ENVIRONMENT—1992

AUGUST—DEC.
State ‘could make up for blunder’

Make St Lucia a ‘peace park’

CAPE TOWN — By proclaiming the St Lucia wetland area a “peace park”, the Government could make up for a “disastrous” environmental blunder committed immediately after the National Party came to power in 1948, says Dr Ian Player.

The internationally acclaimed conservationist told business leaders at a “green” breakfast in Cape Town this week that one of the last political acts of General Jan Smuts as prime minister had been to proclaim the Dongola Reserve in northern Transvaal.

Desert

“The first act of the Nationalist government in 1948 was to de-proclaim the park.

“Today it is a desert. The Government has a chance to redeem that disastrous error and proclaim the Greater St Lucia Wetland Peace Park.

“Mr Bartlett (the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs) must not hide behind the skirts of the environmental impact assessment but must come out and save that wild area for all our children born and yet unborn, for South Africa and the world, for humanity.”

Player was recently axed from the Natal Parks Board along with former Wildlife Society president Dr Nolly Zaloumis by Natal Administrator Con Botha.

Both men have been outspo-

IAN Player, doyen of South African conservation, has called on the Government to proclaim St Lucia estuary a ‘peace park’. JOHN YEILD reports.

IAN PLAYER: Ditched by Natal Parks Board.

cause of their uncompromising stand.

This view has been reinforced by the disclosure that one of the replacement appointees on the board is Durban attorney Richard Cox, whose firm represents Richards Bay Minerals. Cox was reported as saying he personally had not had any business dealings with the company.

Player pointed out that Lake St Lucia was at the end of a long line of wetlands stretching northwards as far as east Africa. This created the possibility of transfrontier parks.

Desecration

Such transfrontier parks could be the key to a political confederation of southern African states, he suggested.

“We have a chance here — let’s be bold and seize it, seize the day and show the world our breadth of spirit and commitment to the emerging Africa.”

St Lucia was the key and the Government had the power, Player said.

“The Government came in on the deproclamation of Dongola Game Reserve. Does it want to go out on the desecration of St Lucia and Chapman’s Peak? Is this what they want future historians to remember?”

“I call on the Government to do the honourable thing. Show up your commitment to the land. Here is something all of us united on.”
SA's Peace Park

St Lucia should be

John Weber

"SA's Peace Park", says Dr Ian Player, down of South African Conservation

...premises that disturbances occur and

...premises that disturbances occur and

...premises that disturbances occur and

...premises that disturbances occur and

...premises that disturbances occur and

...premises that disturbances occur and
Anthrax threat to desert elephants

WASHINGTON — Wildlife officials are trying to organise a helicopter assault against the deadly anthrax virus they say threatens to wipe out the world’s last herd of desert elephants.

One Namib elephant has died and the remaining 50 could die quickly if they pick up the water-carried virus, said Henri Mangan, an official of the World Wildlife Fund here. He is travelling to Namibia.

The majestic elephants who roam across moonlike terrain in the Namib are not physically different from other African elephants, but their adaptation to desert life makes them unique.

Funds are being raised to fire darts loaded with the vaccine at the elephants from a helicopter, he said in Nairobi. The Namibian government has no helicopter, said Mr Mangan, and the fund is trying to raise money to rent one.

"The situation is desperate," he said. "Elephants who contract the disease will die in less than 24 hours. We could lose the entire herd."

The highly infectious disease is spread through saliva from infected elephants to others through the water they drink.

Behaviour sets apart the desert elephants of northern Namibia from others of the same species.

Most elephants behave like bulldozers, pulling down entire trees just to eat the tender top branches, but the desert variety pick carefully away at the branches of sparse trees.

"Elephants learn very quickly and they are extremely careful in terms of water and food resources," he said.

Other animals are threatened. — Sapa-AP.
Tribe gets compensation from park

By Charmella Bhagwat

The Bakgatla-Ba Kgafela tribe has finally started to receive compensation for the land it gave up 13 years ago for the creation of Pilanesberg National Park, on promises that they would share the park’s profits.

Last week they received a cheque for R49 000, part of the park’s 1991 hunting and gate fee profits, from the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board (BNPB) at a colourful function in Saulspoort.

It was an historic moment both for the tribe, and for wildlife conservation and community development in southern Africa.

For years there have been bitter recriminations from the tribe over the land on which they lived and grazed their cattle for centuries, and for which they had never been compensated by the Bophuthatswana government.

The Bakgatla chief’s son, Kgosi Pilane, said the money would be used for the development of the Bakgatla-Ba Kgafela community and would be administered by their newly formed Community Development Organisation.

BNPB director Roger Collinson said the tribe could look forward to receiving part of the Pilanesberg National Park’s hunting and gate fee profits every year now that the park was finally showing substantial profits.

The Sustainable Environmental Conservation through the Utilisation of Natural Resources project (SECURE), a BNPB initiative which was launched at the ceremony on Friday, would help develop the community and conserve natural resources, Mr Collinson said.

Mr Collinson added that SECURE’s main objective was to get the people to support and take part in conservation and, at the same time, use the financial benefits conservation offered to develop their own communities.
Green Party to take root in SA

Staff Reporter

A new political party, dedicated to environmental issues — named the Green Party — will be officially launched in South Africa at the end of October.

This was announced in Cape Town by the party’s national convener, Mr Ian Brownlie, who headed the Save Chapman’s Peak Action Group.

The Green Party was not connected with any foreign political group and it would “strive to rid itself of any sensationalism attributed to ‘green movements’ here or abroad,” Mr Brownlie said.
Platinum sole reactor to strike concerns

From MERVYN HARRIS

JOHANNESBURG. — Platinum soared nearly $10 to be fixed above $385 at both London fixing sessions on Friday on foreign concern that this week's general strike could result in labour unrest and disrupt supplies.

But the ANC-led mass action was discounted by domestic investors who continued to lift leading industrial and financial shares for the fourth successive day on Friday after sharp falls recently.

Analysts said the strike was expected to have less impact than initially estimated, although there were still some worries over a flare-up of violence which kept most investors on the sidelines and volumes remained low.

Reuter reports that platinum eased back from early highs after rallying sharply as buying in opening European trade by Japanese trade houses sparked frenzied short covering.

Nobody wanted to go into the weekend short ahead of the general strike, and the early buying caused a panicky scramble to get covered, one dealer said.

He said the planned two-day strike was already discounted in the platinum price, but there was still nervousness that the situation might spiral out of control.

Dealers said platinum should hold in the $380s after finding good support at $372 recently and might test highs of $391.

Platinum was fixed at $385,50/oz, up about $10 from the previous $375,50 close, but off the high at $386.50 before retreating to retest the $382 support/resistance level it smashed through in the initial rally.

In New York, platinum was the most active sector in the precious metals market, with spot prices jumping about $7 to close at $384.50. October Nymex platinum ended $7.40 up at $385.10/oz, off an early high of $388.30.

An analyst said $385 and $394, basis October Nymex, were awkward areas of resistance for platinum, but the metal appeared on course for a technical upside target of $425 by year-end.

Gold was fixed at $357.95, up $1.50 from the previous close on the back of platinum's rise. In Hong Kong the metal ended at $357.45 from a previous $356.75 close.
PUTTING DOWN ROOTS: Helen Nomazizi, 9, holds a young ficus tree about to be planted at the Langa library. Abalimi Bezekhaya project co-ordinator Dave Golding prepares the hole while centre manager Wilfred Mbude explains to friends of the library how to care for the new arrival.

Barren Cape Flats fast becoming the green, green fields of home

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter
THERE’S an exotic influence sending out strong roots across the barren wastes of the Cape Flats townships, with close links to Brazil, Australia, New Zealand...

No, it’s not a new dance craze or international pop culture. Rather, it’s a green movement that is growing exponentially, according to officials of Abalimi Bezekhaya (Xhosa for “Planters of the Home.”)

Abalimi Bezekhaya is a service project which has been providing trees, fertiliser and gardening advice to residents and community organisations in Cape Town’s black townships for ten years. The non-profit project, closely linked to the Catholic Church’s Welfare and Development Agency, runs two People’s Garden centres – at Khayelitsha and Nyanga.

After a slow start, demand for their services and products is now so great they are unable to keep up, says project development officer Mr Rob Small.

“There’s a growing green culture developing – absolutely, without a doubt.

“I’ve been with the project for four years now. In 1986 we only had the Nyanga centre and people used to trickle in – I wondered whether it was worth it.”

Initially, the centre supplied only food plants such as vegetable seedlings and fruit trees, he continued.

“But people started asking for trees and shrubs and now, we just can’t keep up – people are pouring in.

“Last year we had more than 7 000 people coming to the centres and the demand is growing at between 60 and 80 percent each year. We’re running our butts off, so something really is happening.”

The two centres have demonstration areas where people are shown how to plant and care for fruit trees, flowering plants, shrubs, hedges and even lawns, and how to grow vegetables using the highly effective deep trough system.

“The centres also sell cheap plants, seeds, seedlings, trees, manure and gardening equipment.”

And the exotic touch? It’s in the trees they provide, which include Brazilian peppers, Queensland pyramid trees and manitokes from New Zealand, as well as indigenous varieties such as sand olives and waterberries.

“We provide a mixture of the hardest species that will grow in the Cape Flats,” explains project co-ordinator Mr Dave Golding.

“Khayelitsha in particular is barren and the priority is the trees must be able to resist the wind.”

The project’s success is attracting increasing attention, and this year it was a popular category winner in the M-Net/Green Trust Environmental awards.

*For further information on the project, ☎ 212-578.*
Environment report released

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

THE consultants report commissioned by the Fish Hoek Town Council to comment on an environmental impact assessment undertaken by the would-be developers of Extension 7 Zone C, has finally been released to the public.

The report, which with advice from a legal firm formed the basis of the council’s decision to conditionally approve the rezoning, has been the centre of a controversy raging between conservation groups opposed to the development and the council, which until now had declined to allow the public access to the document.

Having perused the report, Mr Andy Gabb of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, a member of the Silvermine Valley Coalition opposing the development, said it was completely “sound and I just can’t see what the point of withholding it for so long was”.

The report states that the “final” assessment is not a true one in terms of the integrated environmental management process but should rather be considered as an environmental study or evaluation.

In accordance with this process there should be ongoing feedback to all involved and affected people throughout the project, in the form of meetings or reports, before the assessment is finalised, yet according to the report, it appears as though this was not done.

It states: “A meeting held at an early stage would have provided clarity on the proposal and provided an opportunity to make it clear to the involved and affected people that their comments were sought at a stage when the layout and design of the proposed development were still flexible. Their input would be incorporated in the study and it would again be sought at a further stage when more detail was available.”

The consultants feel the overall study is detailed and comprehensive, yet additional input into other alternative uses for the site could have been made.

“If the ‘no-go’ option is followed, would the client seek compensation from the Fish Hoek Municipality, from the Cape Province Administration or not at all? Would the client fence off land and prohibit public access? These aspects need further investigation and reporting so that the interested and affected parties realise the consequences of this decision,” states the report.

The document was tabled at the last council meeting after Councillor Vic Kabanil proposed at the previous meeting that it be made available to the public.
Wildlife body aghast at new Silvermine plan

BY CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa has reacted with horror to a proposal by a new welfare organisation calling itself Silvermine for Christ to build a R14m centre for "spiritual healing and training" in the Silvermine valley.

A spokesman for the welfare organisation, Mr Sonia Cope, confirmed that plans for the project — which will include a "spirit hospital" a rehabilitation centre, an awareness centre, an Aids wing, a caravan park and a tea-room — had been submitted to Cape Town City Council.

Healing

She said: "The organisation was launched at the Alphen Hotel last month. Interested businessmen displayed a positive attitude and willingness to co-operate."

The organisation is non-denominational and it claims to offer emotional, mental, physical and spiritual healing. It serves all people — regardless of creed.

A council spokesman confirmed that the application had been received and that Mrs Cope had been interviewed by Exco.

In a letter to the city planner, Mr Neville Riley, Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society described the proposed development as "highly inappropriate within the Silvermine River valley and nature area".

He said: "This proposed complex will further add to the exponentially mounting pressures in the Silvermine River catchment.

"We do not deny that Silvermine Farm — an important national monument of considerable historical significance — is in dire need of repair, but this proposed project is not in keeping with the generally acceptable uses of a nature area.

"If the council is seriously considering the proposal of Silvermine for Christ, perhaps it should also consider equally seriously the option of leaving what is left of the Silvermine River Valley as far as possible in the state that its Creator intended — unspoilt and pristine, a physical and spiritual refuge from the drabness of everyday urban living."

Also in the letter, Mr Gubb said the Silvermine River Valley had been the focus of one threat after another. He listed 12 incidences over the past six months, focusing on the Silvermine for Christ proposal as the "final straw to break the camel's back".
It's green
but will it grow?

By GAYE DAVIS

A NEW seedling poked its head up in South Africa's political garden this week when the formation of a Green Party was announced in Cape Town — but whether it will grow into a hardy sapling is open to doubt.

Convenor Ian Brownlie, who rose to some prominence as one of the co-ordinators of the campaign against kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak, claimed the new party had the backing of prominent personalities — but declined to name any of them.

At a one-person press conference last Friday, Brownlie distributed a Green Party manifesto and a press release stating the party's intentions to keep environmental issues high on the agenda within a parliament where "social, economic and political issues" were likely to demand prior attention.

According to the press release, the new party has already formulated its policies as well as long-term strategies and will "strive to rid itself of any sensationalism attributed to 'green movements' here or abroad", adopting "active liaison between itself and inter alia industry and commerce".

Which is all very well, but when questioned on specifics — such as funding, figureheads and membership — Brownlie was reluctant to say anything other than that it was only possible "at this stage" to give "very broad brushstrokes".

"We anticipate having a strong voice in parliament. Even if we fail to reach our objectives, at least we will have raised environmental awareness."
Bop Parks in bid to make friends

BOPUTHATSWANA national parks now allow herbalists inside the reserves accompanied by game rangers — but the rangers mustn’t peek when the herbalist begins picking herbs or shaving off tree bark. This preserves the herbalists’ secrets.

The rule is just one of the quaint and sometimes dramatic adjustments “Bop Parks” has made in its attempt to befriend the people living outside the fences. The people can also get cost-price meat, collect thatch free (and sell it afterwards in Johannesburg), collect firewood and dig clay for pots — all from inside national parks.

The title “Bop Parks” is another innovation. The colloquial name for the National Parks Board of Bophuthatswana now appears on its official publications, which are presented in bright covers bearing the slogans “Catch the spirit of Africa” and “Meeting the challenges of a changing Africa.”

Bop Parks director, ecologist Roger Collinson (43), says: “We have to move close, very close, to our neighbours. He said game parks could no longer be islands of wildlife. If the neighbours did not benefit, then parks could not be justified.

Bop Parks has a roving ambassador outside the fence — Daniel Nsala (27), an ex-Johannesburg Technikon student who recalls childhood adventures in the wide valleys of what is now Pilanesberg National Park. His father was evicted from his farm in the Pilanesberg and although he received compensation land outside, he felt great bitterness and, later, homesickness.

I first interviewed Dan Nsala four years ago at Johannesburg Technikon after he was chosen to speak in Japan on South African environmental problems. He told me then: “My ambition is to teach communities.”

That describes very nicely what he is now doing. He talks and liaises daily with those outside the fence. He collects sociological data and, at the same time, facilitates schemes by which wildlife outside the proclaimed areas can be used to generate income and jobs.

The situation is that Bophuthatswana — economically a rising star in Africa — has become not only the Witwatersrand’s playground and quiet retreat, but is now becoming internationally attractive because of its Sun City complex and its opportunities for big game hunting.

While this is all very well for those who can afford to holiday in time-share apartments at KwaMaritane or Baku-bung game lodge, or at the luxury hunting camps, the local people are only now beginning to detect benefits.

Many still resent having been moved out of the Pilanesberg.

Last weekend, in a ceremony at Pilanesberg attended by Chief Pilane, a cheque for R49 000 was handed over to the Bakgatla tribe by Roger Collinson. The money was from a cut of the big game hunting receipts.

The Bakgatla tribe was the main tribe affected by Pilanesberg’s proclamation.

How will the tribe spend the cheque and other money which will accrue to it from wildlife? Significantly, they are going to develop a 3 500 ha wildlife reserve of their own.

For years the tribe has been making a modest income mostly from Transvaalers who come to hunt in their area. Now they intend fencing the area and, when that happens, Bop Parks will help them restock it with big game species.
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - An environmental group claims that the banned pesticide Dieldrin has recently been used and could have contaminated Potchefstroom's drinking water.

The claims were denied by the Department of Agriculture's Directorate Resource Conservation.

The BioTox Foundation, formed about 18 months ago to combat the misuse of chemicals in the environment, said yesterday that test results had shown high levels of the toxin in the tissues of animals around Potchefstroom's Boskop Dam.

The Department of Agriculture said its own animal tissue tests indicated that levels of the toxin were within permissible limits.

Dieldrin was used to combat the quelea finch, an agricultural pest, before the substance was banned in South Africa in 1983.

BioTox Foundation director Mr Abre Steyn said the presence of Dieldrin in Potchefstroom's Boskop Dam was well over the level considered safe for animals and humans.

The tests were conducted by a reputable scientific research group, which he declined to name "at this stage", after a number of pesticide sprayings in and around Potchefstroom during March this year.

"An enormous quantity of Dieldrin" was found in all animal tissues tested.

Large quantities of Fenthion - being used to combat quelea finches - and Dieldrin were present in the tissues of fish and other animals.

The foundation "had evidence" that ostriches, vultures, black wildebeest, geese, flamingos and other "non-target" animals were dying of cancer and anaemia.

The Department of Agriculture's Directorate Resource Conservation director Mr Johannes Vosloo said that Dieldrin was not being used for spraying quelea.

He confirmed that Quelatox (Fenthion) was used near Potchefstroom in March to combat the finch, but he did not have the details at hand.

Traces of Dieldrin, which was used extensively by farmers in certain parts of the country before it was banned, were diminishing and the Department conducted tests regularly to ensure this, he said.
World opposition to plutonium ship grows

JOHN YIELD
Environment Reporter

WORLD-wide protests against Japan's plans to ship reprocessed plutonium from Europe are escalating, with Greenpeace activists targeting a drydock in Japan where the carrier vessel — dubbed "a floating Chernobyl" — is being prepared.

Locally, the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps) is preparing an information pamphlet for distribution later this week and finalising plans for further protest action against the Japanese government.

Last week coalition members briefly occupied the foyer of the Japanese consulate in the city.

On Wednesday, eight Greenpeace activists using three inflatables hung two giant banners across the drydock in Yokohama where the plutonium carrier, the Akatsuki Maru, is berthed.

The 10 x 2 metre banners read "Stop plutonium in English and We don't need plutonium in Japanese."

Six of the Greenpeace team were held for questioning by the Japanese coastguard after the protest.

Greenpeace spokesman Mr Damon Moglen said the Akatsuki Maru had apparently returned to the drydock in Yokohama after a "training mission" for its "new and inexperienced" crew.

This had prompted concerns that, following a refit in Britain and Japan — apparently to increase security — the vessel was still experiencing problems which could compromise safety.

"This ship is a disaster waiting to happen, and it is clear that the safety conditions of the plutonium transport are inadequate," Mr Moglen charged.

"In just a few weeks this floating Chernobyl could be passing tens of countries and effectively endangering the safety and security of the world."
Politicos seem agreed on saving environment

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN — Whatever the composition of a future government, the main players appear to appreciate the nature of the challenge of saving the environment.

Both the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party express a strong environmental ethic and point out that it is their grassroots supporters who are the first to suffer from degradation of the land, drought or pollution.

The Democratic Party always has been strong on conserving the environment and natural resources, while officials of the Department of Environment Affairs believe they have already made significant progress in a relatively new area of concern.

The ANC, the IFP and the DP all call for stricter enforcement of environmental controls, although there is some disagreement as to whether management is best executed on a centralised national or a regional basis.

Professor Stan Sangweni, ANC spokesman on the environment, says he would like to see the Department of Environment become part of a Ministry of Finance and Planning — the strongest in government — so that all major developmental proposals would pass through it.

He says there should be legislation defining the areas of responsibility between central, regional and local government, because it is at the two lower levels that destruction of the environment actually takes place.

Professor Sangweni is director of the newly-created School of Rural Community Development at the University of Natal, Maritzburg, having spent 33 years in exile, during which he became a senior officer with the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi.

He says there is a need for an effective programme of rural development which addresses upliftment of the artificially created homelands, access to land and access — for those who require it — to agricultural credit, extension services and marketing services. Those are concerns for government.

Professor Sangweni calls for education to create an ethic of environmentalism and for the benefits of modern scientific knowledge to be combined with the traditional and instinctive conservation practices of the African peoples.

Mr Maurice MacKenzie, IFP spokesman, says his party subscribes to international concern for the environment and is encouraged by the growing awareness in South Africa.

Good environmental practices will succeed only if underpinned by education and sound rural planning which leads to economic growth.

Unless this happens, a burgeoning population will exploit natural resources to survive, and the process of degradation will not be arrested.

Mr MacKenzie, a Natal Midlands farmer, says development proposals should be considered on a well-researched, case-by-case basis. It could be that short-term human problems like unemployment and poverty have to take priority.

Environmental legislation should be more strictly enforced, while the Conservation of the Environment Act of 1989 should provide the basis for a far-reaching and enforceable policy.

The Democratic Party’s Rupert Lorimer says the environment knows no political boundaries and fragmented management of river catchments has proved disastrous. There has to be national co-ordination of control.
Incentives may help burn diesel ‘lake’

INCENTIVES might be needed to promote the use of diesel-driven vehicles if the diesel surplus proved to be of a long-term nature, the National Energy Council (NEC) said yesterday.

NEC spokesman Lourens van der Berg said the possibility of incentives was still speculative, but options included the promotion of diesel engine manufacture and the use of diesel engines in taxis or other passenger vehicles, or a restructuring of taxes on diesel.

Demand for petrol had increased proportionately more than diesel. Demand for diesel had been dampened by drought and low levels of economic activity over the past couple of years, he said.

Since there was limited flexibility in petrol and diesel yields from a barrel of crude oil, it was not always technically possible to adjust the refining process to balance the petrol/diesel supply and demand ratio. To balance this ratio, petrol was imported or diesel exported. Currently the surplus was being exported.

If SA had a better agricultural season this summer, and if the economy improved, the surplus could be short term, Van der Berg said. He declined to quantify the current diesel surplus.
Nature-lovers launch fight for reserve

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

LANDOWNERS and political authorities are under pressure to unite to protect the Karbonkelberg, the largely untouched area between Llandudno and Hout Bay.

The newly constituted Karbonkelberg Nature Reserve Proposal Committee, which is backed by several Cape environmentalists, wants tougher conservation measures in Klein Leenukopje, Sandy Bay, the Ondeskop Peninsula, Leenagat, Karbonkelberg, Seal Island and the Sentinel.

The area is in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment but it does not have formal conservation status and includes several private properties, notably 200 hectares next to Sandy Bay owned by Bankorp Properties and two erven belonging to hotel magnate Mr Sol Kerzner.

Ms Lisa Kruger-Liptrot, spokesman for the new committee, said the area was “an exquisite yet little-known promontory — an area of exceptional and unspoil beauty”.

Speaking on the summit of the Karbonkelberg yesterday, she said it deserved the same protection as Table Mountain, a declared nature reserve and national monument.

The committee wanted all State-owned land consolidated into a reserve, as well as the private property on a conservation basis. “We do not want to buy it out,” she said.

Absa, which owns Bankorp, was reported last week to be considering selling its land for about R3.8 million.

Ms Kruger-Liptrot said Absa had told her it was no longer interested in developing its Sandy Bay property, mainly because of adverse publicity.

But she warned: “The area now faces a serious threat of commercial development and it appears that a change of ownership of a vital portion is imminent.”

Conservationists place a high ecological value on the proposed reserve, which has at least three important vegetation types of the species-rich Cape Floral Kingdom: mountain fynbos, coastal renosterbos and strandveld.

“A Karbonkelberg Nature Reserve would be of inestimable value to all South Africans and visitors to this country as a place of relaxation, education and research, as well as a habitat for the re-introduction of indigenous flora and fauna,” said Ms Kruger-Liptrot.

The committee had contacted various authorities and environmental organisations about the proposal, including the Wildlife Society, the Botanical Society, Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring and the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee.
Cashing in on the tourist crop.

By EDDIE KOCH

THERE'S a new breed of man who travels deep into the wildest areas of the country with enough stamina and determination to save our ecology from total ruin.

You will find him being feted by government ministers, entrepreneurs, planners, farmers and tribal chiefs. From the bankrupt farms of the northern Transvaal to the congested plains of the homelands, they revere him as the new messiah.

Thousands of his kind come to the region every year, sometimes with hunting rifles strapped to their backs, but mostly with the latest in video technology around their necks and lots of dollars or yen in their pockets.

They call him homo superbus.

South Africa's official tourist body, Satour, reports that 1.7 million foreigners visit this country every year. Eight out of 10 say that they have come to appreciate the wildlife, indigenous vegetation and scenic beauty of South Africa.

And with a new environmental awareness seeping into the public mind, there is an increasing number of local people who choose to spend a week out in the bush instead of shopping at Sun City.

"Commercial wildlife management and the attendant tourism development provide a land-use option that is not only profitable and sustainable but also has the capability to heal the scars of earlier degradation," says a recent report by ecologist David Grossman and Tony Ferrar, executive director of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

"With the imminent redress of former political problems, the region is preparing for a growth in eco-tourism. The existing state-run parks are stretched to capacity and private sector conservation-based developments are emerging to cater for the game viewing market."

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) reports that there were 50,000 local hunters and 400 professional hunting guides inside the country and that 4,000 hunters from abroad visited South Africa, bringing in an income of some R270 million.

But the Kruger National Park, and other game reserves, find they don't have enough beds to accommodate the demand. Every year, the peak holiday season, they turn away one out of every second person trying to get into the park.

All sorts of schemes are springing up in every part of the country to cater for this demand. There are now some 800 reserves, excluding those owned by the National Parks Board, ranging from exclusive resorts like Mala Mala and Londolozi to small tribal resource areas in the homelands.

The SAAU's National Game Organisation reports that in 1990 there were 9,000 game ranches occupying some eight million hectares of the country.

A total of R355 million was generated by game farming in 1990. Three quarters of this came from safari hunting and the rest from tourist visits, game auctions and sale of venison.

The government, recognising the capacity of eco-tourism to kickstart the rural economy, this year made R600-million available to fund the infrastructure for these kinds of ventures.

Farmers, hard hit by economic depression and drought, are selling their cattle, erecting game fences, stocking the land with wild animals and building lodges or chalets and holding thumbs that this will save them from going under," says Grossman.

Conservation authorities in kaNgwane and in

---

Harvesting tourists

From PAGE 23

Bophuthatswana report that, whereas they struggled to sell the notion of conservation to rural people in the past, they are now receiving spontaneous applications for reserves to be established in parts of these homelands.

Take a tiny reserve at a place called Mzinti in a remote and drought-stricken corner of kaNgwane not far from the Mozambique border. Here the kaNgwane Parks Corporation (KPC) made a healthy turnover of R100,000 over the last year by conducting a few safaris for foreign hunters, accommodating some tourists in tents and selling a few heads ofeland.

The parks authorities aim to use these resources for building civic projects in the local community such as clinics andcheckboxes. "These are small amounts of money. But in these depressed areas it indicates some form of growth and development," says KPC director Jeremy Anderson.

The result is that wildlife ranching is now the fastest growing and most dynamic livestock industry in South Africa — and it is fast becoming the most dynamic force for conserving the country's indigenous plant and animal species.

And it's not only wildlife tourism that is encouraging farmers and peasants to preserve the rural environment. In the northern Transvaal and parts of the eastern Free State, farmers are converting their old stone buildings into guest houses for sensitive visitors. Others are allowing their properties to be used, in return for a fee, as horse and hiking trails.

But Grossman and Ferrar point out in their report, published in the latest edition of The Traffic Bulletin, that eco-tourism should not be seen as a magical panacea that will automatically solve the problems of rural development.

"Game ranching should not be a quick-fix solution to poverty in the white and black rural areas. A lot of people put up a fence and call the place a game lodge and think they will make megabucks overnight," says Grossman. "But it doesn't work like this. These projects need care and planning. They have to be carefully marketed so that they can become financially viable and, most of all, they have to have popular support."

Many new game farms and private reserves have adopted the latest conservation principles being promoted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which stress the need to promote tangible benefits to rural people living in and around these protected wildlife areas.

"Perceptions in the rural areas are changing. People used to see wildlife as a nuisance and a threat to their traditional way of farming. There is now a growing awareness of the potential for rural development through game farming," says Grossman.

"But in South Africa revenue derived from the wildlife trade does not reach the rural poor as well as it does in certain projects in neighbouring countries and there is not sufficient participation by local people in decisions about these conservation activities."

These inadequacies have to be addressed for wildlife conservation to achieve the full potential it has to help reconstruct South Africa's rural economy.
Drought gives water experts food for ideas

DRINK WET REPORTS

Major water schemes, planned for the next two years, will relieve the drought in some parts of the country. Experts believe that the drought will improve water supplies in the affected areas.

DOMESTIC PLANNING

The conference is being held to discuss the future of water in the region. The conference is expected to result in a decision by the government to proceed with the planned projects.

LIVESTOCK

The conference is being held to discuss the future of livestock in the region. The conference is expected to result in a decision by the government to proceed with the planned projects.
Sandy Bay 'should be part of nature reserve'

Staff Reporter

SANDY BAY naturists are lobbying the government to have their beach declared part of a proposed Karbonkelberg nature reserve to protect it from development.

The pressure group is headed by Sandy Bay activist Ms Lisa Kruger-Liptrot, who proposes that the reserve should stretch from the Sandy Bay car park over Klein Leeukopple and the Karbonkelberg as far as the Oudekip Peninsula and the Hout Bay Sentinel.

This area incorporates several privately-owned plots, including the 270 hectares owned by the Absa group, which abandoned the idea of commercial development because of public pressure and said last weekend that the R3.8 million property was for sale.

Ms Kruger-Liptrot said yesterday that Sandy Bay had endured the "constant onslaught" of developers for long enough.
CONCERN for the environment is not just fashionable, it is permanent. It involves the very survival of the human race and life on the planet.

So says John Tinker, head of the Panos Institute, who received a ‘Global 500’ award at the Rio Earth Summit in Brazil in June for his contribution to sustainable development.

He was speaking at a workshop for journalists entitled ‘Media and the Environment’ in Harare last week.

In 1972 Tinker attended the first-ever world conference on environment in Stockholm, Sweden. And 20 years later, the Rio summit was looking at essentially the same problems.

“There has been relatively little real action taken to address these issues,” he said.

The plus point for the Rio Summit, however, was that it was widely publicised and there was greater awareness now of the problems but governments did not show the will to “work together to solve these problems”, Tinker said.

The governments of the rich countries showed little willingness to provide funds and on the other hand those of the poor countries were only too happy to criticise the rich ones.

Three things were achieved though, Tinker said. These were that:

- A permanent United Nations monitoring group on the environment was set up. This body has powers to look at individual countries and demand that governments mend their ways;
- A public awareness to green problems was increased; and
- Environmental issues received priority from governments because heads of state took part in the conference.

What is the role of the media after Rio? Tinker asked.

“The media should focus on solutions at local and national level. Information must be locally produced,” Tinker said.

The role of the media was to:

- Deepen public awareness and understanding. The media has to answer questions why it was important to save our planet but this should be done in the language that all people would understand.
- “Environmental reporting is mostly full of jargon that ordinary people do not understand and does not explain why certain things have to be done,” Tinker said.
- Journalists had to:
  - Learn all different issues surrounding the environment;
  - Establish links with non-governmental organisations. While these organisations may know what is wrong, they need the media for publicity.

Half of what we write should be explaining.

and Investigate vigorously if certain projects were underway. Journalists should find out what they are for, who is meant to benefit and whether people who are supposed to benefit believe this will happen.

“The work of the Press in Southern Africa is important to the future. Problems affecting the environment won’t be solved globally but locally,” Tinker said.

The Panos Institute is an independent body working to promote sustainable development. It combines research with disseminating and providing information to those who need it. Panos also serves to stimulate constructive debate and acts as a bridge between non-governmental organisations and official agencies.
Air pollution damage: Early planning urged

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PLANNING to avoid serious environmental damage and health hazards associated with air pollution in Cape Town should start immediately, says Cape Town City Council air pollution control officer Mr Brian Oxley.

He told a National Association for Clean Air symposium in Stellenbosch that reducing the number of vehicles in the region would reduce pollution levels, but this involved practical problems.

Introducing catalytic converters was probably the most feasible solution, although this was dependent on the introduction of lead-free petrol, "since lead poisons the catalyst!"

In a paper, "Photochemical Smog As A Contributor To Brown Haze", Mr Oxley said Cape Town's physical environment of mountain and amphitheatre provided a "perfect trap" for pollution.

The city council had initiated a successful air-pollution control programme in 1968 to deal with frequent problems and, within a decade, the situation improved "to the stage where Cape Town could be considered one of the cleanest major cities in the world".

In spite of this success, concern had been expressed about vehicles and their potential for creating photochemical smog — the name given to brown haze which formed as sunlight acted on emissions from petrol-powered vehicles.

Mr Oxley pointed out that South African air-pollution legislation did not include air quality standards, but only set guidelines "designed to give wide health and safety margins".

These had been exceeded locally. In 1980, air pollution had been evident on 13 days during autumn months, with photochemical smog on nine of them.

Once pollutants entered the atmosphere, there were no effective control measures, he said.

"Only natural meteorological events ensure dispersal of the pollution. Hence, control measures must be directed towards reducing production and emission of pollutants, a major source of which is the petrol-driven motor vehicle engine."

The introduction of catalytic converters probably would be the most feasible solution.

A pilot study into the presence of brown haze in the Cape Town region is underway and sampling is being done at the Cape Showground in Goodwood and at Hartleyvale.

Professor Richard Dutkiewicz, director of the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town, told the clean-air seminar the study started at the end of May and sampling should be complete by the end of September.

The study was a joint programme between various units and departments at the University of Cape Town, the National Accelerator Centre at Faure, the Cape Town City Council, the CSIR and the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

Professor Dutkiewicz said concern about brown haze had prompted an investigation into its severity of the haze, origins and constituent elements.

The exact relationship between brown haze and photochemical smog also would be investigated.
Cutting red tape helps to quench their thirst

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — A red tape-cutting initiative has brought water to thousands of drought-stricken villagers said to be worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq.

The urgent programme, involving private enterprise, Department of Water Affairs officials and British disaster relief engineers, is operating in remote rural areas in Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu.

A water supply task force, operating under the National Drought Relief Consultative Forum, this week invited the media to visit its projects.

The project uses private-sector finance and equipment, government influence and infrastructure, and ready-for-anything action teams to get the job done, said Water Affairs strategist Simon Forster.

Engineer David Williamson co-ordinates events from an operations room in Pietersburg where crisis information is gathered and urgent drilling, repairs and maintenance are arranged.

"By cutting out all formalities which cause delays, we have managed to supply thousands of drought-hit people with clean drinking water within a short time," Mr Forster said.

The situation was critical in some areas, said British relief engineer Ian Johnson.

"Some villagers in Venda are worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq — many are down to a quota of a litre of water a day each, and such people are in danger of contracting all kinds of diseases because domestic and personal hygiene is virtually non-existent."

At a village near Elim Hospital, villagers crowded expectantly around a drilling rig. The contractor predicted he would strike water within two days.

A few kilometres down the dusty road, 200 children, all carrying 25 litre containers, queued for water at a dusty pump.

Task force leader Malcolm White said the pump provided water for thousands of people.

Meanwhile nutritional, agricultural and employment task forces went about their work in other areas this week as part of the overall programme.

"The drought relief programme supplies employment for many," said Mr Forster.

The Delta Motor Corp had provided a fleet of vehicles to get work teams to project sites, and other firms had provided advice and equipment.
Unique ‘green’ project in Soweto

SOWETAN environmentalist Shadrack Madingwane believes that if youngsters could be taught to nurture a growing tree, they would care more about human life.

In a community where violent deaths and destruction are part of daily existence, Mr Madingwane hopes that if children were taught to respect and love nature’s little things, life would become more precious.

He gave up his full-time job as a community worker and has devoted himself to environmental issues in Soweto — but has found it to be a tough battle.

“It is hard to interest people in conserving nature when they are hungry, cold and homeless,” Mr Madingwane said.

When he launched the Tirlo Sechaba (Work of the Nation) Youth Project two years ago, the aim was to involve youths in community issues and therefore tap vital resources.

He wants to interest unemployed people in community concerns, particularly environmental ones, and give them something to focus on. He hopes that by giving them something constructive to do, there will be less anti-social activity.

“Most environmental organisations aim at elitist sections of the public and mean nothing to Soweto children.

“We focus on issues relevant to our community — air pollution, overpopulation, lack of housing and electricity,” he said.

To help with his environmental education plan, Mr Madingwane is at present raising funds for a community centre to be called Yarona, meaning Ours, the resource centre would also provide sporting, recreational and social facilities.

For more information contact Mrs Madingwane on (011) 837-7955 or at Box 1818, Johannesburg 2000.
HALF the population does not have access to adequate sanitation, the Water Research Commission said yesterday.

The commission found in its investigation into sanitation that in urban and rural areas, 18-million people lived without proper sanitation.

In urban areas a third of the people do not have adequate sanitation. In addition, about 9-million people (one in every four) do not have access to a safe water supply.

"This involves major health hazards as diseases relating to human waste and impure water are the cause of the majority of infant deaths in developing countries," the commission warned.

Gastric disease was a major cause of death and permanent disabilities among infants.

The commission said it was engaged in a programme aimed at addressing the problem of inadequate sanitation.

Its objectives included:
- Establishing the number of people with access to safe sanitation;
- Testing the efficiency of current systems; and
- Developing a strategy to improve the situation and developing guidelines for the provision of sanitation.

The investigation has found the cost of providing urban dwellers with waterborne sewerage by 2000 to be R11bn. — Sapa.
Protest against toxic cargoes

By DANIEL SIMON

A GROUP of 20 environmentalists symbolically blockaded the V & A harbour entrance yesterday to protest against Japanese plans to ship large amounts of lethal radio-active plutonium round the African coast from next month.

The Cape Town action, led by the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments, was part of a national awareness programme, with protests also being held in Pretoria and Durban.

Protesters, wearing black rubbish bags with stickers declaring "We are dead against plutonium", strung a banner across the harbour entrance urging the public to help stop the planned shipments.

Protesters also called on the government to impound "18 tons of toxic waste" on board the Maria Laura, which docked in Table Bay yesterday morning.

The toxic cargo, consisting of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a pesticide waste, originates from Australia and is being shipped to France.

Earthlife Africa chairman Dr Greg Knill accused the Western Australian government of "violating" an international treaty which calls on signatories to notify foreign governments of the movement of hazardous waste in their waters.

He urged Cape Town harbour authorities to charge the cargo's owners and the Western Australian government for violating South African sovereignty.
Pollution, respiratory tract illnesses link investigated

Data collected on more than 10,000 children between the ages of eight and 12 as part of the Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Health Study (Vaps) have indicated that up to 70 percent of the children suffer from respiratory tract illnesses during the year. *Pharmacy Today* reports.

The Vaps project was set up two years ago by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to establish the levels of air pollution in the industry-intensive Vaal Triangle and whether these levels are affecting the health of residents. The respiratory conditions reported in children include sinusitis, earache, hayfever and chronic runny noses.

"The high levels of particulate matter and pollen measured in the region could be an explanation for these conditions and are being investigated further," Dr Petro Terblanche of the MRC explains.

**Asthma**

The prevalence of lower respiratory tract illnesses (bronchitis, pneumonia, wheezing, chronic cough), was 29 percent in the Vaal Triangle population.

The normal distribution of this in the South African population is not known.

The prevalence of asthma was 7.7 percent, which is similar to what is expected in the general South African population.

Significant risk factors for respiratory illnesses in the Vaal Triangle children are the period of residency (the longer the residency, the bigger the risk), maternal smoking, younger age and female gender. The study also found that there is a strong correlation between the mother's concern about air pollution and the prevalence of respiratory illnesses.

It is assumed that because the child is ill, the mother is aware and concerned about air pollution rather than the opposite. This hypothesis is currently being tested.

The preliminary results of the Vaps have now enabled the project to focus on specific problems. The top priorities of the study for the next two to four years are:

- To determine the relative contributions of pollen and man-made air pollution to the high percentage of children suffering from upper respiratory illnesses.

This data is crucial in decision-making regarding control priorities.

**Evaluate**

- To closely evaluate the levels of gaseous pollutants to ensure that the levels are acceptable and are not a health risk to the population.

- To characterise risk factors such as maternal smoking and coal-burning better and to communicate the results to the Vaal Triangle residents.
Joint resource strategy urged

THE time was opportune for southern African countries to co-operate in a long-term strategy on water management, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Magnus Malan said yesterday.

The growing realisation of the dependence of countries on limited and shared water resources, as well as the recurrent threat of drought, had spurred negotiations between SA and its neighbours, he said.

Opening a Water Week conference at the CSIR, Malan said the positive political climate in the region meant joint strategies were attainable. One such strategy was the re-use of water to supplement fresh water resources.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa's Brian Hollingworth said water planners were confronted by alarming policy and strategy deficiencies which prevented comprehensive water programmes being initiated in developing communities.

The sudden attention of developing communities to the danger that policy and strategy approaches focused on developing communities would become separate from overall national water supply management.

Co-ordinated management and planning was vital, speakers agreed.
Pssst! Aerosol cans are free of CFCs (almost)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PSSSSSSST! Heard the latest?

All aerosol cans manufactured in South Africa for general consumer use are now free of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons).

This means that 96.78 percent of the more than 112 million aerosol cans produced each year are “ozone friendly”, according to the Aerosol Manufacturers’ Association.

The remaining 3.22 percent containing CFCs are used in industry and medicine where exceptionally high safety standards are required, such as for asthma pumps or in mines.

“The view that if you used aerosols you didn’t care about the environment is now completely obsolete,” said Mr Mike Naude, the association’s executive director.

An action programme to substitute ozone-depleting CFCs with “ozone-friendly” propellants had been in place for more than four years, during which the association had worked with manufacturers to identify and overcome environmental problems, he said.

In terms of the Montreal Protocol, the international agreement signed by 75 countries (including South Africa), a total ban on the production and use of CFCs should be in place by the year 2000.

The protocol recognised that inhalant drug products, often called medical or metered dose inhalers (MDIs), were the most difficult aerosol medical products in which to substitute CFCs, Mr Naude said.

“Nonetheless, research for ozone-friendly propellants for pharmaceutical applications continues, with toxicity and other testing currently under way in Europe and the United States.”
The theme for National Water Week is "Grow with water". This survey, compiled and written by LINDSEY SANDERSON, takes a look at various aspects related to water and how it affects all of us.

Hills alive with sounds of water

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is one of the most ambitious multi-purpose water schemes under development worldwide.

When fully completed, the joint Lesotho-South African project will have tremendous benefit for both countries, supplying much-needed water to South Africa and hydro-electricity to Lesotho.

As long ago as the 1950s, proposals were made to transfer Lesotho's abundant water to South Africa and studies were undertaken on the feasibility of diverting the headwaters of the Orange River in Leshoto to the Vaal River in South Africa. However, the plans for the Orkoswane scheme never came to fruition.

In the 1970s the proposals were reviewed. In the 1978, Lesotho and South Africa launched a joint feasibility study into what was to become known as the Lesotho Highlands Water project.

More than 2,000 variants were evaluated before the final proposals were made and it was not until 1986 that Lesotho and South Africa signed the treaty approving the water scheme and the bi-national Joint Permanent Technical Commission was established.

The commission, equally represented by both countries, is responsible for monitoring and advising with regard to operation plans, calculation and allocation of costs, funding, design and tendering.

The LHWP will develop in four phases over 30 years. When complete it will deliver 70 cu m of water a second to South Africa and will generate 1,304 GWh of hydro-electric power a year to Lesotho.

When fully developed, the project will consist of five major storage dams, a power station with a total installed capacity of about 110 MW, a smaller dam to create the tail pond of the hydro-electric scheme, a total of 225 km of tunnels, three pumping stations and 850 km of access roads. Work is already progressing on Phase IA which involves construction of the 180 m high, 1,950 million cu m Katse Dam, the Muela Dam and power station two lengths of transfer tunnel and three lengths of delivery tunnel totalling 81 km. Phase IB will see the construction of the 858 million cu m Mohale Dam, the Matsokito Diver- sion and 6.4 km tunnel from the diversion to the Katse Dam and capacity of the Muela Dam increased to 10 MW.

Phase II includes the construction of the 3,306 million cu m M EXPRESS D bomb stations connecting Mohale and Katse dams, a second transfer tunnel from Katse Dam to Muela power station; or from Mohale Dam to Muela power station and a second delivery tunnel from Katse Dam to the Axe River outlet.

Keep a clean, healthy home and soil

Brita, the world's leading water filter systems are soon to be produced locally, a move expected to significantly increase the development of the product — which already has an annual growth rate of 89 percent in this country.

The water filters refine tap water using a filter cartridge comprising an ion exchanger and activated carbon.

Sasol keeps their

Sasol's stringent minimal-discharge policies not only limit environmental pollution, but also help to conserve South Africa's scarce water resources. Virtually all water used at the oil-coal plant at Secunda is recycled back into the production system after extensive treatment.

Sasol has devised and installed appropriate recycling technology to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Water Act.

Each day, the Sasol plants use millions of litres of water to ensure full-scale operations. Thus water is used for washing raw coal, chemical conversion processes and for cooling. Engineers opted for in-plant water recycling rather than conventional discharge into rivers.

This recycling process has another advantage: it almost completely eliminates the risks of pollution.

This is especially important as the sediment in the Vaal Dam is the most silted in the group. Only 100 million litres are required to turn the brown river into the Excess silt is stored.
precious water in circulation

The ripple effect has encompassed the neighbouring farming community where the farmers had to endure relatively dry winters before the commissioning of the Secunda plants. Now they enjoy more abundant water supplies during the rainless winter months.

In trying to reduce water consumption, large parts of the designs for the two Secunda plants had to be converted from being water-cooled to being air-cooled.

The results are quite staggering: about 80 megalitres of fresh water are saved a day. That’s enough water to keep the population in a city the size of Bloemfontein alive for one day.

Monitoring of surface water in the area outside the plant is done and attention is also given to ground water.

Using strategically placed boreholes around the Sasol plants, chemical profiles of the ground water are continuously tested to avoid any deviations from acceptable ground water standards.

Pipeline and dam conditions are investigated routinely by specialist personnel to ensure that they comply with acceptable technical and environmental standards.

Considerable research into water purification and optimisation is being conducted by Sasol to improve the quality of the water for re-use.

production site. When the 180 m wall is built, it will hold back the highest dam in Africa.

filter filth from water

Setting up a nation-wide network of water filtration plants will ensure that the country is in the midst of a crisis as a result of the absence of rain. The cost of water has become astronomical and, if there is no rain soon, the possibility exists that water restrictions will be imposed.

Rand Water Boring Contractors have been in existence since 1946 and are accordingly able to offer the public excellent professional service.

On the drilling side we use two air drills, each of which can complete a borehole within two days. Pumping equipment is thereafter supplied.

In terms of irrigation, our team consists of people who have been in our employ for at least 20 years and are fully conversant with this aspect.

All teams are supervised by Victor Benyamin who also builds electrical panels with complete protection.

For more information call (011) 444-9287

Service on your doorstep

an injection mould imported from Germany. South will initially produce litre Aqua Export Syntec, in appearance like to the imported use of the reduced costs production. Brita has to reduce the retail the Aqua Export from R69,99.

business trips — will retail at R36,99.

The cartridges will be priced at R19,99 each.

In South Africa, Brita Water Filter Systems has its head office at Eastbury House, Hampton Park, 20 Georgian Crescent, Bryanston, tel (011) 706-1125, or fax (011) 706-1127. Brita also has branches elsewhere in the Transvaal and in Natal and will shortly launch its Cape Town office.
Use of water must relate to means of water conservation.

Water bill

Don't let poor water supply mean better quality.

Set on top your home with an influx crisis.

WATER IS KEY TO THE FUTURE.
Drought victims receive EC aid

THE EC yesterday donated R2.6m to the Water Supply Task Force to keep emergency water supplies going to drought-stricken communities in the far northern Transvaal.

The task force is a joint effort by government and non-governmental organisations to take water to parts of the far northern Transvaal.

The donation was significant because it was the first to an agency involving government in many years, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Frans Loots said yesterday.

EC spokesman in Pretoria Tim Sheehy said: “We recognise that the current drought is having a devastating impact in some parts of SA. Many rural communities which comprise some of the poorest people in the country are suffering badly from the effects of the drought.”

“We understand there are real dangers that this may precipitate major movements of population.”

The money will be used to buy water pumps, drilling equipment and other capital items, task force co-convenor Len Abrams said.

Abrams said it was ironic that international aid had to be used while SA drought relief money remained inaccessible to the task force. “It points to the absurdity of bringing in foreign capital while SA can cope with the drought better than other countries in the sub-region.”

But Loots said government was helping extensively by providing drilling rigs, tankers and engineers.

RAY HARTLEY

Government was reluctant to give taxpayers’ money to non-governmental agencies because it would lose control over how the money was spent. “There may be some red tape involved in getting money to these agencies. Some of them are not interested in giving the government information on their books.”

GERALD REILLY reports that a Nampo spokesman said yesterday that tens of thousands of farmworkers were being housed and fed on farms for humanitarian reasons and in the hope of good summer rains. This had reduced significantly the drift of unemployed workers to platteland towns and into major urban areas.

Financially strapped farmers had made agreements with workers to allow them to remain on farms without pay until preparatory planting work for new crops could begin.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has said drought in the northern Transvaal could force between 1-million and 2-million people to move to the PWV area this year.

Nampo supported an appeal to farmers by SA Agricultural Union president Boet Fourie to speed up the “sluggish flow” of applications for aid. Fourie warned that applications received after August 31 deadline would not be considered. The Nampo spokesman said planting time was approaching and if serious bottle-necks in the process were to be avoided, farmers would have to “hustle”.
Shipper bans toxic cargoes

STEFANOS BRÜMMER
Shipping Reporter

THE shipping line managing the Maria Laura, which sparked an environmental furore when it called in Durban and Cape Town carrying highly toxic chemical waste, has pledged not to transport such cargoes again.

The ship is carrying 18 tons of allegedly carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from Fremantle, Australia, to Le Havre in France for reprocessing.

Captain Salvatore Sarno, chairman of the South African branch of Mediterranean Shipping, of Geneva, said yesterday: "We have decided to ban all toxic waste from our ships because we are also environmentalists. We have informed all our offices." The Maria Laura would continue its voyage, calling as scheduled at Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremen and Felixstowe before Le Havre.

The vessel was boarded by Earthlife Africa activists in Durban last week and on Sunday, after its arrival in Cape Town, protesters symbolically blocked the Waterfront.

They also handed port authorities a letter demanding the cargo be impounded. The ship sailed later on Sunday.

Captain Sarno indicated that his company's ban would not make a significant dent in the world market in hazardous waste transportation and suggested it would stop only when there were no more opportunities for disposal.

"Our ships are only a drop in the ocean, so we proposed to Earthlife Africa that maybe Greenpeace should do something in France against that factory," he said.

Captain Sarno's statement was welcomed by Mr Stephen Smith, spokesman for the Cape Town branch of Earthlife Africa.

"But they've been caught with their fingers in the cookie jar – Captain Sarno must have known about the Basel Convention," he said.

Earthlife, with its international partners such as Greenpeace, would continue to monitor the trade in toxic waste, he added. "We will be watching Captain Sarno's ships and all the others involved in this."
Black matric starts on October 20

PRETORIA. — Black matric's start their final exams on October 20.

All 325 348 pupils who entered for matric will write the same paper as it would be unfair to make exceptions, a Department of Education and Training spokesman said.

He said in schools where there had been less disruptions pupils "probably" completed the syllabus.

However, "it would be impossible" to make up for lost school days where there had been a greater number of disruptions.

The number of school days lost due to mass-action, sit-ins and pickets, differed from region to region.
Redistribution of land is on the cards, says ANC

BLOEMFONTEIN — It was not ANC policy to nationalise land, but "mutildistribution" of land would have to be addressed and there would have to be redistribution, ANC agricultural spokesman Derek Hanekom told the Free State Agricultural Union annual congress yesterday.

The challenge faced by the ANC was the unequal access to land, productivity and efficient production to ensure sustainable food production.

Hanekom said a bigger problem than the forced removal of blacks from farm land was the prevention of people buying or leasing land.

The greatest source of income in rural areas had been remittances from migrant labourers, but as more people lost their jobs, those on the land became more dependent on subsistence farming.

Hanekom said the ANC proposed a land claims court to deal with people who had been forcibly removed.

He said the ANC land reform programme was not a socialist system, and gave Taiwan as an example of successful land reform.

He suggested a land tax could lead to the release of land by those who were not using it productively.

The ANC did not have a comprehensive agricultural policy, he said.

MP Paul Farrell (NP Bethlehem) said the NP and government regarded organised agriculture as the backbone of a farmer. It was accepted that groups other than whites would have a voice.

Agricultural finance would depend on the repayment capacity of land.

Surpluses were a bigger problem than shortages and quality would become increasingly important.

MP Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg), who is the CP's agriculture spokesman, said that Western economies would recover only if agriculture recovered. The CP believed a government which did not care for farmers, or did not recognise them as a special sector, was a stupid government.

The CP believed in private land ownership and commercial farming based on private initiative. It rejected any form of state interference that would lead to artificial redistribution of agricultural land, collective land ownership, and socialistic agricultural economic systems.

Land courts were not part of CP policy because a healthy legal system should deal with land claims. — Sapa.

Urgent need to plan for water shortage

PRETORIA — SA's limited water resources would force the country into a serious crisis unless co-ordinated planning and management techniques in the southern African region were developed swiftly.

This was stressed at the water week conference at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research which ended yesterday.

Speakers said water scarcity intensified by mismanagement, degradation or underdevelopment of the region's water resources would hobble economic growth. Water Affairs engineer P.H van Niekerk said the undervaluation of water would lead to shortages and low economic growth throughout southern Africa.

If the price of water was to reflect its scarcity, other options such as regional transfers and desalination would become viable, speakers said.

Correct pricing would control demand, encourage careful use and provide the finance to ensure a co-ordinated water resources development.

Water Affairs Commission executive director Piet Goosen said water demand from SA's growing population would outstrip supply by the second decade of the new century.

Speakers warned conflict among water users was escalating as growing needs outstripped the natural geographic availability of water.

Water Affairs engineer A.H Conley said with the increasing scarcity of water and the reduction of suitable sites for new projects, the costs of supply schemes were rising rapidly.

For water provision to be sustained, the concept of users paying an economic price would have to be accepted, he said.

Speakers stressed SA's water supply sector remained highly fragmented. Institutions involved included homeland governments, legal authorities and water boards.

Planners were confronted by alarming policy and strategy deficiencies that prevented comprehensive programmes being initiated in developing communities.
No wind blows pollution

WINDLESS conditions over the city as well as a temperature inversion were the reasons for the nitrogen oxide (exhaust fumes) pollution level jumping to 2013 micrograms/m³ — 509 micrograms/m³ higher than the guideline.
Anti-poaching war stepped up

Own Correspondent
SKUKUZA. — Kruger National Park authorities have endorsed a plan to set up an anti-poaching unit to fight international gangs operating in the reserve.

Parks general manager Mr Salmon Joubert says the park is facing a new threat from organised poaching gangs armed with modern weapons and who form part of international poaching operations.

Last year 30 elephants and two white rhinos were killed, involving about 40 poachers, 31 of whom were arrested and four shot dead. Fifteen poachers were sentenced to fines of about R500 000 and total jail terms of 84 years. This year the park has lost five elephants and two white rhinos.

The specialised anti-poaching unit will cost about R6 million to establish and about R1m a year to run.

Reasons for the recent high level of poaching include the high prices of ivory and rhino horn as well as peace in Mozambique. Until now the civil war there has hindered the movement of poachers.
Leaders urged to go 'green'

By TITUS PEMBA

WHILE political organisations focus on violence, the country's environmental issues have been seriously neglected. (56)

The only time the subject is taken seriously is when humans are directly affected. (67)

In a desperate bid to save the earth, Kruger National Park officials intend lobbying politicians to take note of the environment. (23189)

Reserve officials say the Kruger National Park is undergoing a devastating drought, and should condition worsen they will have to transfer some of the animals.

Publicist Fanyana Shiburi said there are plans to bring various leaders into the park. Although there are plans to invite Nelson Mandela and Transkei's military ruler Gen Bantu Holomisa, there have been no confirmations yet. (3)

"The ANC has had no formal links with the park but its environmental policy states: 'A future growth strategy would have to be compatible with ecological and human rights.'" (3)

Shiburi acknowledges that PAC president Dikgang Mosepele has visited the park and was impressed by some initiatives taken by the Kruger management in order to reach out and educate different communities on ecology.
a costly experience

Natural solitude is

in no national park.

In the end, we enjoy our

definite about snakes with legs.

From Townships. It happens to

Effective

Pioneers... do shapes of furniture, where an eye to the young people the movements in art.

THE business spirit

Wild Indiana
Lessons from Silence for Patients

Listening
The art of listening is a key component of care in many healthcare settings. By truly listening to patients, healthcare providers can better understand their needs and concerns, leading to more effective treatment and improved outcomes. This practice requires active engagement, empathy, and a willingness to suspend judgment.

Silence
Silence can hold a powerful presence in the healing process. Giving patients space to reflect, process their thoughts, and express themselves freely can be therapeutic. It can also allow healthcare providers to better assess patient needs and adjust their care accordingly.

Understanding
A patient's perspective is invaluable in healthcare. By understanding the patient's point of view, healthcare providers can tailor their approach to better meet the patient's needs, enhancing the overall care experience.

The Role of Silence
Silence is not just the absence of sound; it is an action that involves reflection, patience, and understanding. In healthcare, it can facilitate healing, empower patients, and strengthen the therapeutic relationship. It encourages patients to speak their minds, which is crucial for their well-being.

Incorporating Silence
Incorporating silence into healthcare practices can lead to positive outcomes. This involves creating a safe space for patients to express themselves, listening actively, and being present in the moment. By doing so, healthcare providers can foster a healing environment where patients feel heard and supported.

Contact
For more information or to discuss your options, please contact us. We are here to help you navigate the healthcare landscape and ensure you receive the care you deserve.
Japan defends plutonium ship

TOKYO. — Faced with mounting international criticism, the Japanese government has compiled pamphlets explaining how dangerous plutonium will be transported to Japan from France, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Mainichi Shimbun said the pamphlets contain illustrations showing how the ship is constructed and details of safety measures.

Due to fears of terrorism, the pamphlets do not include schedules or the route the vessel will take. — UPI
Karakul coat for mountain?

LONDON. — Table Mountain may soon be partly clothed in a woollen coat, specially made in Yorkshire, if an experiment to halt erosion proves successful.

Researchers at the Ilkley-based International Wool Secretariat have developed a section of matting, made in a Yorkshire mill, which grasses, shrubs and trees can be planted and given protection against the elements while they root and grow.

The fabric, which resembles carpet underlay, is biodegradable, breaking down after about three years to provide protein for the plants.

A section of matting, made in a Yorkshire mill, was placed on Table Mountain recently to halt the effects of erosion.

Shrubs and grasses have been planted through it and their progress will be monitored to see if the added wool protection allows their root system to develop strongly and bind the soil.

Professor Eugene Moll, of the Department of Botany at UCT, said the coat could provide cover and a micro-climate for germinating seeds.

"If this material takes two to three years to disintegrate, that's perfect, because that's about as long as it takes for strong roots to grow ... the roots in turn, would prevent erosion.

Mr Andrew Balmforth, a technologist with the Wool Secretariat, said yesterday that the early results of the experiment were "encouraging".

"We use karakul wool to make the fabric, which in fact comes from South Africa. It is naturally coloured either dark brown or black and so blends in with the scenery and blocks out the light." — Telegraph, Staff Reporter
Nuremberg trials not for SA — ANC

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff

NUREMBERG-type trials cannot be held in the South African context, according to Professor Kader Asmal, a member of the ANC national executive committee.

Writing in the September issue of Mayibuye, the ANC’s monthly publication, Professor Asmal, professor of human rights law at the University of the Western Cape, said Nuremberg was important for humanity.

“But trials of political leaders cannot take place when the political settlement results from negotiations, even though apartheid has been described as ‘a crime against humanity,’” he said.

Nuremberg-like trials had started or been proposed in Eastern Europe where communist regimes were overthrown.

But he argued that South Africa’s route to the transfer of power was different, adding there were complex problems about who should be tried.

“No Nuremberg can take place in our context. But the guilt of apartheid can be removed only by an acknowledgment of its evil and ‘criminal nature. This provides a proper base for reconciliation.’”

Professor Asmal said the government could not declare a general amnesty.

“Those who are guilty can hardly clear from guilt the perpetrators of murder, torture and disappearances.”

This could be done only by a democratic government after full disclosure and “possibly the trial of the most infamous of killers.”

Society had to be reconstructed, fundamental human rights had to be recognised and the state reorganised if the crime of apartheid was to be removed.

Giving minorities a constitutional veto as proposed by the National Party would maintain the status quo.

“There may, therefore, be a form of democracy, but with the reality of apartheid maintained.

“Nuremberg trials are not needed to convince the people that the fruits of apartheid cannot be retained permanently by those who developed this infamous system.”

Council ‘has too few green thinkers’

Municipal Reporter

THERE is an enormous lack of informed environmental thinking in the city council, said Mrs Joan Kantey.

A task group has been given two months to make recommendations on an environmental policy and the environmental advisory committee’s future.

City administrator Mr Gys Hofmeyr was briefed to report on amendments to environmental legislation.

A memorandum from an environmental advisory committee delegation said there was “inconsistent” referral to the committee for advice.

Keegan to head green task force, page 7.
Keegan to head task force for green issues

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A top-level task force headed by
deputy mayor Mr Clive Keegan is
to investigate how city council
policies and management prac-
tices should be adapted to ensure
proper environmental protection
for Cape Town.

This follows representations to
the council's executive commit-
tee by a delegation from its envi-
ronmental advisory committee,
led by chairman Professor Rich-
ard Fuggle, head of UCT's de-
partment of Environmental and
Geographical Sciences.

In a hard-hitting presentation,
the delegation pointed out that
the council's bureaucracy had yet
to confirm the advisory commit-
tee's formal terms of reference
or effective operating procedures
more than a year after the
committee had been reconstitut-
ated.

The council, its committees
and officials "have neither poli-
cies nor strategies to safeguard
the city from environmental de-
gradation", the delegation told
Exco.

"Further, no recognisable
mechanism exists to ensure that
the environmental consequences
of developments within the city
are properly considered in rou-
tine decision-making. This applies
to both the council's own activi-
ties and to the activities of pri-

The advisory committee's sug-
gestions include:

- That the council recognises
  formally the importance of the
  environment to the future well-
  being of Cape Town;
- That it formulates and
  adopts a Policy on the Environ-
  ment;
- That all council committees
  and heads of department be di-
  rected to ensure that this policy
  is implemented and enforced as
  part of line management;
- That council administrative
  procedures are modified to en-
  sure that all environmental mat-
  ters are properly considered and
  documented before "significant"
  decisions are taken;
- Establishing an executive
  committee portfolio on Health,
  Safety and Environment, to es-
  tablish a "point of accountability"
  through a senior councillor.

The executive committee has
set up a task group under Mr
Keegan to consider the recom-
mandations.

Professor Fuggle said Exco's
response "bodes well. "If these
(recommendations) are in place, I
really think we can get some-
where in our city."

Professor Richard Fuggle
Nature profits in the pipeline

CAPE Nature Conservation and Museums might be transformed into a statutory board or corporation within the next few months, enabling the body to raise loans and generate an income. This was announced yesterday by Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of Cape Nature Conservation and Museums, at a function to mark the body’s 40th anniversary. Profits raised would be used to the benefit of nature conservation.
A bald yawn for Mountain 'wig'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

REPORTS that Table Mountain is to get a woven "seed" blanket to stimulate growth on bare patches are... well, woolly, to say the least.

Britain's textile industry was reported to be highly optimistic that a newly designed "grass toupee" - a blanket made in Yorkshire from scraps and swatches of low-quality wool and woven with grass-seeds - could be used to fill in bare patches on the mountain.

But this was met with a bald denial from the city council's Parks and Forestry department.

"I don't see an application for this on the mountain because nothing will grow through it," said the department's landscape architect, Mr Paul Britton.

"It might have an application in a horticultural sense, where you could roll it out on a bed and plant shrubs through it while weeds are suppressed, but certainly not on the mountain, where we're trying to sky away as far as possible from planting shrubs."

The huge "geojute" mat which was recently placed on a steep slope near 12 O'Clock Hole on Devil's Peak had totally different properties, Mr Britton said.

That was woven from sisal, coir and jute with mesh big enough for seedlings to grow through while holding the topsoil in place.

In contrast, the woollen blanket was closely woven and suppressed all growth underneath it.

A sample of the blanket had not arrived at the Parks and Forestry department.

They would experiment to see how best it could be applied, Mr Britton added - "but we're certainly not going to use it all over the mountain."

Brain-storming sessions in a remote pub on Ilkley Moor led to the experiment which, the International Wool Secretariat believes, is one of the most promising to boost the industry yet devised, the Argus Foreign Service reports from London.

