

Editors Column

Compliments of the new season to you all. Welcome to our first edition for the year. We are looking forward to new things in the new year as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary. We are looking forward to adopting new ideas to help care for and sustain our rapidly depleting environment. In this edition we focus on greening our environment, looking at what Europe is doing and some initiatives being done in Harare. We look at the functions of wetlands and the types of wetlands that are there. On our last page we will see a diagram showing the importance of wetlands in Harare as we also celebrate World Wetlands Day.

We welcome your comments and environmental contributions to the Editor:

infor@blackcrystal.co.zw

Thank you and happy reading!



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.

Black Crystal Consulting (Pvt) Ltd

1 Fairbairn Drive

Mount Pleasant

Harare

Phone: +263 4 334 361/ 307 466/ 307 458.

Mobile: +263 779 394 179

HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY BLACK CRYSTAL CONSULTING

Happy 10th Anniversary



Caring for the environment beyond today

Black Crystal celebrates 10 years of caring for the environment beyond today.

Building on decades of professional experience, Black Crystal are very proud to have reached our 10th anniversary of caring for the environment beyond today. As we celebrate this 10 year milestone we are proud to look back over a decade of making a difference to our clients, individuals, schools, companies and communities.

We would like to thank all our clients over the years for their support. We would also like to give special thanks to all those people who have taken time to work with us and for the relationships gained. As we look to the future we look forward to celebrating 20 years of providing innovative and sustainable solutions for environmental management and assisting our clients to manage the environment in the wise use of natural resources, and how to manage environmental, archaeological resources and social risks.

DID YOU KNOW!!!

Recycling a single aluminum can would run a TV for three hours - The energy saved by recycling a single aluminum can would run a TV for three hours.

Black Crystal Corporate Social Responsibility

In recognition of the vital role natural history collections play in our knowledge of biodiversity, and the importance of education, Black Crystal has recently made a donation to the Friends of the Natural History Museum, Bulawayo. The donation will assist in the production of a guidebook for the Museum and in the preservation of displays and specimens.

GREENING HARARE



Landscaping done along Chiremba Road courtesy of Signaces Private Limited Havens Landscaping and City of Harare

In a bid to 'green' Harare and to fulfill the objective that City of Harare have set for "**Harare to be a world class city by 2025**", Havens Landscaping took the initiative to engage City of Harare so that they can landscape areas in and around the CBD. They are landscaping areas like robot points, road islands and clinics to mention a few. They have partnered with organizations such as New Life Covenant Church, which adopted the Woodrow area which is along Robert Mugabe and Signaces Private Limited which adopted the area next to the railway line along Chiremba Road.

Those who have partnered with Havens Landscaping and City of Harare, have the privilege of setting up signage posts on the landscaped areas to advertise their organizations. Some vacant spaces to be adopted include the intersection of Robert Mugabe and Chiremba Road, Braeside and Arcadia Clinics, to mention a few.



Landscaping done along Robert Mugabe Road courtesy of New Life Covenant Church, Havens Landscaping and City of Harare

How to partner with them

If interested in doing a project like this, you can contact Havens Landscaping. They will refer you to the right person at City of Harare where you will get a letter to authorize you to adopt the area you would have chosen. For a small fee, Havens Landscaping will landscape the area and maintain it.

For those who are interested in joining this initiative, you can contact Mr Ephraim Mazarira on havenslandscaping3250@gmail.com or call him on 0772808352/ 0772850446

Collaboration and Board Engagement is Critical to Sustainability Success

'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.' - African Proverb.

Collaboration and Board Engagement is Critical to Sustainability Success - The results of a new global study by MIT Sloan Management Review, The Boston Consulting Group, and the United Nations Global Compact were released in Jan 2015 in a report titled "Joining Forces: Collaboration and Leadership for Sustainability." The Report Conclusion: The Path to (Sustainability) Success Is Travelled With Others. The importance of sustainability as a business issue has steadily grown over the past two decades. Most businesses understand that their sustained success depends upon the economic, social and ecological

contexts in which they operate. But the stability of those contexts can no longer be taken for granted. The physical environment is becoming more unpredictable, a more interconnected global economy is altering social conditions, and technological innovation is transforming the nature of consumption and production.

Corporate sustainability has evolved from expressing good intentions and looking for internal operational efficiencies to addressing critical business issues involving a complex network of strategic relationships and activities. As sustainability issues have become more global and pivotal to success, companies are realizing that they can't go it alone.

