

Editors Column

We are pleased to bring you the latest edition of our company newsletter. In this edition we feature articles on Africa Environment Day, Go Green by opting for Cleaner Sources of Energy, Zero Litter Zimbabwe to mention but just a few. And as usual we bring you the Environmental legislation corner.

We welcome your comments and environmental contributions which you may kindly send to The Editors on:

infor@blackcrystal.co.zw

Thank you and happy reading!
Clara Chikohomero



Environmental Consultants
Caring for the environment beyond today

Black Crystal Consulting is one of Zimbabwe's leading reputable companies offering a quality service in environmental and socioeconomic consultancy services. Black Crystal Consulting believes in **caring for the environment beyond today** to ensure that biodiversity is maintained and that natural resources are not depleted for the next generation.

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Did you know?

One recycled tin can would save enough energy to power a television for 3 hours.

Plastic can take up to 500 years to decompose.

Africa Environment Day

Africa Environment Day (AED) emanated from the decision of the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers in the Seventy-Sixth Ordinary Session, which took place in Durban, South Africa in July 2002. Whereby member states agreed to commemorate AED on March 3rd annually. AED stresses the importance of sustainable environmental management practices at individual, community, corporate and national level.

This year's official celebrations were held in Chad marking the 10th commemorations of this day under the theme; *Lake Chad: our shared heritage, our common future*. The theme highlights the plight (human water use activities and decadal climate variability) that Lake Chad has gone through over the years which has caused it to drastically shrink thereby threatening the environment and livelihoods depending on it.



Lake Chad has shrunk from 15,000 to 500 sq miles in 40 years. It is a source of livelihoods for people living around it.

This year AED was renamed 'Wangari Maathai Day' after the late Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel laureate.

In Zimbabwe it was commemorated in various ways. A day ahead of the main continental celebrations, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources together with the Environmental Management Agency hosted a symposium in Harare to discuss the local challenges facing the environment and map the way forward.

In his presentation on 2 March 2012 the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Mr F. Nhema said that the government will not allow future developments that will destroy the environment to continue at the expense of future generations. He also stressed that the government will work tirelessly to go green and achieve a green economy.

Going Green: Opt for Cleaner Sources of Energy

The concept of 'going green' has become topical the world over, essentially the idea is to ensure equity between people and the environment they live in. It stresses that social and economic development should improve livelihoods without disturbing the natural ecology.

As individuals we can contribute to going green by opting for clean, reliable, renewable green energy that does not produce pollution in its production such as:

Solar power - derived from the sun and converted into heat or electricity.

Wind power - produced using wind generators to harness the kinetic energy of wind. Wind Farms are located in areas that generate high winds such as coastal areas.



Windpower

Hydroelectricity - generates power through water velocity that turns turbine blades which are connected to a generator that convert the mechanical energy into electricity.

Certain gases such as methane are known as '**eco-energy**' and '**bio energy**' can provide renewable energy. One source of eco energy is from landfill sites where organic waste decomposes (breaks down) producing methane and other gases. More than 75% of this gas is available for use as "green" energy. Methane gas is increasingly used to co-generate electricity and heat.

In some countries **geothermal power** is available as renewable energy source which is generated deep within the earth's core.



Geothermal power

Heritage Matters or Does It?

All too often some developers forget that heritage is also an important part of the "Environmental context" of their projects. Sites of archaeological and spiritual significance, burial sites, and places of intangible importance to local and national communities are all under the law protected by National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe (NMMZ). This body is governed by its own Act (Chapter 25:11 supported by various Statutory Instruments) and there are currently strenuous efforts to update this Act to ensure that these aspects of our collective past are fully recognised and safeguarded for local people and for future generations.

While current Environmental legislation makes reference to these tangible and intangible elements of our heritage, a recent 2011 Statutory Instrument seeks to strengthen the hand of both NMMZ and the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in these aspects pending the finalisation of a new NMMZ Act. These elements are now compulsory for all developments, including loopholes in the Environmental Act which has allowed cellphone towers to spoil several heritage sites on hilltops around the country.

It is expected that NMMZ will engage with EMA to find out why some approved Environmental Impact Assessments have neglected to include this aspect in the reports. NMMZ also intends to engage with developers and Local Authorities. There will be fines for non conformance. Important aspects of the NMMZ Act include:

- The immediate reporting of any “discovery of ancient monument or relic” to the NMMZ. Knowledgeable contravention is deemed an offence with fines and/or imprisonment provided for.

-The Act specifies that the alteration of any site of archaeological, cultural, historical and paleontological presence cannot be undertaken without the prior written consent of NMMZ. This includes the removal of any artifact from its original context. Contravention is an offence.

-Only approved persons are entitled to undertake such work as directed by the Executive Director of the NMMZ.

-Article 26 of the Act provides for the protection of all buildings in Zimbabwe that predate to 1st January 1910. Notice of any intended alterations and demolitions of such “historical buildings” has to be submitted to the Executive Director NMMZ, indicating details of any proposed alteration for consideration approval. Failure to follow this procedure is an offence.

In an effort to explain the law to potential developers and Local Authorities NMMZ issued a guideline paper in 1998 entitled “**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS: GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING AUTHORITIES AND DEVELOPERS**”. Copies can be obtained from the Government Printers, Cnr G. Silundika and 4th Street. The paper explains the law as well as specifying additional requirements that have subsequently appeared as various Statutory Instruments.

