

Editors Column

We are pleased to bring you the latest edition of our company newsletter in which we feature articles on urban deforestation, how Black Crystal celebrated World Environment Day and our new Eco-range products to mention but just a few. 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



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?

Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria or organic material to wash into the

storm drain and eventually into local water bodies

A New Range of Eco Product on the Market

In the world we live today, natural resources and energy are being used up at an alarming rate and tons of solid waste is being produced every second. More than ever before, the importance of recycling, as well as the reuse and reduction of waste is apparent.

OK Zimbabwe **Private Limited (OK)** are a concerned company and they want to improve environmental conditions and highlight the importance of protecting the environment to their customers. OK wishes to be proactive and be the fore runner in the distribution of recycled products on a large scale, whilst fulfilling part of their Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

OK has partnered with Black Crystal, who believes in **caring for the environment beyond today** in designing a range of eco-products.



The unique project aims at reducing glass bottles ending up in landfills through the recovery and reuse of empty wine and imported beer bottles which are cut into water glasses, vases and water bottles with different sandblasted designs.



By buying products from this range of beautiful eco-products you will be supporting local small scale community groups earn a sustainable living whilst helping to keep planet earth healthier!

CRD Launches a Community Based Approach to Natural Resource Governance

The Center for Research and Development (CRD) launched the Natural Resource Governance Network (NRGN) in February 2011 at a workshop in Manicaland.

The theme of the workshop was: Management of Natural Resources: A Community-based Approach. Participants at this workshop were drawn from members of the NRGN which include Community-Based Organisations living in areas affected by gold and diamond mining in Manicaland Province and civil society organisations, government representatives from the Zimbabwe National Water Authority, Environmental Management Agency and academic institutions in Manicaland Province.

The objective of the NRGN is to raise awareness on the challenges being faced by communities in resource rich areas in Zimbabwe and to build a strong coalition of civil society organisations advocating for community participation in natural resource governance as well as to promote transparency and accountability in the extractive sector

[Read more](#) from the Centre for Research and Development:

<http://www.kubatana.net/html/archive/demgg/120305crd.asp?sector=DEMGG>

Pangolins in Extinction:

The Zimbabwe National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals remains gravely concerned at the increasing number of specially protected species, such as pangolins, that are being poached within the country. By way of illustration and in an incident dating back to March of this year, game scouts in Sebungwe, North Western Zimbabwe, recovered from poachers the remains of a Cape Pangolin. The scales of the young male had been removed, reflecting the growing demand for exotic animal parts particularly by practitioners and proponents of Chinese Traditional Medicine.

For further details visit www.tikkihywoodtrust.org

How Black Crystal Celebrated World Environment Day

5 June was World Environment Day: A special day set aside by the United Nations as a day of commemorating the world's natural environment. This year's celebrations marked the 40th anniversary of World Environment Day: this year's theme was 'Green economy'.

Black Crystal celebrated World Environment at an early breakfast event at which every member of staff presented an environmental initiative/product, with everyone gathered there was much excitement in the air. The event was an interesting one with some innovative products being displayed which we are proud and happy to share with you: all made from recycled materials, easy to make and most with zero cost involved.

Hot/cold Insulator



This highly original and easy to use product was designed to keep food/drinks either hot or cold. Very useful in Zimbabwe with all the power cuts/solar energy as food can be cooked and kept warm to eat later on, rather like a warming drawer concept.

The light weight insulator was made from an old piece of circular material stuffed with chips made from polystyrene trays (shown in the photograph) that was used to package vegetables/meat. The polystyrene chips provided the insulating properties.

Besides the insulator are recycled wine bottles: one has been made into a water bottle (much healthier to drink from a glass bottle than a plastic one) and the other one has been cut to make a matching drinking glass. Both products can be sandblasted and personalised for instance with a company logo/lettering.

Desk and Phone Organiser



A very simple yet effective product made from an egg tray painted with black paint. The empty spaces of the organiser can be filled with various stationary items such as paper clips, pens, drawing pins, bulldog clips, post it pads etc as well business cards and as many mobile phones as you wish. So, you don't

have to misplace your phone ever again. The organiser comes in three different sizes: small medium and large and in a variety of colours. It also looks great in silver and is smart enough to grace any executive home/office desk.



This photograph shows a variety of different products including:

Office products:

On the left hand side, a useful office file made from a cereal box complete with a metal file fixture.

On the right hand side, office tidy caddies made from old tin food cans i.e. tuna, baked beans etc covered with trendy metallic sticky plastic and decorated with stickers to store all your pens, pencils, rulers etc within easy reach.

Festive Themed products:

Christmas decorations: made from various materials such as old cotton reels decorated with sparkling sequins and glitter, others from egg trays when cut out individually and turned upside down look like Christmas bells studded with foil paper and some made from old Christmas cards folded, resembling a *Combretum* seed pod.

Christmas crackers made from the cardboard inners from toilet rolls, covered with shiny paper and filled with goodies such as sweets. Dollies for plate decoration made from used paper folded and cut out in pretty radiating patterns.