It revives the Victorian idea of using wool shoddy - scraps and swatches of low-quality goods - in the garden, providing high-quality protein to crops, usually rhubarb.

The personal garden of researcher Dr John Pitts suggests the project might work out so well that it could open up a whole new industry in the Yorkshire wool belt.

A crop of cauliflowers grown on a trial mat of the karakul blanket, reportedly designed for use on Table Mountain, have attracted admiration from fellow scientists and gardeners.

"You can see the effects of the protein in the much darker and bluer leaf colour," said Mr Andrew Balmforth, a wool technologist with the International Wool Secretariat.

"The wool seems to have the usual advantages of a mulch, too, keeping down weeds and conserving moisture."

The blanket destined for Cape Town is made from black and brown shoddy to blend naturally with the landscape until it decomposes.

Not a bazaaad idea, really - just a case of mixed meadows?
Barricades in the bush

This was the latest in a series of conflicts around nature conservation that have erupted as the poverty and hardship caused by drought intensified social tensions in many rural areas.

The conflict at Mkambati began during the African National Congress mass action campaign last month. About a thousand residents from a mission settlement occupied the reserve to back demands for their cattle to graze alongside the animals.

The villagers, claiming that they had lost land when the park expanded, were forced to feed their cattle on land that was previously theirs.

People from the village of Matatula, near the Kruger Park’s Numbi Gate, have expressed similar sentiments.

About two years ago the KNP Parks Corporation (KPC) erected a fence around a beautiful piece of tribal land on their request that the local chief called them and said he wanted a nature reserve for his people.

“We were very excited because it hasn’t been easy to persuade rural people about the advantages of game reserves,” says senior KNP ranger Arnie van Wyk. “But the next thing there were mass meetings in the village and the people were telling us that unless we took down the fence our game reserve would be buried down.”

The National Parks Board, which manages the Kruger Park, was alarmed by reports that people living near the reserve in Gazankulu have begun talking about pulling the fence down and sending in their cattle into the park.

“We are really worried that the drought is forcing people to take militant action,” says a conservationist who asked not to be named. “This is undermining all our efforts to preserve the biological species in the reserve and to educate people about the importance of nature conservation.”

Unlike unrest in the urban areas, most of these protests have gone unanswered by the media. But even a scathing survey shows that nature conservation is becoming a major source of conflict in many rural areas.

While it is sometimes necessary to take innovative measures to deal with the problems that are occurring around their projects.

KNP’s conservationist have started a pilot scheme in the Komati district which allows cattle farmers from a nearby village to graze their cattle “in a sustainable way” in one of their small reserves.

“We’ve agreed with the farmers that only cows, for example, and those within a limited number of bulls are allowed to graze in the conservation area,” says KPC director Jeremy Amponsah. “This has been, by and large, helpful in preventing herds of rank, uncontrolled cattle from spreading and destroying crops.”

And on the other side of the Transvaal, the Hluhluwe-Urusva National Parks Board has agreed to make alternative land available to farmers who had to remove their cattle for the creation of the new Madikwe Game Reserve near Vhembe border.

These initiatives show that it is possible to reconcile the need for conservation of rare species with the interests of rural people. But unless these efforts are replicated on a much wider scale, we are likely, in the immediate future, to see more barricades in the bush.
Save wetlands or face water crisis, warns conservationist

By Julienne du Toit

South Africa must either take care of its wetlands or face the enormous cost of desalinating sea water to supply its growing population with water, according to conservationist Jon Wyatt.

As the population grows and South Africa's water resources shrink, wetlands are being touted as the future saviours of the country, although more than half have been destroyed or damaged already.

Renfreight last week donated R65 000, its third annual contribution, to its five-year-long Renfreight Wetlands Awareness Campaign, headed by Mr Wyatt, who was seconded from Natal Parks Board. The campaign began in 1990.

Dr Ian McDonald, director of conservation at the SA Nature Foundation, which is co-ordinating the campaign, received the cheque from Rennies chairman Buddy Hawton.

Huge areas of previously arable land in SA now no longer absorb water because they have been overgrazed or over-cropped.

According to one Karoo farmer, recently quoted in a farming magazine, drought comes six months sooner to the areas of his farm that are overgrazed than those that are not.

Mr Wyatt said most of his time was now spent making people aware of how valuable wetlands are. His main target groups were white commercial farmers, black subsistence farmers, industrialists, tourists and tourism developers.

Wetlands were often damaged by ignorance, he said. "Our initial emphasis is on spreading information on the consequences of draining, filling in, overgrazing or other extreme forms of exploitation, chemical pollution and urban development."

Wetlands control flash floods, as they absorb water like sponges. During droughts they allow stored water to seep out, he said.

They purify water as it trickles through the plants, and prevent soil erosion by absorbing the force of flowing water.
Dune housing plan faces still three more hurdles
Top author joins nature foundation

CAPE TOWN — World famous author Wil- bur Smith was appointed to the board of trustees of the Southern African Nature Foundation (SANF) at its AGM in Stellenbosch yesterday.

Smith was one of 13 new members appointed to the board together with estate agent Pam Golding and socialite and anti-drugs campaigner Adele Searl.

SANF president Anton Rupert told the meeting that since its launch, SANF had played a major role in establishing and consolidating national parks and game reserves.

"In 1991/92, SANF spent R11,95m on purchasing land to consolidate these areas. We are very proud of the foundation’s achievements over the past 24 years in acquiring land for nature conservation.

"There is no doubt that SA has an incredibly well-managed mosaic of protected areas which conserve our extraordinary habitat and biological diversity."

"However, much more needs to be done," Rupert said.

SANF chairman Gavin Rellie said that in spite of financial difficulties facing commerce and industry, foundation income had increased in the past year.

Rellie said more than 100 conservation projects had been supported during the period with a total budget of R14,67m, up from last year’s R10,12m.

Former Natal Parks Board director John Geddes-Page was presented with the foundation’s Gold Medal Award for his outstanding contribution to conservation during his 25-year career as board head.

Rupert said that under Geddes-Page’s firm direction the board had more than tripled the number of reserves under its control.

The number of visitors to its parks increased from 100 000 to 1,5-million, while its annual budget grew from R700 000 to R64m.
Free insurance to protect eagles

PORT ELIZABETH. — A major insurance company has introduced a free insurance policy extension to Eastern Cape farmers, in a bid to halt the slaughter of black eagles and protect the species.

Eastern Cape farmers insured with SA Eagle are now automatically covered against loss or death of livestock where eagles are held responsible.

The company's offer was in reaction to reports that some farmers—complaining of black eagles causing huge stock losses—had shot hundreds of the protected birds.

In terms of the scheme, farmers suffering losses can claim up to R2 000 a year with a limit of R100 a bird.

Company spokesman Bruce Illing said a claims monitoring system would identify areas where eagles were said to be responsible for stock losses.

“We want to find out whether the black eagle is attacking sheep and other stocks,” he said.

He said he believed other predatory animals, like the hyena, could be also be responsible.

He said data would be passed on to conservation bodies which would then make recommendations to farmers on how they could prevent stock losses without having to resort to killing the eagles.

“We decided to provide farmers with an incentive not to shoot the eagles,” he said.

Mr Illing said it was not a marketing strategy for the company to get involved with the black eagle.

“Our company logo is the eagle and we are into conservation in a big way.”

Nature conservation officials have welcomed the commitment shown by SA Eagle and urged the private sector to be actively involved in conservation issues.
CAPE TOWN — The Southern African Nature Foundation — one of the country's “big three” non-government conservation organisations — spent up to R12 million on land to establish or consolidate national parks and nature reserves last year.

President Dr Anton Rupert said these included a farm linking the Mkuzi Game Reserve and Sodwana State Forest in Natal, four farms to extend Addo Elephant National Park near Port Elizabeth, and a farm to consolidate the Namaqualand Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve.

At the annual meeting in Stellenbosch this week, Dr Rupert said South Africa had “an incredibly well-managed mosaic of protected areas”.

The SANF's land acquisitions were a great credit to South Africa, but the expanded protected areas would not survive in isolation, he warned.

Former Natal Parks Board chief director John Geddes Page was presented with the SANF's prestigious gold medal award for his outstanding contribution to conservation.
The devastating drought in southern Africa has had tragic consequences for a community of 15,000 people in the eastern Transvaal who rely on a single spring for water.

Already an old woman has died in Daggakraal after queueing in sub-zero temperatures to fetch spring water.

A statement by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee yesterday said Daggakraal residents had approached the Transvaal Provincial Administration for emergency water, but nothing had come of it despite assurances of relief.

The situation has been aggravated by the fact that animals in the area are now sharing the sole source of water with residents.

Anyone able to assist the community in any manner can contact Star Motswegwe (011) 838-1063 or Larry Moloi (012352) 4004 — Sapa.
Protesters tied to toxic waste

BRUSSELS. — Environmental activists chained themselves to containers of toxic waste on board a ship in the Belgian port of Antwerp yesterday to prevent it sailing without its cancer-causing cargo. (AP) 7/7/92

"This waste belongs in Australia and nowhere else. We deplore any attempt to offload it," a Greenpeace statement said. The ship was transporting the waste from Australia to France. — Sapa-Reuters
Devi's Peak is on the mend . . . but regular rain vital.
Big plan for mountain chain

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE first steps towards a comprehensive, scientifically based management plan for the entire Peninsula mountain chain have been announced by conservationist Dr Douglas Hey.

He heads the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee, which has been roundly criticised in the past for lack of an overall management plan for the Peninsula’s remaining natural areas.

At a media conference yesterday, Dr Hey said advertisements calling for a consultant to prepare a policy document which could act as a blueprint for an eventual comprehensive management plan were being placed this week.

Prospective consultants, who would have to be ecological experts, would have to submit “tenders” by the end of the month and an appointment would probably be made by the end of October, Dr Hey said.

The time required to produce the document would be subject to negotiation, but was likely to be about six months, he added.

The document would have to synthesise existing information about the mountain chain, including the present development and management goals; the jurisdiction of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE), a description of the existing natural systems — including land, fire, water, flora and fauna; recreation uses, tourism and the predicted future demands on the mountain system.

Specific issues to be considered included:
- The possible revision of the boundaries of the PNE;
- Controlling visitor numbers through permits and/or entrance fees;
- Retaining “historic” trees such as gum belts and plantations as part of the historic landscape;
- The question of more kinds of recreation being permitted on the mountain;
- The possible restoration of the mountain’s former indigenous forests; and
- Whether development should be controlled on both private and public land.

Dr Hey said the call for a consultant was one of three major initiatives his advisory committee was undertaking. The two others were an attempt to co-ordinate existing management activities by the 11 authorities involved in the PNE and an investigation of the future funding of the PNE, in conjunction with the Cape Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Johan Lessing, Cape Nature Conservation’s representative on Dr Hey’s committee, emphasised that the public would be asked to comment on the consultant’s report and their comments would be incorporated into the final policy and management plan.

“It (the policy document) is a starting point for a more complete and comprehensive process... Extensive provision is being made for public consultation and participation in the planning process.”

Several interest groups had already been identified and would be drawn into the planning process.

School boss SA’s 2nd coloured deputy mayor

Staff Reporter

THE principal of a school in Clanwilliam has become the second coloured deputy mayor in South Africa.

Mr Willem Edward Fransman, 39, married with three children, was elected deputy mayor at a municipal meeting this week.

Clanwilliam, with 4 000 residents, made history in August 1990 when it became one of the first towns to have combined council meetings with management committees.

Mr Fransman, who was born and raised in Clanwilliam, was chairman of the town’s management committee for seven years.
R1/2-m loan to put right Devil’s Peak fire damage

Municipal Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council is to lend R500 000 to the Cape Town City Council for the rehabilitation of Devil’s Peak after last year’s fire. The Provincial Administration has turned down a request for cash.

Last October the city council resolved to ask regional and provincial government for aid to meet the R4.5 million bill for repairing the damage.

The CPA was asked for R687 000 and the RSC for R313 000 towards R1 million in mountain maintenance protection costs.

The CPA turned down the request, saying it had also had heavy losses in the fire, including the burning of the Devil’s Peak Nature Reserve.

The CPA already carried a heavy burden in managing and protecting about 1.6 million hectares of mountain land elsewhere in the province.

RSC chief executive officer Mr Chris Mocke said R500 000 would be lent for rehabilitating donkeys and replanting the mountainside.

Three percent interest would be charged, he said.

A grant was not possible under RSC policy.

Mr Mocke said two further allocations were to be made to the city council: R200 000 for improving trails on the mountain and R300 000 for footpaths and facilities on Signal Hill.
Drought-hit park awaits crucial rains

By Clyde Johnson Lowveld Bureau

SKUKUZA — As temperatures rise steadily each day the drought in the Kruger National Park is reaching a critical phase and everything now depends on the first spring rains, executive director Dr Salmon Joubert said yesterday.

Survival, he said, had become the name of the game as animals — desperately in search of food — have changed their diets.

"Buffalo have been seen browsing, hippo are feeding on water hyacinth and warthog have been found eating dry elephant dung," Dr Joubert said.

Yet, despite the severe food shortages, the animals appear to be managing well and many are still in relatively good condition.

"Their resilience and ability to survive under these conditions again proves the wonders of nature," Dr Joubert said.

Although many rivers have dried up completely there was still water — although precious little — at various places in the reserve.

Underground supplies were also holding out well.

Dr Joubert said the park's whole system was far better off than had been anticipated at the start of the drought.

This, according to Dr Joubert, could be as a result of the 1982/83 drought having left stronger animal strains which had built up resilience to the conditions over the dry years that followed.

However, hippo are particularly susceptible to drought and many could die in the crucial period ahead.

After the rains come the survivors will return to their traditional water holes and re-establish themselves.
Rhodes’ will brings new Groote Schuur plan

By JILYAN PITMAN

A NEW management plan for part of Groote Schuur estate will deal with issues such as tree felling, wildlife, and Mostert’s cemetery and its general condition, when it is submitted to the Department of Public Works next Tuesday.

This is the third plan dealing with the dictates of Cecil John Rhodes’ wills, following others in 1936 and 1955.

The plan is expected to be made public in mid-November.

On August 20 a sub-committee met at the Parliamentarians Club in Fernwood, Newlands where they asked other concerned bodies for their views.

Developments

This group included several architects, town planners, three members of the Rondebosch Civic Association, representatives of the Cape Heritage Trust, the Historical Society, the Wildlife Society, Aldermen Eulalie Stott and Joop Kantey, Mr Julian Elliot, a University of Cape Town planner, and others.

Mrs Bea Whittaker, a spokesman for the Department of Public Works in Pretoria, said in a faxed statement: “The Groote Schuur Landscape Advisory Committee was created about 10 years ago to oversee developments on the Groote Schuur estate. It falls under the chairmanship of the public works’ regional representative in Cape Town, Mr Johan van Wyk.

“In April the committee felt that developments on the estate needed to be executed in a co-ordinated manner and a sub-committee of five professionals was appointed to look into Rhodes’ will (Act 9 of 1910) to determine his exact requirements of developments on the estate and to give guidelines for future development.”

Opportunity

Mrs Whittaker said that as most of the parties involved — including Mr Barrie Gasson, representing the Rhodes Trust in South Africa, and Mr Theo van Robbroeck, director-general of the Department of Public Works — would be overseas during the period September 10 — October 30, the report would be made available to the public by mid-November.

“By then all parties will have had an opportunity to study the report and they will be able to answer questions about the contents of the report,” Mrs Whittaker said.

The final report on September 15 is to be submitted to PWD representative Mr Johan van Wyk, convener of the sub-committee in Cape Town.

The professional sub-committee comprised Mr Barrie Gasson (city planner), Mr Dirk Visser (architect), Mr Barry Oberholzer (landscape architect), Mr Fabio Todeschini (urban designer) and Mr Pierre Combrink (forestry scientist).
Rhodes’ will brings new Groote Schuur plan

By JILYAN PITMAN

A NEW management plan for part of Groote Schuur estate will deal with issues such as tree felling, wildlife, and Mostert’s cemetery and its general condition, when it is submitted to the Department of Public Works next Tuesday.

This is the third plan dealing with the dictates of Cecil John Rhodes’ wills, following others in 1936 and 1955.

The plan is expected to be made public in mid-November.

On August 20 a sub-committee met at the Parliamentarians Club in Fernwood, Newlands where they asked other concerned bodies for their views.

Developments

This group included several architects, town planners, members of the Rondebosch Civic Association, representatives of the Cape Heritage Trust, the Historical Society, the Wildlife Society, Aldermen Eulalie Stott and Joan Kantey, Mr Julian Elliot, a University of Cape Town planner, and others.

Mrs Bea Whittaker, a spokesman for the Department of Public Works in Pretoria, said in a faxed statement: “The Groote Schuur Landscape Advisory Committee was created about 10 years ago to oversee developments on the Groote Schuur estate. It falls under the chairmanship of the public works’ regional representative in Cape Town, Mr Johan van Wyk.

“in April the committee felt that developments on the estate needed to be executed in a co-ordinated manner and a sub-committee of five professionals was appointed to look into Rhodes’ will (Act 9 of 1910) to determine his exact requirements of developments on the estate and to give guidelines for future development.”

Opportunity

Mrs Whittaker said that as most of the parties involved — including Mr Barrie Gasson, representing the Rhodes Trust in South Africa, and Mr Theo van Robbroeck, director-general of the Department of Public Works — would be overseas during the period September 10 — October 30, the report would be made available to the public by mid-November.

“By then all parties will have had an opportunity to study the report and they will be able to answer questions about the contents of the report,” Mrs Whittaker said.

The final report on September 15 is to be submitted to PWD representative Mr Johan van Wyk, convener of the sub-committee in Cape Town.

The professional sub-committee comprised Mr Barrie Gasson (city planner), Mr Dirk Visser (architect), Mr Barry Oberholzer (landscape architect), Mr Fabio Todeschini (urban designer) and Mr Pierre Combrink (forestry scientist).
Effects of drought will be felt for many years

By Michael Sparks

While city dwellers have yet to feel the harsh effects of the drought, their country cousins will feel its devastation for several more years.

Despite the low rainfall, PWV residents do not have much cause for concern that their taps will run dry, or that water restrictions will be imposed, even if the drought continues.

But Transvaal farmers still have to deal with the legacy of the drought, with three to four years of good rains needed to replenish the groundwater levels.

A Water Affairs spokesman yesterday said although the Vaal Dam was now only 19 percent full, "there are no prospects of water restrictions for the PWV area during the next 12 months and probably not for the year after that, even if the drought continues".

This was because water was being released from the Sterkfontein Dam to flow into the Vaal Dam.

She said the Sterkfontein Dam — with a slightly larger capacity than the Vaal Dam — had sufficient water to keep the Vaal supplied for another two years, though this was unlikely to happen.

The spokesman said another problem with such a severe drought was that the earth became so dry that more water was absorbed before it started to run off into rivers to fill dams.
Boost for Komati River delayed

By Jo-Anne Collings

The Government is reluctant to release water from the Vygeboom Dam to boost the Komati River in the drought-stricken Tonga area of KaNgwane where the river stopped flowing a week ago and communal taps supplying about 180,000 people have dried up.

"If a suitable solution cannot be found, the Department of Water Affairs, in consultation with Eskom, will consider possible releases from the Vygeboom Dam," a statement by the department said.

"This could, however, have serious implications for electricity supply and a great deal of water will be lost due to evaporation and filtration."

As an alternative, the department is sending tankers, plastic storage tanks and experts on pump maintenance to KaNgwane at the request of the homeland government.

Engineers employed by non-governmental organisations, funded by the British government, are already at work in Tonga, activating boreholes and investigating submerging a diesel pump in the Komati River.
Board delays Knysna move

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

AFTER a meeting of all interested parties, the National Parks Board will decide whether or not to stop managing the Knysna lagoon says board chairman Professor Fritz Eloff.

He said the board had accepted the reasons for the proposed withdrawal given by chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson last month.

These were that the Knysna National Lake Area, “for all its magnificence”, did not meet internationally-accepted criteria to qualify as a national park, that there was a range of management problems and that managing the lake area was a drain on the board’s limited resources.

Dr Robinson’s proposal caused an uproar in the town and led to demands from the local community that the board’s responsibilities in the area be broadened and that a full national park be declared, incorporating the entire Knysna river catchment area and surrounding natural forests.

Professor Eloff said Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Plenaar had visited Knysna last week and had been told of the community’s “dismay” at the proposed withdrawal.

The board had therefore decided at its meeting this week to establish a forum at which all interested parties — including the Knysna municipality, Cape Provincial Administration, Regional Services Council and the Department of Environment Affairs — could discuss the issue.
First fire lit as ozone study gets off ground

By Julienne du Toit

The first small fire was lit yesterday in the Kruger National Park as the precursor to a major international study on veld fires and how they contribute to the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The Southern African Fire Atmosphere Research Initiative (SAFARI) project is like “joining the scientific Olympic Games” after a long boycott, said scientist Dr Bob Scholes. Dr Janette Lindesay, deputy director of the University of the Witwatersrand Climatology Research Group and co-chair of the SAFARI committee, said that in South Africa fires would be monitored in the Kruger Park and in Natal sugar cane fields until the end of the month. US National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists were first alerted to the phenomenon of greenhouse gases from veld fires when they noticed bulges of ozone over the Atlantic some years ago.

The ozone was carried by winds from Africa and South America, just at the time the veld or savannah was driest and there were the most fires. Ozone is produced during veld fires.

Dr Scholes, of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, has speculated that the ozone produced, which is usually trapped in the lower atmosphere as a pollutant, may be able to move upwards during certain weather conditions and add to the much-needed ozone in the stratosphere.

The studies in South America, the Kruger Park and Natal, Ecosha, Victoria Falls and some smaller centres will involve about 100 scientists from countries including the US, Canada, Germany, Belgium, France, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Satellites — as well as a DC-3, a DC-4, Lear jets, Cessnas and helicopters — will be used in the study of veld fires.
'Struggle must go green'

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Political leaders can no longer afford to ignore the urgent need for environmental restoration in their struggle against poverty and social injustice in South Africa, UCT deputy vice-chancellor and leading academic Dr Mamphela Ramphele said at a press conference here yesterday.

They are inextricably linked," she said, marking the publication of "Restoring the Land, Environment and Change in Post Apartheid South Africa".

The book, edited by Dr Ramphele, is a collection of 30 essays by South Africans.

It highlights the role played by apartheid in mismanaging resources by forcing people to live on land unable to sustain them.

But she warned that democracy in South Africa would not necessarily mean sound environmental policy.

Dr Ramphele defended her position as a director of Anglo American, criticised for its history of exploitation.

"In South Africa, activists have two choices: To remain pure or committed," she said.

"Anglo represents a resource in terms of wealth in South Africa. My role is not to help them make a sound investment policy. My knowledge is of social policy," she said.
Research keeps thirst at bay

THE availability of sufficient water supplies is, undoubtedly, the most limiting factor for sustained development in SA.

In fact, projections indicate that our water supplies will be severely strained soon after the year 2000.

To compound the problem, we are faced with increasingly severe pollution problems which follow in the wake of rapid population growth, urban expansion and industrial and agricultural development.

New knowledge and technology will have to play a key role to ensure our future water supplies. We cannot simply import knowledge from overseas. Our rainfall is only about half the world's average, so our plight is worse than that of the world's industrialised nations.

This means we have to do our own research. Today we are, in fact, among the world leaders in a number of water research areas.

Water research in SA is co-ordinated and largely funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC). Its tasks are to:
- Promote water research;
- Co-ordinate such research;
- Identify research needs and priorities;
- Fund high-priority research; and
- Promote the application of research findings.

The WRC funds all its research under contract. At present more than 180 projects are supported. The research is done by about 90 different organisations, including various CSIR divisions, more than 40 university departments and other bodies.

While such research obviously costs a great deal of money, the WRC does not receive any money from the government. All research is financed by consumers of water, who pay a levy on their water consumption. At present the levy is 1.43c a cubic metre, and R1.55 for each hectare of land scheduled for irrigation.

Some of the aspects being addressed in research are: rainfall stimulation, ground water, irrigation, water pollution, water resources development, water supply and sanitation for developing communities, sewage treatment, industrial water, water treatment and distribution, and conservation of water ecosystems.

As part of an educational drive, Umgeni Water has, in association with the Wildlife Society and the Natal Parks Board, developed a scheme called Project WATER (Water Awareness Through Educational Response) which exposes schoolchildren to various aspects of water management.

The participative education uses the fieldwork approach to expose children to the necessity of keeping their sources of water uncontaminated.

Scholars take a four-day hike from the river source to the mouth, camping out along the way. Among other things, they are taught to identify water life and to carry out their own chemical analyses of water samples.
Scheme more than a pipe dream for the rural future

No shortage of issues

The dream of supplying society with water is far from being fulfilled. Lack of funds has jeopardized the realization of many projects in the past. However, the need for water is not less in the rural areas where it is most needed. While the urban areas have access to safe and clean water, the rural areas are still struggling with the problem of access to water. The rural areas are mostly dependent on traditional sources of water like ponds, wells, and rivers. These sources are not only unreliable but also unsafe. There is a dire need to improve the water supply situation in the rural areas.

The problem of water scarcity is not limited to the rural areas. Even in the urban areas, the situation is not much better. The water supply network in the cities is crumbling, and the existing infrastructure is unable to meet the growing demand for water. The water supply system in the cities is老旧 and inefficient, and the demand for water is increasing due to the growing population and industrialization. The situation is further compounded by the lack of maintenance and repair of the existing infrastructure.

The issue of water scarcity is a complex one, and it requires a multifaceted approach to address it. The government needs to prioritize the allocation of funds to improve the water supply infrastructure. The private sector can also play a significant role in this regard. The private sector can invest in the construction of new water supply projects and can also help in the maintenance and repair of the existing infrastructure.

In conclusion, the issue of water scarcity is a pressing one, and it requires urgent action. The government, private sector, and civil society need to work together to address this issue. The rural areas need better access to water, and the urban areas need an efficient water supply system. Only then can we ensure sustainable development and a better quality of life for everyone.
Kenya may hold first multi-party election in 26 years by end of the year.

NAIROBI - Kenya's Western donors say they want to see the report of an International Monetary Fund team on the progress of economic reforms in the country before deciding whether to restore aid after a 10-month suspension.

"There has been substantial progress. Obviously there has to be more of this," said one Nairobi-based diplomat as a two-week investigation by an IMF team wound up on Saturday.

Kenya's government hopes a nod from the IMF will unblock about R810 million of World Bank aid and persuade bilateral donors to resume vital balance-of-payments support, suspended at a November meeting of the Paris Club of donor nations.

"The team's agenda was secret, but they certainly looked at the budget (deficit), financial sector reform and parastatals," one economic analyst said.

"Donor response will depend very much on the readout of this mission," he said, adding that full resumption of aid would not take place until the next Paris Club meeting this autumn.

Donors acknowledge Kenya has tried hard to win favour since the suspension, worth about R1.62 billion, was made to protest against the slow pace of economic and political reforms.

Kenya's first multi-party election in 26 years is expected before the end of the year after the unbanning of opposition parties by President Daniel arap Moi last December. - Sapa-Reuter.
Increase in water price
Municipal Reporter

The Rand Water Board (RWB) has announced an increase of 4,40 cents per kilolitre of purified water from October 1.

This means that bulk consumers — municipalities and mines — will now pay 82,50c/kl.

RWB chief executive Vincent Bath explained that the increase was due to the additional levy of 4c/kl to be charged by the Department of Water Affairs on all water purchased by the board from the Vaal River System from that date, to which 0,4c/kl would be added for value-added tax.

The purpose of the levy was partly to finance the cost of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.
Call for ‘Ecology City’

Make that city’s future aim — Riley

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

CITY planner Mr Neville Riley has urged the city council to commit itself to the principle of sustainable development.

Among proposals outlined in his annual report, with its theme of The Ecological City, was one to create an effective metropolitan environmental agency.

He defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This policy would include recognising the right to an ecologically sound environment as a fundamental human right, Mr Riley said in his annual report.

Drastic reduction of the present inequality in providing health services was needed.

The policy also included the right of community participation in planning their natural and physical environment.

Mr Riley said Cape Town, while one of the world’s finest tourist destinations, faced significant environmental challenges.

Cape Town was dependent on energy supplies from coal and nuclear-fired power stations, both controversial because of their environmental impact.

False water supplies from conventional sources were threatened by increasing demand.

The Cape Flats was unsuitable for urban development because of flooding, windblown sand and difficulty in stabilising the environment.

Urban development was displacing and threatening agriculture on the city’s edge.

Table Mountain, a unique floral, recreational and historical resource, was being degraded by fire and exotic vegetation, Mr Riley said.

Air quality, particularly in the city bowl, was causing great concern as increasing use of private vehicles worsened photochemical smog.

False Bay, which could be a major recreational resource if properly planned, was threatened by increasing levels of harmful bacteria caused by urban runoff.

Stormwater, sewage and industrial waste needed to be dealt with more creatively, said Mr Riley.

To promote sustainable development, Cape Town should conserve natural resources and processes.

Growth of the city should take into account historic square, parks and buildings.

Water consumption could be reduced while new sources were exploited, like recycling waste water and desalination or use of the Cape Flats aquifer.

Another tactic would be the formation of an effective metropolitan environmental agency supported by all authorities and land owners.

Fewer houses, flats built

Municipal Reporter

OFFICE, factory and town-house projects are in fashion for developers, rather than houses or flats.

This emerged from city planner Mr Neville Riley’s annual report.

The value of building work approved by the city council increased from R633 million in 1990/91 to R656 million in 1991/92.

The value of work completed in the same period of comparison increased from R164 million to R226 million.

About 42 plans a day were given to the council for approval, said the report.

The value of all building work in progress in June, 1991, was R2690 million, an increase of about 29 percent compared to the previous year.

About R15 million worth of work was abandoned in the past financial year.

Mr Riley said fewer houses and flats were completed than during the 1989/90 financial year, but the number of town houses, industrial and commercial buildings increased substantially.

Alterations to houses increased by about 33 percent.

The central business district and Foreshore had the largest value of work, with several office blocks being built, but there was a trend for office accommodation and buildings to move out of the suburbs.

Building projects highlighted by Mr Riley included:

• The R190 million, 23-storey, Old Mutual Sea Street building.
• The R12 million, seven-storey Belmont Office complex in Rondebosch which had parking for 800 cars.
• In Tokai, the R3 million addition to the Blue Route Centre and the R5 million Joint Village Centre, and
• The 267-house R14 million Pelican Park housing development and the 236-house Sea Crest housing scheme at Mitchell’s Plain.

Eat my dust

A dice with a face at the meeting at Ki when electric car racers threw the gauntlet. Frank Weihe prepares a rat-trotted model of spinning at 0-00000 rpm in at 13000 and a speed of 70 k a 2018 sp 700 km/h. Bu Adams, rear, 132500 ccm Kaw had the last "smoking" the
Blueprint for False Bay given boost

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

Plans for a single authority to manage False Bay and improve its water quality have been boosted by a meeting between bay managers and public representatives.

Increased public concern about the state of the bay led to the formation in March of the False Bay Forum, which represents groups who use the bay and aims to put the public's point of view in the debate about its future.

The forum was especially concerned with the quality of water flowing into the bay from the surrounding area, said Mr Andy Gubb, chairman of its interim steering committee.

Last week the forum met the False Bay Water Quality Committee, a voluntary, ad hoc body of officials from local authorities bordering the bay and from provincial and central government authorities.

The water quality committee, headed by city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton, does not have any public representatives.

The meeting, described as "a very positive step", focused on issues such as public participation in decision-making, communication and management structures, the release of information to the public and the development of a False Bay management plan, Mr Gubb said.

"Reasonable consensus was reached on all these issues."

Areas for further negotiation included a management structure, a single authority and adequate legislation governing the bay and its catchment areas.

The two groups plan to hold a public meeting at Muizenberg Pavilion early in November to discuss the issues and provide information.

"It is clear that both the forum and the water quality committee have supportive and complementary aims and objectives," Mr Gubb said in a statement on behalf of the two bodies.

"What is needed now is a single, holistic and integrated approach, by the public and the authorities alike, to the sustainable future management of False Bay for the benefit of all our people."
MARITZBURG — The Government and the ANC put the blame on each other for environmental degradation in South Africa at an environmental conference yesterday.

At the Earthlife Africa Conference in Maritzburg, titled "What it means to be green in South Africa", Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said he saw the greatest threat to the environment as too many people in the country.

An additional cause of damage to the environment was violence in the country, he said.

The ANC’s environmental affairs department spokesman, Bonile Jack blamed apartheid for environmental degradation.

The Government’s strategy of economic development had been particularly destructive to the environment and to the lives of black workers in general, he said.

Mr Jack said: “Those who benefited from apartheid policies have always put the blame for environmental degradation on the oppressed peoples’ inability to use resources wisely.

“The actual cause is in fact the unfair distribution of resources,” he said.
Water the key to rural revival

For the rural poor, this year’s drought has made a razor of survival’s sharp edge, but programmes supported by the health, rural and community development (HRCD) portfolio—particularly in the provision of clean water, sanitation and clinics—are building a basis for recovery.

The portfolio, directed by Professor Len Karlsson, deals with all aspects of development that aren’t housing, education or job creation. Allocated R520-million late in 1990, it had committed R132-million to 132 projects by July 1992.

A further R130-million will be spent in 1992-93 on building clinics and improving supplies of potable water.

HRCD is also administering a R100-million IDT relief development programme in drought-stricken areas.

With the Kagiso Trust, the IDT has drawn 68 organisations into a consultative forum which, supported by a rapid-response operations room at the IDT’s Johannesburg offices, is planning water projects, community public works, and institutional capacity-building in affected communities.

Public works, including road-building, soil conservation, and repairing schools, will take 60 percent of the funds. Community participation—for example the formation of village committees for health, water, electrification, or agriculture—has been an important feature of IDT-funded initiatives.

This can be a painstaking process but experience shows that these are the institutions that ultimately determine development outcomes: without them programmes misfire.

Only 53 percent of South Africa’s rural population of 16.5 million have access to so-called “improved water supply”, and only 14 percent have access to individual adequate sanitation. So interventions here are an important thrust for HRCD.

Water and sanitation programmes will get R55-million and should reach two million people in the next three years.

In the “grossly neglected” area of primary health care, planning for a R50-million programme to build or upgrade clinics is complete, and building will begin soon, says Karlsson.

\[
\text{\begin{center} NEED HELP: \end{center}}

People must be helped to work to support their families,” says Professor Len Karlsson, who directs the HRCD portfolio.

With a limit of R300 000 per clinic, applications for 300 clinics have been processed from all parts of South Africa. Regional health authorities must guarantee to staff and supply these clinics before the IDT will build.

The IDT will spend R10-million on improving communications between clinics and base hospitals, and R10-million on the training of clinic personnel.

Energy provision, including the planting of wood lots as a renewable fuel source, and the provision of solar power for rural clinics, will get R20-million.

Other major funding commitments have been made, among them:

- R46-million to welfare, to be channelled through up to 20 national councils, for the empowerment of disabled groups or the elderly;
- R11-million for a three-year national AIDS programme by the Progressive Primary Health Care Network;
- R6-million for a tuberculosis project in the Western Cape, where the incidence of TB is four times higher than the national average;
- R5-million for the Medical Research Council’s GOBI-FFF programme, based on a “wellwoman” concept which places the health of the mother at the centre of her family’s wellbeing.

HRCD started later than the other portfolios because several months were spent on fieldwork establishing needs and priorities.

“It’s only really been running about a year,” says Karlsson. “But since the groundwork was done, there has been an exponential increase in the portfolio’s output and disbursement of funds.”
ENTRIES PILE IN

HUNDREDS of entries for the water conservation and purification project have started pouring in at the three water boards and municipalities countrywide.

Rand Water Board (RWB) public relations officer Louise Fourie said she was impressed by the high spirit among pupils and their schools.

"Judges will certainly have difficulty choosing the winners as most of the entries received so far are excellent," she said.

Fourie said judging for the country’s four regions - the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal and the Cape Province - will take place on September 21. Winners and runners-up will be invited to a prize-giving ceremony at the Rand Water Board in Johannesburg on September 23.

Judges for the Transvaal region are: New Nation's environmental and Business Nation writer Sydney Matilikwa, Marietta Marx of the Johannesburg City Council, Marinus Wijnbeek of the SA Broadcasting Corporation, Gerrit Botha of the Water Institute of SA, Dr Piet Muller of Rapport and Gerhard du Toit, director of Youth Affairs in the Transvaal Education Department.

Fourie said: "Muller will be speaking about the merits of the winning entries and the standard by which they were judged. Also ingenuity, insight and artistic content would be the criteria used by the judges."

A representative of the competition, Ingrid Alberts, said although the competition was open to all, the majority of the entries received so far were from the African and coloured schools.

Water shortage threat to four power stations

By DON ROBERTSON

The possibility of water shortages at four highveld power stations has forced Eskom and the Department of Water Affairs to rush ahead with a R50-million pipeline to serve the drought-stricken Kangwane area.

Construction of the 42km pipeline, financed by Eskom, will link the Usutu and Komati Government water schemes. It is hoped that it will avoid any water shortage at the power stations.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry says the normally reliable Komati River which flows through SA, Swaziland and Kangwane, has run dry.

To meet the needs of people in the Tonga area of Kangwane water was released from the Vogeboom Dam in June and July.

The dam was built to supply the Arnott, Hendrina, Devil's and Komati power stations. Should further releases be needed, “it could have serious implications for electricity supply . . . which could have serious socio-implications for the country,” says the department.

The four power stations supply 8700MW of electricity.

Work started on the pipeline at the beginning of this month and will be completed by March 1993.

Rains

The pipeline will carry 2300 litres of water a second from the Jericho Dam at Camden power stations across the divide to the Komati system near Breyden.

It will then be delivered to the Boesman Spruit, from where it will flow to the Nooitgedacht Dam upstream of Vogeboom.

Ian Todd, technical consultant for fuel and water at Eskom, says rains in October are essential.

“I hope we will not have to release more water from the Vogeboom Dam, but we might have to before the pipeline is completed.”

Although water can be carried to the power stations, its quality is a problem.

The department says that although water shortages at the power stations are unlikely, the threat cannot be ignored.

Sell-out for ANC

The ANC is spending R10 000 a month on its first newspaper, The Congress, a monthly in the Eastern Transvaal area.

Editor Jackson Nhemba says all 10 000 copies (at 30c each) printed for the first issue were sold.

“The first issue only had four pages and the next issue — due out at the end of September — will have eight. For the rest of this year we will publish monthly, going fortnightly in January and weekly from March-April.”
Co-operation key to conservation

AN ELEPHANT tusk or a rhino horn can provide an individual with 10 times the average annual income in countries like Zambia and Mozambique. Rhino horns are believed to fetch about US$12,000/kg — as much as a kilogram of gold.

Rapidly expanding populations and weak economies, wrecked through coups and successive corrupt administrations, have impoverished much of Africa and placed great pressure on environmental resources.

Many southern African countries have little money for conservation and rely on aid from international conservation bodies to preserve wildlife.

In Zimbabwe the policy for dealing with poachers has been to shoot to kill. More than 100 poachers have been shot since operations were stepped up in the mid-90s.

JONN WATERS

Namibia decided the only way to keep its rhinos alive was to saw off their horns and start a de-horning operation in 1989. The horns grew back at 9em a year.

Horrified

Zimbabwe followed suit, after refusing to consider it five years previously. In a recent de-horning operation in the Matusadona National Park, rangers were horrified to discover that only 15 of the estimated 150 rhinos in the 800,000km² park had survived.

Krugersdorp National Park wildlife manager Lynn van Rooyen said the park had no plans of “ever going that far” but said it would depend on the incidence of poaching. He said the park had 59 white rhinos and between 300 and 400 black rhinos.

About 85% of the world’s rhinos are thought to have been killed in the past 30 years, and less than 11,000 animals from five species are believed to be left in Africa and Asia. Africa’s black rhino population has dropped drastically, from an estimated 70,000 in 1970 to 3,000 today.

One observer points out that the hope for Africa’s wildlife, an important drawcard for tourism, will come through countries sharing expertise and cooperating with each other on issues such as the combating of poachers.

The possible formation of the 180,000ha Limpopo Valley game reserve where Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa borders meet could be a step in the right direction.
SA features low on IMF agenda

From JIM JONES

WASHINGTON — SA's problems figured low in the list of IMF nations as Michel Camdessus, the IMF's MD, opened the fund's 47th annual meeting in Washington yesterday.

Camdessus merely alluded to last week's European currency turmoil, but the structural economic problems which underlay it were uppermost in his speech.

Recent turbulence in markets related only partly to political circumstances, Camdessus said. But he made it clear the IMF's view that economic policies, particularly inadequate fiscal policies in several large industrial countries, were largely responsible.

Camdessus cautioned against early relaxation of anti-inflationary monetary discipline, and emphasised that fiscal consolidation or the reduction of budget deficits should take precedence.

Camdessus, understandably, did not deviate from IMF economic orthodoxy though he paid lip service to the concerns of countries which asked whether budget balancing and fiscal rectitude were correct given that economic recovery was still so hesitant.

He urged prompt action to ensure speedy fiscal consolidation in the USA and Germany while applauding Japan's prudent fiscal policies of several years which gave the authorities the ability to announce their latest economic package.

Camdessus's prescription for job creation was brief. He specified a need to decentralise wage bargaining so that wages reflected local employment conditions and individual enterprises' performance.
National parks ‘crucial to SA’s tourism future’

THE four national parks situated in the Eastern Cape offered a glimpse of what SA stood to gain from ecological conservation and tourism, Southern Parks liaison and information manager Trevor Dearlove said last week.

Leading a media tour of Mountain Zebra National Park, Addo Elephant Park, Tsitsikamma Marine Park and the Wilderness Park, Dearlove said national parks were needed to preserve a heritage without which SA could have no future.

“When finite resources in the fossil fields — gold and diamonds — dry up, tourism will be the single biggest generator of revenue for SA and ecotourism will be an integral part of that experience,” said Dearlove.

Foreign tourists’ first choice on visits to SA were the parks, and these had to conform to world standards, and operate on sound ecological and business principles.

“Parks are not only for animals, they are for people. They are the lungs of urban SA, where businessmen can take a break from the busy lives they lead and breathe some fresh air,” said Dearlove.

Of the 17 parks under the National Parks Board, 11 had tourism facilities, while others were being developed.

Dearlove made it clear that the Parks Board’s priority was conservation. “We are answerable to future generations as far as conservation is concerned. If all this ecological heritage were to be lost, there would be no future for SA,” he added.

The Mountain Zebra Park, 25km west of Cradock, has raised the zebra population from 11 in the 1930s to the present 265. The number has been limited to 265, with other animals being farmed out to other parks.

Protection

The park’s pride is the Doornhoek guest house which is a restored Victorian homestead furnished in period style.

A national monument, the complex was used in the filming of Olive Schreiner’s Story of an African Farm.

The Addo Elephant National Park, 72km north of PE, rests in the Valley Bushveld in the Sundays River Valley.

This is where the most southerly herds of elephant on the African continent have found testing protection. From a mere 11 in 1930, the elephants now number more than 260, while the park also boasts the only herd of buffalo to survive in the Cape.

The Tsitsikamma Park, the first marine national park on the sub-continent, stretches for 80km along the rugged southern Cape coast, and for 5km out to sea.

The Otter Hiking Trail, which traverses 41km of coastal landscapes and dense forests, starts here, and crosses 11 rivers before ending at Nature’s Valley.

The Wilderness National Park, nestled between the Indian Ocean and the Oubinda Mountains, has three rest camps: Wilderness, Ebb & Flow and Kleinkrantz.

The National Parks Board has introduced a temporary 30% discount package for accommodation in five of its southern parks, reports Sapa.

Parks board spokesman Braam van der Vyver said the packages would be applicable to the Mountain Zebra, Wilderness, Addo Elephant, West Coast and Augrabies national parks from October 15 to November 30.

Van der Vyver said the reason for the discount was the traditional tourism slump experienced by these parks during the period.
THE IGI Unit Trust (IUT) portfolio grew 75% to R42m (R24m) in the year to March 1992, but the share market had since taken a knock, said management company director Peter Linnell.

According to Linnell a buoyant share market between March and June did not continue into the third quarter, when the all-share index dropped by 13%.

"We outperformed the market on its downward ride in the third quarter, going down only 5.5%.”

As a younger trust, IUT had not been as badly hit by the spate of unit repurchases seen in the downturn, and consequently had a positive inflow of funds during the third quarter. 24/11/92.

"Being a newcomer we tend to attract the more serious investor, who is in it for the long term," Linnell said.

IUT’s portfolio was now worth about R42m.
Keep plutonium ships away, say Cape children

JOHN YELOD, Environment Reporter

"DON'T ship plutonium around our coast!" is the message Japanese prime minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa will get from several hundred Cape Town pupils today.

Letters from the pupils will be handed to the Japanese consulate on the Foreshore by members of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps), with a request that they be sent to Mr Miyazawa.

Said Caps spokesman Mr Andy Gubb: "The coalition received a number of queries from pupils about the possible role they could play in preventing the shipment of plutonium from France to Japan via the Cape sea route."

He said the environmental education section of the Wildlife Society — a member of the coalition — had responded with background information and a letter to schools, and pupils had been encouraged to write to Mr Miyazawa.

"There was an overwhelming response from the children of Cape Town," said Mr Gubb.

"Their concern stems directly from questions surrounding the possibility of a shipping accident, and exactly how such an accident would affect them now and in the future.

"It's obvious the pupils are not easily convinced by technical safety arguments, and that even a statistically-small risk is far too great to allow plutonium to be shipped via the Cape sea route."

The coalition would insist that Mr Miyazawa responds "adequately" to the children's fears, Mr Gubb said.
Bolt cutter used to free atom protesters

JOHN YELD Environment Reporter

POLICEMEN today used a bolt cutter to free three environmental activists who had spent 22 hours chained to a window in the reception area of the Japanese Consulate on the Foreshore.

Mr Stephen Smith of Earthlife Africa, Mr Nosey Pieterse of the Food and Allied Workers Union and Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society — all members of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments — were protesting against Japanese plans to transport plutonium from France to Japan, possibly around the Cape sea route.

Yesterday the protesters handed letters and a petition from Cape Town children to the Japanese Consul, Mr I Tanaki. They then chained themselves to a window in the reception area of the sixth-floor offices and said they would not leave before getting a formal response from the Japanese government.

At 2.20 am, Mr Tanaki asked the protesters to leave immediately or said he would call the police to remove them "forcibly".

"Then we said from our point of view we had only two options — we either had to receive a response, or as a matter of principle we would have to be removed," Mr Gubb said.

Mr Gubb said their relations with Mr Tanaki had been friendly and it was clear he was carrying out instructions.

At 10.15 am a group of plain clothed policemen arrived and spoke to Mr Tanaki. At 10.30 am the police used a bolt cutter to free the men and they then left.

The three were asking for a formal response from the Japanese prime minister to a protest letter sent in July, and to several thousand letters and a 600-signature petition handed in at the consulate yesterday. (56) A2C 3519977

The three men were locked into the offices overnight when it closed at 4.30pm.

Mr Gubb said they had held long discussions with the consul, Mr A Tanaki, yesterday afternoon about their presence, and they were aware that the consul had been in constant contact with the Japanese Ambassador in Pretoria.
Govt blamed for drought devastation

EMERGENCY drought relief operations have been thrown into crisis, with drought experts blaming government for the water shortage which has devastated large areas of SA’s northern areas.

A confidential report drawn up by Consultative Forum on Drought manager Len Abrams says foreign engineers blame bad government — rather than the extent of the drought — for the region’s water crisis.

The British engineers said SA was more chaotic and provided less support than Ethiopia, Somalia and Iraq, where they had worked previously.

The engineers were contracted by the forum, a joint government-development-agency project, to help bring relief measures to the ravaged northern Transvaal communities.

The British government and the Overseas Development Forum have now cancelled their involvement in the project because they deem the crisis to be the result of “long-term problems of neglect”.

Abrams’s report described government bungling as “the largest obstacle to disaster relief activity”.

“The SA government and its creations, the homelands, are responsible for the disaster,” says the report.

The lack of rainfall is a natural phenomenon but the consequences are a result of years of neglect, inadequate investment.

□ To Page 2

Drought

maldevelopment, mismanagement, corruption, no maintenance and apartheid policies.

“The state has used its structures of the homeland administrations to channel public drought relief funds where they are to be managed by the same bureaucracy that is responsible for the problems,” Abrams said.

Water Affairs drought relief worker Simon Forster commented yesterday that there was no consensus on the Abrams report in the Consultative Forum on Drought and pointed out that two of the visiting engineers had voluntarily agreed to stay on in SA.

He said three more foreign engineers — two from the US and one from Australia — would shortly be joining emergency water provision operations.

He said water provision operations in Venda and KaNgwane were proceeding and the situation was almost under control.
Chains, letters used in toxic cargo protest

TWO environmentalists chained themselves to a window of the Japanese consulate yesterday in protest against Japan's proposed plutonium shipment, after handing over several thousand letters from local schoolchildren opposing the plan.

They were protesting against a planned shipment of plutonium from France to Japan in November which the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps) believe will be transported via the Cape sea route.

Caps spokesman Mr Andy Gubb handed over the letters from primary and high schoolchildren and a 600-signature petition from Plumstead High to consulate official Mr H Komori.

Earlier a huge banner proclaiming "Cape Children Say No to Japan's Plutonium" was strung up outside the building.

Caps representatives Mr Stephen Smith and Mr Noye Petersen were still chained in the sixth floor reception area when the consulate closed for the day. They demanded to speak directly on the phone with Japanese Prime Minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa.

— Staff Reporter, Sapa
The Big Wheeze: Humans Losing the Right...
Eskom will rectify 'shocking' bills

By Joshua Raboroko

Eskom has undertaken to rectify the huge electricity bills charged to businesses in Soweto.

This was said by the corporation's sales and customer manager, Mr Paul Mare, at a meeting at the Standard Bank Hall in Jabulani yesterday with members of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce (GSCC), the Soweto Independent Shopkeepers Association (Soinsa), Soweto Civic Association (SCA) and professional people.

Mare was responding to complaints by traders that they had received "shocking electricity bills" ranging from R4 000 to R10 000 although their shops did not have meters.

One businessman asked how the electricity company calculated consumption when many businesses either had faulty meters or none at all.

"How do you come to this conclusion?" the businessman asked.

Businessmen said they felt that they should be included in the Soweto Accord which cancelled arrears for the majority of Soweto residents earlier this year.

Mare said there were 11 service centres where complaints could be made. If any mistakes were found, they were prepared to rectify them.

Eskom would install and repair electricity meters in Soweto and the business community would not be excluded, he said. The corporation would charge small businesses such as spaza shops and others the same tariffs - as low as possible - as residential dwellings. He added that "we are prepared to help the informal sector grow".

"Business people will begin paying a market-related tariff for their electricity, paying accounts which are based on how much electricity you use as measured by your meters," Mare said.

GSCC's executive director, Mr Max Legodi, said they felt concerned about the supply of electricity because in the past they were not consulted.

Soinsa's secretary general, Mr Thami Skenjana, said business people were promised they would pay a flat rate when Eskom took over the supply of electricity in Soweto in April.
Two Cape Town environmentalists, who have chained and handcuffed themselves to a window inside the Japanese consulate on the Foreshore, have refused to leave until they are put in direct telephonic contact with Japanese Prime Minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa.

Mr Stephen Smith of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments and trade unionist Mr Nobby Peterson are protesting against the planned shipment of plutonium from France to Japan in November, which they believe would be transported via the Cape sea route.
Workers in protective gear yesterday cleaned up the Midrand chemical storage facility where toxic substances spilled when a fire gutted it 10 days ago. (I) PHIL BOWMAN

Council says Midrand site should be avoided

Air toxicity tests were being carried out every hour at the Midrand site where a fire destroyed a chemicals storage facility 10 days ago, following a warning by the town council that the area should be avoided.

About 72 chemical substances — including sulphur dioxide, cyanides and petro-hydrocarbons — had leaked from ruptured or melted containers during the fire at the warehouse, Rhone-Poulenc Animal Health and Chemical company spokesman Simon Grimbeek said yesterday.

However, all tests, including those of water in the area had been negative, he said. Extensive tests of employees had also proved negative.

Several companies in the adjacent Constantia Park complex had evacuated the area while specialist industrial and toxic waste disposal company Waste-Tech was cleaning up the site.

Constantia Park occupants had started complaining about nausea, headaches, dizziness, bloody urine and bleeding gums last week.

The Midrand Town Council yesterday advised that the area next to the Rhone-Poulenc site should be avoided until tomorrow.

The council told occupants of adjacent buildings that air conditioning systems should be thoroughly cleared by qualified contractors.

Remains of the buildings on the property — also severely contaminated — would be completely demolished.

The chemicals and the rubble were being transported in specialised vehicles and disposed of at Waste-Tech’s landfill designed for hazardous wastes at Rietfontein.

"Some chemicals, because of their high levels of toxicity, will be encapsulated in concrete and buried," Waste-Tech MD Ken Bromfield said.

Waste-Tech employees on the site were being checked at regular intervals, he said.

STEPHANE BOTHMA
Toxic Factory a no-go area
Nelspruit
faces stiffer
water curbs

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — Nelspruit residents, already faced with severe water restrictions, could be subjected to further tough measures unless it rains soon.

This warning came from management committee chairman Nic van Zyl at a town council meeting on Monday night.

He said Lydenburg’s Braam Raubenheimer Dam was at a level of 19.65 percent.

New restrictions include:

- Water usage for householders and flat owners to be limited to 40 kilolitres a month.
- School, club and hospital gardens may only be watered for two hours a week.
- Written permission will have to be obtained to fill new or repaired swimming pools.

The following rates, plus VAT, will be applied to householders exceeding the 40 kl limit:

- from 0-40 kl: R5/kl
- 41-50 kl: R7.5/kl
- 51-75 kl: R10/kl
- 76-100 kl: R15/kl
- exceeding 100 kl: R20/kl.
Chemicals removed from Midland factory
Workers, residents tested after toxic gas exposure

By Charmeela Bhagwat

Residents and workers, exposed to toxic gases released from the Rhone-Poulenc chemical factory fire in Midrand recently, yesterday took medical tests, paid for by Rhone-Poulenc, to determine whether they were contaminated.

And police yesterday said they were investigating the possibility that the death of a 35-year-old man, whose body was found in a relative's deep freeze in Alexandra two days ago, was related to the fire. SAP spokesman Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke said police searched for Sefrao Ngoma's body after his employer, Bob Sugrue, reported the death to the police.

Mr Sugrue told The Star that Mr Ngoma died in his outbuilding early last Wednesday morning, allegedly after walking past the gutted chemical factory on Tuesday afternoon.

He said the man died at about 1 am after saying he was thirsty.

He said policemen who came to the scene told him Mr Ngoma had died from natural causes before taking the body to a mortuary.

But when numerous attempts to trace Mr Ngoma's body in the past week failed, he decided to go back to the police to demand an autopsy, said Mr Sugrue.

Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke said the SAP formally opened an inquest docket on Wednesday after Mr Sugrue spoke to the police and Mr Ngoma's body was found in Alexandra.

Midrand electronics technician John Rich, who works near the gutted chemical warehouse and was one of the people who visited the Carstenhof Clinic for tests yesterday, said his nose started bleeding on Monday.

Among about 20 people who went for tests yesterday was television personality Richard Loring, who owns a company in Constantia Park an office complex next to Rhone-Poulenc.

He said he was having his family and all 35 staff members tested.
The lodge was run by the National Parks Board and has been refurbished by the Conservation Corp at a cost of R4m. The property was donated last year to the National Parks Trust by landowner Hans Hoheisen.

PHOENIX INDUSTRIAL PARK

EASTERN TRANSVAAL

Lifeline to earnings

One thing the new SA needs to do is safeguard catchment areas west of the Kruger National Park from human depredation. This is essential to the survival of what is potentially a major foreign exchange earner—wildlife tourism.

Now is a good time to redraw the map and consider the needs of this sector. Ecotourism is worth R2bn and predictions are that, with some measure of political stability, growth could exceed 12% a year. The success of wildlife tourism—comprising 50% of the total—hinges on the eastern Transvaal, now stricken by the worst drought in living memory.

Drought devastation of crops and over-grazing have more to do with the lack of land...
A GROUP of doctors claims company and town officials bungled their response to the chemical inferno at the Rhone-Poulenc animal feed plant in Midrand a fortnight ago.

As a result 18 firefighters were hospitalized and clean-up workers still risk injury, frightened area residents are clamouring for information and complaining of symptoms, and fumes of chemicals were allowed to soak into the ground before clean-up began a week after the fire.

Two weeks after the fire officials are still trying to explain their response to angry people who live and work in the area.

"We don't know what's in the air," said Richard Loring, whose theatre is next to the plant. "At the moment, what's in the air is fear."

Dr Murray Coombs, spokesman for the South African Society of Occupational Medicine, blamed officials of both Midrand and Rhone-Poulenc for injury to the firefighters.

Rhone-Poulenc officials didn’t say there were chemicals in the building until after firefighters who had battled the blaze for three hours complained of burning sensations.

Coombs said that workers for Waste-Tech, the firm hired by Rhone-Poulenc to demolish the building and dispose of the rubble, had not worn protective clothing.

Coombs' group faulted the Midrand Town Council for not immediately forming an action committee of residents, company and town officials to arrange evacuation and monitor possible chemical contamination.

Rhone-Poulenc finally released a list last week of 149 chemicals and compounds that were stored in the building. Experts will not know until at least next week how the chemicals interacted with each other, fire and water, nor whether they linger in the air or groundwater. Testing done by Waste-Tech has found no contamination on the plant grounds.
Campaigners hope to stop deadly cargo

Too few Japanese know that their government’s plan to ship plutonium from France is causing worldwide consternation, says a campaigner against the shipment.

TOKYO. -- Delegates from countries on the likely routes of a Japanese vessel carrying plutonium meet in Tokyo tomorrow with the aim of stopping the shipment which they see as a potentially devastating nuclear threat.

Several nations likely to be on its route from France to Japan, including Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa, have protested against the ship sailing in their waters.

The 3,000-ton Akatsuki Maru set off from Yokohama on August 24 for Cherbourg, where it will pick up a ton of plutonium from France for use in a Japanese reactor.

Its route back, when it will be accompanied by a 5,000-ton armed escort vessel, is a tightly kept secret.

Participants at tomorrow’s meeting, including the president of the Pacific republic of Nauru, will draw up a resolution to submit to Japan’s Science and Technology Agency, which is in charge of the plutonium project.

“We’re hoping for something like asking the French, Japanese and United States governments to postpone the shipment,” said Ms Yurika Ayukawa, spokeswoman for the Citizens' Nuclear Information Centre (CNIC), organiser of the meeting.

“Not many Japanese know that their nuclear programme is a threat to the whole world,” she said. “We want to find out the real concerns of the countries along the route of the shipment.”

As the original source of the fuel, Washington has the right to veto the shipment under a 1988 agreement between the two countries. However, it gave permission, satisfied of Japan’s intentions and its measures to protect the ship.

After getting uranium from the United States and using it in light-water reactors, Japan sent the spent-nuclear fuel to France and Britain for reprocessing into plutonium.

It wants to ship the plutonium back for use in Monju, a prototype fast-breeder reactor.

The CNIC also has attacked government secrecy over the ship’s route.

Tokyo says this is to protect the shipment from terrorist attacks, as high-grade plutonium can be used to make nuclear weapons. However, there are increasing complaints that Japan is putting other nations in danger without their knowledge.

The most likely route would be around the Cape and across the Indian Ocean.

This would take it through the 600-mile Strait of Malacca, which separates Malaysia and the Indonesian Island of Sumatra, one of the busiest waterways in the world.

This has seen four major accidents since June and is known for pirates who raid passing vessels in hit-and-run attacks.

Indonesia last month demanded details of the ship’s route and Malaysia and Singapore also have objected to the Akatsuki Maru passing through the strait.

South Africa has said it will ban ships carrying plutonium from sailing within 200 miles of its coast.

The Tokyo conference will be attended by academics, environmentalists and representatives of various anti-nuclear groups. -- Sapa-Reuter.
Abacor privatisation not yet cleared at Cabinet level

SEVERAL aspects of the privatisation of Abacor still had to be cleared at Cabinet level, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

He said a decision was expected within 10 days, when a full statement would be issued.

He said his department had taken cognisance of recommendations made in July by the Competition Board, which had expressed reservations about the deregulation and privatisation of the industry.

Organisation of Livestock Producers chairman Nils Dittmer confirmed at the weekend that complaints about the Meat Board's proposed new scheme are due to be lodged with Van Niekerk this week.

He said privatisation could create a situation of unfair competition, as nearly half the country's abattoirs would be controlled by Abacor.

Industry sources said producers, wholesalers and retailers, as well as important importers had been objecting to the new scheme.

The Meat Board has maintained the new scheme would deregulate the meat industry, allowing for free movement of meat throughout the country while eliminating existing production requirements.

Govt department 'a toothless watchdog'

THE aftermath of a fire at a pesticides warehouse in Midrand showed the Department of Environmental Affairs up as "a toothless watchdog", DP environmental spokesman Rupert Lorimer said yesterday.

Lorimer said: "There is too many authorities — some who do not know what they are doing — controlling the after-effects of an incident like this."

The September 19 chemical fire at the Rhone-Poulenc warehouse and resulting contamination allegedly caused the death of one man, made many others violently ill and forced the costly closure of surrounding businesses for up to four days.

"There is an obvious gap in legislation," he said, adding that the department had to be given legislative powers to investigate and prosecute environmental disasters themselves.

DP Environmental Affairs director-general Colin Cameron defended SA's environmental laws, saying: "Our law is able to cope with most eventualities."

"They need revision and a degree of rationalisation is obvious, but to say they are backward is too severe," Cameron said.

However, he said his department could not open a special investigation on the Midrand fire as the consequences did not fall within his department's ambit.

Wits University environmental law lecturer Peter Lazarus said the incident might result in SA's first direct environmental action as people claimed doctors' bills, working hours lost or losses from the closure of business.

Flight timing ranks tops in passenger poll

STEFHANE BOTTHA

FLIGHT timing was placed at the top of a list of factors influencing businessman's choice of airlines, a survey conducted among international flyers showed.

And Deloitte & Touche's latest list of the most common complaint among international business travellers.

A survey of business travel planning practices showed that 62% of these travellers chose an airline for times of departure and arrival.

Way behind in second place, with 12% of mentions, was an airline's safety record, the Reed Travel Group said at the weekend.

The cost of an air ticket accounted for just 11% of mentions, "past experience" 8%, inflight service 4% and incentives such as free travel 3%.

Flight delays scored 46% on the "aggravation scale", followed by in-flight service at 18%.

Complaints relating to problems with luggage scored only 6%, with check-in problems and dissatisfaction with hotel accommodation both scoring a low 4%, Reed Travel said.

Corporate travel policies were almost non-existent, with 84% free to choose any airline, 24% free to select the class of travel, 81% free to choose their hotel and 16% having no restrictions at all.

The companies surveyed in the UK, France, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong were mostly in manufacturing, followed by transport, communications and service industries.
Call to test for ‘Agent Orange’ toxins after fire

By Bronwya Wilkinson

Environmental group Earthlife Africa has urged that tests be conducted urgently to determine whether one of the toxins released into the air after last month’s Rhone Poulenc fire at Midrand was Dioxin — the primary ingredient of the notorious “Agent Orange”.

The Sunday Star reported yesterday that among the 70 different chemical compounds incinerated in the blaze were several substances containing chlorine.

Dioxin is one of the products of incomplete combustion which can be produced when chlorine is burnt. It was the primary ingredient in “Agent Orange” — the defoliant blamed for causing cancer in thousands of soldiers and civilians after the Vietnam War.

Peter Lukey of Earthlife Africa’s Johannesburg branch told the Sunday Star: “It’s all very well saying people in the area have recovered from the effects of the pollution. But what happens 10 years from now when they start coming down with cancer?”

According to environmentalists, Rhone Poulenc is the only company in the world that produces Aldicarb, an extremely toxic pesticide, although there is no evidence that Aldicarb was produced in the Midrand factory at the time of the fire.

Greenpeace lists the symptoms of exposure to Aldicarb as respiratory arrest, nausea, stomach cramps and diarrhoea.
City to get fire alarm

Municipal Reporter

THE city has a sophisticated new early warning alarm system to prevent mountain fires which prompts lookout personnel with a buzzer if they don't call in on schedule.

It will cost the council R120 000 to install the new buzzing device at the Lions Head, Orange Kloof, Silvermine and Wemmershoek firewatchers' huts.

The costly alarm system is being introduced after the massive mountain fire in February last year when the Lions Head firewatcher called in only after the fire-fighting operation had begun. He said at the time he had a problem with his two-way radio, but the city ombudsman believed that he was asleep or absent.

Deputy city engineer Mr D B Bradley said that the new solar-powered devices, which would automatically "beep" if the firewatcher did not call in at regular intervals, would be installed in the firewatchers' huts.

A computer at the Kloofnek Control Centre would record when the firewatcher was late, that he was reminded and when he responded.

Firewatchers would also be able to set off an alarm in the control centre when they spotted a fire, making them less dependent on the two-way radios.

The city engineer's department also reported to the amenities and health committee yesterday that astounding results had been obtained with an infra-red fire-detection device, but it was too expensive.

It could detect the heat from small flames hidden from sight.

But a surveillance station would cost R200 000 and running costs would be "of the order of R100 000 every six months".

