlife traders were "out for Cites' scalp".

The meeting will also debate ways to preserve the Indian tiger, the black rhino, the sturgeon fish and the Cuban sea turtle — all threatened by poachers. Cites estimates the illegal global trade in endangered species is worth up to \$10bn a year.

See Page 11

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

West wants to deny elephants' only hope

The Clinton administration has rejected southern Africa's ivory policies and bowed to fundamentalists, Simon Barber reports from Washington

BD 10/6/97

(56)

IN 1996, SA appeared in 147 notices posted in the Federal Register — the US government gazette. Of those, 28 — one-fifth — mentioned bontebok at least once.

Under the US Endangered Species Act, American hunters must apply for special permission to import bontebok trophies, certifying that in shooting the creatures they have "enhanced the survival" of the species. These applications must be published in the gazette to solicit public comment. In all, 57 were published last year. There was no comment. That is not surprising. The bontebok, having been close to extinction, is now doing pretty well on reserves and farms in Eastern Cape. In fact, it has been down-listed from Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to the less threatened Appendix II. One reason is that Americans will pay hard cash for the thrill of potting exotic game.

The moral is grim but obvious: to survive as a wild animal in this increasingly crowded planet, you have to earn your keep.

The bontebok earns its by being beautiful and submitting to the occasional involuntary sacrifice followed by dusty immortality on someone's wall.

Life is not so simple for the elephant, a large, hungry and destructive beast which requires huge amounts of terrain and vegetation to prosper. Luckily, he has offsetting value in the form of ivory, hide, flesh and star quality for tourists. Less luckily, he is beset by self-proclaimed friends who refuse to let him exploit his potential to pay for all the space and food and protection he needs.

These friends are now gathering in Harare for the 10th conference of parties to Cites, where they will be rude, aggressive, condescending and mendacious in what they piously insist is the ele-

phant's defence. To make matters worse, they have the government of the world's richest nation on their side. Last week the Clinton administration announced it was "firmly opposed" to any plan that would downgrade the endangered status of southern Africa's thriving elephant populations or permit even limited trade in ivory.

Let it be stipulated immediately that Cites is a good idea. One of its principal virtues is that, in its very concept, it acknowledges that there is such a thing as a market for endangered species and their parts. That ought to be extremely good news for endangered species. Where there is demand, there is cause, in these market-conscious times, to think twice about eradicating supply. Indeed, the incentive is to increase or nurture it.

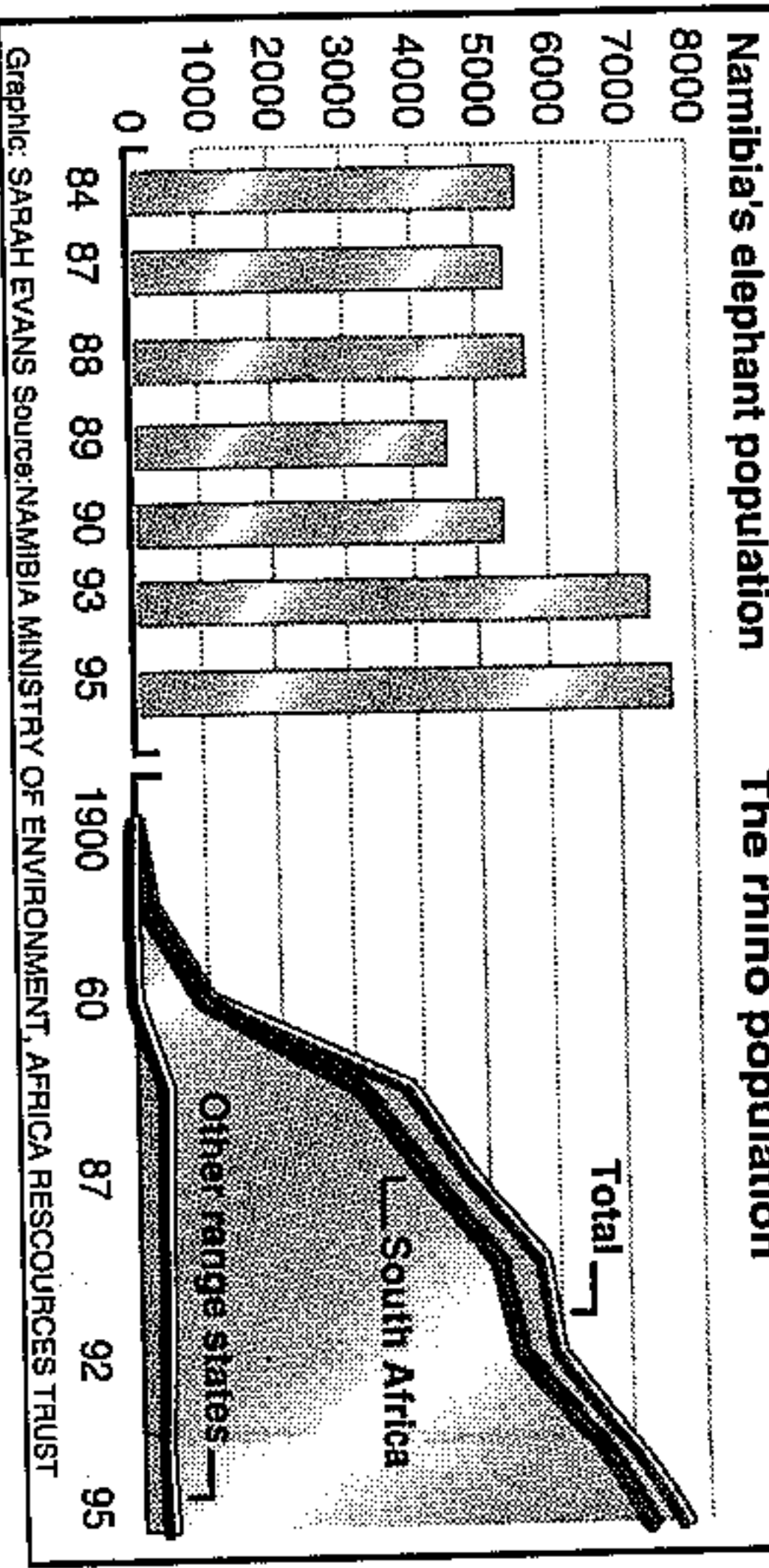
Insofar as Cites is about maintaining an orderly, sustainable, even growing market for current and potential commodities that human rapacity and shortsightedness might otherwise threaten, it should do much to preserve the diversity of life on earth. Trouble is, the Cites community is full of businessmen and donor-funded zero-sum greens who regard the very terms "market" and "trade" with the utmost suspicion. They are less interested in making markets work in favour of the species they seek to protect, than in wiping out the market entirely.

Prohibiting the trade of ivory and other elephant products is as ludicrously counterproductive as America's experiment with liquor prohibition in the '20s. It strips the elephant of his own surest means of survival: his ability to

Freeing up trade

African elephant: Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe want approval to trade in their own legal ivory stocks.

Southern white rhino: SA seeks approval for possible future trading in horn to allow for research on the trade.



pay for his upkeep. And because demand for ivory, especially in the Far East, is fairly inelastic, the ban merely encourages poaching, corruption of officials and other criminality. Even were it possible to stamp out demand by promoting alternatives or by somehow attaching mass opprobrium to the use of ivory, it is not clear how that would help the elephant, either. Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe want to establish an orderly, well-regulated market for ivory populations to generate revenues for conservation. A Cites panel of experts has reported favourably on these proposals, but has a few niggles about whether the necessary regulatory mechanisms are

yet in place in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Japan — which would initially be the only customer, buying already accumulated stockpiles. A number of groups, most importantly Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring arm of the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Union, have taken a similar, cautiously positive view.

Logically, you would think, the next step would be to have a rational discussion about fixing the problems the Cites panel and Traffic have identified, and establishing an ivory trade regime with appropriate safeguards. One thought: let the range states create an international cartel as the only legal conduit of ivory to world markets. The cartel would control

stocks and manipulate prices to earn the best return for its members and to punish anyone who tried to sell outside it. Its primary function would be to ensure that poached or otherwise improperly obtained ivory would effectively be untradeable, not to mention, if the cartel had its own security wing, very unhealthy to anyone who touched the stuff.

If such an organisation were feasible for ivory, why not for hides or for that matter for the rhino horn which SA would dearly love to bring to market to help foot its conservation bills?

Of course, this is pie in the sky at the moment, because fundamentalists like the Humane Society of the US and the Environmental Investigation Agency are opposed to any government — or local population for that matter — deriving any benefit from their wildlife except as a draw for ecotourist dollars or dribbles of foreign aid. The Humane Society gets hysterical about even letting hunters pay thousands of dollars for the privilege of shooting elephants that have to be culled anyway. It acknowledges that elephant overpopulation is a problem. Its response is to spend considerable sums trying to devise pachydermic contraceptives.

The ecotourism approach sounds nice, but it requires substantial investment, and creating the infrastructure to serve the numbers of tourists needed to make that investment worthwhile will itself stress what is already a marginal environment. Nor does it address the question of space and the competition for it between

humans and elephants.

The Humane Society despises Campfire, the programme launched in Zimbabwe and now emulated elsewhere in the region which lets local communities, for whom elephants would otherwise be a menace, derive economic benefit from them, for example by receiving a share of hunting fees.

The society has been lobbying the US Congress to strip Campfire of the funding it has received from the US Agency for International Development, alleging that the programme is riddled with corruption. It favours direct missionary-style handouts to villagers rather than giving them a chance to become masters of their own destiny.

It also likes the idea, explicitly rejected last October by Southern African Development Community ministers, of letting African countries exchange their ivory stocks for some kind of international debt relief.

Why should African people and governments be forced to stay glued to the international aid feeding bottle, with all the loss of self-determination that entails, in an instance when they patently do not need it?

As so often, the Clinton administration is failing to take the opportunity to lead, bowing instead to the fundamentalists and publicly setting its face against southern Africa's proposals despite the recommendations of the Cites experts and Traffic. Those recommendations, while not an outright endorsement, are far from the damning indictment the Humane Society painted them in testimony to a congressional committee earlier this year. They invite not opposition to the proposals but serious discussion of how a restored ivory trade might be most effectively implemented.

Sadly for the elephant, such discussion seems unlikely to occur in Harare over the next 10 days.

Rethink on big cat hunting

NELSPRUIT — The Mpumalanga Parks Board has proposed a total ban on the hunting of captive bred or tame lions, leopards and cheetahs following widespread public outrage at "canned lion hunting in the province.

The board has, however, reiterated its support for controlled big game hunting by insisting that, if properly managed, the sport is a sustainable industry which contributes to the economy and to long-term conservation.

A proposed draft policy document, issued for public comment yesterday, stresses that "proper management must subscribe to accepted professional ethics, including stipulations that hunts may not take place from vehicles or in enclosures smaller than 1 000ha.

The document was released following the Cooke Report, which used undercover video footage to show that game farms allowed foreign hunters to shoot alleged drugged lions from the back of air-conditioned vehicles.

The board is also proposing that wild cats may not be drugged, except for translocation, and may not be lured during hunts by the use of sounds, scents, artificial feeding, baiting and

the staking of live animals. The draft document also suggests that no exotic cats, such as panthers or pumas, may be kept or hunted other than in recognised zoological gardens which have complied with international management requirements.

No wild cat may be kept in captivity unless the board is convinced that the capture, breeding and keeping of the animal has conservation objectives or forms part of a research programme attached to a recognised institution.

Hunts will continue, but the board must be convinced it complies with the policy proposals and conforms to the principal of "fair chase".

Farmers will have to call the board to remove or dart cats which have escaped from reserves. In the past farmers were allowed to shoot animals which strayed onto their land. Farmers will now be allowed to shoot lions, cheetahs or leopards only if they pose an immediate threat and have to report the incident to the police and the Mpumalanga Parks Board within 24 hours.

The board has invited written comments which can be sent to PO Box 1990, Nelspruit 1200. — Sapa.

Dumping

Continued from Page 16

Hiveld produced 171 000 tons of plate in the 1996 financial year. About 35 000-40 000 tons of this was exported to the US, he said.

The US decision to impose duties is in response to an antidumping suit filed by two US firms, Geneva Steel and Gulf States Steel, against steel plate producers in China, Russia Ukraine and SA. The duties against most of the others are considerably higher, ranging up to 177% in the case of Ukraine Ilyich Iron & Steel.

Imports from SA have been small — 65 500 tons last year with a US customs value of \$26m.

Tonnages from Ukraine, Russia and China were 569 000, 225 000 and 271 000 respectively.

SA accounts for less than 4% of US steel plate imports. Had its share been less than 3%, Geneva and Gulf States would not have been able to include it in their suit.

The commerce department will issue a determination later this year after the US International Trade Commission has ruled on the case. Iscor's Washington attorney, Marcie Stras, said she believed SA had "a chance" of being spared duties as it was too small to affect the domestic industry.

Unlike the other countries, SA was a "responsible exporter shipping low volumes at decent prices".

It is also possible that the commerce department may agree to negotiate a suspension of dumping duties in return for SA accepting a volume quota on its exports to the US or agreeing not to charge less than a set price.

With tariffs falling under World Trade Organisation agreements, antidumping actions have become a favoured form of protection. Stras cited statistics showing that for every \$1m US steel firms spent pursuing such actions, they made \$10m more profit because of reduced competition.

However, Hone said the US did not discriminate between individual exporters. As a result Iscor's 35 000 tons would be "lumped together" with Russia's 1-million tons which were also penalised under the same ruling.

TML

set by higher start-up losses in new ventures. Start-up losses in the mag-

honour of day," said a flustered spokeswoman for the British garrison in Hong Kong. "Today is the Duke of Edinburgh's biological birthday and however old he is, and we are saluting it. We fired a salute on

Tensions rise at Cites as Africans ban media, NGOs

FOREIGN SERVICE

(56)
ARG 10/6/97

Harare - Tensions mounted at the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species (Cites) today with the refusal by Africa delegates to allow non-governmental organisations and the media to attend their strategy meeting.

The venue had to be changed because of the large number of people who turned up. The media were immediately barred and, after half-an-hour of discussion, delegates decided NGOs and observers should also be shown the door.

All five Cites regions are holding their meetings today to decide whether there is a united position on various proposals.

At least two of them, the Asian and North American regions, agreed to let non-delegates attend the last hour of their meetings. But the African region is reported to be sensitive about the two key proposals on elephants and rhinos, in the light of concerted North American and European Community opposition to the reopening of trade in ivory and exploration of the possibility of rhino horn following suit.

This is also being underlined by heated discussion and lobbying on the idea of a secret ballot on the more controversial proposals.

Some African countries are concerned about withdrawal of Western aid should they vote against Western positions.

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Jordan's (5b)
backout
criticised
CT 10/6/97

HARARE: The last-minute withdrawal of South Africa's Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan from the 10th Cites meeting which began here yesterday has come under heavy criticism.

Jordan was to have led the 15-person government delegation for part of the time — including the crucial elephant and rhino votes on June 17. But last Thursday he announced Deputy Minister Mr Peter Mokaba would take his place.

"We were apprehensive about Jordan's initial appointment (as minister)," said Mr Bruce Davidson of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa. A University of the Witwatersrand scientist; he is South African co-ordinator of NGO and Community-based organisations at the meeting.

"Jordan hardly has the environmental record to fill the post," Davidson said. "He also obviously considers the whole issue of Cites not important and significant enough for him to attend. It is also a bit of an insult to Zimbabwe that our environment minister isn't here.

"But on the plus side, Peter Mokaba's stated views are a better reflection of government policy of sustainable use of wildlife, which we support.

"Cites has become a convention of restriction and dictatorialism. It is a system of negative incentives. South Africa's rhino populations, for instance, meet all the technical requirements for downlisting (from Appendix 1 to 2) and yet Cites changes the goalposts every time we propose this.

"Practically speaking, Appendix 1 listing (which bans international trade in certain named species) is too costly for developing countries because of lack of personnel, permits and the need for constant new training when goalposts change.

Such is the importance of this meeting that even the poorest of rural communities in Southern Africa have made the effort to be here to add their voices to their own government's delegations. Chief Lux Masule from the Chobe Enclave Community Trust in Botswana walked some 100km from his home to the border town of Kasane on his journey to Harare.

And South Africa has six community representatives who will support Mokaba. — Independent Foreign Service

MEETING OPENS AMID CONTROVERSY

Mugabe greets Cites with pay 'n stay plan

CT 10/6/97 (5b)

HARARE: The downlisting of the African elephant to allow sales of ivory is dominating the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species (Cites) meeting here.

EVERY species must pay its way to survival, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe told the opening session of the 10th Cites meeting here yesterday.

Amid the pomp and ceremony of the opening, Mugabe warned: "We are undertaking the task of protecting our natural resources, especially of wildlife, at great expense and sacrifice.

"The mobilisation of the army, police and national parks scouts and rangers to guard against poachers is costly.

"In Southern Africa, wildlife is found in arid and semi-desert regions. Water for these animals is pumped at great cost from underground sources.

"Elephants, especially because of their huge bodies, consume large amounts of water and, we believe, every species must pay for its survival. The management strategies we have devised, if given a chance, will enable most species to survive."

His message was directed towards countries opposing Zimbabwe's proposal, along with those of Namibia and Botswana, to downlist the African elephant to allow sales of their stockpiled ivory.

It has become the most hotly debated topic here.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), which is vigorously opposed to re-opening the ivory trade, claimed yesterday it was being harassed at the Harare International Conference Centre where the meeting is taking place until June 20.

The IFAW was denied a room to hold news conferences and was later refused permission to turn one of the 12-member delegation's rooms at the adjacent Sheraton Hotel into a meeting place.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace warned against the domination of the conference by the elephant issue. Its delegation leader, Ms Isabel McCrea, said proposals from Japan and Norway to downlist several populations of three whale species from Appendix 1 (which allows no international trade) to Appendix II (which permits regulated trade) were in danger of slipping through virtually unnoticed.

Both nations were killing whales in defiance of the International Whaling Commission — the UN treaty which regulated whaling.

McCrea said if the proposals to

downlist the whales succeeded, the door would be wide open for the return of international trade in whale meat which she claimed was continuing in Norway and Japan.

"The fate of another giant — of the forests — will also be decided here," she said.

Bolivia and the US have proposed the listing on Appendix 2 of the bigleaf mahogany, a rainforest canopy tree which can grow up to 50m and live for up to 800 years.

"The industry is intent on strip-mining the resource and it is hopeful that Bolivia, the second largest exporter, and the US — the biggest importer — are so concerned they would welcome international monitoring of trade, despite enormous opposition from the timber industry lobby."

McCrea said many scientists agreed mahogany was logged at unsustainable rates: "The challenge is to ensure whales and mahogany are still seen at the next Cites meeting in the new millennium."

Greenpeace also believes the elephant proposal is premature because of weak controls in many elephant range states: "Poaching will resume," she said.

"The proposals have led to increased poaching in the three Southern African countries and elsewhere, including India and Vietnam". — IFS

Shrinking zoo's date with destiny

HARARE: All creatures great and small are having their day at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) conference here.

Although elephants and whales may dominate discussions, they are not alone in having champions of their cause.

The hairy armadillo, threatened with extinction, has not been overlooked — nor the timber rattlesnake, painted terrapin, mountain pygmy possum, Lumholtz's tree kangaroo or the banteng.

The banteng is a mammal and Thailand wants it to be included on Cites Appendix 1, a measure that would ban trade in the creature or its parts.

Other, rarer, creatures also need

a high profile. One is the jaguar, counted among the fastest creatures in the world and for which Venezuela wants to establish hunting quotas.

Another is the New Zealand amber snail, which is possibly counted among the world's slowest creatures. It faces deletion from Appendix 2 — a step that would expose it to exploitation.

Similarly, Australia wants plains wanderers deleted from Appendix 2, which would mean there could once more be a price on their heads.

Prices can be high.

Cites lists the following record payments: falcon, \$200 000 (R896 000); snow leopard skins, \$60 000 (R268 800); musk grain,

\$50 000/kg (R224 000/kg); South American parrot, \$40 000 (R179 200); Peruvian butterfly, R3 000 (R13 440); orchid, \$2 000 (R8 960).

To be rare is obviously dangerous, but to be common — and desirable — has its problems, too.

Cites says trade in numerous species is brisk. It gives annual figures as: monkeys, 25 000 to 30 000; live birds, two million to five million; reptile skins, 10 million; furs, 15 million; tropical fish, 500 million; wild orchids, 1.5 million.

All these, too, have their champions in the Cites arena, where humans take it upon themselves to decree that there are enough of a particular species to allow its exploitation for profit. — Sapa-AFP

'Environmental racism' fight

Star 10/6/97

(58)

A national campaign to fight "environmental racism" has been launched in Pietermaritzburg. Supported by the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF), it is aimed at assisting the residents of black communities in their fight to improve or close down unhealthy dumpsites in townships.

Spokesman Ace Khane said: "It was a design of apartheid that sites for industrial and domestic waste were established in townships.

"It is always the poor black people who suffer the most from environmental damage. This we call environmental racism." - Environmental Reporter.

Mugabe makes plea for renewed ivory trade

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Mar 10/6/99

(3/4)

(5/6)

Harare - Every species must pay its way to survival, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe told the opening session of the 10th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species yesterday.

Amid the pomp and ceremony of the official opening, which included singing by children, dancing and the display of the flags of the 138 member nations, Mugabe sounded a warning note.

"We are undertaking the task of protecting our natural resources, especially of wildlife, at great expense and sacrifice," he said. "Mobilisation of the army, police, national parks scouts and rangers to guard against poachers is costly.

"In southern Africa, wildlife

is found in arid and semi-desert regions. Water for these animals is pumped at great cost from underground sources. Elephants, especially because of their huge bodies, consume large amounts of this water, and we believe every species must pay for its survival.

"We believe that the management strategies we have devised, if given a chance, will enable most species to survive."

His message was directed towards those countries which are opposing Zimbabwe's proposal, along with those of Namibia and Botswana, to downlist the African elephant in order to sell their stockpiled ivory. It has become the meeting's most hotly debated topic.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare, which is vigorously opposed to reopening

the ivory trade, claimed yesterday its lobbying work was being harassed at the Harare International Conference Centre.

The organisation has been denied a room in which to hold press conferences and was later also refused permission to turn one of the 12-member delegation's rooms at an adjacent hotel into a meeting place.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace warned against the domination of the conference by the elephant issue. Its delegation leader, Isabel McCrea, said proposals from Japan and Norway to downlist several populations of three whale species were in danger of slipping through virtually unnoticed.

Both Japan and Norway are currently killing whales in defiance of the International Whaling Commission.

Eyebrows raised over Pallo Jordan's absence from meeting

BY JILL GOWANS

Star Foreign Service

Harare - The last-minute withdrawal of SA's Environment Minister Pallo Jordan from the 10th Cites meeting which began here yesterday has come under heavy criticism.

Jordan was to have led the 15-person government delegation for part of the time - including during the crucial elephant and rhino votes on June 17. But he announced on Thursday that Deputy Minister Peter Mokaba would take his place.

"We were apprehensive about Jordan's initial appoint-

ment (as minister)," said Bruce Davidson of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa. A Wits University scientist, he is South African co-ordinator of NGO/community-based organisations at Cites.

"Jordan hardly has the environmental record to fill the post," he said. "He also obviously considers the whole issue of Cites not important and significant enough for him to attend.

"It is also a bit of an insult to Zimbabwe that our environment minister isn't here. But on the plus side, Mokaba's stated views are a better reflection of government policy of sustainable use

of wildlife, which we support."

Davidson added: "Cites has become a convention of restriction and dictatorship. It is a system of negative incentives.

"What began as a rational convention 25 years ago has now become protectionist."

Such is the importance of this meeting that even the poorest of rural communities have made the effort to be here to add their voices to their government's delegations. Chief Lux Masule from the Chobe Enclave Community Trust in Botswana walked some 100km from his home to the border town of Kasane on his journey to Harare.

Rhino conservation funding 'inadequate'

BD 11/6/97 (56)

HARARE — Conservation funding for the world's five species of rhino remained inadequate, a report released yesterday said.

The report by Traffic, the wildlife monitoring programme of the Worldwide Fund for Nature and the IUCN, the World Conservation Union, was presented at the second day of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The report reviews the response of 32 countries and territories, 29 of which are convention members, to a 1994 resolution on rhino conservation.

The shortfall in funding to support conservation of the world's remaining 12 000 rhinos is the report's most serious finding.

The ability to maintain sufficient funding for rhino conservation is a major problem facing most conservation departments in Africa. In Asia, only 30% of the \$32m needed was available.

Rhino recovery plans were in place in all the African and Asian states surveyed bar Burma and Vietnam.

Traffic's review indicated that only five of the 18 countries surveyed, which were not home to rhinos, had provided financial assistance. "Without funding support from donor nations, the burdens of costs associated with rhino conservation must be borne by the range states and many simply do not have the necessary resources," the report said.

Traffic found that only Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia, SA and Zimbabwe planned to reinvest revenues from tourism, trophy hunting and the sale of live rhinos specifically in rhino conservation measures, as called for by the resolution.

The report found the immediate threat to rhinos was demand for their horn in traditional Chinese medicine. African rhino horn was also in demand for dagger handles in the Middle East countries of Yemen and Oman. Yemen would become an official convention member in August.

Legislation controlling trade in rhino horn existed in all the surveyed states, but illicit trade continued.

Seizures since 1994 in at least 17 countries indicated law enforcement efforts were having some measure of success.

"Law enforcement alone will not solve the problem," said Tom Milliken, Traffic's programmes director for east and southern Africa. "Dialogue and co-operation with traditional medicine practitioners and other user groups is key to resolving conservation issues of mutual concern."

Governments in 11 consuming countries had begun working with traditional healers. These included Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Britain and the US. — Sapa.

'NO WAY TO ENSURE CONTROL'

Animal rights body fights bid to trade in Big Three

ET 11/6/97

HARARE: The International Fund for Animal Welfare believes allowing South Africa to sell its rhino horn would put all other rhino in Africa under threat.

THE influential International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw), which has a million members worldwide, has flatly rejected proposals before the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) about the Big Three: elephants, rhino and whales.

However, it supports a proposal to declare certain brown bear species endangered.

Ifaw is part of the Species Survival Network, an international coalition of more than 50 non-governmental organisations committed to the strict enforcement of Cites. A number have representatives at Cites. Although NGOs do not have a vote, they have considerable power to influence the positions of member countries.

Of the proposal by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia that the elephants be downlisted so they can sell their ivory stockpiles, Ifaw's scientific director Dr Barbara Mass said: "We don't believe (these) countries can prevent illegal exports. The Cites Panel of Experts (which investigates proposals before the Cites meeting) said Zimbabwe, in particular, had the weakest controls.

"If the proposals are accepted, how will it affect other range states? There is a saying going around that South Africa will push for the ivory trade to the last Tanzanian elephant.

"Zimbabwe's ivory stockpile could probably raise about US \$1,5 million (R6,72m). This would fund Zimbabwe's wildlife department for 15 weeks. What happens then? How is it going to afford the additional costs of fighting poaching, which we believe will increase?"

SA 'confident' of SADC unity

HARARE: South Africa is confident that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of 12 countries will close ranks at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting, in spite of recent reports that several members could vote against the controversial proposal to resume trade in ivory.

It had been agreed late last year the SADC would maintain a common position on the proposal, but several countries, including Zambia, Tanzania and Mauritius, have since reportedly changed their stance.

South Africa's Deputy Environment Minister, Mr Peter Mokaba, said yesterday there was every hope of a united SADC position.

This would almost certainly influence countries, including the United States and European Community, that are vigorously opposing the elephant proposals by Zimbabwe, Botswana

and Namibia as well as South Africa's rhino proposal. It might also influence countries that are undecided.

"This is not to isolate our Western friends, but it is important to educate them to understand that Africa has to stand on its own feet in development and capacity-building," Mokaba said.

"African countries, especially (elephant) range states, have recognised that donors have not always fulfilled their promises — and are not likely to.

"All Africa has done is declare a common desire to act as a family. We are trying to remove emotions and put principles in place."

A number of African countries have expressed concern that the open vote on the controversial issues may alienate them from donor countries and jeopardise aid. Mokaba said South Africa would support a secret ballot.

Voting takes place next week. — Independent Foreign Service.

Japan and Norway have proposed resuming trade in some whale species.

Ifaw's senior marine biologist, Ms Carole Carlson, said: "Although there is a worldwide ban on whaling, illegal trade in whale meat continues. We believe trade should not be resumed. There is no way to ensure grey whale meat, for instance, would come from stock that is more abundant than others."

Mr Tom Moliterno, director of Ifaw's US Field Operations, said the organisations supported the proposal to transfer all European and Asian populations of brown bear from Appendix II to I. Bears' gall bladders, like rhino horn, are prized in the East for their medicinal properties.

The National Association of Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Research had sent the Cites meeting a message expressing its support for the crusade against the slaughter of animals, Moliterno said. It said it was working to find herbal replacements for animal products.

SA wants to be allowed to investigate the resumption of international trade so it can sell off its stockpile of rhino horn.

"If we allow trade in rhino horn, the remaining rhinos in Africa will be under threat," said Mr Chris Styles, an Ifaw scientist in Johannesburg.

"The suggestion that rhino may be protected if they are dehorned is repugnant." — Independent Foreign Service

Reopening of trade slated as danger to big three ⁽⁵⁶⁾

Star 11/6/97

Survival of elephants, rhinos and whales under spotlight

By JILL GOWANS
Harare

The influential animal rights organisation, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw), which has a million members worldwide, yesterday flatly rejected proposals before the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), regarding the big three: elephants, rhinos and whales.

And it expressed support for a proposal to declare certain brown bear species endangered.

Ifaw is part of the Species Survival Network, founded in 1992, an international coalition of more than 50 non-governmental organisations committed to the strict enforcement of Cites.

Other members include Greenpeace, the Royal Society for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Humane Society of the US.

Commenting on the elephant proposals, Ifaw's scientific director Dr Barbara Mass said: "We don't believe the countries (Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia) who are proposing to sell their ivory stockpiles can prevent illegal exports ... There is a saying going around that South Africa will push for the ivory trade to the last Tanzanian elephant.

"The Zimbabwe ivory stockpile could probably raise about \$1,5-million (about R6,7-million). This will run their department of wildlife for 15 weeks. What happens then? How are they going to afford the additional costs of anti-poaching which we believe will escalate?"

Japan and Norway have put forward proposals to resume trade in some whale species.

Ifaw's senior marine biologist Carole Carlson said the organisation did not believe there should be a resumption in trade.

The National Association of Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Research sent a message to the Cites meeting expressing its support in the crusade against the slaughter of animals and said it was working for the eventual replacement of animal materials with herbal medicines.

South Africa wants to investigate reopening international trade to allow it to sell off its rhino horn stockpile. Said Johannesburg-based Chris Styles, an Ifaw scientist: "If we allow trade in rhino horn, all the remaining rhinos in Africa will be under threat. The suggestion that rhino may be able to be protected if they are dehorned is repugnant." - Star Foreign Service.

Nod for secret ballot at Cites boosts pro-ivory trade lobby

Michael Hartnack

BD 12/6/97

(56)

HARARE — Southern African states seeking reversal of the ivory trade ban yesterday scored a tactical victory when a procedural committee approved the continued use of a secret ballot by signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites).

Greenpeace and other environmental pressure groups had earlier demanded restoration of open voting.

Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, with the tacit support of other Southern African Development Community members, want elephants "downlisted" from Cites' appendix one, on which they were placed in 1989 at the behest of Kenya and western "green" lobbyists. This prohibits all trade.

However, sources here believe the vote — expected in a week's time — will follow the position of the US government, the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace International and other major environmental opinion makers in blocking removal of elephants to Cites' appendix two.

This would allow strictly controlled resumption of trade in ivory, hides, meat and other products from the region's 150 000 elephants, now said to be causing serious habitat damage.

The two-week conference, which began on Monday, went into closed committee meetings yesterday to try to

avert confrontation on a series of emotive issues, which ranged powerful lobbies against each other.

"If it is open half the delegates dare not cast their vote because of the scrutiny of the lunatic fringe," said the Zimbabwean delegate. "They mount campaigns against individual delegates in their home countries in Europe and North America."

Typical of the vicious backstage politicking at the meeting were accusations yesterday that a western animal rights society tried overnight to steal all brochures prepared for distribution by Safari Hunters International, which endorses blood sports. Another wildlife group claimed bogus statements were being put out by impostors.

Meanwhile, Japanese delegates said although they feared they would not be able to obtain a two-thirds majority to lift the whaling ban, they hoped for 50% backing — a milestone for their effort to gain a majority at the International Whaling Commission.

Faced with stiff opposition from states with major fishing industries, the European Union yesterday sponsored a resolution seeking further data on sharks and marine species, with a view to their being placed on appendix two. They are currently unlisted.

Japan admits lobbying with southern African states, pledging to back their stance on ivory, for sympathy with its stance on marine exploitation.

Lion hunting programme 'not aimed at hurting SA'

FOREIGN SERVICE

Harare - Claims that *The Cook Report* on canned lion hunting was timed to discredit South Africa at the Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) have been rejected by the programme's scientific adviser, Barbara Maas.

The programme, shown on television in Britain and South Africa last month, caused widespread outrage and the launch of immediate local investigations.

Dr Maas is scientific director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare and is attending the international meeting.

She said that about six months ago she saw the video footage taken by KwaZulu Natal ranger, Bruce Hamilton, of a lioness being shot after separation from her cubs.

"I was appalled and instigated an investigation within IFAW into the full extent of the problem," she said. "We also made enquiries in Namibia and Botswana. When we were nearly finished *The Cook Report* approached me and asked if I knew anything about illegal wildlife trade. I said: 'I do, but I also have this'.

"I initially thought this was an isolated thing. But we found out that a whole lot of people in South Africa were breeding species like lion and leopard to sell for

ARG 12/6/97 (56)
hunting. This was just what *The Cook Report* wanted and they followed up on our leads and visited the places we had identified. It was definitely not a set-up.

"We had no intention to discredit South Africa. On the contrary we wanted to make South Africans aware of what was going on. The screening of the programme was not timed just before Cites.

"For us it was a lucky coincidence and I'm personally not sorry about that. But I'm disappointed if it's been seen as anti-South Africa. It was something done with a goal in mind - to expose what was wrong and to fix it, if possible."

■ George Hughes, chief executive of the Natal Parks Board, has reacted with fury to a programme on South African television on Tuesday night implying that rhino horn from board stockpiles had been used to finance military activities in Angola.

He said he had instructed his lawyers to take appropriate action.

Dr Hughes is spearheading South Africa's white rhino proposal, which seeks permission to investigate the possibility of re-opening international trade in rhino horn in order to sell ivory stockpiles on a one-off basis.

"Any suggestion that horns from KwaZulu Natal have been used for support of army activities anywhere is untrue."

Cites takes a new line on healers

56

CT 12/6/97

HARARE: For the first time in its 25-year history, the Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) is taking the use of animals in traditional medicine as a separate issue.

The use of parts such as rhino horn, bear gall bladders and tiger bones — particularly in Asian medicine — has long been a controversial issue, but Cites is now taking a new approach, Traffic International East Asia director Ms Judy Mills told AFP.

Traffic is linked to the world conservation union IUCN, and is attending the biennial Cites conference here.

"The traditional medicine community is getting the message that wildlife conservation is not going to go away," she said.

"At the same time Cites is for the first time taking on traditional medicine as a separate issue, realising it is not going to go away either.

"It's going to be a problem with species after species, so they are saying let's address the thing as a whole.

"So what we are coming to now is an interesting dialogue where both sides are listening to each other and realising they are going to have to make some concessions."

Mills said she believed Asian medicine had taken the spotlight because of its use of "charismatic mega-fauna"

such as tigers, bears and rhinos.

"I think it's important to note that traditional medicines around the world use plants and animals — even western medicine — and East Asia feels particularly victimised that their medicine system has been highlighted."

She said there were myths in Western society and in the media that rhinos had been slaughtered to provide horn for frivolous purposes such as aphrodisiacs, whereas it was in fact used to treat life-threatening fevers.

Mills said traditional medicine should be respected, but remaining rhinos, bears and tigers could not support the needs of a billion Chinese.

China had recently removed rhino horn from its official pharmacopoeia and replaced it with water buffalo horn.

"They are about to announce their official substitute for tiger bone, which was taken out of their pharmacopoeia several years ago, and they are only now, after many clinical trials, coming up with a substitute."

Mills said bile from bear gall bladders was used to treat serious illnesses, such as liver cancer.

Western medicine had produced a synthesised form using cow bile, but in Asia "traditional medicine users and practitioners prefer what comes directly from nature", she said. — Sapa-AFP

SADC 12 'as one' on elephants' issue

(8740) (56) Star 12/6/97

Despite rumours, group will close ranks at Cites meeting, predicts SA's deputy minister Mokaba

By JILL GOWANS
Harare

South Africa is confident that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) of 12 countries will close ranks at the 10th Cites meeting despite recent reports that several members could vote against the controversial elephant proposals concerning the trade in elephant ivory and hides.

It was agreed late last year that the SADC would maintain a common position on the proposal but several countries, including Zambia, Tanzania and Mauritius were later reported to have got cold feet.

South Africa's deputy Environment Minister, Peter Mokaba, who is leading the government delegation, said on

Tuesday there was every hope of a united SADC position.

This will almost certainly impact on other countries, including the United States and the European Community, who are vigorously opposing the elephant proposals by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia,

Loss of donor aid is feared

and South Africa's own rhino proposal. And it may influence other countries who are still undecided.

"This is not to isolate our Western friends in any way, but it is important to educate them to understand that Africa has to stand on its own two feet for development

and capacity-building," said Mokaba.

"African countries have recognised that donors have not always fulfilled their promises - and are not likely to.

"All Africa has done is declare a common desire to act as a family. It is not that individual countries may not have reservations; whatever consensus we meet will not change their sovereign right to these.

"No donor should read into any action that they have been abandoned."

A number of African countries have expressed concern about an open vote on the controversial issues which may alienate them from donor countries and jeopardise aid. There is a proposal for a secret ballot on some issues. - Star Foreign Service.

Massive illegal wildlife trade revealed

Report tells of ivory seizures and of rare birds, reptiles and animals dying in transit

Star 13/6/97

By JILL GOWANS
Harare

Shocking details of illegal international trade in wildlife, including high levels of ivory traffic, have been highlighted in an official report to the 10th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting.

It reveals that live animals and birds are drugged, hidden on smugglers' bodies, sent by post and stuck in the false compartments of luggage, many of them doomed to die before reaching their destinations.

In one case, two passengers were seized in Papua New Guinea about to embark on a flight to Australia with 11 pythons concealed in their clothing. In another, a Belgian national was stopped in Brazil trying to board a flight with 130 hummingbirds, four of which were already dead.

A shipment of 200 mantella

frogs from Madagascar, of which 150 were dead from lack of moisture, was seized in Switzerland.

The review of alleged infractions and other problems of implementation of the convention reveals widespread falsification of documents and flagrant non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention

Parrots are most under threat

on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The report said the Cites secretariat was concerned at cases involving ivory smuggling and the lack of information supplied about the outcome of ivory seizures.

The long list of ivory cases include:

- The confiscation in Zambia of 216 tusks originating in Angola and destined for Malawi.
- Some 63kg seized in Belgium in mail parcels from the former Zaire.
- The seizure in Taiwan of a shipment of ivory hidden in 15 crates labelled as wooden furniture and arriving from Nigeria. This contained six tusks, 455 pieces of semi-worked ivory and 430 ivory name-seal blocks with a total estimated weight of between 1 100 and 2 000kg.
- The seizure in France of four ivory tusks, 33 ivory items and 52 articles made from reptile skin, from three nationals of Indonesia with diplomatic status in transit between Cameroon and Indonesia.
- The confiscation in Switzerland of 82 uncarved tusks and six carved tusks from two US nationals in transit to the US from Equatorial Guinea.
- The confiscation in Italy of 13 ivory objects and one leopard

skin in a crate of personal items arriving from Angola. Under a false bottom of the crate an additional two tusks, weighing 63kg, were found.

According to the report, parrots are most under threat from trade in rare species. Many methods of fraud are used, including smuggling, false declarations of breeding

Primate and reptile meat exported

in captivity and laundering by re-export.

A significant number of infractions concern the smuggling, often of live specimens, by passengers and crew of ships and aircraft. Although the individual quantities carried by each person may be small, the value of the specimen may be high. Methods of smuggling in-

clude carrying specimens, packing in hand luggage and checked baggage, and the use of false compartments. Drugs are increasingly being used to subdue live specimens in transit.

An increase in quantities of meat - particularly from primates and reptiles - is being exported from Africa.

Some of it is turning up in African restaurants in Europe. Illegal trade in Cites specimens by mail is on the increase. The volume of express mail is growing and the level of controls is diminishing.

The result is that this method of smuggling is seen as a cheap, risk-free and effective way of evading controls. Live reptiles and insects as well as plants, ivory and Oriental medicines are transported in this way.

"Proper implementation of the convention cannot be achieved without collective efforts to comply with all its provisions," said the report.

SADC unites on rhino and elephant proposals

BY JILL GOWANS
Star Foreign Service

Harare – All 12 Southern African Development Community countries yesterday closed ranks on the two most controversial proposals affecting them at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

"We will all speak with a united voice on the elephant and rhino proposals (which involves trade in elephant and rhino products)," said Kingsley Mamabolo, SA's high commissioner in Zimbabwe, who is leading the government delegation after Deputy Environment Minister Peter Mokaba returned home.

A united SADC position is important, while a united African position would be even more persuasive.

"We are trying to engage Francophone countries and countries like Kenya who are opposed to the proposals.

"We are hoping to convince them to come on board. Second best would be to persuade them

not to actively oppose us. Some may even opt to abstain," Mamabolo said.

The elephant and rhino proposals will be debated on Tuesday, with a two-thirds majority needed. Africa has one-third of the votes.

"Many delegates from Europe and America have come here with a lot of misinformation and emotions, and very militantly opposed to us. But I think they have been exposed to the practical realities on the ground. I believe the US delegation is constantly in touch with their headquarters," Mamabolo said. (The US is vehemently opposed to the proposals.)

"With the European Union it's yes and no at the moment. We're going to be meeting them on Monday to try to persuade them," Mamabolo said.

Zimbabwe's government is doing its best to convince waverers by organising weekend visits to rural projects like Campfire, a community-based programme of sustainable use of wildlife.

Your input has helped us greatly

The Star thanks those readers who have volunteered to take part in the StarGuide project ... a means of testing immediate reader reactions to the contents of the newspaper on any given day.

Many of the responses and suggestions have enabled us, over the past few months, to make changes which have, we believe, resulted in a far more reader-friendly and very much better newspaper.

We wish to reach as wide a cross-section of our readership as possible.

If you would like to join the project, and would be prepared for our interviewers to call you about twice a month, please call 633-2298 or fax your name and telephone number to StarGuide on 834-3697.

If you wish to you can also send an e-mail message to kate@star.co.za. – Marketing Editor.

Will the precious Garden Route be loved to death? (56)

Green group demands pay ARLT 14/6/97

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

Developers should be forced to pay the expenses of environmentalists who investigate the impact of their projects, according to a Garden Route Green body.

The Saturday Argus recently hammered the ineffectiveness of Green lobbyists in controlling development along the Garden Route.

The Garden Route Trust now says it is not surprising that environmental bodies fail to police developments effectively because there are just too many projects to investigate.

The recent Saturday Argus investigation counted more than 20 controversial developments along the south coast from Mossel Bay to Plettenberg Bay, but Green groups said there were many more.

The report also quoted environmental and development facilitator Chris Gaigher as saying that many undesirable developments were the result of Green groups not playing an active and constructive role in monitoring and policing the projects.

But Garden Route Trust spokesman Mike Young said this

was hardly surprising, given the overwhelming odds faced by Green groups.

He said environmental groups believed government should support the creation of an umbrella body drawn from all conservation and environment bodies in a specific region.

Developers should then be forced to engage with this body from the outset of their planning – and the cost of doing so should be covered by the developer.

“We believe that early discussions would defuse potential confrontation and could lead to more environmentally sensitive developments,” he said.

Mr Young said environmental groups could barely survive because of high costs.

“Nobody funds us – we work voluntarily. Our strongest weapon is informed publicity, but gathering and disseminating information takes time and costs money. We try to investigate each project we hear about before commenting, so that we cannot be accused of misinformation.”

He said development proposals were usually massive, but because environmental groups did not receive free copies, they had to copy them at their own cost. “If we have to attend or

address meetings, the travel costs are our own.

“So are you really surprised that from time to time comments may appear antagonistic? It’s because there is a sense of desperation at the wanton destruction that the greed of the few is allowed to cause to a priceless community asset.

“Why on earth should the community expect a few volunteers to look after their interests without recompense?

“Do they understand that developers are devaluing their property in pursuit of personal gain? Look at the Costa del Sol in Spain if you want to see how the Garden Route could be in a decade or so – loved to death.”

Mr Young said it was common cause that present legislation was far too lenient in what it required of developers.

“For too long the assumption has been that the owner of land has an inherent right to develop.”

The Garden Route Trust believed that anyone wishing to develop should have to demonstrate beyond all doubt, and to the satisfaction of all interested and affected parties, that the proposal was in the long-term interests of the community.

Day of reckoning dawns for polluters as available soon

Culprits smoked out - UCT study

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

Capetonians will soon know who the main polluters are behind the brown haze that blankets the city on windless days.

The long-awaited study pinpointing the exact sources of the air pollution will be available shortly.

The study, commissioned by local government and industry about three years ago and costing R450 000, should go

a long way to settle the dispute over who's to blame.

The university Energy Research Institute began the study in 1994 and first "fingerprinted" all the major polluters in the Peninsula.

By comparing this information with data collected over a year between July 1995 and June last year, researchers hope to be able to tell exactly who contributes to the smog.

Researcher Mark de Villiers said the final report should be available by the

end of next month and presented to the sponsors before being made public.

The sponsors include local municipalities and industries such as Caltex, Kynoch and SA Breweries. Some of these institutions have been accused of being major polluters.

As the study was expected to be specific - pinpointing culprits and detailing exactly how much they contributed to the overall problem - fear has been expressed that these industries could try to find fault with the study and delay its

publication.

Mr De Villiers rejected this perception, saying the only objection industry could have against the findings was if they could show that the methodology the researchers had used was suspect.

He said the study used a model developed in the United States.

Similar research, using the same methodology, has been successfully conducted in American cities such as Los Angeles and Denver.

Mr De Villiers said the study was now

in its final phase and researchers were waiting for the results of tests on samples sent to the United States.

"The study should clearly show where Cape Town is heading and give planners an idea of what action is necessary to alleviate the pollution problem in the city."

He said using the results received from the United States would also help planners to predict what would happen if vehicle traffic or industrial activity increased.

ARLT 14/16/197

(51)
Polluters available soon

New hope for families living on deadly poisonous mine dump

R800 000 to buy the land but it fulfills the Government's land development objectives as it is close to work opportunities and shops. The 30-square-metre houses and services will be paid for through the subsidy scheme," added Waldron. Meanwhile, Mngomezulu is happy that he will soon live in a brick house and be able to close his doors and windows at night, with no fear of the deadly dust invading his home.

By BUNTY WEST

Moses Mngomezulu was born among the gold mine dumps in Roodepoort and recollects making sand castles from the cyanide-laden sand his family's shack was built on.

Along with 30 others families, his parents worked in the sand quarry there, not realising that the radon in the ground was highly radioactive, causing their many skin complaints, and ultimately destroying their lungs through can-

cer. Now the entire community is to be moved to safer and healthier ground following a visit by the Western council's executive committee.

Executive committee member Ros Waldron said that when the social and welfare services went out to the site, adults and children had serious skin problems caused by the soil and sand. The residents were drinking water from a polluted stream and there were no toilet facilities.

The shack settlement, which is

hidden from passing cars by the gold dumps, has grown considerably in the nearly 30 years it has existed. Today more than 130 families live there, in what is now called Davidsonville West, yet the conditions have not changed much.

It has become more settled and several "permanent" features have been added, including a golf putting green which an enterprising sports fan has made along the central path, where holes are sunk into the stamped-down soil.

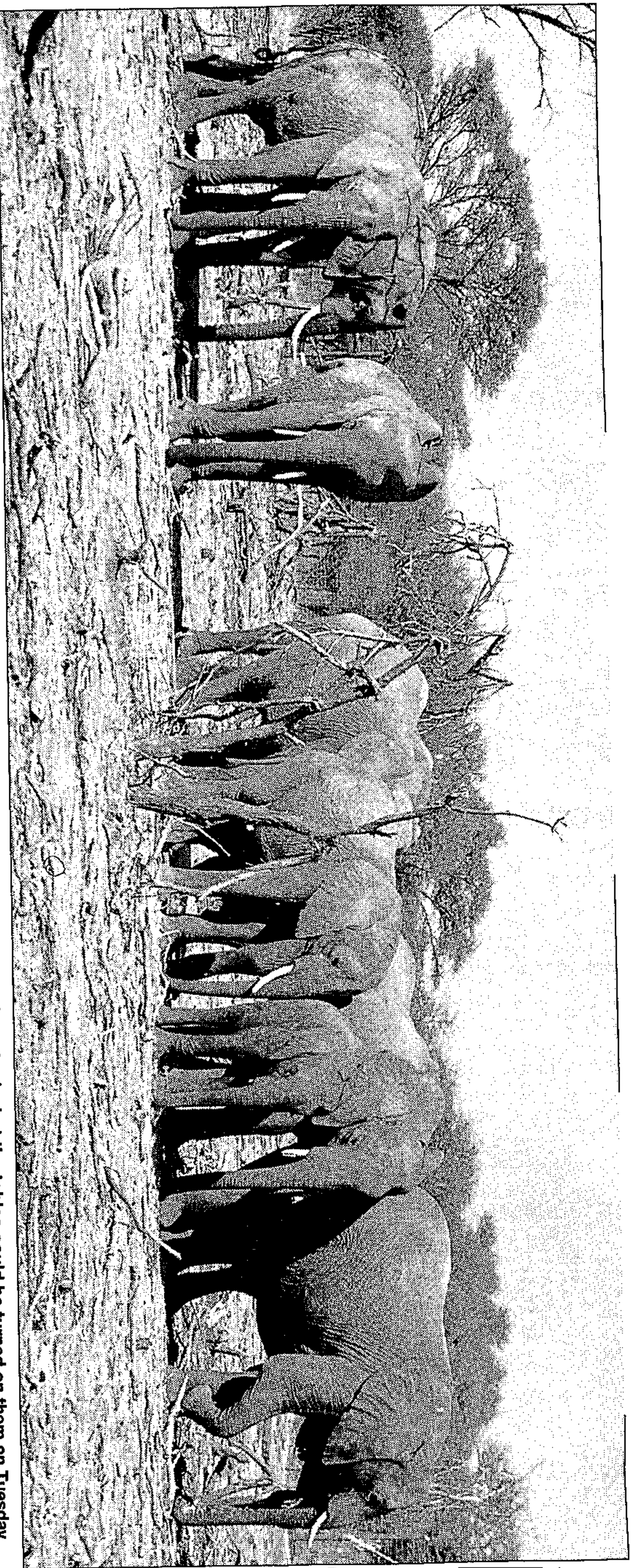
Although the sand quarry is no

longer operational, dust still fills the lungs, clings to the washing and gets under the doors of the neat rows of shacks.

The Western council, realising conditions were bad there, bought land adjacent to where the families are, living and will erect low-cost housing and provide services.

Several single men and women were living in large concrete pipes covered at the open ends by underfelt and tarpaulins.

"We put in drinking water and chemical toilets as an interim mea-



UNCERTAIN FUTURE: Elephants have enjoyed a brief respite from licensed ivory hunters since the ban on the ivory trade, but the tables could be turned on them on Tuesday

Cheers to the elephant

African concerns could see a rout of those who want the ivory ban to stay

CHRIS BISHOP
Harare

THE crucial debate on whether the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species should revoke the ban on the trade in ivory takes place on Tuesday at the plush Sheraton Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe. But between now and then there will be a lot of behind-the-scenes arm twisting and lobbying to the clink of wine glasses as rival factions step up their efforts to win votes.

Delegates from 137 countries will vote on whether to downgrade the African elephant from its protected "endangered" rating, a move supported by Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and a number of other states. If the lifting of the trade ban is successful, these countries will sell their ivory stockpiles for millions of US dollars to raise money for conservation.

Lavish parties and presentations have been thrown by groups on both sides of the debate to try to convince doubters. As more than a thousand delegates enter the hotel where the conference is being held, a sea of concerned faces await them ready to browbeat on every subject from whaling to the survival of the sturgeon.

President Robert Mugabe, whose country is hosting the conference and which has \$4-million (about R18-million) worth of stockpiled ivory, said: "The cost of water and protection for these animals is very expensive. These an-

imals must pay for themselves. I am sure with all the management structures we have put in place that all species will survive."

On either side of the debate are ranged the political muscle of the African countries and the vast coffers of the wealthy animal rights groups from the northern hemisphere.

The debate has been so fierce that many African countries, including South Africa, are expected to call for a secret ballot on the ivory issue. Many fear that to be seen to vote against the conservation-minded donor organisations could cost African countries future aid money. Caught in the middle are countries like Kenya. Its delegation has political affinity with fellow African states, but are vehemently opposed to opening up the world trade on ivory and elephant hide because it fears its national herds are not strong enough to survive.

Sources in the Kenyan delegation say that one of their largest national parks recently found 30 elephant carcasses minus their tusks and believe that this was the work of a poacher stockpiling ivory in anticipation of the easing of the international ban.

A spokesman for the Kenyan delegation said: "There is a strong feeling among some African delegates that Zimbabwe's attitude is uncompromising and that Zimbabwe is dominating in its approach to the whole matter."

The wildlife groups from the northern hemisphere are more subtle in their lobbying, but appear to have more money to splash out on glossy documents and videos.

The Humane Society of the United States is

one of the largest and most powerful, with nearly five million members — approximately half the size of the population of Zimbabwe.

John Grandy, the vice-president of the society, said: "We will not support the downlisting of the elephant. If we do, poaching will increase, and the population will go down like it did in the 70s."

When challenged on the issue that African nations could prop up their cash-strapped conservation budgets with the proceeds of ivory sales, Grandy countered that his organisation had also put aid money into wildlife projects on the continent.

But many African delegates complain that this aid money is not enough to tackle the problems of conservation. They also argue that northern hemisphere countries have no idea of how people live with animals in Africa.

Dr Bruce Davidson of the South African Wildlife Society said: "People from the north think that people in Africa live in the cities and the animals live in the bush and that's OK. But it's not like that, people have to cope with these animals long after the delegates have flown home and the idea of sustainable use of wildlife to sort out its problems is the only sensible option. Many people in Zimbabwe's rural areas complain that the country's expanding 65 000 elephant population is encroaching on their homes, causing crop destruction and occasionally death."

Phephsilei Maseka of the South African branch of the Africa Resources Trust said the same problem with elephants was being ex-

perienced in South Africa and that the northern hemisphere approach was not helping.

"We are not happy. It is almost like they are dominating and colonising us. We in Africa have our own way of living and they should be asking us how we want things to be done."

Questions have also been raised about the practicality of reopening the international trade in ivory, with Japan coming in for heavy criticism.

Stanley Johnson, a spokesman for the International Federation of Animal Welfare, said: "The panel of experts said clearly that Japan could not control the ivory trade. If you are starting up a legal trade when you still have illegal trade, it's a recipe for disaster."

The federation's delegates also accused Japan of "cheque book diplomacy" by attempting to win votes from developing countries through aid money.

The arguments are expected to reach fever pitch in the lead up to Tuesday's crucial vote. Lobbying groups are already wheeling in the big conservation names to try to sway the conference. Sir Richard Leakey, the famed conservationist from Kenya, was the latest big name to arrive in Harare.

To the cheers and yells of anti-trade supporters, he made an impassioned plea to leave the African elephant in peace.

"People say . . . 'Leakey you're just a bunny hugger', he said before reaching for a toy rabbit from under the lectern which he cradled in his arms and declared to the cheers of the gathering: "I am."

Mine dump a health hazard say residents

Sowetan 16/6/97

By Sello Seripe

THOUSANDS of residents in Doornkop, Soweto, live under a constant threat of contracting lung ailments because of the existence of a mine dump at their doorstep.

The dump belongs to Durban Roodepoort Deep gold mine on the West Rand.

According to the residents, life becomes hell for them on windy days when dust from the dump is blown into their houses and their yards.

The dust gets into everything, their food, their utensils, their water and their clothes.

The dust is so bad it also invades the shacks and houses of residents of Dobsonville Extensions Two and Three, which are situated further away from the dump than Doornkop.

The National Civic Organisation (Sanco) has charged that local councillors and the health services are ignoring the plight of the community and that Sanco itself has not been able to establish what the plans, if any, for the

troublesome dump are.

Local Sanco secretary Doctor Mabona said residents had identified the mine dump as a health risk. People were worried about their health and the health of their children who were continually exposed to the dust.

Mabona said health workers had previously said they could only address health issues in the area once they had received a mandate from local councillors.

Mabona also indicated that differences of view between local councillors and health workers had resulted in an impasse, and that residents were suffering as a result.

The ANC's chief whip in the Western Metropolitan Substructure, Ika Magasa, described Sanco's charge that residents were being ignored as unfounded.

He said meetings were held regularly, and to prove a point said the next meeting was to be held on Sunday.

Magasa said a number of issues were on the agenda for discussion at the meeting.

Cape wetland under threat

CT 16/6/97 (56)

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE proposed new metropolitan ring road, announced recently as a move to ease traffic congestion in the region, may put paid to the False Bay Coastal Park — which environmentalists have been fighting to establish since 1988.

The road will cut the future park in half, hampering the movement of small mammals like mongooses and otters, and making it difficult to reintroduce larger animals like eland, hartebeest and hippo.

It will also mean filling in some of the ponds at the Cape Flats sewage works — rated as the sixth most important coastal wetland in South Africa — which supports around 36 000 waterbirds including nine Red Data species. These species are recognised internationally as threatened and include white pelicans, greater flamingoes, little bittern, Caspian terns and black oyster catchers.

The traffic noise may drive away some birds like flamingoes and pelicans which are sensitive to disturbances.

The future park, the boundaries of which were approved by the old Cape Town city council in 1988 but which got little further than the drawing board, will include Rondevlei bird sanctuary, Zeekoevlei and the Cape Flats sewage works.

The ring road, still in the planning stage, will run from the N7 on the West Coast across to the N1, the N2 and across the Cape Flats towards Diep River.

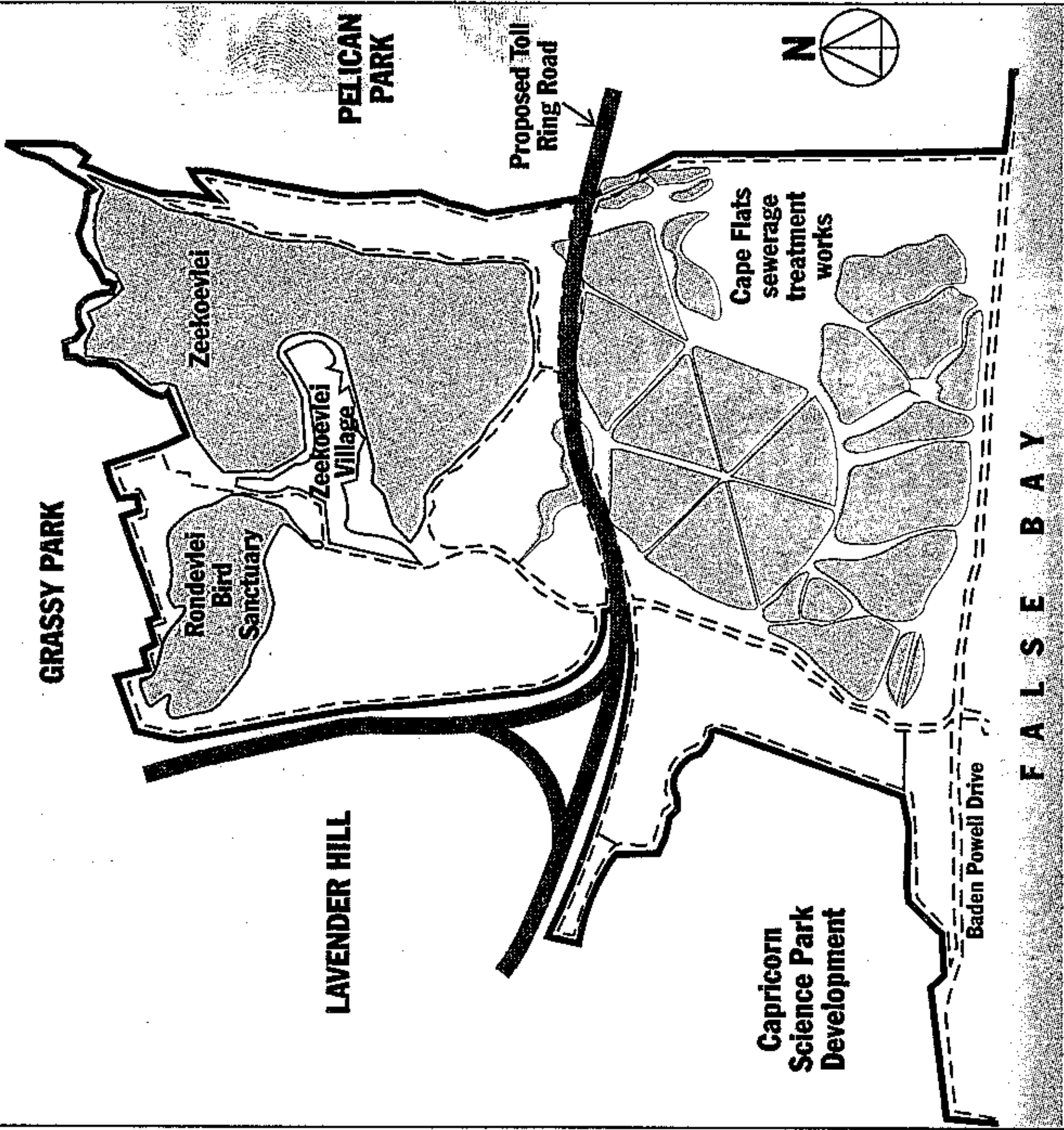
Chairman of the Cape Bird Club, Dr David Whitelaw, said if the road went ahead on the proposed alignment it would divide two intimately connected ecosystems.

"We had heard through the grapevine that this ring road was being planned, but we also heard that a full environmental inquiry would be done.

"Suddenly it was before cabinet without any public participation," Whitelaw said.

He said birds that bred and roosted at Rondevlei fed at the nutrient-rich sewage works.

□ Turn to Page 3



Why this sanctuary mat

THE Cape Flats sewage works is rated as the most important coastal wetland in South Africa.

- it supports more than 36 000 waterbirds.
- it is home to nine Red Data bird species which are nationally recognised as threatened.
- it supports 50% of all waterbirds in the Peninsula.
- it has a higher density of birds than Rondevlei and is a higher destination for migratory birds from the southern hemisphere.
- There are more birds there than at Lake St. Lucia, which is 300 times its size.
- it meets two of the criteria for registration as a wetland of international importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention).

Road threat for 'habitat in crisis'

CT 16/6/97 (67)

□ From Page 1

The Cape Bird Club had campaigned for years for the proclamation of the False Bay Coastal Park as a multi-purpose park which would include conservation, recreation and education.

"The toll-road could effectively destroy this ideal, and the people of Cape Town would lose a valuable natural asset, said Whitelaw.

"We all have the right to determine how our environment is shaped and should not simply accept this (road) without critically examining its costs."

Spokesperson for the Wildlife and Environment Society, Ms Marlene Laros, said the society would use their resources to convince all levels of government that a toll-road which cuts off a potential Ramsar site from the rest of a proposed park was not in the interests of the metropole.

"The Cape Flats has more rare and endangered plants per km² than any other area in the world. About 98% of the lowland fynbos on the Flats has been lost to devel-

opment. The remaining habitat is in a crisis and if something is not done to address the lack of open space we will lose most of what little remains," she said.

Whitelaw said five species of lowland fynbos had already become extinct. Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary protected a number of endangered species but was becoming a conservation "island" in a sea of development. These isolated plant populations were susceptible to disease and inbreeding.

When Capricorn Science Park is completed, Rondevlei's only link with False Bay would be via the sewage works, he said.

The authorities say the road is not yet a *fait accompli*.

Acting director of the metropolitan transport branch, Mr Ron Haiden, said the route had been accepted in concept by the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Board as part of the long-term metropolitan transportation network.

"But before being built it will have to go through an integrated environmental management process with an environmental

impact assessment and public participation. There is still a long way to go before the final decision, but we needed to put down a route for the planning stage," Haiden said.

Although the Cape Town council approved the future park in principle, the area no longer falls under them. The South Peninsula municipality will control a part (Rondevlei and part of Zeekoevlei) and the sewage works will fall under the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC).

CMC's executive director of urbanisation and planning, Mr Peter Tomlin, said the urbanisation and planning committee had resolved in principle to support the establishment of the park.

"We decided to establish a steering committee with representatives from South Peninsula municipality to take the park forward, and have written to them asking them to nominate representatives but have not heard from them.

"Obviously one issue we will look at will be the proposed road and the impact it would have on the park," Tomlin said.



MAY TAKE FLIGHT: These flamingoes, which feed on the nutrient-rich ponds at the Cape Flats sewage works, are likely to be chased off by noise pollution if the proposed new toll-road goes ahead. **PICTURE: DAVE WHITELAW**

(56)
**Zim party
backs lifting
of ivory ban**

Star 16/6/97

Harare - Supporting Zimbabwe's bid to have ivory trade resumed, one of the country's opposition political parties has said some mechanism should be put in place to ensure poor rural communities benefit from the sale.

United Parties information secretary Isaac Manyemba told Ziana news agency on Saturday there should be a series of checks to make sure the government did not use the plight of the rural communities to benefit its senior officials.

Citing the land scandal of a few years ago when farms meant for resettling people were taken by cabinet ministers and other Zanu-PF stalwarts, Manyemba said the proposal was a noble one.

This was as long as proceeds were channelled to the construction of schools, clinics, dams and other development projects.

More than 1 500 delegates attended the 10th conference of parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) last week to decide the fate of elephants in Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The three neighbouring countries have proposed that their elephant population be moved from Cites appendix I to appendix II in order to allow trade in ivory and skins.

A ban on trade in elephant and products was enforced in 1989.

This was a measure to have the animal classified as an endangered species.

The countries propose that the conference approve export quotas, for a specific period of 1998 and 1999, of existing registered stocks of raw ivory for the exclusive purpose of disposing of accumulated stocks.

Southern Africa has a 300 000kg stockpile of ivory.

This huge amount of ivory accounts for more than half of all of Africa's stocks, and could generate more than R150-million. - Sapa.

Consensus by African states could lead to reopening of ivory trade

Michael Moon

HARARE — The bid to reopen international trade in ivory moved closer to fruition yesterday when it was announced that all the elephant "range" states in Africa were close to consensus on backing the proposal at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in Harare.

The 138 signatory nations to Cites are due to vote today on "downlisting" the African elephant from its Appendix I status to Appendix II which would al-

low strictly regulated ivory trade with approved buyers.

SA Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba, who has been a key player in forging unity on the issue, said yesterday "consensus is emerging" on a united African stand.

Sources said there had been growing sympathy for the southern African position.

A number of countries outside Africa have indicated they will vote with a consensus proposal by Africa and the Southern African Develop-

ment Community (SADC) has agreed to vote as a bloc for downlisting.

Mokaba said African countries were "eager to act on the issue as a family".

The African states would be requesting a secret vote as some of them had been threatened with withdrawal of aid money by western nations and by wealthy animal rights groups if they voted for downlisting. He said he was surprised countries that claimed to be "highly democratic" were against the democratic principal of a secret vote. In the event of any proven "abuse" of

international trade in any range country, Switzerland, the depository government for Cites, had agreed to transfer the elephant population of the offending country back to protected Appendix I status.

A statement by the SADC at the Cites conference said there was broad appreciation that some southern African states had demonstrated significant achievements in the conservation of the African elephant.

The Zimbabwean environment ministry yesterday denied a newspaper re-

BD 17/16/97

port that the country would attempt to go it alone" in ivory trade if the Cites vote went against it. However, Zimbabwe has assumed a "reserved" status at Cites — meaning it reserves the right to trade outside the convention.

Asked what rural people would do if the Cites ivory ban was not removed, a Zimbabwean community leader said: "We will eat the elephants."

SA's proposals for easing the ban on the trade of white rhino products is also due to come before the Cites meeting today.

669
Ivory trade

Ivory trade proposal from southern Africa defeated

Michael Moon

(56)
BD 18/6/97
HARARE — A proposal by three southern African states to reopen world trade in ivory was defeated by three votes at the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting yesterday.

Of 123 countries that voted in the secret ballot, 75 voted for a resumption in trade and 41 against, with seven abstentions. Seventy-eight votes were required for a two-thirds majority.

The southern African countries refused to accept defeat and vowed to strive for acceptance of their bid in today's Cites deliberations and in the final plenary session tomorrow.

The proposals by Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe — for a downlisting of their elephant populations from the worldwide ban — were put to the vote as one, with an amendment by SA calling for an 18-month moratorium on ivory sales while investigations into trade were carried out.

In the three-hour debate, 62 countries made representations. Almost half of these were in favour including Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, Norway, Egypt and Korea.

Most urged delegates to reward good wildlife management in southern Africa. Some said developing countries had a right to sustainable utilisation of their natural resources as they devoted large areas to conservation.

Those speaking against a downlist-

ing of elephants from Cites appendix I to appendix II included the US, Israel, India and Australia. All expressed fears of an increase in poaching in other parts of Africa. A number of countries, including the European Union, represented by the Netherlands, requested more dialogue before a vote.

Former Cites secretary-general Eugene LaPoint of Switzerland said such a close vote had always meant a reopening of the issue in the final plenary session. He advised the proponent countries to establish a working group with those countries who had expressed indecision because of a lack of documentation on the SA amendment.

LaPoint believed a two-thirds majority would be obtained once those countries doubts had been assuaged.

During the debate, Switzerland admonished the parties to Cites for not recognising conservation efforts since the Cites ban on ivory trade in 1989. It said that in 1992 parties had asked for more time before downlisting, then in 1994 had called for more African consensus. Now they wanted more dialogue between interested parties.

SA's proposal to ease restrictions on rhino horn trade is likely to be discussed today. Two other SA proposals — on downlisting the marsh rose and the swartland sugarbush from a total appendix I ban to appendix II trade — were accepted unanimously.

See Page 6

Cites harpoons bids by Japan, Norway

Michael Moon

HARARE — Japan and Norway's efforts to increase whaling in certain species have been rejected by the parties to the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species, meeting in Harare.

Japan's proposals for the downlisting of three minke whale populations from appendix I, which imposes a total ban, to appendix II, which would allow for hunting quotas, were defeated in secret ballots of the 139 signatory nations.

BD 18/6/97 (56)
Norway's proposal to downlist the northeastern Atlantic population of minke was narrowly defeated when it failed to achieve the required two-thirds majority vote.

Fifty-seven countries voted for the proposal and 51 against, with four abstentions.

A Japanese proposal for downlisting eastern Pacific grey whales was defeated on Monday in a secret ballot.

Japan withdrew its bid to downlist the northwestern Pacific Brydes whale.

Earlier, the Cites countries voted against rejecting the International Whaling Commission's statistical data on whales, which had been suggested by Japan.

The environmental organisation Greenpeace, which campaigns against opening up whaling, rejected the whaling nations' claims that whale preservation efforts are led by non-government organisations and the governments of rich countries.

"Japan and Norway are neither poor nor developing nor southern," a Greenpeace delegate said.

Ban on ivory trade likely to remain after Cites vote in Harare

Star 18/6/97 (56)

BY JILL GOWANS
Star Foreign Service

Harare - In a lengthy debate at the Cites conference yesterday, the three elephant proposals, supported by a proposed precautionary amendment from South Africa, were narrowly defeated.

When the secret ballot was counted just before 6pm, 75 voted yes and 41 said no with seven abstentions, which was three votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to change the listing of a species.

Although the debate began with Botswana's proposal, all three proposals were voted on

together.

This means the three original proposals (without the South African amendment) submitted by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia will be voted on today.

They face defeat unless another softening amendment is submitted.

There is still another procedure: the decisions can be brought up again in the plenary session tomorrow if one-third of countries agree.

The three proposals asked for the transfer from appendix 1 to appendix 2 of the African elephant in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to allow the ex-

port of raw ivory to Japan.

Zimbabwe also asked for trade in leather articles, ivory carvings and elephant hide.

After supportive interventions by Namibia and Zimbabwe, South Africa's Deputy Environment Minister Peter Mokaba proposed an amendment which he said would address the concerns of African states opposed to the downlisting because of fears for their elephant populations and the concerns of other countries.

Melanie-Ann Feris reports most environmentalists and animal-rights groups are breathing a sigh of relief after the decision not to lift the ban

on ivory trade.

David Barrit, president of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said while this was not a final ruling, he was cautiously optimistic about the outcome of today's sitting.

The fact that the South African amendment was defeated made it likely that a total ban on ivory trade would remain.

Barrit said the South African proposal to downgrade the elephant to allow limited trade in raw ivory had been very close. Only three votes were needed to overturn the ban.

He said several countries would accept South Africa's proposal.

CITES RETAINS BANS ON WHALING

Move to resume ivory trade narrowly beaten

CT 18/6/97
(56)

HARARE: It appears that some countries at the Cites meeting here have done deals to back the easing of ivory curbs in exchange for support of issues they champion.

THE world's largest conservation group, Cites, yesterday narrowly rejected proposals by three Southern African countries to resume limited trade in ivory after a 7 1/2-year ban.

However, the proposals by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe were not completely dead. After procedural wranglings each of them will be allowed a vote today.

The vote, by secret ballot, followed debate on one of the most contentious issues facing the 138-nation UN Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), which earlier in the day rejected three proposals to ease restrictions on whaling.

The proposal won approval by a 75-41 vote, with seven abstentions, but that was three ballots short of the 78 needed for the required two-thirds majority.

The ivory debate dragged on for more than 2 1/2 hours as 62 countries spoke on the issue. Animal rights groups were shut out

because of time constraints.

South Africa, which backed the plan by three of its neighbours, proposed setting specific limits on the amount of ivory to be sold and delaying the sales for 18 months. It also added other conditions.

The amendment was appended to the three proposals, which then were rejected jointly. The individual proposals then were allowed to be considered individually.

It appeared that some countries had done deals to back easing ivory restrictions in exchange for support for issues they were championing.

Norway, which won a majority on its whaling proposal but did not gain the necessary two-thirds support, strongly backed the plans by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to sell off their combined ivory stockpiles of more than 150 tons to Japan.

The three countries say they have more elephants than their land can support and that money

from the sales would go back into conservation and developing remote areas where the animals live.

Zimbabwe has said it reserves the right to resume ivory sales without Cites' blessing but promised it would stop trade if there was any evidence it led to more poaching.

Japan lost 65-45 on its proposal to downgrade the West Pacific Minke whale from the most-endangered list to allow controlled trade in meat and by-products.

Delegates also voted 59-53 against allowing trade in South Pacific Minke whales. Japan then withdrew a proposal to be allowed to hunt the Bryde's whale of the north-west Pacific.

Norway gained 57-51 approval for its proposal to hunt Atlantic Minke whales, but failed to win the two-thirds majority needed to change Cites' ban. It was the first time pro-whaling nations had outvoted opponents.

"This indicates a significant decrease in opposition to whaling," said Ms Ginette Hemley of the World Wildlife Fund. — Sapa-AP

SA bid on rhino horn loses by one vote

Michael Moon

HARARE — SA's bid to open investigation into a possible renewal of trade in white rhino horn was defeated by a single vote at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting yesterday.

However, the SA proposal is likely to be resubmitted for consideration because of possible voting irregularities.

Countries not fully accredited to vote on the issue are understood to have done so. There were also believed to be discrepancies in the count of voting, conducted by a show of hands.

There is Cites precedent for returning to an issue rejected in a close vote.

By the official count, 60 signatory

BD 19/6/97
nations voted for SA's proposal and 32 against. This fell just short of the two-thirds majority required to change the trading status of a species.

The EU, representing 14 votes, the US and India all voted against SA.

SA had sought a lifting of restrictions on trade in the products of the southern white rhino, but asked that a zero quota for horn be set while a trading system with tight controls to prevent the laundering of illegal products was set up. Sale of meat and hide would have been allowed.

SA's white rhino is listed on Cites appendix II, with trade in live specimens allowed — in order to help repopulate regions where the species has been eradicated or severely reduced.

(56)
Presenting the SA argument, Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba said SA wanted to conduct open and transparent discussions with possible buyers of rhino horn. SA was sensitive to the concerns of other countries.

SA's wildlife management policy is based on the principle of sustainable utilisation of natural resources. Proceeds from possible future sales would go towards wildlife management and local communities.

Mokaba said he was disappointed by the vote, but believed non-African countries were beginning to understand the continent's problems.

See Page 5

Modified ivory trade deal on the voting agenda for Cites

Michael Moon

HARARE — Modified proposals for reopening trade in ivory from Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana are to be voted on today at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting.

The proposals from the three southern African nations will have amendments incorporated in them which are designed to allay concerns expressed by other African elephant range states and some western nations.

Trade will not be permitted for 18

56) 60 19/6/97
months, after which certain criteria will have to be met before trading can start. Each of the three nations will be allocated a quota in 1999.

The proposals, reflecting an SA amendment which was defeated at the Cites meeting on Tuesday, were drawn up by a special group set up by the signatory countries to Cites yesterday.

The group comprised 13 African countries, including SA, and six others, including one EU representative. Conference expectations yesterday were that the redrafted proposals would win approval from the 138 signatory states.

The 14 nation EU bloc voted against the initial bid, as they said they did not have sufficient time to study the proposals. All delegates were last night issued with copies of the new documentation to study overnight. Many of the Cites delegates have expressed a desire to grant southern Africa recognition for its outstanding elephant conservation record.

When trade does start up in 1999, Namibia will be allocated an ivory quota of 13,8 tons, Zimbabwe 20 tons and Botswana 25,3 tons. They will also be allowed to export trophies and live elephants to appropriate destinations.

The new proposals also contain recommendations on international monitoring and law enforcement and the reinvestment of revenue from sales into conservation. There is also provision for reintroduction of an ivory ban on any of the three states that may violate its conditions.

The proposals contain clauses which effectively condemn western donor nations and organisations for failing to live up to their promises to fund elephant conservation plans in elephant range states.

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NEWS WORTH KNOWING

'Bloodbath for animals' at Cites 1999

Star 19/6/97

(56)

Animal welfare groups are alarmed by narrow defeat of controversial proposals at conference

By JILL GOWANS
Harare

Animal welfare groups at the Cites conference yesterday expressed growing concern at the narrow defeat of a number of controversial proposals.

"If this is the way Cites is going the next meeting (in 1999) will be a bloodbath for

animals," said a Greenpeace spokesman.

The narrow defeats include South Africa's proposal to investigate the possible sale of rhino horn stockpiles (defeated by one vote yesterday), the narrow defeat of Japan and Norway's proposals to downlist several whale species, and Tuesday's defeat of elephant proposals to sell

ivory stockpiles by only three votes.

All elephant and great whales are on Appendix 1 which prohibits international trade. Both the rhino and elephant proposals are still up for further debate and another vote.

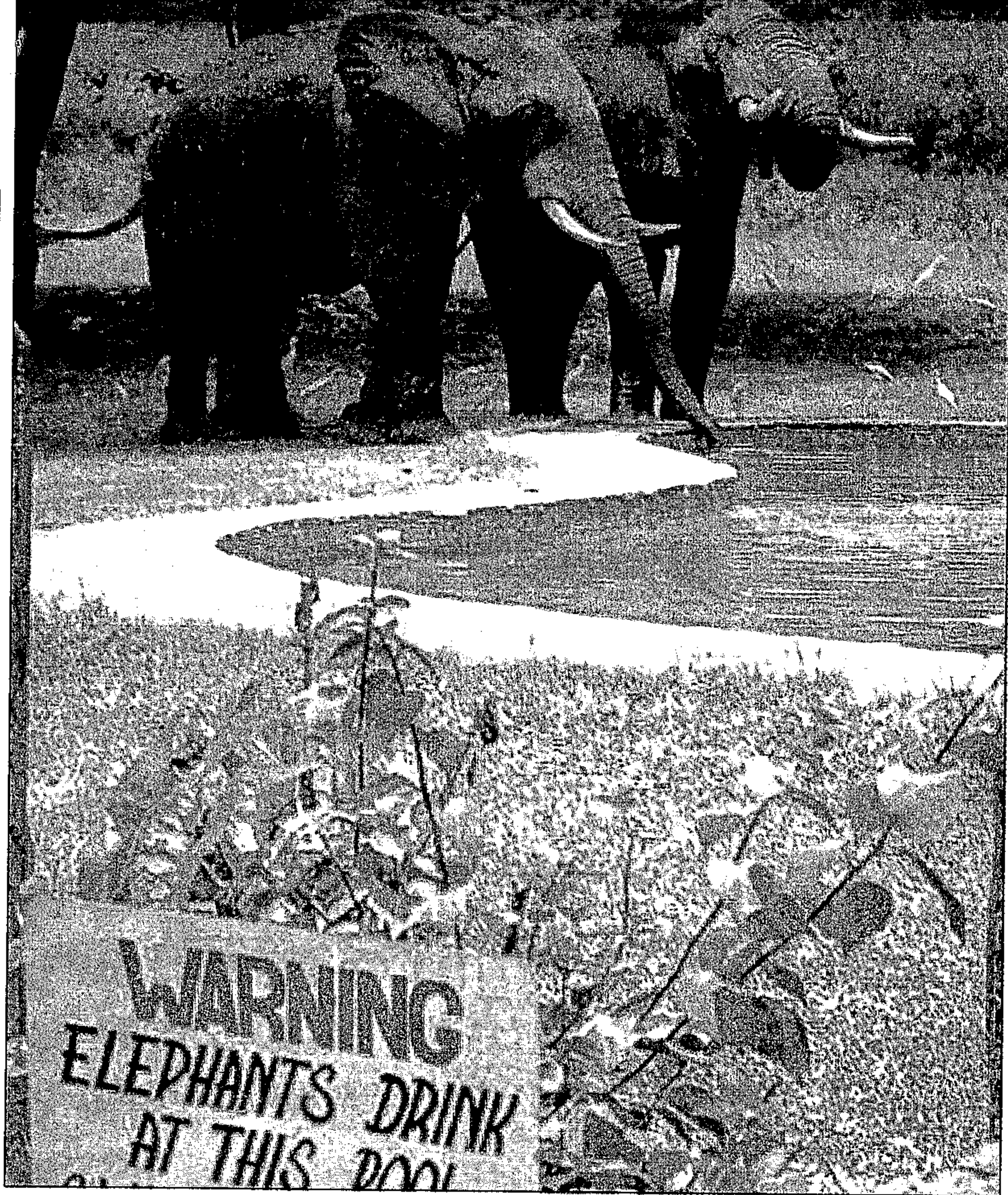
South Africa will call for a secret ballot in today's plenary session on its rhino

proposal. New amended elephant proposals by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia are due to be submitted for debate today.

■ Twenty-three species of sturgeon fish, four of which produce genuine luxury caviar, got official global protection at the conference. It will come into effect on April 1 1998.

From then on travellers will only be able to bring home 250g of caviar. And the Russian Federation told the conference they had devised a method of detecting tins of caviar at airport security check-ins.

They said they would share the technology with other caviar-producing countries.



SAFE FOR NOW: Elephants at Chirundu Hotel, 500km north-east of Harare, where the Cites conference yesterday turned down proposals that Southern African countries be allowed to sell their ivory stockpiles.

PICTURE: AP

'Animal bloodbath' feared

ET # 19/6/97

(56)

HARARE: Animal welfare groups at the Cites conference here expressed concern at the narrow defeat of a number of controversial proposals. "If this is the way Cites is going, the next meeting (in 1999) will be a bloodbath for animals," said a Greenpeace spokesperson.

The narrow defeats include South Africa's proposal to investigate the possible sale of rhino horn stockpiles (defeated by one vote), the narrow defeat of Japan and Norway's proposals to downlist several whale species, and Tuesday's defeat by only three votes of proposals to sell ivory stockpiles.

All elephants and great whales are on Appendix 1, which prohibits international trade. Both the rhino and elephant proposals are still up for further debate and another vote.

South Africa will call for a secret ballot in today's plenary session on its rhino proposal. New amended elephant proposals by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia are due to be submitted for debate today.

Another narrowly defeated proposal yesterday was one by Cuba on the Hawksbill sea turtle. All sea turtles are on Appendix 1, and Cuba asked for a downlisting to Appendix 2 of its turtle populations to enable it to sell 500 turtle shells a year to Japan and to export, also to Japan, its current stockpile.

A two-thirds majority is required to change the Appendix listing; the Cuban proposal, which went to a secret ballot, was narrowly defeated.

A proposal by the United States to put its 12 species of map turtles on

Appendix 2 (from no protection) was defeated by one vote. Another effort by the US to list its alligator snapping turtle on Appendix 2 was withdrawn.

"Even if a country can prove it can use its own populations sustainably it must look at the impact on populations of other countries," said Mr John Perrine of Defenders of Wildlife, an American non-governmental organisation.

"Everyone wants sustainable use and the involvement of local communities in conservation — which is commendable — but these should not outweigh significant concerns as to how proposals will be implemented. Cites has been a valuable conservation tool and now that populations are recovering, everyone is saying 'let's take away the controls'." — Independent Foreign Service

Rhino trade on the horns of a dilemma

ST (NR) 19/6/97

(66)

SHIRLEY JONES

URBAN

The outright ban on trade in rhino products has failed miserably, according to the Natal Parks Board (NPB). Instead of halting the slaughter of rhino, it has increased black market prices, escalated the rewards for poaching and led to speculative stockpiling in markets where demand has intensified, rather than diminished.

While the ban has been in force, 95 percent of the world's rhino population has been butchered. At this point, trade data is so sketchy that there is no clear indication of either past or present demand for rhino products because, as controls were tightened, trade became increasingly covert.

That is why the NPB intends sticking to its guns: it is time for a complete about-turn, says George Hughes, the NPB head, and Hans Grobler, the deputy chief executive. At the 10th meeting of the signatories of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) treaty in

Harare this week, the NPB's standpoint is that criminalising and severely restricting trade had done nothing to preserve the rhino — a stance that has placed it at loggerheads with animal welfare groups, mainly from the westernised nations.

This week's message from Hughes was clear: South Africa boasts a great success story when it comes to rhino conservation, an achievement that gives it the right to suggest reversing what it believes to be policy failures.

Grobler said South Africa's policy of giving wildlife an economic value had been successful. There had been a 100 percent increase in the white rhino population, and of the 181 individual populations in Africa, more than 153 were in South Africa.

The sore point for NPB and other South African conservation bodies is that there has been little support from the largely philanthropic westernised nations. South Africa's rhino conservation success story has been funded internally to the tune of about R340 million.

The NPB has pointed out a number

of inconsistencies. For example, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is supported by Cites, provides clear benefits for listed US species, but nothing for the conservation of listed foreign species. Support from external donors has not materialised and is unlikely to be sustainable.

This leaves conservation bodies throughout Africa in desperate financial predicaments. It appears economic realities are beginning to erode the untainted preservationist ideals still adhered to by animal welfare groups. The NPB and conservationists in other African states are questioning whether rhino products should be left to rot on the ground or in storage vaults, when legal use would help prevent slaughter and, at the same time, contribute to economic upliftment of impoverished communities.

South Africa's interest in legalising trade in white rhino products comes with a request for a zero quota to allow conservation authorities time to test the waters. This would be reversed when a system was developed that would exclude any possibility of

laundering illegal products.

Once this was certain, quotas based on population sizes would be submitted to Cites for approval. They would be met through the gradual use of stockpiles, the recovery of a portion of the products from natural mortalities (estimated at 250 rhinos a year) and the periodic dehorning of animals, mainly by the private sector.

As the South Africa rhino population continues to expand, so availability of products is expected to increase. The NPB has said because the use of rhino horn is deeply entrenched in Chinese traditional medicine, demand will not diminish.

Grobler said the NPB was not talking wholesale slaughter, but closely controlled harvesting that would provide funds for conservation and incentives for the private sector to invest in eco-tourism and conservation.

At present eco-tourism is lucrative, but not lucrative enough, Grobler said most conservation bodies in Africa believed consumptive (hunting and legal trade in animal products) and non-consumptive use of wildlife

resources could go hand in hand. Often commercial hunting was the only means of making private tourism ventures profitable. Since 1968, rhino hunting had generated gross turnover of more than \$22 million.

It had also driven the live-sale industry, providing another way for owners to finance and justify their rhino populations and realise a return on their investments. According to information supplied by Grobler, the sale of 328 white and 36 black rhinos by the NPB had generated a turnover of R12,92 million and R10,37 million, respectively, in just six years.

South Africa's rhino case history suggests the present blanket application of the ESA trade restrictions can limit the options available to countries to develop appropriate successful conservation strategies," the NPB said. "In particular, listing of a foreign species may limit the ability of states to generate their own funds for conservation programmes. This is contrary to Cites, which calls for range states to adopt measures to increase self-sufficiency."



1107

Ivory trade gets nod in Cites battle

Limited export to Japan

FOREIGN SERVICE

Harare – Amid high drama and rising tensions, the hard-fought elephant battle today sailed to victory at the Cites conference.

In a softening on their stance on the issue of sustainable use of wildlife, delegates voted in favour of a resolution allowing Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia to export raw ivory to a single importer, Japan.

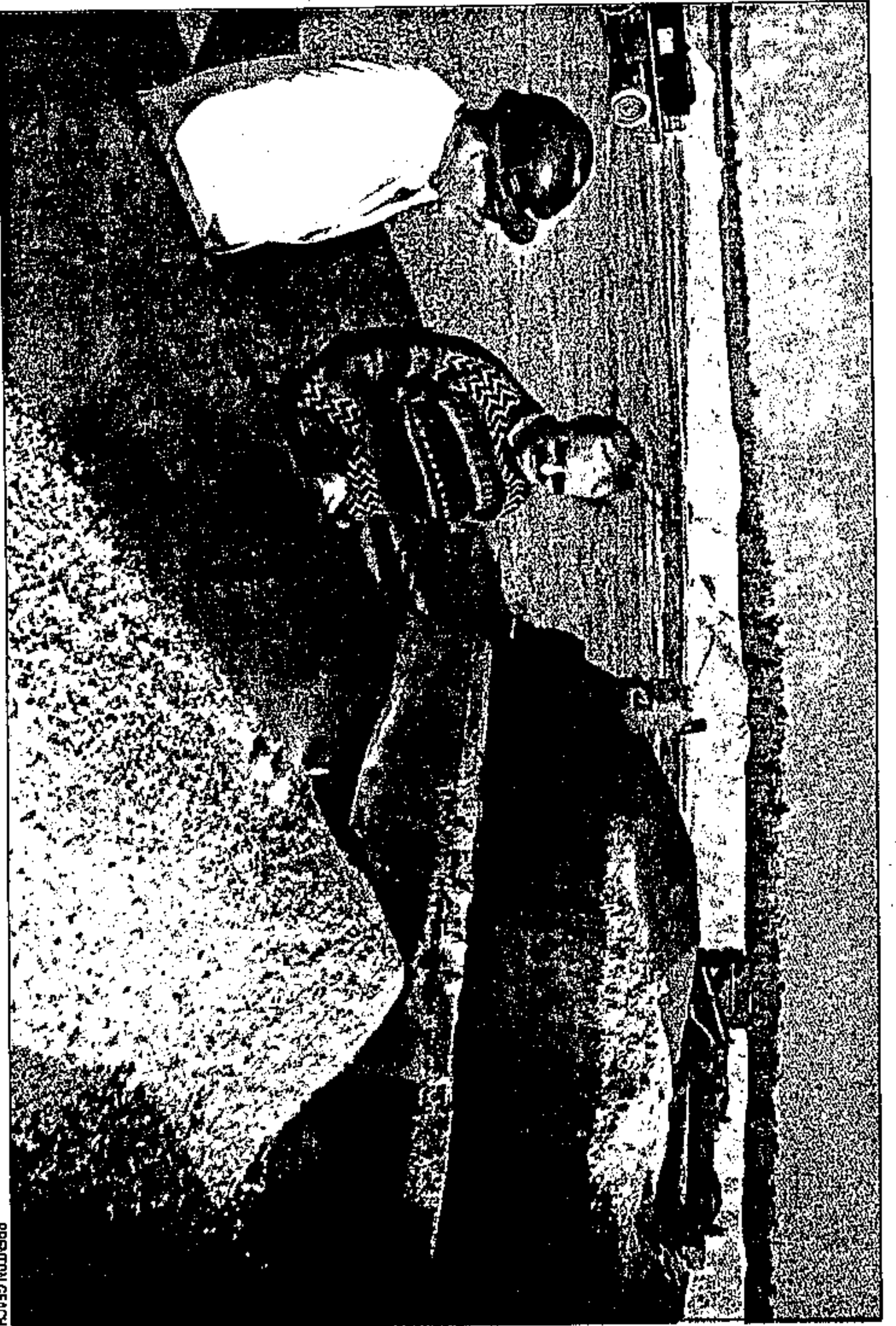
Using secret ballots, delegates voted in favour of the removal from appendix one of the elephant populations of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, a clause which prohibits trade in endangered species, to appendix two, which will allow limited trade in raw ivory.

Amendments to the countries' original proposals included that no international trade in ivory would take

ARC 19/6/97 (56)
place before 18 months after the elephants' transfer to appendix two comes into effect. The original proposals, which were amended and annotated to ensure stringent controls in ivory trade as initially suggested by South Africa, were all carried by the required two-thirds majority.

"The developing world has wrestled control of Cites," said Jon Hutton, a member of the Zimbabwe delegation and project manager of Africa Resources Trust.

"South Africa, which looked very shaky and has been under enormous pressure from IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) and David Barritt (of its Johannesburg base) should be proud of her contribution. Peter Mokaba, deputy Environment Minister, has cheered the SADC group (Southern African Development Community) and got everyone on board."



Stockpiles: Jurgan Hanekom, right, of Rossing Uranium in Namibia and Dennis Loubscher of AECI check quantities of sulphur being exported to Namibia

Maccassar fears new sulphur blaze disaster

Only half of dump has been sold

ASHLEY SMITH
SWF REPORTER

Only half the sulphur stockpile that caught fire at AECI's Somerset West factory in 1995 has been sold, and Maccassar residents fear the disaster may be repeated.

The fire caused poisonous fumes to engulf Maccassar, and led to two deaths and hundreds of respiratory problems.

Heinrich Magerman of the Maccassar Disaster Action Committee said the community had demanded that the sulphur dump be removed even before the 1995 fire, and that it was vital that the entire stockpile be disposed of soon.

"It is very sad that it took the disaster in 1995 to become the catalyst for the removal of the sulphur from this area.

"We want the remaining stockpile to be removed as soon as possible, as it still represents a danger to the community," Mr Magerman said.

Jurgan Hanekom of Rossing Uranium in Namibia said that his company had bought only 7 700 tons of the estimated 15 000 tons stockpiled, because the rest had been contaminated during the fire.

"We bought only 99,7 percent pure sulphur from the stockpile," he said.

The removal of the "pure" sulphur was to have begun yesterday, but the operation was stopped by Mr Hanekom, who feared that large amounts would be wasted during loading.

He said the diameter of the spout emptying the sulphur into the bags at the end of the 6m conveyor belt was too small.

"We will have to modify it before we

resume loading onto the rail trucks," he said.

The loading will resume today, Legal Resources Centre attorney Vincent Saldanha, who acted for the Maccassar community in the inquiry into the 1995 disaster, said that the removal of the remaining sulphur would be discussed only after the Namibian quota had been sent.

"The future of the remaining stockpile will have to be negotiated by AECI and the Department of Trade and Industry, but the community understands that the contaminated dump cannot be sold," he said.

But the remaining sulphur had to be "disposed" in an "appropriate manner" and without endangering the environment, Mr Saldanha added.

PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE

NEWS

Maccassar fears new sulphur blaze disaster

Only half of dump has been sold



STOCKPILES: Jurgen Hanekom, right, of Rossing Uranium in Namibia and Dennis Loutscher of AECI check quantities of sulphur being exported to Namibia

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Cites ivory trade move hailed as victory

BD 20/6/97

(56)

Michael Moon

HARARE — Yesterday's decision to re-open trade in ivory was a victory for the principle of sustainable use of natural resources, delegates to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) said.

It was also an affirmation of the sovereignty and independence of the developing world, they said.

The elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe are to be "downlisted" from Cites' appendix I, which bans animal product trade, to appendix II, which allows it. All other countries are still barred from selling ivory. All the ivory will be sold to Japan

under strict monitoring.

Delegates from the 139-member countries to Cites voted heavily in favour of the three countries' amended proposals after initially narrowly rejecting the downlisting on Tuesday.

However, SA failed by 15 votes in a second bid to get its proposal for international rhino horn trade adopted.

A working group of 13 African states, including SA, and six others negotiated the ivory amendment, which was instrumental in swinging the vote. SA Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba played a key role in the negotiations.

The amendment provides for an 18-month moratorium before trade be-

gins, the establishment of tight controls in the meantime, and quotas for each of the three selling countries. It also allows Cites to reimpose a sales ban on any state not complying with the conditions.

The announcement of the voting results was greeted with jubilation in the convention hall. The crowd in the gallery cheered and clapped before breaking into a rendition of Nkosi Sikelel 'iAfrika. An attempt by an animal rights activist to deliver a speech accusing the signatory nations of "selling their souls" was cut short by the committee chairman.

See Page 5

Mokaba welcomes decision to lift ban on elephant trade

Michael Moon

THE decision to lift the elephant trade ban was a great day for southern Africa, Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

He thanked countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) that voted in favour of the region's proposals for "embracing the principle of sustainable utilisation of natural resources".

Zimbabwe Environment Minister Chen Chimutengwende said he was pleased that so many countries now understood their right to exercise their sovereignty. Earlier several African states said they had been threatened by northern hemisphere donor countries with aid withdrawal if they voted to lift the ivory ban.

Namibian Environment Minister Gert Hanekom said the three countries would be selling off only their stockpiled ivory. The money would be channelled straight back into conservation

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and local communities.

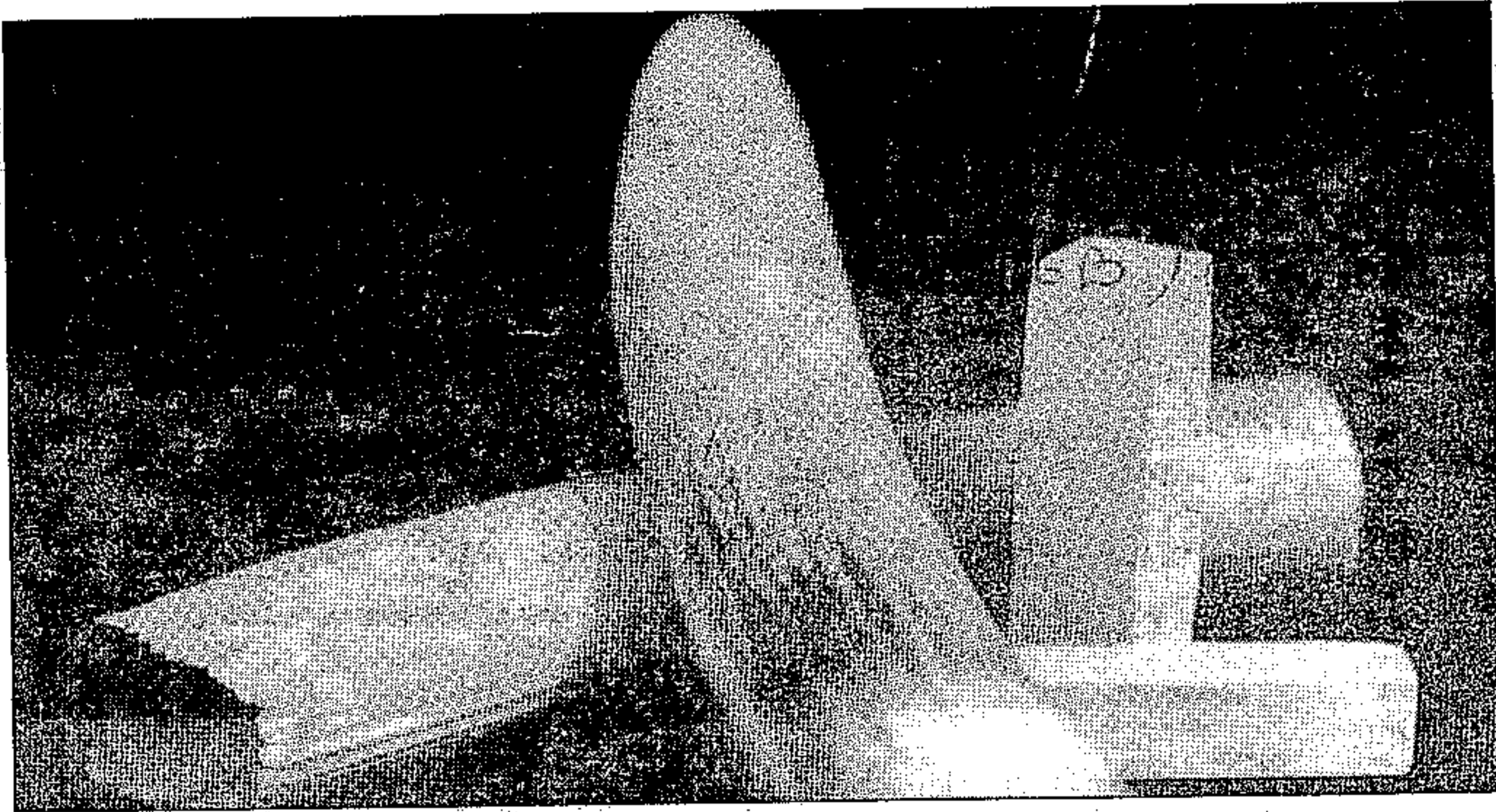
The resolution also allows other elephant range states with stockpiled ivory to sell it to donor countries for "noncommercial purposes" in a one-off deal to alleviate stockpile security problems and to raise revenue.

Former Cites secretary-general Eugene LaPointe, who said he had been fired in 1989 for advocating sustainable use, said yesterday the vote had vindicated him. It had transformed Cites from a "cosy club" of industrialised nations which had forced the developing world to toe the line.

A total of 77 countries voted for Zimbabwe's proposal, 23 against it and there were 20 abstentions.

US Humane Society spokesman Wayne Pacelle said the decision would tell poachers that "elephants may once again bring them enormous profit".

The resolution calls for an international reporting and monitoring system on legal and illegal trade and on illegal hunting in all range states.



Tusks for sale: Elephants were downlisted at Cites and are now subject to limited international trade

PHOTOGRAPH: GUY ADAMS

All clear for ivory trade

South Africa is taking the credit for the decision to relax the ban on the international ivory trade, but animal rights groups are outraged, reports **Eddie Koch**

THIS week's landmark decision by the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to relax its ban on the international ivory trade is a diplomatic coup for Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs Peter Mokaba, and will place South African conservationists under intense pressure to resume elephant culling in the Kruger National Park.

But animal rights groups have slammed the decision, saying it would send a message to poaching syndicates in Africa that there is now a market for elephant tusks. They predicted a massive upsurge in illegal poaching around the continent and an elephant slaughter in the next few months.

"This is a major breakthrough for African governments and their people. It will have a dramatic impact on our ability to preserve wildlife," said Rams Rammutla, operations director for the National Parks Board's northern parks. Cites has been deeply divided at its two-week summit in Harare over proposals by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia that they be allowed to resume trade in ivory.

The countries say they have such an abundance of the mammals that they can be safely culled and their ivory used to generate desper-

ately needed revenues for conservation and rural development. Cites finally accepted a South African-backed proposal that elephants be downlisted from the Cites Appendix One, a category of animals whose products may not be traded, to Appendix Two, a list of animals that can be the subject of limited international trade.

The proposal adds that no ivory will actually be sold until stringent controls are in place to ensure that endangered populations of elephant are not shot and to prevent the misappropriation of revenue from ivory deals. A waiting period of 18 months has been stipulated during which no tusks may be sold — and then the system of management and trade control will have to undergo stringent scrutiny by a Cites monitoring committees before trade is allowed.

The world body, set up 25 years ago to control trade in endangered plants and animals, rejected by just three votes a resolution earlier this week to transfer elephants from Appendix One to Two.

The key achievement of the South Africa delegation was to add policing and control mechanisms to the proposal that were strong enough to convince countries that trade can take place in a regulated way. "This is a feather in the cap for Mokaba because he played a key role in coming up with a consensus position among African States," Rammutla said.

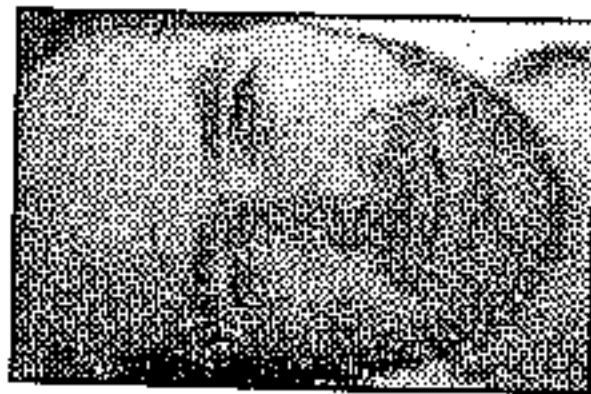
But Chris Styles, campaign co-ordinator for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said the move would encourage a new wave of poaching in Africa.

"It is quite possible we are going to see a new wave of poaching and possible extinction of elephants outside of Southern Africa," said Styles.

MTC 20-26/6/97 (56)

New muti proposed to cure Cites ills

MTG 20-26/6/97 (56)



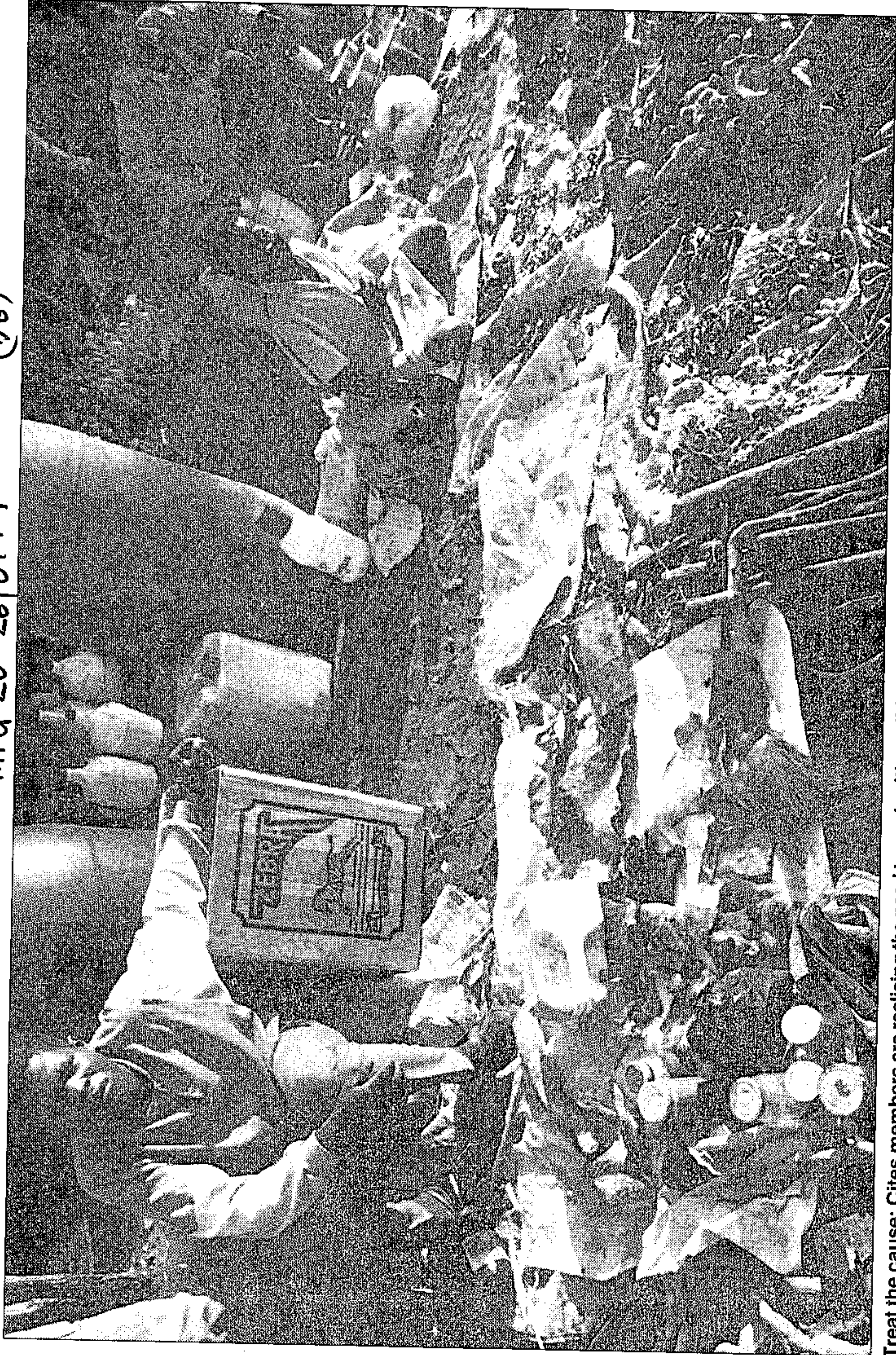
A new attitude to traditional muti could help save endangered species, writes **Eddie Koch**

THE Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) gathering in Harare was dominated this week by fierce debate over the international ban on trade in ivory. But in a largely unheralded move, hundreds of Western conservationists adopted a new approach to the practice of traditional medicine that could have a significantly greater impact on the animal trade than the elephant debate.

The new accord between Western conservationists and traditional healers in Asia and Africa — hammered out at the Cites summit — is likely to stimulate the development of new pharmaceuticals while saving animals used for ancient medicines from becoming extinct in the wild.

The agreement indicates a new rapport developing in the international organisation between two groups traditionally at loggerheads — wildlife experts trying to suppress trade in animal parts used in traditional muti and supporters of indigenous healers. And the thawing of hostilities will bolster programmes in South Africa to prevent rare plants and animals from being depleted by sangomas and inyangas.

A position paper co-sponsored by Britain, Japan and Korea argues that Western scientists will only be able to



Treat the cause: Cites members are realising the need to work with traditional healers to solve the problems of endangered species

that can save thousands of people endangered mammals from lethal fevers every year.

The organisation noted it was conducting a survey of traditional medicine in 25 countries. The institute has begun several schemes in northern KwaZulu-Natal capable of carrying 40 tons, is sold in

save endangered animals if they recognise that healers in Eastern countries like China use the body parts of tigers, bears and rhinos for medicines that can effectively treat life-threatening fevers.

The paper argues that traditional medicines made from plant and animal products are deeply embedded in the cultures of people on all five continents and that conservationists, instead of trying to suppress the trade in wild pharmacological materials, should co-operate with traditional healers so that common approaches can be used — especially in cases where animals are threatened with extinction.

"I think it is important to note that traditional medicines around the world use plants and animals, even Western medicine, and East Asia feels particularly victimised that their medicine system has been targeted," Traffic International's East Asia director Judy Mills told reporters.

There are widespread myths in Western society that rhinos have been slaughtered in Africa to provide horn for the manufacture of aphrodisiacs and other frivolous concoctions, while the keratin in the horn is, in fact, used in bona fide medicines

year history), taking on traditional medicine as a separate issue, realising it is not going to go away. At the same time, the traditional medicine community is getting the message that wildlife conservation is not going to go away," said Mills.

"So what we are coming to now is an interesting dialogue where both sides are listening to each other and realising they are going to have to make some concessions and work together."

Traffic International is the world's largest wildlife monitoring organisation and is jointly funded by the World Wide Fund for Nature and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the most powerful conservation agencies at Harare. Traffic also co-operates closely with the Cites secretariat and is likely to obtain support for its new position from most of the convention's 139 member states.

In a sign that the new mood of co-operation instead of confrontation is stretching the frontiers of medical research, the National Association of Medicine Practitioners and Research in China sent a message to delegates at the Cites meeting expressing support for moves to prevent poaching of

replace pharmaceuticals derived from animal parts with herbal medicines. China has thus recently removed rhino horn from its official pharmacopoeia, replacing it with water buffalo horn. Researchers in that country are also on the verge of announcing an official substitute for tiger bone after conducting extensive clinical trials.

Farieda Khan, projects director at the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit, says this new approach to traditional medicine will have a huge impact on conservation in South Africa.

"It is the most practical and sensible suggestion I have heard coming out of Cites for a long time. We are dealing with emotions and long-held beliefs that are cherished by the people who hold them. Some of the knowledge that goes into the making of these medicines are centuries, if not tens of centuries, old. We have to work in partnership with these people."

Researchers at the Institute for Natural Resources in KwaZulu-Natal estimate that in that province alone there are some 20 000 people gathering plants or animals for use in the traditional medicine industry. Every year some 1 500 tons of plant mater-

the interests of LURDai alone.

"Our figures show that plant collectors who supply traditional practitioners sell plants worth R60-million a year, about one-third of the maize crop for KwaZulu-Natal. The dispersed value of the medicines made from these plants is estimated at about R500-million a year for the province. If you extrapolate these figures to the whole of the South Africa the traditional medicine industry could be generating a spending of up to R2.3-billion," says a consultant at the institute, Miles Mander.

"Conservationists tend to concentrate on flagship species such as rhinos and tigers. But, if you consider these statistics, it becomes clear that other plants and animals, including those used in our local traditional medicines industry, should be focused on. The need for working with these practitioners in order to protect biological diversity is becoming even more clear."

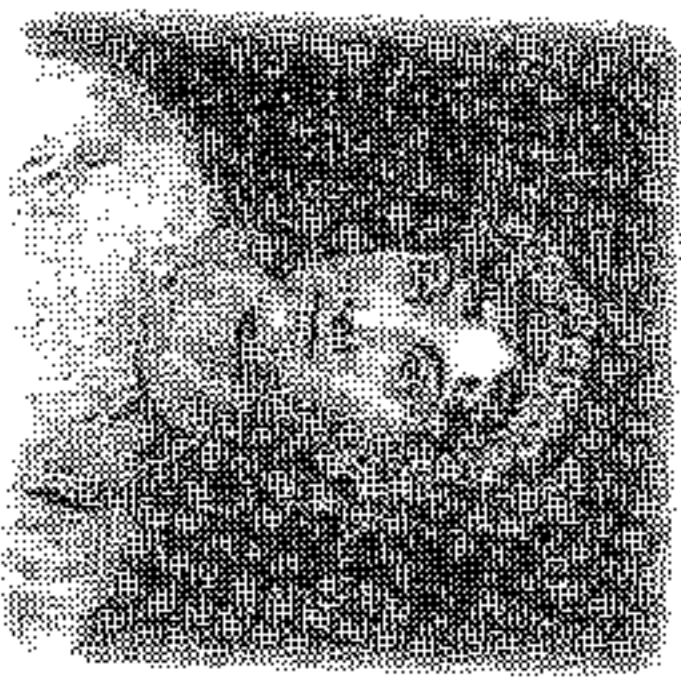
Jenny Mander, manager of the institute's natural resource programme, said the new approach being hammered out at Cites would bolster programmes currently being implemented in South Africa to prevent species extinction and deal with the needs of traditional healers.

where subsistence farmers are encouraged to participate in the traditional pharmaceutical industry by growing bulbous plants and trees that are widely in demand from the healers — rather than compete with commercial farmers in the more established agricultural sectors.

"We have initiated a number of schemes where farmers diversify into the cultivation of bulbous plants. These have a good turn-around time and generate significant amounts for families. We have also encouraged people to grow hedgerows of trees like the pepperbark, which is widely used for a range of ailments."

The institute is also working with the Natal Parks Board on schemes that allow healers and plant collectors into many of the province's game parks to gather protected plants on a regulated basis. Said Mander: "The new approach at Cites will help to consolidate the partnership that we are trying to encourage between healers and conservationists in this country."

Tune into SAfm's programme Futurewatch for more news from the world of science and technology on Mondays at 8pm on 104-107FM



Jane Austen 1775-1817

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F A C T S & F I C T I O N



Shock as rhino-horn plan spiked at Cites

South Africa had expected to win second vote, especially after ivory-trade decision was overturned earlier

By JILL GOWANS
Harare

In a shock turnabout after southern Africa's elephant-trade victory yesterday at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) conference, South Africa's rhino-horn proposal was rejected for the second time.

Voting by secret ballot produced 54 yes votes, 48 no votes and 10 abstentions, thus failing to obtain a two-thirds majority. It was obvious that the 15 European Union states which abstained on the elephant proposals had been "pulled into line" and voted en bloc against the rhino proposal.

It was a worse defeat than Wednesday's first, open vote on the rhino, which was defeated by one vote. South Africa then called for another vote in the plenary session, a permissible

move under Cites rules.

The rhino proposal was to seek permission to investigate the possibility of reopening legal trade in rhino horn in order to sell off the country's stockpile on a one-off basis. After the success of the elephant proposals, which allowed Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to sell their ivory stockpile to Japan on a controlled basis, there was rising optimism about the rhino plan that came up late yesterday.

Natal Parks Board chief executive George Hughes, who spearheaded the proposal, said: "Naturally we were very disappointed. We now realise it was a tactical mistake to call for another vote. But we'll be back."

Ivory stockpiles have long been a thorn in the side of African states. They represented a valuable resource which could not be traded and were a threat to sustainable

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legal trade which Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia may now carry out in 18 months' time. In addition, countries spend great sums of money guarding their ivory.

"We wanted to remove ivory stockpiles from the system," said Nigel Hunter of the United Kingdom, who was a member of the working group which helped to find consensus on the ivory-trade document. "It will allow those countries who are short of funds to raise money for conservation of their elephant populations."

Every African range state, other than Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, must mark its ivory stocks and register with Cites within 90 days. The source of the ivory stocks should also be given.

The ivory should then be consolidated in a predetermined number of locations. - Star Foreign Service.

ANIMAL RIGHTS WATCHDOGS DISMAYED

Songs greet easing of ban on ivory trading

(5b)
20/6/97

HARARE: Supporters of a strict ban on ivory trading say Cites is taking a dangerous gamble by giving in to appeals of three Southern African countries to be allowed limited trading.

THREE Southern African delegations burst into song and dance yesterday at the international convention on endangered species after winning a bitter battle to conditionally sell ivory from their excess elephant herds.

Seventy-six countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) voted for the proposal from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe that would allow them to resume trade in mid-1999 under strict controls. Twenty-one countries voted against, in the secret ballot, and 20 abstained.

Immediately after the result was announced, the three winning countries' delegations burst into ululations with some officials raising their fists high in a victory salute and the conference hall in Harare rang with the sound of God Bless Africa.

"Nzou! (elephants!) nzou!" an official from a Zimbabwean conservation group shouted with joy.

The rest of the delegates — including Canada's Mr David Bracket who presided over the meeting — watched in apparent bemusement.

But in the observers' gallery, many officials from animal rights watchdogs who have been campaigning against any relaxation of the 1989 ban on ivory trade looked

crestfallen, with some hurrying out of the hall in visible distress.

"The parties to Cites are engaging in a dangerous gamble by renewing the ivory trade and sending a signal to poachers throughout Africa that elephants may once again bring them enormous profits," said Mr Wayne Pacelle, vice-president of the US-based Humane Society.

"We are also very pleased that so many people in Cites understand and support our position on the right to our sovereignty and our right to use our natural resources for the benefit of our people."

Mr Peter Pueschel of Greenpeace, which has been one of the most vocal opponents of the three Southern African states' proposal, said he believed the Cites decision sent a frightening message to poachers to resume killing elephants.

However, South African Deputy

Environmental Affairs Minister Mr Peter Mokaba said southern African countries were "ready, eager and determined to ensure that trade is as clean as possible".

"We are determined to be no longer dictated to by poachers and criminals... This is a very good statement by Cites," Mokaba said.

Some delegates and observers to the 10-day conference ending today widely credited South Africa for cobbling behind-the-scenes a compromise on the issue, which has at times been acrimonious.

South Africa also chairs the Southern African Development Community which threw its weight behind its members.

"We are delighted that our proposal has won, although it has been a very difficult and nerve-racking experience," a jubilant Mr Chen Chimutengwende, Zimbabwe's Environment Minister, told a news conference.

"We are also very pleased that so many people in Cites understand and support our position on the right to our sovereignty and our right to use our natural resources for the benefit of our people," he said.

Botswana's Commerce and Industry Minister Mr George Kgoroba and Namibian Environment and Tourism Minister Mr Gert Hanekom, both beaming with pleasure, said their success indicated that Cites would not be used as a pressure group to punish nations with successful conservation programmes. — Reuter

Ivory trade to be strictly controlled

SA played a key role in getting the ivory trade ban lifted for three of its neighbours, writes assistant editor Michael Moon, who attended the Cites meeting in Harare (5/6) BA 23/6/97

THE strict conditions attached to the reopening of ivory trade in three southern African countries will help to focus attention on conservation management in Africa, says SA's Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba.

Mokaba was the driving force behind the partial reversal of the world ivory trade ban at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting in Harare.

Many of the conditions in the Cites resolution were the result of extensive consultation between African elephant range states. Throughout the negotiations, Mokaba was at pains to point out that SA, as a key interested party, wanted all concerns addressed.

He believes strict monitoring and auditing of ivory trade in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana and enforced channelling of revenues into conservation will have a beneficial effect on African wildlife management systems.

Mokaba intends calling for an urgent meeting of Southern African Development Community (SADC) environmental officials to begin work on meeting all the Cites conditions.

"We must come up with solutions, and demonstrate good government, rather than waiting for Cites and the industrialised world to impose their systems on us."

SA did not seek to have its elephant population "downlisted" from Cites appendix I to appendix II with its neighbours, as the country was still developing its environmental policies and did not want to rush into a situation unprepared, said Mokaba.

Although SA probably had the world's best wildlife management systems, it had to integrate communities into nature conservation.

"We have to change our policies from the old colonial systems which we have inherited to ensure that benefits from natural resources are used for socioeconomic development.

"We must address all the concerns, so that when we move into an international arena such as Cites, we do so with confidence."

After attending the opening of the convention, Mokaba returned to SA but was back in Harare when it became apparent that an African consensus vote on the ivory issue was possible.

Using the united SADC position as a starting point, Mokaba lobbied all other African elephant range states in the run-up to the first round of voting.

As the debate on the three ivory trade proposals began, SA tabled a wide-ranging amendment to them. This attempted to address all the concerns that had been raised by range states and others.

While many African states backed the amendment, it became clear that not all the Francophone countries were on its side. There was also confusion about certain conditions of the amendment, and the southern Africans failed by three votes to attain the two-thirds majority needed to alter a listing.

Undaunted, the SA delegation worked behind the scenes to help set up a special working group to remove obstacles to the three proposals being accepted in a second voting round.

This working group was composed of 13 African countries, including SA, and the European Union (EU), which had voted as a bloc against the first amendment. The new amendment was passed by a fairly large majority in the secret vote. The EU, which wanted one extra condition added, is understood to have abstained as a bloc.

Both the US and Australia declared that they had voted against the proposals because they feared they would lead to a resurgence of poaching and an increase in the illegal ivory market.

Other nations which spoke out against ivory trade included Israel and Nigeria, which raised concerns about the financial implications of trade monitoring.

The Liberian delegate would not vote for Zimbabwe because his country had been insulted in an article in a Zimbabwean newspaper which had made caustic remarks about the Liberian war.

Throughout the convention, the Zimbabwean media forcefully propounded the country's downlisting bid. television news programmes concentrated heavily on the Cites deliberations. A succession of proponents of sustainable use of natural resources were interviewed and newspapers and

radio programmes dwelt at length on the importance of reversing the elephant ban.

The jubilation in the convention hall and in the media which followed the announcement of the final vote were testament to how the issue had become one of national pride.

There was a pervasive sense in Harare that the developing world had won a significant victory in an international forum and that the stranglehold of the rich donor nations on such conventions was loosening.

The adoption of secret voting played a key role in the outcome of the elephant debate. Earlier, Mokaba said a number of African countries had told him that they had been threatened with withdrawal of development aid by industrialised countries and by wealthy nongovernmental organisations (NGOs).

A representative of an animal rights organisation even scanned the convention hall with a pair of binoculars in an attempt to discern how certain delegates were filling in their ballot forms.

Another important aspect of the great elephant debate was the participation of community groups who lobbied delegates intensively to downlist elephants.

The Southern African Forum for Communities and NGOs such as Safcon held a number of briefings to inform delegates and the media of their circumstances and extol the merits of sustainable use of resources.

Some delegates were taken to rural and wildlife areas to see for themselves situations of elephant overpopulation and habitat destruction and to observe the impact on communities.

Safcon's SA representative Lamson Maluleke said: "For the first time, the voice of communities has reached the ears of the Cites members. They have seen the realities of what we have to deal with."

He said Safcon had also played an important role in convincing "our brothers from all elephant range states" that ivory trade would be beneficial in southern Africa.

The message of sustainable use and of the need for incentives to conserve wildlife was also pushed under delegates' noses in the exhibition area, with community groupings and hunting organisations in the forefront.

An animal rights activist remarked on the "intimidatory atmosphere" of the meeting. She could not have taken kindly to the stuffed wild animals arrayed around the convention centre.

The atmosphere of the Harare meeting was certainly in marked contrast to the previous Cites gathering in Fort Lauderdale in the US, where sustainable and consumptive use advocates were openly condemned at every turn and some members of the SA delegation were even spat at by antitrade activists.

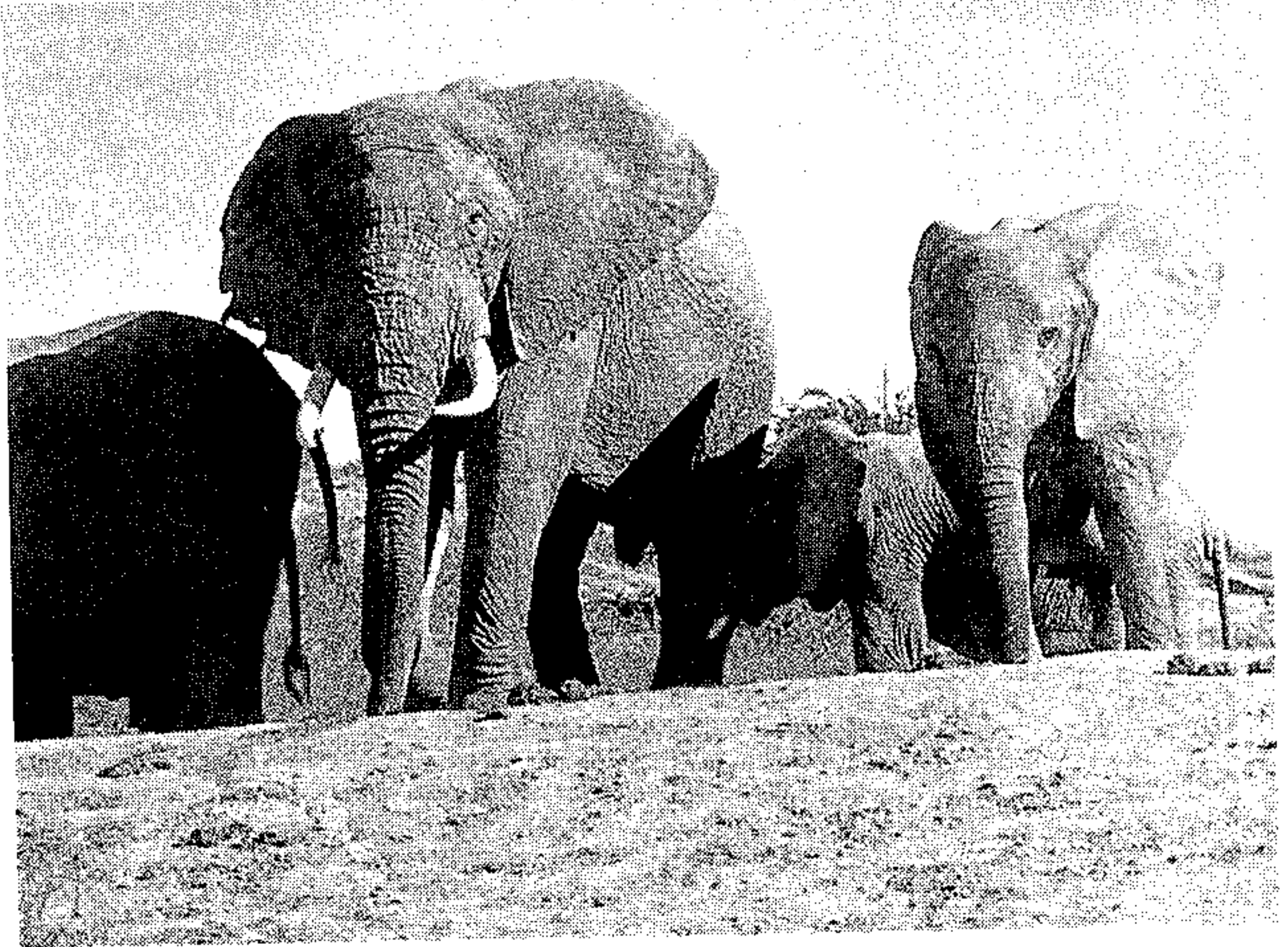
Despite the southern African victory, the spectre of a possible outbreak of elephant poaching loomed over the proceedings in Harare. There were predictions that the message from the convention would be that there was now full and unrestricted ivory trade, and that poachers would not understand the conditions attached to the partial freeing up of trade and would commence slaughtering elephants.

