



MAGAZINE

APRIL

2011

PANDA Bulletin

WWF-SA Supporters' Magazine

Going beyond the hour
100% Renewable by 2050
NGOs list no go mining zones
20 years of wetland conservation

Safeguarding the natural world 



A new year brings with it fresh opportunities and of course, fresh challenges.

In our case, we started 2011 with the majority of our staff working out of our conveniently located new offices in Newlands, Cape Town. We are literally a stone's throw from the cricket stadium.

Moving offices after over 40 years in Stellenbosch was a logistical challenge (to put it very mildly), but it was also somewhat cathartic. Moving forces one to sort through years of accumulated documents and relics. Inadvertently, a move results in a clean up. A reordering. A fresh look at priorities.

The move gave us the opportunity to customise our new home to our purposes. We now have a video conferencing facility which we have already used to host a media conference with attendees in both Johannesburg and Cape Town. In addition to the savings on travel costs and the broader audience such facilities enable, most importantly, this technology allows us to make a significant reduction on our carbon emissions.

Of course video conferencing is only one of several ways in which we prioritised the environment during the move. We also reused what we could, recycled what we could not and took environmental considerations into account in sourcing the rest.

In addition to our new offices, we have some new faces on staff filling key roles in the organisation: Yolande Jacobs and Zubair Sayed as Executive Managers of Human Resources and Communications & Marketing respectively, and Lynette Leibach as our new Manager of Individual Relations.

I am now in my 4th year at WWF and I remain in awe of the unfailing commitment of our supporters, their passion, their generosity and their concern for the environment. We have incredibly dedicated staff, but without your support we would be unable to achieve all that we do towards our shared vision of a future in which people live in harmony with nature.

I trust you'll enjoy this latest edition of our Panda Bulletin.

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Located along the foothills of the Drakensburg Mountains, the Lotheni River is a source of freshwater for many. It is also used recreationally for fishing and runs past numerous guest houses and camping sites.

The Panda Bulletin is printed on Sappi Camelot Cartridge 120g/m² – a fully recyclable paper sourced from sustainable forests.

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Go beyond the hour

Find something inspiring to do this year that will contribute to protecting our planet:

Please visit http://www.wwf.org.za/act_now/green_living/ for a comprehensive list of what you can do to go beyond the hour. Here are just a few ideas:

- Use energy sparingly and efficiently
- Drive and fly less, and use public transport more
- Use water responsibly as it the most important natural resource for our survival
- Buy BWI wines and buy seafood on the green SASSI list
- Support WWF's work by registering as a supporter or making a donation
- Find out more about climate change by visiting [wwf.org.za](http://www.wwf.org.za)



What does 60+ mean?

The standard Earth Hour '60' logo represents the 60 minutes of Earth Hour where we focus on the impact we are having on our planet and take positive action to address the environmental issues we face. This year we have added the '+' to the logo representing a commitment to a positive act for the planet that goes beyond the hour.

Why the last Saturday of March?

The last weekend of March is around the time of the Spring and Autumn equinoxes in the northern and southern hemispheres respectively. This means that there are near coincidental sunset times in both hemispheres, thereby ensuring the greatest visual impact for a global 'lights out' event.



The Grammy Award winning Soweto Gospel Choir entertained the crowds during Earth Hour.

Going beyond the hour

As the clock struck 8:30pm on March 26, hundreds of millions of people across the globe switched off their lights for an hour to participate in the world's greatest ever environmental action, Earth Hour.

The focal point of WWF South Africa's Earth Hour activities was the switch-off of Orlando Stadium in Johannesburg and a free concert with the Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir, the Bala Brothers and Youtube sensation VicusVisser, dubbed the Bieber of Bloem. The concert was sponsored by Nedbank and supported by the City of Johannesburg.

Those who braved the wet weather enjoyed fantastic performances and danced by candlelight all the way through Earth Hour. Thousands more households around the country turned off non-essential lighting, along with landmarks such as Table Mountain, the Nelson Mandela Bridge and Orlando Stadium in Johannesburg, the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban and Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Port Elizabeth.

WWF's Earth Hour began as a single-city initiative in 2007 and has since grown into the global movement that it is

today. It is the largest mass participation environmental event in the world and every year WWF encourages people all over the planet to turn off their lights for one hour in a symbolic gesture to pledge their commitment to combating climate change. This year WWF asked everyone – from individuals to business – to 'go beyond the hour' and commit to on-going action to benefit the environment.

With COP 17 taking place in Durban later this year, it is especially important for everyone in South Africa to make their voices heard and to go beyond the hour. This crucial climate change conference is where world leaders meet to assess progress in dealing with climate change and negotiate obligations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The significance is huge as South Africa will play host to an opportunity for the world's leaders to prevent runaway climate change. WWF wants to encourage all South Africans to take a stand against climate change as it affects all of us, our country and our planet.



Nedbank were the official sponsors of the WWF Earth Hour event. Photographed here are Carol Manana, Dr Morné du Plessis (WWF CEO), Zubair Sayed (WWF Communications Manager), Maseda Ratshikuni (Nedbank, Head: Cause Marketing) and his wife Michelle.



Guests enjoyed the live entertainment provided by the Bala Brothers and Soweto Gospel Choir.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Eastern Cape joins the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project



The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project received a significant boost late last year when the Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency (ECPTA) agreed to contribute 20 black rhino a year to create new founder populations. The project was initially a partnership between WWF and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The joining of ECPTA as another partner means that even more significant contributions can be made to the conservation of this critically endangered species.

The animals will be translocated from the Great Fish River Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape later this year to a new home and will be the founders of a significant new population. The aim of the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project is to boost overall population growth of black rhino by creating new populations on large areas of land. There are currently six partner sites.

Security of rhinos is an important criterion when choosing partner sites, and this is even more important given the recent surge in poaching. It is also vital that we keep managing for maximum population growth.



The ECPTA has agreed to contribute 20 black rhino to WWF's Black Rhino Range Expansion Project in 2011.

Green Trust founder leaves a living legacy

In 1990, when political issues were top of mind and environmental issues were not seen as that important, Dr Ivan May played a critical role in developing a trust that funded initiatives aimed at conserving nature. Twenty years on and R100 million later, The Green Trust continues to bring people and nature together. This achievement would not have been possible without the visionary role of Dr May who sadly passed away in December 2010.