The cost of such a system could not be justified at this stage, city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said.
PRETORIA — The Water Affairs and Agriculture Departments are spending more than R1m a month in an intensive search for ground water in the drought-ravaged homelands, say Water Affairs officials.

In Venda alone five of the department's boring rigs are working 14 hours a day. The desperate water search operation is also in progress in Lebowa, Gazankulu and Transkei, and will soon be extended to Ciskei.

Although success has not been overwhelming "we are getting water to most communities".

In Venda, the four main dams are virtually dry. The largest, Venda dam, is less than 1% full. An effort is being made to transfer water from Tshakhuma dam to Venda.

Rivers in the homeland have dried up or have been reduced to a muddy trickle. The levels of most of the department's 137 dams are at their lowest in years and are falling by about 1% a week.

The average level of the Vaal river system's 13 dams was measured last week at 59% — down 1% on the previous week — compared with 79% percent at the same time last year. The Vaal dam is at 17% compared with 67% this time last year.

According to the spokesman, the flow into the Vaal dam is at its second lowest since 1923. Sterksfontein dam — which backs up the Vaal dam with its access to Tugela river water — is 58% full.

In Natal the levels of the 16 dams are down to 50% compared with 75% at the same time last year.

In the eastern Cape, thanks to recent good rains, the average level has been lifted to 37% compared with 32% last year.
North, east desperate for rain

By Clyde Johnson and Dirk Nel

Many northern and eastern Transvaal communities face economic ruin if it does not rain this month.

Although welcome rains fell in the Warmbaths and Nylstroom districts at the weekend, and over many parts of the lowveld last week, more is desperately needed to break the drought.

Over the past few months, drought reports by government officials, organised agriculture and conservationists have described a bleak picture.

Several factors which have brought the rural northern areas to their knees include:
- Thousands of cattle have died in Lebowa, Venda, and Gazankulu. It will take years for livestock farming to be re-established in these areas.
- Most districts in the far north had only 20 percent of their average annual rainfall in 1991/92. This resulted in dam levels dropping to below 20 percent of their capacity.
- Stringent water restrictions are in force in most towns, and thousands of people in the homelands are receiving daily or weekly water supplies by road tanker.
- The drought has caused an increase in unemployment, as farmers and businesses have been forced to retrench workers.
- City markets have suffered drastically due to cuts in the irrigation quotas of fruit and vegetable farmers in the fertile Tzaneen district.

Conservation officials and game farmers are involved in the extensive feeding of wild animals which can no longer be sustained by the land.

Fires have destroyed valuable plantations, indigenous vegetation and grazing. The ongoing danger of fires remains a constant cause for concern in the region.

The timber industry has been hard hit by the loss of up to 30 percent of the trees in State and private forests, because there simply is no dampness in the ground anymore.

"It's purely a matter of survival, one day until the next. God only knows how long we can hold out," a desperate lowveld farmer told The Star.

The Kruger National Park, gripped in its worst drought, had between 12 mm and 35 mm on Thursday — just enough to get grass growing.

But just as quickly as the tender young leaves make their appearance the hot lowveld sun scorches them.

The Braam Raubenheimer Dam is presently at a dangerous 19 percent level and unless water flows into it soon, all irrigation supplies to farmers will be stopped.

Nelspruit inhabitants, already subjected to strict water restrictions, will face even sterner measures in the weeks ahead unless it rains.
Rhone-Poulenc faces police probe

FRENCH pharmaceuticals giant Rhone-Poulenc, already under threat of possible civil suits following a blaze at its warehouse north of Johannesburg, now faces a police probe, the Midrand Town Council announced on Wednesday.

In a letter to residents, the council said it would ask police to investigate the fire on September 19 in conjunction with the National Health Department, which issued the licence for Rhone-Poulenc to store chemicals.

Midrand town council secretary Tom Pieters said the police and the department should make sure any party involved in the "disaster" had complied with the regulations.

The council has complained that Rhone-Poulenc did not warn its fire brigade about the chemicals on site until about two-and-a-half hours after fire crews arrived, and did not make a full disclosure until six days later.

Eighteen firemen were taken to hospital suffering from nausea, vomiting, skin irritation and diarrhoea, and six were found to have non-lethal amounts of organo-phosphates in their blood.

On Monday, Rhone-Poulenc appointed the Atomic Energy Corporation to conduct soil and air tests and put together a dispersion model to see where a cloud formed during the fire might have deposited toxins. The scientists were looking for dioxins, which may have been formed when phenol-related products in the warehouse burned, said warehouse general manager Simon Grimbeek.

Grimbeek said the samples may be sent to the US for analysis. Results would take at least three weeks to come back. An independent search for dioxins by a Pretoria company, based on samples around the site, is expected to yield results earlier.

Tests for organo-phosphate, benzene and other chemical poisoning carried out on Rhone-Poulenc's 49 workers and some 27 people in neighbouring offices, have come back negative.

The council has advised the nearby offices to have their air conditioning systems cleaned out. — Sapa-AFP.

---

Code of conduct approved for the timeshare industry

THE Harmful Business Practices Committee had approved a code of conduct for the timeshare industry, said committee chairman Prof Louise Tager.

The code of conduct had been drawn up by the Timeshare Institute of SA and would allow the industry to regulate itself.

Tager added that a newly established industry watchdog, the Timeshare Standards Council would administer the code of conduct, and could turn to the committee for enforcement against unscrupulous timeshare operators.

Retired Judge Cecil Margo would act as industry ombudsman and head the council. The code would apply to all timeshare companies and developers to ensure that consumers were protected.

Resort Condominiums International MD Steve Griessel said the formation of the council was only part of a broad initiative by the institute to clean up the industry's image, and boost slowing sales.

Speaking at the launch of the Timeshare 2000 initiative yesterday, Griessel said the customer would benefit directly from a range of innovative programmes which would come into effect on November 1 this year.

One innovation was the introduction of a mandatory five-day "cooling-off" guarantee, which disassociated pressure-selling tactics by salesmen.

"The cooling-off period gives purchasers the option of cancelling agreements within five days, should they feel they have been pressured into buying," he said.

"This is one of the most significant changes as salesmen are going to have to become far more creative in their selling methods," he said.

Among other things the institute would offer a 15-year warranty to provide holidays to timeshare buyers whose resort had been liquidated, or who had lost their occupation rights, Griessel said.


"The far-reaching changes will ensure the continued growth of this vital part of the tourism infrastructure, while at the same time eliminating undesirable practices."
Research centre to be established

A RESEARCH centre, which will also serve to educate tourists and locals on the marine environment, is to be set up early next year on Grande Comores.

The JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology at Rhodes University and the Island Ventures dive operation will be co-operating in establishing the laboratory which is to be manned by a researcher from the university.

Guy Fotherby of Island Ventures and the institute’s curator of marine fishes, Phillip Heemstra, said the laboratory would serve as a base for the study of the wide and complex range of fish fauna. New species or variations of fish would be preserved and studied, or sent back to SA for identification. Heemstra said the centre could also be used by other scientists.

The Comores are also famed for their coelacanths, the prehistoric specimens providing a link in the evolution of fish, and these will be included in the educational programme. Coelacanths are still being caught by deep sea fishermen off the islands, leading some researchers to speculate that they may not be as threatened as was thought.

Divers will also appreciate the centre’s formulation of charts for the identification of fish, and Fotherby said they hoped to develop introductory audio-visual shows for visitors. They were also getting a photographic centre off the ground to promote underwater photography.

Most importantly, it was hoped the education of tourists and locals on the fragility of the reef system would lead to greater protection of the environment.

Island Ventures assistant manager Tony Marnewick expressed concern about the local practice of stockpiling beach sand to build homes. In addition, crushed coral is used as a binding agent for building, as few can afford the expensive imported cement. But while the removal of beach sand and use of coral have been outlawed for years, the practice continues.

Marnewick said it was hard for government to enforce such laws owing to pressure from a poor and volatile electorate. However, tourism and the opening of Le Galawa Sun Beach Hotel last year had bred greater environmental awareness.

Government recently declared the nearby Comorian island of Moheli a marine reserve, but Marnewick argues Comorians have benefited little from that. The locals had relied on the sea for centuries and it was vital for the West to provide support for them in changing times. Many projects, such as fish and shellfish farming, could be encouraged to provide viable alternatives.
Act allows for environment studies

PRETORIA — Recent amendments to the Environment Conservation Act had made it easier to impose compulsory environmental impact assessments for certain activities which could have a detrimental effect on the environment, Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

Speaking at an SA Institute of Civil Engineers function, he said a list of activities earmarked for mandatory environmental impact assessments was being drafted for publication.

Regulations were also being drafted to specify what would be required in any environmental impact report emanating from an environmental impact assessment.

Pienaar said the country’s throwaway culture and waste disposal methods had increased the problem of adequate dumping grounds.

It had become cheaper and easier to throw away a used product than to attempt to reuse or recycle it.

The department had identified bottle-necks in the waste management system. One was the lack of a clear national policy on waste management.

Pienaar said more than 20% of the workforce was unemployed and between 7 million and 8 million people were estimated to be living in informal shacks.

He said the provision of basic infrastructure such as water, sewerage, electricity and waste disposal would have an effect on the environment.

SA had to face a doubling of its population every 25 years unless the rate of increase could be curbed sharply and these numbers would present a major threat to the environment.

Without economic growth to rein in unemployment, accommodate urbanisation and curb the population growth rate the country would be drawn relentlessly into the “suffocating quicksands of poverty”. This was a greater threat to the environment than development, he said.
'Water can't keep up with growth'

By Shirley Woodgate

As the levels of many dams in the Transvaal, eastern Cape and Little Karoo hover around critical levels, Water Research Commission executive director Piet Ondenaal has warned that the ultimate solution to the mounting water problem is limitation of the population growth.

The water shortage was directly linked to the increase in population, which could not be allowed to continue at the present rate of 4 percent a year unless vast sums of money were made available to ensure more supplies, he said.

He said increased funds were also needed to provide improved long-term weather predictions for the agricultural sector so that farmers could plan ahead with confidence.

The Water Research Commission was funding investigations in this area. Indications were that "fairly good predictions" could be made once a suitable formula was developed.

Ondenaal said another vital area of research being pursued was better use of the country's ground water resources, including dolomitic regions on the Reef, in the western Transvaal and near Pretoria.

According to the latest Department of Water Affairs "state of the dams" bulletin, the total amount of water in reservoirs countrywide is down to 43 percent full, from 69 percent at the same time last year.

The Vaal Dam, which serves the PWV, has dropped to 17 percent.

Dams in the western Transvaal are 30 percent full, the eastern Transvaal 38 percent, the Upper Orange River scheme is on 24 percent. Natal 43 percent and the eastern Cape total stands at 37 percent.

Only the western Cape is in a healthy state, with the 27 reservoirs serving the region ending the winter rainfall period three-quarters full.
Gencor boss predicts no mining at St Lucia

By ROY RUDDEN

An executive director of Gencor, the mining giant which is the biggest South African shareholder in Richards Bay Minerals, is quoted as predicting that mining at Lake St Lucia will not go ahead.

Under the heading, "Not... and no again," Gencor's Naas Steenkamp, who is also president of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, as reported in the society's Expo News as saying that he believed "ultimately they will not happen at St Lucia."

Steenkamp, former president of the Chamber of Mines, was speaking at the opening of Durban's recent Wildlife Expo.

Gencor owns about 25 percent of the shares in RRM. The other South African shareholders are SA Mutual (9 percent), known for its vigorous pro-conservation advertising, and the Industrial Development Corporation (17 percent). The remaining 50 percent is owned by international mining conglomerate Rio Tinto Zinc.

In his opening address at Expo, Mr Steenkamp also came out forcibly in favour of "further government measures to protect the environment."

"Unless adequate safeguards are entrenched at the highest level," he said, "our national parks and nature reserves might be subjected to indiscriminate over-exploitation."

The Wildlife Society believed that the state's environmental obligations involved accepting ultimate responsibility for the compromises that needed to be struck between environmental constraints and the need for economic growth and development. The government had to acknowledge the maxim, "You cannot build a thriving economy on a bankrupt environment," he said.

Mr Brian Gilbertson, chairman of Gencor, said he had not seen the publication, and could not comment.

Conflict

Mr Steenkamp is out of town and could not be contacted for comment on a possible conflict of interest between his professional and environmental positions.

Dr Ian Plimer, founder of the Wilderness Leadership School, said he was delighted by the speech.

"We hope this will give further impetus to the move to pass the Wetlands Conservation Bill, which would effectively empower the government to prevent mining at St Lucia," he said.
Banned toxins found in dead fish

By Julienne du Toit

Fish that died at a specific spot in the Vaal River may have been killed by Dielndrin and benzine hexachloride (BHC), both banned insecticides, according to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The CSIR found traces of Dielndrin and BHC in live fish taken from the river near Schoemanstrand in the western Transvaal, as well as the derivatives of the banned DDT, called DDD and DDE.

The Department of Water Affairs reported four sets of fish deaths starting on August 24 in the area.

Some experts ascribed the deaths to changes in temperature of the water, but Abö Steyn of the Biox Foundation said he found it "too much of a coincidence" that Dielndrin was found in dams in Potchefstroom, and that domestic animals were dying in the area at roughly the same time.

Chickens, ostrich, springbuck and cattle were found dead as far away as Christiana, about 200 km away.

The department said in a statement issued late last month that tests of the water of the Vaal River where the fish had died showed good water quality, and that Onderstepoort could not find traces of pesticides in the dead fish.

Said Steyn: "I don't want to say anything harsh about Onderstepoort, but the Department of Water Affairs has long ago acknowledged to me that Onderstepoort is not geared to micro-analysis.

"It is minute quantities that we are dealing with, and it is very easy to get a negative result. This does not mean it's not there, just that you did not find it."

The CSIR tests showed a concentration of 0,028 mg/kg of Dielndrin in yellow-fish. The lethal 24-hour limit, according to a pesticide manual, is between 0,018 and 0,099 mg/kg for fish.

The allowable daily intake for man is set at 0,0001 mg/kg. Dielndrin has been linked to liver cancer in man.
Angry Middletown residents demand answers
Drought in far north and eastern Tvl tightens grip

By Dirk Nel and Clyde Johnson

While good rains fell at the weekend in the Free State and northern Cape, the weather prophets who predicted it would rain in the northern and eastern Transvaal by Saturday were proved wrong.

In the far northern Transvaal the drought continues to tighten its grip.

A huge interdenominational church service was held in the Pietersburg stadium yesterday, and members of the large congregation broke up into small groups to pray for peace and much-needed rain.

Stringent water restrictions are in force in most towns in the far north, with Louis-Trichardt particularly hard-hit. Residents are allowed only meagre daily supplies for domestic use.
SA watching toxic cargo

Staff Reporter
SOUTH AFRICA is in regular contact with the Japanese government over their planned shipment of a highly toxic cargo of plutonium around the South African coast, a foreign affairs spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said the Japanese were well aware that they were not allowed within the 12-mile territorial limit of South Africa's coast, and they had no intention of breaching this understanding.

The plutonium will be carried by the 3000-ton Akatsuki Maru, which left Yokohama on August 24 for the northern French port of Cherbourg.

The spokesman added the ministry had no idea when the Akatsuki Maru would be passing off South Africa's coast, and added Japan would want to keep these details a "closely guarded" secret.

"The Akatsuki Maru will not pass through the territorial waters of the countries it sails past. The freedom of passage in the 200-mile economic zone is guaranteed by international law," a Japanese source said.

About 80 Greenpeace activists briefly blocked the entrance to a nuclear reprocessing plant in northern France yesterday in protest against the planned shipment.
'Violations of court's authority criticised'

GOVERNMENT has been called on to remove the "checkmate situation" which has arisen regarding the death penalty, in terms of existing legislation and the fact that since November 1989 it has not been carried out.

In an editorial in the SA Bar journal, Consultor, it is stressed that a basic principle of a civilised legal system is that sentences pronounced by the courts should be carried out.

This principle has been violated by the government decision to suspend the death sentence for a further period until the constitutionality of the punishment has been firmly established, the editorial says.

This presumably means the suspension will apply until a new constitution with a bill of rights has been enacted. The suspension of the execution of the death sentence amounts to approved encroachment on the functions of the courts - just as the premature release of thousands of non-political prisoners did last year.

"Either the death penalty should be carried out, or abolished and all prisoners on death row reprieved, or death sentences which are not commuted should be carried out within a reasonable time," says the journal's editorial.

GERALD REILLY

The courts, it says, should no longer be inhibited in carrying out their task in an orderly manner.

To expect trial judges to spend days hearing evidence and reasoning to determine that a death sentence should be imposed when it is, from the outset, certain that, whatever the courts may decide, no death penalty will be executed "is really not acceptable," it says.

Untenable

The suspension of the execution of the death sentence for an indefinite period in fact was probably unlawful. In times such as the present the judiciary should be strong and free to perform its function unimpeded and without let or hindrance of whatever nature.

The uncertainty on the death penalty could not be allowed to continue. Apart from the untenable situation that has developed in regard to the courts, it is in the public interest that clarity be obtained without further delay. It is also inhuman to keep prisoners on death row for unreasonably long periods with agonising uncertainty, the journal says.

Medical aid schemes start campaign against fraud

CERTAIN medical aid societies had started a campaign to clamp down on fraud and abuse of medical schemes, an industry source said yesterday.

The source said the campaign included swooping accounting records among certain societies to track down doctors who were blatantly over-serving patients and having experienced investigators talk to them.

It was hoped these investigators would eradicate the abuse in the interests of the profession as a whole.

"Medical Fund Administrators has a good idea of who the abusers are, but unfortunately finds it difficult to press charges formally."

Steps would be taken against medical aid members who abused their schemes to create awareness that the over-use of benefits prejudiced medical care for others.

SA Association of Medical Schemes (Saams) chairman Keith Hollis said: "The medical schemes movement is in crisis as claims escalate at a rate considerably faster than inflation through over-use and over-serving."

Hollis said Saams was not involved in any investigation, as investigations were the responsibility of individual administrators.

"Saams has launched an educational video to change perceptions and improve members' understanding of how their medical scheme works."

The video would be distributed among 82 medical aid societies and among employers for viewing by nearly 2 million members.

It was likely that a letter campaign would also be launched soon.

Jo'burg 'worse than Koeberg'

PEOPLE living in Johannesburg were exposed to higher radiation levels than those working at the Koeberg nuclear power station, Koeberg communications manager Donnie Murray said yesterday (SG).

He was reacting to a report released this week which said 640 of the station's 1,400 radiation workers received detectable radiation doses during 1991.

Murray said exposure to radiation was normal. People living in Johannesburg were exposed to 185 microsieverts as opposed to 1,500 microsieverts in Cape Town.

Exposure at Koeberg was below the World Association of Nuclear Operators' norm.

The company's health physics department ensured that exposure to radiation was minimised at all times, he said.
New plans to protect coasts

Political Staff

SENSITIVE development had seriously damaged the coastal environment and investigations into proclaiming limited development areas were under way, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday.

Development would not be forbidden in limited-development areas, but would be controlled more strictly than now, and environmental impact studies would be required, he said.
Serina applies to RSC

Municipal Reporter

THE kaolin-mining company Serina applied to the Western Cape Regional Services Council yesterday for permission to quarry their Noordhoek site as a gesture of "goodwill".

Yesterday Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, the vice-chairman of Serina, said his company had applied "as a gesture of goodwill".

There has been a long-standing difference of opinion between Serina and the RSC over the legal necessity for Serina to get RSC permission for the mining operation.

In July this year Serina came to an agreement with the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group in which the company agreed to ditch plans for an on-site extraction plant.

Instead, it will pump kaolin six kilometres through a pipeline to its existing Brakke Kloof processing plant.

Serina's agreement with the SCPAG included a clause that the kaolin would be piped "subject to obtaining the necessary approvals".

The company has conditional permission from central government to mine the white powder, used in producing ceramics and white paper.

The RSC view is that mining would be illegal without local authority permission.
Thor orders CSIR study

THOR Chemicals has commissioned the CSIR's Graham Noble to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact study of the company's Cato Ridge site and surrounding neighbourhood, spokesman John Macdonald said at the weekend.

Thor became the centre of a controversy last year when three employees were hospitalised with severe mercury poisoning, two of whom have remained comatose.
Cyanide leak alleged

WATER has been released from the North Dam near Newcastle, New South Wales, to compensate farmers, following the death of one person. The chemical used in the leak was cyanide, according to reports.

Spokesman Lyn Chayen: "We can confirm that cyanide has been used. We believe it was released to compensate farmers for their losses."
Focus on False Bay pollution

Municipal Reporter

A PUBLIC meeting is to be held next month to discuss new ways to manage the waste flowing into False Bay.

Conservationist Mr Andy Gubb and False Bay Water Quality Committee Chairman Mr Arthur Clayton said yesterday they had agreed on the need to report back to the public on progress made so far.

One of the problems identified was that the management of catchment areas draining into the bay fell under several different authorities.

Another concern was that water-quality criteria were "merely guidelines".

A pamphlet issued by the Water Quality Committee said False Bay's pollution problem manifested itself "primarily in the surf zone, not the whole bay".
Forest Lodge plans for PhD

Property

NEGATIVE political developments are

Peter Call...
TPA looks to incorporate private land into reserves

THE TPA was examining the viability of incorporating tracts of private land into provincial reserves, Transvaal Administrator Daan Hough said at the opening of the Wild Expo 92 in Pretoria yesterday.

Provincial conservation authorities already administered 11% of the Transvaal, of which 17% was under private management. There were 450 nature reserves, 1,600 game farms and seven conservancies already in private hands, he said.

Hough said that while it was important to harness the private sector's capital and expertise, tremendous economic and manpower restrictions demanded a new approach with the state as facilitator.

He saw ecotourism playing an increasingly important role in drawing overseas visitors to SA.

Overseas and local hunters paid more than R500m each year to shoot game, while white entrepreneurs brought in an additional R30m to see animals in their natural habitat.

Protection of natural resources against exploitation had to be guarded against, said Hough.

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that more than R15bn was invested in SA's wildlife ranching industry, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

Opening an international wildlife symposium at the CSIR, he said the industry earned more than R350m a year from hunting, live sales and tourism.

It served about 50,000 local hunters and included 400 professional hunting guides who looked after more than 4,000 foreign hunters a year.

The hunters were a vital tourism component, spending up to four times as much as the average tourist, who spent about R4,900 a visit excluding airfares.

Forex earnings exceeded R2,5bn and were on a par with agriculture's foreign earnings.

It also vied for fourth place after manufactured goods, gold and mining and contributed 2% towards GDP.

New KLM flight to Cape Town

STEPHANE BOTHMA

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines' plans to expand its market share of air travel and cargo to and from SA will be launched today with its inaugural flight to Cape Town.

Gulf Air will also start flying twice a week from Abu Dhabi to Johannesburg, beginning in December.

For the first month of operations the airline would offer fares reduced by 50%. Gulf Air vice-president marketing Mohamed Al Shafie said at a news conference yesterday.

KLM was planning an additional weekly flight for 1994 and in the medium to long term expected to operate a daily service, KLM president Piet Booy said yesterday.

Gulf Air expected to announce a third weekly flight by March next year, said Al Shafie.

At this stage, no reciprocal service would be operated by SAA, he said, adding that no joint venture existed between the two airlines.

Angolan talks 'making good progress'

LUANDA - Talks on arranging a reconciliation summit between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and opposition leader Jonas Savimbi were making good progress, officials said yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Mora said that in four days of talks with senior officials of Savimbi's Unita movement, the two sides had overcome preliminary issues and were discussing substantive items.

Victorino Osio, a Unita official at the talks, agreed.

Diplomats in Lisbon said Savimbi's negotiators were seeking a special statute to guarantee him a large slice of power even if he lost the second round of the presidential election.

Unita lost UN-supervised presidential and parliamentary elections on September 26 and 30 that were supposed to set the seal on a peace agreement ending 18 years of civil war.

Diplomats say Savimbi is demanding guarantees of power in a government of national unity. The MPLA scored a clear win with 53.7% of the vote to Unita's 34.1%, but Dos Santos fell just short of the 50% required for a first-round victory.

Luanda police chief Gaspar da Silva said since the elections the capital had been swept by a wave of politically motivated crime which his forces had been unable to control. Da Silva told journalists police had arrested 135 people during the last three weeks for carrying arms ranging from pistols to 8mm mortars.

Even in normal times, the crackle of gunfire associated with banditry echoes through Luanda at night.

But Da Silva said that since the elections there had been a surge in violent crimes ranging from bombings and the killing of policemen and soldiers to kidnapping of civilians. — Sapa-Reuters.
Rotary gives UCT 'green' bursaries

Environment Reporter
THREE environmental science bursaries, worth R5 000 each, have been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Claremont.

A cheque for R15 000 was handed to Professor Richard Puglise, head of UCT's department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences.

The bursaries are for students studying for honours degrees in Professor Puglise's department next year.

They will be awarded by UCT's scholarship committee.

"The bursaries will preferably be awarded to students with an interest in the natural, as opposed to the man-made, environment," a Claremont Rotary Club spokesman said.

"The only obligations expected of the students will be to address our club during the course of the year."
SA's dams are 42% full on average, and the Water Affairs Department reports the Vaal Dam at 18% this week, compared with 64% this time last year, although the average content of western Cape dams has risen to 78%, while eastern Cape dams stand at 44% and Natal dams are 46% full.
Travel choice is wide

By Elliot Makhaya

Logos International Tour Operators offer a broad range of special places and activities not normally available to the traveller.

And this is in addition to the more popular destinations and excursions it offers. Their itineraries can be varied as required, or you can make up your own unique one.

Logos give advice on practical itineraries, flight routines and fares to save you money and maximise the enjoyment of your trip.

They have an experienced staff which can arrange all aspects of your holiday. They handle African safaris to Botswana, Zambia and Namibia.

The Okavango Delta in Botswana is one of the favourite destinations.

The vision of beauty and uniqueness takes on multi-forms: to some it may mean crystal clear water, dugout canoes and exotic bird life, to others it may mean huge herds, lions and elephants and still there is a further group whose vision is that of the best fresh water fishing in Africa.

The water activities include boat rides, mokoro trips, bird watching, fishing, swimming and walking. There is nothing more relaxing than gliding down narrow papyrus lined channels on a mokoro (wooden dugout) searching for rare and elusive birds.

The delta water is pure and crystal clear making the scenery all the more attractive. Game is generally not encountered at a typical water camp, although it is often present in the area.

Land activities in game areas include game drives and walking through diverse terrain offering excellent game viewing.

All camps are reached by light aircraft either from Maun or Kasane or by four wheel drive vehicles. Accommodation is authentic safari styled lodges offering rustic, comfortable facilities with good cuisine.
The fences come down under Oom Paul's nose

30.10-5.11.76

The Kruger National Park is striving to adapt to the new South Africa by reaching out to surrounding communities and private game parks, reports EDDIE KOCH.

visit to the park.

The management of the park, the delegate from the Sowetan and literally, appears to be ‘dominated by white Afrikaner bureaucrats’, a charge dismissed by the immediacy of management’s response.

Media representatives were selected for their contributions and a committee was set up to organise a large conference of all major political bodies active in the region of the park to discuss ways in which the above, among others, could be addressed.

National Parks Board officials also pointed to a range of activities which have already been undertaken to improve the quality of life for people living in settlements on the borders of the park.

Water has been provided to villages in parts of KaNgwane where rivers have dried up, black antelopes from neighbouring villages are encouraged to manufacture and sell crafts and canvas to Kruger’s tourists, and advanced plans are underway to build small business units in some of the large towns near park officials train residents to grow commercial gardens, trees are supplied from a nursery in the park for village woodlots, recycling schemes provide employment and revenue for people in the townships of Nkangala, near Phalaborwa.

Herbal gardens have been initiated in some areas so that indigenous healers can harvest roots and plants needed for traditional medicines, subsidised day trips for local schoolchildren are encouraged and ‘vocational’ have been set up at nearby schools with the co-operation of headmasters in the area.

But Joubert realises this is just a beginning and he is keen to gather advice from a range of political players about more wide-ranging measures — including schemes whereby residents from nearby townships participate in policy formulation for the park — that can deal with the animosity that is smouldering on his border.

There is also a growing realisation that the policy of fencing off viable wildlife species from the outside world may not be the best way to ensure their survival.

In the early 1960s, for example, more than 50 percent of Kruger’s wildlife was lost when a fence was built between the Kruger Park and privately owned reserves at Timbavati and Sabi Sands. Then, when access to the region was severely disrupted.

This is only the most graphic examination of the policy of containing natural ecosystems has led to a phenomenon which biologist Ray Siegfried calls the “zombie syndrome”, a reference to animal populations that are in a state of “living death” because they cannot reproduce naturally and are confined to a state of reserves (see accompanying story).

The park is literally taking down its fences, forcing its management to deal with new challenges and opening it to challenging ideas about the management of game reserves.

Before the year is out the barrier between Kruger and the private game reserves on its western border will come down.

Private enterprise has developed a tourism culture that consists of high-income lodges and people travelling around in open land rovers.

This does not conform to our guidelines for a national park but we acknowledge this as an important form of tourism,” says Joubert.

“We will set up a loose co-ordinating body with the private reserve and this will broaden the scope of experience and facilities we can offer. ”

Even more challenging is a plan to take down the eastern fence so that the park can be linked up with a wildlife reserve that has been developed by the central government.

Joubert recognises that the Mozambican government is likely to accept a different approach to national game reserves that will be created as part of a programme to restructure that country’s post-war economy.

“Parts of the conservation areas in Mozambique could be managed jointly with Kruger and other areas could be taken over as a mixed-game reserve. “

Then there have already been approaches to the governments of KaNgwane and Gazankulu for reserves run by the homelands to be incorporated into the park, with the same kind of management autonomy that is envisaged for Kruger’s neighbours to the east and west.

“The mission of the Kruger National Park and my mission is to conserve the biodiverse ecosystems and viable populations of all kinds ranging from the big five in small invertebrates. “

In doing this we are taking part in the story of Paul Kruger that will turn the park into a very different institution to the one the Boer leader created.

Feer to roam ... bringing the fences down will double Kruger Park's animals' space to migrate.
Big white hunters vs. big black rhinos?
Botanist warns on fynbos

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

MUCH of the fynbos on private land is under threat and "cascading" plant extinctions will happen during the next few decades unless there is suitable intervention, a leading botanist has warned.

Professor Richard Cowling, director of the University of Cape Town's Institute for Plant Conservation, was welcoming guests at a function of the newly-established Fynbos Foundation this week.

The foundation has been constituted to educate fynbos landowners about the cultural and economic value of this rich natural vegetation type, and to demonstrate how it can be used sustainably.

Professor Cowling said most of the fynbos area — including nearly all the species-rich lowlands — was privately owned, and that its conservation status was deteriorating rapidly.

"The solution to this problem doesn't lie in the purchase of land by the public sector for additional reserves," he said.

"Funds for this don't exist now and won't be available in a new South Africa. The solution lies in creating incentives for landowners themselves."

Mr Barrie Low, the National Botanical Institute's director of education and information, welcomed the new initiative, but warned that all South Africans would have to be drawn into its activities.

"We need to get the environment to work for the people," he said.

"My message, if I may be so presumptuous, is: 'Please involve the broader section of the community'.

"Until we involve the very people who depend on these areas, I see a dismal future."
Coastal development a threat, Minister warns

PRETORIA — Further large-scale development along the country’s coastline would result in serious environmental problems, Tourism Minister Org Marais said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the Western Cape and Garden Route Exhibition at Sunnypark in Pretoria, Marais said the results of large-scale development could include dune erosion and the denuding of vegetation.

He said local authorities would have to develop structural plans to preserve coastal areas.

Government would soon have to introduce a levy on non-returnable bottles and cans to generate funds for the protection of the environment, Marais said.

He added that his department was examining options for grading accommodation which would benefit the industry and an announcement was expected early next year.

There had been a dramatic increase in informal accommodation during the past few years, he said, including bed-and-breakfast units, farm holidays and guest houses.

Cost-conscious businessmen were increasingly using these facilities and up to 80% of bookings were from businessmen.

Marais said in the first six months of the year the number of overseas visitors increased by 14%.

On the improved tourism infrastructure Marais said the extension of D F Malan Airport to an international port of entry had been enhanced by new routes like KLM and Lufthansa.

This had spin-off benefits for Cape Town and surrounding areas, he said.
Katina P oil hits False Bay

MORE oil from the Katina P, which sank off Mozambique in April, has washed up on False Bay beaches over the last few weeks.

Pushed inland

Speaking to the Review this week, Fish Hoek councillor Mr Vic Kabalin, said: “Apparently this ship has been oozing oil regularly and this has been running down the coast of Mozambique. Unfortunately, whenever we get strong south-easterlies the oil is pushed inland and comes on to the beaches.”

Cooking oil

Mr Kabalin said he had spoken to Mr Anton Molden, head of the pollution division at the Department of Sea Fisheries, and he had said the oil was most likely from the Katina P and there was little that could be done about it now. “If people get it on their feet they can use margarine or cooking oil, which emulsifies the oil and removes it easily.”
Bid to bring together all False Bay interest groups

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SUBSTANTIAL government funding for the management of False Bay is on the cards if democratically acceptable management structures are developed through public participation.

This was the message from Mr Andy Gubb, chairman of the False Bay Forum interim steering committee at a report-back meeting attended by about 100 people in Muizenberg this week.

The meeting, called jointly with the False Bay Water Quality Committee, approved a False Bay Forum mission statement and mandated the interim committee to set up work sessions with more than 140 groups identified as users of the bay.

These sessions would try to find common ground so that a False Bay Forum Steering Committee, representing all user groups on a fully democratic basis, could be constituted, said Mr Gubb.

This would liaise with decision-making authorities.

In principle, the interim steering committee also supported the ideal of a single statutory management authority for False Bay which would have 50 percent public representation.

The committee had heard "through the grapevine" that substantial funding for managing False Bay would be available, said Mr Gubb.

Responding to a question by Muizenberg author Mr T V Bulpin, city engineer and chairman of the water quality committee Mr Arthur Clayton said there had been an improvement in False Bay's water quality "from a bacteriological point of view".

"But, that is not a reason for complacency," he warned.

There were cases of "point source" pollution from stormwater discharges which were deteriorating.

"We recognise there should be a framework for the holistic management of the bay and we also recognise that the False Bay Water Quality Committee is not the ideal vehicle," said Mr Clayton.

"The problem is to identify representatives who can speak for all the users of the bay."

More environment reports,
page 10.
Plan to control development on the coast

By EVE VOSLOO

The government is planning to strictly control development along parts of South Africa's coastline to prevent further "serious damage" by "insensitive development".

This was said by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar. "Development pressure on our coastal zone has increased considerably during the past decade and there are many cases of serious damage due to insensitive development," he said.

"We cannot allow this. The Department of Environment Affairs is giving urgent attention to introducing control measures to better protect the sensitive coastal environment."

Development will not be stopped completely in sensitive areas but controlled more strictly than at present, Mr Pienaar said.

Environmental impact studies would be required in certain areas before any development was allowed.

The effectiveness of limited development areas would depend largely on the support of local authorities and communities, Mr Pienaar said, so the department was holding a series of seminars along coast to enable interested parties to participate.

Two more will be held in East London (November 24) and Port Elizabeth (November 28).

Mr Niel du Bois of the Department of Environment Affairs said the areas to be protected would be demarcated at a later stage — with the full participation of the communities affected.

The guidelines for development would differ from area to area depending on the environmental sensitivity, he said.
Time to stop dithering about the environment

HARD-NOSED business people will have to accept that dithering about environmental awareness issues will lose them money in a world where energy-efficient products are rapidly gaining favour with the public.

This warning comes from Pick 'n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman, whose company carries out regular environmental audits on items such as correct packaging, recycling, and waste and energy management.

"The public will support companies who show care for the environment as part of their social responsibility programme," says Mr Ackerman, who cites Swedish-based Electrolux, which won first prize in a competition for energy-efficient appliances and found it received orders for more than 10 000 of the units instead of the 500 guaranteed by the competition organisers.

Also, the Electrolux super-efficient refrigerators could be responsible for up to 50 percent of the company's sales in Germany in 1992, and total market share there is expected to increase.

"It is simplistic for sceptics to label the Green issue as a seven-day wonder and to see the involvement of various organisations in it as a market ploy," says Mr Ackerman.

"Alert business people are using the environmental issue to give them a competitive edge and at the same time enabling them to give the consumer a better product.

"The environment is going to be a key issue in making companies more efficient and competitive in the 1990s. The Japanese have gone much further than this and have published a 100-year environment plan.

"Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the Earth Summit conference held this year in Rio de Janeiro, says the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which prepared the 100-year plan, believes the environment is going to be the driving force of the economy and the source of most new comparative advantages in industrial opportunity.

"He points out that the Japanese have lowered the energy and materials content of their unit of production to such an extent that they use only half the energy per unit of production that the USA does, to give them a comparative advantage of at least five percent on energy alone."

Mr Ackerman attended the Earth Summit conference in his capacity as a member of the Geneva-based Business Council for Sustainable Development, an international committee on which sit 50 chief executive officers of major companies. Representing the southern Africa region, he is one of four African members.

Information disseminated at Earth Summit showed the success of companies in developing environmentally sound products through a two-part programme which first involved cleaner production processes and then cleaner product development.
Hough spells out the benefits of ecotourism

GERALD REILLY

LOCAL and foreign hunters spent more than R250m in SA each year and paid more than R30m for live game, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough said at the weekend.

Addressing a news conference in northern Transvaal on the progress made in saving hippos threatened by drought, Hough said the fact that more than 2 million people visited national parks and provincial nature reserves in the Transvaal each year indicated the enormous potential for development.

Hough stressed that private sector expertise and capital should be harnessed to develop ecotourism. The TPA was considering a range of collaborative nature areas in which large tracts of private land would be incorporated into provincial reserves.

Hough said the hippo survival fund had generated nearly R340 000.

The rescue action was well timed to avert a disaster for the hippo in the northern Transvaal, he said, but it should be seen as only a short-term solution.

SA could ill afford to repeat a similar operation and should provide facilities that would continue to function in the next month or so it would be necessary to scale down the involvement, he said.

The Limpopo River was 90% dry and grazing for the 120 hippos was scarce. Twelve had already died.

Hough said efforts to save more than 300 hippos from death from starvation started in June. Until now, 65 had been captured and transported to 11 conservation areas.
Storm growing over plutonium shipment

TOKYO — Japan, facing a storm of protest over its decision to ship 1.7-tons of radioactive plutonium from France, said yesterday the vessel would stay 200 nautical miles from other countries on its return journey.

This rules out the most direct sea routes from France to Japan, including passage via the congested Malacca Strait and the Panama and Suez canals.

The Japanese government has refused to say what route the 3,000-ton Akatsuki Maru will take. The quickest would be via the Malacca Strait, one of the world’s busiest sea lanes which borders Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

The Akatsuki Maru left the French port of Cherbourg on Saturday. The voyage has aroused growing international resistance, particularly from countries that could lie along the route, including Chile, SA and Indonesia.

Yesterday the Filipino navy announced that it would turn back a Japanese plutonium-carrying ship if it entered the country’s territorial waters.

The plutonium, which France reprocessed from spent Japanese nuclear fuel, is the largest shipment of its kind. Environmentalists say the smallest leak could cause huge damage to the environment and endanger lives.

Japan yesterday blamed the Greenpeace environmentalist group for a collision on Sunday between the group’s ship Solo, which is tracking the Akatsuki Maru, and an armed Japanese coastguard vessel, the Shikishima, escorting it. Greenpeace said the Japanese coastguard vessel had rammed the Solo. — Sapa-Reuter-AP.

ATS INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration number 87/0483/06)

EC ministers struggle for trade war solution

BRUSSELS — EC foreign ministers meeting in Brussels urgently debated new efforts yesterday to avoid a trade war with the US, as France lobbied for the help of Germany in fighting back against threatened US trade sanctions.

The ministers indicated their preference for talk instead of retaliation as they arrived to discuss restarting negotiations with Washington over EC subsidies to olive-oil farmers that collapsed last Tuesday.

Washington subsequently announced punitive tariffs on EC exports to the US worth an initial $500m, mainly white wine, which will take effect on December 5 if the olive oil quarrel is not resolved by then.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said: “I think we should try to avoid escalation. I think we should lock up the negotiating groups with each other and they should not come out before they have reached agreement.”

The British and Danish ministers, Douglas Hurd and Uffe Eller menn-Jensen, said retaliation would be stupid.

Their Luxembourg counterpart, Jacques Poos, said there would be some pressure for retaliation, but added: “I prefer negotiations.”

French Industry and Foreign Trade Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said in a French radio interview yesterday Germany’s attitude would be decisive in determining whether the EC would support France’s call for retaliation.

The EC foreign ministers met amid intense diplomatic efforts to avoid and avert a trade war with the US, as France lobbied for the help of Germany in fighting back against threatened US trade sanctions.

A similar appeal came on Friday from Brit-Island, current press executive Jacques Delors.

And on Saturday G-24 meeting between President George Bush and EC prospects for big bargain the trigger date for US.

But in a newspaper Delors called for a course.

US: “I am surprised that we are on a firm are on a firm that we should look up the negotiating groups with each other and they should not come out before they have reached agreement.”

France’s signals that it will buckle under US pressure to backtrack on countries as Britain, C- land and Ireland, but France, while uneasy, eyebrows reforms, claim Spain, Ireland and Belgium against the US.

EC agriculture commissioner Sherry the GATT negotiations and negotiate a solution to the US

Sapa-AFP.
NEWS IN BRIEF

Plans for Swazi dam

A FEASIBILITY study of the R300m-R400m Maguga Dam on the Komati River in Swaziland was well advanced, SA Water Affairs spokesman Paul Roberts said yesterday. (SSF)

In terms of a treaty signed by SA on November 5, Swaziland had two years to decide. Roberts said the dam would benefit agriculture in both countries.
Confusion about unleaded petrol

Own Correspondent

There is confusion about the effects of introducing unleaded petrol in South Africa in 1998.

Several technical authorities said yesterday there was no need to modify late model cars to run on unleaded 95 octane petrol.

But Mr Johan van Vreden, head of the Automobile Association's vehicle technology division, said the current range of cars could not run on unleaded fuels.

However, Toyota South Africa spokesman Mr John Nimmo said all Toyotas and several other vehicles assembled here after 1980 were designed to run on unleaded petrol.

Professor J Bindon, of the mechanical engineering department of the University of Natal, said a lower octane rating of 95 was unlikely to cause problems.

The AA suggested the year 2000 as "a more realistic" date to introduce unleaded petrol.
Richards Bay project impact 'acceptable'

ADRIAN HADLAND

AN ENVIRONMENTAL impact assessment of Alusaf's proposed aluminium smelter in Richards Bay has found generally favourable implications for the project.

Conducted by UCT's environmental evaluation unit and the CSIR's environmental services, the assessment concludes the project is "environmentally acceptable" subject to certain conditions.

These conditions include the full upgrading of Alusaf's existing Richards Bay smelter to limit fluoride emissions, together with effective and ongoing monitoring procedures.

The assessment said general waste and dust emissions, liquid effluent and toxic waste disposal, odours and noise levels would all have a minimal impact on the environment.

During the aluminium smelting process, the pots in which electrolysis occurred became lined with material consisting of fluorides, sodium and other minor impurities including cyanide, the assessment said.

Alusaf had agreed these potlinings would be stored in totally enclosed dry sheds with concrete floors to prevent possible leakages.

The assessment did indicate some aspects of the environment that may be affected to a greater extent. These included vegetation, bird life, traffic congestion, pressure on housing and schools and possible exacerbation of party political tensions.
Disasters make for a new chemistry

The fire which spilled a cabinet for storage of polio and the dye, soil and water near Johannesburg marks a milestone in the creation of an environmental movement in South Africa, reports EDDIE KOCH

THE chemical fire in Midrand, near Johannesburg, has jogged a variety of environmental organisations — from the government's Department of Environment Affairs to Earthlife Africa members — into action.

Last month's fire at the Rhone-Poulenc chemical plant has been greeted with a political reaction almost as heated as the blaze which burnt down the factory and left the air, soil and residents' lungs contaminated with a cocktail of toxic poisons.

Midrand residents report they are still suffering the after-effects of the fire at the Rhone-Poulenc warehouse, where more than 140 toxic chemicals were stored, which caused respiratory problems for people and lasting pollution in the soil and water.

A suite of other chemical spills and accidents followed the Midrand disaster.

Early last month five employees were killed in an explosion at the Kesor chemical factory in Newcastle. Days later two labourers died and another 28 were left with lung damage when toxic materials blew up at a waste dump in Springs. And throughout the month two employees were lying in a coma after being exposed to mercury poisons at the Thor Chemical's plant in Pretoria.

"The Midrand fire attracted a lot of attention mainly because there was someone at hand who could recognise the symptoms of toxic poisoning," says Earthlife Africa representative Peter Luley.

"But it has also become clear that workers are exposed every day to chemical dangers. These don't receive as much attention because black workers don't have much power and frequently don't know the dangers of the chemicals they are working with."

An informal network of trade unions, environmental protest groups and medical researchers has been activated in Johannesburg to monitor the diet of spills, accidents and fires that appear to have become commonplace in this country's chemical industry.

The network will also co-ordinate protests by local communities, workers and environmental groups as crises arise.

It is managed by the Group for Environmental Monitoring and represents activists from Earthlife Africa, the Biotex Foundation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and the National Centre for Occupational Health.

The suite of fires and spills has also resulted in the launch of two new branches of Earthlife — one at Midrand and another in Springs where, according to Luley, farmers were demanding "mass action of the type run by the ANC" to block plans for the building of a toxic waste dump in the area.

The government has not left itself out of the act. In a strongly worded statement the Department of Environment Affairs acknowledged that the country has a woefully inadequate system for the management of toxic waste.

Under the heading "Polluters must get their act together", the statement announced that the department was launching a concerted drive to create a "national holistic policy on integrated pollution control" over the next two years.

J Stander, replying to criticsm that this response was too concessions and

The move to deal with an emerging crisis in the chemical industry, said the department, was timed for a thorough process of consultation with public bodies in order to give legitimacy and effectiveness to new legislation.

Big business has been active to ensure that its image is not tarnished by the disaster.

"The big boys have got their act together. They just can't afford to have accidents like the one at Midrand," said one consultant. "Large corporates are doing their best to ensure effective management and control of their products given the almost total weakness on the part of the Department of Environment Affairs."

In their thinking is a novel concept called "product stewardship". Companies recognise that their products can be hazardous long after they leave the warehouse and are beginning to insist that customers demonstrate a capacity to handle these carefully before selling them.

"That's okay," says Luley, "There's an interesting process taking place. The government and businesses are beginning to tackle the issue seriously. But we believe that the best way to ensure effective legislation and preventative action is for public pressure groups to keep them on their toes. Laws must be driven by the public. Otherwise they will simply remain on paper."
Freedom Square goes green

By Diane Coetzer

THE greening of South Africa's townships has begun.

On a clear and hot Spring day last week, pupils, community leaders, activists and ANC veterans gathered at a site used for ANC meetings in the fifties — Freedom Square Park in Worcester's Zwelethembu township. The mission? To plant trees.

Pupils raced to the park's perimeters to plant the 15 trees destined to ring the township's only piece of green space.

Earlier, they listened to leaders explain why the 200 trees donated by Trees for Africa were an essential part of the community.

ANC Youth League member Mr Nana Khombokane said it was useless, to become politically free if the country in which that freedom was to be exercised was sick and dying.

The organiser of the event and co-ordinator of the Boland Land Committee, Mr Tunelo Moleleki, said the tree-planting ceremony was a continuation of Arbor Day last year when trees were planted at schools, community halls and near the library.
Special lanes for buses and taxis would get commuters to and from work more quickly — and perhaps encourage more Capetonians to use public transport instead of cars.

Environment-friendly option

CAPE TOWN’S infamous “brown haze” (smog), seen when the Cape Doctor is not blowing, is caused mainly by exhaust fumes from petrol-powered cars, trucks and taxis. Diesel-powered buses and trucks are far less dangerous. Petrol-powered vehicles produce nitric oxide and certain hydrocarbons. The ultraviolet rays of the sun act on these to form harmful secondary pollutants.

In fact, for every 1 000 km travelled, a petrol-powered car produces 9kg nitrous oxide, 0,138kg hydrocarbons, 72kg carbon monoxide and 529kg carbon dioxide. In contrast, a diesel-powered bus emits only 2,31kg nitrous oxide, 0,504kg hydrocarbons, 0,8kg carbon monoxide and 900kg carbon dioxide for every 1 000 km travelled.

Bearing in mind that a bus carries an average of 85 people during peak hours and a car an average of 1½, it becomes obvious that the bus is far less hostile to the atmosphere than the car. Trains, which operate on electricity, are even less hazardous to the atmosphere, but unfortunately it would take massive capital investment to expand the rail network.

Fewer cars on the road and better use of public transport would not only relieve road congestion, but would also mean less pollution of the atmosphere with less of a hazard to our health. Ensuring that there are fewer cars on the road requires active encouragement of the use of multi-passenger vehicles, like buses and taxis.

By controlling road traffic conditions through measures like special bus and taxi lanes, passenger transport can be shown to be the smarter, more community-spirited option.
Expansion into reserve slammed

Row brewing over apple co-op's plans

JOHN YIELD
Environment Reporter

PLANS by Kromco, the giant apple co-operative, to buy 100 hectares of land in the Cape Town City Council's Steenbras Forest Reserve at Grabouw have been slammed.

Kromco is reported to be expanding its operations and apparently has selected a site adjoining the N2, a few kilometres east of Sir Lowry's Pass, to build packing sheds on a scale similar to those of its existing operation closer to Houwhoek.

Observatory planner Ms Pene Ward has written to city councillors, council officials and local environmentalists to express concern about the proposal.

She said the important Palmiet water catchment area between Sir Lowry's and Houwhoek passes was highly sensitive both ecologically and scenically.

"The erection of additional large buildings close to the main through-
route will not only have a severe visual impact, but may create negative environmental disturbances," she warned.

"A thorough environmental analysis in accordance with Integrated Environmental Management principles and a detailed land search need to be undertaken before the selection of a suitable site or any development taking place."

It was possible there were more appropriate sites for new packing sheds closer to the urban areas of Grabouw or Elgin, she suggested.

"Situating employment opportunities closer to where workers live is a more-sound planning principle and would be far more in keeping with the city council's present environmental and planning policies."

The city council has not responded to a request for comment.

A Kromco spokeswoman said general manager Mr D J Kruger was the only person who could comment on the proposal. He was overseas.

Villagers catch giant panda
Nature service "an honour"

Staff Reporter

ACTING attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn, SC, said yesterday he regarded it an honour to be chosen chairman of a working group to rationalise the management of the 20 000ha Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) area.

The CPPNE includes the Table Mountain Nature Reserve, the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Kirstenbosch and Groote Schuur Estate.

The administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, announced Mr Kahn's appointment yesterday. Mr Meiring said he wanted a chairman who did not represent any authority situated within the CPPNE area.

Mr Kahn said he would be pleased to do something for the good of the entire Peninsula area.

Other bodies on the working group are the Cape Town City Council, the Regional Services Council, Fish Hoek and Simon's Town, the Ministries of Water Affairs and Forestry, Defence and Public Works, Cape Nature Conservation, the National Botanical Institute and the CPPNE Management Advisory Committee.
Umgeni Water ensures adequate future supply

Umgeni Water is the second largest water undertaking in southern Africa, supplying the needs of about 2-million consumers in Natal.

It was founded in 1974 in terms of national policy to regionalise water resources and ensure their professional management, said CE Graham Atkinson.

Turnover in water sales to the Durban and Maritzburg metropolitan regions and a number of KwaZulu areas grew from R238.4m in 1977 to R136m in the 1991/92 financial year.

Umgeni has added to its reserves since its inception by budgeting for a surplus every year. This means it is able to fund more than half its capital development from internal resources.

Accumulated reserves stand at R65.2m. As a result, the company will be able to provide a greater part of the community with water and sanitation.

Umgeni employs more than 1,000 people; 44% are skilled and 56% semi-skilled. Atkinson says employees are selected and advanced on merit.

The organisation has, despite poor rainfall, ensured an adequate water supply for the next three years through its policy of total catchment management. It owns four storage dams, 12 waterworks, more than 400km of pipeline, 60km of tunnels and two large wastewater works. It also manages another seven wastewater works and a large storage dam on an agency basis.

Sophisticated

The company operates a sophisticated analytical laboratory which was recently commercialised to offer its facilities to companies and others that need water analysed.

Sales grow by 12% last year and 14% in the previous year, despite the fact that for the past six years Umgeni has restricted the increase in the bulk price of water to half the prevailing inflation rate, says Atkinson. Since Durban and surrounds is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world, the Water Plan 2025 was commissioned in 1989 to develop a base for planning and policy.

The plan collates and projects demographic, employment, income and land-use information, and evaluates the effect these factors are likely to have on water supply and demand, and pollution control.

The Water Plan will look into the development of springs, boreholes and local water resources in many rural areas through the Rural Areas Water and Sanitation Plan. It aims to provide potable water and sanitation by the year 2005 to almost 3-million people in the Umgeni supply area.

Umgeni launched its two gilt megabonds — UG50 and UG55 — on the JSE in 1999 to lower the cost of borrowing and secure development funds.

Atkinson says the stock issue will save R22m a year for the next five years. Investors have increased from 40 to more than 180 during the 18-month period since the gilt issued. Foreign investment is now 8% of Umgeni’s total debt.

Presentations

Atkinson has given several presentations to the International Water Supply Association (IWISA) on behalf of the SA National Committee for IWISA. SA will host the IWISA World Congress in 1996.

“At Umgeni we believe we cannot achieve our goals without people and their dedication to improving productivity of the company and quality of the water we manage.”

He says it is through employees’ efforts that Umgeni is once again among the top 20 for the Non-Listed Company Award.
**Rains will end some drought aid**

THE national drought committee expects to end drought relief by the end of the year to many of the 130 magistrate districts now receiving aid.

This follows recent good rains in many parts of SA.

A decision would be taken by the end of the month, said Koos Smit, Department of Agriculture director of financial assistance and deputy chairman of the national drought committee.

"The decisions will be implemented by January 1, maybe earlier," he told Sapa yesterday.

"I am quite confident a lot of those areas receiving drought relief will be taken off our list," he said.

The department, which budgeted R6m for drought relief this financial year, is now expected to spend between R4m and R5m on drought aid, Smit said.

"At present we are paying out money in almost all the 130 magistrate districts listed as needing drought relief," SA has a total of 320 magistrate districts.

Smit warned, though: "If we take a few areas off our list, others apply. The drought never ends in this country — it is always shifting."

At present, for instance, it was moving from the eastern Cape to the northern Cape. There were also: "a lot of problems" still in the Lowveld and northern Transvaal.

"Just this weekend I received information from the Lowveld that the situation there was still very serious," Smit said, adding the northern Transvaal has been a disaster area for the past eight years.

Explaining the procedure for ending drought relief in a magistrate district, Smit said the Department of Agriculture "does not act one-sidedly". It ends drought aid only once a request has been received from an area, he said.

Letters were sent last week to all local drought relief committees - these are chaired by local magistrates - requesting them to release the situation.

They had until November 27 to reply, Smit said. — Sapa.

---

**OAU running out of money**

ADDIS ABABA — The OAU could run out of money in four months unless its 51 states paid $6m in membership arrears, Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said yesterday.

The arrears threatened the OAU's attempts to help and conflicts.

Documents show that Libya and Sudan are the biggest non-payers. Tripoli owes $4.7m and Sudan $4.6m. Only Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Gabon, Senegal and Mauritius are paid up.

Halfway through the financial year only $3.2m of a budgeted $37.9m had been paid. — Sapa-Reuters.

---

**Call for strategy to fight drought**

A STRATEGY to combat drought is urgently needed in SA, say Development Bank analysts.

In a recently published paper, Johan van Rooyen, Nick Vink and Mosebomele Malatsi, of the bank's Centre for Policy Analysis, said the present drought had emphasized the fragility of the agricultural industry.

They called for a strategy aimed at agricultural restructuring and rehabilitation, and immediate relief strategies serving rural and urban areas through multilayered support programmes.

The present drought ravaging the southern African subcontinent emphasizes a further dimension of the agricultural industry. The weakly developed "early warning systems" from a technological, management and institutional perspective compounded the impact.

There was a need for climatically sensitive production management practices, drought-resistant farm technologies and "nature-friendly" farming systems supported by appropriate policies.

While present regional co-operation indicated positive trends, a subcontinental approach should be developed to investigate early warning systems, and restructuring and emergency relief strategies.

They also warned of the environmental impact of SA agriculture, saying there was increasing evidence of environmental degradation.

"This can be ascribed to inappropriate policies in the area of pricing, subsidization and technology development as well as population settlement policies resulting in unsustainable farming systems and settlement patterns in both the commercial and subsistence farming sectors.

"These are features which cannot be ignored in future policy formulation," the analysts said.
THE Green Trust, an organisation which involves local communities in conservation projects, yesterday received a donation of R1 million from a South African bank.

The Trust, a combined project of the Nature Foundation of Southern Africa and the bank, was formed in 1990. The donation forms part of R5 million which will be handed to the trust over five years. More than R2.5 million has already been awarded to 15 projects countrywide.
Texan tycoon's St Lucia pledge

ONE of the world's most influential conservationists has joined the battle to halt mining at Lake St Lucia.

Mr Harry Tenneson, president of Game Conservation International — which has a world-wide membership of several thousands — plans to put pressure on the SA government.

He hopes to meet environment/minister Andre van den Berg this month to mobilise world action.

"I have been visiting Lake St Lucia since the 60s and this time I was shocked and horrified to realise that only special government legislation can now effectively stop a mining operation that will deface and destroy part of possibly the most important and beautiful wetlands area on earth," he said.

The Texan billionaire rancher's efforts for conservation have earned him accolades from many heads of state and leading politicians.

He is in South Africa to open the conference of Professional Hunters of SA in Johannesburg tomorrow.

In Durban this week he met leading Natal conservationists, including Ian Player and Nick Steele. He said he was aghast to learn that Richard's Bay Minerals could succeed in its plan to mine heavy metals on the estuary's eastern shores.

"It seems that only the passing of the private member's Wetlands Protection Bill (which the ecology lobby believes the government is trying to sidestep) could enable the government to legally stop RBM," he said.

"St Lucia is part of the whole earth's heritage, just like the rain forests and the ozone layer.

"No single country has the right to allow the destruction of any vital part of such a heritage."

Mr Tenneson said he would embark on an immediate campaign to save St Lucia.

"There will be such major international pressure that your government will become the pariah of the world again if it effectively blocks legislation giving it the power to stop this international mining giant desecrating one of the treasures of the world."
New deadline for kaolin objectors

Environment Reporter

NOORDHOEK residents unhappy with the agreement between the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group and Serina over its kaolin mining proposals have been given another chance to object.

In spite of a legal difference of opinion as to whether Serina was obliged to get the approval of the Western Cape Regional Services Council to mine -- because of the existing zoning scheme -- the company decided to apply to the RSC.

A legal notice by the RSC was published last week, calling for objections to Serina's proposal to mine kaolin on portions of Cape Farm 1387, Chapman's Peak, and Cape Farm 939, Noordhoek, also known as Tronham.

Details of Serina's proposal are available for inspection on the 2nd floor of the RSC's head office annex, access via 44 Wale Street, Cape Town, between 9am and noon Monday to Friday.

The closing date for objections is Monday December 7.
Asbestos clean-up

About a quarter of SA's asbestos-polluted areas have been rehabili-
tated under a project co-ordin-
ted by the Mineral and Energy
Affairs Department, a govern-
ment statement said yesterday.
Call to ban plutonium shipments

Political Staff

THE ANC has called for a ban on all global transport of radioactive material and nuclear waste.

The organisation said yesterday the possibility of an accident or terrorism involving the shipment of 1.7 tons of plutonium around the South African coast was too great a risk to ignore.

The shipment, from France to Japan, had been called "a floating Chernobyl" and this aptly described the danger involved, the ANC said.

The Democratic Party said the Department of Environment Affairs failed to publicise details of safety precautions and checks concerning the transport of the plutonium.

The DP spokesman on mineral and energy affairs, Mr Roger Hulley, condemned the department for its "seemingly blase" attitude.

He called on the department to "play open cards".
Concor director bows out

BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, November 25, 1992
The National Parks Board is to remove at least 25% of the Kruger Park's western boundary fencing, linking the park to adjoining private game reserves. The surface area of the reserve will be increased by 69 000ha or 15%.

Kruger Park wildlife management manager Lynn van Rooyen said yesterday discussions between the board and game farm owners were in their final stages, and an announcement was expected soon.

He declined to put a date on the removal of fences, but industry sources said this could happen within the next two weeks.

So far, four private reserve areas — Klaserie, Sabi Sands, Timbavati and Umbabat — are part of the scheme, and hundreds of smaller game farmers have expressed a willingness to participate.

Van Rooyen said the main reason for taking down fences, which was initiated by the landowners, was ecological.

The private reserves would continue to operate autonomously and the park would become involved in running them only if its expertise was requested.

The removal of fences would allow traditional east-west migratory patterns, and would re-establish the vast herds of game that existed earlier this century.

Trevor Jordan, director of Thornybush, a game lodge within the Klaserie area near the Orpen gate, said the removal of fences would have benefits for the region and for tourism. Promoting the private lodges overseas would be much easier if it was known they were part of the Kruger Park.

If the smaller farms could work out some arrangement, he said, 120 000ha could be added to the park.
Plutonium ship rounding Cape

Staff Reporter

THE Akatsuki Maru, laden with 1.7 tons of weapons-grade plutonium, will pass about 200km from Cape Point at the weekend as it steams towards Japan under a storm of world protest.

Mr Louis Pienaar, Minister of the Environment, said in a statement yesterday the Japanese government had informed him of the ship’s intended route around the southern tip of Africa — a closely guarded secret since it left France earlier this month.

He said the dangers of plutonium and “claims made with regard to the threat to human health, are totally exaggerated, others are not in line with reality, while others are physically impossible”.

The transport of this cargo is under strict internationally accepted conditions,” he said.

Dr Arjoon Maharaj, president of the US-based Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, condemned the South African government for “minimising” the dangers of plutonium to the public.

Dr Maharaj, a contributor to the recently published book “Plutonium: Deadly Gold of the Nuclear Age”, said the government was not familiar with the latest information on plutonium.

There has been no research into the effects a spill the fine plutonium oxide powder would have on the marine environment.

He said inhalation of “a millionth of an ounce would lead to a 100% certainty of lung cancer”.

Council for Nuclear Safety spokesman Mr Jonathan Cooper said there were no contingency plans for a plutonium spill.

The government’s committee on transnational transportation of hazardous materials, apparently established as an information centre, hung up on the Cape Times when a reporter asked to speak to spokesman Mr Koos Stander.

Greenpeace’s Mr Damon Moglen, international co-ordinator for plutonium reprocessing, will arrive in Cape Town today as a guest of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps).

He will attend a protest at Cape Point on Sunday and will be the guest speaker on Monday for Caps’ public meeting at the Mowbray town hall.
The drought has been broken in many areas of SA, but dams are not all full.

THE RAIN FALLS AT LAST

Women will gather at the Standard Bank Arena on December 1 to pray for the nation.

NEWS

Grazing scarce in the far Northern Tranenda; stock losses on the rise.
Protest against shipment of plutonium.

International environmental activist Dr. David R. Schoek arrives in New York to join the grassroots movement to prevent the shipment of plutonium on board the Japanese vessel Akashi. The French-built Akashi has been shadowing the American freighter since it left the French port of Cherbourg on November 7 and is en route to Yokohama, Japan.

A spokesman for the Greenpeace International (GPI) says: "We are lodged in the belief that to let this shipment go unannounced is a gross disregard for human health and the environment. The ship is carrying the most dangerous of all radioactive materials, and it is being shipped to a nation with a history of nuclear accidents."
Cape’s unique fynbos comes under watchful eye at workshop

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Cape’s unique fynbos vegetation is on centre stage at a Kleinmond workshop this week as conservationists, academics and managers meet to discuss future research needs.

The workshop, attended by some of the region’s top botanists and wildflower farmers, is being hosted by the University of Cape Town’s new Institute for Plant Conservation.

The institute, headed by newly appointed professor of plant conservation Richard Cowling, was established following a R5 million endowment by an anonymous Cape Town businessman.

In the opening session, Professor Cowling said they wanted to use the participants’ expertise to help define the institute’s role in developing realistic solutions to conservation problems in the Cape Floral Kingdom.

The challenge was to seek practical solutions to fynbos conservation problems while maintaining a strong academic respectability, he said.

Such solutions had to be mindful of socio-political tensions in South Africa, and have an economic perspective which would help conservation pay for itself.

“We live in an area of absolutely stunning biodiversity, and we have to ask ‘How does that work for ordinary people?’,” he said.

Opening the workshop, UCT deputy vice chancellor Professor Mike Savage said consultation outside the confines of the university community was vital.

“This is a very real task that can’t be confined to the ‘ivory tower’, he said.

In the opening session, participants identified a number of problems threatening fynbos.

These included the rapid spread of alien vegetation, human apathy and lack of knowledge about the uniqueness of fynbos, uncontrolled development, economic and political marginalisation of sectors of the South African population, a lack of holistic planning, pressure from an increasing human population, and poor management of mountain catchment areas.
Need to monitor polluted waters

By Julienne du Toit

The Water Research Commission (WRC) is investigating how to accurately monitor the condition of sensitive groundwater, which may have become a major victim of pollution.