A great responsibility rests on the trading countries and on the Cites monitoring agencies to ensure the new system is not abused to launder illegal ivory. If strictly adhered to, the conditions could ensure that there is no market for ivory outside that permitted.

However, there is already a substantial illegal ivory trade. A goal of trade is to undercut this with a tightly regulated market, aided by effective law enforcement.

Part of the southern African countries' argument was that they should not be penalised for poor controls and inadequate wildlife management in other parts of the world.

Mokaba believes these inadequacies can be remedied by following the southern African model of giving communities — those who live alongside animals — a stake in the welfare of wildlife. It is only they who can be the true guardians of the wild, he says.



In terms of the the strict conditions attached to the re-opening of ivory trading, only Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia will be able to sell ivory for commercial purposes while only dealers in Japan will be allowed to buy it.

How the trading will work

ONLY Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia will be able to sell ivory for commercial purposes.

Only dealers in Japan will be allowed to buy it.

There will be an 18-month moratorium on ivory sales to allow time to put monitoring and law enforcement mechanisms in place. This is designed to ensure that the legal trade is not used to "launder" illegal ivory.

The 18-month period begins only after Cites's 90-day ratification period is over. So, in effect, there will be no trade for 21 months.

There will be no trade until deficiencies in the proposed marketing channels identified by a Cites "panel of experts" have been rectified. So, if the system cannot be made watertight, it is possible there will never be any trade.

All revenue from ivory sales must be channelled into elephant conservation and into community-based conservation and development programmes. Trust funds will be set up to ensure this happens.

All other elephant range states can, in the next 90 days, sell their declared government stocks of ivory to any willing donor nation with the strict proviso that this be used for "noncommercial purposes". This means that wealthy nations can buy up stockpiles and either destroy them or stockpile them themselves. The intention would be to "donate" money for elephant conservation, remove African countries' ivory security problems and remove the threat of "illegal" ivory being leaked

onto the market.

Only certified government stockpiles from Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana will be sold. So this initial trade will not involve the killing of any elephants.

Each country has been allocated a quota of raw ivory for sale in 1999. For Namibia it is 13.8 tons, for Zimbabwe 20 tons and for Botswana 25.3 tons.

If any of the three trading nations does not comply with the conditions, its trade will be halted and its elephant population will be returned to Cites appendix I which bans trade.

An international reporting and monitoring system for both legal and illegal trade will be set up.

The trading countries must commit themselves to international co-operation in law enforcement through mechanisms such as the Lusaka Agreement.

The three countries will also be able to export sport hunting trophies for noncommercial purposes. They can also export live elephants to "appropriate and acceptable destinations. Zimbabwe can also export elephant hides.

The resolution passed at the Cites meeting in Harare notes that "donor countries" have not adequately assisted in elephant conservation in Africa or compensated African countries in any way for loss of revenue from the ivory trade ban imposed by Cites in 1989.

The resolution also affirms the principle that well-controlled ivory trade, based on good elephant management, can support conservation.

Ivory deal 'a selfish gamble'

SAM KILEY

LONDON: The partial lifting of the worldwide ban on trade in ivory last week is a stupid, arrogant and selfish gamble on the future of Africa's elephant population.

As if this were not daft enough, the cheering and anthems from Southern African delegates to the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) conference in Harare showed that conservation issues are now clouded with racism and nationalism.

When Cites delegates clapped and broke into a chorus of *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica* (God Save Africa) on hearing that they would be able to flog tusks to the Japanese, who turn them into decorative signature seals, I couldn't help muttering "God save the elephant".

CT 23/6/97

At first glance the Southern Africans have a perfectly reasonable argument for lifting the Cites ban on trade in ivory. Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, who have too many elephants, will be able to sell off their huge stockpiles to Japan. This will generate much-needed funds for conservation. No sensible environmentalist disagrees with the argument that Africa's wildlife should not only pay for itself, but turn a profit for its human hosts if it is to survive.

African leaders trying to cope with populations expanding at a rate of three percent a year have a tough time explaining why vast tracts of land must be set aside for animals, while their own populations go hungry.

In return for allowing them to sell off their ivory, the Southern African states agreed to wait 18 months before

(56)
exporting their tusks while a system is set up to monitor poaching and other effects of the renewed trade. The countries will be able to sell only part of their stockpiles, and will not cull elephant specifically for the ivory trade.

In addition, if one of them fails to ensure that only its own excess ivory is sold it would automatically lose its right to trade in elephant tusks. All this sounds fine. But it is nonsense. There is no way that the Southern African states could control the trade in ivory.

The region is a major trans-shipment point for hard drugs and weapons. And for all Zimbabwe's boasts of being a leader at conservation, its black rhino population has vanished over the past decade. Why should we believe the same authorities will be able to stop the slaughter of elephant? — The Times, London

Now to prevent the slaughter



When the rejoicing dies down, it will be time for the Cites signatories who supported the ivory downlisting to prevent a new wave of elephant slaughter, writes **Eddie Koch**

THE South African government, along with those of Cites's 138 member nations who voted to allow Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to renew limited trade in elephant tusks with Japan, bear an awesome moral burden.

It is their duty to ensure the new ivory trade does not stimulate a wave of elephant slaughter in the politically turbulent countries north of the Zambezi River.

The Cites signatories who supported downlisting will have to take seriously the grim warnings by animal rights groups that thousands of elephants in Central Africa — especially the forest herds in the Democratic Republic of Congo that are reputed to be the biggest left in the world — run the risk of being decimated as poaching syndicates prepare for a re-opening of the ivory markets.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare has a powerful set of arguments to back its claim that this prospect is imminent in the wake of Cites's decision to allow a controlled commerce with Japan involving tusks held in certified stockpiles by the three Southern African countries.

'Any programme for marking ivory to certify that it is legal is open to forgers'

"The controls suggested in the Cites decision are so complex that they will not be able to be implemented in advanced developed countries. Countries like Zimbabwe, which by their own admission do not have the capacity to monitor a legal trade, will not be able to enforce these," says Chris Styles, programme co-ordinator of the international fund.

"We predict these countries will become conduits for illicit ivory especially from the volatile Central African countries. There will be a massive wave of poaching in the near future from these countries as organised syndicates realise there are now new conduits through the south of Africa for their ivory."

The fund's Africa director, David Barritt, says he was personally present in the Congo recently when military officers were interrogating a group of poachers caught shooting elephants with automatic rifles in that country.

"They specifically said they had been supplied with weapons and ammunition by middlemen who wanted to build up their stocks of elephant tusks because there was likely to be a new trade in ivory."

He adds that the borders between Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia are so porous it is almost impossible to prevent tusks coming into these countries from the north.

It would then be up to conservation officials in the southern countries to ensure that their legal stockpiles do not provide an opportunity to launder tusks obtained illicitly and smuggled into these countries.

South Africa's achievement at Cites was to broker an agreement that allowed trade in existing stockpiles of ivory — from new return for enforcement along legal

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South Africa's achievement at Cites was to broker an agreement that allowed trade in existing stockpiles of

controls

of the elephants

(56) M+C 27/6 - 3/7/97

d specifically not tusks hunted elephants — in comprehensive set of law measures and monitoring to prevent poached tusks circulated to the Far East channels.

any of the three countries at poaching will have their and elephants uplifted to appendix One which bans their products. controls will be difficult to even by sophisticated developers," says Barritt. "The s for reimposing the ban on that do not comply with the e so vague that they are

unlikely to act as an effective deterrent." Peter Jewell, a retired professor of zoology from the University of Cambridge, says it would be almost impossible for Cites's new monitoring bodies to verify that tusks moving between Africa and Japan come from certified government stockpiles. Jewell, who has worked in East Africa on methods to determine scientifically where ivory stockpiles originated, says a tusk's origin can only be confirmed by sophisticated isotope analysis.

carbon, nitrogen and strontium in the ivory to reveal a "fingerprint" specific to a particular geographic location. Adds Jewell, who worked for a number of years in East Africa on methods to verify the origins of tusk: "But this is far too expensive to apply on a wide scale. Any programme for marking ivory to certify that it is legal is open to forgers."

stipulates all revenues from the new ivory traffic have to be ploughed back into elephant conservation programmes. "Even if illegal ivory gets into the stockpiles of any of the three countries, how would an individual profit, seeing as all proceeds from the sale of ivory is monitored and must go back into conservation of elephants?" says Overton. "The control measures are so comprehensive that it would be difficult for Japan or any of the three African countries to launder illegal tusks."

proper monitoring of elephant numbers, and surveillance of poaching operations, throughout Africa. Now that Cites has made its agonised decision, the only way to prevent the ghastly predictions of those who mourned rather than celebrated in the aisles of the convention centre in Harare from coming true, is for those parties who voted in favour of elephant downlisting to put their money behind their ballot.

that tusks moving between Africa and Japan come from certified government stockpiles. Jewell, who has worked in East Africa on methods to determine scientifically where ivory stockpiles originated, says a tusk's origin can only be confirmed by sophisticated isotope analysis.

But Greg Overton, programme officer for the Nairobi-based African Elephant Specialist Group of the IUCN-World Conservation Union, believes the controls can work. He also points out the Cites resolution

In fact, says Overton, the Cites decision will allow more monitoring of the Central African forest elephants because it motivates for member countries to make funds available for

As the World Wide Fund for Nature said in its comment on the issue: "The parties [to Cites] now face a critical challenge in fulfilling these conditions which if met could work for elephant conservation. They must move cautiously and with full commitment."

'These controls will be difficult to implement even by sophisticated development countries'

This involves using minute traces of

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TO: Francis, Dudley

FM: Sten

COMPUTER LAB

Past purchasing costs:

(Please note the final bill has no quotes we were given.)

Purchased: 2 new machines with

Purchased: 2 new machines with

Purchased: HP LASERJET 5L

Total past costs sum:

Future costs:

New RAM chips for 3 old machines

Alarm system (infrared sensor, camera)

Stata 5.0 "Professional Package"
US\$ 595 + US\$122 (shipping). *Confirmed.*

Total foreseen future costs sum:

Additional future costs will arise in

Total

Total past + foreseen future costs:



PELLICAN BANK: Over 400 pelicans have taken advantage of lower, cleaner water in Zeekoevlei, which before the cleanup earlier this year was highly polluted.

PICTURE: THEO STOCK

Flamingos return to Zeekoevlei after clean-up

ELISSA GOOTMAN

BIRDS are flocking back to Zeekoevlei after a massive clean-up by residents and the city council.

The clean-up was launched in March, when a dam wall across the vlei was opened, allowing polluted water to be flushed out and enabling residents to clean the newly exposed areas.

"We haven't seen flamingos here since 1982, and this year we have around 280 right off the shore," said Mr Theo Stock of the Zeekoevlei Environmental Forum.

"It's really nice to see them again. For a long time we weren't able to get any wading birds, because the weeds were too tall."

Stock said the flamingos were joined by more than 400 pelicans and large groups of avocets, African spoonbill, gulls and cormorants.

Mr Roger Godwin, also of the forum, said the lower, cleaner water enabled pelicans to fish more successfully.

"I don't know how nature gets the word out. They (the pelicans) must have made a couple of cell-phone calls and told their friends

to come in for supper," he joked.

Godwin said that since 1972 residents had been fighting to lower the water level of the vlei so that the accumulation of weeds (mainly water hyacinth) and garbage could be cleared away.

Earlier this year, stop-logs (boards) were installed in the dam wall. They can be removed periodically to lower the water level by about one metre at a time. The first removal took place in late May, to approving cheers by residents, councillors and environmentalists.

CT 27/6/97

The parks and forests branch of the Cape Town municipality staged the subsequent clean-up, consulting the local community to identify areas to be given priority. Funding came from this branch and from the Cape Metropolitan Council RDP fund, which contributed R309 000.

Much of the work was done by residents — a precondition for receiving RDP funding. Fifteen workers from the local Phumtani squatter camp were employed to remove litter from the eastern bank of the Big Lotus River.

The Zeekoevlei Civic Association organised several "environmental days", on which children from three local schools collected rubbish. Many residents voluntarily cleared the areas in front of their homes.

Godwin said the stop-logs would be re-installed on July 4 and removed again next March.

"We would like to get the vlei down for a few months each year," he said, adding that the forum hoped to extend the project into other sections of the False Bay Coastal Park.

FM 27/6/97

Mining house to the rescue

But conservationists find it hard to swallow new threat

Yet another threat to SA's most endangered bird — the Blue Swallow — has been averted through the conservation-orientated stance of gold mining company West Rand Consolidated Mining.

WR Cons holds mining claims over large sections of the 500 ha site near Kaapschehoop in Mpumalanga which hosts the largest breeding colony of the bird in SA.

CEO Ted Grobicki has reached agreement with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) not to mine the claims and instead to hold on to them until the site is declared a nature reserve.

The reason WR Cons will continue to hold title to the claims is that if it relinquishes them they will become available to other mining companies with less conservation-minded management.

One such operator, ironically named Blue Swallow Mining CC, has already applied for permission to prospect and mine on claims in other sections of the colony.

Department of Mineral & Energy Affairs regional director for Mpumalanga Deon du Plessis says his department recommended that a full environmental impact assessment be carried out.

Blue Swallow Mining wants to reopen a small gold mine that was shut down in 1952 after just two years of operation because of difficulty in treating the ore.

The application for a mining permit follows a pre-feasibility study done by Blue Swallow Mining based on just four ore samples, from which they concluded gold worth R232m could be recovered.

The "study" has been lambasted by conservationists and mining analysts as meaningless given the limited sample database.

The company now wants to extract a bulk ore sample of 300 t to firm up their estimates, but conservationists point out that would be tantamount to full-scale mining of the site.

Brendan Ryan

Trying to get rich and stay green

PM 27/6/97
The economy vs the environment

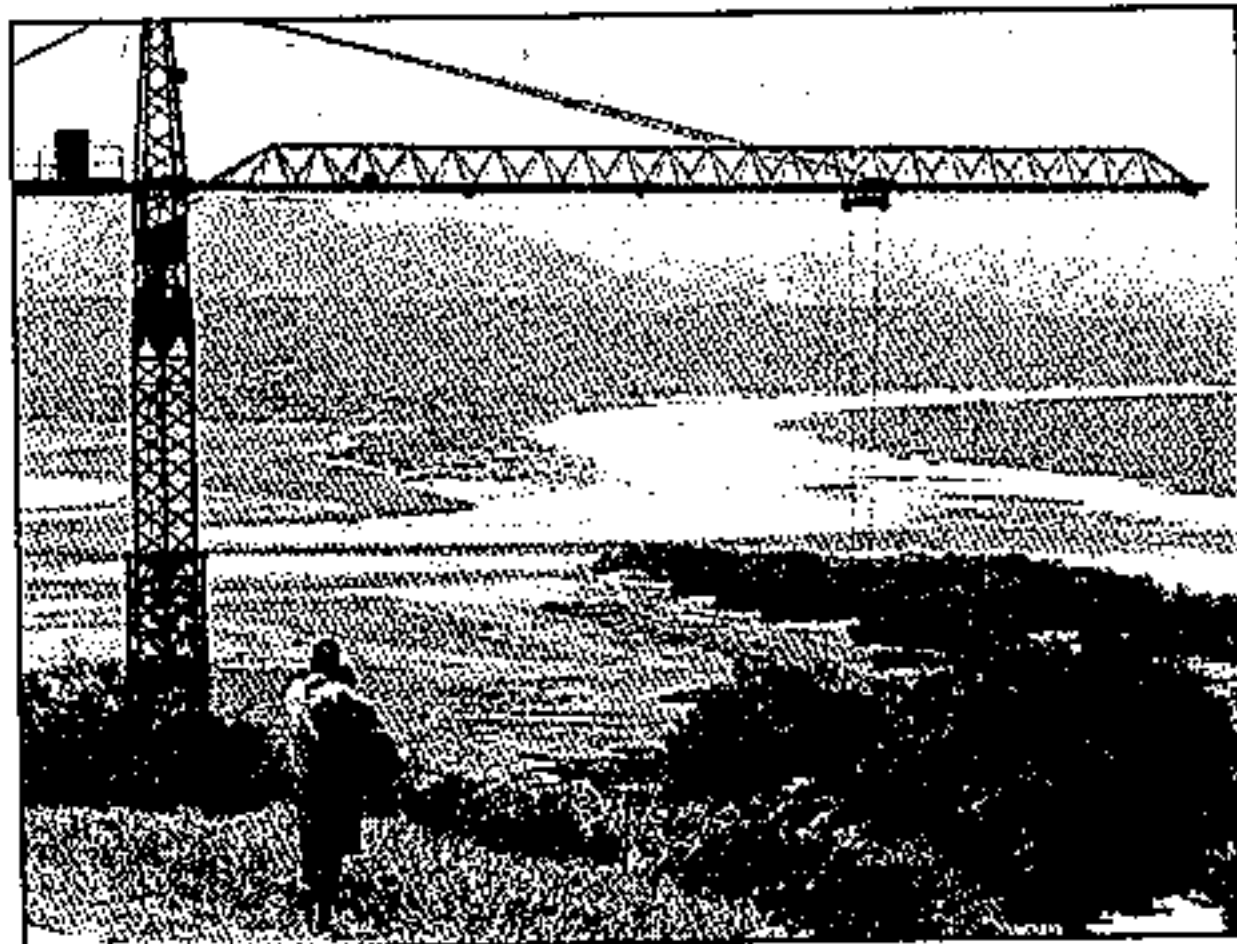
Some say tree-hugging is all very well for the First World, but it's a luxury developing countries can ill afford. When there are starving people to feed, a clean environment takes second place to economic growth and job creation.

But the "expand now, clean up later" approach doesn't work, and many fast-growing countries have learnt this the hard way, argue World Bank economists Vinod Thomas and Tamara Belt.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand averaged 5% annual GDP growth over the past 25 years. But southeast Asia also contains nine of the world's 15 most polluted cities.

Thomas and Belt argue that areas like pollution control have to be addressed during growth and not after, particularly as some kinds of damage are irreversible. Many countries have introduced waste fees and levies, forestry taxation, pollution charges and agreements between government and business on emission levels.

In this respect many people argue SA's environmental stand is far too weak. But if



Facing the trade-off . . . how to grow jobs and trees at the same time

it needs a stronger policy framework, it will also need to be flexible.

Negative externalities are a case in point; many of the costs of production aren't paid for by consumers or producers, but are borne by people who have no say in the matter, for example, those who have to live with pollution, or future generations. Government needs to ensure the costs are paid by the appropriate people.

But UCT lecturer Tony Leiman points out that the "polluter pays" principle is often too simplistic. "For example, on the Cape Peninsula, Bothasig and Milnerton residents suffer bronchial problems because of emissions from the Caltex refinery and the Kynoch fertiliser plant. It looks like a classic case where the polluters should be paying.

"But the plants were established decades ago, and Milnerton was carefully chosen because it wasn't a residential area and the southeaster would blow the bulk of the emissions out to sea. That drove land prices down, so property developers moved in and high-density housing sprang up."

So who should be taxed? Leiman says this kind of grey area occurs more often than people realise. ■

Leaks at nuclear
waste dump seen
as insignificant

(56)

Star 28/6/97

A radioactive leak at South Africa's Vaalputs nuclear waste dump in the Northern Cape had probably been caused by adverse weather conditions, the Atomic Energy Commission said yesterday.

AEC head of nuclear waste management Brian Hamilton-Jones said from Vaalputs that extreme cold and heavy rains could have been responsible for hairline cracks in a few concrete blocks containing radioactive waste.

"There is a little bit of radioactive stuff coming out," he said.

But the leakage was insignificant, AEC chief executive Waldo Stumpf said in Pretoria. "This is no crisis, and no danger of contamination exists."

Hamilton-Jones said the leaking blocks had been standing exposed to the elements for quite some time. This might have resulted in wear and tear.

Stumpf said Koeberg nuclear power station had of late been delivering waste-containing blocks at larger intervals. "As a result, some of the blocks have been standing for two to three years in the trench waiting to be covered."

The matter had already been taken up with Eskom, which operates Koeberg, Stumpf said. - Sapa

Peace Parks: the pursuit of a bold new vision

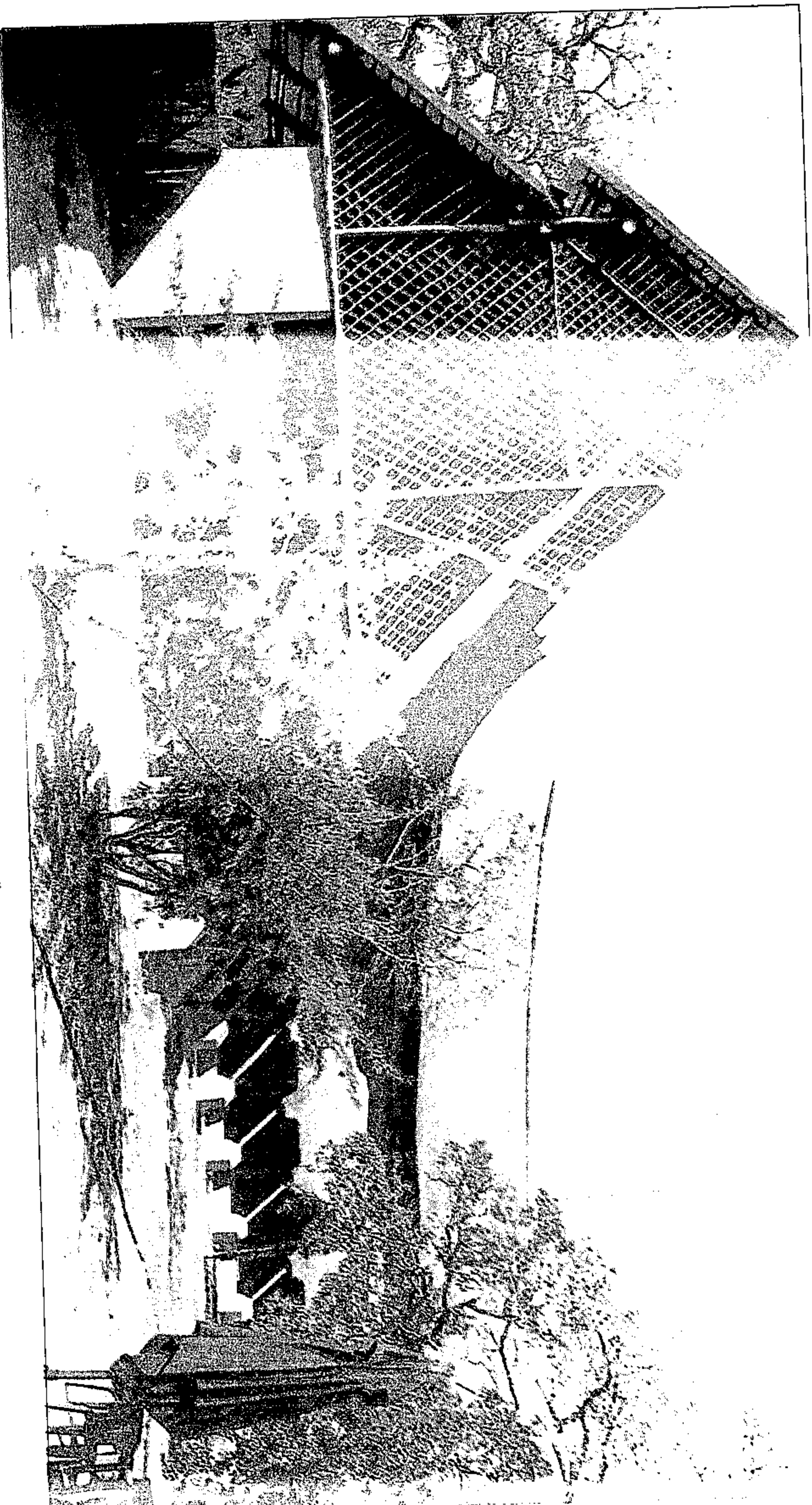
CHENE BLUMAUT
Staff Reporter

A critical skills shortage in game reserves and parks across southern Africa could jeopardise tourism and initiatives to create trans-frontier con-

veyed experience, but no qualifications," explains Dr Norton. The idea is to fast-track these people into management positions by providing them with practical skills. Financial management within a nature reserve, maintenance of infrastructure,

MAY 28/6/97

(56)



Bushveld laager: the dining hall of the

the dining hall is designed to blend with its natural surroundings

'Within South Africa the college's role will be to change the face of one of the 'whitest' sectors of society by opening conservation career pathways for previously disadvantaged people'

areas, or Peace Parks. This is the opinion of Peter Norton, director of the Southern African Wildlife College in Mpumalanga, which was built to address the dire lack of skills that could jeopardise "Africa's only opportunity to turn itself around through sustainable nature-based tourism."

Dr Norton was the former director of Eastern Cape Nature Conservation.

Situated on the western boundary of the Kruger National Park, the R25-million college is the biggest project in the history of the World Wide Fund for Nature-South Africa, formerly the SA Nature Foundation.

Phase one of the college, consisting of accommodation for 50 students and four visiting lecturers, an administration building, library, seminar room, workshop, two lecture theatres, exhibition galleries, dining and recreational facilities and staff housing, was finished in February.

It was built on land donated to the WWF with a grant from the German government.

Its role would be to provide the "building blocks" for the Peace Parks initiative and sustainable nature-based tourism, by teaching people in charge of parks and game reserves in the region how to properly manage these natural resources.

The Peace Parks Foundation plans to create trans-frontier conservation areas to protect huge, ecologically important natural areas that straddle international boundaries, fostering relations with neighbours.

"In many post-civil war countries, such as Mozambique, people without any conservation experience are often put in charge of parks or game reserves and often they don't have any idea what they are doing," says Dr Norton.

It is these people who are already managing protected areas, but who lack the necessary skills, who will form the college's core business.

A fair amount of interest in the basic two-year residential course has already been expressed by Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Malawi, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Within South-Africa the college's role will be to change the face of "one of the whitest sectors of society" by opening conservation careers for previously disadvantaged people.

"We are aiming specifically at the type of person who has been a veldwagter for many years and has a lot of

ecological management, community development, fire management and management of tourists will all form part of the basic course aimed at teaching management skills across the broad spectrum of conservation, explains course co-ordinator Clive Poultney.

"Game rangers have a reputation for not being people's people and that is why communication will also be a vital aspect of the course. It is no use training people to become managers if they can not pass on those skills," says Mr Poultney.

Because many of the parks and game reserves have primitive facilities and are completely isolated, the students will also be taught how to handle basic trouble-shooting, for instance, what to do if a Land Rover breaks down.

The college has a distinct African feel, situated in the heart of the savannah and with only a fence around the 30ha premises separating it from the Kruger National Park.

"I have seen four of the big five within a kilometre of the college," says Dr Norton.

The college's main axis, a thick 200m wall and exhibition gallery with a thatched spine, even has the odd tree in it.

Environment-friendly features of the college includes the use of invasive aliens, such as jacaranda and recycled hardwoods, for furniture, salt water swimming pools, low volume toilets, minimal gardens and solar water heaters.

The project provided work for about 200 locals from the 11 surrounding villages over the 18-month construction phase, and most of the building materials were locally sourced.

The college has already been accepted as a project of the Wildlife Sector of the Southern African Development community, but the challenge now lies in "balancing the books" says Dr Norton.

At R15 000 a student for the residential course, the future of the college will depend on its ability to get bursaries and subsidies for students.

Shorter courses for in-service training of practising managers and "custom-made" modules will be developed in an attempt to cross-subsidise the certificate course.

The first short course begins in July.

'People without any conservation experience are often put in charge of parks'



Training team: Dorothy Oyler, Heather Wildi, Peter Norton and, in front, Clive Poultney are the permanent staffers at the South African Wildlife College

Dedicated team saves

fynbos from alien clutches

Special methods to control invaders

(51)

JOHN YELD

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Fynbos is flourishing again in the Red Hill region of the southern Peninsula, thanks to the dedicated efforts of a small team that is waging war on invasive alien plants.

The eight-strong team of the Red Hill Landowners' Conservation Group has been working in the area for just more than a year, and has already "liberated" some 170 ha of beautiful fynbos from the strangling clutches of alien trees like Port Jackson that are blanketing large areas.

Recently, the team was boosted by another three members sponsored by a private landowner, Ivan Harris of Baskloof.

The team, which consists of men and women from the Red Hill squatter camp, was employed by the conservation group who were deeply concerned at the rampant

spread of alien plants in their area.

Jeremy Croudace, who with his wife Alida was a founder member of the conservation group, worked with the team for the first few months, developing new techniques to kill off the invasive aliens most effectively.

This is important because Port Jackson trees in particular coppice from a "bud-bank" at the base of the trunk, and the normal removal method of simply cutting them down is ineffective - and in fact worsens the problem.

"The team's immediate goal was to learn the correct control methods to be used for the various species of invaders, and to learn to work thoroughly and neatly," Ms Croudace explained.

"Although their methods are slower than conventional ones, it results in much less follow-up work having to be done." The team was originally sponsored with

a grant of R36 500 from Total, with later funding of R87 000 from the Table Mountain Fund.

This was followed by a further grant from the Table Mountain Fund of R168 026 after positive assessments by fynbos expert Chris Burgers of Cape Nature Conservation and the University of Cape Town's Institute for Plant Conservation.

Professor Richard Cowling of the UCT institute said the team's clearing programme was probably the most efficient ever undertaken in the Cape floral kingdom.

"With minimal flurry, Mr Croudace's programme has exemplified all of the principles of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

"He has created a team of ecological restoration workers who have a sense of self-worth and a battery of skills that can be sold in the market place."



Got 'em licked! members of the alien vegetation eradication team at Red Hill, Tollman Mt

Photo: Red Hill Landowners' Conservation Group

ENVIRONMENT _

1997

JULY _ DEC

Education 'best vehicle for environment policy'

BD 2/7/97 (56)

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — The transformation of education in SA provided the ideal opportunity to incorporate environmental problem solving into learning at schools, Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

Addressing a conference of the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa at the Pretoria Technikon, Mokaba said the inclusion of environmental education in the new school curriculum was the best vehicle to create awareness of his department's policies.

These aimed to bring about an environment which catered for the well-being of all South Africans.

The conference, which runs until Friday, will debate the question of enhancing people's ability to address environmental issues that affect their health and quality of life.

Mokaba stressed the importance of bringing environmental information to the people and of creating awareness of the benefits of conservation and protection of the environment.

"The association is bent on taking even a further step, by accepting the challenge of making what looks won-

derful on paper, come to life in schools, teachers' practice and in the lives of learners in the country.

"This effort constitutes a massive task and calls for the mobilisation of resources by all stakeholders, including government," Mokaba said.

A spokesman for the association said taking action to solve environmental problems was no longer just an aim of environmental education. It was increasingly being seen as an integral part of the learning process (at schools).

"The potential for this environmental problem-solving approach to take root in schools has never been greater in this country, given the opportunities presented by the education transformation process," she said.

All eight areas of learning in the education department's emerging curriculum contained environmentally related outcome statements which were fundamentally environmental rather than merely involving a superficial "greening" of the curriculum, the spokesman said.

Other speakers at the conference include Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal and Anglo American corporate affairs chairman Clem Sunter.

TB threat to Kruger buffalo herds

A new strain of TB may signal potential disaster for 10 000 buffalo in the Kruger National Park, writes **Eileen Bartlett**

MFCG 4-10 | 9 | 97

(56)

SOUTH AFRICA, already facing the worst human tuberculosis epidemic in the world, is now confronting a new TB threat. *Mycobacterium bovis*, the strain commonly known as bovine TB, is sweeping the buffalo population in the Kruger National Park.

Nearly half the buffalo herds in the two million hectare park are considered infected. The epidemic is concentrated in the southern half of the park with nearly every herd south of the Olifants River affected, some with an infection rate as high as 85%.

The disease also has jumped to other species, including lion, cheetah, kudu and even a troop of baboons living near park headquarters at Skukuza.

A study group has been formed to come up with a strategy for containing the disease — and to reduce the potential for spillover to valuable export species such as white rhinoceros.

One proposal initially considered but then dropped would have required the slaughter of as many as 10 000 infected buffalo in the southern half of the park.

The plan was to create a buffalo-free zone starting at the Olifants River. Every buffalo found within the 20km wide zone would be shot. The zone would gradually be moved southward, eradicating the diseased buffalo from the southern half of the park, and allowing for repopulation by TB-free buffalo from the north.

cattle herd had to be slaughtered. Back then the park was unfenced, and the infection could have been passed easily into the wild buffalo populations. The only reason TB was never detected, scientists suspect now, is because no one ever felt the need to look for it.

Then in 1990, a young buffalo bull was found wandering and ill in the

west of the park. He was shot and the autopsy showed he had TB. A subsequent survey of the buffalo population, involving testing buffalo shot in the annual cull, showed an astonishingly high infection rate.

In September 1995 a dead lion was found, autopsied and found to be severely infected with TB. The following March the infection was identified in kudu. The total number of other species infected is small but still worrying—three lions, six kudu, two cheetah, and the baboon troop.

Keet encountered the first infected baboon at the petrol pumps at Skukuza, too depressed and ill to run. The baboon was one of a large troop known as the Train Bridge Troop.

Keet and others suspect the omnivorous baboons contracted the disease by scavenging infected animals.

Tests on infected kudu show they are carrying a slightly different strain of the bacteria, indicating that it has come from a different source to the bacteria infecting the buffalo. Though TB is rife among the buf-

falo, its spread to other species does appear to be limited to a few individuals. Because of that, and because the vast majority of diseased buffalo seem perfectly healthy, the park has opted for the more conservative approach, including close monitoring of the buffalo, following the progress of infected individuals and herds over a period of years, and closer study of mycobacterium bovis itself.

Park veterinarians are also looking for better means to diagnose TB in wild animals. At the moment only bovids and primates can be successfully tested without resorting to autopsy.

It is possible, scientists say, that the TB epidemic could continue for many years without having an undue effect on the populations.

Projected Duration: Amount of time in months that the project was projected to take for completion by project applicant/implementing institution at start of project. For FWCP, the planning period for projects is approx 15 years, and is thus not applicable information for our purposes.

Actual Duration: Actual time in months that the project took to complete. Complete means asset has been built. The one exception is for the FWCP, where project is ongoing for analysis, from project start through completion.

New variable: COMPLETION STATUS

Project components: Elaboration of project components.

Funders: RENAME: FUNDING allocated to administering institution jointly, with partnerships from other provincial or local levels. First funders sponsors the program; second funders partner for particular project.

New Variable: Number of funders
New Variable: Value of contribution
New Variable: Value of contribution

Total Projected Cost: Amount of projected cost.

Actual Cost: Cost of project at completion January 1997.

Total Labor Cost: For all program overtime to unskilled and semi-skilled labor. CHECK EACH ADMINISTERING INSTITUTION INCLUDED IN LABOR COSTS.

For FWCP, labor cost may include skilled on-site project managers.

Capital/labor ratio: DELETE

The park has put the plan on hold, however, saying it needs to do more research. Recent surveys have also found that the infection has moved north of the Olifants River, which would have rendered the plan inoperable anyway. "We still do not know enough about the disease. At this stage we are going to try, by good fencing, to contain the disease within the Kruger National Park complex, and do much more intensive research," said Dr Devald Keet, senior state veterinarian in the park.

Of particular concern is the potential for the disease to spread out of the park and into the rural communities on its western boundary. Buffalo could easily infect domestic cattle living on the other side of the fence. The disease could then infect the human population via unpasteurised milk. It is symptomatically indistinguishable from the TB bacterium that commonly infects humans.

In fact, mycobacterium bovis can cause disease in a wide range of domestic and wild animals.

Scientists suspect that TB has been present in the park since the early 1960s, when a farm at Crocodile Bridge, in the southwest corner, near Komatipoort, had such a severe outbreak its entire domestic

Completed/not completed

Completed/not completed

funding for project, by a single institution or departments at national, provincial department which is a partner for particular

received initially.

FWCP projects, at end of

salaries, bonuses and in the projects.

OR WHAT WAS

Warning bells toll for Cape Flats fynbos sites

AUTHORITIES HAVE been challenged to protect what is left of the fynbos on the Cape Flats. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

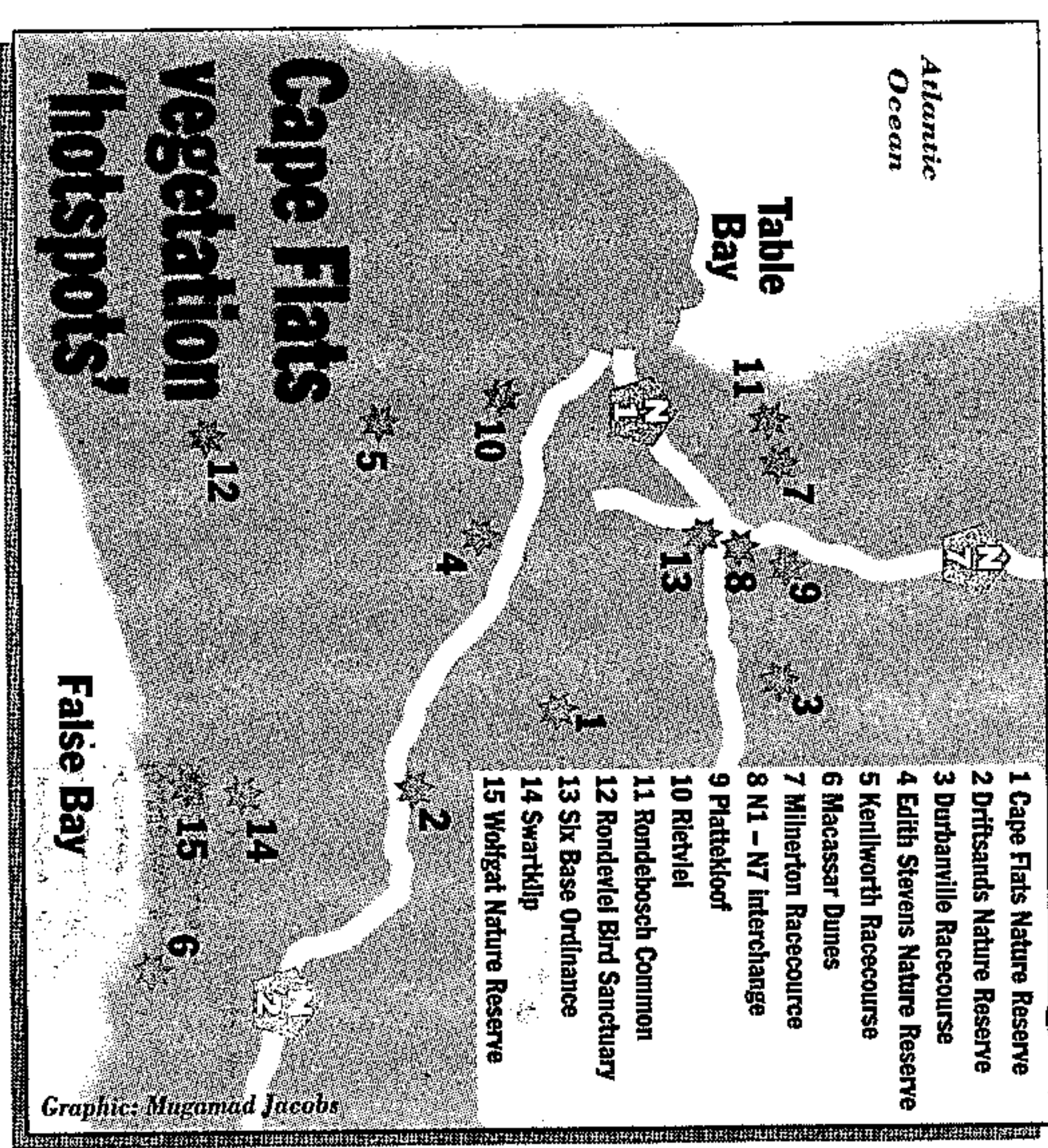
THEY live under bridges, next to freeways and along railway lines. They're under power lines, inside military camps and around racecourses. Most people don't know they're there, and through ignorance or apathy, they are gradually being trampled, dumped on, bulldozed or strangled to death by aliens.

They are plants, remnants of vegetation which once covered large areas of the Cape Flats, but which have now almost been wiped out by development, surviving only in small scattered pockets. They are part of the Cape Floral Kingdom, the richest, smallest and the most threatened of the world's six floral kingdoms.

The Botanical Society of SA, fearing that some of the plants may become extinct — particularly with the proposed Olympic Games development which centres on one of the threatened areas at Wingfield — had done a study pinpointing 15 "hotspots" which they say should be conserved as a matter of urgency.

The report by Dr Bruce McKenzie and Dr Tony Rebelo, released yesterday, states: "We challenge the responsible authorities and landowners to provide adequate conservation status to the 15 core sites.

"We believe this is the least that should be done to fulfil the country's



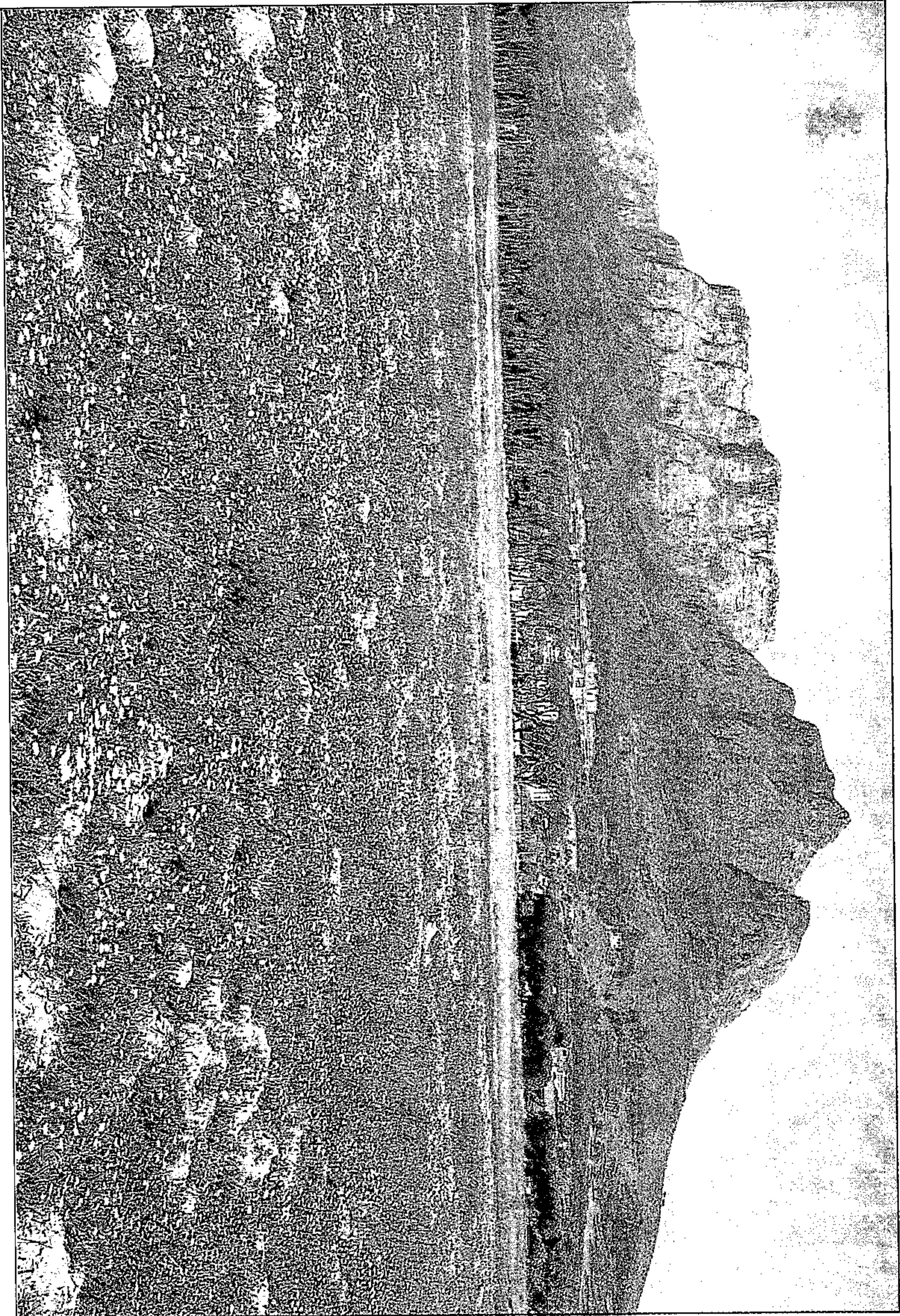
obligations under the International Convention on Biological Diversity. If any one of the sites is not conserved, irreplaceable losses will be incurred."

The study concentrated on sandplain fynbos, which is found on the lowlands and has had about 99% of its former population wiped out, and strandveld, which grows near the coast.

Only one percent of the remnants of sandplain fynbos is conserved, way

below the 10% recommended by the Rio Convention.

The 15 "hotspots" are, in order of conservation importance: Milnerton Racecourse, Rondebosch Common, Macassar dunes, Kenilworth Racecourse, Platteklip (60ha near Monte Vista), beneath Eskom's power lines), Rondevlei, the road islands at the interchange of the N1 and N7 freeways, Cape Flats Nature Reserve, Wolfgat Nature Reserve,



PRIORITY: Botanists say Rondebosch Common, home to more than 200 sandplain fynbos plants, three of which are threatened with extinction, should be given conservation status urgently.

PICTURE: CLIVE MCDOWELL

Swartklip (near Strandfontein), Rietvlei, Six Base Ordinance (50ha near Wingfield owned by the army), Edith Stevens Nature Reserve, Driftsands Nature Reserve and Durbanville Racecourse.

Only two sites — Rondevlei and the Cape Flats Nature Reserve next to the University of the Western Cape — are managed as conservation areas.

Botanical Society spokeswoman Ms Kristal Maze said yesterday: "Although

we've got a huge mountain in the city, the fynbos found there is very different to that found on the Cape Flats, and if the little that is left is not conserved soon, we will lose them forever. We have 14 plants on the flats that are found nowhere else in the world, and the chances of losing them are high.

"If the sites identified are conserved, it would mean that plenty of insects and frogs are also conserved. These areas are

also used extensively for conservation education by people who can't get further afield."

If the 15 vegetation "hotspots" are given conservation status, about 400ha of sandplain fynbos and 2 000ha of strandveld will be protected.

Thirty of the 31 plant species which are found only on the Cape Peninsula and Cape Flats, and 13 of the 14 species which are found nowhere else in the

world except the Cape Flats will be conserved.

The report said it was vital that the proposed False Bay Coastal Park, which would include Rondevlei, Zeekoewlei and the sewerage works, be proclaimed as this would form a continuous band of conserved strandveld. The park, approved in principle by the old Cape Town City Council, has been on the drawing board for nearly a decade.

Zeekoevlei lives again

First 'flush' and clean-up a success ⁽⁵⁶⁾

ARC 7/7/97

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

"Stoplogs" in the Zeekoevlei weir have been replaced to ensure that the vlei is full for summer.

This brings to a close the first phase of a new conservation management programme for the vlei - an annual "flush" - that has been hailed as a great success.

The logs were removed in March for the first time, dropping the water level by about one metre.

This exposed a large section of the shoreline, creating additional habitat for wildlife, particularly wading birds.

These included the biggest concentration of flamingoes for several years, pelicans, stilts and avocets.

Also the lower water table enabled the then parks and forest branch of the Cape Town municipality to organise a major clean-up, removing tons of weeds - mainly

highly invasive water hyacinth - and garbage.

The weeds and algae have flourished because high concentrations of nutrients like nitrates and phosphates have been introduced into the vlei from the surrounding catchment areas and become trapped in the system.

The weeds in turn also contribute to increased nutrient levels in the system, and when they die off, deplete oxygen levels, making the vlei eutrophic (oxygen deficient).

Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) funds of more than R400 000 were used to employ 15 people from the nearby Phumlani squatter settlement to pick up litter on the eastern shore of the vlei, and to rent heavy machinery to clear water hyacinth from the western shoreline. Many residents took the opportunity to clear the areas in front of their houses.

The Zeekoevlei Civic Association which

is doing a catchment management study of the Big Lotus River, which feeds the vlei, organised several clean-ups, including one by local schoolchildren.

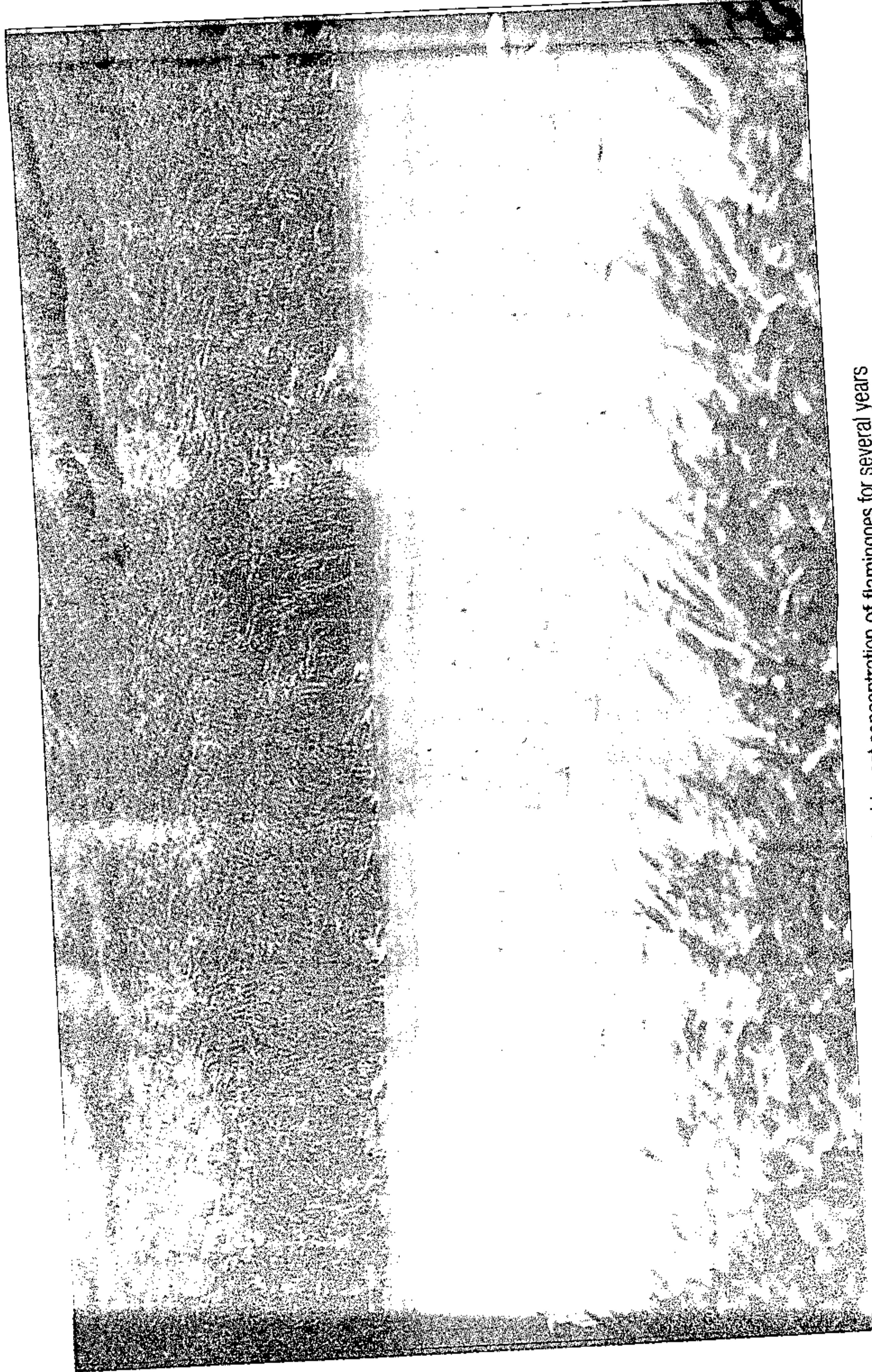
"It's common knowledge that Zeekoevlei is very polluted and it has often been referred to as the most eutrophic coastal lake on planet Earth," said South Peninsula Municipality spokeswoman Julia Wood.

"Previously, the water level in the vlei would have fluctuated in response to the season, flushing out the nutrients.

"Regular lowering of the water level will contribute towards the vlei being restored to its original dynamic system."

The vlei would probably be flushed by removing the stoplogs on the weir annually, and the exact dates for next year's "drawdown" would be decided later, Ms Wood said.

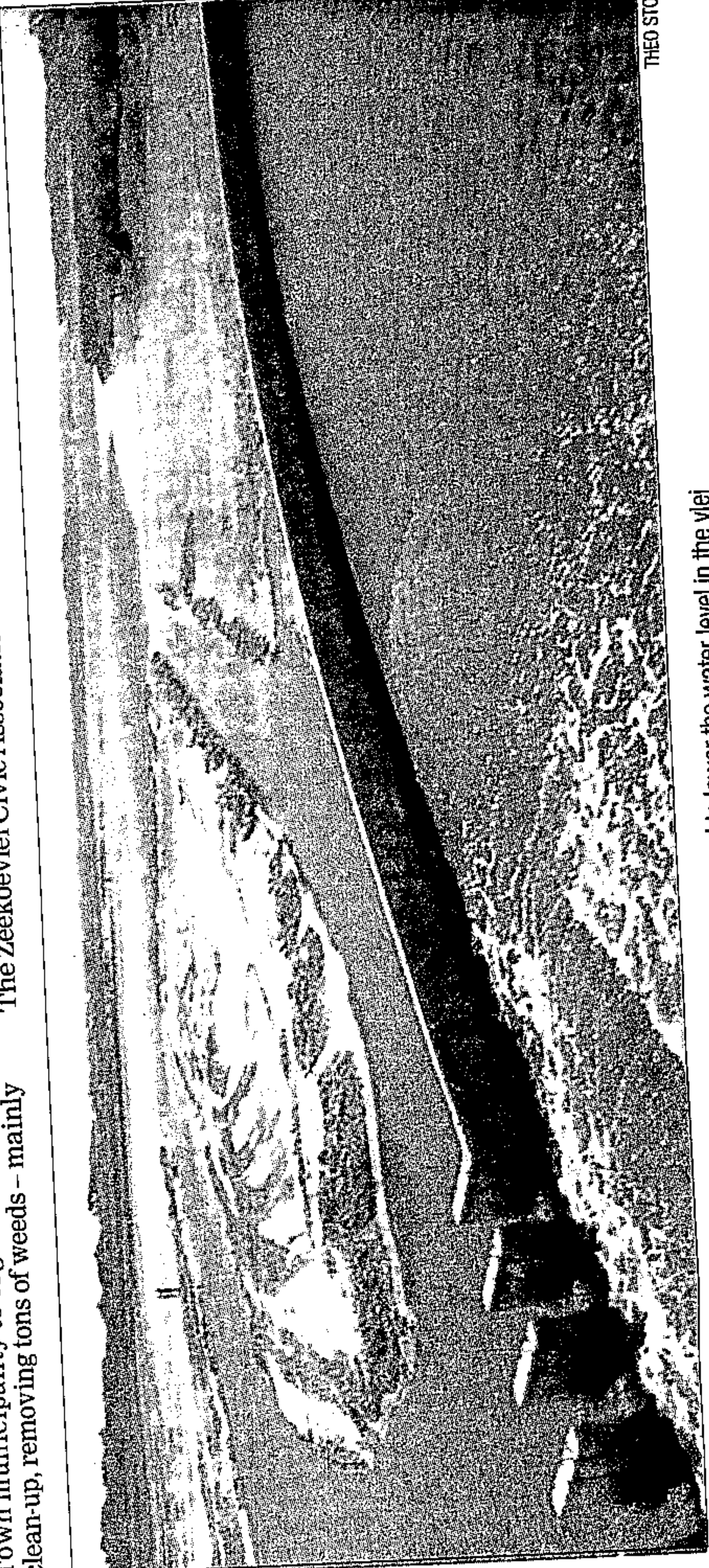
Theo Stock of the Zeekoevlei Environmental Forum described the clean-up as "tremendously successful".



Birds like this have brought to Zeekoevlei the biggest concentration of flamingoes for several years



Reconstruction and Development workers clear garbage from the exposed sections of the vlei



Waterworld: the weir at Zeekoevlei, from which stoplogs were removed to lower the water level in the vlei

THEO STOCK

RADIOACTIVE STORAGE 'SAFE'

Koeberg keeping all its nuke waste

HIGH-LEVEL nuclear waste has always been kept at Koeberg, but now it is keeping its low- and medium-level waste too. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

RADIOACTIVE waste from Koeberg's nuclear power station has been stored at Koeberg for the last three years and not at Vaalputs — the site specially selected and designed to handle low- and medium-level nuclear waste.

Eskom said yesterday it had stopped shipping its low- and medium-level radioactive waste to the site at Vaalputs in the Northern Cape in 1994 to cut costs.

It had renegotiated its contract with the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC), which runs Vaalputs, and will ship the waste to the site only every two or three years, instead of every second week, as it had done originally.

This came to light in a Cape Times inquiry into the problems of radioactive leakages at Vaalputs from 20 of the containers holding the waste.

But Eskom says the waste stored at Koeberg is an interim measure and is completely safe.

Asked if the radioactive leakages from drums stored at the remote Vaalputs could not also occur at Koeberg on the city limits, Eskom spokesman Mr Tony Stott said it was a possibility, but highly unlikely.

"After the leakages at Vaalputs were found, all the drums stored at Koeberg were immediately inspected, and found to be absolutely safe. The building they are in is designed to store the waste as an interim measure. Koeberg is a licensed facility to use nuclear energy and that includes having radioactive waste on site," Stott said.

Eskom had negotiated to move the waste out last October, but the Council for Nuclear Safety had

stopped Vaalputs from receiving any more waste until it had sorted out the leakage problems.

This comes at a time when the portfolio committee on the environment has said that recent events in the nuclear industry — including two separate incidents in which Koeberg staff were exposed to above-limit radiation earlier this year — have shown that the safety standards are not adequate.

But the AEC and Eskom say their safety limits are above average.

Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) spokesman Dr Schalk de Waal, who headed the investigation into the Vaalputs leakages, said yesterday their inquiry had recommended to the AEC that they change the way they managed the trenches where the drums are stored.

He said the two trenches had been dug at Vaalputs in 1986, one for disposal of low-level waste in metal drums and the other for medium-level waste in concrete containers.

The site had been chosen because of its geological stability, low population, low rainfall and high clay content which meant the radioactivity would be contained.

"Ideally the drums should be covered up fairly rapidly, but they remained uncovered for years because Eskom stopped shipping waste there in 1994 and the trenches were not filled to capacity.

"Because of the exposure to the elements, 20 of the concrete drums and one or two of the metal drums had started to leak. But tests showed that the radioactivity was contained in the trench only, where one wants

it to be," De Waal said.

The CNS had recommended that the AEC adopt a special radiological protection programme which included stepped up monitoring of the drums, and also building a wall across the unfilled trenches, so that the drums there already could be sealed off by covering them with soil and putting a clay "cap" on top to seal them from water penetration.

"We have recommended that in future they dig a trench for a known quantity of waste only, and fill it up and cap it within a matter of months. This will prevent drums standing exposed to the elements for years, as those that leaked had done," De Waal said.

The green lobby has said that although they were unaware of a halt in the Vaalput shipments the low- and medium-level waste, they were not as concerned with this as they were with the high-level radioactive waste that had been stored at Koeberg for years.

South Africa has no site licensed to accept high-level radioactive waste. This waste, from the spent fuel, is kept in special pools at Koeberg.

Wildlife and Environment Society spokesperson Ms Marlene Laros said yesterday: "It is a concern to hear that the low- and medium-waste has been stored there, but it is much less of a concern than the high-level waste. Where are they going to dispose of that? It is symptomatic of a situation where we have no existing policies to manage radioactive waste and a public which is unaware of what is going on."

The CNS said they were developing a policy on waste.

Stott said the technology existed for safe disposal of high-level radioactive waste, but that "politics and emotion" prevented it from being disposed of.

(56)

ET 8/7/97

Land deal underpins mountain National Park

ANDREA WEISS
CITY EDITOR

The foundation for the Table Mountain National Park has been laid, with the Cape Metropolitan Council endorsing a draft agreement to hand over the bulk of its land to the National Parks Board.

The council's executive committee

yesterday authorised its chief executive officer, Stewart Fisher, to sign a draft agreement setting out the land transfer after intensive negotiations last month.

The land transfer will mean that the Peninsula mountain chain will get the highest possible conservation status as a Schedule 1 national park.

The metropolitan council is the first local authority to give the go-

ahead to the transfer of public land. Its agreement is dependent on similar moves by the South Peninsula and Cape Town councils.

Commenting on the executive committee's decision, councillor David Erleigh, who represented the metropolitan council in negotiations, said it was an "incredibly significant decision" in that it set up the foundation for the new national park.

He said the park would be unique internationally because it established a nature area in the midst of an urban environment. The agreement is that the the CMC, South Peninsula and Cape Town will sell their land in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment to the National Parks Board. It also lists a schedule of contentious pieces of land that may ultimately be excluded from the park.

AAUG 8/7/97

(56)

CMC endorses land deal for park

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE Peninsula's proposed national park has been brought a step closer to realisation with the Cape Metropolitan Council's endorsing a draft agreement to hand over most of its land to the National Parks Board.

This includes Cape Point Nature Reserve, the biggest single piece of land earmarked for the park.

Co-ordinator of the future park, Mr David Daitz, said yesterday: "This

is a great step forward and we welcome it. The reserve is about 7 700ha."

The CMC is the first local authority to give the go-ahead for land to be transferred to the NPB.

Daitz said negotiations were under way with the Cape Town Council and South Peninsula Municipality to hand over to the NPB most of their land within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment. The transfers of land and staff in all three local authorities are scheduled to be

(56) CT 19/7/97
completed by the end of September.

Land transfer negotiations have been completed with the Western Cape province and SA Navy. Others owning large tracts of land within the area of the Peninsula earmarked for the park are the Department of Public Works, which owns Groote Schuur Estate, and Safcol, which owns Cecilia and Tokai forests.

Without the land transfers, the park cannot be a Schedule One national park, a status necessary to its becoming a World Heritage Site.

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New parks board CE plans changes

(56) BD 10/7/97

Stephané Bothma

PRETORIA — Reduced overheads, increased efficiency and the possibility of right-sizing action were some of the measures envisaged to change the National Parks Board into a post-apartheid organisation, newly appointed board CE Mavuso Msimang said yesterday.

Overhead costs were increasingly difficult to maintain and right-sizing the board could assist in putting existing funds to optimum use, he said.

Ways had to be found to generate more revenue to fulfil the board's mandate of conserving

areas under its jurisdiction.

Although it had an international reputation for doing an excellent job in the field of conservation, other areas would have to be looked at.

"We may not have been very successful in forging strong relations with the communities adjacent to our facilities and it will be a priority to rectify this," he said.

Communities had a strong vested interest and had a right to share the economic and other successes of the board. "Successes should go beyond the borders of our parks."

Ways would be found to proactively promote viable business re-

lationships with communities adjacent to parks.

Msimang, the first nonconservationist to head the board, stressed that everything the organisation did had to be subservient to nature conservation. All attempts would be made to find a balance between the needs of conservation and those of people. "If we succeed, we will have a positive future."

Right-sizing of the parks board was a matter of principle and employed a large number of people.

It was important to reduce costs, increase efficiency and service and to listen to the needs of the customers of the board.

Vaal hipno's

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Radiation leaks and huge financial losses from apartheid projects bedevil South Africa's nuclear industry

Nuclear dump shut down after leaks

M+G 11-17/7/97

Mungo Soggot and Christian Figenschou

SOUTH AFRICA'S main nuclear waste dump has been leaking radioactive material for years. Metal drums filled with radioactive waste and buried at the Atomic Energy Corporation's (AEC) Vaalputs site in the Northern Cape have leaked, while concrete blocks used to contain more dangerous waste have also failed.

Documents in the *Mail & Guardian's* possession quote a senior AEC official slating Vaalputs management, warning of heavy radioactive leakage at the site stretching back years, and alleging that Vaalputs also stores high-level radioactive waste — in breach of its licence.

It also emerged this week that Vaalputs's operations have been suspended, on the orders of the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS), apparently amid concerns about its management. AEC confirmed the moratorium and said it was struggling to meet the requirements of its licence because of declining government funding.

The leakage and Vaalputs's subsequent suspension fuels fears about South Africa's nuclear waste programme. Leaked material can remain a health hazard for hundreds of years. Last year, massive amounts of radioactivity were discovered around Pelindaba, site of the apartheid regime's uranium-enrichment unit, where drums of waste had been hastily buried.

The potential danger from the Vaalputs leakage was starkly underlined by recent floods in the area, which could have carried the radioactive material further afield. It sits

close to the town of Springbok. One of the main advantages of Vaalputs trumpeted by the AEC when it was licensed in 1990 was that its Namaqualand location was in a low-rainfall area.

Industry officials said this week the sequence of events pointed to serious weaknesses in the AEC's nuclear waste management.

The Council for Nuclear Safety started investigating last October after AEC officials noticed leaks from 22 metal drums containing low-level nuclear waste. The waste includes low-level solid waste — used protective clothing and equipment — and intermediate-level waste, such as filters and resins.

The drums were sealed with clay — which should contain the leakage — but the council decided Vaalputs's operations would be suspended until such problems had been overcome. "The moratorium included any waste, not just from Koeberg," said Eskom's spokesman on nuclear affairs, Tony Stott. "Vaalputs can't receive anything."

Council representative Tienie Fourie added: "The moratorium will remain until new measures are in place."

The AEC had not reported any leaks before those leading to last October's probe. Stott said, but an AEC representative said this week there could have been leaks which had not been discovered. While conducting its probe, the council had also discovered leaks in concrete drums stored in Vaalputs's trenches.

When reports emerged last month about the leaks from the concrete drums, AEC's head of nuclear waste, Brian Hamilton-Jones, blamed the unusually cold weather for corroding the concrete, and on the longer intervals between



Radiating suspicion: Protesters show Parliament how they feel about nuclear power in a demonstration last year

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHANN VAN TONDERI/AFRIKA

Koeberg's waste shipments. He said blocks of waste had been "standing for two to three years in the trench waiting to be covered".

Hamilton-Jones said an investigation on how the leaking blocks should be handled was under way. AEC chief executive Waldo Stumpf added: "This is no crisis, and no danger of contamination exists."

A representative for AEC this week confirmed the moratorium, but said the site was surrounded by clay and designed to cater for such leaks. Any perception of mismanagement was due to its "insufficient manpower to perform according to its CNS licence" which he blamed on dwindling government support.

But the official quoted in the M&G's documents paints a far more worrying picture of Vaalput's activities. He also said that although Vaalputs is only designed and licensed to handle low- and medium-level waste, some high-level radioactive materials have been buried there "because we have no other place to dump them".

"At this present stage there is a whole lot of hassle about the nuclear storage. In the bins, that is solid-cast bins, where they store about 500kg of nuclear waste ... they have proved that within 18 months it leaks through a 30cm metal hole," the official said. "They are burying [waste] 500m underground but there is no way it can be stored for 500 years because it is leaking. It is seeping through.

"What they have done now is they are putting plastic liners to line the outside of the pit and what they are doing is they are using a muddy sludge to try and contain it because water is the only thing that contains the radioactivity and this is basically the way things stand at the present stage." The official, one of AEC's most senior employees, made the comments about 18 months ago.

The Vaalputs dump was set up to handle waste from Eskom's Koeberg. Eskom trucked the waste up to Vaalputs every three weeks until 1994 when it began storing it at Koeberg, shipping it to Vaalputs in bulk every three years.

Stott said it seemed that the AEC had not "thought through the implications of Eskom stopping it [its regular deliveries]". The longer interval between dumping Koeberg's waste at Vaalputs had meant radioactive slabs were left far longer before being covered.

Stott said Eskom had cut the frequency of deliveries to Vaalputs to encourage Koeberg to cut down on its waste, and to cut trucking costs. Another Eskom official said Eskom had faced public protest about the waste shipments from towns lining the road to Vaalputs.

Eskom said the storage of waste at Koeberg was temporary and "perfectly safe". A representative said Koeberg was licensed to store nuclear waste. Stott said the CNS had checked Koeberg's facilities — housed in a concrete bunker — and given them the all-clear. Eskom said recently that Koeberg had almost used up its capacity to store spent nuclear fuel and would invest R80-million to expand that capacity.

National park named

IT'S official: The proposed national park which will include Table Mountain and most of the mountain chain down to Cape Point will be called the Cape Peninsula National Park.

This was announced by the National Parks Board. The name was selected from a list of names which had been submitted by the public.

After extensive debate by the selection committee, a shortlist of five was draw up. One of the strongest contenders was the name Table Mountain National Park, but the committee felt that significance of Table Mountain as "the icon and perhaps the most well known symbol" in the future national park could be accommodated in other ways.

"The name Cape Peninsula National Park was specially favoured for its holistic inference of the area designated to become a national park," the board said.

Others on the shortlist were Two Oceans National Park, Fairest Cape National Park and Cape of Good Hope National Park.

(56) 11/7/97

Fire: AECI 'negligent'

CT 11/7/97 (56)
CHEMICAL giant AECI has been slammed as "negligent" by the Desai Commission of Inquiry into the sulphur fire at Somerset West in December 1995.

In its report yesterday, the commission said AECI took no steps at all, from the establishment of the stockpile in 1967 to the time of the fires, to assess the risk of fires and take precautions to protect it against fire.

It said AECI or its subsidiary, AOS, should have foreseen the possibility of fire, but "the stockpile was simply forgotten about as far as its safety and that of the surrounding areas, personnel and communities were concerned".

There were five fires from December 13 to 16 involving the sulphur stockpile, and on December 16 the Macassar community had to be evacuated.

AECI found guilty of negligence

From page 1

no steps from the time the sulphur was stored to the time the fire broke out to assess the risk of fire, and did not take precautionary measures.

The report said the 30 000-strong Macassar community bore the brunt of the disaster, described as "extremely disruptive, terrifying and traumatic for all residents".

The sulphur fumes left many families without anything to eat. The fire also destroyed plants, including vegetable crops and flowers.

The report stated that the fire had caused "significant" air pollution.

Hundreds of residents suffered respiratory problems and scores of people were treated for the effects of sulphur dioxide inhalation at emergency medical centres and hospitals.

The commission's recommendations include legal help for the community affected by the fire in claiming damages, a further investigation to determine the biophysical impacts of the fire and a review of existing civil defence planning and control procedures.

Steven Law, Environmental Monitoring Group spokesman, welcomed the report and said AECI had been "found guilty" by the commission for its management of the stockpile, but had been let off the hook for the deaths of the Williams brothers and the health problems now plaguing Macassar residents.

AECI negligent in sulphur blaze

NORMAN JOSEPH

STAFF REPORTER

AECI was negligent in its handling of the sulphur dump at its Somerset West chemical factory, which caught fire in December 1995.

This was the main finding of the Desai Commission of Inquiry, headed by Judge Siraj Desai, whose report was handed to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan at a packed public meeting in Macassar last night.

Two asthmatics died, allegedly as a result of the fire, and thousands of Macassar residents fled in panic when their homes were engulfed by sulphur fumes.

The sulphur was part of a strategic stockpile bought by the former government and stored by AECI.

The commission found that AECI took

To page 3

Board seeks change

By McKeed Kotlolo

NEWLY appointed chief executive officer of the National Parks Board Mr Mavuso Msimang has signalled possible staff cuts within the nature conservation body.



He announced this at a Press

(56) *sewera 1/97/97*
briefing this week when he said the board had a large number of staffers and that "right-sizing" might be one of the solutions.

Msimang, who joined the NPB this month, said the NPB needed to be transformed from the pre-1994 era into an effective "post apartheid body".

He said the board, which generates much of its revenue, experienced difficulties in maintaining overheads costs and that the problem could be solved through right-

sizing the staff, which he described as large.

"We have a large number of people... hopefully they are all doing what they are supposed to be doing.

"The objective here is to reduce costs and increase efficiency among the workers."

Msimang who described himself as the first non-conservationist to head the parks board said the communities living in and around the parks had the right to share the economic successes of the board.

Without proper management, water supplies could dry up in just 30 years

(56)

Industrial use threatens lower Olifants catchment area with ramifications for Kruger Park

By **SHARLY WOODCART**

Water supplies for future development in South Africa will be exhausted in 30 years unless scarce resources are properly managed in an integrated manner, said Water Affairs Department project planning director Johan van Rooyen.

Addressing a recent workshop on the water situation in the lower Olifants River catchment area, Mpumalanga, he urged co-ordinated and collective consideration for the existing and proposed industrial developments in Northern Province, and the ecological requirements of the Kruger National Park.

Speaking ahead of the launch of the ambitious Palmag project, representatives of major water consumers in the area provided estimates of

their massive projected water demands into the next century.

Palmag is a joint venture by the IDC and its Phalaborwa-based subsidiary Foskor, to recover a combination of alumina, magnesia and potassium from phlogopite, a min-

Palmag project estimates demands

eral in the mica family.

The residue was currently being discarded as waste from the phosphate and copper mining activities in the region.

Palabora Mining Company (PMC) spokesman Mike Sienkewitz said

there would be a significant drop in his company's water demands when mining activities moved underground by 2003.

At that stage PMC would require 7 million cu m of water a year compared with the current 20 million cu m, he said.

Foskor spokesman Pieter Bester said his company needed about 16 million cu m a year at present, decreasing to 14,5 million cu m in 2002. But this would rise to 20 million cu m over the next four years.

IDC's two planned projects at Phalaborwa, Palmag and the Iron Direct Reduction (IDR) project to be commissioned in 2002 and 2001 respectively, would not result in substantial additional water demands from the Olifants River, said Etiene Roux.

Palmag would need up to 11 mil-

lion cu m, he said

Iscor's Hendrik Graham said the company's mining operations at Gravelotte would initially require about 2 million cu m a year, increasing to some 7 million cu m by 2001.

Fednis at Phalaborwa currently needed about 3 million cu m a year, increasing to 4,4 million cu m a year by the turn of the century, said Jan Lagendijk.

Kruger National Park spokesman Andrew Deacon said the average instream flow requirement in the Olifants River to sustain the ecosystem along the river, was about 17 million cu m a year.

Lepelle Northern Water Board's existing allocation of 64 million cu m was sufficient for present needs, said water board spokesman Wessel Vermeulen.

Star 14/7/97

Budget cut puts parks deal at risk

BD 15/7/97

(56)

NELSPRUIT — The Mpumalanga Parks Board's contentious R788m game parks deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin Group has been put at risk by a proposed 77% cut in the board's yearly budget to R11m from about R53m.

Board officials warned such a reduction would result in a breach of the 25-year Dolphin contract and open the province to "serious" damage claims. The budget is due for ratification by the provincial legislature tomorrow.

The Dolphin-Mpumalanga contract binds the province to underwrite the board's basic expenses over 10 years before the parks body becomes self-sufficient. Dolphin would put R378m into the board's running costs during the period, build hotels worth R410m on park land and inject about R1bn a year into the provincial economy.

In London last night Dolphin marketing director Michael Sharpes said he had had no official notification of the proposal. "This is the first I have heard," he said.

The board warned in a letter to the Mpumalanga finance department that the cut would have "drastic conse-

quences", including wholesale retrenchments and the "demise of nature conservation in SA's prime wildlife province". It predicted an outcry which it said would further tarnish the province's image. A smaller increase had been expected, but not a substantial decrease, and the board would be forced to call for the parks body's closure unless additional funding was found. The board had requested a 13% increase on last year's R53m.

"The current situation will be disastrous for the parks board ... it must be stressed that the board's monthly payroll expenditure is R3,5m, which covers approximately 800 employees." The letter said R7m had been spent on salaries during the first two months of the financial year.

Environmental affairs MEC David Mkhwanazi said the "root of the underfunding" lay with devolution of functions such as waste management and pollution control to the province without corresponding transfer of funding from national bodies. — AENS.

See Page 2

Adventurers face bill to fund running costs of Cape

(56)

CHEMÉ BILIGNAUT
TOURISM REPORTER

Paragliders, mountain bikers and absellers operating commercial ventures in the proposed Cape Peninsula National Park may have to contribute a percentage of turnover to the park's running costs.

The proposed park includes the entire Table Mountain chain to Gape Point. Privately owned tourism ventures such

as restaurants and rest camps, which are being considered for the park, will also have to contribute about 10 percent of their annual turnover towards its management.

The National Parks Board, future custodians of the highly sensitive environmental area, has appointed private consultants to investigate a tourism development plan for about two percent of the park.

A number of sites have already been identified for privately run, tourism-related ventures, but these have not been made

public. Five rest camps, including the Soetwater resort in Kommetjie and Miller's Point outside Simon's Town, as well as four restaurants, are being considered.

The private companies will be expected to contribute about 10 percent of their annual gross turnover to the park's environmental management costs, which have been estimated at R230-million over six years.

David Daitz, co-ordinator of the National Parks Board's project to establish the

park, said the aim was to confine tourism-related activities to a small area.

"The vision is to develop two percent of the park in order to absorb the impact of 90 percent of the visitors," he said.

Mr Daitz admitted the board's financial stake in the tourism ventures could lead to a conflict of interest and compromise its role as custodian of the park. However, he said it was not a "perfect world".

"We have drawn up the Rolls-Royce of conservation management plans and we

need money to find it."

He said a public participation process would be followed to ensure "widespread public approval".

Tourism is expected to cover about 18 percent of the park's running costs, amounting to about R42-million, with additional funds coming from local authorities, admission fees at Boulders (which is expected to be included in the park) and Cape Point, the Table Mountain Trust Fund and the National Parks Board.

national park
AAQ 16/7/97

SA schools go multilingual

(56) Sowetan 16/7/97

By Sowetan Correspondent

SOUTH Africa's new schools language policy will promote multi-lingualism in line with the Constitution, which recognises 11 official languages, Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu announced yesterday.

The new policy signifies a radical departure from the past in which only two languages, English and Afrikaans, were recognised as the medium of instruction in schools.

No pupil will be denied access to education on the basis of language in terms of the new policy.

Mr Bengu said the new language policy would allow pupils to choose their preferred language of learning and teaching. Mr Bengu said the objective was to maintain home languages while providing access and effective acquisition of additional languages.

"The inherited language-in-education policy in South Africa has been fraught with tensions and contradictions and underpinned by racial and linguistic discrimination," Bengu said.

"A number of these discriminatory policies have affected the access of learners to the system or their success within it." While the policy gave power to pupils to choose the language of learning and teaching on application for admission to a particular school, they should also note that:

- No school could refuse a pupil who chose a language medium not taught in the school;

- Where no school offered the desired language (or where there were fewer than 40 requests in grades one to six or fewer than 35 requests in grades seven to 12) the head of the provincial department of education will determine how the needs of those pupils should be met.

In addressing those needs, the departmental head will take into account the provisions of the Constitution, the need to achieve equity and to redress past discriminatory practices and practicability. Each school should also announce the school's language policy and state how it will promote multilingualism.

Macassar fears new sulphur fire disaster

Dispute over dump remains (56) (73)
ARG 18/7/97

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

The dust has still not settled on the removal of the 15 000-ton sulphur stockpile from Somerset West where 7 100 tons of leftover contaminated sulphur awaits the outcome of negotiations.

A runaway fire at the sulphur dump in 1995 resulted in the evacuation of the seaside suburb and allegedly caused the death of two Macassar residents.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it would enter into urgent talks soon with Namibian company Rössing Uranium to remove the remaining sulphur dumps on the AECI site.

The department said it had sold the stockpile to Rössing but the company said it had bought only the pure sulphur not contaminated by the fire.

Spokesman for the department

David Potter said it had initially given Rössing 90 days to remove the sulphur stockpile and that this was a special condition of the sale.

Mr Potter said the entire stockpile must be removed from the site within the stipulated period as a "notification of acceptance of the tender".

He said the department would hold talks soon with the company and give it a list of tender conditions which Rössing had agreed to.

Last week, Rössing removed 8 500 tons of pure sulphur. Rössing spokeswoman Hella Froeser said the company was not obliged to remove the 7 100 tons of contaminated sulphur.

George Liddle of the Macassar Disaster Action Committee said the community was concerned a grass fire could cause a repeat of the 1995 disaster if contaminated sulphur was left behind. At a residents' meeting on Tuesday it was decided to approach a law firm to handle claims.

Taiwan rejects SA ivory offer

FOREIGN SERVICE

(56) 18/7/97

Taipei - A South African bid to offload tons of stockpiled ivory to Taiwan failed recently when Taiwanese government officials declined the offer, sources said this week.

A total global ban on trading in ivory was partially lifted earlier this year on the grounds that income from sales could be used for wildlife protection and conservation.

South Africa, which holds hundreds of tons of stockpiled ivory, was one of the prime movers behind the initiative, along with other southern African nations.

The South African offer was made through diplomatic channels but was turned down as the trade would have contravened Taiwan's current legislative restrictions, the sources said.

While the importation of ivory into Taiwan is banned, small quantities are permitted for "domestic utilisation". This is mainly for the manufacture of personal seals, a legal and traditional alternative to a signature in much of the East.

CMC recognises need to protect sensitive coastline

(56) ARU 21/7/97

The Cape Metropolitan Council has in principle approved the need to put in place new measures to protect environmentally sensitive areas on its coastline.

Measures drawn up by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism are being tested on a stretch of the Outeniqua coastline and could be adopted for use.

The executive director of the CMC's urbanisation and planning directorate, Peter Tomalin, said in a statement that many economic activities were taking place along the coastline. These included mining, agriculture, commercial fishing, port development and recreation.

He said the activities were controlled by a "range of laws" which in some cases were not adequately protecting the coastline.

The CMC hoped to co-ordinate new legislation involving metropolitan local councils which had sensitive coastal areas within their jurisdictions.

"The application of the regulations would need to be delegated by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to the CMC to implement, in conjunction with the local councils.

"The process would also have to involve consultation with other interested parties, including landowners," he said. - Sapa

THE BIG STORY

Crime imperils the culture of *Burglaries and vandalism demoralise teachers and*

BURGLARY, THEFT AND VANDALISM IN SCHOOLS IS UNDERMINING THE RESTORATION OF THE CULTURE OF LEARNING. SABATA NGCAI EXAMINES THE PROBLEM

Schools on the Cape Flats are teetering on the edge of collapse unless drastic measures are taken to fight the rapid spread of burglary, theft and vandalism in schools.

Some schools blame the community for buying stolen goods from township children, but others understand the root cause of the problem.

Attempts by the schools to make communities aware of the negative effects of theft and vandalism have proved fruitless.

Last term, placard-carrying schools in Langa and Guguletu marched to make parents aware that theft and vandalism were "demoralising" and destroying the future of their children.

While some teachers have lost hope, others feel that burglary and vandalism will abate as soon as the school governing bodies are in place at the end of the month.

They say that by that time the communities will take pride in being part and parcel of the schools.

For the first time, they will be taking part in decision-making on matters affecting their children.

Every time the schools re-open after the holidays, teachers and pupils discover vandalism and the theft of school property.

The stolen goods are sold in the community, which is sometimes criticised by the school for not questioning the origin of such items.

In black townships, some schools lose doors almost every weekend.

Last year, burglars stole 42 doors from one school in Crossroads.

However, some of them were found later by the police.

Teachers said the doors were sold to people living in the squatter areas.

Squatter camps grow daily in the townships.

Some teachers argue that if the community was not buying from the thieves, there would not be as much theft and vandalism in schools.

Others say the problem will remain for years to come because the schools are on the Cape Flats which were on the receiving end of the apartheid laws.

The teachers say this Cinderella community became poor in a country of wealth because of these laws.

As a result, poor socio-economic conditions mainly among black and coloured communities caused unemployment to soar and crime became the order of the day.

Teachers say although they condemn any criminal acts, it is worth looking at the problem at its roots.

Some say people favour stolen goods because they can buy them for less than half price. Although some people benefit

from theft in schools, others are infuriated by such actions.

In Heideveld, parents even proposed to take turns in doing night watch patrols at Heideveld Primary School. The school was vandalised 50 times this year.

The parents backed down on the idea after they were warned that they could be targeted for attacks by marauding gangs in the area.

Teachers from several schools said the schools were used by gangs to smoke drugs, after which they broke into classrooms to steal and vandalise. The youths sold the goods to make money so that they could buy more drugs.

Teachers perceived vandals as mainly school drop-outs who were not able to find work and turned to crime.

They said this was partly caused by lack of discipline. Teachers attributed this to parents who were "too soft" on their children.

Teachers said it was rare for parents to admit that a child was wrong when he was implicated in criminal actions.

"Children exploit that opportunity and get out of hand to do as they please," said one.

"Yes, I agree, some children drop out because their parents can no longer afford to send them to school.

"But others leave school through lack of discipline because parents adopt a softer approach and let them do as they please.

"When a child who is supposed to be at school is wandering on the streets, he is highly likely to turn to crime as a way of life.

"Society is becoming dominated by criminals and, in years to come, children

will have criminals as their main role models."

The high rate of crime on the Cape Flats has made schools vulnerable. Even the security guards employed to patrol the schools have become targets of armed criminals.

Last week, two security guards at a primary school in Mitchell's Plain were shot dead and robbed of a portable two-way radio.

Teachers feel there should be a workshop which would include all stakeholders to discuss the problem of theft and vandalism at schools.

"It's demoralising the teachers, parents and pupils," one teacher said.

It is also feared that if the schools became secure to such an extent that thieves and vandals are denied access to them, that could lead to even greater conflict and violence.

Teachers said crime could spill over to the community who might end up living in terror of violent crime.

Some schools have been reduced to shells after repeated burglaries and vandalism. They have no doors, windows are broken and the ceilings through which the vandals get access are damaged.

On Wednesday last week when schools re-opened, a number of them had to count the cost of theft and vandalism which hap-



Doorway to vandalism: Mrs Jacqueline Ngesi, principal of Xolani Primary School in Guguletu, says the door that was damaged when the school was burgled and vandalised during the June holidays.

pened during the June holidays.

At Thembani Primary School in Langa the principal's office was burgled and vandalised; cricket uniforms and needlework material was missing.

The vandals broke in through the window by bending the burglar bar attached to the wooden frame.

This incident comes a few weeks after the school joined others in the area to march throughout the township to call on the community to stop vandalising the schools.

They even handed a petition to the police to ask for their co-operation in fighting the problem.

Teachers said that whenever the school was vandalised, it took about three

to four days for the police to come and inspect the damage.

Three of the classrooms at the school have no doors.

Heideveld Primary School in Heideveld closed for a week after it was vandalised for the 50th time.

In a memorandum to MEC of Education Martha Olckers, school principal Bertram Johnson wrote: "Every year we have worked for so far and are still being plagued by these acts of vandalism. I have to come out most nig

Thrills the culture of learning

Vandalism demoralise teachers and pupils

ARC 22/7/97

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ANDREW INGRAM

Doorway to vandalism: Mrs Jacqueline Ngesi, principal of Xolani Primary School in Guguletu, with a door that was damaged when the school was burgled and vandalised during the June holidays

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to four days for the police to come and inspect the damage.

Three of the classrooms at the school have no doors.

■ Heideveld Primary School marched to the provincial parliament at the end of last term to request security guards be placed at the school. The school by then had been burgled and vandalised 49 times.

A week after it closed for holidays, it was vandalised for the 50th time.

In a memorandum to MEC for Education Marthia Olckers, school principal Bertram Johnson wrote: "Everything we have worked for so far and are still working for has been placed in jeopardy by these acts of vandalism.

"I have to come out most nights and

early mornings to reset the burglar alarm. On these occasions I am accompanied by Protea Burglar Alarms and the S.A Police.

"On various occasions the school incurred extra expenses by having security guards on the premises.

"This has depleted school funds tremendously and our parent community is unable to afford this," he said.

Because of the situation, the 30-year-old pre-fabricated school was forced to store its stationery and stock in some houses in the community for safekeeping.

Mr Johnson attributed burglary and vandalism to poor socio-economic conditions, lack of schooling and gangsterism which is rife in the area.

He said he suspected the school was being used for dagga smoking.

Although Mr Johnson could not say directly that some of the things stolen at the school were sold in the community, he said it was possible that his office curtains might be hanging somewhere in the community.

■ In Joe Slovo Secondary School in Khayelitsha, burglars broke in and stole home economics equipment - including saucepans, spoons and plates.

The school has been burgled more than 10 times.

■ In Masiyile Secondary School in Khayelitsha burglars made off with sewing machines, among other things. Eight classrooms at the school have no doors.

Three years ago burglars stole six stoves and a refrigerator from the school.

School principal Thembeke Mdingi attributed the soaring crime incidents to high unemployment. She said the goods were stolen and sold to the community.

About 60 percent of people in Khayelitsha, the most populous of the black townships, are said to be unemployed.

Statistics show that the sprawling township, dominated by hundreds of thousands of squatter residents, has the highest crime rate in black townships.

■ Last week Gwebinkundla Qonde, principal of Harry Gwala Secondary School in Belhar, was left counting the cost of burglary and vandalism during the holidays. Damage has been estimated at about R100 000. Dozens of doors were smashed and windows shattered. Telephones, books, kettles, heaters and many other electrical appliances were stolen.

Teachers and some concerned parents expressed pessimism over the future of education on the Cape Flats.

They said hopes for a conducive learning environment on the Cape flats were dashed by the condition of schools targeted by criminals in the holidays.

The Western Cape Education Department said it was not able to provide security in schools because of the budget cuts in this financial year.

The department, which got R347-million less this year, said 90,2 percent of the budget would go to salaries.

The department said it was giving security to schools which it believed were in dangerous areas.

The department's inability to provide security to all schools places in jeopardy its launch early this year of a programme to restore the culture of learning and teaching in schools.

8 NEWS

Radioactive tanks contaminate yard

(56) MtG 25-31/7/97

The discovery of radioactive scrap metal in the Free State could be a sign of widespread contamination, writes **Ferial Haffajee**

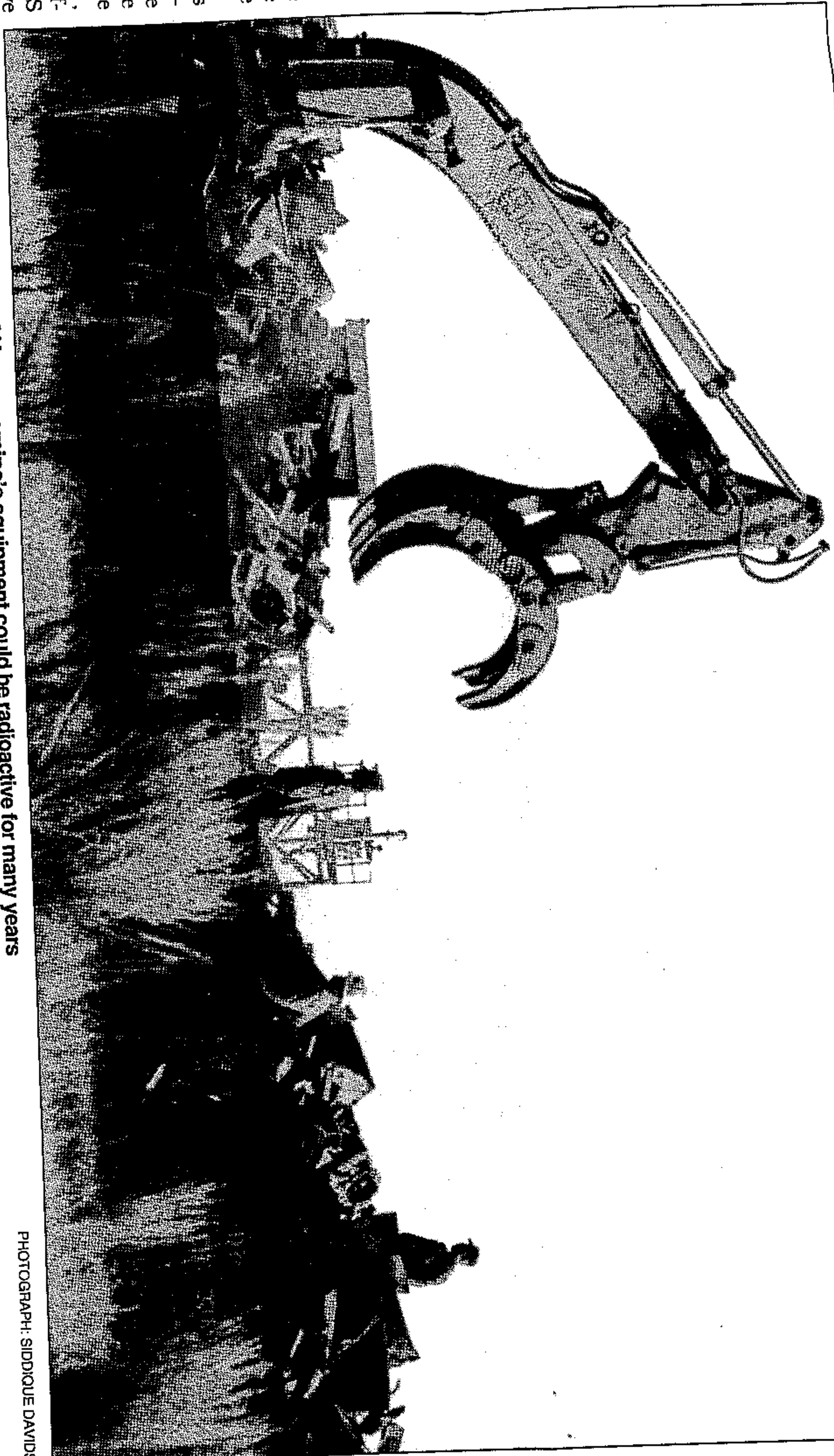
RADIOACTIVE contamination way above international safety limits has been uncovered in the heart of the Free State's gold fields.

The Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) said this week it had detected high levels of radiation in two steel tanks sold by Randgold's Harmony gold mine, and uranium spillage on the site of the scrap metal dealer that bought them. The council has ordered the tanks back to Harmony's site, and told the mine to clear up the spillage around the premises of the dealer, Almo Engineering, in the Free State town of Virginia.

The incident last month highlights the danger posed by the disused uranium processing plants that dot the country's gold mining districts. The full extent of the danger will only be made known at the end of next year, the deadline for an industry self-assessment — to be given to the CNS — on its management of radioactive waste and the potential threat to communities.

The industry also warned this week that the lack of adequate storage facilities meant that a growing amount of radioactive waste was piling up at mines.

The Harmony tanks were sold to Almo in June after lying dormant for



Scrapping the past: But some of Harmony mine's equipment could be radioactive for many years

have disused plants and continue to store equipment.

Such equipment could be contaminated, posing the risk of radiation-linked diseases for workers and residents of surrounding mining towns. The CNS has evidence of 40 such

imposed strict regulations.

"Nothing, not even a chair, may leave the mine without a radiation clearance," said Loodewyk Roux, the

mine manager in charge of environmental health and safety. He said he was convinced there was no danger

nearby communities.

Instead, the uranium producing industry is being regulated retrospectively. The CNS is awaiting the industry's formal assessment.

In the meantime, the council, which falls under the ambit of the Depart-

nuclear waste disposal site, is currently unable to take new shipments because of a moratorium imposed last September after leaks were discovered.

There is now a growing number of drums and bags of material sitting on mines indefinitely, inviting the possi-

PHOTOGRAPH: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

12 years in the mine... uranium plant. One of the tanks was subsequently sold to nearby gold mine Oryx, which raised the alarm.

A CNS inspection of the tanks found the contamination far exceeded the country's safety limits. The CNS also found uranium spillage at Almo.

"We ordered Harmony to remove the tanks and clear the spillage," says CNS manager Sietse van der Woude.

A by-product of gold production, uranium, a radioactive compound, was previously sold to the local nuclear industry. But local uranium processing has slowed to a trickle because imports are cheaper and the apartheid nuclear bomb industry has lost its currency. Just three of the 22 mines that ran uranium-processing plants still operate the units. Harmony is one of 19 mines that

potentially contaminated areas around the country. Documents in the Mail & Guardian's possession quote a former senior official at the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) saying that radioactivity measurements at Harmony and on the surrounding gold fields are far beyond international safety limits.

The tanks found this week could be the tip of the iceberg because contamination spreads easily. "Radioactivity leaches from one place to another," the AEC official said. "Even the concrete that they have built the structures with is contaminated."

Harmony said this week that recent readings showed that some areas were above internationally acceptable levels for radiation. Ironically, the mine is regarded as one of the more diligent in the disposal of radioactive waste. The mine has now

contamination.

A representative on the mine from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research added that: "generally Harmony is under the limits". But the true picture would only emerge next year, when the industry's full assessment of the dangers posed by stored plant would be presented.

Part of the concern is that the mines that once processed uranium regulated themselves until last year, when the CNS took over as watchdog.

Until then, the disposal of radioactive waste by both industry and government was often slipshod, resulting in high contamination levels.

The dangers of this can never be accurately measured because there has been little rigorous medical surveillance of affected workers and

ment of Mineral and Energy remains upbeat. "The demolition of uranium plants is well-controlled," says CNS general manager Jeff Leaver. "There has been a moratorium on the sale of contaminated scrap, except to licensed scrap-dealers, and the likelihood of damage is infinitesimally small."

But the fact that contaminated scrap has been found after the moratorium and reports this week of R2-million worth of uranium allegedly offered for sale to a Johannesburg scrap dealer means leakage and potential contamination may be higher than the authorities believe.

The mining industry this week hit back at the CNS, saying it was not helping to find means to dispose of radioactive waste. Vaalputs, the country's biggest

Down's syndrome four times higher. "I can say I'm healthy but everyone else in my family has been affected by radiation, and my grandson is an invalid," said Yevgeny Suriva, aged 45. "My youngest daughter couldn't speak until she was five. She can't hear well, she has heart disease and a growth on her cheek. We took her to a doctor in Krasnoyarsk. They measured her hair — it was radioactive. The doctor told us to go back to where we had come from."

The hospital in the town can do little to help. The medicine cupboards of the chief doctor, Vladimir Catsik, are empty and he has no diagnostic equipment. Half his staff are on hunger strike in protest at not having been paid for 10 months, and the hospital was barely heated in winter. "We mined 400 tonnes of gold for this government but now nobody takes care of our people. We are no longer necessary. We sit on gold, yet people don't have enough to eat," said Dr Catsik.

ability of someone somewhere receiving an accidental radiation exposure," says the Chamber of Mines' assistant technology adviser, Dennis Wymer. He also said the CNS was dragging its feet on approving industry plans, which the mines would fund, to clean uranium scrapyards.

Harmony's management said that individuals would have had to stand by the tanks or the uranium spill for 555 hours before safe levels of radiation exposure were exceeded.

Miners at Harmony are now medically surveyed in line with the rigorous standards set down by the CNS, but that hasn't always been the case.

In other countries, workers exposed to radioactive substances like uranium have displayed higher than average levels of lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, tuberculosis and kidney damage. But the Chamber of Mines says a decade-long study of the incidence of cancer among miners "has not confirmed any malignancy related to work exposure".

In South Africa, there has been no specific tracking of workers exposed to radiation, either during their work years or after they leave the mines, to assess the long-term impact on their health. Such studies are common in mining communities in developed countries, though the remaining 200 South African miners who work directly with uranium are now more carefully monitored.

There has also been little work done in mining communities. The chamber says residents are no more exposed to radiation than the general public. But estimates of the health risks linked to radiation exposure grow every day.

In one of the few studies available on uranium miners in Africa, Greg Droplkin and David Clark write in the book *Past Exposure*: "Most cancers take at least 15 to 20 years to appear after radiation exposure... nearly 46 years after the atomic bombing of Japan, new cancer cases are appear-

Russian mine deformed a town's children

Lucy Jones

DOCTORS in Baley, a small gold mining town in the Russian far eastern region of Chita, had long been puzzled by the high incidence of babies born without limbs, bald children and adults with abnormally big heads.

They guessed such deformities might be related to the nameless mine, located on Baley's outskirts, where potatoes grew the length of cucumber. But as government enterprise 1084 was top secret, they could discuss it only in private.

In 1992, the Russian government disclosed the ghastly facts behind the deformities. "Products 17 and 18" mined at Baley until the mid-1970s were thorium and uranium. Government enterprise 1084 provided material for the Soviet Union's first atomic bomb. Previously famed as the birthplace of warrior Chengis Khan, Baley is now better known in the region for

being an environmental disaster worse than Chernobyl.

But, while environmentalists are calling for the complete relocation of the town's 25 000 citizens, officials say there is not enough money even to seal the mine.

No one in Baley knew the nature of enterprise 1084, say locals. Cattle grazed on the luscious grass covering the lethal uranium tailings and a car repair shop was housed in a former thorium storage facility.

'My youngest daughter couldn't speak until she was five... they measured her hair — it was radioactive'

Worse, radioactive white sand was taken from uranium pits at the mine to build and plaster homes, nurseries, schools and the hospital. Some people now live in homes with radiation levels 10 times the measurement officially considered safe.

Until recently, children put on plays in the palace of culture, which

have entire limbs missing.

More than 95% of children in Baley are mentally deficient, according to a report by the Russian Academy of Sciences. Rates of still births are five times higher than the Russian average, of child mortality 2.5 times higher, of miscarriages and congenital defects 1.4 times higher, and of

said Dr Catsik.

THE appointment of Mavuso Msimang as head of the National Parks Board has ruffled a few feathers.

Although he has served as head of Satour, he has no direct experience in nature conservation, unlike the men he beat to the keat-paneled office on Muckleneuk Ridge in Pretoria.

Other contenders were the country's leading black career conservationist and the board's director of operations, Rams Ramutla, and Brian Haggley, head of the National Botanical Institute, which runs Kirstenbosch and other national gardens.

So Msimang's appointment in May was not without controversy, with some seeing it as a political sinecure which could tip the balance between those concerned with pure conservation of flora and fauna and those who see a need to justify the existence of parks through their economic exploitation.

His predecessor, Dr Robbie Robinson, quit precisely over this dispute, objecting to plans to divide the elite parks structure between conservation and tourist personnel.

Msimang winces at the idea of people, including himself, being categorised, but says he understands the fears.

He argues that just about everything in life involves striking the correct balance between conflicting demands — and parks are no different.

"I am absolutely committed to conservation," he says, "and I was flummoxed by the number of messages and faxes from respected and noted conservationists congratulating me on my appointment."

Msimang is a manager who claims to hate bureaucracies and hierarchies, preferring to communicate with people as individuals. "If many other parastatals are anything to go by, it will be time to flatten the hierarchies here," he says.

Born in Edendale outside Mairi-burg, Msimang was educated in Newcastle and Vryheid.

"I was always one year ahead of Bantu Education," he says with some amusement. But it caught up with him at Fort Hare University where his involvement with politics forced him into exile in 1963.

Natural heritage no longer reserved for the elite

ANDREW UNSWORTH speaks to the new head of national parks

His chief credentials are management experience gained internationally during his nearly 30 years in exile. He earned his BSc from the University of Zambia and an MA in business administration at the US International University based in California.

He managed a number of United Nations world food programmes in Africa, and served as director of Unicef's emergency programme in Ethiopia. Back home he headed Satour in 1994 but effectively stepped down to head the KwaZulu Natal Tourism Authority two years later.

The national parks exist primarily for conservation, he says, and that has been done fairly well at a technical level.

"There are many conservationists in this organisation who are highly respected worldwide, and I will give them all the space they need to practise their craft.

"But there has been a failure to establish partnerships with

communities near to parks, with people who have a legitimate social, cultural and economic interest in the area. My vision is of a park coexisting with a community, so that the ecosystem outside of the park is also taken care of."

Msimang's view is that conservation is not a priority of national government. Parks will have to raise enough revenue themselves to ensure sustainable conservation. Government, he says, has an obligation to the environment, but it goes wider, into pollution control and the education of the young.

"The National Parks Board has been endowed with assets to be used through tourism to deliver revenue which will sustain our work, but if the conservationists oppose any proposal I will sit down with them to find an acceptable way."

He has no problem with the recent Cites decision to allow controlled trading in ivory by



LEVELLING PARKS: Mavuso Msimang, new head of the National Parks Board

Picture: JULIANI VAN DER WESTHUIZEL

(56) ST 27/7/97

some African countries. "I know this could put me into conflict with the animal rights people, but I absolutely believe in the sustainable use of animals and parks. We can't afford a romantic view of these issues. We need money for the sake of conservation."

"I don't particularly like hunting but I don't have a problem with it if it is part of controlled culling."

Does the board need a shake-up? "It absolutely does," declares Msimang. "The 1994 elections came and went, and this must look like a South African institution, not like a relic of the Boer republics."

He clearly intends to "look hard for people who were previously left out of the pool".

National parks also need to go on the offensive to "make all South Africans aware of their heritage. The perception of many that parks are preserves for colonial whites and rich tourists is based on past reality, he says.

The board could be in for some changes. With his collarless shirt and cotton slacks, Msimang is as uninterested in formal dress as he is in the decor of the old regime. Looking at the bust of a predecessor in the board's foyer, Msimang muses: "I wonder if it's Paul Kruger?"

'I believe in the sustainable use of animals and parks. We can't afford a romantic view'

Battle looms over slurry pipeline in Kruger Park

Two minerals processing developments could mean interference with the national park, writes DON ROBERTSON

(56) ST(BR) 27/7/97

THE conflict between big business and the environmental lobby is likely to be rekindled with the planned development of two Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) mineral processing plants in Palaborwa and Maputo worth more than R11-billion.

Environmental opposition is likely to be fierce, rivalling that which halted the further development of the St Lucia area by Richards Bay Minerals. Some of the proposals involve the sinking of a slurry pipeline through the Kruger National Park.

In spite of the financial and job-creating benefits the two projects might have for SA and Mozambique, the National Parks Act prevents any "activity or development that could compromise its conservation ethics and objectives or the integrity of any of the national parks."

In a recent statement, Murray Macgregor, manager of environmental services at the National Parks Board, said: "The board cannot sanction any compromise of the integrity of the Kruger Park by allowing any infrastructure associated with this project within its boundaries."

"The Parks Board is, however, assisting the IDC to seek alternative routes for the pipeline.

Options being considered by the IDC include a 94km underground slurry pipeline from Palaborwa through the middle of the Kruger National Park to transport magnetite to Maputo, the site of an iron plant, or a longer more southerly route of 150km, also through the Kruger. Also under consideration is the use of rail outside the western boundary of the Kruger. A possible pipeline for the transportation of clay to Palaborwa is also being considered.

Both projects have been initiated by the IDC and with initial studies far advanced, the final go-ahead could be given in the next one to two years, subject to the successful completion of technical and environmental studies.

The first is the R4.1-billion Palmag plant at Foskor in Palaborwa to recover an estimated 330 000 tons of alumina, 300 000 tons of magnesia and 230 000 tons of potassium sulphate from phlogopite ore which is discarded during the recovery of phosphate. It

is expected that most of the minerals will be exported.

To meet these production rates, Foskor will use 1.5-million tons of phlogopite and 860 000 tons of calcined clay a year which will be transported from Acornhoek or Bushbuckridge either by road or pipeline.

The commissioning of a R107-million demonstration or pilot plant, using first-time technology, is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Subject to the technical success of this pilot project, an investment decision could be made by 2000 and the plant completed by 2002.

When in full production, Palmag will employ 900 people at Palaborwa and the clay deposit, and is expected to earn R1.1-billion annually through exports.

The second development is a R7.4-billion iron production plant at Maputo and a pipeline to transport magnetite slurry from Palabora Mining to the Mozambique harbour. This will also require a pipeline to transport gas from the Pande gas field 610km north of Maputo.

Subject to the necessary approvals, this project could get the go-ahead in mid-1998 with construction beginning late that year. It will employ 500 people and gen-

erate 3.6-million tons of export iron worth R3.5-billion a year.

Although the ratio of expenditure to job creation is extremely high, both projects will have considerable financial benefits for Mozambique and SA.

Environmental issues, however, will play a major role in the granting of necessary permits.

At present, the rail route would cost about R46 a ton of magnetite while the favoured pipeline route via Letaba would cost only R16 a ton. The IDC will meet with Spoor-net later this month to discuss a possible cut in the rail tariff.

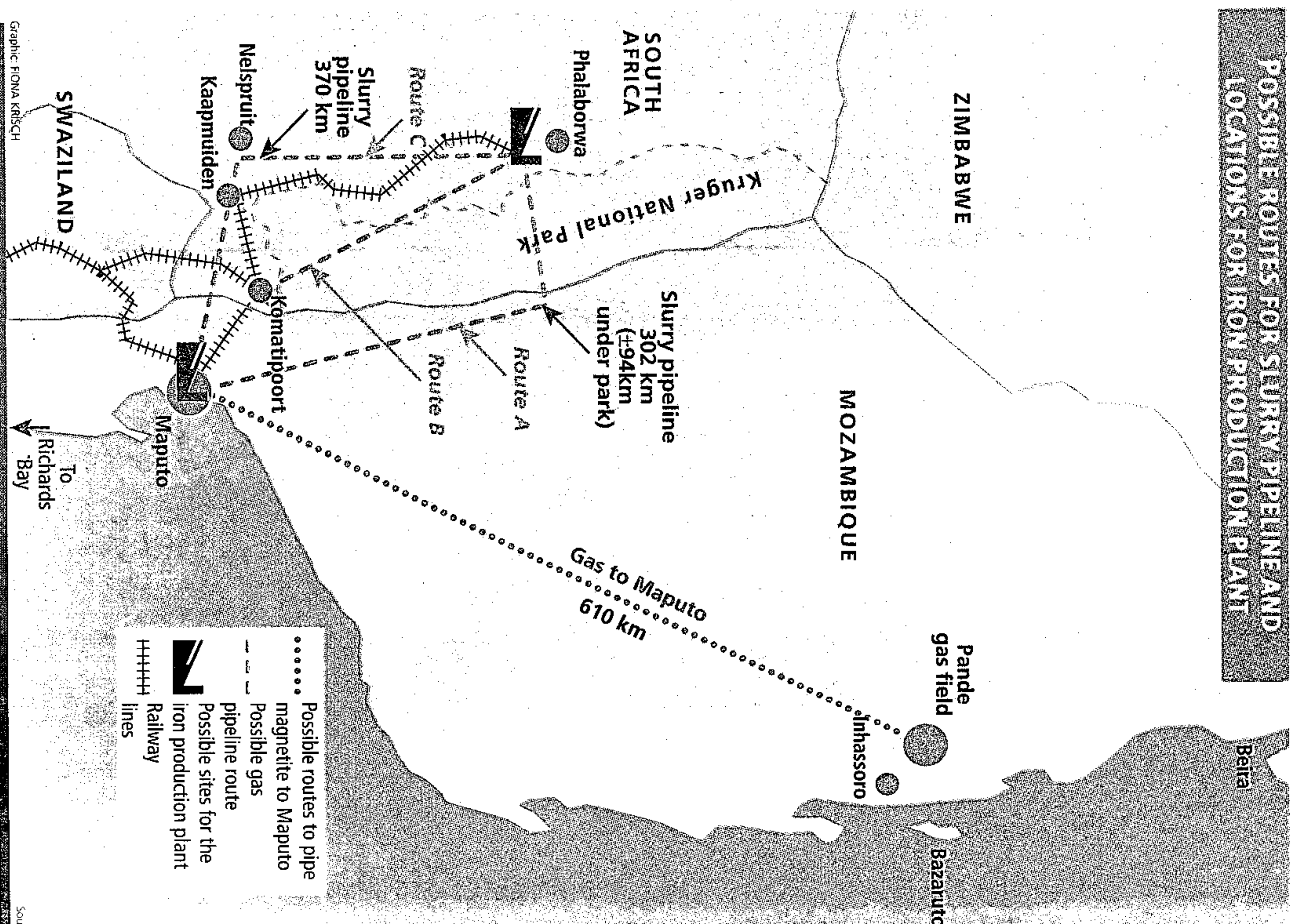
Initial estimates by the IDC suggest that the 94km pipeline through existing servitudes in Letaba could be completed in about three months with minimal disruption of game movements.

Depending on the tonnages moved, the Kruger National Park could earn up to R7-million a year in royalties, says the IDC.

Various options for the transport of clay from Bush Buck Ridge or Acornhoek to the nearest rail-head and the environmental impact are being investigated.

Another major factor is the shortage of water in the Palaborwa area, considerable quantities of which would be required to form the slurry.

POSSIBLE ROUTES FOR SLURRY PIPELINE AND LOCATIONS FOR IRON PRODUCTION PLANT



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

Source: I.D.

Sensitive development can be of benefit to all

FAR FROM being a disaster — as has been claimed by environmentalists — the R350-million country estate and golf course development on the East Head at Knysna and other developments planned for the region, provide a key to the survival of a community in transition, says long-time Knysna resident and local newspaper editor **ANGELA LEE**.

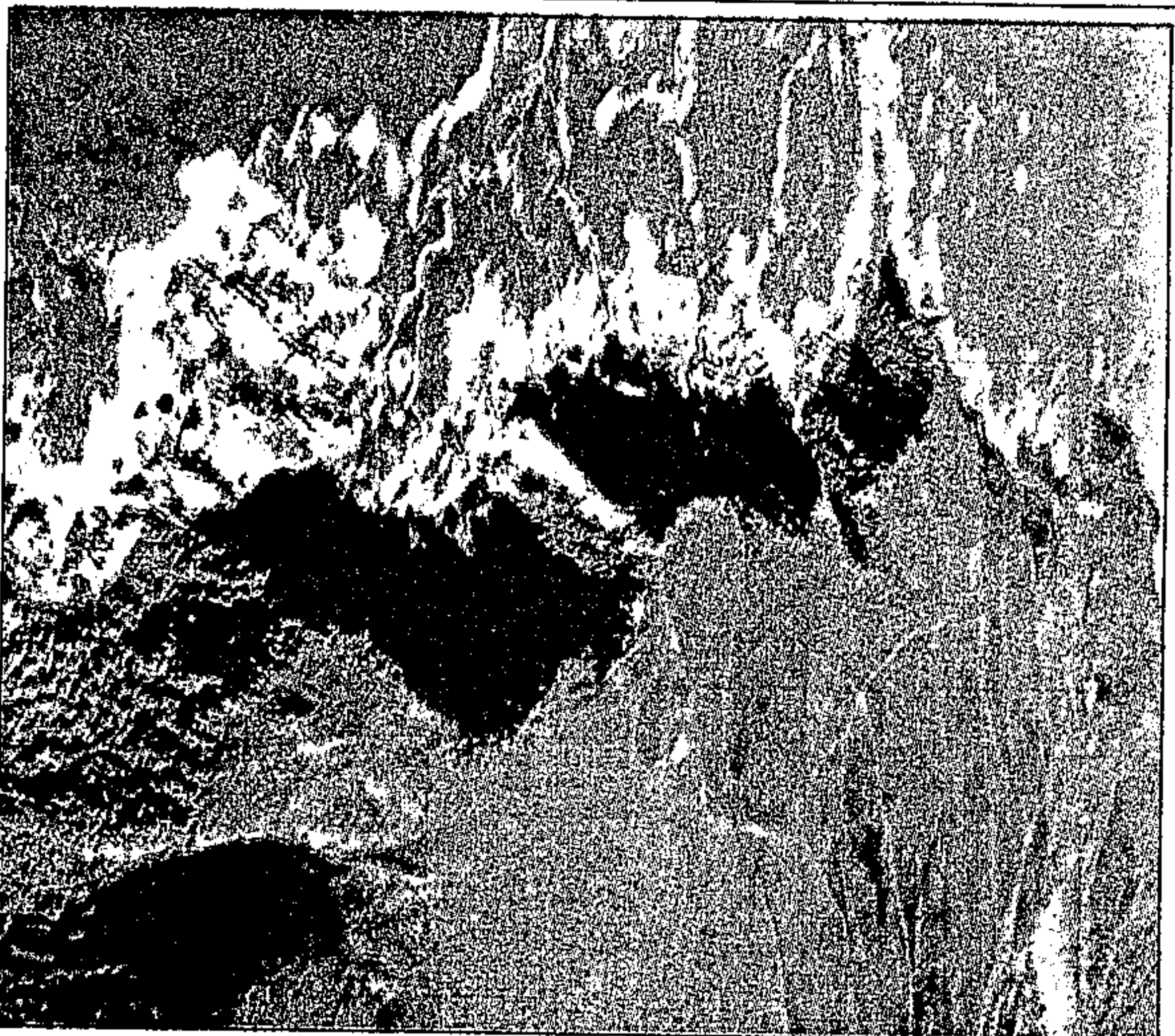
THERE are no such things as problems, only opportunities — so claims John Kehoe, author of *Mind Power*.

If one looks hard, a positive side can always be found in any situation, and in the R350 million Sparrebosch development at Knysna — and other environmentally sensitive developments planned for the region — there are huge plus factors which our community cannot afford to ignore.

The quiet little Garden Route town of Knysna, as we knew it, is already a memory. We will be wise to accept investment graciously when it offers a return — particularly when developers and investors are prepared to consider local sensitivities and compromise.

International tourists, who help to sustain the economic growth of communities such as ours, expect international standards. Developments such as Simola Golf & Country Estate and Sparrebosch Country Estate offer Knysna international standards which will attract tourists — national and international — and the economic upliftment their spending brings.

Must we miss the boat and eventually, out of economic necessity, be forced to accept whatever development we can get — concrete jungles flashing signboards, amusement arcades and a lagoon covered in concrete to solve the parking problem?



DEVELOPING: Proposed site for Sparrebosch.

Or are we prepared to accept controlled development sensitive to the environment and to the needs of our community?

Tourism is already a contentious issue in Knysna, particularly for those who came here to retire and who, understandably, would prefer their peace and quiet to remain undisturbed.

However, the very beauty and tranquillity which attracts them to Knysna is

what is drawing the developers. Controlled development will secure our future and retain, as much as possible, Knysna's atmosphere, which is of such appeal to our residents and our visitors.

It will entice visitors to prolong their stay and spend their money, and thereby support local businesses and, importantly, help create much-needed jobs — particularly among the disadvantaged. Much has been written about the

ET 29/7/97

R350 million Sparrebosch development. Knysna residents obviously have mixed feelings about the project. Very few people, however, have taken the trouble to investigate the situation for themselves.

The development, planned for the East Head plateau, is seven kilometres from the centre of Knysna and one-and-a-half kilometres from the end of Duthie Drive, in Rexford, which flanks the East Head. It will not be visible from Knysna.

The area to be developed is absolutely bereft of trees! (a potential paradise for alien vegetation?). A nursery nurturing young indigenous trees to be planted on the site is already in existence.

The cattle — which grazed here when it was farmland — are in less profusion and fynbos has taken over the previously ploughed land, as Knysna people know it will.

The site is particularly beautiful, but if it does suffer disturbance, fynbos and nature — as always — will triumph. On the furthest perimeter is the existing 45,2ha Sparrebos forest, which is not part of the Sparrebosch development, although the land is owned by PK Development.

There are plans however to create a "Sparrebosch Forest Nature Reserve" and negotiations are under way with the municipality as to how this will be managed.

The quiet over this vast undulating area is disturbed only by the sound of the sea and birds. A full-time conservation officer is to be appointed by the developers to ensure minimum impact during development and to ensure that the forest is preserved for future generations.

The total extent of the development is 254ha, on which only 25% will have any development at all. The actual density of the development is less than two residential units per hectare. Sixty percent of the space will be open land (excluding the golf course), giving Knysna a new "green belt".

(56)

The low profile, upmarket hotel and golf courses' anticipated completion date is October 1999. The development of the residential units is expected to take a little longer.

There is to be a shared access to the development elsewhere, taking some of the pressure away from Duthie Drive. Another consolation for Rexford residents is that international standards of site management will apply. No site spoil will appear beyond the site perimeter and people will be employed to ensure this is enforced.

The ball is already rolling: it cannot be stopped. But with the tenacity of the people who fought so hard to prevent Duthie Drive being used as an access road it can be tempered with reason and a good helping of common sense.

Instead of acting against the interests of the broader Knysna community by seeking to halt development, perhaps it's time for concerned residents and those who lobby to protect the environment to form an aesthetics committee made up of various members of the entire community.

They could join forces with the very strong Knysna Ratepayers Association, to work with developers and ensure that the unique charm of our region is maintained.

This will encourage the right kind of development — the kind which gives all sections of our community an opportunity to prosper but ensures that we do not, heaven forbid, force developers to turn tail and run.

With Simola and Sparrebosch, I believe, we are heading in the right direction by making sure that Knysna does not become an economically depressed and forgotten backwater but thrives well into the future.

Angela Lee is the editor of *Knysna Home Ads*. This article has been adapted from an editorial published in *Knysna Home Ads* on July 24, 1997.

BUSINESS

AECI's insurers to pay up despite negligence

Ingrid Salgado

GROUP insurers for chemicals manufacturer AECI were expected to continue settling legal claims arising from a sulphur fire at the company's Somerset West factory in December 1995, despite the finding of a commission of inquiry that AECI had been "causally negligent".

AECI communications head Mike Blizzard said yesterday there was "no indication" that the insurers would refuse to cover about 8 300 commercial and domestic claims against the group.

About R22m had been paid to affected parties to date. A handful of commercial claims and certain long-term health claims were still outstanding.

The Desai commission of inquiry into the events of the fire found that AECI had taken no steps to assess the fire risk of sulphur stockpiles established in the area in 1967. No safety measures were introduced and the sulphur dumps were "simply forgotten".

Two people died and several people were injured after the fire released a cloud of toxic sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere, leading to the evacuation of about 3 000 residents of the nearby Macassar town. Reports of bronchitis, lung infections and asthma-like illnesses among the community followed.

The gas mixed with light rain to form sulphuric acid, damaging crops in the area. Vegetable and flower crops were destroyed and some livestock farmers claimed breeding stock had been affected.

Blizzard said commercial claims represented about 60% of AECI's total payout. Of these, about six were still outstanding as they related to damages affecting the new growing season. Certain health claims from individuals in the area were also outstanding as they involved determining the long-term effects of the fire on their health, he said.

No solution yet to mine effluent

Star 31/8/97

(56)

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environmental Reporter

Halting mining activities at Grootvlei on the East Rand would have a negative impact on the local and national economy, according to an investigation by the Grootvlei joint venture committee (JVC).

This was one of the conclusions reached by the committee in its probe to determine the effects of mining on the Blesbokspruit wetland near Springs.

A cabinet decision in 1995 saved the Grootvlei mine and three other marginal mines from flooding, but Grootvlei mine now daily pumps millions of litres of highly contaminated water into the sensitive wetland ecosystem.

The effluent pumped from the mine contained double the pollution levels stipulated by the pumping permit granted by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. This resulted in severe contamination of the wetland, which resulted in the death of hundreds of fish and posed a threat

to agriculture downstream.

The wetland was consequently blacklisted in May 1996 by the Montreux record, which lists wetlands of international importance that have been degraded, destroyed or damaged.

The JVC said cessation of mining activities in the area would result in mine water eventually decanting at Nigel, and threatening the Vaal River.

A phased withdrawal of mining in the area was not technically or financially viable, the JVC said. Another recommendation was that decisions on remedial action be taken immediately because delays could result in irreparable damage to the wetland.

A spokesman from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture said yesterday that settling facilities had been constructed and completed. He said the mining company had completed the tender process to find a company that could desalinate the water.

Hearings on the recommendations will be held on August 12 and 13 at Springs town council offices from 9am.

Medical team to ⁽⁰⁶⁾ treat asbestos victims

Star 31/8/97 ~~(212)~~(131)
 BY PRISCILLA SINGH
 Health Reporter

A team of pulmonary specialists and lung function technologists will travel to the Northern Cape tomorrow to treat about 1 000 patients for suspected asbestos poisoning.

The team of 10, headed by the head of the pulmonary unit at Johannesburg Hospital, Professor Guy Richards, has volunteered to help the Northern Cape Health Department resolve the crisis of insufficient staff and equipment.

Richards said that following an appeal for help from the Northern Cape in *The Star* about six weeks ago, he decided to rally a team of specialists from Wits Medical School and the Johannesburg, Hillbrow and Chris Hani Baragwanath hospitals.

In May Dr Amod Randeree of Kimberley Hospital distributed questionnaires to more than 1 000 people in the Prieska and Marydale regions to iden-

tify those who thought they had respiratory problems.

Preliminary investigations revealed that most who filled in the forms seemed to have symptoms of asbestos poisoning and therefore needed further tests.

The survey was initiated following the reported dumping of toxic substances allegedly discarded by companies which mined asbestos in Prieska until the early 1980s.

Health department spokesman Ann Talbot said the dumping had resulted in an enormous health risk and a threat to the local community, particularly children who swam in a "polluted" river. High winds blew asbestos fibres from the dumps into the river and residential areas.

Richards said the medical team would complete the tests over two weekends. This would include making examinations, diagnosis, and recommendations to the health department on how to deal with the situation.

9. Free State

There were no verified instances of cheating in the Free State.

Qualified students in medicine

*5. Dr W A ODENDAAAL asked the Minister of Health: [Written Question No 89]

(a) How many students at each of the universities with medical faculties qualified in medicine each year since 1994 and (b)(i) what percentage of the students that qualified in medicine in each of these years at each of these universities have left South Africa to find a means of livelihood elsewhere and (ii) what reasons were given for such students leaving South Africa? N177E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

University	(a)			(b)(i)	(b)(ii)
	1994	1995	1996		
Free State Province					
University of Orange Free State	84	113	86	Unknown	Unknown
KwaZulu/Natal Province					
University of Natal	90	109	101	Unknown	Unknown
Western Cape Province					
University of Stellenbosch	176	162	170	Unknown	Unknown
University of Cape Town	161	146	146	Unknown	Unknown
Eastern Cape Province					
University of Transkei	17	26	22	Unknown	Unknown

Source: Provincial Health Departments, February 1997

Sasol: strip-mining at Rietsspruit wetland

*6. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy: [Written Question No 163]

(1) Whether Sasol is proposing to conduct strip-mining at the Rietsspruit wetland on the banks of the Vaal river; if so, (a) what (i) area and (ii) percentage of the wetland

will be affected by such strip-mining, (b) how long will the project last and (c) what will be the estimated impact of such mining on the environment;

(2) whether these proposals are compatible with the status of the area as a nature area; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether Sasol has received any objections to the proposed mining; if so, (a) from whom, (b) what were the objections and (c) what was Sasol's response thereto? N303E

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY:

(1) Yes - SASOL is proposing to conduct strip-mining at the Rietsspruit wetland on the banks of the Vaal River.

(a)(i) The area of the Rietsspruit wetland that will be mined includes that which is traversed by the Rietsspruit channel, its riparian fringe and floodplain, approximately from where it crosses the topographical line at 1430 mamsl in the south to where it crosses the topographical line at 1426 mams further north.

(ii) 22% of the wetland will be affected by mining.

(b) The project will last 20 years.