"Dr May was the key catalyst for the creation of The Green Trust, a partnership between Nedbank and WWF. Many communities, NGOs and environmental projects have benefitted from The Green Trust's support over the past two decades thanks to his original vision," says former Green Trust Manager, Thérèse Brinkcate.

Born in Johannesburg in 1947, Dr May attended the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) and graduated with five degrees including a Doctorate of Philosophy in 1974. He also held an associate professorship in the Faculty of Science.

Dr May's commitment to social development was evident through his involvement in many areas of civil society, as recognised by his many citations and awards. These include a World Fellow of the Duke of Edinburgh Award

and WWF's prestigious Gold Medal.

Dr Morné du Plessis, CEO of WWF in South Africa, says: "Dr May clearly realised that WWF's work is never 'just about animals' but that preserving and protecting the natural systems that sustain us is linked directly to livelihoods and dignity in our country. That's why he worked so hard for sustainable use of natural resources and believed in a world where humans live in harmony with nature."



Dr Ivan May played a critical role in promoting The Green Trust and its projects, one of which was the Solar Cooker Box Project.

WWF celebrates 50th anniversary

In 1961, representatives from Switzerland, France, Germany, Belgium, Poland, UK, USA, South Africa, Sweden and Sudan signed an international agreement to save the world's wildlife. This agreement led to the creation of the World Wildlife Fund which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Now called the World Wide Fund for Nature (and more commonly WWF), this conservation organisation is one of the biggest in the world with over five million supporters in more than 100 countries.

WWF has funded thousands of projects to stop the accelerating degradation of the Earth's natural environment, and to inspire people to live in greater harmony with nature.

Led by WWF's Conservation and Communication & Marketing Committees, planning is underway to mark this auspicious anniversary through a global communication campaign around 50 of WWF's big conservation wins – which will also pay tribute to WWF's supporters, partners and members.

from all over the planet

WWF has been ranked amongst the most trusted and admired NGOs

At the Trust Barometer 2010 Awards Ceremony, research company Ask Afrika announced the ranking of WWF as the second most admired and trusted NGO in the country. Ask Afrika conducts interviews with the CEOs, Executive Committees and Senior Managers of South Africa's 200 largest listed companies and the results for NGOs were as follows:

- 1st - Nelson Mandela Childrens' Fund
- 2nd - WWF
- 3rd - Cotlands
- 4th - Cansa
- 5th - Gift of the Givers
- 6th - Red Cross Children's Hospital
- 7th - CHOC
- 8th - Greater Good SA
- 9th - Hospice



WWF Business Development Head, Heather Robinson accepted the award from Andrea Rademeyer from Ask Afrika

John Dory's donates R55 000 towards sustainable seafood



John Dory's present SASSI with a R55 000 cheque. John Dory's is one of SASSI's longest supporters.

During October and November, seafood restaurant chain John Dory's ran a SASSI platter special made up entirely of SASSI green-listed species. The purpose was to increase awareness around seafood sustainability issues while raising funds for SASSI (The Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative). With every Green SASSI platter sold, R5 was donated to WWF.

Over the duration of the promotion, R55 000 was raised towards ensuring the protection of our oceans.

The John Dory's chain is one of the oldest SASSI supporters, having joined the SASSI Restaurant Participants Programme when it began in 2008. The primary focus of this programme is to provide participating restaurants with training and SASSI awareness materials which cover sustainability issues in the seafood industry. This enables restaurants and delis to proactively respond to an increasing focus on sustainability within the hospitality industry.

The Year of the Tiger

The Year of the Tiger in the Chinese lunar calendar provided WWF with the ideal platform to raise awareness about the plight of wild tigers and to secure the conservation support of various governments. Wild tiger numbers are down to only 3 200, with scattered populations across 13 countries having lost more than 93 percent of their historic range. Just 100 years ago, an estimated 100 000 tigers roamed Asia.

The International Tiger Forum, held in St. Petersburg in Russia in November 2010 marked the first time an international summit was convened to focus on a single animal species. The Forum produced the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP), a collaboration between the 13 countries that still have wild tigers. Participating countries have agreed upon a goal of doubling the number of wild tigers by the next Year of the Tiger in 2022.



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Sonae Novobord joins the WWF-SA Water Neutral Programme

This year began on a high note for the Water Neutral team with Sonae Novobord, the chipboard manufacturing company, officially signing on as a Participant to the Programme.

Sonae Novobord's participation enables Water Neutral to invest in clearing alien invasive plants, mainly black and silver wattle, in the Enkangala Grasslands area. This area is one of the priority nodes of the Water Neutral

Programme. Through this investment, the company will offset its annual direct water usage of 183 824kl.

According to Helen Gordon, Water Neutral's Programme Development Manager, "the Enkangala Grasslands area is recognised as falling within one of the highest water production areas or 'water factories' in the country with Gauteng receiving much of its

water from this area. However, many of its catchments are heavily invaded which poses a threat to water supply."

"Sonae Novobord's investment will enable clearing on land recently declared as part of the KwaMadlangampisi Protected Area, furthering WWF's endeavours to invest in the long term security of these important 'water factories'," said Gordon.

WWF Business News

Woolworths supports Earth Hour

In support of Earth Hour, Woolworths has created beautifully designed reusable shopping bags which are available in stores nationwide. By donating the proceeds from the sale of these bags, Woolworths and their customers will support WWF's climate change work.



City Lodge saves on water and energy



The phrase 'throw in the towel' usually conjures up defeatist thoughts, but at City Lodge it's intended to make you think twice and empower you to do your bit for the environment.

On the bathroom doors of City Lodges hangs the phrase "Don't throw in the towel" to encourage guests to save both water and electricity by choosing not to have towels washed daily.

"As an environmentally responsible company, we are extremely aware that water is a scarce resource and that South Africa is a water-stressed country. By encouraging our guests to use towels sparingly through the towel card initiative, we are hoping to assist in the saving of water and energy. It also enables us to help our guests make a conscious decision to assist us in the conservation of vital resources," says Peter Schoeman, City Lodge's Divisional Director of Sales and Marketing.