Particularly important are the necessary steps required in any Archaeological and Paleontological Assessment as part of the broader Environmental Assessment. It is important to remember that first, there is the identification and assessment of what is present. A trained person will consider the importance any sites located on site during this stage. This is based on *the physical*

integrity of the site; site size and rarity; the local value placed on the site (it must be remembered that intangible value is often more than the physical remains); and the proximity to other sites of known importance.

If sites of importance are located a mitigation phase must be undertaken. This involves various possible actions and is a process strictly overseen by NMMZ. Sometimes sites are considered so important that no development may be permitted and NMMZ may issue an order to prevent it until some agreement is reached between NMMZ, the developer and other impacted stakeholders.

Black Crystal consulting is one of the few Environmental Companies in Zimbabwe that have a fulltime experienced professional in this field. Black Crystal can also assist those clients who want to develop their heritage as a resource through site museums, publications and community engagement. Please visit our Website for more details www.blackcrystal.co.zw.

Zero Litter Zimbabwe

In an effort to keep Zimbabwe clean the recently formed Proudly Zimbabwean Foundation (ZPF) aims at eliminating wastes in all communities in Zimbabwe by 2017. The foundation recognizes that many organisations have invested thousands of dollars in trying to eliminate waste but many of the initiatives had a short-term effect on the communities.

In trying to identify a lasting solution ZPF have observed that the issue of litter is all in the state of mind and a moral issue that is directly related to our character as nation. The programme seeks to change the public’s attitude towards waste disposal, bring attention to recycling strategies and options and introduce separate at source awareness and mechanisms. To achieve this ZPF are working closely with Municipalities, recycling

facilities and other stakeholders. The programme will be rolled in 6 phases namely; Zero Litter Generation 2012 Conference, Zero Litter Stakeholders 2013 Conference, Zero Litter Southern Region 2014 Conference, Zero Litter Northern Region 2015 Conference, Zero Litter Zimbabwe 2016 Conference and Zero Litter Zimbabwe Declaration and Commitment 2017 Conference. The programme will target everyone from all works of life and ZPF are calling upon everyone to join hands with them and change our attitude towards waste disposal. For more information please contact Fungai Chiposi on fungai@proudlyzimbabwean.org

Vision 2050: the New Agenda for Sustainable Business



Black Crystal attended the annual Business Council for Sustainable Development Zimbabwe conference held in November 2011. During the first day there was a special session to introduce and discuss the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) "Vision 2050: the new agenda for business" presented by the President of the WBCSD.

After the presentation Susan Childes and Sharon Waterworth, from Black Crystal, Chaired two breakaway groups, to consider and select the key Sustainable Development aspects for business from the Project's suggested pathways for the first ten year period up to 2020.

The cornerstone *Vision 2050* report calls for a new agenda for business laying out a pathway to a world in which nine billion people can live well, and within the planet's resources, by mid-century. The report is a

consensus piece that was compiled by 29 leading global companies from 14 industries and is the result of an 18 month long combined effort between CEOs and experts, and dialogues with more than 200 companies and external stakeholders in some 20 countries.

Vision 2050, with its best-case scenario for sustainability and pathways for reaching it, is a tool for leadership and a platform for beginning the dialogue that must take place to navigate the challenging years to come. This ambitious, leading-edge report maps out the transformative changes that will be necessary to allow the projected 9 billion inhabitants of our planet to be living well at mid-century.

Vision 2050 is not only about economics, development and sustainability challenges for business. It suggests governments and civil society must create a different view of the future, one where, "economic growth has been decoupled from ecosystem destruction and material consumption and re-coupled with sustainable economic development and societal well-being."

Opportunities range from developing and maintaining low-carbon, zero-waste cities, to improving and managing biocapacity, ecosystems, lifestyles and livelihoods. In today's dollars, the market opportunities created by adapting to the new global reality for sustainable living are somewhere between \$3-\$10 trillion USD per year in 2050. The report features a set of agreed 'must haves'. They represent vital developments that the WBCSD hope that organizations will consider putting in place within the next decade, to help ensure a steady course towards global sustainability is set. Ultimately, they are intended to provide a springboard for dialogue and a new business model. For more information please visit: <http://www.wbcd.org>

World Earth Day



Earth Day is celebrated on April 22; it started in the United States in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson to create awareness for the Earth's environment and to encourage conservation efforts. In 1990, Earth Day was taken international, and today, more than 500 million people in 175 countries observe Earth Day.

Earth day aims to inspire the public to take better care of the environment and learn to take pride in their environment. The original Earth Day was used as a teaching day to inform the public about the negative environmental impacts humans are making to the planet.

Since this original celebration Earth Day has become an international day and environmental groups globally have also started participating in an Earth Week.

World Water Day

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The day was recommended at 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first world water day. This year's world water day is to

be celebrated under the theme '*Water and food security: the world is thirsty because we are hungry*'. The theme aims to raise awareness on the amount of water needed to produce food.

World water day 2005 marked the beginning of the UN International decade for action on water. The Water for Life Decade 2005-2015 puts the spotlight on water-related programmes and the participation of women. The Decade is hoping to increase the efforts for achieving international water-related goals and the UN Millennium Declaration.



Fresh water lake

Legislation corner

As we mark the 19th celebrations of the World Water Day, it is important that we take note of the existing Zimbabwean Legislation that governs and protect water.

Section 63 of the Water Act (Chapter 20:24) states that sinking, deepening or altering of boreholes and wells in ground water shortage area is restricted:

-No one shall sink, deepen or alter a borehole for any purposes in a water shortage area unless in accordance with a permit issued by the catchment council.

-Any person who contravenes the above shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine or to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to both fine and such imprisonment.