(c) The estimated impact of the mining on the environment has been thoroughly investigated by consultants in a 315 page Draft Environmental Impact Assessment report which was made available to all interested and affected parties on 17 February 1997.

Yes - these proposals are compatible with the status of the area as a nature area. The relevant details are:

* The area was designated as a nature area in the 1982 Vaal River Complex Guide Plan, which provisions do not apply in respect of any right of any person to prospect for or to mine any mineral as defined in Section 1 of the Minerals Act, 1991, or the use of any land for prospecting

or mining purposes, or for purposes connected therewith.

* The wetlands do not meet any of the criteria required for RAMSAR listing.

* On both a regional and local level the conservation status of the wetlands is categorised as "low".

* There are no fish in the Rietsspruit.

* The specialist report states that the conservation status of the mammal species which occur in the wetland will not be compromised by the mining.

(3) Yes - SASOL has received objections to the proposed mining.

(a) All the names and correspondence pertaining to objections have been included in the Scoping Report of the EIA. They are:

* Advocate Duard Barnard & Associates, on behalf of the Association SAVE (Save our Vaal Environment).

* Susan Sellschop, on behalf of the River Properties Owners' Association

* Susan Sellschop, as an individual

* Allan G. Whittaker

* Mrs Marie Chase

* Mr Peter and Mrs Janice Edwards

* Ms Linda Eagle, Mrs Doreen Maree, Mr Tom Maree

* Ms Jackie Cloake, Ms Yvonne Vink, Ms Marietta Bernstein, Ms Vicky Baker,

* Mr Rex Anderson, Mrs Rose Anderson

* Mrs Leigh Kleynhans, Mr Eugene Kleynhans

* Mr Colin Miller

* Mr P M Molenaar

* Mrs P A Molenaar

* Mr Eric Smith

* E Hendriks

* Mr John Talbot, Mrs Beverly Talbot

* Mrs Claudene Dutton

* Mr Graham Mathysen, Mrs Caroline Mathysen

* Noelle Bolton

* G R Forsdyke

* Gordon Jones

* Alison Karlsson

* Clive and Anso Spencer

* W E Stewart

* Anonymous members of the public

(b) The objections are too numerous to mention here but they have been summarised in the EIA report of the consultants, which is available for public scrutiny.

(c) SASOL's response to each individual is unknown but mitigating measures addressing the objections were included in the Environmental Management Plan, which is available to the public and the objectors.

It should however, be noted that the Director: Minerals Development, Gauteng, has issued a Mining authorisation in terms of section 9 of the Minerals Act, 1991, to Sasol in respect of *inter alia* the proposed Sigma North West strip operations, which decision has been taken on review to the High Court by SAVE. The Director General of the Department of Minerals and Energy has appointed the State Attorney to advise the said Director on this matter and as this aspect is now *subjudice*, the matter can therefore not be discussed any further.

Amalgamated computer system

*7. Dr B L GELDENHUYS asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:† [Written Question No 196]

(1) Whether a new amalgamated computer system has been taken into use since December 1996; if so, who is in charge of this system;

(2) whether consultants have been appointed to develop the system; if so, (a) who are the consultants and (b) what do the costs of the appointment of each consultant amount to;

(3) whether problems have been experienced with the payment system; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so (a) what is the nature of the problems; (b) what steps are being taken to stem these problems and (c) how long will it take to stem these problems;

(4) whether the problems were foreseen; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what precautions have been taken in this regard;

(5) whether any other role players were consulted prior to the decision to implement

Chairpersons of the three Residents' Committees that the rules would be finalised after the recess of August 1997.

(2) The draft rules are presently being scrutinised by the residents. The adequacy of these rules will only be established once they have been implemented.

(3) No complaints have been received during the specified period.

Guidelines for regulation of professions

*23. Dr T G ALANT asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:†

Whether the Government has considered the guidelines for the regulation of professions, as proposed by the Competition Board; if not, why not; if so, what is the policy of the Government in this regard? N1584E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

The Government is aware of, but has not given specific detailed attention to, the Competition Board's Guidelines for the Regulation of Professional Services.

The reason for this is that the Government is currently engaged in the formulation of a wide range of policies and has not had the time to make a comprehensive assessment of the guidelines.

Importation of water buffalo meat from India

*24. Dr E A SCHOEMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:†

(1) Whether any permits for the importation of water buffalo meat from India have recently been issued by the Department of Agriculture; if so, how many;

(2) whether foot and mouth disease is endemic in India; if so, what precautionary measures are being taken to prevent the disease from spreading in South Africa? N1585E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes, permits have been issued. To date permits

for 29 containers (of 16 metric tons each) have been issued.

(2) Technically, foot and mouth disease is endemic in India. Some of the Northern provinces have, however, been free of the disease for more than three years.

We are importing deboned meat only — in accordance with international guidelines for the maintenance of our FMD free status. Buffalo are sourced from an area certified free from FMD for at least six months. In addition, animals are subjected to rigorous ante and post mortal inspections for lesions of FMD and the deboned meat has to meet with specific pH requirements as an added safeguard. Dr Schoeman may rest assured that nothing will be done to jeopardize our hard-earned FMD free status.

Government-owned buildings: asbestos part of construction material

*25. Mr P F SMITH asked the Minister of Public Works:

(1) Whether there are any government-owned buildings that are being used as workplaces or residences in which asbestos in any form is part of the construction material; if so,

(2) whether he or his Department has undertaken or commissioned any investigation into the health hazards to persons using such buildings; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether information on this issue is being made public; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1586E

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

(1) In view of the past extensive use of a variety of asbestos products which includes plaster, lagging of pipes, water piping, ceiling and roofing materials, etc., there are undoubtedly Government-owned buildings used as workplaces in which asbestos products, in some or

other form, have been used in their construction.

(2) The National Department of Public Works has adopted the policy of eradicating all harmful asbestos products from buildings under its control. These potentially harmful asbestos products are being systematically identified in the course of normal repairs and renovations that are being conducted to all buildings as an on-going process.

(3) The adoption of the policy to eradicate potentially harmful asbestos products from buildings under its control has not at this stage been publicly launched by the Department of Public Works. As a result the Department has not publicly announced which specific buildings with potentially harmful asbestos products, are being attended to at present. There is, however, no objection against publicly naming those buildings which are presently being attended to by the Department in this regard.

The most critical building complex involved is the Pomfret Military Base, which is an old asbestos mining village that was taken over and allocated to the Department of Defence during 1990. The outcome of a comprehensive investigation into the potentially harmful effects which asbestos pollution, emanating from past mining activities which were conducted at the redundant asbestos mine, has on the adjoining residential village now utilised by the Department of Defence, is nearing completion. The possibility of the entire military base being abandoned as a result of the potentially harmful effects of asbestos pollution, cannot be discounted at this stage.

Asbestos lagging of water piping at the Agricultural Building, Pretoria, is in the process of being removed as part of the renovation of the building. This aspect is being given priority attention at present.

In the early nineties, asbestos based plaster which was used for acoustical purposes in the Assembly Hall of the old Parliament Building in Cape Town, was removed and replaced with a modern non-toxic material.

The lagging to the water piping of the central heating system of the Central Government Offices is in the process of being replaced.

It can be mentioned that the removal of potentially harmful asbestos products from a building is highly specialised and only those firms which can comply with stringent international guidelines for dealing with such a problem, are employed.

(4) It is felt that a statement in regard to the Department's views on asbestos pollution and the policy that it has adopted will be advantageous. The Department should publicise its concern for the welfare of employees of the State who are compelled to utilise State-owned buildings, particularly with regard to the Pomfret Military Base. Should you concur then an announcement document in this regard can be compiled. Recently much publicity was given to asbestos pollution at old asbestos mines in the Northern Cape, which also resulted in Transnet looking at the use of specialised containers to prevent asbestos pollution along the rail routes to the export harbours for asbestos. Severe asbestos pollution was also discovered at the marshalling yards in the relevant export harbours and subsequently cleared by Transnet.

It is considered correct that the Department, in collaboration with the Department of Defence, makes a public statement regarding Pomfret before the press gets to hear about the potential problem from another source.

*26. Mr W A HOFMEYER — Public Works.
[Question standing over.]

*27. Mr W A HOFMEYER — Environmental Affairs and Tourism. [Question standing over.]

Upgrading/repair of Lekkerwater

*28. Ms F I CHOCHAN-KHOTA asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether the Department of State Expenditure was approached for approving a donation by a certain foundation, the name of which has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, for the upgrading and

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (for the Minister of Justice):

The hon member is referred to section 6A(1) of the Investigation of Serious Economic Offences Act, 1991 (Act 117 of 1991), which makes provision that an attorney-general may delegate his or her authority, on behalf of the State –

(a) to institute and conduct any prosecution in criminal proceedings, and

(b) to prosecute in any court an appeal arising from such proceedings, to the Director of the OSEO or a person designated thereto by him or her in writing.

Section 6A is an amendment (or addition) to the original section 6 which was promoted in and passed by Parliament in 1996. It was signed by the President on 12 November 1996 and is now law.

It is the opinion of the Minister of Justice that the system needs to be reviewed so as to eliminate duplication and to improve the system of investigation and the prosecution of serious economic offences. This is being considered urgently and seriously.

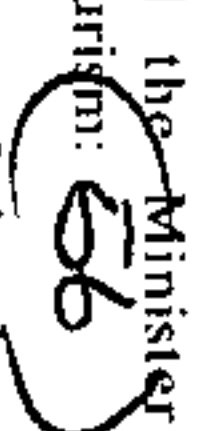
Mr D M H GIBSON: Madam Speaker, arising out of his reply, may I ask the hon the acting Minister of Justice what he intends doing, now that he has assumed office, to address the problems of the Office for Serious Economic Offences and the complaints which the incumbent has about the fact that he is totally disempowered because he has neither staff nor funds to do the job which this Parliament expects him to do. Perhaps the hon the Minister would tell us that.

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY: Madam Speaker, as the Minister of Justice said in his budget speech, the question of personnel in the department is being evaluated. There has to be a prioritisation – that is a terrible word – of expenditure in Government department, and clearly the area of serious economic offences is one of the priorities. I can convey the commitment of the Minister that this is one area, as generally with the prosecuting areas, that enjoys priority in the whole scheme of things in the Department of Justice.

*3. Mr D M H GIBSON – Justice. [Question standing over.]

*4. Mr M J ELLIS – Health. [Question standing over.]

Oil spill by Apollo Sea: cost of clean-up operation

*5. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: 

(1) What was the total cost of the clean-up operation following the oil spill caused by the Apollo Sea:

(2) whether any of this cost has been recovered; if so, how much; if not,

(3) whether his Department is experiencing any problems in recovering such cost; if so, what problems? N1842E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) The total cost of the cleanup operation following the Apollo Sea oil spill was R25 286 796.

(2) R23 631 220 of this has been recovered from the insurers, leaving a shortfall of R1 655 576.

(3) The recovery of costs incurred as the result of an oil spill are handled by the Department of Transport, with the assistance of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in cases involving cleanup operations supervised by the Department. As with all insurance claims, there are inevitably some difficulties in getting full costs paid out. Examples of the items which were contested in the case of the Apollo Sea included the payment of VAT on certain of the accounts, as well as the inclusion and amount of management fees by some of the parties involved in the cleanup operation. With respect to the former – which constituted most of the shortfall – there was a difference of opinion between the Receiver of Revenue and the legal representatives of the insurer. However, the shortfall was considered insufficient to warrant following it up, since this in itself would have been a costly process.

Tracing of stolen vehicles: bonuses paid

*6. Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

What bonuses were paid during the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available (a) to members of the South African Police Service for vehicles they had traced and (b) in rewards to members of the public for information that had led to the tracing of stolen vehicles? N1843E


The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) None.

(b) It is part of their duties.

(c) R4 171 420

Crime wave: causes

*7. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security: 

(1) Whether he or the South African Police Service has conducted an investigation so as to establish the reasons behind and causes of the crime wave currently sweeping the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether he or the SAPS intends taking any steps aimed at substantially reducing crime levels by a certain date; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1844E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes, the Crime Information Management Centre (CIMC) of the National Detective Service is conducting ongoing research into crime and the circumstances surrounding the incidence of crime, including its causes. The results of this research are published on a quarterly basis and released to the media and the public at large.

(2) Yes, a number of steps are being taken of which the most important at this stage is the implementation of the 1997/98 Policing Priorities and Objectives, which was announced in Parliament on 18 April 1997. Very specific targets were set for March 1998 and performance indicators developed to guide the implementation process.

One of the priorities provided, for example, for special assistance in terms of the development of specific crime prevention strategies and the training of members in ten priority police areas throughout the country. Assistance to the Johannesburg police area is consequently ready at an advanced stage.

To further operationalise the priorities and objectives countrywide, high density crime prevention operations were carried out in co-operation with the SA National Defence Force between April and June this year. Further specific and targeted combined operations are also expected to take place in the following months.

(3) I intend to issue no statement on the matter, because I see no reason to do so.

*8. Rev K R MESHOE – Health. [Question standing over.]

Possession of automatic/semi-automatic weapons declared illegal

*9. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether he or the South African Police Service intends taking any action aimed at making the possession of automatic and/or semi-automatic weapons illegal with immediate effect; if not, why not; if so, what action? N1847E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

No. The possession of such weapons, which is strictly limited and controlled, is regulated by the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969. A licence to possess a semi-automatic weapon will only be issued in exceptional circumstances, for example to security companies involved in the transport of large sums of money. Furthermore, such applications are approved by the Assistant Commissioner of Auxiliary Services.

In terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act of 1969, no licence may be issued for the possession of an automatic weapon. Under exceptional circumstances a permit may be issued by the Assistant Commissioner of Auxiliary Services.

Harwood

during which the stations must be brought up to the standards prescribed.

Note: Although the questions were directed to me, it should be noted that in terms of the Constitution, the Provincial Administrations are the executive authorities for road traffic.

St Lucia: "World Heritage Site"

*27. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

(1) Whether any steps have been taken with a view to declaring St Lucia as a "World Heritage Site"; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(2) whether the Dukuduku forest will be included therein; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1789E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has initiated the necessary steps to submit a nomination to have St Lucia Wetlands inscribed on the List of World Heritage Sites. The Department informed the World Heritage Centre in writing at the end of July 1997 that it intended submitting the nomination before 31 October 1997. The Department is currently studying the nomination to make sure that all the relevant information is included. The nomination will be submitted as soon as this task is complete.

(2) The Dukuduku State Forest is included in the area that is to be nominated to have St Lucia Wetlands inscribed on the List of World Heritage Sites. The Natal Parks Board, affected community and the Kwa-Zulu/Natal Minister of Indigenous and Environmental Affairs are involved in ongoing negotiations to arrive at a resolution, that will suit all parties, concerning the portion of land that will be incorporated into the Park and from which the community will have to be moved, and the benefits that will accrue to the community in exchange for the land.

Harwood

Properties acquired for land distribution

*28. Dr E A SCHOEMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:

Whether any properties have been acquired by his Department in the Somerset East district for the purpose of land distribution; if so, (a) what amount was paid for each property, (b) in which area is each located, (c) what is the nature of each such property and (d)(i) how many breadwinners are accommodated in each case and (ii) what are the conditions attached to the lease or purchase of these properties? N1790E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(a) Prinsloo R3,870 million
Karkotskraal R1,950 million

(b) Somerset East Municipal District

(c) Prinsloo - Dairy farm, grazing and irrigation
Karkotskraal - Grazing and irrigation

(d) (i) 388, the two farms are to be managed as a unit.

(ii) The Department of Land Affairs will be the owner of the farm and the agency agreement is to ask the local authority to manage the farm on our behalf and will also be responsible for the collection of any levies and manage and maintain all fixed and movable assets.

Report on Independent Broadcasting

Authority made public

*29. Mr J J DOWRY asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:†

Whether the report of an independent auditing firm, the name of which has been furnished to his Department for the purposes of his reply, with regard to the financial management of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, will be made public; if not, why not; if so, when? N1791E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

The Auditor-General is responsible for the auditing of the Independent Broadcasting Authority's record of accounts and financial statements and reports thereon from time to time in terms of standing procedures.

However, an independent firm of accountants has been appointed by the Authority to:

- Stabilize the current financial management position;
- Provide management and Council with relevant and reliable financial information to enable them to manage the Authority effectively; and
- Ensure implementation of defined financial controls and procedures.

The accounting firm reports to the Council of the IBA and also provides the Department of Communications, which is working with the IBA to ensure proper financial and administrative control, with regular progress reports.

These steps follow a resolution on 19 May 1997 by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts calling on this Ministry to ensure that an interim financial management capacity is set up in the offices of the IBA without compromising its autonomy as provided for in the Constitution.

In accordance with paragraph 8(d) of the First Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) dated 28 May 1997, the IBA should report to the Committee on progress made by not later than 30 September 1997.

State subsidies to Mossgas

*30. Mr A H NEL asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy:†

(a) What amount in State subsidies has been paid to Mossgas since production began in 1992 and (b) in terms of what procedures and/or regulations are subsidies being paid to Mossgas at present? N1792E

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY:

(a) A total amount of R1 208.4 million has been

paid to Mossgas in the form of tariff protection and synthetic fuel product price compensation payments.

The Cabinet also approved on 28 February 1996 to grant guarantees to the amount of R910 million for the development of the FA Satellite gas fields to protect the reserves of South Africa.

(b) Tariff protection and synthetic fuel compensation payments are made to Mossgas from the Equalisation Fund in terms of a Cabinet decision [1993] and resultant Ministerial Notices served on CEF (Pty) Ltd.

Invitation to congress of Free State Agricultural Union

*31. Dr E A SCHOEMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:†

(1) Whether he received an invitation to the congress of the Free State Agricultural Union on 12 and 13 August 1997; if not, what steps does he envisage taking in respect of his relationship with this union; if so,

(2) whether he attended this congress; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1793E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No, I have no record of ever receiving an invitation from the Free State Agricultural Union and I do not envisage taking any steps in respect of my relationship with that union.

(2) Falls away

Large-scale mechanisation on farms: research

*32. Mrs M J BADENHORST asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:†

(1) Whether he or his Department has done any research or had any research done to determine whether existing labour legislation and other legislation applicable to farmers in the agricultural sector, promotes large-scale mechanisation on farms; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,

been distributed to, inter alia, academics, the media and institutions and individuals who have requested it.

Pollution of Millstream River

*25. Mr G O M DOIDGE asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether his Department has received a report through his Department's regional office in Durban that the Millstream River was being polluted by run-off water from stand pipes in the Twist Valley area of Kokstad prior to the 1994 elections; if so,

(2) whether he or his Department has taken or intends taking any steps in respect of the ongoing pollution of the Millstream River; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(3) whether the Kokstad local authority has given an undertaking to address the issue; if so,

(4) whether the implementation of the undertaking has been or is being monitored by his Department; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(5) what is the present situation regarding the flow of effluent into the Millstream River?
N1787E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) Officials of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's Regional Office in KwaZulu-Natal were first notified of pollution of the Millstream River in Kokstad from run-off from standpipes in 1992. Their investigations confirmed that wash water and run-off from standpipes in the Twist Valley area were entering the Millstream River due to a lack of a sewerage system and the then Borough of Kokstad was instructed to rectify the situation.

(2) Due to the lack of resources and the need to immediately prevent the wash water from entering the stream, my Department accepted the Borough of Kokstad's proposal to divert the wash water onto adjacent land and engineer the area to create an artificial

wetland for treatment of the run-off. The Borough was also required to investigate financing options for the provision of sewage reticulation of the area and in 1992 a water borne sewage reticulation system was constructed.

(3) In order to assist residents in the area with the costs of connecting into the reticulation system, a "self help" scheme was put in place during 1993 where the Borough assisted residents with obtaining funding for connections. Of the 81 sites, it is reported that 50 sites are connected into the reticulation system, 19 connections are in progress and 12 are remaining.

(4) My Department was satisfied that the wetland was functioning in treating the wash water and that no further pollution of the Millstream River was occurring. An investigation conducted by my Department in September 1995 into the impacts of the discharge of treated effluent on the water quality and instream aquatic health of the Mzimtava River showed that this River, downstream of the Millstream confluence, was unimpaired.

(5) Although the Millstream River falls within the jurisdiction of the Kokstad Transitional Local Council and provision of services within this area is their responsibility, my Department is ultimately responsible for water quality in the area. I have been informed that no problems have since been experienced nor has any further complaint been received on this matter in the past four years. Officials from my Department are confident that the problems have been resolved, but undertake to reinvestigate the area to confirm this.

Registration of vehicles: different licensing systems

*26. Mr G O M DOIDGE asked the Minister of Transport:

(1) Whether different licensing systems to register vehicles are still being used in the areas of any former homeland administrations in the Province of the Eastern Cape; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, why;

(2) whether a uniform system is being implemented throughout the province; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what timeframes are envisaged for the implementation of this system;

(3) whether any delays in the implementation of this system throughout the province have been experienced; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, why;

(4) where is each testing centre for the issuing of roadworthy certificates in the former Transkei located;

(5) whether these testing centres comply with the necessary requirements; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?
N1788E

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) Yes. The registering authorities in the former Transkei and Ciskei currently utilise manual licensing systems, whilst a computerised system is in use in the remainder of the Province of the Eastern Cape.

This situation arises from the fact that at present, road traffic in the Province of the Eastern Cape is regulated by three separate Acts, namely the Ciskeian Road Traffic Act, 1989 (Act No 18 of 1989) the Transkei Road Traffic Act, 1967 (Act No 5 of 1967) and the Road Traffic Act, 1989 (Act No 29 of 1989).

The situation of non-uniformity in the province has led to various difficulties, in particular with regard to the implementation of the National Traffic Information System (NATIS), which was developed by the national Department of Transport in consultation with the provincial administrations to support the provisions of the Road Traffic Act, 1989 inter alia in respect of the registration and licensing of vehicles. As the provisions of the Transkei and Ciskei Road Traffic Acts do not permit the implementation of NATIS in these areas, the Province requested the Department not to proceed with the implementation of the computerised system until enabling legislation had been promulgated.

(2) The objective is to implement the NATIS

system throughout the province. To enable this, a Road Traffic (Transitional Provisions) Bill was drafted, which was approved by the Standing Committee for Transport in the Eastern Cape on 5 August 1997. The Bill will be tabled in the provincial legislature during the current legislative session which commenced on 14 August 1997.

The Department expects NATIS to be fully implemented in the Former Transkei and Ciskei by the end of February 1998.

(3) Telkom infrastructure problems are currently being experienced at 4 of the licensing offices which have been commissioned. Various alternative solutions are being investigated, but the possibility exists that these offices might have to continue operating manual systems until Telkom is in a position to provide them with data lines.

The implementation of the NATIS system in the remainder of the province commenced in December 1994 and was completed in November 1995.

(4) There are currently 5 testing stations in the former Transkei and 2 in the former Ciskei. The testing stations in Transkei are located as follows:

- i. Umtata
- ii. Butterworth
- iii. Engcobo
- iv. Lusikisiki
- v. Mount Frere.

The 2 testing stations in the former Ciskei are located as follows:

- i. Zwelitsha
- ii. Mdantsane.

Due to its close proximity to King William's Town, the testing station at Zwelitsha will shortly be (or may already have been) closed.

(5) No. The testing stations do not comply with the standards prescribed by the Road Traffic Act, 1989. The Road Traffic Act makes provision for a period ending 1 January 2000

for an amount of R23 022 815,59 was handed to the State Attorney, Johannesburg, for collection from the Clearing Agency as well as its directors in terms of section 103 of the Act. Criminal proceedings have also been instituted against the clearing agency in Messina and the South African Police Service (SAPS) is investigating the case.

Stock-theft: economic effect on agricultural sector

*40. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has determined what economic effect stock-theft has on the agricultural sector; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any steps are being taken in consultation with the Minister for Safety and Security with a view to improving the situation; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N2083E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) The economic impact of stock theft is difficult to determine as it goes further than the monetary value of the animals involved – particularly when stock is stolen from a resource-poor farmer or stock owner where the loss of one or two animals could have devastating consequences on household food security.

Statistics on stock theft – reported cases as well as the number of stock recovered are available from the SAPS Stock Theft Unit and these have been used to estimate the monetary value of the animals but are difficult to estimate.

These include:

- Stock owners/farmers abandoning live-stock production.
- Farmers abandoning small stock production in desperation and turning to cattle production as a slightly safer alternative.

Notebook computers enable SAPS stock theft teams to do enquiries on site but their work is hampered by the fact that there are still areas that are not compulsory marking areas. They have to investigate cases irrespective of whether the complainant has registered marks or not

We are therefore working towards country-wide compulsory marking for one main reason. To enable every stock owner to have a legal identification mark and to ensure that all stock theft cases can be concluded if a thief is apprehended.

We have also recently revised the existing legislation to make it more farmer friendly and a draft is available for public scrutiny and consultation.

In addition, we are in the process of printing a stock register that has been introduced at the request of the National Stock Theft Forum. We are also in the process of facilitating the development of a regional (SADC) Livestock Identification network using the computer software developed by the NDA. This will facilitate the monitoring of across border stock theft as well as the illegal movement of livestock. This will benefit all the countries in the SADC region as all have problems with stock theft.

Commercial hunting in Kruger National Park

*41. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether, with a view to earnings, consideration is being given to permitting commercial hunting in the Kruger National Park; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N2085E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) No. The Kruger National Park is proclaimed as a Schedule I Park.

(2) No.

Canned lion hunting industry regulated

*42. Mr J W LE ROUX asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has taken any steps aimed at regulating the canned lion hunting industry; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not;

(2) whether it is the intention to regulate the industry; if not, why not; if so, when? N2086E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) The hunting of lions is already being controlled by the provincial nature conservation institutions in terms of provincial nature conservation legislation. In addition to these control measures and in response to recent media attention to isolated incidents of unethical practices (the so-called "canned" lion hunts), the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has taken the following steps in collaboration with the provincial nature conservation institutions:

- The development of a National policy on hunting in which the hunting of lions amongst other things, will be addressed, has been initiated.
- The possibility of placing a moratorium on the establishment of new lion hunting and breeding facilities is being investigated. The announcement of such a moratorium is, however, subject to the consent of all nine provincial administrations.
- An audit of all lion hunting licences is being undertaken with a view to identifying parties guilty of unethical practices and to withdrawing their licences.

(2) Falls away

Culling of elephants

*43. Mr J W LE ROUX asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether the culling of elephants is being considered at present; if so, (a) how many elephants are to be culled and (b) what will be done with the ivory? N2087E

CV to justify his appointment. The vast amount of detail in the CV cannot hide the fact that he does not have the proper qualifications for the job. He was clearly a struggle lawyer. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs S M CAMERER: As the previous speaker has said, he has a B Proc and practised as an attorney for a few years with A M Omar and then on his own. [Interjections.] His CV is silent as to how long he practised as an attorney with anybody.

Normally we attorneys brief senior counsel in order to get the best advice. Without exception, previous Chief State Law Advisers have been senior counsel. What is the point of appointing a Chief State Law Adviser who has to have an adviser in order to give the Government the right advice? This is affirmative action gone mad. [Interjections.]

The fact that the hon the Minister of Justice has appointed Mr Daniels to this important post is clearly an indication that he has a great deal of confidence in Mr Daniels and thinks a lot of him. He has had an opportunity to assess him as his adviser during the past three years, and they probably did a lot of legal work together in the period before that. But is the hon the Minister's good opinion of Mr Daniels an adequate qualification for this post? [Interjections.] This post is traditionally one of the top legal jobs in the administration of this country. After all, the Chief State Law Adviser is the Government's top legal adviser and the Government must be able to rely absolutely on his advice. He is the Jeremy Gauntlett of the Public Service. [Time expired.]

Mr D M BAKKER: Madam Speaker, the hon the Minister is so predictable that I did not expect him to say anything other than what he did. In his short term in office he has been directly involved in several unfortunate incidents through which he has politicised the administration of justice in our country. [Interjections.]

His biggest mistake is not to protect white men, as he claimed, but the manner in which he tries to make politics out of every matter and disregards the guarantees contained in our Constitution. He forms part of a generation that still sees everything in racial terms and cannot accept that most South

Africans, including white public servants, want to build a better South Africa. [Interjections.] He must start to realise that there is a new generation who, as part of the general public, is concerned not only about the race of a public servant, but also about effective governance and the improvement of the living conditions of our people. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Madam Speaker, the hon member Sheila Camerer says that I am obviously loyal to my friends. I agree with her. I am loyal to my friends. The implication of her statement is that her people are not loyal to their friends. [Laughter.] I agree with her. They are not loyal to their friends. They stab each other in the back whenever it suits them. They dump each other whenever it suits them. I am very loyal to my friends and I am very happy about that.

But when it comes to making appointments, such as this appointment, this appointment to the position of Chief State Law Adviser, and appointments to the positions of deputy directors-general in our department, I set up an interviewing committee. I gave the member the names of the members of that committee. I followed the recommendations of that committee in every respect. In respect of the deputy directors-general, they made certain recommendations. I did not like one or two of them, but I followed their recommendations and I made the appointments. Incidentally - Mr Bakker does not know this - one of them is white and a male. He is much happier now than he was when that member's party was in government. [Laughter.]

I do not know why the hon Sheila Camerer should try to advertise on behalf of some or other advocate whom she has named. I am sure he is happy to receive the free advertisement. But in so far as we are concerned, over the past couple of years we have followed the same procedure we follow in our department with regard to appointments, also with regard to judges.

Under the member's government, all appointments were political appointments. Every one of them. Why? It was because the politicians made the appointments. [Interjections.] That is no aspersion on the judges, it is an aspersion on you! [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, the hon the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is now present. I would now like us to go back to Interpellation No 1.

Mr D H M GIBSON: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: Would you be good enough to inform the House, firstly, in terms of which Rule you are reverting to a question which has already been passed. Secondly, has the hon the Minister explained why he was late?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon member, as I have already said, when we wanted to deal with Interpellation No 1 the Minister was not present, and, in pursuance of my duty to assist the House to do its work, I guided the House towards proceeding with Interpellation No 2, and again in line with my duty of ensuring that the House does its work, I say let us now proceed to Interpellation No 1, which is on the Question Paper, so that the House can deal with it.

Waste problems in disadvantaged communities addressed

1. Ms G L MAHLANGU asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether, notwithstanding the Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management draft policy, he or his Department intends taking any action in the interim to address serious waste problems in previously disadvantaged communities; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action;

- (2) whether this waste management strategy will contribute in any way to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, to what extent?

N2253EJNT

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Madam Speaker, let me first of all apologise to the House for being late. I was unavoidably delayed with my doctor whom I was seeing about a certain matter. We respect the view of the hon Douglas Gibson.

My answer to the question which is rather lengthy - and I beg the House's indulgence - is that pollution and waste management are shared competencies, and very serious problems exist within the disadvantaged communities. Even though no programmes are currently being undertaken by this department, various initiatives are being launched from different levels to address the problem. Various local governments, including Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town, are in the process of developing initiatives to deal with waste problems. This also includes small business initiatives, and organisations like Keep South Africa Beautiful are currently developing small business opportunities within communities. Major waste companies such as Waste-Tech and Enviroserv have developed initiatives enabling local communities to develop their own businesses. International donors, including the United States, Denmark and the United Nations Environmental Programme, make funding for projects available at local community level, which could be utilised to address waste problems at a local level. These funds could also be used to initiate local waste management systems.

A community grant co-ordinator was recently appointed in the department to assist the communities in accessing these funds. Courses are being offered to local communities by the United States Environmental Training Institute, through the Binational Commission, under the auspices of this department, to assist communities in identifying and addressing the waste problems. Examples of cities that have taken advantage of this are East London and Cape Town. Training courses on principles of waste management are also delivered at local level by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in terms of the US-SA Binational Agreement, under the auspices of this department, to train communities and local government to deal with local waste issues. Training courses have already been delivered in Cape Town, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth.

Local communities and individuals are also at liberty to start recycling programmes from which they can benefit financially. There are currently markets for glass, paper, plastics, and metal. [Time expired.]

Ms G L MAHLANGU: Madam Speaker, may I thank the hon the Minister for his response. The

extent to which this Ministry is addressing problems inherited by this new Government is applauded by the portfolio committee. We have inherited mine dumps. We all agree that gold was the engine of economic growth in this country, but it has left behind a legacy of illness. The community of Mafefe in the Northern Province is destined for ever to breathe asbestos and dust, and to die therefrom. The damage cannot be undone.

The apartheid government protected Thor Chemicals. I want to tell the Minister that we are pleased that we have the commission and that the findings have now been made public. We must learn from such commissions. Thor Chemicals paid poisoned workers R9,4 million collectively after a long court battle. One of the poisoned workers, Eric Mkhize, has this to say:

How can I be happy because I will never be well again?

Hon members should take note that money can never buy health. Toxic waste is finding its way onto dump sites that are not licensed. We in this country inherited more than 1 200 dump sites from the apartheid regime, of which 1 000 are unlicensed.

Toxic waste is found in places it should not be: it is entering our country and the incident of Thor Chemicals proves that we cannot control it at this time. While we cannot even control our own hazardous waste, we should not think of the possibility of importing waste for any reason.

Toxic waste always ends up in those communities that do not have the resources to fight. Policy should therefore ensure that they never have to fight. In March and again in April this year, we had radioactive leakages at Koeberg nuclear power station. At Vaalputs communities were potentially at risk because of leakages from the nuclear waste stored there.

In Port Elizabeth medical waste is burnt in an incinerator. Toxic fumes drift over the nearby community causing serious illnesses. With more than 1 000 illegal dump sites inherited from the previous regime a great deal of medical waste ends up piled up in places where our children play.

Hon members may remember not so long ago how dumped sweets were taken and sold to small children

at a primary school here in Crossroads. Many children bought these sweets and were poisoned.

I want to tell the Minister that plastic is in one sense a miracle and in another a curse. On the one hand we use plastic every day. It is used, for example, for door handles, cars and the seats on which we sit. On the other hand we see plastic bags blowing all over our townships and towns. They are unsightly and inorganic. They will never decay and remain as valueless rubbish which spoils our surroundings, impacting on the quality of our living and any visitors who come to see our beautiful country. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, before I call on the next speaker, may I appeal to members to lower their voices. This is a well-attended session, and therefore if we all speak, those who are trying to address us cannot be heard.

Mr L M GREEN: Madam Speaker, in South Africa today we desperately need more effective State regulation, control and protection of the environment. Our natural resources include 240 species of mammals, 887 different species of birds and 20 000 species of flowering plants. These natural resources are not adequately protected.

We need an environmental protection agency empowered by the necessary legislation to protect our citizens and our natural resources against pollution and, in particular, to control the polluting industries whose primary imperatives have been to compete for markets and to increase profits with a reckless disregard for the damage that is being done to our environment as well as excluding the previously disadvantaged communities from opportunities in waste control.

Environmental laws are effective as safeguards only if they are creative and vigorously enforced. This requires environmentally committed and ethically courageous persons who cannot be corrupted by bribery. Many people are today questioning the miracle of nuclear energy as a viable alternative source for the future. It is far too expensive and far too unsafe. The human factor involved in all stages of nuclear technology makes accidents unavoidable. Many nuclear accidents have already happened, releasing highly poisonous radioactive materials into the environment. A public and transparent debate about nuclear power in South

Africa is urgently needed, given the secrecy surrounding the nuclear industry. A major problem of nuclear power is the disposal of nuclear waste, which remains toxic for thousands of years.

In conclusion, we need a paradigm shift if we are serious about waste management. There is a need for us to change our lifestyles. We need to move away from a consumer to a conserver economy. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Madam Speaker, I thank the hon members for their contributions. Just to assist the House, I will continue with what I was saying earlier.

It is absolutely true that we have inherited a very bad situation from the previous government, but what we are trying to do with respect to waste management and pollution control is, in the first instance, to encourage the reuse and recycling of waste. Many of the small, medium-sized and micro entrepreneurs whom we now find in our townships could actually participate in various forms of recycling and reuse of waste.

With respect to energy sources, I think it is high time that South Africa began to look at renewable energy sources. When one was visiting various European countries during the course of this year, one saw, for example, that the use of renewable energy was quite advanced in many of these countries. We should turn our attention to some of those processes which might, of course, obviate the need to develop our nuclear energy programme much further.

At the end of the day, however, I would say that the issue of waste management especially is going to boil down to how we conduct ourselves in our individual households. In the course of unfolding our waste management policy, we are going to be launching antilitter campaigns and also encouraging households to separate their waste so that it can be recycled, so that that which is reusable can be reused and that which is organic can go into compost, etc, can be used in that fashion. [Time expired.]

Mr I RICHARDS: Madam Speaker, do we still remember Mr Peter Cele and Mr Engelbert Ngcobo? They were victims of the lack of a waste management strategy in the RSA. Mr Cele and Mr Ngcobo would have been alive today if South

Africa had had an integrated waste management strategy in place during the 1990s. They were unfortunate enough to work for Thor Chemicals and they died of mercury poisoning.

As the Minister has indicated, this Government has identified waste management as a priority and is putting in place an integrated waste management policy posthaste. This policy will emphasise the minimisation of and seek to control and manage our waste. This policy is highly commendable and long overdue, and certainly a credit to the Minister.

However, on the Witwatersrand and in the Goldfields the environment is ruined by man-made yellow mountains emitting yellow dust laced with a high percentage of cyanide. I do not have to spell out the causes. Unfortunately all apartheid townships were built around these yellow man-made mountains, and it is only black people who now have to inhale and suffer these emissions of yellow cyanide. They have to learn to live with that. Statistics are not freely available, but the doctors who practise in the area will tell you that the direct result of the cyanide that is being inhaled is that people in these areas suffer from asthma and cancer. [Time expired.]

Ms G L MAHLANGU: Madam Speaker, the changes brought about by the hon the Minister in this Ministry in such a short space of time are remarkable. Through our policy we want to ensure that we address these issues of our past. We must focus on the minimisation of waste. We cannot continue to use the available land to dump our waste. This is land which could be utilised for housing or agriculture.

We must not only address the problems of pollution which result from industry, but we must also focus on purification technology. We have the opportunity to ensure that we do not take the path of our northern cousins who have polluted their countries and produced all that toxic waste which they are now trying to dump on us.

This policy which the hon the Minister is engaged in will ensure that South Africa becomes a rich nation, not only in economic growth, but also in the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. We would like to thank the hon the Minister for viewing the lives of his fellow citizens in such a serious light and for putting waste management at the top of his agenda.

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Madam Speaker, that is a hard act for me to follow. I think it is proper to say also that with respect to the hon member's remarks about the problems arising from mining, I can say from this House that through co-operation between my Ministry and those of Minerals and Energy and Water Affairs and Forestry, we hope to produce far better results in the future and to avoid the sorts of hazards that mining has produced in the past, especially for disadvantaged communities. I think we have been fortunate in winning the co-operation of fellow Ministers and other departments in the pursuance of our waste management policy. At the end of the day we have to insist that our local governments, our provincial governments and, of course, our ordinary citizens also take a much firmer hand with respect to waste management.

One of the things that alarmed and shocked me when we began to look at waste management was the discovery that the chief items of litter in South Africa are, among other things, smokers' dead matches and cigarette stubs. I think the Minister of Health will agree with us that this is another hazard that smoking presents to our country.

Care for injured/maimed/aged ex-miners provided

3. Dr K RAJOO asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy:

Whether his Department intends setting up a fund with contributions from the mining houses to provide adequate care for injured, maimed and aged ex-miners; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N2250E:INT

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY: Madam Speaker, the reply to the question is that the Department of Minerals and Energy is not considering setting up any fund to care for the injured, maimed and aged ex-miners. The Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act of 1973 provides compensation for these ex-miners and the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act of 1993 already caters for contributions from mining houses and compensation. Pensions or provident funds are

also normally negotiated between employees and mining houses as a condition of service.

Dr K RAJOO: Madam Speaker. I am very disappointed with the answer with which the Deputy Minister has furnished this House. We have specifically asked whether the department is prepared to set up a fund with contributions from the mining houses considering the fact that hardly anything is being done for ex-miners in this country.

If one looks at the history of miners in this country, a meagre R2 000 is given to an ex-miner who goes on to live in abject poverty and perhaps to become a beggar in the land of his birth, this after working in and contributing to the most prosperous of industries in this land.

I am surprised that the Deputy Minister could say that her Ministry is not prepared to do anything, considering the fact that all the mines and the minerals in this country are owned by large mining corporations which are basically white and that the tremendous number of people who work in the mines are basically black. The number of people who die in the mines are therefore black. The people who are injured are black and those who go back to the homelands to die in abject poverty are black. Yet this new democratic Government is telling me that they are not prepared to do anything, because the mining houses are not doing anything.

We would like to ask the following. The Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996, which came into effect on 15 June 1997, brought about a revolution, he says, in methods of achieving health and safety conditions in the mining industry, which I presume will also include those miners who have served the needs of the nation.

Yet the Minister tells me that he is prepared to do nothing and that he is satisfied with what has been done. I am astounded, considering that the Minister has articulated vociferously that he is not prepared to accept what the mining houses have been doing or the way the Mines and Minerals Act has been interpreted and implemented in this country. I would like to ask whether the Minister has a policy or plan to measure radioactive factors in respect of miners in this country.

The Nuclear Energy Act has just become applicable. The survey by the Atomic Energy

Corporation has just become applicable. Has the Ministry done a survey of what has happened over the last three years, since this Government came into power? Does the Minister care about the miners? Does he care about the masses of the people, blacks, who suffer in the mines and who do not get adequate compensation? Yet he comes to me with an answer which is half-baked and does not satisfy me, this House, this nation or the thousands of blacks who are working with their hands. This is the issue that I would like him to address. [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Mnuz S B MFAYELA: Somlomo namalunga ahloniphekile, ngumuntu nje onomona kuphela ongeke abone ukuthi eMnyangweni lo wezoku-Mbiwa phansi nezinikaMandla kuyasetshezwa. Umuntu makagale ngokukubonga lokho.

Mhlawumbe esikhala ngakho njengoba kukhulumeka kanje, akukhona ukuthi umsebenzi awubonakali, kodwa kukhalwa ngoba kukhona lapho kungafikekanga khona, ngoba kunezinye izikhala esizibonayo. Njengoba sishilo lapha, imahi abantu abagcina beye nayo emakhaya incane. Lokho okuhlizekwa ngakho abantu akufiki lapho kufanele abantu bakwazi khona ukuziphilisa bona kanye nemindeni yabo. Manje lokhu kuyisikhalo sokuthi uHulumeni abheke ukuthi kungabanjiswa kana kanjani ukuze kubonakale ukuthi lokhu abantu abakutholayo, akufiki lapho kufanele kufike khona. (Translation of Zulu speech follows.)

[Mr S B MFAYELA: Madam Speaker and hon members, it is only the jealous who do not realise that the Department of Minerals and Energy is really working. I think the first step is to express appreciation for this.]

Perhaps the minor complaints that arise from our side are not due to the fact that the work being done is not visible, but due to the fact that there are desired targets which could not be met and therefore there are gaps which we have identified. As we have mentioned, people take home too little money. What is provided for people is not enough to maintain them and their families. The complaint here is that the Government should look at how the problem of meagre payments can be solved co-operatively.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY: Madam Speaker, I want to point out to

Dr Rajoo that no organisation has managed to articulate the plight and social state of our people in this country as effectively as the ANC. I think Dr Rajoo knows that this is a fact. He was part of the government in the past. We are the first Government to be able to address the problems in the mining industry. We are the first Government to make sure that we come up with proper regulations in this particular area of health and safety.

I want to point out to Dr Rajoo that there is no way this department is going to introduce a further levy for the business sector and therefore increase the burden in the form of levies we have currently. I also want to say that I do not know whether Dr Rajoo has his facts straight, because employers and employees are involved in the whole issue of workers who have been injured in the mining sector, to see how they can improve the quality of life of people who have been injured at their workplace.

Not only that, the hon member is quite aware that through the Mine Health and Safety Act we have introduced tripartite structures to look at the industry as a whole and to address its problems. Therefore the issue of upgrading the social standards of workers who have been injured in the mining industry has been addressed. For instance, they have co-operatives in the rural communities and areas where they come from. These are issues which are addressing the problem.

The Act itself also ensures that the kind of compensation which people are being paid is sufficient to meet their needs in their different areas.

Dr K RAJOO: Madam Speaker and Deputy Minister, please be aware that I am well informed. [Interjections.] Please be aware that I have done research on the matter that I am talking about. Let no one take for granted that I am ignorant about the issues, because I have worked hard on them, and therefore I know what I am talking about. [Interjections.]

Members should not question me as if I do not know anything. [Interjections.] I want to tell the Deputy Minister that on 14 May 1997, 10 miners died and 24 were injured, six of them critically, at Deelkraal gold mine in Carletonville. The Minister flew down there from Cape Town. We appreciate that, because he showed compassion. We are not

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) No. Meetings take place and when requested by me or the Attorneys-General. Communication between the Ministry and individual Attorneys-General also takes place whenever necessary on a person to person basis.
- (2) Yes. I anticipate that making provision for regular meetings with Attorneys-General – together and individually – will be arranged especially once the office of National Director of Public Prosecutions has been created.
- (3) In the period referred to, meetings took place on 23 July 1996, 13 September 1996, 20 September 1996 and 20 June 1997 with all the Attorneys-General together. Some of the Attorneys-General were also seen on occasion on an individual basis.

Dockets to magistrate's courts: control measures

*6. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether any control measures have been introduced in magistrate's courts to limit problems experienced with certain members of the South African Police Service who fail to present dockets to such courts; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so.
- (2) whether these measures have been found to be successful; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any action has been taken against any members of the SAPS in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) against how many such members? N1764E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) At a meeting in June 1997, all the Attorneys-General stated that on trial dates in regional courts, over 50% of the dockets were not brought to court. Pursuant thereto the Commissioner of Police was approached. The Commissioner immediately instructed police throughout the country to remedy the problem. Almost all the Attorneys-General

approached for comment presently report that in major centres, police liaison officers have been appointed to assist in the process of obtaining dockets for court purposes where investigating officers have failed to present same timeously. In general, prosecutors will first attempt to communicate with the concerned official in order to ascertain the reason(s) for the delay. If this does not bear fruits, the responsible official is reported to his superior officer and this usually has the required result. This matter is addressed at meetings with officers of the South African Police Service on a regular basis.

- (3) The only action taken against members of the South African Police Service, in this regard is to report them to a higher authority in the South African Police Service. Disciplinary steps against investigating officers falls outside the area of responsibility of the Department of Justice.

Polmed: deficit in 1997-98 financial year

*7. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- Whether it is expected that Polmed will experience a deficit in the 1997-98 financial year; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) why and (b) what are the further relevant details? N1765E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes.

- (a) and (b) On current trends Polmed will experience a deficit on the amount awarded by State Expenditure of between R500 million and R600 million. This deficit is not on the estimated budget but on the amount awarded to Polmed.

The difference between the estimated budget and the award by State Expenditure is that the budget is determined according to health care industry standards and past experience, while the amount awarded to Polmed by State Expenditure is determined in terms of the South African Police Service's total budget. Polmed absorbed an additional 19 500 families on Polmed since 1995 as a result of the

amalgamation, with the possibility of another 5000 members during 1997/1998. All these cost factors are not taken into account when an amount is awarded to Polmed.

The cost drivers in the health care industry are the following:

- medical inflation;
- increase in membership; and
- increase in utilisation by members.

Despite the above, the amount awarded to Polmed was reduced by ± R500 million (from ± R1 500 million to R1 000 million) against the estimated budget.

Severe action is currently being taken against both members and service providers with regard to the abuse of Polmed facilities, and many prosecutions are taking place.

In order to introduce effectively managed health care principles currently in practise in the private sector, it will be necessary, over time, to re-negotiate the conditions of employment with members of the South African Police Service.

SAPS: dissatisfaction concerning promotions/wages/overtime payments

*8. Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether he or the South African Police Service has been informed of dissatisfaction within the SAPS concerning (a) management's handling of the latest round of promotions and/or (b) wage negotiations and overtime payments; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he intends intervening into the matter; if not, why not; if so, in what manner;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1766E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) (a) Yes. The Interim Promotions Policy was effective up and until 1996-06-30. All

promotions in terms of the said policy have been dealt with. The new promotions policy is up for negotiation at the National Negotiating Forum.

- (b) I have been briefed about the relevant details regarding both the offer made by the State as well as the demands made by the unions.

I do not think that a one-sided disclosure of these details will contribute positively to the search for a negotiated agreement.

- (2) Yes, I have been in discussion with at least two of the unions which have an organised presence in the SA Police Service. The latest meetings with the two unions took place earlier today. I am satisfied that they are conducting the search for a solution to the problems in good faith.
- (3) No.

Value of recovered stolen vehicles

*9. Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- What is the value of stolen vehicles recovered by members of the South African Police Service's vehicle theft units in (a) 1996 and (b) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available? N1767E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (a) R3 480 169 843,00
(Three Billion, Four hundred and eighty Million, One Hundred and sixty nine Thousand, eight hundred and forty three Rand.)
- (b) [Latest specified date: 1997-08-22]

R1 854 041 175,00

(One Billion, Eight hundred and fifty four Million, forty one Thousand and one hundred and seventy five Rand.)

Cape Point Nature Reserve: complaints from tourists

*10. Rev K R MESHOE asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has received any complaints from international

(56)

tourists in regard to problems with services, traffic and ablution facilities they experience at the Cape Point Nature Reserve; if so,

- (2) whether, in the light of these complaints, he or his Department is planning any further developments at this Reserve; if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) when will such plans be implemented? N1768E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Neither the Department nor I have received complaints from international tourists in respect of problems experienced due to the current facilities and services available at the Cape Point Nature Reserve.

However, I would like to mention that the increase in tourism does put pressure on the available facilities. Accordingly, this matter is currently being addressed by both the Cape Metropolitan Council, who run the said reserve, and the Chief Directorate: Weather Bureau of this Department.

- (2) No development is envisaged at the said reserve by the Department, seeing that management of the reserve is the responsibility of the Cape Metropolitan Council.

Steps against non-payers of rates/services charges

*11. Rev K R MESHOE asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

- (1) Whether he or his Department is taking steps against non-payers of rates and services charges; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps;
- (2) whether any steps are to be taken to ensure that the outstanding amount of approximately R6 billion owed to local authorities will be collected; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when? N1769E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) No. Municipalities are autonomous entities and therefore regulate their own affairs.

including taking steps against non payers of rates and service charges.

- (2) No. The Department of Constitutional Development monitors the cash flow position of municipalities through Project Viability. It is, however, the prerogative of the individual municipalities to take the necessary credit control measures, to ensure proper collection of outstanding debt.

Flooding from slimes dams adjacent to Davidsonville

*12. Mr D M BAKKER asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy:†

- (1) Whether he or his Department has been informed of any flooding from slimes dams adjacent to the residential area of Davidsonville during rainy seasons; if so,
- (2) whether he or his Department has taken or intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1770E

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY:

- (1) Davidsonville Extension 1 residential township was developed by the then Municipality of Maraisburg-Roodepoort (now known as the Western Metropolitan Substructure) in close proximity to slimes dams and a sand dump of the old Wilford (Pty) Ltd. and New Durban Gold and Industrials Ltd. mines. These mines ceased operations a considerable time ago and since that period the slimes dams and sand dump were dormant. Due to a shortage of funds, the said holders of the mine residues did not properly attend to the maintenance thereof through the years, resulting in the spillage of sands and slimes whenever it rains.

Although the Department of Minerals and Energy advised that a safety zone of about 73,76 metres from the toe of the said residues be left open, the said local authority transgress the said buffer zone and houses were built within 6 metres of the mine residues. The design capacity of the drainage system for the

area, as installed by the said local authority, was totally inadequate, catchment paddocks were removed and some of the drainage channels were constructed next to the mine residues. The Department is now faced with the extremely undesirable situation of residential units next to the slimes dams and sand dump. Durban Roodepoort Deep Ltd acquired the mine residues during November 1996 and has already commenced with the retreatment of one of the slimes dams. Depending on economic considerations, all the relevant slimes dams and sand dump may well be totally removed in future.

- (2) The area was recently visited and inspected by officials of the Durban Roodepoort Deep Ltd the Department of Minerals and Energy and the local authority. A community forum has been established, headed by the Council's Environmental Department.

The following actions and responsibilities have in essence been agreed to:

- (a) Durban Roodepoort Deep Ltd will undertake all repairs, preventative measures and maintenance as may be deemed necessary to ensure that no further runoff will affect the adjacent residents and will endeavour to prevent any pollution or silting of the storm water system during the following three years. Monitored control measures are to be set up by the Consultant of the mine in order to eliminate dust.
- (b) The Council will endeavour to obtain authority and funding in order that the storm water system be upgraded and maintained in a satisfactory condition ensuring the safety and health of the residents.
- (c) The Council will clean and remove all garbage and silt from the drain in order to restore full functionality to the system with a view to maintaining environmental cleanliness and thus preventing further blockages.

- (3) No.

Mathematics/science: enrolment of black pupils

*13. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) Whether the number of black pupils enrolling for mathematics and science courses has increased throughout the Republic since the democratic elections; if so, to what extent; if not, why not;

- (2) whether the Government has taken any steps aimed at encouraging black pupils to enrol for such courses; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) with what measure of success? N1771E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) Statistics in education do not indicate race for the time period 1994, 1995 and 1996. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) provides for questions collecting this kind of data but the information was seen as sensitive and many institutions did not complete the section.

- (2) Yes.

- (a) The Department of Education has already embarked on taking further steps to improve South African standards of education in Mathematics and Science. The steps already taken are:

- The White Paper on Education and Training recognises Mathematics, Science, Technology, Business and Communication as key learning areas for transforming society and promoting the welfare of all South Africans.

- The Department of Education has already undertaken two programmes aimed at redress of the current situation in education, namely the Heads of Education Departments (HEDCOM) Technology 2005 Project and Students and Youth into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (SYSTEM).

The Technology 2005 Project is aimed at Technology Education being instrumental in improving the learning outcomes in the fields of the Natural Sciences, Mathematics,

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) The upgrading of the N1 between Matoks and Louis Trichardt will be completed during December 1998.

(2) The Department has not changed the plans in respect of the road between Louis Trichardt and Beit Bridge on the five year planning and budget forecast, since these appear still realistic and achievable.

Building of dam on Limpopo River

*23. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether, with reference to his replies to Question No 24 on 7 September 1994 and Question No 2 on 6 March 1996, he or his Department has had a change in viewpoint in respect of the building of a dam on the Limpopo River: if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether, in the light of speculations regarding El Niño's return and the negative influence it could have on rainfall patterns, he or his Department has reconsidered the Messina Town Council's proposals to pump water from the Limpopo to the Nzhelele and Nwanedi dams; if not, why not; if so what are the relevant details;

(3) whether the loss of 3 000 million cubic metres of water down the Limpopo river per annum is still not being regarded as a loss to the Republic; if so, what are the relevant details? N1865E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) No. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's viewpoint remains unchanged. As stated in my reply to Question No 24 of 7 September 1997 and Question No 2 of 6 March 1996, the construction of a dam in the Limpopo River cannot be justified in terms of the current water demand. It would be far more cost effective if the water resources of the tributaries of the Limpopo River are developed.

(2) No. The current water demands of Messina and environs are of insufficient magnitude to warrant a costly development like a transfer scheme from the Limpopo River to the Nwandzi and the Nzhelele Dams.

The indications are that the El Niño phenomenon could result in lower rainfall over the catchment of the Limpopo River. In the past, lengthy periods (up to 36 months) of no flow have been experienced. These conditions could have been attributed to the El Niño phenomenon. Mitigating measures will have to be implemented to counter the effects of these abnormalities. The Limpopo River at Messina is not located within a Government Water Control Area and the water supply should therefore be closely monitored by the local authority with assistance from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's Regional Office in the Northern Province. All water users should be encouraged to apply the principles of water demand management and water conservation in order to derive maximum benefit from the water resources of the Limpopo River. It is suggested that the domestic water demand that can be supplied for the next two years be reserved during the water balance calculation in order to impose water restrictions timeously. The storage situation of the major reservoirs in the catchment of the Limpopo River is good at the moment and the dams are 98% full. The likelihood of water shortages in Messina during the course of the next season is therefore remote.

(3) The Mean Annual Runoff of the Limpopo River at Beit Bridge is 1 682 million cubic metres per annum. The 3 000 million cubic metres referred to in your question, was an estimate of the volume of water that flowed into the Indian Ocean during the 1996 floods. Water flowing down the Limpopo River serves a useful purpose. It is necessary for the recharging of the sand aquifers and to supply the requirements of the riverine ecology and even for the maintenance of the estuary in Mozambique. The whole catchment is responsible for meeting these requirements and it also forms part of the international obligations

of South Africa towards Mozambique. Therefore, it is not regarded as a loss to the Republic of South Africa.

Sales of military equipment to Democratic Republic of Congo

*24. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether any military equipment was involved in arms sales to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1996; if so, (a) what military equipment and (b) what was the total monetary value of these sales;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1866E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) No. The National Conventional Arms Control Committee did not approve any permits for arms transfer contracts or exports to the Democratic Republic of Congo (previously Zaire) during 1996 or 1997.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(2) No. In the light of the reply any further comment would appear unnecessary.

Farmers warned about El Niño phenomenon

*25. Dr E A SCHOEMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:

Whether steps are being taken to warn farmers and to have them take precautions against the possible El Niño phenomenon which is expected to hit South Africa during the critical growing period in the first quarter of 1998, if not, why not; if so, what steps? N1869E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

Yes, steps are being taken.

The possible consequences of El Niño are being addressed within the Disaster Management System of the Government to ensure that the necessary steps will be co-ordinated and managed by the Interim Disaster Management Centre.

For this purpose the following information is being prepared for the Ministers' Committee on Disaster Management:

* possible implications of El Niño with regard to the National Department of Agriculture's line functions and the proposed action plans concerning the possible effects of El Niño.

* the plans of action to be taken in conjunction with the SADC (Southern Africa Development Community) countries.

The National Department of Agriculture is also attending to its commitments as convener of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Drought which falls under the National Disaster Management Committee.

The National Department of Agriculture has already published a warning on the probability of an oncoming El Niño, and how farmers should take informed decisions with regard to summer rainfall crops and livestock management. Care must, however, be taken not to sensationalise the issue. Information has been given to the media on request.

The matter of El Niño will also receive attention during the next meeting between heads of the Provincial and National Departments of Agriculture.

Mining industries: unacceptable pollution of water resources

*26. Mr L M GREEN asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether it is the intention to take any steps against mining industries causing unacceptable levels of pollution of water resources; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps;

(2) whether it is the intention to review existing legislation and administration procedures pertaining to the country's mining industry in respect of water resources; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, when;

(3) whether a task team has been appointed to draft such legislation and administration

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procedures: if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what are the further relevant details;

(4) whether such legislation and procedures will be monitored on a regular basis in future; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?
N1872E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) Yes, when mines are causing unacceptable levels of pollution and fail to take the necessary remedial measures, they will be prosecuted.

(2) and (3) Yes, the Water Law Review process is in progress and the first draft of the Bill is available for public comments. It is envisaged to have the final Bill ready early next year for consideration by Parliament. The Bill will, amongst others, address the following:

- Point source control;
- non-point source control; and
- waste discharge charges.

In addition, Regulation R287 relating to the management of water on a mine promulgated in 1976 in terms of section 26 of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) has been reviewed and in 1996 a process to revise this Regulation was initiated by the Department. The draft regulations were completed by the beginning of 1997.

However, due to the imminence of the Water Law Review, the publication of the draft regulations for comment by the public was never initiated. Subsequently, a decision was taken to delay the publication of the revised regulations until after the new Act has been promulgated.

(4) Yes, there are procedures for monitoring and intervention by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to ensure that the industry adheres to the legislation.

Questions transferred for oral reply in accordance with Rule 202.

* 1. Mr J W MAREE – Justice. † [Written question No 905] [Removed.]

Land and Agriculture Policy Centre work for Department

* 2. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs: † [Written Question No 906]

Whether the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre (LAPC) has done any work for his Department since April 1994; if so, what was the total amount in compensation paid to the LAPC (a) in respect of each financial year since the 1994-95 financial year up to and including the 1996-97 financial year and (b) in the period 1 April 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?
N1556E

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

No, in the case of the Department of Agriculture.

Yes, in the case of the Department of Land Affairs.

(a) and (b) The LAPC was contracted by the Department of Land Affairs from May to September in 1995 to organise and facilitate the process leading up to the Land Policy Conference, which took place on 31 August and 1 September 1995. The amount paid in compensation to the LAPC for undertaking this work in the 1995/96 financial year was R277 622.

During November 1995 the Department of Land Affairs put out a tender for the management of a Training and Technical Assistance Fund. The purpose of this Fund is to assist in training people involved in the implementation of land reform and to facilitate the Department of Land Affairs access to specialist outside expertise and experience to strengthen its capacity regarding land reform policy and implementation. The work is being done over a period of two years. The role of the contractor is to administer the Fund in terms of the agreement for the purposes for which the Fund is established. The LAPC and other organisations tendered for this contract, and on 21 February 1996 the State Tender Board awarded the contract to the LAPC, tender no. RT9088 SF. The LAPC submits quarterly financial reports to the Department

of Land Affairs, and audited accounts at the end of each year, in terms of the provisions of the contract. Compensation paid to the LAPC for undertaking this work in the 1996/97 financial year amounts to R433,565, and for the period 1 April 1997 until 31 July 1997 an amount of R118,207 was paid.

Persons evicted from farms: representations

* 3. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs: † [Written Question No 907]

Whether any individuals who allege that they have been evicted from farms by land-owners

(b) Notifications of evictions

Year	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	cs	h/h	cs	h/h	cs	h/h	cs	h/h	cs	h/h	cs	h/h
1995	0	0	0	0	0	1	80	1	20	0	0	0
1996	1	1	0	2	23	5	506	2	5	3	62	3
1997	7	146	5	94	3	100	4	507	7	280	7	103
Total	8	147	5	84	5	123	5	1 013	9	361	11	185

cs cases
h/h households

Free state	No. of cases per year	No of household per year
1995	0	0
1996	7	27
1997	25	476
Total	32	503

Inventory of all State-owned property

* 4. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs: † [Written Question No 908]

Whether his Department has compiled an inventory of all State-owned property; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?
N1558E

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

The compilation of an inventory of all State-owned property (State land) is in progress, and the Department of Land Affairs is playing a significant role in establishing such an inventory. In terms of a Cabinet Resolution of 25 October 1995, the

have made representations in this regard to his Department since 1 January 1995; if so, how many in each specified month since the abovementioned date?
N1557E

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(a) Yes.

(b) Details are contained in the attached annexure, please note that the information in respect of the Free State Province is given separately since a breakdown of their figures is not available.

Department of Public Works is the other main role player in this regard. The Department of Land Affairs, however, concentrates on the identification of land that is superfluous for state domestic purposes, with the main aim to utilise such land for land reform purposes.

I would also like to refer you to similar questions, numbers 469 and 824, replied to recently.

* 5. Dr F J VAN HEERDEN – Labour. [Written question No 911] [Removed.]

* 6. Mr V J MCHUNU – Labour. [Written question No 912] [Removed.]

* 7. Mrs E J CHAIT – Health. [Written question No 913] [Question standing over.]

Intelligence (CCSI), which is chaired by the President and, in his absence, the Deputy President. The CCSI has mandated the Committee of NCPs Ministers to oversee the NCPs. This Committee meets monthly to receive reports and to give political direction. Reports are provided to the CCSI on matters requiring Cabinet decisions.

(b) The review of the first year of the NCPs has now been finalised and approved by the Committee of NCPs Ministers, and will be presented to the CCSI during August 1997.

(c) The success of the NCPs requires very good co-operation and co-ordination between the responsible Ministers. A fair level of co-operation has been achieved and the Annual Review notes areas where this can be further strengthened.

(2) Yes. The South African Police Service has been party to all discussions and is represented in the meetings of Ministers and Directors General by the National Commissioner.

Apprehension of wanted persons

*6. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 312 on 24 April 1997, any steps are currently being taken to apprehend the 48 936 persons endorsed as wanted by the Criminal Record Centre in 1996;

(2) whether lists of such wanted persons are being published; if not, why not; if so, (a) where and (b) when;

(3) whether he has considered enlisting the aid of the media in publishing the names of these persons to facilitate public assistance in apprehending the wanted persons; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1566E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes. Since the implementation of the Sword and Shield project, Tracing Units have been established. The purpose of these units is to trace wanted persons. The Criminal Record

Centre (CRC) receives daily requests for the cancellation of wanted persons who have been apprehended. This is an indication that arrests have been made.

(2) Yes.
(a) The lists are distributed to all provinces for execution.
(b) Every three (3) months.

(3) Yes. The aid of the media in publishing the names of wanted persons is utilized by the investigating officers. The investigation officer requests the media communication officials to assist in having the details of the wanted person or persons published, whether in printed form or through television.

*7. Mr M J ELLIS - Education. [Question standing over.]

SAPS: disruption by police trade union

*8. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

(1) Whether he or the South African Police Service intends taking any steps in respect of the alleged disruption in the SAPS being caused by a certain police trade union, whose name has been furnished to the SAPS for the purpose of his reply; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1568E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes, instructions have been issued by senior management of the South African Police Service management to take the appropriate disciplinary steps (in terms of SAPS disciplinary code) against any member causing any disruption of service. At present departmental enquiries are underway.

(2) No.

Teaching posts created: action taken against provinces

*9. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education:†

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 72 on 7 May 1997, he or his Department intends taking any steps against

those provinces that failed to furnish information to him or his Department in respect of the number of teaching posts that were created in each province during the period 1 July to 31 December 1996; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N1569E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

This matter has to do with provincial education budgets, and is fully within the competence of a provincial education authority. All questions on such matters should therefore be directed to the relevant representatives in the provincial legislatures.

My Ministry attempts to assist colleagues in Parliament as far as is practical in obtaining information from the provincial education departments. It was on this basis that the information was provided in the reply to Question 72 on 7 May 1997.

I do not intend to take any steps against provinces in regard to a matter which should not have been raised with me in the first place

State advocates/prosecutors: access to Internet

*10. Mr D M BAKKER asked the Minister of Justice:†

(1) Whether he or his Department has investigated the issue of state advocates and prosecutors acquiring computers and information technology and access to Internet; if not, why not; if so, what progress has already been made in this regard;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1570E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) and (2) Yes, the Attorney General's Office in Cape Town has been fully computerised and provided with Internet facilities. All advocates at the Attorney General's Office in Pretoria have been supplied with microcomputers. A local area network and Internet facility are still to be installed.

The Department has prioritised the provisioning of computer equipment to all Attorneys General Offices augmented in a local area network with Internet facilities as one of its fast-tracking projects.

In this regard, the Department has already completed the functional specification for the computerisation of the administrative procedures in the offices of the Attorney General. Tender specifications are currently being prepared and tenders for the development of the system will soon be invited.

In the meantime, the Departmental Information Committee recently approved the acquisition of Justat Electronic Information systems to the value of 4,7 million rand. Installation at all Attorneys General Offices as well as several Magistrates' Offices countrywide will accordingly be effected.

*11. Rev K R MESHOE - Correctional Services. [Question standing over.]

Protection of RSAs's coastlines

*12. Rev K R MESHOE asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether the amount of R10 million donated by the British Overseas Development Administration will cover the costs of educating the public and allowing public participation in respect of the protection of the Republic's coastlines; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether it is the intention to organise any public meetings in this regard; if not, why not; if so, when will such meetings be held? N1572E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) The amount approved by the British Overseas Development Administration (BODA) for the Coastal Management Policy Programme was 1 671 509 British pounds. At an exchange rate of R7 to the pound this amount converts to approximately R11 million. The Programme strongly emphasizes public participation as well as building on the existing scientific knowledge base. Twenty nine percent of the total budget has been allocated to "capacity building" to allow meaningful broad participation in the policy formulation process. Capacity building will be achieved through:

- Knowledge transfer whereby relevant information is conveyed through the

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media, publications, documents, discussions, meetings and workshops;

- skills development whereby professional and lay participants in the process are assisted to develop their expertise for use within and beyond the process;

- logistical support whereby interested and affected parties are assisted financially, or in kind, to meet transport, catering, communication and other requirements enabling them to become active and full participants in the process; and

- an empowering approach whereby there is appropriate process design and facilitation so that the power imbalances which are caused by varying access to knowledge, skills and experience are actively countered.

- (2) Public meetings will be an integral component of public participation in the coastal policy formulation process. In order to facilitate public participation in the process, the coast has been divided into six regions. Regional co-ordinators have recently been appointed to manage the policy formulation process in each region. The regional co-ordinators will be responsible, *inter alia*, for facilitating public meetings and events and assisting in capacity building and training programmes in their region.
- A Briefing and Orientation Event was held from 12 - 14 August 1997 to introduce the regional co-ordinators to coastal zone management, the environmental policy context in South Africa and the history of the Coastal Management Policy Programme. Public meetings have not yet been scheduled but will definitely be held during the last quarter of the year.

*13. Dr K RAJOO - Health. [Question standing over.]

Subsidies to Sasol/Mossgas discontinued

*14. Dr K RAJOO asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy:

Whether he or his Department has considered discontinuing the granting of subsidies to (a) Sasol and/or (b) Mossgas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1574E

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY:

(a) and (b). No, as Cabinet on 6 December 1995, resolved that the synfuels protection floor-price be phased-down to \$16,0/bbl by July 1999 based on the Arthur Andersen report recommendations.

SA goods: under-invoicing/flight of capital

*15. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether his Department has compared reported South African export figures with the reported figures relating to imports of South African goods and/or services by South Africa's major trading partners with a view to detecting under-invoicing and/or the flight of capital; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1575E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) No. The export figures of South Africa are not comparable with the import figures of its trading partners, for the following reasons:

- Some of our major trading partners use different national subdivisions of the International Tariff Headings of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organisation.

- South Africa's exports are recorded at free on board (FOB) values whereas most of our trading partners use cost, insurance and freight (CIF) values for Customs duty purposes.

- Fluctuating exchange rates and timing differences make it difficult to compare export values in one country with import values in another.

- Statistics are not published per exporter or importer in the importing country. Only totals per country per tariff sub-heading.

- Goods produced in the member countries of the SA Customs Union (SACU) move freely across in terms of the Agreement

and complicate the comparison of trade statistics with other countries.

(2) No statement will be made.

Slimes dumping at minedumps

*16. Mr D M BAKKER asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy:†

(1) Whether his Department has given a certain company its approval to continue with slimes dumping at minedumps bordering Fleurhof, Mzimhlope and/or Meadowlands; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) who was consulted in this regard;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1576E

The MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY:

(1) The Director: Mineral Development (Gauteng Region) of the Department of Minerals and Energy granted Mining Licence No ML 7/96 to Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate Limited (CMR) on 22 November 1996. Said licence covers the reclamation of several mine residue disposal sites as well as the reclamation of the CMR tailings dam complex for the disposal of mine residues emanating from the reclamation process. Actual reclamation of the tailings dams and sand dumps concerned and the re-commissioning of the CMR tailings dam complex was, however, made subject to the approval of Environmental Management Programmes (EMPs) in respect of each site.

The EMP for the re-commissioning of the CMR tailings dam complex was approved on 16 May 1997 by the said Director, subject to compliance with certain suspensive conditions. CMR now has the right to commence with the deposition of mine tailings. A joint appeal by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment and the Western Local Council and an appeal by the Fleurhof Civic Association were made to the Director-General: Minerals and Energy to reverse the approval of the EMP. Those appeals are currently under consideration. Such appeals are first lodged with the said Director-General and if his decision is unacceptable to the aggrieved parties, that parties have the right to lodge an appeal to me.

Reasons for approval of the EMP

(a) In deciding on the approval or not of the relevant EMP the said Director based his decision on a careful consideration of the positive and negative environmental, economic and other impacts which would directly and indirectly be caused by the re-commissioning of the tailings dam complex.

The major considerations in favour of the re-commissioning were the following:

- Mine tailings disposal sites in and around Johannesburg are major sources of water and air pollution and they occupy valuable land in prime development areas in and around the city. Reclamation of these disposal sites removes diffuse sources of dust and water pollution which impacts on a wide geographic area and consolidates these in a single, managed disposal site such as the CMR complex. Although dust and water pollution will undoubtedly emanate from the CMR complex, the impact will be substantially less than that cumulatively caused by sand dumps and tailings dams within the city area.

In as far as the reclamation of residue disposal sites is dependent on the availability of sufficient, accessible disposal space for the resultant mining residues, allowing the re-commissioning of the CMR tailings dam complex allows the applicant to continue its operations for a further ±10 years and will result in the clearing of up to a further 1 000 hectares of land within 10 kilometres of the Johannesburg CBD. The clearing of this land not only makes much needed residential, industrial and commercial land available for development, but also creates numerous job opportunities which may result from the development of such land. According to CMR, the continued employment of 650 people is, furthermore, dependent on the re-commissioning of the CMR complex.

The financial/fiscal factors that were taken in consideration is that premature closure of the applicant's reclamation activities due to a lack of disposal space will result in an estimated loss of foreign exchange of R2 billion, calculated at R200 million/annum in gold sales over ten years; the loss of approximately R180

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The major considerations in favour of the re-commissioning were the following:

- Mine tailings disposal sites in and around Johannesburg are major sources of water and air pollution and they occupy valuable land in prime development areas in and around the city. Reclamation of these disposal sites removes diffuse sources of dust and water pollution which impacts on a wide geographic area and consolidates these in a single, managed disposal site such as the CMR complex. Although dust and water pollution will undoubtedly emanate from the CMR complex, the impact will be substantially less than that cumulatively caused by sand dumps and tailings dams within the city area.

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The financial/fiscal factors that were taken in consideration is that premature closure of the applicant's reclamation activities due to a lack of disposal space will result in an estimated loss of foreign exchange of R2 billion, calculated at R200 million/annum in gold sales over ten years; the loss of approximately R180

million in costs spent by CMR in the local economy per annum and the further estimated loss of R50 million/annum in assessment rates to local authorities due to the non-development of 1 000 hectares of land.

The major considerations against re-commissioning were the following:

- The Fleurhof residential township was developed in close proximity to the tailings dam complex in the period when the complex was dormant. The Department is now faced with the extremely undesirable situation of residential units within a distance of 100 meters from the toe of the existing tailings dams. In these circumstances the safety of residents of the township in the event of tailings dam failure is obviously the single most important factor against the re-commissioning of the complex.

- The possibility that the re-commissioned tailings dam complex would raise levels of respirable and nuisance dust in the area and the possibility of an increase in related health impacts.

- The possibility of a decrease in property values in the Fleurhof township due to the proximity of an operating tailings dam.

- The possibility of an increase in levels of radon gas and radionuclides in dust in the area surrounding the complex.

- The expected increase in levels of ground water pollution and the possibility of surface water pollution.

In deciding on the approval of the EMP the said Director had to consider whether the environmental management measures proposed in the EMP, the design of the tailings dam and the management Code of Practice for the operation of the dam was such that it would sufficiently safeguard the safety of residents in areas surrounding the tailings dam complex and would sufficiently mitigate and manage negative environmental impacts to avoid a deterioration of the affected environments.

Prior to making its decision on the approval of the EMP, the said Director consulted with

numerous interested and affected parties regarding the adequacy of the EMP and the technical design of the re-commissioned tailings dam complex. After careful consideration of the submissions by these interested and affected parties, the said Director came to the conclusion that the design of the tailings dam, the provisions of the EMP and the management measures proposed in the Code of Practice, all as supplemented by the conditions determined by the said Director, will be sufficient to safeguard the safety of affected communities and will not result in a deterioration of the health and aesthetic aspects of their living environment. The said Director also took cognisance of the positive environmental impacts that would result from the reclamation of tailings dams in and around the city.

Therefore, in as far as the said Director is of the considered opinion that the re-commissioning of the CMR tailings dam complex will not adversely affect surrounding communities and that it will indirectly have a major positive environmental impact on the Greater Johannesburg environment, it was decided to approve the EMP.

One of the major objections raised by interested and affected parties relate to the consideration of alternative sites for the disposal of tailings generated by the reclamation process. The applicant was instructed to investigate alternative disposal sites and convinced the said Director that, due to the prohibitive cost of constructing a new disposal site further away from the city, the use of the existing CMR tailings dam complex is the only alternative to ensure the financial viability of the reclamation project. CMR, furthermore, holds the mining rights over the CMR site and is authorised in terms of several surface right permits, which confer real rights, to utilise the land for tailings disposal. It was also taken into consideration that the use of an alternative site, away from the city, will cause the environmental degradation of a, as yet, undisturbed area of land. Utilising the CMR site, therefore, indirectly limits the impact on the environment in the Greater Johannesburg area.

- (b) Interested and affected parties consulted prior to approval of the EMP.

The following interested and affected parties were consulted:

1. Western Local Council
2. Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment
3. Council for Nuclear Safety
4. Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council
5. Fleurhof Civic Association
6. Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
7. The Council for Geoscience
8. Mintek
9. Grace College
10. CSIR Mining Technology
11. National Union of Mineworkers

As a result of various public meetings and press exposure, comments and recommendations were also received from Earthlife Africa and from the Administrative and Technical Association of South Africa.

(2) No.

Recruitment of geologists

*17. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Education:

Whether, in view of the shortage of geologists in the Republic, he or his Department intends taking any steps aimed at identifying promising children at an early age and equipping them with the necessary theoretical and practical skills to enable them to study the geosciences at tertiary level; if not, why not, if so, what steps? N1577E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Firstly, your question focused on a particular profession. The claimed shortage of geologists needs to be confirmed by relevant and valid statistics.

The new approach to education and training is a holistic and integrated one. Curriculum 2005 is underpinned by generic and cross-curricular outcomes to enable learners, *inter alia*

- to become critical and creative thinkers,
- to work effectively with others in a team
- to collect, analyse and critically evaluate information;

- to solve problems;
- to use science and technology effectively, etc.

We therefore focus on the holistic development of learners and enable them to further follow specific careers of their choice.

The area you have mentioned is catered for by two learning areas, namely Human and Social Sciences as well as in the Natural Sciences.

The Human and Social Sciences comprise the study of relationships between people and their environment. These interactions are contextualised in space and time and have social, political, economic, environmental and spiritual dimensions. They develop distinctive skills and a critical awareness of social and environmental patterns, processes and events, based on appropriate investigations and reflection within and across related focuses.

In the Natural Sciences the development of appropriate skills, knowledge and attitudes and an understanding of the principles and processes of the Natural Sciences forms part of the rationale for the learning area. The investigative character of knowledge acquisition in the Natural Sciences is mirrored in our education.

It is therefore concluded that our new approach caters for a wider variety of career and professional choices, ensuring opportunities for learners to function at the maximum of their potential.

In the meanwhile, we have initiated specific programmes, such as the Students and Youth into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (SYSTEM) to increase the pool of school graduates with Mathematics and Physical Sciences, and to increase the number of qualified Mathematics and Physical Sciences teachers. We believe that these measures will increase the retention and success rates of learners who take up Mathematics and the Physical Sciences both in school and in higher education.

Health Systems Trust: research

*18. Mrs P W CUPIDO asked the Minister of Health:

Whether the Health Systems Trust has done any research for her Department; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N1578E

Hansard

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Relocation/resettlement: criteria

182. Mr A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs:†

- (1) Whether there are clear selection criteria which are definitive in the process of the relocation and settlement of persons on agricultural land; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not;
- (2) whether it is planned to provide selection criteria in respect of such process; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? C195E

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes, the Department of Land Affairs does apply criteria in the process of the selection of persons who will be settled on agricultural land.

The exact criteria and planning processes depend on the nature of the project and whether it is part of the restitution, redistribution or tenure programmes. In all cases, where the Department releases a Settlement/Land Acquisition Grant to assist people to acquire and develop land, such people have to comply with the following criteria:

- he or she is lawfully a resident in South Africa;
- he or she is legally competent to contract;
- the gross monthly household income of his or her household does not exceed R1 500;

neither that person nor his or her spouse has previously derived benefits from the grant or the housing subsidy scheme, or any other state funded or assisted housing subsidy scheme, which conferred benefits of ownership, leasehold or deed of grant or the right to convert the title obtained to either ownership, leasehold or deed of grant.

In redistribution projects the selection of beneficiaries goes through a participatory

process with those who want to engage in the programme. Although the redistribution programme aims to meet a variety of needs – from landless poor to emerging farmers – priority attention is given to the marginalised and the needs of women in particular. Each redistribution project involves planning in which the needs of beneficiaries, land availability and cost, land use and potential, and development support required to make a project a success are considered. The resulting project business plan is used as a basis to decide whether or not the project is viable.

In cases involving the disposal of state land where agricultural development is involved, the Department of Land Affairs and Agriculture have adopted a framework for co-operation which seeks to harmonise policies on land reform and agriculture and facilitate the joint planning of individual settlement projects. This involves the establishment of joint state land project committees which are responsible for managing the compilation of a settlement project plan. This will contain, *inter alia*, criteria for the selection of beneficiaries and/or small scale farmers.

- (2) See (1) above.

Ground level air pollution: measurement standards

263. Mr EK MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether ground level air pollution measurement standards are comparable to World Health Organisation (WHO) standards; if not, in what respect do these standards differ; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether current standards in South Africa have been found to be adequate; if not, why not;

(3) whether he intends (a) reviewing South African standards and/or (b) aligning such standards with WHO and/or any other specified standards; if not, why not; if so, (i) when, (ii) what procedure will be followed in this regard and (iii) what are the further relevant details? C292E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) The ambient air pollution guidelines used by the department are in line with those of the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America's (USEPA) Ambient Air Pollution Standards for Criteria Pollutants, which are internationally considered to be the most stringent standards presently in force in real practise by an industrialised country.

(2) The current guidelines are considered adequate because they are in line with those of the USEPA standards for ambient pollution.

(3) The department is in a process of inviting tenders from competent expert consultants for reviewing the current guidelines to ensure that they will remain in line with those of other industrialised countries of the world.

T Kwape	R514,52	F Mohamed	R218,87
T Zofe	R486,62	C J Streeter	R218,87
V Hlongwane	R480,00	J Marais	R210,83
E A Botes	R460,64	M L Tabana	R210,00
E Blake	R460,00	A Pretorius	R209,46
Van Stafel	R459,19	C du Plessis	R197,42
S M Bhengu	R456,61	J J Swarts	R196,26
W Khuzwayo	R432,17	A Snyman	R196,00
M R Mpetukana	R420,00	M Seedat	R194,00
E Sebege	R419,84	M Sethu	R192,51
M M Maunye	R400,65	G Traut	R190,00
G Abrahams	R390,00	B Zulu	R186,83
K Nkukwane	R380,00	C C Lentz	R185,81
E de Wit	R380,00	F Jujana	R163,23
N Singh	R376,51	S van Niekerk	R159,36
X N Ngwevela	R345,00	E Wessels	R157,00
H Diboka	R345,00	A Young	R153,23
M Chowglay	R341,17	H W Eksteen	R152,10
Z Mthoa	R338,57	Z Zitha	R148,00
M S Gigaba	R332,50	N Zulu	R148,00
C de Plessis	R330,99	G Dlamini	R148,00
J Schutte	R327,50	O Links	R141,77
K K Mohlake	R318,39	A M Raubenheimer	R140,97
M Lowe	R317,58	E S Ferreira	R140,00
K Pienaar	R300,00	I Naidoo	R128,47
J A Augustyn	R296,44	C Petersen	R125,85
J M Botha	R295,00	S M Mwanza	R122,67
B Mathanya	R294,35	N Dube	R121,68
F Lambrecht	R294,00	E M Davie	R115,00
L Nkumane	R293,55	L Crawford-Brunt	R115,00
Y Matenchi	R288,47	W J Barkley	R115,00
S C Burger	R288,09	Z la Grange	R115,00
M Matseoane	R275,81	M Mosimane	R115,00
T Bengu	R269,98	J C C Minnaar	R111,29
G Louw	R265,33	D de Lange	R111,03
S Sikhakhane	R264,50	L L de Castro	R108,12
J Jacobs	R260,00	M M Mashabela	R107,34
B H Cuthill	R252,03	Y Rust	R107,26
B Mhetwa	R250,00	C Coetzer	R105,00
M Ndala	R248,55	C M Cook	R105,00
V Mdemka	R245,03	P S Erasmus	R104,32
M A Mngeni	R244,47	M Makgale	R103,10
P Corbett	R244,35	K Mbatha	R102,58
M van der Merwe	R241,13	A Pillay	R101,00
E Strauss	R240,66	M Sehan	R100,35
P Naidoo	R230,00	P J de Bruyn	R100,16
J C Muthupi	R230,00	M J Human	R 99,28
D Viljoen	R230,00	L Erasmus	R 97,74
D B Erasmus	R230,00	R Senekal	R 96,00
C Kruger	R230,00	B Geland	R 95,00
M E Hlatwayo	R222,58	M Sithole	R 93,06

S Abrahams	R92,00	S Abrahams	R92,00
N J van der Merwe	R89,04	N J van der Merwe	R89,04
S Coetzee	R81,03	S Coetzee	R81,03
J M Kou	R79,03	J M Kou	R79,03
H Kotze	R75,53	H Kotze	R75,53
M van Zyl	R73,87	M van Zyl	R73,87
E Potgieter	R73,55	E Potgieter	R73,55
W Tshvase	R72,83	W Tshvase	R72,83
C Joubert	R66,77	C Joubert	R66,77
I Erasmus	R64,35	I Erasmus	R64,35
A J Grassman	R62,07	A J Grassman	R62,07
O Oliver	R61,45	O Oliver	R61,45
L Mullins	R60,00	L Mullins	R60,00
A C Mdutshane	R57,50	A C Mdutshane	R57,50
P C K Bolani	R57,50	P C K Bolani	R57,50
F Leeuw	R57,00	F Leeuw	R57,00
T Manyanga	R55,65	T Manyanga	R55,65
R Rantho	R53,67	R Rantho	R53,67
L Kgori	R49,83	L Kgori	R49,83
A Morgan	R49,83	A Morgan	R49,83
J C Kaufman	R49,68	J C Kaufman	R49,68
W Muller	R49,11	W Muller	R49,11
J Botha	R41,93	J Botha	R41,93
J S Swanepoel	R40,81	J S Swanepoel	R40,81
H S Deane	R39,20	H S Deane	R39,20
E M Grossberg	R37,74	E M Grossberg	R37,74
J C Haneekom	R35,79	J C Haneekom	R35,79
F Makhobotoane	R34,84	F Makhobotoane	R34,84
G Molokommo	R33,39	G Molokommo	R33,39
D Ollier	R32,17	D Ollier	R32,17
B Bond	R32,02	B Bond	R32,02
P van Dyk	R29,68	P van Dyk	R29,68
A M Swanepoel	R29,67	A M Swanepoel	R29,67
S D A Appolis	R27,82	S D A Appolis	R27,82
C Sibanyoni	R25,33	C Sibanyoni	R25,33
J Mmusi	R25,33	J Mmusi	R25,33
M Pretorius	R25,16	M Pretorius	R25,16
E H Roodt	R19,17	E H Roodt	R19,17
D J A Venter	R14,84	D J A Venter	R14,84
S Toona	R14,84	S Toona	R14,84
J P O'Neill	R12,67	J P O'Neill	R12,67
A C de Lange	R10,34	A C de Lange	R10,34
S Hendricks	R10,00	S Hendricks	R10,00
L Masebenza	R 9,20	L Masebenza	R 9,20
E C Bruwer	R 6,56	E C Bruwer	R 6,56
S E Swarts	R 4,03	S E Swarts	R 4,03
H van Wyk	R 3,84	H van Wyk	R 3,84
H Broekman	R 3,84	H Broekman	R 3,84
B Steyn	R 3,83	B Steyn	R 3,83
S Rambalee	R 1,68	S Rambalee	R 1,68
G Lentswe	R 0,78	G Lentswe	R 0,78

HANSARD

N Luthuli	R0,62
A L Meyer	R0,30
Total	<u>R 89 897,66</u>

Parliamentary villages: maintenance/rentals

66. Mr W F MNISI asked the Minister of Public Works:

- (1) (a) What was the total cost to the State of the upkeep and maintenance of (i) Acacia Park (ii) Laboria Park and (iii) Pelican Park, and (b) what was the total amount in income received from rentals and other charges in respect of each of these villages, in 1996;

- (2) whether there were any outstanding rentals in respect of any of the units in these villages as at 31 January 1997; if so, what amount in respect of each specified village? C72E

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- (1)(a)(i) R10 946 203
(ii) R 24 136
(iii) R 74 990

- (b) Acacia Park - R 659 215
Laboria Park - R 171 903
Pelican Park - R 216 569

(2) Yes.

- Acacia Park - R 32 336
Laboria Park - R 490
Pelican Park - R 10 695

Zeekoewele/Lotus Rivers: pollution (56)

67. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether high levels of pollution and resulting environmental problems are being experienced at Zeekoewele and/or the Great and/or Little Lotus Rivers in Cape Town; if so, in each case, (a) what pollutants are present in the water in unacceptable quantities, (b) in what quantities are these substances present and (c) what is the origin of the pollutive substances in the water;

- (2) whether these pollutants have caused any

damage to the environment; if so, what is the extent of the damage;

- (3) whether his Department has taken or is taking any action to improve the condition of the water; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what action? C8E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) The catchment area of the Little and Great Lotus Rivers, both draining into Zeekoewei has been shown to exhibit many of the characteristics of polluted and degraded rivers.

(a) The main concerns are very high levels of nutrients and high bacteriological counts. There are also problems with litter and solid waste.

(b) The polluting substances have not yet been quantified.

(c) The inflow of raw sewage from the densely populated urban areas with both formal and informal settlements, are the main source of the pollution. There is also an area of intensive agriculture contained in the catchment area which contributes to the pollution.

- (2) The extent of damage to the environment is mainly eutrophication. The high quantities of nutrients stimulate the excessive growth of algae and other plants which lowers the oxygen content of the water and causes fish to die. The inflow of sewage poses a health hazard to inhabitants of the area adjacent to the river.

- (3) The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has not taken action to improve the quality of the water due to the fact that water quality management is one of the functions of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and they are attending to the problem. A Zeekoewei Environmental Management Team was formed and they are taking action. In addition, the Water Research Commission has, subject to ministerial approval by the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry started a research project titled: *Integrated Catchment Management in an urban Context: The Great and Little Lotus Rivers, Cape Town*. The purpose of this project is to provide a blueprint for urban catchment management in South Africa.

Housing subsidies granted in 1996

74. Mr W F MNISI asked the Minister of Housing:

- (a) How many subsidies were granted in 1996 and (b) how many houses were (i) built and (ii) purchased with the aid of these subsidies? C78E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

(a), (b)(i) and (ii) 106 692 individual ownership subsidies (project-linked and individual subsidies) were approved during 1996 by the nine provincial housing boards in respect of beneficiaries who had bought residential properties. Once such subsidies are approved, conveyancers are instructed to register transfer of the residential properties in the names of the subsidy beneficiaries. In the case of existing houses and completed houses in projects, this means that beneficiaries can take occupation of the houses soon after registration of transfer or earlier if the agreement of sale so provides. Where a housing unit is still to be constructed, indications are that construction is completed within two to three months after registration of transfer.

Traditional leaders: salaries/benefits

75. Mr W F MNISI asked the Minister for provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

- (a) What total amount was paid out to traditional leaders in salaries and benefits in 1996 and (b) what amount was paid to each category of traditional leader in each province in that year? C79E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

(a) and (b) Traditional Leaders are currently remunerated in terms of a number of laws, the administration of which has been assigned to the various provincial governments in terms of section 235 of the then Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1993 (Act No. 200 of 1993). The desired information is therefore not readily available in my Department.

Initiation ceremonies: deaths/injuries

103. Mr L J SWANEPOEL asked the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology:†

- (1) Whether any boys (a) in (i) 1994, (ii) 1995 and (iii) 1996 and (b) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified period for which information is available, (i) died or (ii) were injured during or as a result of initiation ceremonies; if so, how many in each case;

(2) whether he or his Department has taken steps or intends taking steps or intends taking steps in order to (a) ensure the continued existence of this system of handing down culture and (b) prevent deaths and injuries during such initiation ceremonies; if not, why not; if so, what steps, in each case? C108E

The MINISTER OF ARTS, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

(1) The Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology has no statistics or other information in any of these cases.

(2) (a) No, my Department has not taken and does not intend to take steps in connection with the continued existence of this system of transfer of culture. The practice of circumcision is a cultural practice that is already protected under Section 30 of the Constitution. This states that "Everyone has the right to . . . participate in the cultural life of their choice."

(b) The prevention of deaths and injuries during such initiation ceremonies should be regulated by the Department of Health. I will bring this matter to the attention of my colleague, the Minister of Health.

HANSARD

they discovered the reptiles. They contacted the Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) of the South African Police Service who together with officials from Gauteng Nature Conservation, the SPCA and a private herpetologist inspected some of the containers in the presence of the owner of the reptiles. Some of the consignments were then sent to destinations in America, Canada, Germany and Switzerland. The consignments which did not leave Johannesburg International on the 4th of November were confiscated the following day and were released into the temporary care of the SPCA.

(2) A number of consignments (number unknown to the Department) have been confiscated consisting of reptiles like tortoises, chameleons, girdled lizards, snakes, frogs, scorpions and spiders. The total number of items confiscated were 2 552.

(3) On the 7th of November 1996 the SPCA confiscated the reptiles and they laid a criminal charge in terms of the Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962) at the office of the South African Police Service at Johannesburg International Airport. At the moment the case is *sub judice* and will be handed over to the Senior State Prosecutor at Kempton Park Magistrate's Court for a ruling.

Illegal quarrying at Funder; pollution (58)

88. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether his attention has been drawn to pollution caused to the Bitou Wetland near Plettenberg Bay in the Western Cape as a result of illegal quarrying at Funder; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether application has been made for the issuing of a permit to authorise continued quarrying at Funder; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,

(3) whether he or his Department has made any assessment so as to determine what impact such quarrying activities will have on the nearby Bitou Wetland; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what impact

will such quarrying have;

(4) when is the Wetlands Conservation Bill to be introduced? C92E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) Yes, my attention has been drawn to this matter. Illegal quarrying did take place for a short period in a valley in the catchment of the Bitou River, but was stopped by the Department of Minerals and Energy until such time as the necessary permit has been obtained.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has been actively involved with the issues surrounding this quarry for some time. On 27 December 1990 the former Chief Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation of the Cape Provincial Administration notified the Chief Inspector of Mines in Cape Town of the objections of conservation organisations, and the reservations of the Chief Directorate to the establishment of the quarry on the farm Wittecliff.

On 14 November 1996 the Western Cape Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs provided comments to the Department of Minerals and Energy regarding the proposed Environmental Management Program (EMP) for the planned quarry. Once again in these comments the attention of Department of Minerals and Energy was drawn to the environmental problems surrounding the quarry, and the fact that its impact on the wetland had not been assessed. The Department recommended that the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedure should be closely followed and requested that it be kept informed of the progress of all the phases of the project.

(2) Yes, an application for the permit necessary to continue the quarrying operation has been made to the Department of Minerals and Energy. No permit has yet been approved.

(3) Staff from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism visited the Bitou wetland and quarry site on 7 April 1997 and met with Western Cape Nature Conservation as well as other conservation organisations and affected

parties. They were provided with a report compiled for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) with regard to the conservation potential of the Bitou wetland.

Based on the information contained in this report and taking into account the resistance to the development of the proposed quarry, I and my Department therefore will request that a complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be conducted, with special reference to the impact of the quarry on the proposed wetland

conservation area. The Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedures must be followed. The feasibility of a quarry in this area must first be carefully considered before any further prospecting or mining permits are issued.

(4) The Wetlands Conservation Bill was tabled in 1995 by Mr S P Grové. It is intended that an amended Wetlands Conservation Bill will be published for comment in August 1997 and tabled in Parliament by myself in October 1997.

Handard

QUESTIONS

(56)

+ Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Pollution levels in seawater exceeded in 1996

194. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether European Community guidelines in regard to pollution levels in seawater were exceeded at any points along the South African coast in 1996; if so, (a) where, (b) what pollutants were found to be present and (c) in what quantities were they found;
- (2) whether pollution levels in South African waters in that year posed any dangers to (a) marine life and/or (b) bathers; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (3) whether his Department's national monitoring capacity is limited at present; if so,
- (4) whether any steps have been taken to overcome the limited national monitoring capacity of his Department; if not, why not; if so, what steps? C207E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

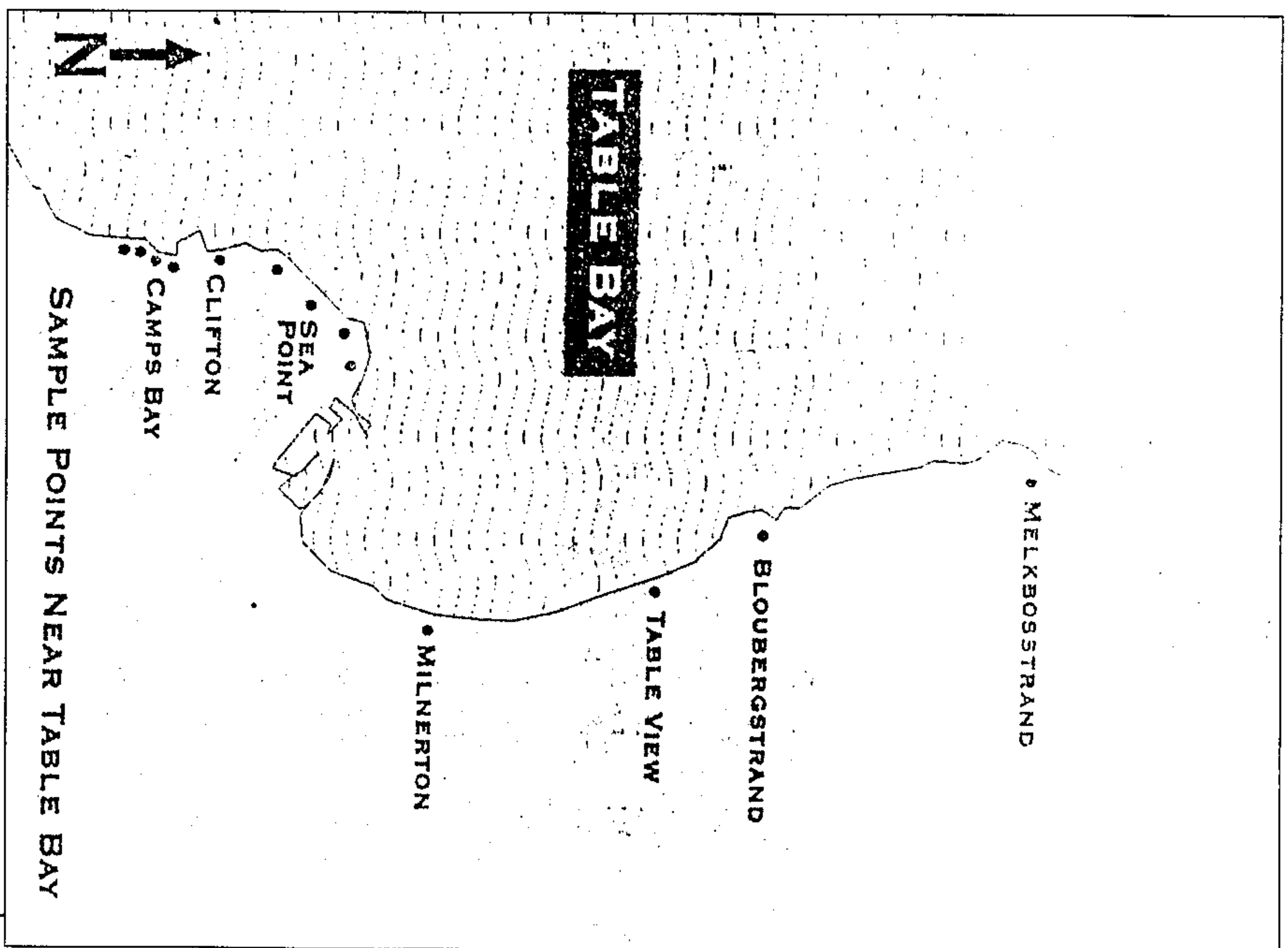
- (1) The Department does not usually evaluate coastal water quality against European Community guidelines, but against the Water Quality Guidelines for the South African Coastal Zone. However, in the case of bacterial levels - which are most relevant in terms of human health - these are similar to EU Guidelines. Bacterial levels are measured on a regular basis by Local Authorities and the guideline levels have been exceeded on a number of occasions, generally in the vicinity of wastewater or stormwater outfalls. The attached tables, for example, show the readings for False Bay and Table Bay. There is no indication that the guidelines for any other pollutants have been exceeded.
- (2) In general, current pollution levels do not pose a major danger either to marine life or to human health. That does not, however, mean that we

can be complacent. As was indicated above, bacterial levels are exceeded on occasion, so Local Authorities need to be vigilant in this regard, and should post notices prohibiting bathing when necessary. Moreover, in some areas there are indications that some species are perhaps being affected by pollution, for example, oysters from the Knysna area appear to be showing signs of Tri-Butylin poisoning (a component of anti-fouling paint used on ships). This needs to be further investigated.

- (3) The national Department's capacity for monitoring in the marine environment is very limited at present. However, additional monitoring is undertaken by Local Authorities. There is also a requirement for monitoring written into permits for marine outfalls which are issued by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. This monitoring is generally undertaken by consultants appointed by the permit holder, with reports being made available to the Department.
- (4) In August of last year, the Marine Pollution Division of the Department convened a Workshop on monitoring. This workshop was attended by most of the players in this field and made a number of recommendations which the Division is now taking steps to implement. These included:

- (i) Extending the existing "Mussel Watch Programme" - at present limited to the Cape Peninsula - to cover the entire coastline;
- (ii) Making more effective use of existing monitoring programmes (for example the measurement of bacterial levels by Local Authorities) by establishing a centralised database.

In addition, a Work study has been undertaken into the possible establishment of a Marine Pollution Unit under the Chief Directorate: Pollution Control of the Department as a separate entity from the research Division currently under Sea Fisheries. This study is in the process of being finalised.



SAMPLE POINTS NEAR TABLE BAY

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination

Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Convention on Political Rights of Women

Convention on the Nationality of Married Women.

City councils: flat-rate system

*29. Dr C P MULDER asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:†

Whether any city councils in the Republic are currently making use of a flat-rate system for a section of the residents in their areas of jurisdiction; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) how many and (b) what city councils? N1349E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Municipalities are progressively installing meters to measure water and electricity consumption, thus gradually phasing out the flat rate system. Statistical information in this regard is however not available in the Department of Constitutional Development.

(a) Information not available.

(b) Information not available.

Training of traffic officers

*30. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Transport:†

Whether he has established a committee in terms of the Road Traffic Act, 1989 (Act No 29 of 1989), to advise him on and to be responsible for the training of traffic officers; if not, why; if so, what are the relevant details? N1350E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

Yes, under the Road Traffic Act, 1989 (Act No 29 of 1989) such a committee was appointed. However, with the devolution of powers to the provinces it has become part of the MINCOM/COLTO structure. The Traffic Control Coordinating Committee (TCCC) took over these functions, assisted by the Technical Committee for Training and Development (TCTD).

The intention of the Department of Transport, in consultation with these structures, is to establish a Traffic and Transport Personnel Training Board or Sector Learning Organisation which will coordinate and standardise training in the profession within the framework of the Department of Labour's Skills Development Strategy and the National Qualifications Framework (NOF).

Directorate Covert Intelligence: retirement packages

*31. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Defence:†

(1) Whether the retirement packages received by the members of the Directorate Covert Intelligence who were dismissed by the former State President in December 1992, correspond to the packages that were offered to them initially; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1351E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) I have been informed by the National Defence Force that initially no formal offer was made by the SADF and no formal demands were made by the members of the Directorate, Covert Intelligence who were dismissed.

After the decision was taken to place the members on leave pending possible dismissal, the Chief of Staff Personnel set up a committee to negotiate various options with the members. From this process a package was drawn up and accepted by the members. Therefore, it can be said that no initial offer was made which can be compared with the final package accepted.

I am informed that in most cases the final offer was better than most had expected. A few individuals were initially unhappy with the package but accepted it later as being fair.

(2) No. I am of the opinion that the aforementioned answers the question adequately.

"Canned" lion hunting industry (56)

*32. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

(1) Whether his or his Department's attention has been drawn to the so-called "canned" lion hunting industry; if so,

(2) whether he or his Department has taken any steps in this respect; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(3) whether he is considering introducing legislation in order to regulate or prohibit this industry; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,

(4) whether he will consider proposing to all the provincial governments that they regulate or prohibit this industry; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1354E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) Yes, the Department's attention has been drawn to the "canned" lion hunting industry.

(2) Yes, press releases have been issued to explain the Department's point of view. Urgent investigations have been conducted by the two provinces involved. The Department has requested the heads of Northern Province and Mpumalanga to keep the Department informed on the progress of the investigations.

At MINMEC of 27 May 1997, the National and Provincial authorities responsible for Tourism adopted a resolution in this regard.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is currently busy sending letters to all game farm owners and hunters associations in South Africa, urging them

to operate according to ethical standards and to report irregularities.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is undertaking a comprehensive audit of all lion-hunting licenses that are currently operative with a view to withdrawing licenses of parties guilty of this practice.

(3) Yes, the Department is considering the possibility of developing uniform legislation to regulate the hunting of lions. This possibility will be jointly explored by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the provincial governments.

(4) Yes, it has already been agreed that, where necessary, stricter legislative action will be instituted to regulate hunting activities in areas where illegal activities are reported.

SA: national anthem with official words

*33. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology:

Whether South Africa has a national anthem or anthems with officially specified words; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will South Africa have such an anthem or anthems; if so, (i) what are the officially specified words and (ii) what action is being taken to popularise the national anthem or anthems? N1358E

The MINISTER OF ARTS, CULTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

(1) Yes, South Africa does have a national anthem with officially specified words.

(i) On 17 May 1995, Cabinet approved the official (shortened) version of the national anthem. The officially specified words are as follows:

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika.

Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo.

Yizwa imithandazo yethu

Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho.

O se boloke, O se boloke Setjhaba sa heso

Setjhaba sa South Africa, South Africa.

Dept: exodus of officials

*33. Mr D K PADIACHEY asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

Whether the exodus from his Department of officials with many years of experience is having a negative impact on the work of his Department; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps does he envisage to counteract such negative impact?

N1458E

be considered once the restructuring of SABC has been finalised and with due consideration to the implementation of a clearly defined business plan aimed at achieving a commercially viable broadcaster within the medium term framework of Government expenditure.

*35. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF – Environmental Affairs and Tourism.† [Withdrawn]

SANDF: cases of sexual harassment investigated

*36. Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister of Defence:†

(a) How many cases of sexual harassment did the South African National Defence Force investigate in 1997 and (b)(i) how many of these cases led to court marials and (ii) with what result in each case? N1461E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) The Military Police of the SA National Defence Force has been called upon to investigate 17 cases of sexual harassment during 1997.

(i) Rape – 3.

(ii) *Crimen injuria* of a sexual nature – 12.

(iii) Indecent assault – 2.

(b) (i) To date four of these investigations have led to trials by court martial. Charges of rape or attempted rape committed within the borders of South Africa, are referred to the civilian criminal courts for trial.

(ii) Results of the four courts martial were:

(aa) One colonel was sentenced to cashiering, however, the Council of Review amended the sentence to reduction in the rank to major.

(bb) One major was sentenced to cashiering. This sentence is still to be reviewed by the Council of Review.

(cc) One major was sentenced to reduction in the rank to captain.

(dd) One colonel was fined R3 000,00.

SABC: funding

*34. Mr M C J VAN SCHALKWYK asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:†

Whether the Government intends funding the SABC on a greater scale; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1459E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

No. Government has not yet taken a decision on the question of funding for the SABC for the current or future financial years. This matter will

Environmental ombudsman for SA (56)

*37. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

Whether it is the intention to appoint an environmental ombudsman for South Africa; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1462E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

The Draft White Paper on Environmental Management Policy, tabled before the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs on Wednesday 11 June 1997, does make provision for the setting up of dispute resolution, appeal and review mechanisms, that apply to both intergovernmental disputes as well as appeals against decisions in all spheres of government. It does, however, not specifically refer to an 'environmental ombudsman'. The reason being that this is a framework policy that establishes certain principles, criteria and directives for environmental governance. The details of the government's new integrated environmental management and regulatory system will be worked out further through a comprehensive legal and institutional audit and review, and inter-ministerial and -governmental negotiations. The implementation of these details will be set out in the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plans, inter-governmental agreements and legislative and institutional reform. The intention is that further and thorough investigation needs to be made of the advantages and disadvantages as well as the cost implications of different dispute resolution, appeal and review mechanisms, before government can commit itself to a particular model.

Satour: spending of state funds

*38. Mr J W LE ROUX asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

Whether he will give a breakdown of Satour's spending of funds it receives from the State; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1463E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Although the State's contribution to the 1997/98 SATOUR budget is R64 828 m (= 63%), it is not possible to indicate the exact application. Accordingly, the general sources and application of funds is outlined below:

Sources/Income

Rm

State contribution (grant)	62 969
State contribution (Forex loss)	1 859
Levy from graded establishments	22 387
Participation fees to shows, workshops, etc.	9 876
Sale of items	2 534
General (VAT reclaim, interest income, etc.)	3 159
Total	R102 784

Application of Funds/Expenditure

Note:

The ratio between overhead and operating costs are:

Administration	: 16,7%
Indirect Marketing	: 33,9%
Direct Marketing	: 49,4%

Application of Funds/Expenditure (Cont)

	R'm	Admini- stration	Indirect Marketing
<i>Administration</i>			
Salaries, wages and allowances	34 669	22,2%	77,8%
Balance Sheet items	2 162	100,0%	0,0%
Other overheads	15 238	47,9%	52,1%
SUBTOTAL	52 069	33,0%	67,0%
<i>Marketing</i>			
Internal, actions	5 251		
Public and media relations	1 225		
Advertising	3 036		
Seminars, workshops, etc.	10 296		
Travel shows	5 714		
Distribution and mail costs	0 980		
Other actions			
SUB TOTAL	26 502		

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,
Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom
In South Africa our Land.

(ii) There are no regulations stipulating that the national anthem must be performed officially. There has, however, been a spontaneous outpouring of support for the national anthem. It has been printed on a wide variety of merchandise ranging from mugs to key rings. It is played at most State functions. It is performed at public events ranging from national sports matches to school assemblies. It is even sung regularly in the churches. This is an indication of the place it has so quickly found in the hearts of our citizens.

Reserve Bank: investigation of money-laundering

*34. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether the Reserve Bank has taken any steps to establish a unit dedicated to the investigation of money-laundering; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N1359E

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

In January 1997 it was agreed that the Department of Finance take responsibility for the implementation of the legal and administrative system to counter money laundering in South Africa. Since then, officials of the Department have held discussions with a number of parties on the draft legislation and the structures that need to be put in place.

There are ongoing discussions to finalise the legislation, including what institutional framework will be necessary to manage the administration and reporting mechanisms. Obviously, the infrastructure and experience of the Reserve Bank established through the management of exchange control regulations, will be taken into account when determining the administrative responsibilities and processes.

Signing Ottawa treaty on landmines

*35. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether the Government intends signing the Ottawa treaty which calls for the banning of the production, stockpiling and use of landmines; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1360E

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Yes, South Africa has every intention to be at the signing ceremony in Ottawa in December 1997.

South Africa is a member of the so-called 'core group' of supporters of the 'Ottawa process'. Other members of the core group are Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Philippines and Germany.

Since October 1996 South Africa has undertaken the following initiatives regarding anti-personnel landmines:

- voted in favour of and co-sponsored United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/455 *An International Agreement to Ban Anti-Personnel Landmines*;
 - announced on 19 February 1997 its banning of anti-personnel landmines;
 - participated actively in the drafting of a text for such a convention banning landmines as initiated by Austria in terms of the Ottawa process;
 - participated in the NGO conference on landmines held in Maputo in February 1997;
 - participated in the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Seminar on landmines for SADC states in Harare in April 1997; and
 - provided the venue, donated funds and assisted the OAU in holding the first continental conference on anti-personnel landmines in Kempton Park from 19-21 May 1997.
- South Africa also intends to participate in the Brussels senior officials meeting 24-27 June 1997 and will subscribe to a Brussels Declaration in which countries will indicate their intention to sign the convention in Ottawa by the end of the year.

A negotiating session planned for 1 - 12 September 1997 will be held in Oslo to finalise a formal legally binding international treaty banning anti-personnel landmines. Ambassador J S Selebi, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and International organisations and Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, has been requested and accepted the Chairmanship for the formal diplomatic Oslo conference.

White paper on fishing

*36. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether the Government has embarked upon the process of drafting a white paper on fishing in South Africa; if so, (a) what steps does this process entail, (b) what stage has the process reached and (c) when is it anticipated that the white paper will be published? N1361E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Yes.

(a) Former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers initiated the process by appointing Mr Mandla Gxanyana in October 1994 as Chairperson of a widely representative national Fishing Policy Development Committee (FPDC) that came into existence later during 1994. After extensive consultation with various role players including different fishery sectors, regional authorities, community fora and NGOs their report was tabled on 4 June 1996.

The FPDC-report was converted into a White Paper by the Department with the aid of an international expert from Norway. In order to clarify the vexing question of access rights, something not conclusively addressed in the FPDC-report, an Access Rights Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Yunus Mahomed was employed to assist in drafting the relevant chapter. In addition, in order to ensure rapid progress, a Legal Task Team under the chairmanship of Adv Marius Diemont assisted the Department in the drafting of a new Marine Living Resources

Bill 1997, to replace the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988).

(b) The White Paper was discussed by Cabinet on 16 April 1997 and 14 May and was approved at the last Meeting. The Bill is on the agenda for discussion by the Cabinet Committee on 11 June 1997 and full Cabinet on 18 June 1997.

(c) It is expected that the White Paper will be published in English before adjournment of Parliament on 21 June 1997 and it is hoped that the same will apply to the Afrikaans translation. It is planned to release both the full version and a simplified shorter version of the White Paper in four languages (for example English, Afrikaans, Xhosa and Zulu) during the next few weeks.

*37. Mr R R MBONGWE - Agriculture and Land Affairs. [Withdrawn]

CalteX refinery in Milnerton: pollution monitored

*38. Mr T S YENGENI asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether his Department is monitoring the levels of pollution emanating from the CalteX refinery in Milnerton; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the levels of such pollution and (b) what effects does such pollution have on persons, particularly babies and children, living in the surrounding communities, particularly Table View and Milnerton? N1363E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Owing to a critical manpower shortage (the Directorate: Air Pollution Control has only one Air Pollution Control Officer for the entire area south of the Gariep River, covering close to 400 industries in the three southern Provinces), the Department is not in a position to operate its own air pollution air monitoring stations. Furthermore, the Department has only one technical post responsible for air pollution monitoring and research for the whole of the Republic of South Africa and even that post has now been vacant for eight months and may not be filled because the

The possible impact of other, non-statutory means of regulation is also worth considering. South African insurance companies have not yet issued a policy statement on whether they will start refusing liability for accidents in which the use of a cellphone was involved. But it is interesting to note that their counterparts abroad are joining the fray against hands-on cellphones by rejecting claims where they suspect that their use was a contributory factor to the accident.

Cellular phones are undoubtedly very useful instruments and can also be of great benefit in an emergency. The Department does not wish to constrain this type of usage. In the past it has advocated the hands-free version which at least allows you to drive with both hands on the steering wheel. But even with this equipment, the conversation may become so intense or absorbing as to significantly impair the driver's concentration.

Given all these complexities, the Department would like to have more time to further consider and research all the issues, so as to avoid acting precipitately.

Nedlac gender breakdown

*41. Ms N C ROUTLEDGE asked the Minister of Labour:

- (1) What is the gender breakdown in respect of the (a) management of and (b) various chambers in the structures of Nedlac;
- (2) whether Nedlac has a women's empowerment and/or gender policy; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF LABOUR:

The question is answered based on information received from NEDLAC.

Hansard

(1) (a) Gender breakdown in respect of the management of NEDLAC:

Executive Council

	Business	Labour	Government	Community	Total
Female	1				1
Male	17	2	3	4	26
Total	18	2	3	4	27

Management Committee

	Business	Labour	Government	Community	Total
Female	0				0
Male	6	0	2	1	9
Total	6	0	2	1	9

(b) Gender breakdown in respect of NEDLAC Chambers:

Labour Market Chamber

	Business	Labour	Government	Total
Female	0	1	1	2
Male	8	3 alternates	6	17
Total	8	4	7	19

Trade and Industry Chamber

	Business	Labour	Government	Total
Female	1	2	0	3
Male	6	5	4 alternates	15
Total	7	7	4	18

Public Finance and Monetary Policy Chamber

	Business	Labour	Government	Total
Female	0	1	1	2
Male	8	5	4	17
Total	8	6	5	19

Development Chamber

	Business	Labour	Government	Community	Total
Female	1	1	1		3
Male	7	6	6	1 alternate	20
Total	8	7	7	1	23

(2) In accordance with the NEDLAC Act and the NEDLAC Constitution, the NEDLAC constituencies choose their representatives on the NEDLAC structures at their own discretion.

The employment criteria of NEDLAC seeks to ensure fair representation of women, and the gender breakdown for the secretariat is a clear reflection of this commitment.

NEDLAC Secretariat

Female	Male
11	9
Total	20

Rights of child: report

*42. Ms D P JANA asked the Minister of Health:

Whether, in terms of the rules relating to the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child which require South Africa to submit a report in this regard to the United Nations within two years of the ratification of the Convention, which Convention was ratified by South Africa on 16 June 1995, she has submitted or intends submitting such report; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

Fraud/corruption: losses incurred

*35. Mr P C MCKENZIE asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

- (1) Whether her Department incurred any losses in the 1996-97 financial year as a result of fraud and corruption; if so, (a)(i) what amount and (ii) what percentage of her Department's budget for that financial year does this amount constitute and (b) what are the reasons for such losses;
- (2) whether she or her Department has taken or intends taking any steps with a view to curbing fraud and corruption in her Department; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether she will make a statement on the matter? N1141E

THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) No.
- (a)(i) falls away and
- (ii) falls away
- (b) falls away;

(2) although no losses have occurred during the 1996/97 financial year as a result of fraud and corruption, the following steps were implemented as a result of the fact that five warrant vouchers were irregularly cashed during the previous financial year (1995/96). All payments are now being forwarded per registered mail and some companies also collect their payments directly from the Department of Welfare's Finance Division. Since the implementation of this procedure no fraud in this regard has occurred;

(3) yes, although there was no fraud and corruption in the National Department of Welfare, the Department is nationally responsible for the social security function and it is common knowledge that there is

fraud and corruption within the system. The Department has in collaboration with the provincial welfare departments made considerable strides in addressing the situation.

White paper on pollution (56)

*36. Mr N J J VAN R KOOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he has appointed a special task team to draft a white paper on pollution; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any other teams had previously been appointed to draft such a white paper; if so,
- (3) whether such teams completed their task; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1142E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) A task team has been appointed to draft a white paper on Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management.

At a stakeholder meeting where all sectors were represented it was decided that a representative task team should be appointed to draft the white paper. The task team consists of one member each of the following sectors: Labour, Business and Industry, Mining, NGOs, CBOs, Local Government and National Government. The task team appointed a consortium of consultants to assist them in the actual drafting of the documents.

(2) The consultants L&W Environmental were initially awarded the contract in 1994 for drafting the white paper. The major products produced by them include:

- (1) A Framework document, describing the project strategy;
- (2) A Scoping document setting out the scope of the document;

- (3) *Towards Integration of Pollution Control* - the first proposals for an integrated system;
- (4) Socio-economic issues to be taken into consideration;
- (5) Responses to the integration proposals by the workteams for Air, Water, Land/soil and Waste.

(3) Over the contract period all products received were of the expected quality and will form an essential and important part of the continuation of the project which will result in a white paper after additional consultation. The reason for the discontinuation of the work by L&W Environmental was to accommodate a public participation process which will be acceptable to all stakeholders.

Welfare: focus shifted away from elderly towards women/children

*37. Mr P C MCKENZIE asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

- (1) Whether the focus in the budget for welfare has shifted away from the elderly towards women and children; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) why and (b) what will be the anticipated effect thereof on care facilities for the elderly;
- (2) whether she will make a statement on the matter? N1143E

THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Yes,

(a) the process to decrease the spending on services for older people has started already during 1994 with the transformation of services for older people.

The allocation for services cannot be evaluated without taking into account direct transfer of funds by means of old age grants. Old age grants make a meaningful contribution to the promotion of the quality of life of older people.

(b) residential care is unaffordable for the majority of older people. Average annual

It is important that the budget allocation for old age grants and services for older people be interpreted within the context of the demographic realities of South Africa. According to the University of Stellenbosch 4,4% of the population is 65 years and older. A significant percentage of the older people are older than 80 years. A large number of the very old people are women in rural communities.

The largest segment of the population (95,6%) are younger than 65 years, this represents 35,2% younger than 15 years and 60,4% between 15 and 54 years.

During the 1995/1996 financial year, 61% of the total welfare budget was spent on services and grants for older people. The implementation of a new subsidisation formula for residential care resulted in a decrease in the expenditure to 45,8% for 1996/97 and 50,4% for 1997/98.

A significant percentage of the budget allocation for services for older people was spent on residential care. Between 1982 to 1992, subsidies for residential care increased with 780%. The spending on residential care resulted in "underspending" on community-based services. It is important to note that only a small percentage of older, mainly white people, benefit from subsidised services.

Subsidised homes for older people accommodate approximately 42 366 older persons. Subsidised service centres render services to 46 212 older people. Departmental information regarding the number of older people serviced by luncheon clubs is not available. According to a survey done by the SA Council for the Aged, 391 subsidised luncheon clubs are rendering a service to 58 300 older persons. The aforementioned indicate that only 146 878 (less than 10% of the elderly population) are benefiting from subsidised services;

Application for SABC: Self-help FM relay stations:

Station Name	PGM	Lat(S)	Long (E)	Chan	Freq Mhz	ERP	Pol	Company Name	Station Code
Calendon	RSG	34°13'03	19°25'32	114	89.6	5W	V	Municipality	B192
Calvinia	2000	31°27'00	19°46'34	15	89	50W	V	Municipality	A127
Kakamas	2000	28°47'06	20°37'30	1	87.6	5W	V	Municipality	B213
Kenhardt	2000	29°20'50	21°09'50	28	90.3	5W	V	Municipality	B381
Kenhardt	RSG	29°20'50	21°09'50	59	93.4	5W	V	Municipality	B381
Pella Mission	2000	29°02'00	19°09'00	68	94.3	5W	V	Transitional Council	B364
Somerset East	2000	32°42'45	25°34'41	25	90	10W	V	Municipality	B45
Tshikondeni Venda	2000	22°31'31	30°55'41	124	99.9	5W	V	Tshikondeni Name	B343
Tshikondeni Venda	2000	22°31'31	30°55'41	159	103.4	5W	V	Tshikondeni Name	B343
Tshikondeni Venda	2000	22°31'31	30°55'41	195	107	5W	V	Tshikondeni Name	B343

Hansard.

QUESTIONS

+ Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

(56)

Nuclear waste dumping sites in SA

44. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Minerals and Energy:

(1) (a) How many nuclear waste dumping sites currently exist in South Africa, (b) where are they located, (c) what is their capacity and (d) when is it envisaged that this capacity will be exhausted;

(2) whether any plans exist for the construction of new nuclear waste dumping sites; if so, (a) (i) where and (ii) when is it anticipated that such construction will be undertaken and (b) what will be the capacity of these sites;

(3) whether these plans have led to any community resistance; if so, what are the relevant details? C50E

THE MINISTER OF MINERALS AND ENERGY:

(1) (a) and (b) It is necessary to differentiate between final and disposal and interim storage facilities.

There are only two licensed waste disposal facilities, namely, Thabana at Pelindaba and Vaalputs situated approximately 100 km south of Springbok in Namaqualand.

Certain mine dumps in South Africa also contain some radioactive material and should probably be considered as disposal sites over which long-term institutional control will eventually be needed.

There are also a number of interim radioactive waste storage facilities in the Republic. An example is Koeberg Nuclear Power Station which has stores for low- and intermediate-level waste and also pools for the storage of spent fuel elements. In addition, various mines have interim storage for contaminated equipment and radioactive waste.

(c) and (d) The design capacity of Vaalputs is sufficient for all the low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste from Koeberg for the duration of its 40 year life-time. There is also sufficient space to allow for future expansion should the need arise. The high-level radioactive waste such as spent fuel elements will be disposed of in a deep geological facility, similar to a mine with tunnels, at a depth of between 500 - 1 000 m below ground.

The AEC is of the opinion that Vaalputs will be a good candidate site for high-level radioactive waste disposal but extensive high-cost feasibility investigations will be required to demonstrate its long-term suitability. In a deep geological disposal facility capacity can be increased by further excavation of underground tunnels.

On Thabana at Pelindaba, there is interim storage of waste which ultimately must be disposed of at Vaalputs. In addition there are disposal facilities for short-lived medical and industrial radioactive wastes. There is also a facility with underground space in pipes, for the interim storage of spent fuel elements from the SAFARI reactor and radioactive waste produced from the molybdenum-99 project. Also this waste will have to be finally disposed of in a deep underground facility. Thabana has been in use for the last 30 years and has additional capacity for approximately another 10 years.

(2) (a) (i),(ii) Early in the next century a deep geological facility has to be constructed for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste arising from Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, the SAFARI research reactor, radium sources and specific waste (greater than 1 000 becquerels per gram) produced at certain mines, the latter currently being a contentious issue. The most favoured site would be Vaalputs and the facility would have to be available by the year 2025.

Due to the very complex nature of the studies required for the safety evaluation of such a facility, work would have to begin

within the next eighteen months to allow sufficient time to complete the investigations and the construction of the deep geological high-level radioactive waste facility having sufficient capacity for future nuclear power stations.

(3) The AEC is not aware of community resistance against Vaalputs. The Vaalputs Development Council (VDC) has been established to provide a forum for the local communities, the North Cape government and other interested parties to have an active and meaningful input into future developments at Vaalputs and also to be part of the decision-making process. In addition, the AEC established the Vaalberg Trust to facilitate infrastructural improvements within the local communities. The members of the Trust consist of local communities and the North Cape government. Both the VDC and the Trust were established with the approval of the Premier of the North Cape. The results achieved to date have been very positive.

At Pelindaba the Pelindaba Communication Forum (PCF) has been established to provide a forum for communities and local government in the vicinity of Pelindaba for the facilitation of better communication and also for them to provide input into new developments.

The radioactive waste arising from excavations into trench 7 which occurred in 1995 and which subsequently received prominent public and media attention has been cleared up. On a three monthly basis the public and the media have been invited to Pelindaba to inspect and review the progress and to date satisfaction has been expressed by all concerned.

The open-door policy of the AEC has paid dividends with the result that the local communities are now realising the value-addition that the AEC is making to society.

QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Members of National Protection Service: criminal record

87. Mr J SELFFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(1) Whether any members of the National Protection Service have a criminal record; if so, (a) how many, (b) of what offences had they been convicted in each case and (c) where is each currently stationed;

(2) whether any members of the NPS are currently facing charges on any crimes; if so, (a) how many, (b) what are the charges in each case and (c) where is each currently stationed? C91E

THE MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes.

(a) 120

(b) 5 x Attempted Murder

1 x Culpable Homicide

8 x Assault

10 x Theft

13 x Driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol

1 x Using motor vehicle without owner's consent

33 x Reckless and Negligent Driving

1 x Provoking of a boy under 19 years of age to perform an indecent or immoral act

12 x Negligent lost of state firearm

4 x Negligent firing of firearm in a built-up area

16 x Pointing of firearm

1 x Housebreaking

2 x Kidnapping

4 x Forgery

2 x Rape

2 x Armed Robbery

1 x Indecent Assault

4 x Handling of a firearm whilst under the influence of alcohol

1 x Use of state vehicle without consent

1 x Crimen Injuria

(c) 49 x NPS, Static Unit, Gauteng

21 x NPS, VIP Protection Unit, Gauteng

8 x NPS, VIP Protection Unit, Cape Town

37 x NPS, Static Unit, Cape Town

2 x Commander's Office NPS, Durban

2 x NPS, VIP Protection Unit, Durban

1 x NPS, Static Unit, Durban

(2) Yes.