The company has also listed WWF as one of three beneficiaries they are supporting. With every online booking, City Lodge makes a R5 donation to the beneficiary of the guest's choice. WWF has already received over R20 000 from this initiative.

WWF would like to thank City Lodge for supporting our work and for helping give hotel guests greener options.



Executor – Your legacy or his liability?

Nominating an executor is an important decision to make when compiling your will. Nominating an incompetent executor could delay the administration of an estate by months, if not years.

WWF and Sentinel International Trust Company have entered into a strategic relationship to benefit WWF. In terms of this agreement, Sentinel has agreed to draft wills free of charge for any individual who nominates WWF as a beneficiary in their will and appoints Sentinel as the executor. Furthermore, Sentinel has agreed to rebate 35% of their executor fees back to WWF.

A bequest to WWF does not only help to ensure the continued financial security of the organisation, but it will also qualify as a tax deduction in your estate thereby minimising any estate duty tax that may be payable.

If you are interested in leaving a bequest, Sentinel representatives can be contacted on the following numbers:

- Johannesburg:
Irene Du Plessis, 011 784 0004
- Pretoria:
Irene Du Plessis, 086 111 3864
- Durban:
Dirk van Ryneveld, 031 265 3320
- Port Elizabeth:
Johann De Vos, 041 365 2532
- Cape Town:
Ulrich Hoffmann, 021 674 0390

Isibindi assists in protecting Africa's rhinos

Despite conservation organisations raising awareness about the increase in rhino poaching across South Africa, 333 rhinos were poached in 2010 and an additional 71 in 2011 alone. It is for this reason that Isibindi African Lodges formed a partnership with WWF South Africa to help protect Africa's rhinos.

Isibindi's Rhino Walking Safaris launched an SMS competition in December 2010, encouraging the public to enter and stand a chance to win a three nights trip for two with Rhino Walking Safaris valued at R 17 220. The package included luxury walking safaris in 12,000 hectares of pristine bushveld in the only wilderness concession in the Kruger National Park. Elephant paths and rhino trails can be followed on foot through this environmentally sensitive area that offers the Big Five as well as a diversity of fauna and flora.

The competition ended in March 2011 and all the funds raised will go to WWF and be used to provide support, equipment and training for those that work on the frontline to keep our rhinos safe.

WWF would like to thank Isibindi African Lodges and the public for supporting this competition and assisting in our work to protect Africa's black rhinos. If you would like to know more about Isibindi African Lodges, log onto: www.isibindiafrica.co.za/.



Name the iris

Since 1995, locals living on the outskirts of Saldanha along the West Coast noticed a delicate blue iris flowering annually in Spring. Little did they know that this rare and beautiful bulb flower was yet to be identified.

Dr John Manning, a research botanist at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) who will officially name and describe the species, has given the Table Mountain Fund (TMF) naming rights as a means of raising funds for their Fynbos Land Protection Campaign.

According to Manning, the iris family is one of the most charismatic and characteristic representatives of the Cape Floral Kingdom. These beautiful bulbs were among the first of South Africa's floral wealth to reach the shores of Europe in the early 1600s. During the 17th and 18th centuries they became very prized collectors' items among the rich and famous of Europe who in fact sponsored exhibitions to Africa and other parts of the world to collect these valuable plants which

were then displayed in their green houses as objects of scientific interest and beauty.

"The extraordinary wealth of bulbs in the Cape is unfortunately accompanied by a great deal of scarcity and many of them are in danger of extinction," explains Manning. "Among these is this charming new species which has been discovered on the Saldanha Peninsula."

TMF (an associated trust of WWF South Africa), in partnership with fine art auctioneers, Strauss & Co, managed an online auction, where the highest bidder was given the opportunity to name the iris species after whomever they chose. After four months, the online auction ended on March 31, with a dinner at the Mount Nelson Hotel where the highest bidder was announced.



Mr Mike and Rose Hainebach from Cape Town were the highest bidders with an offer of R550 000. The proceeds will go towards the Fynbos campaign which is aimed at connecting and expanding the remaining pristine areas of the Cape Floral Kingdom to create a network of natural corridors across the landscape, reclaiming the Cape's scenic beauty and providing space for people, ecosystems and wildlife to thrive.

"Funds raised through the auction will be used by TMF to purchase land and to secure land with landowners to ensure that the biodiversity on their land is protected forever. The auction is an innovative way of raising money to buy land and protect it," says TMF Manager, Onno Huyser.



NOTICE BOARD

Membership levels for 2010/2011 (July - June financial year)

Principal Membership:

R50 000 & above p.a.

Senior Membership:

R20 000 < R49 999 p.a.

Member:

R5 000 < R19 999 p.a.

New members

Principal Members: Tetra Pak, AVENG
Member: Serendipity Tours

Project Funding

Nampak will be the sole sponsor of the National Eco Schools Office from June 2011.

Currently the Eco-School's National Office is sponsored by Pareto Limited, the Green Trust and Nampak.

Vote for your favourite charity

MyVillage invites you to vote for your favourite charity and make a difference. Should you vote for WWF, we could receive a much-needed R15 000, R7 500 or R5 000 cash donation from MyVillage for our conservation work. You can vote by visiting the "vote 4 charity" section on www.myschool.co.za. To nominate WWF SA, type the name in the beneficiary field and it will automatically appear in the dropdown menu below.

You also stand a chance of winning a R2 500 Woolworths gift card just for casting your vote.

If you refer a friend to vote too, you will be entered into a second lucky draw for another R2 500 gift card. The referral option will appear once you have cast your vote. Terms and conditions apply.

Voting closes 14 April 2011. Don't delay, cast your vote today.



NedLife Become

NedLife, the life insurer within the Nedbank stable, recently launched their clients' loyalty programme, called Become. NedLife encourages sustainable behaviour and consumption patterns to their clients and in return their clients get rewarded for making the sustainable choice. WWF is the environmental partner of this loyalty programme.

Sincere condolences

On behalf of its Board and staff, WWF would like to extend its sincere condolences to the family of Gianpaolo Ravazzotti, CEO of Italtile, who died tragically in February. Italtile is a WWF corporate member, while Ravazzotti's father, Gianni Ravazzotti, is a WWF Trustee. WWF also acknowledges the generous gesture by friends, colleagues and businesses who donated to WWF at the request of the Italtile group.