To read more, click on the link below:

http://www.responseabilityalliance.com/html/get_real_.html

Mawabeni Aluminum Products by Nikki

Beautiful locally made recycled products are available from Nikki's gift shop, Plant plan garden centre, Stokesay close off Rolf Avenue, Ballantyne Park.



These MAWABENI Aluminum Products are made entirely of recycled drink cans and they do not contain any lead. Products available include: plates, wine racks, serviette holders, salad server's toothpick holders and lots, lots more.

For more information please contact Nikki on davnik45@gmail.com or 0776744403

Building a Green Infrastructure for Europe

Investing into Green Infrastructure (GI) makes sound economic sense – a single area of land can offer multiple benefits, provided its ecosystems are in a healthy condition. Such healthy ecosystems, which are powered by the diversity of life within them, provide society with a stream of valuable, economically important goods and services such as clean water and air, carbon storage, pollination etc. They also play a central role in fighting climate change impacts by protecting us against floods and other environmental disasters.



What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure can be broadly defined as a strategically planned network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, which is designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings. More specifically GI, being a spatial structure providing benefits from nature to people, aims to enhance nature's ability to deliver multiple valuable ecosystem goods and services, such as clean air or water. This will in turn:

- Foster a better quality of life and human well-being, for instance by providing a high quality environment in which to live and work.
- Improve biodiversity, for instance by reconnecting isolated nature areas and increasing the mobility of wildlife across the wider landscape.

- Protect us against climate change and other environmental disasters, for instance by alleviating floods, storing carbon or preventing soil erosion.
- Encourage a smarter, more integrated approach to development which ensures that Europe's limited space is utilized in as efficient and coherent a way as possible.

Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Environmental benefits

- Provision of clean water
- Removal of pollutants from air and water
- Pollination enhancement
- Protection against soil erosion
- Rainwater retention
- Increased pest control
- Improvement of land quality
- Mitigation of land take and soil sealing

Social benefits

- Better health and human well-being
- Creation of jobs
- Diversification of local economy
- More attractive, greener cities
- Higher property values and local distinctiveness
- More integrated transport and energy solutions
- Enhanced tourism and recreation opportunities

Climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits

- Flood alleviation
- Strengthening ecosystems resilience
- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Mitigation of urban heat island effects
- Disaster prevention (e.g. storms, forest fires, landslides)

Biodiversity benefits

- Improved habitats for wildlife
- Ecological corridors
- Landscape permeability

Example of Green Infrastructure in action in Europe

Situated in the heart of Wales, UK, the Pumlumon area is the largest river catchment area in Wales, supplying water to four million people. Agriculture is the main land use but, as with most of the uplands, overgrazing by sheep has resulted in biodiversity loss as well as soil compaction, which is contributing to increase flooding of the lowland areas. Poor socio-economic conditions have also meant that many of the rural communities here are now struggling to remain viable.

To address these issues in an integrated manner, a strategic framework project was launched in 2007 over an area of 40,000 ha. The vision is to work with local people to guide a major change in the way the land is managed and to give the local communities a better future. A series of measures are being undertaken within this framework in close collaboration with local stakeholders, authorities and NGOs all working together.

They aim, amongst others, to restore habitats for biodiversity and to improve the delivery of ecosystem services, as well as diversify local farming practices and increase the value of their produce, create new tourism products and provide skills training to attract more income to the area and create new job opportunities.

Wetlands Day celebrated

"Wetlands for Our Future" is the theme for this year.



The BirdLife International
Partner in Zimbabwe

Birdlife Zimbabwe together with The Conservation Society of Monavale, Harare Provincial Office of the Environmental Management Agency and the Eco Schools Programme run by Mukuvisi Woodlands coordinated the World Wetlands Day 2015 celebrations. This event was for schools and colleges. This year they enticed the youth to experience wetlands for themselves. The event took place at of Zimbabwe's 7 Ramsar Sites, Monavale Vlei.

BASIC FACTS ABOUT WETLANDS

Wetlands are the link between land and water, and are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Some common names for different types of wetlands are swamp, marsh and bog. Depending on the type of wetland, it may be filled mostly with adapted plants, grasses, shrubs or moss. To be called a wetland, an area must be filled or soaked with water at least part of the year. Some wetlands are actually dry at certain times of the year!



Wetlands have many important functions that benefit people and wildlife.

- Provide habitat for a wide variety and number of wildlife and plants.
- Filter, clean and store water - in other words, acting like kidneys for other ecosystems!
- Collect and hold flood waters.
- Absorb wind and tidal forces.