(a) 198

(b) 22 x Murder

9 x Housebreaking

2 x Attempted Armed Robbery

4 x Armed Robbery

18 x Attempted Murder

43 x Reckless and Negligent Driving

1 x Driving without a valid driver's licence

21 x Theft

1 x Inconsiderate Driving

1 x Crimen Injuria

23 x Assault

7 x Fraud

7 x Kidnapping

1 x Trespassing

1 x Assault common on police official

1 x Possession of property suspected to be stolen

6 x Discharging of state firearm

1 x Possession of unlicensed firearm

15 x Negligent loss of firearm

22 x Pointing of firearm

3 x Desertion from the SAPS

1 x Theft of state firearm

1 x Malicious damage to property

1 x Refuse to stop at a collision

2 x Seduction

1 x Public Indecency

4 x Rape

1 x Culpable Homicide

1 x Indecent Assault

1 x Handling of firearm under the influence of alcohol

1 x Use of state vehicle without consent

4 x Driving under the influence of alcohol

2 x Possession of gemstones

88 x NPS, Static Unit, Gauteng

28 x NPS, VIP Protection Unit, Gauteng

12 x NPS, VIP Protection Unit, Cape Town

51 x NPS, Static Unit, Cape Town

3 x NPS, VIP Protection Unit, Durban

16 x NPS, Static Unit, Durban

NEWS

Kader's cadres to the fore

Top team declares war on alien vegetation

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

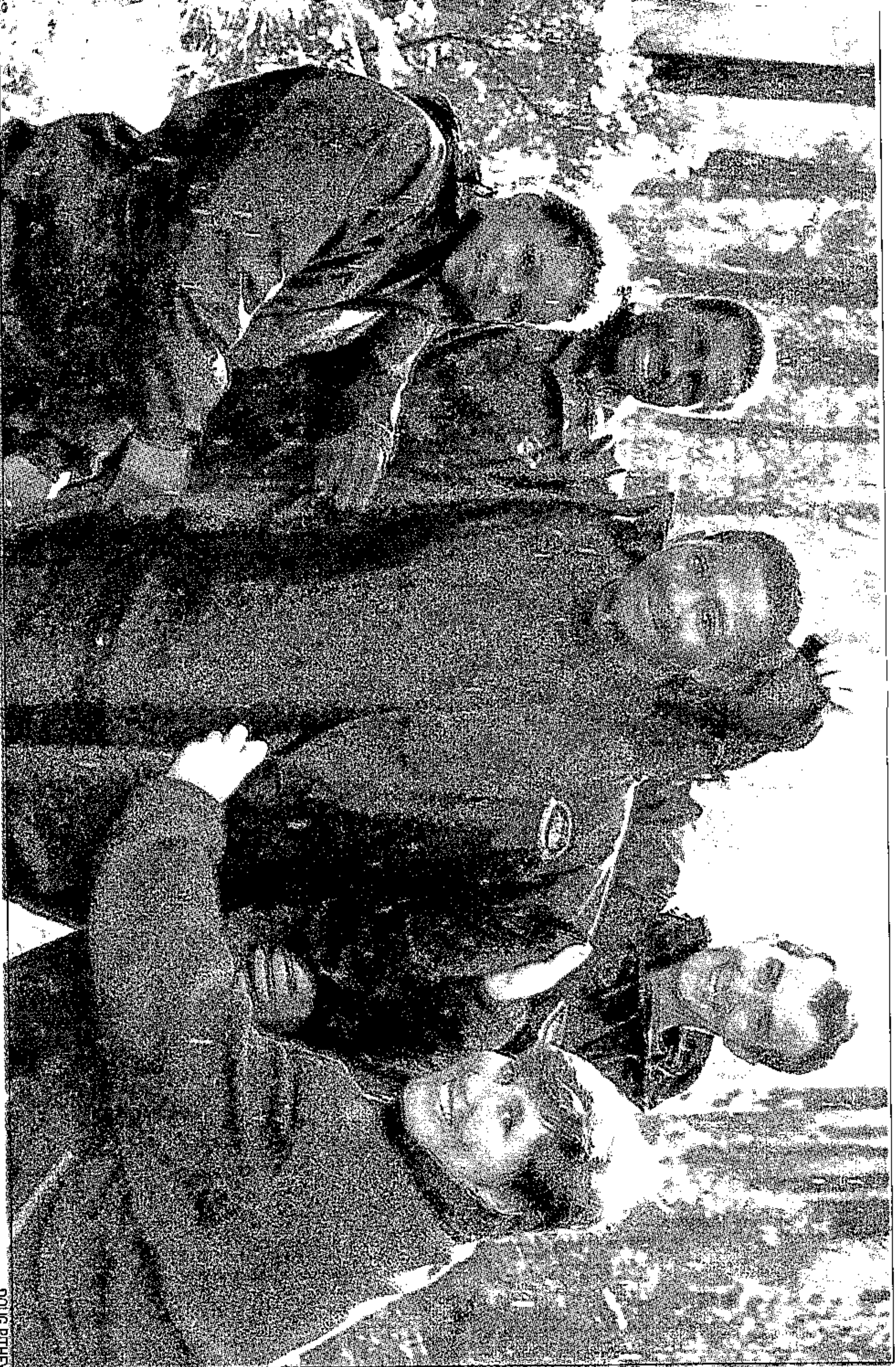
There's going to be a battle royal in the mountains above Groot Drakenstein as soon as the weather improves, but fortunately it's the kind that involves no human suffering.

On the contrary, this particular encounter is one of many in a major war to improve the quality of life in the Western Cape and South Africa, and to conserve the country's unique natural heritage.

The "war" is the fight against alien invasive vegetation that is costing the Western Cape vast quantities of its precious water supply each year, and it is being waged by members of the "Working for Water" programme of the Water Affairs and Forestry Department of Professor Kader Asmal.

Five members of this programme are taking part in the 1997 Kilimanjaro Expedition which is being sponsored by the Cape Argus and Ernst & Young.

They leave Cape Town on Friday on a "flag-flying" trip to the summit of Africa's highest mountain to publicise the achievements of the "Working for Water" pro-



Staying alive! the 'Working for Water' Kilimanjaro team has been given top-of-the-range jackets for their expedition by Cape Union Mart. Helping Wayne Diddloff try his jacket for size are, from left, fellow team members Lizwe Noggala, Jason Moko and Stephen Lamb, and sponsor representative Niki de Jager

ARG 6/8/97



gramme and to highlight Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games.

A decision on the 2004 Olympic City is due on September 5 and a successful expedition to Mount Kilimanjaro just a few weeks beforehand should prove to be of major symbolic value for Cape Town, South Africa and for Africa. This week the team were presented

with waterproof but "breathable" jackets for their expedition by well-known local company Cape Union Mart. "We're concerned with the environment and we want to help where we can," said representative Niki de Jager.

The five team members are all employed by Cape Nature Conservation - the regional agent of the "Working for Water" programme.

Four of them belong to the 30-strong "high altitude" squad which has been specially trained in mountaineering and climbing techniques to be able to remove alien vegetation from inaccessible and dangerous areas in the Cape mountains.

They were trained by the fifth Kilimanjaro expedition member, Stephen Lamb, who is also responsible for co-ordinating their activities from Nature Conservation's head office in the city.

Come spring, and with the memories of a successful Kilimanjaro expedition to spur them on, it's a safe bet that the "enemy" pines of Skuitraam will be no match for the fired-up "Kader's cadres".

John Yeld and Cape Argus Staff Reporter Andrea Botha will be accompanying the expedition.

SA companies take environment seriously

Michael Moon

MORE than three-quarters of SA's leading companies now view environmental issues as strategically important to their business, a new survey has found.

Eighty-four percent of respondents told researchers they believed that environmental issues would become more significant for their companies over the next five years.

The survey — by accounting firm KPMG and SA's Industrial Environmental Forum — sampled 200 companies, including SA's top 150 according to asset size.

Researchers said the "impressive

response rate" of 45%, or 90 companies, for such a survey indicated a high level of interest in environmental matters in the corporate world.

Forum manager Karin Ireton said the results showed that environmental policies and systems were being put into place voluntarily as a response to the demands of international markets.

Whereas previously, companies regarded environmental management as a cost factor because of factors such as the need to install new equipment, they now saw it as contributing towards savings because of increased efficiencies.

Commenting on the findings,

KPMG consultant Wayne Visser said: "Environmental management has become as much a risk-management and efficiency issue as a social responsibility indicator."

More than a third (35%) of respondents said they were budgeting more than R1m for environmentally related spending, with one of them reporting an outlay of more than R100m.

Most (93%) felt that public perceptions of their environmental performance was "neutral or unaware" or "generally positive"; but 63% believed that public opinion was likely to become a significant pressure in the future.

Other pressures cited were "government policy/legislation" (83%), "customer demands" (62%) and "international trade" (51%).

More than half of the companies have adopted — or are about to adopt — voluntary environmental monitoring systems, the most notable among these being the International Standards Organisation's 14001 certificate.

Ireton said that while the organisation's 14001 was "not perfect" and had been criticised, it was useful to SA business as it embodied recognised international standards and was independently audited.

About half the survey respon-

dents claimed a high level of senior management awareness about the importance of environmental issues. But many (48%) felt that awareness of national policy was relatively low.

Forty five percent of respondents had their most senior person responsible for environmental issues on their board of directors, with most of the rest having representation at senior management level.

Ireton said sectors which showed the keenest appreciation of environmental issues were mining, manufacturing and power, whereas those with the least included transport, printing, publishing and retail.

Kadar's tells of mine pollution horrors

JOHANNESBURG: Inadequate legislation and administration on pollution control had allowed the country's mining industry to get away with unacceptable pollution of water resources, said the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mr Kadar Asmal, addressing a mining conference yesterday.

(56) CT 8/8/97

The list of pollution horrors included mine dumps described by chemical engineers as "arsenic factories" in the Mpumalanga area, as well as dumps left by a prospector from a large mining company, which contained so much arsenic and cadmium that it killed all aquatic life in a nearby dam. — Own Correspondent

SA industry starting to look a ⁽⁵⁶⁾ little greener

ST (M) 10/8/97

A new survey shows that companies are taking their environmental responsibilities more seriously, writes SVEN LUNSCHE

PUBLIC perception has it that SA companies are pretty lax when it comes to the environment. A new survey of the country's top 200 companies does not necessarily change that perception, but at least it reveals that SA businessmen are aware of the problem.

The survey, conducted by accountants KPMG and the non-profit Industrial Environmental Forum, found that 75% of SA's top companies regard the environment as a strategic issue. The vast majority agreed that over the next five years the significance of environmental issues would increase.

The respondents to the survey included the bulk of the largest companies in SA as measured by asset size, but, more importantly, those commonly viewed as being the biggest polluters — Eskom, Sasol, Iscor, Highveld Steel, Mondi, most of the chemical majors and the large mining houses, both coal and gold. Noticeable by its absence was pulp and paper group Sappi.

Clearly, awareness of the problem is not enough, and this is where the bulk of SA's largest companies still fell way short. This was most evident in the survey's assessment of environmental expenditure. Only 35% of SA's top companies

spent more than R1-million annually on the environment with a further 18% spending between R100 000 and R1-million. The remaining 47% "didn't know" or spent less than R100 000.

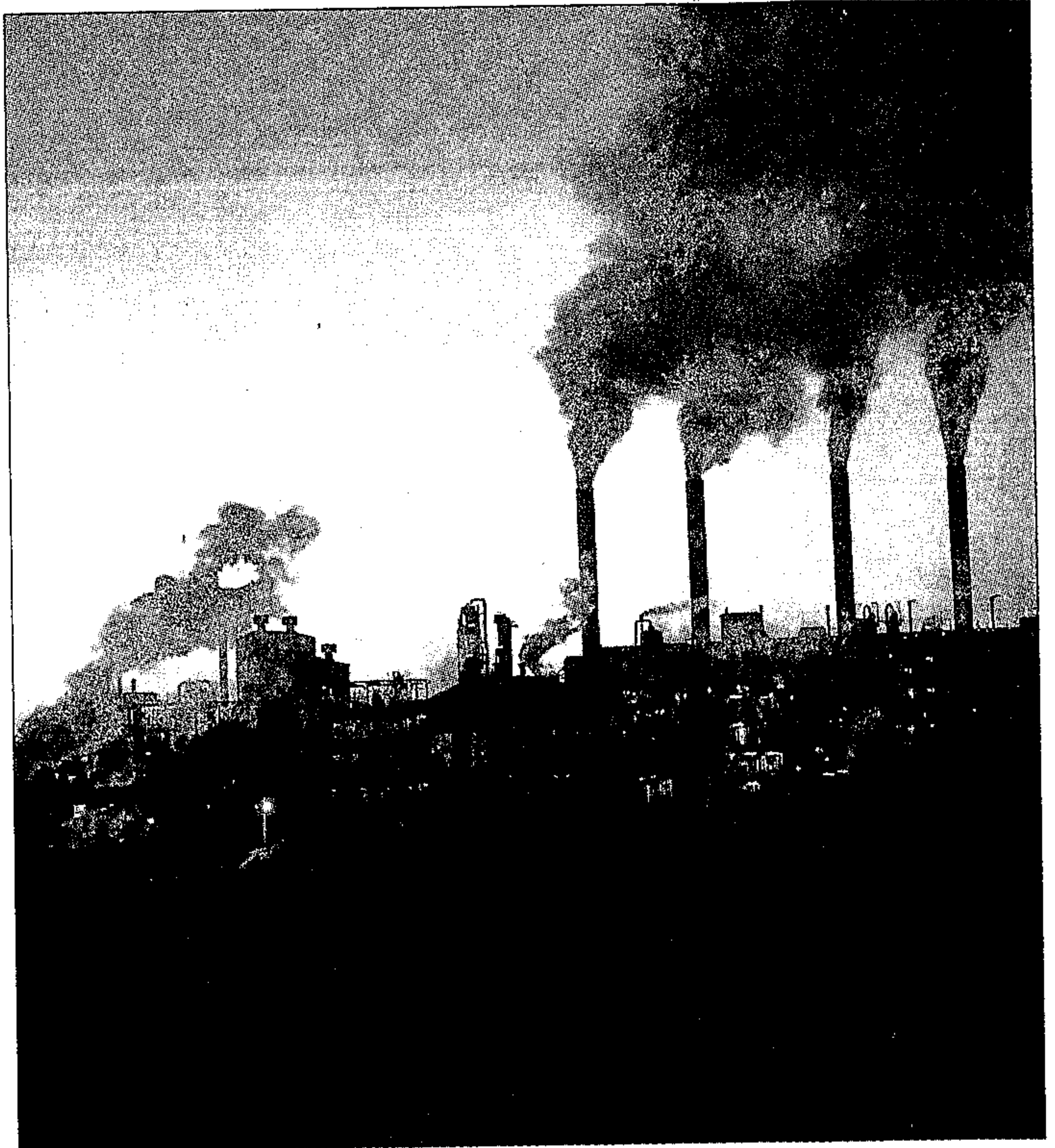
This compares unfavourably with some leading European countries: in Germany corporations are spending up to 5% of profits on meeting environmental standards set by progressive legislation calling for sharply reduced emission levels of harmful pollutants.

In SA, the development of a national environmental policy is still in its early stages and it is too early to evaluate the direction the policy will take under the relevant Environment Minister Pallo Jordan.

Almost half of all senior managers surveyed claimed a high awareness of environmental issues, although an equal percentage said they did not fully understand the implications of the emerging national environmental policy.

A consultant to KPMG's Environmental Unit, Wayne Visser, says environmental management has become as much a risk management and operational efficiency issue as a social responsibility indicator.

"As a result, the likelihood that environmental issues will affect the bottom line is high



UP IN SMOKE . . . there is concern over the high emission levels of pollutants in SA

and increasing steadily," says Visser.

Other findings were:

- Most companies seemed unconcerned with negative public perception about their environmental responsibility. This was expected to change with two-thirds expecting public opinion to become a significant pressure for change. Other pressures cited included government policy (83%), customer demands (62%) and international trade (51%).
- Just over half of those that responded had an environmental policy, gave environmental donations and had an environmental management

system. But less than half undertook environmental assessments, auditing and reporting.

More than half of the top companies were going the route of adopting voluntary environmental standards.

Almost half of the surveyed companies had their most senior person responsible for environmental issues on the board of directors, with the bulk of the rest having representation at senior management level.

Three quarters of the companies had one or more staff with either full-time or part-time responsibility for the en-

vironment. Among the top 150 companies, an average of 27 staff worked on environmental issues.

Half of the companies were members of the Industrial Environmental Forum, but a further two-thirds employed the expertise of consultants.

The survey concluded that SA's top companies were going to have to face up to the challenge of integrating environmental considerations into their core business.

They would have to find an acceptable balance between environmental and other priorities to satisfy the expectations of corporate stakeholders.

Watershed in war on pollution

Asmal gives 'list of horrors' perpetrated by the mining industry on our water resources and says that the costs to the country have been enormous

Star 11/8/97

A1

(56)

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environmental Reporter

Inadequate legislation and administration relating to pollution control has allowed the country's mining industry to get away with unacceptable pollution of water resources, according to the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Kadar Asmal.

Asmal was addressing a water management in mining conference held in Johannesburg.

The list of pollution horrors revealed by Asmal included mine dumps, described by chemical engineers as "arsenic factories" in the Mpumalanga area, and dumps left by a prospecting team from a large

mining company which contained so much arsenic and cadmium that it killed all the aquatic life in a nearby dam.

On the eastern Witwatersrand, gold mine waste water, containing sulphuric acid, iron and manganese, was being pumped into the Klip and Elsberg rivers, adding between 60 and 150 tons of salt into the Vaal Barrage on a daily basis.

Another example highlighted was the discharge of polluted water from the Grootvlei mine on the East Rand into the Blesbokspruit, a Ramsar wetland, which turned the water orange and killed aquatic life.

Asmal said also that sulphuric acid leachate from coal

mine dumps was resulting in groundwater pollution in various areas, while recent aerial photographs revealed leakage of radioactive material from slime dams into water resources on the West Rand.

Community will not carry can

"If we match this list of horrors with the predictions that, within the next 30 years, South Africa will have used up all its available water resources and will have joined that unenviable elite of water-stressed countries, the implications are

extremely disturbing," he said.

He added that, although mining had been the backbone of the economy, had contributed enormously to the current economic development of the country and was a large source of employment, the costs had been enormous.

He said the Government had put in place the appropriate changes to make sure these costs were no longer borne by innocent individuals and communities, but by the perpetrators themselves.

The white paper on national water policy, adopted by the cabinet in April, underlines policy which will determine the future management of water resources.

Samuelan 11/8/97

Mines promise to clean up their act

By Russel Molefe

SOUTH Africa's mining magnates emerged from a water management conference in Fourways, Johannesburg, with a commitment to avoid polluting the country's dwindling water resources.

The conference started on Wednesday amid an outcry from water authorities that the mining industry was "getting away with murder" by discharging highly contaminated water into rivers and streams without taking further steps to clean up its act.

Last year the discharge of polluted water from Grootvlei Gold mine on the East Rand turned the Blesbokspruit and a Ramsar wetland virulent orange and killed almost all the aquatic life.

However, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal warned the mine authorities at the conference on Friday that the Government would make sure that

the costs of water pollution are no longer borne by taxpayers but by the perpetrators themselves.

"This is according to the internationally acceptable principle of the 'polluter pays'.

"Despite what representatives of industry might argue, the case of the mining industry in South Africa proves the point that neither the market system, nor the much vaunted concept of self-regulation protect either communities or the environment from the negative impact of mining," Asmal said.

He also revealed that his department faced problems because its concerns regarding the proposed Sasol mine in the Sasolburg area were ignored by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

"We have also faced a situation where environmental management programmes (EMPs) have been approved by Mineral and Energy Affairs despite objections and concerns from my department," he said.

(56)

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NE

ENVIRONMENT *Mining industry 'responsible to clean up mess'*

(56)

Polluter to pay, says Asmal

FRANK NXUMALO

Johannesburg — The mining industry must bear the costs of environmental degradation rather than pass these on to innocent communities, Kader Asmal, the water affairs and forestry minister, said at the weekend.

Asmal said although the mining industry had without doubt contributed materially to the country's level of economic development and was a large source of employment, "the costs had been enormous".

"We have to put in place the appropriate changes to make sure that these costs are no longer borne by innocent individuals and communities, but by the perpetrators themselves, according to the internationally acceptable principle of 'polluter



MR CLEAN Kader Asmal, water and forestry minister

pays", Asmal said. However, he said, the government had to transform the approach in which at least three different national departments and one parastatal (the Council for Nuclear Safety) were

involved in the management of mining pollution.

"In particular, we have to move away from the situation where the department of mineral and energy affairs is the lead agent in regard to mining pollution control. This game of poacher-gamekeeper is ultimately not in the best interests of society," he said.

Asmal cited Grootvlei as the first mine in the history of mining in South Africa to feel the weight of this new hard-line approach to water protection.

The mine was directed to stop pumping hazardous waste water into the Blesbokspruit and Ramsar wetlands.

But Neal Froneman, the Grootvlei general manager, said pumping out water from the East Rand should be a state

responsibility, as Grootvlei's position as the deepest shaft on the basin, forced it to pump out water seeping into it from the other surrounding mines.

"We use only 6 megalitres of water a day but we pump out 140 megalitres of seepage water a day," he said.

It cost Grootvlei R38 million a year to pump water out of the mine and the state subsidy came to R20 million a year, leaving the mine with a shortfall of R18 million.

"When the directive was issued, our pumping permit was withdrawn immediately we had to build a pond for settling out the iron oxide. We have lost 13 high-grade ore areas because of the flooding from our neighbours and have had to retrench 800 workers," Froneman said.

ET(RR) 11/8/97

Northern Province bans farming use of DDT

Star 13/8/97

(56)

The Poison Working Group has called for the prohibition of harmful sprays to protect wildlife from their harmful effects

By SHERLEY WOODGATE

The Poison Working Group (PWG) has called for a total ban on DDT by the turn of the century after an eleventh-hour decision by Northern Province health department to scrap a tender for a large quantity to control malaria in mosquito-infested areas.

Sources indicate tenders had been put out for the supply of more than 100 tons of the insecticide to be sprayed on houses in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal and Northern Province.

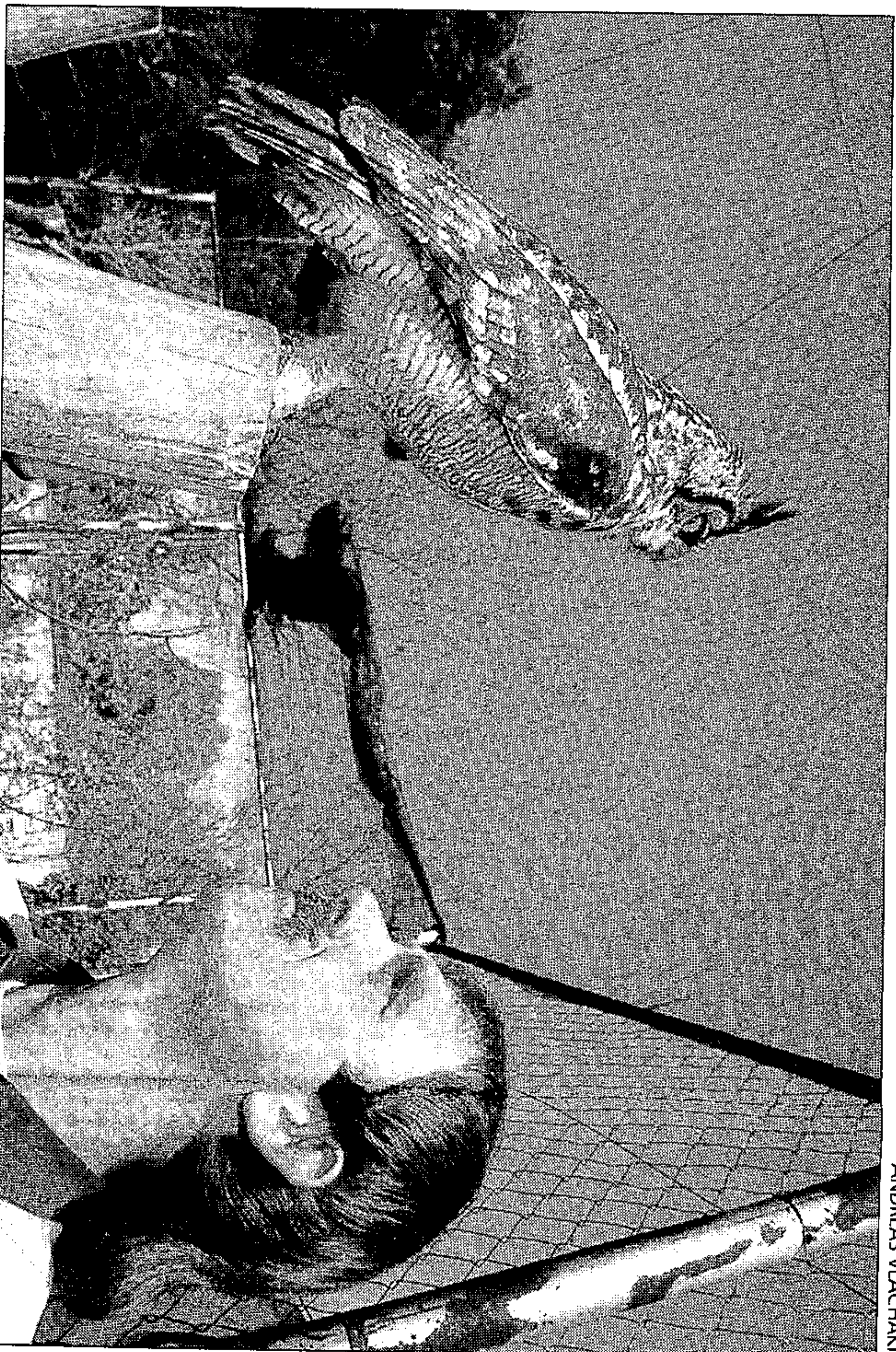
But health department assistant director Phillip Kruger said that outside pressure and resistance from communities had led to a rethink and synthetic pyrethroids would be substituted.

PWG and Raptor Conservation Fund spokesman Dr Gerhard Verdoorn said it was the first time officials had acted sensibly in rejecting DDT.

"But it is sad the leading country in Africa is following the followers. DDT has been outlawed in America and Europe, and here in Africa, in countries such as Tanzania and Kenya.

"But in South Africa, where conservationists and farmers have repeatedly called for a ban, it is still used extensively, mainly because it costs 30%-40% less than the newer (and less toxic) pyrethroids.

"The entire agricultural industry backed efforts to halt widespread spraying of the deadly insecticide, which inflicted certain death to mosquitoes, but also inflicted long-standing problems to warm-blooded animals and



ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

Lucky escape ... Booboo the owl is one of six rehabilitated raptors kept by Dr Gerhard Verdoorn, who uses them for educational demonstrations as he cannot return them to nature.

birds.

"The use of DDT has caused vulture egg-shells to decrease in thickness from 76mm to 25mm, and ultimately lack of calcium could result in merely a membrane surrounding the chick."

He blamed the almost total disappearance of wagtails and bokmakeries in city gardens on DDT and Dieldrin.

A recent partnership forged between the PWG and national water tank suppliers S Burde

and Co, has focused on educating the public in the responsible use of pesticides which have the potential to wipe out entire colonies of birds if used incorrectly.

Inviting more business backing for educational campaigns on the correct use of insecticides, Verdoorn said: "Irresponsible dosage over a long period has led to the unnecessary killing of thousands of birds, animals, insects and fish every

year."

Last year (1996) one farmer accidentally poisoned more than 350 guinea fowl and 400 birds of prey over about four days when he used Monocrotophus to wipe out gerbils infesting his wheat lands.

The maximum fine under the Agrochemicals Act (Act 36 of 1947) for the deliberate misuse of chemicals was R40 000 or six years in prison, with further action possible under the Na-

tural Conservation Act, the Antimal Protection Act and various other ordinances.

But no charges had been laid, he said.

Use of poisons by the military to remove an impenetrable 130km sisal hedge on the northern border had affected soil in the Limpopo Valley and water from Messina to the Kruger National Park, causing Northern Province's worst ecological disaster, said a report by a 26-member

herbicide task group to the Agriculture Department in February last year.

Verdoorn said he had been educating farmers and schools for the past six years on the correct use of pesticides. The time had now arrived for charges to be laid against culprits who ignored proper use of potentially deadly chemicals.

Outlining the history of the Cape Griffon, which only occurs in South Africa, he said their numbers had been reduced by poisoning from about 100 000 in 1900 to the current 14 500.

That had also been the fate of the blue crane, which had lost 80% of its population in the last 10 years, the wattle crane which was down to 62 pairs, and the crowned crane, which had been decimated by deliberate poisoning because they ate poisoned seeds after they were planted.

On the other hand, education of the public had resulted in 14 pairs of bateleur eagles moving back to the Kalahari desert where the species had been totally wiped out by farming practices.

"We are trying to educate users to read the instructions properly and not to overdose to the extent that the environment is contaminated. It is also vitally important to stick to the laws about locking away chemicals such as Carbofuran, Monocrotophos, Aldicarb, Parathion, Fenthion and Diazinon, which are some of the most seriously implicated in poisoning our wildlife.

"Birds have a right to live and perform their role in the ecology just as humans have a Bill of Rights which entrenches their right to life," said Verdoorn.

□ ENVIRONMENT

(56)

CT (PR) 13/8/97

State urged to ratify green house gases treaty

The government was urged yesterday to ratify the United Nations convention on climate change so it could help form world policy on greenhouse gases. Francois Hanekom, the deputy director-general of the environment department, said South Africa was responsible for 1,6 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. "This makes us the largest source of emissions in Africa and the 18th largest in the world," he said. South Africa is one of about 160 nations that have signed the convention but has yet to ratify it, which means it is excluded from negotiations on ways to combat global warming. He said South Africa would have to ratify the convention by the end of the month if it wanted to participate fully in the third members' conference in Japan in December. — *Reuter, Cape Town*

Department to lead control of environment

Michael Moon

THE environmental affairs and tourism department is to become the "lead agent" for environmental management in SA in terms of planned government policy.

The department said yesterday that the recently released white paper on environmental management had transformed the department's role from "a passive and facilitating one to that of active governance".

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan yesterday called for public comment on the white paper.

"In its new role the department has executive, monitoring, adjudicating, integrating and co-ordinating functions in respect of environmental management across all government spheres," the department said.

However, environmental management functions could be carried out "by extension" in other departments if this was effective.

All other departments would have to comply with the new policy and the onus would be on them to inform the environmental affairs department of any functions and activities that had an impact on the environment.

The department said the planned policy aimed to address the fragmentation of environmental functions by

(56) BD 13/8/97
"revisiting" their allocation. At present, responsibility for enforcing environmental legislation spans at least four government departments.

The white paper takes "ownership of sustainable development" as its approach to resource management and utilisation in SA.

It sets out seven broad strategic goals. These are:

- Creating an effective institutional framework and legislation;
- Promoting equitable access to, and sustainable use of, natural and cultural resources; and integrating environmental impact management with all economic activities;
- Developing mechanism to ensure environmental considerations are integrated into all development planning and all economic activity;
- Establishing partnerships and public participation in environmental governance;
- Promoting environmental education and developing skills to achieve sustainable development;
- Improving access to environmental information; and
- Developing mechanisms to deal with international environmental issues.

The department said it would develop a national environmental strategy and specific "action plans" to realise these goals.

Knysna abandoned by National Parks Board

RESIDENTS and concerned experts fear the National Parks Board has been pressurised by developers into throwing the the Knysna lagoon to the wolves, writes MELANIE GOSLING.



BANG goes Knysna lagoon! That's the sentiment expressed by many residents and environmental groups after the announcement by the National Parks Board yesterday that the organisation was pulling out of controlling the Knysna National Lake Area.

The board, which has been regulating the area since 1983, said the reason for its withdrawal was that Knysna's lake area did not conform to internationally accepted criteria used to proclaim a national park.

It will withdraw by the end of this financial year.

Residents say this comes at a time when the Garden Route is "in dire straits" under the pressure of runaway development and they fear that the parks board's withdrawal will lead to a rush of inappropriate development on and around the Knysna lagoon.

It has not yet been decided which body will take over its function, but the parks board and the Knysna council say they are in negotiations to try to establish an appropriate authority.

Some residents fear that control of the lagoon and its catchment will fall under the local authorities, who they say do not have the financial capacity or necessary expertise.

Others believe the parks board is leaving because it has been put under pressure from developers or politicians.

Parks board director of operations for southern parks, Mr Dick Parrs, said yesterday the board's decision to pull out of Knysna had been a "purely internal administrative arrangement" and had come under no external pressure.

The board had made the decision in 1992, but had remained in control until the national and local elections had taken place, he said.

"This doesn't for one second imply that Knysna is not an important estuary. It is, and has many unique features which must be conserved, but the regulatory function must be carried out by an agency which can fulfill that function. It's not our job.

"The logical home would be in the provincial government as the Knysna

CT 15/8/97

National Lake Area has conservation significance which goes beyond the boundaries of local authorities," Parrs said.

Dr Rod Randall, the board's manager of scientific services for wetlands in the southern parks, said one of the criteria for a national park was that it should be an area large enough to contain one or more entire ecosystems which are not materially altered by current human occupation or exploitation.

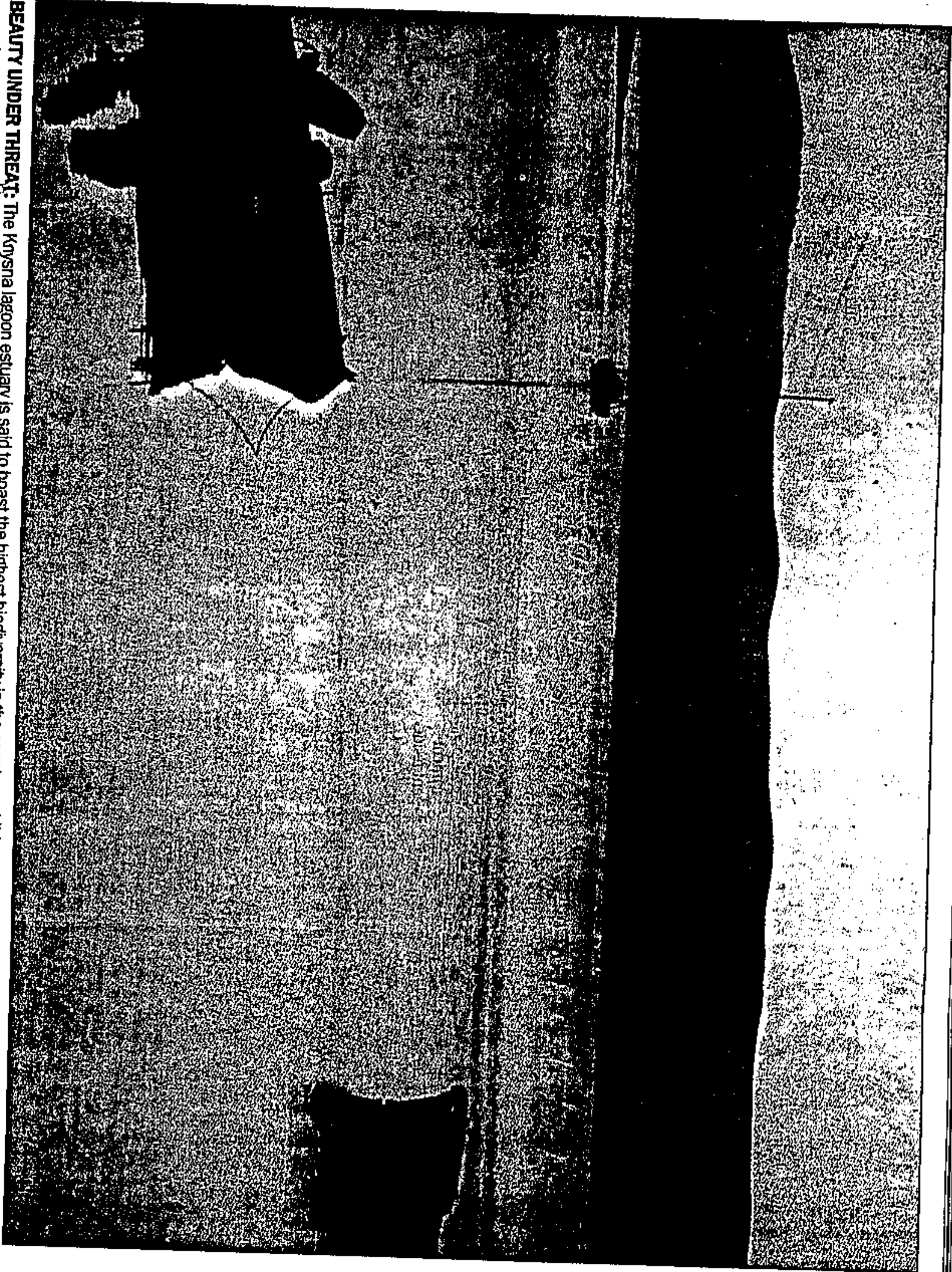
"That counts against Knysna. The Wilderness National Park, on the other hand, excludes the built-up areas and is much more pristine than Knysna, both in water quality, the catchment and the immediate surrounds.

"But Knysna Lake Area must certainly be conserved, it's just a question of whether we're the appropriate agency to do so. There is little doubt that it is under threat from many sides, particularly loss of water quality and from inappropriate development, which definitely detracts from the lagoon," Randall said.

Professor Margaret Marker, emeritus professor at UCT's Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, said yesterday: "It's a disaster for Knysna, and very short-sighted of the parks board. Nearly all national parks in the United Kingdom have people and villages in them, so does the Richtersveld National Park and the West Coast National Park. It's just an excuse because the people in Pretoria don't want to fund it.

"If really is serious. Everyone will wreak havoc. I'm horrified. I'd say they have been put under pressure from developers."

The chairman of Knysna's Environmental Forum, Mr Toni Tomlin, said yesterday that Knysna lagoon was unique as it had the highest



BEAUTY UNDER THREAT: The Knysna lagoon estuary is said to boast the highest biodiversity in the country, yet it is set to be handed over to authorities who lack the expertise and finances to look after this valuable resource properly, say concerned parties.

biodiversity in the country with the greatest number of endemic species.

"It's absolutely vital for the long-term survival of the lagoon that its management is not left up to some organisation with elected officials serving short political terms. I'm convinced that the local Knysna authorities don't have the capacity to run the lagoon. They have no one with any biological expertise.

"There is also the risk of local officials

being open to corruption. All local authorities have financial problems and there could be financial offers to allow certain types of inappropriate development, which would be disastrous for the long-term survival of the lagoon.

"Knysna estuary is of international significance and is a major tourist destination. As such it should have national protection. Developers already see the salt marshes as waste land and try to fill

them in. The estuary is a very sensitive natural system and requires a tremendous amount of biological expertise to manage," Tomlin said.

The founder of the Garden Route Trust, Ms Jenny Lawrence, said: "I question whether the parks board has been put under political pressure by the Western Cape government to withdraw. I believe politicians are in cahoots with big business to eliminate all opposition

to bad development, and that means getting rid of the parks board."

Knysna's mayor, Mr Alan Kock, said yesterday the council was negotiating with various role-players to establish a local lakes authority. This would include local authorities, the parks board and parastatal groups.

"We will also involve environmental lobby groups and will explore various opportunities," Kock said.

PICTURE: NATIONAL PARKS BOARD

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Environmental issues put iron project on hold

(5b) (S) 0019/8/97
THE exploratory stage of the joint R7,4bn iron and steel production project between Northern Province and Mozambique has been delayed to allow more time for feedback on environmental issues and to give the public more time to study the report.

Process facilitator Tisha Greyling confirmed yesterday that a forum of more than 30 representatives from Mozambique, Mpumalanga and Northern Province met recently in Malelane in Mpumalanga to review environmental issues raised so far.

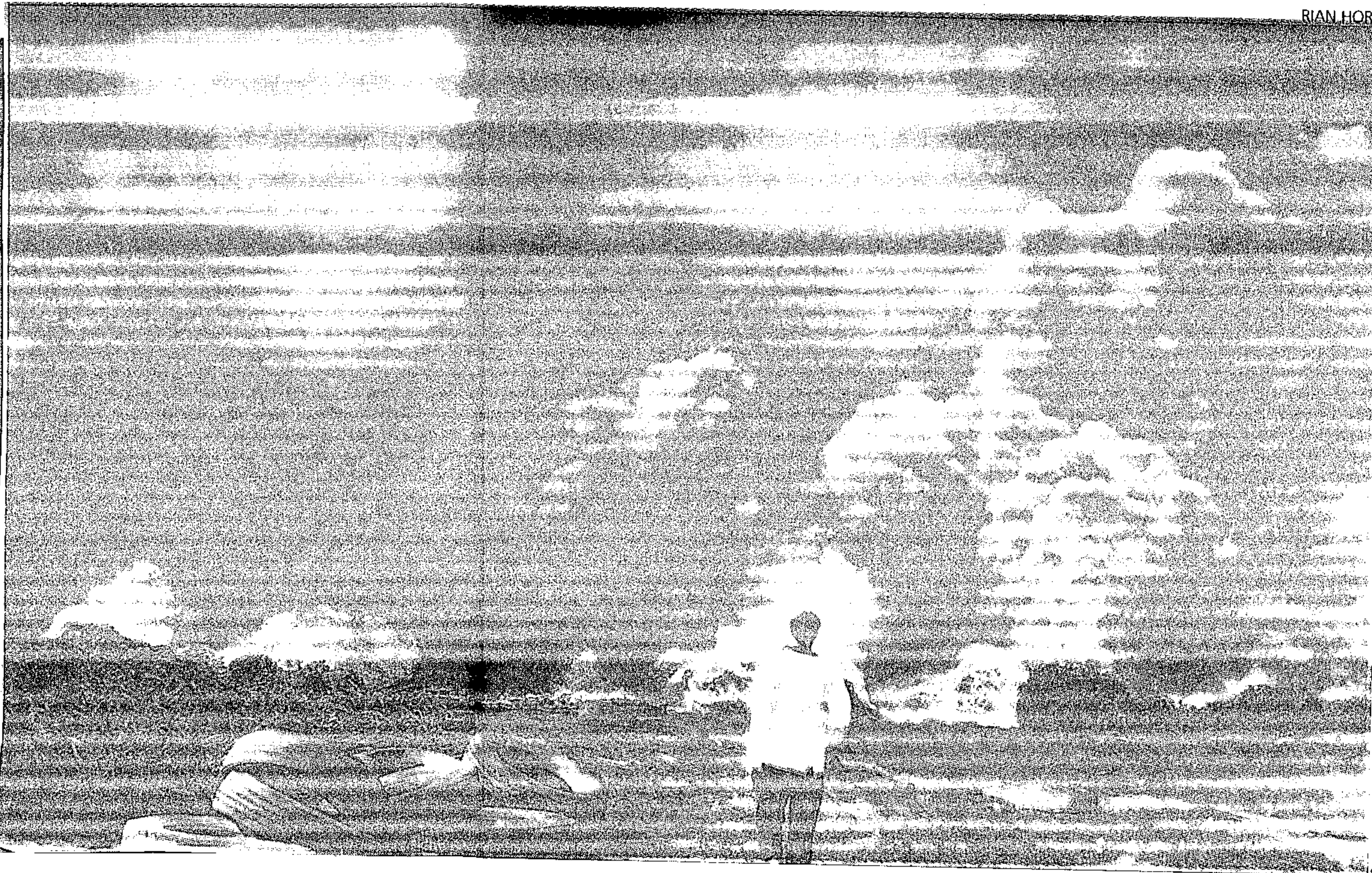
It was decided the deadline for comments on the environmental impact assessment, originally set for August 22, should be extended to September 22.

The project involves the production of iron and steel at a plant near Maputo using waste magnetite stockpiled on dumps at Phalaborwa built up by copper producer Palabora Mining Company.

The magnetite would be pumped by slurry pipeline to Mozambique, possibly through the Kruger National Park. The National Parks Board is opposed to the pipeline going through the park.

"The quality and quantity of water in the lower Olifants river catchment area, legal constraints involved, international conventions affecting SA and Mozambique and current land use, were some issues reviewed by the forum," Greyling said. — Sapa.

RIAN HORN



Time given
 1.1.1.1
 (56)
 1.1.1.1

A Health Department spokesman said the company could be prosecuted for polluting the environment. The spokesman said the company had been warned several times but had failed to take any action. The spokesman said the company had been warned to stop dumping tyres in the area but had failed to do so. The spokesman said the company had been warned to stop dumping tyres in the area but had failed to do so.

break at 10am because the smoke had already engulfed the school by then.

Firefighters arrived to douse the fire as it spread out of control. They said the towering flames were an almost daily sight.

Greater Johannesburg fire safety division spokesman Brian Hogan said the rubber tyres posed a serious fire hazard to the school.

Vaal Triangle police spokesman Captain Thabang Letlala said: "The matter does not fall under police jurisdiction, but with the Department of Health. If the parents of the schoolchildren lodge a complaint, police will intervene."

Teachers have given the police two registration numbers of tyre-dumping trucks. Both belong to a Meyerton fruit farmer.

MPs call for camps to be relocated (56)

Farouk Chothia

BD 20/8/97

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal MPs called on security forces yesterday to relocate five camps they had in ecologically sensitive parts of KwaZulu-Natal after accusing the forces of using the camps as holiday resorts, stealing cycads and harassing women tourists.

The SA Police Services (SAPS) had camps at Island Rock, Kosi Bay, Mabibi and Black Rock bordering Mozambique and Swaziland, while the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) had a camp at Kosi Mouth. SAPS director Eric Nkabinde told the MPs at a joint meeting of the KwaZulu-Natal legislature's safety and security and environmental and nature conservation committees, that the Island Rock camp had been used by the former security branch since 1973 and now fell under its successor, the Crime Intelligence Service (CIS).

The SAPS was opposed to the closure of the camps because they played an important role in the democratically elected government's fight against gun-running and drug-smuggling from Mozambique and Swaziland. The camps were used on an "intelligence-driven" basis, Nkabinde said.

He said the SAPS had used the Island Rock camp for 15 "covert activities" in the first six months of this year. Police posed as fishermen for their intelligence-gathering work. He urged the MPs not to question him in detail about the camps.

But IFP MP Arthur Konigkramer said that former National Party cabinet minister Piet Koornhof had built a house at the Kosi Bay police camp. "This is a private enclave for white pleasure-seekers," Konigkramer said. He said some policemen had assaulted nature conservation department officials, but "only the black ones". Police had stolen cycads on a "massive scale", and used spearguns to steal fish from community fish traps.

African National Congress (ANC) MP Ina Cronje questioned why the camps were right on the beach, and resembled holiday resorts.

ANC MP John Jeffery said he could not understand the SAPS's "affinity for the beach" when on official work, nor how "crabs can be subversive".

IFP MP Belinda Barrett said there were allegations that supposedly under-cover policemen had "accosted" foreign women tourists near Island Rock. The naked policemen danced and jumped in front of the women, Barrett said. She understood that a criminal investigation into the incident had taken place, but the docket had "mysteriously" disappeared.

The MPs on the two committees unanimously resolved to ask the KwaZulu-Natal cabinet to take the necessary steps to have the camps relocated to areas falling outside coastal forest reserves.

Pupils smoked out despite attempt to douse burning tyres

(56) Star 21/8/97

BY GASANT ABARDER

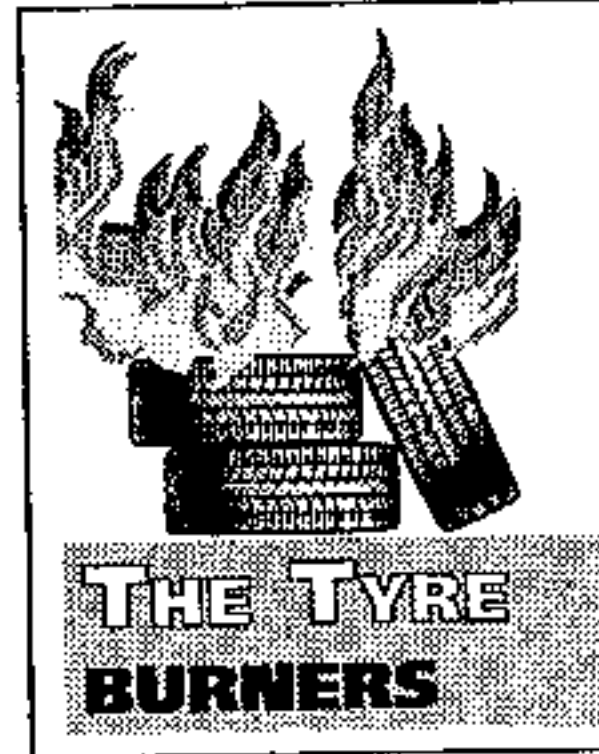
Tyres were still burning near Duzenendlela Primary School in Grasmere, south of Johannesburg, yesterday, disrupting classes and enveloping the area in a wall of black smoke.

Nearly every day, a company that retrieves metal to sell as scrap burns more than 100 tyres on property adjoining the school.

An employee at a tyre company in Krugersdorp said old tyres were given away to anyone who wanted them.

The pupils are the victims of the pollution the fire causes: "The kids are coughing and sneezing and are now complaining that they have headaches. They don't learn freely because the smoke interrupts their classes," said asthmatic principal Olga Hlubi, struggling to breathe.

Yesterday, a strong wind of about 30km/h pushed the dark smoke clouds towards neighbouring farms, and the smoke



billowed over the road, making visibility difficult for passing motorists.

Greater Johannesburg deputy chief operations spokesman Brian Hogan said firefighters had been on the scene to douse flames from 8.50am

yesterday.

He said the fire department investigated these matters, but he believed the case would not make it to court and the guilty party would get off with a spot

fine. Hogan added that the only legal fires in Greater Johannesburg were those made for cooking and heating.

The manager of The Star Seaside Fund, Marcus Mashiteng, who visited the school yesterday, said a green Toyota bakkie with a white canopy had shown up at the scene of the fire. As soon as its driver saw the commotion and the firefighters trying to put out the flames, he sped off and could not be caught.

Teachers were unable to take down the registration number.

Jukskei at Alex is now a major health hazard

Bacteria count a million times higher than acceptable levels

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environmental Reporter

Alexandra residents living along the Jukskei River are sitting on a health time bomb as e-coli bacteria levels — which indicate the presence of human faeces in the water — soar to figures one million times the acceptable levels.

Sources indicate that e-coli counts in the water regularly reach 1 000 000/100ml of water and have reached a high of 6 000 000/100ml of water in the past. Counts of as little as 200/100ml are considered unsafe.

The high levels are the result of raw sewage which spills into the water from underground sewage pipes.

Waste from residents who defecate directly into the wa-

ter as well as nightsoil from the portable toilets run into the river.

All this is resulting in the river becoming a breeding pool for diseases such as typhoid and other dangerous

Residents

face major

infection risk

bacterial and viral diarrhoeal diseases.

The Eastern Metropolitan Council tests the Jukskei River water every second week.

Water samples taken at two testing points on August 18 show an e-coli count of 400 000/100ml and 12 000/100ml. In tests done at the

same points on July 17 the levels were 1 000 000/100ml and 140 000/100ml.

A microbiologist for the South African Institute for Medical Research said that because of the high e-coli levels residents in the area were facing a "substantial" risk of becoming infected with gastro-intestinal illnesses such as typhoid.

Martin van Veelen, a consulting engineer involved in a project to develop a water quality management plan for the Jukskei River, said: "The river passing through Alex is dead. No one in their right mind should even put a foot in that water, it is obvious it is dirty."

"Further downstream in Woodmead the water is clear but nevertheless the bacteria is still present."



Poisoned chalice ... residents along the Jukskei as it passes through Alexandra seem oblivious to the threat of the diseases lurking in the waters as a result of dumping of raw sewage.

(57) **Thousands in jobs bill demo**

CT 22/8/97

JOHANNESBURG: Thousands of Congress of South Africa Trade Union members marched in Gauteng and North West Province yesterday and a significant stayaway seriously affected business.

The marchers were calling for a revision of the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill.

In Johannesburg about 12 000 demonstrators marched to the offices of Business SA and in Pretoria at least 10 000 marched to the Labour Department.

Six Gauteng mines reported total stayaways.

There were no arrests, but police opened a docket against the march organiser for deviating from the agreed route. — Sapa

(56) **Wetlands scheme gets the green light**

CT 22/8/97

THE subdivision of a 16ha site at Century City for a multi-purpose Blouvllei wetland system has been given the go-ahead by Minister of Planning for Western Cape Mr Lampie Fick.

The wetland has been divided into two parts, one a nature reserve and the other a system of four cells which will provide a natural wetland system. Two cells will be open reed beds, one an open vlei and the other a marshland.

Rare and endangered plants are being transplanted to the ephemeral pans and the reeds. Trees have been imported to re-establish the heronry.

Steve Enticott, manager technical services at Monex, developer of Century City, said he had commissioned environmental auditors to draw up an environmental management plan to ensure the success of the new wetland system.

The wetlands would be open to the public once Century City had been completed. — Staff Writer

Too late for classification

Practical Stock Market Training

Saldanha cement mine 'threat to rare plants'

JOHN YELD

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

(56)
APR 22/8/97

Plant life on the site of the proposed Alpha cement mine near Saldanha Bay is rated "of very high conservation importance" on a national scale, according to a comprehensive environmental impact assessment report.

This vegetation - technically "calcrete shrublands" - occurs only in the West Coast region and contains several rare and endangered plant species, as well as at least three species not yet formally described by botanists.

The R750-million cement proposal includes a production plant near the existing ore-loading terminal at Saldanha and next to the new Saldanha Steel plant; limestone and clay

quarries north-west of Saldanha town; and an 8km conveyor system linking quarries with the production plant.

According to the draft EIA report, only about 10 percent of the known extent of the site's calcrete shrubland vegetation is formally protected - at Postberg in West Coast National Park and on the Saldanha Steel property.

The EIA recommends that the total area for mining should be reduced.

In response Alpha has accepted a restriction on mining to an effective "80-year scenario", although total reserves exceed 200 years; that no mining should occur south of the Jacobs Bay road; and managing the rest of the proposed mining area for conservation.

This would result in conserving some 75 percent of rare and threatened vegetation in the mining area.

KWAZULU-NATAL GAME PARKS

(56)
FM 22/8/97

State parks plan draws fire

Conservationists outraged by move to scrap Natal Parks Board model

Wildlife lobbyists are preparing for a fight with the KwaZulu-Natal government over the planned merging of the provincial and former homeland conservation agencies.

The merger would dissolve the Natal Parks Board and place conservation in the province under government control.

The regional branch of the 6 000-member Wildlife & Environment Society has objected to the provincial Department of Traditional & Environment Affairs' formula for merging the Parks Board and the KwaZulu Department of Nature Conservation (DNC).

The proposals are contained in the recently published Conservation Management Bill, which has been in the making since 1994.

The problem arises from disparities in the two organisations' structures and operations. Their only shared attribute is the goal of implementing conservation policy. The public corporation Parks Board has long operated a large infrastructure, controlling 750 000 ha (8,4%) of the land formerly under the Natal Provincial Administration. The DNC, on the other hand, has been only an incidental part of homeland bureaucracy.

The provincial authorities say they are concerned that a merger would simply amount to the Parks Board absorbing the DNC and continuing business as usual.

Wildlife society director Keith Cooper says subjecting the parks to bureaucracy could lead to the kind of corruption and inefficiencies found in the former homelands. KwaZulu-Natal's model, he says, runs counter to the trend in other provinces, such as Mpumalanga, where independent parks boards manage reserves.

The Bill attempts a compromise by proposing the appointment of a parks board. But it invests that body with only advisory powers; the MEC's word is final.

It would also draw revenues from game parks into the provincial exchequer instead of into a dedicated fund for conservation, subject parks policy to political expediency and discard seasoned management expertise by dissolving the Parks Board.

On the positive side, it is argued that the new parks administration would be more democratic because an elected government would control it.

Herb Payne

Food for thought as Greens aim for a new goal

ARC 23/8/97 (56)

DERDRE HUSSEY

In Langa, nature conservation is not about saving the whale or the rhino - it's about upgrading the lives of the people who live there.

An environmental organisation that has helped locals to green the township, is now going one step further - it is helping them grow their own food.

The Tsoga Environmental Resource Centre, which runs several programmes involving residents, was recently approached by a local senior citizen offering her land for their use.

"We are very excited about the opportunity," said Tsoga director Nomtha Dilima. "We plan on having a number of women from the local hostel plant vegetables for either marketing or their own use."

Jessie Njoli, who has offered her plot, said she could no longer work the land herself and had been interested in the work the organisation had done.

"It is idle and it is a big plot," said Mrs Njoli. "Some of my other friends are also interested in such a plan with Tsoga."

Tsoga, established in 1993, has adopted an approach to the Langa environment based on involvement with the people who live there. "We are not about saving whales or mountains," said Ms Dilima. "We are about human beings and their relationship to nature."

One of the most successful programmes has been "Clean & Green" - a street clean-

ing campaign. It established teams who

encouraged residents to clean the streets as a part of their civic responsibility. It moved forward with a training programme for residents to green the area. "Many people look at litter as job creation. But cleaning is everyone's responsibility although greening can lead to job creation," Ms Dilima.

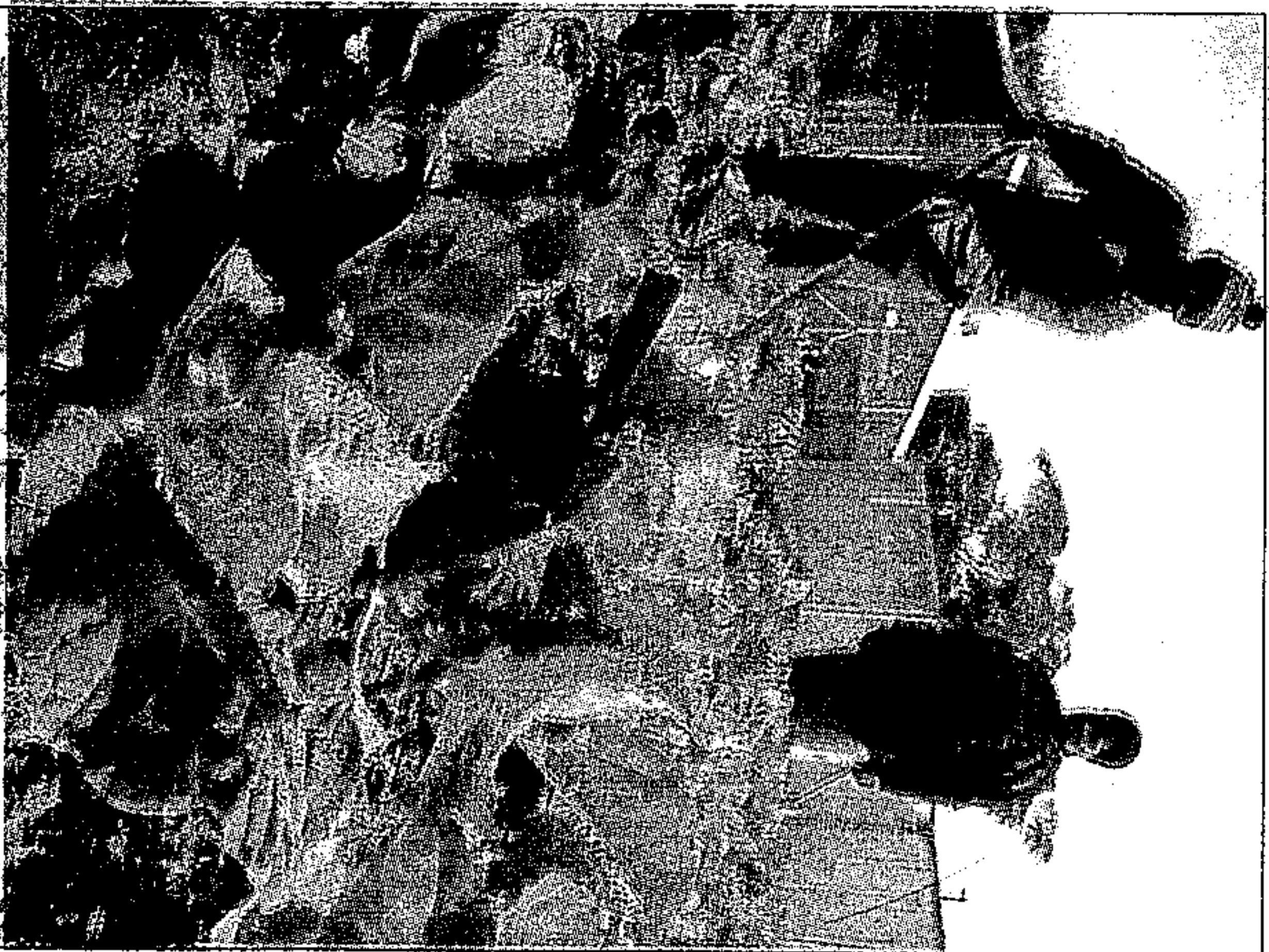
She said more than 80 percent of people trained in the programme were now employed by the municipal cleansing department seasonally or permanently.

Other successful Tsoga programmes had been the upgrading of public space for parks and recreation, a literacy programme, a youth programme that raises money through recycling, a traditional herb garden, the communal food gardening and community development.

"The community has become more vibrant and has started to ask questions and are concerned about the area. We feel Tsoga has become a centre of attraction, a forum for community development," said a local member.

With a sense of community development, Ms Dilima said the organisation could challenge some of the greater issues of Langa. "Langa was once a garbage dump site and we are surrounded by an industrial area, a sewage plant and a power station. We must also take a look at real causes of some of the impacts this is having on the health problems of the people in the area."

But she said a serious lack of funding was hampering efforts.



OBEID ZILWA

Green fingers: Langa residents at work in a vegetable garden

Flaws, but cable upgrade earns the green light

Top scientist runs probe

ARG 25/8/97 (56)

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

An environmental audit of the cableway upgrading has found that environmental safeguards were not implemented in one instance at the upper station and nine at the lower.

Overall, the audit found that construction was being conducted according to requirements of the environmental management programme devised for the upgrading, and that the environmental impact of work at the upper and lower stations was "minimal and temporary".

More requirements of the programme were met, or partially met, at the upper station than at the lower, probably because the on-site environmental control officer spent more time at the top of the mountain.

The audit, which covered 102 conditions – 55 at the upper station and 46 at the lower – was undertaken by a team headed by John Raimondo, one of South Africa's most experienced and respected environmental scientists.

The only instance of non-compliance with requirements at the upper station was the lack of corrective action to resolve problems with the sewerage soakaway.

Non-compliance at the lower station included gas and fuel being stored in the same area; no boarding to prevent stockpiled material from spilling over a boundary fence; chemical drums being stored outside an approved area; waste water from a temporary concrete mixing area being discharged into a stormwater channel; and, a lack of suitable facilities to catch possible contaminated waste water in some areas.

Debbie Bonner, a member of the audit team, said the sewerage problem at the upper station could be remedied.

"But it's a question of timing. We felt they were taking too long," she said.

In spite of the infringements, the audit team did not believe the upgrading was causing any serious environmental impact, Ms Bonner said.

"On the whole, we felt the spirit and philosophy of environmental management was being applied quite rigorously and was being taken seriously."

Cableway Company managing director John Harrison said the company had "aimed high" with the programme.

"I believe the results show it's been a great success, particularly at the upper station," he said.

Johannesburg considered one of the world's greenest cities

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environmental Reporter

Despite being a concrete jungle of highrise apartment buildings, highways and industrial areas, Johannesburg is considered one of the greenest cities in the world.

Trees for Africa project coordinator Alan Sansom said this might not seem so because green areas in the city were so spread out, but the United Nations regarded Johannesburg as one of the healthiest cities on the globe because of its trees.

(56) Star 27/8/97
Sansom warned that this could soon change because of the rate of deforestation taking place in South Africa.

"But there is good news," he said. Attitudes among residents with regard to the environment was changing, and the demand for trees and seedlings for Arbor Day was increasing.

This year, National Arbor Day has been extended for a

week, starting on September 1.

According to Sansom, Trees for Africa has distributed 750 000 trees over the past seven years.

Two years ago there was a request for 28 000 trees and this year, requests for trees could be well in excess of 70 000.

"This year the theme for Arbor Week is to promote urban forestry. We want to take greenery back into our cities and

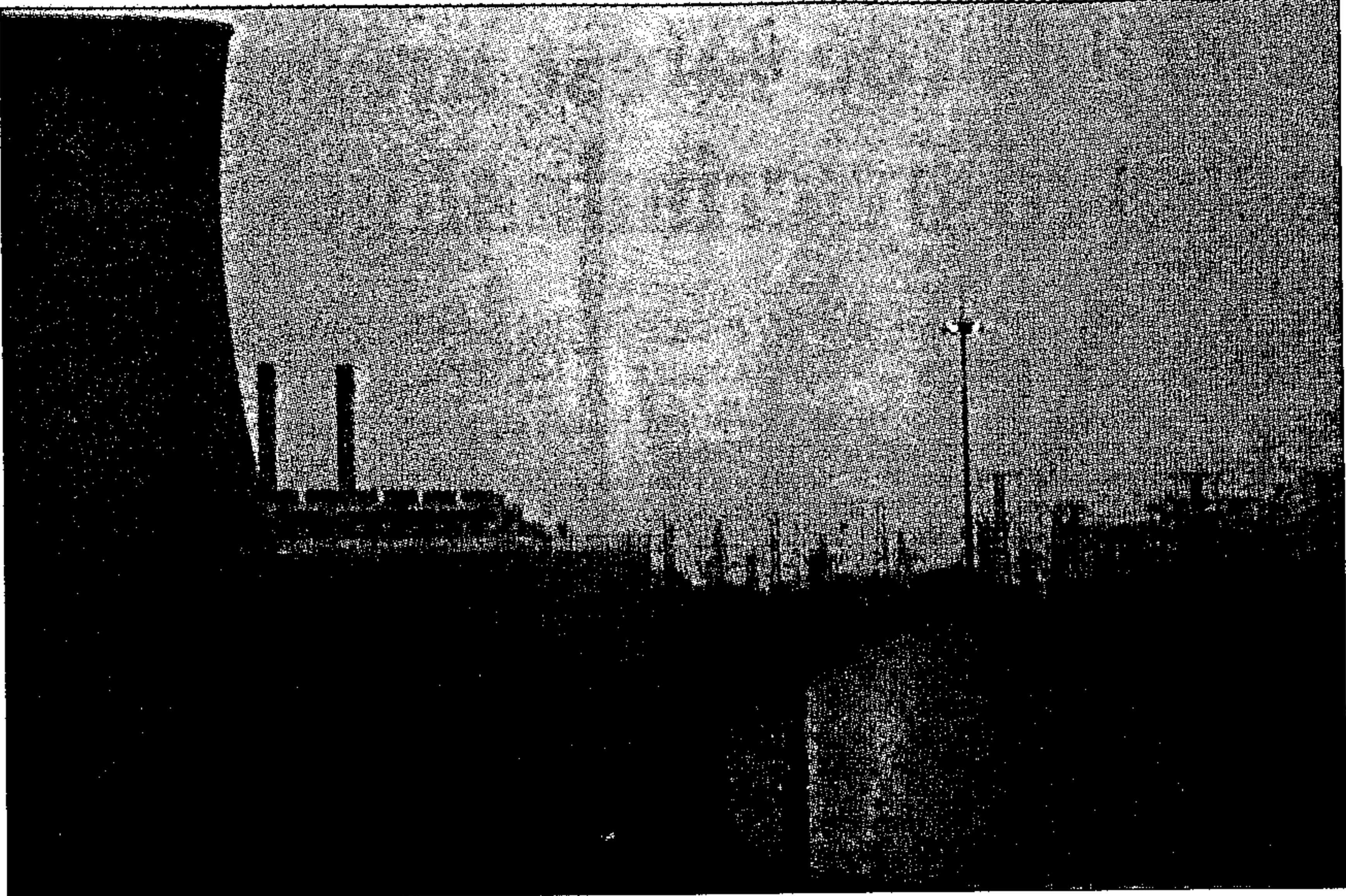
neighbourhoods. The whole theory behind this is that greenery actually has a positive affect on all aspects of our lives.

"Urban forestry experimentation in the United States and Europe has shown faster recovery times, higher productivity in green factories, even reduced crime rates and an improvement in neighbourhood spirit.

"These experiments were done in ghettos and underprivileged areas," Sansom said.

Arbor Week great time to plant seeds

THEMBA HADEBE



Breathe at your peril ... many Soweto residents could be suffering from respiratory ailments because of high pollution levels and smog.

Respiratory problems prevalent in Soweto

By **BONGIWE MLANGENI**

A recent study by Wits University's sociology department shows that 40% of Soweto's residents complain of respiratory problems. Soweto is estimated to have 1,4-million residents. The survey was commissioned by the transitional Soweto council in 1995 and released by the Southern council last week.

It found that about 51% of children under 5 and about 30% of men and women between 19 and 60 suffered from respiratory infections.

Nomhle Nkosi from Diep-

kloof Zone 3 said she always suspected that the mine dumps near her home were the cause of her lung problems.

"Like now - it is a dusty month and the council always promises to wet the mine dumps but this does not always happen. When the wind blows, the dust comes straight into our houses," she said.

Nkosi added that untarred roads in some areas added to the dust problem.

Dr Mohamed Darod from Koos Beukes Clinic in Soweto confirmed that many children and adults who come to the

clinic have respiratory problems. About one in five children treated daily at the clinic have asthma problems.

Darod could not confirm that the environment was the cause of the illness.

"We will need to analyse the air to be sure of the effects the environment plays in respiratory problems," he said.

However, Dr Michelle Wong, of Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital's respiratory department, said the smog that hovers above Soweto, especially in winter, could be linked to the problem, along with

cigarette smoking.

She said many adult residents come to the hospital with smoking-related diseases, and some children who are exposed to too much smoke also have breathing problems.

Pollution of the air through coal stoves persists, even though most parts of the township are electrified.

Reitshepile Mabunda said the "culture of making fire" would not die even if the entire township were electrified.

► **A picture of Soweto**
... Page 20

Concrete threat to Plett green belt

ci 28/8/99

(56)

FEARS THAT the Garden Route is being thrown to the wolves seem to be reinforced by a Plettenberg Bay council decision. Environment writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.



PLETTENBERG Bay residents, backed by greens, the local chamber of business and the tourism association, are furious about a proposed development right next to the pristine Robberg Nature Reserve, which they say slipped through because the town council bungled the application.

City clothing magnate Mr Aaron Searll is one of five directors of the development company, Robberg Beach End (Pty) Ltd, which plans to develop land residents say had previously been set aside as a green belt between the Robberg Nature Reserve and the rapidly growing town.

Now plush holiday homes are planned for the cliff top, slap-bang in the green belt, which residents say will be a visual "disaster" and conservation officials say will have a negative impact on the reserve.

There are 16 organisations fighting to halt the development, known as Robberg Beach End.

Chairwoman of the Plettenberg Business Chamber Ms Janet Harding said yesterday: "We're up in arms that this went through.

"It looks as if the whole thing was a bit shrouded in mystery so that there would be some confusion as to exactly where the development would be.

"This is not what Plett needs. We ran a survey three years ago to see how visitors rated Plett and the response was: 'Don't drown your jewel in concrete'."

This incident is the latest in a series of controversial developments which have angered residents, reinforcing the growing perception that local authorities are not protecting the Garden Route's unique features — its scenic beauty and sensitive natural environment — but are instead contributing to the region becoming known as the "Garbage Route".

Chairman of Plett's Tourism Association Mr Ivan Hope said: "It's the only green belt we have

and we're trying to protect it from huge developments.

"The houses will be right on the Robberg Peninsula. We know it's private property, but if it had gone through the correct procedures, it would never have been approved.

"Normally council lets us know if developments are happening on ecologically sensitive areas, but we were not told.

"I'm not a green fanatic, but whatever development happens here must be very well thought out. We don't need more buildings and hotels. We've got enough.

"People are already coming here and saying: 'I came to the Garden Route, but where's the garden?'"

"They expect a quaint little town and instead see humungous buildings.

"In December we get home owners coming here, but the rest of the year we get people who come for eco-tourism, for the forests, the mountains, the whales, the scenery.

"It will be a disaster if this development goes ahead. It will help destroy sustainable eco-tourism."

Residents say the development was approved without the council informing adjacent property owners about it — one of which is Cape Nature Conservation — and that the official notice advertising the development misled the public.

They say they were told the development would be adjacent to a local caravan site, but later discovered it would be adjacent to the nature reserve on the spectacular and environmentally sensitive Robberg Peninsula.

They also say they were not given the legal 21 days to lodge objections.

The development apparently contradicts conditions previously set by the town council when they approved the original subdivision application for the Robberg Beach

End development about three years ago.

These were that a green belt be left as buffer zone between the housing estate and the nature reserve and that there be no further subdivision of the property.

The new subdivision application, approved by the council in April this year, allows for both further subdivision and for houses to be built on the green belt.

Cape Nature Conservation officials say the green belt is essential to act as a buffer zone between the houses and the nature reserve, home to animals like lynx, bush-bush, blue duckler and small mammals like genets.

The buffer zone would prevent an ugly visual effect next to the reserve, and would allow for animal and plant migration between the reserve and the nearby Brakloof vleis.

The development is also in direct contravention of the recommendations made by UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit, which stated that the visual effects of the development should be subjected to a process of public consultation with the Plettenberg Bay community before council approved it.

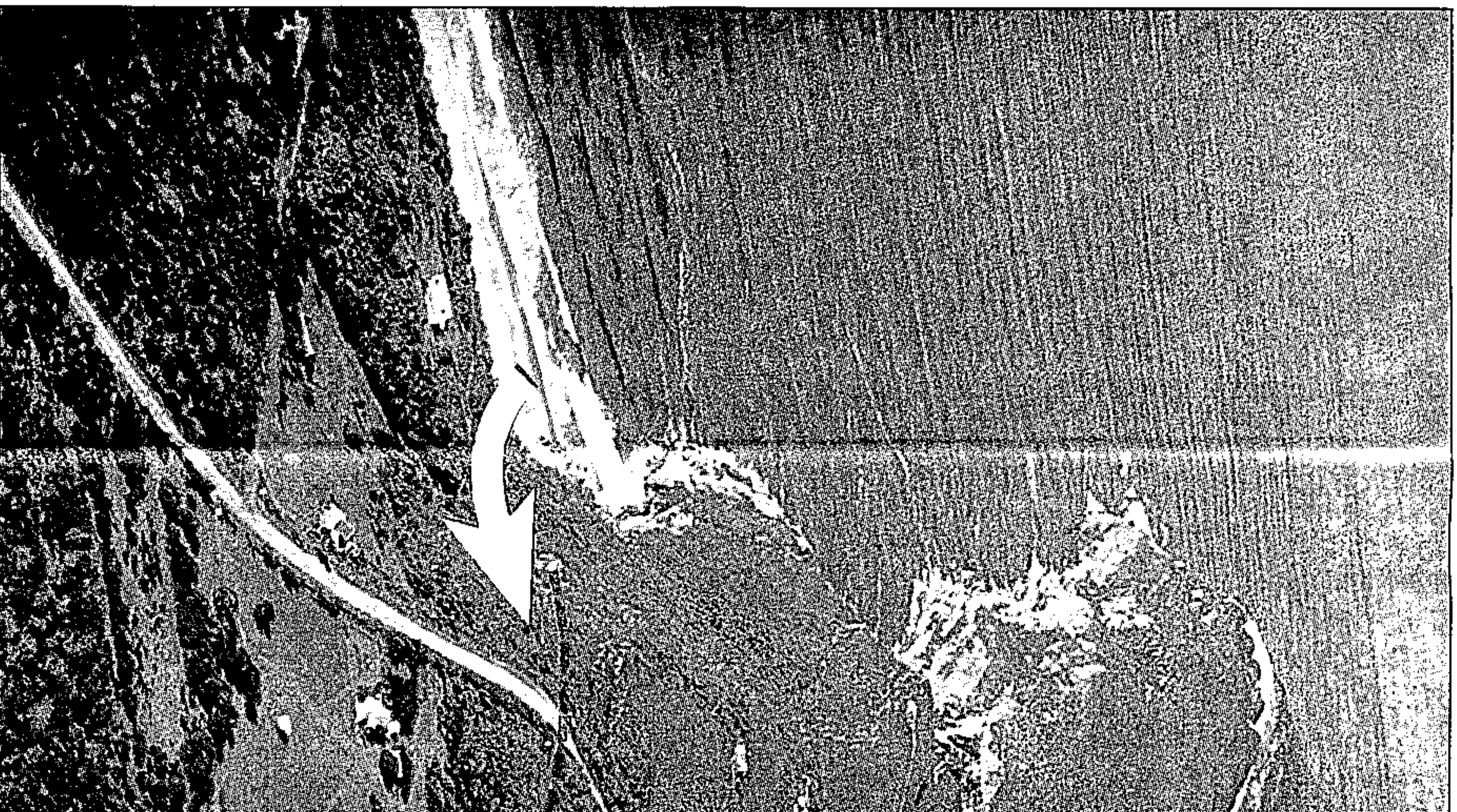
The directors of the development company are Mr Aaron Searll, Mr Lollie Meyerowitz, an advocate Mr P J de Bryn, Mr P Bader and Mr V Kleswetter.

The 16 organisations have written to the council objecting to the development and calling for it to rescind its decision.

Residents have also appealed to the minister of environment and say they will resort to court action if necessary.

Plett residents who spoke to the Cape Times said the Searll's three-storey house is the first in the Robberg Beach End development to have been completed, and described it as a "huge, pink wedding cake house which can be seen for miles".

Cape Nature Conservation, who confirmed they had never been informed of the development, have written to Provincial Planning Minister Mr Lamplie Hick to appeal against the council's decision. CNC's principal nature con-



NEW DEVELOPMENT: Plettenberg Bay residents are angry about the local town council's approval of a proposed development by Robberg Beach End (Pty) Ltd slap-bang on the boundary (shown in red) of the Robberg Nature Reserve on Robberg Peninsula, pictured above. They say the council bungled in its approval of the development application, as this area was set aside as a green belt where no development could take place.

vation scientist in George, Mr Gavin Hellström said: "This is very disturbing.

"When Robberg Beach End was approved years ago, it was negotiated that a large amount of green, open space would be left.

"We categorically stated that any further development of the property would affect the internally important Robberg Nature Reserve and that we would not under any circumstances support any further subdivision of the land.

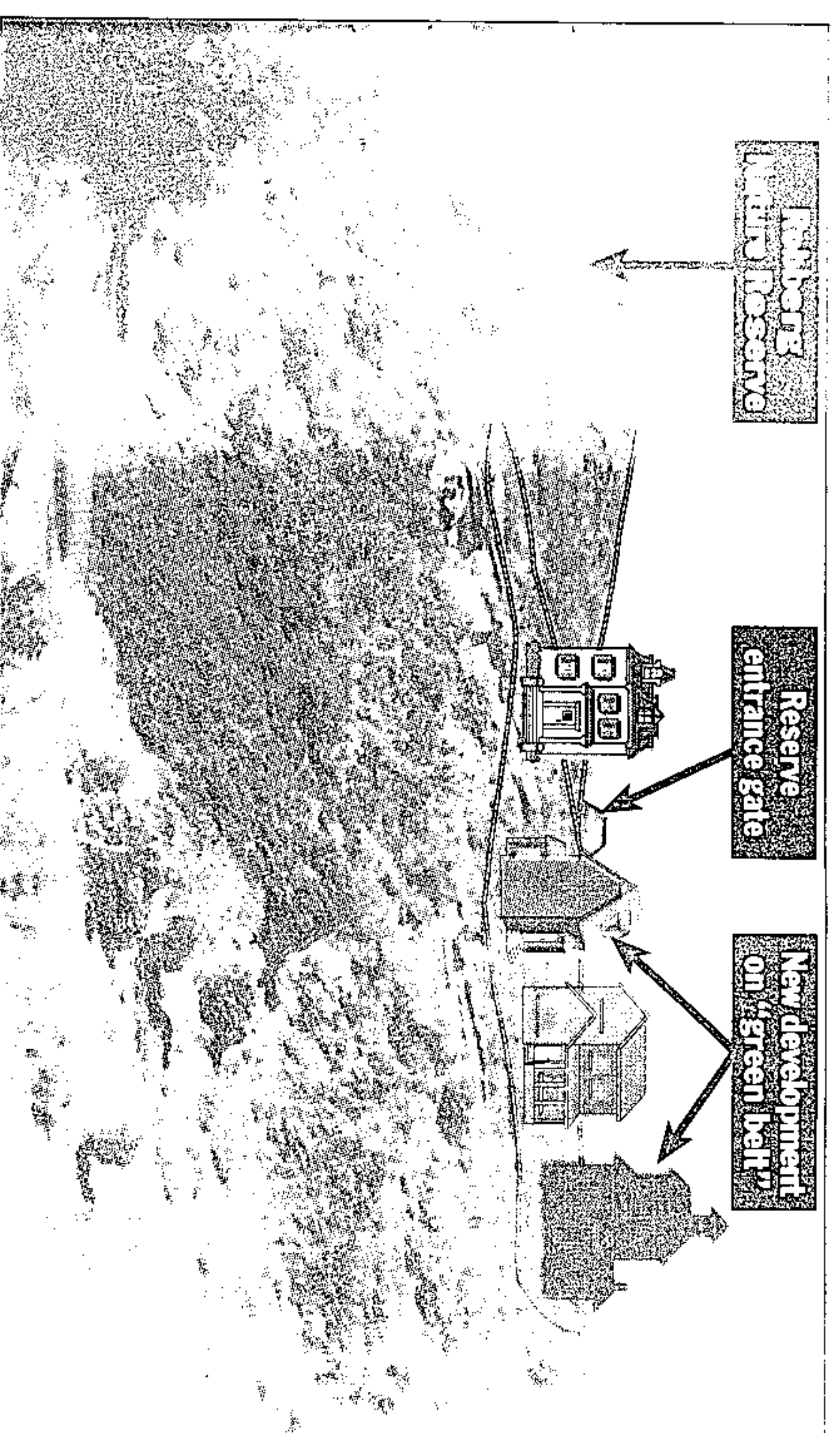
"Now the council has approved further subdivision on this green belt, and we as abutting land owners were not even informed," Hellström said. A spokesman for Hick's office

said yesterday they had not received Nature Conservation's letter, but when they did they would refer it to their officials for investigation.

The town council's lawyer Mr Paul Jordan said the council was obtaining senior legal counsel on the legal position in the matter. This would be ready by mid-September.

Asked if the new approval contradicted previous conditions set by council, Jordan said he could not say as he was still studying the documentation.

The Cape Times asked the developers and their lawyer to comment, but none of them has responded.



A VISUAL DISASTER: How Plettenberg Bay residents have described the new Robberg Beach End development. The town council approved on land next to the Robberg Nature Reserve. This artist's impression shows how the impact the houses will have on the skyline of the pristine Robberg Peninsula. Graphically illustrated by Mngamad Jacobs

Trade dept says priority is jobs, not environment

John Dlodlu

GOVERNMENT did not have the capacity or the resources to formulate a national policy on trade and environment, trade and industry department officials said at a recent conference held to discuss the subject.

According to a report prepared by the Foundation for Global Dialogue on the way forward, trade department officials told the seminar — jointly organised with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung — that the department was mandated, firstly, "to create employment, and not to protect the environment".

The issue of a link between trade and the environment is now beginning to gain immense prominence in international forums, almost in the same way as the subject

of trade and labour standards.

However, as in the latter case, developing nations are concerned about its use as a tool to deny them market access amid the general fall in tariff barriers.

The conference recommended that the department, co-operating with other state departments, should initiate the process of formulating a policy on trade and the environment.

The department would be assisted by the Braamfontein-based Trade and Industry Policy Secretariat.

The summary of recommendations said: "It is essential that a government department initiates and leads the process, despite bureaucratic and resource constraints. International funding and skills-building support can be accessed with the

BD 2818147

56

of the environmental

assistance community". Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa representative Di Soutter told the workshop that the "real problem is a lack of political will and understanding of environmental issues in the trade department".

The SA foreign affairs department's Cornelis van der Lugt said the subject of trade and environment had an essential character and therefore should be handled by his department.

Magda Shahin, an official of the Egyptian foreign ministry, called on developing nations to set their own standards and that negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) should be based on mutual recognition.

Pickers may have ^(B6) CT 5/9/97 major role to play

MELANIE GOSLING

THE Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on the Environment, who visited Vissers-hok hazardous waste dump this week, indicated that pickers might be formally incorporated into the waste management system.

The committee's visit was to get first-hand information on landfill sites before it deals with the Department of Environment's white paper on Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management, which comes before the committee next week.

Committee chairperson Ms Gwen Mahlangu said the committee needed information on what mechanisms existed to deal with waste.

Asked about the pickers on site, she replied: "At first we thought it should not be done. But after we heard more about them we understood. I, as a mother, know I would do anything to put food into my children's mouths.

"But if it's going to be done, it should be done properly. Those pickers were not wearing proper safety clothing. Some had no gloves, and we saw one woman who had cut herself. This is not the way to do it," Mahlangu said.

She said the committee was committed to recycling, and was trying to get Parliament to use recycled paper only.

The committee will hold public hearings on the white paper so those who still wish to make suggestions may do so.

New environment law CT 5/9/97 to include public opinion ⁽⁵⁶⁾

ENVIRONMENT WRITER

ENVIRONMENTAL impact assessments for a wide range of new developments will become compulsory by April 1, heralding a new era in South Africa's management of the environment.

The move has been welcomed by the environmental lobby who say at last the government will force developers to do what many have only done in response to public pressure.

Public participation will be an integral part of the environmental impact assessments (EIAs) which will give the person in the street a chance to have their say about proposed developments.

Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said yesterday that the new regulations, which will be gazetted today, would have major implications for industry, planners, developers and the authorities.

The complete list of activities that will need assessments will be included in

today's Government Gazette.

EIAs will be compulsory immediately for commercial power generation, nuclear installations, roads, railways, airports, harbours, marinas, casinos and resorts. Others will be phased in until April 1.

Housing developments will be excluded. However, all rezonings from agricultural or no-status zonings to residential will have to have an EIA.

Mining will be exempt until negotiations regarding "technical problems" between the Department of Environment and the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs are concluded.

Jordan said yesterday: "EIAs have been with us for quite some time, but they have never been compulsory in terms of the Environment Conservation Act and there have never been specific requirements or regulations in this regard.

"This is the most significant step in environmental impact management in the history of this country," Jordan said.

DANGEROUS, DIRTY WORK COVETED

Waste dumps provide a living for squatters

(56)

25/9/97

IT'S A SAD indictment of SA society that the unemployed and the poor, desperate to make a living, have to be kept at gunpoint from scavenging off rubbish dumps. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

ON top of Vissershok hazardous waste disposal site a man stands guard, shotgun over his shoulder. His job is to make sure no one but the chosen 40 squatters from the nearby shacks in the bush climb the dump to pick through the garbage for waste they can sell.

The butt of his shotgun is taped up. "It broke when I hit a man," Mr Bruce Nomnaba explained in Afrikaans. "He wasn't one of these people who are allowed to come to the dump to pick. He wouldn't leave so I had to hit him with the gun."

It is a sad indictment of South African society that the unemployed and the poor, desperate to make a living, have to be kept at gunpoint from scavenging off rubbish dumps.

It's dangerous, dirty work, but it is sought after. Pickers say they can make up to R100 a week from selling waste to a middleman. At Vissershok they refer to him as "Die Slaams", and it is he who pays Nomnaba to "ride shotgun" on the dump.

Mr Klass Goodman, a picker of many years, said he had come to the dump after he had tried everywhere else to find work. He scoffs at the dangers of the heavy trucks and bulldozers roaring by, and the chance of getting cut by smashed glass and ragged metal.

"As jy kophou, is dit maar oraait," he said. ("If you keep your wits about you, it's all right.")

The amount they earn depends on how hard they work and the type of waste dumped. They collect plastic, metal, paper and bottles.

"We get paid by the kilo," Goodman said. "Sometimes you can fill a lot of bags, sometimes a few. It's hard work, but it's a living."

Thousands of households in Cape Town's metropole contribute to the 60 000 cubic litres of rubbish this dump alone receives every month. At the pickers' feet are hundreds of jam tins, oil cans, wine bottles, milk cartons, piles of computer printouts, rolls of plastic and cloth, car tyres, gaskets, electric flex, cardboard boxes and a broken toaster, heater, computer keyboard, thermos flask and a garden chair. In between are rotting fruit and vegetables, and thousands of supermarket bags, plastic bottles and cooldrink cans.

At some formal dumps, pickers have been banned altogether, partly because of the dangers involved and partly because they hold up the work of bulldozers com-

pacting and covering the rubbish.

At others, like Vissershok, about 30km north of Cape Town, managers have reached a compromise, and pickers' access is controlled and limited to a manageable number.

Said Ms Mary Chettle, operations manager of Vissershok: "We don't encourage it because it's dangerous and hampers operations, but we try to work with the people. We've limited pickers to 40 on site, and they're all paid and controlled by one outside contractor."

On the illegal dumps that have sprung up all over the country, usually in the poorer areas, it is a free-for-all.

In a way waste-pickers, like the rubbish they sort through, are society's "waste people" — the ones outside the safety net of formal jobs, education and social services whom nobody wants. Yet they perform an important environmental function in recycling.

UCT's Environmental Advisory Unit (EAU), which has done research on waste-pickers over several years, is now lobbying the government to incorporate pickers into the formal waste management process.

The head of the project, Ms Farieda Khan, said yesterday: "The average South African is clueless about recycling at source, and the authorities have no regulations or mechanisms to enforce it, so the pickers are doing it at the dumps."

'The average South African is clueless about recycling at source, and the authorities have no regulations or mechanisms to enforce it, so the pickers are doing it at the dumps.' — UCT researcher Faried Khan

the pickers are doing it at the dumps.

"We're trying to alert decision-makers to waste-picking for survival. It's a practice in developing countries all over the world, and it's not going to go away. Picking is a legitimate part of waste management. They must look at it seriously and come up with humane and appropriate solutions to deal with it. Obviously the ultimate solution is development, but that's a long-term goal and things like waste-picking will continue until we've solved the big issues of unemployment, poverty and the lack of skills and social services," said Khan.

Some of the solutions are protective clothing for the pickers, and education about the dangers of picking up rotting food or discarded drugs. In 1993 pickers sold throat lozenges found at the dump to hawkers, who then sold them as sweets to school children. This resulted in mass food poisoning and the authorities threatened to close access to pickers.

The waste company then decided to

restrict access to a limited number of pickers, who had to be employed by an outside contractor. This led the EAU to hold workshops with the pickers to teach safer picking methods, and to write pamphlets and make an educational video on safe picking.

The final phase of the EAU's project is trying to integrate the pickers into the formal waste management process.

Said Khan: "The vast amounts and high quality of the material dumped by industry and households is a poor reflection on the high consumption, throwaway South African lifestyle."

"Without wishing to glamorise the plight of the pickers, we see that in the struggle for a better life and in their ingenuity in recycling and re-using the detritus of our affluent society, they give real meaning to the often empty green slogan of 'sustainable living'."



'GREEN' WORKERS: A picker at Vissershok waste disposal site shoulders a bag of plastic she has hauled out of the dump to sell for recycling, a practice researchers now want integrated into the formal waste-management system. **PICTURE: KARIN RETIEF**

Environmental impact studies to be compulsory

Jacob Dlamini

BD 5/9/97 (56)

CAPE TOWN — Government will introduce regulations today intended to force construction companies to undertake environmental impact assessments before beginning development.

The regulations, which could have far-reaching cost implications for business, will be based on a list of activities for which developers will be required by law to carry out the assessments.

Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba said the regulations would be phased in from now until April next year. The initial list would not cover mining as a result of a "technical problem". The final list would be more comprehensive.

He said provinces would be allowed to form panels of experts to advise them and to evaluate applications for permission to develop specific areas.

Mokaba called on developers to take note of environmental concerns.

Government was determined to bring every aspect of development under regulations and to encourage public participation in the environmental impact assessments.

Sapa reports that the environment department's director of environmental impact management, Wynand Fourie, said the assessments would become compulsory with immediate effect for a range of planned developments including commercial power generation, nuclear installations, roads, railways, airports, marinas, harbours and public and private resorts, including casinos.

From January 5 the regulations would cover structures associated with communications networks, structures for storing and testing explosives, concentration of livestock for commercial production, genetic manipulation and release of organisms for biological pest control. From March 2 they would apply to the manufacture or storage of hazardous substances, water-related developments such as canals and diversion of rivers, and sewage plants. On April 1 changes in land use, such as a change from residential to industrial, would be included.

Conservation college for region opens

(56)
Pearl Sebolao

BD 8/9/97
SA's first wildlife college, which will train the subcontinent's conservation managers, was opened on Friday in the Timbavati area on the boundary of the Kruger National Park.

The Southern African Wildlife College, run by SA's branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-SA), was developed in consultation with the wildlife sector of the Southern African Development Community, the local community and training organisations throughout the subcontinent.

The college was a milestone for conservation in the region and would provide a catalyst for changes within conservation in southern Africa, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said at the launch.

More holistic approaches to conservation, which involved the community and SA's neighbours, were needed for sustainable development, he said.

WWF-SA chief executive Ian Mac Donald said that as a regional initiative, the college was in a unique position to develop networking links with different organisations in the subcontinent.

"Among other things, we will collaborate with the Mweka College in Tanzania which is doing similar work," MacDonald said.

The construction of the college was made possible by a R25m grant from the German government, supplemented by grants from the Netherlands and Danish governments.



Rubbish dump ... the Jukskei River flowing through Alexandra has become heavily polluted as residents use it as a dumping site.

Education needed to ensure Jukskei River is saved

By MELANIE-ANN FARRIS
Environmental Reporter

STAR 9/9/99

The water of the Jukskei River, which flows through Alexandra township north of Johannesburg, is a potential killer to the half a million residents living along its banks.

The stench of rotting vegetation and raw sewage hangs in the air, yet the people living along the banks of the river seem oblivious to the lurking danger or the foul stench.

Phyllis Seokomo (28) is one such resident. She lives in a house that is little more than a two-metre wide shack crammed between hundreds of others.

The shack has no electricity, and the Seokomos have to share a communal tap and portable toilet with 10 other families. Sometimes the water to these communal taps are cut off for several days.

Almost 500 000 people are sar-

ved together on one square kilometre of land on the banks of the river.

Space is so limited it is almost impossible to negotiate your way between the shacks. Some of the shacks are precariously situated right on the river bank and are at risk of being washed away by the next floods.

Crime in the area is high and residents say it is not unusual to see bodies floating in the water at the end of each month.

Alexandra was initially meant to cope with a population of about 70 000 people, but this figure has more than tripled over the years.

Alexandra's resources are overburdened, not least so its sewerage system.

Raw waste constantly flows into the water, along with sewage from the portable toilets and other household waste which is dumped into the river.

It is also not uncommon to see the residents using the river as a toilet.

Young and old urinate and defecate into the water and every few minutes someone dumps a bucket of waste into the water.

Steps have been taken to involve community in clean-up

The banks of the river are also a minefield of debris, human and animal waste and even the bodies of large rats. Mangy-looking dogs scavenge among the mess, as small children play in the dirty river water. Residents are well aware that

dumping into the river is "breaking the law", but they have no alternative as existing waste removal systems in the township are inadequate to cope with the amount of waste generated on a daily basis.

The raw sewage flowing constantly into the river has contributed to its F-COLI count - an indication of the degree of contamination by human faeces in water - which can be as high as 6 000 000 counts for every 100ml of water.

An F-COLI count of 200/100ml of water is considered unsafe.

This has contributed to the Jukskei River's dubious title of the most polluted river in the country and a breeding pool for such diseases as diarrhoea and typhoid.

Several kilometres downstream from Alexandra the river winds its way through one of Johannesburg's

more affluent areas, Woodmead. Here the Jukskei's water is clear but the bacteria is still present, although to a lesser degree.

But, with the shortage of water in South Africa, the river could one day become a viable water source for all the residents of the country.

Predictions are that within the next 30 years South Africa will have used all its available water resources and will have joined the ever increasing number of water stressed countries in the world.

Authorities believe that the solution to the Jukskei River problem lies with education and the provision of proper housing and sanitation.

Steps have already been taken to involve the Alexandra community in clean-up operations to protect the river, but residents themselves admit that progress has been slow and that it is difficult to control dumping and pollution in the river.

Better late than never as tons of thirsty imports get the chop

Invading trees cut down and sold for a song while indigenous trees replace them

By SHIRLEY WOODGATE

The problem is," said nature conservationist Professor Willem van Riet, "that water in South Africa seems to be where the people aren't."

The prominent landscape architect was stressing at a Rand Water media conference at Golden Gate National Park last week that the bulk of the population had settled near harbours or around mineral fields, specifically during the Reef gold rush in the late 1880s.

In the past 40 years, politics had added to the problem by designating homelands for entire communities, creating new crises when they too ignored resources such as water and the vital link between watersheds

and population.

While most of the water was "made" in Lesotho, most of it was needed in Gauteng, a factor which highlighted the role of catchment areas and rivers feeding important dams such as the Vaal, Van Riet said.

But if bad planning caused the initial water supply problem, the invasion of tributaries of major rivers to the Vaal Dam by alien invaders from Australia and America, exacerbated it. Headed by black and silver wattle, poplars, gum trees,

and rampant pines and willows, the rampant imports thrived in their new surroundings, wiping out indigenous vegetation in their shade and each sucking up more than 200 litres of water daily.

Water in South Africa

seems to be where the people aren't

Today, as the prolific growers struggle the streams, they are also killing the golden goose itself, the life-giving water on which they thrive.

The problem which has arisen hundreds of kilometres away in the Upper Tugela and

Wilge catchment areas which supply water to Gauteng's Vaal River system, has been tackled by a three-way partnership between the Water Affairs Department, Rand Water which supplies bulk users on the Reef, and local communities.

The first step was to cut down and kill off the alien vegetation, mainly black wattle and poplars, employing workers equipped with pangas and sprays.

The next was to re-establish indigenous plants, which was why Van Riet and a handful of Rand Water executives celebrated Arbor Week by rolling up their sleeves and picked up spades to help launch the environmental conservation programme in the Lieberbergsvlei and Wilge River catchment



SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Local is lekker ... noted Pretoria University conservationist and canoeist professor Willem van Riet. He headed a team of Rand Water executives last week at the launch of an indigenous tree-planting programme in the Free State's Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

workers were women.

They were employed for between R24 and R75 a day to clear the watercourses some four hours drive from Gauteng, and 90% had never worked before.

All the wood which was cut down was sold to the local community for a song, R50 a ton. This in turn meant the people would not be forced to use valuable indigenous trees as firewood.

To the uninited, it all seems like too little too late, but don't tell that to the newly-employed.

And at Rand Water, which faces the task of supplying water to the ever-expanding economic hub of South Africa, they will reply: "Better late than never."

areas last week.

Rand Water water quality marketing manager Karl Lubout said that so far 200 jobs

had been created for the three-year project to replace the exotics with endemic stinkwoods, karees, Natal bottlebrushes,

Rus and Old Wood trees in the 3000ha target area. Field manager Linda Knuger said more than half the

Bid's environment legacy

Critical needs identified, policy framework on cards

INSIDE STORY

Unlike the deep, seemingly unbridgeable divisions in the local "green" community over the merits of the Mother City's unsuccessful bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games, there is broad consensus among them about the crucial environmental challenges of the future.

Top of the list for most conservationists is the need to deal effectively with poverty in the Cape Town metropolitan area.

"The greatest environmental problem of the city is the inability to provide for basic human needs," says Marlene Laros, the Wildlife & Environment Society's Western Cape conservation ecologist.

She points out that, of all Western Cape inhabitants who are still without access to basic water and sanitation supply, some 75% live within the metropolitan area. "Restructuring of the Cape metropolitan region is vital to address apartheid planning of the past and to make the city more affordable to the urban poor."

Peter Tomalin, the Cape Metropolitan Council's executive director, urbanisation and planning, also sees economic development – and hence the relief of poverty – as critical to the city's future environmental well-being.

"Poverty is a significant threat to the environment and we are not going to be able to wish it away. We have to face it as a reality as part of our environmental vision for the city," he says.

Closely linked to the alleviation of poverty and the socio-economic upliftment of the inhabitants of the metropolitan area is the urgent

The post-Olympic bid blues have left many CapeTownians wondering about the city's future. Today we focus on the environment in the second part of our series on where we are going and what is needed to achieve the dream of becoming a united city. JOHN YELD reports



need for substantially more low-cost housing.

But this brings its own particular environmental challenges: particularly the provision of land for housing through effective land-use planning in a way that does not threaten more of the metropolitan area's already dwindling natural areas. This is a major problem on the Cape Flats – the habitat of a unique and hence priceless biological heritage, but which is presently suffering from extreme conservation neglect.

"Conservation on the Cape Flats has to be the most important biodiversity crisis at hand," Ms Laros stresses.

The destruction of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas is also of major con-

cern, and effective planning is essential to maintain the integrity of the city and prevent further urban sprawl.

Fortunately, the groundwork has already been done and the necessary principles and policies have been formulated in the form of the Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework document. The MSDF was workshopped over a considerable time and in a wide variety of forums before being finalised. Its wide acceptance is its major strength, says Mr Tomalin.

"The MSDF has considerable, if not enormous, moral weight. Very few decisions of metropolitan significance are taken without reference to it ... notwithstanding the fact that it is not yet a statutory document".

Mr Tomalin says the present Government subsidy regime for low-cost housing only produces site-and-service schemes, and that this process is very wasteful of land.

"We are increasing densities, but low-cost housing is still consuming large quantities of land which we haven't really got to spare. We cannot just roll out another Khayelitsha for another 250 000 people, and the MSDF is challenging the way we set about providing new low-cost housing."

Another critical environmental need in the metropolitan area is for a common environmental policy to which all local authorities can subscribe, says Ms Laros. "This, together with an Environmental Management System and strategy for implementation, is the most important

task of the new metropolitan managers."

Fortunately, that process is already underway. Mr Tomalin points out that the Cape Metropolitan Council has already commissioned an environmental policy framework for the city from the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit. A first draft is being considered by the CMC and will then be referred to the municipalities for comment.

The bid process, although unsuccessful, can serve the metropolitan area's future environmental conservation in a meaningful way. This is the view of Mary-Jane Morris, head of the environmental department of the Cape Town Olympic Bid Company.

"Many principles have been developed through the bid process and a lot of experience has been gained," she says.

"For example, we had environmental specification in our contract tender documentation, which was the first time provincial tender documentation had an environmental requirement.

"Also, we've developed environmental criteria for the architects and engineers who were involved in the design of projects."

She believes local authorities should now apply these criteria when approving new development projects.

"So what we would hope to see are those kind of legacies being retained.

"We always argued that winning the bid was a catalyst, a focal point, an energiser. It wasn't the answer for every problem we have."

To the point:



New map focuses on W Cape's own park

MYRNA ROBINS
FEATURES WRITER

Argus 10/9/99

(66)

A magnificent new map of Cape Town and the Peninsula that incorporates a wealth of information on recreational opportunities in the new Cape Peninsula National Park has just been released.

While tourists will snap them up, they make excellent reference tools for locals too. And, even better, they are free.

It is the brainchild of Fiona Hinds, who was involved with the production of the well-known Midlands Meander in KwaZulu-Natal.

For about 16 months she has been researching, planning and producing the new map and Cape Mountain Meanders route.

On her return to Cape Town last year Fiona noted that while we have wine, art and museum routes, there was a lack of comprehensive information on the routes for recreational outings on the mountain chain.

The large illustrated map marks major roads across the Peninsula as well as shipwrecks, lighthouses and a detailed list of points of interest.

A numerical key marks the position of more than 50 places of interest, ranging from museums to factory shops, art studios to restaurants, jazz cafes to hotels.

Readers will find details of day hikes, environmental education facilities, where activities like mountain biking and horse riding are available and where picnic fires are allowed.

There are also safety tips for travellers and a list of emergency telephone numbers.

The descriptive history of the region is augmented by details on the kramats, fynbos vegetation, whales which visit our coast and protected penguins.

Advertisers who have taken space on the reverse side present a mix of places to stay, restaurants, cruise companies, museums and art studios.

Of the 100 000 maps printed, most will be obtainable from tourist offices and from the venues included on the map.

Groups of visitors will receive one free map while additional copies will cost R5 each.

Fiona also has several thousand maps that are slightly imperfect - they may, for example, contain a small ink run - which she is going to distribute among schools across the Peninsula.

The map will be officially launched, with its web site on the Internet, at the Waterfront aquarium on Monday.



JACK LESLIE/PA
Mountain meandering: Fiona Hinds has worked hard on her first Cape project, a map of the city and Peninsula

Pollution, waste policy focuses on prevention

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The environment affairs department released a draft white paper on pollution and waste management yesterday which proposes a "paradigm shift" in how SA deals with the two issues.

Government intended to shift its policy focus from control of pollution and waste to prevention, deputy director of environmental pollution Pinus Joubert told Parliament's environmental affairs and tourism committee.

This would be linked to a move from the fragmented dealing with waste and pollution by various institutions and levels of government, to a more streamlined system under the department's auspices, Joubert said.

The draft white paper will be presented for comment to Deputy Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba today, and then to provincial MECs.

The department hopes to present the final draft to the cabinet next month.

Joubert said the main goal of the policy would be to "create an effective, adequately resourced and harmonised institutional framework and an integrated legislative system, and build institutional capacity. If that does not happen, nothing is going to happen."

The department had therefore decided to implement a separate national waste management strategy as well as a capacity building programme, to overcome the lack of expertise in local and provincial government.

The department had set aside R10m for the waste management strategy and R14m for the capacity building programme, both of which would run over the next two years.

The department needed to act quickly if the intended policy paradigm shift on "integrated pollution and waste management in SA" was to succeed.

Joubert said the department was "under-budgeted" and would have to rely on the committee to help it get necessary funds for the policy. The department had not yet worked out the implementation costs because it had first had to work out the new policy, but "now we can tackle that", Joubert said.

Other goals of the proposed new policy were to:

- Promote pollution and waste minimisation at source, manage and minimise the impact of unavoidable waste and pollution, and ensure the remediation of polluted environments;
- Establish mechanisms and processes to ensure effective public participation in integrated pollution management governance;
- Promote the education and empowerment of SA's people in regard to integrated pollution management;
- Develop and maintain databases to increase and ensure effective management of pollution and waste information, and increase public access to such information; and,
- Develop mechanisms to deal effectively and in the national interest with international issues affecting pollution and waste.

(56) PND 11/9/97

Chloorkop allowed nonhazardous waste

BD 11/9/97 (56)

Josey Ballenger

THE long-dormant R15m Chloorkop waste disposal site would be commissioned next month after the Gauteng government's decision to accept nonhazardous refuse at the site, waste management company EnviroServ Holdings said yesterday.

Originally planned by Waste-tech to handle both hazardous and nonhazardous materials, the site has been the subject of a five-year tussle between the Khayalami

metropolitan council and two of its three substructures, the provincial townships advisory board, the citizen-based Toxic Dump Action Group and Waste-tech, now owned by EnviroServ.

Gauteng development planning and local government MEC Sicelo Shiceka ended the row by partially upholding the township board's ruling that EnviroServ could open the site, EnviroServ communications facilitator Brian Gibson said. However, Shiceka ruled the site could be used only

for nonhazardous refuse.

Gibson said although Waste-tech had undertaken an environmental impact assessment on the dump site "from a technical perspective, no attention was paid to the public involvement side" prior to initial construction in 1992.

EnviroServ said an agreement between itself and the Khayalami council stated that 75% of the dump's capacity would be used for municipal waste, with the remainder for materials from EnviroServ customers.

Army base on old asbestos mine contaminated

Andy Duffy

The base created for 32 Battalion, the notorious army unit that fought on the frontline of South Africa's dirty wars in Angola and Namibia, is to be closed amid fears that it is a potential death trap.

The army said this week that Pomfret military base, home to nearly 5 000 soldiers and their families, was heavily contaminated with lethal dust and fibres from the asbestos mine which once occupied the site.

The camp, in North West province on the border with Botswana, was built in 1989 especially for 32 Battalion after its troops withdrew from the Caprivi Strip following years of fighting against liberation movements beyond South Africa's borders.

Consultants have been quietly investigating the extent of the conta-

mination since February. They are due to report to the Public Works Department, which is responsible for the site, on September 25. But the army said the Ministry of Defence has already ordered the base shut. The 2 SA Infantry Battalion, which now occupies Pomfret, will be shifted to the nearby Zeerust base.

"The defence force is very concerned about the situation," said army representative Major Merle Meyer. "We were given guarantees that the site was safe and now it's not safe. We have to move them."

The fate of hundreds of civilians, many of them families of former 32 Battalion members, remains unclear. "We can't look after all of them," Meyer added. "It's not our responsibility either."

Community forums would be established to discuss the closure, she said, once North West Premier Poppo Molefe had announced it officially.

Pomfret's base commander was unavailable for comment, but Meyer said medical tests had so far found no cases of asbestos-related disease on the base. The question of liability or possible negligence had also still to be resolved, she said.

Meyer added that "No cases of asbestos contamination have been reported to date, via the normal South African National Defence Force channel or in any interim reports from the consultants. This can be attributed to the special care that was taken as soon as the environmental problems surfaced."

But consultants on the project, speaking on condition of anonymity, said asbestos fibres littered roads around the area. Pomfret's parade ground, living quarters and even the base's school playground. The consultants had worn protective masks during their work — a move that bemused troops living on the base.

A preliminary report, produced by one consultant earlier this year, also notes that "an overall study of the area indicates the long-term potential for disaster".

"The risks to all parties involved in the Pomfret base are potentially very high both in the areas of health risk and litigation."

"The obvious risks from living on or around an asbestos mine are high because of the nature of the mineral and the long and short-term exposure to loose fibres that are clearly contaminating the area." The two most common asbestos-related diseases, asbestosis and mesothelioma, can also take years to develop.

Several members of the battalion joined the infamous Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), while others went on to form the mercenary outfit Executive Outcomes. In 1993, 32 Battalion and 31 Battalion, which shared Pomfret base, were disbanded,

with many of the troops joining other units across South Africa.

Some, however, stayed on at Pomfret, as part of the 2 SA Infantry Battalion — a motorised infantry unit that also includes former MK and Apla troops. The site had been owned by listed company Griqualand Finance & Exploration Company (Gefco). The mine had once been Gefco's largest, producing blue asbestos — a product now banned in countries such as France — before the company sold it to the Department of Public Works in 1988.

Gefco chairman Pat Hart said this week that the company had met stringent government requirements to clean up the site before the sale was approved. Meyer said the army had monitored the site since the base was built, but that Gefco's efforts had been overturned by a combination of poor weather and constant trampling by base personnel.

"It was a natural process," she said. Hart disputes this, saying Gefco's work, including grassing over the mine's dumps, was to a standard designed to last "forever".

AMTG 12/9/97-18/9/97 (56)

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MTG 12-18/9/97

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"The risks to all parties involved in the Pomfret base are potentially very high both in the areas of health risk and litigation.

"The obvious risks from living on or around an asbestos mine are high because of the nature of the mineral and the long- and short-term exposure to loose fibres that are clearly contaminating the area." The two most common asbestos-related diseases, asbestosis and mesothelioma, can also take years to develop.

Several members of the battalion joined the infamous Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), while others went on to form the mercenary outfit Executive Outcomes. In 1993, 32 Battalion and 31 Battalion, which shared Pomfret base, were disbanded,

with many of the troops joining other units across South Africa.

Some, however, stayed on at Pomfret, as part of the 2 SA Infantry Battalion — a motorised infantry unit that also includes former MK and Apla troops. The site had been owned by listed company Griguard Finance & Exploration Company (Gefco). The mine had once been Gefco's largest, producing blue asbestos — a product now banned in countries such as France — before the company sold it to the Department of Public Works in 1988.

Gefco chairman Pat Hart said this week that the company had met stringent government requirements to clean up the site before the sale was approved. Meyer said the army had monitored the site since the base was built, but that Gefco's efforts had been overturned by a combination of poor weather and constant trampling by base personnel.

"It was a natural process," she said. Hart disputes this, saying Gefco's work, including grassing over the mine's dumps, was to a standard designed to last "forever".

UNLEADED PETROL

(56)
FM 12/9/97**Time for a price rethink**

Oil industry frets as consumption stagnates at 9% level

The oil industry is pressing government to increase the 4c/l price differential between unleaded and leaded petrol.

Already R300m has been spent on special pumps, storage and distribution facilities for unleaded petrol — and the industry is seeing scant return on investment. Initially estimated to grab 20% of the market within two years, sales of unleaded are still hovering at a mere 9% of total petrol sales since its introduction in May 1996.

SA Petroleum Industry Association (Sapia) director Colin McClelland says: "We originally asked for a 5% pump price differential to encourage sales — which boils down to about 11c/l at the current 220c/l price. This was subsequently toned down to about 2%. Had the 5% differential been introduced, we might have seen a 30% market penetration by now."

The introduction of unleaded fuel followed powerful lobbying by the motor industry, which felt it was being left behind global trends. With unleaded already being subsidised to the tune of R164m/year, government is wary of committing itself to even higher tax subsidies for a product few consumers seem to want.

Department of Mineral & Energy Affairs

director of transport energy Theuns Burger says: "We are looking at two other possibilities to help unleaded sales. One is to increase the current 91 octane rating and the other is a massive product boost by the oil and vehicle manufacturing industries."

Sapia still feels a drop in price is the best bet. "Our original agreement with government was that the price differential be reviewed within the first year, should a 15% minimum sales penetration target not be reached," says McClelland. "With sales stagnating at the 9% level, there is now a need for an increased price differential to reach the targeted 20% penetration."

Government is not totally averse to the option. In a communication to the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA, Mineral & Energy Affairs says "the

department is in principle not opposed to an increase in the tax differential, and therefore price differential, to promote the market penetration of unleaded petrol, nor is it indifferent to any distribution problems the industry may experience because of the lower than expected market penetration."

The department notes that unleaded petrol appears to be best accepted in "the more affluent areas." It says increasing the price differential could have the effect of "further increasing penetration in affluent regions, without solving the problems in the less affluent regions."

Burger says "about 80%" of all SA's motor vehicles could use unleaded without major engine modification. "But the problem is mainly one of negative perceptions."

Arnold van Huyssteen

HEDGE FUND SYMPOSIUM

A must for the upwardly mobile

Who's the typical hedge fund investor? Fabio Pellanda, senior vice-president of Switzerland-based Banque Franck, says his clients are generally upwardly mobile and income-rich, working towards establishing capital. The days of hedge funds being the preserve of aristocrats or "capital-rich industrialists of retirement age" are long gone.

Pellanda is one of the speakers at the

FM International Hedge Fund Symposium on November 19-20. "Clients have become interested in our ability to develop noncorrelated investments. Whereas it is difficult for us to justify the allocation of single hedge fund investments, it has become acceptable for us to weave multi-adviser investment components into a balanced portfolio."

The FM International Hedge Fund Symposium takes place at Gallagher Estate, Midrand. For details or to book, contact Global Conferences tollfree on 0800-222858, or contact the special website on:

www.hedgeconference.co.za ■

Plea for 'paradigm shift' in waste area

BD 12/9/97
Josey Ballenger

PRETORIA — Local government officials needed to undergo a "paradigm shift" to accept that community-based waste management systems were viable, the nation's largest waste and litter nongovernmental organisation said at an international health and environment conference earlier this week.

"The 'green' environment in SA has had millions invested in it in the past few years, but the 'brown' environment — housing, water, sanitation, energy and waste management — is even bigger," said Raymond Byrne of Keep SA Beautiful Association.

Byrne said community-based waste management had proven successful in 40 communities throughout the country through a R12m Clean & Green Campaign fund supported by government, business and Keep SA Beautiful.

The public works department had given R10m in reconstruction and development funding in the past two years, and SA Breweries had given R2m towards the organisation's costs, Byrne said. Government was considering tripling the funding in the 1998/99 budget "because of the project's success".

The community-based system had locally elected members collect domestic and business refuse in their respective zones and take it to a central area for collection. Transport was contracted out to a private company. The system included an environmental education programme.

"This is not a top-down approach. They (communities) decide who takes part, who works and who benefits from the system," Byrne said.

Byrne said the programme had so far affected 147 000 households — "90% of which previously had not a single waste collection system" — and had created 650 local jobs.

He said the programme should be linked to Masakhane "to encourage the culture of payment".

Holiday ends for white 'squatters'

(56 (2007))
CHARL DE VILLIERS

ST 14/9/97

DECADES of free holiday-making may be over for a handful of Namaqualand whites — including former "Kubus King" Adriaan Nieuwoudt — who are being investigated for illegal squatting on state land earmarked for a new national park.

The National Parks Board says the new park has been delayed for more than two years because the "squatters" have refused to demolish their holiday homes. They are now being investigated by a special unit headed by Mr Justice Willem Heath.

The unit has served 54 eviction notices on the "squatters" occupying state land at the mouth of the Groen River, about 350km north of Cape Town.

"We believe they have no right to be there," Peet Nel, a lawyer with the unit, said on Thursday.

But this has been disputed by the shack-owners, who will be appearing before a special tribunal on Tuesday to argue their claim to the land, their attorney, Tobie Lerm, said.

The parks board, De Beers Namaqualand Mines and local communities have been involved in years of sensitive negotiations to set up a 38 000ha park along a 47km stretch of coastline between Spoeg River and Island Point in central Namaqualand.

The board's Dr Anthony Hall-Martin said the proposed park spanned some of the most pristine territory on the Namaqualand diamond coast.

Outstanding features included the only permanent estuary in the area, unique marine biology and one of the world's most species-rich arid zones.

Tourism and initiatives such as the proposed park offer hope for the about 15 000 rural villagers in the area.

The local fishing industry has effectively collapsed and stock-farming provides a meagre, subsistence existence for the descendants of the region's San inhabitants.

State buildings go ecofriendly

Josey Ballenger

BD 15/9/97

(56)

WHAT is made of bricks and mortar and is green all over? The Union Buildings — or possibly all of the president's offices and residences, if environmentalists have their way.

Three central government departments, in consultation with international organisations, are conducting an environmental audit of the seat of government — or at least President Nelson Mandela's office, and possibly his official homes in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

This would be SA's highest-profile undertaking of this nature to date, just as the "greening" of the White House, and later the Pentagon, were the US hallmarks for energy efficiency and waste-reduction campaigners.

Following US President Bill Clinton's promise on Earth Day in 1993, the White House fitted its windows with double-paned glass, replaced old table lamps with compact fluorescent ones, upgraded its exterior lighting, installed an energy-efficient refrigerator, intensified its recycling and composting efforts and upgraded its heat-

ing, ventilation and air conditioning system.

An official from the SA president's office has met the environmental affairs and tourism, public works, and water affairs and forestry departments — along with the International Institute for Energy Conservation, housed at SA's minerals and energy department, and the US's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — to discuss similar initiatives.

Government could undertake such a programme under Green Buildings for Africa, launched last year by the EPA to reduce global emissions.

Howard Benkenstein of the environmental affairs department said another possibility was ISO 14 001 certification, an internationally recognised environmental management system standard. A third possibility was the public works department's shared energy savings programme, by which a contractor makes improvements at its own expense and splits the savings with the department, which owns the Union Buildings.

The environmental affairs department was evaluating options, he said.

Environment law avoids damage control

WHILE SA's new regulations regarding environmental impact assessments (EIA) have won support from developers and environmentalists alike on cost-effective grounds, some are concerned that government "undercapacity" could bog down development, particularly for small businesses — and that assessment could be a wasted exercise if there is no follow-up surveillance.

Between now and April 1, the regulations will be phased in to cover all businesses proposing "activities which may have a substantial detrimental effect on the environment". They will be required to undertake scoping studies and, when warranted, full-blown assessment. The environmental affairs and tourism department has designated provincial governments to administer the application process "within a reasonable", unspecified, time.

On the cost-savings side, sources said assessment would be beneficial to business in the long-run. "Many developers will grumble that this is another bureaucratic step, but in reality many of them are (later) satisfied that they went through this process and ended up with a better project," said Lloyd Wright, Africa director for the International Institute for Energy Conservation (IIEC).

Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa (IEF) manager Karin Ireton said while assessment could account for as much as 6% of a project's total cost, greater costs could be incurred by neglecting the assessment process. "If you don't undertake assessment, (other) costs come from delays caused by conflict (with local communities or authorities), and some projects are abandoned," she said. Assessment involves the public participation of those people directly affected or employed by a project.

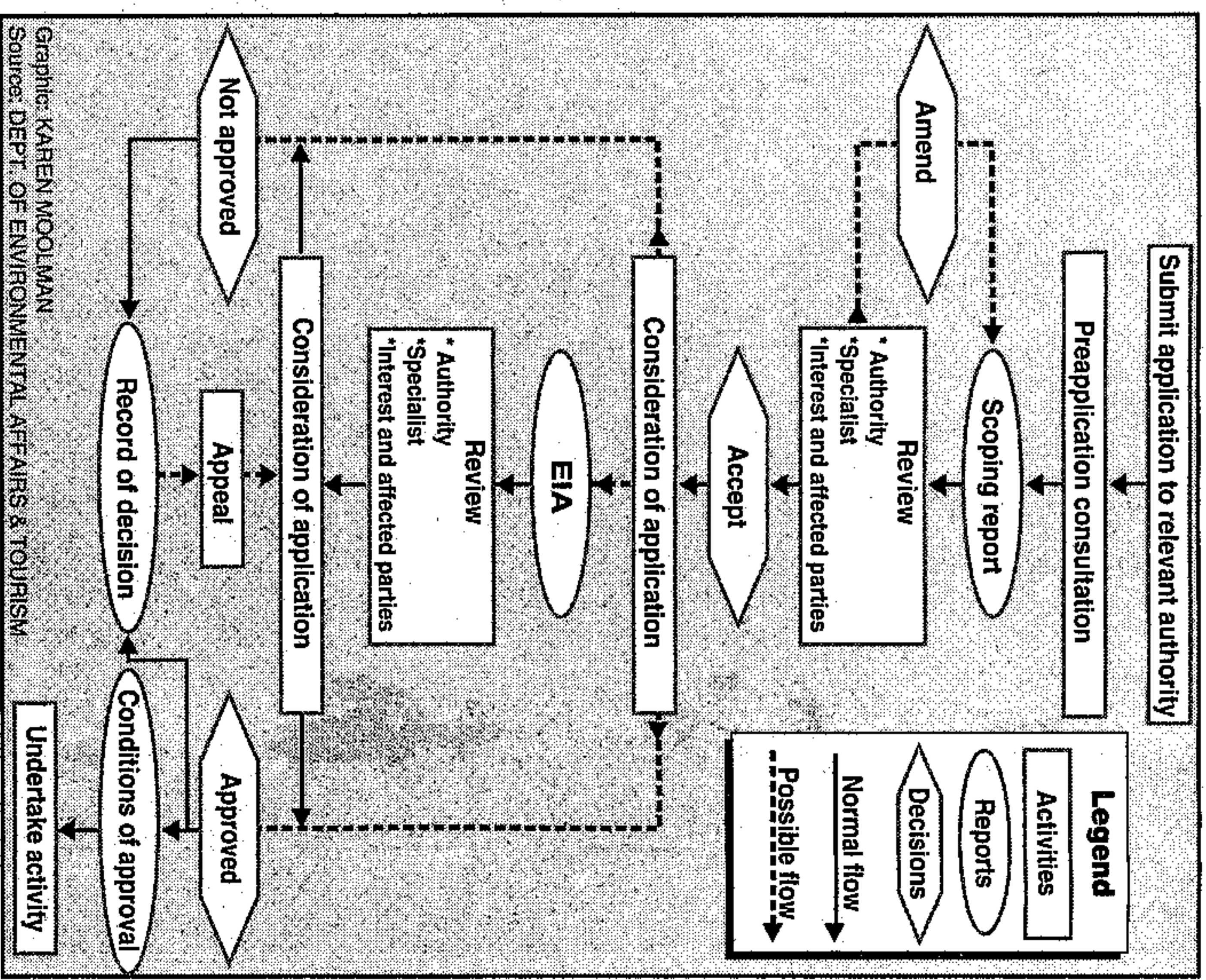
"Furthermore, they help businesses choose the right plant design and location — and if you get those right, you certainly improve your chances of being a good environmental performer later in the project."

Wyand Fourie, the environmental affairs department's environmental impact management director, said assessment were "one way to force you to do proper planning. It is much cheaper to avoid negative effects beforehand than to become aware of them at a later stage and mitigate them once your plan is finalised, so it is not going to have a

BD 16/9/97

(56)

EIA application procedure (abridged)



negative cost impact. Also, the money spent on assessment is a minimal percentage of your total project costs. It depends on the environment and type of activity, but quite often it is less than 2%."

He said SA was "long overdue" for such regulations, as assessments were already mandatory in Canada, the US, several Asian and Latin American countries and throughout the European Union.

Wright said another advantage of assessment — though less applicable to SA than the litigious US — was that businesses could use them to avoid potential lawsuits. And Gerhard Süßmann, MD of GS Business Consulting and formerly financial director of Siemens in southern Africa, noted: "If you don't do an assessment, the profit out of selling a business could be gone because (the seller) would (first) need to remedy the mistakes of the past." He also said assessments contributed to the economy by "opening new markets".

Those interviewed said large developments were unlikely to be deterred by the new regulations, noting several authorities, parastatals and large businesses had "for years" undertaken assessments in SA on a voluntary basis.

Eskom research manager Stephen Lennon, for instance, said the regulations' impact on the parastatal would be minimal because Eskom had done assessment for many years on major projects. However, the regulations could be a hindrance to small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

"The developer will have to pay for the assessment process, which will effect development costs. For smaller applications it might not be feasible," said Alida Kotzee, deputy executive manager of urban development for Khayalami Metropolitan Council. "We are concerned about that, because it might hamper what we foresee for the area."

Other concerns have cropped up about government's ability to handle the application process.

"We handle about 40 (development) applications every week for the region, and we are a small metro. You can imagine what they (provincial government) are going to have to handle," Kotzee said.

Ireton said that while the IEF, an association of about 50 major companies, "wholeheartedly" supported the principle of conducting assessments, it was concerned about the capacity of government "to deal efficiently with the volume of assessments timeously so delays do not occur for legitimate development."

She suggested the whole EIA process take place within 120 days, and supported Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba's suggestion that provinces could consult external

panels of experts. Wright noted the UK's regulations specified the period by which government must make a decision, "or it is automatically approved, so the project developer is protected".

Governments Fourie conceded: "We do have a capacity problem — that is one of the reasons we only now promulgated this legislation — but there has been widespread political support" to adopt regulations under the Environment Conservation Act of 1989. The gradual introduction of regulated activities was

intended to allow government time to shore up its resources. He said a timeframe for assessments "was not possible at this stage to stipulate" and would probably vary between provinces and would depend on the type of development and quality of the application. Some provinces such as Mpumalanga and Gauteng had officials who were environmental experts, while others would use consultants.

Experts said lack of follow-up could create little incentive for businesses to follow findings if a "cheaper", less environmentally sound alternative existed.

"One of the big knocks against assessments in a lot of countries is that it is more ceremonial: very few times are projects rejected, and there is insufficient capacity to monitor and evaluate," Wright said.

"Once a project gets approval, sometimes the findings of the assessment are forgotten. Developers will say they will monitor mitigating factors, but in most cases around the world they do something else. That situation becomes more difficult when you don't have the government resources to check up."

He said the Netherlands' programme was the world's most effective, as there were always checks on project implementation. Effective immediately, those activities requiring assessment include the construction or upgrading of commercial electricity facilities, nuclear reactors and installations, roads, railways, airfields, marinas, harbours, cableways, racing tracks and public or private resorts.

From January 5, the regulations will apply to communication structures other than telecommunication lines and cables, storage or disposal facilities for explosives or ammunition, areas with high concentrations of livestock, the husbandry of invasive species, biological pest control or genetic engineering.

Waterways, dams, reservoirs, sewage treatment plants and waste disposal sites will be affected from March 2, and from April 1, developments which would change land use — such as from residential to commercial use — will also be subject to the regulations.