100% renewable energy by 2050

WWF report outlines alternative energy future

Humanity's need for energy is our biggest contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for over 25% of global emissions. As a result, managing energy – where and how we source it and what we do with it- is a critical step towards mitigating climate change.

As a society we know that the world must move away from its current, unsustainable energy paradigm to a future powered completely by a clean, renewable energy system that incorporates substantial energy conservation and resource efficiency efforts. This transition is often perceived to be an insurmountable stumbling block, but the recent release of WWF's energy study, *The Energy Report*, demonstrates that such a future is possible and lays out strategies to achieve it.

South Africa's current energy scenario is riddled with the pitfalls of energy security risks, price volatility, pollution and catastrophic climate change. As a result of this, we cannot retain our dependence on fossil fuels, but must instead pursue the currently available and realistic alternatives that exist in the form of renewable energy.

The Energy Report, a collaborative effort between WWF International and energy consultancy Ecofys, is a ground-breaking study that demonstrates a future in which the world's energy supply is provided completely by renewable and sustainable sources is possible by 2050.

Renewable energy technologies are increasingly being implemented around the world, but there is still much work to be done. Internationally, half of newly added power capacity is renewable, yet clean renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar still provide only 3% of global power. Based on existing technologies, the report provides a carefully researched scenario of an alternative energy future.

In addition to implementing renewable energy technologies, such a future requires energy

efficiency measures to manage our energy needs. Investment in new, efficient and 'intelligent' electricity grids, otherwise known as smart grids, is required to improve the efficiency of electricity transmission.

According to the report, technology alone is not enough to make the vision of 100% renewable energy by 2050 a reality. How we live and the choices that we make on a daily basis affect our chance of achieving such a future. An escape from our unsustainable energy dependency is possible only if we are willing to audit our lifestyles. This could include

“Technology alone is not enough to make the vision of 100% renewable energy by 2050 a reality.”

making choices around better transport options that have less impact on the environment and adapting to heating and cooling temperatures in our buildings. We will also need to reduce our meat consumption to make land available for sustainable bioenergies and set and apply strict efficiency standards for all our appliances and processes.

The study bases its report solely on technologies that are currently available, meaning that further innovation and research and development could enable an even better future scenario.

From a social perspective, finding more sustainable ways of providing energy to more

people is also a necessary act of social justice. Currently, as many as 1.4-billion people worldwide lack access to reliable electricity for essential services and 2.7-billion rely on coal and unsustainable biomass stoves for cooking and eating, resulting in 2.5-million deaths a year from toxic fumes. In addition to providing clean and safe energy to those who are currently without it, we will have to supply energy to the projected 9.2-billion people who will make up the world's population within the next four decades.

Sceptics might argue that such a scenario is financially impossible, but the study demonstrates that the 100% renewable energy future it proposes is financially feasible and will have net gains in the long term. The study does not take into account the added costs that will result from climate change impacts and potentially high fossil fuel prices. Nevertheless the required investment is a large one and the study anticipates that public and private partnerships will need an initial investment of €3,5-trillion a year to realise such a scenario. Money would have to be invested now to fund the necessary changes to the world's energy infrastructure. The *Energy Report* proposes that some of this money is already available and could come from diverting funds currently being used for fossil fuel subsidies, amounting to between €500-billion and €700-billion a year, depending on market fuel prices.

The *Energy Report* articulates a pathway towards a positive energy future that is optimistic and ambitious, yet realistic in its approach, since it relies on existing technologies, providing sound guidance on how to transform our energy system.

SA's Energy Future in the balance

The *Energy Report's* call for urgency around energy infrastructure plans is particularly relevant to South Africa, given the country's current energy concerns.

As our generation capacity struggles to meet the growing energy demands of a developing country, South Africa is on the brink of defining its energy future. The release of the country's Integrated Resource Plan, which defines the technologies and infrastructure build plans for electricity supply for the next twenty years, determines whether we lock ourselves into another flawed energy scheme or commit South Africa to a clean and sustainable energy future.

NGOs take a stand against mining in environmentally sensitive areas

Thirteen of South Africa's well-known conservation organisations together with the Centre for Environmental Rights, have joined forces and called for a halt to mining and prospecting in the country's most environmentally sensitive areas.

In February, the group presented a list of proposed areas to be declared no go mining zones to the Minister of Mineral Resources, Susan Shabangu. The group is calling on Minister Shabangu to use the list while exercising her discretion under section 49 of the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002, which seeks to prohibit or restrict granting reconnaissance, prospecting and mining rights and permits.

"We are asking that areas of key water catchments, groundwater recharge and ecosystems recognised as threatened or sensitive should be conserved. Cultural heritage sites identified by national or

“These areas are key for our survival. They nurture one of the most amazing natural heritages in the world.”

provincial heritage agencies also need protection," explains Mark Botha, Head of WWF's Living Lands Unit.

"These areas are key to our survival. They nurture one of the most amazing natural heritages in the world and support the bulk of our ecological infrastructure for water provisioning and filtering. What people tend not to realise is that such areas are the basis for a growing and sustainable economy."

Over the years mining and prospecting applications have increased in areas which are vital for conservation efforts, maintaining

ecological integrity, and the provision of ecosystem services to society. Although most important areas are well mapped and available for scrutiny online, this has failed to deter mining companies from pursuing (and some banks from financing) potentially high-yielding resources, regardless of the likely public opposition.

Executive Director for the Centre of Environmental Rights, Melissa Fourie says: "This list aims to impose a series of procedural restrictions aimed at improving the rigour and quality of environmental impact assessments in areas of environmental sensitivity."

Days after receiving the list, Minister Shabangu stated that no prospecting or mining rights applications will be granted by the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) in ecologically sensitive areas.

"We welcome these efforts, but the Minister has stopped short of saying that applications in ecologically sensitive areas will not be accepted by the Department. Ideally, these applications should not be accepted for processing by the Department of Mineral Resources at all," says Fourie.