Heart shaped Valentine gifts made from old greeting cards: one is a bookmark and the

other is a heart shaped mobile complete with a heart tassel.

Halloween pumpkin shaped decorations made from old pieces of paper and card, pumpkin note pad holder, just glue a peg on the back so you can attach and display your important pieces of paper such as a shopping list, reminders, bills etc.

There is also a gecko made from an old beer can, cut open and rolled out, stenciled and the shape cut out using scissors. This can be used for decoration almost anyway; it can be stuck onto any surface using sticky stuff.

Photo Frame



A useful and colourful product made from a piece of cardboard (such as a cereal box) decorated with old photographs, pieces of card and material to give it texture and depth. This photo frame will look stylish in any room of your home or office. It can be highly personalised and made to any size.

We hope that you have been inspired by our products! We enjoyed creating them for World Environment Day.

Urban Deforestation; a Cause for Concern

Deforestation in Zimbabwe has been at its peak over the past 10 years. While land clearing for agriculture and housing for new settlers, tobacco curing and veld fires are causing deforestation in rural areas, power cuts and urban agriculture are the major cause of urban deforestation.

In recent years Zimbabwe has been facing major power cuts which have led to an increased consumption of other sources of fuel in urban area especially wood fuel. In addition, the country's urban population has rapidly increased which in turn have also contributed to the increase in fuel demand especially at household level. The ever increasing demand for wood fuel in Zimbabwe's urban household has led to massive woodland clearance in and around the urban areas.

Over-exploitation of forests and degradation of woodlands in the urban areas has been going on for close to ten years now and it has contributed to massive land degradation, ecosystem damage and habitat destruction.

In as much as power cuts are largely contributing to the clearance of woody areas in urban areas humans have a role to play in reducing deforestation. It is our duty as citizens to protect our environment and sustainably use the natural resources we have, in this case trees for the benefit of us today and the future generations to come. One way of combating deforestation is through tree planting.

Local authorities and the Forest Commission are trying to strictly implement legislation that protect forests and make sure that anyone who contravenes the legislation is punished accordingly.

The available legislation should also be backed by concrete mechanisms at grass root level (local communities should be educated and trained on how to avoid deforestation).

However, it should be noted that urban deforestation and wood poaching is not easy to combat unless other sources of energy are provided at household level (Campbell et al, 1989 and Mugadza, 1992). Alternative

sources of energy like thermal power, wind power, solar energy may be used to supplement wood fuel.

In addition, energy saving devices such as the food warmers can also be introduced and enforced to help in reducing deforestation.

Legislation Corner

The selling or trading of firewood or timber without a licence is prohibited. Section 3(1) of SI 116 Of 2012 Forest (Control Firewood, Timber and Forest Produce) states that: No person shall;

- Shall sell or trade in any firewood except under the terms of a firewood trader's licence obtained in every district where he or she proposes to operate (unless he or she obtains his or her firewood exclusively from any firewood plantation in which event the person is only required to obtain a firewood trader's licence in the district where the firewood plantation is located ,or if there are two or more such plantations in two or more districts, in whichever district the person chooses to obtain a licence);or
- Shall sell or trade in any timber except under the terms of a timber trader's licence obtained in every district where he or she proposes to operate (unless he or she obtains his or her timber exclusively from any timber plantation, in which event the person is only required to obtained timber trader's licence in the district where the timber plantation is located or, if there are two or more such plantations in two or more districts, in whichever district the person chooses to obtain a licence);or
- Who is a flue-or flame-cured tobacco farmer referred to in 12 (1) shall use or transport firewood for flue-or flame-curing tobacco except under the terms of a flue-or flame-curing firewood licence

obtained in the district where he or she grows that tobacco.

Anyone who contravenes the above shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level three or imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month or both such fine and such imprisonment.



18th June 2012: A
Special Birthday

22 Years ago on the 18th of June 1991 cattle ranchers in the Save Valley in the South East Lowveld of Zimbabwe made conservation history by putting aside their individual farming interests and uniting to form one of the most ambitious wildlife conservation initiatives of all time: The Save Valley Conservancy (SVC) consisting of 4 500km² of one of the most pristine wildlife environments in the world.

The SVC's conservation efforts and success resulted in the SVC as being branded 'the gold standard of conservation' by leading NGO's in America. Over the last two decades the SVC has faced many challenges. The fact it exists today is testament to the commitment and dedication of the members of the SVC.



Rhino in a boma awaiting release into the Save Valley Conservancy

Today, despite the fact SVC lies in Region V which is unsuitable for sustainable agriculture, 900 km² of habitat and several ranches have been lost due to settlement through the unplanned 'fast track' land reform programme.

The conservancy currently contains viable populations of the highly endangered hook lipped or 'black' rhino and square lipped or 'white' rhinos. But sadly, by being successful in conserving these animals, together with a range of other threatened and vulnerable wildlife, the SVC has become a target for poachers.

In spite of irrefutable scientific and medical evidence to the contrary, there is still a huge demand for rhino horn in Asia for its reputed medicinal properties. The resulting escalation in the financial value of horn is driving the rhino poaching epidemic throughout Asian and African rhino conservation areas. Whilst the members of the SVC continue with anti-poaching exercises on their ranches, the aggression of horn and ivory poachers is such that these efforts are no longer able to stem the tide of poaching.