Municipal waste dumps and old mine dumps often release excessive salts and heavy metals which can end up in groundwater, while the lack of sanitary facilities in squatter camps also poses a strong pollution threat.

One of the greatest dangers is posed by leaking underground storage tanks. Fertilisers and pesticides have also been known to pollute the groundwater. Once groundwater is polluted, it is almost impossible to clean it up.

According to the WRC, not enough is known about the quality of South Africa's groundwater. It could already be very polluted.

"In certain areas a good many tests have been conducted, but in many areas it is simply accepted that the water is still safe," said a WRC spokesman.

One of the major problems is the way in which water is collected for tests, so the WRC has developed a uniform set of methods to be used when taking samples for the testing of groundwater.

The WRC and the CSIR plan to hold special workshops in Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg next year, where the sampling procedures outlined in the manual will be explained.
Park
Soutek 27/11/92

For the love of nature

By Musa Zondi

CAESAR Ngwenyama has got just two loves in his life: nature and the kids (family).

He speaks with passion about what those things and people he cares about most. It is this love for the nature that makes him unique.

He is the first black person to become an environmental education officer at the Kruger National Park. But he admits, it was more by chance than design that he ended up where he is now.

He started working in the park in 1958 part-time during school holidays as a messenger. When his parents could not send him to school anymore, he decided to work at the park for a year, hoping to save enough money to go back to school. But he soon discovered the money he was earning was not enough to send him back to school.

"Still I had the inspiration of going further with my studies, I started studying through correspondence. But I still have to finish my matric," he says.

Caesar has been through various departments within the park "doing a bit of this and a bit of that".

Having started out as a messenger, he was transferred to the garage as a petrol attendant. After that he was made an assistant mechanic, then a waiter and a clerk at New Product Department. He became an assistant mechanic before he was made an environmental education officer in 1989.

In his present job, he says his responsibility is to make people aware of their environment. "The awareness must not be for now only, but we must make sure our resources are sustainable so that the future generations can also enjoy them. Here (at the Park), it is our responsibility to take this message to the people," he says.

"Wherever there is soil, everyone must have a duty to take care of the future for the next generation."

He says the park has come to the realisation that they cannot "work for the people but work with the people". This is why they have started programmes of making people of power more aware of the environment.

"It is very difficult to start from the bottom. You have to start with people who are on top and convince them first. They have the power to make laws and decide policy. We have started working with school principals and circuit inspectors from the neighbouring areas about making them more aware of the problems in the hope that they will start programmes in schools which will make children more aware," he says.

"We talk about the beauty of nature and how the ecosystem works. We talk about how man fits into the picture. We also talk about polluted water, litter, overgrazing and fire burning. From the smallest insect to the biggest tree, there is a delicate interdependence and we will not survive without it," he says.

There are also programmes they run with locals in nearby MalaMula. This varies from taking students for practical lessons in the Park like Biology lessons to helping run clean-up operation competitions. "People must get something out of this. That way, there is more interest and once you win, you'll always want to win and those who have never won will try to win. But we don't just run competitions only."

"We also do bi-monthly checks on these areas and see if the people are keeping the momentum. We have found that people are doing this continuously and the rural areas where this has been done are cleaner than towns," he says.

They also help agriculture students with practical lesson and also ecological courses for general students. Recently, they brought in a group of head men into the park for a week's course. When these people went back, they encouraged their subjects to get involved in cleaning up their areas.

"I like talking to people. My dream would be if we could deliver this environmental education for the whole of Southern Africa. I want to leave the soil with something I have done," he says.

Caesar has no human hero. His hero is nature "because I get everything I need from it. Everything around me comes from nature and nature gives me the most important benefits," he says.

A lot of people would say that and you think they are mad. With Caesar, he means it. His voice has a special emphasis when he talks about the subject.
Plutonium shipment to round Cape at weekend

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE government has been phoning Greenpeace to enquire which route a Japanese freighter carrying a potentially lethal radioactive cargo will take as it rounds the Cape this weekend.

As the Akatsuki Maru and its hazardous cargo steamed southward, an international Greenpeace activist flew into Cape Town to add momentum to local environmental protesters.

Mr Damon Moglen spearheads Greenpeace International’s campaign against plutonium production and transport.

He said Greenpeace had contacted President De Klerk when he visited Japan in June, telling him he should bring up the matter of the proposed shipment with his Japanese counterpart.

"Apart from a 'very nice letter saying they appreciated our concern', Greenpeace had received no response.

Since then the only contact between the South African government and Greenpeace had been the enquiries over the shipment’s route.

The government should have the will to say they were not prepared to tolerate this form of dangerous commerce, which was putting the country at risk, Mr Moglen said.

The Akatsuki Maru left the French port of Cherbourg on November 7 bound for Japan — with 1.7 tons of reprocessed plutonium, enough to manufacture up to 200 nuclear weapons.

Previously the dangerous cargo would have been transported through the Panama Canal, but the British owned Pacific Nuclear Transport company has been forced to take the route of least political resistance.

The Akatsuki Maru is being tailed by the Greenpeace vessel Smit New York.

The Japanese provided no information to en-route countries on the ship’s exact route, its potential danger, and how a disaster could be best controlled.
Plutonium ships ‘not adequately designed’

Staff Reporter

There is growing concern that ships carrying nuclear material are not adequately designed and tested for the transport of plutonium, said Greenpeace international co-ordinator Mr Damon Moglen.

Mr Moglen arrived in the city yesterday to help organise protests against the Japan-bound 1.7-ton plutonium shipment, claiming the radioactive material was in inadequate containers.

The Akatsuki Maru will pass 200km (110 nautical miles) from Cape Point this weekend.

Mr Moglen, who lives in Amsterdam, told a press conference at DF Malan airport yesterday that the 110-ton containers used for eradicated nuclear fuel were inadequate for shipping plutonium.

Mr Moglen said plutonium was “extremely dangerous” and research had shown that a speck of plutonium, “smaller than a speck of dust”, was enough to cause lung cancer.

When in January 1990 a similar ship, the Pacific Teal, carrying irradiated nuclear fuel, had rounded the Cape of Good Hope, she was so overtaxed she had both her engines replaced.

Similar ship ... Greenpeace co-ordinator Mr Damon Moglen shows the Pacific Teal, which carried nuclear material in 1990. Picture: ANNE LAING

Department of Environmental Affairs spokesman Mr Neil du Bois said yesterday there was an existing contingency plan at the Koeberg nuclear power station which could be applied in case of any nuclear accident.

Council for Nuclear Safety spokesman Mr Jonathan Cooper, commenting on Mr Moglen’s fears, said: “One can make these assertions, but I believe this ship has enormous fire protection.”
Slabbert outlines basics of democracy

ONE of the basics of democracy was the ability of the individual to frustrate the will of the political majority in certain instances, Van Zyl Slabbert said at a forum on local democracy in Johannesburg yesterday.

He said there were "certain critical issues" which formed the principle of "bounded uncertainty" that had to be removed from being politically contested. These included basic elements usually found entrenched in a constitution, such as a bill of human rights, which included freedom of association, adult suffrage and so on, Slabbert said.

Another basic element was what he called "contingent consent" in which a party winning an election did not deny its opponents the right to win the next ballot. The ruling party could not assume that its mandate gave it a right to rule in perpetuity, and abolish the opposition in favour of a hegemony.

By the same token, a losing party should not deny the victor the right to rule. "You have to accept losing, and when you lose, accept that the stronger party has a right to govern," said Slabbert.

Substantial or participative democracy could be measured in the way people were allowed to exercise their rights, he said. They should be able to express their points of view through protest and mass action, and be able to call for referendums and challenge the rulers in votes of no confidence. However, mass action could never be a substitute for democracy. While people would mobilise when they felt strongly about an issue, they soon reached a "rally fatigue" and mass action would fizzle out.

Slabbert said there was place for a minority veto, but not along the lines of ethnicity, or where a minority group, which had governed undemocratically, sought to preserve some of its power.

A minority veto should only be used to protect issues such as religious and cultural expression. He added that it would be difficult for democracy to exist without economic growth and redistribution.

Numsa wins appeal over strike rulings

BLOEMFONTEIN — An appeal by the National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) to set aside an order of the Labour Appeal Court was allowed by the Appeal Court yesterday.

The case was remitted to the Labour Appeal Court to reconsider whether the proved facts constituted unfair labour practice.

The Labour Appeal Court had dismissed with costs an appeal by Numsa against an industrial court refusal to reinstate employees dismissed by Vetsak, Isando Industries, Turin and an associate company, LM Nywerhede. There were 409 strikers at Isando and 400 at Bothaville.

On August 2, the group announced that the Bothaville strikers were dismissed, but no effect was given to the announcement. On August 3, 1988, the strikers at Isando were dismissed. Despite protests, they were never reinstated.

The appeal was allowed by Judge Botha and acting Judges of Appeal Kriegler and Horns. — Sapa.
Minister gives reassurance as nuclear cargo nears Cape

By Julienne du Toit

The Japanese government has promised that the ship carrying a load of radioactive plutonium from France to Japan will not come closer than 110 nautical miles, or 200 km, from the South African coast.

Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Plenaar said the vessel would turn in an easterly direction south of Cape Point at the weekend and sail for a relatively short distance 110 nautical miles south of the SA coast before moving further away from the coast.

All countries can forbid vessels from entering their territorial waters, which stretch 20 km from the coast, but have no jurisdiction outside these waters.

A ship carrying nuclear material cannot enter South African territorial waters without a licence issued by the Council for Nuclear Safety. No licence had been requested or granted, said the council.

Though plutonium was regarded as hazardous, the claims of threats to the environment and human health had been exaggerated, said Plenaar.

Greenpeace activist Damon Moglen arrived in Cape Town yesterday to co-ordinate protests against the plutonium shipment, reports Sapa.

"It is an extremely dangerous product that will have to be managed for longer than civilisation has existed," Moglen told a news conference.

Japan wants the plutonium for a fast-breeder reactor, but Moglen said the shipment was big enough to make up to 200 nuclear weapons.
Greenpeace in SA to monitor lethal cargo

By GAYE DAVIS and CAROL GALES

SOUTH AFRICAN maritime authorities had to approach Greenpeace International to discover the location of the freighter Akatsuki Maru, laden with 1.7 tons of plutonium, because of Japan's secrecy about the controversial voyage.

This was revealed yesterday by Damon Moglen, a Greenpeace International official, on his arrival in Cape Town. The Akatsuki Maru is expected to round the Cape this weekend and is being monitored by a Greenpeace vessel, Smit New York.

Moglen said the Japanese government should provide information to countries on the ship's route — "otherwise it makes a mockery of any (country's) claims that safety precautions have been taken.

"Japan is not prepared to give route details and we see this as a question of how far is one country's so-called security policy allowed to go in endangering other countries, their waters and international sea areas," Moglen said.

The ship left France on November 7 with enough plutonium to build 200 nuclear weapons.

Japan will use the plutonium to develop a new generation of nuclear reactors known as breeder reactors, according to Thomas Auff der Heyde, a chemistry professor at the University of the Western Cape and spokesman for Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps).

The group will stage a protest at Cape Point on Sunday and a public meeting, to be addressed by Moglen, on Monday at 7.45pm in the Mowbray town hall.

The Akatsuki Maru is the first of many loads of plutonium that will float from France and Great Britain to Japan over the next decade. Plants in those countries are extracting plutonium from spent nuclear fuel from Japan.

Caps fears Cape storms will spell disaster for at least one of the shipments.

The powdery plutonium oxide poses no danger if it stays contained within the ship.

"The containers are completely inadequate and the broad range of ships used raises questions about the regulatory procedures," Moglen said.
Plutonium closer than promised

Staff Reporter

THE Akatsuki Maru — carrying 1.7 tons of plutonium — is sailing 110 miles south of Cape Point in contravention of earlier guarantees by the Japanese government that the ship would stay 200 miles offshore.

The guarantee was given in an official document earlier this month.

The shipment is on its way from France to Japan and will round Cape Point this weekend.

The corner-cutting by the Akatsuki Maru did not meet with any objection from the Department of Environment Conservation director Mr Sydney Gerber yesterday.

Japan's counsellor Mr Yoshinbri Hiraiichi had not replied to Cape Times inquiries about the plutonium shipment by late last night.

Mr Gerber said protesters were "making a mountain out of an anthill". He said the shipment of plutonium was the same as the shipment of nuclear fuel to Kooberg, which "in the past came from Europe".

Mr Gerber said "as far as we can ascertain the shipment is safe" and Japan has said it will not enter South Africa's 12-mile territorial waters.

Greenpeace international campaigner Mr Damon Moglen, in the city to increase awareness of plutonium shipments, said the South African government's failure to protest would ensure that the remainder of the 45 tons of plutonium scheduled to be shipped to Japan from France would probably be routed around the Cape.

'Not worth it'

Mr Moglen said "the shipment was going along the course of least resistance". Alternative routes from France to Japan, around Cape Horn or through the Panama Canal, were scotched after objections from countries in the regions.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said in a statement yesterday it "believes the risks to the environment and to human health, resulting from the transport of plutonium around the world in proliferation of fast breeder technology, are not worth the potential benefits".

Serbs block UN food aid

SKELANI, Serbia. — A jeering crowd of Serb women and children blocked a bridge yesterday, thwarting a second attempt by a UN relief convoy to cross with supplies for the besieged town of

enemy, the weeping women will kill them."

A 25-year-old man and death notice a way back."

Local police
The plutonium oxide material that is being shipped from Los Alamos National Laboratory to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facility in Idaho has been declared a "substantial risk" to public health and the environment, according to a report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The shipment, which contains 32 tons of plutonium, is scheduled to arrive in Idaho in mid-2023. The report states that the plutonium could be used to make nuclear weapons if it falls into the wrong hands.

The report also notes that the plutonium is being transported in a 91-foot-long rail car that is not designed for the material. The car is not equipped with fire suppression systems or other safety features.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recommended that the shipment be rerouted to a more secure location.

The shipment is part of a larger program to dispose of plutonium that was produced during the Cold War. The United States is required to remove all weapons-grade plutonium from its nuclear arsenal under the terms of the 1994 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The report calls for immediate action to ensure the safety of the plutonium and the public.
Plutonium closer than promised

Staff Reporter

THE Akatsuki Maru — carrying 1.7 tons of plutonium — is sailing 110 miles south of Cape Point in contravention of earlier guarantees by the Japanese government that the ship would stay 200 miles offshore.

The guarantee was given in an official document earlier this month.

The shipment is on its way from France to Japan and will round Cape Point this weekend.

The corner-cutting by the Akatsuki Maru did not meet with any objection from Department of Environment conservation director Mr Sydney Gerber yesterday.

Japan's counsellor Mr Yoshinbu Hiraishi had not replied to Cape Times inquiries about the plutonium shipment by late last night.

Mr Gerber said protesters were “making a mountain out of an anthill”. He said the shipment of plutonium was the same as the shipment of nuclear fuel to Koeburg which "in the past came from Europe".

Mr Gerber said "as far as we can ascertain the shipment is safe" and Japan has said it will not enter South Africa's 12-mile territorial waters.

Greenpeace international campaigner Mr Damon Moglen, in the city to increase awareness of plutonium shipments, said the South African government's failure to protest would ensure that the remainder of the 45 tons of plutonium scheduled to be shipped to Japan from France would probably be routed around the Cape.

--Not worth it--

Mr Moglen said "the shipment was going along the course of least resistance". Alternative routes from France to Japan, around Cape Horn or through the Panama Canal, were scotched after objections from countries in the regions.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said in a statement yesterday it "believes the risks to the environment and to human health, resulting from the transport of plutonium around the world in proliferation of fast breeder technology, are not worth the potential benefits".
A new approach is being used to preserve the beauty of Cape's magnificent nature and to ensure its future. The Kogelberg nature reserve, located in the Western Cape, is a sanctuary for biodiversity and an important part of the Cape floral kingdom. The reserve covers 18,000 hectares and is home to over 3,000 plant species. The Kogelberg is often referred to as the "green lung" of the Cape Town region. The reserve plays a crucial role in the conservation of the Cape flora and fauna. It is managed by the Kogelberg Nature Reserve Management Committee, which comprises representatives from the Western Cape provincial government, local municipalities, and non-governmental organizations. The Kogelberg is a model for biodiversity conservation and a testament to the importance of protecting our natural heritage. The reserve is open to visitors and offers a variety of activities, including guided walks, bird watching, and picnicking. The Kogelberg is a reminder of the importance of preserving our natural landscapes and ensuring their sustainability for future generations.

DIEETER OENDEKAL:
Kogelberg nature reserve
Cape's magnificent beauty of the reserve used to be considered a " więc ston " in the flower kingdom. The reserve was recently classified in the exception of bird watching, and the help of Kogelberg Nature Reserve Management Committee. It is managed by the Western Cape Provincial government, local municipalities, and non-governmental organizations. The reserve is open to visitors and offers a variety of activities, including guided walks, bird watching, and picnicking. The Kogelberg is a reminder of the importance of preserving our natural landscapes and ensuring their sustainability for future generations.

JOSPHERE RESERVES

"A wilderness on our doorstep"
Justin Peace: citizens' reports trend by involving Town's water supply could set a new
Water talks set to show
Consultative plan - 13

Environment Focus 13

over into public debate

Sew 28/11 - 2/12/92

November 28, 1992
The more, the healthier

Environment Focus

In some countries, the multilateral aid to developing countries, with the concept of food security, has led to a decrease in the number of people who suffer from hunger. However, this has not been the case in all countries. In some countries, the process of growing food crops is still influenced by traditional methods, which are often inefficient and lead to food insecurity. In other countries, the introduction of modern farming techniques, such as hybridization, has increased productivity and reduced the risk of crop failure. Nevertheless, the issue of food security remains a challenge, especially in areas with limited access to agricultural inputs and technologies.
Sure, it's dangerous...

Just what is this stuff that the Japanese are shipping halfway round the world — a substance that has sparked protests from environmentalists around the world?20

The last few months have seen increasing concern about a cargo of plutonium that is being transported around the world. Last week the ship was taken to a different route from France to Japan, via South America and the Pacific Ocean. Then on Monday the ship was suddenly off the coast of Angola.

A South African government spokesperson said recently that swallowing a cup of plutonium was no more dangerous than drinking ten cups of coffee. But some environmentalists have warned that one shipment of plutonium (about one ton) is enough to destroy all life in a substantial part of South Africa.

Plutonium is an artificially created element used to fuel nuclear reactors. The plutonium that will round the Cape coast is spent nuclear fuel which has been reprocessed in France to make it fit for use in the Japanese reactors.

The desirability of nuclear energy has been a politically and emotionally loaded issue ever since the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki disappeared in nuclear mushroom clouds in 1945. With the balance of nuclear capabilities crucial to the 40-year standoff of the Cold War, anti-nuclear activists in the West were suspected by Nato governments of having a hidden provocation agenda.

At the same time, anti-nuclear lobby groups have criticised the development of supposedly peaceful nuclear projects (power stations), as they employ technology which could also be used in developing nuclear weapons.

"Jou ma se plutonium" says the graffiti on a wall in Cape Town. But how valid are the anti-nuke sentiments which the scribbler has captured so well. Justin Pearce reports: but a disaster?

SOUTH 28/11-2/12/92

Professor Robin Cherry of UCT's physics department points out that there is a certain amount of natural radioactivity in seawater, next to which the radiation from split plutonium is negligible.

"An ocean basin 100 kilometres square and two kilometres deep — which is a very small part of an ocean — contains as much natural radiation as one ton of plutonium," Cherry said.

"That doesn't mean that plutonium is harmless — but the situation is not likely to be catastrophic," he said, adding that the security precautions seemed adequate.

Cherry said a greater risk was the possibility of a hostile military power hijacking the ship.

The shipment now off the South African coast could signal the start of a trend.

"What worries me more than one single accident is a worldwide move from an oil-driven economy to a plutonium economy," said Mr Mark Gander, founder of the Society Against Nuclear Energy, in an interview with "New Ground" magazine.

"A plutonium economy will result in hundreds of plutonium ships on the high seas. We have not managed to contain oil. What makes us think we are going to do any better with plutonium?" Gander asked.

This has given a political edge to discussions about nuclear power. The South African government is quick to defend the shipment of plutonium off our coast — a fact which could be related to the government's eagerness to improve trade relations with Japan.

Last week Mr Niels du Bois, spokesperson for the Department of Environmental Affairs, said plutonium was "only 10 times more toxic than coffee."

"Swallowing a cup of plutonium is no more dangerous than drinking 10 cups of coffee," he said.

This statement horrified two medical physicists from Groote Schuur hospital. They said that allowing even a small amount of plutonium inside one's body is tantamount to suicide. Cancers and leukaemia are among the consequences of exposure to alpha radiation from a source inside the body.

Plutonium apologists use the argument that the alpha radiation emitted by plutonium "can be stopped by a sheet of paper". What this means is that alpha radiation is very easily absorbed by the paper — but it is just as easily absorbed by human tissue. As little as one nanogram (one billionth of a gram) of plutonium can cause cancer if eaten or inhaled.

What if you are exposed to plutonium without getting the metal into your system? "If there was a gram of plutonium on that table over there I wouldn't like to be here," said a medical physicist.

Researchers who work with plutonium use the smallest possible amounts and do everything possible to reduce the risk of radiation.

Apart from the radioactive danger, plutonium is chemically toxic — like non-radioactive heavy metals such as mercury and lead.

Professor Thomas auf der Heyde, of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipment's (CAPS), said plutonium is more poisonous than lead, and is roughly comparable to styrene in its toxicity.

Plutonium, in short, is deadly stuff. As Auf der Heyde pointed out, the security arrangements and secrecy surrounding the shipment bely the argument that it is safe.

Whether transporting the plutonium is a tremendous risk is less certain. Scientists familiar with the procedures for transporting radioactive materials said the plutonium would be enased in ceramic beads which would be packed in steel containers. The ship will keep a distance of 200 km from the shore.

Professor Graham Jackson, professor of chemistry at UCT, said the major concern would be "bio-accumulation".

This is a process whereby plutonium would be absorbed by plants and animals and passed along the food chain. But this would be a worst-case scenario, depending on the plutonium breaking loose from both the ceramic casing and the steel containers.
Diversification continues

Diversification into new areas of private-sector work, away from key long-term contracts with Telkom and Armscor, was a costly exercise for Altech and carried through in the face of stiff competition.

Turnover in the six months to end-August edged up 5.5%, but EPS grew a mere 0.4%. Though pre-tax income rose 2.4%, executive chairman Don Snedden says margins and operating income — not disclosed at the interim stage — were maintained at previous levels. This suggests that interest earned (also undisclosed) declined, apparently because of the recent decline in rates.

Nevertheless, the balance sheet remains strong. The cash balance grew 7.5% since year-end to R242m. Snedden says some R50m-R60m of this will be invested in new grassroots ventures before the year-end. Acquisitions will always remain possible, and management is talking to several parties.

The electronic systems division remains the largest activity, contributing some 61% of group turnover. Snedden says the new Altech — whose focus is on "African solutions for Africa" — is aiming to develop its distribution and, in particular, its industrial division.

Though dependence on Telkom has been lessened, Snedden sees its role increasing again as capex restrictions are eased. Exports have traditionally represented a small proportion of group turnover but, after investing heavily into this arm of the business, he is bullish about the prospects this avenue holds.

He says the outlook for the second six months is encouraging. The problems associated with industrial unrest and political stayaways in the first half are not expected to be repeated.

While trading profit is showing little or no growth, Altech now has a healthier spread of

---

### SMALLER SPARKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aug 31 91</th>
<th>Feb 28 92</th>
<th>Aug 31 92</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turnover (Rm)</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-tax profit (Rm)</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>74.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attributable (Rm)</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings (c)</td>
<td>408.6</td>
<td>471.6</td>
<td>410.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends (c)</td>
<td>297.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>297.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Absa warns brokers and staff members

ABS A has warned its financial advisers not to sell unapproved products such as Supreme Bond.

The warning comes from Absa marketing head Gert Dry.

A statement says: "Our financial consultants and brokers are encouraged to market cross-section of approved group products. If anyone moves outside of the guidelines, they will be viewed in a very serious light and the necessary disciplinary steps will be taken."

Gert Dry says the bank will not tolerate group financial advisers or brokers who sell non-approved products, for which they receive a separate commission.

These commissions are earned by private deals for which any financial institution with its own investment products is on a hiding to nothing.

Call

"The sale of outside products is doubly damaging to our banking group. Firstly because our own products are not sold and secondly because many of our clients believe they are being sold products guaranteed by the Absa umbrella," says the spokesman.

The bank has reacted to a few cases where customers have allegedly been put into investments such as Supreme Bond and Masterbond and were forced to lose their cash. For many elderly investors, these funds are their life savings.

One example is that of 69-year-old Barbara du Toit, who lives on her own in Jo'hanesburg.

She received an unsolicited call from a financial adviser at Allied Bond where she kept all her retirement money in a savings account and on fixed deposit account. She was asked to go to a branch.

Mrs du Toit was apparently advised that there would be too much money in her savings account and must get a much greater return if she moved it to Supreme bond.

She placed her savings of R6 000 in Supreme Bond in the belief that her investment had the backing of the Allied. She was "very shocked" when told this week she might lose all her savings.

TERRY BETTY reports that several companies are interested in buying the three listed subsidiaries of the provisionally liquidated Supreme holding companies.

A source says a decision on the sale will be taken only after the value of the underlying assets has been assessed.

Coopers Theron Du Toit is studying the net worth and viability of the subsidiaries.

The subsidiaries are Supreme Indusials Holdings, Supreme Manufacturing Holdings and Protea Furnishers.

Even if the companies are sold as going concerns, it is uncertain what will happen to the debenture holders' money. It will depend on whether the liquidators are obliged to hold the companies to their securities.

A financial analyst says it is unlikely anybody will buy the companies if the debentures remain secured. Debenture holders would then be able to call in their debt at any time.

He says the buyers would be in a strong bargaining position to have the securities over the debentures removed to keep working capital in the business.

Other options for the liquidators include liquidating the listed subsidiaries to raise cash to pay debenture holders. It could also be possible to convert the debentures into equity.

Warning

Either way, it seems the debenture holders will have to be patient while waiting for their money.

In the time being, the provincial liquidators are allowing the companies to continue trading. They say the subsidiaries are viable and will continue to trade profitably over Christmas.

The Harmful Business Practices Committee has warned the public. It says the onus is on investors to investigate a company before they place their money with it.

It says many people are unaware that neither the Government nor regulatory bodies guarantee repayment of capital investment or the yield on an investment.

It warns people to look into the financial history of the company and ascertain the possible vested interests of the agent promoting the sale.

R150m for water and sanitation

THE European Community, the Independent Development Trust and the Development Bank have combined in a R150-million water and sanitation project for marginalised communities.

The goal of the three-year programme is to ensure that the poorest of SA's communities have adequate water and sanitation facilities.

The EC and IDT will put up R46,5 million each, the Development Bank making R36 million in operational support and a R6,5 million loan available.

The programme, which is to be independently operated, was signed on Friday and will begin as soon as support staff members are in place.

It will be known as the Water and Sanitation Programme and be run by a board which will include representatives of the target communities.

"We hope that the programme will play a role not only in meeting the needs for water, sanitation and primary health care but that it will bring South Africans together," says IDT chairman Jan Steyn.

"Development can and does perform that function."

The programme intends to ensure that historical imbalances are dealt with, mobilising resources for marginalised communities, increasing the capacity of development implementors and enhancing the co-operation of developmental institutions.

The allocated resources will not completely reduce the vulnerability of deprived communities, but are an important step in alleviating the cycle of poverty, the parties say in a statement.
Tours to save the environment

By ROBERT HOUSLEY

Two Kommetjie ecologists — Wally Petersen and Russel Weston — have started a tour company aimed at preserving the environment on the Cape Peninsula.

Called Green Life Tours, it is aimed at a local bid to increasing environmental awareness, and to conserve existing ecologies.

It will provide regular eight-hour trips to some of the Peninsula’s most inspiring ecological sights, including the Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary, the Jackass Penguin Colony, the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and The Kom bird viewing spot.

Also incorporated in the tour will be fynbos and coastal walks and the prospect of seeing up to six of the remaining 10 baboon colonies on the Peninsula.

Mr Petersen — frustrated not being able to raise enough money to further his studies on the Chacma baboons — joined Mr Weston in devising the tour concept.

They have also developed a trust fund from which local environmental projects will be sponsored. For every person who goes on a Green Life tour, R10 will be placed in the fund.

"The government services have no money so we can no longer rely on them to fund projects," Mr Petersen said.

School children and poor communities will also be catered for.

"We want to take local school children and the underprivileged on a weekly trip because ultimately the future of conservation on the Peninsula is in the hands of the people who live there," Mr Petersen said.

For more information telephone Wally Petersen on 783-3433.
Plutonium ship off Cape Point

THE Japanese ship carrying a cargo of plutonium, which has sparked worldwide protests, was due to pass Cape Point last night — as a Greenpeace chief expressed concern at her safety in "some of the most dangerous seas in the world".

As the Akatsuki Maru was preparing to pass 130 nautical miles from Cape Town, carrying 1.7 tons of plutonium, the International Maritime Organisation acceded to worldwide pressure to review the safety of transporting the element at a UN-sponsored meeting in London on December 7-11.

The Akatsuki Maru, which set sail for Japan from France earlier this month, is being shadowed by a Greenpeace ship, the Smit New York. Its voyage has led to several large-scale demonstrations being planned in Cape Town over the next few days.

Greenpeace international co-ordinator Damon Moglen arrived in South Africa this week.

"This ship is not very big. When I spoke to Argentinian navy officials, they told me she was completely unprepared for rounding Cape Horn," he said.

"In January 1990 a similar ship carrying irradiated nuclear fuel rounded the Cape. She was so overtaxed that both her engines blew."

Mr Moglen said if something went wrong with the ship — if she caught fire or sank — the contamination would destroy marine life. And the inhalation of a particle of plutonium smaller than a speck of dust could cause lung cancer.

"Contamination can last tens of thousands of years."

A spokesman for the Japanese embassy in Cape Town said safety precautions of the highest standard had been taken to transport the cargo.
More rains needed to alleviate drought

By Shirley Woodgate
Dirk Nel and
Clyde Johnson

Patchy summer rains have failed to alleviate the scorching drought in the Transvaal and Free State, where most dams hover around critical levels.

Isolated showers have encouraged farmers to start planting crops in the western and south-western Transvaal and the northern Free State, but the outlook for the bulk of the agricultural sector remains bleak, according to Transvaal Agricultural Union general manager Johan Hartman.

Most districts in the far northern Transvaal had received only half their normal average rainfall for October and November. Louis Trichardt residents, relying on the 4 percent-full Albasini Dam, were allowed barely enough water for basic domestic use, he said.

The lowveld's November rainfall has been nearly 30 percent below the general average. Rainfall figures for the month were: Nelspruit 73.7 mm, Burgershall 107.1 mm, Malelane 21.5 mm and Komatipoort 96.5 mm.

Mark Holmes, a researcher at Nelspruit's Institute for Soil, Climate and Water, said the lowveld's rainfall was down on the general average since August. Two extreme examples were Malelane and Komatipoort, which had had no rain in August and September.

Badfostein — the catchment area for the Braam Raubenheimer Dam — had only 47 mm.

The dam, which serves all lowveld irrigation farmers, is less than 14 percent full.

The Kruger National Park, which had good downpours during the first half of November, is slowly recovering from the worst drought in memory.

The park's nature conservation general manager, Dr Willem Gertenbach, said rainfall figures had been much the same as in November last year.

Rains in the Tshokwane and Nwanetsi regions had filled dams and saved many hippos from certain death.

Department of Water Affairs hydrologist Stefan van Biljon warned that the coming months were critical. A significant boost to the dams depended on continuous, widespread rain and heavy downpours.

The above-average rain on the Witwatersrand had had no effect on stored water.

"Although the agricultural drought is ending in isolated areas, the low level of most dams indicates a serious hydrological drought is still gripping the country," Van Biljon said.

● No end to drought torment — Page 11
R150m water project co-operation a first

The Kagiso Trust, the IDT and the Development Bank of Southern Africa have co-operated formally for the first time with a R150m water and sanitation programme in rural and semi-urban areas, according to a weekend statement.

The co-operation comes two years after the De Looir report recommended rationalisation of development institutions, and could lead to formal funding of a further R48.5m. This was the first programme to combine loans and donations.

Grange said yesterday the co-operation between had facilitated raising funds from the EC. The EC has provided R48.5m to the programme, matched by the Kagiso Trust, and secured by the IDT, over a three-year period. The bank has offered operational support of R3m and loans in other development areas.
Plutonium ship off Mossel Bay

THE Japanese plutonium carrier Akatsuki Maru, carrying 1.7 tons of deadly plutonium, was 150 nautical miles south-south-west of Mossel Bay last night.

The ship allegedly came within two nautical miles of a passing vessel off the Namibian coast late on Friday, a spokesman for the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps), Prof Thomas Auf der Heyde, said.

Citing a report from Greenpeace vessel Smit New York, he said the freighter and her armed escort Shikishima had earlier been about 180m from one another before suddenly heading off in different directions.

The manoeuvre, during which the two ships effectively became a single radar blip, is thought to have been an attempt to shake off the Smit New York.

Shortly before 11.55pm on Saturday, the Smit New York’s crew saw a large vessel, thought to be an oil tanker, cross within two nautical miles of the Akatsuki Maru’s bow. They were unable to identify the vessel because of the fog.

Japan will stockpile the plutonium being transported by the Akatsuki Maru for at least three years, despite a pledge not to store large amounts of nuclear fuel, officials said on Saturday. — Sapa-AP, Staff Reporter
SA is no manager of its own resources

Everyone in South Africa knows you get nothing for mahala (free). But the principle hasn’t really been applied when it comes to our resources — our water, our wildlife, our land, our air. JULIENNE DU TOIT reports.

He was brought out recently by the Institute for Natural Resources, and has been reviewing St Lucia with the CSIR. He said making water more expensive would cut down on the incredible wastage of water. It would also subsidise the supply of water to those who do not have it, and to the poor.

The principle applies to almost every resource you could shake a stick at.

Placing a value on resources could make it easier to redistribute them, and the ANC and Government have waxed enthusiastic over the plan, he said.

This country has an incredibly bad record when it comes to managing its resources. “There has been no money value placed on anything. If there was a market value for topsoil, it wouldn’t have been thrown away the way it has.”

The moment has come to put a price on clean air, since that is at a premium these days, too, said Dr Miltz. As for the St Lucia issue, the choices must be made quite explicit, said Dr Miltz. “What must be decided is the financial gains of the environmental impact. The trade-offs must be clear.”

But putting a value on environment, or resources means that it stands a far better chance of being taken care of. “This is not a game of innocents. Basically, we must maximise shareholder value.”

...
Advert:
Serina stabbed in back?

Staff Reporter

SERINA kaolin vice-chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy is "a bit disappointed" that the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group (SCPAG) is urging people in advertisements to object to a rezoning that he needs for his kaolin mine.

Earlier this year Mr Van Der Spuy and Mr Ian Brownlie, the chairman of SCPAG, came to an agreement in terms of which Serina would pay R6m for a kaolin pipeline and R1m a year in operational costs so that no on-site processing plant would be needed.

Object

In return, the SCPAG agreed to tone down its opposition to the kaolin mining on the Chapman's Peak site.

In the advertisement the SPAG said people opposed to the degradation of the Cape should object in writing.

Mr John Cannaan, chairman of the Noordhoek and District Civic Association, explained the SCPAG viewpoint.

"The group has toned down its objections. It maintains that everybody should object because the fact that Serina is going to mine does not mean that it is a desirable activity in that area."
Trust 'is a role model

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — The R150m Pula Trust established jointly by the EC, the Kagiso Trust, the Development Bank of SA and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) to undertake water and sanitation projects was likely to be a precursor to future foreign funding for development. IDT chairman Jan Steyn said yesterday.

He said the presentation of a united front by three SA development agencies had been crucial in securing foreign funding and could provide a role model for future finance.

Each of the SA participants had unique strengths to bring to a joint venture and could provide projects into which foreign donors could lock.

Steyn said the participants had identified access to clean water as one of the urgent needs in rural areas.

The Kagiso Trust (funded by the EC), the IDT and the bank would each inject R48.5m into the Pula Trust. The bank also undertook to provide infrastructural support worth R3m.
Cape route a ‘trial run’ for plutonium

JAPAN's decision to ship 1.7 tons of radioactive plutonium around the Cape was taken because the route offered the least resistance, a Greenpeace International spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Damon Moglen, speaking at a press conference hosted by the ANC, said the controversial shipment of plutonium was only a "trial run".

"Forty-five tons of plutonium are scheduled to be separated from nuclear plants in France and Britain before the end of the century and it could all be shipped around the Cape," he said.

The Akatsuki Maru was yesterday 240km southwest of Port Elizabeth, travelling east-north-east at 14.5 knots.

Mr Moglen said Japan had probably used political and economic leverage to get South Africa to allow the shipment to pass the Cape after Caribbean islands, South American countries and Panama had protested against the vessel using their routes.

A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs said the Japanese government had informed Pretoria that it would not move closer than 200km from the South African coast and it could not enter our territorial waters — 20,1km from the coast — without a permit.

Japan had not applied for a permit, he said.
Bay's water quality matches EC laws

JOHN YEUD
Environment Reporter

FALSE Bay's water quality conformed "generally" to tough European Community standards during the past year, but untreated stormwater runoff into the bay from increased urbanisation could cause problems in future.

These are the main points in the annual report of the False Bay Water Quality Committee, headed by Cape Town's city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

The ad hoc committee, consisting of senior representatives of local authorities and government departments, was formed in 1989 in response to growing public concern about the bay's water quality.

In his report for the period from October last year to September, Mr Clayton said significant progress had been made towards establishing a standardised monitoring along virtually the entire coastline.

"In this respect, it gives me great pleasure to note that for the year under review the water quality in the bay conforms generally to the European Community's directive for the water quality of bathing beaches — except near the Sir Lowry's Pass River, where the mandatory level was exceeded."

At four points—Kalk Bay harbour beach, Lideboxes 21 and 23 between Sunrise Beach and Sonwabe, and Woltemade Street at the Strand — bacteriological counts were marginally above the EC guidelines.

But at Sir Lowry's Pass River, both guidelines and mandatory values were exceeded...

"At this sample point, the problem stems from the river water which flows over a rocky part of the beach with poor mixing," Mr Clayton explained.

During the summer holiday season, counts were low and the river was being diverted westward where currents were stronger and mixing was better, he said.

All wastewater in the catchment was treated before discharge and, in international terms, the bay had low bacteriological levels, Mr Clayton added.

"Following rainfall, point-source pollution occurs at locations where stormwater discharges to the bay and results in contaminated urban runoff being discharged to the surf zone, but these pollution inputs are limited both spatially and temporally."

The major concern was not the bay's status, but what could happen if urbanisation rates continued without regard for the water quality of stormwater run-off, Mr Clayton said.

Effective catchment management was therefore essential.

The committee's ultimate objective was to develop a comprehensive management strategy through a process of public participation to control aspects such as tourism, conservation, economic utilisation, user group requirements, water quality, health, catchment development and land use, Mr Clayton said.

"It is important that this strategy be given a statutory base and have the support of all interested and affected parties."
Health risk at rocket testing site claim

By RONNIE MORRIS
Supreme Court Reporter

ACIDIC fallout from rocket tests at Hangklip could kill plants and animals and pose a health risk to people, the Supreme Court was told yesterday.

The Rooi Els Local Council wants to evict Sonchem (Pty) Ltd — an Armscor subsidiary — from the rocket testing site.

The council brought the action against the Overberg Regional Services Council, the Administrator of the Cape and Sonchem.

Professor James Ronald Bull, professor of Organic Chemistry at UCT, said in an affidavit that hydrogen chloride emissions from the combustion of the solid rocket propellant, a colourless gas, combines with water to generate hydrochloric acid.

The acid is hazardous to humans and animals and is also a severe respiratory irritant which can cause inflammation and ulceration of the respiratory tract. It also causes skin irritation.

Mr Justice H L Berman postponed the application to May 17 next year to allow Sonchem, the Overberg RSC and the Administrator time to file replying affidavits.
GREENS try to flush chloramine out of the system
SA 'pressured over shipment of plutonium'

CAPE TOWN — There was little doubt that Japan had used political and economic leverage to get the South African Government to soften its stance on the controversial shipment of plutonium passing off the Republic’s coast, Greenpeace International spokesman Damon Moglen said yesterday.

He told a press conference in Cape Town that the shipment should be seen as a dry run for “tens” more shipments of plutonium and nuclear waste before the end of the century, and strongly criticised Japan’s announcement that it was to stockpile this load of plutonium rather than use it immediately.

The last report he had had of the ship’s position was that, at 8 am yesterday, it was 150 nautical miles south-southwest of Port Elizabeth and travelling east-northeast at a “fast” 14 knots.

He said it was clear the route around the Cape had been chosen as the course of least resistance.

“I do want to emphasise this is not a one-time shipment. This is a trial run,” he said. “The fact that this route has been chosen suggests that this may well be the route of choice for forthcoming plutonium shipments.”

The use of this route for plutonium also suggested that it could be the route back to Japan of the mixture of chemical and high-level nuclear waste generated in the production process — which would constitute the most radioactive cargo ever transported, and which could begin next year.

He said there had been a great deal of ambiguity in South African Government statements on how close to the coastline the ship would be permitted to pass.

The vessel was now within South Africa’s economic exclusion zone of 220 nautical miles, an area from which other countries seemed to have had no problem in banning it, Moglen said. — Sapa.
Refinery 'pours oil' on public's troubled waters

Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL standards at the huge Caltex refinery near Milnerton have slipped in recent months, following the recommissioning of two plants which have been mothballed since 1984.

But the company — the biggest American-owned business operating in South Africa — says it is highly concerned about the environment and is completely committed to minimising the impact of its operation.

It also believes many residents of surrounding suburbs like Table View and Bothaig have an unjustified perception of its operations and often unfairly accuse it of polluting the atmosphere.

These points were made by the company's senior management at a Press briefing at the refinery yesterday.

Mr Johann Lubbe, refinery director and general manager, said they had experienced problems in March and April with the mothballed plants and there had been "lots of complaints".

A third mothballed plant is to come on stream in May, bringing the refinery back to full capacity.

Mr Lubbe conceded that the refinery could create "a nuisance value" for residents, as certain petrochemi-

cals had an offensive smell.

Also, under certain "very infrequent" atmospheric conditions, emissions such as sulphur dioxide were brought down to earth in the surrounding area.

"You can't hide a refinery," he said.

"A refinery does emit certain substances which might be referred to as a nuisance, either visibly or by smell."

The company made a substantial effort to curb emissions and to ensure staff were competent to handle the plant, Mr Lubbe added.

"He dismissed claims that the refinery caused medical problems for residents.

"I think it's well-known, and it has been shown in surveys, that the whole Cape area has a fairly high incidence of asthma and bronchial problems."

"I think there's a public perception which often leads to people pointing to the refinery."

Mr Lubbe said they were committed to full public disclosure of the environmental effects of their operation.

"(And) we're saying we want to improve all the time," he added.

Public affairs spokesman Mr Terry O'Donovan said the company attempted to deal promptly with complaints.
Developers 'need to focus on environment'

ENVIRONMENTAL issues are fast becoming the focal point of popular interest, and property developers who are not seen to conform or show interest will lose market share, says Anglo American Property Services estates development director Peter Gardiner.

"Rapid urbanisation poses a major threat to our natural environment and developers need to put something back as they continue to supply the market with residential and business developments.

"Development needs to be managed in a way in which there are tangible benefits to the man in the street," he said.

However, in heeding environmental concerns, the developer had to avoid over-capitalising its products, particularly in the current recession, he cautioned.

Gardiner said there was no excuse for not taking into account the advantages of environmental planning in development design to achieve:

☐ A more attractive end-product;
☐ The preservation of the natural resources of each property developed;
☐ An enhanced quality of lifestyle for the tenants or buyers;
☐ Fulfilment of a public education obligation; and
☐ A higher return on their investments.

"Although it is initially costly to capitalise, we are firm believers that in our sphere of development conservation can and must be made to pay its own way. "Our environmental management policy establishes controls from the initiation of an estate development that is linked to provisions for its ongoing management and maintenance, through legal structures such as Business Park Owners and Homeowners' Associations," he said.

Ampros' estate concept provided conservation areas, a landscaped environment, security and community facilities, managed by an association with an executive committee elected by residents. "The size of our estates and business parks are designed so we can rationalise the capital cost of the enhancements necessary to create these facilities," Gardiner said.

The cost to communities of maintaining the environment was rationalised among unit owners, who paid a monthly levy to the Homeowners' Association of between R100 and R150 a month.

Ampros had three non-residential projects on its books — Waterfall Park and Kyalami Park in Midrand and Springfield Park in Durban. Its six residential projects were in Sandton, Chaka's Rock, Muizenberg, Midrand, Pretoria and Bellville.
Staff Reporter

A FEASIBILITY report by the Cape Town City Council on the proposed Signal Hill cableway should be available by February or March, Dr John Raimondo of UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit said last night.

He was speaking at a meeting attended by disgruntled Boundary Road, Greenpoint, residents and the Waterfall Ratepayers' Association last night.

Dr Raimondo, who is doing a separate feasibility investigation on behalf of would-be Signal Hill property developers the Table Mountain Cableway Company and a firm of architects, said no final decisions had been taken on the proposed development and the other possible cable route — running along Strand Street to Buitengracht Street — was being "as intensely investigated" as the Boundary Road cableway proposal.

Residents complained of the severe impact the proposed Signal Hill cableway would have if channelled through Boundary Road.

Reduced privacy, blocked views, noise and percentage decreases in the value of their properties were some of the issues raised.

Dr Raimondo said value decreases would be estimated at a later stage.
UCT to draw up plan for Peninsula mountains

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

UCT has won the contract to prepare a policy document for the future ecological management of the Cape Peninsula mountain chain.

The UCT consortium includes research units across the academic spectrum.

It will be led by Professor Richard Fuggle, head of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Studies, and will be managed on a day-to-day basis by Dr John Raimondo, general manager of UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit.

UCT was one of eight tenderers for the contract which was announced in September by Dr Douglas Hey, chairman of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee.

At an Argus-Fairest Cape “green” breakfast for business leaders today, Professor Fuggle called for the Peninsula to be recognised as a World Heritage Area.

He also called for a trust similar to Britain’s National Trust to be set up to ensure the protection of the Peninsula’s natural environment.
Third World air pollution near massive levels.

The Third World faces a unique pollution problem that is not as severe as in the industrialized nations, but it is still a significant challenge.

In many Third World countries, air pollution is a serious issue. The lack of industrial development and modern infrastructure often leads to increased pollution levels.

One example is Mexico City, which is infamous for its air pollution, especially in the winter months. The pollution is a result of outdated transportation systems, which rely heavily on older vehicles.

The problem is particularly acute in the capital city, where the high concentration of pollutants can lead to respiratory issues and other health problems.

Efforts to address the pollution are underway, including the promotion of cleaner vehicles and the expansion of public transportation systems.

Overall, the challenge of pollution in the Third World is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach to mitigate its impact on public health and the environment.
On the move

Charging for water suggested by experts

Water use has trebled since 1950s and its scarcity highlighted:

Water quality is deteriorating in a number of ways, and will continue to deteriorate as pressure is put on the scarce supplies.

Rhodes University, Mariza Uys, legal research consultant with the Water Research Commission in Pretoria, and Professor Michael N Bruton of Rhodes’ JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology, contributed a chapter on freshwater systems in the comprehensive book.

“We are now in a better position to judge the trends in water supply and quality, and they are, on the whole, pessimistic.”

“The demand for water is increasing, and will have to increase enormously to upgrade the basic requirements of the previously disadvantaged black population in the new South Africa.”

The authors warn, “Water quality is deteriorating in a number of ways, and will continue to deteriorate as more pressure is put on the scarce supplies.

“Rivers are literally running dry as impoundment and abstraction increase, and as the buffering capacities of catchments are reduced by urbanisation and dev egetation.” - Sapa.

---

MR Tota Matsipa has been appointed personal assistant to the managing director of Amalgamated Beverages Industries (ABI).

He formerly worked for SA Druggists as an industrial relations group adviser. Before that the 47-year-old Matsipa held a similar position at timber interests company Hunt Lenchars & Hepburn.

At one stage he was an industrial relations specialist at Nestle’s Randburg branch.
Rhino extinct 'in 5 years'

LONDON. — Africa's rhino population faces extinction within five years because of unrelenting poaching, the United Nations envoy responsible for trade in wildlife warned here yesterday.

And middlemen in South Africa have been instrumental in the decline, said Dr Esmond Martin.

Dr Martin, here to meet Environment Minister Lord Strathclyde, made what amounts to the first formal statement from the UN Environment Programme predicting the imminent extinction of the black rhino, which is only found on the African continent.

Dr Martin said Taiwan, the main market for rhino horn, was failing to enforce a world ban on trade.

"Because of that, what we are witnessing in Africa is the worst slaughter of any mammal that's occurred at any time," he said. The population has been slaughtered down from 65,000 in 1972 to less than 2,500 today. In Zimbabwe the killing has reached such a rate that only 249 survive from more than 2,600 counted in 1990.

"However in India, Asian rhino numbers which were down to just a few dozen, have risen to more than 1,600 now. They're also rising in Namibia," he said.

The key to a new UN strategy is to allow countries to pay more for information than poachers receive for the horn.

The sums of money need not be large, he said. Poachers receive only about £80 for an adult horn, which middlemen, usually in South Africa, then sell to Taiwan for about £3,600. — Telegraph
Mountain Water Warning

...
Water for all by Christmas, says govt

ALL South Africans would have an adequate supply of water this Christmas with relief efforts in drought-stricken areas continuing throughout the festive season, Water Affairs spokesman Lucinda Scholtz said yesterday.

Although borehole drilling would be halted a week before Christmas, emergency supply operations would continue, she said.

Water Affairs, Forestry and Agricultural Development along with the Consultative Forum on Drought (CFD) were coordinating relief efforts to ensure an adequate water supply, she added.

A CFD spokesman said the situation was deteriorating in certain areas of Venda and Lebowa.

Water Affairs said restrictions were not expected for the PWV area next year following an improvement in the level of the Bloemhof dam and the halting of releases from the Sterkfontein dam.

Scholtz said it was too early to say the drought had been broken generally.
Detained pilots 'abandoned by SA'

THE Foreign Affairs Department had abandoned the two SA pilots currently being detained by Angolan police in Luanda, a spokesman for the pilots' company said yesterday.

Theunis Steyn of Airtech Air Cargo said the ANC, which still has a representative in Angola, Peter Tshikare, had been approached for assistance.

The pilots, AAC MD Manfred Brackwede and Hendrik Lathekga, were arrested by Angolan police following an unauthorised landing in Lusaka last week.

An Angolan representative in Pretoria Manuel Augusto said the two pilots had not been in possession of current visas or travel documents when they were still at the Angolan embassy and had also affixed false Red Cross insignia to their six-seater Aztec aircraft.

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed that no application had been received for the ICRC's insignia to be used.

Steyn said the aircraft was on a mercy flight to Kinshasa with a doctor on board but that a fuel selector problem may have caused the emergency landing.

Augusto said, however, that the two men would be returned to SA in the interests of good relations.

Meanwhile, the ANC has confirmed it will send a representative to the emergency Frontline states meeting scheduled for Friday in Harare.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said it was possible ANC president Nelson Mandela would attend.

It is understood that the meeting, called by Frontline chairman Robert Mugabe, will discuss SA's alleged infringement of countries' airspace.

Government has denied the claims.

Maize belt faces disaster as follow-up rains hold off

PRETORIA — High winds and temperatures in the mid-30s along most of the maize belt in the past 10 days have played havoc with early plantings and big rains were needed to prevent a disaster, Nampo said yesterday.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said: "Unless we get good rains before December 15, the situation will become extremely serious."

The optimum planting time had passed in the Transvaal, Free State and Natal and 1.2 million ha had not yet been planted.

In the western Transvaal and northern Free State, where about 60% of the total crop is normally grown, nearly half of the crop still has to be planted.

In the eastern Transvaal, highveld planting is about 50% complete but in Natal only 18 000 of the projected 70 000 ha had been planted by the end of last week.

Van Zyl said much of the 2.2 million ha already planted was exposed to a big damage risk unless the rains came.

Maize planted late also faced the prospect of frost towards the end of the growing season. What appeared to be good rains at the start of summer made little if any difference to the critical moisture content of the soil.

"We don't want to cry wolf," Van Zyl

said, "but the situation could become critical if we don't get immediate rains and if January and February are dry months."

Sapa reports that the Transvaal Agricultural Union said conditions were critical, particularly in the western Transvaal. The lack of follow-up rain in the past few days meant that many Transvaal farmers were facing bankruptcy.

About 70% of farmers planted crops soon after the first rains, but young maize plants have been scorched and virtually no grazing remains.

In the Transkei area, fruit trees are dying and a TAU spokesman said banana trees on some farms had been ruined.

Agricultural conditions in the eastern Transvaal are more promising, but follow-up rains are needed in the next 10 days to save crops.

Conditions have improved in the eastern Cape, but the interior remains dry.

Eastern Cape Agricultural Union president Timus Hartman said good rains fell between Tsitsikamma and East London, and the outlook in coastal areas was promising.

Water for all by Christmas, says govt

ALL South Africans would have an adequate supply of water this Christmas with relief efforts in drought stricken areas continuing throughout the festive season, Water Affairs spokesman Lucinda Scholtz said yesterday.

Although borehole drilling would be halted a week before Christmas, emergency supply operations would continue, she said.

Water Affairs, Forestry and Agricultural Development along with the Consultative Forum on Drought (CFD) were coordinating relief efforts to ensure an adequate water supply, she added.

A CFD spokesman said the situation was deteriorating in certain areas of Venda and Lebowa.

Water Affairs said restrictions were not expected for the PWV area next year following an improvement in the level of the Bloemhof dam and the halting of releases from the Sterkfontein dam.

Scholtz said it was too early to say the drought had been broken generally.
SA water reserves may run out by 2020

SA water reserves may run out by 2020

Gavin Du Venage

SA water reserves may run out by 2020, Water Research Commission (WRC) executive director Piet Odendaal said yesterday.

"Even if all our political problems are solved tomorrow, we will still be faced with a situation where our water supplies will, according to projections, run out somewhere in the period 2020-2030," he said.

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry estimates that it would cost between R10bn and R12bn to adequately address the problem — a sum of money that was just not available, said Odendaal, adding that other figures put the cost at R30bn.

The WRC was funding about 260 projects in 60 different organisations.

Odendaal said strategies ranging from reducing water consumption in agriculture and industry, eliminating pollution and better management of resources had to be explored.

Other avenues included the importing of water from neighbouring states and setting up desalination plants. Even towing icebergs had to be considered.

Sapa reports that several regions in SA have been declared drought disaster areas, but a number of others have been deproclaimed.

The national drought committee of the Department of Agriculture Development had declared Adelaide and the Gordon’s-UPington areas drought-disaster areas with effect from November 1, and Beaufort West, Cradock, Calvinia, Victoria West, Laingsburg and Umvoti drought-disaster areas with effect from December 1.

Four other areas — Alexandria, Calitzdorp, Port Alfred-Bathurst and Steylerville — have been deproclaimed drought disaster areas from December 1.

Committee chairman Streebel Hofmeyr said because of good rainfalls in Transvaal and the Free State over the past month it had been decided not to declare those regions drought disaster areas.
1700 objections to kaolin mining

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 1700 people objected to the proposed mining of kaolin on portions of two farms in Noordhoek and on Chapman's Peak.

Mr Chris Mocke, chief executive officer of the Regional Services Council, said yesterday in a statement that those who responded to the RSC's request for responses in writing were environmental and wildlife groups, tour operators, visitors to the Cape, various ratepayers' associations and residents from the area as well as from Cape Town, the northern suburbs and cities up-country.

He said objections to the proposed mining schemes dealt with harmful effects on the environment, pollution and health risks, the negative effect on tourism and a reduction in property values.

The closing date for applications to the RSC to prevent the proposed mining on farm 1387 on Chapman's Peak and farm 939 — also known as Trentham — in Noordhoek, was on Monday.
Honours for ‘greens’

By Julienne du Toit

The Green Trust Environment Awards, honouring those who contribute towards the conservation of South Africa’s environment, are entering their fourth year. The categories are:

● The corporate category for a company’s serious commitment and action towards environmental improvement.
● The organisation category is for projects initiated by an environmental, religious or service organisations.
● An individual contribution that conserves, uplifts or restores the environment.
● A school project, from schoolchildren of any age.
● The Trees for Africa award is for the most effective tree-planting or greening project.
● The Sam Mabe Media Award is for stimulating action.
Concern at plan to pump effluent into vlei

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE proposal by Simon's Town municipality to pump treated sewage effluent through the Glencairn wetlands could change the ecosystem and further opinion should be canvassed before any final decision was taken.

This is the opinion of Glencairn resident and board member of the Fairest Cape Association Ms Pam Herr.

In an open letter to Simon's Town town clerk Mr Charlese Chevalier, Ms Herr said she had asked leading environmentalists about the proposal.

"I find there is great concern about the proposed discharge of effluent into the vlei which effectively will change the entire ecosystem of the area," she said.

She suggested that fynbos experts and representatives of UCT's Freshwater Research Unit, the Cape Wetlands Trust, the Wildlife Society and other bodies be canvassed before any final decision was taken.

"This action might appear excessive, but it would seem a great deal of further research is required before an informed decision on the wetlands can be made," Ms Herr said.

"The residents in this area and particularly the municipality are custodians of one of the most scenic and environmentally rich routes in the world.

"We owe our tourists and future generations the respect they deserve by making good long-term decisions about an environment already under strain."

Asked this week what the proposal's status was, Mr Chevalier said the municipality's consultants were still investigating the issue in conjunction with the town engineer.
Flood of protest at Kaolin application

Environment Reporter [EX] NAR 10/12/92

A FLOOD of protest has greeted Serina's application to mine kaolin on two Noordhoek properties.

A call by the Western Cape Regional Services Council for objections to Serina's proposed change in land use to allow mining resulted in some 1700 objections by the closing date on Monday.

Objectors included residents of Noordhoek and other areas in the Peninsula, ratepayers' associations, tour operators, environmental groups and visitors to the Cape.

Their concerns included the environmental impact of the proposed mines, pollution and health risks, the negative effect on tourism and on flora and fauna, the reduction in neighbouring property values, aesthetic considerations, the presence of heavy vehicles and the broad issue of mining in the Noordhoek valley.

The objections will be forwarded to Serina for comment before being considered by the RSC.

In October, Serina announced it would apply for the change in land use "as a gesture of goodwill and to foster a spirit of co-operation", in spite of legal advice that the company was fully entitled to exploit kaolin deposits on the site.

The RSC has contrary advice from senior counsel to the effect that the mining company is obliged to apply for permission to mine, and has hinted at court action should Serina fail to apply.
Experts predict a future without water

CP REPORTER

EVEN if SA gets everything else right, the big crunch could come in the year 2020 when some experts predict the drying up of water supplies.

Piet Odendaal, executive director of the Water Research Commission (WRC) this week warned that it would become increasingly difficult to deal with water pollution problems because of dwindling water supplies, the rapidly increasing population and continued industrial and agricultural development.

"This is one field where we cannot depend on overseas research to show us the way. Our needs are unique and generally much greater and more urgent than those of the world's industrialised nations."

"We have to take the initiative and remain a leading nation in the field of water research," he said. "The WRC is already funding about 200 projects, but a serious challenge of supplying water and sanitation for developing communities has emerged.

"It is estimated that only two out of every three people in the country have access to a safe water supply, and only one out of two have access to adequate sanitation," he said.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry estimates that it would cost between R10 million and R12 million rand to adequately deal with this problem.

Odendaal said that available funds must be used as effectively as possible.
Council mops
M’berg ‘oil’

Staff Reporter
CITY council workers were called out yesterday to clean up Muizenberg beach which was polluted with a suspected oil derivative for about 50 metres in front of the pavilion.

City council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said the council was alerted on Saturday and had taken steps to clean it up. Mr Doman said samples of the pollutant had been taken and it would be identified today.

No ships were in False Bay and it was not known where the substance had come from, Mr Doman said.

Mr Anton Moldan, the head of the pollution division of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, said last night it was difficult for him to say whether the oil could have originated from the sunken Katina P tanker off Mozambique. Analysis of the substance would have to be done before there could be any certainty as to where it had come from.

Several weeks ago when oil washed ashore at Clifton and Noordhoek beaches, Mr Moldan said it appeared to have originated from the sunken Katina P and further oil spills could occur.

He said if the pollution on Muizenberg was oil, it might have come from Katina P.

Meanwhile, Captour fielded over 100 queries at their city office yesterday morning from tourists a loss for things to do because of the rainy weather.

The majority of people were from the Transvaal.

‘Ricochetino’ bullet
Rains bring hope of good production year

SOAKING rains fell over drought-stricken areas of the northern and eastern Transvaal at the weekend, bringing relief to farmers — and animals in the Kruger National Park and other Lowveld reserves. There was also widespread rain in Natal and Mozambique.

The rains were the first falls substantial enough to indicate a normal agricultural season might be possible.

A Weather Bureau spokesman said yesterday the heaviest falls were at Graskop where 126mm was measured, Skukuza (95mm), Tzaneen (84mm) and Lebovo (67mm). At least 28mm fell in central Johannesburg, while 11.6mm was recorded in Pretoria and 21mm at Jan Smuts Airport.

Saps reported that rain continued falling in the Kruger Park, where several roads were closed.

The rain led to the postponement of Saturday’s one-day cricket international between India and SA at the Wanderers in Johannesburg, and delayed the start of play yesterday.

Maputo recorded 113mm, while 61mm was measured in Swaziland. Zimbabwe also enjoyed good rains. Other areas where rain fell included Komatipoort, Thohoyandou, Phalaborwa, Marnitz, Waterpoort and Warmbad.

Rain also fell in northern Natal with 35mm measured at St Lucia. Saps reported 94mm was recorded in the KwaZulu town of Ubonso.

Eighteen millimetres was recorded at Eshowe, and 15mm at Paulpietersburg. Cattle farmers welcomed the rain, as

Rains, 14/12/72

they had been experiencing steady stock losses since the drought began more than a year ago.

Agriculture official Mike Walters said at the weekend the government had not ruled out allocating more money to drought relief next year, despite good prospects for a normal commercial farming season.

Although no money had been set aside, the situation would be closely watched and emergency finances allocated if required.

Areas of Venda and Gazankulu were also being monitored as the drought remained unbroken there, he said. "Normally the onset of seasonal rains is later and later as you progress northwards."

A Consultative Forum on Drought spokesman said many areas remained at

between 10% and 25% of their normal seasonal rainfall.

The back of the drought would be broken only if there was 100% normal seasonal rainfall in affected areas and surface storage facilities managed to capture substantial amounts of water.

While commercial farming areas like the Free State were enjoying 100% of expected seasonal rain, rural areas where high concentrations of people relied on few water resources were still suffering, the spokesman said.

What's worrying everyone at the moment is that there were good early rains last year, but they then petered out. This could also be the case this year."

From Page 1

\section*{From Page 1}
A people's policy for parks

Karin Frankena

...
Complete guide to green issues

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, edited by Richard Fuggle and Andre Rabie (Juta, R185)

GREEN awareness is holding an ever greater sway over the management of world affairs, and SA business has also increasingly had to consider the impact of its decisions on the environment. There is no more comprehensive a guide to addressing the issues involved than this 730-page tome, written by 52 authors from 15 different disciplines.

Public administrators, businessmen, lawyers and development personnel are among those who would find it an invaluable reference work.

So many developments in the environmental management sphere have taken place since the publication almost a decade ago of its forerunner Environmental Concerns in South Africa that a new book, rather than a revised second edition, was considered necessary.

International and SA legislation governing environmental management is one area of focus and a detailed examination is given to renewable and non-renewable resources, air and water pollution and environmental evaluation. The authors analyse the degree to which existing legal provisions meet SA requirements.

The section on non-renewable resources deals extensively with the environmental effects of mining, on- and off-shore. Other issues investigated are solid wastes, pesticides, radiation, noise and the effects of environmental mismanagement on human health.

The text is written clearly in a non-technical way, making it accessible to the layman.

The authors suggest that apart from population growth, environmental degradation is to a large extent due to the lack of human restraint in the use of resources.

LINDA ENSOR
Fires kill 2 children in Cape

Two adults and two children were burned to death and 30 families were left homeless after four fires in the Cape Peninsula and Boland.

A man died and 18 squatter huts were destroyed in a fire that swept through a squatter camp at Fairyland near Paarl. Many residents lost all their belongings.

Six families were left homeless after a fire destroyed their homes in Ocean View yesterday morning.

An elderly couple is being treated for shock after their two grandsons, aged four and five, were burned to death in a fire in a farmhouse in Stikland, Bellville.

In Khayelitsha a 26-year-old man was burned to death when a squatter's hut caught fire.
New salvoes in kaolin war

Environment Reporter
THE principle of allowing open-cut mining in residential areas of the Peninsula needs to be addressed before particulars involving Serina's plans to mine kaolin at Chapman's Peak, says the Wildlife Society.

In a comprehensive objection lodged with the Western Cape Regional Services Council - one of 1700 received by the RSC before last week's closing date - the society's conservation ecologist Mr Andrew Gubb said they were "strongly opposed" to any form of mining in the Peninsula.