WWF has also encouraged mining companies and banks to avoid these areas when applying for prospecting and mining rights and to choose areas that are not critically important for maintaining ecological integrity.

Botha, says that "Providing financial backers of mining (and the mining companies) with the necessary information enables them to avoid targeting important areas. These include key water catchments, areas vital for adapting to climate change and statutory protected areas. It is morally indefensible to seek to profit from an investment that will result in the long term destruction of our ecological and social sustainability."



ANGUS BURNS/WWF-SA

The letter sent to the Minister on February 1, 2011 proposed the following areas to be listed as no go mining zones:

- National parks, nature reserves and protected environments declared in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act;
- Marine Protected Areas under the Marine Living Resources Act, such as the Table Mountain Marine Protected Area;
- Mountain catchment areas declared in terms of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act, such as the Amatholes in the Eastern Cape;
- Ramsar Wetland Sites, including Barberspan near Delareyville, the Verlorenvlei north of Lamberts Bay, Kosi Bay and the Turtle Beaches of Tongaland in KwaZulu-Natal;
- Specially protected forest areas such as the Wolkberg Wilderness in Limpopo, forest nature reserves and forest wilderness areas declared in terms of the National Forests Act, 1998;
- World Heritage Sites, such as the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site and the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site;
- Recognised endangered and critically endangered ecosystems, such as the Wakkerstroom-highlands; Chrissiesmeer and Dullstroom in Mpumalanga; Ngoye Scarp Forest and Umtamvuna coastal grassland in KwaZulu-Natal; the last fragments of Blesbokspuit Highveld Grasslands in Gauteng; and the Kogelberg in the Western Cape.



PETER CHADWICK/WWF-SA

Mondi Wetlands Programme turns 20!

The recent flooding which has caused devastation in Australia, Sri Lanka, Brazil and in several provinces of South Africa emphasizes the importance of conserving wetlands.



Wetlands act like giant sponges that absorb large amounts of water and then release it gradually into river systems over a long period of time. Similarly, intact river banks slow down the surface runoff, allowing water to percolate into the ground water and gradually reenter the system.

Unfortunately, poor land use practices in the past in South Africa have resulted in more than 50% of our wetlands being destroyed. Similarly, many of our riparian zones are infested with alien woody species, such as black wattle. The combined effect is that we have greatly altered the functionality of these systems. When we have heavy rainfall as we have recently seen in the central parts of South Africa, this water simply flows directly off the surface and into the river systems resulting in rivers breaking their banks with disastrous results.

A growing awareness of the importance of wetlands is in no small part due to programmes like the WWF Mondi Wetlands Programme, which has been actively conserving wetlands for the past 20 years. Before the establishment of the programme, there were literally a handful of people who were dedicated to wetland conservation in South Africa. Only wetlands in protected areas, like nature reserves, were prioritised for conservation, despite the fact that most of South Africa's wetlands fall outside of protected areas in land that is under private and communal ownership.

In 1991, in response to this issue, WWF, together with the Wildlife and Environment

Society of South Africa (WESSA), established what was then called the Rennies Wetlands Project. In 2001, with a change of sponsor, it became known as the Mondi Wetlands Programme (MWP). Through the programme, for the first time in South Africa, a conservationist was employed to work full time with wetland owners and users outside of protected areas.

In the past two decades, the MWP and a multitude of volunteers have worked on 40 000ha of wetlands around the country and achieved much. They have:

- Identified key wetland areas;
- Assessed and monitored the condition of these wetlands;
- Educated hundreds of volunteers about wetlands;
- Worked with landowners to manage and rehabilitate degraded wetlands;
- Along with colleagues in government and other NGOs, worked closely with the plantation forestry industry to reduce the impact of water thirsty plantation trees (eucalyptus, pine and wattle) on wetlands. As a result, the entire industry removed thousands of hectares of plantation trees planted in wetlands and their surrounding buffer areas;
- Worked in close partnership with provincial government departments (agriculture and conservation) to support communal wetland users in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. Since many communities rely on wetland plants for livestock grazing,

subsistence agriculture, building materials, and medicinal plants, wise wetlands use is critical for livelihoods;

- Worked with innovative sugar farmers in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands to develop SuSFarMS (Sustainable Sugar Farm Management System), a world first sustainable farm management system to support sugar cane farmers in improving their agronomic practices while reducing their environmental impact, particularly on water resources.

And so, from the humble beginnings of one person working on practical wetland conservation, South Africa now has thousands of people working to rehabilitate and support better management of our wetlands – all in the short space of 20 years. The recent devastation wreaked by floods and ongoing urban development in flood prone areas is evidence that the job is by no means complete. The community of people working to conserve South Africa's wetlands is making a significant contribution to safeguarding these priceless areas and protecting their vital ecosystem services on which much of society depends for its survival.

The Mondi Wetlands Programme wishes to thank its current and previous partners and sponsors namely Mondi, the Mazda Wildlife Fund, Rennies and the South African Breweries for their support of the programme over the past 20 years. The Mondi Wetlands Programme forms part of the WWF Sanlam Living Waters partnership.

A rewarding journey

Following more than a decade of service, Thérèse Brinkcate leaves WWF with fond memories, good friends and plenty of achievements under her belt.

"Though my time at WWF has been rewarding, it is time for me to pursue a new environment, see new landscapes and learn about different things in order for me to continue making a contribution to protecting the planet," says Brinkcate.

Brinkcate originally joined WWF as The Green Trust Manager, and has since filled numerous roles including Acting Head of the Living Lands Unit and most recently Operations Manager of the unit.

"The achievement that I am most proud of is supporting the work in South Africa's beautiful grasslands region. WWF's work there started out as an embryonic idea with the Enkangala Grasslands Trust. I believe I played a key role

in being a champion for our Grasslands work and getting the necessary support.

Through Green Trust funding, the Grasslands has now become a multi-million rand initiative with five staff members who are all doing fantastic work.

"I am very proud of what they are doing and how far the process has come," adds Brinkcate.

Describing her WWF journey as being richly rewarding and challenging, Brinkcate says the challenges she faced have taught her persistence. "You need persistence to deal with all of the challenges that come your way, because being dedicated to the cause means never giving up."

