

The Crystal

October, 2013

Editors Column

We are nearing the end of an eventful year how time flies! We are grateful for all your continued support and comments, please continue to give us your feedback and comments.

In this edition of The Crystal we have an interesting article about Women in Africa and the Environment. We give our congratulations to Mr. Clive Stockhill the Zimbabwean conservationist who recently won a Lifetime Achievement Award!

Our guest writer reviews the waste management legislation in South Africa. In preparation for the upcoming annual National Tree Planting Day, in December, we have an article on how to plant and maintain seeds until they become seedlings ready for planting.

With women in mind we have some creative and interesting Do It Yourself (DIY) tips for your office and home and make mention of the leading ladies in Zimbabwe pertaining to the environment.

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.

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Environmental Tip:

Switch off the plug when your mobile is fully charged.

Environmental Development and Feminization

More women than men in Sub-Saharan Africa are poor than any other part of the world mainly due to "feminized poverty".

The loss of biodiversity in Africa is having a negative effect on poor women's livelihoods because it means a loss of income, food insecurity and poor health and sanitation. For instance in rural Sub-Saharan Africa, elderly women are midwives and assist women in childbirth. They derive natural herbs and medicine for newly born babies and their mothers for healing purposes. But a lack of environmental awareness, the vital shrubs and herbs that they require are constantly being depleted.



Feminized Poverty in Namibia

In addition, when climate changes occur, whether drought or floods, they affect women more than men because women consist of 70% of those people who are living below the poverty datum line yet they are most of the time left out in environmental development, management and policy implementation even though they could provide valuable environmental solutions. Climate change has an impact on population movement which involves displacement and resettlement processes such as the case of Namibia where most of their land is desert populated.

In Africa, gender debates affect environmental development because of the arguments over resource ownership and property. Women have a great role in use of resources than men however they are discriminated in decision making and participation in land allocation programmes and where the environment is concerned. However, their access, control and ownership of resources is constrained due to gender inequities which still exist in Sub-Saharan Africa. Human

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welfare is multidimensional and requires availability and access of resources e.g. food, clean water and energy in the absence of conflict and environmental disasters (drought or floods) for improved living standards.

Gender relations and the division of labour in the society is an important factor why women lag behind in environmental development and sustainability. Women and girls play a lead role in food and water supply provision for crops, food processing and livestock rearing purposes hence spending more time to fetch water depriving them of other valued activities e.g. education. Gender division of productivity on agricultural land and labour on farms in rural Africa burdens women and children as they do much of the work to improve household food security.

Schultz et al. (2001) discovered that 80% of food production and land use in Sub-Saharan Africa is carried out by women hence showing that they use the environment more than men. Unreliable energy supplies and rain patterns have worsened the living conditions of women in rural Zimbabwe since their livelihoods depend on rain water for farming and fuel wood for energy. In turn this is also affecting environmental development and economic growth economic growth at national level.

DIY: Hang dishtowels with pegs drilled into the wall



Did you know?

The Namib Desert, in Namibia, is soon to be designate as a world Heritage site by IUCN.

Women and the Environment in Zimbabwe

Some of the top environmental jobs in Zimbabwe are held by women – here are a few examples:

- Mrs Mutsa Chasi, Environmental Management Agency Director General
- Ms Charlene Hewett, CEO Environment Africa
- Professor Sarah Feresu, Director, Institute of Environmental Studies (IES)
- Dr Jeanette Manjengwa Deputy Director, Institute of Environmental Studies (IES)
- Mrs Betty Dube, Safety Environment & Health Manager, Unki Mines, Shurugwi
- Nikki Foot, Business Council for Sustainable Development in Zimbabwe Secretariat.
- Dorothy Wakeling, Birdlife
- Melanie Duckworth and Lisa Jane Campbell, Public Relations and Fundraising for Rhino Protection, Save Valley Conservancy.

Thank you ladies, for helping us to sustainably manage our environment!

How to plant and manage seeds

This article is in preparation of the National Tree Planting Day which will be held on the first Saturday of December which falls on the 7th this year.

One of the Black Crystal staff members attended a workshop which was hosted by Environment Africa which was about seed planting and management. During the workshop, the attendees had a chance to plant seeds of acacia trees which included *Angusisstima* (*Munguva*), *Ziziphus* and *Mauritiana* (*Musawu*).



To plant seeds, you first need to have five special items, a black perforated plastic, compost soil, riversand and, some soft sieved soil and last but not least your seeds. Mix all items together except for the seeds using a shovel or your hands depending on how much many seeds you would want to plant.

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Fold the plastic top out so that you have double sleeve as shown in the picture above. This is to avoid tearing the plastic while handling it. Into the small black perforated bag, insert the soil mixture, making sure that the soil is compacted and fills the bag but leaving a space of about 3cm to leave room for watering. After filling the bag, water the pockets (bags) just enough to soften the soil on top and with a small stick, dig a bit of the soil on top and insert at least three seeds, not too deep. After that, make sure that they are covered with soil then water the pocket again making sure that the water is sufficient. After that, make sure your pockets are watered twice a week.

The best time to plant the seeds is September and October and a transplant can be done beginning November to February. Seedlings can stay in a pocket for 6 to 12 months before they can be planted into the space allocated for the tree.

Tusk Conservation Awards: Princely custodians of the bush

Two conservationists, Clive Glenn Stockil from Zimbabwe and Tom Lalampaa from Kenya were honored for their work in Africa with awards presented by Prince William on the 16th of September 2013. The Tusk Conservation Awards supports more than 50 wildlife conservation initiatives in 18 African countries. At the Royal Society, in front of an audience of 200 conservation luminaries and supporters, Prince William spoke of the slaughter of elephant and rhinoceros as “shocking” and “staggering”. “Like those of any new parents our thoughts turn to the world that our child will inherit. It is unfathomable to imagine that children who have been born in the past couple of months may grow up in a world in which rhinoceros have ceased to live in the wild.” He said, however, that there was “immense hope”, which “manifests itself in the proud faces of the people receiving awards”.