"Discussions concerning rezoning applications to release further land for this type of activity, as well as discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of underground pipelines versus trucking of the kaolin ore, tend to divert discussion from the principle," he said.

The society acknowledged Serina's "considerable effort" to address community fears.

Despite mitigating measures to reduce the impact of kaolin mining, this activity remained "fundamentally incompatible" with the residential nature of the area, he argued.

The society had always acknowledged that the proposed mining sites at Chapman's Peak and Trentham were not in a pristine condition.

But it was well-documented that the rehabilitation of alien-infested areas was not difficult, Mr Gubb said.

The mining company's proposed construction of a pipeline to carry slurry from the new mine to the existing plant at Brakkekloof - as agreed between Serina and the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group - should not be considered before a comprehensive environmental impact assessment, Mr Gubb said.

Serina will be asked by the RSC to comment.
Fertiliser factory denies polluting air

Staff Reporter

MILNERTON, Bothasig and Table View residents say a fertiliser factory close to their homes is a major source of air pollution.

But managing director the Kynoch factory, Mr Clive Thorpe, refutes the claim.

He said the brown gas, which contained oxides of nitrogen, was discharged about 30m above ground. No particles fell to the ground because they were lighter than air and diffused quickly.

Mr Thorpe denied that the factory increased emissions at night.

"Lower air temperatures and higher humidity make it more difficult for emissions to diffuse at night. The longer-lasting clouds only create the impression of more night-time pollution."

Department of Health air pollution officer Mr Pieter Odendaal said Kynoch was regularly inspected by the department.
St Lucia project gets the nod from environmentalists

Plans for a luxury holiday resort on the banks of the St Lucia estuary in northern Natal have received approval from one of the organisations which has headed the fight to save the area from mining.

Advertised in a glossy pull-out in a Sunday newspaper, the developers say the resort will be built “in the heart of the (St Lucia) wetlands”.

Speaking from Durban yesterday, Campaign for St Lucia chairman Dr Nolly Zoloumis said he believed the site was inside St Lucia village and would not affect the conservation area.

The town’s management board has for some time been working closely with the Natal Parks Board.

The world-renowned St Lucia wetlands hit the headlines in 1989 when a proposed mining operation in the area raised a storm of protest.

The operation is now hanging on the outcome of an environmental impact assessment.

Commenting on the planned new resort, Zoloumis said people had to have access to the area, and it was best to confined building activities to within the precincts of St Lucia village.

Properly controlled ecotourism should be encouraged, he said. “Conservation is for people.” — Sapa.
Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council has cleaned up the polluted beach at Muizenberg and the Sea Fisheries Research Institute is analysing samples in an attempt to discover where the pollutant originated from.

Mr Anton Moldan, head of the pollution division of the institute, said yesterday he suspected that the pollutant was oil and may have come from the Kalina P tanker which sank off Maputo in April.

"It appears to be heavy fuel oil which is no longer toxic and is more of a nuisance than a threat to the environment," he said.

Mr Moldan said that the results of analysis would probably be known by tomorrow.

Council spokesman Mr Ted Deman said workers from the council's cleansing department had cleaned up the spill over 50 metres in front of the Muizenberg pavilion over the weekend.
Environmental group hails Berg action plan

DURBAN — Environmental group Bergwatch has hailed the proposed plan of action for the control of development in the Drakensberg as a "promising" sign.

Bergwatch said it was pleased at the announcement by Dr D S Rajah, MEC for Planning, Land Affairs and Development, but added: “We need to know exactly what is meant by development before we can be too enthusiastic”.

This week Dr Rajah said the Executive Committee had approved a plan for the control of development in the Drakensberg, including the establishment of a discussion forum of all interested groups.
Alarm over atomic-energy coastal land sale

The ABC referred to the Ranger Energy Corporation's proposal to develop a coastal site for a nuclear plant. The proposal, if accepted, would involve the construction of a large nuclear power plant. The site, located along the coast, is considered ideal for such development due to its proximity to the ocean and its natural resources.

The ABC highlighted the potential risks associated with the project, including the possibility of an accident leading to a catastrophic release of radiation. The Corporation argued that the site was carefully selected to minimize these risks, but the local community remains concerned about the potential impact on the environment and public health.

The approval process for the project is under way, and the local council is expected to make a decision soon. The community is calling for a thorough review of the proposal to ensure that all safety precautions are in place.


e
e
Historic Long Street an urban conservation area

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THE provincial executive committee has approved a city council application to declare Long Street between Strand Street and Buitensingel an urban conservation area.

Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring said the decision confirmed that the Provincial Administration was "serious about conserving our heritage".

In a 1983 report, the provincial chief town and regional planner said Long Street had a unique character, mainly because of the many old attractive Victorian and other buildings abutting the street.

"With their colonnaded verandas these old, picturesque buildings enhance the area of which a portion otherwise would have been struggling as a retail area, because of its remoteness from the central business district," he said.

Declaring the urban conservation area means property owners and developers will be bound to negotiate any changes to the buildings within strict limits.

The declaration does not take away or give any new rights to property owners.

Mr Meiring said: "I trust this approval will strengthen the hand of the city council to conserve the unique character of this special street and to use it as a further means to promote tourism."

BYGONE ERA: Cape Town's Long Street with its buildings decorated by "broekie lace" along the upper-floor balconies.
Sandman sweeps into Cape Beaches

BY SHADEY NASH

Despite a headwind in one coast线 and some have been
After storms tossed the Cape

OSSELLA'S, Montclair -

M W | 18/P-22 | 12/1

THE WEEKLY MAIL, December 18 to 22, 1999

pen to succeed in need the holiday run.
area every where and no sand in sight... Beaches were dashed after recent storms hit the Cape.

... because as...
Eyes on the environment in '93

LEADING companies such as Pick 'n Pay and Anglo American Property Services (Ampros) will continue to focus on the environment as they enter 1993, with the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce adopting the environment as its theme for the annual Design for Living exhibition.

"The current rapid rate of urbanisation is a major threat to South Africa's natural environment," warned Ampros Estates Developments director Peter Gardiner when he spoke in Cape Town on new living styles for the future. "Developers who are not seen to show concern for the environment will lose market share."

"As far back as 1970, I was summoned to a conservation conference in Natal to answer the charge that residential development, or the expansion of suburbs as we know it in this country, is the worst form of pollution known to man."

"It was an uncomfortable day which convinced me that we had an obligation to put something back as we provided the market with attractive lifestyle, both at work in our business parks and at home in our residential estates."

Mr Gardiner said developers had to heed the advantages of environmental planning to achieve

○ More attractive properties.
○ Preservation of the natural resources on each property.
○ An enhanced quality of lifestyle.
○ A higher return on investment.

He pointed out that Ampros Estates Developments provided for conservation areas in addition to extensively landscaped environments, security in the home or workplace and a range of community facilities.

These were managed by an association with an executive committee elected annually by the property owners.

"The cost to our new communities of maintaining this utopia is rationalised among householders, who pay a monthly levy to the home-owners association on each estate of between R100 and R150 a month," said Mr Gardiner.

Cape Town Chamber of Commerce exhibition manager Mike Bertram said choosing the right theme for Design for Living was "vital", as it gave a focus to the exhibition.

"After careful consideration of many suggestions, the environment was chosen as next year's theme."

"It was felt that the selection of this internationally topical and critically important subject would best serve as a centrepiece of the exhibition."

"The chamber will budget funds and earmark a lot of time to produce a special exhibit on the environment."

"Exhibitors will also be requested to highlight the theme on their individual stands," said Mr Bertram.

In a recent chamber bulletin, he quoted Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'n Pay, as saying: "Alert business people are using the environmental issue to give them a competitive edge and at the same time enabling them to give the consumer a better product."

Mr Bertram attributed the quote to a story on the business page of the Sunday Times Cape Metro on November 8.

Under the heading "Time to stop dithering about the environment", Mr Ackerman said energy-efficient products were rapidly gaining favour with the public, who would support companies showing care for the environment as part of their social responsibility programme.
PAC’s claims on violence in PWV area ‘ludicrous’

POLICE have described as “ludicrous” PAC’s claims that the activities of its armed group Apla are behind a decrease in violence in the PWV area.

The SAP has suggested that Apla might have been responsible for train attacks on the Reef.

Any decline in train and other violence could be attributed to increased police action and national peace committee initiatives, police said.

PAC West Rand regional chairman Ntundeni Madzunya said on Friday that his organisation had noted a sharp decline in political violence since Apla attacked whites at King William’s Town and Queenstown. This was in contrast to “international scarecrow” suggestions that the attacks would increase violence.

The general decrease in political violence, train attacks and attacks in which more than six people died indicated that Apla’s threat of retaliation for every black killed had “borne fruit”, Madzunya said.

The decline in the wake of the Apla attacks in the eastern Cape and subsequent threats proved that a “mercenary” element under the state’s control was primarily responsible for violence in the PWV area.

“It is common cause in international relations that the threat of military action by those who have a demonstrable capacity to retaliate always serves as a preventative measure in the conduct of aggression by opposing forces,” Madzunya said.

The response of ordinary citizens, who were joining the PAC in large numbers, showed there was a perception “on the ground” that Apla was responsible for stemming violence.

The PAC had declared its strongest assembly year but believed “the bullet cannot be abandoned until the bullet has been secured”.

The PAC and Apla would refuse to co-operate with the Goldstone commission’s probe of Apla’s activities.

In response to growing international criticism of the PAC, Madzunya said the organisation’s policy had always been “to accommodate the wishes of the oppressed” and to shape its own destiny.

The PAC still owed allegiance to the OAU, which had recently criticised the organisation for not distancing itself from Apla’s attacks.

Justice slams Comsa allegations

THE Justice Department has denied allegations that SA’s criminal justice system had broken down and lost the confidence of the majority of the people.

The allegations, made by the Commonwealth Observer Group to SA (Comsa), also said that SA courts were not interested in the protection of human life.

The Department described the findings as a generalised, ill-informed and superficial evaluation of the country’s criminal justice system.

“SA is justifiably proud of its legal system, which ranks amongst the foremost in the world,” it said.

“The SA legal system is continuously involved in a process of dynamic change and the Minister of Justice and Department of Justice have not and will not hesitate to take the lead in this regard.”

An invitation was issued to Comsa to meet officials and present any proposals which could help improve the administration of justice. — Sapa.

Trees go to retain view

THE Forestry Department has been forced to remove hundreds of pine trees it had planted along the scenic Long Tom pass and to halt afforestation that would have affected tourism and ecology in the Lowveld.

Seedlings planted over an area of 55ha, with a commercial potential of R500 000, were removed after local residents and the Wildlife Society lodged objections.

More than 2000 residents of the Lydenburg/Sabi district petitioned the department to remove the trees, which they said would obscure the panoramic view for which the pass was famous.

Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Andrew Duthie said the department had undertaken to remove up to 20% of the young trees planted along the pass that links the Highveld to the Lowveld.

The trees would have obscured “the entire to the Lowveld”, as well as threaten natural vegetation in the area, Duthie said.

Seasonal flowers that bloomed spectacularly would have disappeared as they could not compete with the trees.

Department spokesman Bosman Olivier admitted that the planting was a “mistake” and that a new policy of environmental assessment had been drawn up.

Planting would continue in the area, but in such a way as not to obscure the view. Trees would be planted only behind hillocks along the road and along the natural contour lines of the pass, instead of in uniform rows.

The cost of uprooting the trees, estimated at R20 000, came off the department’s trading budget and not from government, he said.
Drought far from broken, says forum

THE drought gripping parts of northern Transvaal, Natal and Transkei is "far from broken", says a multiparty consultative forum in its latest report.

The Consultative Forum on Drought, which consists of 70 organisations including government and development agencies, also says good rains in other parts of the country could easily give way to dry conditions in the new year.

"It is worth remembering that last season's rainfall pattern was one of good rains at the beginning of the season, followed by their failure in January, February and March," says the forum.

It says the agricultural sector of the economy has suffered a serious setback from which it will take some time to recover, even with good rains.

The situation continues to deteriorate in northern Transvaal, with most of the region receiving 50% or less of its expected seasonal rainfall. As a result, emergency water supply operations will have to be stepped up in the region.

The situation remains particularly bad in Venda with the Vondo Dam, which supplies the homeland's capital Thohoyandou, less than 5% full.

"Rural villages outside the Vondo network desperately need 50 boreholes. The five drilling rigs of the Agricultural Development Department are working overtime," says the forum.

While good rains have fallen in parts of northern and central Natal, the situation remains serious in many areas of the province.

Wits University Climatology Research Unit member Colleen Vogel says droughts are "endemic to SA" and need to be managed.

"Drought management ... is dogged by bureaucratic inertia, failure of government to follow through with a detailed hazard plan and a complex situation that prevails in rural areas, where hazard/disaster situations are permeated by problems that often have their roots in poverty," she says.

A lack of reliable data also hinders drought relief intervention and manage-ment. It is difficult to trace population movements, and information on the sequestration of farmers is hard to come by.

At the same time more than 50 000 people in SA are living below flood lines, says Pretoria University's Prof W Alexander.

These people had settled in homes below the high-water marks of previous floods during the prolonged drought of recent years. Alexander says in a report on drought relief measures.

"Should severe, widespread flooding occur, there will inevitably be a loss of life — possibly several hundred persons during a single major flood.

"The consensus among climatologists is average to above-average rainfall can be expected during the coming season," he says in the forum's December Drought Update.

"There is some indication of global climatic disturbances and climate patterns that could lead to severe flooding in SA within the next one or two years," he says.

Unlike many countries, SA does not have national or local flood warning systems which are essential to give those living below the flood line adequate time to evacuate their areas.

"The most effective means for reducing the risk of loss of life during floods is to prevent residential occupation of flood prone areas," he says.

Flood warning systems linking local authorities to local communities and river watch systems for isolated communities have been developed at Pretoria University.

A computer-based flood advisory Service would collect, process and transfer weather forecasts and warnings of heavy rain to registered users across SA who had access to telephones and desktop computers, he says.

A river watch system had also been developed.

Manuals on flood preparedness were being prepared by the university to outline procedures to prevent loss of life in flood-prone areas.
Flood warning for dam properties

Property developments on the edge of Hartbeespoort dam may be below the high-water flood line, the Water Affairs Department warned in a statement yesterday. Original landowners had been compensated for the servitude area, and new owners would have difficulty in pressing damage claims.

The department said that prospective buyers on the waterfront should make sure their property was not below the flood line, as they would have little chance of compensation should water damage occur. Residential units were being built on former agriculture land, which was almost worthless as it was situated in the servitude area — the area used to store water temporarily during floods.

The department would also not allow any sewerage purification works below the flood line, and if systems were installed, action would be taken against owners in terms of the Water Act. The department added that exclusive use of a section of the water's surface, which some property developers were advertising, did not exist.
ENVIRONMENT — 1993

JANUARY — MARCH.
Mountain plan soon

Environment Reporter (E) AUG 10 1993

A PRELIMINARY report on proposed policy guidelines for managing the Cape Peninsula’s mountain chain should be ready by May, the University of Cape Town’s environmental evaluation unit (EEU) has announced.

UCP was appointed by the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee to prepare policy guidelines, and the EEU is administering the project.

Co-ordinator Ms Sue Lane said accountability and public involvement were “fundamental principles” underpinning the investigation, and the views of interested parties were being canvassed.
Susan Watts reports on a dispute over encouraging herbicide-resistant crops.
Hardships threatened by Global Wetterhoffer

Ray Hartley
Nuke ‘rethink’ in future SA

JOHANNESBURG.
South Africa's commitment to nuclear and military research would need an urgent rethink when a democratic government came to power, says a policy report issued yesterday.

The report, drawn up by a Canadian-based research centre, was initiated by the ANC, Cosatu and other groups.

It says SA's atomic energy budget is seen "among the democratic movement as part of the military industrial complex" and in many parts of government as "a huge drain". — Sapa
Rhino horn deals: South Africans held

HARARE. — Two South Africans, an agent of Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) and a police officer are among a group of 13 people arrested in Bulawayo on allegations of dealing in rhino horn.

The South Africans, Mr Asher Zeev Fisher, 42, and Mr Brian Leslie Priest, 48, have been released on R500 bail, with orders to surrender their travel documents and report daily to Bulawayo police.
Public land probe agrees on control of mountain chain

JOHN YEOLD, Environment Reporter

PROGRESS has been made by a working group investigating the rationalised control of public land in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE).

Representatives of the nine government and quasi-government departments involved in managing the public parts of the PNE, which include most of the Peninsula's mountain chain, today announced consensus on a plan that could see future control vested in just two authorities.

The plan could make the Cape Town City Council responsible for Table Mountain and the mountain chain as far as Fish Hoek, and the Western Cape Regional Services Council for the remaining natural area in the southern Peninsula.

If this speculation is correct, major changes will include:

- The Department of Public Works giving up control of the Groote Schuur estate above De Waal Drive.
- The SADF forfeiting land on the summit of Karbonkelberg at Hout Bay, on the Twelve Apostles above Llandudno, and above Glencairn.
- The Cape Town City Council swapping pine plantations at Steenbras and Wemmershoek dams for the Cecilia state forest.
- The National Botanical Institute relinquishing control of Table Mountain along the Smuts Track from the top of Skeleton Gorge above Kirstenbosch to Maclear's Beacon.

The working group, chaired by Cape Attorney-General Mr Frank Kahn, SC, was appointed last year by Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring, who said the fragmented control and ownership of the mountains warranted an inquiry.

Mr Kahn announced today that consensus had been achieved after meetings on December 9 and on Wednesday, when all the authorities controlling public land in the PNE had been asked to justify their presence.

The authorities involved were the Cape Town City Council, the Western Cape RSC, the municipalities of Fish Hoek and Simon's Town, the National Botanical Institute and the departments of Water Affairs and Forestry, Defence, and Public Works and Land Affairs.

Mr Kahn said submissions had been debated, after which consensus had been achieved on a potential model for rationalising control of public land within the PNE.

"The model is based on the concept of consolidating the conserved areas in the northern and southern parts of the Peninsula as separate entities for management by the most appropriate authority."

Mr Kahn declined to give details at this stage, saying some of the participants had to report back to their principals.

"In the interim a sub-group has been formed to begin investigating the more detailed implications of the rationalisation proposals — such as the use of infrastructure, the allocation of equipment and the deployment of personnel."
SA must guard against oil tanker pollution hazard

Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA would have to exercise strict control to avoid the possibility of a major oil spill from ageing tankers rounding the Cape.

Replying to a debate on the Marine Traffic Amendment Bill, the Minister of Transport, Dr Piet Welgemeed, quoted a report in which Lloyd's of London stated that 68 percent of the international tanker fleet was older than 10 years.

"We are going to have problems with pollution in the near future if the oil tanker fleet is not modernised."

The Bill prohibits marine traffic from approaching within 500m of offshore installations, such as the Mossgas drilling platform off Mossel Bay. Mariners who contravene the prohibition could be fined or imprisoned.

Dr Welgemeed said the Department of Transport, the police water wing and the Navy would jointly enforce the legislation.

Offshore installations would also monitor offenders on their own radar systems.

The 500m exclusion zone conformed to international conventions, he said, but Mr Willie Botha (CP Uitenhage) said the 500 m was inadequate and should be doubled.

The Bill was supported by all parties. — Sapa.
Hout Bay wins delay over dune houses

JOHN YIELD
Environment Reporter

BANKORP Properties’ application to develop more than 300 houses on sand-dunes in Hout Bay in return for a nature reserve at Sandy Bay will be withdrawn for at least six months.

This was announced to applause by the deputy chief executive of the Absa banking group, Mike de Blanche, at an emotionally charged meeting in Hout Bay last night attended by about 300.

The group’s rezoning application to develop the Hout Bay section of its 270-hectare property, which includes most of Sandy Bay and the northern slopes of the Karbonkelberg, has already been advertised.

The closing date for objections is March 19 — an extension of two weeks beyond the statutory minimum.

Mr De Blanche’s surprise announcement was made mid-way through the meeting after Absa had been accused of trying to “railroad” its proposal through the legal process.

Asked why Absa had refused to accept a six-month moratorium on its application — suggested at a meeting called by the South Peninsula Environmental Forum a fortnight ago — Mr De Blanche took the audience by surprise when he responded: “Yes, I’m agreeing to that, to indicate our anxiety to resolve this question.

“We will withdraw the application for six months.”

LONE VOICE: Veteran Sandy Bay activist Ms Lisa Kruger-Liptrot, the only person in a lively audience of 300 to support Absa’s plans, to develop the Hout Bay dunes, waits to speak at last night’s meeting.

Mr De Blanche said after the meeting he would “put that in motion” as soon as he returned to Johannesburg.

Tony Barbour of Earthlife Africa said Bankorp had bought the property knowing it had no development rights.

“They’re offering to trade-off development rights they never had,” he said.

Mr De Blanche said Bankorp had “inherited” the property.

Former ratepayers’ association chairman Dave de Pretas said Trust Bank – Bankorp’s former holding company – had taken a chance and backed a failed developer.

“Why does the public of Hout Bay have to bail out a bad investment on the part of Trust Bank?” he asked.
Controversial resort not yet approved

By Shirley Woodgate

A controversial nature resort which is being planned below a vulture breeding colony in the Magaliesberg protected nature area has not yet received the official go-ahead, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

Entering the row between conservationists and the owners of the farm Leopard Lodge, the TPA this week claimed only a conditional permit was granted after an application by Monex Development Company.

"Various absolute conditions will have to be met before development can begin."

The developer had no rights unless the Chief Director of Nature and Environmental Conservation recommended that the Executive Committee of the Transvaal support the application.

"At this stage negotiations are still under way between the applicant and the TPA."

"A final application confirming the conditions has not been received from the applicant, nor has such an application been approved by the TPA."
River Day —
March 5, 1993

RIVER DAY 1993 will be celebrated on March 5, and forms part of National Water Week (March 1 - 5).

The River Day committee's mission is to create a broad awareness of the plight of the Cape's rivers and freshwater resources, and to encourage people to actively conserve their local waterways.

Numerous activities and events are planned for Water Week, including educational programmes, river clean-ups and a mural painting competition.

The main focus will be an exciting programme on River Day for school children at the Waterfront.

For further details on River Day, telephone: Di Wilson at 701-1397, Janice Barret at 438-4082 or Joanne Harrison at 24-3330.
Consensus on Land Plan
Residents pay for water leaks: expert

Local authorities in certain cities and towns made no effort to preserve water, Water Research Commission research manager Mr Charles Chapman said this week.

The wastage, argued Chapman, came about as a result of their failure to reduce leaks in the distribution systems.

He said cases had been reported where up to 50 percent of purified water bought by local authorities did not reach users. To recoup their losses, local authorities normally increased the tariffs, Chapman said.

"Since local authorities pay for all water purchased by them — including the water which goes to waste in the distribution network — they normally recoup their losses by increasing their water tariffs," he said.

To combat this, the WRC, in conjunction with the South African Bureau of Standards and the City Council of Pretoria, has embarked on a project to help authorities improve the management of water.
THE old South African mentality will never die. Last weekend a large contingent of environmentalists, journalists and other interested parties converged on Si Lucia in northern Natal for a congress. Most of these people had one thing in mind — to halt the proposed mining by Richards Bay Minerals of the dunes on the eastern shores of the lake.

But the people who gathered there had the same mentality that has driven this country to ruin. There we were, all the elitists, debating and discussing the future of this area. The local people were not there.

When black people who were there asked why local people were not attending, there was a vague reply that the “indigenous” people were informed but, it seemed, they did not want to attend.

That is the whole problem. The majority in this country are never consulted but are informed.

Another excuse was that the mining company has allegedly “bought off” the chiefs to agree to the mining. Maybe, maybe not. But if the anti-mining lobby was really interested in getting the people involved, they would have consulted the people — instead of informing them.

While the anti-mining lobby has not got the money and the resources available to RBM, the oversight snacks of arrogance. If the people there come out for mining and against eco-tourism, which is being touted as an alternative, it would not be surprising.

Maybe eco-tourism is an alternative but the anti-mining lobby has not been very convincing in this regard either. From the air, the lake looks absolutely splendid.

The group of hippos can be clearly seen. There are also buffaloes, zebra and other animals. The natural forests covering most of the area around the lake lift your spirit as you soar above them in the tiny plane.

Then, suddenly, the natural pattern is rudely broken by a big scar caused by dredge mining. The muddy waters in the area being mined makes you think of a gaping wound.

This is the emotional and spiritual impression of the area. But the question the anti-mining lobbyists are not answering is how soon would eco-tourism provide for the local people as opposed to mining?

It is easy for elitists to make decisions — but until people on the ground can decide as well, even the best intentions will not work.
'Itchy' needles hurt bathers at Hout Bay

Staff Reporter

AN itchy substance like tiny fibreglass hairs has been washed up again on Hout Bay beach.

Newlands businessman Mr Jürgen Schirmacher said yesterday his fiancée, Ms Helena Burger, had cut her foot on the substance.

"It is much worse than it used to be," Mr Schirmacher said. "Kids were crying, several families were packing up and leaving, and people were limping around. Many were not aware that the beach was contaminated," he said.

He thought it was an asbestos-type substance that had been dumped into the sea. A lot of it was to be found at the high-water mark.

Mr Bruce Hallam said at first he had thought the substance was coming off his paddle-ski, but then saw there was too much of it.

His companions, Ms Vanessa Sutcliffe and Ms Lynda Gibson, said it was "just like fibreglass".

Another beachgoer, Mr Anthony Butler, said the phenomenon had been around since at least 1980.

NSRI volunteer Mr Fred Nebe said his father, a boat-builder, had once been accused of being responsible for the substance. Yet it had turned out that the fibreglass "needles" came from a type of plant.
Interpellations Under Name of Member
Task Group up in arms over move to cast Driftsands adrift
Water Crisis

1993 1 - 7 March

NATIONAL WATER WEEK

EDITORIAL SPONSORED BY: WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS

National Water Week
Billions needed to keep water flowing in SA
Natal river raises a stink

DURBAN. — Faecal bacteria levels in the Umshwathi River here have risen by up to nearly six times the accepted European standard for bathing following rain in the area since Sunday.
Wilderness water probe to include reed study

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

AN INTENSIVE investigation of water quality in the Wilderness lakes area is under way and will include an assessment of the extent to which reeds block the system.

Some residents have been upset by the National Parks Board's recent decision to cut reeds on the southern bank of the river, following representations by property owners — including former state president Mr P W Botha.

But the board says the decision is in line with the zoning, which demarcates the lower Touws River for recreation.

Mr Nick Geldenhuys, general manager (conservation) of the National Parks Board's southern parks, said a standing committee of parks board officials, the town council and ratepayers met three times a year to discuss "matters of mutual concern".

"We cannot manage any system without the input of local people," said Mr Geldenhuys.

"There was a request from landowners at the bottom of the Touws River to deal with the problem of reed growth. We held an on-site meeting in October or November where we decided to cut down the reeds on the southern shore in an ecologically sound manner."

This meant cutting them by hand and removing cut material over about half a kilometre.

The lower Touws River section of the lake area was zoned for recreation, Mr Geldenhuys pointed out.

"The core area of the lakes system is Langvlei and Rondevlei, where we don't allow any boats and where only birdwatching is permitted."

"The extreme western part is an intensive recreational area and the reeds have been growing prolifically there in recent years."

Mr Hugh White, chairman of the Wilderness branch of the Outeniqualand Trust, said he was not aware of any debate about the removal of the reeds.

An investigation into the entire drainage system of the Wilderness area was under way.

The trust was extremely concerned that the lake would become a sealed unit and deteriorate, ecologically and was working with Water Affairs officials and a specialist consultant to consider various options to keep it open.
Conservation agencies face an uncertain time

Gavin du Venage

CONSERVATION agencies are worried about their future in new regional structures that may be put in place by a future government, the Wildlife Society says in its latest newsletter, African Wildlife.

The society criticised government for the lack of any clear direction on conservation in discussion documents on regionalism released last year, and for failing to provide any outline for state responsibility.

Society president Naas Steenkamp and executive director Tony Ferrar said uncertainty over their future under a new political dispensation had led to a “quiet but vigorous struggle for status and survival” between agencies.

In the article, they said conservation bodies feared losing control over their “real estate” which could lead to “highly destructive” competition if the situation was not clarified.

Agencies were also worried about management changes as new regional structures were put in place.

It was this uncertainty that was the cause of the friction between groups, the article said.

The society said while some form of federalism seemed a certainty in the future, the position of wildlife protection under this form of government was not known.

The society would therefore insist on solid safeguards that would benefit both regional and national interests.

It wanted environmental protection and management to be a central government function; protected areas should be given constitutionally entrenched protection; and provision should be made for the delegation of management functions to regional or local level where appropriate.
R330m for St Lucia firm

DURBAN. — The Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) company, which is developing the controversial lake St Lucia area in Natal, has admitted receiving at least R300 million worth of export incentives in the past 10 years — but has denied it was singled out for preferential treatment by the Government.

Commenting on information supplied to Parliament last week, RBM also acknowledged that the incentives — which were discontinued last year — were a factor in ensuring the company's competitiveness.

However, managing director Mr Roy MacPherson said in a statement that as far as RBM was aware, it was subject to higher levels of corporate tax than any of its international competitors in Australia, North America, Asia or Africa.
Rain figures still low

MARIANNE MONTEN

DAM levels and monthly rainfall figures are still below average despite the recent rains, according to Rand Water Board figures.

The board was concerned that not enough rain would fall in March and April to alleviate this situation, Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said.

Average February rainfall to date is 71.1mm, well below the long-term average of 102.5mm but more than last year's 67.5mm.

Total dam water reserves were 47.4%, compared to last year's 68.6%.

Although Sterksfontein Dam was 87.2% full and would service Witwatersrand water requirements over the next two years, the Rand Water Board was concerned that the Vaal Dam, at 18.4% capacity, was not filling up.

If insufficient rains fell in the next few months, the board would consider measures such as restrictions, said Bath.
THE Rand Water Board, which will require about R2bn from the capital market over the next five years, was unlikely to go for a straight market-making operation to boost bond turnover, GM finance Alan Rorke said yesterday.

Capital market players had believed the water authority was set to become a key player, with its bonds being actively traded after the appointment of market-makers.

Market-makers increase turnover of the bonds because investors are guaranteed someone will be available at all times to buy and sell bonds. The increased activity also makes it easier to borrow money and reduces an issuer’s borrowing costs.

The water board owes the capital market about R1.02bn but will require a further R2bn over the next five years to finance capital expenditure.

Rorke said the board’s capex programme would be to fund infrastructure to increase its capacity. This was necessary every seven years because of increasing demand in the PWV area. Water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme would become available from 1996.

While the board had not discarded the idea of appointing a market maker, it was investigating options to make its stock more attractive to investors. A decision would be made by mid-year.

Various options were under discussion. The board needed to implement a system which would be attractive to institutions.

The board was too small to run a market-making operation in-house, so if a single merchant bank was appointed to make a market in the board’s stocks, it would be tied to that particular bank.

The board’s need for funding was not that great, Rorke said.

He disclosed that the board would probably not raise finance from the capital market in the current year. The board’s redemption profile was such that it would not need to roll over any loans until 2006.
Closer look at the ozone layer

In an effort to discover more about the ozone layer, five ultra-long-range jetliners are to be equipped with instruments to measure ozone and water vapour concentrations during scheduled flights. The initiative was aimed at a better understanding of the “greenhouse effect” in the atmosphere, Airbus Industry said in a statement yesterday.

The trials, coordinated by the French national scientific research centre, will be the first to measure ozone and water vapour accurately at airliner cruising altitudes on such a widespread scale.

It is hoped the results will help clarify the debate about what is actually happening to the ozone layer and its effect on the world’s climate.

The flights of the specially equipped aircraft will begin in the second half of the year, covering a wide range of routes, and continue at least until the end of 1994 to cope with seasonal variations. — Sapa.
Financier offers to save vultures

A SINGAPORE-based financier has offered to save the Magaliesberg vultures by buying the neighbouring land which has been earmarked for development.

SA-born businessman Richard Bluet, said he was "99%" sure the Magaliesberg farm would be his by June, and emphasised he was opposed to any form of development on the land.

"The vulture colony has become the focus of heated debate between conservationists and the company proposing to develop the land, Monex Development Corporation, with the conservationists saying the inevitable disturbances will upset the vultures' breeding habits."

Bluet said he hoped to boost conservation by setting up an environmental education centre in a disused church on the neighbouring property, as well as to dismantle the overhead powerlines — a danger to the birds.

He said there were "billions" of rands in Singapore and Dubai waiting to be invested in SA. Through tourism, he believed conservation would be one of the main beneficiaries.

"But conservationists and Monex representatives held a highly-charged meeting yesterday to draw the battle lines in case the sale did not go through."
Investigation urged into pesticide use

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter
THE Department of Agriculture has “excessive” powers to use poisons and pest control should be investigated, says Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer.

His call coincides with an outcry over the poisoning of birds of prey in the Dwaalboom area, near Thabazimbi in the Transvaal, after the department sprayed red-billed quelea finches.

Writing in the environmental newsletter Eagle Bulletin, Mr Lorimer said there was fresh evidence of deaths of cattle in sprayed areas.

Tests on dead cattle in Potchefstroom had revealed phentho and dieldrin in carcasses.

“The use of dieldrin was banned in South Africa in 1983 and the source of this dieldrin ... is unknown,” said Mr Lorimer.

“Phentho is used extensively by the department.

“The fact that all deaths were in areas where spraying had taken place seems to indicate the necessity for detailed investigation. “I believe the powers vested in the department are excessive and the Act should be amended.

“There are alternative methods of dealing with agricultural pests which are not as dangerous as spraying poisons.”

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk has ordered a moratorium on further quelea spraying, pending a report by an ornithologist.
Absa appoints new blood to top ranks

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - Absa had appointed eight top foreign bankers to inject fresh blood into the company, Absa finance group executive Alwyn Noerth confirmed at the weekend.

Four of the eight were named as Absa international banking GM Bruce MacLlwaine, senior credit consultant Adediji Aganga-Williams, financial risk management training senior consultant Ian Mitchell and project finance and special projects group consultant Jay Runewitsch.
PW at centre of a rumpus over cutting of reeds

By DIANA STREAK

FORMER state president P W Botha, accused last week of slapping his gardener, is embroiled in a row over a National Parks Board decision to cut down nearly a kilometre of reeds along the banks of the Touw River in the Wilderness following complaints by a handful of riverside residents, including Mr Botha.

Last week a former gardener of Mr Botha, Mr Jan Louw, alleged he had been slapped across the face four times and fired.

Police in George confirmed they were investigating a charge of common assault against Mr Botha following a complaint by Mr Louw. A second charge of assault had also been laid against Mr Botha's bodyguard, Major Fanie Botes.

The district CID officer at George, Colonel Boet Claassen, said a report would be forwarded to the Attorney-General this week for a decision.

The latest row involving Mr Botha began two weeks ago when parks board workers began cutting down the reeds, a move that incensed environmentalists and divided the community.

The reed beds are in front of several houses — including Mr Botha's — along the river which is part of a national park.

"It is definitely because of P W," said local conservationist Gernot Derby-Lewis. "The two houses adjoining his are owned by absentee landlords."

Mr Botha refused to comment and referred all inquiries to Dr Robbie Robinson, parks board chief executive director, who was not available.

Conservationists believe that if the reeds, an important habitat for birds, are destroyed, this will reduce the diversity of birdlife and interrupt the food chain.

Council chairman Professor Wynand Mouton said the council had spoken to the parks board because it had received complaints.

Paul Sieben, warden of the Wilderness National Park, said homeowners on the river had complained that the "reeds were encroaching on their properties and their visual contact with the river was lost."

"Mr Botha, along with others, complained."

If the cutting of reeds was "ecologically controlled", it should not be a problem, Mr Sieben said.

He found the measure difficult to justify, but was following orders.

The general manager of Southern Parks, Mr Nick Geldenhuys, said although the reed area fell within the national park, the river was zoned for recreational activities.

Professor Mouton said the community was divided over the issue and that it was unfortunate there were houses on the river.

Mr Botha had apparently tried to interfere in a parks board management plan, which included the occasional opening of the Touw River mouth, because his garden had been flooded.

"He said: our management plan didn't work and he would like to see alterations," said Mr Sieben.
The Conservative Party has slammed the government for declining to reveal whether Richards Bay Minerals enjoyed lower tariffs or rebates on loan funding from, among others, the Industrial Development Corporation.

CP MP for Victoria West Mr Joseph Chiole said taxpayers had a right to the information. Richards Bay Minerals is the company that will undertake the controversial mining of Lake St Lucia's eastern shores if it is given the go-ahead by the government.
ST LUCIA — Vast flocks of pelicans float like clouds on the waters of Africa's biggest estuary, scooping up fish with their bulbous bills. A hippo ambles out of the shallows under a full moon, heading for a night's grazing along the shores of St Lucia estuary.

But if a major mining company has its way, the pelicans will be joined by giant dredgers and the hippos by bulldozers in a project to harvest the estuary's heavy minerals.

The "green" movement is outraged at the mining plan by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM). Environmentalists say it would destroy the character of one of the country's most spectacular wilderness areas and have an unpredictable impact on the ecology.

RBM rejects the charge, saying only a limited area will be targeted, and that the area will be rehabilitated afterwards. The project, it says, will bring in $1 billion in foreign exchange.

THE fight hots up to save Africa's biggest estuarine wetlands from the dredgers, writes ANTON FERREIRA.

"All things considered, the 'anti' lobby would sacrifice these massive benefits to the people of South Africa on the altar of white elitist spiritual yearning for a wilderness experience," said RBM spokesman Barry Clements.

"This talk about saving St Lucia by preventing the mining is one of the biggest hoaxes in the annals of South African conservation," he said.

Among groups fighting the dredging plan is the Natal Parks Board (NPB). It wants to incorporate the area in a wetlands nature reserve.

"It is the largest estuarine system in Africa, and is considered absolutely unique in the southern hemisphere," said NPB ecologist Roger Porter.

"It supports the largest populations of hippo and crocodile in southern Africa, and is crucial for migratory bird and marine species—tens of thousands of water birds use it."

The estuary, recognised as a wetland of international importance, stretches about 50 km from north to south.

"The dunes which RBM plans to mine cover 1 400 ha between the estuary and the ocean."

"It would be mined by bulldozing the dunes, mixing the sand with fresh water in an artificial pond, then sucking up the resulting slurry with a dredger and separating the minerals—limestone, zircon and rutile. The minerals are used in applications from paint to cosmetics to nuclear reactor control rods."

RBM, half-owned by Britain's Rio Tinto Zinc, says the foreign exchange earned from the deposits at St Lucia would secure up to 25 000 jobs in the country every year. The company has said that once its dredgers were finished, bulldozers would re-form the dunes to their original contours.

But the "greens" say the area has greater economic potential as a tourist destination. They argue that RBM will never be able to recreate its complex ecosystem. "They will be importing nutrient-laden river water into a nutrient-poor system for the dredging operation," Porter said.

"The soil mixed with this water will be in a totally changed state, and species evolution will be locked into a completely different pathway."

Independent scientists have carried out an environmental impact assessment into the mining plan, and their report is expected in mid-March.

But the anti-mining lobby, which has organised a major petition drive, believes RBM should be stopped regardless of the outcome of the study.

"You've got to look at the morality," said veteran conservationist Ian Player, who played a key role in saving South Africa's rhino from extinction.

"Morality must say that there's so little wilderness left, that there can only be one answer—you've got to turn it into a park." — Sapa-Reuters.
Second phase of the St Lucia mining debate

Michael Acott

Gren 19/12
The controversial scheme to dam the Lower Palmiet River and develop the Kogelberg State Forest was rejected by the statutory Council for the Environment, which advises the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar.

In its report tabled in Parliament yesterday, it called for areas such as the Groot Drakenstein and Franschoek Valleys to be declared national monuments.

The damming was promoted by the Department of Water Affairs as a way of bolstering Cape Town's failing water reserves.

But the plan evoked strong reaction from environmentalists who argued that the river and forest were unique and that some fynbos species grew only there.
nuclear plants possible

Two more nuclear power stations may be built near Kiel in the West Coast of the country. The site for the first stock of the nuclear is near the diamond mining town of Kielbasa. The second site is about 50 miles away.

More officials from the tourism and copper mining council in Springbok met yesterday to discuss the plans for the first nuclear power station. The site is expected to be completed in the next 10 years.
Making a mint while saving planet Earth

Conserving the environment and making money long seemed to be mutually exclusive. But the new growth industry, ecotourism, combines "green" ideas and cash generation, reports EDDIE KOCH

where the demand for ecotourism is strongest. These half a million overseas visitors earn the country Rs 3 billion a year. If these numbers were to double, South Africa would then earn more from tourism than it does from the country's traditional backbone, gold. This should not lead to complacency because figures show that nine out of every ten foreign visitors come here to experience wildlife and nature. South Africa's game reserves — especially the Kruger and Kruger National Park — were rated at the conference for being among the best managed in the world. Moreover, green tourism can also use the planet's most endangered species — elephant and white rhino — in the wild, and these abound in South Africa.

These are signs that the government has grasped the strategic potential for ecotourism to provide the economic fuel for political reform. "Tourism can be a major catalyst to kick-start the economy, thus providing the much needed economic growth. Government therefore intends to promote tourism development in all its aspects and to commit itself to supporting the industry in such a way that the economy and the country as a whole will benefit," says a White Paper on tourism published last year.

This month Administration and Tourism Minister O. Marais announced he intended to double the amount of funds available for conservation and safari lodges in a bid to make South Africa the world's "ecotourism destination number one."

But despite the Rockefellers' Foundation's conference noted that in many parts of the world, the industry had failed to deliver its promised growth.

The biggest problem with ecotourism is the weight of numbers which, in itself, is an invasive force. The Government of Ecuador, for example, set a limit of 12,000 visitors a year to its Galapagos Islands. Economic experience forced this figure up to 47,000 last year and there is now evidence that the impact of foreign visitors is putting the regional ecology under severe stress.

The Himalayas, which provide Nepal with its largest source of revenue, is fast becoming the world's highest garbage dump as tourists cut trees for camp fires and leave behind their timetables and maps.
**Come to the zoo and see the National Symphony Orchestra play for peanuts.**

**Permaculture**

**New System**

Unemployed people are taught and helped to feed themselves:

A useful and sensible way of saving.

The system developed by Australian Bill Mollison over 20 years ago, aims to help individuals feed themselves in a way that is both inspiring and environmentally responsible.

It can be applied by anyone, anywhere. It is simple and does not need one to be an agricultural expert, nor does it require vast tracts of land to be cultivated. From the small backyard garden with ordinary soil of private homes to garden patches on rooftops and on flat balconies - it works everywhere.

Permaculture was introduced to South Africa in 1991 by a group of 50 people, including farmers and community workers, were trained in permaculture. Six months later the Permaculture Association of South Africa was formed.

"Agriculture and industry have employed ordinary people by keeping them from providing in their own backyards, especially food," says Pasa co-ordinator Mr Jeremy Buxman.

"People now depend on money to feed themselves. But industry can create more jobs, which means that more people can be employed," says Buxman.

"The only sustainable, long-term answer, therefore, is to allow people to produce a significant proportion of their food," he explains.

"Permaculture is more enduring because it uses nature's way of cultivating, mixing agriculture, forest and urban elements in one place - vegetables, fruit, trees and animals. For instance, in my garden patch, which is on my balcony, I grow tomatoes, beans, stone fruit and even a sunflower.

"Permaculture does not use fertilisers, pesticides and other chemicals that are ultimately destructive to the soil," says Buxman.

Pasa is putting together projects in various areas. The Thokoza Centre near Pretoria functions as a permacultural farm as well as a school. Another farm is based in Warmbad.

In Pretoria a project was started in 1991 under the Hibiscus Development Project. All the projects are interspersing farms with a variety of vegetables and fruit. Several courses, including soil management, water harvesting, producing and developing seedlings, designing garden and environmental awareness, are taught.

A national cultural organisation, the Ndebele Cultural Association, has also shown interest in permaculture. At the moment the organisation is involved in helping in member supervision and plants cultivation and has asked for help from people already involved in permaculture.
Military use of De Hoop noted

Political Staff

ABOUT 18 000 hectares of the De Hoop Nature Reserve was set aside for military use but only portions had been used for this purpose. Defence Minister Mr. Gert Louw said yesterday.

He said the 18 000ha bloc had been a privately-owned rural area before being expropriated for about R100m.

Responding to a parliamentary question by Mr Jasper Walsh (DP, Pinelands), Mr Louw said: “Only after expropriation were the properties added to the De Hoop Nature Reserve.”

He said the reserve would be used for arms testing in a manner compatible with environmental conservation.
DURBAN — The Government must decide this year whether to allow mining on Lake St Lucia, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said yesterday during a press tour of the area he co-hosted with Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Plenaar.

Asked whether the decision might be postponed for a future government, Bartlett said that, in terms of the Minerals Act, the decision had be made after the review panel submitted its recommendations to the Cabinet by the end of August.

But RBM could lose its rights before that if the Environmental Impact Assessment, due for release on March 18, indicated mining would cause irreparable damage to any ecosystem.
Natal Parks Board rethinks dam projects

DURBAN — The Natal Parks Board (NPB) is considering “winding down” its involvement at several state dams in Natal, so that scarce finances can be used more effectively on high priority conservation functions.

NPB deputy CE Dick Parriss said yesterday the proposals could include Midmar, Albert Falls and Hazlittmore dams, and involve greater involvement by the private sector.

He stressed that any major decisions would have to be approved by the NPB’s board and the province.

“It would be a question of ongoing decisions, rather than shedding responsibilities overnight.”

State subsidies to the NPB had been declining in real terms for several years, and the NPB had to re-examine funding priorities on a regular basis.

“Our primary mission is the promotion of nature conservation in Natal. We could find that money spent on recreational areas at dams could be better spent on conservation in Hluhluwe/Umfolozi, or the the creation of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park.”

Parriss said the recent government White Paper on tourism had expressed reluctance to permit uncontrolled private sector development in national parks and botanic gardens.

However, dams were an area where the private sector should be involved, as the state could not be expected to finance these areas on its own.

The NPB was also analysing the viability of several self-funding projects, and the loss-making bait operation at Richards Bay had already been closed.

Asked how staff would be affected by changes, Parriss said the board had a policy of avoiding retrenchments.

Wherever possible, staff were moved to other reserves or resorts, where positions had been created through attrition.

The extensions to Hilltop camp at Hluhluwe Game Reserve had created several new posts.

---

CENTRAL AFRICAN CABLES LIMITED
(Incorporated in Zimbabwe)

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The audited results for the year ended 31 December 1992 are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1992</th>
<th>1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Z$000s</td>
<td>Z$000s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export</td>
<td>30 107</td>
<td>13 912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>87 087</td>
<td>107 472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating profit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest (paid) received</td>
<td>20 035</td>
<td>30 041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit before taxation</td>
<td>(89)</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>19 946</td>
<td>30 551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit attributable to shareholders</td>
<td>7 361</td>
<td>11 276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
<td>12 565</td>
<td>19 275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 121</td>
<td>4 854</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Long wait for St Lucia decision

A DECISION on whether or not to allow titanium mining in the dunes at St Lucia will probably only be taken in the last quarter of this year.

The government-appointed environmental impact study into the controversial mining plan is due to be completed by March 18, but a panel of five experts will then scrutinise the findings, assess public reaction and make further recommendations. Government might only take a final decision on the issue about six months after publication of the impact assessment report, Environment Affairs chief director of conservation Sydney Gerber said this week.

**Damage**

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett recently said he would turn down the Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) application to mine the St Lucia dunes if such mining resulted in "irreparable damage" to the ecosystem in the area.

This week a spokesman for Bartlett's department said there was no official definition of irreparable damage.

It is unknown what the environmental impact assessment team's definition of irreparable damage is. Gerber said his department hoped for an objective impact study.

We are here to conserve the country's resources, which does not exclude the utilisation of resources. We are approaching the issue with an "open mind," he said.

Natal Parks Board spokesman Bill Balbridges said his own definition of irreparable damage was "long-term severe environmental damage which is not possible to mitigate".

"We hope the report will find against RBM and determine that the best use for St Lucia is nature conservation linked with ecotourism for which there is great long-term potential," he said.

Should the report find that mining had resulted in no irreparable damage, there was no reason why mining in the area could not proceed as planned, he said.

Richard's Bay Minerals public relations GM Barry Clements said the company would abide by the report's outcome.

He said the impact study was a victory for conservation because of the seriousness with which it was being viewed by government, business and conservation bodies.

Wilderness Trust of Southern Africa chairman Clive Walker believed that for mining damage to be declared repairable the structure of the dunes would have to be able to function as before.

He said St Lucia's hydrology was one of the key issues in assessing environmental impact. The ecosystem channeled rainwater through the dunes into the freshwater pools which were vital to wild life during drought years.

Bartlett has invited RBM officials, conservationists and journalists to visit the St Lucia area this week, in advance of publication of the impact assessment report.
Cottage cluster plan ruffles some feathers

CONSERVATIONISTS are considering taking legal action against a company which plans to build 45 cottages in the Magaliesberg — in the heart of a vulture colony’s nesting area.

Wildlife organisations, including the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Nature Conservation Department, have added their voices to the protest against the development at Hartbeespoort. They believe it will pose a threat to the future of the colony. But the developers contend the project will be to the benefit of wildlife.

Wildlife Society spokesman Andrew Duthie said the conservation lobby was considering legal action to get the housing scheme stopped. The vultures living on the site made up one of the last two colonies in the Magaliesberg, he said.

Duthie said vulture colonies were fast disappearing all over southern Africa, and because of their vital role in the ecosystem they had to be conserved at all costs.

But spokesman Martin Wragge defended Manex Development Corporation’s plan. He said his company was being exposed to a “hysterical, bizarre attack” by people who had not attempted to understand the problem. The company had been given a permit for the development, but had changed its original plan to build 100 units to one involving only 45 units.

Wragge said the intention was to build an environmentally sensitive development for wildlife enthusiasts. Their presence would be a deterrent to poachers.

Duthie said once development encroached on the “core area” set aside for preservation 30 years ago, it would be difficult to stop the trend.
Green anger over permits for Taiwanese trawlers

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

SIXTEEN Taiwanese fishing vessels have been declared "drift-net-free" by an inspector flown in from the Republic of China and given permits to resume other methods of fishing on the high seas.

But angry South African conservationists say at least nine of these vessels sailed fully equipped to driftnet and are demanding an explanation.

The Taiwanese vessels came into Cape Town to meet the February 5 deadline for removing all driftnets and associated equipment, as ordered by their government in terms of its stated commitment to the United Nations moratorium on drift-net fishing which came into effect on December 31.

The Taiwanese consulate asked the South African government for permission for the ships to enter Cape Town, saying they could not remove their big power blocks (net haulers) and net carrying pipes at sea.

But Taiwanese Inspector Mr. Tian-Shang Lin, who flew to Cape Town to examine the 15 vessels, reported that they had dismantled this equipment at sea and transferred it to a carrier ship for transport back to Taiwan.

Conservationist and anti-driftnet campaigner Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group said all 16 vessels had been closely monitored and photographed while in the docks.

"Of the 16 vessels, at least nine left Cape Town fully equipped to driftnet," she charged. "Net frames and stackers were in evidence as were net carrying pipes below deck, and one could be clearly seen on deck.

"It's our firm opinion that despite the deadline set by the UN moratorium, there are still numerous Taiwanese vessels roaming the high seas which are still capable of driftnetting."

Mrs Rice condemned the South African and Taiwanese governments for allowing a loophole in South Africa's tough driftnet legislation to be exploited.

She said 14 of the 16 vessels - now all confirmed driftnetters - had visited Cape Town for supplies last year, leaving their nets at sea. This was in defiance of the spirit, if not the letter, of South African law.

"Their visits weren't contrary to our regulations but I still feel it's dishonest because they know we didn't want driftnetters in here," she said.

She is calling for a UN-sponsored international register of all former driftnet fishing vessels so that their movements and catches can be monitored.

Taiwanese consul-general Mr Rung-gia Yang said his government was sincere in its commitment to the UN moratorium on driftnetting.

Referring to the arrest of Taiwanese driftnetters in local waters in previous years, Mr Yang said "awkward things" had happened.

Concern over rice...
The proposed mining area covers 17km of high-forested dunes on the eastern shores of the lake. Richards Bay Minerals, which is partly owned by Rio Tinto Zinc, a British company, have applied to mine the area but they are still waiting for the Environmental Impact Assessment before they can do anything.

The report will be published on March 18.
Reprieve for Sandy Bay?
Housing estate site swap deal

A CONTROVERSIAL Sandy Bay housing site will be given up by its owner, Bankorp Properties, if it is allowed to develop a 50 ha site it also owns on the Hout Bay mountainside nearby.

About 300 houses were planned, but it would take at least two years to instal services and put the plots on the market, said a spokesman for Amalgamated Banks of SA (Absa) yesterday.

Services are estimated to cost R9 million (R30 000 a site) and houses will cost at least R300 000 each to build.

Buildings will be limited to two storeys and Bankorp consulting architect Mr Christo Kannenberg believes they will not be seen from Sandy Bay.

The 216 ha Sandy Bay site was bought by Trust Bank more than 15 years ago and inherited by Absa when it took over Bankorp.

Absa has offered the Sandy Bay site and a large part of its other site to the Cape Provincial Administration as a nature re-

A deal involving development of a Hout Bay mountainside area rather than building at Sandy Bay is to be put to a public meeting in Hout Bay on February 25.

TOM HOOD,
Business Editor

But Mr Pierre Augustine, head of Bankorp Properties, says a condition of the deal is that the Sandy Bay site must be handed back to Bankorp if development is allowed at Sandy Bay in future.

"We have turned away various potentially lucrative offers to buy the Sandy Bay portion of our property," he said.

A leading architect, who said he was "elated" by the proposals, said the housing project would make no difference to the visible impact which had already been destroyed by all the building at Hout Bay.

Absa is to unveil its plans to the public at a meeting in Kronendal Primary Hall, Hout Bay on February 25 at 6 pm.

The proposed housing development is on the Hout Bay side of the Karbonkelberg-Klein Leeukoppie watershed.

"In planning for our proposed development, we are applying the most stringent tests of environmental compatibility to ensure that accepted aesthetic and ecological standards are met," said Mr Augustyn.

"In public interest, we are also extending the period for any comment and objection subsequent to the publication of the official advertisement, from 21 to 35 days.

"We have also placed the findings of our studies at the disposal of public representatives. This open book approach will avoid the need for them to cover the same ground."

Because of the sensitivity of the Sandy Bay area, Bankorp commissioned a series of in-depth environmental studies.
CONSERVATIONISTS have launched a fund with a R25 million target to ensure the rehabilitation and future conservation of Table Mountain, along with an application being prepared to have the entire protected nature area of the Cape Peninsula declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

This dual initiative was announced by SA Nature Foundation executive director Dr John Hanks at a function at Stellenbosch yesterday.

Although South Africa was not a member of Unesco — the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation — which registers the sites, this was likely to change soon and the application would be made, said Dr Hanks.

"I hope that with political acceptability, this will become a reality shortly."

Referring to the Table Mountain fund, Dr Hanks said interest on the capital would be used by relevant conservation and management authorities for the long-term conservation and development of "this unique natural heritage".

Aspects to be funded included:

■ The development and implementation of a co-ordinated plan for the whole of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment; and

■ The prevention of the uncontrolled spread of invasive aliens — mainly shrubs and trees like Australian Acacias.
Nature Rules, Okay?

Londolozi Lives by Its Environmental Code

Londolozi co-owner John

Lisa's favorite place to be. She
wants to protect the land and the
diverse life that inhabits it. She
believes in the importance of
preserving nature and all its
wonders.

Lisa provides educational
workshops and guided tours
to help visitors understand
the significance of conservation
and the importance of
preserving the natural world.

She also participates in
research projects to
understand the
ecological dynamics of the
area and how human
interactions can
impact the
environment.

Lisa's commitment to
conservation is
motivated by her desire to
ensure that future generations
will have the
opportunity to
experience and
appreciate the
beauty of
Londolozi.

Lisa's efforts are
tested by the challenges
faced by the modern world,
and she continues to
strive for a more
sustainable future.

Lisa's passion for
nature and conservation
is an inspiration to
those who
aspire to make
a difference
for the
environment.
COMMERCIALISING DAMS

Going that extra mile

Resort facilities at Midmar Dam in the Natal Midlands could get a R1bn revamp if a Transvaal developer gets the go-ahead. Plans for the dam include: a five-star international hotel; golf course; an upgrading of the historical theme village to include shops, a period hotel/pub, housing, conference facilities, health spa, an amusement park and waterworld, a sport and training centre, timeshare accommodation, equestrian facilities and an extended scenic steam railway.

A feasibility/environmental impact study into the proposals is being undertaken. It is due for completion in September. Then the Natal Parks Board will have to decide whether to give the project the nod.

The board is grappling with the problem of what to do with its under-used resources. So it is paying attention to development that does not impair the environment.

An extreme case is the controversial proposal by Richards Bay Minerals to mine the St Lucia dunes on the Zululand coast. In this instance, the decision will be made by the Mineral & Energy Affairs Minister. Less high profile is the board’s dilemma over loss-making low conservation assets such as the dams it administers on behalf of the Department of Water Affairs.

In this respect, the 2 500 ha Midmar Dam nature reserve, built in 1957, is an ideal test case. Next to the N3 and north of Maritzburg, it gets about 200 000 visitors a year. Though attractive, it has little potential for development as a high-density wildlife sanctuary.

The preliminary development proposals for the dam and its surrounds were motivated by Doornfontein-based Democritus, a subsidiary of consulting engineers B S Bergman & Partners.

Though interested, the board has not committed itself to the development. Parks Board western region deputy director David Cook says: “We could, depending on financial viability and desirability, decide to implement all, part or none of the proposals.”

He adds that though the board’s mandate is to concentrate on nature conservation, the nature component of Midmar is low. And when resorts of this kind don’t break even or make a profit, options need to be explored.

Cook says the board administers five State dams. Though some, like Spioenkop Dam, have a high conservation value and could not be considered for intensive development, others like Albert Falls Dam, near Maritzburg, and Hazelmere, near Durban, could undergo resort-type development.
Planning Concept: The proposal involves the creation of many small plots of open space within the development area.

Proposed Application: The proposed development of the property includes the construction of a series of small plots of open space within the area, which will be used for housing development in a sensitive manner.
Londolozi gets 'green' honour

LONDON. — Londolozi game reserve in the Eastern Transvaal has won an international "green" tourism award for their successful approach to conservation.

Londolozi co-owner Mr Dave Varty was presented with the Tourism for Tomorrow awards at a ceremony last night.

He and his brother John were praised for their reclamation of grassland, restoration of ecological and wildlife diversity and restoring migratory routes.
Environmental body born

A national environmental organisation, which has the potential to be the definitive voice on issues at the interface between economic growth and environmental protection, was launched in Johannesburg yesterday.
**Focus on Zoeknog Dam**

**Sowetan 9/12/93**

Game lodge owners say the Zoeknog Dam, which collapsed recently, is an ecological disaster for animals and villages, while the Lebowa government claims it will provide jobs and water for villagers, writes **Mathatha Tsedu**, Investigations Editor.

---

Londololozi communication manager James Marshall.

Milomobe River.

For these private lodge owners the argument against the dam is clothed in environmental terms.

Mr James Marshall, communication manager for Londoloz, argued that damming the river upstream was an infringement of the rights of lodge owners downstream and a murderous act on water animals such as hippos.

"This river is home to hippos, crocodiles, large species of rare birds and beautiful vegetation. What has been done is wrong. The Lebowa people are not only damming the river, they are also planting gum trees right on the edge of the river, siphoning water off for coffee and leaving the river virtually empty."

"One gum tree needs about 200 litres a day to survive and if they are planting these trees and citrus fruit trees on the river's edge, they are disturbing the river.

"To cap it all, they went and built the dam and now, thank God, it has collapsed," Marshall said.

He said their concern was also for black villagers along the stream who have depended on the river for drinking water since time immemorial.

"The lodge owners may be able to drill for water but the residents cannot. Where are they supposed to get water from? This river was dry after they closed the dam," he said, introducing the villagers as one of his reasons for fighting the dam project.

---

Deputy chief engineer Louis Theron.

We spoke to villagers at Zoeknog and Madjembeni villages who are who are benefiting from the dam. They were happy at the promise but decried the fact that they had no access to the dam water at present.

Caught in between the arguments of the two capitalist pivots, the villagers have now become the trump card for both sides, dealt to strengthen opposing points of view.

And as the argument rages, the dam that never was lies in ruin, with workers on site doing mop up operations.

They are the workers who had to spend the night in the nearby hills after the dam collapsed and almost washed them downstream.

The costs of repairs will run into further millions but with R37 million already gone, literally down the river, the argument about rebuilding is merely academic.

Marshall denied that it was the game lodge owners who bombed the dam for water.

Theron said he did not know how it happened and was awaiting results of an investigation by experts.

Locals are just amazed at the damage and are wondering whether they will ever get water from the dam.

In the interim, the crocodiles and hippos, the villagers downstream and the game lodge owners, are just happy that water is flowing downstream for now.

See page 7
Toxic spraying of birds halted

AGRICULTURE Minister Dr Kraai van Nickerk has placed a moratorium on the control of red-billed quelea (finches) by chemical spraying. This moratorium follows the death of some 80 birds of prey after spraying, to control the quelea, by the Department of Agriculture. Present policy is being revised, Dr Van Nickerk said yesterday. Political Staff, Sapa
Outrage as toxic spray kills ‘protected’ raptors

By Julienne du Toit

Conservationists yesterday expressed outrage at a Department of Agriculture toxic-spraying experiment which caused the death of at least 82 raptors at Dwaalboom in the north-western Transvaal.

The Biotox Foundation, an organisation which monitors the misuse of pesticides and toxins, threatened to take the department to court.

And a specialist scientist at the Transvaal Provincial Administration’s Department of Nature Conservation, Peter Milstein, described the experiment as “absolutely shocking” in view of the “present catastrophic decline of our birds of prey”.

The deaths resulted from experiments to test poisons designed to rid farmers of the red-billed finch or quelea, which causes damage to crops.

Biotox Foundation spokesman Abré Steyn said he planned to lay a charge against the department for “knowingly” poisoning birds of prey which, he said, were protected by law.

But Johannes Vosloo, head of the department’s section which handles spraying against red-billed finches, said it came as news to him that birds of prey were protected by law.

According to Steyn, the 82 raptors killed at Dwaalboom near Thabazimbi included 66 Steppe buzzards that migrate from Russia, six Wahlberg’s eagles, eight yellow-billed kites, one banded goshawk and one lanner falcon.

The birds of prey died from eating the poisoned red-billed finches or quelea. Last year quelea caused R43 million in damage to South African crops.

Steyn said quelea posed no threat to farming in that area. He added that using explosives on the trees where the quelea roosted caused far less damage to the environment and was far cheaper than spraying Queleatox.

Using explosives was highly effective and cost only R3 000 an operation, he said. Vosloo admitted that one Queleatox spraying could cost more than R12 000.
Confident

It is still the same old majestic old lady who has been a member of this community for 1900 years. The platform is not new, but it is still the same old majestic old lady. The original structure is still standing, and the pigments are still in place. The benches are still there, and the people are still coming and going. It is still the same old majestic old lady, and it will always be the same old majestic old lady.
Teach our children, beg mothers
Don’t prejudge St Lucia study, pleads Minister

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The Government would lose some R350 million a year in taxes if Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) were denied permission to mine the sand dunes at Lake St Lucia, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said yesterday.

He was being questioned at an international press conference at St Lucia after Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Fienaar said RBM would not get the go-ahead "if there was irreparable damage" to the environment.

Bartlett appealed to people not to "prejudge things". The environmental impact study being carried out was the most intensive study of its kind ever done, he claimed. Some of the "best brains in the world" were involved, and 23 disciplines were being covered.

"I appeal to South Africans to start to think, and to use their heads and not their emotions," Bartlett said.

RBM had said that if the study’s report were against mining operations, it would withdraw the application.

Bartlett said he operated under an Act that called for the optimal utilisation of South Africa’s mineral resources.

People had to ask themselves what contribution to the gross domestic product came from mining.

"Without mining, South Africa would crumble," Bartlett said.

The Government had to ensure that mineral resources were "not going to be sterilised".

There was between R8 billion and R9 billion worth of heavy minerals at St Lucia.

If RBM were allowed to mine there, it would extend its present operations by between 12 and 17 years.

The huge smelting plant at Richards Bay also had to be taken into consideration.

"You have to get your basic ore from a place close by. You have to take a look at all these implications."

Other people had to be taken into consideration, Bartlett said.

The industry would provide R350 million in tax a year, he said. If mining did not go ahead, this tax money would escape the economy.

The decision to allow mining at St Lucia would be taken by the cabinet.

Bartlett said neither he nor his director-general knew what was in the environmental impact report.
Increasing oil pollution
an ‘unsolvable problem’

OIL pollution on the world’s coastlines is on the increase, and although international agencies continually update contingency plans, very little can be done to prevent environmental catastrophes.

SA’s Environment Affairs Department says tanker disasters have to be treated on an individual basis. “In the case of a spill very close to shore and in very bad weather conditions — such as the Braer off the Shetland Isles — it is virtually impossible to avert disaster,” spokesman Lynn Jackson says.

Just a few days after hurricane weather destroyed the Braer, giant supertanker Maersk Navigator collided with Sanko Honour off the Sumatran coast, creating yet another world environmental disaster.