"I am privileged to have been part of an organisation that takes one on a fulfilling journey, but also privileged to have worked



with many wonderful people here and globally. They are really a fantastic group of people and played a huge part in making my time at WWF so memorable," says Brinkcate.

Brinkcate's advice to those she will be leaving behind: "There will always be challenges involved in saving our planet, but it will only be fulfilling if you are joyous in what you do."

Farewell



In December Amanda Duminy, a true WWF stalwart, left the organisation to immigrate to family in New Zealand. Officially, Amanda filled the Administrative Assistant position for the Living Lands Unit. Unofficially, she was the go-to person for countless matters in her nine years at WWF. Her keen eye for detail, her absolute loyalty, her impeccable work ethic and her wacky sense of humour will be sorely missed.



In January this year Louisé Roussow left WWF to take up a position at the Peace Parks Foundation in Stellenbosch. In her relatively short time at WWF, Louisé became a critical member of the Finance team in her position as Assistant Accountant. Her hard working nature and her willingness to help others will be difficult to replace as will her mischievous sense of humour. Louise was very much a team player, supporting and keeping us true to our purpose. Louisé will now have more time with her young family and we wish her all the best for the future.



A decade of service

After working for WWF for almost a decade, we bade farewell to the former Acting Head of the WWF Sanlam Living Waters Partnership, Aaniyah Omaidien, in December 2010.

"My time at WWF was most special. During the nearly 10 years that I was with the organisation, I had the opportunity to experience many different roles and portfolios and this afforded me the privilege of exposure to the wonderful work that WWF does across the board," said Aaniyah.

Fresh out of university, Aaniyah joined WWF in 2001 as Assistant Manager: Conservation. From 2003 to 2005 she led WWF's Climate Change Programme and assisted the Marine Programme. Thereafter she became the WWF

Marine Programme Manager until 2008 when she began her new role as the Operational Manager for the WWF Living Waters Unit. She also managed the WWF Sanlam Leaders for Living Waters programme, a capacity building initiative which seeks to develop a new tier of leaders in the aquatic environment sector.

"I was privileged to work with an amazing team of people who are dedicated to a meaningful cause - the protection of our fragile but very important environment. I also had the opportunity to visit many special places in South Africa," said Aaniyah.

Aaniyah decided to leave WWF in order to fulfill her new role as a mom. Her bundle of joy is due for arrival soon and we wish Aaniyah and her family all the best!



Walking the talk

Zubair Sayed joined WWF in January this year as Executive Manager of Communication and Marketing.

“It is exciting to be part of a global network of organisations that is optimistic and solutions-orientated about the challenges facing our planet. WWF is seen worldwide as an important and credible organisation working towards the common good and its recent recognition as the 2nd most trusted NGO in South Africa is evidence of this.”

Zubair has many years' experience working in and with government, business, NGOs, media, television production, academic institutions, political parties and parliament. He describes himself as a global citizen and is passionate about the natural world, human rights and

social justice; and enjoys the arts and creative expression, especially photography.

“I don't see a separation between people and planet. Human life and well-being is dependent on the preservation and sustainable use of our natural resources and systems. WWF's message is one of great importance for all South Africans and I look forward to contributing to inspiring South Africans to live in harmony with nature for the benefit of our country and the wellbeing of all our people,” says Zubair.

He says he is excited about strengthening WWF's communication team and working in partnership with various WWF partners and other stakeholders throughout the country to achieve the organisation's goals.

Forging Individual Relationships

The panda family continues to grow with the recent appointment of Lynette Leibach as Individual Relations Manager. Lynette, who is based at our Johannesburg office in Rosebank, works within the Business Development team to establish and manage WWF SA's individual supporter and donor programme.

“WWF South Africa is reliant on the support of persons who are passionate about safeguarding our natural environment. It is my priority to build lasting relationships with these individuals and provide them with opportunities to participate in WWF's work by supporting us financially, and adding their voice to ours,” she says.

Born and bred in Johannesburg, Lynette is a city girl who appreciates nature. “I admire WWF's work to safeguard natural resources and address key environmental issues. Our

lives are intertwined with the environment and the sustainability of natural resources - healthy environments are important for healthy individuals.”

With an education in marketing and commerce, Lynette is passionate about client service, and providing individuals with the opportunity to make a difference. “There is so much goodwill in our society, so many people helping others, sometimes we just need direction on how to channel our efforts and be confident that we are making a difference. With WWF South Africa's reputation this is a reality.”

Lynette has varied work experience within the civil society sector, which will stand her in good stead for the challenges she may face in her new role, as should her background in the corporate sector.



In her spare time Lynette hunts for new coffee shops to evaluate the quality of their cappuccino's and dabbles in interior decorating. We welcome her to our panda family.



Prioritising People

One of WWF South Africa's goals is to be regarded as an employer of choice; Yolande Jacobs joined the team in January this year to help us achieve precisely that.

With over 15 years of HR experience, Yolande is well equipped for her new role as Executive Manager of Human Resources.

“I'd like to help grow WWF into a place where staff development is a top priority,” she explains. “I care about people and I want to work with my colleagues to create a culture where people grow in their enthusiasm and passion for WWF and our work - after all there's plenty to be passionate about.”

Sharing an interest in both business and people, Yolande chose HR as her career path. Over the years she has worked for a legal firm, in retail and exporting, and has now added a conservation organisation to the list.

Choosing WWF as her entry point was an easy choice to make. “I wanted to be part of an organisation with a greater purpose than profit generation. WWF was my first choice, because the organisation plays such a key role in South Africa and beyond. I'm delighted to be part of an organisation whose ultimate goal is a future where people live in harmony with nature.”

Hello there!

Did you know that WWF is busy just about all over South Africa? We love to meet people from all parts of the country. South Africa has 11 official languages – that’s a lot of ways to say “hello”! Here’s how:

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Afrikaans | Hallo |
| English | Hello |
| Ndebele | Salibonani |
| Sesotho | Lumela |
| Sepedi | Thobela |
| Setswana | Dumela |
| siSwati | Sanibona |
| Tsonga | Abusheni |
| Venda | Avuwani |
| Xhosa | Molo! |
| Zulu | Sawubona |



1 AMAZING EARTH

Did you know...?