- Provide places of beauty and many recreational activities

Wetlands also act like sponges by holding flood waters and keeping rivers at normal levels. Wetlands filter and purify water as it flows through the wetland system. Plants found in wetlands help control water erosion.

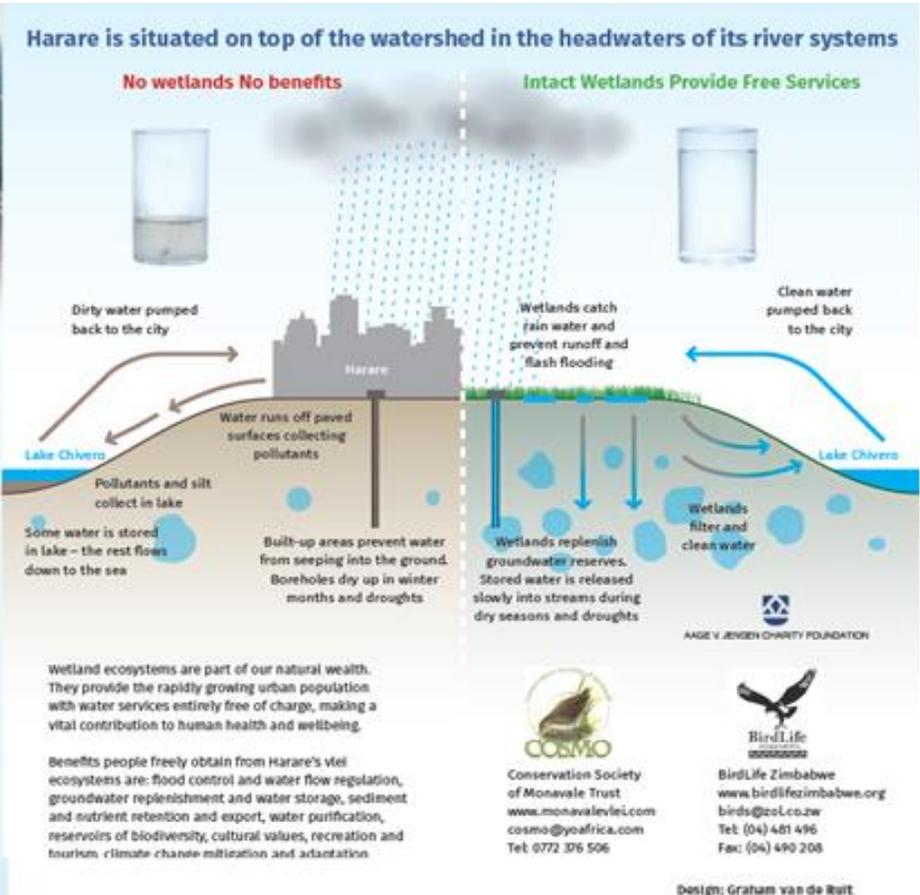
TYPES OF WETLANDS

Marshes - are areas with shallow water that are mostly grasslands. Marshes can be freshwater or saltwater and the amount of water in a marsh can change with the seasons and in the case of salt water marshes, can also change with the tide. They often have soft stemmed and herbaceous plants, like grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. Plants found in saltwater marshes include reeds, grasses and shrubs like rushes, sedges, and saltbush. Freshwater marshes often occur along the edges of lakes and rivers. Saltwater marshes occur along coastlines, inlets and estuaries where they are affected by tides, and often have a source of fresh water from surrounding land, rivers or ground water.

Swamps - are slow moving streams, rivers or isolated low areas with more open and deeper water than marshes. Swamps have trees (for example, cypress trees in freshwater and mangrove trees in salty water) and woody shrubs rather than grasses and herbs. In African swamps, papyrus is the main plant. Swamps are found in low-lying areas near rivers or coastal areas. Examples include the Everglades in Florida.

Bogs and Fens - are fresh water wetlands, usually formed in an old glacial lake with a spongy peat base. Most of the bog's water comes from rain. A fen is a fresh water peat wetland covered mostly by grasses sedges, reeds, and wildflowers of high pH (alkaline) ground water. Evergreen trees and shrubs, and a floor covered by a thick carpet of sphagnum moss. Some species of carnivorous plants are also found in bogs.

Thank You!!!!



Did you know that most of Harare's open spaces are wetlands and are our primary water source?

Our water comes from these wetlands, which provide many free benefits to residents.