Mine dust blows disease at school

(56)

Raincoats are the only protection schoolchildren in Meadowlands have from the clouds of dust that blow off a disused slimes dam, writes Ferial Haffajee

MTG 19-25/9/97

The children wear raincoats. Not to keep out the rain, but to ward off the dust. It blows and then settles everywhere. In the ceilings, on the rose-bushes — and in the lungs.

Zones 7 and 11 of Meadowlands in Soweto are built a stones-throw from a grey and imposing disused slimes dam, said to be responsible for severe respiratory illness. Local authorities also warn that radioactive gases from the site, owned by Randgold's Durban Roodepoort Deep mine, pose a long-term health risk.

Living in the shadow of the dump means the area is always dusty, but in the windy months, Meadowlands wouldn't look out of place on the volcanic island of Montserrat.

Between July and September, the wind whips and twirls the dust, making the area so dark that drivers turn on their headlights at midday and the Maroeroe lower primary school is often dismissed by 9am because learning is impossible when you cannot see much and even less, breathe.

For teacher Seipati Tau, the link between dump and disease is obvious. "The children cough a lot. They get hoarse. Their eyes are red. Sometimes they're not at school for two weeks. They have chest problems," she says.

"I've been here for 15 years and the dump's been here for 15 years," says Tau. The dust gets in the way of the school's Masakhane revitalisation plan: it is a poor but immaculate school, newly painted with rose bushes braving the grime. The school's front door is boarded shut, its crevices stuffed with newspaper.

The school caretaker David Moloi sits outside his home in the school grounds. He's putting together 14 new brooms. Moloi uses more than 100 brooms a year, fighting a losing battle with the dust which has caused the collapse of the ceiling in his living quarters. "I can't read because of the dust in my eyes. My chest, my voice is not clear. I'm a marathon man, now I can't run because of that dust."

On the other side of the dump, the managers of Durban Roodepoort Deep mine know they have to fix the problem. The mine's newly appointed metallurgical manager, Ken McVey, says they will begin ridge ploughing — a system which acts as a wind-break to keep dust down.

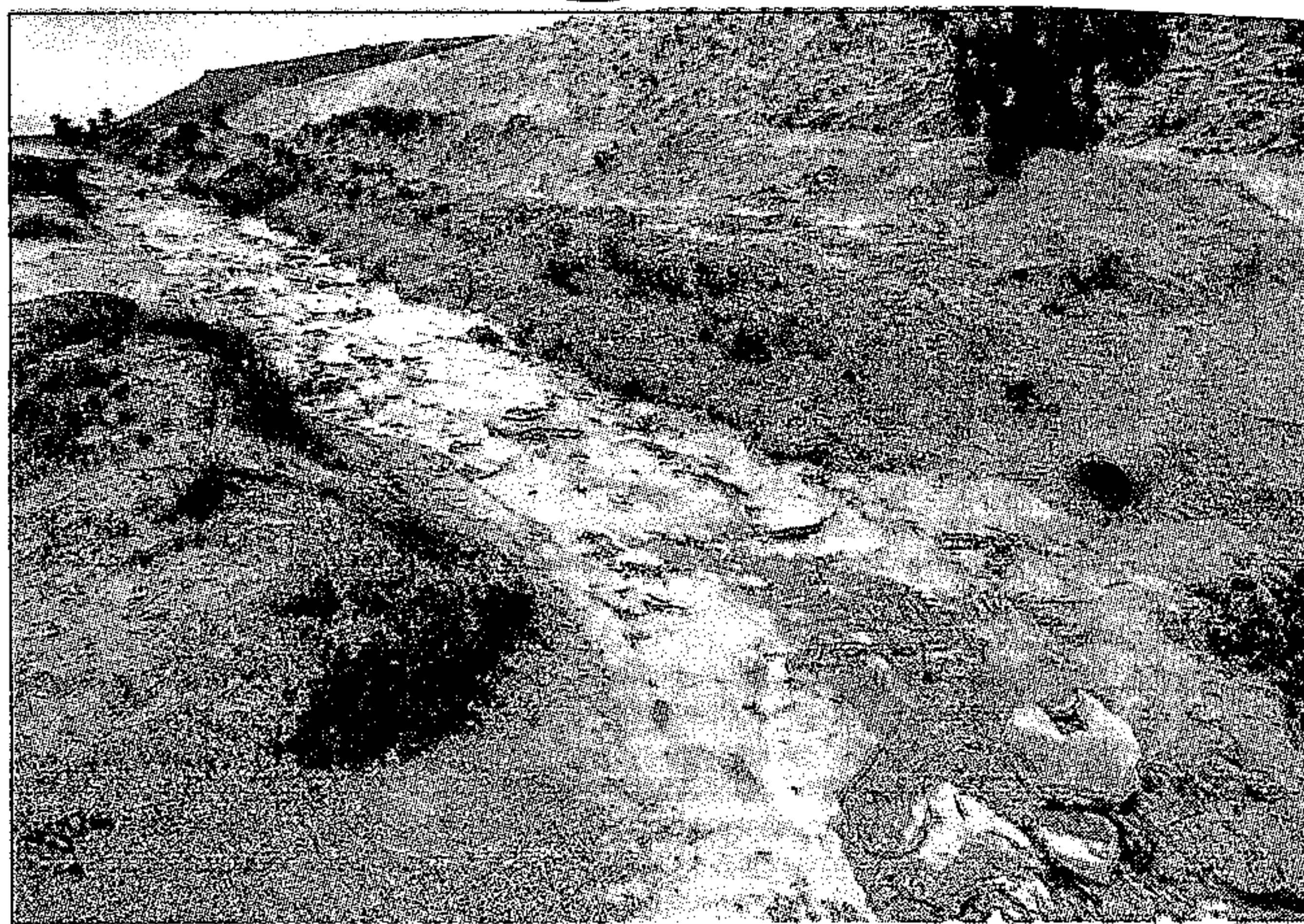
The dump must also be vegetated in the long-term, but that is going to cost half a million rands. While mining has brought great prosperity to many, the costs of rehabilitating after excavation are high and with South Africa's mining industry in decline, healing is not high on the agenda of many managers.

Durban Roodepoort Deep is losing about R5-million a month — this makes the company more sensitive to the recurring costs it says it has to incur when vandals repeatedly break the hoses which are meant to start sprinkling automatically when the wind blows. "I think lots of effort must go into educating the community and into looking at ways in which they can assist," says McVey.

The only study of the effects of the dump, the Annergan Environmental Report, found that the dust it emits "is significantly above the level at which most people can be exposed over a long period without any significant risk". Chronic bronchitis and obstructive lung diseases are common.

The Meadowlands Clinic warns that proper research needs to be done to identify what health risks the dump poses. A representative warns that the tail-end of winter is generally a time of greater respiratory and chest problems. Evodia Mabokela runs a spaza shop across the road from the dump. She often has to close her shop in the gusty months — but even when

it's open, the dust encrusts the Coke bottles piled on top of the cooldrink fridge, while popular video games are covered by dust as if they haven't been played for years. Mabokela sighs as she wipes her hand through a pile of mine-dust sitting on her window sill, "Business is slow when the wind blows."



It's a dump: The slimes dam in Meadowlands. PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY HOFFMAN

Ring-barking outrage at Kirstenbosch

Muti-collectors killing trees

CHARL DE VILLIERS

(56)

ST 21/9/97

BRAZEN muti-gatherers have begun ring-barking indigenous trees in the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, outraging professional botanists and traditional healers.

Kirstenbosch estate manager Phillip le Roux this week said up to 30 trees — including stinkwood, Cape beech, assegai wood, wild peach and ironwood — had been sentenced to death by the illegal strippers.

And further afield, Cape Nature Conservation say at least 20 Rastafarians have been prosecuted for illegally harvesting protected plants in mountain reserves from Bains Kloof to Sir Lowry's Pass.

"There's no way of remedying the damage; the trees are doomed. Opportunistic collectors are ignoring traditional harvesting methods and effectively killing the goose that lays the golden egg," Le Roux said.

Phillip Kubekeli, president of the Western Cape Association of Traditional Healers, Herbalists and Spiritual Healers, this week slammed the collectors as "unprofessional charlatans".

Apart from having no right to go to Kirstenbosch, said Kubekeli, they were acting unprofessionally and were cutting bark from the trees incorrectly.

Miles Manders, an ethno-botanist at the University of Natal's Institute for Natural Resources in Pietermaritzburg, said the government must take part of the blame.

"As long as we have legislation that only promotes Western-style medicine and effectively outlaws the cultivation and trade in traditional remedies, people are going to use increasingly threatened wild plant populations," he said.

"The biggest stumbling block is the Medicines Control Council, which deems trade in these goods illegal because they're not registered or tested, and no-one knows about their efficacy.

"In effect, legislation for medicine is promoting the destruction of bio-diversity.

"It's absolutely vital that we start producing these plants. Resources are declining, but use is intensifying and the range of species that are becoming threatened is growing," Manders said.

At least 27-million South Africans consumed traditional medicine and more than 700 plant species were traded, yet the government was "doing nothing" to support the R2-billion industry.

Kubekeli said his 1 500-member association considered formal registration the only solution.

Manders said it was impossible to change Africa's use of plants. "Forget it. To do that, you have to equate it with trying to get whites to give up Western medicine.

"The importance of bio-diversity to our black communities is perhaps our biggest conservation opportunity in Africa. Natural resources only have value if people use them."

Warning that illegal strippers faced severe penalties under the Forest Act, Le Roux appealed to the public to report any suspicious activities to Kirstenbosch staff.

The intellectual who saved the Brenton Blue

(56) ST 21/9/97

Since he stopped being the ANC's main public spokesman and started his job as environmental affairs and tourism minister, Pallo Jordan's public profile has all but disappeared. CYRIL MADLALA speaks to him about saving butterflies and fish

THERE is such an aura of aloofness about Dr Pallo Jordan, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, that he has managed to keep his fluctuating fortunes within the ANC in recent times as very much his own business.

Not that he seems to mind. The steady, expressionless gaze and a high-pitched nasal voice have remained with him since he was a media star articulating the ANC position in the early 90s.

But nowadays, he readily concedes, he is perceived by the media as a minister of a not very sexy ministry.

"I had a higher profile because I was then the communications chief of the ANC. I was on television almost every night in those days, talking to newsmen virtually three to four times a day. In contrast to that, I am sure my media profile has declined quite radically," Jordan says.

Now his tasks have lost their star quality. In his words, he spends his time "giving the lead in the evolution and development of policies".

Most recently, while the nation was pre-occupied with the death of Diana and with crime, Jordan's staff were observing weather patterns to help farmers prepare a suitable response to the expected El Nino phenomenon which results in severe conditions such as floods or drought.

And, while the headlines were occupied by crime, his department joined hands with the SA National Defence Force to enforce South Africa's exclusive economic zone around Prince Edward Islands.

There, Jordan says with passion, illegal fishing vessels had targeted the Patagonian Toothfish found in the south Atlantic and Antarctica.

Jordan estimates that as much as 5 000 tons of the toothfish, worth about R90-million have been stolen, endangering the sustainability of the species.

A week ago he promulgated regulations for environmental impact assessments, in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act, which will come into effect in April.

In another environmental foray in April, Jordan intervened to halt a development at Brenton-

on-Sea which threatened to destroy the habitat of the last known population of the Brenton Blue butterfly.

And he has all the while been steaming ahead with the transformation of the marketing arm for the country, the South African Tourism Board (Satour).

In April he appointed a new board, with strong representation from tourism business and enterprise, the provinces and the community development sector.

"My directive to the new board was to urgently restructure and transform Satour with a view to improving its professionalism, effectiveness and efficiency."

The white paper on marine fisheries policy has also been published. It sets out the government's plan to restructure the

fishing industry, increase the participation of historically disadvantaged communities in the industry and improve the international competitiveness of South African fisheries.

An intellectual of note, Jordan's mind has not been blunted by the relatively mundane tasks of ensuring the survival of fish and butterflies.

He surfs the Internet regularly and he credits it for arming him with the necessary knowledge for his new job after falling from grace as minister of posts, telecommunications and broadcasting in the first post-apartheid executive.

President Nelson Mandela fired him from the cabinet last year, but when the National Party left the government of national unity, Jordan was reinstated to replace Dr Dawie de Villiers in

environment and tourism. "It was the president's prerogative," he says of his "redeployment" which left many puzzled.

Jordan recalls how, when he took up his second ministerial job, he was asked if he would mind if his staff continued to make submissions in Afrikaans.

"I have no problem actually reading and writing Afrikaans, but it seemed to be a token of the continuity, and I said no, no, henceforth English. People must get a sense that there has been some change, you don't just continue as if you were in one straight line from 1948."

But, like other government ministers, he has had to tread carefully in order not to lose skills in the department.

He cites the weather bureau as an example.

"Many of us take the weather bureau very much for granted but you cannot fly safely between Johannesburg and Cape Town without the services of the weather bureau," says Jordan.

He understands the reasons for the apprehension about transformation in the public service.

"The unfortunate thing is that the apprehension of many incumbent civil servants has been instilled by the way the matter has been discussed by some political parties. It is in part instilled by their own insecurities and in part instilled by the terrible disservice which, unfortunately, our media have done to the public, — so much so that transformation is construed by most incumbent civil servants as sacking whites to

make room for blacks, which it is not.

"That is one of the problems we are running into in the transformation process, but I think it is something that are we getting to grips with.

"Things are not moving as fast as we would have liked them to, but steadily and surely we are getting there."

For a person who exudes such aloofness, and is perceived as such by friend and foe, you would expect him to gun for a top job in the ANC at its December conference.

But Jordan seems to have resigned himself to a more ordinary career. He says he is content with being an ordinary member of the national executive committee.

And the butterflies are content to be in his good hands.



NEW PROFILE: Pallo Jordan, who has left the limelight for a quieter portfolio

Peace parks urged for conserving ecosystems

(56)

CT 22/9/97

FOUNDING THE Kruger/Banhine/Gonarezhou peace park would eliminate the need to cull elephants, it has been argued. Environment Writer MELANIE GOSLING reports.

COUNTRIES should be encouraged to establish "peace parks" — transfrontier conservation areas — as these would play a vital role in conserving entire ecosystems that straddle international borders, the Peace Parks conference has argued.

The conference has also recommended that a Southern African working group be set up to promote peace parks in the region.

These resolutions emerged from the world's first conference on "Parks for Peace", held at Somerset West last week and attended by representatives from more than 30 countries.

It was convened jointly by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and South Africa's Peace Parks Foundation.

Apart from Southern Africa, the conference endorsed efforts to establish peace parks in the mountain gorilla regions across the borders of Rwanda, Congo and Uganda; in the forests on the borders of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam; and in the Korean peninsula.

Peace parks would not only promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development, but would also make a major contribution to international co-operation and regional peace and stability.

The conference said that the management of peace parks should fully engage local communities and indigenous people and ensure they derived tangible benefits from

the conservation areas.

Since twin national parks were established along the borders of Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1925, more than 100 transboundary parks have been set up worldwide.

The director-general of the IUCN, Dr David McDowell, said in his address that environmental factors would be a primary source of international insecurity and conflict in the 21st century, much of which would arise over the control of scarce natural resources.

The problems would be compounded because much of the world's precious biodiversity lay in the vast ecosystems through which arbitrary national boundaries passed.

"Population pressures will exacerbate environmental scarcity (and) the area of high quality agricultural land and forests will decline, as will plant, animal and marine species," said McDowell.

"Widespread environmental degradation will accompany this. Heightened conflict will arise, at least in part as a consequence of resource scarcities."

While those who managed natural resources tried to work with entire ecosystems, the hard fact was that national boundaries made this difficult.

"More than 50% of the present national boundaries were drawn up by six colonial powers," McDowell said. "The boundaries wander

whimsically over the face of the globe, the product of the arbitrary actions of lost and lonely colonial surveyors with vague briefs."

These boundaries often split ecosystems, river basins, watersheds and human groups down the middle.

There was little prospect of national boundaries being redrawn. However, there was an opportunity to establish transboundary co-operation through peace parks. These could reduce stress along historically tense borders by giving governments an agenda for mutual action on issues of common concern.

In Southern Africa, South Africa's Peace Parks Foundation has proposed a number of transfrontier conservation areas, which would affect 200 000km²:

- The Kruger/Banhine/Gonarezhou peace park, which would cover 95 712km² and eliminate the need to cull elephants;

- The Maputoland peace park, linking KwaZulu-Natal's Tembe and Mozambique's Maputo elephant reserves;

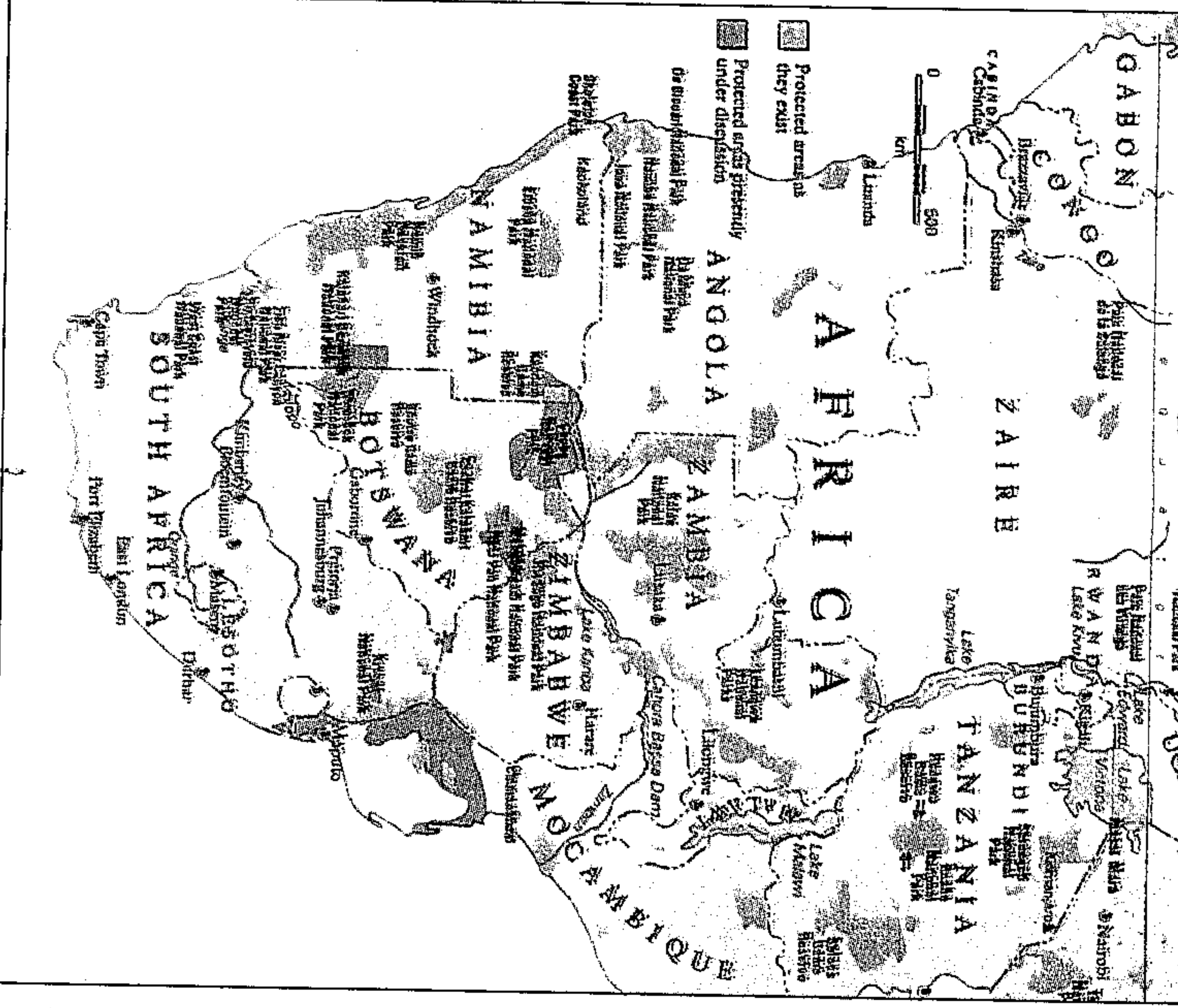
- The Maluti/Drakensberg peace park straddling the Lesotho border;

- The Dongola/Limpopo Valley peace park uniting Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe;

- The Kalahari peace park, with South Africa and Botswana establishing joint management of this unique desert park;

- The Gariep peace park on the Orange River and linking South Africa and Namibia; and
- The Richtersveld/Ai-Ais peace park, one of the most species-rich arid zones in the world.

Parks and plans

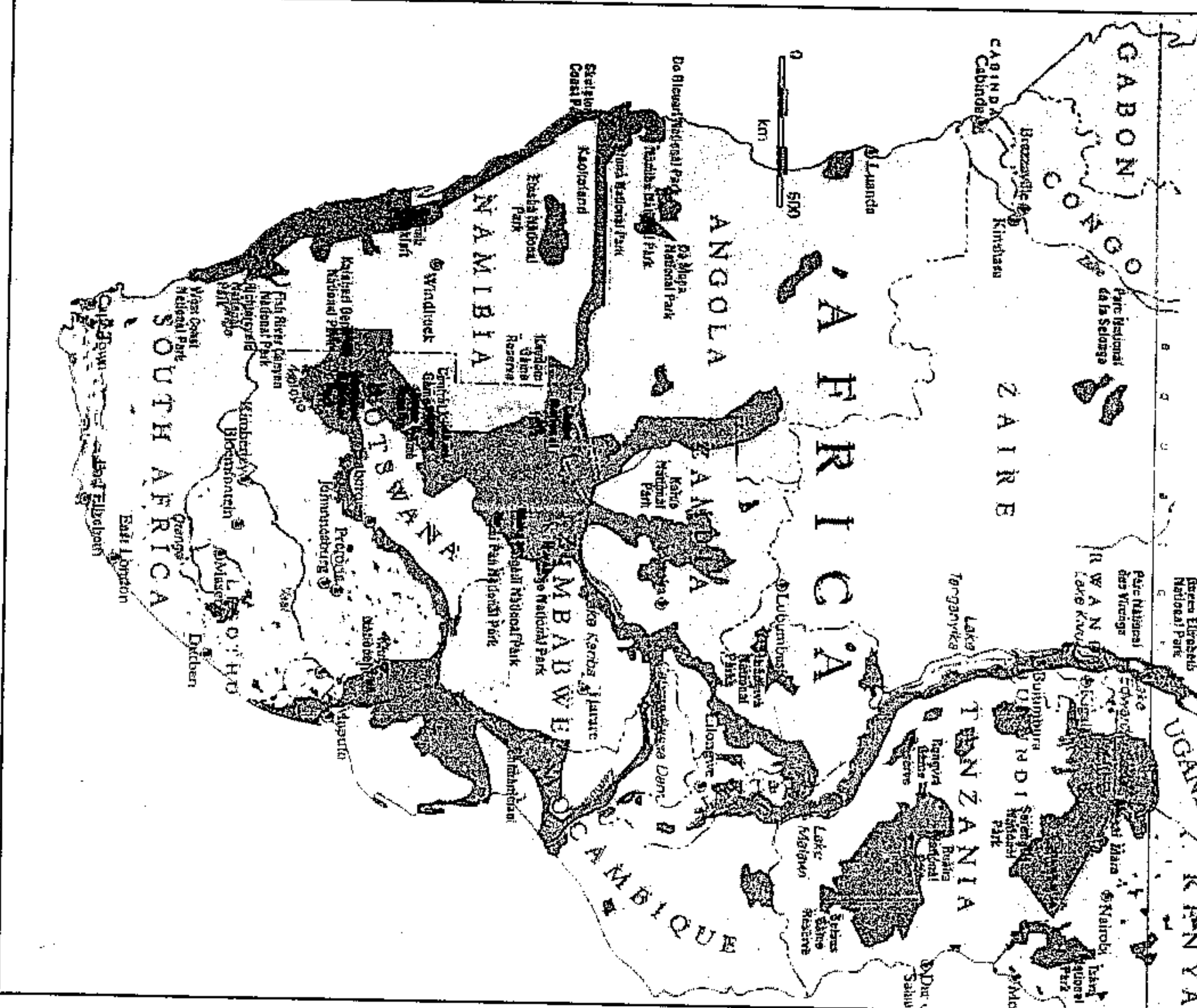


THE PRESENT PICTURE: This shows, in green, all the national parks in central and Southern Africa, and, in brown, those that are being discussed.

Exodus a disaster for conservation

THE huge exodus of refugees from Rwanda to the Democratic Republic of Congo, in which 750 000 people were settled temporarily on the borders of the Virunga National Park, was a conservation disaster. While the plight of the refugees was well documented in the world media, little attention was focused on the accompanying massacre of wildlife, the destruction of forests and the looting of national park equipment and infrastructure. Read the full story in tomorrow's Cape Times.

The dream?



THE DREAM: This is what the sub-continent could look like if transfrontier conservation areas or "peace parks", linking ecosystems across national boundaries and conserving biodiversity, were established.

GRAPHICS: THE OPEN AFRICA INITIATIVE

Parks board underfunded, says CE

Josey Ballenger

(56)

BD 23/9/97

THE National Parks Board's ability to fulfil its conservation mandate was severely cramped by an ever-shrinking budget, and it needed to outsource non-core operations, parks board CE Mavuso Msimang said last week.

"Our mandate is conservation; that is sacrosanct. But for it to be sustainable, we have to have the currency to permit it to happen," Msimang said at the EcoWorld Congress at Gallagher Estate in Midrand.

"The parks board doesn't have the option but to seek partners in the private sector and communities."

He understood the new government had a "wider portfolio of responsibilities", but said that the parks board's "generous" funding in the past had not prepared it to find alternative funding now. The budget had been frozen at

about R230m for three years, an effective decrease in real terms — about 20% or R46m went towards conservation activities.

While the parks board was a leader in conservation and employed "world-ranking" scientists, it was ill-equipped in the hospitality business, he said.

"There are probably functions that could be managed better by the private sector, which would lead to increased occupancy (at park accommodations), and a better return to the economy," Msimang said.

Fielding a question about the Mpumalanga Parks Board's controversial deal with the Dubai-based Dolphin group, Msimang said "the principle of the deal (was) fine", and that the parks board would not exclude the general public from more than 1% of park property. It did not, however, have jurisdiction over provincial parks boards.

Environmental policy for industry is urgent

BD 25/9/97
(56)

A vital question South Africans have to face is not whether to call a halt to development, but how to promote damage-free growth, writes Lael Bethlehem

THE 20th century has seen an unprecedented wave of economic development. Industrial production has revolutionised the way we live and has raised living standards in many countries.

But the headlong rush has taken its toll. The process of production has begun to threaten the very resources on which it is based. This is evident in many spheres. The ozone layer which literally protects all life on earth has been damaged by industrial gases. The world's forests are in decline in many areas, contributing to a loss of species.

Carbon and other greenhouse gases (mostly related to energy production) may be contributing to a process changing climate, which would have major consequences. Many of the world's fisheries are in decline and many fresh waterways threatened by pollution.

All economic activity relies in one way or another on natural resources — either as a source of inputs (energy, minerals, water, soils) or as a sink for waste. If these natural resources are sufficiently damaged, the potential for production will be affected. The notion of environmental sustainability therefore poses the key question: are we undermining the very resources which underwrite our economies?

But this is not to call halt to the process of development. It is not a question of whether to grow but how to grow. There is no straight trade-off between economic development on the one hand and environmental integrity on the other. There is no dichotomy between environment and development. Rather the ques-

tion is how to develop an industrial policy that makes productive, but sustainable, use of our resources.

The debate over the environmental aspects of industrial policy in SA is just beginning. Traditionally in SA environment has been associated with conservation activities. We have been more interested in what happens in nature reserves than what happens in factories. The new challenges require an industrial strategy for the environment.

It is now widely accepted that SA industry can be characterised by a number of features — a reliance on minerals, energy intensity and a lack of modern equipment in many of our factories. The economic effect of these is well known, but there are also environmental consequences.

Reliance on minerals leads to a high output of toxic waste as well as a series of underground water problems in old mines. Energy intensity leads to a high output of greenhouse gases, dust and sulphur because of our heavy reliance on coal. Old capital stock means that the best available environmental technology — the basis of clean production — is not widely in use. These in turn have major consequences for our environmental management.

The Industrial Strategy Project has concluded, after a two-year research project on industry and the environment, that the trade and industry department needs to integrate environmental thinking into its overall industrial policy.

What would this mean? There are six major elements:

First, we need to know when to promote particular investments and

when to oppose them. We cannot afford long wrangles over whether to mine a particular piece of land or whether to build a steel mill near a particular bay. Indeed when conflicts arose over the proposed St Lucia mining project and Saldanha Steel, there were no agreed processes or criteria to resolve them.

This uncertainty creates the worst of both worlds. We chase off potential investors even when it makes no sense to do so. And we fail to protect the environment adequately even when we need to.

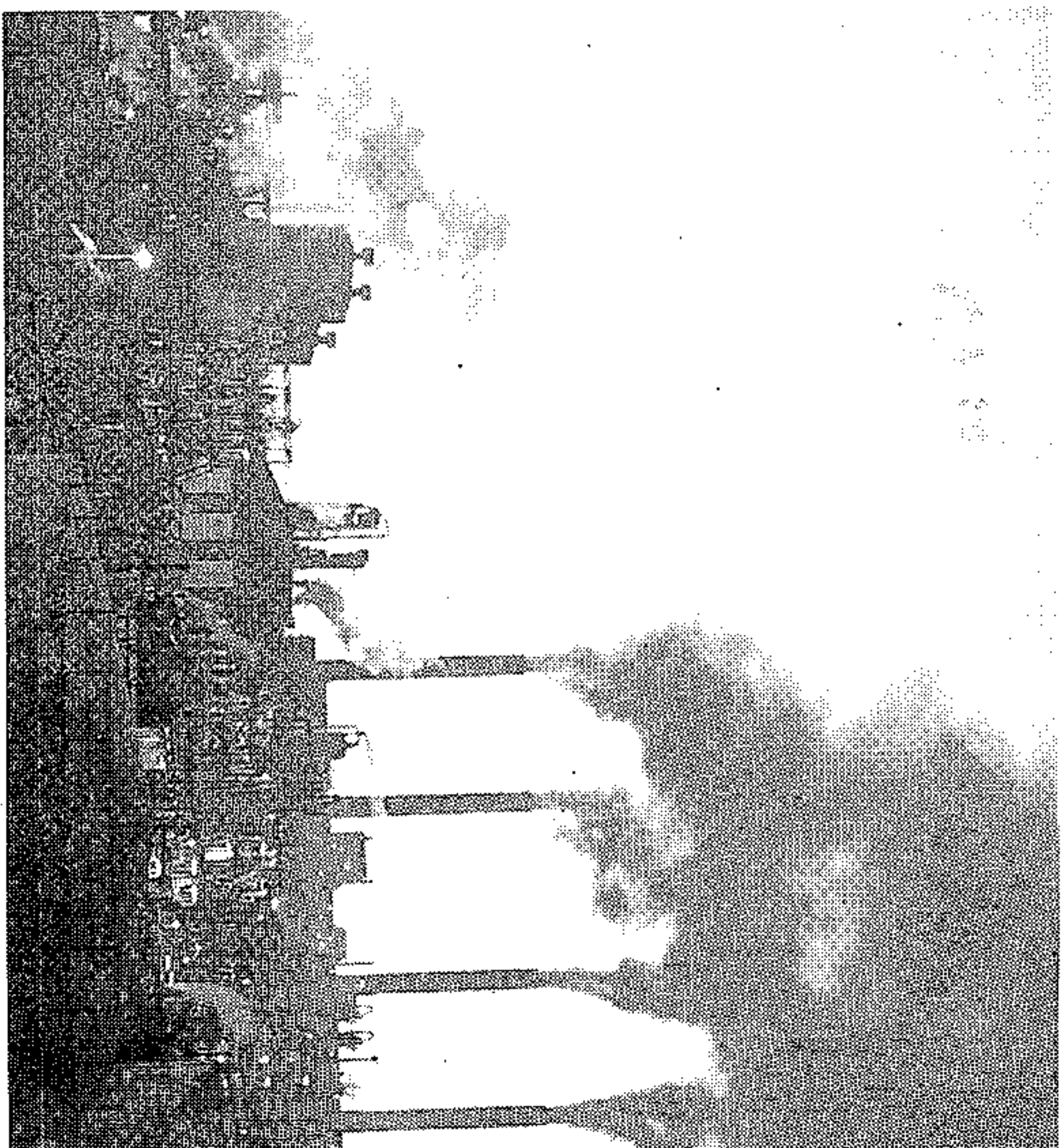
It is now a legal requirement to conduct environmental impact assessments for a wide range of projects. But depending on how the regulations are defined, this may cause further confusion.

When is an assessment adequate? How are disputes to be resolved? We need predictable processes as well as clear criteria to ensure that we strike an appropriate balance between promoting investment and protecting our resources.

Second, we need a better system of environmental information. In the 1980s in many industrialised countries it became clear that governments had little idea about the quantity and type of pollution being produced by its industries. Without such information there could be no monitoring, no management, no prospect of improvement.

As a result a large number of countries have established pollution registers which monitor waste production by compelling companies to record their emissions of certain kinds of waste.

A similar system is urgently



The process of production has begun to threaten the very resources on which it is based.

needed in SA.

Third, we need to set targets for reductions in key waste streams in particular industries. Both the US and Holland have used voluntary agreements between government and particular industries to reduce priority pollutants.

Fourth, we need a clear strategy on the environmental aspects of trade. Many exporters now face environmental certificates, management standards, regulations — and good old consumers' pressure.

Fifth, there is energy. SA's coal-fired power stations produce the world's cheapest electricity. This is a massive competitive advantage and is being used to attract energy intensive industries to our shores. But at what cost?

Environmental externalities (including the simple problem of dust emissions which cause health problems for people living near power

stations) have not been sufficiently factored into our prices. And there is the problem of carbon emissions from the power stations.

SA is one of the world's largest per capita producers of carbon and other greenhouse gases, mostly as a result of burning coal.

There is sure to be pressure on SA to find alternatives.

Sixth, there is integrated pollution control. An integrated system of regulation has recently been developed under the environmental affairs department.

Environmental sustainability is about the way we produce and the way we run our economy. An environmental policy for industry requires urgent attention.

□ Lael Bethlehem is co-editor with Michael Goldblatt of *The Bottom Line: Industry and Environment in SA*, published by UCT Press.

'Development not always desirable'

Sowetan 25/9/97 (56)

By Russel Molefe

INTEGRITY is often sacrificed by consultants who make environmental impact assessments (EIAs) to justify undesirable development projects, a leading conservationist in Africa, Dr Richard Leakey, said this week.

The Kenyan conservationist was speaking at the launch of a new distance-learning environmental course in Johannesburg.

Leakey also lambasted the Western concept of environmental management being imposed on Africans.

"Africans lived in harmony with the environment for generations before the arrival of Europeans. Environmental management is required because of the impact of Western concepts in Africa. Often African environmental solutions

Impact assessments sometimes done only to justify bad projects

are more appropriate to African environmental problems than Western environmental solutions. Political decisions to override environmental concerns are sometimes made by politicians who know that they will have moved on by the time the negative effects become obvious."

Leakey expressed these concerns at a time when several environmental organisations and developers are at loggerheads over development projects in environmentally sensitive areas.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal has since taken the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to task for issuing developmen-

tal licences without taking environmental concerns into consideration.

The latest clash between the two departments is over the proposed Sasol mine along the Vaal River, which is likely to endanger water supplies.

Environmental impact management services director Mr Robert Millard said of Leakey's comments: "Regulations regarding environmental impact assessments have already been gazetted.

"They will, without a doubt, lead to many more environmental consultants entering the market, because they are not subjected to any licensing or other control procedures."

Dumping ban may go

(56)

Pretoria – A ban on the dumping of nuclear waste at the Vaalputs nuclear dump site in the Northern Cape could be lifted this week. ARG 25/9/97

Dumping on the site was banned after a radioactive leakage was reported earlier this year.

But final inspections by the council this week could see the ban lifted, said a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Corporation. – Argus Correspondent

Clean air is Bothasig's battle cry

Europe as refinery goes back on a pledge

(S) ARY 26/9/97

When five-year-old Angelique Potgieter's mother drives past the Caltex refinery near Table View, Angelique gets agitated and insists those in the car close their windows because of the "kaka" air.

Angelique is an asthmatic who has been in hospital five times. She has characteristic blue rings under her eyes and a post-nasal drip.

Her problems may be considered similar to those of any other asthmatic anywhere else in the city, but what makes her case different is that she and her family live in Bothasig, within sight of the oil refinery which, with its neighbour, the Kynoch fertiliser plant, has long been a bone of contention with residents.

"When we bought a plot here the municipality did not warn us about the air," said Angelique's father, Jan. "You can taste it, feel it, smell it..."

The refinery pumps out 28 tons of sulphur dioxide for 100 000 barrels throughput a day. Sulphur dioxide is a gas known to affect the breathing of people with chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis.

While the amount of sulphur dioxide being emitted meets World Health Organisation standards, critics argue that more should be done to bring the refinery in line with its counterparts in the developed world. A similar refinery owned by the parent company in the United States, for instance, puts out only 1,6 tons a day.

These critics became more vocal when Caltex announced recently it would not be able to achieve targets for reducing emissions it set itself in 1994. In terms of these targets, the refinery would have cut its sulphur dioxide emission to eight tons a day, in line with German standards.

The company's explanation was that margins in the refinery industry had come under severe downward pressure, which had an impact on its ability to generate the "considerable investment and operating expense funds necessary to support the original programme as scheduled".

A World Bank report estimates that a billion or more people worldwide are exposed to unhealthy levels

INSIDE STORY

The row over emissions from the Caltex plant continues, writes City Editor ANDREA WEISS



of atmospheric sulphur dioxide. Clinical studies have shown that children and healthy and at-risk adults are vulnerable to sulphur dioxide emissions, depending on their health, individual sensitivity and activity level.

The argument around the Caltex refinery is whether the health of people living in the Bothasig and Table View area is affected.

For those who may wish to make a claim against the company, the onus of proof rests with the individual, who, in an urban environment, would have difficulty pinpointing atmospheric pollution to a single source.

Mindful of the criticism though, Caltex pledged publicly in 1994 to improve the situation by reducing sulphur dioxide emissions by 80%. For the past 15 months Caltex has also been negotiating with the Anti-Pollution Alliance over a Good Neighbour Agreement aimed at setting mutually acceptable benchmarks. This proposed agreement also looks at issues such as the emission of nitrogen oxides (precursors of ozone, a big component of smog, and acid rain), particulate matter or dust, and volatile organic compounds, some of which are known to cause cancer.

According to Angela Andrews of the Legal Resources Centre, legal advisers to the alliance, the company has gone back from an earlier negotiating position on three out of five key areas relating to sulphur dioxide, particulate matter and volatile organic compounds.



JACK LESTRADE

The future? Bothasig resident Nicholas Lang believes the Caltex refinery - and the Kynoch fertiliser plant - should move elsewhere

The latest development has seen the alliance call for Caltex to address a public meeting to explain why it is not able to do what it promised by public advertisement three years ago.

For long-standing campaigner against the refinery Nicholas Lang, also chairman of the Bothasig Ratepayers' Association, the news that Caltex has backed down on its promise did not come as a surprise.

Mr Lang walked out of the alliance because he believed its stance was too moderate. His view is that the refinery should not be in the area at all, one which is shared by more than 150 families who have contacted him to back his campaign to get it to move.

Among the non-health complaints residents have raised with him are oily residue on their cars and oily slicks on pools.

Residents also believe that more pollution is happening at night. This may be because humidity levels peak in the early hours of the morning and make pollutants more visible.

Mr Lang says the only lasting solution is for Caltex and neighbouring Kynoch to move.

Given the billions of rands of investment in the refinery, this is an unlikely option. Kynoch, by its own admission, is dependent on the cheap gas Caltex supplies, which is why the factory was built there.

Caltex also points out that it is the only supplier of petrol in the Western Cape. It blends various types of petrol for the other oil companies according to their specifications.

If the refinery shut, petrol would have to be trucked from Durban, pushing up the price and having an

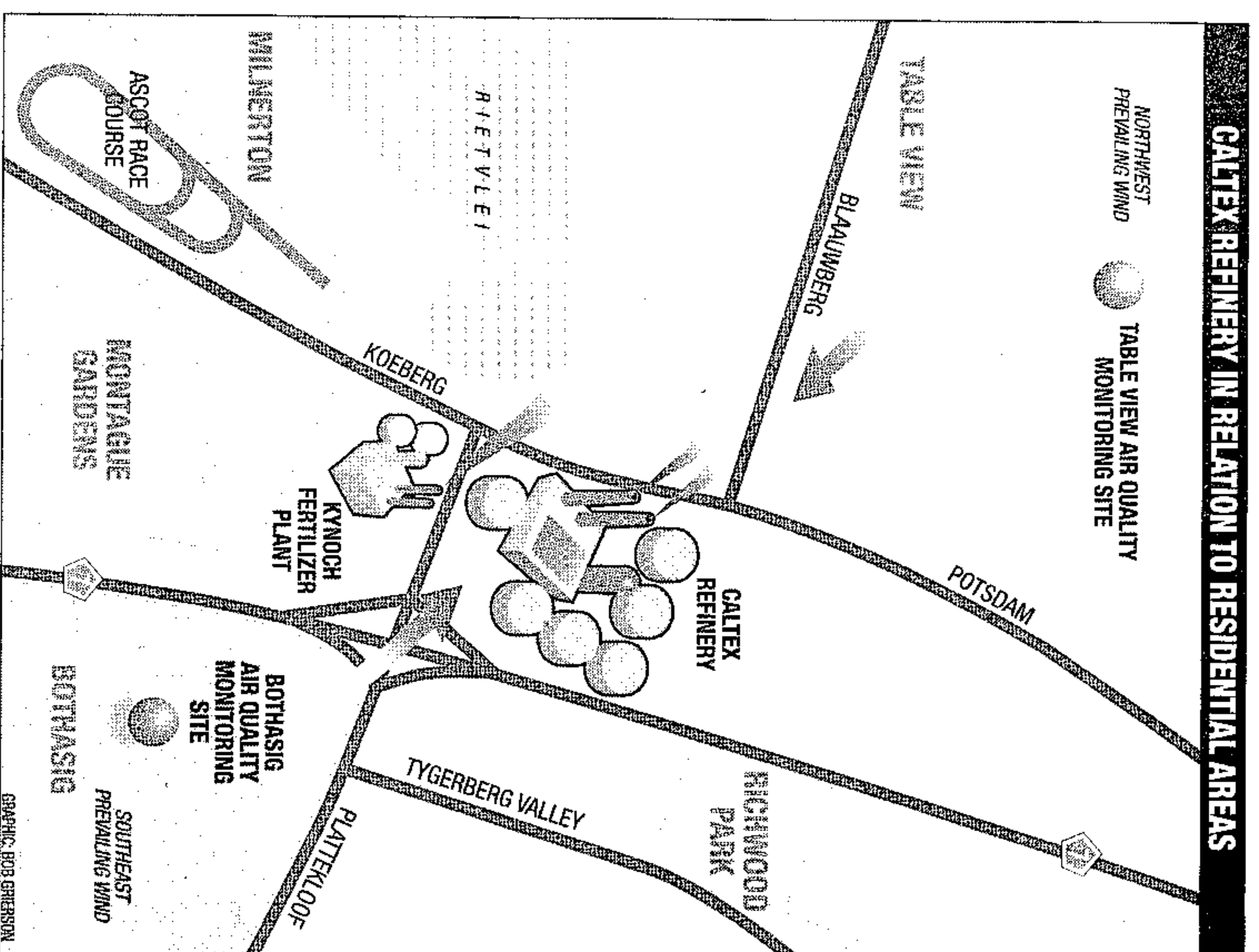
impact on the Western Cape economy.

Another complicating factor is that wholesale profit margins in the petroleum industry are regulated by the Government.

This means that although demand is increasing, companies such as Caltex are reluctant to make heavy capital investments that would not only increase their refining capacity but make it possible for them to install cleaner technology.

Negotiations are under way with Mineral and Energy Minister Penuell Maduna for a change in policy more in line with the free market.

It is in the course of these negotiations that the twin demands of economic growth and the right of every citizen to a healthy environment will have to be met.



Pollution: all the facts...

■ An air quality project monitored air continuously for a year in Table View, Bothasig and Goodwood, before declaring that under "normal conditions" the emissions from the refinery were within internationally accepted limits. The Anti-Pollution Alliance contests these findings because they are based on only two monitoring stations.

■ A medical study which compared children living in Table View with those living in the Table View area had lungs which were more sensitive when subjected to a lung test. The longer people had lived in the area the more likely they were to react to the test, the report said.

■ In May there was a pollution incident involving sulphur dioxide, which led to levels exceeding the World Health Organisation standards.

■ In July the air quality monitoring project, now done by the Cape Metropolitan Council, found sulphur dioxide and particulate matter (PM-10) levels were higher in Table View than in 1995 and 1996 - "a possible cause for concern".

■ In Bothasig the project found that the World Health Organisation hourly guidelines for nitrogen dioxide were exceeded 16 times between July 8 and 10. According to a World Bank report on air quality management, nitrogen dioxide is a respiratory irritant.

■ Caltex points out that community demands go beyond South Africa's environmental legislation and place the refinery "on an unequal playing field in the industry".

Caltex fails to keep promise to cut pollution

ANDREA WEISS
CITY EDITOR

(56)

ARG 26/9/97

The owners of the oil refinery in Milnerton have reneged on a promise to reduce air pollution, say enraged residents who claim the refinery's emissions cause health problems.

Caltex has told residents, by maildrop, it will not meet its own target of reducing sulphur dioxide emissions by 80 %, pledged in a notice published in the Cape Argus in August 1994. The company says refinery profit margins are being squeezed worldwide and its promise was based on reasonable economic assumptions which proved to be "over-optimistic".

Residents of Bothasig and Table View, where prevailing winds carry the emissions, have long complained of health problems caused by industries in the area, among them the refinery and the neighbouring Kynoch fertiliser plant.

High concentrations of sulphur dioxide affect people's breathing and may aggravate respiratory conditions and cardiovascular disease, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Sensitive people include asthmatics, people with bronchitis and emphysema, children and the elderly.

Caltex is putting out 28 tons of sulphur dioxide a day, while many refineries owned by its parent company in the United States are putting out between one and two tons.

Refinery director Paul Buley said the refinery had managed a "dramatic drop of 50% in sulphur dioxide emission levels", and was planning an additional R65-million investment over the next three years to improve performance further.

Clean air is Bothasig's battle cry, page 12

Africa must pay for its wildlife

M+G 26/9 - 2/10/97 (56)

Conservationist Richard Leakey pulled no punches in a recent debate in Gauteng, writes **Fiona Macleod**

There is a story about a randy young male ostrich who spots three female ostriches on the horizon and sets off after them. They are not at all interested in his advances and they run away, with the young male in hot pursuit. They keep running, but every time they look back, he's still after them.

Eventually, after he has chased them for many kilometres, the females tire of the game. They stop and promptly stick their heads in the sand. The young male, finally catching up with them, screeches to a halt in great confusion. "Now what on earth happened to those three lovely girls?" he ponders to himself before going on his way again.

It's a story that sprang to mind during a public debate last weekend on sustainable utilisation as a conservation strategy — simply put, the theory that in order to survive, wildlife must pay its way. The decision in June by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to resume trade in ivory was prompted by three Southern African countries — Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia — which, like the three female ostriches, have buried their heads in the sand. South Africa, which supported their stand but did not play a direct role in the decision, is like the randy young male ostrich: it has lost the plot.

The topic of last weekend's debate was "Does wildlife have to pay to stay?" Speaking in favour of sustainable utilisation of wildlife was John Hanks, former head of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and now executive director of the newly formed Peace Parks Foundation, which has ambitious plans to set up a number of transfrontier reserves in Africa. Richard Leakey, Kenya's formidable palaeo-anthropologist-cum-conservationist-cum-politician, took up a stand against it and effectively blew giant holes in the sustainable-utilisation argument.

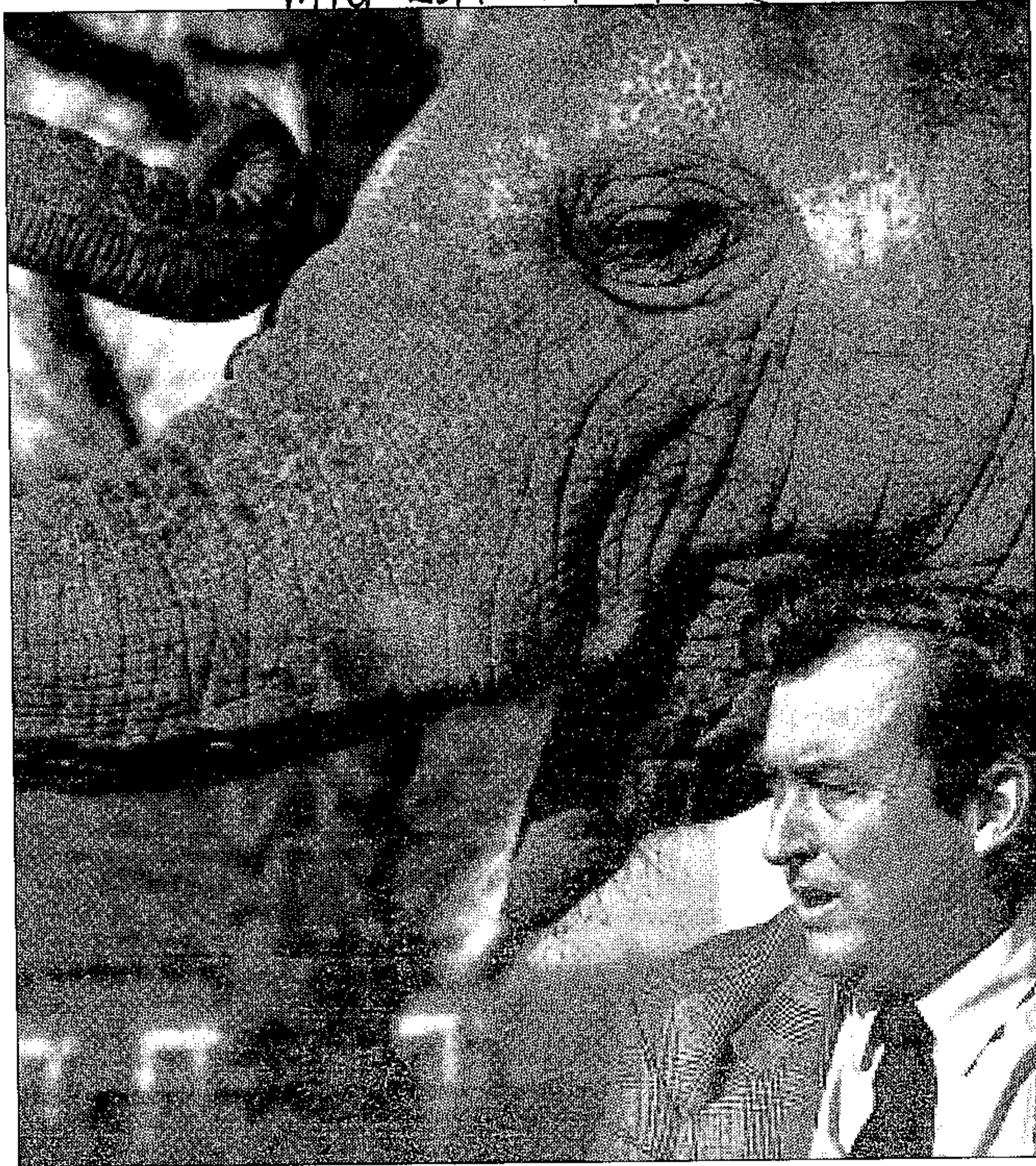
Leakey started out by berating the conservation authorities in post-isolation South Africa for ignoring the fact that they are now part of Africa and that their actions have an impact on the rest of the continent.

"Robert Mugabe was unfortunately persuaded by dubious advisers to say at Cites that if a species is to stay, it must pay. It was an arrogant and irrelevant statement that deserves nothing but condemnation from people like you," he said to Hanks. "It should not have been allowed to happen. It was a despicable, political statement about the value of a species that will cost us for years to come."

In his opening address at the debate, Hanks had painted a grim picture of Africa and its future. He argued that, given these circumstances, the only way to persuade African governments of the importance of preserving biodiversity is to attach an economic value to it.

Leakey replied: "The only way to win this battle is to avoid the price tag ... I am not personally opposed to wildlife utilisation. But restricting it to private reserves run largely by Caucasians is like sitting on a time bomb that will go bang. Biodiversity must not be regarded as the preserve of the foreigner.

"We mustn't make the mistake of exclud-



Elephant man: Kenyan Richard Leakey trampled on some pet conservation notions

ing people from their land. One way to soften the inside/outside divide is to get into community involvement. This has become fashionable now.

"But, having been a champion of sharing revenue with communities, I am now opposed to it. Poor people cannot be expected to make the right judgments about the protection of species. Communities must share resources ... but it's not a question of asking them to get involved in managing national parks.

"Boundaries [of national parks and reserves] must be kept intact and protected. We need to recognise that national parks are sacrosanct; they are not larders to be plundered ... and exploited by later corrupt governments.

"We must get our priorities right: nature is invaluable. Biodiversity cannot be given a price. We must stop messing about with it from a sense of guilt.

"It is unrealistic to think we will go forward by saying that species must pay to stay, given Africa's present constructs. It is *homo sapiens* who must pay. The point is that species must stay, so we must pay."

Leakey mentioned fund-raising and taxation as two of the more obvious means of getting humankind to pay for conservation. Most Africans, he said, regard wildlife as an important resource that they would want their governments to look after and they would not object to taxes being dedicated to this end. "Water, for example, is generally recognised as a natural resource of economic value, and people are prepared to pay for it."

Nature-based tourism, though capable of raising large sums of money, does not provide the total solution, he said, because much of

the money ends up in private pockets and is not ploughed back into conservation. "Eco-tourism is never going to pay for the species to stay. There has to be another agenda."

Hanks pointed out that countries such as Zimbabwe simply do not have the money to dedicate to conservation. During his time at the head of WWF, he added, he had found that foreign donors often promise huge sums, but are short on delivery.

Leakey's response was that he had embarked on a fund-raising campaign when he was appointed head of the Kenya Wildlife Service. "Within one year I had raised \$300-million dollars ... The money is there. If you are struggling, perhaps you should revisit some of the issues I have raised during this debate."

Hanks said research had shown that management of protected areas costs about \$200 per kilometre each year. But Leakey said this was an "irresponsible" figure: experience in the great parks of Kenya had shown that it could be reduced by 50% when the trade in ivory was banned, chiefly because poaching had virtually stopped.

He said Cites's decision to resume the ivory trade was based on the argument that it was now possible to control the export of ivory. But control was not possible in the past — when trade was legal about 70% of the ivory leaving Africa was unaccounted for — and there was no evidence that controls would be any better now.

Leakey challenged the South African conservation authorities to come up with more innovative ways to ensure that wildlife does not disappear in the new millennium. Or they too would stand accused of simply sticking their heads in the sand.

Government urged to develop industrial policy that preserves environment

'Resources must be protected'

CT (PR) 26/9/97 (56)

LYNDA LOXTON

PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The government has been urged to develop an industrial environmental policy to prevent the destruction of South Africa's natural resources and to fend off international pressures which could make the industry uncompetitive.

In a book launched yesterday by the University of Cape Town's industrial strategy project, editors Lael Bethlehem and Michael Goldblatt said the government should develop a broad policy framework on environmental

issues which should be complemented by largely voluntary environmental agreements in industrial sectors, involving workers and management and, if necessary, local communities.

They said South Africa had to avoid the false dichotomy between environmental and development issues.

South Africa's economy was largely based on non-renewable natural resources and any damage done to those resources would damage the economy as a whole by hampering future production.

Bethlehem told a trade and policy secretariat forum earlier

this week that industry might benefit from South Africa's cheap, coal-fired electricity, but the social costs were borne by communities who developed respiratory problems from the emissions from power stations.

The book suggested Eskom should be encouraged to consider investments in environmental technologies given the hidden costs of not making these investments. "This would entail a pricing policy at Eskom that attempts to incorporate as many of the hidden costs of supply as possible," it said.

The high incidence of old

technology also contributed to high pollution levels while there were inadequate facilities for waste exchange and recycling.

The need for a coherent industrial environmental policy was further underlined by the fact that South Africa would face growing international pressure to meet certain environmental standards in production methods and management.

There was a growing tendency by international trading partners to use trade-related measures to influence environmental performance and the phasing out of the use of certain chemicals.

Kids oblivious of a murky secret

By JACKIE CAMERON

One boy cartwheels into shallow water, another dives into a rock pool as the sun beats down.

Others paddle and squirt water through their teeth, before disappearing into the cool depths of the crystal-clear Diep Sloot river.

These children are oblivious to the murky secret the water holds as they play mock war, metres away from a potentially deadly waterfall of red-tinged effluent which spews out of the Northern Works sewerage facility near Fourways, Sandton.

This week Russel Rimmer, a microbiologist who works for the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council (TMC), admitted that the Northern Works had discharged thousands of litres of unchlorinated sewage into the water at least once this month. The bacteria levels shot up, and alarming levels of faecal contamination were recorded.

The maximum levels of bacteria which the Government allows varies from plant to plant. The samples should not register more than 1 000 e-coli per 100ml for TMC works, but on September 11 the e-coli count was 69 000 per 100ml - 69 times the permissible limit.

E-coli is an indicator of faecal contamination, and conceals a variety of diseases ranging from



ROTTEN AFFAIR: Red-tinged effluent spews out of the Northern Works, near Fourways, which recently allowed thousands of litres of unchlorinated sewage into the Diep Sloot

cholera to gastroenteritis. Scientists do not routinely test for specific diseases in water.

The river, before reaching the plant, logged an e-coli count of 19 000 that same day.

Drinking water should not contain any e-coli organisms. Water is considered suitable for swimming if it has less than 125 e-coli per 100ml, according to Dr Quentin Espey, director of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

For boating and "non-full" contact, the e-coli count should be less than 1 000 per 100ml; anything more is considered hazardous.

Rimmer also admitted that the other TMC sewerage works,

particularly south of the city, struggle to keep the levels of bacteria they discharge below the maximum allowance that is registered on their government-issued permits.

Mavela Dlamini, TMC strategic executive for infrastructure and technical services, said: "We don't have a crisis or a problem of significant magnitude."

"Four weeks ago we weren't able to comply fully. Now we do, at all our works."

Dlamini said he did not believe bad management was behind the matter, adding that the unchlorinated effluent "did not adversely affect the river".

"I'm not saying it's good practice to do this; the standards

are there to be complied with. You must remember that this went into the Jukskei River. The river isn't used for potable (drinking) water."

East Rand sewerage works have an equally abysmal record, according to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry which this week released to the *Saturday Star* the results of spot tests on rivers near sewerage outlets.

Seven sewerage works were found to have vastly exceeded the maximum allowance of e-coli indicator organisms in their effluent.

These include the Rynfield sewerage works' effluent, which drains to the C R Swart Dam; the

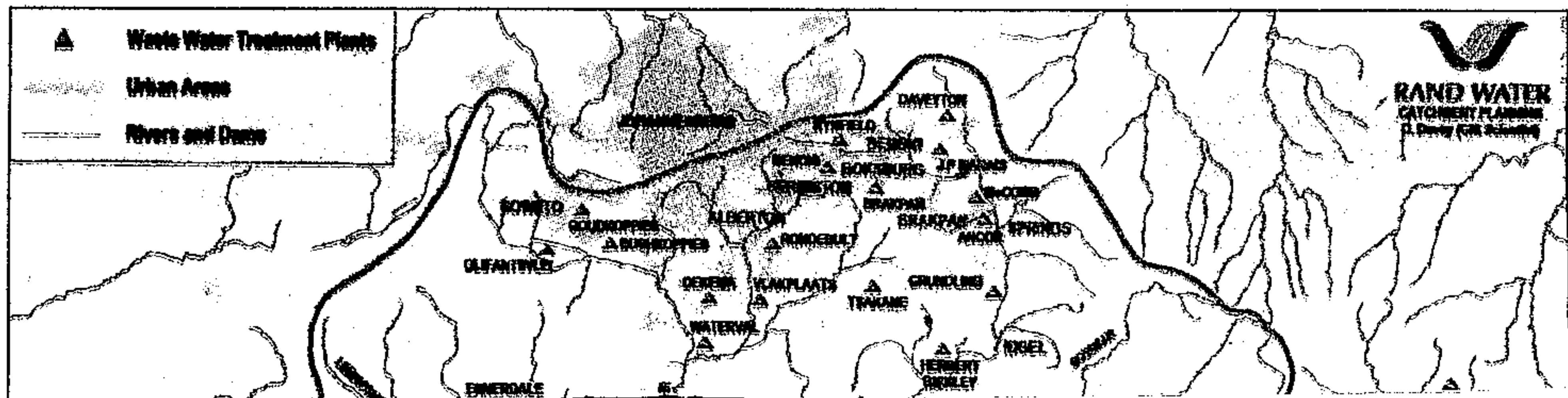


TIME BOMB: Children swim in t

Jan Smuts sewerage works' effluent, which discharges into the Brakpan Dam; and J P Marais works' effluent, which eventually flows into the President's Dam.

Effluent from the other errant sewerage works flows into the Blesbokspruit catchment area.

The Government's Institute for Water Quality Studies has been asked by Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal to get the sewerage works to





Three children play in the faeces-polluted Diep Sloot river this week, oblivious of the dangers

PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE

clean up their act. An institute spokesman said: "We want the standards to be met. I know sewerage works have problems with variable volumes, but they are supposed to be addressing that."

"We are discussing the problem with them. If they don't comply after a period of time, we may have to prosecute."

Jurie Terblanche, operations manager of Erwat, a non-profit organisation responsible for treating most of the sewage on the East Rand, said: "I am happy about the way things are running. Obviously we are looking at more modern techniques, and larger works."

"I think we're doing a tremendous job if you compare us to South America or developing countries up north."

"E-coli is only an indicator; it

doesn't give you a disease," he added. Terblanche gave the reasons for these sewerage works' failure to comply with standards: a pump was switched off at one "because of a power failure", and the others were under-chlorinated because of "unexpected flow".

He said it would not be cost-efficient to install generators as back-up power.

Terblanche was quick to point out that rivers clean up bacteria in a "natural" process and said Erwat effluent was often cleaner than the rivers into which it flows.

Scientists said an overload of organic matter can lead to a depletion of oxygen in the water, which means fish can't survive.

The *Saturday Star* found children, of nearby Diepsloot

township, playing in the water on Heritage Day. One reported a persistent eye infection and another said he always saw blood in his urine.

There is no definite way of confirming that these boys became sick from this stream, which flows into the Jukskei River and eventually Hartbeespoort Dam.

In other parts of the city, groups of fishermen, canoeists and swimmers were keeping cool in other waterways that pose an equally dire health threat.

Contaminated rivers do not affect only people who rely on them for washing or recreation; diseases which start from a river can quickly spread through communities.

When water is drawn from

contaminated rivers and sprayed on crops, hidden diseases and viruses can end up on your dinner table.

Espey said: "This problem should be taken very seriously indeed. The people who are at greatest risk are children, old people and sick people because their immune systems are not as they should be."

"People who are drinking piped water should also care about this."

"People from less affluent areas who do not have tap water, and come into contact with this water, also come into the homes of those who do use only tap water. There's a cycle and everyone is at risk, no matter who they are," Espey said.

"The Government sets standards for a reason."

Council lifts (56)
**ban at nuclear
waste dump**

Star 27/9/97
A temporary ban on the delivery of radioactive waste at South Africa's Vaalputs nuclear dump in the Northern Cape was lifted yesterday, the Council for Nuclear Safety said in Pretoria.

Waste dumped at Vaalputs largely originates from the Koeberg nuclear power station. It is sealed or cemented in metal and concrete blocks, which are then stored in two deep trenches.

The Atomic Energy Corporation disclosed in June that radioactivity was leaking from a few concrete blocks through hairline cracks which could have been caused by extreme cold and heavy rains.

Chairman John Martin said the council was satisfied that the AEC had addressed these safety concerns, which had prompted the closure of the site. - Sapa

Jo'burg's disease time bomb

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
SALDRU LIBRARY

(56) ~~(57)~~ ~~(58)~~

Star 27/9/97

Eight sewerage works allow raw waste into our rivers

By JACKIE CAMERON

Contaminated sewage is flowing into Johannesburg rivers – and health experts have warned that a deadly-disease time bomb is ticking in the city.

At least eight sewerage works have allowed huge batches of raw human waste into rivers; one because it “ran out” of chlorine, another after a “power failure”, and the others because they “misjudged” the amount of chlorine needed or time taken for bacteria to be killed.

Sewage is a fertile conductor for diseases such as cholera, typhoid, hepatitis and dysentery, which all start off with acute diarrhoea and, if left untreated, can kill the sufferer.

The Department of Water Affairs has warned Erwat, a non-profit organisation responsible for treating most of the sewage on the East Rand, to clean up its act or face prosecution.

Results of government-commissioned spot tests on rivers in the East Rand reveal that at least seven sewerage facilities have allowed bacteria-infested waste into rivers. The water is considered highly hazardous to drink and is also unfit to swim in or even touch.

Spillage from broken sewers on the Klip River is also believed to be responsible for the death of hundreds of fish in the Klip River, one government source said.

Greater Johannesburg's
Transitional Metropolitan Coun-

cil is struggling to consistently comply with health standards at four large sewerage works around the city.

Russel Rimmer, of the council's Cydna Laboratories, told the *Saturday Star* this week that Northern Works, which treats water that goes to Hartbeespoort Dam, released sewage recently despite “running out of chlorine”.

“I tried to find out why. To my mind it was a lack of delivery, and it was probably only one delivery of chlorine,” Rimmer, who had been asked to speak on behalf of the council, said.

The Olifantsvlei works, in the south, was “not getting the results we should be getting” because the “right environment” for bacteria to die off was not being created at the plant.

“Not a lot is being done about this because it is believed that the water going into the rivers is pretty much okay. The Government is expecting us to make sure we'll get the levels (of bacteria) down as soon as possible.

“We cannot compare our situation to other countries. Our rivers are small, and what we discharge has a more exaggerated effect. Rivers are under greater pressure, particularly from informal settlements.”

However, Rimmer said he did not believe the contaminated sewage posed a serious health risk. “You can get the cholera virus in rivers, but you need an awful lot of these things before you get infected.”

But national director of communicable diseases Dr Neil Cameron warned that these test results should be regarded as “very serious”.

“If these figures are true and water is going into rivers used for drinking water, it is cause for concern. The message is that this is serious, but I don't believe it affects tapped drinking water.

“Diseases which spread through water include cholera, typhoid and hepatitis A. We're expecting cholera ... it has to do with the sanitary conditions in many rural areas.

“Typhoid is also endemic in such areas. It's often spread by dirty toilets but you can get it through water and food. It's tied to the environment.”

And a senior Department of Health official said: “If something is not done now, it will get worse. This may be the start of the whole service being in jeopardy. There seems to be a serious management problem at local government level.”

Dr Quentin Espey, director of the Group of Environmental Monitoring, said: “Waterborne diseases are among the biggest killers in South Africa. About 50 000 people die each year from diarrhoea alone, and the contamination of rivers is a contributory factor.”

Wits University microbiology department lecturer John Dewar said South Africa was sitting on a health time-bomb.

TO PAGE 2

P.T.O

Garden Route under assault

Developers threaten a precious asset

ST(CM) 28/9/97 (56)

CHARL DE VILLIERS
and MARION WHITEHEAD

A MULTI-BILLION rand development scramble on the Garden Route is threatening to destroy one of the country's most scenic and fragile assets — and the forest hideout of Knysna's last elephant.

And at Brenton-on-Sea, west of Knysna, conservation campaigners have just under five weeks left to collect about R1,7-million to save the Brenton Blue butterfly from near-certain extinction.

The threats to the Brenton Blue and the Knysna elephant's forest home are two examples of a seemingly unfettered assault on the natural beauty and fragile bio-diversity of the Garden Route.

"It's going to take a national decision not to sacrifice the Garden Route," said National Parks Board environmental manager Sarel Yssel.

He said a regional planning forum had to be set up to forge a "shared vision" for the Garden Route.

"But this needs political will and it seems that political will is lacking," he added.

Recent development-related rows include plans for holiday homes on Plettenberg Bay's Robberg Peninsula, the bankrupt Simola golf-course scheme, which is spilling soil into the Knysna lagoon and a Malaysian consortium's well-advanced bid for a R350-million project at Sparrebosch on the eastern head of the lagoon.

The stomping grounds of Knysna's only surviving elephant may be carved up for development if the forestry department cannot raise R11,5-million to save nearly a third of her territory, conservationists warn.

"At least 100 development proposals cross my desk each year, most of which come from the Southern Cape and only relate to areas under our jurisdiction. This is the tip of the iceberg," Yssel said.

Conservationists blame the harmful development pressures on the Garden Route on a fragmented environmental administration inherited from the Kempton Park talks.

They fear the recently-gazetted national regulations for compulsory environmental impact studies will be ineffectual without extra financial and technical support.

The same applied to special reg-

ulations that controlled coastal developments in a pilot project between Mossel Bay and the Kaaimans River at Wilderness, said Environment Affairs spokesman Sandy MacDonald.

"The possibility is very real that these valuable areas may come into possession of property developers with massive investment capital at their disposal — especially from overseas — for developments that could pose a severe threat to the integrity of this high quality environment," says Knysna state forester Theo Stehle.

Knysna chartered accountant Basil Michaelides this week confirmed that negotiations were underway with a buyer who had expressed interest in 2 800ha of indigenous forest frequented by the last Knysna elephant and owned by a local family.

"Everything can be sold at a price, and if someone comes with a price and it's reasonable we'll consider it," Michaelides said.

Cape Nature Conservation regional director Fanie Bekker said official conservation agencies were so split up they were unable to deal effectively with "threats such as property developments and inappropriate agriculture".

Lorna Watt, chairman of the Wildlife and Environment Society's Southern Cape region, warned there would be ongoing "rearguard" battles over developments as long as there was no satisfactory strategic regional plan.

"Locals are coming under huge pressure to sell their land, which often goes on to the market for speculation and, when developed, offers very few real job opportunities for the people who need them most," she said.

While sympathetic to conservationists, provincial planner Phillip Grobler said his department could not stifle development with excessive environmental planning.

Sasol's mining plans slammed

SHERILEE BRIDGE

Johannesburg — Sasol's submission of a report on a proposed strip mining operation on the Vaal River has been slammed by environmentalists and members of the Sasolburg community, a property owners' group has said.

Save the Vaal Environment (Save) has claimed Sasol and Walmsley Environmental Consultants ignored the correct consultation processes when drawing up the environmental management programme report on the proposed Sigma North-West coal strip mining operation.

The report was submitted to the department of minerals and energy on Friday.

CT (BR) 29/9/97 (20) (56)
Save has challenged the department's granting of a Minerals Act section 9 mining permit by seeking a high court reprieve. The department will now decide in terms of section 39.

Sasol has said the final version of the report included comments raised after the draft report released in February.

Alfonso Niemand, Sasol's communications manager, said further design improvements had been suggested in the final report, including reducing the construction period of the screening berm from nine to five years.

The reduction was significant because the construction period was when mining operations were most exposed to surrounding com-

munities, said Andrew Duthie, the project leader at Walmsley Environmental Consultants. "The period during which property prices may be affected has effectively been reduced," he said.

The proposed strip mine is situated at the Free State side of the Vaal River opposite Millionaire's Row. Save, which was established to fight the proposed mining operation, is concerned it will destroy the Rietspruit wetland area, which supports about 15 rare and endangered species.

However, the report claimed the wetland was of low conservation status and played no significant role in sustaining waterflows in the Rietspruit or promoting water quality.

Ensuring the community is left better off

SA mining firms involved in African exploration are being forced to take more interest in social and environmental issues which arise from their activities, writes mining reporter David Mckay

ABD 30/9/97

(56)

ENGINEERING consulting companies say increased scrutiny from the World Bank, stemming from mistakes particularly in developing hydroelectric projects in China and southern Asia, has led to increased awareness by multinational firms of how they tackle the social and ecological issues.

Gold Fields Ghana is typical. It handled the resettlement of a community of about 20 000 people in the proposed development of the Tarkwa Gold Mine in western Ghana. It was a programme which seems to have been a success.

MED Helgo Kahle says this was "a major challenge" as the relocation presented the problem of not disturbing the social, cultural and economic activities of the community. Given tight financial restraints it was "a particularly onerous task", he says.

SA consulting engineers specialising in this increasingly important discipline believe locally-based mining companies should expect more of these problems, as any project that does not have a strong environmental and societal aspect can become a target for protest groups.

Consult Four is a company which evolved out of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, com-

prising consulting engineering firms Ninam Shand, Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten, VRK and Keve Steyn. The companies decided to extend the partnership to compete for offshore projects involving a number of technical aspects of project work.

CE Jim Richards says the objective in relocating a community to make way for a nearby mining project is that the community has to be "better off" than it was before the project began. This is a tall order, but he believes any firm ignoring this requirement can be sure of attracting the opposition of pressure groups.

While there is some cost in making sure that non-mining aspects of the project have been dealt with, the eventual cost of ignoring such issues can be much greater. In general, SA mining firms were coming round to this point of view, he said.

Other aspects which needed to be considered in these environmental and sociological studies was whether fresh water sources could be contaminated by mining activities, Richards said.

Fallings stockpiles could create havoc for the environment if the climate in which the mining takes place is windy. "There are a num-

ber of variables which have to be taken into account, but a properly managed programme is usually the most cost-effective," he said.

Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten's Andy Spitz said mining companies had started to become more sensitive to the need to take community interests to heart.

These interests sometimes involved the emotional trauma caused by mining activities in an area inhabited by the community for generations. The effect of the settler community could also have a significant effect, Spitz said.

Having to share what were sometimes scarce natural resources, such as water and food, with the representatives of the mining firm, was difficult. Many of the communities affected by mining projects often did not derive any benefits.

Gold Fields Ghana believes it has improved the quality of life of those affected by the extension of mining at Tarkwa. In the case of the Atuabo-Mandekrom and Sofo Mensah regions of the Tarkwa project, Gold Fields Ghana has offered a higher level of public facilities, where in the past sanitation and refuse facilities were virtually non-existent.

There were only six potable wa-

ter sources for 8 000 users, while housing materials usually consisted of mud and bamboo. This had changed, with communities due to receive houses made from sandcrete, Kahle said.

Farm owners were offered compensation packages for relocation with interim and new agricultural areas to be provided in future.

Kahle said the entire programme had cost the company \$27m, but it is "the single biggest direct cash injection the community has ever seen".

Ultimately expenditure of this size was motivated by the belief that developing a relationship with the community was "fundamental to the long-term success of the project", he said.

IDS

Trans-boundary peace parks come step nearer

Star 30/9/97

The dream of establishing a network of conservation areas to safeguard wildlife resources into the next millennium, while creating job opportunities, could become a reality. Glenda Daniels reports

One of South Africa's most ambitious nature conservation projects yet is a vision of borderless peace for the sub-continent that sees the re-creation of ancient wildlife migration paths, the uniting of ecological and cultural territories and the sustainable development of rural people.

The dream by environmentalists is to see trans-frontier conservation areas (TFPCAs) opened up so that nature-based tourism can take off like never before.

This was the message by Peace Parks Foundation director John Hanks, in a talk to concerned environmentalists in Johannesburg recently. Some 200 000 sq km of TFPCAs are envisioned by the foundation to create new hope for a wildlife environment currently fragmented by people-made borders.

The foundation is an international partnership to protect the continent's wildlife heritage promoting wildlife conservation, ecotourism and job creation.

The term, peace park, was coined by the World Conservation Union in the 1980s, to describe a trans-frontier

conservation - an area which embraces more than one nation, uniting fragmented ecological habitats and promoting environmental and political stability.

The union has identified 100 trans-boundary protected areas, whose management, provides potential for regional co-operation between neighbouring countries. While the potential in southern Africa has always been there for such an initiative, it is for the first time this cen-

tury that stability exists in the region, says Hanks.

President Mandela has pledged his support for the Peace Park Foundation and at a recent meeting the presidents of Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe also pledged support.

Mandela, President Sam Nujoma of Namibia and President Bakili Muzi of Malawi have all agreed to become patrons of the foundation.

Tourism has become the world's

largest industry. In 1996, 225 million people were employed in tourism and travel. If this trend continues, tourism will grow at 5.1% a year for the next 20 years and it is estimated that the sector will employ over one billion people by 2010 says Hanks.

The overwhelming expansion will be nature-based tourism, he says, with southern Africa having the potential to become a top destination.

He says that in 1996 just under 1.2 million tourists visited SA from out-

side of the continent. When combined with local tourism a contribution of 4% was made to the gross domestic product, creating 480 000 jobs.

Under proper management and with Government encouragement, the tourism industry has the potential to create 860 000 jobs by the year 2000. If the trend continues then the industry within SA alone, could generate some R40-billion annually and create two million jobs.

The countries neighbouring SA

Creating, funding seven ecological bridges across the subcontinent

The first phase of the Peace Parks Foundation's strategy is to facilitate creation of and to provide funds for seven proposed TFPCAs, creating ecological bridges across the subcontinent.

- The Richtersveld/Ai-Ais Peace Park spans one of the most arid environments in Africa including the Fish River Canyon - second only to the Grand Canyon in size. One of the most species-rich arid zones in the world, it is an undisputed hotspot of biodiversity.
- The proposed Gariiep Peace Park on the Orange River has long stretches of fragile Orange River Nama Karoo vegetation. The abundant thickets along the river banks are an ideal habitat for restocking with the endangered black rhino.
- The Kalahari Trans-frontier Park has been in the factio existence since 1948. In a breakthrough for the peace

parks initiative, conservation authorities from both SA and Botswana have now signed joint management agreements for this unique "desert" park.

■ The Dongola/Limpopo Valley TFCA will unite Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Supporting populations of big game including elephant and major predators, this region along the Limpopo River will become an exciting new

ecotourism destination.

■ The Kruger/Banhine-Zinave/Gonarezhou TCFA will create one of the most impressive conservation regions in the world, with an area of almost 96 000 sq km. The traditional migration routes will be re-established, eliminating the need for controversial culling and relocation programmes.

■ The Maputland TCFA will offer a unique combination of big game country, ex-

tensive wetlands and some of the most beautiful and pristine coastal areas that exist in the world. The linking of Tembe and Maputo Elephant Reserves will create the first major elephant stronghold along Africa's eastern coast.

■ The Maloti/Drakensberg TCFA covers 5 000 sq km of mountains straddling the Lesotho and SA borders and supports unique sub-alpine ecosystems.

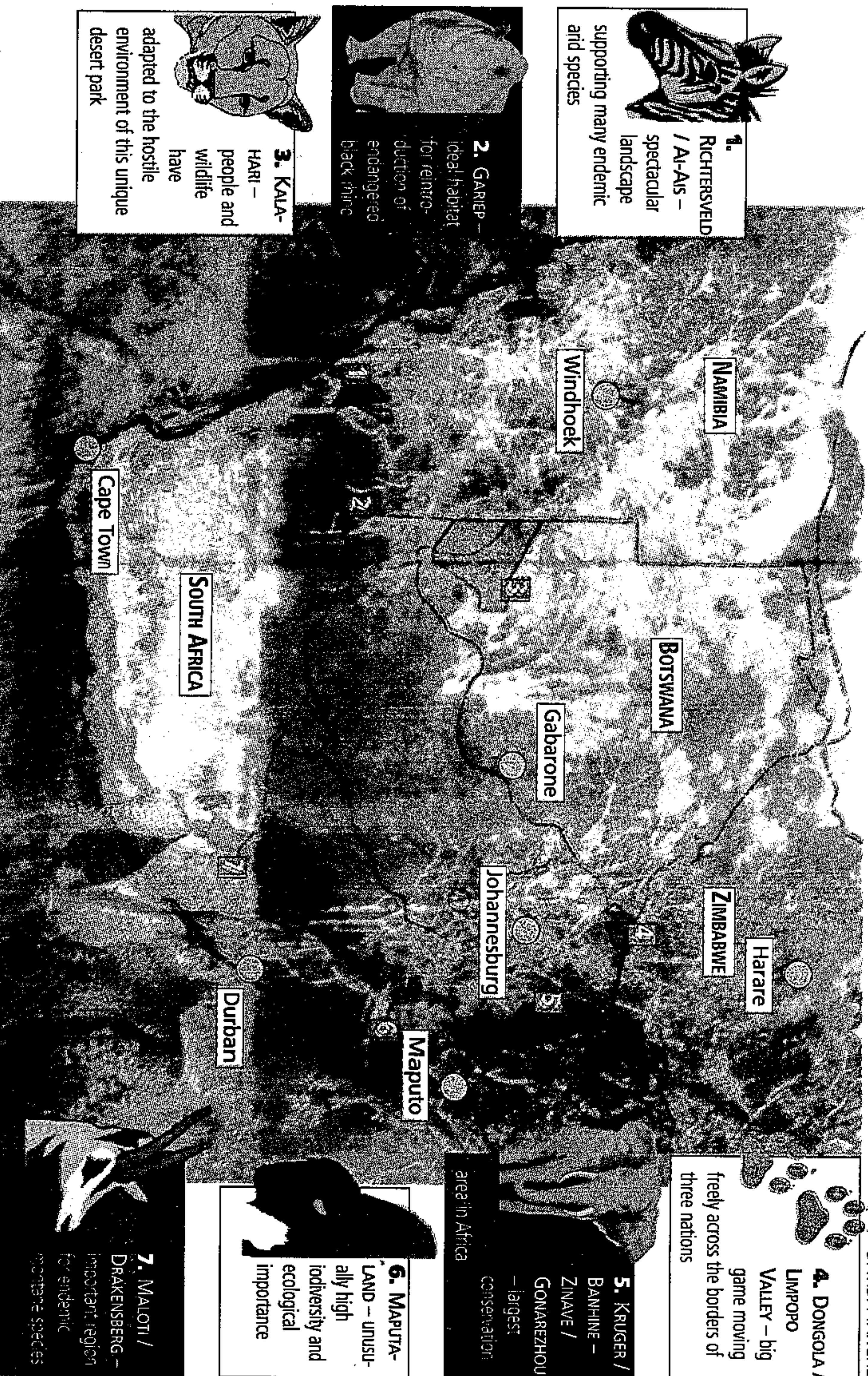
have the potential to benefit from the predicted growth in tourism. For example, the lodges in the Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana already attract about 20 000 visitors annually.

It has been estimated that with the development of the proposed Dongola/Limpopo Valley TFCA, visitors to the same area could increase to 100 000 within five years. Numerous jobs associated with the development, servicing and maintenance of the required infrastructure and facilities could be created.

Endangered local communities, such as the Koi San, will also benefit from the peace parks idea.

In the 1960s, wildlife authorities saw no place for indigenous communities in their efforts to maintain conservation areas. This has changed and local community involvement is now regarded as an essential prerequisite for the successful development of peace parks.

By creating economic opportunities through tourism, the TCFA's will offer new hope to local communities. With the development of ecotourism, many rural communities will be able to use their resources and skills in an industry that has become the biggest revenue generator in this world.



1. RICHTERSVELD / AI-AIS - spectacular landscape supporting many endemic and species

2. GARIIEP - ideal habitat for reintroduction of endangered black rhino

3. KALAHARI - people and wildlife have adapted to the hostile environment of this unique desert park

4. DONGOLA / LIMPOPO VALLEY - big game moving freely across the borders of three nations

5. KRUGER / BANHINE - ZINAVE / GONAREZHOU - largest conservation area in Africa

6. MAPUTLAND - unusually high biodiversity and ecological importance

7. MALOTI / DRAKENSBERG - important region for endemic mountain species

DAVIDA TANCHEL

Health warning as city's 'brown haze' worsens

Diesel the main culprit, scientists say

ANDREA WEISS
CITY EDITOR

Cape Town's air pollution problem is increasing to a point where international guidelines could be exceeded regularly, with serious health implications for citizens.

This is the view of researchers at the University of Cape Town, who have released the results of a study of "brown haze", the visible smog which plagues the city between April and September.

The results show that the main source of brown haze is diesel vehicles, with petrol vehicles, wood-burning and industrial boilers also being significant.

Brown haze forms when cold air is trapped beneath a layer of warm air during a temperature inversion, which makes it diffi-

cult for pollutants to disperse. The haze extends over most of the metropolitan area and is normally intense in the morning, lifting and dispersing later.

Brown haze consists mainly of particles smaller than 2,5 microns, which are harmful to human health.

UCT's Energy Research Institute, which did the research, warns that air pollution will grow to unacceptable levels unless action is taken soon.

Dick Dutkiewicz, who heads the institute, said the time for talk had passed, because the study had provided enough information to be acted upon immediately.

Professor Dutkiewicz said local authorities had the powers to enforce the control of diesel black smoke and industrial black smoke, but they had a capacity problem and were unable to police these areas properly.

ARG 11/10/97 (56)
"If Cape Town is serious about improving air quality and reducing the intensity of the brown haze, immediate action and longer-term planning is required. Immediate attention should be focused primarily on diesel vehicles, the largest single contributor to the brown haze," his report says.

Discussions should be held with the oil industry to reformulate fuel to make emissions safer and the Cape Metropolitan Council should upgrade its air-pollution control capacity, and also initiate the development of an air-quality management system for Cape Town, the report says.

It recommends that the city's air pollution division be expanded and qualified staff taken on. Also, it says, a budget should be allocated for monitoring and testing facilities, and the division should be given the power to enforce standards.

Brown haze ⁽⁵⁶⁾ mostly caused by vehicles

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

VEHICLE emissions are the major cause of Cape Town's unsightly "brown haze" — the blanket of polluted air that covers the city in autumn and winter, often rising above internationally accepted health limits.

This was the finding of a three-year study by UCT's Energy Research Institute which was released yesterday.

Institute director Professor Dick Dutkiewicz said vehicle emissions were responsible for 65% of the brown haze; industry 22% and domestic wood fires 11%. Dust and sea salt made up a negligible 2%.

Diesel vehicles were the main polluters, responsible for 48% of the brown haze, compared with 17% from petrol vehicles.

The city's air pollution is expected to increase by 50% in the next 10 years, and international limits will be exceeded more often for longer periods, he said.

Said Dutkiewicz: "This scenario is unacceptable for Cape Town. We all hate brown haze and the time has passed when we need to talk about it. In some cases laws already exist to curb it, but they are not enforced. If we do not do something concrete soon, we'll be sitting with an atmosphere as bad, if not worse, than most cities in Europe or the United States."

The study recommended the officials take immediate action by:

- Enforcing legislation to cut diesel black smoke emission.
- Enforcing legislation to cut black smoke emissions from industries.
- Discussing with the oil industry ways to improve fuel quality.
- Upgrading the air pollution control capacity of the Cape Met-

ropolitan Council.

- Starting an air quality management system for the city.

- Re-assessing national air pollution control legislation which is outdated.

Dutkiewicz said the industrial pollution was from small industries scattered around the metropole.

He said emissions from the Caltex refinery and the Athlone power station did not contribute significantly to the brown haze as their chimneys were high and released emissions above the temperature inversion layer. It was this layer which "trapped" pollutants near the ground on still, cloudless nights in autumn and winter, creating the brown haze in the early mornings.

Legislation already exists in the Air Pollution Prevention Act of 1965 covering black smoke emissions from diesel vehicles and industry, but this is not properly enforced. Experts say legislation covering diesel vehicles is outdated, has loopholes and is hardly ever enforced.

The city council had had the equipment needed to measure diesel emissions on the spot, but it broke about 15 years ago and was never replaced. The CMC's air pollution control officer, Mr Hans Linde, confirmed the machine was broken.

"We never repaired it because we were promised new air pollution legislation about 12 years ago which would have made the equipment redundant. That legislation has never materialised," Linde said.

Head of CMC municipal health services Dr Mike Tatley said the CMC would put the report's recommendations into action.

One of the first moves would be to increase the air pollution management staff from eight to 13.

CMC to fight growing city air pollution

'Brown haze' alert (56)

ARC 3/10/97

ANDREA WEISS
CITY EDITOR

The Cape Metropolitan Council intends to control a burgeoning air pollution problem threatening the health of residents and the tourism industry.

This follows the release of a report on Cape Town's "brown haze", which at times makes pollution in the city comparable to the worst in the world.

Brown haze develops mostly in winter when a temperature inversion traps pollutants below warm air.

Pierre Uys, chairman of the executive committee, said the council intended upgrading its air pollution control capacity to cover the whole metropolitan area.

Scientists indicated it was possible that primary emissions could increase by 48% over the next decade, which meant health standards would be exceeded much more frequently if nothing was done.

The brown haze study, carried out by the University of Cape Town's energy research unit, found that the main culprits were vehicles, particularly those with diesel engines, industry and wood burning.

Achmat Ebrahim, executive director with the metropolitan council, said: "This is air pollution at its worst

and is not only an environmental problem but a health hazard as well."

He said the Cape metropolitan area was lucky that pollution lasted only a few hours a day and generally occurred only in winter but the brown haze episodes were comparable to some of the world's worst.

The council will also:

- Appoint five additional environmental health officers
- Establish a working group involving scientific services and the health department to ensure integrated pollution control
- Develop an air quality management system for the region
- Work as an advisory body helping municipalities across the metropolitan area.

Mr Uys said that through an integrated strategy and policy, the council would be able to achieve a lot more in dealing with the endemic pollution.

The study had clearly defined the nature of the problem and what should be done about it.

The council would ultimately initiate evaluation, control and enforcement measures, but it would be up to every citizen to do whatever was necessary to limit the problem.

How BP is tackling emissions, page 8

for Ethiopia and the Cote d'Ivoire, Védrine would open the new French Business Centre. Private and public companies had joined together to establish the first joint advice centre of its kind worldwide.

to become a permanent feature of the province.
At the launch, Gauteng transport MEC Paul Mashatile said 50 communication scoreboards, which would supply information on the progress of

the comprehensive strategy.
"The time for polite warnings is over.... If people insist on driving with death-wishes, then we will do all in our power to ensure that they pay the appropriate penalty," he said.

Protocol reclassification saves SA R3m a year

Josey Ballenger

SA's recent reclassification as a developing nation under the Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer would save government R3m annually and potentially postpone target dates for reducing ozone-depleting substances, the environmental affairs and tourism department announced last night.

This follows a meeting of the parties last month, where SA delegates called for a reclassification. The protocol was

signed in 1990, at which time SA was classified as a developed nation. The department said SA's commitment to phasing out ozone-depleting products had been unaffected by the decision as it would stick to the targets it agreed to last year.

The reclassification also meant SA did not have to contribute R3m a year to the protocol's multilateral fund to assist developing countries in phasing out their chlorofluorocarbons. The environmental affairs department would put this

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Illegal mail service shut down

Pearl Sebolao

THE SA Post Office won a High Court application yesterday preventing illegal mail operator City Post and its franchisees from receiving, collecting, conveying or delivering letters as determined in the Post Office Act, the Post Office said yesterday.

Pretoria High Court Judge Freddie Roos ordered that City Post cease to carry out all their activities immediately. They were also forbidden to contract or negotiate with any person or carry on a postal service under the name City Post RSA.

The order was granted with costs against City Post. The Post Office said earlier that City Post had indicated it and its franchisees would abide by the court decision and that it would carry the legal costs of all franchisees countrywide.

The application was the second of its kind in as many months. Last month the Post Office won an application in the

High Court against another illegal operator, ASAP, the Post Office said. It said it had gone to court because these illegal operators did not offer a national or international service as required by the Universal Postal Union — of which SA was a member — and which compelled the Post Office to render a national service to all areas of the country.

The illegal operators did not have this obligation and chose only to render a service where it was profitable. They also did not have infrastructure or personnel to offer any sustained delivery service.

"Postal articles entrusted to such undertakings in the Western Cape, Free State and Gauteng were not delivered within a reasonable time and were subsequently placed in Post Office street postboxes for delivery," the Post Office said.

It also said that in Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Pretoria, mail given to some of these concerns was dumped.



I DON'T HARM NATURE — PERMIT-HOLDER

Fire over mining of stones

ET 3/10/97 (56)

THE PEOPLE OF AGULHAS are angry over the mining of stone on their beaches. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** looked into the complaints.

THE commercial "mining" of stones on the beaches of Agulhas, Africa's southernmost tip, has caused a row in the tiny windswept towns of Agulhas and Suidstrand.

Residents say the loss of the 120 tons of stones that are collected and trucked away every year is spoiling the beaches.

The Overberg Regional Services Council is also against the practice.

But the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, who granted the mining concession, claim the Overberg RSC did approve the practice.

The man who has the mining concession, Mr Willem Theron of Hemanus, says: "If anyone of

these people can show me where these klipkies have become fewer, I will be very surprised."

The stone mining has been going on for the past 10 years. The stones are sold to nurseries and landscape gardening outlets where consumers buy them for decorative use in gardens.

Angry Agulhas resident Ms Meg Cowper-Lewis says she finds it difficult to understand how the government could grant permission for mining.

"The stones are being taken out in their thousands from a beach just beyond the southernmost tip of Africa.

"Many of us are angry about this and I find it astonishing that on a coastline as geographically

important as this one, where so many thousands of foreign tourists visit each year, a permit could have been granted.

"I've written to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to ask them to explain their reason for granting a permit whereby the environment is destroyed for a private person's financial gain."

Overberg RSC's chief executive officer, Mr Wilhelm Ekermans, said his council was not in favour of the stone mining.

"The public are against it and we are the voice of the public, so we oppose it."

However, the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs had the final say, he said.

Mr Max Olekers of Mineral and Energy Affairs said: "Because there's been such a hoo-ha about it from the local authorities and the public, we took the Overberg

RSC and the Department of Environment to the site and they both said they would be happy to approve the permit renewal but with certain conditions, for instance things regarding the bird life, which we agreed to.

"We also got the CSIR to re-evaluate their report and the essence of that was that the sea automatically replenishes the stone on the beaches."

Stone miner Theron said: "I've had so much trouble with these people. When I started this operation 10 years ago there were about two houses at Suidstrand. Now there 30 or 40 houses and these fancy people sit in their fancy houses and complain.

"I'm sick of it. I had to get about six governmental departments' approval to do this. I don't harm nature. I can only collect in winter so I don't interfere with birds that breed."



STONEY-FACED: Meg Cowper-Lewis shows her disapproval as she sits on some of this year's quota of 120 tons of stones being removed from the Agulhas area. **PICTURE: GARTH STEAD**

Pallo Jordan's monkey business

(56)

Marion Edmunds

More than 150 South African baboons and monkeys have been sold to overseas laboratories, after Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan gave a notorious French-owned agency his personal blessing to export them.

Jordan overruled his own moratorium on primate exports, ignored his department's experts and ordered provincial government officials to issue the export permits after the agency approached him earlier this year.

It is understood many of the primates — baboons and vervet monkeys — were trapped in the Northern Province, transported to the agency's Mpumalanga headquarters, and flown out from Johannesburg International Airport in May and July. The animals were sold to laboratories in France and Gabon.

The nature of the tests on the animals remains unclear. Jordan says he believes the tests are for pharmaceutical products. But the agency, Hazyview-based Centre Africain Primatologie Experimentale (Cape), says the primates will be used in experiments on diseases such as Aids and Ebola, and toxicology.

The agency, which also breeds primates, says it is planning to donate baboons to Minister of Health Nkosazana Zuma for research into Aids.

Jordan's decision is likely to provoke out-

rage, particularly among animal rights groups.

Cape was implicated in 1990 when investigators from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals found more than 100 wild baboons and two vervet monkeys caged at what appeared to be an abandoned camp. The animals were starving and showed signs of maltreatment. Fifty of the baboons had been kept in cramped cages for more than a year and could no longer extend their limbs. They were covered with scars and lesions. Eventually, they had to be put down.

The agency denied it had abandoned the animals. Documents discovered at the scene stated that the laboratory's aim was to carry out toxicological experiments.

Cape was also implicated in 1995 in an abortive attempt by the French military to buy primates for use in nuclear radiation tests.

Jordan earlier this year confirmed a moratorium on primate exports following such reports, and indicated that the ban could be made permanent. But he decided to lift the moratorium after meeting Cape, which said it had the backing of the French government.

The export permits were issued to Cape free of charge, and the agency sold the primates for around R1 000 each. Among the buyers is French pharmaceuticals giant Sanofi.

Jordan said he had not checked the Sanofi laboratories and had accepted Cape's word that the animals would be well treated. "What

mtg 3-9/10/97

can I do?" says Jordan. "Must I fly over to France and break into the laboratories at dead of night, in disguise, to check on them?"

"We were given assurances by Cape, backed by the French government and people in the European Union. We have not sent anybody to inspect the laboratories where they are sent, but if the French government is prepared to put its neck on the line, then we think it's okay to give Cape the licences."

Jordan's decision has unnerved his officials, who are battling to define their role in advising on such exports. The department's experts on the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, or Cites, were excluded from Jordan's discussions with Cape. "It's a political thing," says Dr Ben du Toit, the department's Cites head. "We were not present."

Animal rights groups say Jordan has failed to respond to their inquiries about the moratorium. "It is sad he can be so blasé about oppression after having been oppressed himself," says Steve Smit, representative of the Front for Animal Liberation and the Conservation of Nature.

"What is more, the animals we are talking about are primates; they even belong to the same family as him. We would have expected a little more understanding and care from him."

Jordan's response was swift. "Why should they hate me?" he adds. "Some of my best friends are monkeys."

Another sewerage plant dumping waste into our water system

By JACKIE CAMERON

Another sewerage works has fallen under the government spotlight for dumping bacteria-infested effluent into a river - this time it's the Klip River, where thousands of fish have died in recent weeks.

The Waterfall plant - south of Johannesburg - which treats water destined for drinking, has been pushing out millions of litres of human waste into this south-bound river since June.

Last week, the *Saturday Star* exposed eight sewerage works which discharged hazardous effluent into city rivers after running out of chlorine, and others because they had misjudged the amount of chlorine needed or time taken for bacteria to be killed.

The Waterfall plant brings to nine the number of sewerage works which have failed to meet consistently government restrictions on the levels of bacteria and faecal contamination allowed in effluent. Health experts have warned that a deadly disease time-bomb is ticking in the city as a result.

In another development, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is to probe the possibility that at least one Greenfields factory has dumped contaminated water into the Klip River.

This emerged after the *Saturday Star* showed a water affairs official some pictures of a pungent-smelling dam, on a factory site, which spills into a manmade trough headed towards the river catchment area.

This factory is supposed to push all waste directly to the Waterfall plant for processing.

When the *Saturday Star* visited the African Products maize product factory, we found a dam filled with a putrid-smelling liquid. There was no sign of animal or plant life in or near the water, and residents in the area have complained about the overpowering, vomit-inducing smell from the plant, which adjoins a nature reserve.

Sewerage plant has diverted effluent to bypass the final stages of the treating process - the system which kills off the bacteria - and into the river.

A chief industrial technician with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Henri Pienaar, spoke about the problems at the Waterfall works after inspecting the *Saturday Star* pictures.

He said the maturation ponds, where solid waste is left to settle and the bacteria die off while clean overflow moves out of the works, had stopped functioning. Sewerage sludge

There were lots of dead fish in the water. While I was at the works, they broke open a wall to divert the effluent while I was taking samples.

"We accepted this only as an emergency measure because there was less bacteria in this effluent than that coming from the maturation ponds.

"But the bacteria levels are still not acceptable. They have still not resolved the problem. They have told me that some of their equipment, which removes the moisture from the solids, has been out of commission for quite a while now."

When sewerage becomes anaerobic - has no more oxygen - gases like ammonia and methane stir up the solids. Fish, unable to draw in oxygen, can die.

Pienaar has issued one formal warning and several verbal warnings to Waterfall sewerage works to clean up their act, and has now handed the matter to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's legal department.

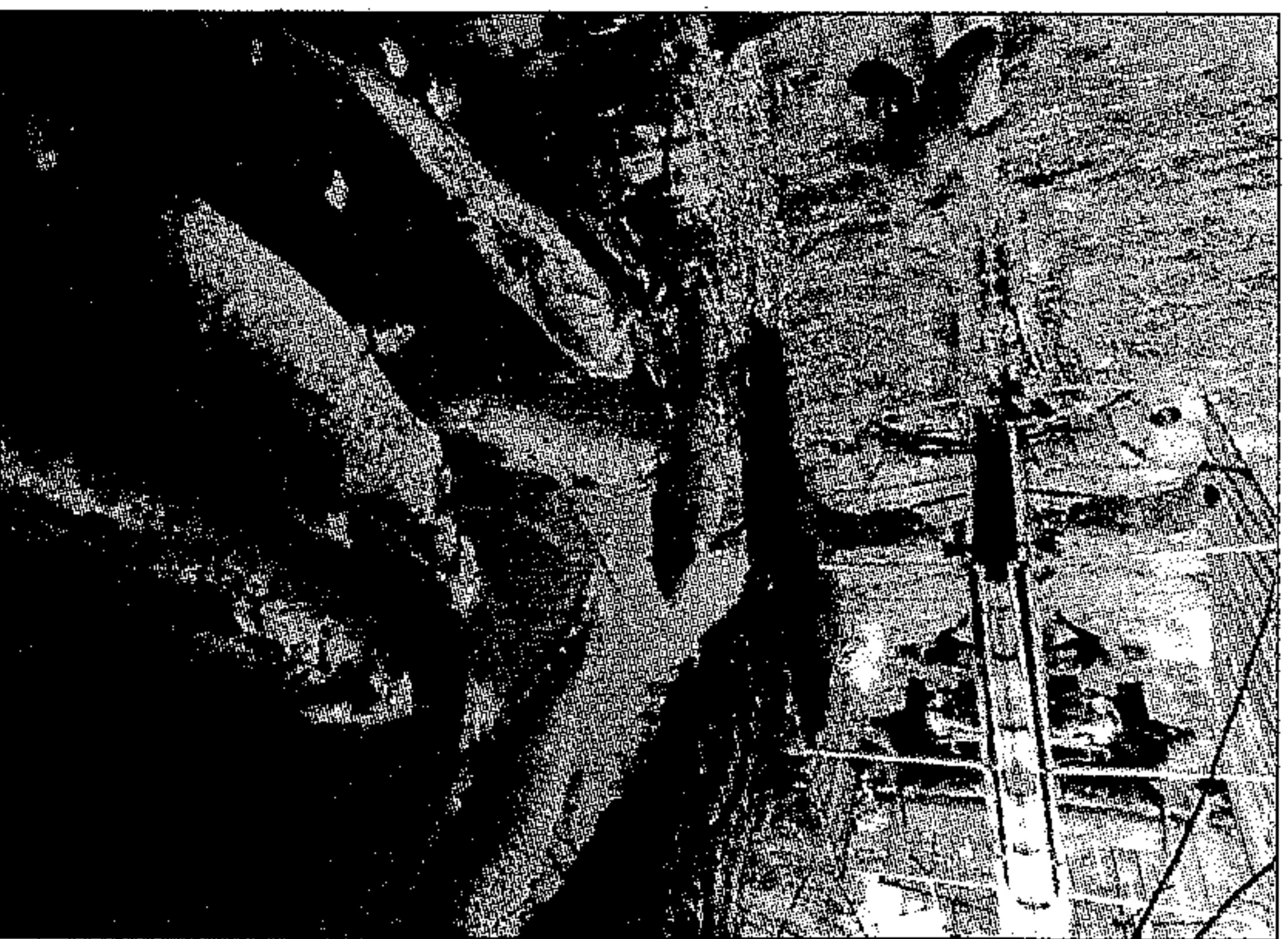
Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal has instructed this department to prepare for legal action against Erwat, the not-for-profit company which runs many sewerage plants around the city.

But the Government can't shut them down, the most it can do is fine the directors and the company. It also cannot close the sewerage works, because the sewage has to go somewhere, a government source said.

Pienaar, meanwhile, said, after seeing the pictures of the factory dam, he would investigate the possibility that a factory in the area had discharged contaminated water into the river. Hundreds of fish have died in this river, and residents downstream have complained of human-waste particles bubbling up to the surface.

In Henley-on-Klip, a colonial-style village where many residents have plots on the banks of the river, a committee has been set up to fight the pollution.

The action committee's spokesman, Gus Dorfing, said the group was



POLLUTED RIVER: Many fish have died

had effectively started rotting, breaking up and bubbling to the surface of relatively clear water.

"Black mess was washing up into the overflow and into the river," Pienaar said. "In June this plant's effluent was very bad. I confronted them, and they told me that someone had sabotaged a maturation pond, apparently by breaking a valve which controls the outflow of sludge.

"In August we did tests again.



DIVERTED: A broken wall diverts polluted effluent from the maturation plant into which it should be flowing and allows it to tumble directly into the Klip River

planning legal action against Erwat unless the river was cleaned up soon.

He said Erwat operations manager Jurie Terblanche had agreed, at a recent meeting with angry residents, to consider paying for cleaning up the river.

But Terblanche this week denied that the Waterfall plant had anything to do with the pollution in the river.

He said: "We have not admitted responsibility. Like any sewerage works, some suspended solids can go into the river. There is also evidence of suspended solids coming in above our works." He said the factory plant was "busy with trial runs" of sending waste to the Waterfall plant through a pipeline.

"It's coming in on and off," he said, adding that he was not aware of a dam on their plot.

He also denied that his staff had smashed open a wall to shift the sewage flow. "It's not a broken wall, it's a proper diversion. It's certainly not a problem.

"We are cleaning the maturation ponds and we have permission from

the Department of Water Affairs to divert the flow.

"You don't need a maturation pond, and if you've got maturation ponds you don't need chlorine."

Terblanche claimed that chlorine was being used at Waterfall but refused to elaborate how or where it was being used.

Permission

"You are encroaching on my time. I'm not going to speak anymore," he said, adding that he had taken leave this week. Piet Hugo, a spokesman for the African Products factory, which is part of the Pongaut Hulets group, said he was "not aware of any smell" from the dam.

"This is not chemical waste. It's just stormwater which has been collected and prevented from going into the river. The intention of the dam is to prevent potential stormwater contamination of the river.

"You can't prevent all the stormwater from reaching the river. "You cannot build a pond which

catches all the rainwater," Hugo said, before the telephone line was cut.

Later, he said some plant waste had been diverted to the "pond" and admitted that some could have ended up in the river.

Later still, Hugo said: "We've just had a look at the area. The pond overfills in 50 metres of it. It is definitely not going into the river. There is other water draining from a railway-siding construction which is going into the river. We've already analysed it and it is similar to Rand Water's quality."

"There are a couple of dams on our farm. They are not overflowing but there is seepage."

Hugo added that he was considering installing a pump to "prevent" the pond water from overflowing and possibly ending up in the river.



FACTORY WASTE: More pollution

Global trends: Ethics of the future

JÉRÔME BINDE

FIVE years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, Agenda 21 remains, for the most part, a dead letter. "Rio plus five" looks embarrassingly like "Rio minus five". How long can we afford the luxury of inaction?

"We are hurtling into the future, without any brakes and in conditions of zero visibility. Yet, the faster a car goes, the brighter its headlights must be," has warned Federico Mayor, director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

Without proper attention, future generations are in danger of becoming the prisoners of unmanageable processes such as population growth, degradation of the global environment, growing inequalities between North and South and within societies, rampant social and urban apartheid, threats to democracy and mafia control.

Modern societies suffer from a distorted relationship to time. A major contradiction is at work: on the one hand, societies need to project themselves into the future in order to survive and prosper. On the other hand, they must increasingly act in "real time" and adopt short-term policies to cope with the challenges of globalisation while facing the onslaught of new technologies.

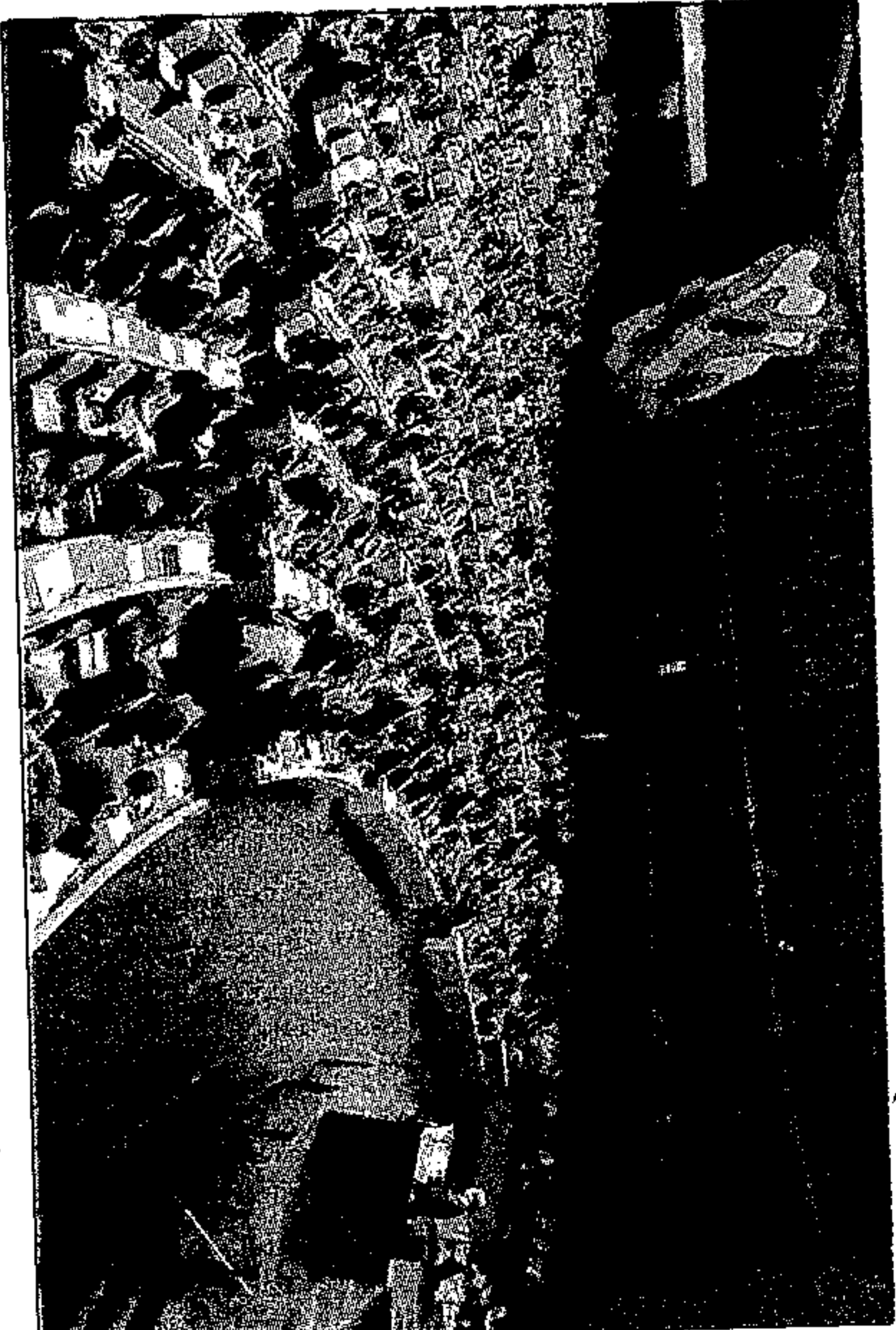
There is no escape, it seems, from the tyranny of emergency: financial markets, the media, politics (especially at election time) and development aid march to the same tune. As for Dilbert, the cartoon character lost in his cubicle world, the horizon of modern society has shrunk, in time and in space. Far from a passing phenomenon, the

logic of emergency is fast becoming a permanent feature of our societies and of our policies. And yet, as evidenced by the contradictions of humanitarian aid or, in Europe, of the struggle against unemployment, short-term and emergency measures have little impact on long-term problems.

Development in the 21st century will require long-term vision and long-term investments, such as in education and health for all, science and technology, especially new information and communication technologies, and infrastructure.

Rehabilitating the long-term means that social players and decision-makers will have to stop tinkering with the present and start anticipating. Shaping the future is by no means an easy task: one, sometimes several generations may elapse before we reap the fruits of our labour.

"The ethics of the future," says Federico Mayor, "is an ethics of farmers. It consists in transmitting a heritage." The reinforcement of anticipation and preventive capacities is, therefore, a priority for governments, international organisations, scientific institu-



FIVE YEARS LATER: At the United Nations in July more than 170 leaders and envoys gathered to review progress since the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro.

tion and infrastructure.

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tions, social players and the private sector.

Unesco has taken steps in that direction in the past few years in setting up the Analysis and Forecasting Unit. With the co-operation of Candido Mendes, president of the Senior Board of the International Social Sciences Council, it convened an international meeting in July 1997 in Rio de Janeiro on "the ethics of the future". The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, also recently set up within his office a Strategic Planning Unit, to identify emerging global trends and issues, and proposed the convening in the year 2000 of a Millennium Assembly to prepare

for the 21st century.

An ethics of the future means more than a long-term vision. It means, first of all, that responsibility should now be turned toward the distant future. What has been entrusted to us by nature and by past generations is fundamentally fragile and perishable: life, Earth, the city itself.

We need to broaden the social compact to encompass future citizens. Our sense of responsibility toward them is a condition of their survival. Secondly, it also means the exercise of the principle of precaution, to take into account the possible consequences of our actions and also the uncertain, even the unforeseeable—in a word, learn to manage risk. Thirdly, it means that heritage extends beyond stones. It encompasses the intangible and the symbolic, the ethical, the ecological, the genetic.

In this spirit, Unesco's International Bioethics committee has prepared a draft declaration on the protection of the human genome. Heritage thus becomes a foundation of human responsibility toward future generations, for "in the absence of a link between the past and the future, any refer-

ence to tradition is doomed to appear as an ideological conceit—or worse, as a regressive fundamentalism," said the Belgian philosopher François Ost.

Caring about the future has profound political implications. Max Weber warned that "the proper business of the politician is the future and his responsibility before the future".

We must steer a path that will bring closer to us the horizon of the future, through the formulation of intermediate projects still within our reach. An ethics of the future is quite simply an ethics of time, which rehabilitates not only the future itself but the past and the present.

Those who would have us ignore the plight of the poor and the excluded are usually the same who would have us turn a blind eye on disappearing languages or ignore the hole in the ozone layer. Sharing with present generations and caring for future generations are intimately related.

An ethics of the future will be useless if it is not translated into educational, scientific, technological, economic, financial and political measures, laying the foundations for a genuinely human and sustainable development. For millions of humans, many of them children, an ethics of the future would bring the promises of the future closer to the present. As Craig Kielburger, the 14-year-old founder of Free the Children, put it: "It also takes a child to raise a village."

To paraphrase a great lawyer, the future delayed is the future denied.

□ Jérôme Binde is the director of the Analysis and Forecasting Unit, Unesco.

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MOUNTAIN TOWNSHIP TRADE-OFF LOOMS

Learn to Deal on the Carpet

CT 910197

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A COMPROMISE on the controversial Oudekraal development could result in a portion of the land being developed and the rest being donated to conservation. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE main players in the Oudekraal development will sit down in two weeks' time to try to hammer out a deal on whether the luxury R750-million housing development on the slopes of Table Mountain will go ahead. Provincial MEC for Environment and Finance Mr Kobus Meiring, who is convening the meeting, hopes they will arrive at a negotiated solution whereby a section of the massive 400ha land beneath the Twelve Apostles can be developed, in exchange for the rest being donated to conservation for inclusion in the proposed Cape Peninsula National Park.

Said Meiring: "I'd like to see some sort of trade-off which would allow the owner of Oudekraal to develop some of his land, and at the same time we'd be able to conserve a large part. This would be a win-win solution for conservation and development, in much the same way that Sandy Bay was."

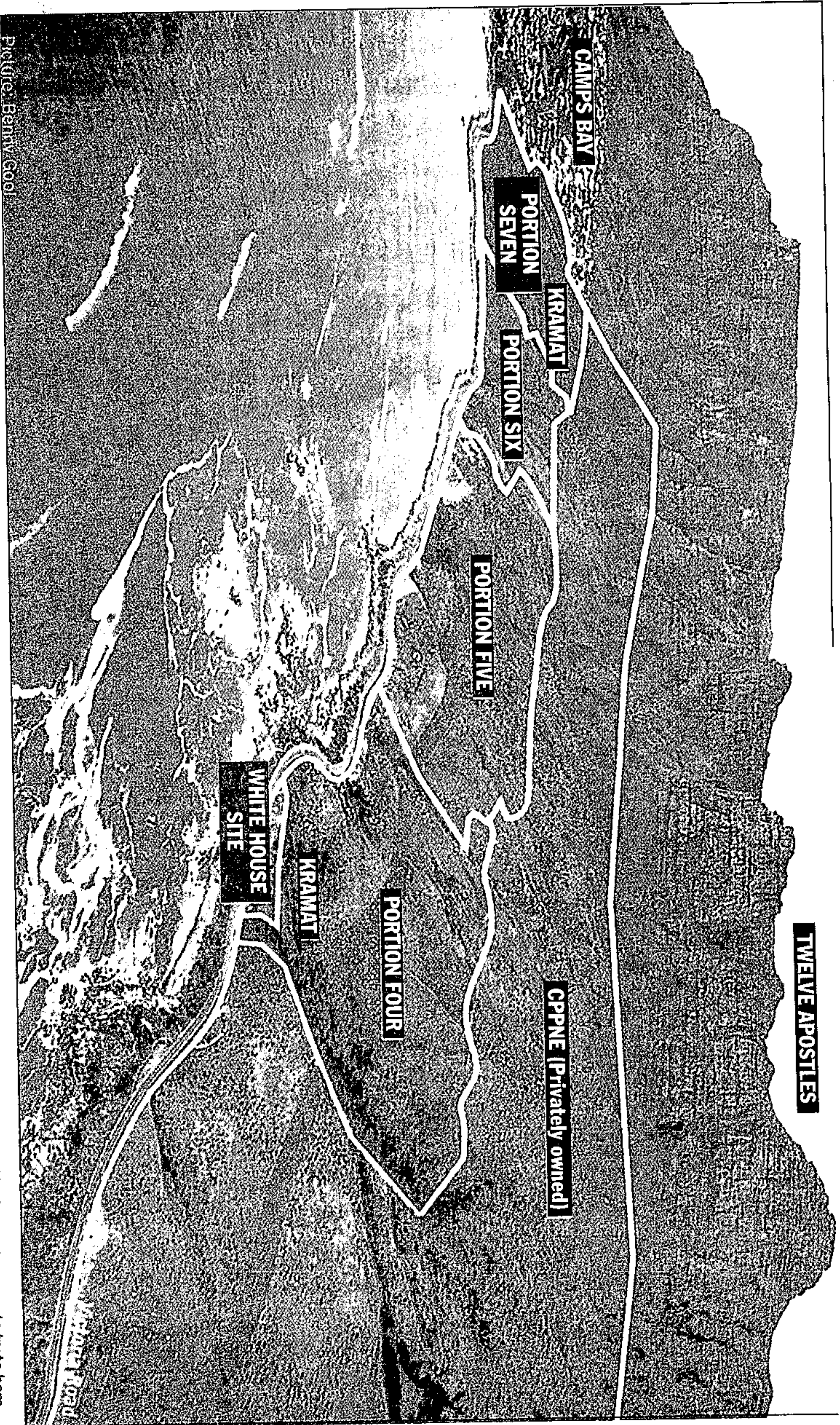
Those who will attend the meeting on October 23 include MEC for Planning Mr Lample Flick, representatives of the National Monuments Council and the Cape Town City Council and Oudekraal landowner Mr Kassie Wiehahn.

These are some of the "trade-off" deals that have been sketched to the Cape Times:

- Scenario 1: To scrap development on portion seven of Oudekraal, the land closest to Camps Bay, and to move the housing development to the old White House site instead, where a major hotel is under construction. The development could include smaller hotels as well as housing.

This scenario could also see a small boat harbour developed in front of the White House site. One of Wiehahn's proposals was to build a harbour in front of his housing development, and it is believed that the developers of the new hotel at the White House site also have plans to build a marina.

- Scenario 2: To allow a ribbon of dense housing development along Victoria Road low down on the slopes of the property, stretching from Camps Bay to just beyond the



Picture: Benny Gool

PIECE OF THE PIE: A year after the city council turned down plans to develop Oudekraal, the provincial authorities have convened a meeting of those involved in the controversy, to try to hammer out some sort of trade-off, whereby part of Oudekraal could be developed if the rest of the land was donated to the National Parks Board. Kassie Wiehahn owns all the land within the white outline, including that in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

old White House site. The aim of this would be to "densify" the development lower down the mountain, and to give the rest of the land to the National Parks Board.

- Scenario 3: To allow portion seven to be developed, but not in the present lay-out, which is considered old-fashioned and unacceptable by modern planners. A revised scheme of cluster housing, with more open space in between, would be drawn up. The rest of the land would go to National Parks Board.

- Scenario 4: To allow the Oudekraal development to go ahead, but on portion seven only, the site closest to Camps Bay, and to give the rest of the land to the National Parks Board. This would see a housing development much like Camps Bay with "grid" township layout.

The former head of Cape Nature Conservation, and now vice-chairperson of the Western Cape Tourism Board, Dr Johan Neethling, said that while he was still in office he had suggested negotiations to strike a deal. "I believe we should try to

find a win-win solution which we can all live with, to say to the owner, 'OK, you can do that development, but then we want a trade-off. You must donate the rest of your land to conservation'.

"If we continue to sit on it, the owner might sell it to someone with more political clout and then conservation would have lost the land for ever.

"My inclination would be to soften and spread the development, and take it off the upper slopes. The new hotel is already being built at the White House, so let's perhaps look at concentrating development around that. A small boat harbour there could enhance the whole coastline," Neethling said.

Mr Leon Markowitz, chairperson of the city council's urban planning committee, confirmed that he would attend the negotiations. "Talking can't do any harm, and if there is a message to take back to council, I'll do so," he said.

When development proposals were announced for Oudekraal there was a public

TWELVE APOSTLES

CPPNE (Privately owned)

PICTURE: BENNY GOOL

outcry that led to the biggest protest against a development the city has ever seen. Environmentalists on the march were joined by members of the Muslim community because of the presence of Kramats, or graves, on the site.

Because of the outcry, the authorities sought the opinion of senior counsel on the validity of the development plans for Oudekraal, which had been approved in 1957.

They were told the development rights were invalid because of a technical slip-up decades ago which had gone unnoticed until they were scrutinised last year. The council then told Wiehahn he had no development rights on the land, and the development was halted.

However, both the provincial government and Wiehahn received legal opinion saying his development rights were indisputable. Wiehahn said at the time he would take the council to court, to let a judge decide which legal opinion was correct, but a year has gone by and he has not done so.

Legal experts have expressed surprise that

Wiehahn has not gone this route as they say the court costs should not amount to more than R100 000 each side, which they dismiss as "peanuts" for land so valuable. They speculate that Wiehahn may have obtained a second legal opinion on this issue, which may have made him less optimistic about winning a court case.

Another factor that may have made him try the route of negotiations is that the National Monuments Council has just issued him with notice to provisionally declare the site of the proposed township, portion seven of Oudekraal, a national monument, effectively freezing any development for six months. This can be renewed several times every six months.

Wiehahn told the Cape Times this week that a court case was "still a possibility". "The minister (Meiring) has called for a meeting where we can all sit together and hear proposals, so it's now in his hands. I'm optimistic it will work, but a court case is still a possibility," Wiehahn said.

Environmental groups who spoke to the Cape Times have slammed the proposed negotiations, saying that Wiehahn has nothing to trade as he has no development rights.

Turn to Page 3

A new way to get rid of old tyres

ET (32) 10/10/97 (56)
ROY COKAYNE

Pretoria — The environment could emerge the winner from a provisional patent registered for a process that reduces rubber to a liquid, Ike Swartzberg, a Pretoria attorney, said this week.

Piet van den Heever, a mechanical engineer and the owner of the patent, said the technique, which did not involve a chemical process or any harmful emissions, could be used to dispose of used vehicle tyres, thus eliminating a leading cause of pollution.

"It is the solution to one of the world's biggest environmental problems," said Van den Heever.

Swartzberg said the process involved the movement of an oily substance and some other ingredients, which were com-

mon and extremely cheap, through the tyres under slight pressure in a metal drum.

After being reduced, the steel and canvass in the tyre lay at the bottom of the cylinder with the liquid latex paste above it, he said.

Van den Heever said that with a 6m by 1,8m metal cylinder, about 1 000 tyres an hour could be reduced to liquid at a cost of about 23c a tyre and with a maximum loss of only about 5 percent of the oily substance, which was reusable.

"The tyres do not even have to be chopped up or cut," he said.

Van den Heever said the liquid latex could be used in waterproofing, sound insulation, adhesives, fuel and other applications.

It could also be mixed with bitumen for tarring roads. The

steel and canvas could be sold as scrap.

Swartzberg said Goodyear, the tyre manufacturer, was "reasonably impressed" with the process "but would not entertain the thought of reusing (the liquid latex) for the manufacture of tyres".

However, he said Goodyear believed the rubber paste could be used to waterproof low-cost housing.

Swartzberg said the CSIR was also quite impressed by the process, "but it would have cost quite a lot of money to do tests on it and we are not prepared to do it at this stage".

Swartzberg said tyres were used in furnaces in a cement factory but were bulky to transport in their current form. He said the reduced tyres could be transported more efficiently by tanker instead of by truck.

Pollution eating up Cape's wetlands

'Huge implications for the environment - management plan needed'



ANDREW INGRAM

Weedbound: Ian Bull struggles to make headway through a patch of water hyacinth while canoeing on Zandvlei

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARNING

The Cape's wetland systems are under increasing pollution and development pressure - and environmental groups have now called for better management to conserve these sensitive areas.

Wildlife Society Environmental Education officer Alison Kelly said: "The clogging up of waterways has huge implications for the environment - presenting a huge problem for efficient management."

Environmentalists believe each wetland system should be properly managed, pollution kept to a minimum and the necessary steps taken to ensure these areas will be saved for future generations.

Highlighting this was the recent situation at Zandvlei, where residents on the west lake found the area virtually covered over with an infestation of water hyacinth and parrot feather.

Said Geoff Bailey, a member of the Zandvlei Trust Executive: "The recent situation has again forced us to put pro-active water quality management back on the agenda.

"The trust would like to see the resuscitation of a management plan drawn up by a consultant for the Westlake wetland."

At its meeting last week, the trust took a decision to make a presentation to the South Peninsula Municipality with which it has been working to solve the problem.

Among the suggestions put forward by the trust are improving the flow of water through the wetlands from the rivers feeding it; the creation of an artificial wetland near the Westlake informal settlement to filter water from this area; an integrated catchment management plan - and further education of the public. The introduction of biological controls has also been suggested, although these could be slow to implement.

(56) ARG 11/10/97

Executive director of Urban and Environmental Planning for the South Peninsula Municipality, Chris Sullivan, said: "The recent infestation has been cleared, but a continuing management plan is needed to solve the problem."

Mr Bailey said the wetland was a valuable recreation area, which would become unusable if allowed to clog up.

"The weed growth prevents canoeists from getting to the open vlei and makes it difficult for fishermen whose lures get caught in the weed," he added.

"If the weed is allowed to take over and decompose, the area could turn into a smelly bog with no aesthetic appeal - and it might then be earmarked as an area to be filled," said Mr Bailey.

The different levels of weed in the vlei result in conditions which retard the oxygen exchange between the surface and bottom.

"When the surface plants decompose, they drop to the bottom.

"In the absence of sufficient oxygen, this results in the production of smelly hydrogen sulphide, which is toxic to fish."

Mr Bailey said even though many of the fish were not indigenous, they provided food for birds like pelicans and kingfishers.

Without this, the birds would go elsewhere for food.

The area is currently environmentally stressed and already a marked decrease in amphibian life was being seen with the gradual disappearance of the leopard toad.

Amphibians have a sensitive skin and are therefore quick to react to changing conditions.

Zandvlei resident Ian Bull said: "The amount of water hyacinth and parrot feather blown against the shore last weekend was so great that no one could get their boats out - and it's getting worse every year."