- The earth’s diameter is 12 756 kilometres at the equator and 12 713 kilometres pole to pole.
- The earth is about 4.6 billion years old.
- The distance from the earth to the sun is about 150 million kilometres.
- The time it takes to orbit the sun is 365.26 days and we orbit at 29.8 kilometres per second!
- The mass of the earth is 5854 billion billion tons. **QUESTION:** Can you write this number in figures? Hint: a billion = a thousand million.

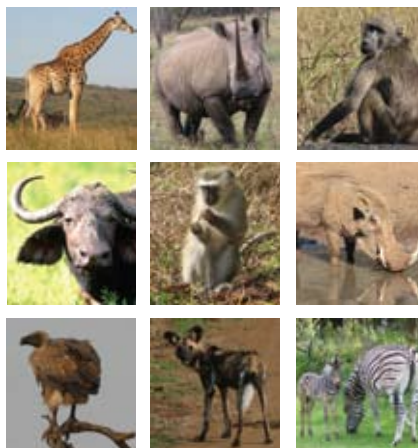
WWF has members and supporters in countries all over the world. Here’s how to say “Hello” in some of their languages.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Australian | G’day! |
| Chinese | Ni hao! (pronounced “knee how”) |
| Danish | Hej! |
| Dutch | Hallo! |
| French | Bonjour! |
| German | Guten Tag! (pronounced “gootentarg”) |
| Italian | Ciao! (pronounced “chow”) |
| Japanese | Kon-nichi-wa! |
| Portuguese | Bondia! |
| Spanish | Hola! |
| Swahili | Habariyako! |

2 WORD SEARCH

Hidden in this word box are the names of nine animals that you might see in a game reserve in South Africa. Can you find the words? We’ve put in a picture of each animal to help you.

(Hint: some words might be written back to front, up, down or diagonally).



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| g | p | t | a | e | a | s | n | s | m | e | r |
| y | j | o | y | w | a | r | t | h | o | g | o |
| v | b | a | o | p | y | o | r | f | n | y | l |
| a | a | g | g | l | t | p | i | g | k | p | d |
| r | b | w | i | i | r | e | s | i | e | w | w |
| b | o | n | i | h | r | s | p | l | y | u | i |
| e | o | p | s | u | p | a | w | o | t | l | l |
| z | n | e | t | f | b | u | f | f | a | l | o |
| u | i | l | p | k | u | o | h | f | p | d | b |
| e | u | e | a | l | q | m | j | r | e | v | c |
| v | h | u | y | o | o | l | p | p | i | u | a |
| l | e | s | r | a | g | o | d | d | l | i | w |

giraffe, rhino, baboon, buffalo, monkey, warthog, vulture, wild dog, zebra



Zoe’s tip:

Dear Rhino Catching people

My name is Zoe Devine and I have something to tell you. I live in Johannesburg and have an idea to catch the rhino poachers. You can make a pretend plastic rhino, put some batteries in to make it shake its head. Then you can hide behind a bush and when a naughty guy comes to shoot the plastic rhino, you can catch them as quick as you can.

Zoe (5) on watching a TV news story on rhino poaching.

3 BREAK THE CODE...

Can you work out what the sentence is in this hidden code?

(Think in threes.)



Answers on page 15.

Plastic for the Pirate at Coney Glen, Knysna by Eve Cunard

Learners from Knysna Christian School got creative with waste during International Coastal Clean-up Week, transforming beach litter into wacky sculptures. This formed part of the worldwide action to remove rubbish from oceans and waterways.

Organised by South African National Parks, the beach clean-up was aimed at educating learners on how to deal with pollution problems like oil spills in the lagoon. The Plankton Sea Rangers clean-up team constructed a starfish from drift polywood, decorated with plastic bottle tops, while the Sea Seals created a life-size pirate called Hector, complete with a beer bottle compass for navigating the wild seas.

Staff from Working for the Coast also assisted with the clean-up and built a polystyrene boat, a glass bottle seagull and even a boomslang from an old leather belt.

Beach art aims to raise awareness about issues like the huge patches of swirling plastic waste in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as well as the harm that small pieces of plastic cause to seabirds and other wildlife when mistakenly eaten.

This is just one of the many environmental activities that the Knysna Christian School is involved in. Other actions include recycling and biodiversity monitoring. The school hopes to be awarded an Eco-Schools green flag for the fourth year in recognition of their work.



The Sea Seals created a life-size pirate called Hector, using plastic found on the beach.

Ndumo Eco-Schools Bird Squad soars to great heights

A Tshwane University of Technology student is teaching learners from schools in the Ndumo Eco-Schools node about birding and providing them with the necessary skills to become guides.

Rion Lerm, a student in the Department of Conservation, together with his wife, Lisa, started a bird club in 2009. Eight learners from the node were selected to be part of the Ndumo Bird squad which meets every second month to learn about birds in the area.

"Ndumo Reserve provides the ideal place for these learners to practice their newly acquired birding skills," says Lerm. The reserve is a Ramsar Site and one of South Africa's birding 'hotspots'.

"My aim is to enthuse young people in this area. They have the most fantastic eco-tourism asset and they need to be encouraged to conserve it."

This node is situated far north in one of the most remote and poverty-stricken areas of the country. For the past five years it has been supported by the Tshwane University of Technology's Conservation Department.

Lerm says the current group have become excellent birders. They will now be required to train the next group of learners from the Ndumo node in birding.

"The good news is that two of the learners have already been offered positions as bird guides with businesses in the area," says Lerm.

Environmental Education

Lekgolo Primary learners develop a passion for biodiversity



Lekgolo Primary School in Limpopo has been part of the Eco-Schools programme for three years. During this time, the focus has changed from "nature is for growing and survival" to "we conserve and appreciate".

Eco-Schools Node Coordinator Shelley Milstein has been supporting the school by giving environmental lessons at the school. One of the lessons Milstein most enjoyed teaching was on birding.

"I expected learners to recognise less than 10% of the common lowveld birds seen in their area and Kruger National Park but the



learners, especially the boys, could recognise and name over 70% of the birds in Sepedi. This lesson allowed for the development of Sepedi and English vocabulary and the introduction of concepts such as threats to biodiversity and the aesthetic beauty of nature. It is a challenge to go birding with a class of 70 learners but they are so knowledgeable about the usefulness of what nature provides. Catching frogs, fish and grasshoppers are daily occurrences, as are feasting on the wild fruits."