The threat is worsened by the deterioration of law enforcement, reduction in tourism and safari hunting, and lack of political will stemming from the past decade of Zimbabwe's turmoil.



Poached Black Rhino

The situation has demanded a parallel increase in anti-poaching and awareness programmes and all these factors have

added greatly to the sustainability, financial and management challenges of the SVC.

The Lowveld Rhino Trust (LRT), SAVE Foundation of Australia and the International Rhino Foundation are working with SVC to develop and fund a more effective and specialist anti-poaching unit (APU).

The anti poaching unit was mandated by the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) to provide training and coordination of anti poaching efforts in State Land areas such as Sinamatella and Matobo Intensive Protection Zones, and this role is now being extended to include the Lowveld conservancies, including SVC. The new APU will incorporate PWMA rangers as well as specifically recruited and trained personnel.

Throughout the conservancy individual rhinos are regularly monitored to ensure their safety. This exercise requires employing experienced and trustworthy scouts who regularly keep tabs on rhino through locating them, tracking them and logging accurate settings and information.

In partnership with the LRT, SVC are undertaking a large scale community awareness programme on the conservancy boundaries and are working on options to create community/conservancy partnerships for which rhinos would be a flagship species. If rhinos are to be saved for future generations rigorous protection measures will need to be applied immediately and for the foreseeable future. There are plenty of opportunities (big and small) for everyone to contribute and it is hoped that Zimbabwe will be able to hold its head up high along with other rhino conservation nations and work towards saving rhinos from extinction. It is hoped that rhinos will provide Zimbabweans with an opportunity to demonstrate their

patriotic pride by standing up for their natural wildlife heritage.

If you or your company, perhaps as part of you Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, would like to assist please contact schildes@blackcrystal.co.zw or swaterworth@blackcrystal.co.zw. Thank you!

Voluntary Community Service Work

Black Crystal believes in giving back, here are details of some of the varied voluntary community service work that Black Crystal staff are currently actively involved with around the country and in the region:

Technical assistance:

Bulawayo; Friends of the National Railways Museum, Friends of the Natural History Museum, Historical Documents Section, Public Library, Hillside Dams Conservancy, Bulawayo Lecture Series, Gordon Park, Matobo, ABUZ (Association of Business in Zimbabwe)

Harare; Biodiversity Committee, BCSDZ, Climate Change Technical Committee, BCSDZ, Sustainability Reporting Committee, BCSDZ, National Trust of Zimbabwe, Prehistory Society of Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls; Kalahari Sands Foundation, Friends of Victoria Falls

Community projects:

Bulawayo; Rowallan Park, Matobo, Sipepa Community Trust, Sipepa District, Tsholotsho.

Harare; Education of individual children and adults, Church choir, Matthew Rusike Children's home, Kuumba Welfare Organisation, Brown Owl, 26 Mount Pleasant Brownie Pack

Zambia; Kalahari Wood Products, Mwandia, Zambia

Environmental: Hellenic Junior School: environmental projects, Science Fair: Inventions Past and Present: Chisipite High School, Alternative Green Energy Projects: Hellenic Junior School, Wildlife and Environment of Zimbabwe Inter Schools Quiz, Birdlife Zimbabwe, Environment Africa

Arts; Hellenic International Academy, Campus

Creative Arts Committee, Friends of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe

Dance; Zimbabwe Amateur Dance Sport Association, Church Dance Group

Useful Details on Recycling Waste

Please find below a useful list of organisations that recycle waste:

Car Batteries; Call Battery World on 757575. They have a truck that will collect batteries. They will pay from USD4-12 per battery depending on the size. They collect any type of battery. **Garden Waste;** Contact Mr Jan Kotze on 0774755894 he will take delivery of waste at his premises free of charge.

Garden and Household waste; Contact Mr Vincent 07725728484 he will collect the waste from individuals who have enough waste to fill up a standard pick-up truck. He will pay USD30 for a full load.

Plastics; contact Polywaste on 771357. They collect plastic wastes from vendors at Pomona dumping site. They are also interested in Mazowe 2 lt bottles and plastic packaging from foodstuffs i.e. rice, maputi, freezits, mealie-meal, Chimombe, lacto, sugar and salt. They will collect waste that weighs 500kg's and above.

Paper and board, contact National Waste on 770097. They collect waste that weighs from 1 tonne and above and will pay USD20 per tonne for bond paper, USD 15 per tonne card board box, USD 250 per tonne for thin plastic. They are currently collecting bond, card board and thin plastic only.

Sunshine Zimbabwe Project

Special needs vocational training centre would like your empty plastic bottles to make re-cycled goods. Shampoo, handy-andy, toilet duck, mr muscle bottles (rinsed out please). We can also make use of jam jars, cereal boxes and old x-rays. Deliver to 6 Borrowdale Lane, Borrowdale.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sunshine-Zimbabwe-roject/185687264878282>

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