About 20 major oil spills have been reported off SA coasts since 1980, with 128 small spills during 1988 and 96 in 1991. Jackson, who works in the department’s oil pollution unit, says many of the spills are insignificant, but warns that size is not the major factor.

“A small spill near a sensitive resource and under unfavourable conditions can often do greater harm than a large spill offshore. So it’s difficult to decide which spills pose a serious threat to our beaches.”

And although international shipping legislation is growing stricter, it will not completely eliminate accidents, she says.

Transport Department spokesman Captain B R Watt says countries cannot prevent, let alone stop, future shipping disasters, even with contingency plans invented to minimise pollution effects.

“The international maritime community, through the International Maritime

AIDS awareness campaigns
Public Water System would help Rela Workers

Early warning system would help Rela Workers

Norway

ANC missed R3.3m Norw

A photo of a magazine cover with text that is not clearly visible due to the image quality.
CAPE TOWN — The time for making a decision on mining at Lake St. Lucia was fast approaching, Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar told an international press briefing yesterday.

However, he gave no indication either way of whether or when the Government would give Richards Bay Minerals the go-ahead to mine.

"We have something very special in the site of St. Lucia. It is something that needs to be protected." — Political Staff.
Zoeknog Dam break to hurt wildlife, tourism

By Julienne du Toit

When the Zoeknog Dam in Lebowa gave way last week, it was not just R8 million that was washed down the river.

The tons of soil from the dam wall turned the river a thick orange-brown colour, so solid it looked like a sand road from the air.

But it was not so thick as to clog up the gills of the fish. The damage was far more subtle. It coated and smothered the eggs and hatchlings, the fish have just laid on the gravel bottom of the Mutlomu River, and also the river it flows into — the Sand — and ultimately the Sabie River.

According to biologist Des Weeks, of Rhodes University, who is doing studies on invertebrates in the Sand River system, this huge load of topsoil does not kill, but weakens the life in the river.

It is not just the Mutlomu River that is in trouble, but the entire Sand-Sabile river system.

In a space of less than 100 km, the Sand River and its tributaries run through the territory of three governments: South Africa, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The two homelands, which are politically hostile to each other, usually do not communicate on river matters, and this has led to a great deal of misunderstanding, according to Londolozi game reserve owner John Varty.

He maintains the Sand River is perennial. From his birth, it has flowed, clean and strong, throughout the seasons. A perennial river has certain rights. It must be kept flowing. No one can completely dam it or channel it, he says.

Last year, Varty and his brother became frantic. The Sand River was not flowing. Their hippos were trapped in shrinking, stagnant pools.

A trip in a helicopter showed them the problem. The water was not flowing beyond a weir in Lebowa, built to trap water for Champagne Citrus Estates.

Because of this, Gazankulu water officials further downstream, unaware the river was flowing strongly above the Lebowa weir, maintained that the river was a seasonal one.

A seasonal river can be sucked dry by anyone for any purpose. So the Gazankulu officials said they were under no obligation to release water from the Edinburgh Dam, which the Sand River flows into, to save Londolozi's hippos.

Before the wrangle became too complicated, the rains came, and most of the hippos were saved.

SA Department of Water Affairs director-general Claasie Claassens admitted, after some argument, that the Sand River was perennial. The problem was that the entire catchment area was overdeveloped, he said.

At the rivers' source high in the Drakensberg, exotic pine trees and bluegums planted for forestry were sucking up 30 to 40 percent of all the rain that would go into the river, Varty said.

Further down, citrus trees used up 200 tons of water for every ton of citrus produced.

The Mutlomu had been dammed at Zoeknog for coffee, which was also not a water-economic crop.

Lastly, there were hundreds of thousands of people. Very few had running water, but when they all did, even more water would be used.

And as less and less water found its way downstream, to the Sabi Sand Reserves and the Kruger National Park, so the game would suffer.

And if the game suffered, the tourists would be less willing to come, which would be a blow to the tourism industry.
Major environment body launched

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

A national environmental organisation which has the potential to be the definitive voice on issues at the interface between economic growth and environmental protection was launched in Johannesburg yesterday.

The current 55 members of the Environmental Scientific Association (ESA) include some of the most respected names in science, engineering and environmental management in the country, who consider it essential that social and industrial development is managed without destroying biodiversity.

They have joined ESA in their individual capacities and pay their own costs incurred in participating in ESA activities.

"Industrial growth and development is the way our leaders are going," said ESA member Dr John Ledger at the launch. "Where there are resources they will be used. To manage that explosion without destroying bio-diversity is the challenge."

ESA chairman Dr Dan Walmsley, environmental programmes manager at the Foundation for Research Development, said the aims of the organisation were:

- To present balanced scientific opinion on issues of national and global concern.
- Develop a southern African scientific network.
- Identify areas of concern.
- Define future environmental research.
- Assist in developing environmental standards.
- Facilitate responsible environmental decisions.

The ESA is run by a six-member executive committee: chairman Dr Walmsley, a zoologist; director Brian Gore, senior professional in Eskom's research and development wing; Dr Louis du Pisani, a meteorologist and climatologist at the Weather Bureau; Greg Tosen, a meteorologist and environmental sciences manager at Eskom; Dr Andrew Jarvis, an environmental biotechnologist at Sasol; and Dr George Green, who is with the Water Research Commission.
Mud-slinging after collapse of dam

JULIENNE DU TOIT

THE spectacular hole that appeared in the Zoeknog Dam this week has led to speculation that corruption may have been responsible for the disaster.

The Zoeknog Dam, on the Mutlovu River in Lebowa, was completed only a month ago at a cost conservatively put at R38 million.

Early on Monday morning, the brand new dam wall collapsed, sparking speculation among property owners in the area that millions of rands had disappeared into back pockets. Sources in the area said the dam’s construction may have failed because of the use of second-grade materials or theft of monies destined for construction.

The dam, which was built to hold 12 million cubic metres of water, was being filled for the first time when it burst, but was only 23 percent full.

The Lebowa government, whose Department of Works constructed the earthen dam wall, said it was the concrete tunnel underneath the dam that failed.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), which put up R30 million for the scheme, concurred that this seemed to be the situation.

But Grinaker Construction, which put up the spillway tower and the concrete tunnel, retorted it was the wall that had failed, not their construction.

“We have 100 percent confidence in our construction,” said managing director “Bean” Bornheimer.

The consulting engineers, Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen, of Pietersburg, said they were baffled.

An inquiry by independent professionals would have to be appointed by the contracting party, the Lebowa government, said PJ van der Walt, who was in charge of construction.

The earth had been properly compacted, and instruments to detect moisture and vibrations had been installed. He could not say whether these instruments had given any untoward readings.

A community leader from the Zoeknog area said that in his opinion, people with vested interests had built the dam, because villagers living around the dam were told they could have no access to its water.

Farris Siwela said they were told to sink a borehole or take water from the river. There is no running water in the villages surrounding the dam.

Siwela said there were rumours that the dam had been sabotaged by angry neighbourhood youths.

He said the Lebowa government had told him the water was meant for coffee farmers. A group of white farmers had shares with the Lebowa government in the proposed coffee project, he said.

The community became so angry that they had told Londolozi’s community contact officer, Solly Mohau, that if they could not have access to the water, no one would.

Lebowa government project official Bernie Badenhorst denied the water was only for coffee farmers, saying it was for consumption by 90,000 people in the area.

For Londolozi private game reserve owners John and Dave Varty, the dam burst is just one incident in a long line of shady happenings in the Sand and Sabie river systems, of which the Zoeknog Dam is part.

They have been fighting since October against the various governments they allege have been “illegally” damming the river.

In December, at a meeting between Londolozi and Lebowa and Gazankulu government representatives, a Gazankulu official threatened that if the Vartys took them to court over the water, they would be “run ragged” in the homeland’s courts.

Varty said that after the meeting, the man from Gazankulu’s Department of Agriculture proposed a compromise: if the Vartys could not produce an environmental track-record, approached the DBSA for R53 million to build a dam near Thulamahashe in Gazankulu, a plan would be made, to keep supplying Londolozi’s animals with water. Gazankulu, with its bad financial track-record, would find it difficult to get a loan, the official implied.
Top Soweto activist detained

Johannesburg. — Police yesterday confirmed the detention of prominent Soweto political and environmental activist Mr Japhta Lekgetho.

Mr Lekgetho had been detained for interrogation on a murder charge, and once interrogation had been completed, police would decide whether to charge or release him, a spokesman said.

Mr Lekgetho, president of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign, was active in the local civic association and his branch of the ANC. — Sapa
CAMPS BAY FROLIC... This dolphin off Camps Bay beach yesterday got an appreciative welcome from a surfer. INSET: Municipal beach-patrol bobbies remonstrate with a surfer who paddled among a school of dolphins. Pictures: BENNY GOLC

Dolphin law confusion leads to row

Staff Reporter

CONFUSION about the law on the treatment of dolphins led to a confrontation yesterday between a Camps Bay policeman and surfers who swam among a school of dolphins that ventured close to the beach to feed off a shoal of fish.

Constable Reinhold Oertel said that in warning the surfers to keep away from the dolphins he had acted under regulations promulgated in the Government Gazette in October last year which prevented people from being closer than 300 metres to dolphins and whales.

However, Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group said yesterday the regulations applied only to whales. But a spokeswoman for the Sea Point Law Enforcement unit said the regulation applied to all sea mammals, including whales, seals and dolphins.

The regulation, contained in the Government Gazette of October 23, seems to apply only to whales. A separate paragraph dealing with dolphins does not mention legal distances.

Activities such as chasing or herding dolphins and whales or riding through the school in a motor boat are, however, illegal.
Seconds out! in dunes building battle,

The plan, presented to the public for viewing at the the City of San Diego, was aimed at preserving the dunes and their unique ecosystems. The decision to extend the public comment period for the planning partnership was made in response to feedback from the public. The developers are seeking to build new housing on the dunes, which has been met with strong opposition from environmentalists and residents. The proposal is being reviewed by the city's Planning Commission, and the public is encouraged to submit comments by the deadline of June 30, 2023. The South Bay Regional Park and the City of Imperial Beach are also involved in the decision-making process.
St Lucia report to be made public

THE CSIR would publicise the results of a three-year environmental impact study on the effect of mining, conservation and tourism on St Lucia's wilderness area on March 18, the report's editor Brian van Wilgen said yesterday.

Van Wilgen said the study, which is being printed, examined the environmental and economic impact of proposals submitted by Richards Bay Minerals and the Natal Parks Board.

The company had proposed using the land for mining as well as conservation and tourist purposes, while the board had concentrated on conservation and tourism, he said.

The study would be forwarded to a review panel, which would make recommendations to Cabinet on how the land is to be used. Cabinet would make a final decision later this year.

He said he was unable to comment in detail on the contents of the report but said it covered the economic impact of both models on revenues, jobs and foreign investment, as well as people's intrinsic ideas of St Lucia as a wilderness area.

Government said it believed the report would be impartial as the CSIR "had used a team of objective experts to evaluate the two forms of land use in the area", Sapa reports.

It said 130 "interested and affected" parties had been asked to submit their concerns to the CSIR team.

Van Wilgen said the report, which had been based on studies by more than 50 consultants, also suggested steps to be taken in the event of either proposal being adopted.

"It's a very comprehensive report. There's no doubt that people will have a lot to say, and I must stress that that is what we want," he said.

The public would be able to study and comment on the report, which would be available in libraries.

The CSIR would then draft a comment report based on public reaction and this would be used by the review panel together with the impact report, he said.
US group slated for tobacco links

KATHRYN STRACHAN

LOCAL anti-smoking groups have attacked US-based organisation, Healthy Buildings International (HBI), for serving the interests of the tobacco industry and opposing local initiatives for smoking controls.

Healthy Buildings International director Simon Turner held a media briefing in Johannesburg yesterday to deny allegations that the organisation's survey of office environments in the city concluded that 72% of office workers experienced symptoms associated with the "sick building syndrome".

But Medical Research Council spokesman Dr Derek Yach said that while the organisation billed itself as an indoor environmental consulting firm it did not disclose its tobacco industry links.

"Their efforts have ranged from trying to convince businesses not to adopt 'no smoking policies' to influencing governments not to pass clean indoor air laws," said Yach.

The organisation had been active around the world in supporting smokers' rights groups and business coalitions to defeat specific tobacco control initiatives, said Yach, adding that Turner was the son of the head of the Tobacco Institute of Hong Kong.

National Council Against Smoking executive director Dr Yusuf Saloojee said the organisation had targeted SA at a time when government was preparing to pass legislation controlling smoking in public places.

Saloojee said the dispute arose when HBI advised employers to implement ventilation systems, implementing smoking control systems and claiming the non-smoking lobby claimed non-smoking systems could not reduce airborne particles.

Not guilty pleas in finrand fraud trial

THE trial of four businessmen who allegedly took part in a series of fraudulent finrand transactions, in which R32.7m was brought into the country, began in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Company directors Abraham Liebrecht Coetzee and Hendrik Schalk Coetzee pleaded not guilty to 12 counts of fraud.

Pieter Le Roux de Bruin and Johann Marais pleaded not guilty to 10 and eight counts of fraud respectively.

It is alleged that during 1987/88 Reserve Bank authorisation was fraudulently obtained for the importation of a total of R32.774m via the finrand on the pretence that Bloomington Investments Ltd of Hong Kong wished to invest the money in two SA companies, Aroma Tobacco and Aroma Cigarettes.

Reserve Bank authorisation was also allegedly obtained to send R19,703,163m of this amount out of the country, purportedly to pay for machinery imported from overseas.

According to the indictment, Abraham Coetzee and Hendrik Coetzee were both directors of Aroma at the time the offences were allegedly committed, while de Bruin was a director of Aroma and Marais was a senior manager at Standard Bank's Elsiff Street branch.

The foreign investor, Bloomington, and the two companies from which machinery was purportedly purchased, Dolford Trading Inc and Machine Specialists Inc, were all directly or indirectly controlled by a businessman named as Jock Kim Cho.

De Bruin worked for Cho until 1985. The State alleges that the four conspired with Cho to introduce funds into SA via the finrand under false pretences, convert them into commercial rand and export them on the pretext that forex was needed to pay for overseas creditors.

In some of the charges it is alleged that Aroma's bankers were induced to process applications for the release of amounts totalling $3,147,432m and 67,569,780m in the belief that Reserve Bank authorisation had been given for the payment of creditors overseas.

The State alleges that the machinery was either not purchased at all or that the invoices for the goods were falsified to reflect more than the amount actually paid for the goods.

Tunnel boring ends far ahead of schedule

PRETORIA — The Robbins tunnel boring machine has completed a 5.2km section of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project a year ahead of schedule, according to a Water Affairs Department spokesman.

The machine is one of five boring a series of tunnels to take water from the Lesotho highlands to SA.

Starting on a south drive from Nqojane in July, the machine took 137 working days to reach its target at a vent shaft near the Bololo River. In September it tunnelled a record 1,203m, 560m more than planned.

The machine will be reassembled at Nqojane for its third and last drive towards the Caledon River.

The first water from the project is scheduled to reach SA early in 1997.
St Lucia ‘dries up water reserves’

By ROY RUDDEN

FARMERS and conservationists expressed alarm this week over massively increased demands on Natal/Kwazulu’s water table by Richards Bay Minerals’ mining operations.

Not only are they worried by RBM’s vast freshwater consumption — which they say is drying up reserves — but by the prospect of further depletion should the company be allowed to go ahead with heavy-metal mining at the already endangered Lake St Lucia.

The long-awaited environmental impact assessment mining at St Lucia is due to be released in March. Farmers and conservationists fear that if the government gives the go-ahead for mining after studying the report, the results will be calamitous — not only for the estuary but for agriculture.

Terrible

Only fresh water is used to meet mining’s huge demands, and RBM is already said to be experiencing difficulty in getting enough water for its present operations at Richards Bay.

The Wildlife Association’s Dr Nolly Zaloumis, who is also chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia, said the whole area, including the lake, was suffering from a water shortage.

“RBM has already doubled its production and its water demand is becoming more and more insatiable,” he said. “We and the farmers are desperately worried about the company’s immense water consumption. Heaven help us if mining is now to be allowed on the eastern shores of St Lucia Estuary itself.”

The Zululand Environmental Alliance is concerned that RBM’s present and future water needs could have an adverse impact on Mapelane, Lake Nhlabane and Lake Mzangazi and that this could lead to cattle farmers being forced out.

An official of the SA Sugar Association said RBM’s present industry was also deeply concerned. The Umfolozi river — on which the Umfolozi Sugar Mill and the Mtubatuba township and agricultural area depend for water for industrial, agricultural and residential purposes — was already drying up due to the drought, he said.

He said RBM had been drawing huge quantities of water from the Nhlabane Wetland and the area was depleted.

RBM officials have conceded that some cattle farmers might lose grazing land at Nhlabane, but they have rejected several other concerns as unfounded.

Mr Dennis Gibson, RBM’s chief civil engineer, said a proposed Umfolozi water extraction project had yet to be approved by the Natal Water Court. RBM has applied for permission to build a 10-million-litre reservoir, fed from the Umfolozi, to supply current needs.

He said a separate environmental impact assessment of the Mapelane project had not been carried out. However, a firm of water consultants had assured RBM that there would be a minimal or non-existent effect on the ecology.

Nevertheless, Mr Charles Wally, chairman of the Monzi Farmers’ Association, said cane farmers were worried.

“They are uncertain that their needs are being considered and they fear they might be bulldozed by RBM into a situation in which their water needs are further threatened.”

Farmer Wally Menne, chairman of Zeal, said: “At Lake Nhlabane estuary, RBM’s proposals are to slice the weir by 1.5m to extract underground water could affect the fish population, flood swamp forest at Mapelane and displace farmers. We are also particularly worried about what is happening at Lake Mzinogazi, where RBM is drawing water at an enormous rate. The ecology is already under terrible stress because of the drought and freshwater plant communities are dying,” he said.

Disastrous

Said Dr Zaloumis: “All these worries are bad enough, but the water problems can only get worse, given RBM’s enormous thirst for fresh water.

“It would be folly of disastrous proportions if the government allowed mining to go ahead at St Lucia as well.

“We hope against hope that Parliament will pass the private member’s Wetlands Conservation Bill (introduced by the ANC’s Mr Rob Haswell and already supported in principle by the Conservative and Democratic parties) at its next session.”

“This is the only thing that could give the government legal power to forbid mining in the heart of St Lucia, one of the world’s last great wetland areas.”
SA parks must now go it alone

IF nature conservation is to survive under a new government in South Africa it must make a financial contribution to its own future.

This is the firm message from the country's top conservationists.

They fear that state subsidies for nature conservation will be cut in face of the demands of housing and education for bigger slices from the national budget.

Financial independence for national parks, say the experts, is the way forward.

Explaining how the National Parks Board plans to counter the conservation problem, its chief executive director Dr Robbie Robinson told Weekend Argus that state subsidies account for 30 percent of his total budget.

"But for quite some time we have been totally independent on government funding in terms of facilities within national parks," he said.

Plans for the future outlined by Dr Robinson and Dr Anthony Hall-Martin, executive director Southern Parks, National Parks Board, include:

- Maximising income from tourism by diversifying visitors' facilities and activities.
- Entrenching good and prosperous relations with communities living adjacent to parks through secure jobs for locals as well as the generation of revenue from the sale of curios and fresh vegetables.
- Involving the private sector, particularly in the establishment of tourist facilities on the borders of national parks.

But Dr George Hughes, chief executive of Natal Parks Board, which is funded by the government to the tune of 70 percent of its annual budget,

said state subsidies should be safeguarded as far as possible.

He said that while parks with tourist potential should be used to generate as much money as possible, the reality was that not all parks were suitable or designed with big-time tourism in mind.

Dr Hall-Martin countered that new parks should be subsidised by the old and profitable parks like the Kruger National Park, Golden Gate and Tsitsikamma.

Price increases were not the answer, he said.

"You can't boost income by putting up prices and we would certainly meet resistance if we did. It clashes with the fundamental aim of making conservation accessible to everyone. Instead we must make our shops more attractive so that visitors spend more money there," he said.

"We aim to develop different attractions in different parks, activities that are appropriate to the local scene. The parks are a mix of different opportunities for different ways of experiencing nature."

Mr Trevor Dearlove, liaison and marketing manager for Southern Parks, told of plans for national parks in the Cape, which has 13 of the total 17 reserves.

"Each park is unique with its own selling points. We'd like to get people into the parks to experience hiking trails, 4x4 trails in appropriate areas, snorkelling, canoeing, mountain bike and even overnight donkey trails."

Commenting on the experience of Natal Parks Board, which administers nature conservation, parks, public and tourist facilities, environmental education and law enforcement in the province, Dr Hughes said that many of the benefits derived from natural resources outside of the parks were not readily understood.

"In 1991 in Natal the value of living natural resources — fish, octopus, oysters, mussels and crabs — collected legally by people with licences totalled R78.4 million. That includes a hunting industry worth well over R10 million.

"In the same year from just one of our parks the local community made R260 000 tax free from the sale of traditional crafts and fresh produce. Last year we paid wages to local communities totalling R32.4 million."

Dr Hughes added: "The parks are an essential and integral part of making South Africa attractive and if we didn't have nice parks, we wouldn't get even the few foreign tourists we are presently getting."

Of joint ventures with private enterprise, Dr Robinson said they were "very beneficial" with the trend towards establishing new parks.

"We can do it and we use those funds for other undeveloped parks," he said.
Drought aid for three Cape areas

PORT ELIZABETH — Three more drought-stricken eastern Cape districts — Aberdeen, Adelaide and Tar-kastad — have been declared drought disaster areas.

The move was announced by National Drought Committee chairman Dr Stroebel Hofmeyr. As disaster areas, the three towns now qualify for Government assistance in the form of transport rebates and drilling equipment.

Hofmeyr said a decision to remove certain areas from the disaster list would be postponed until February, 1 because of the effect the El Nino weather phenomenon was having on the country's weather patterns.

In an earlier interview, Adelaide town clerk Jaco Jooste said the town had been hit by acute water shortages and the council had been forced to try to get water from nearby Coochouse. — PEN.
Rivers of Vapour Move Through Lower Atmosphere

Randolph Schmid and Francis Marion

WASHINGTON & MASSACHUSETTS

26th. 23\%3

(Add)
Drought aid for three Cape areas

PORT ELIZABETH — Three more drought-stricken eastern Cape districts — Aberdeen, Adelaide and Tarkastad — have been declared drought disaster areas.

The move was announced by National Drought Committee chairman Dr Stroebel Hofmeyr. As disaster areas, the three towns now qualify for Government assistance in the form of transport rebates and drilling equipment.

Hofmeyr said a decision to remove certain areas from the disaster list would be postponed until February 1 because of the effect the El Nino weather phenomenon was having on the country's weather patterns.

In an earlier interview, Adelaide town clerk Jaco Jooste said the town had been hit by acute water shortages and the council had been forced to truck in water from nearby Cookhouse. — PEN.
New fuel: 'SA can't afford it'  
PITTOOR. The Consumer Council said yesterday that South Africa could not at present afford the high production cost of lead-free petrol.

Reacting to the announcement that lead-free petrol was to become available from the end of 1995, the council said the current recession and unemployment warranted more attention than the acquisition of the latest technology.

Mr Johan van Vreden, head of the Automobile Association's vehicle division, said yesterday that unleaded petrol should be gradually introduced in South Africa to keep in line with the developed world.

The proposed introduction of unleaded petrol in 1995 was too soon in view of other economic problems faced by South Africa. — Sapa
NUM against mining

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), one of the biggest black unions in the country, is likely to block Richard's Bay Minerals (RBM) controversial scheme to mine titanium in St Lucia.

If the National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa) backs its sister union in opposing the scheme, RBM could be blocked by a powerful lobby group of conservationists and the country's two biggest unions.

The NUM's southern Natal region is in the process of adopting a resolution to this effect. A few months ago the union sent a letter to RBM, withdrawing support for the mining scheme.

Commented NUM organiser Enoch Mbhunya: "We feel it is too early to mine St Lucia due to the fact that it will only benefit certain groups. We want to work mining in the area until a new government is in place, when the wealth of the country will be distributed to all the people of South Africa. We are saying, however, that maybe in the long run we will need to mine the area."

The union's position is that the current scheme to mine the titanium strip will offer relatively few new jobs in the fast-diminishing mining industry — particularly if the raw material is not processed here to stimulate further industries.

Already, say unionists, RBM is cutting back on labour. While 300 people stand to gain jobs from the titanium mining, at least 27 laboratory workers are about to lose their jobs. RBM is reluctant to give guarantees of permanent employment to existing workers, many of whom have temporary status after being in the company's employ for as long as three years.

The mining scheme has the backing of many of the chiefs in the area and in Reserve Four, and sections of the community, who have benefited from infrastructure like schools, clinics and tribal council supplied by RBM, and who stand to gain employment.

However, accusations that the chiefs are "bought off" are rife, particularly among the youths who oppose the authority of the tribal structures and harbour anger at the level of exploitation of workers at RBM. One youth said there was simmering resentment over the fact Southern Africa, have been trying to negotiate with the forest dwellers to move out of the rainforest and on to a 1 400 hectare site near the town of Mthatha.

Both the African National Congress and Inkatha are unhappy about the plan to shift the residents, saying there has to be proper and effective consultation before any removals take place.

"We are back here not because we want to disturb nature but because this land belongs to us. We were kicked out of here in 1973 and we lived like nomads in search of available land on which to grow our crops and graze our cattle," said resident Joseph Negosile.

"We've always lived peacefully with different kinds of animals in the forest. But if we're all crowded together on a small patch of land, there is only a lot of overcrowding which results in soil erosion and the general depletion of natural resources in the surrounding areas."

There is clearly a uneasy tension between those in favour of conserving the natural resources in and around St Lucia and black villagers who want to exploit these resources for their survival.

But an informal pact between organised black labour and the Campaign to Save St Lucia is emerging as a powerful substance in the way of the company's plans to mine the rain forests.

"We welcome the unions' indication that they will not support mining at St Lucia and we want to stress that we are not anti-mining in principle but want it to take place in the right places," says Andrew Dalhl, conservation co-ordinator for the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

It is absolutely true that we haven't consulted widely with the unions at Richards Bay about the mining issue but feel that the whole issue of saving the dunes is in the interests of everybody in South Africa."

RBM plans to release the findings of an extensive environmental impact assessment of its plans to mine — the biggest study of its kind ever conducted in this country — in March this year.

There is currently a private member's Bill — the Wildlands Conservation Bill — before parliament which calls for all wetlands to be spared from mining activities. If it is passed, the Bill will save the St Lucia dunes from being mined.
Dry spell serious, says expert

By Allan Willet

Dry spell serious, says expert
Looking at lions

If Sun International (SI)’s Lost City complex is really going to work — it costs about R600/person/night to stay there — then one sure way of ensuring its success is to entice foreign tourists, their pockets bulging with hard currency.

That, in essence, is the marketing philosophy underpinning the development. The problem is, in the current fragile socio-economic environment, that’s easier said than done.

What would help in getting international tourism off the ground in Bophuthatswana, everyone agrees, would be having the “big five” right on the Lost City’s doorstep. It’s acknowledged that foreign tourists come to SA principally to see three things — the game parks, the Sun City complex and Cape Town.

It thus comes as no surprise that, as a starting point, the group is talking to the Bophuthatswana Parks Board about introducing lions to the Pilanesberg Game Reserve.

“Having the big five (lions, elephant, rhino, buffalo and leopard) will boost tourism significantly,” says SI CE Ken Rosevear. “An all-in package which includes visits to the game parks and Cape Town is expensive because of the travel involved. It would be so much better if they could enjoy the facilities at Sun City — and see game.”

The key to the plan, though, is big game — especially lions. “From a tourism perspective, lions are important in the marketability of a reserve,” says Bophuthatswana Parks Board chairman Roger Collinson.

He says introducing lions to the reserve has been on the agenda from the beginning. “The board has agreed in principle to introduce lion providing the project has the support of the local population, funding is forthcoming to meet capital expenses and that the board is not out of pocket.”

But there are some problems. One is the cost of erecting an electrified lion-proof fence around the park. “The country is hilly and cut with riverbeds and streams. Any fence we erect will have to withstand floods,” Collinson says.

Another difficulty is posed by the people who live along the boundaries of the reserve. Quite understandably, they have expressed some reservations. It means the lions have to be properly managed in order to maintain a balance so that individual animals will not be pressured out of the reserve.

Collinson estimates costs will run to between R3.5m — money which the board is hoping will come from SI, the Bop government and other sources. The cost includes the hiring of a lion expert to manage the prides as well as insurance cover should lions escape and mauл cattle or people. Collinson says while chances of an escape can be minimised, there are no guarantees.

SA Wildlife Society ecologist Andrew Duthie says putting lions into the reserve will change the neighbour/park relationship, which he notes has only recently improved. “There is great potential for friction here,” he observes. A rough study of the costs and requirements of the project has been completed. Now it’s a question of winning over the hearts and minds of the people most likely to be affected.
Unleaded petrol for SA in 1995

PRETORIA — Unleaded petrol will be available in South Africa towards the end of 1995, the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs has announced. It will be obtainable from all service stations after a brief introductory period.

The department said the introduction of unleaded petrol would be accompanied by a new octane structure.

At the coast 93 octane would be phased out and replaced by 95 octane unleaded petrol but 97 octane leaded petrol would remain available. Inland, 97 octane would be phased out and replaced by 91 octane unleaded petrol and 93 octane leaded petrol would remain.

"Unleaded petrol may contain alcohol or alcohol derivatives to achieve the required octane rating," the department said.

It was expected that unleaded petrol would be cheaper than leaded to encourage its acceptance.

"A large proportion of motor vehicles in use in South Africa can operate on unleaded petrol, although in some cases slight engine adjustments may be necessary." — Sapa.
Mountainside quarry halted

Staff Reporter

NOORDHOEK developers who uprooted about two hectares of trees in the past three days to quarry for gravel for a nearby township, said yesterday they did not know they needed a permit for the work and would try to repair the damage.

Mr Ian Brownlie, chairman of the South Peninsula Environmental Forum, said yesterday, after complaints about the stripping of dense trees on the Noordhoek mountainside, that he met the Regional Services Council and the developers, Mr Richard Beresford of Brookwood Development, and Mr Chris Sprenger of Gradeline.

He said Mr Beresford said he did not know a permit was necessary or that he was quarrying across the boundary line into a conserved mountain area.

"They (developers) did no environmental impact studies and had no plans to revegetate the scarred area. They would have left us with a massive, unsightly hole in the mountain."

"After the meeting operations ceased, Gradeline removed its bulldozers and Mr Sprenger promised to try to repair the damage."

"Mr Beresford said he had got permission to dig the site from the owner of the land, Mrs Muriel de Villiers," said Mr Brownlie.

At the bald quarry site yesterday Miss Gertie de Villiers said her 82-year-old mother, Mrs Muriel de Villiers, had not known she needed a permit to allow quarrying on the site on her property.

"My mother is terribly upset", said Miss De Villiers.

She said the developers had promised her mother R5 a square metre of gravel site quarried. The gravel is to be used in building roads in the nearby Brookwood township area.

Mr Brownlie said it should not be up to "embattled" residents to fight such developments.

The Department of Environment Affairs, the Regional Services Council and Cape Nature Conservation should ensure that this type of thing did not happen.

"The Cape does not have the heavy financial industries of the Reef, but has the mountain, the sea and winelands. Those have to be guarded as our strongest assets and we are selling them off for short-term financial gain", said Mr Brownlie.
Wakeford
Fish Hoek
candidate

FISH HOEK businessman Mr Clive Wakeford has been elected the Residents' Association candidate for councillor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr Rob Laing last month.

Mr Wakeford was born in Fish Hoek. Recently he moved to Rondebosch with his family, but will be returning to his home town in November.

Mr Wakeford said he'd been asked by the mayor, Mr Malcolm Wallace, to stand in the election held at the quarterly general meeting of the association last week.

Mr Wakeford is vice-chairman of the Fish Hoek Chamber of Business and president of the Fish Hoek Surf Lifesaving Club.

Expert looks into mine's noise levels

THE kaolin mining company Serina has appointed an acoustics engineer from the University of Cape Town to investigate noise levels generated at its Brakkehoef plant in Fish Hoek after complaints from residents.

In papers tabled at a recent Fish Hoek Town Council meeting, Councillor Pat Landon said she'd met a representative of the company after residents in the area objected to noise pollution from heavy mechanical equipment during the early hours of the morning.

Bunker houses

She said: "The noise which has been heard by Sun Valley residents during the night and early hours is caused by a front-end loader which operates continuously in one of two open-fronted buildings referred to as bunker houses.

"Part of the operation to feed raw clay into the production line required the front-end loader to move from one bunker house to the other, across an open roadway. The intermittent noise may be due to the prevailing winds."

Although the front-end loader has been fitted with a sophisticated noise-dampening system, Mrs Landon said the acoustics engineer is considering recommending that a blanket of plastic strips be fitted to both of these open-fronted buildings.
Feelings high over St Lucia

By Julienne de Toit

Emotions ran high last night when about 100 members of the public crammed into an airless room in Johannesburg for an information meeting on possible mining at St Lucia.

Richards Bay Minerals spokesman Barry Clements and Natal Parks Board officer in charge of planning, Bill Bainbridge, explained the consequences of mining or not mining.

Clements said St Lucia offered the highest grade of ilmenite, or titanium ore, available to RBM.

If the company mined only its other option at Zulwi South in Natal, which it planned to do anyway, it would have to leave the country five years earlier than it would otherwise, he said.

In other words, it would be in the country for 17 years instead of 22.

If Parliament decided mining could go ahead, RBM would be happy to comply with conditions like guaranteeing a fund to rehabilitate the mined areas if the company went bankrupt.

Bainbridge said 90 percent of all tourists to South Africa came to see the wildlife and wild areas, and St Lucia was potentially a big and ongoing money-spinner.

He said 360 new jobs could be created if the area was developed for eco-tourism.

Clements said 150 jobs would be provided on site if mining went ahead, but said the spin-off industries would generate many other jobs.

Bainbridge said the eastern shores of St Lucia belonged to South Africans, and the land use decided on should be in the interests of the public.

He said it was still not established that re-vegetating the dunes was effective, and the environmental impact assessment (EIA) had been done over only one year.

Eco-tourism was the best, most sustainable way of using the land, said Bainbridge.

The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park would have the status of a national park. If mining went ahead, overseas countries would question South Africa’s commitment to conservation.

Clements and Bainbridge said they would abide by the conclusions reached in the EIA, which will be made public on March 18.

Bainbridge said copies of the EIA would be found in public libraries and with interested parties.
Huge International Game Park Planned

Southern African Citizen

11/11/1943

[Image of a page from a document with a diagram and text. The text is not legible due to the quality of the image.]

The text appears to be discussing a proposed international game park, possibly in Southern Africa. The diagram includes various locations and names such as Transvaal, Venda Reserve, De Beers, and others.

[Further analysis or transcription of the text would be required to provide a detailed summary or translation.]
Silent killer that lurks in your home

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

DID you know your own house could kill you?

If not, you are the kind of person who might benefit from the knowledge of a Dutch expert who is on the last leg of a world tour to share his expertise in environmental radiation.

Professor Rob de Meijer is head of the Environmental Radioactivity Research Institute at the Rijks University in Groningen, Holland.

One of his special interests is radon, a radioactive gas which seeps from rock and soil, and can be a serious health risk in homes. High levels put occupants at increased risk of lung cancer.

In Holland alone, 1,000 people a year die of radon-induced lung cancer, putting the risk on a par with traffic and household accidents, and well ahead of passive smoking.

According to the South African Atomic Energy Corporation, about 10 percent of lung cancers can be attributed to radon.

Professor De Meijer is also gathering beach sand to measure heavy minerals (which exude radioactivity) as part of a scientific study of the shifts in sand deposits. He has collected samples from Port Elizabeth and the South Coast and plans to pick up more on the West Coast for analysis.

- Research by the Atomic Energy Corporation on 2,000 houses in 26 urban areas in South Africa found that radon levels were comparable with those in other countries.

The expected number of houses that might exceed acceptable levels could amount to "several thousand".
Mining at St Lucia still a burning issue

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Richards Bay Minerals has called on people to await the outcome of an environmental impact report on the planned dune-mining at St Lucia before judging the issue.

In a statement from the company's public relations manager, Barry Clements, it said that RBM was "dismayed by numerous unsubstantiated claims made by the Campaign for St Lucia (CSL) that the proposed sand mining of the dunes north of St Lucia in the eastern shores State forest would radically affect delicate eco-systems, destroy pristine dune forests, flood wetlands, cause erosion and cause disturbance through heavy traffic".

The statement said RBM and many environmentalists were concerned that "the propaganda campaign being waged by the CSL was undermining the environmental impact assessment report which is to be made public on March 18.

"The fact that the CSL is waging their campaign in advance of the publication of this report, and the democratic process of public participation within it, proves that the CSL want to dupe the public into signing a petition based on their one-sided propaganda campaign," the statement said.

Three years ago a widespread public outcry prevented RBM from moving into St Lucia to mine the dunes. The company was then forced to commission the environmental impact assessment.

February 22-28 has been declared national St Lucia Week by conservationists.

They have appealed to South Africans to help during that week draw attention to the fact the government is considering allowing open cast titanium mining at St Lucia.

The CSL is also asking people to sign individual cards (available by ringing 011-648-1307) pleading with the government to proclaim St Lucia inviolate by passing the Wetlands Conservation Bill.

The campaign is also appealing for volunteers to help it distribute and collect tens of thousands of cards. So far 450,000 have been distributed.
Warning of water curbs as level of dams plunges

By Shirley Woodgate

The next few months are critical as the total amount of water stored in dams in all four provinces hovers at 40 percent.

This is well down from the 74 percent mark at the same time last year, according to Water Affairs spokesman Claus Triebel.

The level of dams in Natal and the western Cape is satisfactory but most reservoirs elsewhere in the country are critically low.

Triebel did not exclude the possibility of water restrictions being imposed before the end of the rainy season in areas supplied by the Orange River Project as the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam plunged to 22 percent and the P K le Roux to 43 percent.

In the eastern Transvaal, the Fanie Botha Dam is down to 9 percent, the Alhasini to 4 percent, the Braam Rauenheimer to 12 percent and the Loskop to 27 percent.

In the western Transvaal the Doringdraai is only 5 percent full.

The total amount of water in dams serving the PWV is down from 72 percent in January last year to 48 percent.
Battle for St Lucia's future starts

SOUTH Africans should await the outcome of an environmental impact assessment on mining northern Natal's unique St Lucia dunes before judging the situation, mining firm Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) said yesterday.

The company was reacting to the Campaign for St Lucia's (CSL's) relaunch of its anti-mining lobby.

RBM, whose majority shareholder is Canadian-based mining giant Rio Tinto Zinc, was dismayed by CSL's view that mining could radically affect delicate ecosystems, destroy pristine dune forests, flood wetlands and cause erosion.

The campaign's views were "propaganda", and RBM referred to "the most extensive and comprehensive assessment ever undertaken".

A review panel would test public opinion and add their comments before the report was submitted to Cabinet, RBM said.

The impact assessment's findings are due on March 18.

CSL said there was some hope that a wetlands conservation Bill would be passed by Parliament, preventing all prospecting and mining within internationally recognised wetland sites, including St Lucia.

CSL chairman Dr Nolly Zaloumis said St Lucia was too important to gamble with. There were other mining sites available, and ecotourism would generate much more money in the long run. The area was also an integral part of a proposed greater St Lucia wetland park. — Sapa.
Crisis prompts sanctions rethink

WASHINGTON — Because of

a series of events over the past month, the US government has decided to impose new economic sanctions on certain entities and individuals. The sanctions, which were announced on March 15, target entities involved in activities related to the manufacture or sale of advanced technology and military equipment.

The move comes amid increasing tensions between the US and its allies, particularly over issues related to trade and national security. The sanctions are intended to deter further proliferation of advanced technology and to restrict the flow of funds to entities involved in these activities.

The US government has also announced plans to work with international partners to ensure that the sanctions are effectively implemented and to coordinate efforts to address the broader issue of proliferation.

The move has been welcomed by many allies, who see it as a necessary step to ensure the security of the region and to prevent the spread of advanced technology.

However, some countries have expressed concern over the impact of the sanctions on their own economies and have called for a more nuanced approach.

The US government has stated that it is committed to working with its allies to ensure that the sanctions are effective and that they do not impact businesses or individuals who are not involved in proliferative activities.

The sanctions are part of a broader strategy to address the issue of proliferation and to work towards a more secure future for all.

---

Dunes Study

For St. Lucia

Call to Wait

---

Page 9

---

WASHINGTON — Because of

a series of events over the past month, the US government has decided to impose new economic sanctions on certain entities and individuals. The sanctions, which were announced on March 15, target entities involved in activities related to the manufacture or sale of advanced technology and military equipment.

The move comes amid increasing tensions between the US and its allies, particularly over issues related to trade and national security. The sanctions are intended to deter further proliferation of advanced technology and to restrict the flow of funds to entities involved in these activities.

The US government has also announced plans to work with international partners to ensure that the sanctions are effectively implemented and to coordinate efforts to address the broader issue of proliferation.

The move has been welcomed by many allies, who see it as a necessary step to ensure the security of the region and to prevent the spread of advanced technology.

However, some countries have expressed concern over the impact of the sanctions on their own economies and have called for a more nuanced approach.

The US government has stated that it is committed to working with its allies to ensure that the sanctions are effective and that they do not impact businesses or individuals who are not involved in proliferative activities.

The sanctions are part of a broader strategy to address the issue of proliferation and to work towards a more secure future for all.

---

Dunes Study

For St. Lucia

Call to Wait
Attack on wilderness slammed

DURBAN — Conservationist Ian Player said yesterday Richards Bay Minerals was insulting several religions by attacking the wilderness concept. (56)

Pierre, founder of the Wilderness School, was commenting on a 15-page sponsored survey on RBM in Lendon's Wild magazine.

In the survey, RBM's public relations head Barry Clements was quoted as saying: "This talk of saving St Lucia by preventing mining is one of the biggest hoaxes in the annals of SA conservation. "The anti-mining lobby would sacrifice massive benefits to the people of SA on the altar of a white elitist spiritual yearning for a wilderness experience . . . ."

Player said: "To mock any of the spiritual aspects of wilderness is to mock every major religion in the world: both Islam and Christ spent time in the wilderness as did many of the Hindu prophets."

He challenged RBM to disclose how much it was spending on its PR campaign. "If we had one-tenth of their PR money we would be able to tell the full story."

RBM spokesman Norman Clements said the cost of the articles had been offset by supporting adverts from other companies, and the final cost to RBM had not been calculated.

CP 'prepared to talk to SACP and ANC'

Billy Paddock

THE CP had tacitly shifted its negotiation policy and was prepared to bargain with the SACP and the ANC, a senior CP source said yesterday.

He said the CP had consistently rejected "sowing with the devil incarnate", and the fact that President F W de Klerk had chosen to negotiate with the SACP had been a major thrust of the CP's campaign to discredit him over the past two years.

"But now we are prepared to enter into discussions with these groups. It is a clear implication of our decision to participate in a multi-party planning conference agreed to with government at the weekend," he said.

He said CP leader Andries Treurnicht's statement on Monday had not contradicted this decision. All parties of the Concerned South Africans Group had rejected Codesa and the planning conference would decide what kind of negotiating forum would be set up. It could be exactly the same as Codesa, he said.

He also said the CP, though insisting that self-determination was non-negotiable, would be prepared to put this on the table when the chips were down. "We will cross that bridge when we come to it."

He said a careful look at Treurnicht's statement would show that while the leader said self-determination was non-negotiable, "his later point on regions or states deciding on functions to be retained or given to central government informs on his first point".

He said Treurnicht clearly acknowledged a central government but insisted on it not having the determining role of functions and duties to be devolved to regions.

"Like (Inkatha leader) Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's new constitution, we want a bottom-up method, not a top-down one," he said.

He denied allegations that the Concerned South Africans Group was in the process of splintering, saying it had won large concessions in the two-day talks with government "and is the hope of the nation to bring fairness and sense into the negotiations process".

He said there were clear acknowledged differences within the group, but the parties were bound together by a common rejection of a unitary state, and opposition to government and the ANC making decisions for the country without consultation.

Peace accord steps up efforts

Wilson Zwane

THE national peace committee will step up efforts this year to make the national peace accord felt at grassroots level.

The committee's executive will meet in Johannesburg tomorrow. Spokesman Val Paauw said yesterday the meeting would evaluate the organisation's progress and special attention would be given to "socio-economic" strategies to rebuild violence-ravaged communities.

Paauw said it was committee chairman John Hall's feeling that the peace accord would have an impact only if it filtered down to grassroots level. That could be done by undertaking socio-economic reconstruction projects.

Tomorrow's meeting would also continue with its attempts to convene a meeting of the signatories to the accord, Paauw said.

The signatories' meeting was to have taken place tomorrow, but Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he would not attend it before a meeting between himself and ANC president Nelson Mandela.

Mandela has said repeatedly peace interests would be served better by a signatories' meeting than a one-on-one meeting between himself and Buthelezi.

But ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday the meeting of the two leaders was still on the cards.

Working groups, set up last year to deal with the leaders' preconditions for their meeting, were still meeting.

It is understood that tomorrow's meeting will consider also a request by the National People's Party to join the peace accord.

Paauw said the committee would hold discussions with various organisations, including the PAC, with a view to getting them to sign the peace accord.
Large-scale urbanisation of green belt 'inevitable'

LARGE-scale urbanisation in the green belt northwest of Johannes-
burg was inevitable, and the question before the Demarcation
Board was which structure would best be equipped to handle the
flood, TPA deputy director of community development Len
Dekker said yesterday.

In his opening address to the De-
marcation Board hearing in Krugers-
dorp, Dekker said a balance had to be
struck between protecting the rights
of residents already living in the
area, and creating new rights for
those communities which had been
deprived for so long.

The TPA had suggested that the six
municipalities administer the area
between them as it was better for
local authorities to decide how the
urbanisation would go ahead rather
than for the decision to be made in
Pretoria, Dekker said. He added that
the councils had been discussing the
plan for several years.

The six municipalities -- Ver-
woerburg, Midrand, Randburg,
Sandton, Rooideoort and Krugers-
dorp -- have submitted applications
to the Board to divide between them
the 80km² northwest of the borders up

KATHRYN STRACHAN

to the Hartebeespoort Dam.

The Greenbelt Action Group,
which represents residents in the
area, has proposed an alternative to
the carve-up -- a self-funding rural
municipality which will protect the
green belt area against forced urban-
isation. They fear squatters will be
placed on site-and-service stands
rather than in low-cost housing
schemes which they are proposing.

The municipalities believe their
skills and resources would allow
them to handle urbanisation in the
area in a more controlled way, and
would ensure that nature reserves
and environmentally sensitive areas
were preserved.

Dekker told the board the problem
of urbanisation was so vast that de-
veloping the areas within existing
municipal boundaries would only sat-
sify a small percentage of the need
and it was therefore imperative that
the greater area be considered.

He stressed that the question be-
fore the board was to decide whether
the flood of urbanisation would best
be administered through the institu-
tion of a new local authority, through
smaller viable local management
committees, or through the extension
of the existing municipal boundaries.

"The TPA has already adopted the
standpoint that as far as informal
towns for the low income group are
concerned, it will take the initiative
to address the urgent need in two new
towns, namely Dipsloot and Niet-
gedacht," he said.

Further identification of land for
informal towns would be done by the
local authorities themselves.

Provision would also have to be
made for commercial and industrial
areas that would create work oppor-
tunities in the region.

The conservation of agricultural
and natural reserves, especially
north of the Krugersdorp highway
(R28), would be central to the plan,
Dekker said, and the TPA believed a
local authorities could provide better
protection for the area than individu-
als or organised interest groups.

He said factors that could inhibit
development of low-cost settlements
in the area included the traditional
perception that the entire area be
preserved as an open "green" area,
the relative lack of a physical infra-
structure and the lack of mass trans-
portation in the region.
Natal Parks Board allows hunting of some species

MARITZBURG. — Applications to hunt certain animals in Natal parks are being accepted by the Natal Parks Board.

Species included in the hunts are red hartebeest, impala, blesbok and springbok at Albert Falls; blesbok, springbok and zebra at Chelmsford; blesbok, kudu, impala, black wildebeest, zebra and red hartebeest at Spioenkop; and nyala, impala, bushpig, warthog, common duiker, zebra, blue wildebeest, common redbuck and red duiker at Mkhuzi Game Reserve.

The NPB's hunting and extension conservator, Mr Gary Davies, said the cost of the hunts and accommodation ranged from R1 620 at the Albert Falls park to R7 990 at the Mkhuzi game reserve. — Sapa
CLEANING up the global environment has become a huge growth industry promising to create myriads of jobs worldwide, the 10th annual "State of the World" report said.

Pollution and misuse of resources, meanwhile, were costing billions of dollars a year, said the Worldwatch Institute report released on Saturday.

Efforts to save the environment were fuelling a "new industrial revolution" affecting nearly all industries and offering global profit-making opportunities, the report from the non-profit, independent research group said.

"The environment is now a powerful market force in its own right," researchers Christopher Flavin and John Young wrote in the concluding chapter.

The new route to economic success, they said, would be "supplying energy services rather than electricity, information rather than newspapers, and crop protection rather than pesticides".

Industry would need to produce cars fuelled by hydrogen, natural gas, electricity or far less petrol than current models. "It now appears that the automotive industry is about to undergo some of the most rapid change since Henry Ford introduced the Model T," the report said, predicting the demise of the internal combustion engine.

Other emerging industries include fish farming, recycled steel manufacturing and solar energy production.

Nearly all such industries had profit-making opportunities, the report, which for the first time focuses on the role of private business in protecting the environment.

Cleaning up air, water and soil was already a $200 billion (R60 billion) annual business, and environment-related industries may be counted in the trillions of dollars in the next century, the report said.

Ecological progress worldwide should be spurred by the administration of President-elect Clinton and Vice-President-elect Albert Gore, said Worldwatch president Lester Brown.

He said Gore’s knowledge of environmental issues "exceeds that of any person I know of in government in the world".

The report said taxes on toxic chemicals and air pollutants were better than regulations for promoting greener industries.

Without controls, Earth faced overpopulation, impoverishment, polluted air, dying forests, soil loss, poisoned waterways, ozone depletion and global warming, said the report’s opening chapter.

Since the first "State of the World" report in 1984, tropical forest loss had increased 60 percent, more species were disappearing, and population increases had accelerated from 80 million a year in 1984 to an expected 92 million in 1993.

The new report estimates that reduced forest productivity from air pollution costs Europe $30 billion (about R90 billion) a year, overgrazing costs African countries $7 billion (about R21 billion) a year and global warming costs the US alone about $60 billion (R180 billion) a year in lost crops, damaged forests and rising sea levels.

Businesses fighting environmentalists might be better off hiring them to increase profits, the report noted. — Sapa-AP. □
Bop accused of hindering drought relief work

DROUGHT relief workers were being refused access to areas of Bophuthatswana by the homeland's government despite severe water shortages affecting thousands of people there, northern Cape relief worker Junior Nkabo said yesterday.

Nkabo said Bophuthatswana government officials regarded with suspicion the Consultative Forum on Drought - a joint government-development agency initiative - because ANC aligned organisations were involved with it.

The most critical areas were the Kudumane district and the Dithakeng area, which had been designated "red areas" by the forum as they were in need of urgent intervention, he said.

A Bophuthatswana Water Supply Authority spokesman denied yesterday the forum had been refused access to the homeland.

He said it was "advised to liaise with the office of the governor (of Kudumane district)."

But Nkabo said the governor's office had consistently refused the forum permission to begin emergency water supply operations through its Water Supply Task Force.

The only sources of water for about 2 000 residents of Dithakeng were shallow wells, used by livestock, which dried up from time to time and had become health hazards.

The Bophuthatswana spokesman said water supply problems in the area had been attended to, with five pumps being installed to supplement existing resources.
ANC opposes bid to grab green belt

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE ANC has criticised the attempts by six municipalities to extend their boundaries into the green belt north of Johannesburg, as pre-empting the outcome of national negotiations on local government.

Verwoerdburg, Midrand, Sandton, Randburg, Roodepoort and Krugersdorp yesterday put their plans to divide the 60km² between them before the Demarcation Board for Local Authorities.

The ANC PWV region said the redrawing of the boundaries could be made only after consultations with different communities, and called on the authorities to suspend the hearing pending the outcome of national negotiations at local level.

The municipalities plan to implement a joint development strategy for the region, which will include low-cost housing schemes, to deal with urbanisation.

But their proposal is being fiercely opposed by residents who fear that it will ruin the rural character of the area and that the green belt will be used as a dumping ground for squatters.

Midrand council management committee chairman Dave Hidden said yesterday the issue had been referred to the Demarcation Board because of the authorities' failure to consult residents in the area.

It was regrettable that the crucial issue had to be decided in a few days by bureaucrats who had very little interest in the area, he said.

The clash between the Midrand and Sandton town councils over Sandton's bid to incorporate the Midrand suburb of Glenferrness into its borders would also be put before the board within the next two days.

◊ See Page 7
The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) is to reopen four of its nature reserves for public hunting. They are Sandveld (OPS), Bloemhof Dam, Langjan near Vivo and Pongola.

Sandveld, which is near Bloemhof nature reserve, offers a hunting package consisting of two gemsbok, five black wildebeest bulls with two zebras as optional choices.

The Bloemhof Dam package consists of an eland, a gemsbok, a red hartebeest, a blesbok and three black wildebeest bulls.

Only experienced hunters should apply for Sandveld and Bloemhof Dam nature reserve because in many cases animals will have to be hunted in open veld over a long distance.

The popular Langjan nature reserve could offer only one package this year. It consists of two eland, two gemsbok, two waterbucks and two red hartebees. Warthogs, blue wildebeest and impala were optional extras.

Pongola nature reserve, which was also very popular, offers one package consisting of six impala and eight blue wildebeest.

Prices of the packages vary between R4 150 and R6 700.
Randburg replies to green belt critics

KATHRYN STRACHAN

It proposed that this plan should indicate that all environmentally sensitive areas would be preserved as public or private open spaces.

Although developing low-cost housing was a top council priority, Randburg management committee chairman Brian Crall had assured residents that “no development was planned for the area north of the Krugersdorp highway (R26) — which dissects the green belt — and that it would be retained as a natural area.

The adaptation of municipal borders, extension of areas of jurisdiction and the establishment of new local governments to the north-west of Johannesburg will all be argued at the three-day hearing.

The session involves the municipalities of Krugersdorp, Randburg, Roodepoort, Sandton, Midrand and Verwoerdberg, as well as local area committees of Chartwell, Muldersdrift and Rantseig, the Greenbelt Action Group and the Jukkies Crocodile River Catchment Area Association.

The area at issue is the entire green belt stretching from the present municipal boundaries to the Hartbeespoort Dam and the Skurweberg mountains.

Crall said the six municipalities banded together last year at the request of the TPA to seek a joint solution to the massive influx of people and the unplanned settlements that had resulted.

Boerestaat leader Robert van Tonder, who is also chairman of the Garden Triangle Action Group, said in a statement issued yesterday that the municipalities did not want the area for expansion but for refuse dumps, squatter camps and sewage farms. He threatened that residents would refuse to pay rates if the plan went ahead.
'New industrial revolution' to save the environment

DAVID BRISCOE of Sapa-AP reports from Washington.

CLEANING the global environment has become a huge growth industry that promises to create a myriad of jobs worldwide, the 16th annual State Of The World report says.

Pollution and misuse of resources, meanwhile, are costing billions of rands a year, according to the Worldwatch Institute report released at the weekend.

Efforts to save the environment are fuelling a "new industrial revolution," affecting nearly all industries and offering global profit-making opportunities, the report from the non-profit, independent research group says.

"The environment is now a powerful market force in its own right," researchers Christopher Flavin and John E Young write in the study's concluding chapter.

The new route to economic success, they said, would be "supplying energy services rather than electricity, information rather than a newspaper, and crop protection rather than pesticides".

Industry will need to produce new cars fuelled by hydrogen, natural gas, electricity or far less petrol than current models.

"It now appears that the automotive industry is about to undergo some of the most rapid change since Henry Ford introduced the Model T," the report said, predicting the demise of the internal combustion engine.

Other emerging industries include fish farming, recycled steel manufacturing and solar energy production, the report said.

Nearly all such industries have profit-making opportunities, said the report, which for the first time focuses on the role of private business in protecting the world's environment.

Cleaning up air, water and soil already is a R600-billion annual business, and environment-related industries may be counted in the trillions of rands in the next century, the report said.

Ecological progress worldwide should be spurred by the administration of President-elect Clinton and Vice President-elect Albert Gore, said Worldwatch president Lester R Brown.

He said Mr Gore's knowledge of environmental issues "exceeds that of any person I know of in government in the world".

The report said taxes on products that damage the earth — toxic chemicals and air pollutants — are better than regulations for promoting greener industries.

Without controls, the earth faces overpopulation, impoverishment, polluted air, dying forests, soil loss, poisoned waterways, ozone depletion and global warming, said the report's opening chapter, written by Brown.

"If our generation does not turn things around, our children may not have the option of doing so," Brown said.

Since the first State Of The World report in 1984, tropical forest loss has increased 60 percent, more species are disappearing, and population increases have accelerated from 80 million a year in 1984 to an expected 92 million in 1993, the group said.

The new report estimates that reduced forest productivity from air pollution costs Europe R70 billion a year, overgrazing costs African countries R21 billion a year and global warming costs the United States alone about R160 billion a year in lost crops, damaged forests and rising sea levels.

Flavin and Young write that businesses fighting environmentalists might be better off employing them to increase profits.

"While some have begun to re vamp their products and processes, others are fighting the tide and failing to look ahead," the authors say.

"Businesses that do not learn how to earn profits in an ecologically sound way may find they have no profits to worry about."

The report is being translated into 27 languages.
The real question, therefore, is: if the company would lose a few million dollars, would it continue to pursue its current strategy? The answer is no. The company has so far been able to sustain itself by focusing on high-end tours and by maintaining a strong brand image. However, if the company continues to lose money at its current pace, it may face financial difficulties in the future.

The company is currently exploring options to increase its revenue streams. One option is to diversify its product offerings to attract a broader range of customers. Another option is to negotiate better terms with tour operators and make it more attractive for them to work with the company. The company is also considering partnerships with local businesses to create a more value-added experience for its customers.

In conclusion, while the company is in the red, it is not in critical condition. However, it needs to take proactive steps to turn around its financial situation. The company needs to focus on its core strengths, such as its reputation and brand image, and leverage them to attract more customers and increase its revenue streams.
Flight to Save St Lucia Dunes in Giant Wetlands for Tourists

JOHN INNES

EOverlay — Mining “the Projection”
Rezoning planned but
Sandy Bay unaffected

CAPE TOWN — The pristine land above the Sandy Bay nudist beach that belongs to Aba is safe for the present.

But a large piece of land on the Hout Bay side will be subdivided and rezoned for housing if an application by Aba to the regional services council (RSC) is successful.

The application by Aba for the subdivision of the roughly 60 ha site and rezoning from rural to residential was lodged on December 21.

Surrounded

An RSC spokesman said the proposal would be advertised for comment and objections within three weeks.

Pierre Augustyn, managing director of Aba's property arm, Bankorp Properties, said he was fully aware of the ecologically sensitive nature of the area.

"That is why we have applied for rezoning of the Hout Bay portion of the land only," he said.

The Hout Bay side is already surrounded by residential property and all essential services are already available in the portion proposed for development.

"However, to preserve the ecological integrity of the area, our development plan includes a green fringe or buffer zone for the site where stretches of indigenous flora can be preserved among the houses.

"The housing units will not be visible or encroach in any way on the Sandy Bay side," he emphasised.

Once the proposal is advertised, the public and other interested groups will have 21 days to comment and lodge objections.

Thereafter the application and the comments on the proposed development will go before the council for approval.

Magnate

Hotel magnate Sol Kerzner also owns a section of land between Llandudno and Sandy Bay, but the spokesman for the RSC said that at this stage no application for rezoning or development had been received from Kerzner.
EC missions seek access

BRUSSELS — The EC has stressed the importance of allowing internal observer missions free access to all parts of SA, including the homelands.

In a thinly veiled reference to the Bophuthatswana authorities who have occasionally hampered international observers, the EC issued a statement yesterday urging "all parties to support the international observer missions in fulfilling their tasks".

The EC also expressed its abhorrence and condemnation of the "recent senseless murders of children and other innocent victims", and appealed to all parties engaged in negotiating a political settlement to do their utmost to end the violence.

The EC and its 12 member states noted a "general downward trend of violence since the beginning of 1993".

However, the community called on all parties involved in the democratic process to sign the national peace agreement reached in September 1991. It urged the parties to commit themselves to a speedy and peaceful transition to a democratic, nonracial and united SA.

It noted that the EC observer mission, like its UN and Commonwealth counterparts, had "the mandate to observe the situation on the ground in areas most affected by violence and to facilitate dialogue between the relevant parties". — Sapa-AFP.
Chamber challenges mine pollution report

THE Chamber of Mines has contested the recently published CSIR findings that the mining industry was SA’s biggest hazardous waste producer.

Mining waste was predominantly inert rock material classified as non-hazardous, the chamber said.

The debate around cyanide-bearing effluent from gold mining operations was crucial in determining how big a polluter mining actually was, said chamber senior GM operations Horst Wagner.

Cyanide was used mainly to dissolve gold from the ore. The gold-depleted solution was then recycled and pumped into tailings dams where the dissolved cyanide underwent natural degradation through, among other processes, oxidation.

The Witwatersrand climate greatly facilitated oxidation which contributed to cyanide reduction before seepage discharge into groundwater, Wagner said.

The CSIR’s Hazardous Waste in SA: Summary of Responses report has estimated mining caused about 90% of SA’s solid, liquid and gaseous waste and 56% of all toxic waste.

Gold mining alone contributed about 53.5% of SA’s hazardous waste in the form of cyanide-bearing effluent streams, the report said.

Seepage from mines’ sludge dams still contained eco-toxic concentrations of free cyanide and was acidic enough to kill fish, the report said.

Wagner said the long-term potential for serious health or environmental damage from cyanide-bearing waste streams was minimal and these effluents should be reclassified as non-hazardous. “If this reclassification is carried out then the total amount of hazardous waste produced by the mining industry reduces to 5.2%.”

Various studies had shown little evidence of groundwater contamination below or adjacent to gold tailings disposal facilities.

The chamber’s environmental management programme report has also adopted a holistic approach to environmental management, Wagner said.

He said current environmental regulations pertaining to mining were enforced by at least 20 Acts and about nine government departments.

“The administration of the legislation applicable to SA mining could possibly become chaotic and obscure because of the number of government departments involved and the extent of delegation that can take place,” Wagner said.

For this reason the chamber supported industry self-regulation and “a single point of contact between industry and government so that the administrative process is facilitated”.

MARIANNE MERTEN

8109 31/3/93
10 Etosha zebras sent for ‘quagga romp’ to Vrolijkheid reserve

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TEN more zebras from Etosha National Park in Namibia have arrived to boost the South African Museum’s ambitious project to re-create the quagga.

The once-numerous quagga was hunted to extinction during the 19th century, but a re-breeding project was launched in 1987 after genetic research determined that the animal was not a separate species but merely a sub-species of the plains zebra.

The research was instigated by South African Museum specialist taxidermist Mr Reinhold Rau, who obtained tissue samples from quagga skins in various museums. This allowed genetic scientists to analyse the quagga’s DNA structure.

Zebras, carefully selected for quagga-likeness — either in basic colouring or stripe reduction — were caught in Etosha National Park in Namibia and in Zululand and taken to the Cape Nature Conservation’s Vrolijkheid nature reserve outside Robertson to breed.

“Of the present southernmost plains zebra populations, we found the most stripe-reduction in Zululand, while the brownish basic color occurs most frequently in the Etosha population,” Mr Rau explained.

“It is this brownish colour which, at this stage, was most needed for the breeding group.”

Earlier this month, the Namibian Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism approved the selection and capture of a further 10 animals in Etosha.

The new animals — five stallions and five mares — have been taken to an experimental farm outside Pretoria, and some of them will be transferred to Vrolijkheid in a few months’ time.

QUAGGA-BREEDERS: Plains zebras with reduced striping have been carefully selected to help breed back the quagga.

The captive zebras have produced 16 foals to date, Mr Rau said.

“Although some of the mares have already given birth to three foals, they all represent first generation, captive offspring as most of the Vrolijkheid-born animals are not yet mature enough to reproduce.

“Not much progress with reduced striping or darkening of the basic colour should be expected in the first generation.

“For that reason, it was encouraging when two of the 16 foals born appeared to be a little ‘closer’ to the extinct quagga than do their parents.”
Nurserymen root out claims of ignorance about Cape plants

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Cape Association of Nurserymen has rejected a report which found that Cape Town's nursery managers were ignorant of environmental issues affecting indigenous plants.

The report, based on interviews with 19 managers of privately owned nurseries and with managers of state and local authority nurseries, was sponsored by the Botanical Society's flora conservation committee.

The report, published earlier this month, also found that some of the Cape's worst invasive alien plants were being stocked in commercial nurseries.

In its response, the association said the report — Attitudes of nursery managers of Cape Town toward the sale and use of invasive alien plants — did not reflect the general opinion or attitude of its members.

The issues had been investigated after the report had been published and a list of participating nurseries had been requested, the association said in a statement.

"But we were informed that the parties involved had been requested to remain anonymous."

Also, it appeared some of the larger wholesale and retail nurseries had not been approached, the statement added.