Milstein will still provide support to the school, but from this year biodiversity is included in the school's curriculum.

Environmental knowledge enables the beautifying of schools



SHELLEY MILSTEIN

Limited water, sandy soil and inadequate shade has made it difficult for Hlaketo Primary School in Limpopo to beautify their school grounds. However, since joining Eco-Schools more than a year ago, learners have learnt about biodiversity and how indigenous water-wise plants can grow in local conditions.

Limited access to water has resulted in only sparse vegetation on the grounds in the past. Armed with the knowledge gleaned through the Eco-Schools Programme, the school has since switched to indigenous water-wise plants which are growing well.

"It will be interesting to see how these new gardens evolve. The rockery and newly built frog and fish pond are aimed to increase the local biodiversity. The success of the action projects will make it easier for educators to see the local environment as an outdoor classroom," says Eco-Schools Node Coordinator Shelley Milstein.

While the learners are being taught about biodiversity, the increased understanding has had knock-on effects, with educators also learning a thing or two.

"We have learnt a lot about nature and biodiversity. The whole school has learnt how to invite nature into our school. We have made the gardens and compost in one year. The environment is now inside our school," says Mrs Shilenge commenting on the role that Eco-Schools has played at the school.

Situated in a hot and dry rural village 25km outside of Giyani, Mrs Shilenge has her work cut out for her in raising environmental awareness, but this dynamic leader does it with passion and learns something new every day.

"I never realised how interesting environmental education is," says Shilenge. It is for this reason she is encouraging educators across the country to take an interest in the topic and include it in their daily lessons.

Curious, Confident and Capable

by Nikki Brighton

The first ever Science Expo held at Nottingham Road Combined School in 2010 was a busy event with learners nervously awaiting the judges' questions and supportive parents chatting to educators. For Vusimusi Hoyi and Nonkululeko Mthembu (Grade 9) it was one of their proudest moments, with their project 'How does Global Warming affect Climate Change?' coming out tops.

Vusi has always been interested in environmental issues and vividly remembers a lesson on Global Warming facilitated by Louine Boothway of the Midlands Meander Education Project (MMAEP) way back when he was in Grade 4.

"I remember the lesson fresh, fresh in my mind. I was the Earth in the middle with the Earth sticker on my head," recalls Vusi. His whole class participated and he played 'Mother Earth' and had to pull on an extra jersey, gloves or scarf every time carbon dioxide was released to illustrate the warming effects of carbon emissions.

Educator Nicholas Nxumalo says on their win: "These learners are so sharp in Natural Science now. They participate in interesting discussions and learn things for themselves. The foundations laid in grade 4 have had a significant impact on these learners. Learning outcomes are not assessed in a single year, but over a period of time and one can clearly observe the changed attitudes these kids have to environmental issues."



ANSWERS

1. Word search answers

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | m | | |
| | | | w | a | r | t | h | o | g | | |
| | b | | | | | | | | n | | |
| a | a | | g | | | | | | k | | |
| r | b | | i | | e | | | | e | | |
| b | o | n | i | h | r | | | | y | | |
| e | o | | u | | a | | | | | | |
| z | n | | t | | b | u | f | f | a | l | o |
| | | | l | | | | | f | | | |
| | u | | | | | | | | e | | |
| v | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | g | o | d | d | l | i | w |

- 2. 55 854 000 000 000 000 000 000
- 3. Nature rules OK!

WATER DOES NOT COME FROM A DAM

Water does not come from a dam, but from our freshwater ecosystems, such as wetlands, rivers and catchments. Freshwater habitats, such as wetlands and riparian zones, also provide very important ecosystem services such as water purification, flood attenuation, and climate regulation. Destruction of these habitats can have huge socio-economic impacts.

Despite this, our freshwater ecosystems are declining at an alarming rate. Eighty four percent of South Africa's freshwater ecosystems are threatened and of this more than 40% are in a critical condition. The country's economy and the wellbeing of all South Africans, depends on how we manage our water resources over the next twenty years.

WWF's freshwater work largely focuses on maintaining the health and functionality of these important systems, in order to ensure that our country has a sustainable supply of good quality freshwater.

Your support will assist us in ensuring these critical water resources are protected and maintained.

PETER CHADWICK WWF-SA

Please help us to ensure a living planet for the future.



DEBIT ORDER

I wish to sponsor by debit order an amount of R _____ to WWF-SA on the first day of _____ 2010/11, and each month thereafter.

Account no.: _____ Branch code: _____

Type of Account: Current Transmission Savings

Bank/Building Society: _____

Branch name and address: _____

City/Town: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(as when signing cheques)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Tel. H: () _____ Tel. W: () _____ Cell: () _____

We acknowledge that the party hereby authorized to effect the drawing(s) against my/our account may not cede or assign any of its rights to any third party without my/our written consent and that I/we may not delegate any of my/our obligations in terms of this contact/authority to any third party without prior written consent of the authorized party. Thank you for your cooperation.

I have completed the adjacent details for a donation by debit order or credit card.

My cheque / postal order is enclosed.

I am interested in leaving a bequest to WWF South Africa. Please send me further details.

I've made a direct / electronic deposit into WWF's account and faxed a copy of the deposit slip to 086 535 9433.

I've made a secure online donation on WWF's website www.wwf.org.za.

Any amount you send will be put to immediate use.

CREDIT CARD

Please debit my MasterCard/Visa/Amex/Diners Club/Other Card _____ to the amount of* R _____

Card No.:

Last 3 digits on reverse of card Once Only Every Month Expiry Date

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Tel. H: () _____

W: () _____

Cell: _____ Date of Birth: _____

My e-mail address is: _____

*Please post a copy of your deposit slip to us with this form or alternatively fax a copy to 086 535 9433, so that we may thank you.

Please send me information by e-mail. You have the right to advise us at any time if you no longer wish to receive further e-mail from WWF-SA.

Please make sure that you include your name and surname as the depositor reference on the deposit slip/beneficiary reference for electronic transfers.

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