Any contact at all - 'even one splash' - could result in critical health problems, says water authority

Avoid deadly Klip River, scientists warn

By JACKIE CAMERON

The Klip River is a disease-infested death trap, Rand Water has warned people to avoid all contact with certain sections of this river following a dysentery outbreak.

Three researchers and a child, from the Henley-on-Klip area, have contracted dysentery. Two adults and the child were hospitalised this week for severe dehydration, Rand Water quality marketing manager Karl Lubout told the *Saturday Star*.

He said any contact with the kilometres-long deadly "plug" in this area "will result in critical health problems".

Rand Water scientists have tested the water and have warned that "even one splash" could have dire health effects.

Last week, the *Saturday Star* revealed that the Waterval sewerage works was at the centre of a government investigation after tests revealed that bacteria-infested human waste was being discharged from the plant.

Human waste is a fertile breeding ground for life-threatening diseases, including cholera and typhoid.

The "no go" section is expected to move down the river towards Vereeniging and the Vaal Barrage.

Dr Machel Steynberg, of Rand Water's biological sciences department, said: "This plug may be the sum total of all the reactions in the river flowing

into that area. The health risk of having any contact with this water is so serious that we are issuing this warning.

"The red areas (on the graphic) are also high risk but not as dangerous as the plug. There is still a significant risk of infectious disease transmission in these zones."

Lubout emphasised that the river would not affect tap water because this water was not currently being fed into the drinking-water system.

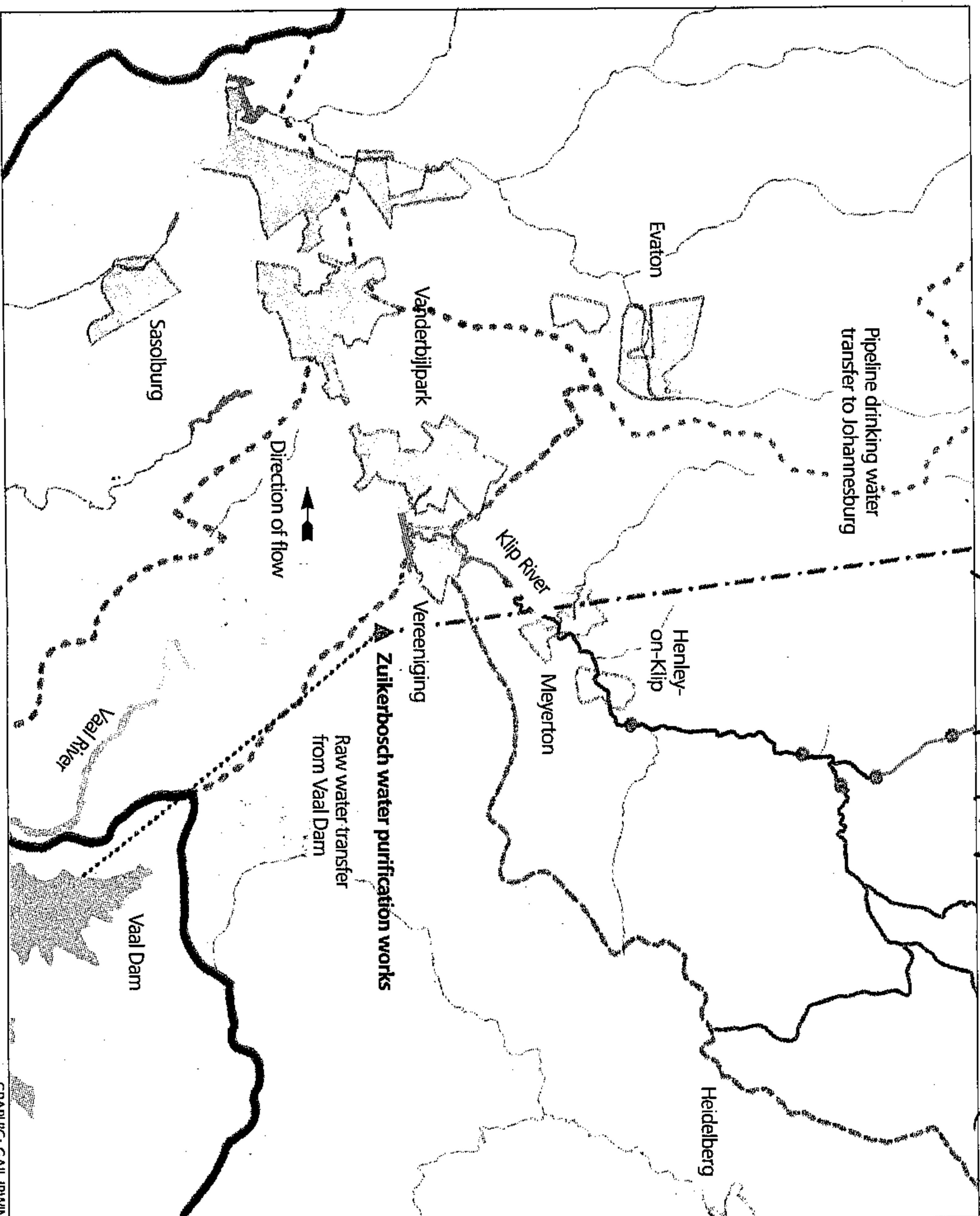
"We know this catchment is extremely infected. We have the Vaal Dam. The Klip River does not flow into the Vaal Dam. We pipe water from the dam to homes. It's perfectly safe to drink water from a tap at a home.

"We have not used the Klip River for at least two months, for health as well as financial considerations. It's cheaper for us to use water from the Vaal Dam. We will be monitoring this river closely," Lubout said.

Last week, Rand Water tested water samples from five homes around Johannesburg. One sample was deemed unsuitable for drinking after high levels of non-faecal bacteria were found in the sample.

Rand Water retested the sample this week and did not find any bacteria in the sample.

"We also tested for chlorine, and the levels were fine. We believe the high bacteria counts in the initial sample were the result of unscientific sampling methods," Lubout said.



GRAPHIC: GAIL IRWIN

Water not fit for drinking. Basic treatment necessary

Water not fit for drinking. Basic treatment necessary. Slight risk of microbial infection.

Water not fit for drinking. Basic treatment necessary. Low risk of gastro-intestinal infection.

High risk of infection. Increased risk of disease transmission. Possible gastro-intestinal infection on contact.

Water not drinkable. Conventional treatment required. Significant and increased risk of infectious disease transmission.

Any contact with water will result in critical health problems. AVOID ANY CONTACT!



SAFETY FIRST: A file picture of Koeberg nuclear power station where a simulated emergency is planned for tomorrow to test preparedness.

What to do when Koeberg is nuked

CLAUDIA CAVANAGH
METRO WRITER

CHILLING instructions delivered slowly in English and Afrikaans by a complex public address system is how residents in Atlantis, Melkbosstrand and Blaauwberg will be warned in the event of a disaster at Koeberg nuclear power station.

"An emergency has been declared at Koeberg. You must evacuate the area. Tune in to Radio Good Hope for more information..."

These eerie words are part of the Cape Metropolitan Council's nuclear emergency plan that will be tested tomorrow in an exercise devised by the Council for Nuclear

Safety and observed by representatives of the international nuclear regulatory board.

"A nuclear incident could be one of three classifications," explained Mr Geoff Laskey, regional disaster management officer for the CMC.

An "alert" simply describes a situation which could develop into a site or general emergency. It requires the notification of all emergency personnel and could last a few hours to days.

A "site emergency" would pose a serious radiological hazard at Koeberg but not beyond its boundaries, while a "general emergency" rating would mean the public was in serious danger.

Everyone within a 5km radius and 16km downwind will immediately be told of the disaster through existing sirens and public address systems.

"Those in a 10 to 16km radius will be informed by traffic vehicles with PA systems," said Laskey. "Koeberg will declare the emergency and inform the CMC's 24-hour emergency control centre."

This is followed by a faxed form with information on the direction and speed of wind, the affected areas, preferred access for emergency services and the type of action that should be taken.

A "plume map" predicting the plume's arrival in certain areas would follow shortly after, he said.

The public will be prevented from entering the disaster area, while those affected will be told to either shelter inside with all ventilation systems turned off and the radio switched on, or be evacuated.

"It'll take an estimated six to eight hours to evacuate Atlantis' 70 000 residents, so we'll need ample warning," Laskey said.

Tomorrow's exercise will be conducted by the Council for Nuclear Safety which will audit how the CMC, other local councils and Koeberg perform.

"It will be declared at any time, and will be hypothetical," said Mr Bert Winkler of the CNS.

No evacuations would be carried out during the exercise, he said.

CT 14/10/97 (6)

Row over developing the Wild Coast

The government's Wild Coast initiative is being criticised as a new form of imperialism, writes
Craig Bishop

Wild Coast communities and environmental experts are up in arms over an investment conference to be opened by President Nelson Mandela in East London on November 7. The conference is being hailed as the first of its kind in South Africa since it will showcase more than 150 real investment opportunities for the private sector.

But critics allege that deals have already been struck to fund the R3-billion Wild Coast Spatial Development Initiative (SDI) without community consultation or the completion of the necessary environmental impact studies.

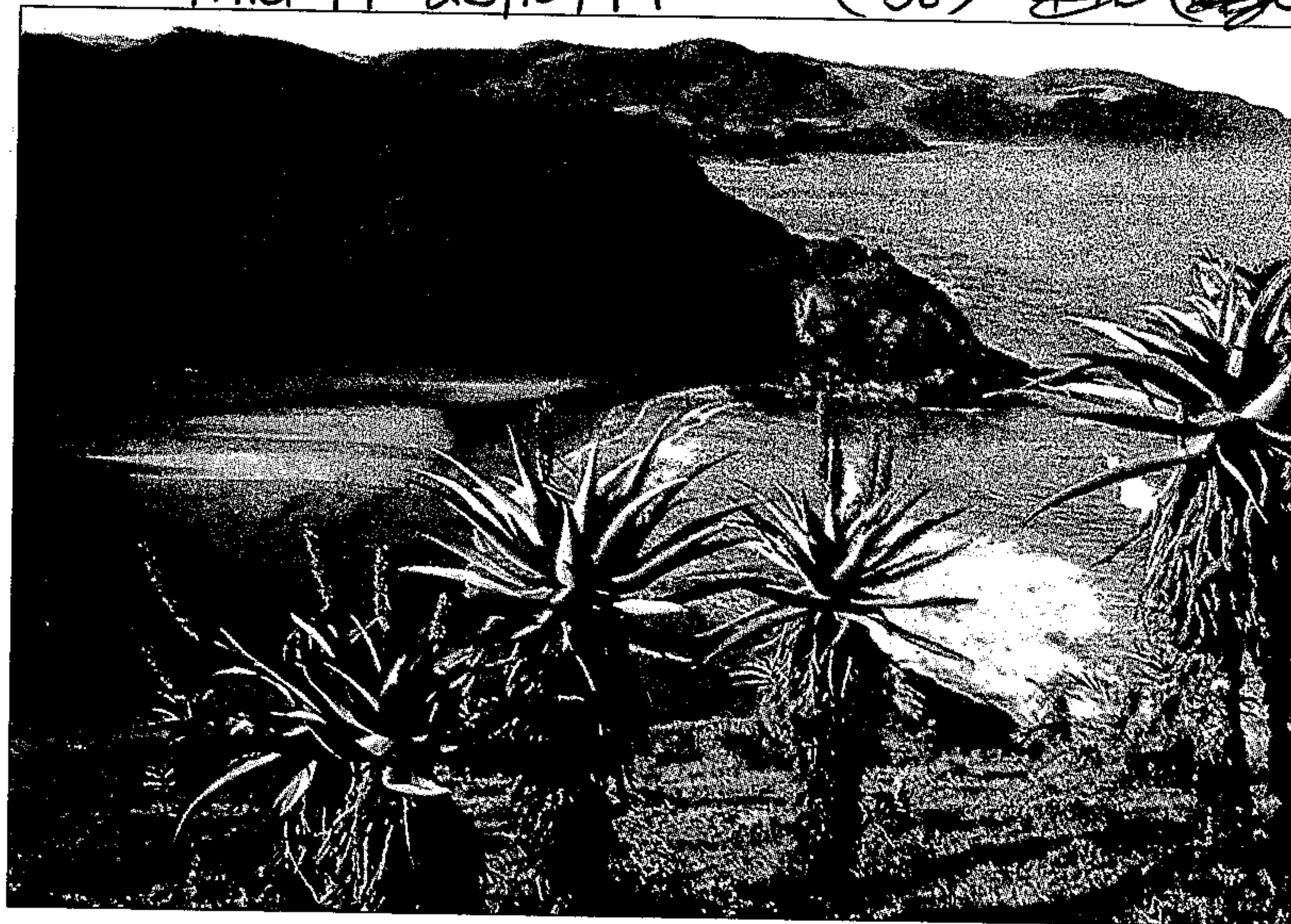
This emerged from a workshop organised by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's coastal management project, CoastCare, in East London this week.

Khulile Radu, a representative for Eastern Cape Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism MEC, Enoch Godongwana, said that while he was unwilling to pre-empt the investors' conference, he could confirm that "major investment activity by the Asians will be announced in November".

Speaking from Japan, where he is accompanying Minister of Trade and Industry Alec Erwin on a trade mission to East Asia, Godongwana said that Korean and Japanese investors are interested in seeing what investment opportunities will be unveiled at the conference.

"In Korea and Japan there is an unprecedented interest in investing in South Africa. Most companies want to ease their entry into a new country through forming partnerships with local companies.

"Our investors' conference is,



Unspoilt coast: Has it already been sold off to foreigners? PHOTOGRAPH: DON KING

therefore, an ideal occasion for local companies to put on show these project opportunities that are available for foreign investors to buy into."

CoastCare's Hugh Tyrrell is concerned that the government may already have cut deals with the Malaysians. "If this is the case, the Wild Coast initiative is the newest form of colonialism and economic imperialism." Named potential investors include the United States Trade and Development Agency, Sappi, the German company GreCon, Eastern Cape Black Consortium, and a Malaysian consortium.

Grahamstown Foundation's director and workshop co-ordinator, Chris Mann, pointed out that a major concern was the strings attached to foreign investment, which meant the Malaysians would be dictating the terms of their investment. "The problem comes when the grant is

tied to the implementation of government foreign policy."

Senior specialist at the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Jurgen van Zyl, who is contracted to work on the initiative task team, warned that in the absence of environmental data, "policy will be dictated by investment.

"We wish all the environmental impact studies were already in place, but we cannot wait for all this to happen. Existing legislation is investor-unfriendly — there are something like 35 different departments to go through, making policy frameworking an incredibly arduous and inefficient task."

But representative for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office, Ricky Naidoo, said that while the 1999 elections made it imperative to see quick development come to the Wild Coast, it was "highly unlikely"

that deals had already been struck, due to the African National Congress mandate to show transparency at all levels of government. We are not talking development at any cost. I am confident that the people coming in November all have good intentions."

CoastCare's Tyrrell is not convinced. He warned that market-driven development "has no inherent social ethic to monitor or safeguard social or environmental concerns. It favours those who are already rich because it is about maximising profits. The Malaysians have a particularly poor record of environmental management. It's coming home to them now, but those are the ones who are seen to be making the deals. Do we want them at our table?"

Rhodes University research fellow, Leslie Banks, says SDIs are "imported, pie-in-the-sky solutions im-

posed on the Eastern Cape". He argues that the fixation with "miracle solutions" should be replaced with local economic development.

"Eastern Cape towns are isolated economic units, which attract migration from a small local area. People become trapped in stagnant pools on the fringes of depressed towns.

"There is thus less movement between towns compared with other provinces. This has profound consequences for economic policy in the province — it makes the need for local economic development all the more necessary. The cult of relying on foreign investment to solve all the problems undermines this by giving false hope to the hopeless. Instead of imposing millenarian models on the depressed economy of the Eastern Cape, it is time the government started paying attention to what is actually happening on the ground."

Van Zyl counters this by saying that a budget has been allocated for local communities to appoint legal, economic and environmental advisers to test policy proposals. He admitted that in the past the SDI team had been seen as secretive, but denied that this was at the expense of communities and the environment.

"In the past the key skill was the need to learn how to mumble incoherently at the right times. Now the question is, can we manage to leverage successful investment in tune with the impact studies being carried out at the moment?"

"We will not be selling off the family silver at the November meeting."

But according to Rhodes University's Professor Hugo Nel, the key principle of any SDI is the leverage of investment into identified regions as a precursor to sustainable social and economic development, and community empowerment. "It is not intended to be an all-encompassing integrated development approach, but will stimulate and spur on integrated development activities."

Banks disagrees: "SDIs — like the search for the head of the slain Hintsa — might amount to nothing more than an elaborate hoax."

Soweto's dust danger ignored

A report on the effects of 'low-grade' asbestos sheeting used in Soweto houses has been put aside, writes Andy Duffy

A report that claims Soweto residents are exposed to lethal asbestos fibres has been gathering dust in the Department of Health for nearly two years. The report, compiled by the department's National Centre for Occupational Health (NCOH), found levels of asbestos pollution in some Soweto homes nearly 10 times higher than accepted safety levels.

But the findings, produced in 1995, have not been explored with further research. Johannesburg's Southern Metropolitan Substructure, which is responsible for Soweto, says it is not aware of the report.

Questions have instead been raised about the report's accuracy — mainly by Everite, the company contracted by the previous government to supply asbestos roofing for low-cost houses in Soweto and other townships.

The report followed three years of research by NCOH chief auxiliary safety official Enoch Mogomotsi, regarded as a world expert on tracing asbestos fibres. He stands by his findings.

Another consultant, who worked on the latter stages of the investigation, says Everite threatened legal action if the report was released — a claim the company denies.

Everite supplied most of the asbestos roofing used in nearly 70% of the low-cost houses in Soweto. It also supplied roofs in Langa in the Western Cape.

The listed company sold asbestos materials, made with the more dangerous blue and brown asbestos, until 1985, when the dangers of such fibres became known. The asbestos products it currently sells contain around 10% of the "safer" white asbestos.

"Asbestos has proved to be a cost-effective material for affordable housing," says Brian Gibson, Everite's asbestos adviser. "It is extremely popular."

The players agree, however, on one key point: the danger of such materials rises greatly when it ages, or when it is tampered with.

Some of the roofs in Soweto date back more than 40 years; few of the houses have ceilings so the material sits exposed in the house; and



Holding their breath: Some of the asbestos roofs in Soweto date back more than 40 years. The material is very dangerous as it ages

few residents have called on professionals to undertake routine maintenance.

Mogomotsi's work formed part of an overall air-monitoring project in the township, run by Professor Harold Annegarn of the Scholland Research Centre at Wits University. The funds for the project were provided by the southern council's predecessor, the Medical Research Council and Everite.

Everite asked the NCOH to undertake the study as part of an overall audit on the performance of the company's materials.

Mogomotsi, who lives in Soweto, ran the study in 10 locations across the township, picking asbestos roofing in good condition and bad. In many cases, the asbestos had crumbled or cracked, and been patched up.

The results of the samples he took inside the houses shocked him. In one, he came across a reading of 0.9 fibres per millilitre of air — against a guideline figure of 0.1.

"It was much higher than it's supposed to be," says Mogomotsi, "but that's what I found. I gave the report to Everite, and they were definitely not happy with the result."

Annegarn says Mogomotsi's report indicated that asbestos fibres were a problem. The findings could not be taken as definitive, he says, but showed that further research was needed. But, he adds, the whole project ground to a halt soon after Mogomotsi's report, "under circumstances that are still unclear to me".

Mogomotsi wanted to extend the research to look at reported cases of asbestos-related illness in the area. The NCOH, however, has many research projects clamouring for its minimal resources.

The nearby Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital says most of the asbestos-related disease cases it has picked up — asbestosis and mesothelioma — are among patients who grew up near asbestos-mining areas, such as the Northern Cape.

Gibson has thick files of similar research done all over the world, each coming in with figures a fraction of those found by Mogomotsi. He adds that even in Everite factories, the figure is no higher than 0.2 fibres per millilitre.

"I did make some comments about the [NCOH] report," says Gibson. "I said I found the results very surprising. I was very surprised that they should be so high. And we left it at that."

Gibson says he believes Mogomotsi's findings were never officially published, and had they been then, "we would have had to emphasise that we had doubts about their accuracy".

Former NCOH director Tony Davies who supervised the investigation, says he had concerns about the methods used. But he says the report shows there are "significant" risks posed by the older roofing in Soweto, particularly when householders had done repairs.

He also says South Africa has played a major role internationally in identifying the dangers of asbestos — for which Mogomotsi is owed much of the credit.

Mogomotsi adds that most people in Soweto do not know the dangers of the material.

(56) MHG 17-23/10/97

Who carries the can for getting rid of toxic trash?

SOUTH Africa needs to move urgently towards the privatisation of all aspects of waste management — in line with international practices — if a crisis within the industry is to be averted.

This is the outspoken view of international environmental and waste management authority Rufus Maruma. He says the current situation in South Africa, where the legislative authorities act as both player and referee, is both "frustrating and unacceptable".

He fears that if waste management is left in the hands of the politicians, they will have neither the political will — nor the necessary expertise — to enforce waste management standards and legislation.

Maruma is executive chairman of EnviroServ Holdings — a company born out of the recent merger between EnviroServ and Waste-tech — which led to the formation of the largest waste management company in the southern hemisphere.

He is also the founder and chairman of waste management and environmental consulting company Bohlewi Environmental, a principal of Stewart Scott International and chairman of MoAfrica Holdings.

Maruma's expertise has been sought by both the South African government and the Danish development aid agency Danced, which is involved in the formation of a waste management strategy for South Africa.

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He was also chairman of Connep, the task team that initiated a new national environmental policy for South Africa.

Compounding the lack of co-ordination in waste management in South Africa, says Maruma, is the three-tier level of government created by South Africa's new Constitution.

In terms of the Constitution, the precise role to be played by provincial governments in waste management is still unclear. Adding to the confusion, the Constitution has devolved waste-management competencies to local authorities.

Currently all landfill sites, hazardous and non-hazardous, have to be licensed by the Department of Water Affairs, which undertakes both pollution control and inspection of the sites.

Some 80 percent of the domestic waste market is currently in the hands of government authorities and the private sector handles only about 12% of this market — while 80% of the landfill sites in South Africa are still owned by local authorities.

"The government cannot legislate and regulate itself at the same time," Maruma insists. "As long as we have a government that is both player and referee, we cannot move towards an effective and equitable waste management policy."

He emphasises that whatever policies are eventually put in place as a result of pending legislation, the critical aspect will be their proper enforce-

ment. Underlining this, is the fact that around 40 percent of toxic waste generated in South Africa is unaccounted for.

Maruma says that without properly enforced waste management policies — particularly in respect of hazardous waste — South Africa risks becoming another Mexico, "where its citizens will not have the privilege of drinking water from a tap."

"We will all live on bottled water if we don't handle the disposal of hazardous waste correctly. It is one of the essential issues that government needs to address."

He strongly supports the call for a register of waste generators being set up in South Africa — which would also keep close tabs on the producers of hazardous waste and its ultimate destination.

ST (BT) 19/10/97

EnviroServ, for instance, has introduced an optional safe-disposal certificate system, whereby hazardous waste collected from client companies is registered in a specific cell at the landfill site.

The company incinerates all medical waste and handles more than 80% of medical waste in South Africa. Maruma says this compares favourably to the situation in the US, where on a recent visit he was shocked to note that landfilling of medical waste is still prevalent.

His company is set to install medical waste incinerators in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana. It is also preparing to tender for the management of the waste collection system of New York City and has been commissioned to do a waste-management feasibility study for Ghana.

SA weighs ⁵⁶ up its options on imports

STC(BT) 19/10/97

THE importation of toxic waste is a contentious management issue that still has to be resolved in South Africa.

Rufus Maruma, executive chairman of EnviroServ Holdings, says the debate in government circles is whether South Africa should become a signatory to the Bamako Convention, which advocates a total ban on the importation of toxic waste, or take the less-stringent Basel Convention route, with the option of importing toxic waste where necessary — for example, to reclaim materials.

“South Africa is not an island — it exists in the context of southern Africa and Africa. In terms of expensive capital investment, the region cannot afford to duplicate facilities,” says Maruma.

“I have always supported the view that we should not import toxic waste from countries such as the US and Japan. But as we look at the southern African renaissance, we have to make optimum utilisation of high capital-intensive operations such as landfill sites.”

Maruma says that if South Africa does not assist southern African countries which do not have the facilities to handle toxic waste, there could ultimately be a serious pollution risk to South Africa itself, for example, if such waste is dumped into major trans-African rivers.

Andrew Cadman of Werksmans Attorneys says domestic legal controls concerning the importation of chemical waste are virtually non-existent, notwithstanding the fact that a policy document on hazardous waste management was published in September 1994, shortly after South Africa acceded to the convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (the Basel Convention).

This policy document, which recommended the limited and controlled trans-boundary movement of hazardous and other waste, was severely criticised, resulting in a decision by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to revise it. The results of the revision are still awaited.

The waste management industry is in a state of flux as new laws herald major changes in the way waste is handled in this country, writes DAVID JACKSON

An industry ⁽⁵¹⁾ being forced to clean up its act

UBJLC concerns and environmental issues are expected to have an important impact on the waste management industry as South Africa falls in line with international trends.

Concepts such as "cradle-to-grave" responsibilities and "the polluter pays" principle will put the onus firmly on the industry.

Just how far South Africa has to move to meet internationally accepted norms is underlined by a recently published Green Paper, *An Environmental Policy for South Africa*. It revealed that urban areas generate approximately 15-million tons of solid waste annually; 800 000 tons of liquid waste are disposed of each year as run-off into fresh water systems and the sea; and only 10% of waste disposal sites are licensed.

Andrew Cadman of Werksmans Attorneys says the Green Paper identified a number of issues of concern relating to the management of waste. These include the high levels of waste generation; unsatisfactory disposal practices; ineffective management and poor regulatory controls; insufficient and/or effective incentives to encourage waste minimisation and insufficient control over the transport of and trade in waste.

Cadman notes that several policy and legislative initiatives have contributed to a renewed focus on waste management.

South Africa could be a minimum of three years away from

definitive waste management legislation. But the Institute of Waste Management hopes that the White Paper on *Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management* will clarify the roles and responsibilities of local authorities as well as those of provincial and national government.

Piet Theron, the institute's secretary general, says there are several key issues the industry's watchdog body would like new legislation to address.

With regard to hazardous waste, Theron says the institute believes certain waste materials should not be landfilled — but should, for example, be incinerated.

"We believe new laws will have to look seriously at alternative technologies to landfilling.

"We also believe there has to be more co-ordinated regional planning at provincial level when it comes to earmarking potential landfill sites. The siting of disposal sites is crucial at this stage of our country's development because of the many interest groups and role players involved.

"We also have to take into account the effects on people living nearby these sites. With proper long-range planning, developers will know upfront where there is going to be a landfill site. Residential development at a particular site could be frozen if necessary."

Theron says the emphasis in waste management in South Africa is likely to be on waste minimisation and reducing the toxicity of

hazardous waste which is produced in the main by industry.

He says the institute is not in favour of punitive legislation in this regard, but believes industry should be encouraged to reuse and recycle waste — to extract from the waste stream that which can be reused.

About one percent of the total waste produced in South Africa is hazardous.

This is not the major issue, says Theron. "We are concerned about the quantities of unaccounted hazardous waste that are not going into landfills and are being disposed of illegally."

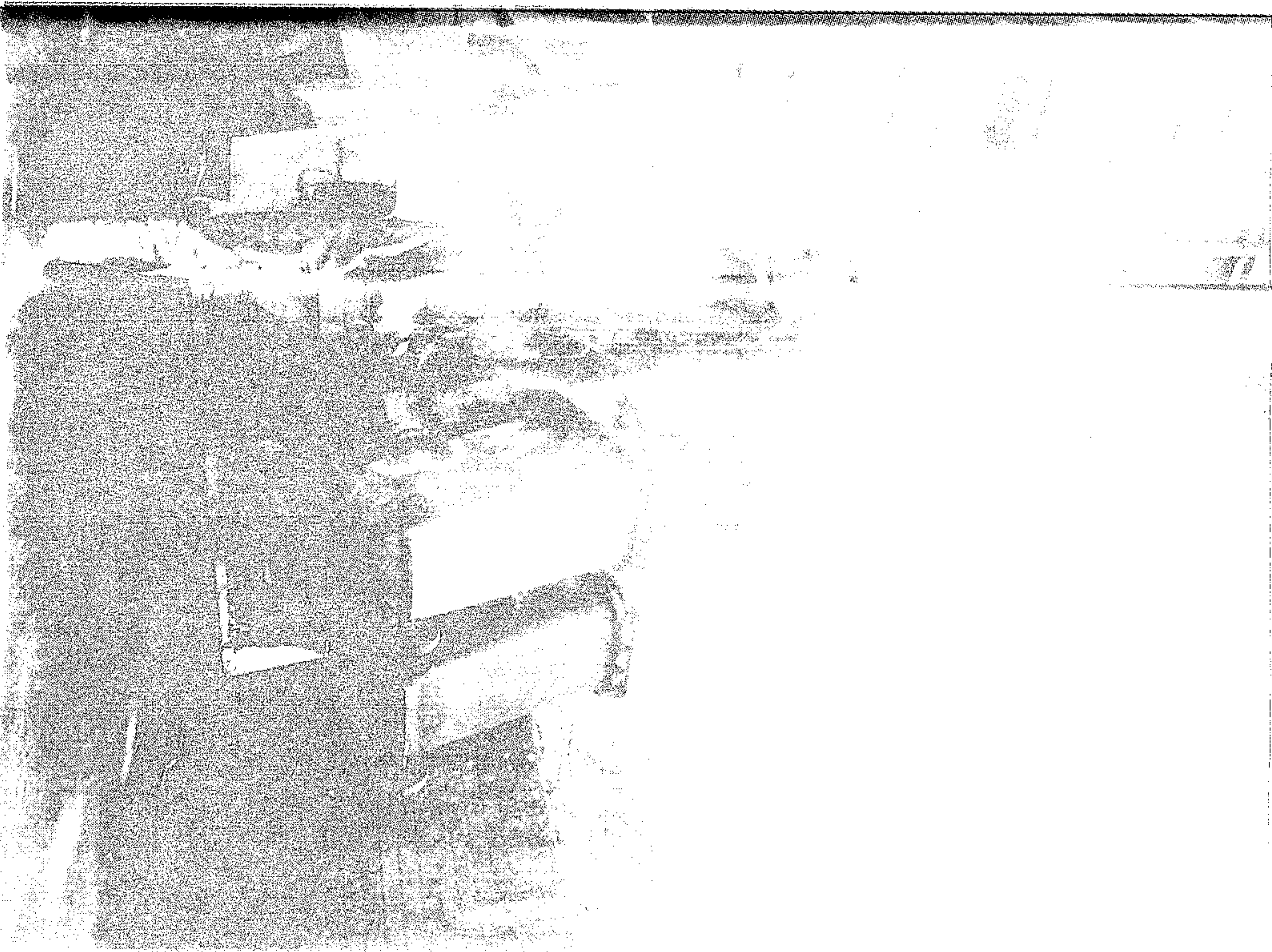
The institute has made representations to the government to establish a register of hazardous waste generators — providing for a full and open declaration of what hazardous waste is produced and where it is to be disposed of.

"We would like the private sector to become more involved in the total picture — to the extent of collecting the monies due to the local authority for waste removal and entering directly into an agreement with the community."

Observers believe rail transport is also set to play an increasing role in the disposal of solid waste. Spoornet — which has a "Waste-By-Rail" business unit — supports the worldwide trend towards grouping and integrating the waste of various communities within the same region into a macro regional landfill site, in order to improve economies of scale.

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Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble

ST(CM) 19/10/97 (56) (88)
Muti industry a headache for conservationists

CHARL DE VILLIERS

SOUTH Africa's R2-billion muti industry is a legal minefield for thousands of healers who often use protected or endangered species in their ancient craft.

A visit to several muti shops this week revealed merchants who seemed completely unaware that much of their stock was potentially illegal — ranging from a live freshwater turtles to crocodile skin, whale remains and indigenous plant bulbs.

Illegal possession of endangered species carries fines of up to R10 000 or two years in jail in terms of the Western Cape's nature conservation ordinance.

Phillip Kubekeli, president of the 1 500-strong Western Cape Traditional Healers' Association, says all his members' activities are above board.

He has publicly condemned poachers who have stripped bark in Kirstenbosch and slaughtered hundreds of waterbirds near Khayelitsha.

But conservationists this week warned that virtually no aspect of South Africa's wildlife heritage was immune from regulation — whether it was trading in bits of wild animals run over on a road, or removing endangered cycads.

"The fact is, we can really throw the book at them. But there

is patently a massive difference between a small-scale dealer and the poacher who walks around with a shopping trolley full of giant girdled lizards, a Red Data Book species," Cape Nature Conservation spokesman Paul Gildenhuys said this week.

The Sunday Times, accompanied by Kubekeli and SA Museum zoo-archaeologist Dr Graham Avery, this week visited muti shops in Langa, Khayelitsha and Macassar.

Several animals or remains — including live tortoises, crocodile skin, a vulture's foot and dead leguan — were classified under Appendix 2 of the international Cites convention which regulates trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

The impact of muti-gathering on South Africa's natural resources is a major headache for conservationists, who this week appealed to traditional healers and their suppliers to stick to the law when collecting and using animal and plant material.

"We must respect the value of traditional medicine, but procurement of natural resources has to be legal," Worldwide Fund for Nature (SA) conservation director Dr Rob Little said on Friday.

"Unfettered removal of any natural resource, even for respectable use, is unacceptable," he said.

Muti nurseries have been set up in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng to replace the use of wild plants.

"We don't thoroughly under-

stand the needs of the healers, and the situation varies from region to region," Little said. In the Western Cape, the Kirstenbosch botanical gardens offers healers plant material when available, and the SA Museum has a similar service.

Cape Nature Conservation this week urged muti dealers to inquire about the availability of animal or plant resources, but warned that no-one was immune from the law.

"We cannot afford to make exceptions, and we again appeal to the Western Cape Traditional Healers' Association to give us a list of species they need. We're keen to co-operate," Gildenhuys said.

Kubekeli said animal parts were selected in terms of the outstanding features of the live species.

"Each and every animal has significance, be it for its behaviour or strength," he explained.

Baboons, for example, were highly regarded for their ancestral status. Baboon hair and hands were valued ingredients.

Kubekeli insisted that his members did not kill animals for muti. "Healers only use carcasses of animals which died naturally or, for example, were run over."

Seals, as evidenced by the pelts and skulls found in the muti shops, were a popular source of medicine.

But Kubekeli says muti-collectors need permission from the Department of Sea Fisheries before they can use dead seals.

Asmal warns govt will prosecute polluters (5b)

GD 20/10/97

Reneé Grawitzky

WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal warned yesterday that his ministry took a serious view of those polluting rivers and dams and would identify and prosecute offenders, whether they were private individuals or companies.

Asmal's warning comes after reports that cholera bacteria had contaminated the Klip River, which joined the Vaal Barrage and ran into the Free State.

At the same time Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath appealed to local authorities who have had problems with their sewerage treatment capacity to take steps to fulfil their obligation.

Asmal said his officials were trying to identify the source of the pollution and once that had been achieved those responsible would be prosecuted.

Bath said water supplied to about 10-million residents in Gauteng and parts of the northern Free State, Mpumalanga and North West by the water board should be uncontaminated.

However, water supplied by those local authorities where sewerage operation works had been deteriorating for years could be affected. There was no quick

solution to this problem as it required investment to expand sewerage works and good management of the system.

A local authority and constitutional development spokesman said the effective functioning of local government depended on the provision of sufficient capacity once roles and functions had been identified.

Bath said in the interim urgent steps had to be taken and then a longer-term sanitation programme put into effect.

SA Institute for Medical Research pathologist Simi Waner said there had been outbreaks of cholera in a number of neighbouring countries. Migrants who moved into the country could be carriers of cholera which they excreted, polluting the sewerage system. Problems occurred where the sewerage was not adequately decontaminated and bacteria was transmitted into rivers and dams. Therefore it was crucial for the relevant authorities to decontaminate the sewerage adequately.

Other bacteria and viral pathogens were transmitted in a similar way, he said, and therefore there was a potential for outbreaks of other diseases such as typhoid.

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Environmental goal welcomed

BD 21/10/97

(56)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The focus in the environmental management white paper on the "universally accepted goal" of sustainable development was welcomed yesterday by two influential local governments at a public hearing in Parliament.

Johannesburg's wealthy southern local council and the Cape metropolitan's south peninsula agreed broadly in their comments on the white paper at a three-day public hearing by Parliament's environmental affairs and tourism committee.

Chris Warner, the Johannesburg southern council's environmental planning executive officer, said the proposed vision of sustainable development represented an important commitment to environmental management in SA.

"It places social, economic and ecological sustainability at the centre of development in keeping with global thinking on this matter," Warner said.

The process for arriving at the white

paper had been "broadly satisfactory", he said.

As the specifics for implementing the white paper would require additional work by the environmental affairs and tourism department, Warner "strongly suggested" that the white paper, "once gazetted as policy, be given legal status ... Failure to do this will result in an excessive delay in effecting real change."

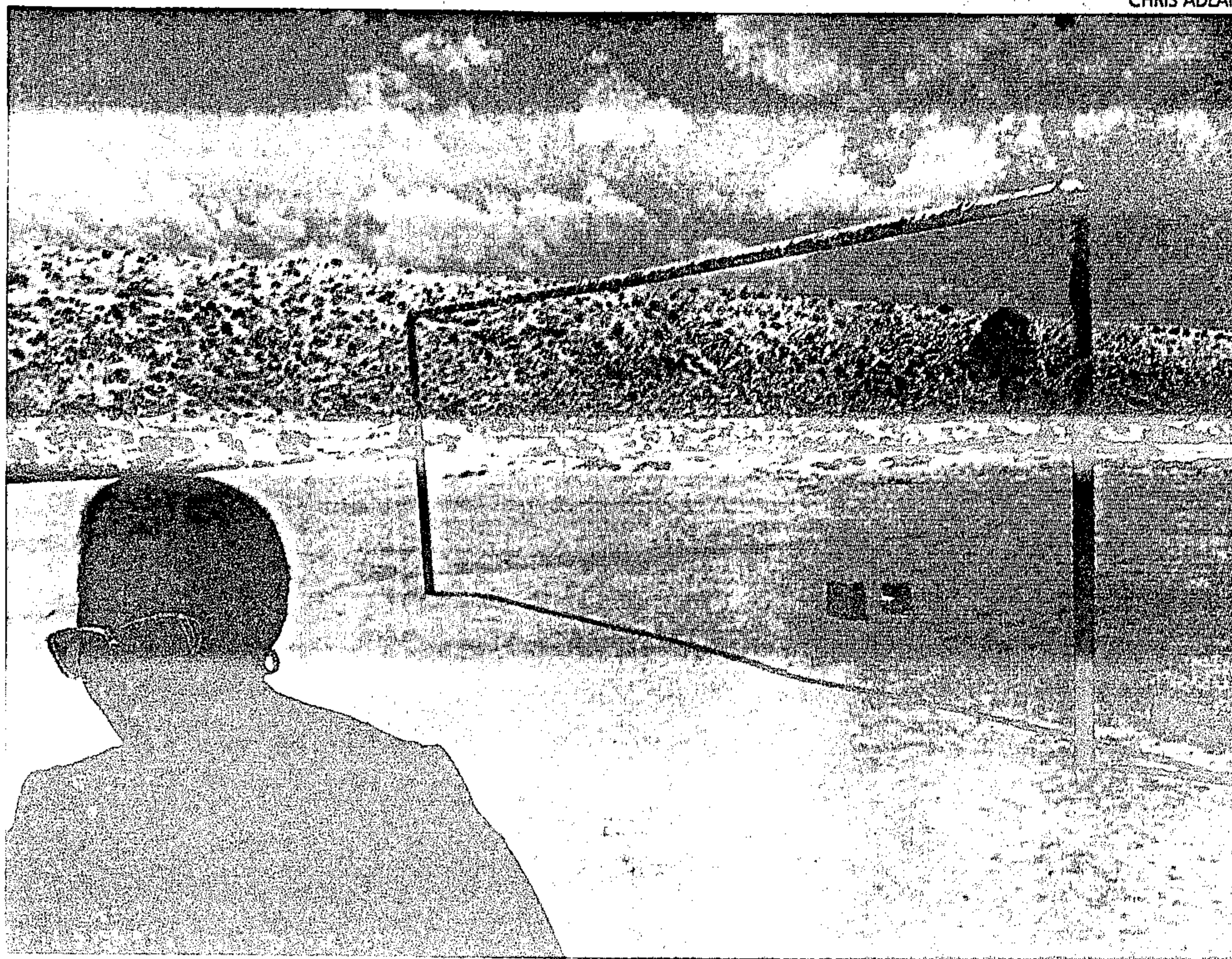
The south peninsula said the white paper leaned too much towards development at the expense of the environment. Sixty percent of the region is earmarked for a national park stretching from Cape Point to Table Mountain.

The white paper proposes 22 principles to guide decision making on environment matters.

These include the polluter pays, the integration of environmental management issues into decision making and environmental protection.

Warner said a universally accepted environmental principle — that environmental decisions should be taken at local level — was lacking.

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Health hazard ... Dikeledi Mahlo, principal of Moroere Primary School in Meadowlands, Soweto, says the school is forced to close for days on end because of the heavy and noxious dust clouds from the nearby mine dumps.

Department poised to act against mine over dust clouds

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environment Reporter

Schools are being forced to close and thousands of residents from Meadowlands in Soweto are suffering from respiratory and eye ailments because of thick dust clouds produced by the Durban Roadpoort Deep Mine dumps.

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs has now taken a hardline stance to force the mine to do something and

has scheduled a meeting with the mine for tomorrow.

"Prosecuting them is a last resort. We don't see why we should enter into such a long process, which could take up to two years, when they can do something now," a department spokesman said yesterday.

Dust clouds over Meadowlands are sometimes so severe that schools at the foot of the dumps are forced to close for up to a week. Residents in close proximity to the dumps are also

prone to upper respiratory illnesses and eye ailments.

Anne Erdmann from the Group for Environmental Monitoring is worried that apart from the dust, there are other hazards including acidic water running off the dumps that dissolves clothes and causes severe skin irritation.

"We are concerned with radioactivity from the dumps. This is a hazard which affects people only after a few years.

"Another problem is the sta-

bility of the dumps. Although there have been no incidents, we need to make sure that there is no possibility of this happening in the future," she said.

Environmental groups said the mining company had been consulted, but had done nothing despite several solutions being suggested, including spraying the dumps with chemicals, ridge ploughing and the erection of dust barriers.

There was no comment from the mine yesterday.

Star 21/10/97 (56)

Departments contest environmental management plan.

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The water affairs and forestry and minerals and energy departments, are contesting a policy proposal by the environmental affairs and tourism department for it to become the lead agent on environmental management in SA.

The two departments made their views known in written submissions, as part of the parliamentary process of considering comments on the white paper on a new environmental management policy for SA.

The submissions were sent to the environmental affairs and tourism department committee, which is conducting public hearings on the white paper. The three-day hearing ends today.

The minerals and energy department said the proposal for environmental affairs to establish itself as the lead agent appeared unconstitutional, while the water affairs department said it would continue to play a lead agent role with regard to water resource management and water quality.

The minerals and energy department said that the cabinet had in June accepted a different proposal, which extended environmental management functions to other departments and organs of state in all spheres of government.

It said the cabinet had decided that the environmental affairs and tourism department "should play a lead co-ordinative role, not a lead agent role."

The white paper did not, as required by the cabinet, provide a table on the location of administrative and executive powers and responsibilities which was "inclusive of all departments".

I followed Boesak's example, envious Steenkamp tells court

CAPE TOWN

African National Congress (ANC) leader Allan Boesak used money donated to a charity he ran for his own purposes, his former book-keeper said yesterday.

Freddie Steenkamp admitted at his fraud and theft trial that he took money donated to Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice. He said he followed the example of Boesak, 52, who will stand trial separately in February.

Steenkamp pleaded guilty on Monday to six fraud charges totalling R906 000. In his confession and testimony yesterday, Steenkamp said that Boesak and Steenkamp face 32 charges of theft and fraud involving a charity for personal reasons led him to

more than R2m following a 12-month investigation by the Office for Serious Economic Offences. They are accused of misappropriating money donated by singer Paul Simon, the Coca-Cola Foundation, Scandinavian aid agencies and others.

Steenkamp told the Cape Town High Court. The small, bespectacled Steenkamp described yesterday how donations came from organisations wanting to help the needy in SA and to aid the anti-apartheid struggle.

Donors usually made few demands on how the money should be spent, said Steenkamp. This resulted in a series of personal loans to foundation staff that often were written off at year's end. Accounts such as the urban discretionary account hid the loans from the foreign donors, he said.

Boesak used the money in the urban discretionary account as if it was his own. Envious of Boesak's lifestyle of first-class travel and fancy cars, Steenkamp increased the amount he skimmed from foundation accounts. — Sapa-AP.

Solar power could uplift Africa, says minister

JOSEF BALLINGER

SOLAR and renewable energy were instruments for Africa's socio-economic upliftment, and SA had the continent's greatest potential to develop such sources of fuel, Minerals and Energy Deputy Minister Susan Shabangu said at an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meeting near Pretoria yesterday.

"We need to promote renewable energy so that it eventually replaces finite sources as they dwindle, reduce environmental degradation and use current technology available," Shabangu said at the fifth meeting of the OAU's scientific committee of experts on new, renewable and solar energies.

It was government's aim to bring "cost-effective energy to the rural poor and the urban areas". Shabangu said the minerals and energy department was working on a white paper on energy, and planned to introduce it to Parliament early next year.

The department had drawn up guidelines for "solar passive" housing design and was co-operating with the housing department to form a national plan and was looking into solar water-heating and lighting systems.

Hannes Opperman, deputy director of renewable energy, said the department had electrified 1 055 schools and 400 clinics, most through solar power, the largest such project in the world.

to Yabong will be included in the company's interim print announcement next month.

The fossil fish may soon be dead again

The centuries-old coelacanth may soon come to the end of its life, writes Eilen Bartlett

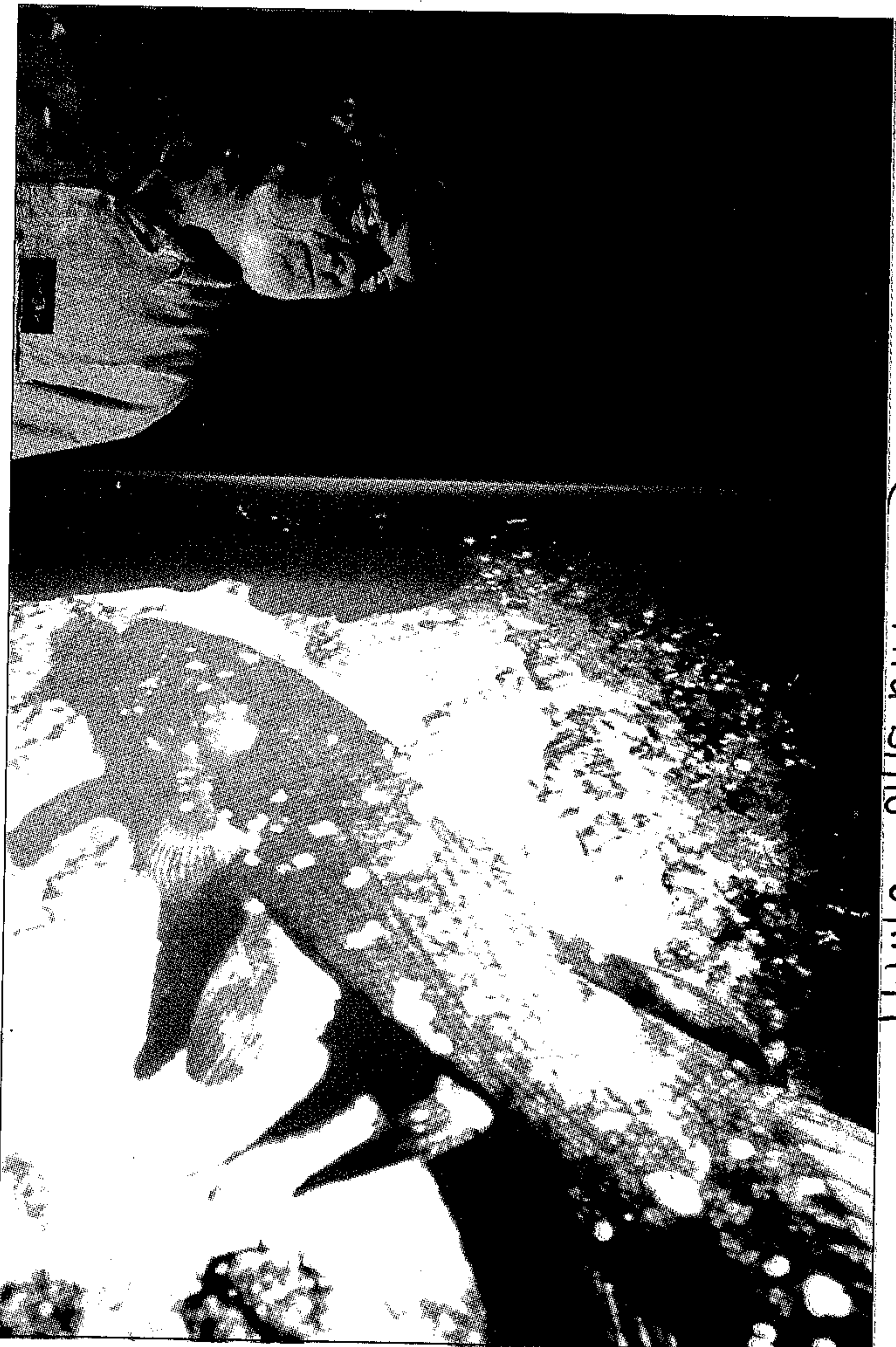
It probably wasn't pleasant being foreign minister of a pariah state like South Africa, but no doubt one of the minor perks of Pik Botha's job in the bad old days was getting presents from the few heads of state willing to receive him.

Those attending one of his last state visits, in April 1991 to the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comores, recall the look of keen anticipation on the minister's face as he waited to see what the president had for him. They recall how it felt when he was presented with a dead fish. The fish weighed 80kg, was 1.64m long, and, having been dead for some time, was starting to smell.

Luckily for the minister, someone from the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology stepped in and said he'd be happy to take the fish off his hands. There is a model of it in the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town, christened, appropriately, the "Pik Botha coelacanth".

It was, of course, no ordinary fish. Like the minister, the coelacanth was once one of the world's great survivors. Assumed to have died out with the dinosaurs, in the great end-Cretaceous extinction of 60-million years ago, it surfaced in 1938 in the net of a fishing trawler off East London, the marine equivalent of a living dinosaur.

But as the 60th anniversary of its discovery nears, the venerable fish is in danger of extinction, this time for real. Highly successful in its heyday — there are 125 species of coelacanth in the fossil record — only one species



Here's lookin' at you, kid: Mike Bruton with a slide of a live coelacanth, an increasingly rare sight. PHOTOGRAPH: RODGER BOSCH

"We think there is not very much time left to do something effective," Hissman says. If the coelacanth does die out, those who study

Coelacanth were caught in increasing numbers until the 1980s; most were sent to museums and aquaria for study. Even then there

primitive animal works. But that has not been the case. The living coelacanth may look like its fossil predecessors but it does not resemble

(56) M+G 31/10 - 6/11/97

lived 400-million years, exists in a single, tiny, relic population off Grande Comore. It is the last living example of the *crossopterygians* — or lobe-finned fishes, the end of the ancient line that many scientists believe gave rise to the first tetrapods, or four-legged land-dwelling vertebrates.

Pale mauve-blue with iridescent white markings, growing to an average adult length of 1.6m, with its peculiar paired limb-like fins, the last of the coelacanths lives in the deep water off the western shore of Grande Comore, at depths of 200 to below 700m.

Other individuals have been caught, off South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar, but all are believed to be strays from the Comoran population. And the population is in severe decline.

Marine biologist Hans Fricke and his colleagues from the Max Planck Institute in Germany have been following the Comoran population for 10 years, conducting surveys from a submersible vessel. They have identified 100 fish individually, and tagged more than a dozen. Their early surveys, from 1987 to 1991, showed a stable population of as many as 650 fish. But by 1994, the number of fish in their census area had dropped by 30%.

Further surveys found that the coelacanths' range was more limited than previously believed, forcing population estimates even lower. In a paper to be published early next year in the journal *Conservation Biology*, Fricke and colleague Karen Hissman estimate the population at less than 300 individuals, in a range of less than 60km. They warn that overfishing in the area is reducing the population at such a rapid rate that the species is now "critically endangered".

it say it will be one of the most tragic of modern extinctions.

"Here we have got one of the most significant back-boned animals that ever evolved and it's going extinct. It could disappear within the next 15 to 20 years and there is no effective conservation measure in place," says Professor Mike Bruton of the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town, and a leading authority on coelacanths.

What is perhaps worse is that the coelacanths' demise is unintentional. It is dying out because it keeps getting caught by fishermen who don't even want it. What Comoran fishermen are looking for when they cast their long lines off Grande Comore is *Ruvettus pretiosus*, more commonly known as the oilfish. The oilfish and the coelacanth share the same habitat, swim at the same depths, take the same bait. Catching a coelacanth, Bruton says, "is regarded as a bit of a nuisance". At best, the fishermen let it go. But the coelacanth has impressive jaws and rows of small sharp teeth — and hooks are expensive and hard to replace — and so the more typical response has been to beat it to death, and retrieve the hook before throwing it back.

There was a flurry of local interest in the coelacanth after its discovery. JLB Smith, the biologist who was the first to describe the fish in 1939, posted notices all over the islands, offering 100 pounds for a specimen. His efforts were finally rewarded in 1952, when a second coelacanth was caught off Grande Comore.

There were no commercial flights to the islands, so Smith flew up to fetch the fish in a South African military Dakota. The French, who claimed the Comores as a colony at the time, were so incensed they closed the islands to scientists for the next decade.

was concern that in collecting specimens for research, scientists were endangering the species. When the annual catch declined in the 1980s it was not due to conservation, but to the development of offshore fishing. In an effort to help the impoverished Comorans expand their fisheries, the European Community and the Japanese funded the placement of "fish aggregation devices," or FADs, offshore. Because the fishing areas were beyond the reach of the traditional *galawas* or hand-paddled outrigger canoes, the funders also paid for new boats with outboard engines.

But the project ended. The engines broke down, and there was no one to fix them. The fishermen went back to their old dugouts, and back to fishing the inshore waters. They started hooking coelacanths again, and the population went on the sharp decline that continues today.

If the coelacanth were to die out, it will do so leaving many questions unanswered, among them its place in prehistory. It has long been debated whether it was the coelacanth, with its primitive limbs, or the lungfish, capable of breathing air as well as obtaining oxygen from water, that was closer to the evolutionary line that led to amphibians and other tetrapods, and ultimately to us.

Those in favour of the coelacanth argue that its blood haemoglobin is similar to that of tadpoles — though not to that of adult frogs. But tests of the mitochondrial DNA of lungfish indicate it is a more favourable candidate. Five species of lungfish, which emerged 460-million years ago, also survive in Australia, South America and equatorial Africa.

At the time the coelacanth was rediscovered, the thinking was that it would be a window into the past, a modern model of how a

like them.

"The coelacanth is a highly specialised, extremely sophisticated animal, which almost certainly is not operating now the way it did 400-million years ago," Bruton says. "It is by no means ancient and primitive." The coelacanth borrowed from both the cartilaginous and the bony fishes, and remains somewhere between the two.

The coelacanth is the only vertebrate to have an intracranial joint, a feature once common among frogs, enabling it to raise its top jaw as it lowers its bottom jaw, to increase its gape. Perhaps most intriguingly, the coelacanth gives birth to live young, and did so long before the mammals came along. They lay a number of eggs, the size of oranges, which hatch in utero; the young consume the yolk sac, and the eggs of lagging siblings.

But most of what coelacanths do is beyond human reach. By day they rest in caves formed by underwater lava flows, in social groups as large as 15 fish per cave. They hunt at night, moving down to depths below 700m, beyond the scope of the submersibles and the range of the transmitters.

Coelacanths operate like the big gliding birds of the air, circling on the ocean currents and gyres. They compensate for their inefficiency at procuring oxygen from the water with a slow metabolism. Their fin movements are slow. "Almost balletic," Bruton says, "except when they ambush, and then they have a very fast acceleration."

"It's very difficult to get money to conserve an animal that you can't see, and which tourists can't pay to go and look at," says Bruton. "It's a campaign I have been on all my life: people love conserving the hot and furrries, but they don't like conserving the wet and slimies."



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Low-smoke coal 'visibly better for environment'

BD 03/10/97 (56)

Josey Ballenger

PRELIMINARY results from an experiment conducted by the minerals and energy department showed the effect of low-smoke coal use on air quality was beneficial, Wits University chemical engineering professor Philip Lloyd disclosed yesterday.

While the department had not yet quantified the extent to which three types of SA-manufactured coal posed lower environmental and health risk on a micro scale, Lloyd said pollution was "visibly better".

The experiment was conducted in July in 2 500 homes in the Free State township of Qal-abotjha which, like many poor areas, uses traditional, high-smoke coal briquettes.

While being the

cheapest fuel source in SA, coal has raised the ire of environmental and health experts because of the related smoke pollution, high incidence of lung disease and other social hazards.

However, Lloyd, who is a project consultant, said the study had brought to the department's attention the issue of carbon monoxide emissions.

The common township practice of burning coal in open braziers, as opposed to stoves, released "close to death levels" of carbon monoxide. The US Environmental Protection Agency's safety threshold is 50 parts per million (ppm) and the Qal-abotjha residents were living with emissions of up to 600ppm.

He also said the study was impeded by rumours

started by some town merchants who operated with a higher profit margin selling traditional coal. The traders claimed the "government coal", although cheaper, was poisonous.

This was unfortunate as the subsidised, low-smoke alternative was more affordable — at R7 for 35kg compared with R18 for 50kg of traditional coal, and it was safer.

Environmental affairs resolves to be top dog

BD 03/10/97 (56)

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The environmental affairs and tourism department would not back down on its proposal that it become the lead agent on environmental management in SA, despite opposition from water affairs and forestry, Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

Mokaba was commenting after water affairs restated its opposition to the proposal, contained in the white paper on a new environmental management policy for SA, at public hearing in Parliament.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, in a letter to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan, said his department would remain the lead agent with regard to water resource management and quality.

The three-day hearing, which ended yesterday, was organised by the environmental affairs and tourism portfolio committee. The committee will now draw up a report which will be sent to Jordan as well as the cabinet.

Mokaba said he had written to Asmal requesting an urgent meeting to try to resolve the matter.

He said that if they were unable to agree on the lead agent for environmental management and the issue turned political, the matter would have to be taken to the cabinet for a final resolution.

He said water affairs was the on-

ly department which still objected to the proposal after the mineral and energy department had dropped its earlier opposition.

Water affairs deputy director-general Tami Sokutu told the committee that while the spirit of the white paper was generally one of cooperative governance, it contained contradictions on issues such as the lead agent, the role of provinces and the setting of norms and standards.

Sokutu said water affairs agreed that SA needed an "environmental champion to ensure that the environmental bottom line is achieved", but this had to be done within the context of governmental arrangements and constitutional obligations.

Mokaba said the lead agent proposal was linked to the white paper's focus on sustainable development, which was in line with international practice.

He said the department had no problem with other government departments and institutions assuming management functions on environmental issues. However, the onus should then be on them to report to his department which, as the lead agent, had overall responsibility for environmental issues.

The problem in the past had been that the department lacked the power to enforce good management, which had resulted in environmental degradation, Mokaba said. Such capacity deficiencies should be redressed.

New project to conserve wild dogs launched

STW 24/10/97 (56)

Durban – Concern for the future of the African wild dog has led to the formation of a new plan to conserve the animal.

The Natal Parks Board and the Green Trust, a subsidiary formed jointly by the World Wide Fund for Nature and Nedbank, yesterday launched a pro-

gramme to conserve wild dogs in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park.

“Wild dogs are one of the most endangered carnivores in Africa. There are more white rhinos than wild dogs” said Natal Parks Board chief executive Dr George Hughes.

The programme entails introducing a second pack of un-

related animals to the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park to encourage breeding.

The Natal Parks Board said projects like these were costly to sustain, and the Green Trust had donated more than R300 000 to ensure support of the programme for the next three years. – Sapa

Kuils River steel works unveils R9-m upgrade to reduce pollution

(56)

ARG 27/10/97

LEWELLYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

The Cape Iron & Steel Works (CISCO) in Kuils River has unveiled a R9-million upgrade which will drastically cut emissions from the plant.

Managing director Pat Hickling said new extraction equipment would double the plant's capacity to extract noxious emissions and a new canopy would cut particle emissions entirely.

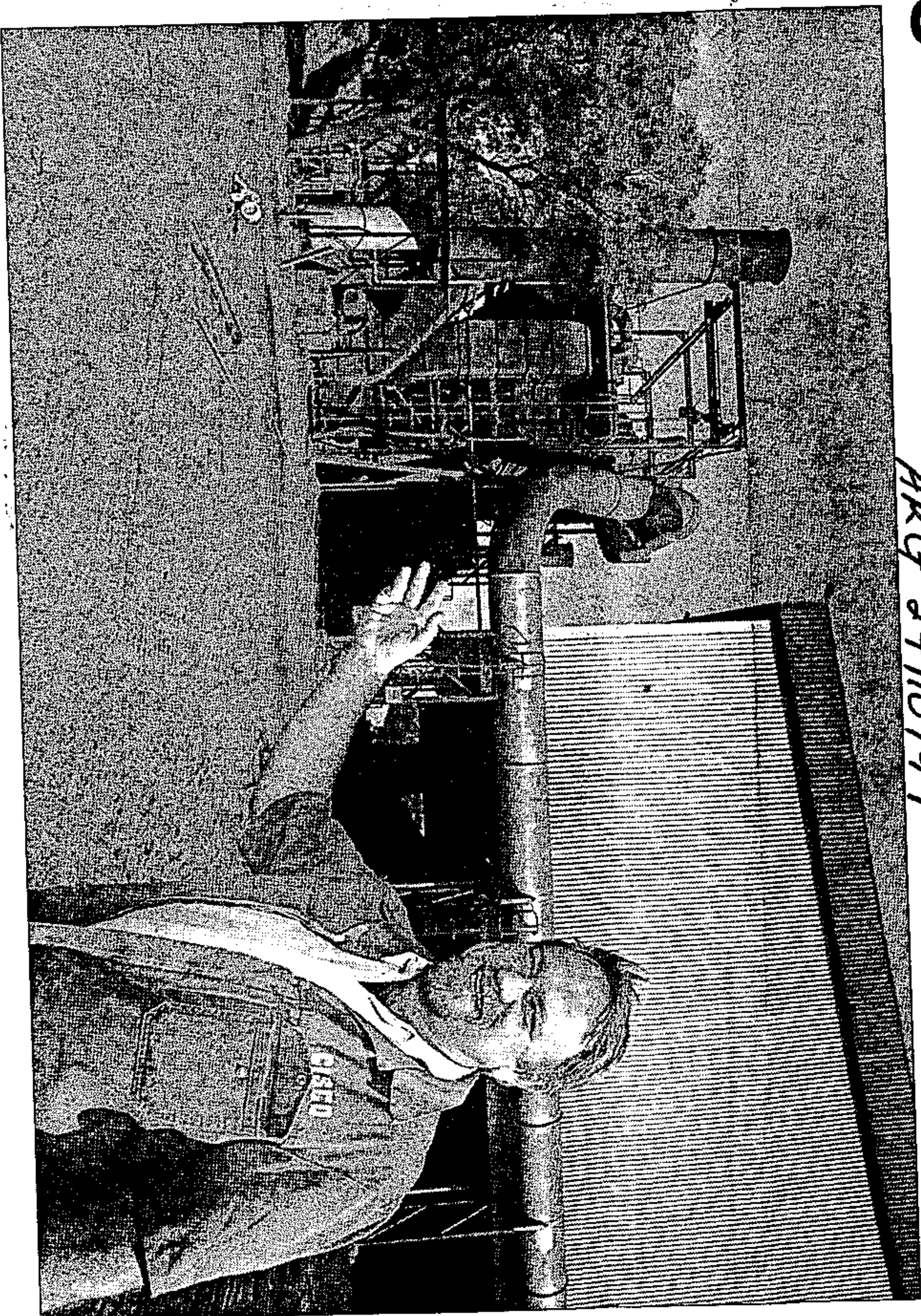
Work on the project began in August and is expected to be completed by the end of April next year.

"In 1995 CISCO became part of a joint venture between Murray & Roberts and Iscor and the new management felt that the steel works, having been overtaken by urban creep and residential suburbs, had a considerable responsibility to become more environmentally friendly," Mr Hickling said.

The upgrades were designed to strict European standards.

CISCO buys and recycles about 190 000 tons of scrap metal a year, producing 170 000 tons of billets - an intermediate steel product which is then sent through a rolling mill, turning it into more recognisable steel.

Of these 170 000 tons of billets, CISCO exports about 65 000 tons and produces reinforced steel with the rest.



Environmentally friendly: Barry Laing, engineering director of the Cape Iron & Steel Works

New alert on Klip cholera

8/10/97 27/10/97

(56)

The cholera count in the Klip River is still very high as raw sewage from broken, overflowing and blocked sewer lines continues to seep into the river at several points, Rand Water has warned.

According to Rand Water spokesman Karl Lubout, the sewage finding its way into the river comes from informal settlements along or near its banks and from several sewer lines which follow its course.

Recent tests in the river showed a high count of E.coli bacteria, indicating presence of human and animal faeces in the river.

Lubout said certain areas were more contaminated than others and

he advised people in the Klip River area between Alberton and Meyerton to avoid contact with river water.

"Although there is no sign of typhoid in the water, tests show the cholera count is still too high," Lubout said.

Water in the Vaal River and Vaal Dam was not affected by the problem and was safe to use for recreation such as boating and fishing.

"Over 10 million people in and around Gauteng use our tap water and will not be affected by any pollution. Rand Water does not draw water from the Klip River to supply its consumers," Lubout said. - Staff Reporter

Jordan rejects allegations (56)

ET 28/10/97

JOHANNESBURG: Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan yesterday accused South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection of unjustified claims and factual inaccuracies.

He said the SAAV had wrongly accused him of contravening a moratorium on exporting primates for experiments by giving permission for animals to be exported to France, to be used for warfare experiments.

"The SA government is totally against the unethical and inhumane treatment of animals and definitely does not support the use of animals in military experiments," Jordan said. Until a national policy was approved he did not have the power to prevent the export of primates. — Sana

Law on animal treatment

Josey Ballenger

BD 29/10/97

(56)

to take real effect.

THE environmental affairs and tourism department intended to introduce legislation on the biological management of animals, but the agriculture department would handle law concerning their ethical and humane treatment, an environmental affairs official said yesterday.

Pieter Botha, the deputy director of species conservation, said the department hoped to complete policy on the "sustainable use" of animal management by the middle of next year following consultation with a number of stakeholders.

Although certain provinces protected animal life, there was no national legislation on issues such as medical or other research, transportation and the export of animals, Botha said.

He said whether or not a green or white paper would be released was "up to the minister", but the policy would be followed up with legislation in order

The country's absence of legislation on animal treatment became evident this week when animal rights group South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection (SAAV) called for Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan's resignation, accusing him of contravening a moratorium on the export of primates for experiments.

Jordan responded that the group had made "unjustified claims and factual inaccuracies" and said his department did not have the power to impose moratoriums or contravene provincial moratoriums.

The case referred to a number of primates which Jordan said were exported by Hazyview-based Centre African Primatologie Experimentale to Sanofi Laboratories in France for testing drugs to treat diseases such as AIDS, Ebola and toxicology.

The SAAV alleges the animals are being used by the French military for clandestine warfare experiments.

'Scant recognition for private reserves'

KARIN SCHIMKE
POLITICAL WRITER

(56)
ET 30/10/97

A BRASS plate and a certificate is all the thanks owners of private nature reserves get for their contribution to conservation in the Western Cape.

It was the inadequacy of this form of recognition that the National Party's Mr Pierre-Jean Gerber had in mind yesterday when he presented the first draft of a private member's bill aimed at involving owners of private land in acquiring land for nature conservation.

The bill, as it stands, is a shaky, imprecise document based on an outdated ordinance covering private nature reserves, but it seems likely to become the axle of a debate that is many years overdue.

All parties in the provincial standing committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Tourism have doubts about just how to go about legislating on private reserves, but they welcomed Gerber's initiative.

They agree that a document supplying a framework for a mutually beneficial relationship between the province and private landowners is desirable.

The ANC's Mr Russell McGregor, who is deputy chairperson of the standing committee, said he was concerned that the bill in its present form would give individuals sweeping powers "to establish tourist resorts under the

possible false pretext of private nature reserves".

It was essential for existing legislation dealing with private nature reserves to be amended "to promote and secure meaningful conservation and protection of conservation-worthy land in private ownership", but the draft bill fell dismally short of this requirement.

McGregor said public consultation was necessary on the desirability of a separate law dealing with private nature reserves.

Representatives of Cape Nature Conservation felt the ordinance could be updated, but that nature conservation legislation was already too fragmented.

Gerber said: "When you ask for a piece of land to be declared a nature reserve, you don't get any extra rights and it doesn't increase the value of your property. You score nothing.

"But the ordinance can be built on to provide a mutually beneficial relationship for the province and the private landowners. It's a very fine issue and it will have to be handled with the utmost care. I put this bill there to open up the debate."

He agreed with other parties that public opinion would have to be sought. Issues such as development, access to the reserves, incentives for creating reserves, and alien vegetation and erosion control were likely to become major discussion points.

If all goes well, the number of privately owned reserves is likely to increase.

New Oudekraal hotel satisfies planning chief

A fantastic destination, says Fick - and there won't be a marina either

(56) (R) ARS 30/10/97

ANDREA WESS
City Editor

He came, he saw, he was satisfied. Provincial Planning, Agriculture and Tourism Minister Lampe Fick paid an inspection visit to the controversial Oudekraal hotel development yesterday to satisfy himself it was conforming to planning conditions.

After the tour with owner/developer Steven Jones, Mr Fick declared he was happy the development was keeping to the terms of the planning approval.

He said he was particularly impressed that the original gables of the old White House were being restored in their exact position, and with the "sensitivity" of the development. "I think it will be a fantastic destination," he said.

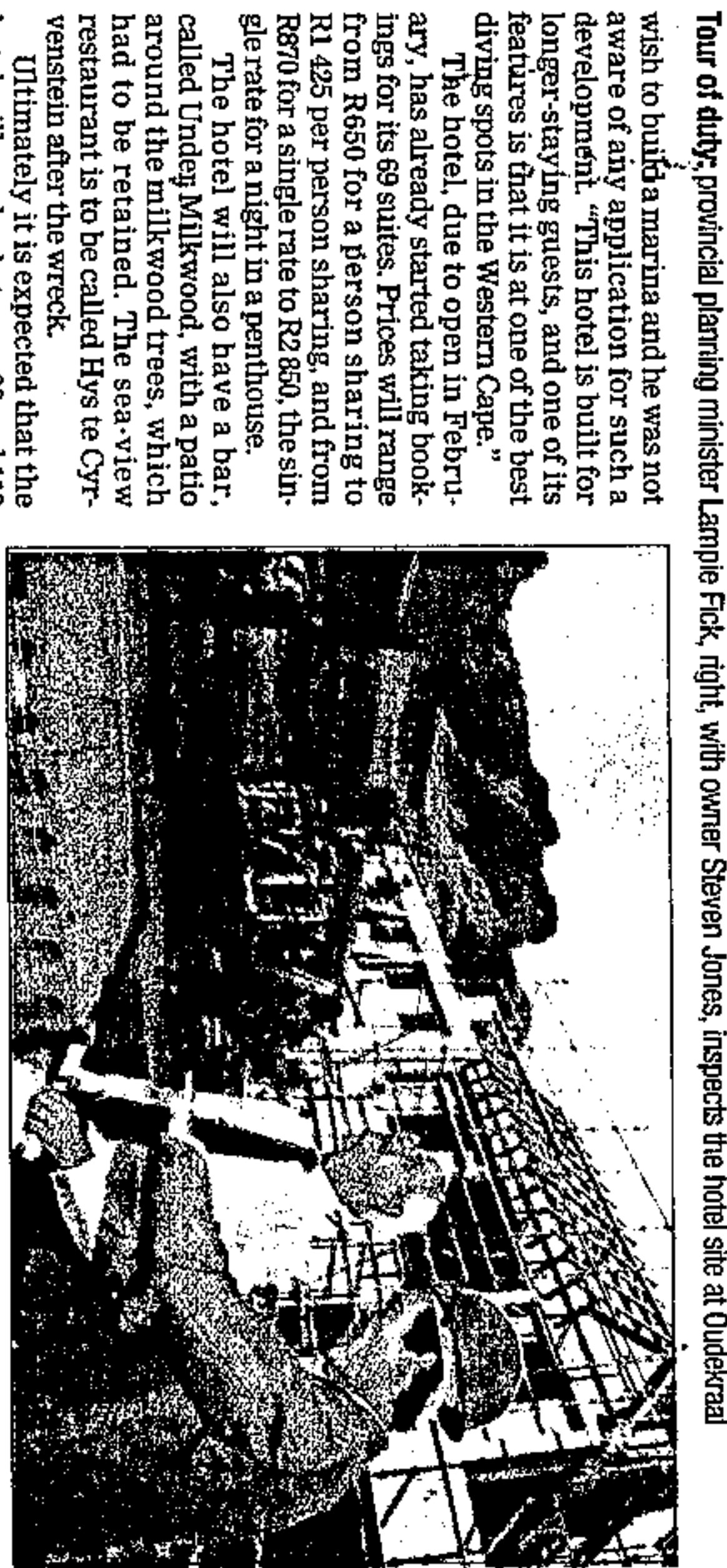
In the meantime, Mr Jones has scotched rumours of a proposed marina, which has caused ripples of concern within the diving community because Oudekraal Bay is considered to be one of the best diving spots in the Western Cape.

Not only is it the grave of the 17th century Dutch East Indiaman Hys te Cryenstein and three other wrecks, it is also has a unique natural feature called the coral gardens.

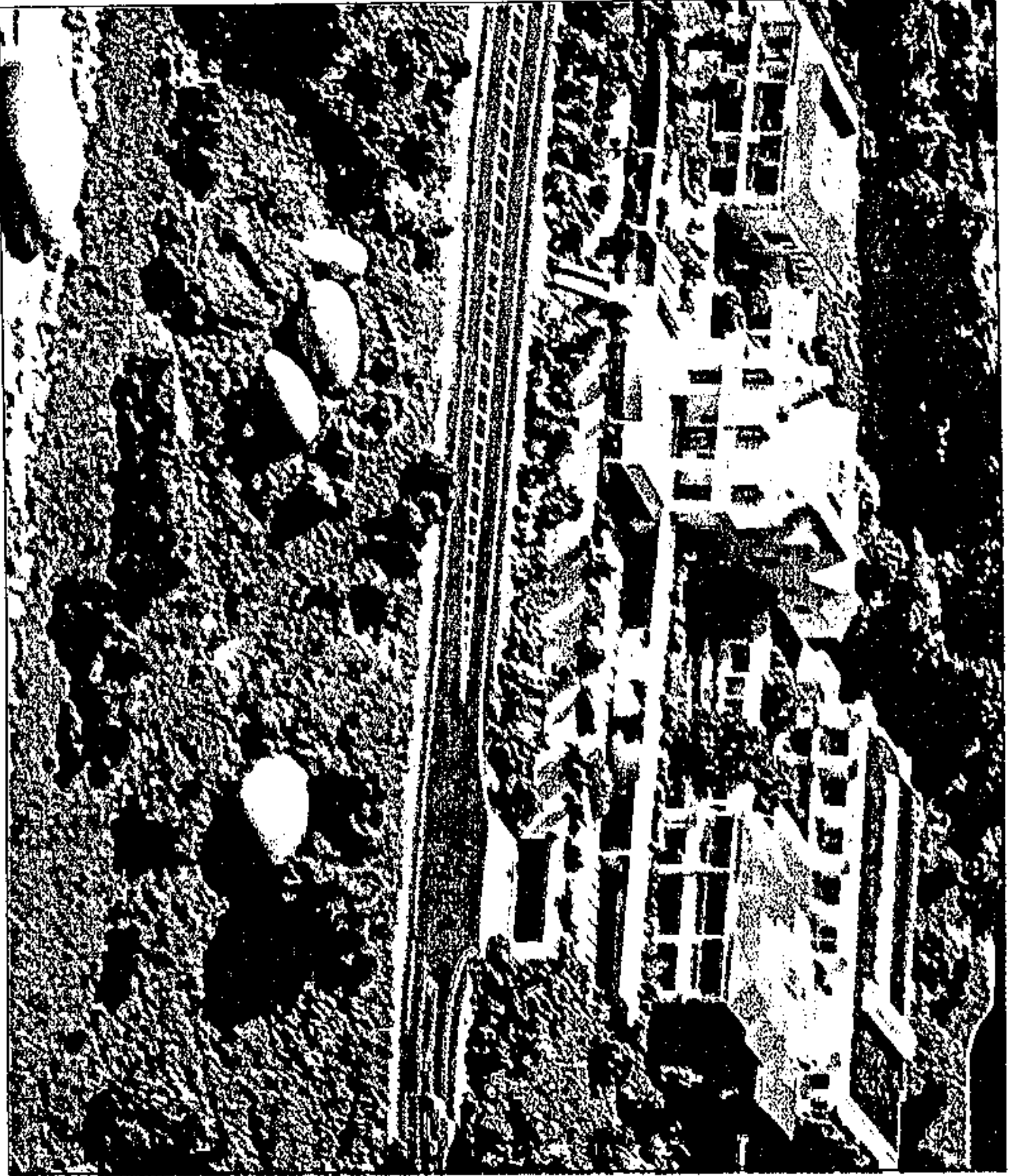
Maritime archaeologist Bruno Werz has voiced his concern about the marina rumours because the VOC wreck has not been excavated and he believes it could be made into an underwater museum, with chains to guide divers around its features. Mr Jones said the hotel had no



BRENTON BEACH



Head for heights: Lampe Fick and Steven Jones on site. The hotel opens in February



Place in the sun: a computer-generated image of the Oudekraal hotel which is being built on the site of the old White House

Renewed elephant slaughter 'alarming'

Own Correspondent

THE slaughter of African elephants by poachers had resumed on "a dramatic and alarming scale" since the world ban on ivory trading was eased five months ago, said the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw) yesterday.

"Our evidence indicates a disaster in the making," said Ifaw Africa director David Barritt. "Organised poaching for illegal ivory is now so serious that it could signal the extinction of elephants in some parts of Africa."

In a controversial resolution in May, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites)

decided to allow Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to resume limited trade in their existing stocks of ivory.

Many nongovernmental conservation organisations bitterly opposed the resolution. They argued any loophole in the ban would lead to a resurgence of ivory poaching on the massive scale which reduced Africa's elephant population from 1,3-million in 1979 to 650 000 within a decade.

Wildlife managers from southern African countries with healthy populations countered that controls on the numbers were necessary to prevent the habitat devastation created by the elephants' appetite, and that funds generated by sales of elephant products

were vital for the upliftment of the people living among the elephants.

Barritt was sharply critical of Cites for failing to put in place foolproof methods for preventing illegal ivory finding its way on to the world market. "The renewed limited trade was supposed to be openly and strictly monitored, but we have no indications that any controls are in place."

Since the Cites decision Zimbabwe, host country at the May conference, had seen a 50% increase in ivory poaching. While the delegates were debating the issue, 12 elephants were slaughtered in a national park in neighbouring Zambia and a gang of 200 armed Somali poachers crossed into Kenya's

(56)

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Tsavo East national park, he said.

Two weeks after the conference, Ifaw had evidence that Sudanese poachers using a 114-strong camel caravan had made their way into the Central African Republic's M'povo Gounds St-Floris national park and killed 95 elephants for their tusks.

"In the poorer countries, the rangers run away as they know they are outnumbered and outgunned and will be hunted down by the poaching gangs as ruthlessly as the elephants."

The Zairean civil war and the ensuing chaos had opened up wildlife areas in the now Democratic Republic of the Congo to organised Sudanese poaching gangs. — ©Telegraph plc.

Fury at SA's 'secret' baboon deal

Jordan must quit, say animal rights activists

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Pretoria - Animal rights activists have called for the resignation of the Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, Pallo Jordan.

Protesting in front of the ministry office in Pretoria at the weekend, a small group of protesters accused Dr Jordan of contravening a moratorium on the export of

baboons to foreign laboratories for experimental purposes.

The moratorium was announced by Dr Jordan in August last year, after a countrywide outcry over the intended export of baboons caught in the wild to the French military for warfare experiments.

The moratorium was to be in force in seven provinces excluding the Free State and Kwazulu Natal.

However, Dr Jordan, in what was

described as a secret operation, gave permission for the baboons to be exported to France by the French-funded Centre Africain Primatologie Experimentale (Cape) in Mpumalanga.

Beatrice Wiltshire, of South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection (SAAV) and national co-chairman of the Animal Groups Alliance of South Africa, said this lack of transparency and consultation

could have dire consequences for non-government organisations under the African National Congress.

"We are also concerned that no proper count has been done of South Africa's primate population, which is becoming extinct in some areas because of being trapped and exported at up to R1 000 a monkey or baboon to foreign laboratories.

"We find the minister's laid-back

attitude in the handling of this matter to be unsuited for a minister of the environment and therefore call for his immediate resignation," Ms Wiltshire said.

Animal activists overseas had joined their cause and would send a fax to President Mandela this week demanding Mr Jordan's dismissal.

"He is no longer to be trusted. As a result we have no choice, but to ask him to step down," she said.

AKG 3/11/97 (56)

For richer, for poorer: the valley's search for harmony

Paupers, millionaires – and the wonders of nature

ARG 4/11/97 (56) (104)

INSIDE STORY

In the second of three reports on Noordhoek valley, **MICHAEL MORRIS** finds significant consensus on stricter developmental controls



New start: Masiphumelele residents who can afford something better than a wooden shack are being helped by developers Communicare to build brick homes

MICHAEL MORRIS

From Ou Kaapseweg, above Noordhoek, the southern panorama of the valley exposes the elements of an environment that in many respects is a microcosm of the Peninsula.

Between the glimmering Atlantic on the right, and the smudged olive topography of Brakkloofrant, the ridge concealing Fish Hoek, on the left, is a landscape of different, even jarring, features.

The estates and stabled smallholdings, defined by avenues of trees or ranch-style fencing, are quite distinct from the compact pastiche of comfy-looking middle-class homes.

Towards Kommetjie, the long roofs of light industrial plants are visible amid the gum trees, and closer in is the idle expanse of the wetlands and the new lakeside development on its northern edge.

In the middle, more or less, is the squat shopping complex, with its glittering fringe of parked cars.

That appears to be it. A little to the right, though, is a dense, darkish cluster of indistinctness, neither industry, nor housing, nor shops. But it is not to be overlooked: Masi-phumelele – whatever it looks like from the mountain – is probably the most critical component of the Noordhoek mix.

With almost proprietorial pride, councillor Alan Phillips says the valley is home to everyone from “paupers to millionaires”.

What makes it different from other parts of the Peninsula is that the paupers and the millionaires share a relatively small space whose specialness is measurable in both environmental and material terms.

The risks, here, are the danger of harming the wetland habitat of protected flora and fauna, as much as the danger of losing money on a land deal because the neighbouring low-income settlement is still not much more than a community of shacks.

But there is another risk, expressed by the people of Masi-phumelele, that new people will keep coming, crowding their space and taking their jobs – and that, because of these things, their lives may not show the kind of improvement for which they had hoped.

Without doubt, there is friction in Noordhoek, but there is also a greater degree of unanimity on core issues than it might at first appear.

The big picture is plain to environmentalists like Wally Petersen

and Fulvio Grandin of the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group (KEAG), the custodians, in a sense, of the Wildevoeivlei wetland system that establishes the valley's rural temperament.

“Everything that happens in the valley,” says Mr Petersen, “affects the wetlands, since the entire valley is a catchment area. That means every community has a stake.”

A baseline biological study under Dr William Harding of the Cape Metropolitan Council's department of scientific services is expected to reveal later this month the real state of the wetland system.

What the environmentalists already know is that pollutants from industries, from the soon-to-be expanded sewage plant, and from run-off from Masi-phumelele are the chief problems.

It boils down to pressure from human settlement. And one of the biggest headaches is the risk that “Masi-phumelele is going to explode and push deeper into the wetland”.

This is “politically a very difficult thing to handle”, Mr Petersen admits, but he insists that the only argument is “convincing people that space has limits, and that the wetland system is a treasure

we all share”.

Instilling a “greening ethic” is part of KEAG's mission in Masi-phumelele, where it has helped set up various gardening and greening workshops and school projects. The soil and climatic conditions are hostile and the results are often discouraging – but it's a start.

Ultimately, though, Mr Grandin believes the whole valley must work together on this.

“Communities must become part of the whole. Whether it is race, economics or land tenure, we should try

to smooth out the differences. We are all living in the same area, and need to improve and nurture it, and there is no point in moaning or just doing something about one's own space.”

At 27, literacy worker Skolweni Zelanga is all set to put down her roots in the place that, rather tenuously, has been home for six years.

“When I came here in 1991 it was very difficult. There was a shortage of water, no shops, no schools, no clinic, no work – nothing. We spent the whole day in the settlement.”

Today, she has a plot and, once she has saved enough, will build a house. But she does not believe the quality of life in the community will improve if newcomers keep coming.

“I agree they should limit the numbers,” she says.

Like Ms Zelanga, Ndileka Ortman is worried about newcomers.

“There are still people coming in, and I think it should be controlled. One of these days it will be down there,” she says, pointing towards the wetlands and the sea.

“There are a lot of people who have been living in Masi-phumelele for many years, and then new people come in and they get the plots.”

Rob Gordon, low-income housing manager at Communicare which has developed the settlement, says the importance of controlling numbers is directly related to the community's wherewithal to help itself.

If more people come in, there will be fewer jobs and even those who have plots ultimately will not have the means to build houses, or plant gardens, or even pay their bills.

“As soon as they move in, they have to pay rates. They are getting something better, but if they are jobless, it is just another burden.”

While Sandy Dowling, who helps run the Valley Development Project at the Siyakhulisa Centre in Masi-phumelele, is unforgiving of the view that poor people do not belong in Noordhoek if they cannot afford to be there, she agrees that controlling numbers is practical and desirable.

“This comes with the new South Africa. Black urbanisation was slowed through influx control and apartheid and we now are feeling the impact in a much shorter period.

“We cannot live separately, as we did under apartheid, and we have to face the fact that we are going to have to live together, but it is just not practical to have more people coming in. The land has reached capacity.

“Residents really are keen to build a good community and it's nonsense to say they are happy about new people putting up shacks.”

But “control” is not enough to make life better in the valley.

“We have been trying to get people working together – the mountain chain effectively cuts us off from the rest of the Peninsula and we have realised there must be more interaction. Essentially, that calls for a change in the mindset of white residents.”

Noordhoek ward council chairman John Cannan affirms the view of many when he warns that “the

chances of the original settlers getting a house are diminishing with each new arrival”, and believes certain minimum steps must be taken if the settlement is to become a suburb in time.

These include enforcing building lines and other standards, and building perimeter walls or fences along the wetland border. “Unwelcome as this may be, it is necessary to discourage further sprawl,” he notes.

Councillor Phillips says he speaks for most whites in asserting that “we do not object to these people” (Masi-phumelele residents).

“They need shelter, jobs, clothes. But there are no jobs, it is environmentally sensitive and people are arriving by the day. We are concerned that control and development

must go hand in hand.”

The unenviable task of securing that control falls to Hugh Paton, director of urbanisation and housing planning at South Peninsula Municipality. Deciding to “put a stop to the construction of new shacks” – the present strategy – is more difficult than it may appear.

“The problem is that shack-dwellers operate in an illegal arena, occupying land that is not theirs, and building without any plans. There might be money changing hands for the right to do things, and the whole thing is, in a sense, illegal.”

Changing that requires a joint initiative with local leaders, but they are seldom willing to work with the authorities, either because of their own interests or because they are rejected by the community for trying to assert control.

“It is the dynamic of people who have grown up outside an organised urban structure and there is no organised way to achieve a paradigm shift.”

He is convinced, though, that improving the living standard in Masi-phumelele will depend on limiting growth and setting standards.

In all these things, the only feasible approach

is a “co-operative” one.”

“We all have to find new ways together of working out sensitive problems. There is simply no alternative,” he says.

For all their differences, most Noordhoek residents seem to speak with one voice about the single most important challenge: limiting growth to secure their own interests.

If that is the consensus, it suggests the greatest risk would be a failure of community, a failure – however hard it might be – of sharing the responsibility to act communally.

‘Whether it is race, economics or land tenure, we should try to smooth out the differences’

‘We cannot live separately and we have to face the fact we are going to have to live together’

Committee aims to get answers on ivory,

David Greybe
and Michael Moon

CAPE TOWN — The parliamentary environmental affairs committee decided yesterday to "get answers" from the environmental affairs department and the Natal Parks Board in the new year following allegations regarding the resumption of ivory and rhino horn trade.

This followed a briefing by International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw) African director David Barritt on alleged developments before and after the Conference on

International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in Zimbabwe in June.

Last night Natal Parks Board CEO George Hughes categorically denied his agency was considering violating bans on rhino horn and ivory trade.

Cites agreed to allow Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia a limited trade in elephant ivory with Japan from next December. SA failed by a single vote to attain a two-thirds majority on its proposal for formal discussions on reopening rhino horn trade. SA did not propose actually selling any horn in the near future.

Barritt said yesterday that Ifaw's own investigations had shown there had been a "massive increase" in elephant poaching following the Cites decision. Ifaw called on the SA government "to abandon its support for the ivory trade".

Barritt claimed Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan had not informed the cabinet of the parliamentary committee's decision, conveyed to him before Cites, that it did not want SA to back legalised ivory or rhino horn trade without further information and debate. Committee chairman Gwen Mahlangu confirmed that Jordan

had not heeded the committee's decision despite an undertaking to do so.

Barritt also told the committee there were no signs that SA had done anything to set up and monitor strict controls to ensure that illegal poached ivory did not find its way on to the international market, as it had promised at the Cites meeting.

He also alleged Hughes had "stated that the Cites decisions about trade in rhino horn would not be adhered to and that Cites had been approached only as a courtesy".

According to Barritt, Hughes had said the sale of rhino horn would go ahead in

terms of agreements between the SA and Taiwanese governments.

Hughes responded: "There is no suggestion of me, my agency or any responsible conservation body in SA breaking the prohibition. Animal rights groups often misquote to suit their own agenda. If I have told the committee the Natal Parks Board is planning illegal sales of rhino horn, it has no foundation in truth."

Hughes said SA had tabled its proposal at Cites on further investigation of the issue in order to "test the international waters" and had been heartened by the response.

But, even Cites officials had indicated SA had no obligation to do so if it merely wanted to promote discussion on the issue.

Hughes said a meeting of rhino range states was being organised for KwaZulu-Natal next year to initiate discussions on setting up mechanisms and safeguards for possible future rhino horn sales under a Cites mandate.

Mahlangu said the committee would call Hughes and the environmental affairs department and ministry "early next year" when Parliament reconvened to answer to the allegations.

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REZONING OPPOSED

Last pockets of rare fynbos threatened

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THE REMNANTS of a rare type of fynbos on the Cape Flats are under threat. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

CAPE TOWN may soon lose the last viable pockets of rare sandplain fynbos — unique vegetation that once blanketed most of the Cape Flats with hundreds of different plants from brilliant vygies to delicate orchids.

Botanists say over 99% of sandplain fynbos, which grows on the lowlands and is completely different from mountain fynbos, has already been wiped out on the Flats by agriculture and urbanisation, leaving a few isolated pockets amounting to a mere 0,01% of its former distribution.

Now even these bits are threatened.

In June the Botanical Society of SA pinpointed 15 vegetation "hotspots" on the Cape Flats and challenged the authorities and private landowners to formally conserve them. Since then threats to three of the top five — all sandplain fynbos — have increased.

● Milnerton Racecourse, with 248 plant species and many small animals and birds, is rated as the top conservation priority on the Cape Flats. An application for

rezoning will be submitted to the provincial authorities next week to make way for a major development that is likely to destroy a major piece of this hotspot.

● Kenilworth Racecourse, rated the fourth most important hotspot, has the greatest density of threatened plants in Southern Africa, is earmarked for a racehorse quarantine station.

In September bulldozers flattened some of the sandplain fynbos before the city council had passed the building plans. The council immediately issued a "cease works" order, and a mediator is trying to thrash out an agreement that will save some of the vegetation.

The racehorse industry says international regulations only allow the station to be built inside the racecourse. Some botanists believe the desirability of the quarantine station is outweighed by the biological value of the racecourse, which is home to 19 endangered Red Data plants and 65 bird species including the uncommon Ethiopian snipe.

A new species of freshwater shrimp and the last population of Micro Frogs — Southern Africa's most endangered frog — have been found in its nine seasonal vleis.

● Plattekloof, where 70ha of sandplain fynbos have survived under Eskom powerlines, was the first declared natural heritage site in the country and is rated the fifth most important hotspot on the Flats.

Recently residents of nearby Monte Vista, Edgemoed and Bothasig petitioned Eskom to mow the fynbos, saying it had become a dumping site and a home to vagrants. After Eskom explained the botanical significance of the site the residents backed down.

Botanists say Eskom has neglected the site and failed to implement the site's conservation management plan.

Eskom concedes this is partly true, but says it has neither the manpower to manage it, nor the authority to enforce bylaws to prevent illegal activities.

Many botanists say it is time to say it is time to halt destruction of lowland fynbos and question whether the authorities should give the landowners additional rights through rezoning, which would mean the further destruction of a veld type that has virtually been wiped out locally.

Orchid find 'like discovering a live dodo'

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MILNERTON racecourse looks like the Cape Flats once did — a mass of hundreds of different flowering plants criss-crossed with a network of seasonal vleis.

This is called sandplain fynbos, and it has almost been wiped out by development.

Next week Stocks and Stocks Properties (Pty) Ltd, the owners of the defunct racecourse, will apply to have it rezoned to make way for a techno park, hotels, shops, housing and civic buildings.

A rare orchid, which could be 100 years old and was thought to be extinct on the Cape Flats, has just been found at the racecourse in an area which is likely to be ploughed up for the development. Botanists have likened this to discovering a surviving dodo, and say the entire inner area of the racecourse should be declared a natural heritage site.

Researchers have pinpointed Milnerton racecourse as the most important remnant of sandplain fynbos on the Cape Flats, with about 248 plant species growing inside the tracks. At least 11 of these are endangered Red Data species.

Stocks and Stocks have appointed consultants to assess the environmental impact of the proposed development, but will not wait until it is complete before applying for rezoning.

They have agreed that about half the inner track, about 11ha, can be set aside for conservation. The entire property is about 90ha.

Botanists say this is far from a "win-win" solution.

Said botanist Mr Anton Pauw: "When you see what tiny specks of



FOUND: An "extinct" orchid found at Milnerton. **PICTURE: ANTON PAUW**

sandplain fynbos are left — which is entirely different from mountain fynbos ... no one can justify destroying any more of it. We question the right of Stocks and Stocks to hack up even part of it."

Orchid specialist Mr Bill Litved said: "Milnerton racecourse is one of the last vestiges of what the Cape Flats once looked like. This orchid was considered extinct here, and its recent discovery shows how valuable the site is. It must be protected as a natural heritage site."

The orchid is *Disa lugens*, formerly known as *Herschellianthe lugens*, and the bulb could be between 50 and 100 years old. Botanists say if the area were man-



IN DANGER: A proposed development at Milnerton Racecourse, if carried out, will mean that parts of this remnant of rare sandplain fynbos will be ploughed up.

aged as a conservation site and burned regularly, even more plants would reappear, as many fynbos species need fire to propagate.

Consultant Dr Clive McDowell of UCT, who conducted the botanical survey for the impact assessment, has said he would like Stocks and Stocks to justify why they should not conserve the entire inner circle of the race track.

"They own the whole of Milnerton racecourse, which is a massive piece of land. If they conserved the 22ha of land inside the track, it would still leave them with 68ha to develop."

Mr Brett Lawson, who is coordinating the integrated environ-

ment management of the development for Stocks and Stocks, said the owners would not consider conserving the whole inner track because it would fragment the development space. They intended to build on the disturbed section of the inner track, formerly polo fields, because they say this land would take a long time to recover botanically.

McDowell disagrees. "The polo field is already recovering well since they stopped mowing it four years ago, and will continue to do so unaided. The site has the largest number of vryie species found anywhere around Cape Town, several of which are endangered, and

it should be left undeveloped.

"One gets the feeling the conservation area they (the planners) have agreed to was chosen on its shape rather than on biological data. I consider the botanical impacts of the proposed development at Milnerton racecourse far more serious than those of the cableway upgrade on Table Mountain.

"Yet there seems to be a mind-set that the mountain vegetation must be saved, but it is open season for the rest. This is wrong, because generally over 90% of mountain fynbos is intact, whereas we have only 0,01% of sandplain fynbos left on the Flats," McDowell said.

PICTURE: CLIVE MCDOWELL

Mine's runoff control 'totally inadequate'

Josey Ballenger

DURBAN Roodepoort Deep's surface water management in Meadowlands, Soweto, was "totally inadequate" and the nearby Klip River tributaries were being polluted, the water affairs department said yesterday.

A department water quality spokesman said the mine's slimes dam management was "unacceptable". She said: "There is uncontrolled seepage into surface water and possibly groundwater, and this may negatively affect downstream users."

The spokesman said Durban Roodepoort Deep should not be singled out as the sole environmental offender, as such problems were "happening all over the mining areas".

In this mine's case, the problem was caused by damaged paddocks at the bottom of the slimes dam which were unable to hold in the water, which was flowing into a pollution control dam. This dam was over capacity, and water was seeping through its walls into Klip River tributaries about 200m away.

She said the department would start monitoring the area's waterways, and that it had written to mine management last month asking that the paddocks be repaired.

The Johannesburg-based Group for Environmental Monitoring (GEM) reported last month that SGS Laboratories had found metals, cyanide and pH levels in water draining from the slimes dam were at "unsuitable" levels for drinking, and in some cases were toxic.

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However, the water affairs department said testing should be done from the Klip River tributaries, as the water would be significantly diluted where it could have an effect on the community.

The National Association for Clean Air's Soweto branch chairman, Jabu Sithole, said yesterday children were known to swim in "polluted streams connected to the dam". Babies were also baptised there, he said.

In addition, Sithole said the community occasionally drank the contaminated dam water "to induce vomiting" as part of a religious cleansing ritual called "iswafho".

In a separate development, the minerals and energy department said it was reviewing Durban Roodepoort Deep's recently submit-

ted environmental management programme report, and that the mine had hired EnviroGreen to "grass" the dump in order to prevent dust blowing.

Gauteng minerals development director Neels Hoek said the mine had also agreed to spray a "bonding" chemical substance over the dust in the meantime.

The dust has sparked many complaints from the nearby community of coughing, hoarseness, chest problems, poor vision and difficulty in breathing.

Durban Roodepoort Deep GM Anton Lubbe could not be contacted yesterday, but had said previously the mine was spending R100 000 a month on environmental management of the entire Meadowlands site.

Delay on World heritage site angers 'greens'

Conservationists are concerned that delaying the application for the Lake St Lucia Wetland is a veiled effort

on the part of Government to reopen the possibility of mining the dunes by Richards Bay Minerals *Star 6/11/97*

OWN CORRESPONDENT
Cape Town

Minister Pallo Jordan has outraged local conservationists by withdrawing the country's application to declare Lake St Lucia the country's first World Heritage Site.

World Heritage Sites are areas around the world deemed by the United Nations Organisation to be worthy of international acclaim because of their unique natural or cultural features.

Their recognition as "special places of the planet" confers a status which places them firmly in the international tourism and conservation spotlight.

The St Lucia application was to have been submitted shortly by the South African

Government to the Paris-based World Heritage Site Centre, but was withdrawn suddenly by the minister without any formal announcement or official explanation.

The decision was confirmed earlier this week by senior officials

Status is for unique places on the planet

Officials of Jordan's department, who were at pains to emphasise that the decision was based on "procedural and administrative factors" rather than any "ominous" policy decision by government to reopen the bitter Richards Bay Minerals dune-mining controversy.

They said the St Lucia application would go ahead early next year, along with several other nominations - including Robben Island and Table Mountain.

Nevertheless, conservationists in KwaZulu Natal have expressed alarm that an application finalised by the Natal Parks Board more than three years ago should be withdrawn without any formal explanation. NPB chief George Hughes said he was "confused and very, very disappointed" with the decision.

Tony Pooley, chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia - which was at the forefront of the bitter dune-mining battle - said it almost seemed that the Government was stalling the World Heritage Site issue at St Lucia. Noting that World Heritage

status would effectively close the mining debate, conservationists have also drawn attention to recent statements by KZN economic affairs minister Jacob Zuma in which he hinted at the possibility of reopening the dune-mining issue.

They also speculated that the decision to withdraw the St Lucia application could have been influenced by political considerations at national government level.

However, this was denied by Dr Tanya Abrahamse, deputy director-general of the department of environmental affairs and tourism and national chairperson of the SA World Heritage Site convention committee, and by Ingrid Coetzee, deputy director of the department (cultural resources management). Abrahamse said her com-

mittee - which includes representatives of national and provincial governments, the National Monuments Council, National Parks Board, National Botanical Institute and provincial environment departments - had taken a majority decision

State says delay is not linked to mining

to delay South Africa's application to register its list of potential world heritage sites. She said the country hoped to put forward a so-called "tentative list" which would also include Robben Island and Table Mountain. Coetzee said the applica-

tions for Robben Island and Table Mountain were incomplete and needed to be refined and amended.

She said although the Natal Parks Board believed the St Lucia application was ready for submission, the committee had certain reservations - including questions related to the Lubombo SDI corridor and the management structure of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park.

Rather than putting forward St Lucia in isolation, it was felt that South Africa should "get its ducks in a row" and submit a list of several sites from all nine provinces. Coetzee said the committee had also received advice from the World Heritage Centre not to "push" the St Lucia application because if an application was rejected the first time, it might not get a second chance.

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In defence of the Wild Coast project



Never a

Headstrong and unconventional Rothschild was one of the financiers, writes Derek Wi

On the eve of the investors' conference, Paul Jourdan puts the case for the government's development initiatives

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Spatial development initiatives (SDIs) are a proven means of giving government more job-creating bang for its very limited bucks. It is too important and successful a strategy to be derailed by vested interests and narrow agendas.

The furore around the deceased Wild Coast toll road — which was only a small part of the Fish River and Wild Coast initiatives — shows that, in some quarters, there is very little understanding of the concept. Or the need for trade-offs between political, ideological, environmental and even government interests, in order to create jobs.

While the Department of Trade and Industry, where the programme is based, consults interested parties as an integral part of the initiative's development, if it moves away from sound economic principles — because of narrow agendas — initiatives will lose their attraction to investors. And South Africa will lose jobs. Simply put, spatial development initiatives are a package of measures that aim to attract investors into a bundle of economically sustainable projects in a region with the potential for growth.

The initiative approach to economic development outlined below is not a leap of theory on the part of the department. The programme flowed out of the success of the Maputo Development Corridor. That initiative realised \$5-billion and has taken on a life of its own in terms of drawing in more investment.

The Fish River and Wild Coast initiatives have about R3-billion worth of investment projects lined up — which could result in about 30 000 jobs — even before the entire package is presented to the investors' conference.

There are eight other initiatives being worked on presently, all based on infrastructure already in place and existing and planned high-value projects.

Many in both the environmental lobby and the labour movement have pointed out the inherent dangers for their constituencies. I agree.

The initiative approach to economic development is new and is developing through practice. The urgency to attract investment into the country and provide jobs can tempt the government to ride roughshod over concerns seen to be less of a priority. However, besides a commitment to consultation with interested parties to try to sort out their concerns, the department is bound by its own belief in progressive environmental and labour practices. Initiatives will not be places where the government will tune down workers' rights to attract capital. Neither will they be places where the environment is sacrificed for industrial development.

While many of the developments, once they are up and running, will be managed by local companies, environmental and labour standards will still be set by the national government in negotiated regulatory frameworks. In any event, environmental and labour practices that fail to meet international norms will count against companies trying to compete globally. If not because of action by the South African government, then because international regulatory bodies will penalise them.

Tourism is a key job creator in all the programmes and every care is taken to ensure that the industrial projects do not unnecessarily compromise the natural environment on which the industry is based.

Basically, the initiatives package bankable investment projects, with state-of-the-art infrastructure and an internationally competitive bundle of supply-side measures (tax-breaks and the like).

Where possible, the infrastructure will be financed through a variety of acronyms: such

as BOT (build, operate, transfer) and ROT (rehabilitate, operate, transfer). These are essentially public-private partnerships through which investors can invest with the government in hard infrastructure projects, such as roads, water supply and ports.

The postponement of the West Coast toll road underlines a basic principle of every project — if it cannot support itself, it dies. This ensures the government's money is used to facilitate the kind of investment that will create sustainable jobs.

By bringing large amounts of capital into sustainable projects in a region, the programme provides a quick, sharp kick-start to economic development. Getting private sector investment to the initiatives is vital because the government has no money and what little finances it has are being soaked up by social and other development demands. Government's financial investment in an initiative is limited to less than 10% of the total amount.

Given that the private sector is also very risk-averse, the government can be reasonably

sure that any projects the private sector joins stand a much better than average chance of success. Joint projects also allow the government to tap project management and other skills that reside largely in the private sector.

By sharing some of cost, the government departments involved in the initiatives can spend their money on key infrastructural projects which will make the targeted areas more attractive investment destinations. The de-

Informality, boundless enthusiasm, and a full measure of the family's financial flair were typical of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, the richest of the Rothschilds.

partments are also involved in cutting back the national, provincial and local bureaucracy that deters potential investors.

Areas where initiatives are set up identify themselves. They must have a proven economic base because the programme simply aims to loosen constraints and allow them to grow to their maximum potential. Given that most initiative industries are aiming for the

global market, they are likely to be located near the infrastructure that will determine their international competitiveness, like ports, cheap power supplies and so forth.

Setting up an initiative is a quick process and it should only take about a year from projects being identified to investors beginning to buy into them.

The department accepts that there are many real concerns about initiatives which have to be worked through. However, it must be kept in mind that the programme is here to create jobs, and the deciding factor when balancing the trade-offs between various interest groups must be: how many more people will have work because of spatial development initiatives?

Paul Jourdan is co-ordinator of special projects at the Department of Trade and Industry

Time for a TRC for conservationists

Why should the conservation fraternity be let off the hook, asks Farieda Khan

In recent months we have witnessed the spheres of medicine and journalism being placed under the spotlight of the truth commission. If editors have to answer accusations of collusion and silence when confronted by the excesses of apartheid, and medical authorities have to explain why they allowed the blatantly discriminatory and humiliating practices endured by black medical students to continue unchallenged, why shouldn't the conservation fraternity be made to examine its conduct under apartheid? For, like the apartheid era history of many other sectors of society, the story of conservation during this period is an unedifying and sometimes sordid tale of collaboration with those in power.

The victory of the National Party in 1948 ushered in an era in which conservation was destined to become the handmaiden of the apartheid state. This was signalled by the deproclamation of the Dongola Wildlife Sanctuary, on the border with Botswana, by the new government in its very first year in power. The sanctuary, which had been created by the government of Jan Smuts in 1947, was abolished by the NP, which gained significant political capital out of backing the demands of white farmers to repeal the Act which had created the sanctuary.

Over the next few decades, conservation would be relentlessly subordinated to the demands of apartheid and cynically manipulated

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tific bodies, including the South African Bird Watchers, the South African Ornithological Society and the Zoological Society of South Africa, asking them to alter their constitutions to exclude "non-White members". Some refused, opting to give up their government subsidy, but others complied with the demands.

These and other government actions contributed greatly to the fact that the environmental movement remained small and fragmented, with a largely white support base. However, this is only part of the reason, and it is NGOs themselves which must shoulder their part of the responsibility for stunting the growth of the environmental movement.

The reasons for this were that, firstly, the membership of many environmental NGOs was politically conservative; secondly, many NGOs received subsidies from the government. A third factor which discouraged black membership was the practice of inviting government officials to serve as office bearers — for example, the first prime minister of the apartheid regime, DF Malan, served as the Wildlife Society's vice-president in 1954, while the state president was its patron in 1984.

By the early 1970s, apartheid was so entrenched that its acceptance by most environmental NGOs, whether tacit or overt, was simply a matter of degree. The extent to which blacks were excluded from the environmental movement was clearly illustrated by the actions and philosophy of many of its organisations.

The Wilderness Leadership School, which was started in 1957, did not invite blacks on its trails prior to 1970. The Mountain Club of South Africa, one of the oldest environmental organisations in the country, was a deeply conserv-

ture was perpetuated. The state was aided in this task by the conservationists in its employ, at both national and provincial level.

These officials promoted the myth of the environment being "above politics" while implementing apartheid measures which not only greatly contributed to the alienation of blacks from conservation, but also ensured that few, if any, blacks were employed above the level of an unskilled worker or game guard.

Well-known conservationist Douglas Hey, a former director of Cape Nature Conservation, wrote approvingly of the establishment of separate parks and game reserves in the "Bantu homelands" and of the establishment of the racially exclusive Manyeleti Game Reserve which, in 1975, "was visited by over 20 000 Bantu schoolchildren from all ethnic groups".

Hey's support for conservation apartheid was not surprising, given his perception of blacks as being environmentally destructive. His comment that "there can be no doubt that the native youth is one of the greatest destroyers of wildlife in the Cape province today" was typical of the biased attitudes of many conservationists during the apartheid era.

Colonel Jack Vincent, a former senior official of the Natal Parks Board, wrote in 1988: "It will take years, if not a generation or two, before millions of Africans regard wildlife as anything but the next meat meal." This is an unsurprising comment from someone who also believed that "many, if not most, of the Bantu people have mental processes which are still very primitive". Support from conservation officials did not stop at political support. During the 1970s, certain officials obligingly looked the other way while politicians and military personnel involved in the mass slaughter of elephants in militarised zones in Angola and Namibia engaged in ivory smuggling. It took exposure of this smuggling racket by conservationists in the United States during 1988 and 1989 before action was taken by the authorities.

One of the most damning accusations to be made against the mainstream conservation movement is its collective silence in the face of the enormously destructive ecological impact apartheid had in black rural areas. While writers based in the United Kingdom and the US (such as Lloyd Timberlake and Alan Durning) exposed the appalling social and environmental costs of the homelands system, many mainstream conservationists in South Africa opted



Drop dead: Until the end of apartheid, most game reserves would not have welcomed Nelson Mandela as a paying guest, let alone have allowed him to go on a hunt

instead for the victim-blaming approach.

An equally damning yet less tangible accusation is the deafening silence which met the negative impact apartheid had on the environmental attitudes of black South Africans. Discriminatory land legislation such as the Group Areas Act of 1950, as well as a host of regulations severely restricting their freedom of movement, resulted in their alienation from the land.

Apartheid legislation made access by blacks to natural amenities, game reserves and national parks extremely difficult. For example, in 1964, when the Natal Parks Board established a hutted camp for African use only, the camp was vetoed by the minister of Bantu administration and development, De Wet Nel, with the words, "Dit pas my nie (it does not suit me)."

Various state, provincial and local conservation authorities vied with each other in their enthusiastic implementation of discriminatory laws, as a consequence of which the primary aim of protecting the environment was subordinated to the aims of apartheid. The National Parks Board is a prime example.

According to the National Parks Act of 1926, national parks had been established for the benefit of the nation; this was narrowly interpreted to mean the white public, and it was not before the mid to late 1980s that blacks were allowed to use the accommodation facilities.

Provincial conservation authorities were equally guilty of treating black visitors in a dis-

criminatory manner. The Natal Parks Board, which admittedly offered accommodation to blacks much earlier than the National Parks Board, was equally hostile in its dealings with black visitors. In 1973, for example, the board not only refused accommodation to black students on a trip organised by the Wildlife Society, but also raised objections to the group using the hides in one of its reserves.

As a result of the apartheid laws, freedom of association (the very foundation of private interest groups) was extremely difficult to practise. While few environmental NGOs openly used race as a bar to membership, in practice most, if not all, had an exclusively white membership.

Few NGOs needed government encouragement to ensure racial exclusivity. Organisations such as the National Yeld Trust went so far as to encourage the establishment of separate organisations for blacks — the African National Soil Conservation Association, as well as the Indian Soil Conservation Association, established in 1953.

The NP's mania for racial categorisation extended to ensuring that tribal divisions were adhered to, resulting in the disbandment of the African National Soil Conservation Association on Hendrik Verwoerd's instructions in 1959 because it had not been established along ethnic lines.

The government went further in 1964, when Senator Jan de Klerk sent notices to all scien-

climbers to join its ranks, thus alienating skilled climbers such as Ed February.

What was the response of the NGO sector to the abuses of the apartheid era? There were several individuals within the mainstream movement who challenged the complacency of the conservation fraternity by raising uncomfortable socio-political issues. Most, however, remained silent, claiming that politics had no place in the environment.

Many tacitly or overtly supported the apartheid government; others, like the Wildlife Society, swung between silence in the face of apartheid abuses and a more overt support for the system. Hence the society's much-heralded 1980 national conservation strategy was eloquently silent on the issue of whether its proposals had any chance of succeeding within a context of racial discrimination.

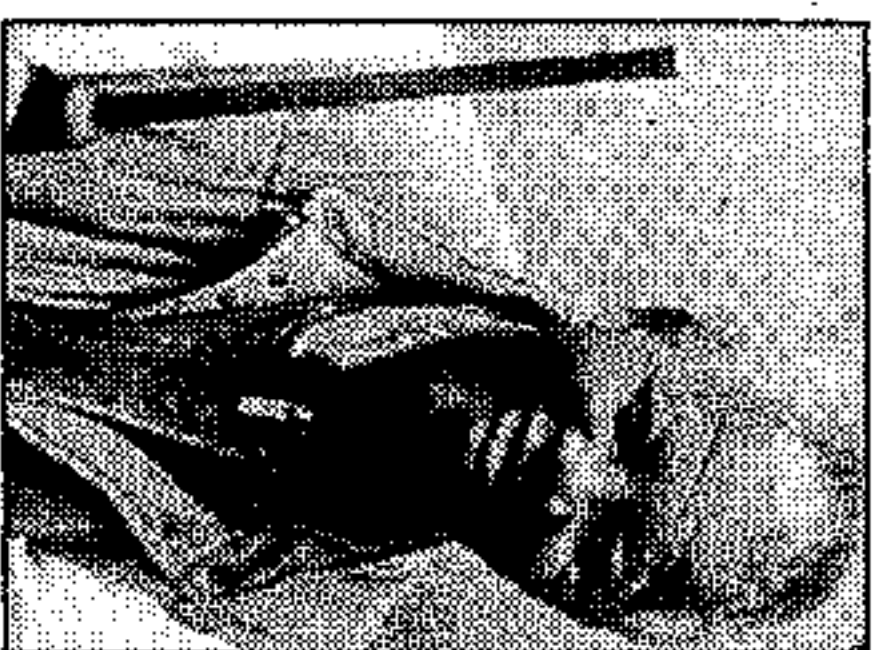
The Wildlife Society also collaborated with the South African Defence Force to produce a publication partly funded by the South African Nature Foundation (now the World Wide Fund for Nature — South Africa), entitled *The Soldier and Nature*. At a time when the SADF was effectively fighting an undeclared civil war against its black citizens, both organisations chose to be associated with a publication which adopted a decidedly partisan stance.

This is not the only instance of questionable behaviour by the South African Nature Foundation during the apartheid era. The 1996 report of the Kumeben Commission of Inquiry exposed the foundation's involvement in the ill-considered scheme initiated in the late 1980s known as Operation Lock.

It is true that no gross human rights violations, such as torture or murder, were committed in the name of conservation; but it is also true that cultural dislocation, widespread suffering and even deaths resulted from the many instances of dispossession and forced removals of black communities in order to protect wildlife and their habitat.

On the whole, mainstream conservation did too little, too late — and as a consequence, South Africa has inherited a blighted environment and a nation ill-equipped to deal with it. At the very least, it owes the public an explanation of its conduct under apartheid.

Farieda Kahn is a member of the environmental advisory unit at the University of Cape Town



False Bay beach health warning

Sea pollution rising

56
ARC 8/11/97

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Holidaymakers flocking to False Bay beaches will have to go beyond the usual swimming spots if they want pristine water.

This year's assessment of the water quality in False Bay showed an increase in germs that endanger human health, reversing the trend of previous years in which water quality had improved.

The water is tested annually by the False Bay and Table Bay Water Quality Committee.

The most polluted water is found around high-use beaches situated close to stormwater outlets, such as Surfers' Corner in Muizenberg, Kalk Bay and Mnandi.

At most beaches around False Bay, the level of coliforms measured in the water was within international standards. Coliforms are bacteria originating from human or animal faeces.

Vincent Marincowitz of the Zandvlei Trust said: "The water quality has been improving in the bay for the past few years, but better control of what goes into the bay is still needed."

This year's relatively low rainfall had also contributed to the higher

rate of pollution, as the stormwater runoff into the sea had been more concentrated than in years when the rainfall was heavy, he said.

Brown water, often found in areas where there are stormwater outlets, has also sparked fears of pollution by the public, but the experts insist this is a natural phenomenon.

Glendyr Dade of Kalk Bay, who swims at nearby beaches every day, said: "I sometimes find the brown water a bit off-putting, but what really bugs me is the increasing number of plastic bags littering the sea and shoreline."

She said the authorities should clamp down on littering and do something to get rid of plastic refuse.

Surfers' Corner at Muizenberg is one of the areas where the numbers of coliforms in the water exceed international limits.

The worst-affected beach is that at Kalk Bay Harbour, where signs have been placed warning beachgoers that swimming is unsafe.

Kalk Bay is a fishing harbour, where fish are cleaned at the market, offal is thrown into the water, and seabirds foul the water. There is also the discharge of bilge pumps, in addition to which the beach is cut off from the sea by the harbour wall, resulting

in poor circulation of water.

Other beaches with a high coliform count are at Gordon's Bay, opposite the Van Riebeeck Hotel, and popular sections of beach such as Mnandi and Monwabisi.

After years of wrangling by conservation groups, approval is being eagerly awaited for the appointment of a ministerial False Bay water quality advisory committee.

Conservation groups including the Zandvlei Trust and the Zeekoevlei Environmental Forum have for years been calling for a single body to monitor discharges into False Bay.

Mr Marincowitz said there was inadequate control over the rivers and wetlands feeding into False Bay.

Residential and commercial development had a negative effect on water quality, in that many rivers had been canalised, resulting in water not being filtered naturally.

High levels of nutrients were found in the wetlands, which fostered the growth of algae and weeds, resulting in a clogging-up of these sensitive systems.

"The committee will act in an advisory capacity to municipalities abutting False Bay in helping them draw up education programmes and riverine management plans."

Curbs on beach buggies set to end destruction

Limited access proposed ARL 8/11/97
(56)

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Peace is in sight at last between conservationists and the beach buggy brigade whose vehicles rip up the Cape's precious beaches and dunes.

There will now be limited access for vehicles to fishing spots, but they will not be allowed to tear around beaches and dunes for fun.

And drivers will have to declare their fish catches at entry points, a move aimed to prevent poaching.

The beaches along the Western Cape coast are popular with anglers, who need vehicles to get to isolated fishing spots.

Vincent Taylor, President of the Federation of Sea Anglers, has drawn up a policy that has been supported by a broad spectrum of beach users, as well as by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

"We want a win-win situation, and see the only way of achieving this as having access to beaches strictly controlled," Mr Taylor said.

Access to beaches by vehicles in the proposed policy will be through gates open between sunrise and sunset. He said the proposed system would allow better monitoring of marine resources, as anglers and divers would be asked to hand in a record of their catches.

His proposal was given unanimous support at a meeting of representatives from the departments of Sea Fisheries, Cape Nature Conservation and conservation groups.

He said that at present there was little enforcement by local authorities

of regulations designed to protect the seashore. Problems had arisen in the past because of the irresponsible behaviour of people spending the night on the beach.

"This has resulted in damage to the property of private landowners," he said.

He said the beach and dunes were a sought-after recreation area to which anglers as well as other beachgoers wanted access. Off-road enthusiasts also wanted to drive in the dunes for fun, and to test the capabilities of their vehicles.

"By having limited entry points, we will be able to control the number of vehicles in this sensitive area, as well as distribute information on how and where to drive."

He said the co-operation of drivers would be a key issue in protecting the shoreline.

Andy le Roux of the Pearly Beach Conservation Society said he was delighted consensus had been reached. Sections of the beach had been closed to vehicles.

"Indiscriminate driving of cars along sensitive beach areas has seen the destruction of sensitive areas, and birds like the black oyster catcher, which nests in the dunes, are particularly threatened.

"Uncontrolled access to the beaches also makes it easier for poachers to operate," Mr Le Roux said.

He said the number of off-road vehicles was increasing all the time, and advertising for them punted adventure and out-of-the-way places, which encouraged new owners to try out their vehicles in remote areas.

"The beaches, with their dunes, are prime targets," he said.

At present 61km of the 285km coastline between Rooi Els and Cape Infanta was open to off-road vehicles.

But a battle is still raging between Cape Nature Conservation and the Hermanus municipality over vehicles using part of the beach near the mouth of the lagoon, where extensive damage has been done to the environment, turning part of the beach into a compacted sand parking lot.

Duncan Heard of Cape Nature Conservation said he was extremely concerned for the safety of other beach users, as there were irresponsible drivers on the beach.

He said the Hermanus Municipality, to which control of the area was delegated, had failed to control access to this sensitive area and was now facing legal action from the department.

He said that according to the national policy protecting the seashore, vehicles were not allowed in popular beaches, nor in sensitive environments.

"The Kleinriver mouth (the lagoon) falls into all the protected categories," he added.

He said Cape Nature Conservation had taken the case to the State Attorney and was awaiting a decision, which, if in their favour, could mean the area would be closed to vehicles from next month.

Hans Pretorius, the Hermanus Town Clerk said: "The municipality has called for legal advice because this area has traditionally been open to vehicles."

Experts meet in SA's tavern of le soas

Outcome will have critical bearing on the fate of the oceans

INSIDE STORY

A major international initiative to ensure the survival of the oceans takes a significant step this week in the Cape at a series of meetings of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans.

The initiative, without doubt, ranks in significance with the north-south global dialogue and its outcome will have a critical bearing on the fate of the oceans.

After today's presidential opening ceremony in the parliamentary complex in Cape Town - with President Mandela and former Portuguese President Mario Soares, who heads the commission, officiating - further working meetings are being held until Friday at Somerset West.

The Independent World Commission on the Oceans seeks to "develop world consciousness of the unique role of the oceans in planetary survival and the critical importance of rational ocean development".

Within this broad theme it has been addressing issues such as peaceful use and security, legal and institutional frameworks, economic uses for sustainable development, north-south relations, science and technology and public awareness.

The oceans commission was established in late 1995 under the

law, economics, politics, the environment and science.

Among the members of the commission are Rrud Lubbers, the former Prime Minister of The Netherlands; Oscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize winner; Eduardo Faleiro, a former State Minister of Oceans of India; Venancio de Moura, Foreign Minister of Angola; Alhasane Dialy Nitaye, the Minister of Fisheries and Shipping of Senegal; and Richard Falk of Princeton University in the United States.

Among the scientists are Peter Bridgewater of Australia, who chairs the International Whaling Commission, and Sidney Holt, an expert on fisheries management and formerly of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

Some of these prominent people will be attending the Somerset West meetings, the fifth plenary session, which follows meetings of the commission in Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, Rotterdam and Newport, Rhode Island.

This, the only plenary being held on the African continent and only the second to be held in the southern hemisphere and in a developing country, will discuss and revise the commission's draft report.

The session is being funded with grants from the Indian government and the European Union, with support from the South African Government and several marine and maritime businesses in Cape Town.

Support from the latter is especially welcomed because it signals the commitment of business to sustainable management of the resources of the oceans.

The final plenary session of the commission will take place in Lisbon in August 1998 and will be linked to the millennium's last Expo.

This exposition has the theme "The oceans: a heritage for the future".

Next year is the United Nations Year of the Oceans as well as the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's voyage from Portugal to India.

It is intended that the report of the commission will be debated at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly late next year. The southern hemisphere is the

"water hemisphere" and South Africa stands at the meeting of two great oceans, the Atlantic and the Indian, as a major maritime nation of the south.

Our hosting this prestige event underlines the significant role South Africa is playing in the world.

Our country's contribution to the oceans commission has been primarily to ensure that the special situations and the

needs of the developing countries of the south are given the attention they deserve.

Issues that have already been discussed by the commission include:

- Conflicts between industrial and small fishing enterprises.
- Nuclear-free zones.
- The transport of hazardous wastes at sea.
- The rights of free passage.

The future, as they say, is not ours, but borrowed from our children. Let us make it the best possible future for all, everywhere.

'Our hosting this event underlines the significant role South Africa is playing in the world'



Water minister: Kader /

comes the oceans com



SEA-LEVEL TALKS: The chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans and former president of Portugal, Mario Soares, with vice-chairman of the commission and South Africa's Minister of Water Affairs Kader Asmal at the Strand yesterday. The commission's fifth, penultimate session starts at Parliament today with an address by President Nelson Mandela. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

Cape hosts 'save the oceans' talks

ROGER FRIEDMAN
SPECIAL WRITER

AS the destruction and poison of their oceans continued unabated yesterday, a select group of earthlings were gathering near the southern tip of Africa to formulate a global plan to save the planet.

The Independent World Commission on the Oceans begins its fifth plenary session in Cape Town today, having previously met in Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, Rotterdam and Rhode Island. South Africa and India are co-hosting the Cape Town session.

The session in Lisbon next year will be the commission's last, after which a report will be presented to the United Nations, which has declared 1998 the International

Year of the Oceans.

The commission consists of 40 people from 33 countries. It is headed by the former President of Portugal, Dr Mario Soares, and includes eminent environmentalists, marine scientists, economists, lawyers, academics, politicians and former politicians.

South Africa's Minister of Water Affairs, Mr Kader Asmal, is one of Soares' vice-chairpersons.

"The oceans are a 'blind-spot' in global awareness. Our land-trained minds are unaware of the unique role the oceans play in planetary survival nor of their potential for satisfying an increasing part of our basic needs. This is why we tend to turn our backs on oceans and ignore the threats they face," said Soares.

"Yet ... neither fish nor pollu-

tion recognise the boundaries we try to impose on them," he said.

"Political space, economic space and ecological space refuse to coincide, and as the world shrinks under the impact of the communication and information revolution, the oceans are no longer seen as spaces to cross or conquer, but as spaces to be cultivated."

The commission's report will touch on coastal development and degradation; the use of ocean space and its resources; over-fishing and government subsidies to fishing fleets; the legal framework for ocean governance; piracy on the high seas, the transport of nuclear waste and drugs across the oceans; and the effect of global warming.

It will be Asmal's job to start proceedings today by introducing

President Nelson Mandela, who will deliver the opening address in the Old National Assembly Chamber at Parliament. Soares will deliver an address-in-reply.

Asmal said yesterday that the commission was by no means just another "talk shop". The high seas were at stake, he said.

"And the high seas are the last of the great untapped resources of the world. While one of the commission's purposes is to develop popular consciousness, it is of particular importance to us in the south.

"If the oceans are the last great resource, how does the south deal with its lack of capacity? "How will the benefits flow? Who will they flow to? Should any benefits accrue to the world's 50 land-locked states?" he asked.

OT 11/11/97

(56)

Mandela pleads for enforceable sea laws

(56) BD 12/11/99

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela opened an international conference on the survival of the oceans yesterday by pleading with the international community to address the continuing militarisation and "nuclearisation" of the oceans by a few naval powers.

The fifth session of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, established in 1995 under the chairmanship of the former Portuguese president Mario Soares, ends on Friday.