"It is therefore our opinion that this report is incorrect."
WATER WONDER: Hout Bay environmentalist Dr Guy Preston and his five-year-old son, Ian, prove it's possible to get squeaky clean while using a minimum of water from a revolutionary new showerhead.

City man staking his life savings on huge water-saver

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

WATER is probably South Africa's most precious natural asset.

So, who could refuse an opportunity to save huge amounts of money on the family's water and electricity budget AND help the country's conservation effort at the same time?

That's the question on which two prominent members of Cape Town's conservation fraternity have staked their life's savings by starting a trading company specialising in environmentally friendly goods.

Husband-and-wife team Dr Guy Preston and Dr Penny Brown of Hout Bay already have won the SA Nature Foundation's 1993 Product for the Year award for their first line: A "wonder showerhead" which uses less than a quarter of the amount of water flowing from a conventional head while still delivering a high-quality shower.

Dr Preston, a senior environmental scientist, said the showerhead, which cost less than R$50, could pay for itself within 24 days.

Over a 10-year period, a family of four could save more than a million litres of water — enough to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool — and more than $40 000 kilowatt-hours of electricity — sufficient energy to keep a 60-watt bulb burning 24 hours a day for 66 years.

The financial saving of fitting one of the devices would be R$1 761.

These "conservative" figures had been independently verified by a researcher in UCT's Energy Research Institute and the flow figures confirmed by the SA Bureau of Standards, added Dr Preston.

"We believe that a widespread switch to this product would be a practical and very significant measure that could be taken to promote environmental conservation and economic efficiency in our country."

He pointed out that more than 15 million of the showerheads already had been sold in the United States — "a most eloquent endorsement".

Part of the proceeds of each sale will go to the SA Nature Foundation.

Contact 790 2996 for further information.
Report on St Lucia to come under fire

RAY HARTLEY

THE CSIR's report on the viability of mining and ecotourism at St Lucia will come under fire in two documents to be released next month as part of a renewed campaign by environmentalists to put pressure on government to prohibit mining.

The Natal Parks Board, a proponent of the ecotourism option in the CSIR study, would release its full response to the CSIR report in April, a board official said at the weekend.

And the Zululand Environmental Alliance is planning to produce an alternative version of the CSIR's executive summary, which it says is biased because Richards Bay Minerals - which wants to mine the estuary dunes - paid the salaries of most of those who drafted it.

The two organisations both said they believed the report was fundamentally flawed and the critical finding that no irreplaceable damage would be done to the environment by dredge mining - had been reached before studies into water flows had been completed.

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has argued that mining would not disturb the complex process by which fresh water flows into Lake St Lucia from the dunes, which the CSIR report fully endorsed.

Parks Board head of planning Bill Bainbridge said: "I personally believe that, despite what the CSIR said, there has been bias. I believe that it is totally untenable for RBM to sit on the Assessment Management Committee (which managed the drafting of the report)," he said.

Zululand Environmental Alliance chairman Wally Menne said yesterday the alternative summary would be based on the same research papers and the CSIR version, but would not be biased in favour of mining.

"The alliance had already collected "close to 300 000" postcard petitions calling on government not to allow to mining at St Lucia, he said. If mining were to go ahead, the alliance would subject the company to "unprecedented scrutiny" and expose its mining track record.

A 116-page submission by the alliance to the CSIR had largely been ignored in the executive summary, he said.

People in the St Lucia area are aggrieved by the way in which RBM was using land with little compensation. Menne said two RBM employees had been shot at recently by members of the local community and an RBM bus had been raked by AK--47 fire.

RBM had ignored recommendations made by the alliance on how to improve the rehabilitation of indigenous vegetation along their mining paths in the past, he said.

An Inkatha statement in favour of mining was probably a knee jerk reaction to an earlier ANC statement, he said.

Unions in fight for council

ERICA JANKOWITZ

THE threatened collapse of the Transvaal Building Industrial Council would be aggressively opposed by the three union parties to the council.

The Master Builders' Association decision to pull out of the council came as a surprise to the unions which say they were not consulted on the move.

The building council is SA's second largest and the ripple effects of allowing its collapse were enormous, said Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers national organiser Jose de Oliveira.

Other building councils could follow the same route, as could industrial councils in other sectors, thus rendering government liable for the provision of social benefits, he said.

The council controls a pension fund with about R890m in assets, as well as sick benefit, medical aid and unemployment funds. It also administered quality and safety - the two major concerns of the industry, de Oliveira added.

He said the influx of sub-contractors harmed the industry as workers were exploited and quality control ignored. However, deregulation was no solution.

The Construction and Allied Workers' Union, the White Building Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union were working together to prevent the council's demise, he said.
He's still slaughtering those holy cows!
MONEY

WHAT lies between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown is typical Eastern Cape wasteland. True or false? The answer, since late last year, is a resounding false.

This was when entrepreneur Adrian Gardiner opened his R10-million Garden Route answer to the Transvaal Lowveld’s Mala Mala and Londolozi: Shamwari Game Reserve.

An adobe-charged with anti-Greedy 1990s and pro-Nurturing 1990s meaning helps explain how one of ecotourism’s most exciting developments came about. It concerns the imported Mercedes-Benz 280SL. Mr Gardiner used to own. I had R400 000 sitting in my garage,” he says, “and I never used to drive the damn thing. So I got rid of it and bought another farm.”

Mr Gardiner, a self-made millionaire, already owned a birds-and-buck-rich bushveld 72km from PE. He had built a lodge out of a decayed dwelling on it for the use of his family and friends.

Mr Gardiner is not faint hearted. Over the years he has made a success of a motley array of business interests, including swimming-pool construction, chariot hire, transport broking, shipping, racehorse breeding and property. The sale of the Mercedes marked his decision to go big in the game-reserve business.

Today, Shamwari (it means friend) Game Reserve is set to compete with retreats in the likeness conservation areas of the Transvaal Lowveld and Northern Natal.

With typical gusto, Mr Gardiner has embarked on an ambitious programme to restore to the reserve the variety of indigenous game — including the Big Five — it lost over the decades.

The programme encourages visitors to guests in the ecology of the region; indeed, when we were there, five baby elephants, bought from the Kruger National Park when their mothers were culled, had just been released into the wild.

Then too, Shamwari is rich in another kind of history. That of the 1820 Settlers. Four camps are centred on the restored, historically important, homes of the first white people to brave this frontier.

Flagship Long Lee Manor, where we stayed and which boasts a semi-underground conference centre seating 50, is as improbable as it is beautiful.

This is because it is an Edwardian mansion, accommodating 23 in luxury, period en-suite bedrooms decorated by Colonial Homes of South Africa author Graham Viney, whereas most game-reserve dwellings are rough-hewn and deliberately rustic.

To come down Long Lee Manor’s staircase to an elegant, inspired dinner after a two-hour game drive is to savour two worlds at once: to revel in luxury while you rough it in the bush.

There is traditional thatched Shamwari Lodge, the original haunt of the Gardiner family which now sleeps 10 in five double en-suite bedrooms.

Contrast is also provided by Highfield and Carn Ingly. Restored settlers’ cottages, each of which accommodates six, are ideal bases for families or small parties bent on getting away from it all.

That Mr Gardiner has enlisted a few former Mala Mala staff is testimony to his bid to offer first-rate service.

A Mala Mala in the Eastern Cape

Linda Stafford

HOW TO SPEND IT

OVERCHARGED BY YOUR BANK?

WITH THE TEOVENOA PROGRAM YOU CAN CHECK ONE MONTH’S BANK INTEREST CHARGED OR DEBITED TO YOUR ACCOUNT, WITHIN 3 MINUTES

- Why pay for your bank’s mistakes?
- Why pay more than R600 per year to have somebody else checking for you?
- It is EASY, SIMPLE, ACCURATE and it is PEACE OF MIND. The first month you check could pay for this program many times over.

Please phone (021) 561564 and we will fax you further information or send your cheque for R255 + VAT to:

TELENOVA SOFTWARE (SINCE 1964), 8 HILL RD, BLOUBERGRANT 7443

O P T I M U M F O R T R O N O T O R I O
The government this week launched its

White Paper on beach conservation.

By Ian Clavon
Police probe Unit 8 embargo buster
Award for service station programme

Environment Reporter

AN ENVIRONMENTAL programme at service stations has won Shell and its consulting engineers, Kapp Prestedge Retief, this year's prestige award from the Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Committee (Eppic) Western Cape.

Accepting the award, Mr Ian Williams, managing director (oil division), said his company believed its environmental responsibility extended beyond large installations such as refineries and chemical plants.

"Potential environmental impacts from accidental spillage, tank leakage, waste storage, noise levels, effluent and litter at our branded service stations have to be dealt with as well," he said.

The winning programme is based on a "cradle-to-grave" approach over the commercial life of a service station, involving planning and design, construction, operation, environmental auditing and decommissioning.

Eppic's national award will be announced in June.

Former winners include UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit, Eskom's Palmiet Pumped Storage Scheme near Grabouw, and Richards Bay Minerals for its dune rehabilitation programme after mining on the Natal north coast.
With the release last week of the environmental impact assessment for Lake St Lucia, the combatants in the mining-vs-preservation controversy now have a series of ecological facts that allow a clearer perspective on an issue long muddied by highly emotive debate and publicity.

The report is open for public comment for the next eight weeks. Then government will decide whether to allow Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) to mine the sand dunes for titanium on the lake's eastern shores. The alternative analysed by the report is to place the entire region under the control of the Natal Parks Board, which would develop it exclusively for nature conservation and tourism.

Another option that the report does not consider is to have it run as a private reserve along the lines of Phinda, Londolozi and similar parks.

Of course, St Lucia could get mining and ecotourism. The report concludes that "it is possible to gain maximum value by developing ecotourism concurrently with mining."

The report points out that mining the dunes would have no effect on Lake St Lucia because the closest the mining operations would approach the lake is 600 m. There would also be no accumulation of sediment in the wetlands around St Lucia and no effect on most of the mammals, birds and reptiles because the mining would affect only 1437 ha of the 12,874 ha that make up the Eastern Shores State Forest.

Another critical ecological area is the zone between the dunes and the Indian Ocean. The report recommends that mining operations be kept at least 400 m from the shore. RBM had previously said it would not go nearer than 300 m. The report says the mining will have an adverse visual effect on the area until the dunes are restored.

As the debate heats up in the weeks ahead, the most useful discussion will concern the economic implications of the two proposals, including the crucial topic of job creation.

Ecological economist Frank Vorhies says he remains unconvinced that mining the region would provide the greatest financial returns and he queries the low figures for job creation from ecotourism in the report. "Judging from experience with new private-sector game reserves such as Phinda, job creation from ecotourism should be greater and have a more widespread effect through the local population than mining."

While the report does clear up many of the ecological issues surrounding St Lucia, it does not do so well clearing up the economic issues. Vorhies says the report does not analyse the economic benefits for ecotourism of the private sector operating in the region. He expects these benefits to be far greater than those the Natal Parks Board, a non-profit government body, could produce.

Privately held RBM keeps its finances to itself. Critics say this makes it difficult to evaluate the full economic impact that the project would have on the region and to judge proposals that say the company should contribute towards conservation work in Natal through a fee or royalty on material mined at St Lucia.

RBM spokesman Barry Clements argues against a St Lucia royalty. "We pay a R100m royalty annually to the State. Hitting us for more might make the project not worthwhile. We would prefer some of the R100m to be earmarked for conservation work in Natal."

This is surely one RBM proposal that the Natal Parks Board can endorse, whether it wins or loses the battle of St Lucia.
Game park investment

LLOYD COUTTS

A R3m ecotourism project designed to reintroduce the
"big five" to a private game
reserve in the northern
Transvaal was launched
yesterday.

The scheme, a joint de-
velopment by the Du Pless-
sis Trust, Rand Merchant
Bank and Jordan Proper-
ties, involves the sale of 51
farms of 500ha each under
freehold title in the Vaal-
water district, about 265km
north of Johannesburg.

Jordan Properties MD
Trevor Jordan said yester-
day the farms would be
owned individually, but in-
vestors in the 25 000ha Wel-
gevonden private nature
reserve would have auto-
matic traverse rights
across the entire reserve.

Investors would be per-
mitted to build 10-bed
accommodation units and
would be allowed one 10-
seater vehicle.

Sixteen units would be
sold initially to individuals,
corporations or syndicates
at R1.65m each.

Most of the money raised
by the sale of the units
would be invested in game
stock, including lion, ele-
phant, buffalo, rhino and
leopard, and Welgevonden's current R3m stock
would be increased to R8m.

Landowners would be
permitted exclusive use of
a hunting camp.
Report warns on St Lucia

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Mining at St Lucia could cause irreparable damage to the area's wetlands and would lead to a drop in tourism to South Africa, warns an international body which protects the world's rare wetlands.

The Ramsar Convention's report was released by Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar yesterday, days after the release of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which concluded that mining would not have serious long-term effects on St Lucia's ecosystem.

The Ramsar report said the St Lucia system was so important internationally that the Government should consider refusing "on principle" the application to mine its dunes.

Impossible

Mining "could cause a long-term drop in the popularity of the area which would be hard, perhaps impossible to overcome in the long run".

It noted that potentially damaging mining on a Ramsar site could only be done in the urgent national interest.

The Ramsar report noted that the St Lucia system was one of the few sites in the world that met all three criteria as a wetlands of international importance:

- It was unique as one of the best conserved and one of the major estuary systems in Africa.
- It had plant and animal species of special interest.
- It had internationally important breeding concentrations of at least eight species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands.

The report noted that of all 12 of South Africa's Ramsar sites, the St Lucia system was by far the largest, most famous and most varied.
Industrial action at lowest in five years

THE dramatic decrease in strike activity for the first quarter of 1993 — at its lowest in more than five years — is largely attributed to a reluctance by unions to initiate industrial action in light of the economic climate.

According to Andrew Levy & Associates' latest strike report only 65 000 man days were lost in the first three months of this year compared with 135 000 in 1992 and 189 000 in 1991. The report suggested, however, strike activity would increase in the second half of this year as wage rounds began in earnest.

The most likely sector to be affected by strikes was the public service, which was expected to oppose the 5% wage ceiling imposed by government.

To date the protracted dispute by the SA Democratic Teachers' Union over wages and retrenchment was alone responsible for more than half the man days lost.

Postal workers in wildcat strike

ABOUT 2 000 SA Post Office and Telkom workers in Natal and Cape Town have embarked on wildcat strike action over a looming wage dispute.

Yesterday Posts and Telecommunications Workers' Association (Potwa) president Khabisi Mosunkutu said the action, stemmed from a belief that wage talks were "sliding towards deadlock".

Management had offered increases of less than 5% whereas Potwa's demands ranged between 14% and 30%, he said.

Potwa officials had tried to intervene and were desperately trying to resolve the matter. However, if management adopted a "high-handed" attitude this would "simply escalate the situation", he added.

National strike action could not be ruled out unless management moved substantially on the present offer. Talks are scheduled to resume next week, he said.

A Telkom spokesman said the Cape Town strike action had been limited to Post Office employees and details from Telkom Natal were sketchy.

Meanwhile, 155 Telkom workers based at the Phillipi Technical Services Centre were dismissed yesterday.

Telkom said their dismissals followed a series of work stoppages which did not concern wages. During the course of mediation yesterday workers refused to return to work and they were sacked.

Negotiations on the set of demands submitted in November would continue, Telkom said.

- - -

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Mayekiso joins picket**

SANCO president Moses Mayekiso joined a UK anti-apartheid picket at FNB-owned Henry Amsbacher Merchant Bank in London yesterday.

The picket had been organised by the End Loans to SA group and was aimed at raising consciousness about "socially irresponsible" banking in SA, Sanco said.

Mayekiso will address the Local Authorities Against Apartheid conference in Sheffield today.

**Tough anti-poaching law**

BOPHUTHATSWANA this week amended its Nature Conservation Act and introduced tougher anti-poaching measures following official concern about an increase in regional poaching.

**Water quotas loom**

FREE State farmers would have their irrigation quotas halved on May 1 unless water reserves in the province's dams improved, Water Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk said yesterday. The recent good rainfall had not brought relief to Free State wheat farmers who have had almost total crop failure this year. The rain had also not been sufficient to boost dam levels.

Van Wyk said farmers would still have time to complete harvesting because the intention was "to pull current crops through without restrictions".

**Hippo evades capture**

THE Dullstroom hippo, "Mighty Maa", trapped in an eastern Transvaal dam, has continued to frustrate TPA nature conservation efforts to capture it.

TPA nature and environmental department chief director Pieter Mulder said this week the hippo would not leave the dam while people moved around the area. He appealed to the public and media to avoid the dam.

**ERICA JANKOWITZ**

**ERICA JANKOWITZ**

The main trigger factor this year was discipline and dismissal. This triggered 37.5% of strikes followed by grievances and wages (25% each) and retrenchment (12.5%).

"Given high levels of unemployment and continuing retrenchments affecting all sectors of the economy, unions are adopting a cautious approach and not resorting to strike action as readily as they have in the past," the report said.

Traditionally wages accounted for a far greater proportion of strike action from the second quarter of a year. This year was unlikely to be an exception given the economic constraints companies were facing.

Realistic opening demands, such as the one tabled by Numsa, also made settlement more difficult as unions showed their determination to stand their ground.
R380m loan for Klip River water project

THE Central Witwatersrand RSC signed a R380m loan agreement with the Development Bank of SA yesterday to assist in funding an upgrading of waste water treatment facilities in the Klip River Basin, south of Johannesburg.

The bank said the project was valued at about R624m and would protect the water resources of more than 7-million people in the lower Vaal catchment area.

After the signing ceremony in Midrand, bank CEO Andre La Grange said the project, to be implemented over five years, had brought together more than 70 organisations, including local government and civic associations.

The bank’s project leader, Burgert Gildenhuys, said the Johannesburg City Council would act as agent for the RSC and had undertaken to raise the R244m balance required.

He said some contracts were already out to tender and others would be awarded soon. A loan agreement stipulation gave preference to labour-intensive construction methods and smaller contractors.
Mining will kill St Lucia habitat

PRETORIA — Opencast mining at St Lucia would result in major, irreparable damage to the habitat, an international wetlands monitoring body has found.

In a report issued yesterday, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Especially as Waterfowl Habitat), or Ramsar, said the mining operation would significantly alter the soil characteristics, dune structure and beaches of the area. "The SA authorities should consider whether, in view of the importance of the St Lucia system, the application to exercise mining rights should be refused on principle," the report concluded.

SA was one of the original seven contracting countries which established the Ramsar convention in 1971. St Lucia is one of 12 SA sites on the Ramsar list detailing wetlands of international importance.

Conducted in May last year by Ramsar experts, the survey indicated it would not be possible to reconstitute the original vegetation at St Lucia by rehabilitation measures.

The elevated water table as a result of mining would affect the beaches and seaward face of the dunes of the barrier, and also the wetlands of the eastern shores, it said. Tourism would be affected as the proposed mining would take place at the gateway to St Lucia, causing a "long-term drop in the popularity of the area."

It would also be impossible to restore the original dune structure. It must be doubted, the report said, "whether a complex dune forest which has grown up over millennia can ever be really reconstituted with such an altered dune structure and soil composition."

The Ramsar mission said its report did not seek to interfere with "pre-empt or supplant the national process" under way.

The Environmental Affairs Department said the report "may be presented to the review panel or indeed used as a supplementary document by the Cabinet when it reviews the findings of the EIA."

Sapa reports that Parliament’s refusal to deal with a Bill to outlaw mining at St Lucia and 11 other internationally recognised SA wetlands has been condemned by the Campaign for St Lucia.

The Joint Committee on Private Members’ Legislative Proposals deferred consideration of the Wetlands Conservation Bill until after the review panel’s report.

The Bill would have given effect to the Ramsar provisions.

Key Family Trust’s debt is R20,8m, says Absa

CAPE TOWN — Absa brought an urgent application in the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday for the provisional sequestration of the Key Family Trust set up by the provisionally sequestrated Mervyn Key.

Judgment on the application will be handed down by the court today.

Absa regional GM Dudley Davies said the trust had bound itself as surety and co-principal debtor to Bankorp for the liabilities of Key’s Paarl wine estate, Rhebokskloof and its sister company Parmalat investments.

The only asset of the trust was its stake in Rhebokskloof and Parmalat. The total debt to Absa was R20,8m, Davies said.

The trustees of the trust are Key, his father Cedric Key, who is in Australia, and former Tollgate director Lawrie Macintosh, who is believed to be in London.

Meanwhile Key’s Paarl wine estate Rhebokskloof was provisionally wound up without opposition in the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday.
SHIFTING SANDS: Dynamic dune systems on the West Coast have caused problems for expanding human settlements, but old-style “stabilisation” projects using alien vegetation have been dropped in favour of environment-friendly options.

Conservationists slowly winning sand-dune battle

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PRIME conservation areas — once treated as sandy wastelands which had to be “rehabilitated” — are being re-won slowly in several parts of the Western Cape.

Ironically, conservation officers are now spending thousands of rands and hundreds of man-hours to remove alien vegetation planted carefully by foresters to stabilise dunes at Elands Bay, Yzerfontein, Walker Bay near Hermanus and along the southern Cape coast near Arniston.

Drift-sand reclamation work started in earnest on the Cape Flats during the previous century — particularly after the appointment of J Storr-Lister as superintendent of plantations in 1875.

Storr-Lister developed a technique for stabilising the drift sand which hindered road and rail transport from Cape Town by spreading city waste over it and planting hardy Acacia species from Australia — mainly A. saligna (Port Jackson) and A. cyclops (rootkraans).

But, in another environmental irony, the big soil conservation drive following the devastating drought of the early 1930s caused dune stabilisation projects to be extended to the western and southern Cape coasts.

“Sanddunes are natural features which are changing all the time and it was natural to have a certain amount of shifting sand around river mouths,” said Cape Nature Conservation regional director Mr Rudolf Andrag.

“But human settlement disturbed the balance and dunes were encroaching more and more on farmland and on local communities like Elands Bay.”

“So, various properties identified as problem areas were bought and transferred to the state, specifically with the aim of planting trees, and eventually they were planted with all sorts of exotics.”

By the 1960s, the foresters had realised their mistake and the planting of aliens stopped. But, it was only after 1987 when these areas were transferred to Cape Nature Conservation that serious rehabilitation work started.

“At present, our policy is to get rid of the aliens as far as possible. For example, in the Walker Bay area between Hermanus and Gansbaai we’ve done a huge amount of work and been very successful, but the cost is very high and at the moment we’re struggling to get enough funds,” said Mr Andrag.

The Walker Bay dune field had not been officially declared a nature reserve, although it was managed on that basis, he added.

The Die Mond area between Struisbaai and Arniston now is conserved formally, while the dunes north of Yzerfontein have been incorporated into the West Coast National Park.

It wasn’t only the sandy areas that got the early “greening” treatment.

Below the King’s Blockhouse on the slopes of Devil’s Peak is a plaque in memory of forester Frank Jarman, erected during the 19th Century, which reads: “He found these barren stony slopes treeless and left them covered in forest.”

Decades later, conservationists are still trying to undo the damaging handiwork of Jarman and his enthusiastic cohorts on Table Mountain.

A classic case of not being able to see the wood for the trees?
Sandy wastelands on their way back to becoming prime areas — many without alien vegetation.
MP furious over state stalling on Bill

Environment Reporter

A SECOND attempt by African National Congress-aligned MP for Maritzburg Mr Rob Haswell to introduce a private member's Wetlands Conservation Bill in parliament has been stalled by the government.

The Bill, if enacted, would outlaw mining at Lake St Lucia and 11 other internationally-recognised wetlands.

The parliamentary joint committee on private members' legislative proposals yesterday deferred consideration of Mr Haswell's Bill until after the St Lucia mining impact report — released last week — had been assessed by the review panel headed by Mr Justice Ramon Leon.

An angry Mr Haswell slammed the government and Natal MPs for failing to debate his bill.

"In spite of all the controversy and the glib undertaking by the Department of Environment Affairs to the Rio Summit that we will honour our international obligations by effective legislation, the present government continues to shuffle and drag its feet," he said.

A new government of national unity would not treat Lake St Lucia as a "Cinderella", Mr Haswell suggested.

"The message to all true conservationists and South Africans is thus abundantly clear: The sooner we get a new government — a government of national unity — the better."
Study ‘a victory for environmentalists’

RICHARDS BAY — Moves to discredit the CSIR’s environmental impact assessment of mining and tourism at St Lucia could cause “the greatest harm done in any country” to environmentalism, Richards Bay Minerals officials said yesterday.

Company PRO Barry Clements said the study had been a victory for environmentalists “whichever way the decision went”. Inferences that the report had favoured Richards Bay Minerals were totally without grounds because 52 scientists involved had acted independently.

Clements said part of the study had been carried out by the Natal Parks Board and there were “possible buyers on both sides”. The company would compile its objections to the report and submit these to the CSIR. It preferred not to discuss them with the media, he said.

Clements said the report had been misinterpreted to mean that only R1.3bn would be earned by mining the St Lucia dunes. This was a discounted figure. The mine would, at today’s rand value, earn R1.7bn in taxes and a further R1.6bn in royalties, Clements said.

Retailers raise prices

PRETORIA — Consumer organisations said yesterday that some retailers had already begun to raise prices ahead of next month’s VAT and petrol increases.

Some of the price increases had even affected basic foodstuffs scheduled to be zero-rated.

The prices of cool drinks, cigarettes and alcoholic beverages as well as some basic foodstuffs had already been raised at some outlets, the organisations said.

Shelved were being cleared in some cases to mark up old stock to new prices, before VAT increase.

The mine would support the firm’s entire operation for five years, keeping its 2,500 workers employed and creating 150 new jobs at the mining site.

Richards Bay Minerals mine and works senior GM Jack Goedhals was confident that when mining started in the year 2000, if government gave the go-ahead, the minerals would still be in demand.

“Richards Bay Minerals has a product that is in very big demand internationally. This demand is growing even in recession.”

Suggestions that radioactive monoxene would create a health hazard for workers processing mineral from the dunes were exaggerated, he said.

Monoxene levels at St Lucia were very much lower than the west coast of Australia where problems had been experienced with radioactivity.

Exposure of workers to the radioactive substance was less than 0.002% of accepted international limits and conformed to the Council for Nuclear Safety requirements.

Of the 2,500 workers in the plant, only eight worked in the controlled area where such exposure occurred, he said.

Retailers raise prices before VAT increase

ADRIAN HADLAND

said a Housewives’ League representative.

A Consumer Council spokesman announced that incidences of retailers putting up prices on zero-rated foodstuffs in order to announce reductions in April had also been reported.

Calling on consumers to be vigilant and to report incidences of profiteering, the Consumer Council, SA National Consumer Union and the Housewives’ League had all stepped up price-monitoring surveys.
Second AECI gas leak

A teacher was rushed to hospital and five schoolchildren were sent home on Monday after the second chlorine gas leak in less than a week involving AECI chemicals near Durban. The latest incident happened at the Strelitzia Secondary School in Isipingo. More than 90 people from the Isipingo area were admitted to hospital last week after chlorine gas escaped during pumping.
State promise on environment:

The government will act on -

Population, health and veterinary services, and the environment.

The environment is a crucial aspect of the government's agenda, and the Department of Environmental Affairs is working to address issues related to pollution, water and air quality.

To ensure the sustainability and protection of the environment, the department has implemented several initiatives, including:

- Developing and implementing a water management strategy
- Developing and implementing a pollution control strategy
- Developing and implementing a conservation strategy
- Developing and implementing a waste management strategy

These initiatives aim to promote a sustainable and environmentally-friendly society, and to ensure that the country's natural resources are protected for future generations.

According to the government, the environment is a key aspect of the country's development strategy, and the government is committed to ensuring that it is managed in a responsible and sustainable manner.
By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

NEW laws on pollution, soil conservation and the handling of toxic waste are in the pipeline — but the government will restrict itself to a co-ordinating role in environmental issues.

This was revealed yesterday by retiring Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar, who released a White Paper on a national environmental management system for South Africa.

Mr Pienaar said his department would not be domineering, but would co-ordinate decentralisation and delegation of powers and act as a central policy-maker for local implementation.

The department would consult widely and help mobilise every possible authority, he said.

"Caring for the environment is not the responsibility of government only," Mr Pienaar declared, adding that the White Paper outlined goals and ideals that "we must aspire to collectively."

It had been drafted in wide consultation with environmental bodies, he said.

Mr Pienaar said his department would increase its capacity "for policy formulation, monitoring, co-ordination and legislative functions by the formation of national action plans, strategies, standards and norms", and would publish a "regular report on the state of the environment."

He said his department was currently engaged in:

• Devising a national plan for safe handling of hazardous substances (target date, 1997);
• Formulating a national policy for integrated pollution control, including the combat of littering and the promotion of recycling (draft legislation, 1994);
• Formulating a noise control policy (completion, December 1993);
• Updating the integrated environmental management procedure (target date, 1995);
• Identifying activities detrimental to the environment (1993);
• Promulgating regulations for environmental impact reports (1993);
• Implementing guidelines for environmental audits (1993);
• Printing a guide to environmental legislation (July 1993);
• Developing a national strategy for environmental education (1994), and
• Developing a draft national wetlands policy.

Mr Pienaar urged public participation in this "dynamic process."

Fiscal incentives mooted

Political Staff

THE government is considering fiscal incentives to companies to achieve its environmental goals, but the issue was very complex, the director-general of environmental affairs, Dr Colin Cameron, said yesterday.

"We are studying this, and it can only be applied with circumspection because it could have negative reactions," he told a press conference on the government's White Paper on environmental management.

Earlier, retiring Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar said his department had not prepared tax incentives to companies for waste and pollution controls. "We have not given that aspect any thought," he noted.

Mr Pienaar said recycling would be left to the private sector as his department did not have the necessary funds and resources.

He said recycling depended to a large extent on voluntary public participation, such as the separation of garbage in the home.

New legislation had to consider the viability of industries, he said, as "one could not imagine killing the goose for the golden egg."

• New policy will increase startup costs — Page 11
Environmental policy to boost start-up costs

SOUTH AFRICA’s new environmental policy will increase industrial start-up costs, but existing industries will not be put out of business, Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said.

Pienaar yesterday released a 25-page government white paper on a national environmental management system that will include tougher rules on pollution, waste management and environmental impact assessment.

"The white paper is a commitment by the government to international thinking on the subject of environmental management. It is a vision for the future based on realism," he said at a news conference.

He said likely areas of new expense would be impact assessment, redevelopment strategies, pollution control and waste management.

"We will have to impose an additional financial burden on an entrepreneur who launches a new development," he said.

He added, however, that the government would be careful to protect initiatives as well as existing industries.

"New laws will be implemented with due regard for the viability of the existing industries in the areas concerned," he said.

Colin Cameron, Director General of Environment Affairs, said the government was only just starting to assess the financial implications of its environmental proposals.

Proposals

"Many of these proposals will eventually hinge on the economic ability to achieve them or not.

"We are at the very beginning of analysing the whole question of fiscal and other measures directly aimed at achieving our environmental objectives," he said.

Pienaar said the government had not yet considered subsidies or tax incentives linked to the implementation of new environmental protection measures.

● Fiscal incentives — page 5
Stellenbosch: Pollution charge?

Staff Reporter

THE Department of Water Affairs intends prosecuting the Stellenbosch municipality for contaminating the Eerste River with sewage effluent.

Dr John Lusher, deputy director of water quality, said yesterday they believed they had a case against the municipality for polluting the water last week.

“We have taken legal advice and intend pressing charges against the municipality for dumping a large amount of unpurified effluent into the river,” he said.

The maximum fine for contaminating water is R50 000.

Senior water contamination officer Mrs K J Carden said subject to certain preconditions, the municipality was free to drain into the river throughout the year.

But Dr Lusher said this applied to purified effluent.

The chief liaison officer for Stellenbosch municipality, Mr A A Smit, yesterday said the pollution was caused by an unforeseen fermentation process in the settling ponds.

Mr The Department of Water Affairs yesterday said Brenn O Kem Ltd, which manufactures cream of tartar, paid a fine of R1 500 in the Wolseley Magistrate’s Court for discharging industrial effluent via a stormwater drain.
Plan for changes to environment laws

CAPE TOWN — Government planned to introduce or amend 15 laws controlling the environment, and industry faced a series of new controls over the next four years, Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

He said at a news conference to release a White Paper on future environment policy the policy would increase industrial start-up costs, reports Reuters.

However, existing industries would not be put out of business. He said the new system would include tougher rules on pollution, waste management, redevelopment strategies and environmental impact assessment.

"We will have to impose an additional financial burden on an entrepreneur who launches a new development," he said.

However, government would protect initiatives as well as existing industries.

Developers face implementation this year of Section 21 of the Environment Conservation Act, which would identify and schedule activities detrimental to the environment. This would enforce controls such as the requirement for environmental impact reports and redevelopment strategies for scheduled activities, he said.

The White Paper calls for a multifaceted environmental audit along lines to be finalised in consultations this year.

TIM COHEN reports the White Paper suggests fines for offending enterprises and measures to ensure they undertake environmental monitoring.

Government also undertook to issue directives that would require certain developers to undertake appropriate environmental impact studies.

"Without being unreasonable, the principle of 'the user must pay' will also be applied and the environmental costs will have to be borne by the developers," the report says.

The report proposes that government investigate the application of "fiscal incentives and penalties", like fines for transgressions and levies on pollution, to preserve the environment.

The paper says environmental policy should strive to achieve, among other things:

- Provisions in a bill of rights for satisfying the reasonable environmental aspiration of all South Africans;
- Support for the population development programme and measures to combat poverty;
- Measures to ensure that all government departments give active attention to environmental assessment programmes;
- The implementation of a national environmental assessment programme;
- The application of appropriate measures regarding land use to ensure conservation of ecologically sensitive and unique areas;
- The intensification of legislation to protect agricultural land from erosion;
- The planning of developments such as forestry, mining, road-building and industrial activity to minimise destruction to the environment;
- The compilation of a complete inventory of natural protected areas where a national nature conservation plan would apply; and
- The deployment of a national strategy for waste management and integrated pollution control.

The paper says government would undertake to assess all legislation with a bearing on the environment with a view to amendments, rationalisation, consolidation and deregulation.

The Environment Affairs Department should be extended, and several functions, including air pollution, toxic waste and water control could be transferred from the National Health Department, the paper says.

Forum to discuss nonracial local govt

A FORUM to discuss interim nonracial local government for the Vaal Triangle is expected to be launched next month.

Representatives from white and black local authorities in the region, the TPA and the Vaal Civic Association appointed an 18-member steering committee at a meeting on Saturday to draft a constitution for the forum.

Consultative Business Movement PWV co-ordinator Andrew Feinstein, who chaired the Saturday's meeting, said yesterday the committee would hold its first meeting next Monday.

Since a lot had already been done, the committee was expected to complete its work in three to four weeks, Feinstein said.

He added that the creation of the forum, whose primary objective was to get all the relevant parties to reach consensus on an interim nonracial government, was an indication that there was "new willingness" on the part of all concerned to negotiate.

Feinstein said lengthy discussions about the inclusion of other organisations in the forum, including political parties, would be held before the body was launched.
New laws likely on control of pollution

JOHN YIELD
Environment Reporter

NEW legislation to control air and water pollution, soil conservation and the handling of toxic waste is likely after the tabling in parliament today of a White Paper on an environmental management system.

The White Paper is in response to recommendations in a 1991 President's Council report.

Introducing the paper to the media, Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar stressed the government had attempted to create a broad policy document "which will not get bogged down in detail but which sets realistic and attainable goals".

There had been "wide consultation" in drawing up the White Paper — not only among government institutions but among the private sector as well, Mr Pienaar said.

The document was the government's commitment to international thinking on environmental management.

"It is a vision for the future, based on realism," he said.

Mr Pienaar stressed that caring for the environment was not only the responsibility of government. "It is the responsibility of all of us."

Environment Affairs director-general Dr Colin Cameron conceded that political parties and movements had not been consulted in formulating the White Paper, but said some environmental groups of a "semi-political persuasion" — such as Earthlife Africa — had been asked to comment.

The White paper states that the proper management of the environment is one of the critical factors on which the success of South Africa's future political and economic system will depend.
CAPE TOWN — The Government will revamp the Department of Environment Affairs “within affordable limits” so it can function more effectively.

This is one of the points in the white paper, Policy on a National Environmental Management System for South Africa, tabled in Parliament today.

According to the white paper — produced in response to the 1991 President’s Council report — managing the environment is one of the factors on which the success of South Africa’s future political and economic system will depend.

The paper agrees with the President’s Council that South Africa should not have a “super department” with total environmental responsibility.

“The Government subscribes to the principle that, where appropriate, functions should be devolved to local authorities and regional and provincial governments.”

The paper is likely to result in the amendment of 12 Acts and possibly three new Acts.
THE former residents of Riemvasmaak in the Northern Cape, forcibly removed in 1973-74 from what is now a Defence Force training ground and conservation area, are formally claiming their land back.

Last week the National Parks Board and Mr Wynand Breytenbach, Deputy Minister of Defence and of Environment Affairs, hosted a media visit to the area and outlined conservation plans for the future.

The 75 000 ha property has been divided into two: 60 000 ha managed contractually by the National Parks Board — mainly to re-establish the endangered Cape black rhino — and a 15 000 ha training area for mechanised infantry battalions. Fencing is almost complete.

The Air Force still uses a small piece of land within the parks board's management area to practise precision bombing and missile firing.

But the Surplus People Project has pointed out that the Riemvasmaak community is in the process of applying for the return of their property.

The community, who lived there from 1923 until they were removed, was split into groups and sent to Kharega in Namibia, Welcomewood in Ciskei and Marchand in the Northern Cape, the project said in a statement.

The government's Advisory Commission on Land Allocations (Acla) was informed by the community's legal adviser last year that they intended applying for the return of the land.

"While appreciating the need for nature conservation, we fear that announcements such as the parks board's, which are made without consultation with people who feel they are the rightful owners of the land, will not be in the interests of a long-term peaceful settlement or nature conservation and could in addition undermine the credibility of Acla," the project said.

Asked to respond, Mr Breytenbach said the contractual agreement between the SADF and the parks board had been signed six years ago.

Also, the Riemvasmaak community had been moved in terms of the apartheid policy of the day, before the property had been offered to the Defence Force.

"I don't want the perception it was the SADF who moved the people," he said.

"Rift" poaching and smuggling across the then South West Africa border was one reason why the community had been moved, he said.

The community's present demand was for land along the Orange River where farming was possible, rather than in the main military training and conservation areas which were an extremely harsh environment, he said.

"You can't make a living there — it's impossible."
Public gets a say in fate of St Lucia

BY CARMELO RICKARD

The future of St Lucia is once more back with the public for the next eight weeks anyone may make written comment on the environmental impact assessment report released this week.

And when the five-member review panel considers the issue later this year, members of the public will again be able to voice their concerns in open hearings from August 2-6.

The final decision, however, still rests with Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett, who must approve the Richards Bay Minerals licence.

Officials from his office insist that Mr Bartlett has not yet made up his mind, but Democratic Party spokesman on environmental affairs Rupert Lorimer said he did not believe this.

Complained

Thursday’s report shocked the anti-mining lobby with its conclusion that mining would not do irreparable damage to the sensitive eastern shores of St Lucia.

While the assessment did not make any recommendations, its finding appears likely to weigh heavily with government decision-makers.

Since the release of the report, critics have complained that it is simplistic and does not adequately reflect all the options available to the area.

“If they had given detailed consideration to the vast potential of local and international eco-tourism run along the lines of the satellite camps around the Kruger National Park, they would have found that this promises long-term sustainable development, with more jobs and far more income for the country than limited period, destructive mining,” said Mr Lorimer.

Promised

Speaking from the United States, conservationist Ian Player warned that giving mining the go-ahead would give SA the kind of negative international reputation from which it was only just beginning to recover.

“Don’t forget that the new US administration is the most environmentally conscious that the country has ever had,” he said.

The Campaign for St Lucia has also promised to keep the government in the international eye by informing the other signatories to the important Ramsar Convention that Pretoria has reneged on its obligations to maintain wetlands.

Campaign spokesman Oliff D’Oliveira said world-renowned scientists acting under the Ramsar Convention have been evaluating the impact of mining in St Lucia, and he urged that no final decision be taken until the release of their report.

Comments may be sent to CSIR Environmental Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001 before May 14.
Inkatha backs St Lucia mining

DURBAN. — The Inkatha Freedom Party last night endorsed mining at St Lucia, but suggested that local communities should get a slice of mining revenues.

IFP chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose's endorsement pits the IFP against the ANC, CP, DP, and KwaZulu's own conservation arm, the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources (KBNR).

Dr Mdlalose said mining at St Lucia would create "enormous economic benefits" for locals and South Africa. But KBNR chief Mr Nick Steele yesterday criticised the CSIR environmental impact report on St Lucia released this week, which stopped short of calling for a ban on mining. He said it was based on "outdated policies certain to change with a new political dispensation".

He said that if the mining lease was granted to Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) it would seriously threaten conservation and tourism in the region.

Mr Steele said eco-tourism was "the most viable land use option" for St Lucia, with "sustained long-term benefits".

St Lucia is Africa's largest estuary. RBM wants to dredge-mine 1.660ha of coastal dunes for titanium over 20 years.

The Campaign for St Lucia says no mining should be allowed and demands that 255 000ha of the area should be declared the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park.
talk for the people?

St Lucia - who will

[Image of a newspaper page with various text and images]
RBM has 2500 employees and spends about R170 million a year on electricity, R40 million a year on coal, about R30 million on transport, and R50 million on harbour and rail services as well as many other expenditures with firms in the area. Also, there is a significant, but still unquantified, contribution to job creation and other contributions to quality of life in the region. Added to this is an annual expenditure of about R8 million by RBM on social responsibility programmes.

Throughout the world, development policies must deal with questions of sustainability, efficiency and equity. Sustainability rests upon a view that development cannot be designed to be compatible with environmental protection, and that the latter is not attainable without the former. A sustainable society is one that manages economic growth in such a way as to do no irreparable damage to the environment.

Critical

In this respect the report found that there would be no irreparable damage to the environment in the long term after 30 years, if mining were allowed.

Equity deals with a fair distribution of benefits among the people who rightly have a stake in that development. In that respect the report was critical of the large amounts of revenue generated in the region that left the area, and recommended that policies in this regard be reviewed.

Efficiency is the choice between alternative development strategies or projects, which takes account of which alternative will return the greatest present and future benefits for a given cost in resources.

The report found that maximum economic benefits with acceptable environmental impacts could be achieved by allowing mining to proceed with ecotourism, and then ecotourism on its own after mining ceased.

The feelings of the locals are somewhat ambiguous, the EIR report concluded. Their interests revolve around...
The fight to prevent stripmining at the St Lucia estuary is more than a simple battle between capitalisation and conservation.

EDDIE KOCH and Enoch Mthembu report on the long-awaited release of an environmental impact study

The environmental impact study has been released, and it shows that the proposed stripmining operation at the St Lucia estuary will have a significant impact on the environment and the local community. The study also highlights the potential for increased flood risks and the loss of wetland habitats.

Economic forecasts also favour the continuation of mining. Mining combined with ecotourism will generate R460 million for RBM as well as R156 million for the NPB from tourism activities. This option will create more than 900 permanent and temporary jobs, and the mining operation will also stimulate the local economy.

The new mine will indirectly generate between 1,350 and 4,675 jobs through the multiplier effect, pay R157.2 million to the government in tax, and add R66 million to local wages in foreign exchange. The company will also spend R6 million on social upliftment programmes in a region where poverty ranks with "the lower levels of the lower-income countries of the world".

Wildlife conservation and tourism without mining comes out as a worse option in economic terms. It will generate only R25.7 million in revenue and create a maximum of 392 jobs. There will be no multiplier effect to reduce national unemployment levels and no additional foreign exchange.

The NPB has no social responsibility programme to rival that of the corporation.

The report states that the St Lucia estuary is one of the most important wetland areas in the world and that the proposed stripmining operation will have a significant impact on the estuary.

The conclusion of the report is that the proposed stripmining operation at the St Lucia estuary should not be approved, and that the government should consider alternative options that would reduce the impact on the environment and the local community.

The report also recommends that the government should consider alternative options that would reduce the impact on the environment and the local community.

Not threatened... The reports says hippo populations in Lake St Lucia and the Narrows would not be significantly affected by mining.

coalition of 120 environmental groups, based on 400 years of study, to incorporate the concerns of these people in their protests against the stripmining operation.

Indications are that this may change over the next eight weeks. The Durban branch of Earthlife Africa, one of the fastest-growing green groups in the country, recently held a protest at St Lucia for the African National Congress, the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions, and a group of Black Workers (NUS), which organises the black workforce at RBM, were present.

The organisation, a major partner in the Campaign to Save St Lucia, is engaged in continued efforts to build a "rainbow alliance" of organised workers, NGOs, frontline workers and environmental groups to oppose mining.

A community organisation from the campaign will be making contact with some of the tribal chiefs in the area, who own their loyalty to the Isakha Freedom Party, so that they can be consulted about the struggle to save St Lucia.

Signs are that the union and the ANC will join the opposition to mining. "It is very important for the present minority government to make a unilateral decision on an important national issue before the eve of a new dispensation," a statement from the organisation's spokesperson, a former mining planner, said this week.

"Because the St Lucia issue is clearly one of national and international importance, the issue should be decided upon by South Africa's first national government — or, as the ANC refers to it, a government of national unity."

The NUM, the biggest union in the country with 270,000 members, has not responded officially to the EIA. But a number of shop stewards at RBM have told reporters that they are opposed to the new mining operation.

They say that the company has kept employees in the dark for more than three years, making it easy to disown them, and is currently implementing a research programme.

Workers appear suspicious about RBM's job creation claims and complaints that they were not been consulted about the company's social responsibility programmes.

RBM spokespeople have been giving support from the community and from the public," a shop steward told The Weekly Mail.

Some of the Inkatha chiefs in the area, including Indocolo Mvumngisi, who heads one of the communities claiming ownership of the eastern shores, are in favour of mining. Says Robert Mkhize, deputy director of the National Rural Policy: "RBM will provide work. It has always been the IFP's way of doing things."

"They get jobs, RBM wants to do big things. They have already built 200 classrooms and give support to schoolchildren for free."

This poses the danger that the rival parties might get involved in a civil war that will cost 10,000 lives in Natal, to use the mine's mine to score points off each other up to elections for a government of national unity next year.

St Lucia is a rift between the two organisations is held with great caution the drama could end with scenes of a battlefield in place of a rainbow spread across the diverse at St Lucia.
What isn't in the RBM report

R

EVELATIONS that radioactive materials are a product of dune mining at Richard's Bay have added a new twist to the row over plans by Richards Bay Minerals to expand its operations on the Natal coast.

The company acknowledged this week that it extracts monazite, a radioactive heavy mineral, in its current titanium mining operations at Richard's Bay.

Environmental groups are alarmed that an environmental impact study, released by RBM this week, makes no mention of radioactive substances present in the workplace or of its safety implications.

"Monazite is classed as a low activity material," says a statement issued by the company this week. "RBM produces a small quantity of monazite in comparison to the volume of other products. This is exported to producers who separate monazite into various rare earth oxides."

The mineral is used in a number of high-tech applications including the manufacture of optical lenses, optical quality steel, colour television tubes and malleable metals. It is also possible to separate thorium out of monazite, which has been used experimentally as a nuclear fuel in some countries.

RBM public relations chief Barry Clements says a small amount of monazite is stored at Richard's Bay in two ton "toughbags" before being exported. "In transporting the material, strict adherence is carried out with regard to the International Atomic Energy regulations," he said. The company also abides by Atomic Energy Act stipulations.

Earthlife Africa, one of the most vocal opponents of RBM's plans to open a new mining operation on the eastern shores of St Lucia, says its members are concerned that information about radioactive materials has been kept from the public.

"In South Africa all information regarding the nuclear industry is secret and workers, people and environmental organisations do not have the right to know," said Brian Aske, Earthlife's Durban spokesman.

The Group for Environmental Monitoring in Johannesburg says the summary of the company's impact study makes no mention of monazite and its potential health hazards. "It is well known that monazite is a source of radioactive thorium. We do not understand why the summary of the EIA commissioned by RBM makes absolutely no mention of the fact that miners will be working with radioactive materials. Why has this important information been withheld?"

A 1990 article in the Journal of Radiological Protection, published in the United Kingdom, says: "Mineral sands processing involves exposure to external and internal radiation sources. The level of exposure is associated with the production of monazite, which contains approximately six percent thorium by weight. Recent estimates indicate that significant radiation exposures result from mineral sands processing. It has been shown that the inhalation of radioactive dust is the predominant exposure pathway."

In July last year the Malaysian Supreme Court shut down a company that exports monazite to Japan. Medical evidence presented during the hearing claimed miscarriages and infant deaths, reduced fertility and an increased incidence of leukaemia and cancer in villages surrounding a waste dump near the monazite processing plant.

Clements says all workers handling monazite at RBM wear dosimetry badges, similar to those worn by X-ray technicians, which are monitored monthly. All results are sent to the South African Bureau of Standards. Asked why the issue of radioactivity did not feature in the environment study, Clements said: "This study was about the impact of both land use options on the environment in the area. Monazite and radioactivity do not impact on the lakes, and it is in the dunes anyway. This is not an issue resulting out of one usage or another."
St Lucia dunes set for mining

Massive opposition to govt plan

Own Correspondent
DURBAN — The government is poised to approve the controversial St Lucia dune mining proposals before the end of September — in spite of combined opposition from the ANC, Conservatives, Democrats and the anti-mining lobby.

A panel of more than 50 scientists and academics yesterday ruled out the possibility of "irreparable" environmental damage if mining went ahead, making it virtually certain that Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett can now rubber-stamp the Richards Bay Minerals mining licence.

The mining would adversely affect animals, vegetation, topography and the visual quality of the area, but there would be substantial economic benefits and no irreversible damage.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research report set out the problems and advantages of the mining.

The CSIR report found that excavating heavy minerals would have a high negative impact on vegetation and animals in the next 30 years, although this would diminish to a relatively low level in the long term.

The CSIR assessed two options for St Lucia — one as a nature conservation and tourism area without mining as proposed by the Natal Parks Board, and one of mining in conjunction with conservation and tourism "where feasible" as planned by Richards Bay Minerals.

A spokesman for Mr Bartlett stressed that no final decision had been made but it seems clear from the findings of yesterday's CSIR report that only massive public opposition can prevent mining going ahead.

Dr John Raimondo, in charge of compiling the study's findings, urged members of the public to comment on it before May 14.

Natal Parks Board chief Mr George Hughes said the board was concerned that certain issues — such as the hydrology of the dunes — were "inadequately" addressed by the report.

ANC environment spokesman Mr Stan Sangweni said his organisation was opposed to any final decision before a new government was in place.

Both the Democratic and Conservative parties said the report had not changed their opposition to the proposed mining.

Conservative Party spokesman Mr Carel Schoeman said the ecolo-tourism potential of the area was such that mining should not even be considered and that the government should take care to avoid becoming "the skunk of international environmental organisations".
Impact report leaves the way open for St Lucia mining to go ahead
Thomas H. Climenhaga
Senior Vice President
Chairman, Department of Geotechnics

Our firm recently completed a comprehensive geotechnical study for the development of a new coastal resort on the island of St. Lucia. The project required a detailed assessment of the subsoil conditions and the design of appropriate foundations for the structures.

The study involved the collection of extensive data on the geology, soil types, and groundwater conditions. Special focus was given to the coastal zones, where the interaction between the sea and the land can significantly affect the stability of the structures.

We utilized advanced geophysical and geotechnical testing methods to evaluate the properties of the soils. This included the use of seismic methods, piezocone tests, and standard penetration tests.

Our analysis revealed that the foundation design must consider the potential for liquefaction during seismic events and the risk of erosion due to wave action.

The project team worked closely with the architects and engineers to integrate the geotechnical findings into the overall design of the resort. This ensured the safety and sustainability of the development.

The completion of this project marks a significant milestone in our firm's expertise in coastal geotechnics. We look forward to applying our findings to future projects in the region.
Tough terms set for miners

By JILL GOWANS

TOUGH mitigatory actions have been recommended by the environmental impact assessment (EIA) should Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) be granted mining rights.

They include:
- Broad, pipe and powerlines to be designed so that the main routes can accommodate usual traffic to Cape Vidal, together with mining and forestry traffic, to obviate the need for superfluous routes. Pipes and powerlines should follow this course, except when buried.
- Monitoring of the water table in the dunes to predict the possibility of slumping.
- An inventory of special animals in the mine path, in advance of mining, to facilitate rescue operations. Animals in Red Data Book categories that would be displaced should be captured and relocated or held in captivity.
- The mine plant to be camouflaged — lights to be shrouded at night and existing plantations along the access road not to be felled until the mining has passed.
- Clearing ahead of the mining to be minimised and burning prohibited. Cleared vegetation to be chipped and spread on relocated topsoil.
- Construction activities to be restricted to low tourist season, where feasible.
- Recreation of the original topography. The reconstructed land form to resemble the original as closely as possible, hills, inter-dune valleys and drainage lines to be reconstructed.
- RBM and the Natal Parks Board to immediately begin collaborating on plans for the development of suitable ecotourism infrastructure that would fit into the mining plans.
- RBM's social responsibility programme should focus on communities which abut on the Eastern Shores sub-region.

North to Cape Vidal ... view along the proposed mining path, which would stop short of the front coastal dunes nearest the sea.

Picture: Anita Allen

Eight conditions to be met before mining

By JILL GOWANS

The environmental impact assessment has recommended that if mining goes ahead, eight conditions should apply.

1. A research programme on soil fertility and plant succession is required to enhance the rehabilitation techniques available, and should be funded by Richards Bay Minerals.

2. Sixty-two hectares of sensitive forest areas occur in the southern extremity of the mine path. If this area were excluded, 22 percent of the total area of 227 hectares of sensitive sites in the mine path would be saved in return for the loss of only 6.5 percent of the area of mine path.

3. Mining could simply begin slightly further to the north than was originally proposed.

4. Not mining closer than 400 m to the high-water mark would reduce the risk of dune slumping and protect an adequate corridor for species migration and habitats from which the rehabilitated area could be recolonised.

5. It would also protect 124 ha of coastal forest, almost 172 ha of vegetation with a high or moderately high conservation importance rating, 105 ha of the Natal Parks Board's identified sensitive areas and 174 ha of the visitor frontal dune (these areas overlap).

The 400 m exclusion zone would exclude only 3.9 ha of the proposed mine path, implying a loss of 0.5 percent of the one body.

Confining

1. Should a mining lease be granted to cover the whole of the lease areas, RBM would be free to mine outside the proposed mine path. This could result in impacts not yet assessed.

2. Mining should be confined to the dune cordon. It should not approach the wetlands to the west of the dunes to any extent that may increase impact.

The total area of the final mine path should not exceed the total area of the proposed mine path.

1. In order to provide the assurance that adequate rehabilitation and decommissioning after mining would be guaranteed, RBM should be required to provide a R3.2 million performance bond by way of adequate insurance to satisfy this concern.

2. An extensive list of mitigatory actions is recommended, and all actions necessary to mitigate the impact of mining should be forwarded by RBM.

3. The establishment of a mitigation monitoring committee with clear terms of reference and consisting of one representative of each of RBM and the NPB, with appropriate avenues for arbitration.

4. An annual audit of the success of mitigatory actions and the activities of the mitigation monitoring committee.
A decision on mining the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia has already been taken, making yesterday's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) irrelevant, conservationists claimed yesterday.

They said the report favoured the option of mining in an ecologically sensitive area — and feared a decision had already been made despite a huge outcry.

But Government and independent consultants responsible for the entire environmental impact assessment (EIA) yesterday repeatedly denied a decision had been taken.

The EIA was asked to consider two land-use options for the Eastern Shores of St Lucia: mining with ecotourism, proposed by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM); and ecotourism without mining, proposed by the Natal Parks Board (NPB).

Tony Ferrar, executive director of the Wildlife Society of South Africa, said the public needed a categoric assurance that the decision to mine had not already been taken.

Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman Charles Edwards said: "In terms of the procedures, a review process has now been initiated and it will run through until it is completed, which is anticipated to be at the end of September.

"The Cabinet will take the decision only then and the Minister will announce it."

Edwards could not comment on speculation that the decision could be deferred until a government of national unity was in place.

ANC environment spokesman Stan Sangweni made it clear his organisation was opposed to any final decision being taken before a new government was in place.

NPB chief George Hughes attacked the "simplistic interpretations" in the 1500-page report, particularly the finding that the area would not be damaged permanently.

Barry Clements, general manager, public relations, at RBM, said the EIR had vindicated everything the company had said on dune mining in an ecologically sensitive area.

Endangered Wildlife Trust director John Ledger said he had not yet read the report.

"I would urge all concerned people to read the report and not go with mindless rejection, but go with their own conclusions."

The EIR warns of long-term damage (after 30 years) to the environment if dune mining were allowed, but concluded there would be substantial economic benefits and no irreparable damage in terms of future options.

The EIR found that the 12,874 ha of the entire Eastern Shores had a history of disturbance, including agriculture, and extensive commercial forestry.

At present, the EIA process is in its public comment phase until August 2. A specific recommendation to allow mining or not to allow it, and under what conditions, will then be made by the EIA Review Panel, before the matter is passed to the Cabinet for its decision.

Should the mining option be accepted, RBM will start mining on the Eastern Shores in the year 2001.

*Now you have your say — Page 13*
Council complaints of slow progress

Municipal Reporter

CONTRACTORS replacing the Green Point marine outfall sewer will be told formally that the council is unhappy about slow progress.

“We accept there was bad weather last year, but that is no excuse at present because conditions have been ideal,” a utilities and works committee spokesman said. The scheme is expected to be completed in March next year, months after the scheduled June completion.
Assurance on Palmiet River dam opposition

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Council for the Environment's strong opposition to the possible damming of the lower Palmiet River near Kleinmond will be taken up by the Department of Water Affairs.

This assurance was given by senior water affairs' officials after a Water Week briefing on the demand for water and possible future sources of supply in the Western Cape.

In its annual report tabled in parliament, the Council for the Environment—a statutory body which advises the Minister of Environmental Affairs—said the lower Palmiet River was too sensitive to dam and that the Kogelberg State Forest should remain inviolable.

Mr Peter van Niekerk, chief engineer of the department's directorate of project planning, said they believed the council was merely one interested party.

"We feel everybody should have a say, including the Council for the Environment. Everybody's views should be collated and synthesised in a joint report to the decision-maker. The end result should hopefully be satisfactory to everyone."

After the briefing, Mr Van Niekerk told journalists his department would contact the council about its views.

In his presentation, Mr Van Niekerk pointed out that a typical middle- to upper-income household in Cape Town used 35 percent of its water on the garden and 28 percent to flush the toilet. Drinking and cooking accounted for only three percent.

Metropolitan Cape Town's estimated population growth would probably see water demand growing at about 15 million cubic metres a year.

One of the biggest potential sources of water was re-using sewerage effluent. This could provide an additional 100 million cubic metres a year, "although it is expensive and uncertain quarters perhaps socially unacceptable."

The Newlands aquifer (10 million cubic metres a year) and the Cape Flats aquifer (18 million cubic metres a year) were potential water sources. "But the degree of pollution (of these aquifers) will have to be carefully looked at," Mr Van Niekerk warned.
New war looms as armies demobbed

As southern Africa begins to stabilise and Zimbabwe and Mozambique prepare to demobilise thousands of soldiers, so South Africa is bracing itself for another border war - cross-border raids and even deep incursions by AK47-wielding ivory and rhino horn poachers.

At the recent conference of the Game Rangers' Association of Africa, held at Itala Game Reserve in Natal, rangers spent many hours discussing how to prepare for this new wave.

As rhino numbers slumped throughout Africa north of the Limpopo, so South Africa has become a prime target, with 28 percent of all known rhino in the world.

Kruger Park, which holds more than 2,000 rhino, shares a 550 km border with Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Chief ranger Bruce Bryden says there are thousands of Mozambican troops near Kruger Park who will be demobilised and who have starving families.

Rhinos provide meat and horn.

In Natal and kwazulu the reserves hold about 2,500 rhino and are on the alert.

Since 1990 the Natal reserves have lost 11 rhino to poachers.

Kruger lost eight.

Major Piet Lategan, head of the SAP's 20-strong endangered species squad, told the conference the game departments were prepared for the "onslaught" which he sees coming - a suggestion vigorously denied.

Lategan's squad has had enormous successes. In February, a 23-year-old unarmed policewoman rounded up a gang and their cache of horns and ivory in Randburg. She and a black undercover policeman fooled the gang into thinking they were selling horn. One of those arrested had called to the policeman: "Hey, boy! Help load."

The policeman replied: "Ja, my baas."

When the handcuffs were snapped on, the leader said: "I don't believe this."

Dr George Hughes, chief executive of Natal Parks, said Taiwan has 10,000 chemist shops selling ground rhino horn. Rhino horn has been sold as a fever cure for 4,000 years and, said Hughes, it works.

Taiwan consumes 200 kg a year but considers African rhino horn inferior to the almost unobtainable Asian horn, which sells at 40 times more.

The Taiwanese say they would welcome a legal and reliable source and told Hughes they do not want to go down in history as the people who extinguished the rhino.

A debate on whether it would be wise for South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to put their huge stockpiles of rhino horn - confiscated from poachers or cut from rhino found dead from natural causes - on the market went on inconclusively for two hours.

The world ban on rhino horn has singularly failed to stop poaching and, annually, the price goes up and the gangsters get rougher.

The law is also getting rougher: when, last year, a senior Kruger Park ranger was given eight years for poaching rhino horns he appealed. He was then given 12 years.
ENVIRONMENTAL awareness should not take second place to economic and development concerns, visiting economics professor Christopher Lingle, of Loyola University in New Orleans, said in an article recently published by the Free Market Foundation.

"The choice is not between economy and ecology. These goals are compatible, and in many ways inseparable," he said.

It would be necessary to establish correct incentive structures that balanced the demand for environmental stability and the need for individual freedom.

Lingle's warning that government intervention was more often than not the cause of environmental damage has contradicted current SA demands for government action to protect the environment.

The foundation approached Lingle because of his market-orientated approach to environmental issues, foundation training director Marc Swanepoel said.

"Many of the environmental issues relate to property rights and problems occur in areas where property rights are not clearly defined," he said.

The foundation's approach was to establish clearly defined property rights and allow class actions when problems such as river or ocean pollution occurred.

A market orientated solution would give people access to courts rather than create a new environmental law, he said.

Although poverty was a problem in SA, communities could become involved in saving the environment. "People must see it is a viable way of life."
State wants grassroots approach on environment

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE government's long-awaited response to a President's Council report on an environmental management system will be published as a White Paper on March 22.

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Plenaar yesterday said the government did not favour the creation of a "super department" along the lines of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Its approach, set out in the White Paper, was one of "co-operation, persuasion and devolution of practical administration to the lowest authority".

This included enlisting the support and co-operation of people at grassroots level, Mr Plenaar said.

He also announced that the recent CSIR report on hazardous waste was "receiving attention" and said his department would respond with another white paper "in due course".

He was speaking at a function to launch two publications billed as highly important for the greening of South African industry: Environmental Management and Auditing — Guidelines for South African Managers and Suggested Guidelines for the Transportation and Disposal of Hazardous Waste.

The second edition of Environmental Management and Auditing — completely rewritten after the first edition went through three print-runs — emphasises that sound environmental management makes good business sense.

It includes a chapter on environmental auditing, a business practice being adopted increasingly world-wide and case studies showing how leading South African firms tackled environmental management problems.

A second document sets out concise guidelines for the transport and disposal of hazardous waste by South African companies, backed by a self-regulatory scheme under the auspices of the Institute of Waste Management.
John Yeld
Environment Reporter

The government's long-awaited response to President's Council report on an environmental management system will be published as a White Paper on March 22.

Environment Affairs Minister Mr. Louis Plenaar yesterday said the government did not favour the creation of a "super department" along the lines of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Its approach, set out in the White Paper, was one of "co-operation, persuasion and devolution of practical administration to the lowest authority".

This included enlisting the support and co-operation of people at grassroots level, Mr. Plenaar said.

He also announced that the recent CSIR report on hazardous waste was "receiving attention" and said his department would respond with another white paper "in due course".

He was speaking at a function to launch two publications billed as highly important for the greening of South African industry: Environmental Management and Auditing — Guidelines for South African Managers and Suggested Guidelines for the Transportation and Disposal of Hazardous Waste.

The second edition of Environmental Management and Auditing — completely re-written after the first edition went through three print-runs — emphasises that sound environmental management makes good business sense.

It includes a chapter on environmental auditing, a business practice being adopted increasing world-wide and case-studies showing how leading South African firms tackled environmental management problems.

A second document sets out concise guidelines for the transport and disposal of hazardous waste by South African companies, backed by a self-regulatory scheme under the auspices of the Institute of Waste Management.
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

The directors of KDV will deposit R500,000 in a special account to be used exclusively for the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings at Groot Constantia, if draft legislation approved by the cabinet becomes law.

In terms of the legislation, to be considered soon by a committee of parliament, ownership of the historic estate will be transferred to a new Groot Constantia Trust.

KDV directors will constitute a mandatory majority on a 13-person board of trustees and will guarantee to top up the restoration-maintenance fund every year in which the estate doesn't generate adequate profits.

But a KDV spokesman said that while they had agreed to become the “financial backstop” for the proposed trust, they had not yet decided whether their directors would actually serve on the board of trustees.

“Most probably the present members (of the existing board of control) would be asked to stay on,” he said.