The idea was to recognize visionary and brave individuals working on the ground, by means of nominations from their peers. The winners of the two awards – the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Conservation Award, the latter for an “up-and-coming conservationist” – receive cash contributions to their projects of, respectively, £30,000 and £15,000, as well as the trophies presented by the Duke of Cambridge.

The winners, profiled below, were distilled from 50 nominees and chosen by a panel chaired by Charlie Mayhew and comprising another five independent experts.



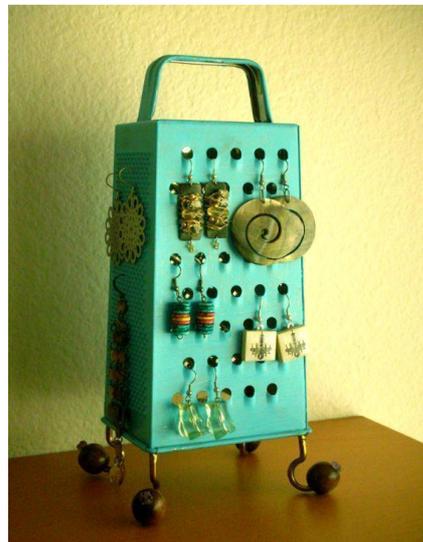
Clive Glenn Stockil, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner from Zimbabwe

Clive Stockil, the winner of Tusk's first Lifetime Achievement Award – a man lauded as “one of the early visionaries of community conservation”. His achievements on two fronts stand out: his creation of a stronghold for rhino, elephant and the African wild dog in the Save Valley Conservancy and his pioneering work on behalf of rural communities and for community conservation initiatives. In addition to the Tusk Award, he has also been awarded the French National Order of Merit (in 2011, for his conservation work).

To read the full article visit:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/activityandadventure/>

DIY: After that grater is blunt and not safe for use in the kitchen, clean and paint it over with left over paint from previous projects, make use of it in another part of your house.



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Legislation Corner

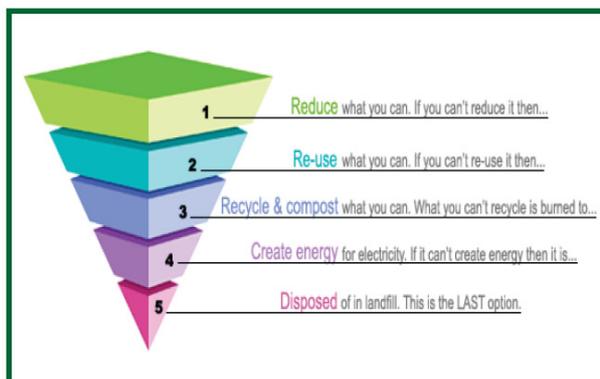
A Brief Overview: The Waste Act of South Africa by Ekari Mbvundula

Protecting our environment is a huge task that can only be achieved by every citizen's cooperation. A good place to start is to find out what laws are in place. Although the legal language may be intimidating for many, it is important for all citizens to be aware of the laws and Acts which are active regarding the environment.

This article focuses on bringing out the major points of the Waste Management Act of South Africa. The Waste Act is a component of the broader National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). Please do note that this article is by no means completely inclusive of all the aspects governing waste management, and you are encouraged to read the laws in their entirety by sourcing them directly from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), or via the government Gazette website. www.greengazette.co.za.

The Act thus provides minimum standards and responsibilities for *all* citizens, industries and people who handle waste. This includes the storage of waste, its transportation, processing, and the acceptable ways to reuse and recycle waste. Interestingly enough, the Act also covers contaminated land, and places the responsibility of cleaning and rehabilitating the land in the hands of the land owner. The information in this article is a summary of the "Waste Act Made Easy", which is provided free of charge by the Department of Environmental Affairs, in either physical or digital form.

Extract from Norms and Standards, Waste Act



Waste Management Hierarchy

This is the internationally recognized waste management hierarchy, which if followed should result in the least volume of waste in landfills, while the rest is reused, recycled etc. Currently the reality is that most waste goes to landfills.

Industries may volunteer or be ordered by authorities to put together a Waste Management Plan, the goal of which is to take responsibility for the waste commonly produced by that industry. The Minister requires that IWMPs contain the following content:

1. Amount of waste generated
2. Measures to prevent pollution
3. Targets, measures for waste minimization
4. Opportunities for the reduction of waste
5. Mechanisms for informing the public of the impact of waste generation

The example that is given in the guide is the Packaging Industry, which may provide a plan to collect packaging materials and divert plastic waste to recycling instead of disposal. They would also need to indicate how this will contribute to job creation, and public awareness campaigns.

The Waste Act gives compliance powers to the Minister of Water Affairs - the reasons for this being that land contamination often pollutes surface and groundwater sources. Environmental Management Inspectors (commonly referred to as "Green Scorpions") have the power to request a waste management report if they suspect a violation of the Waste Act.

The Act permits a maximum penalty of R10, 000,000 or maximum of 10 years in prison, or both. Penalties will vary depending on the severity of the offence, and are grouped in line with the violation of specific sections of the Waste Act.

About the writer: Ekari Valerie Mbvundula

Ekari has written several award-winning amateur plays in competitive extracurricular drama festivals, published short fiction and non-fiction in *Ulendo in-flight* magazine, and composes engaging blog posts. She can use words and characters of her own creation to bring a precise concept to life, so that it communicates the essence of the human condition in a way that resonates with any audience.