The commission is composed of 40 eminent figures drawn from various countries and disciplines such as law, economics, politics, the environment and science.

The final plenary session will take place in Lisbon next August and will be linked to the millennium's last Expo. Its theme will be: The oceans — a heritage for the future.

Next year is also the UN year of the oceans, and it is intended that the commission report will be debated at a special session of the UN general assembly late next year.

Commission vice-chairman and Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal said the international initiative to ensure the survival of the oceans ranked in significance with the north-south global dialogue. He predicted the conference's outcome would have a critical bearing on the fate of the oceans.

"The commission seeks to develop world consciousness of the unique role of the oceans in planetary survival and

the critical importance of rational ocean development," Asmal said.

Mandela said: "We need to address the continuing militarisation and nuclearisation of the seas by a few naval powers." The international effort to demilitarise the oceans and make them nuclear-free "must succeed".

Nor could efforts to establish a workable legal order for the oceans fail, Mandela said. "Without a regulatory authority or enforceable law, alarming threats to the oceans face us because of such practices as the dumping of toxic wastes, over-fishing or transnational crime like drug-trafficking."

Mandela said it would be helpful for developing countries to have preferred access to the resources of the coastal waters in their exclusive economic zones, "to develop their economies and guarantee food security".

While the activities of "distant fishing fleets" should not impede access to fisheries on which local populations depended for their livelihoods, individual nations should respect the rights of others within the framework of international treaties.

"Our policy on the oceans must rest on the solid moral foundation of dedication to the primacy of people and their long-term well-being," Mandela said. "We have to be on guard against temptations of short-term benefits and pressures from powerful forces at the expense of the long-term interests of all." The international community could not afford to bargain away the birthright of future generations, Mandela said.

Profit passion 'holds dangerous implications' for world's oceans

(56) ET 12/11/97

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela yesterday called for urgent action to halt pollution of the oceans and over-fishing, saying they threatened a key source of food.

"We have to strike some difficult balances in the use of the oceans," Mandela said in a speech opening the fifth meeting of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans in Cape Town.

"We share the commitment to address the urgent threats of environmental deterioration and illegal fishing activities that could deprive us of a critically important source of protein-rich foods," he said.

An American member of the commission, Princeton law professor Richard Falk, said the passion for profit held "extremely dangerous" implications for the oceans.

He said that if governments allowed themselves to become the agents of international capital, they would put common issues like the oceans and climate change on the back burner.

"I hope our report will express clearly its concern about the dangers to the oceans of unregulated market forces," Falk said.

The commission, chaired by former Portuguese president Dr



HALT POLLUTION: Mandela calls for action.

PICTURE: BENNY GOOL

Mario Soares, is to report to the UN General Assembly next year.

"In the next few days the commission will discuss a consolidated draft of its final report," Soares said.

"Themes identified as essential

for the future of the oceans include issues such as security, equitable sharing, public awareness, economics and the problems concerning global management." — Reuter

● See Page 10

R59-m conservation boost

New Peninsula national park to benefit

LENORE OLIVER
STAFF REPORTER

Conservation in the Western Cape has been given a huge boost with a R59 million grant from the Global Environmental Facility. The facility is an international organisation that provides money for conservation of global interest. Part of the grant, made to the South African branch of the World

Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the National Parks Board, will be used towards the start-up costs of the soon-to-be proclaimed Cape Peninsula national park.

Another portion will be invested and the interest used to fund conservation in the Cape floral kingdom.

The grant will also fund a survey of the most pressing conservation issues in the Cape floral kingdom. According to WWF chief executive

Ian Macdonald, it was decided to apply for the grant because of the worsening plight of Table Mountain and the Peninsula.

"Apart from the fact that this area is an international conservation 'hotspot', I believe R7 million raised by the WWF locally played a key role in convincing the Global Environmental Facility of our determination to preserve this unique natural treasure," Mr Macdonald said.

Brian Huntley, chief director of the National Botanical Institute, said the grant provided the focus to get the national park established.

Provincial Minister of Environment and Finance Kobus Meiring said the grant was a victory for co-operation and negotiation.

"Three years ago we were like donkeys pulling away from each other. Today we are walking and talking together," Mr Meiring said.

Police keep watch over Khayelitsha garbage cleaners

NORMAN JOSEPH
CITY REPORTER

Police kept watch as members of the African National Congress Youth League linked up with a private company and municipal workers to clear

tions of refuse from Khayelitsha.

Refuse removal has been suspended because of a dispute with the South African Municipal Workers' Union over a proposal to privatise cleansing services in the City of Tygerberg.

In the past three weeks union

members have clashed with employees of cleaning company Billy Hattingh & Associates and Tygerberg officials in a bid to halt privatisation.

Western Cape ANC Youth League head Lunga Ncwana said his organisation supported the clean-up

because the huge piles of rubbish in the streets were a health hazard.

"We are not taking sides but merely helping the community," he said. Andre Adams, Samwu regional organiser, said the council was "acting against the labour relations law".

ARG 13/11/97

ARG 13/11/97

(56)

Water Affairs to act on Klip River pollution

Josey Ballenger

THE water affairs and forestry department was preparing to take legal action against two East Rand companies for polluting the Klip River, pending laboratory analyses of water samples taken last week, a water affairs official said yesterday.

Departmental officials and environmentalists found bacterial "biomass" solids used in the late stage of sewage treatment spilling into the river last week from the East Rand Water Care Company Waterval sewage plant. The company's district manager Willie Risau said this could increase the content of di-

arrhoea-causing E. coli in the water.

In addition, hundreds of litres of "an oily substance" were flowing from the nearby Everite Building Products factory's stormwater drain into the river, said spokesmen from water affairs and the local Henley Environmental Group.

Everite work director Loekie Selles said the stormwater did not reach the river, and denied that there were any other spills. But officials said another, pure oil spill on the banks of the river could reach the Klip.

Water affairs regional deputy director Marius Keet said the Klip River flowed into the Vaal River barrage, which supplies drink-

ing water to some residents in the area, and that the effluents could also affect agricultural and recreational users downstream.

Henley chairman Gus Dorfling alleged that the East Rand Water Care Company's materials had caused the death of "hundreds, if not thousands" of fish and made others "swim against the banks, gasping for oxygen". In addition, two ibis had died, and two others had been taken to a veterinarian.

Keet said that while the companies had taken steps immediately to remedy the situation, the department had already prepared affidavits on pollution charges if laboratory results showed the companies had not com-

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plied with government standards.

Keet said the department did not know how long the effluents had been occurring. Both companies claimed that they had been "once-off" accidents.

Erwat marketing manager Wanda Henning said the "accidental spillage" had occurred for "only 30 minutes", and that the company was "investigating possible causes" and would "implement the necessary remedies as soon as possible".

Selles said Everite had cleaned up the "minor (stormwater) spill" and installed an oil-from-water separation device to prevent future mishaps.

Vantech accused of health threats

Josey Ballenger

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Environmental Justice Networking Forum said yesterday they would approach Vanadium Technology (Vantech) management about what they considered to be health threats and "environmental injustices" to mine workers and communities in the area.

The Mpumalanga branch of the forum said "environmental injustices" resulting from the Steelpoort mine included damage to buildings from blasting, and air and water pollution from dust blowing off the mine's dump.

However, no formal studies have been done to quantify the allegations.

NUM officials said they, with the forum's backing, would seek a meeting with management on health issues.

NUM shop steward Julia Makofane said eight workers were either dismissed or had voluntarily left Vantech recently due to bronchitis and asthma caused by inhaling chemicals. Respirators provided by the mine did not keep out the noxious fumes, she said.

Vantech GM Marteens van der Merwe denied the allegations, saying the company had undertaken a R3m risk management programme. He said workers did not wear the respirators. The eight employees had an "allergy" to a substance involved in producing vanadium, were given medical remuneration and would recover in months.

(5b) (S) 2010/11/97

FROM CEDERBERG TO TSITSIKAMA ...

Cape Floral Kingdom gets R59m bonanza

(56) OCT 13/11/97

CLINCHING a R59-m deal is one of the local World Wide Fund for Nature's most important milestones, says its

director, Ian MacDonald.

MELANIE GOSLING, Environment Writer, reports.

CONSERVATION in the Western Cape has received a massive boost in the form of a R59-million overseas grant — the country's biggest international donation for the environment.

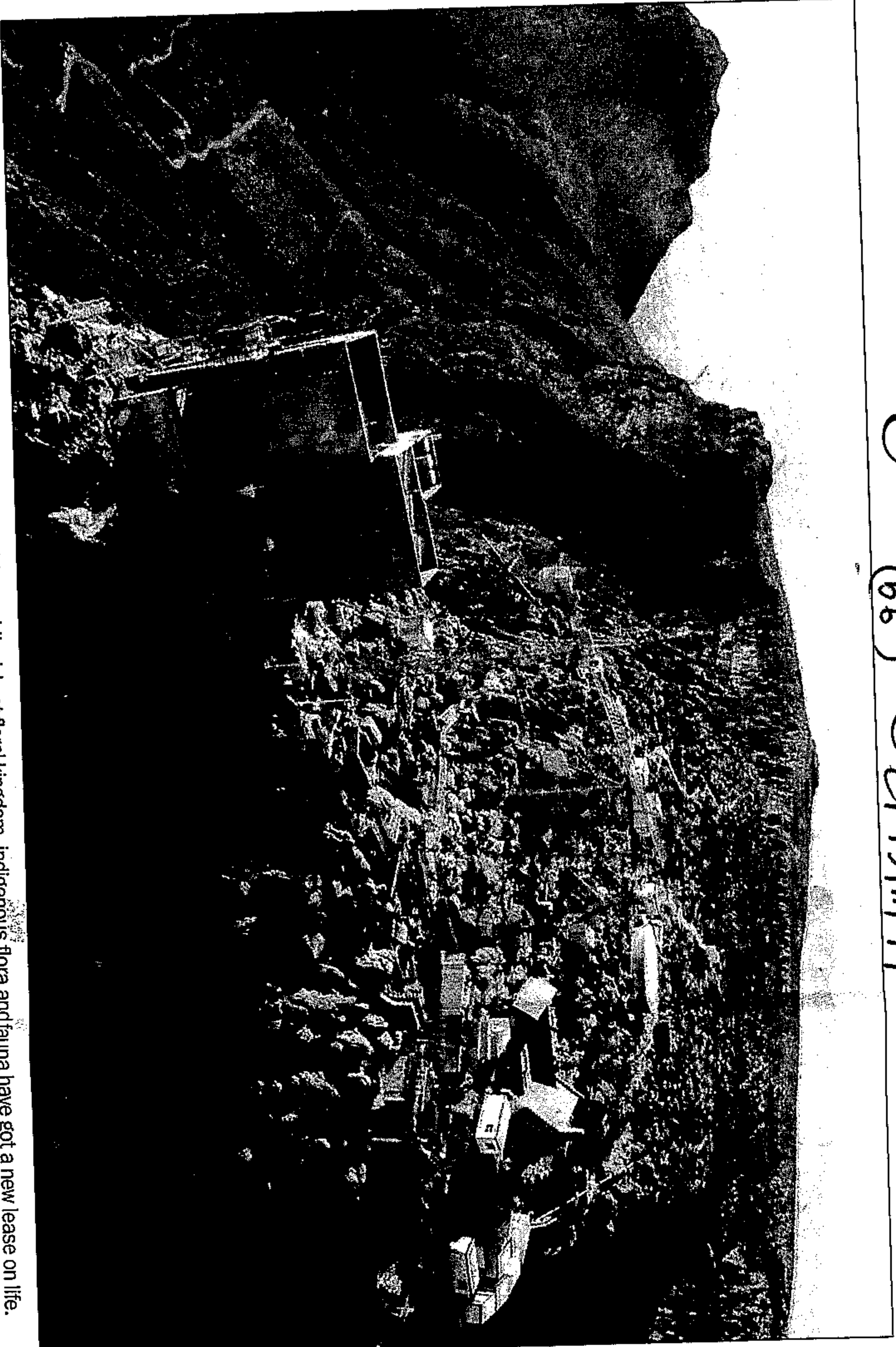
The money will be used for the future Cape Peninsula National Park and for conservation initiatives within the Cape Floral Kingdom — the smallest and most threatened of the world's six floral kingdoms.

It will also be used to finance a major planning initiative for an in-depth survey of the most pressing conservation issues in the Cape Floral Kingdom, which will incorporate the entire region bounded by the Cederberg in the north and the Tsitsikama forest in the east, including the adjacent marine ecosystems.

The strategic plan aims to put the bio-physical environment at the centre of planning, with the built environment worked in around it.

The grant was made by the Global Environmental Facility, an organisation founded after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 by the World Bank, the United Nations Environmental Programme and the United Nations Development Programme.

The money will go to the SA branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-SA) and to the National Parks Board, and comes after four years of negotiations by WWF-SA.



BOOST: From the top of Table Mountain to the outer reaches of the world's richest floral kingdom, indigenous flora and fauna have got a new lease on life.

The money will be split as follows:

- R30,2m will go to the National Parks Board to kick-start the future Cape Peninsula National Park, which will include Table Mountain, Signal Hill and the peninsula's mountain

chain down to Cape Point.

- R24m will be deposited in the Table Mountain Fund and invested, and the annual interest of R3m will be used to fund conservation priorities anywhere in the Cape Floral Kingdom.

- R4,8m will pay for the strategic environmental assessment to pinpoint conservation priorities in the Cape Floral Kingdom.

WWF's director, Dr Ian Macdonald, said clinching this deal was the

one of the most important milestones in WWF-SA's history.

He said WWF-SA's raising of R7m locally for the Table Mountain Fund had played a key role in convincing the Global Environmental Facility

(GEF) that WWF was determined to preserve the "unique natural treasure".

The Parks Board's Mr David Daitz said the GEF would not hand over the money until a core area of the future Cape Peninsula National Park had been proclaimed. He hoped to have about 15 000ha proclaimed in January next year.

The proclamation depended on the speed with which the Cape Town Council, the South Peninsula Municipality and the Cape Metropolitan Council could hand over this land to the National Parks Board.

"If this is delayed, the funding will be delayed," Daitz said.

Professor Richard Cowling of UCT's Plant Conservation Unit said it was essential that planning in urban areas became more bio-centric, which the strategic survey would address.

"The last thing we want is our coast to become one long concrete jungle like Europe, or for some really inappropriate development to spring up in sensitive rural areas. The success of the strategic survey will depend on the political support it gets and on the capacity for conservation institutions, especially Cape Nature Conservation, to implement it," Cowling said.

MEC for the Environment Mr Kobus Meiring will chair the committee for the strategic plan.

At the announcement of the grant yesterday, Meiring recalled how some authorities had initially opposed the proposal to establish a national park in the peninsula: "To think that three years ago we were like donkeys trying to pull away from each other and none of us could reach the fodder. To think how we fought it. Luckily we came to our senses," Meiring said.

Phelindaba, a village of widows, orphans

STAFF WRITER

IN a dusty street of the village of Phelindaba, a wizened, elderly man banged on a piece of metal hanging from a tree to summon the villagers to speak to us.

Dressed in rags, they slowly emerged from their red mud huts and sank, painfully, into a circle to face us, and tell us their story.

That's when I noticed: nearly everyone in Phelindaba is female. It is a village of widows.

It is also a sanctuary of the old and sick, foreign workers who came here from Zaire, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia when the asbestos mines were booming.

When the mines closed in this part of the former Lebowa, now the

Northern Province, the people were trucked to Messina where they were off-loaded to make their way home. Those who were still healthy probably made it, but the elderly and the sick chose to melt into the mountains of Lebowa.

Here, the people say, they were constantly hounded by police and survived by eating plants.

"The men used to blast the rock and we crushed the stones and put them in bags," said Mrs Maria Thobejane, one of the many widows who were young when they met their husbands on the mines.

As the men — somewhat older than the women — died of asbestosis, the women were left to fend for themselves. Many of them are also infected. Thobejane herself strug-

gles to breathe with the disease. The village is also home to orphans. Some of the old women had lost their children to asbestosis.

"There was always so much (asbestos) dust in our face, it got in our ears, our noses and our eyes — when we spat it was always black.

"We didn't know the asbestos was poisonous. All we knew is we were getting a lot of money. But now we know it cost us our husbands," Thobejane said, sitting in a skirt made from an old towel, her dusty toes peeking from her torn takkies.

"We see children the same age as our dead children would be and think how productive they would be now. But there is nothing we

can do," she sighed. "Nobody helps us, we struggle on our own."

Many of the people of Phelindaba have not received compensation for their illness and today they get work harvesting meale fields for R10 a day. When the harvest is over they pick marogo, a wild spinach, which they exchange with richer people for a meal.

But perhaps the sadness of Phelindaba is best explained by the story of Betty, who was a tall, strapping Botswanan woman of bright complexion who loved to sing the songs of her home-land and joke as she toiled in the heat.

Her tale is told by nursing Sister Agnes Qwabe, who is also a widow. She works in the local clinic. "Betty's story is a pathetic one,"

she says. Betty was one of the hundreds of people who were lured to the mines.

She joined the ranks of teenage girls who worked at the mouth of the mines for about R4 a month chipping the rock off seams of asbestos (cobbing) — not knowing that the dust which filled the clammy air and blocked her eyes, nose and ears would slowly kill her.

In 1993 she died at the age of 50 of asbestosis, after suffering "terrible pain and wasting away". A year later her daughter, who was in her early 30s, died. Today her granddaughter is struggling to breathe.

Betty was buried in an old blanket by a community that had cared for her and could afford nothing more.

Hazard covered up to bolster profits

CF 13711197



STAFF WRITER USA TEMPLETON and Photographer GARTH STEAD look into the routine suppression of research into the hazards caused by asbestos.



FOR over two decades medical authorities, with the mining industry and possible collusion of the government, suppressed several research papers which linked asbestos exposure to alarmingly high cancer figures.

In June this year a submission was made before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by the Health and Human Rights Project, which cited two examples of asbestos mining companies suppressing the findings of research clearly documenting the health risks of exposure to asbestos.

A Cape Times probe has found more examples where doctors' findings were quashed.

● In 1962 Professor Ian Webster, working for the Pneumococcal Research Unit of the government-sponsored Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), wrote in a confidential report dated April 30, 1962: "People who live or have lived in Prieska, Koegas, Kuruman and Penge are in danger of contracting asbestosis, even though they have no industrial exposure", and that he had discovered "an alarmingly high number of cases with mesothelioma (an asbestos-related cancer)".

He linked the cancer to blue asbestos dust.

The report recorded "the unfortunate publicity" given to the survey in its early days had resulted in

certain mining groups feeling that the link to cancer could "adversely affect not only the further recruitment of personnel for their mines, but even the economy of the industry as a whole".

The Medical Research Council (MRC) refused to sanction the publication of the article unless the cancer hazard was passed off as tuberculosis. The report was never published.

Webster was also denied funds for further research.

● In June 1978 Dr Leslie Irwig planned to present a paper before the New York Academy of Sciences based on a study in the asbestos areas of the Northern Cape, which had found a high incidence of cancer among people who lived — not necessarily worked — in these areas.

His paper was a hot potato as it linked blue asbestos and cancer, something the South African asbestos companies had denied. Shortly before he was to present the paper Irwig, who worked under the National Research Institute for Occupational Diseases of the Medical Research Council (MRC), was instructed to withdraw the paper.

For nearly a century powerful transnational companies, notably General Mining and Finance Corporation Ltd, the British-owned

Cape Industries and the large international Swiss-Belgian Eternit Group mined asbestos almost exclusively for profitable markets in Western Europe, America and the United Kingdom.

As the asbestos market escalated, research into the hazards of the fibre were suppressed.

"I was in New York when my co-author, Dr Hannes Botha, arrived with the instruction that we were not to present our paper on the grounds that the MRC was questioning our scientific accuracy," Irwig

CAPE TIMES SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

said from his home in Australia. It transpired the industry had contracted a firm of actuaries to find statistical fault with the paper.

"The basic issue was that the National Research Institute for Occupational Diseases had industrialists on their review board, so any research was subjected not only to scientific scrutiny, but also to that of the industry which had other agendas."

By donating money towards research, the SA asbestos manufacturers had earned themselves seats on the advisory panel of the Asbestos Research Project and were able to vet all papers from the National Centre for Occupational Health before publication.



WIDOWS: Deep in the mountains of Northern Province is a village occupied almost entirely by widows — women who met early married their husbands on the asbestos mines and now have lost them to asbestos-related disease.

How did Irwig feel at the time? "I was very angry, as you can imagine — it was clear interference by industry into scientific research."

"It was part of a broader issue. Reasonable occupational health standards were not being adhered to," he said.

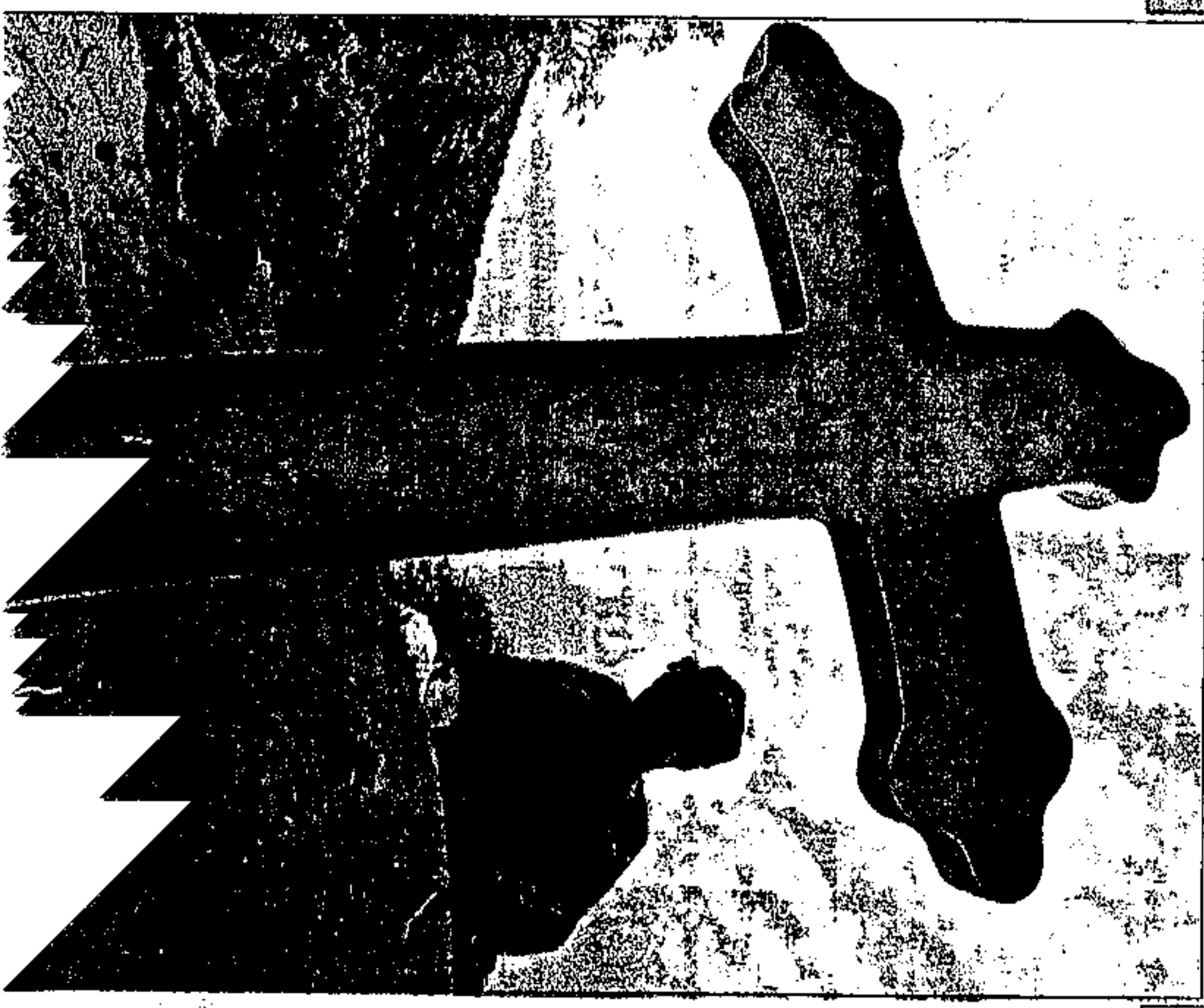
It was more than three years before the article appeared in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

● In 1981/82 Dr Derek Yach, working at 2 Military Hospital, conducted a study to assess the asbestos exposure among boiler-makers and painters in the naval

dockyards. After screening 250 workers he found several cases of lung cancer and asbestosis.

"I gave the preliminary results to the head of the hospital. Result: I was told to stop the study and was restricted to the hospital grounds."

● In 1941 Dr Andre Pickard diagnosed two asbestosis patients in Prieska. When he told the mines of the link to asbestos exposure, he was threatened with imprisonment in a concentration camp. He turned to the Health Department and was told to wait until the war was over.



Melida Sithole's song:

"I'm sitting on your grave, I am coming to you, my husband, The children have no food, We are all suffering. Maybe they can help, Maybe they can help, Maybe they can help, my husband. Do not be angry with me for coming to your grave. Do not wake

The battle for St Lucia is far

(56)

from OVER

MHG 14-20/11/97

*The mining debate
has raised its ugly
head again, writes
Nicky Barker*

It was described as "the conservation fight of the century". The battle to save Lake St Lucia, a unique wetland system on the KwaZulu-Natal north coast, began in 1989. That is when Richard's Bay Minerals applied for mining rights inside the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, to utilise the titanium-rich dunes that lie along the coast.

The public outcry was wide-ranging, and resulted in the largest petition ever compiled in this country, calling on the state president to prevent mining inside the park.

The government undertook an environmental impact assessment, the most extensive ever undertaken in South Africa, it lasted for four years. The findings of the study were that "mining would cause unaccept-

Mountain and Robben Island World Heritage Sites. Their applications would not have been ready in time for the November 10 deadline, so the minister decided to hold back the St Lucia proposal so that all three could be submitted together next year.

Jordan's announcement was like a lightning bolt for conservationists in the St Lucia area. The Natal Parks Board said it had not been consulted about the withdrawal and is worried about its implication.

Rumours started spreading that Richard's Bay Minerals (RBM) would soon be dusting off its files in preparation for a new mining application. Piet Maré, head of public relations at RBM, moved this week to dispel the rumours: "RBM will abide by the Cabinet decision on mining at St Lucia and has no intention of opening the debate."

But then he added: "During the mining debate RBM noted that development could take place within World Heritage Sites, as has been the case with uranium mining in the Kakadu National Park in northern

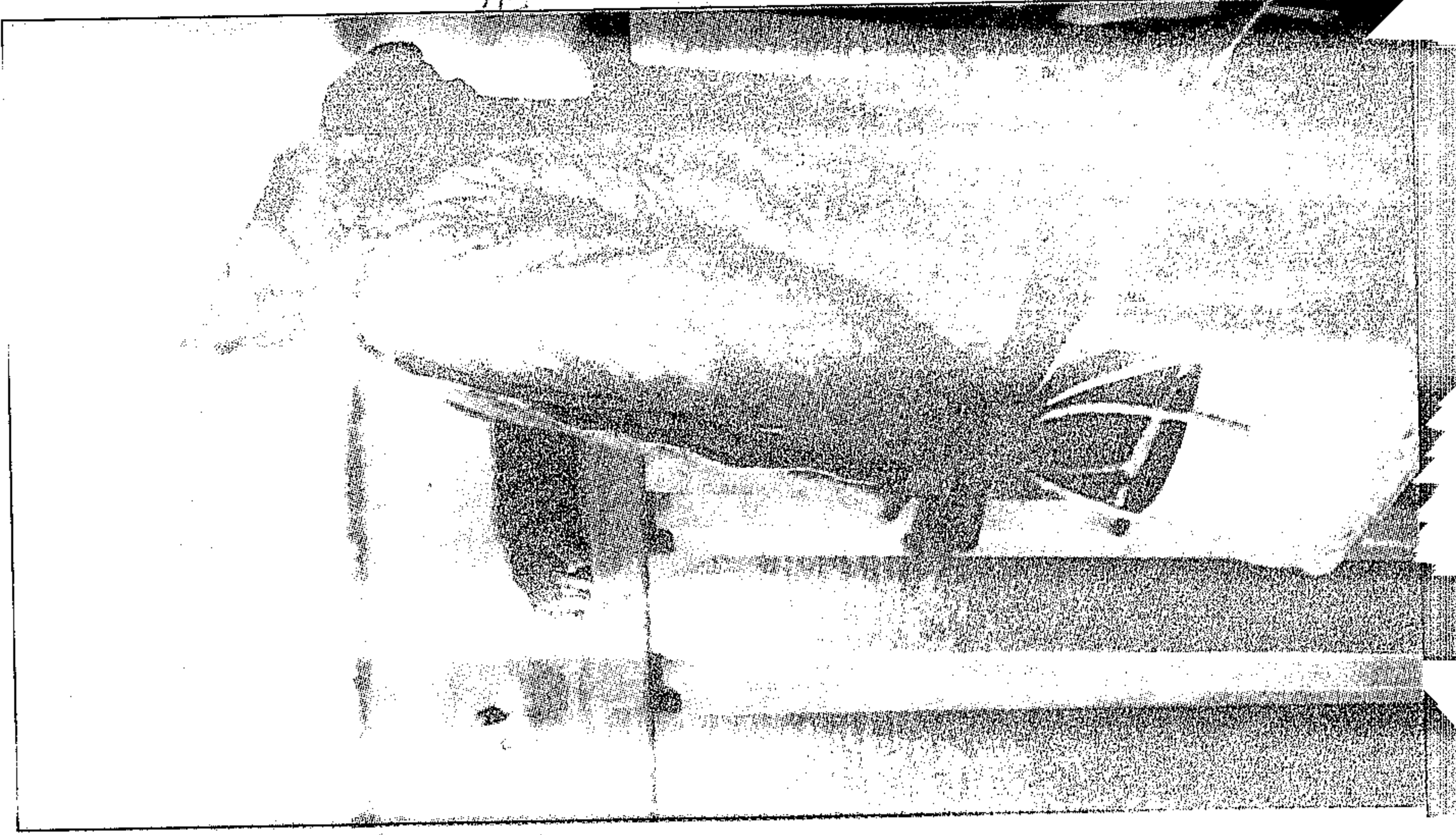
fears that another scenario will develop where a foreign consortium like the Dolphin group will be handed a national asset.

A planned joint listing of the St Lucia Wetlands Park by the Natal Parks Board and conservation group Conservcorp, which has substantial holdings adjacent to the park, has become bogged down. The listing, which was designed to raise exploration funding for development in the region, is progressing too slowly to make an impact in the immediate future.

But the problems facing St Lucia are urgent and important. Although it does not directly affect the wetlands themselves, the squatter problem in the adjacent Dukuduku State Forest points to a desperate need for a development plan.

The Dukuduku "problem" started in the mid-1980s when a group of families moved into the pristine forest, claiming they were reoccupying ancestral land. The population grew alarmingly, fuelled by fugitives from justice, refugees from the violence in the Midlands and a growing army of unemployed.

Protracted negotiations with the state resulted in a piece of land being set aside for settlement, and the families were invited to take advantage of newly serviced sites. Unfortunately, not everyone in the community wanted an ordered existence, and so two communities sprang up in the forest: the organised township with homes, schools, creches and clinics; and the "illegal" settlement that appears to house a large criminal element. Although the moratorium on forced removals was lifted in 1997, the government has shown a marked lack of political will in dealing with the outlaws.



able damage. The Greater St Lucia area is a very special asset for the nation." The panel also urged that the area urgently be designated a World Heritage Site.

The area was earmarked as a site for intensive ecotourism development. The kick-start was to be the planned Lubombo Corridor, an access road linking the N2 from Hluhluwe to Maputo in Mozambique.

The conservationists thought the fight had been won, and retired from the battle. But the war is far from over.

The first indications came when Jacob Zuma, the African National Congress leader in KwaZulu-Natal, said at the launch of the Coastal Management Policy Programme

at the end of September that if tourism did not soon become a major force in job creation in the area, the option of mining might be re-examined.

Then last week the national Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pallo Jordan, announced that the proposal to make St Lucia a World Heritage Site had been delayed. The proposal was due to be submitted to the World Heritage Council in Paris on November 10.

The official reason given for the withdrawal is that applications are also being planned to make Table

Australia, where the area occupied by mining was temporarily excised."

While the sword of exploitation still hangs menacingly over the head of St Lucia, development of the promised ecotourist Utopia has been painfully slow.

According to the South African Tourism Board, KwaZulu-Natal attracts almost 75% of the country's local and international holiday-makers, but little significant job creation has taken place in

'During the mining debate RBM noted that development could take place within World Heritage Sites'

what is arguably the poorest sector of the economy. The reasons are varied and complex: land claims, stifling bureaucracy, lack of political will to address problems and a Byzantine maze of ancient legislation.

The little town of St Lucia, situated at the southern tip of the park on the estuary itself, should be the fulcrum of ecotourism development. It has a fabulous setting and can rightly call itself the gateway to the breathtaking Eastern Shores.

However, it was described rather unflatteringly by Fodor's authoritative travel guide to South Africa as "a stomping ground for beer-swilling cowboys with more horsepower than brainpower".

With a resident population of about 400 white people, it can expand



Paradise lost: Tourism has so far failed to deliver the promised job-creation boom in St Lucia. PHOTO: HENNER FRANKENFELD

to hold an astonishing 6 000 visitors over weekends and during holidays. Although the foreign-tourist component is growing strongly, the accommodation is still mainly down-market fishermen's cottages, camp sites and caravan parks. The sprinkling of classier bed-and-breakfast establishments struggle to make a living because of a municipal by-law that prevents any guest-house from having more than four lettable rooms.

Amazingly, for a town that depends entirely on tourism income, the town council is adamant that it will lend neither logistical nor financial support to a tourist association. Gerrie Swan, who holds the three full-paying positions of town clerk, works foreman and postmaster, says: "It is not my job to promote tourism."

The Natal Parks Board, which is the custodian of all the land included in the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, is criticised for its management of tourism. Admittedly, its job is not an enviable one: it is expected to enforce environmental rules in the face of general public disregard.

Areas within the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park have been planted with large stands of pine and wattle by the parastatal forestry company Safcol. Although Safcol has given an undertaking not to replant commercially, a lack of control has meant that self-seeded trees have invaded the once-pristine wetlands. Large areas of the park are choked with invasive toxic alien plants. Clearing programmes, funded by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, need to be ongoing to be effective.

Controlled gill-netting was allowed by Natal Parks Board in the upper reaches of the lake, in an attempt to legitimise illegal gill-netting and to assist the community with a subsistence existence. However, the gill-netting quickly has gone out of control and turned into a commercial operation.

Development within the park itself is stymied by land claims held against the parks board. It could take many years before these claims are settled, and then the question arises: who will get the plum national land for tourism development? There are

The "legal" community in Dukuduku, approximately 7 000-strong, depends on St Lucia for jobs and is busy with ambitious development plans of its own. Unfortunately, the down-market nature of tourism in the area does not lend itself to job creation or training: apart from gardening and cleaning, there are few other job opportunities. Upmarket ecotourism on a large scale, which encourages training of staff and ongoing employment, is not even a distant possibility.

The saddest aspect about the *emuni* in which Lake St Lucia finds itself is that, unlike its human inhabitants, nature has pulled out all the stops. The beaches of St Lucia are breathtaking. The tropical climate ensures a year-round season. Abundant bird-life, wildlife and scenic beauty make the area an ecotourist paradise.

South Africa needs a third international tourist destination, and St Lucia could be ranked alongside the Cape and the Kruger Park. But it remains a fatty, badly handled piece of paradise lost.

The battle for St Lucia is far from over. The promise of World Heritage Site status, which could have galvanised so much initiative, is receding. Unless the strident calls for tourism job creation in the area are heeded, perhaps the only option, sadly, will be the short-term, vote-getting quick-fix of revenue and jobs from mining.



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World ready to pour millions into protecting the Cape's

PIETER MALAN

The world is increasingly realising the need to conserve the Western Cape's unique environment and is pouring in vast resources to protect it.

Foreign donors will put millions of rands in Western Cape conservation coffers over the next few years over and above the R59-million donation for the proposed Table Mountain Park announced this week.

The Cape Floral Kingdom is one of the world's six floral regions and is the smallest and most threatened. But freeing up millions of rands in

overseas donor money would largely depend on the province's efforts to get its conservation house in order, said Richard Cowling, director of the Institute for Plant Conservation.

Professor Cowling's remarks came after the South African branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature announced this week that the proposed Table Mountain Park has secured the largest single donation ever granted for conservation in South Africa.

The money came from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) - a body set up by the World Bank, the United Nations Environmental Pro-

gramme and the UN Development Programme after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Of the R59-million, the GEF earmarked R4,8-million for an extensive study of the Cape Floral Kingdom - an area that stretches from the Cedarberg in the north to the Tsitsikamma in the east - as well as of the adjacent marine system, to pinpoint conservation priorities.

Professor Cowling said if this study was completed - and the province could show the world that it had the capacity to manage effectively a comprehensive conservation programme - millions of international

conservation dollars would flow into the province.

This would strengthen alien-vegetation clearing programmes, develop tourism infrastructure and create jobs.

"This (the donation for the Table Mountain Park) was merely the beginning," he said.

The province could expect a "hundred times" more than the R4,8-million received for drawing up the strategic plan.

"We can expect a massive injection, but there are strings attached."

These "strings" included being able to show that the province had the

capacity and willingness to protect the environment and how this ideal could contribute to the financial and social upliftment of the area's people.

He said the challenge was to show how conservation and development - two apparently opposing ideas - could be made to work together to everybody's advantage.

"The main danger to this process is that we don't get the political support needed to make this thing work.

"If politicians at all levels don't buy into this bold vision, it will be doomed."

He said with the strategic plan, conservationists would like to create

a vision of what the province should look like in the year 2020.

This would mean that local councillors would have to stop looking at the short-term gain of ill-advised development in their area, and share the long term vision for the province.

He said development planning was piecemeal without a coherent set of principles guiding politicians and planners.

"We in the Western Cape are the proprietors of one of the world's most important floral kingdoms. If we don't get it right, South African and the world would lose out.

"The welfare of people in the West-

ern Cape is dependent on conserving our natural heritage."

The province had huge potential in terms of tourism and tourism-related development.

Professor Cowling said a team of experts would develop the strategic plan over the next 18 months. Their work would be overseen by a steering committee, which should have broad-based political representation and would ensure public input along the way. The steering committee would report back to the GEF.

Kobus Meiring, the Western Cape Finance and Environmental Affairs Minister, will chair the committee.

Unique Floral Kingdom
18/11/92

Fertiliser plant faces shutdown after Caltex move

Pollution relief for Milnerton

(66) ~~66~~
APR 15/11/97

WILLEM STEENKAMP

The Kynoch fertiliser plant in Milnerton - one of the big air pollutants in the area - may soon be forced to close down.

The adjacent Caltex oil refinery, which has also been under fire over its sulphur emissions, has for years been supplying Kynoch with gas to power its fertiliser plant.

But now Caltex has cut its supply of gas to Kynoch because it uses the gas to reduce pollution from the refinery.

Gas is an environmentally clean energy source and Caltex now uses most of the gas - produced as a by-product in its refinery - as an energy source to cut down on its daily 28-ton sulphur emissions.

Industry sources say this is a calculated move by Caltex to avoid growing public anger over the pollution problem in the area.

Although emissions from Kynoch are visible from kilometres away, public anger has been directed at Caltex.

It is known to emit vast quantities of invisible sulphur dioxide,

which can cause acid rain.

Martin Burr, production manager at Kynoch, admitted that the plant was battling to survive. He said besides the fact that Kynoch now had to buy more expensive naphtha fuel from Caltex, the worldwide fertiliser market was in a severe slump.

Plans by Kynoch to commission new equipment to cut pollution by its operation now had to be shelved because of financial considerations. The company hoped to be able to fund this project at a later stage.

He said although Kynoch was struggling to make ends meet, a decision on the future of the plant would only be taken late next year. But industry sources said the move by Caltex to cut back on gas supplies to Kynoch would make the closure of the plant inevitable.

"Although the emissions from Kynoch are more visible than those from Caltex, it is generally believed that the refinery sulphur emissions are more harmful to the environment.

"However, the high visibility of the emissions from Kynoch is the

catalyst which convinces people to complain about pollution in the area.

"Invariably their anger is directed at the larger Caltex refinery and I have little doubt that this step by Caltex is a calculated move to hasten the closure of the fertiliser plant," said an industry source.

Caltex spokeswoman Colleen Channon confirmed that Caltex had severely cut back on its supply of gas to Kynoch.

She said this had been done so that Caltex could use environmentally friendly gas as an energy source in its own refinery operations. In doing so the refinery is able to cut down on sulphur emissions from its operations.

However, even if Kynoch should close down, it is doubtful whether this will appease anti-pollution lobbyists in the area.

They believe the sulphur emissions from Caltex pose a real health risk to people living in the area and that the refinery should be forced to meet a promise made in 1994 to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions from its plant by 80% by 1999.

The station proposes an "urban adult" ...

Bridging the ocean that separates rich countries from the poor ones

Somerset West - The fifth plenary session of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans had helped to "raise the consciousness of oceans among many people in South Africa", according to Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, who is also the commission's vice-chairman.

He was addressing a media conference in Somerset West at the end of the IWCO's African session yesterday.

Opened by President Nelson Mandela in Cape Town on Tuesday, the session was attended by 26 commissioners from all over the world.

Dr Mario Soares, former president of Portugal and chairman of the IWCO, said the commission had formulated a long list of recommendations that would be tabled at the commission's final session to be held in Lisbon in September next year.

Soares said there was a need for all people to have an awareness of the value of the world's oceans.

"We must emphasise the need for equity in the use and management of the world's oceans. There are rich, hi-tech countries and developing



NEW WAVE: Kader Asmal says conference helped raise awareness nations; all must have access to peaceful use of the oceans," he said.

This meant not only safe navigation, but also the control of piracy, drug trafficking, and the discharging of toxic and nuclear wastes. - Sapa

Prostitution demand

Calcutta - The countries ass to demand w

"We eat t worker," read prostitutes, a

Prostitution light district (25 cents) a

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Children workers in funded India girls a year

Africa urged to open up telecommunication links

Nairobi - Advances in technology would be attained in Africa only with the liberalisation of the telecommunication sector, Kanthan Pillay, managing editor of the *Cape Times*, told a media forum here yesterday.

"Otherwise," said the South Africa media expert, "the continent will for ever remain backward while the rest of the world moves to higher planes."

Pillay was part of a panel of media experts at a two-day Africa Media Forum organised by the Freedom Forum, an international foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people.

Pillay said widespread introduction of the Internet in Africa was hampered by lack of resources, but that significant developments had occurred during the past few years. "There are fears that the Internet could conflict with traditional cultures, but it is up to Africa to ensure it survives in a changing world," he said.

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi urged the Western media not to "besmirch" Kenya's image. Kenya continues to receive a battering from the international media. - Independent Foreign Service

MEC wants legal red-light areas but Kriel is opposed

Cape Town - Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel has slammed proposals to legalise prostitution in the province and repudiated a suggestion by his own provincial police MEC Gerald Morkel that red-light districts be decriminalised.

"I am personally not in favour of such a move and I believe Mr Morkel made these utterances in his personal capacity. Legalising prostitution is not the policy of the NP," the premier said.

Kriel, who wants to hold a referendum on re-introducing the death penalty, said the Western Cape government believed in sound family values and the protection of the rights of law-abiding citizens.

"Legalising prostitution will not address the root cause of the problem. Prostitution is a breeding ground for drug-related transgressions and crimes against women. Turning sections of the city into red-light districts is simply not acceptable."

In a snap survey in areas such as Sea Point, Kenilworth and Wynberg, over 85% gave a resounding "no" to plans to legalise prostitution. - Own Correspondent

(56) SPAN 15/11/97 SPAN 15/11/97

Deadline gives 'clean air' negotiations fresh impetus

(56)

The outlook for an agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions at the forthcoming 'clean air' summit is not as murky as it was, writes **Bethan Hutton** in Tokyo.

THE approaching deadline of the Kyoto conference on climate change seems to be concentrating the minds of government negotiators.

Environment ministers from the European Union (EU), participating as one unit, and 20 other countries met in Tokyo last week in an attempt to break the deadlock over targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Developed countries are due to reach a binding agreement on reduction plans at a UN-sponsored conference on climate change in Kyoto, Japan, from December 1 to 10.

Targets

On paper, the deadlock remains. But discussions at the weekend sent out encouraging signs of increasing willingness to compromise on the part of the main participants.

Their starting points had seemed impossibly far apart. Last month, Japan proposed a base rate for reduction targets of 5%, while the US advocated stabilisation at 1990 levels. The EU is proposing an average 15% cut from 1990 levels, although targets for union member states vary from 30% cuts to 40% increases.

Apart from numerical targets, wide differences exist on other basic issues such as which gases should be included in the agreement, whether developing nations should also commit themselves to lower emissions, and whether trading of emissions quotas should be allowed, and if so, how.

Irreconcilable as the opposing positions might seem, negotiators emerging from the Tokyo sessions claim to be able to see the first inklings of what might form the final compromise.

"The differences do not yawn as dramatically as they did before," said Timothy Wirth, US undersecretary of state for global affairs.

The meetings offered the first chance for the various positions to be discussed and clarified, as an initial step towards finding a compromise solution, Japanese officials said.

BD 17/11/97
John Prescott, the UK's deputy prime minister who chaired the weekend meeting, said negotiations were beginning to move "in a small way, but certainly in the right direction."

"The time of absolutism and demanding positions has gone from this conference. We are now all seriously looking at what might constitute agreement," Prescott said.

Reports in the Japanese press in recent days seemed to suggest the US had backed down on its demand for participation by developing nations as a prerequisite for US agreement.

Washington's officials later denied those reports, but the US's position did seem to be softening slightly.

Wirth said the US saw establishing a global emissions trading system as a way to draw in developing countries by appealing to their self-interest.

He pointed to Brazil's proposal — apparently backed by the G77 group of developing countries and China, for a "green bank" to create a market for emissions quotas — as a positive sign.

EU delegates also hinted at a willingness to compromise on issues.

Jorgen Henningsen, the European Commission's director for environment quality and natural resources, said yesterday he accepted it would be unrealistic to expect a compromise based on the EU's demand for a 15% reduction target.

Compromise

Until this weekend, odds on agreement being reached did not seem high. A Japanese official recently compared the negotiations, which have taken fewer than three years, to the Uruguay Round of the general agreement on tariffs and trade, which took seven.

Wirth drew comparisons with the US clean air act, which took two decades. But with less than a month before the final protocol at Kyoto is due to be signed, all the key participants now seem surprisingly optimistic about the chances of that happening. — Financial Times.

Call for power station asbestos risk to be probed (56)

A COUNCILLOR, Brian Watkyns, says he has evidence that not all safety rules are followed at the Athlone power station and asbestos dust ends up in the Black River. Metro Editor **CLAUDIA CAVANAGH** reports.

CAPE TOWN city councillors have called for a full investigation into safety at the Athlone power station after shock reports of the killer lung disease, asbestosis, among its staff.

Unconvinced by a presentation by power station manager Mr Wouter Roggen last week, the amenities and health committee is to ask the Cape Metropolitan Council to commission an independent inquiry.

A recent newspaper report claimed that at least two workers had died of the disease and another 157 "will spend the rest of their lives wondering who among them will be next".

"Death hangs in the Athlone air", it said.

As Roggen, using slides to illustrate how well-protected his staff were, elaborated on strict controls that came into force after 1987 when the dangers associated with asbestos inhalation were first recognised, councillor Mrs Faldela de Vries threw a spanner in the works.

"Why is that man not wearing gloves?" she asked, referring to a slide of workers in heavy protective gear.

"I never saw that — he should be,"

Roggen replied, removing the slide and moving on.

He said R1,5 million a year had been spent on removing asbestos insulation from the station. All asbestos work-faces were "thoroughly enclosed".

"All designated asbestos workers have special training, clothing and breathing gear," said Roggen, showing the unfortunate slide.

He said that when it was removed or worked with, the asbestos was wet, double-bagged and disposed of in a proper asbestos disposal site.

Questioned by Mr Brian Watkyns, who was not a member of the committee but had followed the issue closely for some years, Roggen said there had been an instance in which exterior asbestos cladding, exposed to the elements, had fallen off.

"This was dealt with in 24 hours," he said.

He conceded there was "a minute possibility" of the wind's picking up asbestos fibres and blowing them across residential areas.

Watkyns said he believed he had enough evidence to be concerned. This

included internal memos saying staff had continued working around asbestos that had fallen off and was exposed.

"I've been told that all the rules and regulations are not followed, that loose asbestos is swept into ducts and lands up in the Black River and that workers are told not to sweep on certain days when river samples are being taken."

Only an independent inquiry would establish whether these allegations were true, Watkyns said.

Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, said 168 employees were being screened for asbestos-related diseases and there was no guarantee that some would not die.

"(This) is why we have the screening programme — to try to pick up any pathology as soon as possible," Popkiss said.

He confirmed that asbestos was a "dangerous substance and is treated as such at the Athlone power station".

"Each and every time we've investigated this matter we've been satisfied that every measure has been taken to protect the workers and residents."

Was there any risk?

"Of course there is. Ultimately the council should take a political decision determining if that small risk is enough to close the power station. It is not justifiable solely on health grounds."

Unit tries to put brakes on unscrupulous trade

Effort to curb smuggling of animal, plant and reptile species

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS Environment Reporter

The corpse of a male rhino lies under the African sun.

Thick, black pools of blood attract swarms of flies which converge on the huge gaping hole which once held the rhino's horn.

The poachers quickly wrap the horn in pieces of dirty cloth - to disguise its shape - and then hide it in a secret compartment inside their battered jeep, in the hope that police will not detect it.

If they are not arrested, the horn will be smuggled across the border to be sold on the black market where it can fetch up to R12 000/kg.

But chances are that they will come up against members of the Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) - a group of men and women who are fighting to preserve our natural heritage - not only in South Africa, but throughout Africa. Investigations by the unit

Star 17/11/97 (56)

this year alone have resulted in the arrest of 52 people on charges of possession and illegal trade in rhino horn, and the confiscation of 27 rhino horns.

This brings the total arrests on these charges since 1992 to 336 and the total number of rhino horns confiscated to 256.

The ESPU is involved in five areas of investigations:

- Cultural and historical investigations into the illegal trade in artefacts, including everything in the country more than 100 years old and of historical importance, such as Bushman paintings, fossils and material recovered from ship wrecks.
- Flora: endangered plant species, mostly cycads and succulents.
- Reptiles: endangered and common reptiles - including spiders, iguanas, tortoises and snakes.
- Fauna: endangered and common animal species - including rhino and elephant.
- Environmental crime: illegal dumping of radioactive and

toxic waste. According to ESPU Superintendent Pierre Erasmus ingenious smugglers have perfected ways of smuggling everything from rhino horn, spiders, exotic birds and cycads across borders without authorities suspecting anything, even concealing small non-venomous snakes and spiders on their person.

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An innocent-looking package gaily covered in bright wrapping paper and marked as baby clothes could be filled with live spiders in cigarette boxes, Erasmus said.

The unit has encountered cases where reptiles such as iguanas and snakes were carried in underpants and women's brassieres.

Erasmus tells of 200 scorpions which were smuggled in plastic bank bags, each with its own meal worm for "packos" and a damp tissue for water to sustain it through its journey.

Smugglers usually use aircraft to transport animals, because it is faster than by road

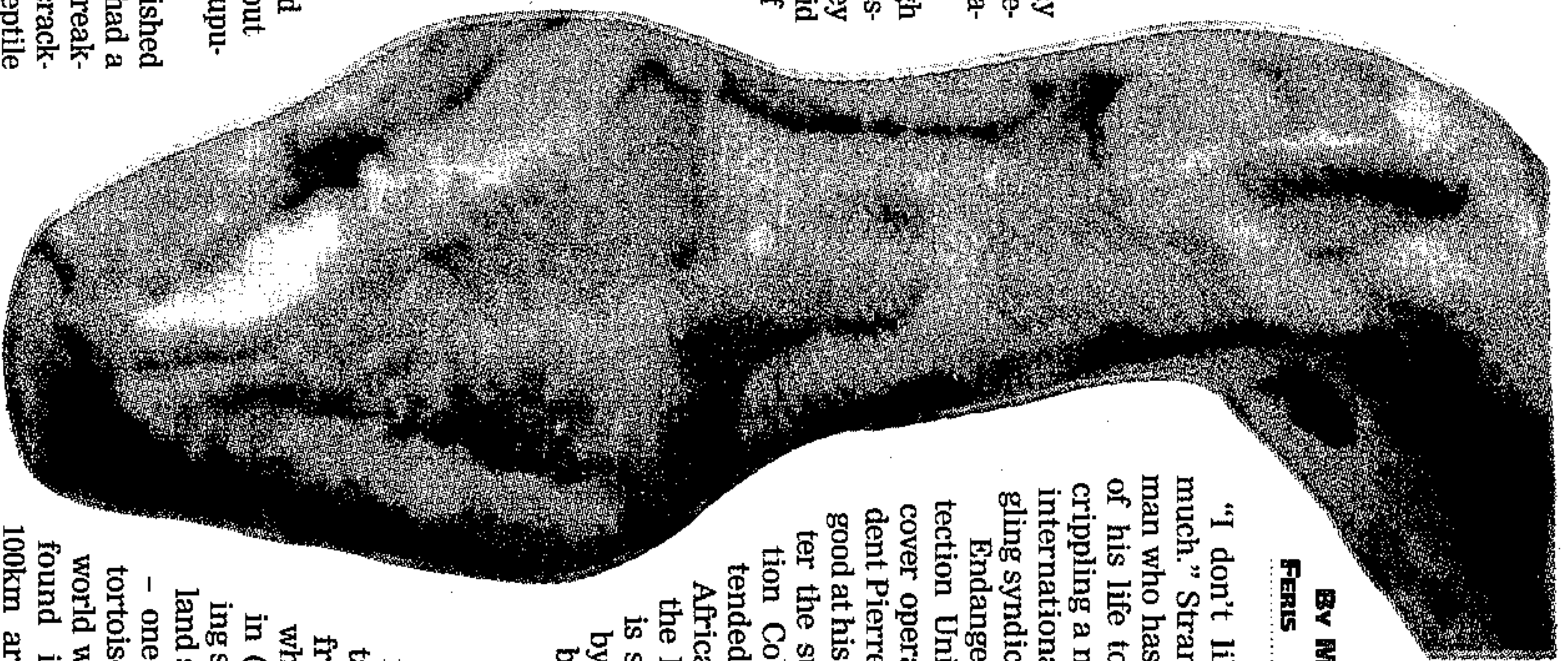
or sea. Despite this, many animals die from stress before reaching their destinations. "I have taken through various animals on domestic flights and just said they were my pets. No one said anything. There is a lot of ignorance," Erasmus says.

Each year rare plants and animals, worth millions of rands, are smuggled across Africa's borders, contributing to the multi-billion rand international poaching and black-market trade.

Forty-two women and men from the ESPU, based in Pretoria, are trying to put the brakes on the unscrupulous trade.

The unit was established eight years ago and has had a number of major breakthroughs, including the crack-down on international reptile syndicates several weeks ago.

Cool customer... snakes like this African python are well sought after by collectors worldwide. The black-market trade in reptiles runs into billions of rands annually.



LINDSAY YOUNG

Ace undercover operative 'doesn't like reptiles very much'

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS

"I don't like reptiles very much." Strange words from a man who has dedicated a year of his life to infiltrating and crippling a multimillion-rand international reptile smuggling syndicate.

Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) undercover operative Superintendent Pierre Erasmus was so good at his job that weeks after the success of Operation Cobra - which extended from South Africa to Germany and the Netherlands - he is still being sought by unsuspecting black marketers hoping to make a quick deal.

Just a few days ago, Erasmus was contacted by a dealer from Germany who was interested in (illegally) acquiring several Namagualand spotted padlopers - one of the smallest tortoise species in the world which can only be found in a 150km by 100km area in Namagualand.

Star 17/11/97 (56)

Erasmus gained permission from the attorney-general to do the deal, and met the smuggler at Cape Town international airport.

"The contact wanted two males and two females, obviously to breed them and to sell. The Namagualand spotted padloper is four to five times more difficult to get hold of than a common tortoise and costs about R8 000 apiece," Erasmus said.

The tortoise is listed in the Red Data Book and appears on the Cites appendix 2 which allows limited trade in specific species.

"When we arrested them and went through their luggage one of the dealers showed us two male and two pregnant female geckos in an empty shampoo bottle packed away in his toiletry bag," he said.

The three dealers Stefan Rading (30) Juyen Reuthe (40) and Beate Reuthe (40) were each fined R5 000 or nine months in jail in the Parow Regional Court, in Cape Town, earlier this month.

Their arrest brings the total number of people arrested through the activities of Operation Cobra to 20, and those convicted to seven.

Two members of the SAPS were also arrested, including a police inspector who was suspended for the illegal possession of snakes, while a woman was arrested for obstructing the law by revealing information about members of the ESPU. Operation Cobra confiscated more than 200 indigenous and ex-

otic tortoises, 259 spiders, 600 lizards, 800 scorpions, 400 chameleons and 980 spiders.

The plan to infiltrate the reptile syndicates was hatched about a year ago. Erasmus was a natural choice for the mission because of his long-term involvement as a covert agent in Operation Benjamin, where he successfully managed to infiltrate the Boere-Mafia.

This led to the arrest of more than 100 people on 1 000 charges. Erasmus convinced a George black-market dealer to establish a reptile import-and-export company with him.

Their dealings led them to Germany and Holland, where they met several dealers including a man who had 5 000 spiders in his flat.

"I have never seen anything like this before. The cream-of-the-crop spider was a white-knee tarantula which costs R550. This dealer was very interested in the South African baboon spider.

"A few consignments were posted to him from George. More than 3 000 of these spiders have been smuggled out of the country from one specific area over two to three years," Erasmus said.

Exactly how many thousands of reptiles have been smuggled out of the country over the past 20 years will never be known. But the effects of Operation Cobra are not over and Erasmus believes more arrests are imminent.

KRUGER PARK *Rift over effect of pipeline on pristine nature*

Parks Board in a spin over slurry

CT(BR) 19/11/97

(56)

NCABA HLOPHE

Johannesburg — The controversy over the slurry pipeline planned by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) to pass through the Kruger National Park had landed the National Parks Board in a dilemma, with individual senior management members espousing different approaches, Mavuso Msimang, the board's chief executive officer, said yesterday.

He said the situation had not exploded into a full-scale schism, but individual senior management had expressed differences of opinion.

The proposed R7,5 billion Maputo iron and steel plant would involve the use of magnetite from Phalaborwa in the Northern Province and natural gas from a gasfield in Mozambique to produce iron and steel at a plant in Maputo.

The slurry pipeline is one of the options on the table, using water to transport the magnetite from Phalaborwa, through the Kruger National Park to Maputo.

Msimang said there were members of senior management who opposed everything that interfered with pristine nature, while others were more accommodating and advocated an environment assessment to determine the impact of the pipeline.

"We have people who argue that the ideal situation is that parks should not have roads and camps, and even wish the existing camps should be moved to the margins of the parks.

"These people would not contemplate the pipeline through the Kruger Park," he said.

There were those who maintained that development did

not necessarily compromise conservation.

This group called for a unique marriage between conservation and development to sustain parks and nature for present and future generations.

When pressed to indicate what course of action he preferred, Msimang said he supported the involvement of the board in any impact assessment survey.

"It is important that the board participates fully in this process. If the study points to any substantially negative impact interference on the ecology, then development would have to be stopped.

"If the project was likely to deplete the water resources in and outside the park, then it would have to be stopped. But we have to ascertain that before making any judgment," Msimang said.

New forum to tackle mine dump pollution

Josey Ballenger

(56) (~~55~~)

THE Gauteng environment department would set up a provincial forum to resolve pollution problems originating from mine dumps following several complaints from communities, Gauteng environment MEC Nomvula Mokonyane said yesterday.

"People in areas like Kagiso, near Krugersdorp, are living under the scourge of horrible dusty conditions caused by the mine dumps, and, as government, we promised our people a better life where they stay," Mokonyane said.

"Our view ... is that the polluters must take the financial responsibility for their waste, and the min-

ing houses must act responsibly and take concrete steps towards resolving problems caused by their mine dumps," she said.

Mokonyane said the forum would consist of representatives of the department, the affected communities, the Chamber of Mines, the mineral and energy department and other interested organisations.

The announcement came after recent reports of air and water pollution emanating from the Durban Roodepoort Deep dump in Meadowlands, Soweto.

Durban Deep partially resolved the matter by agreeing recently to spend R115 000 to vegetate the mine dump's top surface, cutting dust levels by 80%.

The dust has triggered complaints of impaired vision, coughing, hoarseness, chest problems and difficulty in breathing in the Meadowland community.

Meadowlands Environmental Group spokesman Mokomane Mekgoe said the organisation supported the mine's reduction of dust levels, but pointed out that the slopes would continue to generate the dust.

He also said the mine needed to address the water seepage from the dump into Klip River tributaries, which the water affairs department described earlier this month as "unacceptable".

'Clean' firms can aid stability, says Mokaba

ENVIRONMENT and security were inseparable, and companies making "clean profits" would help preserve stability, Environment Affairs and Tourism Deputy Minister Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

"Sound business practices produce clean profits because such profits come with the

health security for all involved," Mokaba said at cellular network operator Vodacom's launch of its environmental policy in Johannesburg yesterday.

Mokaba praised Vodacom for conducting environmental impact assessments "long before" government had promulgated

regulations governing EIAs.

Vodacom chief operating officer Colin Read said the company was one of the first cellular networks in the world to publicly commit to an environmental policy.

"We have a duty to ensure that we are protecting people's

health and safety and the quality of the natural environment," he said.

A solar-powered base station in the Karoo had been a "world first", and two windmills with passive cooling systems in the Kalahari would operate from February.

BD 2111197

SA wetlands (Sb) project is right on target

ARG 22/11/97
Countrywide projects to prevent the destruction of natural wetlands are progressing exceptionally well, according to the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa.

"The aim is to work in close partnership with willing landowners, conservationists and volunteers to promote sustainable management of wetlands," said co-ordinator David Lindley, a conservation ecologist with the society.

Mr Lindley has just completed a preliminary survey of the Nylsvlei Nature Reserve in Northern Province and its adjoining wetlands.

"The results show there are less problems than expected on the Nyl flood-plain, a popular venue for bird-watchers. Canals and dykes, probably dug about 30 years ago, have, however, altered the natural flow of water in the area."

Members of the volunteer organisation "Friends of Nylsvlei" are removing invader vegetation from the Nyl River system.

Nylsvlei, which has had good recent flooding of its wetlands, was expected to be inundated with visitors for this year's National Birders' Day. - Sapa

Table Mountain gets R5-m boost

Alien clean-up to cut fire risk

ARL 22/11/97 (56)

ANDREA WEISS

Table Mountain is to benefit from a R5-million clean-up of invading alien vegetation, but the move comes at the end of a sharp exchange between the National Water Conservation Campaign and the Cape Metropolitan Council.

Water Affairs and Forestry minister Kader Asmal is to send in a team of 1 500 workers, 1 000 of whom will be women, as part of his award-winning Working For Water programme.

The team will be managed by the National Parks Board as part of the programme's strong anti-poverty thrust.

This follows a refusal by the Cape Metropolitan Council to increase water tariffs to fund catchment management on Table Mountain on the grounds that the city gets only a minimal supply of water off the mountain.

The National Parks Board is to carry out urgent work to clean up the slopes of the mountain over the next four months. The work will have a major impact in securing water for the Western Cape, reduce the fire hazard and protect the unique vegetation on the mountain.

The Working for Water programme also has social benefits in addressing the quality of life of people living in poverty along the Table Mountain chain.

Along with providing for the workers' families, it also addresses issues such as dignity, crime, health and education.

Professor Asmal's special advisor Guy Preston was unsuccessful in persuading the metropolitan council that clearing alien vegetation on Table Mountain has crucially important benefits for the city.

"Invading alien plants lower the water tables around the mountain,



Up in smoke: Devil's Peak breathing fire in 1991. The blaze was fuelled by alien vegetation

which can then cause land owners to use municipal water to keep plants alive," he said - an argument supported by hydrological experts.

Dr Preston argued further that alien clearance reduced the risk of mudslides and fire, stopped the degradation of rivers and estuaries, and would help to preserve the unique diversity of plants on Table Mountain - possibly the world's most important "hotspot" for biological diversity.

He said engineers were only now coming to grips with the need to manage water catchment areas sensitively. By putting the R5-million in, the department was really making a plea to the metropolitan council to take responsibility for its own circumstances.

"It is difficult for us to step in, because rural poverty is immensely more problematic. We can't keep pumping money into areas where people have the ability and resources to manage things themselves," he said.

Dr Preston said that Cape Town was also missing the boat by failing to levy water tariffs which encouraged

people to use water more efficiently.

"The sooner work is done, the less it will cost."

David Daitz of the National Parks Board, which is soon to take over management of the mountain, said that a survey of alien vegetation done recently showed that alien vegetation had increased from 13 000 ha to 16 500 ha since the end of 1992.

Mr Daitz said that the work to be done with the R5-million would concentrate on the most difficult areas to clear, because follow-up work was needed for which other funding was being sought.

One of the consequences of alien vegetation was the increased "fuel load" on the mountain, which would increase the risk of fires.

He said the Devil's Peak 1991 fire and consequent mudslides had been exacerbated by alien vegetation.

"I'm delighted that this has happened. It's a great opportunity," he said, adding that they would have to "move mountains" to ensure that the money was spent before the end of the financial year.

ST (Cem) 23 11/97 Conservation board faces extinction (56) Cape's environmental authority battles to stay off endangered list as funds dry up

CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE Western Cape's environmental authorities are in greater trouble than ever — despite a donation of R59-million by the UN and World Bank to conservation in the province.

Charged with conserving the world's most threatened plant kingdom, Cape Nature Conservation is battling to keep itself off the endangered list as the provincial administration tries to come to terms with a gigantic R230-million budget shortfall.

A Cape Metro investigation has shown that CNC is operating at two-thirds of optimum

strength, having lost 270 staff to voluntary severance packages.

Another 110 posts have been cut, leaving the CNC with 788 personnel to manage 12 580km² of the fynbos kingdom.

"We have limited capacity to effectively manage the Cape Floral Kingdom, and there are prospects of even further budget cuts," CNC conservation director Dr Kas Hamman said this week. Conservation biologists have repeatedly referred to CNC's dwindling strengths while wel-

coming an unprecedented R59-million grant by the UN and World Bank's Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for conservation in the Western Cape.

While the lion's share of this donation will go towards the Table Mountain Fund and National Parks Board's Cape Peninsula national park, R4,8-million has been set aside for an in-depth survey of the most pressing conservation issues elsewhere in the Cape Floral Kingdom. CNC, besides taking part in the

survey, will also largely be expected to implement its recommendations on conservation in unprotected areas such as lowland fynbos, says Professor Richard Cowling of UCT.

"CNC is a good institution which has almost been allowed to bleed to death," said Cowling, director of UCT's Institute for Plant Conservation and a key member of the successful GEF funding bid by the NPB and World Wide Fund for Nature (SA). CNC's maintenance and

capital budgets have been frozen, and there are growing fears of further cuts running into "several millions of rands".

"It's vital for CNC to be re-established as an effective force in conservation. Its major weakness has been an almost suicidal blood-letting of experienced conservation expertise," says WWF-SA chief executive Dr Ian Macdonald.

"I know of no other civil service in the world which would allow such a reckless thing," he

said this week.

Urgent priorities included boosting CNC's ability to do environmental management outside of its reserves, and conserving the last remaining pieces of lowland fynbos — which could only be done in partnership with other agencies.

Both Western Cape Finance and Environment MEC Kobus Meiring and the acting director-general of Environment Affairs, Dr Francois Hanekom, have quashed any prospects that the

GEF can bail out Cape Nature Conservation.

Speaking as South Africa's GEF link-man, Hanekom said: "It's highly unlikely that the GEF will award further fynbos-related grants."

"The ball is now in the Western Cape's court to mobilise funds and capacity. That's going to take some head-scratching."

Meiring said his cabinet had already given its principled approval to a Western Cape-type parks board, which is expected

to replace CNC next year. Such a board would be largely self-funded, but could also raise and spend money independently of the cash-starved provincial administration.

Meiring's appointment as head of the steering committee to oversee the fynbos investigation has been welcomed as a "coup d'etat" for unifying conservation efforts in the province. Macdonald has urged conservationists to guard against undue pessimism.

Referring to the government and private sector collaboration that underpinned the successful GEF funding application, he said it probably would not have succeeded without a unified approach.

Jobs bonanza as Parks Board gets R30-m funds boost

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

(56)
ARG 24/11/97

The National Parks Board has been awarded a further R30-million from the Working for Water programme to remove invasive alien vegetation from national parks and their water catchment areas.

This was announced at the weekend by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal, whose department administers the award-winning programme.

The extra funding is expected to create up to 8 000 jobs in and around the national parks and is also seen as a vital contribution to efforts to improve what has been a steadily decreasing volume and quality of water reaching parks such as the Kruger National Park, one of the country's tourism and ecological showcases.

"This is a red-letter day for conservation. It's difficult to over-emphasise the value of this funding," said National Parks Board chief executive Mavuso Msimang. "The rivers are the lifeblood of our parks. Professor Asmal's funding is a massive contribution not only to

the future of South Africa's parks, but it is also relevant to the parks of our neighbours."

Invading alien plants, such as wattles and pines, are seen as the single greatest threat to South Africa's exceptionally rich biological diversity – it ranks third internationally behind Indonesia and Brazil – and to the functioning of its ecological systems.

These plants also waste huge amounts of precious water.

Professor Asmal said the decision to extend the partnership with the board followed excellent joint invasive alien plant removal projects with the Tsitsikamma National Park in the Eastern Cape and the Golden Gate National Park in the Free State during the past two years.

Turning to the job creation possibilities of the funding, Professor Asmal remarked: "Parks are the precious heirlooms of all South Africans.

"Nevertheless, it is crucial that the benefits of these parks reach out to those living in poverty on borders of these parks, and this is certainly an instance where our funding can go a long way to healing some of the wounds of the past."

Ambitious project will see national park plan become a reality - at last

RICH MKHONDO
FOREIGN SERVICE

Washington - For decades, David Daitz and hundreds of Capetonians fantasised about seeing the stretch from Signal Hill to the Cape Point turned into a national park complete with tourist attractions, hotels and even restaurants at the top of Table Mountain.

But Mr Daitz, now a senior National Parks Board official, watched in dismay as the provincial and local authorities, ardent environmentalists and members of civil society slugged it out over the advantages and disadvantages of declaring the area a national park.

Now, thanks to the R60-million grant from the World Bank's Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the creation of the Cape Peninsula National Park is in full swing and the agitation by both sides of the divide has lessened.

It will cost about R300-million over six years, of which R60-million will come from the GEF and R5-million from the French GEF, the Caisse Francaise de Developpement (CFD). The remainder will be generated within South Africa and from tourism revenue.

The park would be unique internationally because it would bring a nature area in the midst of an urban environment. Mr Daitz and World Bank environmentalist Francois Falloux say the

new park will be sustainable and self-supporting within a few years, particularly because South Africa ranks as the third most biologically diverse country in the world.

It is the only country in the world to have within its borders an entire plant kingdom: the Cape Floral Kingdom.

"The Peninsula has fascinating archaeological, cultural and historical significance. It has more than 2 285 plant species, which makes the area a centre of biodiversity of local, national and international importance.

"It has 105 flowering plants, at least 111 invertebrates and one vertebrate found nowhere else in the world," Mr Daitz said in an interview after days of meetings with World Bank environmentalists in Washington.

The park would be unique because it would bring a nature area into an urban environment

"But the Peninsula is under threat due to the combination of three factors - invasion of alien species, urban development and excessive visitor use of limited areas - unless properly managed," he added.

With the Cape Peninsula National Park, the parks board will be able to rehabilitate and protect the flora and related fauna, including marine ecosystems.

The Parks Board will initiate conservation planning for the entire Cape Floral Kingdom. The GEF and Parks Board said they were convinced the new national park would bring job

opportunities to local disadvantaged communities through labour-intensive alien plant eradication programmes, park maintenance activities and tourism-related services.

The World Bank had only high praise for the Parks Board and Mr Daitz for embarking on the ambitious project. "They are committed and professional. That is why processing the grant took eight months instead of the usual three years," said Mr Falloux.

Now Mr Falloux, who worked with Mr Daitz to present the park board's proposal to the GEF, wants to help the Western Cape tackle its brown agenda: pollution, energy supply, waste management and others.

"I am confident that the park will serve as a pioneering project for South Africa's eight other provinces and countries across the world," said Mr Falloux.

The core of the new park will comprise the proclaimed Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment's 29 000ha area stretching from Signal Hill in the north to Cape Point in the south.

Compared with any equivalent-sized area it has the highest number of threatened species anywhere in the world.

Recalling the bureaucratic hurdles and years of fights over the creation of the park and debates over who would

'The park will serve as a pioneering project for South Africa's eight other provinces'

manage it, Mr Daitz said: "There have been countless debates and fights to give the area the highest possible conservation status as a national park.

"Actually, history shows that there have been intermittent arguments since 1929. During every provincial, local or public debate, they all came to the same conclusion - there should be one management authority.

"But the province wanted to call the shots, the city council wanted to be the ones in charge and the central government wanted a huge say.

"There is no question that an asset such as the Cape Peninsula Mountain chain deserves to be professionally managed.

"Now everyone agrees that the National Parks Board should be the one to manage the new national park," said Mr Daitz, who is coordinating the park project for the Parks Board.

Most of the new park will consist of the proclaimed Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment, which is centred on the Peninsula mountain chain, as well as some additional areas and a marine component.

After months of bureaucratic red tape, Mr Daitz said a complete transfer of land and property within the protected area to the National Parks Board would finally see the new park become a reality in the new year.

PRETORIA — There is a distressing lack of awareness among SA companies about their impact on the environment, the Human Sciences Research Council said at the weekend.

The council said a survey to assess current environmental training in SA companies showed that many companies had adopted environmental policies, but 81% still believed they had little or no impact on

SA firms show little regard for environment

Senior research specialist Leona Craffert said findings from the study would be used to encourage companies to train personnel and advance existing environmental training.

The survey, which studied 116 companies from Gauteng, Cape Town and Durban, found that 10% of the companies in-

terviewed had not allocated specific hours for environmental training, 31% dealt with training as and when the need arose and 18% had not allocated any time for environmental training. Craffert said 37% of the respondents felt environmental training merely added to the already heavy training responsibility of the company.

The survey found that companies from the primary sector, namely agriculture, mining, fishing or quarrying, were more likely to have environmental policies than companies in the secondary sectors like manufacturing and construction, or in the tertiary sectors, such as wholesale and retail trade, hotels and transport. — Sapa.

Conservation makes business sense

Business involvement in conservation is for the birds, as the Endangered Wildlife Trust's annual awards show. **Bridget Hilton-Barber reports**

TRADITIONALLY, there has been little love lost between the interests of business and those of conservation groups. But attitudes are shifting.

As SA businesses face the challenge of juggling development needs with the sustainable utilisation of resources, growing numbers of companies are getting involved in conservation and the environment.

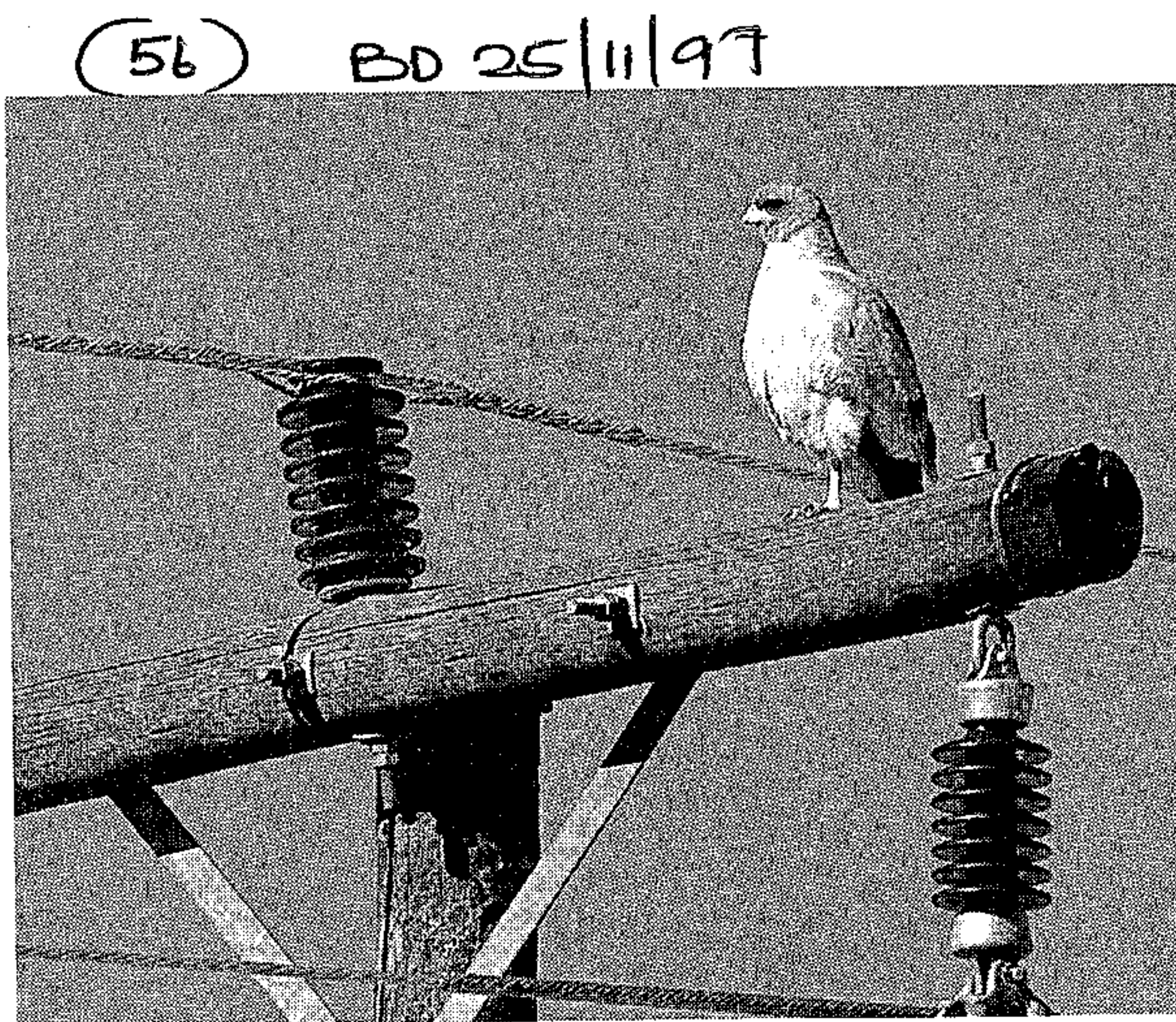
"There are a variety of reasons why companies involve themselves with conservation," says Coral Wilder, business development manager of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. "These range from philanthropy and social responsibility to marketing opportunities and strategic appropriateness."

Conservation itself has become a business, she points out, and like every business, requires partners, clients and support.

This week, the trust will pay tribute to one of its biggest strategic partners, power parastatal Eskom, in the form of an award to Julian Dauberman — an Eastern Cape superintendent and the designer of a "mitigating device" which makes Eskom power lines more "bird-friendly".

Dauberman is one of the trust's 10 top conservationists of the year — an award which aims to honour people who have made a significant difference in the environmental field — but not necessarily in the media limelight.

The relationship between the trust and Eskom dates back to the late '70s when the trust approached Eskom about the number of large birds dying as a result of power line collisions and electrocutions. Today, bird-friendly practices are part of Eskom's overall environmental management systems.



Bird on a wire ... a Pale Chanting Goshawk perched on a bird-friendly electricity pole.

Picture: CHRIS VAN ROOYEN

They have identified "hot spots", set up monitoring systems and hot lines, and have addressed the problem of collisions by fitting various types of marking devices to the wires. To combat electrocution, they've fitted "raptor insulators" to previously lethal transmission poles.

The trust has also advised Eskom in planning new routes for power lines so that sensitive habitats are not en-

croached upon.

"Part of our environmental policy is to manage our operations in a sustainable way," says Peter Nelson, acting corporate environmental manager at Eskom. "From a pure business angle it makes sense in terms of efficiency of supply and customer service."

"Every time a bird hits a power line there's a disruption of supply and an incurred expense. The new mitigating device will be a quarter to a third of the cost of the existing system, and can be applied to live lines so there is no disruption to consumers. It will mean significant long-term savings."

The Airports Company is another business that is becoming involved in conservation — in the form of sponsoring a blue crane satellite tracking project. Again, this initiative is in the spirit of mutual benefit.

"We are trying to find a conservation friendly solution to the problem of bird strikes with aircraft and the trust is trying to establish blue crane flight paths," says Dirk Ackerman, Airports Company MD. "Both planes and cranes share the skies and we recognise the need for environmentally friendly sponsoring."

The project entails fitting a selection of blue cranes with small, very light "daypack" devices which can be tracked by satellite.

The trust was supplying sound or-

nithological advice and scientific understanding, said Ackerman. "The Airports Company will provide the monitoring equipment. We can avoid bird strikes with aircraft, and they will gain a more thorough understanding of where these birds go."

But not all company involvement in conservation is through core business, says Wilder. "A lot of firms are involved in sponsorships, where the sales and marketing spin-offs can be valuable."

Nedbank, she says, was one of the pioneers of "conservation branding" — through the formation of its Green Trust, which has helped secure its profile as a concerned company.

Restaurant group Steers is gearing up to use conservation as a marketing and sales tool. In mid-1998, the chain will be launching Steers bratpack boxes sporting a trust logo and images of endangered species. Inside each box will be a toy of an endangered animal.

"We're looking at a win-win situation," says Colin Ekman, the group marketing director of Steers. "We are using the trust to drive our business, and we're helping them raise money. Fifty cents from every bratpack sold will go towards a target of R250 000 for the trust. It has an educational value for children and parents too, and focuses attention on our SA heritage rather than on things like cartoons or animated dinosaurs."

Mustek — the distributor of AST computers and Citizen printers — is one company that is supporting conservation simply because its senior staff believes in it. Mustek International MD Steve Easton says the involvement is not related to core-business and has few high profile marketing spin-offs.

Mustek has donated computer equipment to trust field workers and community training projects. The donations help "meet a real need" and build awareness, says Easton.

Awareness certainly seems to be growing. Earlier this year, the trust hosted an environmental networking weekend where a variety of projects were "auctioned" to assembled corporate bidders. Almost a quarter of a million rand was whipped up in 48 hours.

"The networking aspect is proving vital," says Wilder. "It puts companies in touch with each other, provides incentives and develops a support base of trust. The 'bundu network' may well become the conservation equivalent of doing deals on the golf course."

"Conservation should be seen as a product in the long-term development of this country."

"We still have to educate big business in responsible conservation and the protection of the environment."

Parks get R30-m grant to fight off alien plants

Star 25/11/97

(56)

By MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environment Reporter

The South African National Parks Board has received a R30-million windfall from the Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry to help it fight alien in-

vading plants.

The department said the money will be shared among 17 national parks, including the Kruger (R6-million), the Addo Elephant (R3-million), Tsitsikamma (R5-million) and Cape Peninsula (R5-million).

The funds will be spent on clearing invading alien plants from the parks, as well as their water catchment areas. The department also hopes to create at least 8 000 jobs in and around the parks.

The money has been made available to try and improve the quality and quantity of water reaching parks such as the Kruger National Park. Water to national parks throughout the country has been in decline.

Chris van der Linde, spokesman for the Kruger Park, said the quality of water to the park was "becoming worse" because of outside influences on their water sources.

"Our water quality is currently still within the accepted levels but pressure (on water resources) is increasing by the day," he said.

Invading aliens such as wattles and pines are believed to be the single greatest threat to South Africa's water resources - estimates are that these plants use about 10% of the country's annual water run-off.

Chief executive of the South African National Parks, Mavuso Msimang said: "We (the parks) have not done all that we could to use water efficiently, nor to educate visitors on the importance of water conservation.

"We plan to change all that, with a massive effort to promote water-wise behaviour."

Van der Linde said that apart from using the money for the physical removal of alien plants it would also be used to implement education programmes for locals on the dangers of alien plants and how best to eradicate them.

political home after the resignation - could affect course of...



Child support: teenagers demonstrate their concern during last night's heated meeting of the Anti-Pollution Alliance in Milnerton

LEON LESTRADE

Anger boils over at refinery

talks on pollution-free air

AR 6 26/11/97

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Operators of the Caltex refinery in Milnerton faced the wrath of neighbours last night at a meeting to discuss gas emissions from the plant which residents say are a health hazard.

A public outcry erupted recently when Caltex said it would be unable to stick to a 1994 pledge to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 80% within five years.

It says it cannot cut the amount of poisonous sulphur dioxide used daily in its refining process from the present 28 tons to eight before 1999.

Communities say sulphur dioxide emissions pose a severe health hazard and that "the issue is not about money, but about clean air".

Residents of Milnerton, Table View, Marconi Beam, Monte Vista,

Fairways and Parow, united as the Anti-Pollution Alliance, called for the withdrawal of Caltex while its managing director Mike Rademeyer was speaking at a public meeting.

Despite the pleas of Cape Town attorney Gerald Mallinick, appointed to chair the meeting, residents waved banners saying "Enough lies already".

Mr Rademeyer said that because of financial constraints it would not be possible to achieve the sulphur dioxide target before 1999.

The meeting was disrupted for at least five minutes as a war of words erupted between Mr Mallinick and residents over the banners.

Mr Rademeyer said Caltex had spent R75-million reducing the amount of sulphur used by 55% since 1994. Alliance chairman William Barker said its research showed Caltex was able to achieve the target.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1997

Council blasts Asmal man on mountain claims

(56) ARG 26/11/97

ANDREA WEISS

STAFF REPORTER

The Cape Metropolitan Council has reacted angrily to suggestions that it has walked away from its responsibilities by refusing to put up the price of bulk water to fund alien vegetation clearing on Table Mountain.

This follows a decision by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to spend R5-million of its award-winning Working for Water programme on clearing alien vegetation in lieu of a levy it had asked the metro council to impose on water.

The response follows remarks by Guy Preston, special adviser to Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal.

Metro councillor David Erleigh accused Dr Preston of "continual snipes which are uncalled for".

Dr Preston was quoted in Saturday Argus as saying the department could not "keep pumping money into areas where people have the ability and resources to manage things themselves".

An angry Mr Erleigh said that "far from neglecting Table Mountain, as Dr Preston suggests", the council had committed R4-million a year for five years to the new national park.

Bid to speed SA access to Europe

ARG 26/11/97

CLIVE SAWYER

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

(56)

National Assembly Speaker Frene Ginwala is to urge her counterparts in European Union parliaments to complete ratification of the Lome 4 Convention so South Africa can access the convention's benefits.

These benefits include South Africa being able to tender for lucrative projects as if it were an Asia-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) country eligible under the convention.

A motion put to the National Assembly by Rob Davies of the African National Congress noted that a number of EU member countries had not yet ratified the convention.

This prevented South Africa getting access, and delegations from Parliament continued to get no more than observer status at ACP-EU joint assemblies.

The motion called on the Speaker to urge her counterparts to ensure quick ratification.

THE CAPRICORN Industrial Park has been touted as a science research park, but 45% of the site will have light industries. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

"HIGH risk" industries, which have the potential to pollute the environment and constitute a health hazard, may be among those established at Capricorn Technology and Industrial Park to be built near Muizenberg.

Construction begins in January.

Wildlife and Environment Society of SA (WESSA) spokesperson Mr Andy Gubb said yesterday: "People get the impression Capricorn Park industries will be harmless because they are classified light, but they are not. In South Africa, potentially hazardous industries still fall into this category."

The rezoning approval allows for about 40 categories of industry, some of them high-risk such as the manufacture of motor vehicle parts, refractory ceramic products, pumps, gears and transformers.

Some involve metal finishing, which produce liquid waste containing acids and heavy metals. Ceramic manufacture can produce harmful air emissions.

The manufacture of electronic motors, generators and transformers produce PCBs — hazardous organic pollutants — which, if released into the environment are not

destroyed, but are taken up into the food chain in a similar way to DDT, a poisonous insecticide.

PCBs can cause birth defects in mammals at the top of the food chain. The European authorities rule that there should be no detectable PCBs in effluent released into the environment.

Said Gubb: "Capricorn has residential areas around it. It is also close to the proposed False Bay Coastal Park, to the coast and is on an area with a high water table, which means groundwater could become contaminated. There could also be noise and air pollution and industrial accidents."

He said the development had created the impression of a "sci-

ence research park", but 45% of the site would be light industries.

Capricorn has done an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the site, but WESSA said this was inadequate as it did not disclose details of possible industrial impacts on the environment and the adjacent communities.

"There was also no public participation process, so most people don't really know what's going on," Gubb said.

WESSA believed Capricorn should do a risk assessment on all industries allowed there so that an environmental management plan could be drawn up to control them. WESSA also called on Capricorn to develop comprehensive strategies for waste management, air emissions and for emergencies such as spillages.

Initially, neither Capricorn nor the South Peninsula municipality were interested in adopting management strategies as comprehensive as these, WESSA said.

Because of these problems, WESSA appealed to the provincial authorities to have the rezoning set aside.

The province did not set it aside, but imposed extra controls on the Capricorn development. One was that an Environmental Advisory Board be set up,

which WESSA had called for, which would screen and monitor development at Capricorn. It will consist of representatives from Capricorn, the municipality, property owners, the Department of Water Affairs, an environmental control officer and a member of the public.

Companies applying for plots at Capricorn will have their potential environmental impacts scrutinised by this board before plots are transferred.

Province also said Capricorn could only develop once they had drawn up an environmental management system (EMS) to the satisfaction of all parties.

This system sets out guide-

Controls 'at park's initiative

ENVIRONMENT WRITER

STATEMENTS about "high risk" industries were made in a consultant's report to the city council after the council had asked for industries to be categorised according to risk, Capricorn managing director Dr Raven Naidoo said.

"The consultants categorised some generic high-tech companies as being potentially high risk. The classification relates to a category of industry known as the Standard Industry Classification Code.

"None of the industries we have approached — or who have approached us — to invest in Capricorn could be tarred with this general brush. None is manufacturing vehicle parts, refractory ceramic products, pumps, gears and transformers. There is no company contemplating metal finishing so there will be no heavy metals.

lines which companies have to follow to manage things such as waste disposal, emissions or industrial accidents.

Companies will be audited annually to ensure good environmental performance.

This system is now being developed jointly by Abbott Grobicki Pty Ltd and African Environmental Solutions.

It was at the insistence of WESSA that council employed consultants to group the industries into high, medium and low risk categories.

Gubb believes WESSA has been doing the job of the municipality who should have insisted on these controls to protect the environment and human health.

"We have been a lone voice fighting for these controls. We've been doing the work of the council. These industries have the potential to pollute the environment and to affect people's health. This is the steepest uphill battle we have ever had in Cape Town," Gubb said.

They had threatened to take

"Some manufacturing processes may use PCBs, but their use is controlled by SA law at all times," Naidoo said.

He was concerned that the claims by WESSA created the impression that they were being imposed as a result of their campaigning, which was incorrect. Most of the environmental pollution control systems were Capricorn's initiative and it was "disingenuous" for WESSA to claim otherwise.

Capricorn had employed leading environmental consultants to draw up guidelines for developing and managing the park to minimise risk.

They were aware of the high water table. The park's man-made lake and wetland were to control and filter polluted water before it entered the sea. Road run-off and accidental spillage would be constantly monitored and cleansed, Naidoo said.

The Environmental Adviso-

ry Board was being established at Capricorn's initiative and not imposed by the province.

The auditing of companies was also a Capricorn initiative and would be done where necessary.

Companies applying for plots would have their impacts judged against guidelines being drawn up by Capricorn.

Naidoo said the EMS was not being drawn up as a result of negotiations between WESSA, the council and Capricorn, but were drawn up by Capricorn's consultants "long before Wessa took an interest in the site".

Capricorn was committed to the ISO 14000 Environmental Management System which was an international benchmark.

Capricorn's public relations company said WESSA "had never even heard of" ISO 14000 when Capricorn first discussed it with them.

detailed application and assessment procedure.

The EMS is a result of negotiations between Wessa, the council and Capricorn.

Said Gubb: "We understand why the Western Cape wants this development from an economic point. We're not against development, but it must be in the right place with the right environmental and health controls. We believe Capricorn fails on both accounts."

South Peninsula Municipality was faxed this article and asked to comment, but did not respond.

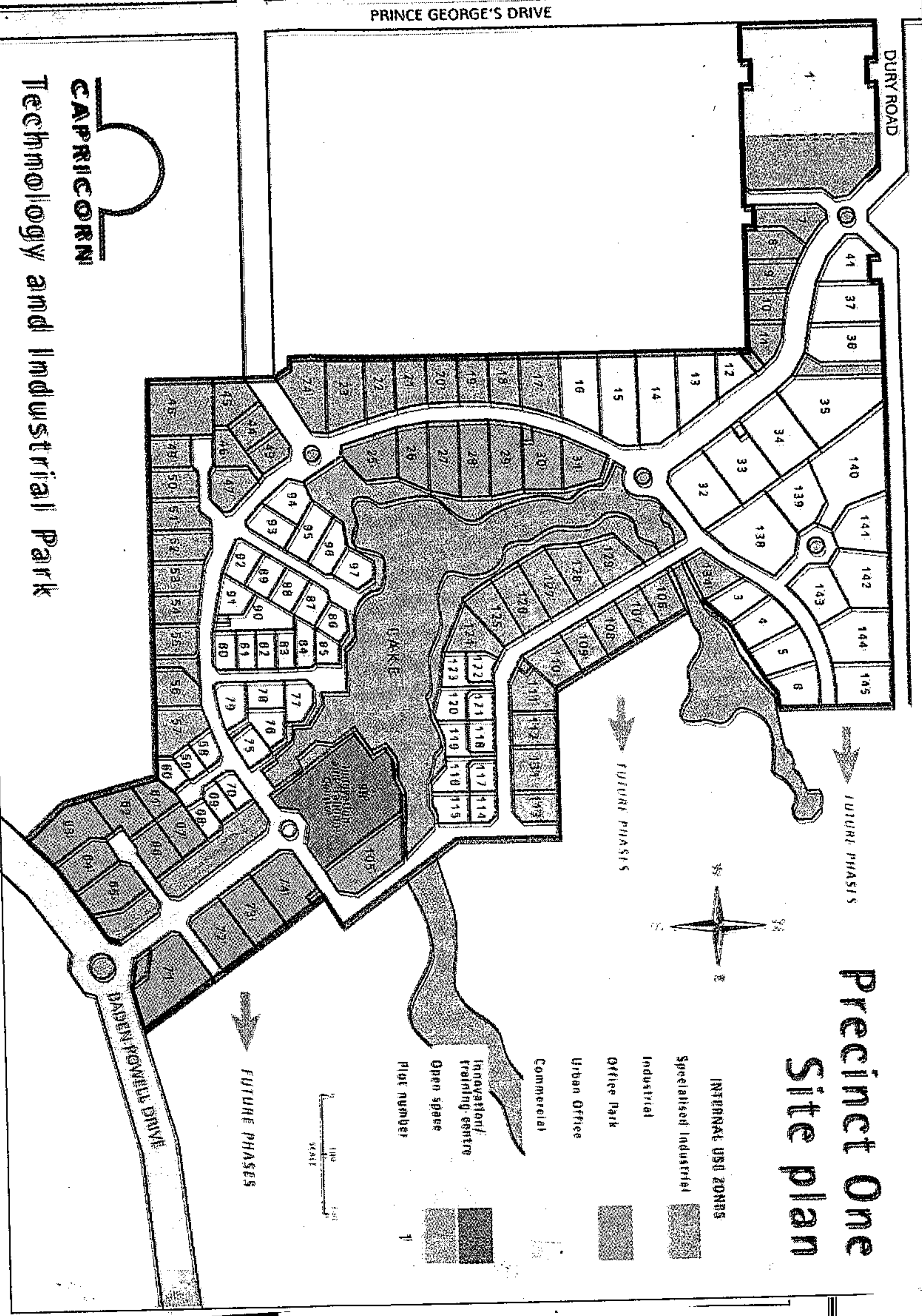
Earlier, a spokesperson said they were committed to the principles of the polluter pays, of integrated pollution control and sustainable development.

They would oversee the construction of Capricorn's phase one by providing an environmental control officer.

They had had meetings with WESSA and Capricorn to resolve issues of concern. "The issues which remain to be solved are not ones of principle but ones of scale of solutions available."

'We have been a lone voice ... (and) doing the work of the council.'
— WESSA spokesperson

Precinct One Site plan



CAPRICORN
Technology and Industrial Park

FIRST PHASE: This is a representation of the envisaged Capricorn Technology and Industrial Park. Building work on the park will start in January. An Environmental Advisory Board will be set up to screen and monitor industries which will be allowed there.

Pollution potential at Capricorn

(56)

CT 27 11/97



NEW PARK: An aerial view shows a superimposed image of the Capricorn Technology and Industrial Park near Mulzenberg with Marina Da Gama in the background.

St Lucia (56) campaign starts again

MTG 28/11-4/12/97

Nicky Barker

The Campaign for St Lucia was reactivated at a meeting in Durban last Sunday, amid fears that Richards Bay Minerals may be reconsidering mining in the area.

In the early 1990s, the campaign co-ordinated the largest single petition ever compiled in this country, leading to the scrapping of plans to mine titanium.

Recent statements by African National Congress KwaZulu-Natal leader Jacob Zuma have indicated that individuals in the government might be reconsidering the mining option.

Earlier this month, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan announced that an application to declare St Lucia a World Heritage Site had been withdrawn. Although the reasons appear to be technical, the announcement served to heighten environmentalists' fears.

The mood at Sunday's meeting was militant. Representative Wally Menne said: "It is unfair to expect a non-governmental organisation to battle on and on over an issue that has been made a government priority. It appears the government has not lived up to its end of the bargain, and now may be looking for an easy option."

The government's side was outlined by an independent review panel and an ANC commission. It was recommended the area be proclaimed a national park administered by an independent board, with an application for World Heritage Site status.

Land claims were to be given immediate priority. Of the approximately 16 500 land claims before the Land Claims Commission, only a handful have been finalised.

The review panel recommended the formation of an independent board to oversee the development of Lake St Lucia as a source of tourism income. This authority has yet to materialise.

In the interim, development projects worth about R100-million are waiting for the go-ahead. Some are threatening to invest their money elsewhere.

'Cash woes' curb pollution fight

Profit sent to US as emission problem increases

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Caltex says lack of finances is preventing it from cutting down on sulphur emission from its Milnerton refinery - but it does have enough to send some of its profits to its mother company in the United States.

And although Caltex spokeswoman Colleen Channon this week admitted that the company sent part of its profits overseas, she bluntly refused to disclose exactly how much money left South African shores.

Saturday Argus cannot report on the financial affairs of the company as Caltex has refused to make these figures available.

People living in areas affected by the pollution from the refinery believe Caltex should be forced to spend part of its profits on installing equipment which will limit pollution.

Anti-Pollution Alliance chairman William Barker has little sympathy for the alleged financial woes of the fuel giant.

"The Americans do not want to dirty their own backyard and we see no reason why they should be allowed to do it here," Mr Barker said.

He said in other parts of the company both BP and Shell had given an undertaking to cut back sulphur emissions at their refineries to only seven tons per 100 000 barrels of crude by 2002. Caltex currently emits 28 tons of sulphur dioxide a day.

"If the other refineries can cut back on sulphur pollution, why can't Caltex?"

"We believe cutbacks can be achieved and we insist they do this," said Mr Barker.

Mrs Channon said sulphur emissions from the Caltex refinery were well within World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, but admitted that no representative of the WHO had ever visited the Milnerton area.

When asked how many Caltex top executives actually lived in the area in which the company claimed pollu-



Kicking up a stink: members of the Anti-Pollution Alliance demonstrate their concern at a meeting in Milnerton. 'If the other refineries can cut back on sulphur pollution, why can't Caltex?'

tion did not constitute a health risk, Mrs Channon refused to disclose the information saying it was "not relevant".

At a heated public meeting held earlier this week, representatives of the refinery faced a barrage of criticism from the public who said they had had enough of pollution in the area.

One member of the public, whose

family suffer from respiratory problems, listed the family medical bills.

A representative of Caltex said if it could be proven that pollution from Caltex was causing these medical problems, the company would pay the bills.

Although several air quality studies have been done in the area, Caltex has always balked at having a proper medical study done to establish

beyond all doubt whether sulphur emissions affect the health of people living in the area.

Mr Barker said unless a proper medical study was done, it would be impossible for individuals to prove conclusively that Caltex was responsible for the respiratory problems suffered by themselves or members of their families.

remained committed to signing a good neighbour agreement with representatives of the community.

The company has been heavily criticised for "renegeing" on a pledge it gave in 1994 in which it promised to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 80% in five years.

When asked what guarantees the community had that Caltex would not again renege on a good neighbour

agreement, Mrs Channon said the 1994 agreement had been a verbal pledge, while this latest agreement would be a signed undertaking.

Caltex has recently embarked on a R180-million marketing drive to publicise its new corporate image.

Members of the anti-pollution lobby believe the money would have been better spent on cutting down on pollution.

LEON LESTRADE

ARIT 29/11/97

(56)



ANDREW INGRAM

Pongweed: Kevin Dunn, technical manager at the Mossop Western Leathers tannery near Wellington with a glass of algae-rich water

Wellington tannery cleans up its act

(56)
ARCT 29/11/97

Solution's in a very hungry algae

ANDREA WEISS

Anyone who has lived downwind from a tannery knows how awful it smells, but now the Wellington tannery has found a way of turning its pong into something useful. It turns the smelly stuff into a special feed for commercially-grown perlemoen, fish or chickens.

The secret is in the use of a salt-loving algae *Spirulina* which feasts on the organic waste contained in the water coming out of the Mossop Western Leathers tannery outside the town.

By changing the design of treatment ponds for the waste water, the tannery has found a way of creating optimal growth conditions for the algae which cleans up the foul water coming out of the production line.

The algae itself can then be harvested and dried to be turned into speciality animal feed for Koi fish, abalone, rainbow trout or even chickens, thereby giving the tannery a useful by-product which could become a second business.

The algae has also attracted a flock of elegant, pink visitors - flamingos which migrate annually from higher up in Africa.

The flamingos too feast on the algae which is high in protein, vitamin B and Beta Carotene.

In fact, algae like this is grown commercially overseas for use in health tablets manufactured for human consumption and selling at around R60 a kilogram in its raw form.

The Wellington plant is able to produce agricultural grade algae, which has been found to be clear of any toxic effects, for between R12 and R20 a kilo.

An industry that might benefit is the commercial abalone (or perlemoen)



Green gold: Gary Collison, effluent treatment foreman at the Wellington tannery, with the dried algae which can be used to feed perlemoen

industry. Abalone are grown near Hermanus for the Far East market. They are fussy feeders, but the algae appears to make the grade.

Kevin Dunn, technical manager at the plant, explains that the algae was first noticed at the tannery about 10 years ago by Rhodes University.

This led researchers to consider how to create the right conditions to help the algae to thrive thereby solving the waste-water problem. Water Affairs

and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal has given the tannery a pat on the back for developing the system which could be used elsewhere in Africa.

Mr Dunn says that tanneries have always had a difficult relationship with towns because of their smell, and were even located outside the city walls in ancient times.

Recent pressure has even led certain tanneries to close in Europe.

Because of this, tanneries have been

searching for ways of cleaning up their act. His next task is now to look at other parts of the production process to see if cleaner technologies can be introduced higher up the line.

One possible area will be finding a useful purpose for the solid waste which comes out of the process, mostly hair coming off the beef hides.

At the moment, this waste is dried and put into a landfill, but it could be turned into a soil conditioner.



CREEPY: Water hyacinth chokes a bay on Lake Victoria. The plant is capable of doubling its surface area every 20 days

Strangled to death by an alien invader

Africa's largest freshwater lake and the people around it face disaster, reports DAVID GOUGH

ST 30/11/97

LAKE VICTORIA, the world's second largest freshwater lake, is being choked by water hyacinth, which threatens an environmental disaster of unprecedented proportions.

Lake Victoria has already suffered the devastation of the voracious Nile perch, introduced in the 60s, which wiped out many of the native fish species and depleted stock.

Pollution from agricultural run-off and various water-side industries has added to the lake's woes. But the exponential growth rate of the hyacinth could be the worst disaster yet.

It threatens to destroy the economies of the three countries bordering the lake — Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya — wipe out their fishing industries, severely disrupt trade and cause fatal epidemics on the lake's shores.

The water hyacinth, believed to have been introduced to the lake accidentally, already covers almost 800km² of Victoria, which

Picture: CHARLES NORMAN

is the size of Switzerland. It is believed the plant is capable of doubling its surface area every 15 to 20 days.

Fertilisers from the land and raw sewage pumped into the lake assist the hyacinth's growth.

Those who live on the shores are being forced to abandon their lands and boats and find other sources of income.

In Kenya alone, 500 000 people depend on fishing, and that number is growing all the time. The Kenyan government has sought in recent years to attract investment to the fishing industry.

Samuel Odhiambo, a Kenyan who has fished Lake Victoria since he was 13, first noticed the weed 18 months ago.

"Last year, the problem was slight and my revenue was not affected. I could expect to earn 600 shillings (about R28) a day from my catch. But as the weed was spread, my earnings have fallen dramatically to 200 shillings (about R9,60) a day.

"I have four fishermen in my boat, all of whom have families to support. How can our families live on 50 shillings (R2,40) a day?"

The plant has already closed many of the bays on the Kenyan side of the lake. In Rakwaro Bay, the entire village, which had about 200 fishermen plus dependants, has been abandoned.

Uganda, the country worst affected, has long had one of the largest freshwater fishing industries in the world. Kenya only recently came to realise the potential of its inland fisheries.

In the past two years, six fish-processing plants opened on the Kenyan shores. Last year, these accounted for a 30 percent increase in revenue from lake fishing, earning Kenya about R240-million in exports.

Despite the increase in revenue, the tonnage of fish caught in the same period fell by 15 percent, and Mathias Wafula, the Kenyan assistant director of fish-

Ignorance helps spread the seeds of catastrophe

WATER hyacinth poses widespread problems in South Africa as the weed is found in rivers and dams in every province, writes **ANDREW UNSWORTH.**

Hennie Bosman, the deputy director of water-loss control in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, says: "Recent surveys of the Vaal River between the Barage and the Bloemhof dams show that there is actually less weed for this time of year than there has been for three years, but it is there."

"The problem is made worse by public ignorance as it is moved by people, even sold at the side of roads as a garden plant. When they tire of it or it gets too big they put it in streams rather than kill it."

"We are trying to get rid of the plant by all means but need the co-operation of all landowners who have water in dams and rivers."

Dr Stefan Nesor of the Plant Protection Research Institute in Pretoria says four insects have been introduced to help control the hyacinth, along with four diseases and one mite species. Two more insects and a rust disease which attacks leaves are still being tested under quarantine.

"We have found that natural controls do exert pressure on the plants in four to six years, where they are not subject to flooding. Biological control is effective, as with other water weeds like water lettuce, but integrating

it with existing chemical controls is the problem as the harm done to insects by the chemicals is excessive."

Nesor says the water hyacinth is seen as a symptom of enriched water as it thrives on the run-off of nitrogen and phosphorus used in agricultural and domestic fertilisers.

Key areas infected with the weed include the Hartbeespoort Dam, which is sprayed every three months, and the Olifants River below it, where the problem is worse; the Vaal River in the Parys area below the Vaal Dam; the Umgeni catchment area and dam in Kwa-zulu Natal; through the Eastern Cape and along the coast through Knysna and Stellenbosch to the Cape Flats.

The water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) was imported from South America as an ornamental water plant. It has a beautiful blue flower, but has become the most expensive aquatic weed in the world.

While there is little inland fishing to threaten in South Africa, the weed remains a huge problem. It uses up water by increasing the area of transpiration and it impedes navigation and sports activities.

By cutting off the supply of light to deeper water, it affects the entire planktonic life cycle of dams and rivers, including fish.

The plant's only positive attribute is that it thrives on pollution, including sewage, and so cleans water.

eries, believes the drastic reduction in the size of the catch will next year start to offset the growth in exports.

"We conservatively estimate that our earnings for 1997 will fall by at least 12 percent," he said.

Trade between Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya is also threatened because ships are unable to dock in ports overrun by the plant.

But perhaps the greatest threat is to the health of people living on the lake's shores, some of the most densely populated land in Africa.

Experts suggest the plant's spread may be linked to an increase in malaria, bilharzia and cholera, an epidemic of which is sweeping the Kenyan shores.

The director of the Kenya Medical Research Institute says: "We can say with some confidence that the water hyacinth has led to an increase in cases of bilharzia, as we know that the snail that carries the bilharzia parasite is partial to the hyacinth."

"Malaria and cholera are more difficult to ascertain. The greatest problem is that there has been no research carried out. There is political reluctance to correlate the hyacinth and disease for fear of creating panic."

Kenyan, Ugandan and Tanzanian representatives met in the US last year to co-ordinate policy on combating the plant and the World Bank agreed on a loan of \$45-million (about R216-million).

Now they are experimenting with methods of control.

The Kenya Agricultural Research Institute believes the answer is to introduce the Neochetina beetle, thought to be the hyacinth's natural combatant. It estimates there is already a seed bank in the lake with a dormancy period of up to 30 years. It would take three to five years for the beetle to check the hyacinth's growth. And given the plant's predicted growth rate, this seems to be too little, too late. — © The Telegraph, London

Farmers vs the jumbos

Plans for expanded nature reserve meets with stiff opposition

BRETT ADKINS

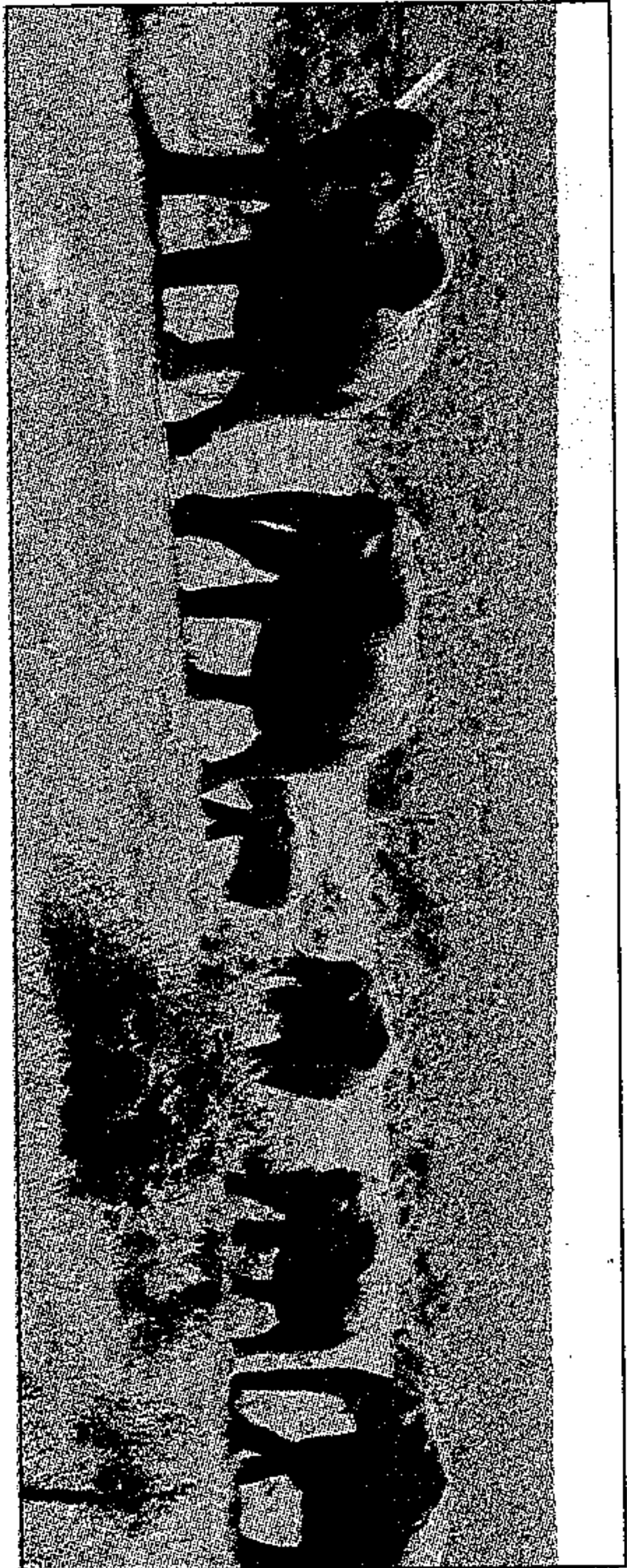
A GROUP of farmers in the Eastern Cape are furious over proposals to expand the Addo National Park into a huge game reserve.

Ecologists believe the enlarged reserve could be a showcase, provide thousands of jobs and attract tourists.

But about 100 farmers whose lands border or overlap the proposed boundaries say that livelihoods will have to be sacrificed and that hundreds of families could be affected by job losses.

The proposed Greater Addo National Park would cover an area of 368 000ha, compared with the current 12 000ha, and encompass the existing Addo National Park, the Tootabie and Woody Cape nature reserves and resuscitate large tracts of degraded farmland.

But the farmers believe the National Parks Board should first use the large area of undeveloped property it already owns in the area which, they say, is a haven for jackals and lynxes which prey on their mohair, sheep and dairy herds.



THE BIG ISSUES : Elephants at the 12 000ha Addo, which is planned for expansion to 368 000ha

The board says it has no intention of imposing its will on any of the affected parties and will seek to please all concerned through negotiations.

One group of farmers has asked for a full economic evaluation of the potential earnings of the Addo scheme against the lost revenue from dairy, sheep and mohair farming.

The Port Elizabeth Dairy Farmers' Union says the reserve would incorporate prime land which cannot be replaced.

"We naturally could not have expected everyone to agree to the proposal," the board's communications head, Fanyana Shiburi, told the Sunday Times. "But through negotiation we're confident that we'll eventually find agreement on it."

The document — produced by the terrestrial ecology research unit at the University of Port Elizabeth and sent to Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Environment and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan — has received

widespread approval in other quarters.

Tourism bosses and conservationists have welcomed the plans to bolster the black rhino and elephant populations, and introduce two prides of lion, which would put the reserve on the international wildlife map.

A 57 000ha marine reserve — incorporating Bird and St Croix islands — would also mean protection for the southern right whale, humpback dolphin and jackass penguin.

A group of 17 Kromme River farmers — whose 9 000ha would be included in the new park — have already thrown their weight behind the proposal, saying it would represent a huge financial boost for the region.

They have expressed their willingness to be bought out — so long as they're not left out of pocket.

"Some farmers see the opportunity of selling as a way of getting out," said Kommadagga farmer Gert Schoombie, one of those opposed to the scheme. "But for the remaining majority it is an absolute nightmare."

"We were totally taken aback when we first heard of this," said Donald Watson, chairman of the Zuurberg Wool and Mohair Growers' Association.

"We feel the parks board has to go into this a lot more carefully. We accept that it is a long-term task but the land it already owns must be properly developed. It has remained fallow for 10 to 15 years while we have had to put up with the vermin that breed there."

He said up to 200 families in the area could be affected if the expansion plans in their present form go ahead.

ST 30/11/97

(56)

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

SA must take sides in gas emission talks

The international meeting on greenhouse gas emissions which opens in Japan today has important consequences for SA, writes Josey Ballenger

(56) BD 11/21/97

DURING the next two weeks SA will enter the negotiating ring in Kyoto, Japan, to help shape internationally recognised and binding targets for developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to prevent global warming.

Not only will the new protocol or other legal instrument have an impact on global industry, trade and investment, but, in the SA and African context, it could translate into technology transfer, much-needed employment growth and a restructuring of industries for global competitiveness.

Because Parliament ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in August — just in time for SA to become a recognised party at this week's Kyoto gathering — SA delegates will join the ranks of 168 other countries to determine the future emissions of developed countries. (Although SA signed the convention in 1993, it had only observer status in previous conferences and talks on the issue.)

The Kyoto conference is considered the biggest event since the Rio de Janeiro summit at which the convention was adopted.

"Climate change issues are global, and any variation in the atmosphere will affect every country and region of the world, which means particularly SA, as we are very vulnerable to climatic fluctuation," says Michael Laign, director of climatology at the SA Weather Bureau and co-chairman of the National Climate Change Committee, of which eight of the 11 SA delegates are members.

"Also, the future trading implications of the mitigation steps taken through the convention will affect all countries, including SA."

"All our industries generate GHGs — especially the mining, metal and energy fields — if they can adopt more efficient methods, it can only be to our benefit in terms of ordinary pollution as well as GHGs, and also through the transfer of technology and (foreign) investment in this country."

ment Hank Roodt says: "It is important to us because developed countries' targets will have an impact on our economy."

Minerals and energy department figures show that SA exported 58,7-million tons of coal — one of the highest carbon-producing fossil fuels — worth R6,5bn in 1995. At the same time, SA is the world's 18th biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, which comprises 80% of global GHG emissions.

Global warming is also important because of agricultural, health and other implications, says delegate Leslie Dikeni, assistant director of the trade and industry department's standards and environment division.

Furthermore, says Dikeni, SA is "obliged, as part of the developing world, to respond to this because it will not only affect us but also our neighbouring countries, and part of our economic/trade programme (with the Southern African Development Community) is that we should seek to help other countries in the region economically as much as possible."

Proposals for gas reduction targets for developed countries range from the European Union's (EU's) 7.5% by 2005, the Group of 77 and China's 35% cut by 2020, Japan's 5% between 2008 and 2012, the small island nations' 20% rollback by 2005, the Russian Federation's 3% by 2010, and (weakest of all) the US "cap" of 1990 levels between 2008 to 2012.

SA finds itself — in an unusual alliance with Germany, Brazil and Singapore — promoting a 15% "Annex I" reduction by 2010. "We are in the middle, but flexible," Laign says.

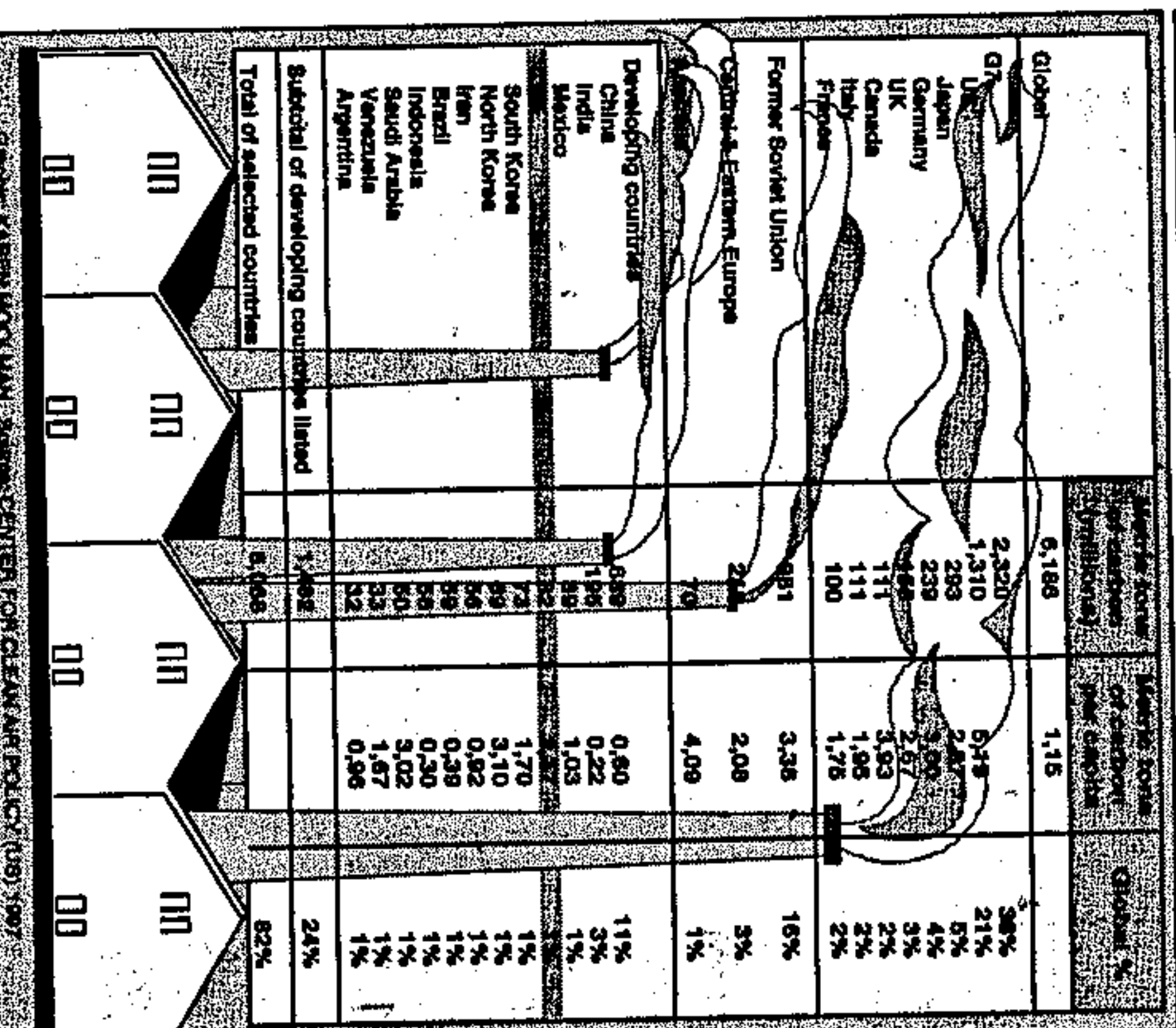
Not only will developing countries like SA (categorised as non-Annex I parties) influence the verifiable reduction levels to which industrialised countries will be

committed; they will also affect decisions on implementation.

All of which has huge consequences for SA industry, trade and foreign investment, delegates say. What has not received as much attention is that the Kyoto decisions will set the stage for future negotiations on developing countries' targets — to be hammered out in the next few years.

A power struggle between Annex I (the 24 original Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development members, 11 former Soviet states and the European Union) and non-Annex I parties has emerged ahead of the conference — exemplified by the US's threat that it will not ratify a protocol that does not set out obligations for non-Annex I countries.

Carbon emissions by country in 1991



parties to establish "growth baselines" and "caps" to restrict the growth of future emissions.

This is intended to resolve the potential conflict between limiting emissions and development. If a country's economy is projected to grow by 35% by 2010, for example, it could commit itself to an emissions growth of no more than 25%.

While the Group of 77 and China has already argued against Article 10 on the grounds that a limited number of developing countries would adopt it, thus putting pressure on the others.

The SA delegation has not yet formulated its position, says Cornelius van der Lugt, a foreign service officer in the SA foreign affairs department.

Other issues which, in the short-run, will affect industrialised countries, but in the long-term everyone, concern "differentiation" and "flexibility" — which have been hotly debated between the various industrialised parties, particularly the US and the EU.

Differentiation refers to whether Annex I parties will be able to negotiate their individual emission commitments based on their different circumstances, or whether there will be an across-the-board approach.

Flexibility issues include whether the industrialised nations will be able to "bank and borrow" their emissions (if they do not make, or exceed, their targets), "trade" emissions (in other words, high emitters could buy from low emitters) or receive "credits" through "joint implementation" programmes.

This last issue is of particular concern to the SA delegation, as it involves fears of "neo-colonialism" — how much of a say will developing countries have in these projects? It could also mean emerging countries will be left to undertake more costly measures down the road, on their own.

"There must be strong provisos in place on clear guidelines for implementation," says Dr Lauraine Litter, executive director of the Chemical and Allied Industries Association and a member of the SA climate change committee.

Voluntary option for non-Annex I

Voluntary option for non-Annex I

Call for public debate on Oudekraal

CT 1/12/97

(56)

LOREN KOLEVSOHN

THE National Parks Board will call for greater public participation in the highly politicised Oudekraal development wrangle at a meeting at Kirstenbosch today.

The meeting follows talks between the NPB, City Council, Provincial Government, developers and environmental NGOs, exploring the possibilities of a compromise to prevent a court battle.

But the Oudekraal Crisis Coalition, chaired by Ms Desirée Buirski, is vehemently opposed to any development on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles at Oudekraal.

Buirski claims that the landowner, Mr Kassie Wiehahn, has no right to build on the slopes

and the matter should be settled in court.

According to the City Council, Wiehahn has no development rights, but the provincial authorities say he has.

At today's meeting at Kirstenbosch, Cape National Parks Board project co-ordinator Mr David Daitz will recommend three proposals to the Parks Committee on increasing the involvement of the public in discussions on how to save the land.

Yesterday Daitz said the longer the impasse on the Oudekraal development remained, the poorer the chances were of saving the land for conservation.

"It's a decision for the people of Cape Town. Although the Crisis Coalition is supposed to repre-

sent society, it needs to canvas the issue among people other than its own members.

"The people of the Cape should decide."

The Crisis Coalition, made up of religious, environmental and other concerned groups, maintains that the Parks Committee "is there to look after and advise" on what should be done with the future of Table Mountain and the Peninsula Mountain Chain and not to negotiate with the landowner on behalf of the public.

"It's out of its (the Parks Committee's) jurisdiction (to negotiate).

"We're not prepared to negotiate about a mountain that is irreplaceable with a man who does

not have development rights. Wiehahn must prove his rights in court", said Buirski.

She added that although the Crisis Coalition and the parks board are allies, the only way "was to get tough and to follow the law. Wiehahn must go to court".

Daitz said yesterday that Oudekraal was probably the single most valuable and contentious piece of land on the Cape coast.

"This land is under threat and we need to secure its safety.

"We must create a process which calls for public meetings.

"It is an issue which has created a lot of public protest, but the process has not been taken to a forum where the public has had a direct say."

● See Page 8

How the Parks Board sees Oudekraal

(56) ET 1/12/97

THERE HAS been much debate around the proposed development of Oudekraal. **DAVID DAITZ**, co-ordinator of the Table Mountain Project, National Parks Board, maps out the board's role and concerns.