The draft legislation, proposed by the board as a means of ending the state’s financial responsibility for the estate, is opposed by the Western Cape region of the South African National Civics Association (Sanco).

Sanco spokesman Mr John Neels said they appreciated the motivation for the intended changes, but felt the process was a “unilateral” move by the government. They believed the estate’s future should be decided after full consultation with the public.

Mr Neels, who met Groot Constantia Board of Control chairman Mr David de Villiers recently to discuss the proposal, said the estate had to be regarded as a regional and national asset for the benefit of all.

“We believe a consultative process inclusive of all major stakeholders should be instituted to determine the cultural and developmental future of Groot Constantia.

“In this manner an important piece of land, deeply part of our cultural history, would be placed in its true content and not in the hands of a few individuals who do not represent the broader spectrum of Capetonians.”

Mr Neels noted that, since the appointment of the new board of control in 1968, revenue from wine sales had risen from R1.2 million to R4.1 million.

The question is, how does this growth relate to the current metropolitan and regional growth management strategy?” he asked.

Groot Constantia should be linked to the economic development of the Western Cape region, and particularly to the redressing of existing socio-economic imbalances.

The state should “remain as an important, equal partner with other groups, taking part actively in discussion-making processes,” Mr Neels said.

The KDV spokesman declined to comment on Sanco’s attitude.

“It’s not for us to comment on any of the political discussions between the present board and the various role players,” he said.

The KDV had “full confidence” in the viability of Groot Constantia as a wine-producing estate, he added.

Constantia MP Mr Roger Hulley said the principle of transferring the estate to a trust was acceptable providing access by the public was not affected.

“The framework (of the draft legislation) seems okay, but I would like clarity on some of the details,” he said.

These included the mechanism of the estate reverting to the state if the trust was liquidated — the question of ownership of last resort — and how a representative from the Constantia community would be elected as a trustee.

“I think the control board under Mr De Villiers has done a good job, so I don’t intend any specific criticism at this stage — there may be perfectly adequate answers,” Mr Hulley said.

In terms of the draft statute, the proposed Groot Constantia Trust will consist of founder members, donors and honorary members.

Founder members of the trust are the board of directors of the KDV and the first trustees.

The trust will be managed by a board of trustees of between five and 13 members, the majority of whom must be KDV directors.

They will be appointed for three years.

The director of the SA Cultural History Museum must be an ex officio trustee, as long as this organisation manages the museum on the estate, and at least one trustee must be a resident of Constantia.

Donor members of the trust are ordinary people, lawyers, companies, institutions and other bodies subscribing to the articles of the trust and paying a contribution determined by the board of trustees.

Honorary members may be elected by the trustees in recognition of their exceptional or outstanding service to Groot Constantia.

Affiliated members will consist of conservation, professional and/or educational bodies subscribing to the trust’s articles and paying an individual annual fee, determined by the board of trustees.

Trustees can appoint patrons of the trust for any period.

Members can, at any time, appoint additional trustees provided the total does not exceed 13.
Kruger Park 'not farmland'

The ANC has denied suggestions that it wishes to carve up the Kruger National Park or any other protected natural area to satisfy the land hunger of its supporters. ANC spokesman Professor Stan Sangweni was commenting yesterday on a press report that Derek Hanekom, the head of the ANC's land desk, had said his organisation was considering whether to turn part of the Kruger Park over to farming.
Lower pollution levels over city

PHOTOCHEMICAL smog over Cape Town was not as bad last winter as the previous two years, the Cape Town medical officer of health's annual report says.

"Early indications are that the winter of 1992 will not demonstrate worse pollution than 1990 and 1991.

"The weather has been less stable with the result that severe low-level inversions will be fewer in number," says the report.

The reduced levels of pollution have hampered a brown haze study" by the Western Cape Branch of the National Association for Clean Air.
More rain needed to top up dams

By Shirley Woodgate

The levels of most major dams in the country remain critically low, despite late rains which have saved billions of rands in crops, according to the Department of Water Affairs.

Unless dam levels were boosted by considerable rains in their catchment areas, a bleak dry winter season lay ahead, said Water Affairs hydrology director Stefan van Biljon.

South African Agricultural Union economist Dr Koos du Toit said a large number of fruit and vegetable farmers who literally depended on irrigation for their crops had just come through a difficult period, and it was critical that they had a good winter season.

“If they have a crop failure because of lack of water, the consequences will naturally filter down to the consumers,” he said.

Van Biljon said that although the Blyde River in eastern Transvaal was overflowing and Graskop had experienced record rains last equaled in 1983, the giant Braam Raubenheimer dam was still less than a fifth full.

Further south, the Vaal Dam is still only 20 percent full, in spite of a regular boost from the Sterkfontein Dam. However, the Witwatersrand is experiencing excellent localised rain.

With less than a month to go before the end of the summer rainfall period, Van Biljon said, there was no evidence that major dams were filling up.

More downpours of 100 mm or more are needed to back up the already wet and, in some cases, saturated catchment areas to provide sufficient run-off to fill the reservoirs.

Du Toit said ideally, dam levels should be between 50 and 60 percent at the start of winter if there was to be a chance of granting normal watering quotas.

But western Transvaal dams are only 33 percent full, eastern Transvaal dams 39 percent full and Vaal River dams 48 percent full.

Upper Orange River dams are only 28 percent full, eastern Cape dams 45 percent full and Natal 47 percent full.

Unless the current levels of major dams improved by the end of April when the last of the summers rains could be expected, farmers would have to be rationed to half their quotas or, at worst, no irrigation water at all, said Du Toit.

Thousands of squatters in low-lying areas in northern Zululand are in danger of being washed away if heavy rains continue and rivers flood, reports The Star’s Own Correspondent.

Defence Force spokesman Commandant Braam van Wyk said yesterday that pilots flying over the area had noticed squatters moving on to floodplains because of the drought.

However, recent heavy rain had swollen rivers and the squatters’ lives would be in danger if flooding occurred.
ANC moots cattle farming in Kruger Park

THE ANC was looking at all categories of land — including conservation areas like the Kruger National Park — which might be used more effectively.

ANC land desk and agriculture spokes-
mans Derek Hanekom said SADF and SA Development Trust land was under consider-
ation by the organisation as part of its land policy.

He said yesterday: "Land is a scarce resource which needs to be put to its best use." As an example of the ANC’s approach to the land issue, he said an area of the Kruger Park, which was the largest tract of conservation land in SA but ran at a loss every year, might be better used for cattle farming. "This is not to suggest we are looking at it seriously. It is a matter of principle."

Our Durban correspondent reports that ANC environment spokesman Prof Stan Sangweni said the organisation was investigating the wise use of resources, including wildlife, to ensure "fuller participation by local communities". It was examining examples from other African countries where local communities were directly involved in managing protected areas.
Soweto youths take the lead

There are few things as gratifying and pleasing as seeing the youth take control of their lives and their future. So if they are charting territories that have been ignored before - territories that have always been looked at as the preserve of one group of a society or race.

On Wednesday this week I had the opportunity of speaking to a group of concerned people - all that is the fight way of putting it - who are in charge of working with the youth. These ladies from the Community Services Centre, which falls under the Soweto Council, are trying to launch an environmental awareness campaign for 16 Soweto youth clubs from all the townships.

They have been asked by these young people to launch this programme. This is not something that they cleared up off the blue.

The programme they want to launch is ambitious - but, with tenacity and tact, it is bound to succeed.

Young people will be involved in running and taking part in clean-up campaigns. They will be given tasks of making parks around the areas where they stay.

They have to see to it that these parks are kept in good condition and well looked after. They are looking at workshops to instil in these young people a sense of cleanliness and pride for their surroundings.

They are also looking at having these kids get out on camps to understand what humans bring to the environment - how we cannot survive if we do not take care of all the living things on this planet.

They are looking at workshops that will educate the youngest and give them an environmental ethic.

A number of people have tried doing this with varying degrees of success, but it is very hard to ensure success when something like this is involved.

But, as I emphasised to these ladies, these projects will succeed with proper consultation between all the parties involved. No matter how good suggestions are, if they are sent from the top, they are bound to fail.
Oil emissions 'are very low'

EMISSIONS from the Caltex oil refinery at Milnerton had been monitored but were very low in comparison with accepted health safety standards, Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter said yesterday. The monitoring was carried out continuously, she said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr E K Moorcroft (DP, Albany). She said the monitoring was done by the Western Cape Regional Services Council.
The Cape Nature Conservation of the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) is gearing itself to protect the Cape's marine resources from over-exploitation to ensure its survival for future generations, says WILLEM STEENKAMP, Weekend Argus Reporter.

HUNDREDS of concerned volunteers, officials, members of the Defence Force and local authorities have banded together to launch a drive to preserve the Cape's marine resources.

They include 150 honorary marine conservation officers, 250 permanent conservation officers, traffic officers, beach constables and other officials from the different local authorities along the Cape coast in a bid to help protect marine life.

GOVERNMENT and the Cape Nature Conservation are in charge of Marine Conservation.

"It is of utmost importance that we protect our resources and we have started training honorary marine conservation officials to help us patrol our coast and protect it from sea life."

The volunteers have identity cards and work in pairs, listing closely with the permanent marine conservation officers.

"We have already had excellent results with number of court cases pending against illegal poachers and other transgressors."

"We have an additional 500 officers who are now operating along the coast and we have also had excellent results with number of court cases pending against illegal poachers and other transgressors."

Dr Van Zyl said the CPA was working closely with other local authorities which had agreed to make their officers available to help protect marine life.

Cape Nature Conservation is on the verge of appointing a group of consultants to investigate the cost involved in replacing some of the older patrol boats that it has been using.

"We have seven large but old boats which are quite slow and some of these will, in all probability, have to go. But we also have 25 smaller fast patrol boats to cover the coastline."

"I would like to see the South African Navy becoming more involved in patrolling our waters, while we patrol shallow waters."

Dr Van Zyl said other nature conservation officers of the CPA would also be incorporated into protecting the marine environment, as should the existing number of marine conservation officers to nearly 500.

"I am positive we should be able to effectively control our marine resources."

"But I also want to warn would-be poachers and other transgressors that we will act against them with all the power and authority vested in us to ensure that our marine life protected for future generations."
The first step towards a proposed holistic management plan for the Namaqualand wildflower region has been taken with the formation of the Skilpad Wildflower Reserve Advisory Board in Kamieskroon.

The board was formed this week.

This followed the expiry last month of a lease agreement with a tenant on the farm, Skilpad, which the South African Nature Foundation (SANF) had bought in 1988.

The board, comprising leading conservationists working in the area and conservation-conscious farmers, is to investigate ways of managing reserves in Namaqualand.

The Skilpad reserve will be managed by the community, unlike other reserves in the country which are run by local authorities.

Researchers from the University of Pretoria’s botany department are to give advice on managing the reserve to produce the best possible flower displays.

The board hoped to determine how conservation farming could benefit farmers and flowers in the area, said Annelise le Roux, a research botanist with Cape Nature Conservation. The project would boost Namaqualand’s eco-tourist industry.
the two numbers, the one of the producer and the one of the consumer. The above discussion is based on the assumption that the numbers of the producer and the consumer do not change.

Section 1.7: The relationship between the producer and the consumer

The relationship between the producer and the consumer is a fundamental principle of the economy. It is based on the assumption that the producer and the consumer act independently and that their actions are not influenced by each other. The producer produces goods and services for the consumer, and the consumer purchases these goods and services. The producer and the consumer are therefore in a direct relationship, and their actions are interdependent.

Section 1.8: The role of the government in the economy

The government plays a significant role in the economy. It is responsible for maintaining a stable economic environment and for ensuring that the economy is fair and just. The government also plays a role in regulating the economy, by setting standards for business practices and by providing a framework for economic growth.

Section 1.9: The role of the government in regulating the economy

The government regulates the economy in order to ensure that it is fair and just. It does this by setting standards for business practices and by providing a framework for economic growth. The government also regulates the economy in order to protect consumers and to prevent unfair practices.

Section 1.10: The role of the government in providing social services

The government provides social services in order to improve the lives of its citizens. It does this by providing education, healthcare, and other social services. The government also provides social services in order to promote economic growth.

Section 1.11: The role of the government in promoting economic growth

The government promotes economic growth by providing a stable economic environment and by setting standards for business practices. The government also promotes economic growth by providing social services and by regulating the economy.

Section 1.12: The role of the government in regulating the economy

The government regulates the economy in order to ensure that it is fair and just. It does this by setting standards for business practices and by providing a framework for economic growth. The government also regulates the economy in order to protect consumers and to prevent unfair practices.

Section 1.13: The role of the government in providing social services

The government provides social services in order to improve the lives of its citizens. It does this by providing education, healthcare, and other social services. The government also provides social services in order to promote economic growth.

Section 1.14: The role of the government in promoting economic growth

The government promotes economic growth by providing a stable economic environment and by setting standards for business practices. The government also promotes economic growth by providing social services and by regulating the economy.
Toxic waste found in Midrand drain

By Julienne du Toit

A chemical company in Midrand, Delta G Scientific, has been found to be releasing toxic effluent into a stormwater drain, the Department of Water Affairs and Earthlife Africa (ELA) have announced.

According to ELA spokesman for Midrand, Bob Sugrue, a stream of foul-smelling waste water was found flowing down a stormwater drain on February 28.

The ELA contacted the Department of Water Affairs’ deputy director of water quality and pollution management, Dewald Steyn, and an inspector was sent out.

Water samples were taken and traced back to the source, Delta G Scientific, on the corner of Old Pretoria and George roads.

According to the department, the water did not comply with the general standard for effluent with regard to, among others, phenols.

The company had admitted to the department that it had been having problems.

The department said it was considering legal steps against the factory because it had contravened its permit requirements as well as section 21 of the Water Act of 1956.

The effluent was flowing along the Old Pretoria Road to the wetland area in Midrand.

ELA said the phenols issuing from Delta G Scientific could be hundreds of times above the general effluent standard of 0.1 mg per litre.

Sugrue said phenols were highly toxic substances. Some of their derivatives had been described by researchers as being carcinogenic.

No representative of the company could be reached for comment.
Toxic waste found in Midrand drain

By Julienne du Toit

A chemical company in Midrand, Delta G Scientific, has been found to be releasing toxic effluent into a stormwater drain, the Department of Water Affairs and Earthlife Africa (ELA) have announced.

According to ELA spokesman for Midrand, Bob Sugrue, a stream of foul-smelling waste water was found flowing down a stormwater drain, on February 26.

The ELA contacted the Department of Water Affairs' deputy director of water quality and pollution management, Dewald Steyn, and an inspector was sent out.

Water samples were taken and traced back to the source, Delta G Scientific, on the corner of Old Pretoria and George roads.

According to the department, the water did not comply with the general standard for effluent with regard to, among others, phenols.

The company had admitted to the department that it had been having problems.

The department said it was considering legal steps against the factory because it had contravened its permit requirements as well as section 21 of the Water Act of 1956.

The effluent was flowing along the Old Pretoria Road to the wetland area in Midrand.

ELA said the phenols issuing from Delta G Scientific could be hundreds of times above the general effluent standard of 0.1 mg per litre.

Sugrue said phenols were highly toxic substances. Some of their derivatives had been described by researchers as being carcinogenic.

No representative of the company could be reached for comment.
Tourism ‘pays more than farming’

MARITZBURG — A recent study has shown that ecotourism generates 58 times more money than cattle-farming, says DP environment spokesman Rupert Lorimer.

Lorimer was reacting to a reported statement by ANC land spokesman Derek Hanekom — since denied — that the organisation was considering farming cattle in the Kruger National Park.

Lorimer said an experiment in the Limpopo area had shown that an annual R12 profit was made a hectare with cattle farming. This was contrasted with the money made by the Sabi-Sands ecotourist resort, which generated R700 a hectare.

Referring to a project which had been undertaken in Bophuthatswana, Lorimer said it had been shown that 300 jobs were generated by cattle farming and 1 200 by ecotourism.

Ecotourism was the most sustainable and one of the most profitable forms of land use, and should be seriously considered by a future SA government.

Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said he could “hardly believe his ears” when he heard the ANC’s suggestion.

The suggestion was totally without reason as the Kruger Park was in fact making a profit. “To want to use the Kruger Park for farming is to kill the goose which lays the golden egg.”

The private ecotourism industry around the park was a multimillion-rand investment which created tens of thousands of jobs, Pienaar said.

He said 36% of foreign tourists came to SA to experience the wealth of its natural environment.

For every 11 new tourists, one job was created in the tourism industry and two more in supporting industries. — Sapa.
Eco-tourists spent R2,4bn

ECO-TOURISM brought an estimated R2 421 million into South Africa last year, excluding airfares, the Minister of Tourism, Dr Org Marais, said yesterday.

It was estimated that 386 000 visitors were motivated to come to South Africa by eco-tourism, he said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr Joseph Chiole (CP, Pretoria West).

Dr Marais said there were various definitions of eco-tourism and none had yet been formally referenced, although they generally embraced experiences related to climate, scenic beauty, wildlife and ethnic cultures.

"It can be said that 60% of all overseas visitors were motivated by eco-tourism to travel to South Africa.

"For 1992, an estimated 386 000 overseas visitors were motivated by eco-tourism to visit the Republic.

"An estimated income figure relating to eco-tourism that year comes to R2 421 million, excluding airfares," he said.

The fourth most important region cited by tourists — after Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban — was the Eastern Transvaal, where the Kruger National Park is, Dr Marais said.
Removal of alien trees is 'madness'

The history of non-indigenous trees on Devil's Peak which are being removed to make way for fynbos was discussed at a recent amenities and health committee meeting at the request of Sea Point councillor Mr Chris Joubert.

Mr Joubert was reacting on behalf of a constituent, Dr Jan S Marais, who has been involved in a long-standing fight with "the powers that be" regarding what he calls "fynbos madness".

In papers tabled at the meeting, he said: "An infinite number of beautiful old shade trees have been recklessly chopped down because they are not indigenous and because there is a crowd of 'fynbos mad' propagandists".

Research

In a report, City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said the Devil's Peak plantings were completed in 1877 to "increase the water retaining capacity of the soil to ensure a steady flow into the Disa stream", from which Cape Town received most of its water supply.

He said: "Modern research has shown that trees in fact have the opposite effect and considerably reduce stream flow."

"Because of this and the need to conserve the fynbos, these trees were removed from 1965 to 1967. Subsequent to the removal of these pines not only has the fynbos recovered exceptionally well but Prieslea lasiogigata, long absent from Table Mountain, has made a reappearance."

In 1930 large portions of the Devil's Peak and Table Mountain plantations had been abandoned because of lack of economic return. As a result of this, fire control measures lapsed and several totally destroyed the plantations, he explained. "Because the species used were fire-stimulated, dense jungles of wattle and pines developed which were also actively spreading into surrounding fynbos. This created an extremely high fire hazard."

He said that although the existing policy of the council was to remove alien trees, no mature trees except gums — which cause severe erosion — will be felled in areas under the control of the Cape Town City Council.

"Re-infestation of young trees will be removed."
Eco-tourists spend R2.5 bn in S Africa

ECO-TOURIST destinations had drawn an estimated 386 000 overseas visitors last year who spent an estimated R2 561 million in South Africa, Administration and Tourism Minister Dr Org Marais said in parliament.

In a written reply to a question by Mr Joseph Chiale (CP, Pretoria West), he said eco-tourism generally embraced climate, scenic beauty, wildlife and ethnic cultures.

It could therefore be said that 66 percent of all overseas visitors were prompted by eco-tourism to travel in South Africa.

Of the 521 000 foreign visitors in 1991, 344 000 were concerned with eco-tourism, spending about R168 million in this country.

Last year an estimated 386 000 overseas arrivals were eco-tourists, spending R2 421 million, excluding their air fares.

Johannesburg, Cape Town and the Durban/Umhlanga area were the top three eco-tourist destinations.
New pollution control laws

THE Environmental Affairs Department is considering comprehensive legislation for pollution control in SA, says a statement from the department.

The study would, for the first time, provide SA with legislation reflecting a holistic, integrated pollution control policy, the department's environment protection director Koos Stander said.

The study's planning and management phase was awarded on tender to L & W Environmental, who have begun structuring the steering committee and determining expert advisers, work teams and workshops.

Phase one of the study would be completed by mid-year, assistant project manager and co-ordinator Margaret Rawicz said yesterday.

A consultation process with industry representatives and institutions such as the Chamber of Mines and other interested parties would follow the initial planning phase, but the department had not yet awarded tenders for the consultation process.

Department deputy director, pollution control, Willem Scott said the aim of the study was to develop an integrated pollution control policy.

At present there were a number of departments dealing with different aspects of pollution.
Panel will seek to prevent violence

THE Goldstone commission would convene a panel of SA experts to investigate ways of preventing violence during a national election, commission chairman Judge Richard Goldstone said yesterday.

He called on government, police, church, welfare and political organisations as well as "relevant university departments" to furnish the commission with written submissions by the end of May.

The panel would consist of SA experts.

"Appropriate international experts will also be consulted and will be requested to act with the local panel," he said.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus yesterday welcomed the investigation, but added that it needed to "cover the full spectrum and take into consideration the role of elements of the security forces in violence".

Goldstone said the investigation would look into the:

☐ Rules of conduct and procedure, including policing and security, which should apply in order to curb public violence and intimidation prior to the election;
☐ Effect of the period during which elections would take place on public violence and intimidation;
☐ Location of polling stations;
☐ Security and policing of polling stations;
☐ Conduct and procedures relating to the counting of votes; and
☐ Role of government, police and the international community in preventing violence during an election.

"The commission hopes that this inquiry, apart from any other purpose, will in effect be a consultation with all the people of SA in order to ascertain their fears, concerns and wishes with regard to possible public violence and intimidation in a forthcoming national election," he said.

The investigation would also "educate the public of SA with regard to political tolerance", he added.

Meanwhile, ADRIAN HADLAND reports from Pretoria that the Goldstone commission today resumes its investigation into attacks on members of the police force.

An SAP spokesman said 28 policemen had been killed since the end of last year, taking the total to almost 300 since early 1991.

In evidence led before the commission earlier this year, Brig Stefanus Abrie said most of the policemen had been killed while off duty.

"Despite efforts by the SAP to make itself more acceptable to all interested parties, attacks on the security forces still occurred to an increasing degree," Abrie told the commission.

The rising number of police deaths had happened regardless of multilateral and bilateral agreements or the national peace accord, he said.

During 1992, a total of 2 146 politically motivated incidents had been aimed at the lives of 135 SAP members and injuring 353, he said.

Abrie said it was clear that a "deep-rooted distrust" existed towards the police especially among the young at grassroots level. It was important, the police were removed from the political arena as far as possible, he added.

ANC parks statement ridiculed

CAPE TOWN — Political parties yesterday slated ANC land spokesman Derek Hanekom's statement that sections of SA's national parks should be used for agricultural purposes.

"Speaking in Parliament," NP MP Lampie Fick said Hanekom's statement was "unbelievable".

The Kruger National Park was considered one of the world's foremost parks.

He said it was reassuring that some ANC leaders had distanced themselves from the sentiment.

DP environment spokesman Rupert Lorimer said the statements were "disgraceful, stupid and irresponsible".

"The Kruger Park justified its existence a thousand times over as a result of the foreign tourists it brought to SA and the employment opportunities it provided.

The ANC yesterday restated its position that conservation land needed to be protected and was thus the least likely category to be considered for redistribution.

ANC parks statement ridiculed

CAPE TOWN — Political parties yesterday slated ANC land spokesman Derek Hanekom's statement that sections of SA's national parks should be used for agricultural purposes.

"Speaking in Parliament," NP MP Lampie Fick said Hanekom's statement was "unbelievable".

The Kruger National Park was considered one of the world's foremost parks.

He said it was reassuring that some ANC leaders had distanced themselves from the sentiment.

DP environment spokesman Rupert Lorimer said the statements were "disgraceful, stupid and irresponsible".

"The Kruger Park justified its existence a thousand times over as a result of the foreign tourists it brought to SA and the employment opportunities it provided.

The ANC yesterday restated its position that conservation land needed to be protected and was thus the least likely category to be considered for redistribution.
New pollution control laws

MARIANNE MERTEN

THE Environmental Affairs Department is considering comprehensive legislation for pollution control in SA, says a statement from the department.

The study would, for the first time, provide SA with legislation reflecting a holistic, integrated pollution control policy, the department's environment protection director Koos Stander said.

The study's planning and management phase was awarded to tender to L & W Environmental, who have begun structuring the steering committee and determining expert advisors, work teams and workshops.

Phase one of the study would be completed by mid-year, assistant project manager and co-ordinator Margaret Rawicz said yesterday.

A consultation process with industry representatives and institutions such as the Chamber of Mines and other interested parties would follow the initial planning phase, but the department had not yet awarded tenders for the consultation process.

Department deputy director, pollution control, Willem Scott said the aim of the study was to develop an integrated pollution control policy.

At present there were a number of departments dealing with different aspects of pollution.
St Lucia report ready for public scrutiny soon

JOHN YELD

environmental impact report — billed as the most comprehensive assessment yet done in southern Africa — will be available for public scrutiny from next Thursday.

The report, which assesses the proposal by Richards Bay Minerals to mine sand dunes on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia for heavy metals such as titanium, will be available in the Cape Town municipal library and in research libraries at the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the Western Cape.

A Department of Environment Affairs spokesman said the full report was being sent to 13 organisations identified as "key interested and affected parties", while another 100 would receive a 30-page summary report.

The public’s response to the report was an important phase of the overall investigation and any comment should reach the secretariat before May 14, he said.

A record of this comment and responses from Richards Bay Minerals and the consultants would be available from July 14 to August 2.

“At the same time a rural liaison programme continues to be conducted in the St Lucia area, to inform and to obtain the opinion of isolated or illiterate people,” he said.

The environmental report, comment and responses will be considered at a series of review panel hearings in early August.

The five panel members are Professor Charles Breen, director of the Institute for Natural Resources, Natal University; Mrs Sybil Hotz, deputy chairman of Durban city council’s management committee; the Honourable Mr Ramon Leon, retired Supreme Court judge and chancellor of Natal University; Professor Harriet Ngubane of UCT’s Social Anthropology department; and Professor Hamidal Soni, rector of the M L Sultan Technikon in Durban.

The procedure for taking part in the review panel hearings would be announced later, the spokesman said.

The review panel was expected to make its recommendations in early September, and these would be forwarded to the Cabinet for a final decision.

- Comments on the impact report can be sent to the EIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services, P O Box 395, Pretoria, 0001.
LAND AFRICAN AND
THE MINISTRY OF
RECONCILIATION
AND

The Minister of Reconciliation and African Land Affairs, Mxolisi Nxasana,
announces that the re-zoning policy is to:
(1) ensure that land is used for the greatest benefit of the community;
(2) promote economic growth and development;
(3) protect the environment.

This policy is designed to ensure equitable access to land and to promote
social and economic development. It is also intended to address the
historical injustices of land tenure and to ensure that all members of the
community have equal opportunities to benefit from land.

The Minister also announced that the new policy will be
implemented in consultation with all relevant stakeholders,
including communities, farmers, and other interested parties.

The policy aims to achieve a balance between the
short-term needs of the community and the long-term
development of the country. It is hoped that this policy
will lead to a more just and equitable society.

Mxolisi Nxasana
Minister of Reconciliation and African Land Affairs

[Signature]
Mining sand dunes

A before and after scenario

DUNE ROW
The St Lucia saga raises its head once more, as the most expensive, extensive and detailed environmental impact assessment yet in South Africa's history is about to be released. Science Writer ANITA ALLEN looks at the process of dune mining, to give you a chance to make up your own mind.

St Lucia today ... the wetlands (right) and the dunes that Richard's Bay Minerals proposes to mine (the area closest to the sea).

How the process works ... at an earlier mining site in northern Natal, a dredger eats away at the dune (right) while bulldozers sculpt a new dune in its wake (left).

Vegetation teams move in ... original top soil and seed are spread across the re-shaped dune and windbreaks are planted.

Progress ... a replanted dune five years after re-vegetation began.

End result ... the mining area — 14 years after the dredgers moved in — sports a tree canopy and lush vegetation. Pictures: John Ledger

The hard Facts

To dig or not to dig — the St Lucia saga is a mine of misinformation, dogged by controversy, and much wasted ink split in trading insults. But the issue moves into a new and important phase next week, with the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposed mining activities on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia is sent to all 13 interested and affected parties on March 16.

Copies will be available at central libraries, and the public will be invited to comment.

The process of dune mining as practised by Richard's Bay Minerals (RBM) has been developed over the years. At St Lucia it involves 1500 barge, which RBM proposes to move 50 ha at a time.

First, all existing vegetation is cleared and the top soil, with its mix of seeds, is set on one side. Then bulldozers create a pond into which water is pumped and a dredger is floated on the water.

At its front end, bortlets cut away at the dune and pass the sand to a separator floating beside it. Here the heavy metallic sand — the black sand one finds on many South African beaches — which forms about five percent of the sand of a dune, is separated and trickled out to the smelter. The remaining slurry fills in the pond behind the dredger.

When this sand has dried out, it is “sculptured” into the profile of the dune as it originally existed.

The vegetation teams move in and replace the original top soil with its original seeds, plus a coating of added seeds which include quick-growing annual grasses and acacias.

Windbreaks made of shade cloth are then set up and the area is left to recover. Eventually bird-carried and wind-blown seeds from adjacent areas, which act as a source of original vegetation, are brought in. The asci from a canopy which attracts bird life.

“Of course one can never recreate the dune as it was,” says John Ledger, director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. “Humans are changing the environment, but it need not be detrimental.”

With South Africa's population expected to double in the next 25 years, the priority will be economic growth and job creation.

“This will create enormous pressure on the environment,” says Ledger, “and the public needs to be geared up to cope.

The St Lucia EIR will provide a logical way of prioritising the decision-making process to develop or not to develop. Leder talks about win-win solutions, where the goals of developers and environmentalists are addressed in a spirit of mutual concern. This elusive spirit is the real challenge of St Lucia.

“The St Lucia controversy is a crucial test of the ground rules to resolve conflicts between development and the environment. Its outcome will influence Government policy, and establish standards by which future environmental issues will be judged,” says Ledger.

Next week's report will also be a reference point for the public debate when this ten begin.
makes Good business
Profits Plus Ecology
Business
DP national monument call for Table Mountain

C79J 93 Political Staff

TABLE MOUNTAIN should be declared a national park and administered by a single authority such as the National Parks Board, DP environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said yesterday.

Speaking in a debate on a private member’s motion on the environment, he said Table Mountain and the Peninsula chain should also be declared a national heritage site.

He said Table Mountain had cultural, biological and ecological importance and its eco-system should be preserved.
National park idea for Table Mountain

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

TABLE MOUNTAIN could be given national park status without the National Parks Board having to manage it, parliament was told.

Announcing the March 22 release date for a White Paper on the government's proposals for a national environment management system, the outgoing Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said the procedure of designating national parks should be re-assessed.

Speaking during the debate on a private member's motion on the environment, he said the National Parks Board (NPB) was presently responsible for designating national parks.

He said: "It is my opinion we should move away from the point of view that only the NPB can designate a national park."

This would allow national park status to be granted to an area such as Table Mountain despite the fact that the NPB was not interested in managing it.

Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain should be declared both a national park and World Heritage site and should be administered by a single authority such as the National Parks Board.

He said Table Mountain was a national asset of great natural, cultural and aesthetic importance and should enjoy the highest form of protection.

He also believed that there should be central government control over environmental protection and co-ordination in a future dispensation. Environmental issues crossed political boundaries and poor management in one area could have an enormously adverse effect in another.

Mr Pienaar said his department was already engaged in strategic planning to achieve the goals set out in the White Paper.

Full details would be released on March 22.

Mr Pienaar said the proposals encompassed:
- Development of a national policy on all relevant matters;
- Environmental auditing;
- Co-ordination between government bodies to achieve cohesion of purpose;
- Support for positive initiatives by the private sector; and
- Creation of environmental awareness among all sectors of society.

The future of St Lucia featured prominently in the debate.
ANC 'No' on St Lucia

THE Campaign for St Lucia has welcomed an African National Congress statement that the Government should not take any decision on the St Lucia dune mining issue. (5C) (2H)

The campaign also called on the Government to table the Wetlands Conservation Bill immediately. Sowetan 18/3/93.

It claimed Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett wanted to rush through a decision to mine the dunes. —Sowetan Reporters.
St Lucia report 'victory for all'

The long-awaited Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed mining of minerals in the area has been completed. The mining is expected to cause minimal damage to the environment, with only a slight effect on the local economy. The report, which was presented to the Cabinet in September 1993, is expected to be released soon.

The report also includes recommendations for the long-term planning of the area. It suggests the establishment of a special economic zone to attract new industries and create jobs. The report was prepared by the Environmental Impact Assessment Review Panel, which consists of leading experts in various fields.

The report has been welcomed by the local community and is expected to kick-start the economic development of the area. The government has already allocated funds for infrastructure development and training programs to support the new industries.

The report also highlights the importance of protecting the natural resources of the area. It recommends the establishment of a nature reserve to preserve the local flora and fauna. The report also calls for the implementation of strict regulations to prevent pollution and ensure the sustainability of the area.

In conclusion, the report is a significant step towards the development of the area and the well-being of the local community. It is hoped that the recommendations will be implemented and that the area will thrive in the years to come.
New sanctuary for black rhino

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

The embattled black rhino — under severe threat of extinction — has found a new sanctuary in an enlarged Augrabies Falls National Park straddling the Orange River in the Northern Cape.

The 9 500-hectare park, home to seven black rhinos, has been increased substantially through an agreement with the Defence Force to use 60 000 hectares of its Riemvasmaak training ground which adjoins the northern section of the park.

A neighbouring farm, the 6 500-hectare Waterval, was also acquired recently.

This would increase the carrying capacity of the rugged conservation area to between 40 and 50 black rhino, Dr Anthony Hall-Martin, the parks board's executive director of southern parks, told journalists at a briefing.

The rhinos at Augrabies — including the cow Shibula which was transferred from a zoo in Portugal in 1991 — are all Cape rhinos *Diceros bicornis bicornis*, a sub-species which once flourished in the arid areas of the Western and Northern Cape and Namibia.

Southern Africa's wildlife managers were anxious to keep the two rhino sub-species separate — *D. bicornis minor* occurs in Natal and the Transvaal — and plans were under way to establish a new population of six Cape rhinos in the Karoo National Park at Beaufort West, Dr Hall-Martin explained.

The dominant bulls at Vaalbos and Augrabies could be swapped in about two years to ensure a mixing of genetic material.

"And two years further on, we could take a dominant bull out and put it into a new area — possibly even the West Coast National Park (at Langebaan), but that's a long-term scenario that has to be investigated," he said.

The parks board supplied the material to enclose the conservation section of the 75 000-hectare Riemvasmaak training ground and the SADF is providing the labour. About 15km of the 156km boundary remains to be fenced.

Mr Wymand Breytenbach, Deputy Minister of Defence and of Environment Affairs, said he had been instructed by the cabinet to investigate what SADF land was not being fully used and possible alternative uses.

Tens of thousands of hectares had already been transferred to the provincial conservation authorities in Natal and the Transvaal.

"There is a land hunger in South Africa, but to go farming in this part of the world (Northern Cape) is an exercise in futility," Mr Breytenbach said.

"I think we (the SADF) are good neighbours and there has been outstanding co-operation between us and the parks board."

Dr Hall-Martin warned that South Africa was not immune from poaching. Several animals had been lost in the Kruger National Park and it had been necessary to establish an anti-poaching unit there, he said.

"There's been an active debate whether we should even admit how many rhinos we have and where they are," he said.

The army's presence at Riemvasmaak would help keep the rhinos safe from poachers.
Two die as violent storms lash Natal

DURBAN — Fierce storms in Natal have claimed the lives of two people.

A child died and many people have been left homeless after a tornado cut a path of destruction through the northern Natal village of Hattingspruit.

At Rietvlei, near Greytown, a 16-year-old was killed and four people were seriously injured when they were struck by lightning.

Monday night's tornado at Hattingspruit, near Dundee, blew roofs off buildings, uprooted trees and cut telephone and power lines.

Seven-year-old Sabelo Mazibuko of Berkenheim farm died when the walls of the hut in which he was sleeping collapsed.

The violent storm struck Hattingspruit about 10 pm. Some 50 people were left homeless when six huts were washed away, a Dundee police spokesman said.

The house belonging to N T Pieterse of Rondhovel smallholding lost its roof and the concrete walls collapsed. The family were unhurt.

About 80 mm of rain fell, raising the level of the Tom Worthington Dam by nearly 40 percent.

A spokesman for the Thukela Joint Services Board in Ladysmith said the dam level rose from 54 percent on Friday to 90 percent yesterday. The nearby Verdrusk Dam has risen from 43 to 70 percent. Water is still flowing into both dams.

The torrential rain caused the wall of a farm dam to burst, but no details were available.

Police said about R500 000 damage was caused to yachts on Tom Worthington Dam belonging to the Dundee Yacht Club.

Another storm accompanied by hail and strong winds lashed the Balgowan area on Monday afternoon. A farmer in the area said there had been an "incredibly strong" wind and large hailstones.
Fears grow over dune mining

THE ANC has come out strongly against the proposed mining of St Lucia’s eastern shores and says government does not have the right to grant mining rights in the area.

The organisation said yesterday that in the context of impending political transformation, it would be presumptuous for government to make a unilateral decision on an important national and international issue.

It called on government and Richards' Bay Minerals not to decide on an issue that should be decided by a government of national unity.

"The ANC has in the past expressed concern about mining in the area and it was necessary to reaffirm that position," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

There was a strong push by government and Richards' Bay Minerals to proceed with mining, but the ANC was concerned about the environmental impact on the rare dunes.

Government was a signatory of an international convention on wetlands which carried a commitment to the preservation of St Lucia, including the eastern shores.

ANC environmental spokesman Stan Stangweni said it was a bad show for government to have signed the convention and then to go ahead with mining proposals.

Wildlife Society executive director Tony Ferrar said yesterday the organisation believed that government had already made up its mind to permit mining of the dunes regardless of the findings of the environment impact study to be released this week.
The decision to mine St. Lucias east coast shores still remains a crucial issue.

Environmental

Impact study to be released today.

St Lucia stands at the crossroads.

The Real Value of Tourism to the Country.

Lucia Wesley Park, among many billions of
such as the Hager National Park and Greater St
what age result of having wild and unspoilt areas

Rands a Year

The precise effects environmental

The decision to mine St. Lucias east coast shores still remains a crucial issue.
Rains revive development

GOOD highveld rains have broken the drought’s influence on the leisure property market around Hartbeespoort Dam, and revived some buyer interest, says Lakeland Homes Shareblock director Neil Powell.

He said the inclination to invest and develop the Hartbeespoort Dam area declined with the level of the water. “Over the past four weekends the number of people coming through our gates has escalated from around two people to 24 every weekend.”

Lakeland Homes is launching the final phase of the R50m Lakeland development. Begun in 1999, it is now 95% sold. The last eight units are being released onto the market at prices from R230 000 to R580 000.

However, another Hartbeespoort developer, Club Nautique’s Fred Herman, said he had noticed the improved trend. “The interest is still there; it is just a little static.”

Herman, who has launched the 20-unit first phase of a planned 54-unit development, said the dam still remained only 77% full – its lowest level in 32 years.
ANC drops St Lucia mining bombshell

DURBAN — The ANC dropped a bombshell on the St Lucia mining proposals last night, saying a final decision on the matter could be taken only by a future government of national unity.

It would be “presumptuous in the extreme” for the present minority Government to take a unilateral decision on an important national and international issue such as mining at St Lucia, the ANC said.

This boost for the anti-mining lobby appears timed to coincide with tomorrow’s release of the long-awaited environmental impact assessment (EIA) report on the dune-mining proposals.

Until yesterday, the ANC had taken no firm position on the Richards Bay Minerals proposals. It did not rule out mining in the future, but warned that St Lucia had to be protected and that many people in South Africa and abroad were deeply concerned about the environmental and tourist impact of mining the dunes.

Richards Bay Minerals MD Roy MacPherson said it was unfortunate the ANC had chosen to comment on the issue just before the EIA findings were released.

“However, we are confident the fears of the ANC will be allayed by the findings contained in the report.”

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Barghett, who will make the final decision towards the end of the year, could not be reached for comment.
St Lucia balloon goes up this week

THIS week the balloon goes up. No, not the Budget — the Environmental Impact Report on proposed dune mining at St Lucia.

It is likely to create a great deal of acrimony. Suggestions from the conservation lobby are that the EIR is likely to provide that most undesirable of outcomes, an inconclusive finding on the hydrological effect of mining the dunes on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia.

These trap moisture from the sea and percolate fresh water into the lake, maintaining the delicate balance of fresh and salt that makes St Lucia one of the world’s great wetland systems and home to thousands of animal and plant species.

Lined up against the mining option are the Natal Parks Board, the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, the Wilderness Leadership School and a collection of pressure groups falling under the Campaign for St Lucia.

The mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, argues it has already proved at its Richards Bay operation that damage would be limited. It says mining at St Lucia would earn R8 billion in foreign exchange, bringing in tax revenues of R1.2 billion and royalties of R100 million.

Over coming months there will be public meetings, submissions and debate before a final recommendation by a panel, chaired by a retired Natal Supreme Court judge, on whether the eastern shores should be made over to ecotourism plus mining or to eco-tourism alone.

However, this might not be the end of the matter: The conservation lobby is determined (if the decision should go in favour of mining) to keep pressure on the Government and RBM by blowing the dust off some old correspondences and negotiations.

Eighteen years ago, RBM offered to pay the Department of Forestry the value of all the timber on some 4,000 ha at Port Durnford, south of Richards Bay, in return for a mining lease. The area was clearly rich in minerals.

But the department turned down the offer. Dune mining was at that stage an unfamiliar venture and nobody knew what kind of environmental damage might be caused. However, RBM has since shown at Richards Bay that it can re-vegetate dunes.

The conservationists are now likely to lobby for an exchange between the eastern shores of St Lucia and the state forests at Port Durnford, which are far larger than the St Lucia mining lease, have easy access to water from Lake Chubu and are not in an environmentally sensitive zone.

"Have these alternatives been considered?" asks Keith Cooper, of the Wildlife Society. "I've never had a good answer to this."

Meanwhile, the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park is beginning to become a reality with the transfer to the Province of Natal of various parcels of State land in the vicinity (including the eastern shores, ironically), which will eventually be controlled by the Natal Parks Board. A complex of NPB, KwaZulu and private reserves and biospheres will eventually form a jigsaw right up to the Mozambique border, providing an unrivalled diversity of game and habitats.

NPB chairman Pat Goss describes the prospect of delaying an important component of this development by 20 years, just for mining, as "something for grave concern."

Will the guillotine fall? Or are we in for an even more protracted struggle?
Natal Parks Board probing own official

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. – The Natal Parks Board has confirmed it is conducting an internal investigation into alleged contraventions of its game capture quotas by the respected conservationist and head of the NPB game capture unit, Mr Keith Meiklejohn.

It is believed that money from the alleged sales was used to pay for the medical expenses of an elderly black game guard.
Water tariffs in PWV likely to rise

MARIANNE MERTEN

WATER tariffs in the PWV are set to increase following the Rand Water Board's announcement of a 7% price hike for bulk supplies to municipalities and industry.

Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said at a Johannesburg news conference yesterday that in calculating the increase, effective from April 1, the board had taken into consideration its loan serving commitments and government's levy on the future use of Lesotho Highland scheme water which would be announced by Water Affairs in September.

Consumers are, in effect, paying for costs incurred by the board since 1986 for the scheme, although they will not receive water from Lesotho until 1996.

Johannesburg City Council water and gas director George Keay said the council would absorb the tariff increase until July when it would announce its new rates.

"We have made provisions for the increase in our current budget," Keay said.

A Sandton Town Council spokesman said its treasury was still considering the matter but he had recommended the increase not be passed on to consumers yet.

Randburg Town Council water and sewage chief engineer Dirk Gresse said the tariff increase would be passed on to consumers at the start of the council's financial year in July but good rains might influence any increase.

Rand Water Board finance GM Alan Rorke said if municipalities passed on the increase directly to users, costs to the average domestic consumer, who used about 30 to 40 kilolitres each month, would rise only R1.70.

Mines and municipalities which the board supplied directly with purified water would pay R82.28, a kilolitre from April.

Moderate electricity price increases and the Water Affairs Department's decision not to raise the raw water price had contributed to keeping the tariff increase below the inflation rate.

Bath said the current water reserves, which were the best yet since the 1982 drought, could fulfill the area's water requirements for the next two years.

Plans, costing about R1.7bn, to secure water supply after 1996 included constructing a major purification plant at Zuikerbosch in the northern Transvaal and a pipeline system to two booster stations at Eikenhof and Palmiet.

Picture: Page 3
50 in hospital after gas pumped into wrong tank

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — People fell over "all over the place" as chlorine gas permeated the Trade Centre store in Prospecton yesterday morning.

More than 50 victims of the invisible gas were admitted to the Kingsway Hospital in Amanzimtoti with respiratory problems. The intensive care unit was full after chlorine gas wafted from a nearby chemical plant into the store.

One man was in a serious condition with a heart problem.

Patients were wheeled into the hospital continuously to be treated for gas inhalation and most were kept overnight, although some were discharged yesterday afternoon.

Trade Centre security guards David Diamond and Emil Viljoen were on duty when they smelt chlorine.

"I ran outside to try and see where the smell was coming from, then went back into the store to help people evacuate the premises," said Viljoen.

"There were three guys in trouble and I picked up one of them, a handyman, and carried him outside.

"All the time I had a very bad pain in my chest and could hardly breathe. There was a dry feeling in my throat, and my eyes were burning."

Viljoen was the last to leave the store and he collapsed as he walked out into the open.

"When I woke up I was in hospital," he said.

Diamond said the gas could not be seen, and that no one knew what was happening.

"People were struggling to breathe and then I had an asthma attack," he said.

"I sat down, seemed to get better and then carried on helping people. But about 400 m from the hospital I had another, much worse, asthma attack. It was very bad."

A spokesman for the Amanzimtoti town clerk's office said hydrochloric acid being delivered to Crest Chemicals by AECl was pumped into the wrong tank, causing a chemical reaction.

Clouds of gas were blown towards the nearby Trade Centre, affecting employees and customers. Once evacuated, the store was closed for the day.

An AECl spokesman said the company had launched a thorough investigation into the incident but the results would only be known in "a couple of days."

The spokesman said the Department of Manpower would conduct its own investigation.
3 new national parks to open

SADF gives land for rhinos

Staff Reporter

THE endangered black rhino now has a secure sanctuary in the Augrabies National Park on the Orange River, thanks to land made available by the SADF, which will soon extend the reserve to four times its present size.

The deputy minister of Defence and Environment Affairs, Mr Wynand Breitenbach, visited the park last week and said he would like to double the amount of non-arable land available for national parks in South Africa.

Nature reserves constitute about 5% of all the country's land. The eight Cape rhino in the Augrabies National Park are now supported by 5000 hectares of arid scrub.

The new territory surrounding the Riemvasmaak training base will extend the park by 45 000ha to the eastern Namibian border and enable the park to support up to 50 rhinos.

This compared to an expected total income of R153m in the current financial year.

The occupancy rates were more or less the same as they were in 1991/2 but visitors' spending had declined, he said.

The occupancy rate was expected to be about 60% this year.

Apart from the Kruger and Tswae-sikamma, three other parks are expected to make small profits.

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The National Parks Board, now dependent for about a quarter of its income from the government, aims to be financially independent within three to five years.

The board will be opening three new parks during the 1993/4 financial year.

These are Vaalbos (near Kimberley), Kransberg (near Thabazimbi) and Richtersveld (in the northern Cape).

The board is also seeking to change its image as the provider of exclusively "white playgrounds".

It will now be reluctant to enter any more contracts with private game parks — an arrangement seen as enriching the private parks at taxpayers' expense.

The board's government grant would decline from 27% in the 1993/4 financial year, southern parks executive director, Mr Anthony Hall-Martin, said at the weekend.

In the board's next financial year, 57% of the parks' total income of R163 million would be generated by the Kruger National Park, 14% would come from the 16 southern parks, 25% from the state and 4% from investments.
CAPE TOWN — A secret commission of inquiry into the affairs of the liquidated Tollgate Holdings group and its subsidiaries is to take place in terms of Section 417 of the Companies Act following an order handed down in the Cape Town Supreme Court on Friday.

The order was granted by Judge HL Berman after an application brought by Tollgate liquidators Bessie Bester and Tjaart du Plessis. Bertrand Hoeherman SC was appointed commissioner of the inquiry. In terms of the Companies Act, its proceedings and findings are confidential.

Meanwhile, an application for the provisional liquidation of the Paarl wine estate, Rhebokskloof, owned by a family trust set up by former Tollgate director and current Motor Racing Enterprises (MRE) MD Mervyn Key was postponed to March 24 in the Cape Town Supreme Court on Friday. Key indirectly controlled a major share of the family trust, the court heard. Rhebokskloof’s assets were said to include an historic Cape Dutch homestead, winery, two restaurants and vineyard and were worth about R10m, court papers said.

Absa brought the urgent application on the basis of alleged debts of about R20.5m, including an overdraft of more than R3.5m; a further R18m owed in terms of a preferential share option agreement entered into between Absa, Rhebokskloof sis-

**LINDA ENSOR**

**Many have no access to safe water**

ONE in three SA residents did not have access to safe water while almost half lacked adequate sanitation, the Water Research Commission said in a statement at the weekend.

Commission manager Charles Chapman said the biggest problem was informal settlements. Not only were inhabitants in areas without safe water at risk of contracting diseases, but other communities were also threatened during periods of good rain as pollution was likely to spread to rivers and other

**MARIANNE MERTEN** said although the installation of prepaid water meters was technologically simple, municipalities shied away from the legal implications. The project had had to be put on the backburner because water, unlike electricity, was considered a basic human right of which nobody should be deprived, he said.

Education for correct water usage was essential because SA’s limited water resources would be exhausted between the years 2020 and 2030.
THE central government will have to allocate a lot of money to try and bring equality in rendering services in the black townships.

So says Mr Japhto Lekgelo, Soweto's "Mr Clean" who also heads the National Environment Awareness Campaign.

"In Soweto, services were never good. Occasionally a truck would come around and pick up rubbish in the black areas but, all in all, the services were non-existent," he says.

In some cases, 10 to 15 families (houses with backyard shacks) share one rubbish bin. When the bin is full, people remove it and dump it anywhere, and in most cases it is at some corner in front of someone else's house, he says.

Lekgelo, who is also a spokesman for the Soweto Civic Organisation, says they are working on a system the Johannesburg City Council will have to follow when they take over servicing the township.

This proposed system covers anything from street cleaning to waste removal "to bring Soweto to the level of Johannesburg," he says.

**Boycott supported**

Though people should pay for services if and when they are provided, Neca and SCA support the rent boycott because at the moment there is no service. "With good service, people would be willing to pay," he says.

He says Neca tried launching clean-up operations but this became frustrating in the long run as there were no proper follow-ups. But, he says, "it is possible to make this sustainable by starting environmental co-operatives. These would work on the principle of helping our own people. We would contribute to a fund and hire people who will be responsible for this. Hopefully, we would break the culture of boycott."

He also criticised the council for building houses in the spaces between other houses. "We are creating a sophisticated slum. In any built up area, at least seven percent of the land must be empty," he says.

It is difficult to deal with people who are dumping anywhere since there are no by-laws in the townships that make dumping an offence.
**St Lucia: Plea to delay decision**

**5 Times** by Roy Rudden 14/3/93

Leading conservationist Dr Nelly Zaloumis, chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia, has called on the National Party to delay a decision on mining at Lake St Lucia until a new democratic government is installed in South Africa.

He made the plea on the eve of publication this week of the independent — but Richards Bay Minerals-sponsored — Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report on which the government is to base its final decision on whether to give the company the go-ahead to mine the dunes for heavy metals in one of the world's last great wetland areas.

The EIA will be released on Thursday, after which the public and concerned bodies will be invited to comment. An evaluation of the report will also be made by a five-member panel, under the chairmanship of former Natal Supreme Court judge Ramon Lean.

But campaigners and most conservation officials, including the ANC's spokesman for environmental affairs Professor Stan Sangweni, believe that the issue is too important to hinge on a report by a group of scientists. They believe the present government cannot make a decision because it does not represent all South Africans.

![Legal](5b)

They suspect that, in any case, recent statements by Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett indicate that the government favours mining at St Lucia.

The campaigners believe that the government is more obligated towards giving Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) the go-ahead than to morally heed the outcome of the impact study.

This is why opposition parties, including the DP, CP and ANC, are in favour of a private member's Wetland Conservation Bill which would give the state the legal teeth to prevent St Lucia mining regardless of any contractual obligation to RBM.

Dr Zaloumis said yesterday: "At the very least, the government should see that this bill is tabled soon. And the National Party should allow an open vote so that its MPs can vote according to their consciences and not be bound by the party hierarchy. "If the bill is not tabled, a decision on St Lucia mining should be held over until a fully representative government is there to see that the decision represents what the majority of South Africans want," he said."
Bid to ‘save the soul’ in its soil

By CHARLES LEFTWICH

WHEN Durban-based clinical psychologist Sheila Ramsay looks at St Lucia, she sees a “tremendously powerful” healing tool for South Africa.

A founder member of the successful Green Street Law programme on Lake St Lucia's eastern shores, Mrs Ramsay believes there is “a whole realm of damaged young people” who could benefit from a wilderness experience.

Working at a community mental health clinic in the Inanda shacklands near Durban, Mrs Ramsay found a close relationship between the deficiencies of mothering experienced by children and what they experienced in the wilderness.

“It was from Inanda that the first Green Street Law pioneers were chosen to go to the Wilderness Leadership School at St Lucia.”

For Mike Mkhize, who watched his family home in Inanda burn to the ground twice, it was a turning point in his life.

“I found out that in the bush all the stress goes. At first, most of us were scared to talk, but after a few days, we talked about everything — the violence, our fears, human rights, the polluted air and water, the cycles of nature and recycling in the cities.”

Mike, who is now a trail facilitator with the Wilderness Leadership School, said that he and his seven companions gained confidence in the alien environment.

‘Soil sense’

“Keeping watch at night was fantastic. I heard animals — many I didn’t know.

“Everyone was asleep, and I knew I had to watch over them.

“It was a chance to be alone and nature gave me the spirit and the time to think. I realised that if all people could feel part of nature like this, there would be no violence.”

On returning home, Mike and his companions founded the Inanda Conservation Committee to fight pollution, educate and try to green the wasteland of Inanda.

Robert Mazibuko, the 90-year-old father of modern “soil sense” in Africa — who has won international fame for his organic trench gardening techniques which dramatically increase the fertility of impoverished soil — has equally strong feelings on the issue.

“If the African people were consulted, they would definitely ask for wilderness rather than mining at the lake.”

“There will be no soul of the soil in the middens,” said Mr Mazibuko.

Roland Goetz, national director of the Wilderness Leadership School, warns that dune mining on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia over the next 20 years could wreck the wilderness programme.

“The operations would come within five kilometres of the area used by the school,” he said.

“The lights and noise would continue through the night and one would have to drive right past the operation.”

“It would be like trying to have a wilderness experience in a park in central Johannesburg,” he said.
Sponsor go-ahead for reserves, trails

NATURE reserves or hiking trails owned by the state will be allowed to accept sponsorship in terms of a new bill.

An official for the Department of State Expenditure said from Pretoria the state was prohibited from accepting such sponsorship now.

The Exchequer Amendment Bill, published in Cape Town yesterday, also provides for an accounting officer to be allowed to receive a R100 000 cash donation on behalf of the state - the current limit is R25 000. “This only applies to cash,” the official said.

The bill extends accountability controls over state moneys to include state property and goods.

The Exchequer Act deals only with the accountability of accounting officers for the application and control of state money.

Because goods bought within the public sector hold considerable financial implications, it is necessary that accountability be established for the use and control of state property as well.

Prescribing norms and standards for improvements to state revenue-funded immovable property has become an integral part of the Treasury’s functions over the years. — Sapa.
St Lucia's Ecopanels

Environmental Quandary: St Lucia Wharf, where mining is set to take place.
Everglades. On the top left of the picture, the eastern shore where mining activities are to take place.

The situation in the Everglades is critical. The waters are being drained for agriculture and the Everglades are drying up. The government has not taken action to protect the area. The Everglades are under threat of becoming a desert. The government has not acted to protect the area from further damage. The Everglades are a vital part of the ecosystem and must be protected. The government has failed to take action to protect the Everglades. The situation is urgent and the government must act now to save the Everglades.
Focus on SA's ability to handle disasters

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — SA's ability to cope with natural or man-made disasters, from nuclear accidents to floods, was the subject of a multiparty conference which began in Ellisras yesterday.

Speaking at the conference on civil protection, Local Government Department chief director Jaap de Beer said more than 3-million people had died worldwide because of natural disasters between 1988 and 1988.

With a dramatic increase in the frequency of disasters locally and internationally since the early '80s, it was essential SA was prepared to deal quickly and effectively with any scenario.

One of the serious shortcomings in SA's current civil protection programme was the bureaucratic red tape that had to be cut to activate the service.

Recommendations from the conference would be passed on to the local government negotiating forum which is scheduled to meet later this month, De Beer said.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourism grading plan unveiled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SATOUR yesterday unveiled plans to introduce a new volunteer grading and classification scheme for all tourist accommodation establishments by April 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The scheme was introduced to the industry at a seminar in Johannesburg yesterday by Satour director of standards Greg McManus, who said it would come into operation once the consolidated Tourism Bill was passed by Parliament this session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details of the scheme — including a levy — were still under discussion, he said.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Satour brochure said the scheme, which applied to serviced and self-catering accommodation and caravan parks, was designed to act as a catalyst for tourism development in SA and bring the industry in line with international trends and developments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The scheme consisted of three categories: listed accommodation, graded establishments and classified establishments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holders of liquor licences registered with the SA Tourism Board as hotels would be accommodated in a category protecting their licences. They would no longer be required to provide meals, ancillary services and unnecessary bedrooms, but would have to maintain five bedrooms for guests and be assessed annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An annual fee to Satour would be required to cover the costs of monitoring their standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded establishments would have to collect a tourism development levy, which would be used to fund tourism marketing by Satour internationally and domestically and be based on a fixed amount per room per night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serviced accommodation establishments offering above standard services could apply for an 'optional classification'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants in the scheme would be included in the Satour accommodation guide, have access to a Satour development and research data base, enjoy preferential rates for Satour marketing and advertising and have access to tourism funds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEVELOPERS of an equestrian estate at Noordhoek have defended themselves against claims that they had built paths providing access to, and encroaching on, the Silvermine Nature Reserve.

After the issue had been raised at a recent amenities and health committee meeting, Councillor Joye Gibbs told the Review that the developers had built a road on their own property which ended halfway up the site opening on the Silvermine Reserve.

She said: "We're concerned that residents will view the reserve as their own backyard. The road looks as though it was deliberately built to provide an entrance into the reserve and there are already signs of intrusion into the area.

Ticket intruders

"The council is negotiating to buy a piece of land worth R3 million which will extend the reserve up to the development, but I don't think it can bear the expense of fencing the land off.

"We will just have to see how bad the intrusion turns out to be."

She said the council could ticket intruders into the reserve but this would require a full-time officer.

Developer Mr Simon Brodovski said he was "astounded and shocked" by the claims.

He said he had bought rural land above the development and cut one nature trail which went up each boundary of this land. "I personally supervised this and even waved the bulldozer away when I saw it heading for a protea. But before I did anything I asked a conservation officer to visit the site and give me advice."

"I am extremely concerned about protecting the environment and have taken a lot of trouble to do so," he said.

He said residents of the development, which could take more than seven years to complete, could possibly be granted access to the reserve through a monthly ticket.

At last week's amenities and health committee meeting concern was expressed about the tracks "which have proliferated on the mountainside above the development and which appear to enter the Silvermine Nature Reserve".

No access

A City Engineer's representative said the development was on land controlled by the Regional Services Council.

The subdivision approval provided specifically that no access to the reserve and no development above the development line would be permitted.

"Despite the foregoing, however, the developer went ahead with the provision of tracks which cross the boundary of the reserve," he said.

Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said the developers had applied to the council to build pathways up the mountain and had been refused permission to do this.
Political actors at odds over local government

WHILE all three main political actors may have expressed support for “strong local government”, they each attach a different meaning to the term. And none is likely to fully achieve its goals, although they can avoid the trap of weak and ineffective local government if they are prepared to moderate their goals and adapt to a democratic culture.

This is the conclusion of an Urban Foundation development strategy and policy unit research report published yesterday.

The report notes that government sees the purpose of strong local government as a means of “limiting the socioeconomic effects of political change”. It would enable highly decentralised local authorities to “maintain standards” and thereby protect “white and/or middle class interests”.

The extra-parliamentary groups have exactly the opposite vision. They see strong local government acting to transfer resources to previously excluded (black) parts of cities — spreading the benefits of a single tax base.

The third grouping — the “free market position”, with which Inkatha largely identifies — aims at “nonracial, market-driven economic efficiency”.

However, the report argues that future local authorities will have to operate against the background of the apartheid legacy of racially divided cities, underdeveloped townships with low administrative and fiscal capacities, higher service costs imposed on township residents, township residents’ perceptions of exploitation and the deep social and political divisions coinciding with spatial divisions.

Students, IDT clash

THE dispute between black university students and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) showed no signs of abating yesterday as students disregarded the IDT’s offer of R66m to pay outstanding fees from last year, saying that the offer fell far short of the need.

The IDT said it was funded by taxpayers to alleviate the plight of the “poorest of the poor”, and that funding for tertiary education was not one of the priorities of the trust.

SA Students’ Congress (Sasco) spokesman Mogoetsi Mogodiri said the IDT plan to reallocate the R38m to pay outstanding fees from last year would not resolve the problems of black institutions which faced a deficit of R66 million.

IDT spokesman Jolyn Nuttall said the trust’s principal obligation was to the very poor, and the more we give to the students, the less we can give to the poor.

The IDT regarded tertiary education as a privilege and not a right, and it focused on the areas of housing, health, job creation and schooling, he said.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports Soweto schools were operating normally yesterday as unionists and education authorities continued negotiations over the reinstatement of 30 teachers.
Metro

Watchdog body fears Midland borehole pollution

Steve 10/3/93

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.

The company said on Monday that the water treatment plant had a small amount of water it had caused a small

operational and functional.
Plea over Rooi Els test site

Environment Reporter

AN APPEAL for funds to help meet legal costs of the Supreme Court action involving Somchem's test site at Rooi Els has been made to all residents of the area.

The Rooi Els Local Council is attempting to have Somchem's lease of the site, where it tests ammunition and propellants, declared invalid.

The Overberg Regional Services Council and the Administrator have been named as co-respondents in the case which started in December.

It was postponed to May 17 to enable replying affidavits to be filed.

In an open letter to residents and ratepayers of Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay, Kleinmond and the Kogelberg, the Save Hangklip Action Group said R200,000 had been raised since December but another R250,000 was required.

The Surplus Litigation Trust is managed by the Cape Town firm of attorneys, Fairbridge, Arderne and Lawton.
Scrapped atomic site
Nature bids body bids for Cape
Battle over St Lucia intensifies

By James Clarke

South African cricket hero Jonty Rhodes is among tens of thousands who have signed a new and crucial pledge to save St Lucia Estuary from open-cast mining.

More than 400 000 specially designed postcards are being signed countrywide. As they are received they are being stockpiled in "safe places" ready for the last stage in the battle to save the famous wetland.

The reason the cards are being locked away is because the Save St Lucia organisers learned a repetition of what happened when the Star and Natal Witness spearheaded a 300 000-signature petition to save St Lucia in 1986; the then Minister of Environment Affairs, in dismissing the petition, told Parliament he had received less than half that number.

Fortunately The Star had kept a record of all the petitions and had hand-delivered them.

The postcard campaign is taking no such chances, and tomorrow, personalities and wildlife officials will arrive in Johannesburg to attend a strategy meeting.

The row is expected to climax in March when the mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, presents its environmental impact assessment study in which it hopes to show how St Lucia can be mined without lasting damage. The company says it will not mine if the study shows that excessive damage will be caused.

But Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett has already indicated he believes mining should go ahead despite the risks.

During December the Save St Lucia postcard campaign became a blizzard of protest. The National Parks Board helped by inserting the cards in its widely circulated journal, Custos.

The Save St Lucia campaign office telephone number is (011) 648-1307.
Worsening drought brings Natal to point of crisis

NEWS
Richards Bay Minerals is underplaying the fact that it has options other than St Lucia where titanium could be mined, said Wits University resource economist Dr Frank Vorhees at a meeting of the Campaign for St Lucia last night.

Vorhees has been involved in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the effect of mining at St Lucia.

Richards Bay Minerals has an option to mine titanium at Zulti South in Natal but did not allow this factor to be taken into consideration during the EIA, said Vorhees.

If mining at St Lucia was disallowed, this would not mean loss of foreign revenue or jobs.

"In any case, this would mean a few million rands and maybe a few dozen jobs, not billions of rands and hundreds of jobs," said Vorhees.

Using St Lucia as an eco-tourism resort would attract more income and create more jobs over a far longer term than mining.

Nelly Zalojis, chairman of the campaign, said St Lucia could soon be declared a World Heritage site.

Executive director of the Wildlife Society "Tony Ferrar warned against "demolishing" Richards Bay Minerals. The main enemy was the Government which had granted the "mining rights."