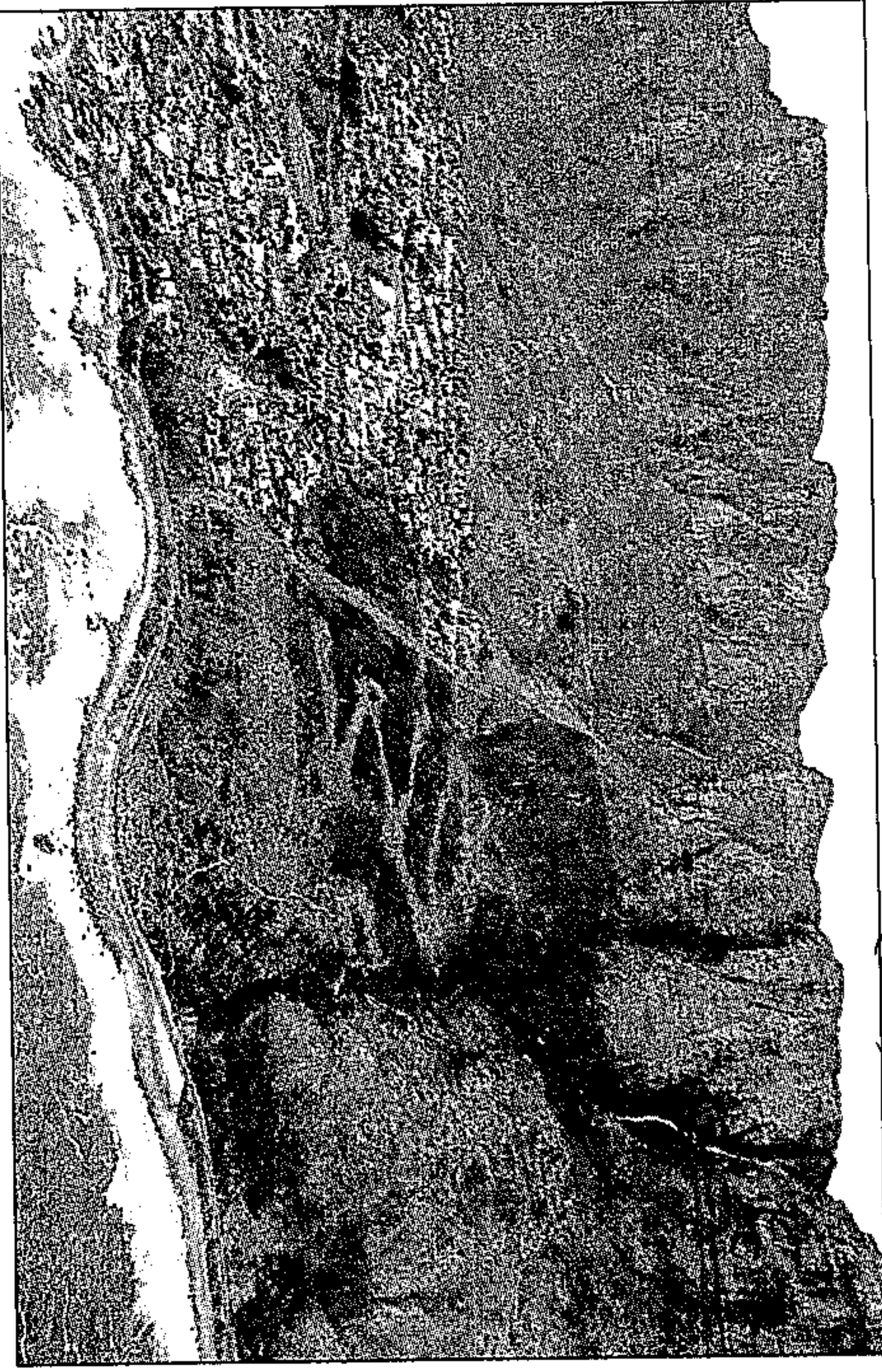
IN ALL Cape Times coverage of the proposed development at Oudekraal there is an important voice that has yet to be heard — that of the National Parks Board.

The NPB believe that the Oudekraal land will only be saved for conservation by negotiating a trade-off deal with the owners of the land. Their reasoning is given below.

All the undeveloped land at Oudekraal, between Camps Bay and the Apostle Battery, is privately owned. Only the remainder of the original farm Oudekraal, which lies between the base of the cliffs of the Twelve Apostles and the sea along the boundary of the state land, is within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

□ **Mandate for inclusion:** the NPB regards the UCT report and the final report of the Huntley Committee as conferring on it a publicly approved mandate to work towards the inclusion of the Oudekraal land into the national park being created. More specifically, the UCT report emphasises the need for the remaining crest-to-coast landscapes on the Cape Peninsula to be preserved. The Huntley report refers to this land under the term Oudekraal which, although not as explicit as is desirable in its description of the land, could not be referring to any land other than that which is described above.

□ **Legal position:** The NPB's view is that the township approval given by the Administrator of the Cape Province under the Township Ordinance No 33 of 1934, since repealed, is incurably defective. There is conflicting legal opinion on this point and until the matter is tested in the courts, there is no certainty as to which opinion is correct. Such testing can occur either by way of the Cape Town Municipality seeking a declaratory order from the court, in which they have no direct interest in obtaining and which, in any event, would not be tactically wise for them to do so, or the other party, the Wiehan Family Trust, can pursue their rights by asking the court to overturn the municipality's decision in refusing to approve their engineering services plan. For so long as neither action occurs, the matter remains in a legal



OUDEKRAAL: The rugged area surrounding the excavated roads has been marked for the controversial Oudekraal development. According to the National Parks Board, the Oudekraal land can only be saved for conservation by negotiating a trade-off deal.

limbo in which the conservation status of the land remains unresolved.

In the event of the NPB interpretation (given above) being correct, then the owner still has certain rights. Under the rural zonation of the land, there is a right to build one residential dwelling on each subdivision plus two labourers' cottages. The owner may engage in agricultural activities or he may transform the landscape by way of gardens. There is no legal obligation for the owner to retain the natural plant cover. Furthermore, in terms of the Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO), the owner may apply for rezoning and sub-divisional rights. Such application would have to be subjected to integrated environmental management. The local authority is obliged to apply its mind to any application received. Therefore, the outcome of any application cannot be predicted with certainty.

□ **Why negotiate?** From the above it is perfectly clear that the ball is very much in the owner's court.

Why not leave it there and play a waiting game? The answer depends on the exercise of judgement, a process which is subjective, by definition. The rationale below articulates the NPB's stance in this matter.

Clearly, this is an issue of considerable public concern and the NPB will be guided by the public sentiment as expressed by the committee. It cannot be argued that the inclusion of the Oudekraal land into the Cape Peninsula National Park is a necessity from a biological point of view. In terms of the scenic landscape and its cultural/historical significance, the area is a treasure which deserves our very best endeavours to save it and to which the greatest threat is, undoubtedly, development. The NPB's argument for seeking a negotiated solution is as follows:

1. The annals of legal history are littered with examples of cases which were considered watertight but were lost on the day in court. Clearly, the owner taking the matter to court creates a win everything

lose everything scenario seen from a conservation point of view. In addition, a victory for conservation does not secure the status of the land for conservation at all. It only means that the township rights acquired by the owner in 1957 are not valid.

2. The pressure on land for development in the Cape Metropolitan Area can only increase over time, more particularly so on the Peninsula itself. This is a key argument for conferring Schedule 1 status on as much of the conservation land as possible, as soon as possible, and for acquiring World Heritage Site status at the first opportunity.

3. The value of the Oudekraal land is obviously determined by the rights which attach to it. For these purposes, it is assumed that the disputed township rights do not exist. Under this assumption it is difficult to estimate the value of the land, but a strong case could be made that the value exceeds R100-million. In the event of the miraculous becoming a reality and the NPB receiving a donation tomorrow, specifically for the acquisition of conservation land in the Cape Peninsula, the project team would have to seriously consider the priorities and the value for money that such a donation could achieve.

An extremely superficial exercise reveals immediately far more pressing priorities for acquisition than the Oudekraal land. All the privately owned land along Plateau Road and Noordhoek wetlands comes to mind immediately.

4. Finally, although the NPB has a long and happy association with generous benefactors, it deems it inadvisable to strategise on the basis of their unforwarned appearance. It is extraordinarily unlikely that the NPB would be able to generate the funds required to acquire the Oudekraal land within a time frame which would succeed in saving the area from development. In any event, stacked against the highest national priorities for a call on the order of funds involved here, this property does not bear further consideration.

The inescapable if somewhat unpalatable conclusion is that the Oudekraal land will only be saved for conservation by negotiating a trade-off deal. Such deals do not result in perfect solutions, but they do have the potential to deliver most of the land into a conservation status in perpetuity.

While this situation is significantly more complicated than that of Sandy Bay, for many well-known reasons, there is reason to believe that a deal is possible.

How the Parks Board sees Oudekraal

(62) CT 1/12/97

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Parks board wants trade-off with Oudekraal

(56) ART

THE NATIONAL Parks Board believes it should negotiate a deal for Oudekraal with its owner, Mr Kassie Wiehahn. The committee of members of the public who advise the board says it should not as the city council believes Wiehahn does not have development rights. Environment writer **MELANIE GOSLING** presents the arguments.

THE National Parks Board wants most of the Oudekraal property to be included in the future Cape Peninsula National Park.

It believes the only way to achieve this is to negotiate a trade-off whereby Oudekraal's owner, Mr Kassie Wiehahn, may develop a portion of the land if he gives the remainder to the parks board.

The parks board believes it should not play a waiting game until Wiehahn seeks a court ruling on the validity of his development plans. Its reasons are:

● Many "watertight" cases have gone to court and been lost — and this could happen with Oudekraal. Even if the court ruled that Wiehahn's 1957 development rights were invalid, the parks board would not acquire the land for the park. Wiehahn would still have ownership of the land and could submit fresh plans that could be passed.

● As the demand for land grows, the

chances of Oudekraal's being saved for conservation will diminish.

● The parks board cannot afford to buy Oudekraal, which could be worth more than R100 million. The board says that even if a "miracle donation" came its way to buy land on the Peninsula for the future park, it would not spend this in buying Oudekraal. There are "far more pressing priorities" for purchase that would take precedence over Oudekraal.

● Oudekraal is zoned as rural, which means Wiehahn could legally put up one residential building and two labourers' cottages on each of the four portions that make up the property. He does not need rezoning permission to build 12 dwellings between Camps Bay and Apostles Battery — and "single residential" buildings can be huge.

● Wiehahn is under no legal obligation to maintain the natural vegetation.

He could plough the property and establish agriculture or gardens.

● If Wiehahn were to submit fresh development plans, the local authority might approve them. If the local authority turns them down, Wiehahn could appeal to the provincial authorities — and no one knows what decision would be taken.

● Wiehahn is privately wealthy and under no financial pressure to develop Oudekraal. He could leave the land to his children and it could lie dormant for decades.

This would raise further potential problems:

● Oudekraal could be occupied by squatters.

● Future governments could expropriate unoccupied land from landowners for low-cost housing. Oudekraal would be lost to conservation.

"We share a common objective with many non-government organisations to save Oudekraal from development, but we do not agree on the way to get there," says the parks board's co-ordinator of the future park, Mr David Daitz.

"I'm a pragmatist. I believe in doing what's practical. Even though I believe the legal opinion that says Wiehahn does not have development rights, I do not believe in saying: 'Right, we have him over a barrel, the ball's in his court.'"

"We believe it doesn't matter whether he has rights — there is nothing to be gained for conservation by leaving that land in limbo. Trade-off deals are not perfect solutions ... but if a trade-off is the only way we see to get most of this land into the future park and National Parks Board ownership, this would mean Oudekraal would be conserved for generations to come."

THE cry from many quarters of the public has been: "Don't negotiate on Oudekraal!"

This opinion is held by the Oudekraal Crisis Coalition, representing about 25 non-government organisations, and the Cape Peninsula National Park Committee.

This committee, comprising 15 people nominated by the public, was set up to ensure that the people of Cape Town would have a say in the National Park Board's running of the future Cape Peninsula National Park.

The crisis coalition says it is not prepared to consider a trade-off while there is no clarity about the legal rights of the Oudekraal owner, Mr Kassie Wiehahn.

It says if he wishes to develop the property, he must go to court to establish if he has development rights. Until it has been proved he has, there is nothing to negotiate and he has nothing to trade.

The Cape Peninsula National Park Committee turned down a recommendation this week that it support the National Parks Board in its desire to negotiate a deal with Wiehahn. Committee members say:

● The public will regard their handling

of the Oudekraal as an indication of how they will deal with future issues. If they go against public opinion, they could lose credibility.

● The city council has said Wiehahn has no development rights and any action should be taken by the council, as the relevant authority, and not the parks board.

The committee said although it had resolved not to give the parks board the go-ahead to negotiate, it would "take note" of the public opinions expressed in consultations and at a public meeting.

Legally, the parks board does not have to heed the committee, which has only an advisory role. However, the parks board has said it will abide by its decision as the committee represents the public of Cape Town.

The board will go ahead with the new park only with the support of the public. Without this support, the parks board would drop moves to negotiate a deal to include Oudekraal land in the future park.

● Phone Teleletters at (021) 488-4722 between 10am and noon today to say if you think the National Parks Board should negotiate a deal for Oudekraal.

3/12/97

OWNER

ECOTOURISM

New scheme targets the middle market

(56)

FM 5/12/97

Developer accuses the Natal Parks Board of being both a player and the referee in row over new nature project

The Natal Parks Board has been accused of using its privileged position as conservation adviser to the provincial government to block a multi-million rand foreign investment in ecotourism which would compete with its own facilities.

Consultant Chris Raleigh says a R45m scheme to establish Weavers Nature Park, 20 km from Hluhluwe in northern KwaZulu-Natal with 120 sectional title bush camps on 425 ha, was given the provincial government nod.

It was being rubber stamped when an 11th hour intervention by the parks board halted the process.

Peter Wright of RMS Colliers, the development company behind the Weavers, says he is concerned about the bureaucratic delays affecting the project.

Though he declines to point a finger at the parks board he comments in principle: "My belief is that the board should be restricted to handling conservation matters rather than being an operator," he says.

Board assistant director Andrew Montgomery denies any intervention.

He says the board, as one of many stakeholders, has forwarded its comments to the authorities, but does not have any undue sway over the planning process.

This fails to convince Raleigh who stands by his allegations of parks board interference.

He maintains the Department of Local Government consults the board on applications because it doesn't have its own conservation specialists.

And he argues that "the board should recuse itself when schemes like this could be in competition with its own facilities," he says.

On the merits of the scheme, Montgomery believes more detailed research is needed to establish the project is sustainable.

Raleigh points out the sustainability of ecotourism was the basis of the case against mining in the area. He argues the real reason for the objection is that the development is targeted at middle class SA

tourists (families in the R50 000-R70 000/year income bracket) rather than the wealthy foreign and domestic tourists normally targeted by private developers. This is the market catered for by most of the parks board facilities — the market in which it has faced little competition.

The scheme, which will provide 600 beds, will be one of the few self-catering facilities outside the communal ones offered by the parks board, "while the luxury end of the market is oversubscribed," says Raleigh.

Montgomery has bad news for Raleigh. He says in terms of new national environmental management process regulations, Weavers will also have to be approved by the Traditional & Environmental Affairs Department under which the parks board falls.

Herb Payne

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ESTATE DUTY AND ANNUITIES

Protecting your heirs

An amendment to tax law preserves the attractions of living annuities

One of the most successful financial products to hit the markets in recent years has been the "living annuity" (also known as the equity-linked annuity).

The rapid increase in individuals obliged by tax law to take out "compulsory purchase annuities" when retiring from a pension or retirement annuity fund exposed the appalling returns offered by life insurers on conventional annuities.

This presented a wonderful opening for astute financial innovators — which they grabbed with both hands. Initial success caused a rash of imitators, and these products are now firmly established in the marketplace.

In the October 1997 issue of its *Tax Letter*, KPMG tax director Gavin Goldman writes that one of the most attractive features of a living annuity is the preservation of any balance left on the death of annuitants for the benefit of their heirs (more technically, nominated beneficiaries).

The Estate Duty Act excludes, from the dutiable value of a deceased estate, annuities payable by a pension or retirement annuity fund — provided the product conforms to the usual Income Tax Act requirements for a compulsory purchase annuity.

The pioneers of living annuities got confirmation from Inland Revenue that their products — provided they kept within certain limits in paying out benefits — conformed with the definition.

But the wording in the Act was deficient in relation to estate duty exemption. It didn't cater for the situation where the retiring member bought an annuity from an institution other than the one where the pension or retirement annuity had been built up. This is frequently the case with a living annuity.

The issue has been put beyond doubt, by an amendment to the Estate Duty Act, passed during this year's parliamentary session. It refers to annuities provided by a fund, regardless of whether that fund was the institution to which the pension or retirement annuity contributions had been paid.

It became effective on July 4 1997.

Robin Friedland

Surf's up, but water gets thumbs down

Tests have given new meaning to 'seasick', writes ISABEL JONES

(56) ST# 7/12/97

SOUTH African beaches are safe for swimming, but don't swallow any sea water in Durban. That's the finding of a Sunday Times/South African Bureau of Standards survey of sea water at our main coastal resorts.

The scientific tests found sea water in Durban contained enough diluted sewage and bacteria to give swimmers diarrhoea, gastro-enteritis and mild infections if swallowed.

The bacteria along the city's Golden Mile were discovered during testing by the microbiology division of the SABS in ankle-deep surf three weeks ago.

The tests found that Port Elizabeth had the cleanest seas. Next cleanest was East London, followed by Cape Town.

Durban had the highest levels of bacteria, but its beaches are still well within European Community safety limits. EC regulations on sea bathing allow for a maximum limit of 2 000 faecal coliforms per 100ml of sea water. Durban measured 750 per 100ml. The presence of faecal coliforms shows there are traces of human excrement in the water.

Bloubergstrand in Cape Town had seven faecal coliforms, Orient Beach in East London had four and Hobbie Beach in Port Elizabeth only one per 100ml.

But the tests were full of hidden nasties for those people who bottled Durban sea water to use as a "traditional muti", or accidentally swallowed it.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry recommends that drinking water contains no faecal coliforms at all.

	Total bacterial count/100ml	Total coliform/100ml	Faecal coliform/100ml
EAST LONDON	9 800	38	4
CAPE TOWN	10 400	93	7
DURBAN	44 000	4 600	750
PORT ELIZABETH	9.8	1	1

That made Durban sea water more than seven hundred times over the department's standard for drinking.

Worse, Durban sea water did not fare well in the test for coliform bacteria. This count gives a measure of risk—the higher the numbers of bacteria, the higher the risk of contracting an infection of the throat, ear or urinary tract.

The Durban sample held 4 600 of these bacteria per 100ml. Our recommended coliform bacteria count per 100ml of drinking water is zero or a maximum of five. Durban was 920 times higher than the maximum limit.

The Durban sample was taken about 3km from the Umgeni River mouth and 4km from the harbour mouth. There was no visible sediment in the water. In Durban, pollution can enter the sea from the harbour as well as the Umgeni River.

The East London sample was taken at Orient Beach, close to the harbour and the mouth of the Buffalo River, which runs through the former Ciskei and the Mdantsane settlement. The Port Elizabeth sample was taken at Hobbie Beach,

and Cape Town's at Bloubergstrand.

Hendrik Petrick, manager of the SABS's microbiology division, said bacteria counts did vary with the seasons.

Counts also depended on the release of sewage into the sea. During peak tourist months more sewage is generated and pumped. Rain also washes more faecal material into rivers and, eventually, the sea.

Petrick said the test results were low compared to EU standards. But the presence of faecal coliform bacteria showed there was a potential health risk, particularly for children, the elderly and immune-compromised people.

South African beaches rated better than many foreign beaches.

Of 478 sea water bathing samples tested in the UK, more than 50 did not comply with EC safety limits. In Italy, 297 of 4 688 samples did not meet the limits. And in France, 85 of the 1 846 samples failed to meet the safety limits.

Dr Andrew Robinson, Durban's deputy medical officer of health, was surprised at the faecal count.

"Durban has carefully monitored the beaches since 1972, with tests being done on a quarterly basis, and monthly in some instances—with the results being positive." He felt additional funding would provide for sanitation infrastructures which would cure the problem of sewage from informal settlements.

Durban's water sampling and testing is done by the CSIR in the city. When contacted, the CSIR there said heavy rains before the test and sea currents could have influenced the result. It said our Durban test could not be considered conclusive as it was a random sample and the level could alter fairly rapidly.

FACT FILE

THE Sunday Times tests were carried out by the microbiology division of the SABS, which has laboratories in Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria and Walvis Bay. Petrick headed the investigations.

Samples in transit were kept cool, and bacteriological and virological examinations were undertaken as soon as practically possible after sampling took place. The samples were tested in accordance with SABS 221-1990—Bacteriological quality of water.

Virological examination can be performed by the CSIR in Pretoria.

Any information on these tests can be obtained by phoning Petrick, SABS, (012) 428-6171/2/3 or fax: (012) 344-1568 or E-mail: hendrik@sabs.co.za.

Communities warned not to drink unpurified water

By PRISCILLA SINGH
Health Reporter

Communities as far afield as Bronkhorspruit, Magaliesberg, Nigel, Heidelberg and the Vaal have been warned not to use unpiped, unpurified river water because of the risk of getting cholera.

The health department has embarked on a widescale education campaign to inform residents in rural areas of the hazards of drinking contaminated water. These regions have been identified as communities "at risk".

Gauteng has been on a cholera alert since the massive outbreak in Mozambique two months ago.

Johan van den Heever, deputy director of Aids and communicable diseases in the Gauteng health department, said the department expected less than 5% of Gauteng's population to be at risk.

Informal settlements in which water supplies periodi-

ally broke down were especially in danger.

So far, only one cholera patient - a Mozambican - has been treated in Gauteng, but an initial assessment that the province would experience a limited number of cases from people outside the province seeking treatment had been confirmed.

The department has focused its efforts on the use of safe water in communities at risk in each of the province's 25 health districts, and is educating them to use piped water and to purify river water with bleach.

Small, recently established informal settlements which do not have piped water, and small groups of people living along rivers outside these settlements, will also be targeted.

Van den Heever said the department is emphasising public education on oral dehydration therapy for diarrhoea and our strategy is to prepare clinic and hospital workers for treating cholera.

Atomic corporation denies any spillage at plant

Deborah Fine

RESIDENTS in the Hartbeespoort Dam/Broedersroom area are concerned that recent telephonic surveys conducted by the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) could mean the spillage of radioactive or dangerous chemical waste had occurred at its Pelindaba site near Pretoria.

AEC chief public relations officer Lola Patrick said yesterday that there had been no such spillage.

She said AEC had been forced to undertake the telephonic surveys after only 147 households of 357 within 5km

of the site had failed to complete written questionnaires designed to provide vital demographic information which could be used to assess danger levels in the unlikely event of a large radioactive leak.

Residents said yesterday they had been telephoned by AEC employees who wanted to know how many people lived on the premises, whether they grew vegetables or kept cattle and if they had access to underground water supplies on their properties.

The residents claimed AEC had not provided a proper explanation as to the reason for the questions.

AEC was forced to undertake clean-up operations last year following a spill of radioactive waste when metal drums containing medical waste, natural uranium traces and contaminated equipment were broken during excavations at the Pelindaba site.

The site in question is used for research projects as well as for the manufacturing of radioactive and chemically based products.

Commenting further on the surveys, Patrick said the AEC was obliged by the Council for Nuclear Safety to maintain and regularly update a database on the population surround-

ing the site and use the information to plan emergency and preventative strategies in the event of a radioactive or chemical release.

The information enabled AEC to forecast how many people could be affected by such a release, and the environmental implications, she said.

In the unlikely event of a catastrophe, AEC needed to know how many people would have to be evacuated from the area.

"We are obliged to demonstrate to the council that in an emergency we will be able to embark on effective, protective action," she said.

FD 8/16/97

(56)

Move to save Cape hotspots

CT 10/12/97

(56)

ENDANGERED PARTS of the Cape Floral Kingdom are getting political attention, reports Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING**.

LOCAL politicians and officials have taken up the challenge by botanists to try to save Cape Town's 15 "hotspots" — tiny pockets of indigenous vegetation which have survived urbanisation but which have a dicey future.

Environmentalists say if nothing is done to save these sites, many of which contain plants found nowhere else in the world, they soon could be lost for ever.

Earlier this year the Botanical Society of South Africa issued a report identifying the hotspots, some of the last remnants of sandplain fynbos and strandveld which once covered most of the Cape Flats. Already 99% of sandplain fynbos, which is different from mountain fynbos, has been wiped out on the Flats.

The botanical society has challenged the authorities and private landowners to give these hotspots adequate conservation status and proper management to ensure they are conserved for posterity.

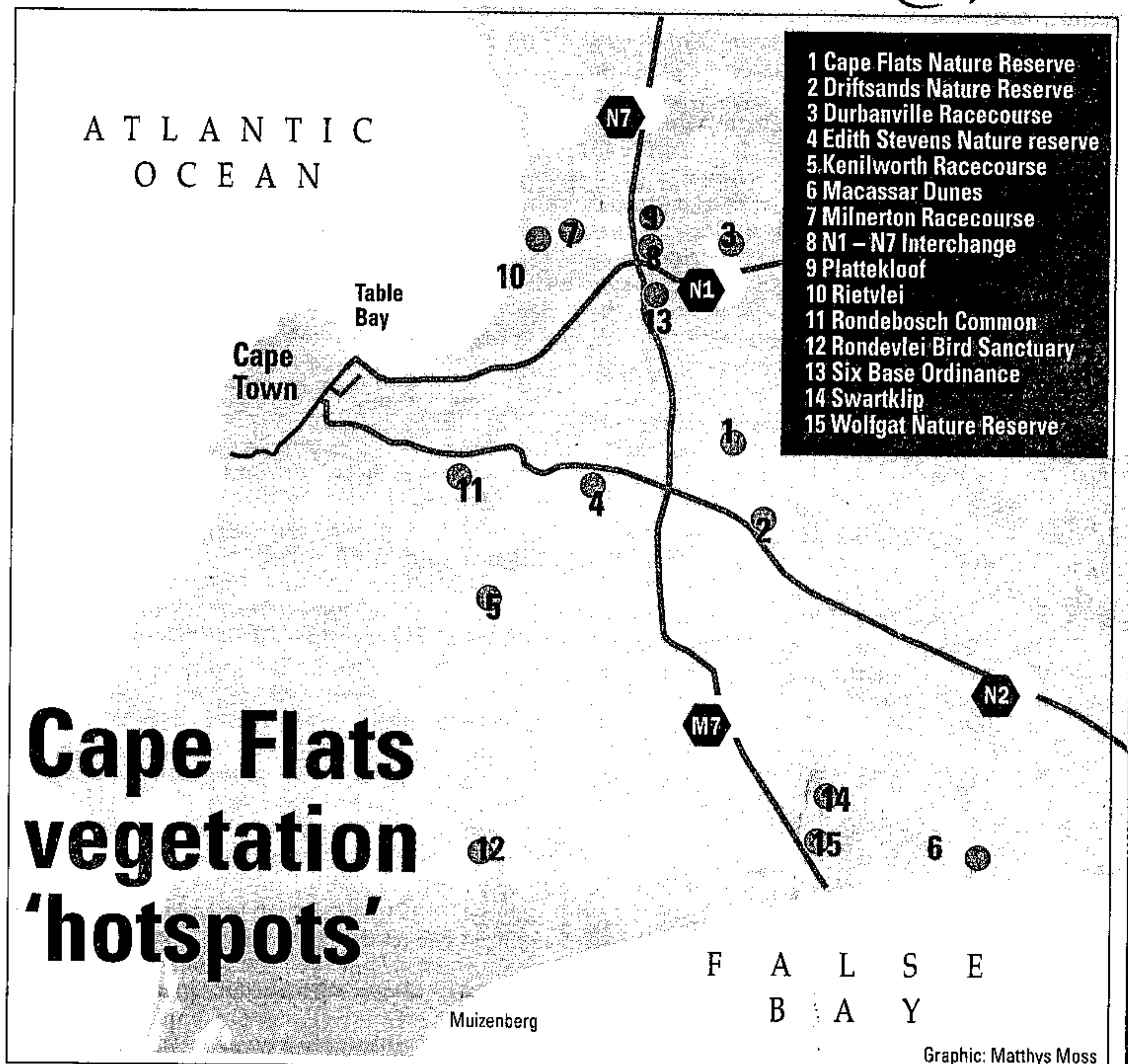
Director of the botanical society, Dr Bruce McKenzie, said they had sent the report to the Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC) and to all six local authorities. So far, the CMC had been the only one to respond officially.

The sites are part of the Cape Floral Kingdom — the richest, smallest and most threatened of the world's six floral kingdoms.

The CMC has taken the botanical society's challenge seriously and has taken a vote to grant R20 000 to extend the society's study.

The CMC organised a tour of the hotspots for its officials and councillors and for representatives from Blaauwberg, Tygerberg, Helderberg and Oostenberg municipalities, so decision-makers could get first-hand knowledge of these sites.

McKenzie said yesterday: "The tour ... meant some politicians were interested enough to take time off to inform themselves about the sites. The next step is to see what the local authorities do



about giving them proper conservation status."

The hotspots were chosen by the botanical society on the basis of distribution of the vegetation type and the rarity of species there.

They varied from Milnerton and Kenilworth racecourses, to Macassar Dunes and the road islands on the N1 and N7 freeway interchange.

The society said if they were not conserved, "irreplaceable losses" would be incurred.

CMC councillor Mr Brian Watkyns said: "The CMC doesn't hold specific responsibility for any of the hotspots, which fall under the local authorities, but we do have overall input into the metropole. But ... these hotspots must be saved and we are putting our money where our mouth is."

The head of CMC's environment department, Mr Stephen Granger, said: "We all talk about our wonderful natural heritage in the Cape Metropole and what an asset it is, but do we really pay it more than lip service?"

"The average person speaks glibly about biodiversity but do they realise its significance? Do they understand our obligations as a signatory of the Biodiversity Convention? We've all got to get together and come to grips with the problems and challenges concerning development and urbanisation. There are strong pressures on this lowland fynbos and strandveld and if we don't hold on to the very little of what's left, it will be gone within the next five years.

He said the study tour symbolised a partnership between offi-

cials, politicians and NGOs all looking at the problem together.

"The next step is to establish a working group to try to implement the recommendations of the botanical society's report."

The hotspots are, in order of conservation importance: Milnerton Racecourse, Rondebosch Common, Macassar dunes, Kenilworth Racecourse, Platteklouf (60ha near Monte Vista, beneath Eskom's power lines), Rondevlei, the road islands at the interchange of the N1 and N7 freeways, Cape Flats Nature Reserve, Wolfgat Nature Reserve, Swartklip (near Strandfontein), Six Base Ordinance (50ha near Wingfield), Edith Stevens Nature Reserve, Driftsands Nature Reserve and Durbanville Racecourse. Development is in the pipeline at both Kenilworth and Milnerton racecourses.

Greens query oil terminal plan

Site off Robben Island wanted for tanker facility

ARC 11/12/97

JOSEPH ARANES
STAFF REPORTER

Plans for a mooring facility for oil tankers off Robben Island and an underwater pipeline in Table Bay linking the site to the Milnerton tank farm have been received cautiously by environmental organisations.

The Strategic Fuel Fund, a subsidiary of the Government's Central Energy Fund, proposes commercialising its fuel storage facilities at the tank farm and using its full capacity.

As part of the project, a ship-loading and discharge facility in Table Bay is

proposed where fuel products are discharged from tankers and transferred by pipeline to the tank farm.

Lynn Jackson of the the Sea Fisheries Research Institute said although a single-point mooring facility tended generally to create a safer environment for the transfer of fuels, the proposals needed to be looked at against broader developments taking place on the coast.

A similar project was mooted for Saldanha Bay harbour and it seemed as if the authorities were looking at these initiatives individually.

"While it is agreed that single-point mooring facilities tend to be generally safe for the environment and there are

less risks involved than with some other options, my concern is that we need to approach the situation in a holistic manner."

Peter Willis of the Environmental Monitoring Group said he did not wish to comment on the proposal as he was not aware of its full implications.

"But it is important that people are made aware of what is being planned.

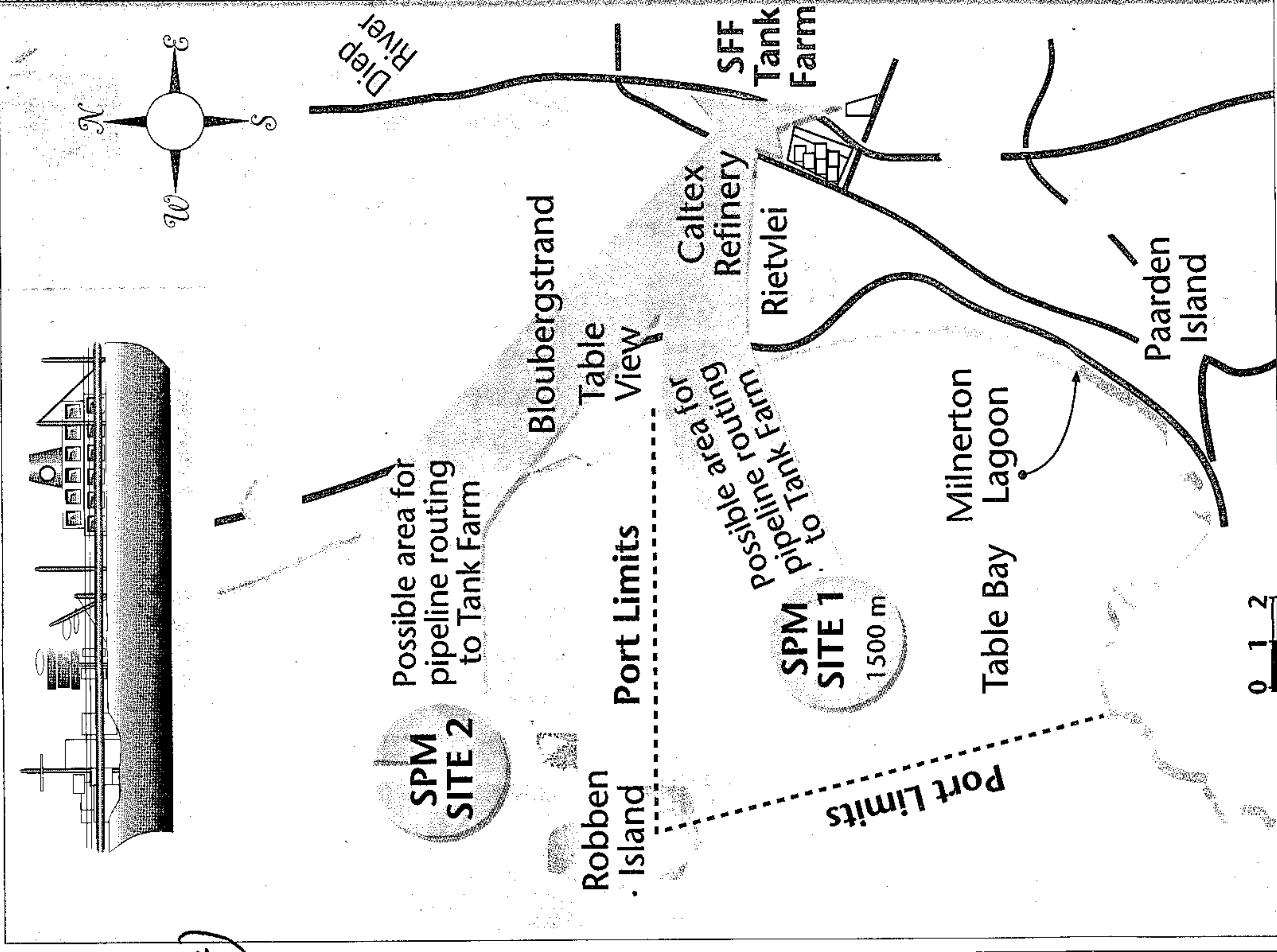
"I don't know enough about oil handling and the accompanying technologies but what is being proposed will add to the risk factor for the management of Table Bay," Mr Willis said.

A consultant for the fuel fund, Jonathan Crowther, said an environmental

impact study would be done by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to assess the project.

"The fuel fund is investigating various opportunities for the storage of white fuels - diesel, petrol and niche market crude oils - utilising the available storage capacity provided by the tank farm. We believe the project, if approved, will have positive economic benefits for the Western Cape, which will be achieved through the wholesale supply of products to retail outlets."

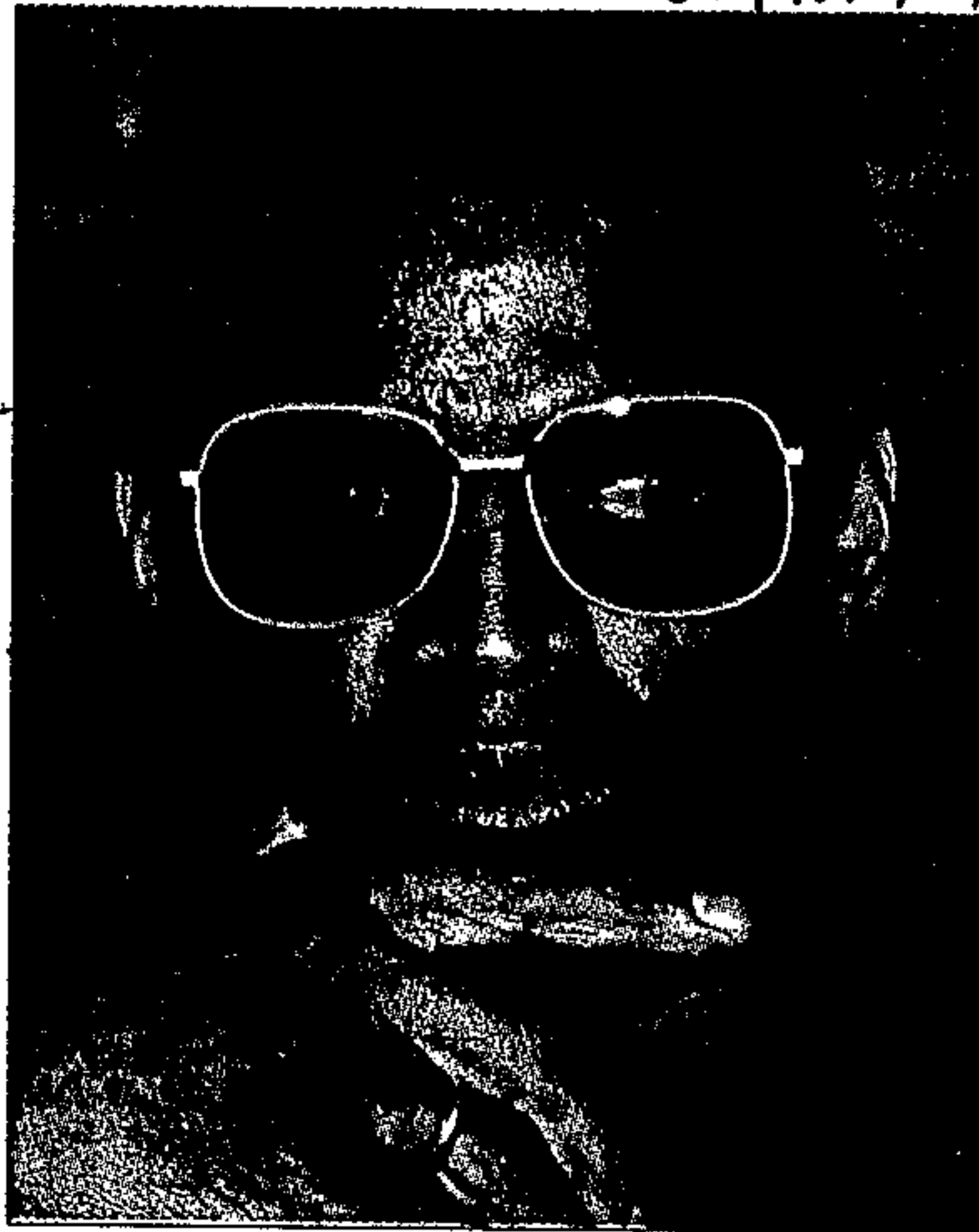
In terms of the proposal a single point mooring facility, at least 3km in length, will be built a few nautical miles north or south of Robben Island.



Casino bids go environmental

ET (PR) 11/12/97

(56)



FAIR GAMING Gauteng MEC Jabu Moleketi

JUDY MOSES

Johannesburg — Gauteng's gaming licences would be granted subject to an agreement to undertake environmental impact studies, Jabu Moleketi, the province's MEC for finance and economic affairs, said yesterday.

He said a new act had made it necessary to assess the environmental implications of any building operation.

Moleketi said the process so far had been "thorough, transparent and fair". He said the sequence of public hearings following the financial review by chartered accountants had been necessary to the "integrity of the process".

Moleketi said the Gauteng Gambling Board hoped to compile a short list of at least eight possible licence recipients by December 19, and would announce the final licence decision in late January next year.

Moleketi announced that, in addition to the casinos, 20 000 additional gambling machines (route operator licences) would be allowed in Gauteng.

INSIDE

Jan Breytenbach, a legend in the former SADF, describes how he discovered that

Slaughter in paradise: SADF

MTG 12-18 | 12/97

(56)

Jonas Savimbi's headquarters was at a place called Jamba, a sort of squatter camp 10km south of the Biongue *omuramba* (flood plain) and about 15km south of the Luiana River.

When journalists went to visit Savimbi they were always shown elephant, zebra, giraffe and other species dotting the Biongue *omuramba* and the adjacent bush. Another pocket of game was to be found around the old Portuguese military post at Luiana. Down the Cuando River as far as the cutline with Namibia one could, with luck, come across pockets of elephants and, of course, the big herd of buffalo that straddled the Angola/Namibia cutline.

Savimbi used these pockets of game as proof that he had a strong and working conservation policy. He also used these areas as a private hunting ground for himself and his friends, especially foreign politicians, generals and economists who could assist him in his war against the MPLA.

The fact that his troops had denuded at least 90% of the vast Cuando Cubango by indiscriminate and often planned slaughtering of all game species is therefore considered a myth, particularly by journalists sympathetic to his cause.

I don't want to discuss the merits of Unita's war against the MPLA or even their efficiency



on his way to the Caprivi to pick up ivory for Military Intelligence.

There are three airstrips in the Caprivi. One is an all-weather tarred runway at Omega, capable of taking virtually any plane. A shortish dirt strip, known as Immelman, served Fort St Michel and Fort Doppies. A third dirt strip served the Military Intelligence installations in the vicinity of Bwabwata.

I came to the conclusion that the ivory was to be flown out of Bwabwata and advised Manie to contact his counterpart in Rundu with a request that he approach a certain colonel who had regular contact with Savimbi. I was of the opinion that the ivory could be a Unita stockpile.

A week or so later Manie, fuming with anger, informed me that he had received a message from this colonel, via an alcoholic middleman, to lay off inquiring about the ivory or else he would get "sorted out".

Now Manie Grobler, although a biologist, is also a nature conservation officer and thus a law enforcement officer. Notwithstanding Manie's position, the army colonel clearly considered himself and the organisation for which he worked to be above the law.

As a military man myself and one who was proud of my profession, I was disgusted that a senior officer should drag the name of the SADF through the mud by ignoring the laws of the country he was fighting for. But his action

as guerrilla fighters. I have seen far too much of their performance on the ground to get excited about their soldier-like qualities. What I do object to, and want to discuss, are the moral issues involved when wild animals are slaughtered to support a war effort.

Bear in mind that apart from vast numbers and a tremendous variety of African savannah game species, the Quando Cubango had nothing else to offer. There were no mines, industries, cities, energy sources or agricultural potential that could be tapped to support Savimbi's long, drawn-out war. The only resource available was the game, particularly the vast herds of elephant and a considerable number of rhinos.

Savimbi considered his fight for his version of democracy to be of greater importance than the continued existence of elephant herds and black rhinos belonging to the scarce Chobiose sub-species.

He started to shoot these two species on an organised basis. The tusks and rhino horns were stockpiled at Jamba, while a means was sought to export the loot to the Far East, particularly Hong Kong.

Savimbi claimed that he had to pay South Africa for its assistance with ivory and diamonds, according to Fred Bridgeland in his book *Jonas Savimbi: The Key to Africa*. However, this is a misrepresentation by Savimbi. I know that the support budgeted by Military Intelligence in 1986/87 amounted to R400-million. I also know that with that money the South Africans bought virtually all Savimbi's military hardware fuel and clothing. The money for supporting Unita came out of the South African taxpayer's pocket.

I am all for a just war, but I have great difficulty in reconciling the justness of war against the wholesales rape of the African savannah's last outpost.

Savimbi might have been a better ruler for Angola than (Eduardo) dos Santos, but then again, he might not. From what I have seen of Africa and experienced at first hand through a whole string of wars in at least six different African countries, an improvement in government does not automatically follow change, which in any event is usually achieved by violent means. More often than not, a change in government ushers in deterioration. Sometimes the new broom will sweep clean for a



Eden's exile: Towards the end of his military career in the late 1980s, Jan Breytenbach (above) was appointed park warden of the Western Caprivi — but when he started making inquiries about the SADF's involvement in smuggling, his appointment was suddenly withdrawn

while, only to lapse into mediocrity on a par with most other governments in Africa.

To sacrifice the last stronghold of the African savannah for the precarious freedoms promised by Savimbi, which would go unnoticed by at least 80% of the Angolan population anyway is, to my way of thinking, utterly despicable and an offence against God's creation.

Then there was the inherent deviousness that formed an integral part of the whole process of getting the ivory to the Hong Kong markets that tended to corrupt those running the operation. In this particular case, the operation resulted in former well-respected officers in the defence force becoming tainted with the rotten smell that permeates the process of smuggling game products.

What really rankled was the calculating way in which those beautiful animals were appreciated by the scheming eyes of South African Military Intelligence officers. To them, an elephant was a huge piece of worthless, mobile meat, carrying towards its front end valuable tusks under its ludicrous, hosepipe nose. These were the same men who thought I had a screw loose because I befriended the big cats. Waxing lyrical about a herd of buffalo or sable was considered tantamount to knocking at the door

of a lunatic asylum. To show emotion over the unnecessary death of a krudu, run down by a speeding truck at night, served only to confirm one's madness.

These were people whose idea of getting close to nature was to have a braai, somewhere in a wild spot along the Quando, with plenty of booze to accompany the feast. If one could do that every night for a week or so, with a spot of hunting thrown in, preferably from the back of a Land Cruiser, one was really communing with nature.

Someone who strolled through the bush, unarmed, following elephant footpaths and spending hours observing the antics of the various animals while coping patiently with tsetse and the pesky little mopane flies, was not considered a red-blooded South African whose roots were embedded in African soil. He was placed on a par with the fanatical Green Peacemakers from Europe and treated with the same derision.

I got my first inkling of what was going on when Manie Grobler cornered me one day and asked if I had any knowledge of several million rands worth of ivory waiting to be picked up from an airstrip in the Caprivi.

I had no knowledge of such a huge cache. Evidently Manie had been approached by a private pilot, who informed him that he was

obviously not right.

began making inquiries and putting together the few facts I could glean. The picture that gradually began to emerge was an ugly one and, at first, I found it hard to believe. Not in my worst nightmare could I have imagined that officers in the SADF would get involved in something that would be worthy of the Mafia.

The eccentric editor of a well-known Windhoek newspaper printed several incredible reports about a Portuguese crime boss, based in Rundu, who ran a smuggling ring operating between southern Angola and South Africa. Week after week, more startling disclosures were made.

The editor himself went to Rundu to investigate persistent rumours about the smuggling ring and ended up in a potentially dangerous confrontation.

The Portuguese had erected a high and sturdy security fence around his property, but somehow, the intrepid journalist managed to get inside. Subsequently, photographs were splashed all over the front page of his newspaper showing a mean-looking Portuguese in a cowboy hat, threatening the editor with a rifle.

All this made good copy, as the newsmen say, but none of it was taken seriously. I laughed with the best of them over the editor's fertile imagination.

But when Manie Grobler told me about the ivory hoard, I began to have second thoughts, especially when a series of unexplained events came to my attention.

There were the accidental deaths of a policeman and a Rundu nature conservator, the only two "outsiders" who knew about the ivory racket at that time. The death of the conservator coincided with the mysterious disappearance of incriminating tapes from his briefcase before nature conservation officials from Grootfontein could retrieve them from the car wreck. Unfortunately, those were the only copies of the tapes in existence.

Then there was a cache of 70 tusks dug up in the kitchen of a Portuguese employee of the Rundu "godfather". He was working on a road being constructed by his boss between Kongola and Lianshulu when he was arrested and his employer lost no time in getting to the court-

Senior citizens of psychedelia

The US gave Alexander

Shulgin a licence to make and study illegal drugs. He and his wife tried them all and published a book of recipes. Ros Davidson reports

It's quite a trip to visit maverick pharmacologist Dr Alexander Shulgin and his collaborator and wife, Ann, at their rustic home in California.

Sasha Shulgin, as he introduces himself, is the proud godfather of Ecstasy, the hit rave drug. A respected chemist, his relationship with the substance started in the 1970s when a colleague sent him the 1912 German patent for what was then a little-known drug called methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

He synthesised and tested the orphan compound — Merck, the drug company, had never used it commercially — and has been raving about it ever since. Three years ago, for example, it was Shulgin's expert testimony that led Spanish authorities to categorise it as one of the least harmful drugs.

Shulgin has invented about a hundred other mind-altering substances, no mean feat since there may only be around 200 synthetics out there, not counting nature's own hallucinogens — magic mushrooms, peyote cacti, toad venom and the red beans of the Arizona and New Mexico Indians, among others. And for decades Sasha (72) and Ann (66), a writer and researcher originally from New Zealand, have also imbibed psychedelics. In the name of science, they have taken assiduous notes on their trips, especially the benefits of mescaline.



bark — DMT, often the source for an intoxicating snuff in the Caribbean and South America — and a mint used by Mexican Indians that he says often gives the user an “out of body” or astral experience. His lab is cobweb-entangled and autumn leaves are piled in the corners. Drawers are crammed with beakers and test-tubes. On the wall near an old fireplace is a Voodoo doll Shulgin says he uses to invoke a certain copper reaction.

What about bad trips? I ask. “Oh, they’re real,” he replies. “Even in the research group, we’d have idiosyncratically sensitive people.” Once, a friend became temporarily paralysed on one of Shulgin’s creations, 5-TOM. “A pretty heavy-duty experience,” says *Pihkal*. “The consensus is that it wasn’t worth the struggle.”

The war on drugs, he says, is a waste of money, more to do with political control, profit-making and fear of the unknown than medical or social concerns. “Is MDMA a dangerous drug?” he fumes. “It’s been used so much in the United Kingdom, and there’s been one death in a million.” “Recreational” heroin at your local off-licence? “It’s highly addictive, but perhaps not quite as much as tobacco,” he says.

Think about recreation, says Ann Shulgin. “Re-creation. Young people grow up in big cities, they have to be so street-wise and untrusting. At a rave, that can drop away, leaving a sense of sharing and commitment with people they just met.”

As if on cue, one of their fellow researchers drops by. Tony Sargent is a retired chemist who used to run radiology experiments at the respected Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He’s now a wine-maker, and is dressed with a casual conservatism — quite a contrast to Shulgin with his Einstein hair and baggy ethnic-patterned shirt.

from increased self-awareness, compassion or spirituality to relaxation and great sex.

Indeed their "Farm", as they jokingly call the shamboic place, has been the site of years of radical group research. After they had worked up a new mind-expanding compound, they would bring in eight or so fellow believers

— from physicians to psychologists, scientists to businessmen — to test it and record their reactions. Until recently, however, the Shulgins were barely known beyond the world of government-controlled psychopharmacology.

For more than 15 years, Shulgin held a rare government licence allowing him to study and synthesize illegal drugs. He has testified as an expert on both sides of drug trials and wrote the classic reference book on American law and drugs, *Controlled Substances: Chemical and Legal Guide to Federal Drug Laws*. Then, six years ago, to the dismay of the authorities, the Shulgins declared their love of psychedelics and belief that all drugs should be legal.

Adamant that their life's work should never disappear, they published a landmark book, the 1,000-page, oddly-titled *Pihkal: A Chemical Love Story*. The acronym stands for *Phenethylamines I Have Known and Loved*, and refers to a drug family that includes Shulgin's beloved and already-illegal Ecstasy or MDMA. It contains recipes for 180 mind-bending chemicals and notes on the "highs", often with artistic references and Ann Shulgin's Jungian take on experience. *Pihkal* gained a cult readership, although the recipes are gobbledygook for amateurs. In its third print run, it has sold more than 21,000 copies, which is remarkable for a self-published book.

The Shulgins are now in the news again. To the fury of drug officials they have just published a second book, *Tihkal: The Continuation*, which covers the "tryptamines" from toad venom and magic mushrooms to LSD. In the first month, they sold 3,500 copies through their Transform Press in Berkeley, a figure boosted by a rave review in New York's *Village Voice*.

At a certain point, they say they will simply publish it on the Internet as they did with *Pihkal*. Their aim is not to make money but to release the psychedelic genie from the bottle by disseminating their know-how irreversibly. They give copies out, only asking you to pass them on to others who might be interested. "It



Labour of love: Dr Alexander Shulgin and his wife, Ann, published a book of recipes for 180 mind-bending chemicals. PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT GUMPERT

can't be exterminated now," says Shulgin.

Perhaps it's not surprising that the late Timothy Leary said the Shulgins are among the century's most important scientists. And Albert Hofmann, the inventor of LSD, is a friend with whom Shulgin co-wrote the introduction to a 1977 book on hallucinogens by Aldous Huxley entitled *Moksha*, from the Hindu term for spiritual awakening.

Drug-induced states, argue the Shulgins, are so intrinsic to human nature that the use of intoxicants such as tobacco, opium, cannabis, coffee or alcohol can be traced back to the dawn of time. They advocate legalising all drugs. It should be a matter for personal choice, they say, something that is taxed but as available as tobacco and booze. Drug-related crime would drop, drug-fighting money would be saved and drug use might even fall without the attraction of illicitness.

The only laws needed, Shulgin says, would be to prevent people driving when high, drugging someone else without their permission, or giving substances to children. Drug users who get into trouble should be helped, not treated like criminals, adds Ann Shulgin, as are people addicted to valium or alcohol.

Has this argument become truly prophetic, a much-needed scientifically informed salvo in a one-sided debate? Perhaps spiritual awakening, relaxation and chemical freedom should be within everyone's grasp, especially since life is so harsh. Or is the Shulgins' view well-intentioned but irresponsible — a sort of heroin chic for middle-class libertarians, another take on André Breton's "derangement of the senses" from two utterly charming but idiosyncratic advocates?

After all William Burroughs, trying to kick

junk, tracked down the psychedelic "ayahuasca" in South America in the hopes of substituting a new addiction. The "yage" ceremonies were like night-long raves. But he later asked if dropping acid is like opening a door: once you've found it why keep reopening it over and over again?

On a sunny afternoon, the Shulgins serve sandwiches and cake on their patio. In the middle of the table, next to the potato salad, is a Bolivian cactus growing in a pot. It's hallucinogenic rather than decorative, something you learn is true of almost every plant within a stone's throw of their house.

Shulgin's pharmaceutical calling came in, of all places, Liverpool. Two decades before the psychedelia of the 1960s, he was in the United States navy and had been whisked to hospital for an emergency operation. "Goofed up" on Royal Navy rum, morphine and barbiturates, he says he was given orange juice and was so convinced he was being re-drugged, he fell unconscious for too long. "It was the ultimate placebo effect," he recalls excitedly.

"I got interested in how you can modify the mind, how you can find out what's going on." For years, Shulgin worked as a scientist at Dow Chemical, although he had taken a psychedelic, mescaline, back in the 1950s. "I saw colours I had never seen before," he says.

Ann Shulgin, who experimented with mescaline-laced peyote at around the same time, adds: "It opens up doors you wouldn't even know were there otherwise. It was a very extraordinary, sacred experience — everything you look at is infused with light."

On the way to Shulgin's laboratory, he points out an acacia tree with psycho-active

macologists used to describe them as creating a temporary psychosis. Shulgin is recalling a scan on the brain activity of schizophrenics, or "schitzies" as he calls them. But surely you can't liken taking a drug voluntarily to a psychosis that can condemn someone to a life of isolation?

Later, Ann Shulgin will announce that a new crate of cacti has arrived. One of the Shulgins' means of staying ahead of the authorities is to work with psycho-active substances that are not yet categorised or outlawed. They are preparing their third book, tentatively called *Gihkal*, the "Q" standing for quinolines, the hallucinogenic substance in cacti. Since many of the plants originate in Central or South America, they are not properly classified by Western botanists let alone pharmacologists.

A few days later, we talk on the phone. The Shulgins are excited about reports from a forum for police on "more pragmatic approaches" to substance abuse at the conservative Hoover Institution, at Stanford University. Former Secretary of State George Shultz and Nobel economist Milton Friedman had told the police that America's war on drugs is a failure that has led to massive, cruel imprisonment, inner-city destruction and widespread drug gangs that thrive on high profits and violence.

The Shulgins have experienced the war on drugs first-hand. Twice in 1994, US agents searched their home and lab, in part because drug officials were livid about the publication of *Pihkal*. Unable to halt the Shulgins' books because of the First Amendment, the authorities instead fined them \$25,000 and made Shulgin relinquish his drug-handling licence.

They might have had cold feet sooner had they known his dedication. Shulgin estimates he has popped 200 or so psychedelics not of his own invention. And he has invented 100 or so psychedelics, some potent enough to get street credibility or to be used by maverick psychotherapists — 2C-B, DOM or STP, the now-illegal DOB and DOI.

Ethical and sincere in his beliefs, Shulgin tried them first on himself, as did Hofmann with LSD and Salk with the polio vaccine. With a subversive-sounding chuckle, he makes a final charming quip: "Oh, so many drugs and so little time."

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MAIL & GUARDIAN

Judge Curlewis is his own worst enemy

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hesitating over a decision whether to subpoena members of the judiciary to appear before it following their failure to do so voluntarily. The hesitation apparently results from indications by the Bench that such a move would represent a constitutional challenge to the independence of the judiciary and would be fought as such.

The independence of the judiciary is an issue close to our hearts and in other circumstances we might have advised Desmond Tutu to let well alone. But the recent outburst of Judge David Curlewis provides a timely, if unintentional, reminder of the propensity of our judges to be their own worst enemies.

Curlewis's comments in the Moses Sithole case — denouncing the government for abolishing the death penalty — have been widely reported. What has gone unreported is a letter he wrote to the truth commission earlier this year, in answer to an invitation to appear before it during hearings on the legal system.

“Three pages of waffle cannot disguise the fact that what you suggest will compromise the independence of the Bench,” he scrawled. “If you are a politician you will not understand this, let alone care about it.

Interested in the only thing that should interest you.”

Leaving aside the intemperate language, the judge cannot have it both ways. The ruling of the Constitutional Court — the highest authority — that the death penalty was unconstitutional put the issue beyond further judicial questioning.

Curlewis's excited intervention clearly represented interference in the political arena, where the issue is perhaps not yet dead. By doing so he opens himself — and the Bench which he professes to defend — to political attack. In those circumstances it is particularly ironic that it should be Curlewis who insists so strongly that the judiciary falls outside the purview of the truth commission.

Curlewis's less-than-judicious utterances of the past in fact offer a compelling argument as to why the Bench should be subjected to closer scrutiny by Tutu and his fellow commissioners.

This is, after all, the judge who, in the Eikenhof case, deprecated the suggestion that police used torture to extract confessions. This is the judge who, in the Mthopeng case, said: “The courts of this country have for over a century acted fairly and independently and honestly, and independently of improper influence. They do so today, and will do so in

If ever there were a judge who needed to be confronted with the truth it is Curlewis. If ever there were an institution which bears examination by the commission it is a judiciary which harbours such as Curlewis.

We would urge the commission to press ahead with its subpoenas. They will no doubt be opposed by the judiciary and fought over in the courts.

But we maintain sufficient confidence in the Bench to say that it is a fitting place for issues of great importance to the future of our country to be decided.

Give the ANC leaders amnesty

The National Party's concern at the blanket amnesty granted 37 members of the African National Congress, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, takes the prize for the cheap shot of the year.

In the week after the former leader of the party, PW Botha, once again effectively told the truth commission to stuff off, labelling it a “circus”, it would have been more tasteful for the Nats to remain silent.

its military and political struggle against apartheid, and — most crucially — took collective responsibility for what was done in its name was enough to earn amnesty.

Leaders gave the commission lists of operations carried out as well as detailed information about human rights violations in the camps outside the country.

On this basis, the rank-and-file soldiers who were acting under orders of the leadership should be granted amnesty and the commission should not be prevented by technical points from moving on to more intractable matters with the limited time it has left.

The ANC's willingness to accept responsibility stands in marked contrast to the National Party's defensiveness and refusal to own up to its commanding role in the sickening swamp of violence and abuse that the commission has heard about.

Having disowned the foot soldiers who kept them in power for so long, the Nats have shown they are willing to obfuscate until the commission just goes away.

It is a disconcerting performance of ineptness and dishonesty that has undermined the party's credibility with ordinary people, and thus any chance that it might have had to become a viable opposition.

The country, desperate for a real opposi-

"However, I care about it very much and decline to take part in such a process. My judgments are available if you are at all in-

future... In this regard, the courts on no other country surpass our courts and very, very few equal them."

ANC leadership appeared before the commission, made a full and frank disclosure of

with hypocritical whingeing parading as principle.

LETTERS

Everest book a financial Sweetener for sour grapes

I have been following Ken Vernon's story for some months now, not intentionally, but his name crops up time and again. And I am slowly forming a picture of the goings-on around South Africa's Mount Everest climb.

I have heard Vernon speak in public, followed the recent debate on *Carte Blanche* and read the *Mail & Guardian* extract ("Blunder at first base for the Sunday Times", December 5 to 11) from his book *Ascent and Dissent*. I conclude that Vernon is on a personal crusade against Ian Woodall.

Woodall is certainly no angel, but at least he has achieved his goal; namely, erecting the South African flag on Mount Everest. Even though many of us would have liked to have seen a man with a more benevolent character.

The recent debate on TV put neither Woodall nor Vernon in a better light. It made the viewer perhaps understand the personal clashes and why Woodall is described as cocky and disrespectful. He is very confident, but his constant interruption of the interviewer and Vernon when a question is not directed at him is irritating and shows who he is.

Vernon came across as uninformed and his "facts" seem emotionally laden. He is far too involved as a journalist and needs to distance himself from the subject matter.

I admit I would not read his book, but the extract peeked a morbid curiosity in me. Vernon once again rehashed the same story. Does

the reader not deserve some new, in-depth material? I can only describe his writing style as schoolboyish and unimaginative, his language poor and his train of thought disjointed. He is riding his personal publicity wave, not on his skills, but on the power of the story.

What I object to is that he does it at the expense of Mount Everest expeditions in general, the *Sunday Times* and the reputation of the South African people. He has no message for the reader, but simply uses his book as financial sweetener for his sour grapes. — *Ute Alexander, Onrus River*

A formula for abuse

A modern belief in circulation today says privatisation and/or business principles can be applied in every part of society to make it more "efficient".

There is little freedom and human dignity if everything is reduced to its pragmatic worth. Social services may often conflict with economic viability. Maintaining the health needs of the poor may be neither cost-efficient nor profitable. What interest does the private sector have in it?

The horror of this myth was reinforced by the Constitutional Court's recent ruling denying the state's right to deny medical treat-

ment to a man dying of kidney failure.

We have a Bill of Rights, but the court designed to guard those rights seems either tardy or timid. The Constitutional Court sees its duty (short-sightedly) to protect human rights only where the state has the apparatus to uphold those rights. That is a formula for abuse.

What use is the Constitutional Court if it does not challenge or pressure government to deliver?

Although thousands have suffered the state's inability to provide health care, Thagraj Soobramoney succeeded in bringing this crisis to public attention in a most tragic way. Rest in peace Soobramoney, you died a hero in the new struggle for social equality! — *Peter Reynolds*

Challenging Krisjan

Krisjan Lemmer (December 5 to 11), ordinarily so astute, offers the mischievous theory that my supposed preoccupation with *Finance Week* has resulted in my acting in a number of cases, principally against Allan Greenblo.

The truth is much more humdrum. The Bar is a reference profession. I appear in the cases in which I am briefed; and, with few exceptions, I am required to do so. That is the essence of the cab-rank rule. I do not determine who briefs me, nor do I control the matters with which I am briefed.

As it happens, I was briefed in the Sol Kerzner case by the M&G's attorneys. Those, like *Krisjan Lemmer*, with a predilection for conspiracy, will thus naturally infer that it is the M&G that lies behind the litigious campaign against Greenblo. In fact, I have no preoccupation with *Fi-*

nance Week. Unlike the *Krisjan Lemmer* column, I do not read it. I have always honoured the cab-rank rule, and, in doing so, I have taken some exceedingly unpopular cases, no matter my private convictions.

I make the following challenge to *Krisjan Lemmer*: if he can produce evidence of his bizarre theory, I will donate my fee in the Kerzner matter to a charity of his choice. If not, the M&G pays an equivalent sum to a charity of my choice. Have you the facts or the money? — *David Unterhalter, Johannesburg chambers*

● *Krisjan Lemmer replies*: Not being a conspiracy theorist myself, I am staggered that Unterhalter has read so much into what was a flippant aside. I would never suggest that he — or anyone else for that matter — would be obsessed with *Finance Week*. *Au contraire*, he displays his good taste by confessing that he does not even read the publication — and so a free copy of the M&G calendar is on its way to his chambers.

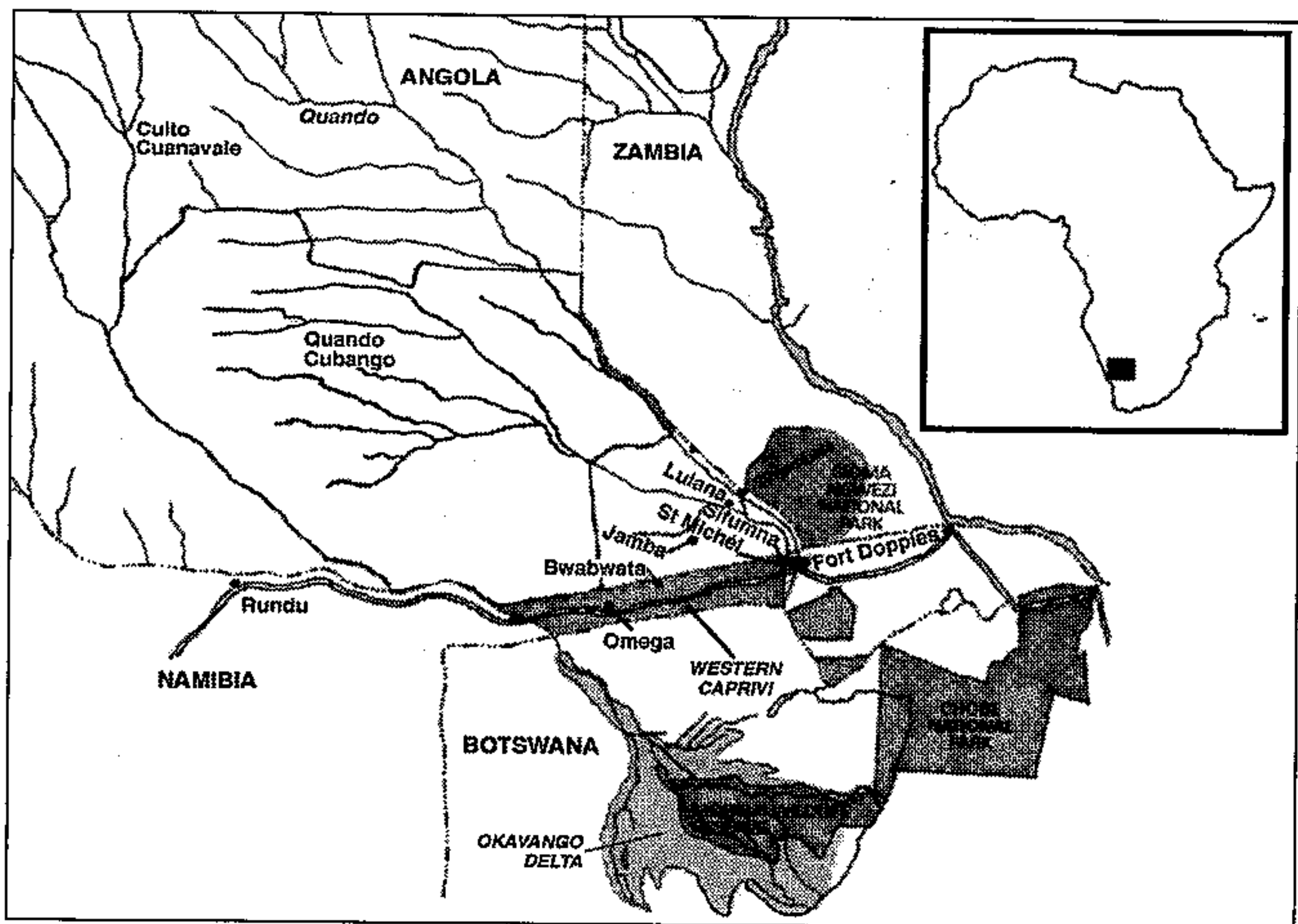
A poem for Ameen

Mattera and Aggrey
History is written on the frail corridors of death
the sun is adamant not to set on us
instead as cancer declares Amen to Ameen
we the living-dead bask in the new sun
a living shrine shining on his pen's tip
this David whose might continues
as his dying bones protest yet again.

Mattera and Aggrey
handle his fragile bones with care
before his spirit is set free
cherish and celebrate his flesh

senior officers were using ivory-smuggling routes for their own corrupt ends

and ivory smuggling



house to pay the paltry R50 fine that was imposed, then promptly packed the fellow off to Swaziland, where he probably became engaged in opening up the Mozambique arm of the ivory smuggling racket.

Another load of ivory, comprising 270 tusks, was intercepted in Namibia and the two smugglers, both Angolans, were given another ludicrously small fine which was promptly paid. They worked for the same Portuguese man from Rundu.

In all these cases, the accused simply pleaded guilty, thus avoiding having to give evidence and run the risk of cross-examination by the prosecution.

The Portuguese businessman then expanded his enterprises, placing one of his countrymen in charge of a shop he had bought in Katima. Soon the ivory flood to the south increased.

A Portuguese greengrocer would travel from the Republic every week in a pantech-nicon crammed with fresh produce, making the return trip with an empty vehicle — or so we thought. Following a tip-off, he was searched at the Ngoma customs post on his way out and 80 tusks were found in false compartments. He was also given a ludicrous fine, something like R1 000, which he paid out of his small change.

Thanks to the help of other conservators, reliable information from a policeman friend, stationed in Rundu, and the Windhoek editor's reports, which cut close to the bone, a grim picture materialised.

South African Military Intelligence had set up an organisation to ferry equipment into southern Angola for Unita and transport wood back to the Republic, with the idea of making money for Savimbi. This organisation, known as Inter Frama, was under the control of two Portuguese, one in Rundu named Lopez, or Lops, and one in Johannesburg, named Maya. I knew Lopez well and I had met Maya.

I heard about Inter Frama from colleagues who, like me, worked for Military Intelligence. It was supposed to be a "secret" organisation, but in due course, Inter Frama became an open secret, known throughout Namibia.

The organisation's trucks pounded the roads between Angola and Pretoria, attracting the attention of our editor friend. The drivers all had passes exempting them and their vehicles from searches at police or army roadblocks on the grounds of security.

The trees were felled in Angola and sawn into planks or railway sleepers at a sawmill belonging to Inter Frama at Bwabwata in the western Caprivi. I must confess that without the slightest pangs of conscience, I pinched

some of the sleepers for use in our house at Buffalo Lodge.

Savimbi had pushed for his stockpile of ivory to be exported via South Africa to the Far East and Military Intelligence had agreed, roping in a certain Chinese to take care of the disposal and export of the ivory once it reached Pretoria.

This Chinese, originally from Hong Kong, had previously been used extensively in sanctions-busting operations and was connected via family ties to Hong Kong ivory dealers.

The pipeline was in position and the illegal ivory began to flow down it in a constant stream.

The Official Secrets Act gave more than adequate protection for the covert operation but greed is a strange thing. Like cancer, it begins to feed on what is healthy, firm tissue, and turn it, in time, into a rotten, smelly mess.

This is precisely what happened. This extremely effective and secret pipeline was operating under the protection of the Official Secrets Act for the illegal export of ivory and rhino horn, so why could it not be used to serve individual greed?

Soon, ivory and rhino horn started to come in via a collection point in Katima from Zambia, Zimbabwe and points further north.

The collector was a Portuguese shopkeep-

er in Katima, running the business for his boss, Mr Lopez. In addition to the ivory, they also channelled mandrax that originated in Lusaka through the store.

I had already accepted the post of park warden for the western Caprivi, but I was still serving in the army, and therefore felt that my first loyalty was to the SADF. I had an impression at the time that the pipeline established by Military Intelligence had unavoidably been corrupted and that the officers in control did not really know what was going on.

So when I was visited by one of the senior intelligence officers in control of support to Unita, I decided to inform him about my suspicions and misgivings, including the mandrax that was being transported along the pipeline from Lusaka to Johannesburg.

I cornered this guy one night on his own, in our boma beside the glowing coals of a warm fire. I gave him all the details and asked him to close the pipeline, to disband the whole operation, to get rid of the Portuguese Mafia and take urgent steps, since the elephant herds and few remaining rhinos were being slaughtered.

He regarded me in stony silence, but a few weeks later, I received a message, via Alistair Macdonald, that my appointment as park warden had been withdrawn at the insistence of the SADF.

I had already indicated that I would retire from the army at the end of 1987 and my immediate reaction was to write a personal letter to the Chief of the SADF, asking on what grounds they had objected to my appointment as warden of the Caprivi game park. This letter was only answered after I had left the army, at which time the Chief of the SADF informed me that he had the matter investigated and found that there were no reasons why I should not stay on in the Caprivi as a park warden. He had informed the nature conservation authorities accordingly.

But Military Intelligence, who seemed to be behind the whole affair, refused to let matters rest. They flew a brigadier to Windhoek to have a personal interview with the senior official who had offered me the job in the first place.

Meanwhile, I had been reinstated, and was looking

forward to being able to develop the park in accordance with my blueprint.

So it came as a double blow when Alistair once again turned up at Buffalo Lodge to inform me that the offer had been withdrawn for the second time.

A brigadier in Military Intelligence had succeeded in overturning a decision made by the chief of the defence force himself.

Of course, this unusual interference raised not only my hackles, but my suspicions regarding the involvement of some very senior officers in the smuggling racket. It seemed to me that far from losing control of their own corrupt creation, as I had thought, they had actually decided to enrich themselves along the way.

A certain officer who worked for Military Intelligence informed me that on returning from an operation deep inside Angola one day with his ammunition depleted, he had gone to a store in Rundu to restock. He opened a large box he thought contained ammunition and, to his surprise, found that it was filled with tusks. He then went to another box and found that one also filled with tusks. A third box revealed the same contents, as did one box after another.

The tusks were stored in an official SADF equipment store under control of Military Intelligence. Like a good soldier, the young officer decided to report the matter to his senior commander. This officer listened with some irritation, closed the door to prevent intrusion, and proceeded to lay into the young man in a rather menacing manner, promising all sorts of repercussions, including physical harm, if he should disclose his discovery.

Shortly afterwards, the young officer was posted back to South Africa suffering from "battle fatigue".

Jan Breytenbach was founder and commander of the infamous 32 Battalion, which fought alongside Savimbi's Unita forces. He

retired as a colonel seconded to Military Intelligence in 1988, the most decorated soldier of the SADF. This is an extract from his latest book, Eden's Exiles: One Soldier's Fight for Paradise (Queillerie, R99,95)



Chaos in paradise: Breytenbach's troops were instructed to put an end to poaching, but were later to discover that their superiors were profiting from the wholesale slaughter of game in Angola and Namibia

Environmental white paper 'is historic'

Reports by
Josey Ballenger

5/12/93

THE environmental management white paper to be submitted to Parliament early next year was the "single most important environmental statement" in SA's history, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

The paper, which would provide an overarching national framework to give effect to environmental rights in the constitution, was in line with government's "fundamental recognition" that sustainable development must be the accepted approach to the management and utilisation of resources. A white paper on marine fisheries policy

and the Marine Living Resources Bill, which would "pave the way for restructuring" the industry, would be the subjects of public hearings and the parliamentary portfolio committee's consideration in February.

A white paper on biological diversity — SA has the third-greatest biodiversity in the world — and a paper on integrated pollution control and waste management would also be presented to Parliament early next year.

Government had also initiated a policy programme open to public input regarding "effective" management of SA's coastline, and expected the policy to be formulated by May. Addressing a media briefing at Shell House in Johannesburg yesterday, Jordan said his department had promulgated the long-awaited

regulations for environmental impact assessments in terms of the Environment Conservation Act — another "first" in SA's history — which would be phased in until April. Extended regulations to protect sensitive coastal areas such as Pennington and Umtamvuna on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast would also soon come into force.

Jordan also said his ministry regarded "canned" lion-hunting which took place on some private farms as a matter of "national concern", and had proposed a voluntary moratorium on the establishment of new lion holding and breeding facilities. A new policy, which the department was formulating, could outlaw existing facilities. Jordan also highlighted cabinet's approval

in August of plans to mount an operation, in collaboration with the SA Defence Force and the foreign affairs and justice departments, to counteract the illegal fishing of the Patagonian toothfish in territorial waters around the Prince Edward Islands. The illegal fishing was "prejudicing our country's economic opportunities and poses a serious threat to the survival of the species", he said.

Answering questions on global warming, Jordan said the Southern African Development Community had tabled a paper before the United Nations General Assembly in July calling for transfer of technology from industrialised nations which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the regional development of renewable energy sources.

EXCLUSIVE:

Neither law, customs equipped to cope

Toxic waste 'imported' by the ton

Ston 20/12/97 (56)

Thousands of tons of toxic waste from other countries are being imported into South Africa in the form of obsolete pesticides, out-of-date pharmaceuticals, waste forms, residue from industry, and used equipment. But, until legislation is enacted and customs officials are trained to identify hazardous waste, there is very little that the Government can do about it.

Government officials blame loopholes in legislation, incompetent customs officers and an unclear environment policy for what they admit could result in a potentially life-threatening situation. Environmental Justice Networking forum coordinator Chris Albertyn said those keen to make a profit off importing toxic waste had the ideal opportunity.

"Until we have clear legislation on the matter, importing toxic and all kinds of waste will be okay," and South Africa would remain "completely vulnerable" in the interim.

Although South Africa is party to the Basel Convention, which outlaws the trans-boundary movement of hazardous materials from First to Third World countries, insufficient measures are being taken to control the deadly content of certain imported goods.

Second-hand equipment, such as transformers, electrical capacitors and agricultural equipment – which contain potentially lethal polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and chemical compounds – make their way through customs each year. Once at the end of its lifespan, the equipment becomes potentially hazardous.

While PCB compounds have been banned in several European countries, South Africa opted to phase out the chemicals, which are on the Basel Convention's "red list", along with other lethal substances. Permits for the importation of goods such as electrical equipment do not require scientific tests for the presence of PCBs.

"Officially there is really nothing (no toxic waste) coming into the country," said Willem Scott, pollution control director in the Department of Environment and Tourism. "However, we get false declarations at customs points, where goods come in under the guise that they are to be recycled, but this is really not the case."

Because the focus was on paperwork, and there was a manpower shortage, only spot checks were carried out at points of entry, so traffic in

toxic waste remained a problem. "It is impossible to say exactly how much toxic waste comes into the country, but there are products like scrap metal containing a percentage of lead," Scott said.

In terms of the Basel Convention, to which South Africa became party shortly before the 1994 elections, lead is listed as a hazardous substance, but, because of what Scott calls a grey area, scrap metal is a legitimate import.

Rumours that radioactive materials are moving into South Africa illegally have persisted and it is possible, government sources say, that an industry exists where toxic materials are being traded for other goods.

Training customs officials, who cannot reliably identify hazardous substances, has thus become a matter of urgency. In a recent feasibility study commissioned by the Basel Convention committee into the establishment of a training centre for customs staff from around Africa, South Africa was earmarked as the venue.

This comes in the light of repeated claims by environmentalists that all of Africa, and South Africa, has become the dumping ground for the rest of the world.

Compounding the problem, however, is a stockpile of about 40 000 tons of obsolete pesticides present in Africa, some 390 tons of which is believed to be in South Africa. The pesticides – a large portion of which was donated by Europe and the United

States to boost agriculture on the continent during the 1960s, and has since passed its expiry date – are to be found on farms throughout South Africa and neighbouring countries. It is not clear whether any of the 12 different obsolete pesticides available in SA are still in use.

One of these – DDT, a substance banned in the early 1970s – is still being imported by the Department of Health for use in KwaZulu Natal, where it is sprayed on malaria-causing mosquitoes.

The substance, stockpiles of which still exist in the United States, is being imported on an annual basis because it is considered cheap and effective in combating malaria. DDT was initially banned after studies found it resulted in birth defects in animals at the top of the food chain, indicating it would have the same effect on humans.



By
BENITA VAN EYSEN

FEATURE **NEWS**

Makings conservation work

(56) *Sowetan* 23/12/97

By Russel Molefe
Environmental Reporter

CHIEF JOAO MAKULEKE and his subjects have for more than a quarter of a century lamented the dispossession of their ancestral land, forcibly taken from them to provide a habitat for wildlife.

However, their tears may soon turn to gold if an old adage rings true: "Tears that flow from the heart, don't die in the earth..."

The Makuleke community on the border of the Kruger National Park near Giyani in Northern Province are geared to exploit nature conservation - used by the previous authorities as an excuse for land-grabbing - to empower themselves.

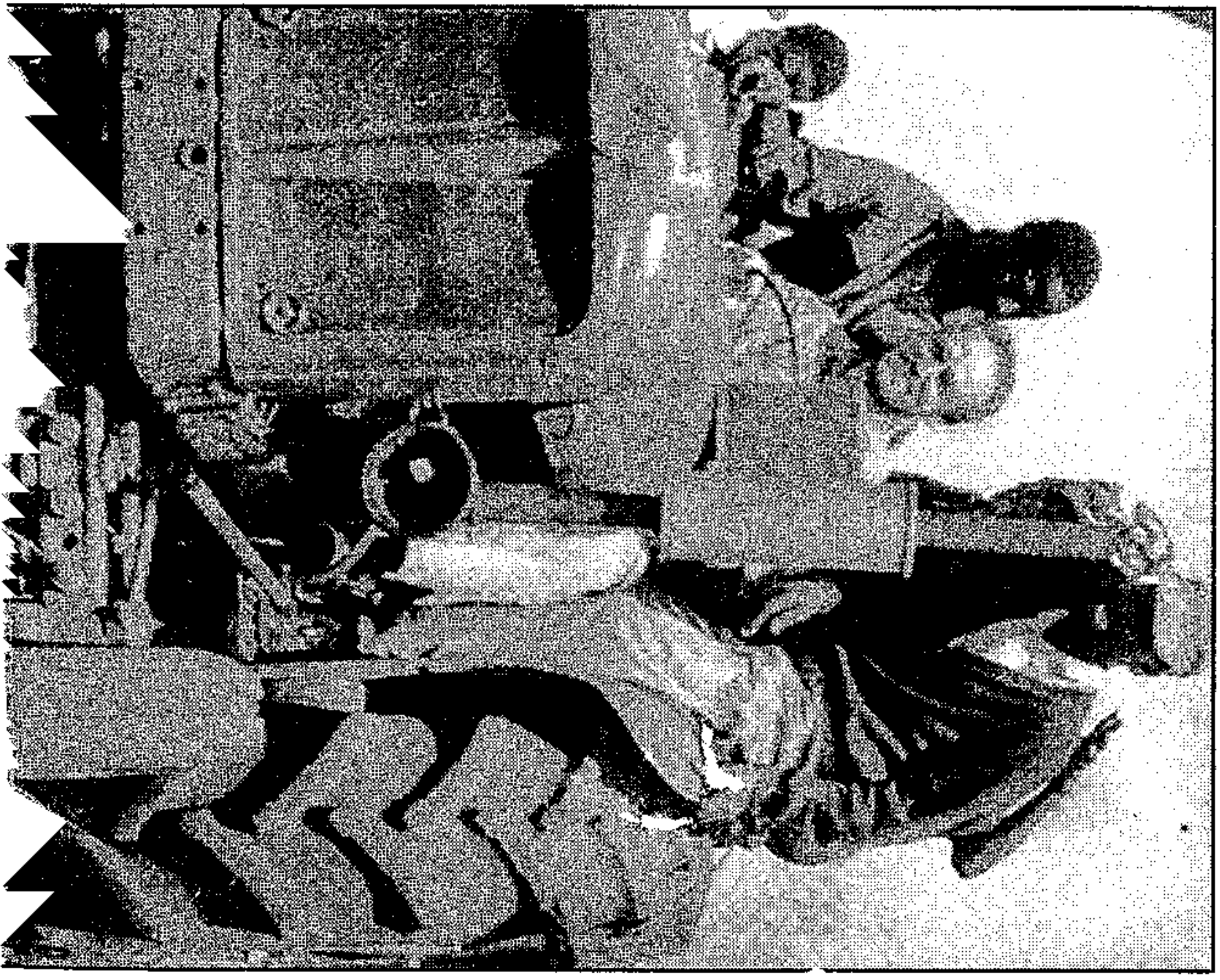
Negotiations are under way with the South African National Parks Board (SANPB) for the community to establish lodges and other facilities on ancestral land inside Kruger.

The community has already lodged a claim with the Land Claims Court for ancestral land to be returned. But the court will only intervene and make a ruling on who owns the land if the parties involved in the dispute fail to reach a settlement.

Members of the Makuleke community were forcefully removed from their ancestral land during the summer of 1969 when Kruger Park was expanded.

Part of their ancestral land was also incorporated into the Madimbo Corridor, a military buffer zone along the Zimbabwean border. This zone was

Makuleke community to build lodges on their land inside Kruger Park



Most of the communities were driven from their ancestral land to make way for nature conservation. But if the Makuleke community succeeds in reclaiming their land the implication for standards of living could be significant.

Makuleke explains: "The revenue that will be generated from the lodges and other facilities we hope to build on our ancestral land inside the Kruger National Park will be used for development to uplift the community.

"The negotiations are going well with the parks authorities and could be concluded soon."

Makuleke did not want to go into detail, but there is optimism in the community that the land will be returned to them.

South African National Parks Board spokesman Mr Fanyana Shiburi seems to share this optimism, saying that in the event of a deal, conservation management on the Makuleke community's land will remain the responsibility of the parastatal.

Community's rights

SANPB chief executive Mr Mavuso Msimang earlier told *Sowetan* that "there is no way that we can deny the community the right to its own land. We have together worked out a solution that is of benefit to the community without destroying conservation."

Mavuso's words reflect a growing realisation worldwide that the needs of poor people must first be met if wider and longer term conservation goals are to be achieved.

must be swept aside and parks must in future embrace the needs of their human inhabitants, not expel them," Holdgate claimed.

Some conservationists believe that the Makuleke community will set a new precedent in South Africa in which authorities will make people rediscover ways to live in harmony with wildlife rather than be totally separated from it.

They reasoned that wildlife has an economic as well as a cultural value. The more that economic value can be harnessed to aid local communities, the greater the likelihood that conservation will be successful.

Partnership

That is why the SANPB has established a socio-ecology department, headed by Dr Yvonne Diadla, to empower the millions of people along the borders of national parks, and to forge partnerships with them.

Sources said it was a matter of time before the SANPB and the Makuleke community struck a deal which would turn out to be the envy of many communities involved in land disputes with private game and nature reserve owners.

Given the poverty and unemployment among rural people, the SANPB did not need reminding that it had a duty to empower the millions of starving communities economically through conservation.

Conservation management in the past did not take into consideration the welfare of the people while animals roamed freely inside parks and game

intended to cut off infiltration by liberation movement guerrillas.

The area has since been declared the Matshakakini Nature Reserve.

The land on which the community was dumped after its forced removal was later consolidated into the Gazankulu homeland.

Bare and without basic necessities such as water, the new place brought

Flashback: There was jubilation when Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom (driving a tractor) led Bakwena-Ba-GalMogopa in the North-West back to their ancestral land last year.

PIC: MOFFAT ZUNGU

tremendous hardship. For many years, members of the community were not allowed to set foot in the Kruger Park, which was "a haven of pleasure in the midst of poverty" under apartheid rule.

Life has not been different for the 4,5 million people who live along the borders of the park, stretching from Punda Maria in the north to the border with Swaziland in the south.

His words also echo a warning by former director-general of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Mr Martin Holdgate that protected areas must be redefined as a way of ensuring "the ability of an area to provide value to the human community".

reserves. "This was a good recipe for poaching because a starving man sees a buffalo or any other animal as his next meal. But if the man is economically empowered through conservation, there is no doubt he will respect nature. "He knows that if he destroys nature, he destroys his livelihood," one conservationist said.

Scandals fail to stop

environment gains

By Russel Molefe

Saveran 23/12/97

IT has been a highly eventful year for South Africa, which has been rocked by scandals, but also punctuated by real high gains in environmental terms.

The events that happened this year were like the screams for the environment to occupy its rightful position on the national list of priorities and a rude awakening to authorities that its importance to the future of the country can no longer be ignored.

The nine provinces, whose conservation agencies are still suffering from an identity crisis since the ushering in of the new dispensation, have had their scandals too.

Mpumalanga must lead the list with the biggest environmental story on "the Dolphin Deal" and the "canned hunting" in which lions were hunted under very dubious circumstances.

The Dolphin Deal was a secret agreement between the local Parks Board and the Dubai-based company Dolphin. The deal meant that the company would have solely owned resorts and parks for 50 years.

There was a public outcry which reverberated around the world that the Mpumalanga authorities "have secretly sold the land to foreigners". The authorities had to leave the country in

haste to renegotiate the deal.

Dolphin now handles the commercial development of the resorts and parks only, except for Manyeleti and Pilgrims Rest.

Mpumalanga Parks Board will take charge of conservation management. The deal will now be for a 25-year period.

Other provinces find themselves caught between the devil and the deep blue sea in their quest to eradicate poverty and deal with the high unemployment rate, thus meeting basic needs of their residents.

Northey Poyace finds itself in this unenviable position for granting a permit for diamond prospecting in the sensitive Madimbo Corridor. This caused a "war" between environmentalists and businessmen.

Then there was a Brentonblue butteffies saga in the Western Cape which caused a hullabaloo when their habitat was allocated for housing development.

Questions were raised about land

Mpumalanga must lead the list with the Dolphin Deal and canned hunting

rezoning without taking the environment into consideration.

A proposed open-cast coal mine on a wet-land area in the Free State, the pumping of heavily contaminated water into the Blesbokspruit by Groovlei Gold Mine in

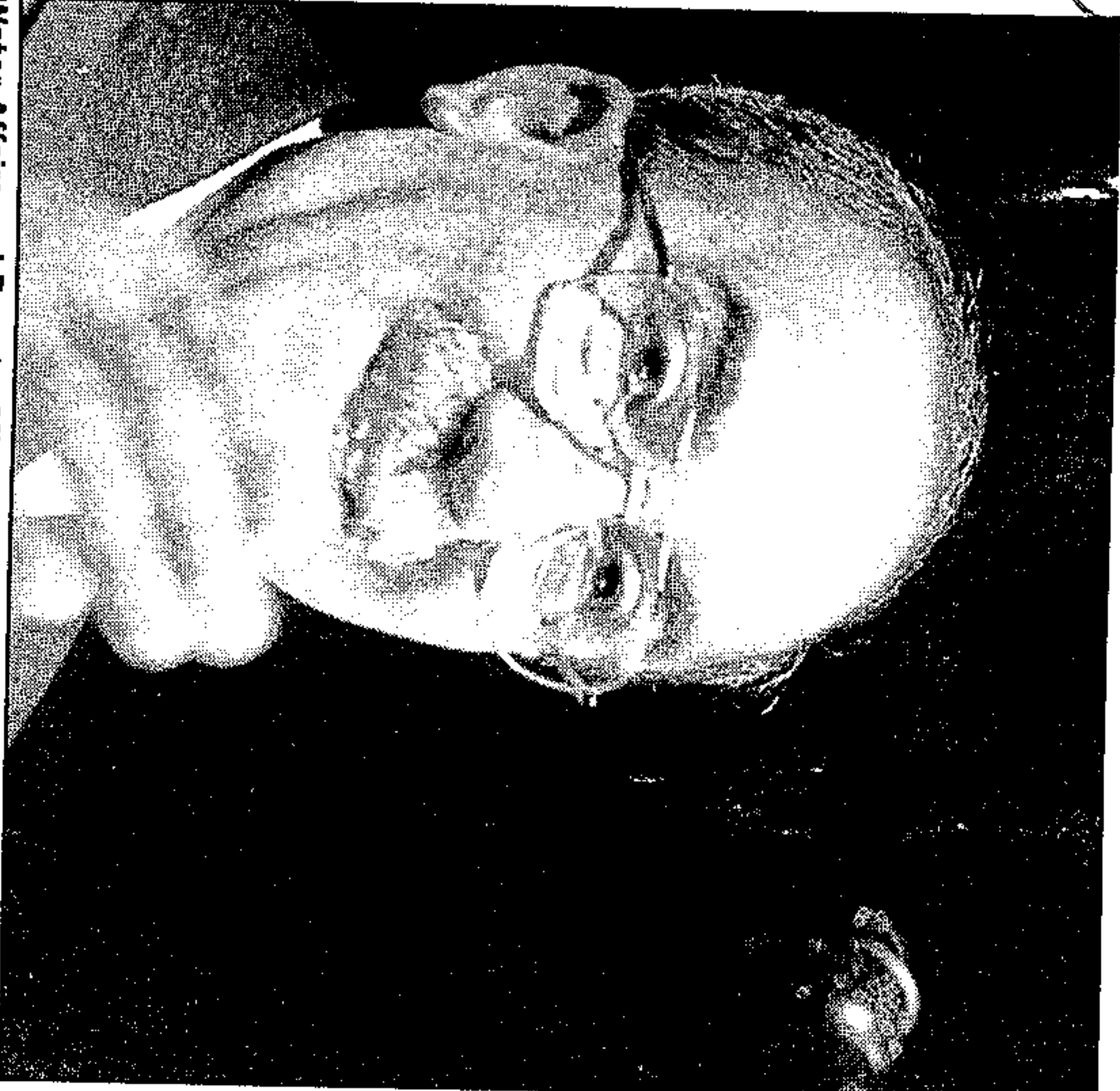
Gauteng and the dubious land deals in which plots of prime property were "bought" for bottles of brandy in the Eastern Cape, were also some of the scandals that hit the provinces this year.

Many of these setbacks were satisfactorily resolved and the provinces learned a lesson from the mistakes.

However, South African environmental authorities demonstrated this year that they were willing to get the job done.

Worth mentioning in this regard is Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal whose department devised strategies that reflected environmental concern after realising that water was the most limited resource in the country.

He set up a multimillion rand Working for Water Programme which involves clearing alien vegetation from



Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal.

catchment areas to increase water flow. Each tree can use up to 200 litres a day.

Despite water being a scarce resource, Asmal had recorded an enviable achievement of having brought the commodity to a million previously disadvantaged people to date.

He had received accolades from many quarters including the Endangered Wildlife Trust for being "the best minister South Africa has ever had".

The National Water Policy that

was developed into a Water Bill, which is currently under discussion, is set to change the allocation and consumption of water in South Africa. The Bill may be passed into law early next year.

Following closely on Asmal's heels was Dr Pallo Jordan's Environmental Affairs and Tourism Department which produced a Green and later White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity.

Cape buffalo capture: call for probe

Sowetan 23/12/97

(56)

Conservation officials deny allegations

THE OFFICE of Eastern Cape Premier Makhenkesi Stofile has been asked to investigate allegations that conservation officials have been involved in a scam to capture and sell Cape buffalo.

Communications official for the premier Mr Manelisi Wolela confirmed yesterday that a letter had been received and referred to the nature conservation department under MEC Mr Enoch Gondongwana.

Conservation officials were not able to say yesterday if the allegations would be investigated because the relevant staff were on leave.

It has been alleged by certain top players in the Eastern Cape game world, who asked not to be named, that an unknown number of Cape buffalo, worth between R100 000 and R200 000 each to hunters, were illegally taken from the Double Drift Game Reserve and sold with the knowledge of reserve authorities.

This is said to have happened after a routine game capture operation for which permits had been issued for the transfer of 30 buffalo from the reserve.

It is alleged that 18 animals were officially caught and transferred to the Mpofu and Nyati reserves, but that others (no one is sure of the exact number), were taken on the sly during the operation and sold to game reserves out-

side the province.

One source claims to have statements from labourers involved in the game capture operation that extra animals were caught.

But a member of the Eastern Cape Tourism Board (ECTB) vehemently denied the allegations last week and claimed this was an attempt to discredit the ECTB which administers the Double Drift Reserve.

The source said certain people, whom he would not name, wanted to discredit the tourism board and used the absence of manager of Mpofu Reserve Mr James Williamson to do this.

Williamson, who is on holiday, supervised the operation.

"We believe the people who started the rumour were aware of Williamson's absence and were using the opportunity when he was not around to defend himself.

"The whole intention is to show that ECTB management don't know what they are doing and can't control their livestock. It is a pure fabrication."

He said the register of the amount of drugs used to dart the buffalo, the game capture team, the manager who supervised the operation and veterinarian at the scene all indicated that only 18 animals were captured. - ECN.

Officials accused of game scam

(56) ~~(292)~~ BD 23/12/97
EAST LONDON — The office of Eastern Cape premier Makhenkisi Stofile has been asked to investigate allegations that conservation officials have been involved in a scam to capture and sell Cape buffalo.

Communications official for the premier Manelisi Wolela said yesterday the letter had been received and referred to the nature conservation department under MEC Enoch Gondongwana. Officials were unable to say whether the allegations would be investigated because the relevant staff were on leave.

Certain Eastern Cape game industry players have alleged that an unknown number of Cape buffalo, worth R100 000-R200 000 each to hunters, had been taken illegally from the Double Drift game reserve and sold with the knowledge of reserve authorities. This was said to have happened after a routine capture operation for which permits for the transfer of 30 buffalo from the Double Drift reserve had been issued.

It was alleged that 18 animals were caught officially and transferred to the Mpopu and Nyati reserves, but that others — no one could give an exact number — had been taken surreptitiously during the operation and sold to game reserves outside the province.

One source claims to have statements from labourers involved in the capture operation.

However, a member of the Eastern Cape Tourism Board vehemently denied the allegations last week as an attempt to smear the tourism board, which administers the Double Drift reserve.

The board member said certain people, whom he would not name, wanted to discredit the tourism board and used the absence of Mpopu reserve manager James Williamson, who was on holiday, to do this.

Williamson had supervised the capture operation.

"We believe the people who started the rumour were aware of (Williamson's absence) and were using an opportunity when he was

not around to defend himself.

"The whole intention is to show that management don't know what they are doing and can't control their livestock. It is pure fabrication."

He said the register of the volume of drugs used to dart the buffalo, the capture team, the manager of the Mpopu reserve who supervised the operation and the veterinarian at the scene all concurred that only 18 animals had been captured.

He said that when Williamson returned the inquiry would continue, but he believed there was no cause for concern.

Last week, a source at the Sam Knott Nature Reserve said: "There are rumours all over the place that a greater number (of buffalo) came off and that some went awol. Every second or third farmer is talking about it and it is making fools out of us. The problem is that no one has come forward to tell us about it. People say they will make statements, but they never turn up." — ECN.

Rare sea bird threatened

CT 23/12/97 (56)

OYSTERCATCHERS PROVIDE a sensitive barometer of coastal change as they feed exclusively in the inter-tidal zone. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

A FILM crew making an advertisement at Scarborough last week destroyed the nest of an African black oystercatcher — South Africa's rarest endemic coastal bird — when they "cleaned" the beach for the film shoot by raking up all the kelp.

This highlights the plight of a creature which is rarer than the southern right whale, and which is being hammered by human pressure on the country's coastline.

Because of the crisis facing the oystercatchers, ornithologists launched a three-year oystercatcher conservation programme this summer, which aims to provide information to develop a conservation strategy for these birds.

One species of oystercatcher in Africa has already become extinct, and the African black oystercatcher has now been listed as an International Red Data Species — species under threat.

Ms Janice Corr, founder of the Scarborough Marine Environmental Education Trust, said yesterday residents had been monitoring the destroyed nest daily.

"We're working with the conservation programme, so we were watching the nest. Then on Friday morning we went down and the nest was gone. So was all the kelp. There was a film crew working there and they had raked the beach clean, destroying the nest.

"We went to speak to the location manager and he said they didn't know anything about a nest being there. They had been given a permit by the South Peninsula Municipality to work on the beach,

and had paid R1 200 a day for the shoot and R500 for each vehicle. He said there was nothing on the permit to say they were not to rake the kelp.

"Last year another film crew brought in a palm which they put on an oystercatcher's nest, but a resident managed to save the eggs.

"I don't think they do these things on purpose, but through ignorance. We believe the council should supply a conservation officer to check on film crews at work, and charge them extra for that. How else can we make sure this doesn't happen again?" Corr said.

South Peninsula's manager for beaches Mr Cliffie Krouse confirmed that he had given a permit to Filmworks Africa to film at Scarborough.

"The permit didn't say they mustn't rake up the kelp because we as a council do it ourselves at Fish Hoek and Muizenberg on a daily basis," he said.

He said that on some days there were 11 film crews working on beaches under the municipality's control, so it was not possible to check up on all of them. Only at Noordhoek did the council have a staff member from the parks and recreation department monitoring crews.

Filmworks Africa declined to comment.

How you can help

- Keep away from oystercatchers when they are obviously agitated, especially in summer, as you are probably keeping them from their nests or from feeding.
- Control your dogs on the beach.
- Avoid driving on the beach. If you do, drive slowly and be aware of the behaviour of the oystercatchers, which will let you know if their nests are in danger.
- Join the oystercatcher conservation programme and "adopt" a stretch of coast to monitor their breeding success.

UCT ornithologist Professor Phil Hockey, who heads the oystercatcher conservation programme, says the rarity of the birds is not really appreciated by the public because they are so conspicuous.

There are fewer than 5 000 and they are found in Namibia and South Africa only.

Hockey said: "Because their entire lives are confined to the coast, they are potentially at risk from all sorts of human factors, ranging from pollution

and coastal development to straightforward disturbance from man, his pets and his toys.

"For example, there is an alarming correlation between a decrease in the breeding success of oystercatchers and an increase in the sale of 4x4 vehicles in South Africa."



RAKED "CLEAN": Scarborough beach looks clean after a movie crew raked up all the kelp before a shoot, but the nest of an African black oystercatcher was destroyed in the process.

PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

He said the breeding rate of oystercatchers had gone up in areas where beaches had been closed to vehicles, like De Hoop and Goukamma nature reserves and the west side of Cape Point.

"It's not so much that vehicles destroy nests, although we have evidence that this happens, but it's more a question of the movement of vehicles and people around the nests keeping the parent birds off them, which makes the eggs susceptible to overheating.

"If they're exposed for long enough, the eggs literally fry in the sun. The birds won't be able to tell they're dead, so will carry on sitting on them," Hockey said.

Young chicks sometimes drowned if there was too much human activity on the beaches, he said. This happened when the parents called to the chicks to stay put because of humans, and if the humans were around long enough, the chicks drowned with the incoming tide.

Hockey said South Africa was solely responsible for conserving this species, the only oystercatcher breeding in Africa.

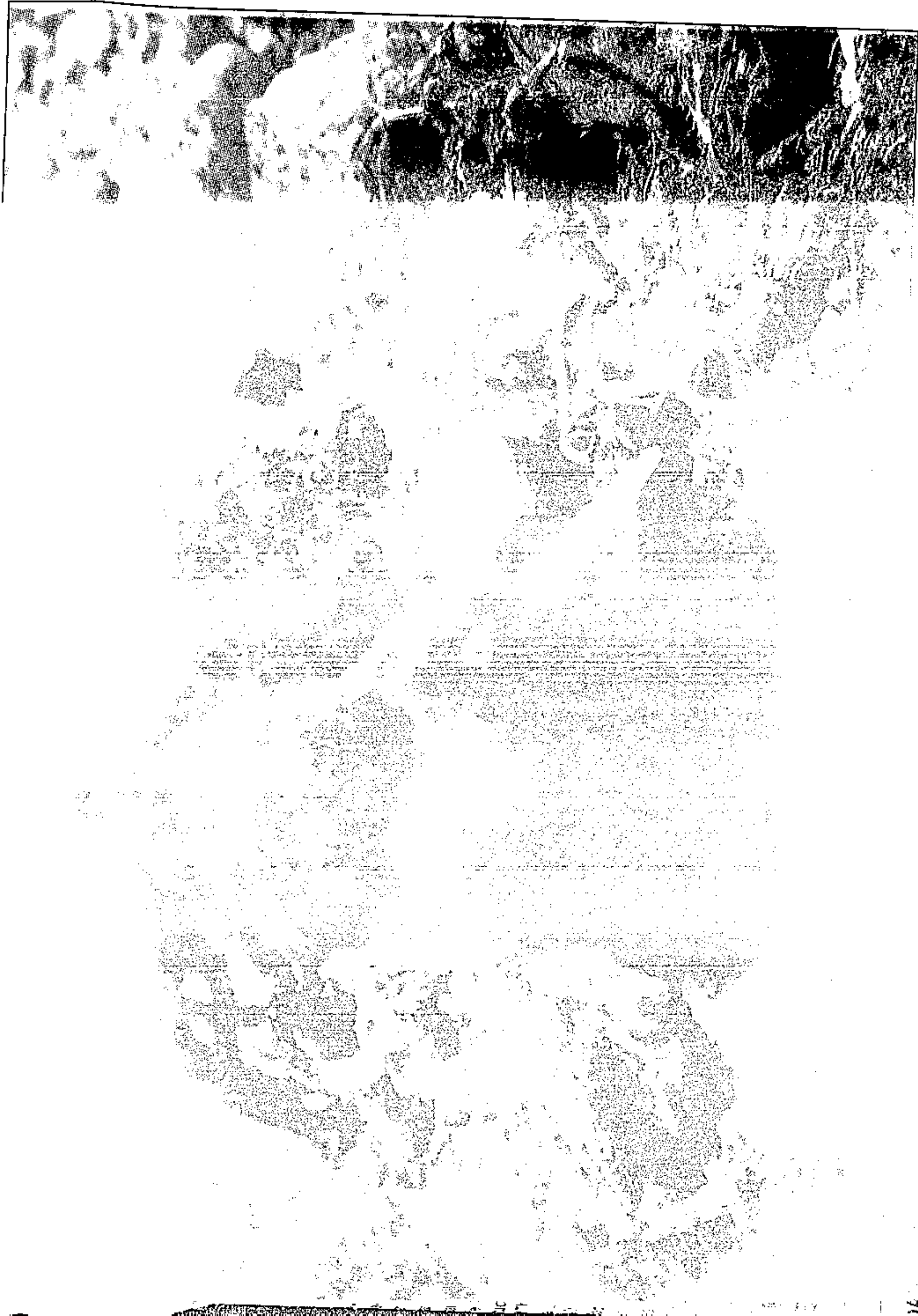
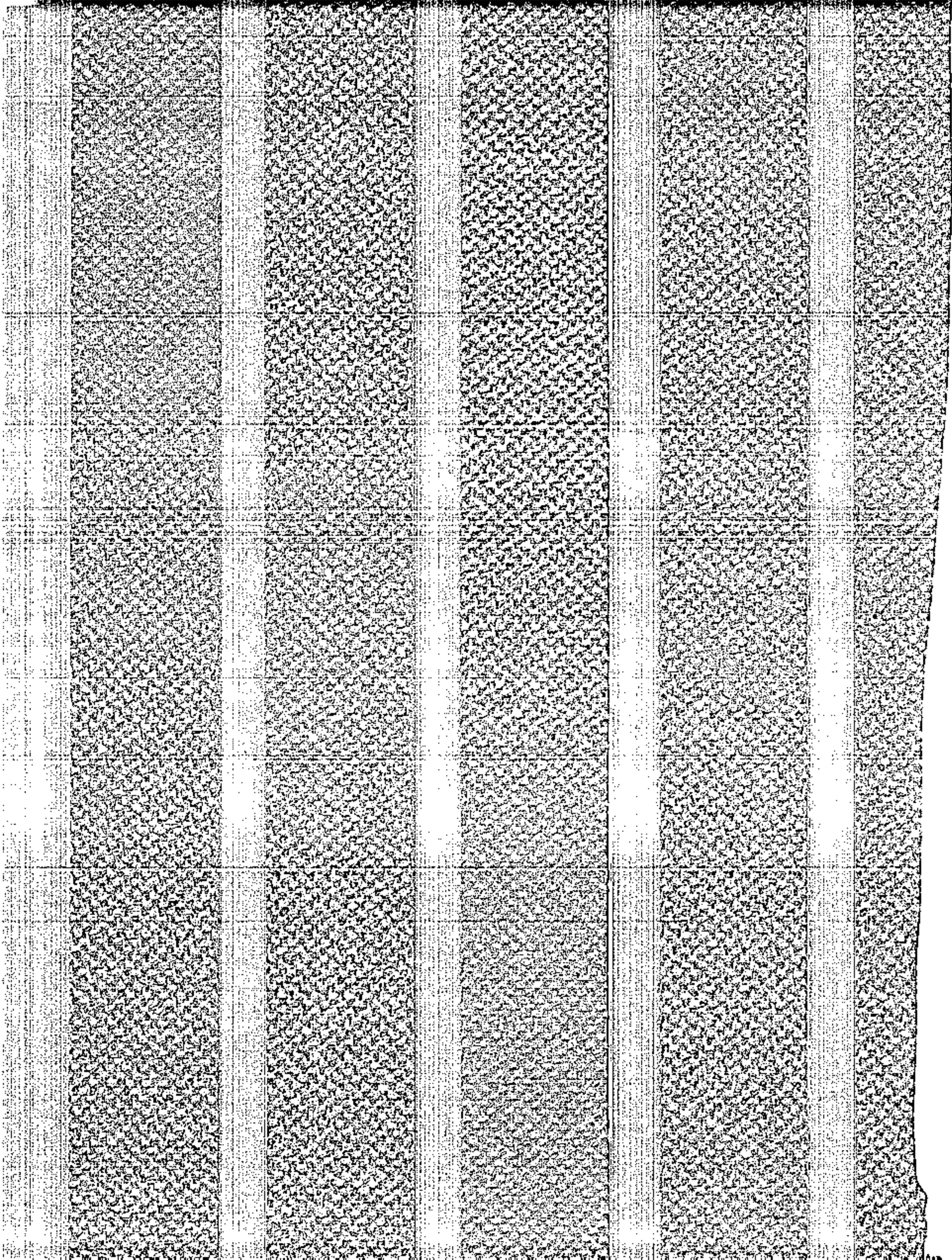
Another reason for launching the conservation programme is that oystercatchers are an excellent barometer of coastal change because all their needs must be found within a relatively small area in the inter-tidal zone of the coast. If something is wrong with them, chances are that other species will be affected too.

African black oystercatchers pair for life, says Hockey, with some pairs known to have been together for longer than 20 years. They may live to 35 years or older, and do not breed until they are around four-years old, or even six years, compared with a "mossie", which breeds when it is around 12 weeks old.

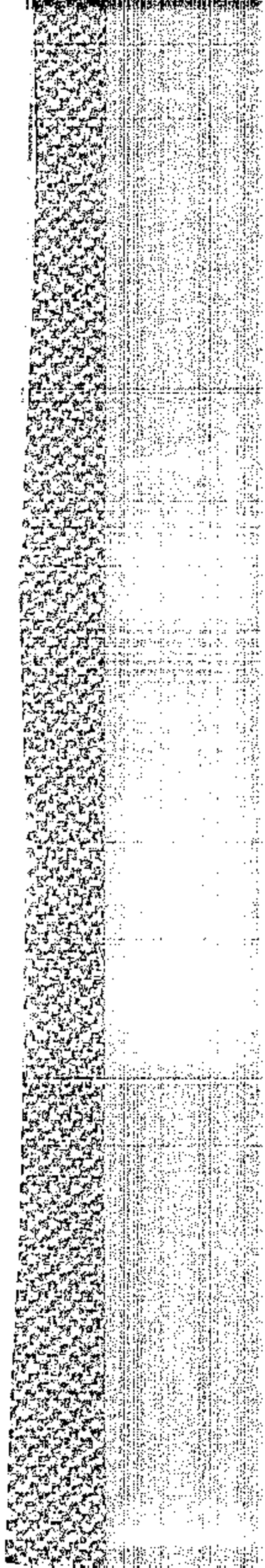
Their nests are simple scrapes in the ground just above high-water mark. Breeding success on the mainland is particularly low, with fewer than 500 chicks reaching fledgling age every year. Many of these die before breeding age.

"A survey of breeding success in March this year yielded some alarming results. In parts of the West Coast, the number of chicks reared was barely one tenth of that needed to maintain a healthy population. In parts of the Eastern Cape success was even lower."

● If you want to be involved in the oystercatcher conservation programme, contact Hockey at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, UCT, Rondebosch 7701; or fax (021) 650-3295 or email: ocp@bot-zoo.uct.ac.za.



hammered by
PICTURE: PHIL HOCKEY



'PERMISSION GIVEN BY MISTAKE'

Plett council rescinds development approval

PLETTENBERG BAY: Residents here have hailed their council's about-turn on a local development as "a very mature decision". Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

(56)

CT 24/12/97

THE town council has rescinded its decision to allow a housing development on land bordering Robberg Nature Reserve.

This comes after 16 local organisations — including the local chamber of business, the tourist board and environmental groups — combined to fight the development, which they felt would be a visual disaster and harmful to the nature reserve.

They believed the council had not followed correct procedures, and that the notice advertising the development had misled the public.

Yesterday Plett's town secretary, Mr Mark Fourie, confirmed that the council had rescinded its decision, and said the attorneys of the developers, Robberg Beach End (Pty) Ltd, had been notified.

"The development was advertised incorrectly so the whole thing became a nonsense. People affected by the development, like Cape Nature Conservation (which runs Robberg Nature Reserve), were not informed about it," he said.

"It was really an administrative

error. The applicants are aware of the council's decision. So far we have had no official response from them, but I believe they have indicated that they will re-submit an application to the council."

Chairperson of the local ratepayers' association Mr Jeff Pye said yesterday: "We are all delighted. We think it is a very mature decision. We asked the council to rescind their decision in August.

"We know we're not out of the woods yet, because the developers can re-apply. There is no way we can allow those properties to be built. All thinking people in Plett are concerned about this. It's not just a local issue, it's a national one."

Pye said residents were particularly heartened by support from Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan, who wrote to thank them for their "perseverance and commitment to the environment, particularly in this instance where the proposed development falls within the sensitive coastal zone".

The developers applied to develop the site in 1991, and the council

gave its approval to build on 26 even. A condition was that no further sub-divisions or other uses for the land would be allowed.

But in January the developer applied for permission to subdivide and develop four additional even on this "green belt", and the council gave its approval.

When local residents found out, they called on the council to overturn its decision because about-acting land owners had not been consulted and had been given less than the statutory 21 days to lodge objections, and because the development contravened the recommendations of UCT's environmental evaluation unit.

The unit said the visual effects of the development should be discussed with the Plett community before the council approved it.

The council's initial legal advice was that they had acted legally, and they declined to rescind their decision. The objectors then appealed to MEC for Planning Mr Lample Fick, whose office said the only route to follow was the courts.

The council rescinded their decision after a second legal opinion stated that their approval for the four extra even was invalid because of procedural shortcomings.



PREVIEWED: Plettenberg Bay town council has reversed its decision to allow development on this land about-acting Robberg Nature Reserve after 16 local organisations joined forces to oppose the original approval.

Oudekraal hotel almost completed

JOSEPH ARANES

STAFF REPORTER

PHOTO 29/12/08

There was intense debate when plans to build a hotel on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles were first unveiled.

Now the White House development is almost complete.

De Oudekraal Hotel's owner and developer Steve Jones said a big opening party was being planned for March 1. Construction workers have started to put the finishing touches to the R60-million complex.

"The contract is going very well and we are smack on target. The painters will move in by the third week of January."

Once they have finished, said Mr Jones, the landscapers will do their restoring work.

"We will have a 'soft opening' in February and will list the hotel as part of the French hotel group Accor and its upmarket five-star Sofitel brand, internationally," Mr Jones said.



Rocky playground: the controversial De Oudekraal hotel on the slopes of the Twelve Apostles is nearing completion

JIM MCILAGAN

8 000-ton sulphur stockpile to be given to Swartland farmers

Business Day Reporter

8029/12/97 (56) (45)

THE remains of a sulphur stockpile owned by the trade and industry department is to be cleared from AECI's Somerset West site and distributed to Swartland farmers early next year, Noel Williams (MP), chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee on the environment, announced.

The parliamentary committee was asked to examine options for the removal of the sulphur, which has become contaminated with soil, following the report of the Desai commission of inquiry into the sulphur fire at the site in December 1995.

Williams said the presence of about 8 000 tons of the remaining sulphur had been a matter of some concern to AECI, as well as to many Macassar residents who had been evacuated from their homes at the time of the fire.

He said a meeting of representatives of the trade and industry department, AECI Operations Services, Kynock Fertiliser and the Macassar disaster action committee had examined various options for the removal of the remaining sulphur.

It was agreed that the remains of the stockpile should be distributed to farmers in the Swartland.

"These farmers will be able to use the chemical, once it is standardised to about 20% strength, to control sulphur deficiencies in the soil on their farms," Williams said. "The farmers will receive the material free of charge."

The trade and industry department will carry the cost of screening and consolidating the stockpile and of transporting orders taken by Kynock Fertiliser from Swartland customers.

The department would call for tenders for the consolidation and transport of the sulphur and adjudicate these in January.

The conditions of the tender would specify precautions to be taken while transporting the sulphur to ensure the safety of communities through which the deliveries would pass.

Williams said the Macassar disaster action committee had expressed interest in tendering for the consolidation and transport of the sulphur.

He said the department aimed to consolidate the sulphur and start deliveries before the end of next month.

Africa still world's first waste dump

Environmental groups being mobilised
against "waste colonialism" by US

By Russel Molefe

UNWANTED hazardous waste from New York in the United States may be dumped or incinerated in South Africa and other African countries, the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) has warned.

The warning comes ahead of the impending award of a tender to a South African company, EnviroServe, by the New York City Domestic Waste Tender.

EJNF coordinator Mr Bobby Peek said this week that the forum had already mobilised local and international groups such as the Asia-Pacific Environmental Exchange and the International Trade Information Service.

"We will continue to mobilise other organisations so that this waste colonialism is halted immediately and the environment and health of African people is protected," Peek said.

He said there were many reasons why New York was not incinerating its own toxic waste. These included:

- The financial implications of operating an incinerator are huge and New York City would rather export the waste and dangers associated with it;
- There has been tremendous pres-

sure from environmental groups which led to the closure of incinerators across the United States; and

● Dioxin, which is the most lethal man-made poison, is produced by incineration and causes cancer, birth defects and psychological damage.

"One has to realise that the record of hazardous waste in Africa is dismal. Furthermore, it says to the world that, after two decades of public battle and outcry against the dumping of waste, Africa is still being treated as the dumping ground by developed countries," Peek said.

Benefits

However, EnviroServe managing director Mr Stan Jewaskiewitz said the company proposed to only utilise domestic waste and no hazardous waste would be involved.

He said the benefits for the importation of the waste would be a low-cost source of energy, sustainable job creation and increased economic activity. The project would not proceed until the host countries had agreed with the proposed activities.

"Provided discussions with the African countries prove successful, the New York City Tender can provide a substantial source of raw material," Jewaskiewitz said.

secretary
30/12/97

(56) (A)

Fickle Fick's replies only raise questions

(56)

CT 30/12/97

MEC FOR PLANNING Lampie Fick's decision to approve the rezoning of the Sparrebosch site flies in the face of economic sense, Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

EXACTLY two years ago, MEC for Planning Mr Lampie Fick stood on the White House site at Oudekraal and told journalists that along some parts of the Mediterranean coast, hotels that had been built in the tourist boom of the 1970s were being demolished because no one wanted to go there any more.

The reason, he said, was the scenery that had attracted tourists had been destroyed by development.

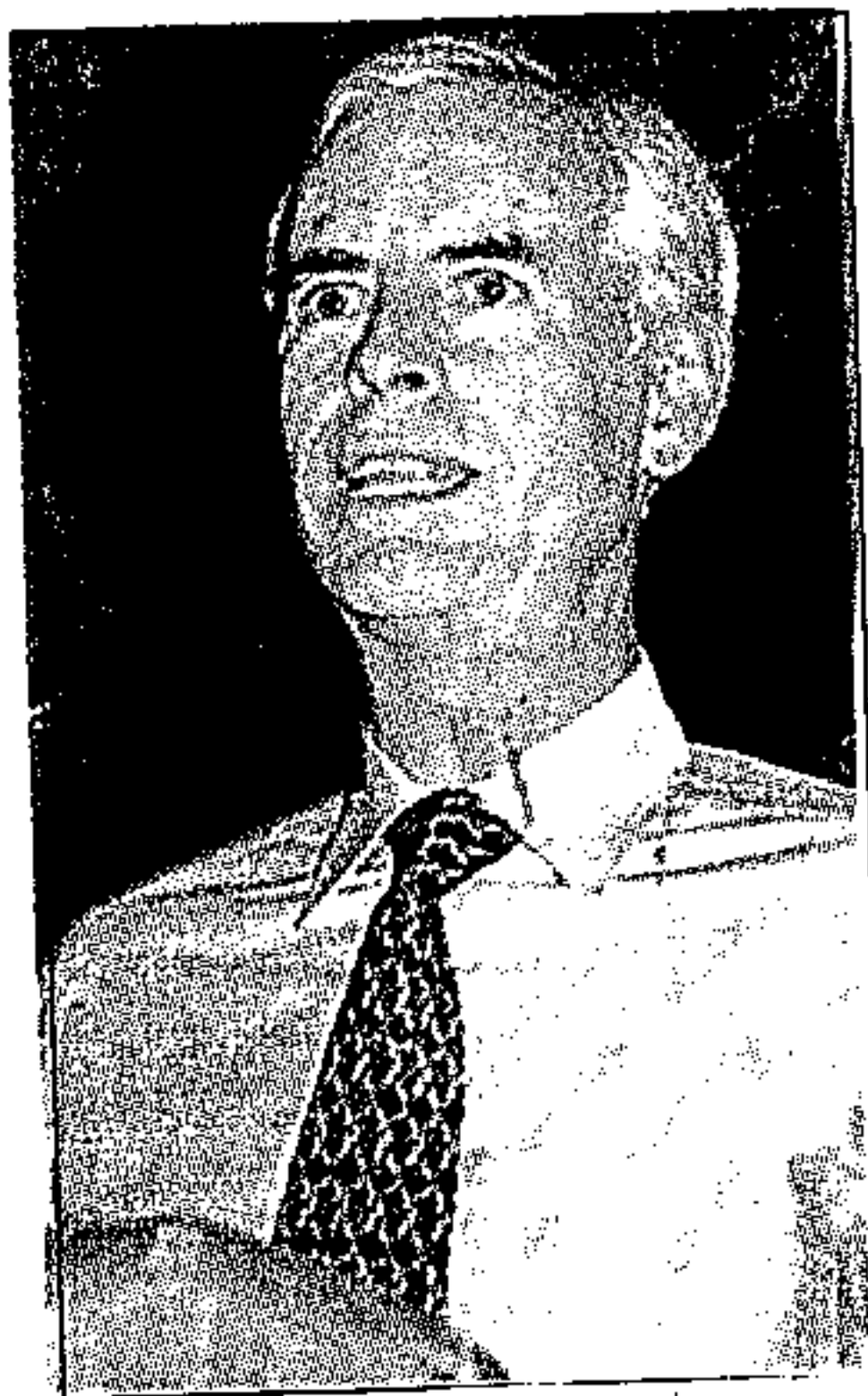
It was imperative that South Africa should not do the same, Fick said.

In May this year, he said he was particularly worried about development on the Garden Route, where overdevelopment had earned the nickname "Garbage Route" for one of the country's most scenic stretches of coastline. Local authorities should realise there were "limits to growth", Fick said, and not try to compete to become the biggest or most powerful. He said he would introduce strict legislation to ensure development did not outstrip the province's capacity.

It is statements like these that make it difficult to understand why Fick approved a rezoning application last week that would make way for the Sparrebosch Country Estate at Knysna on land identified by the Department of Environment as a "sensitive coastal area".

Why did he give the go-ahead for Sparrebosch's 100-bedroomed hotel, 50 sectional title units, 18-hole international standard golf course and 500 houses in the face of strong opposition across the spectrum of government and non-government environmental groups?

Why did he flout Minister of Environment Dr Pallo Jordan's advice that approval should not be given — at least until other uses for the site had been examined thoroughly or a detailed structure plan drawn up for the area?



Fick's recent answer to this last question was that when a developer submitted a rezoning application, he was legally obliged to consider it or he could risk a lawsuit.

Fair enough. But why did his answer have to be "yes"? Why could he not have said: "In the light of objections from the public and government organisations and on the advice of the Environment Minister, we will refuse your application until you have examined alternative, eco-friendly developments for the site or until an environmentally-friendly structure plan is in place"?

Fick said he could not wait for a new structure plan, determining land uses for different areas, to be drawn up. He said he had to refer the old structure plan, which described the Sparrebosch site as suitable for residential development.

Why was it necessary for Fick to do so when a new structure plan

YESTERDAY'S MAN: Lampie Fick

was in the pipeline? There was little if any public contribution to the old structure plan, drawn up in the apartheid era, and the "residential" development it specified envisaged a "coloured" township. What makes the Sparrebosch

site special? It's not pristine as cattle have been allowed to graze parts of the site and a small area has been ploughed. However, most of it is magnificent fynbos, set atop high cliffs, with pockets of indigenous forest.

In lodging its objection to the development, the local branch of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry described the site as having "a pristine natural beauty which compares with the best in the world. It is probably the last remaining undisturbed coastal fynbos between George and Plettenberg Bay outside nature reserves."

The department said the Sparrebosch application would be a "watershed case" influencing the development of Knysna. Developments like it were "wringing the neck" of the goose that laid the golden egg of tourism, it said.

Cape Nature Conservation also opposed the development, but Fick has since said neither of these government departments has any objection to its going ahead, provided this is subject to certain conditions — which he has imposed. The departments' spokespersons were not available to confirm this yesterday.

Fick said yesterday the board of the National Parks Board had not objected to the development. It was only the parks board warden for the Knysna Lakes Area, Mr Peet Joubert, who had done so and all his objections had been addressed.

Joubert, however, says it is not the board who considers rezoning proposals as it deals only with poli-

cy. It is the parks board staff on the ground who handle them.

It was also incorrect to say all his objections has been addressed.

"Fick said to me and to Nature Conservation: 'If you had no choice and the development were approved, what conditions would you consider imposing?' It was only in response to the inevitable rape of that site that I set conditions, but the parks board never approved of the development."

The parks board is worried about several aspects, among them the negative visual impact and the destruction of indigenous vegetation to make way for concrete and alien vegetation on the golfcourse.

The parks board also wants to know the long-term effect that the use of nutrient-rich and saline sewage effluent to irrigate the golfcourse will have on the adjacent indigenous vegetation. It also wants to know the effects of the herbicides and pesticides that will

'The conditions of approval are about as useful as plasters on someone hit by a bomb.'

be used, of the change in the water regime and of the stormwater runoff. None of these questions has been answered, says Joubert.

Knysna Environmental Forum chairperson Mr Toni Tonin dismisses Fick's conditions of approval as "cosmetic".

"They're about as useful as sticking plasters on someone who has been hit by a bomb," he said.

The Sparrebosch development decision raises several important points:

- The provincial authorities can ignore central government's advice on environmental issues, apparently without consequences.

- Environmental non-government organisations have little influence on decisions taken by the authorities.
- Although legislation allows the Minister of Environment to halt an activity that is damaging to the environ-

ment, he may do so only if he pays compensation. As some of the 500 Sparrebosch plots were sold for R1 million each, this piece of legislation is fairly useless in a country whose government cannot even afford enough school teachers.

- Despite what politicians might say, their actions show there is little political will to put environmental above economic considerations, although they may recognise that these could have negative economic effects in the long term.

Finally, the Sparrebosch decision makes one wonder if we will learn from the mistakes of other countries that are now pulling down coastal developments in an attempt to recover the scenic qualities that made these places attractive to tourists.

Or will South Africa, euphoric about becoming an international tourist destination after being the polecat of the world for decades, continue its headlong rush to sell off its natural assets for a fistful of dollars?

END

Natal parks to introduce visitors levy

(56) Sowetan 31/12/97

By Russel Molefe

THE Natal Parks Board is to introduce a community levy on all visitors to protected areas to finance upliftment projects among the disadvantaged people living adjacent to parks.

The levy will be effected from February 1 next year. Apart from the normal rates, each person will fork out R1 for gate entry, R5 for camping and R10 for accommodation.

This latest initiative by the NPB follows calls by local and international non-governmental environmental groups, including the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the World Conservation Union, that protected areas should be able to empower poor communities living adjacent to them.

NPB chief executive Dr George Hughes said the money derived from the levy would be allocated to the communities through the proposed system of local conservation boards laid down in the recently approved conservation legislation.

The legislation also provides for the amalgamation of the provincial department of nature conservation and the NPB.

"The board has assisted these communities in the past by procuring funds from donor agencies. But in order to ensure that these communities become directly involved in the future of the protected areas, the board deemed it necessary to secure additional funding directly from these areas.

"We committed ourselves for some years to the upliftment of the disadvantaged communities and currently run one of the largest conservation outreach programmes in Africa with projects valued at over R20 million," Hughes said.