

ENVIRONMENT

1993

B/Dewy 11/7/93
Kaolin mining in Cape approved

CAPE TOWN — The Western Cape regional services council yesterday approved the mining of kaolin in the Noordhoek valley by Serina.

A vote of 67% in favour of the project was cast with supporters citing the benefits of the mine for job creation, foreign exchange earnings and the need for a kaolin resource.

The Cape Town City Council, which represents 28% of the total vote at

LINDA ENSOR

RSC meetings, was against granting approval. Cape Town deputy mayor Clive Keegan argued that it was not appropriate for mining to take place in a residential area. (56)

Serina chairman Sybrand van der Spuy welcomed the decision to mine the R1bn kaolin reserve in the Noordhoek Valley. (217)

RSC says 'yes' to kaolin mine

CT 17/93

56

Municipal Reporter

THE Regional Services Council granted conditional permission yesterday for the mining of kaolin on the controversial Chapman's Peak site and on nearby Trentham farm in Noordhoek valley.

Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, chairman of Serina Kaolin, said he was delighted that permission had been granted by a two-thirds majority.

Mr C A Hattingh, chairman of the town planning committee, told the council the land had long been reserved by planners for kaolin extraction and that adequate measures had been taken to satisfy objectors.

However, Mr A McWilliam-Smith, of Franschoek, argued that tourism would create more jobs than mining.

Permission would be "the beginning of the end", he predicted. "If people continue to take this

'Objectors have been satisfied'

attitude, we will ruin the country and our children's future."

Mr Clive Keegan said that in the absence of a metropolitan development framework "ad hoc decisions which will gradually erode the quality of the environment will continue to be made".

Mr Ron Strybis, of Pinelands, said there was no evidence that the mining would affect tourism.

He said a massive scar on the face of Devil's Peak had been caused partly by the clearing of alien vegetation, "but I don't think this has deterred a single tourist".

"I believe this mine could actually become a tourist attraction, rather than a detraction," Mr Strybis said. "People can come and see how things can be done in an environmentally sensitive way."

Mrs Eulalie Stott said that since the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group itself had been reasonably satisfied with Serina's arrangements, "it is strange that we do not find ourselves in agreement".

One could not say that tourists would be "put off" the drive into the Noordhoek valley by the existence of the present kaolin operation at Brakkekloof.

Mr McWilliam-Smith's amendment that mining should not take place on the Chapman's Peak site was defeated by 68,38% of the vote.

The main motion — the land use committee's recommendation that mining be allowed — was passed by 67,48% of the vote.



HORSES Model Murrae
form in a designer outfit
colau for tomorrow's July
is as well known for its
fit is for its horses.

Pollution 'worst in two years' ⁽⁵⁶⁾

Staff Reporter

CT 2/7/93

CENTRAL Cape Town is having one its worst air pollution episodes in two years with yesterday's figures at double the fixed guidelines.

The main culprits are exhaust fumes, industrial smoke and brazier fires.

Taken at 8am by the city council, the nitrogen oxide level (NOx) caused mainly by exhaust fumes was 3 674 micrograms/m³ more than double the 1 504 guideline. The nitrogen dioxide level (NO₂) at 10am was 417 micrograms/m³ well over the 376 guideline.

The last time figures were this high was in July 1991 when the Nox level reached 4 376.

Calm weather tends to trap the polluted air, Mr Derrick Oxley, air pollution control officer said.

Union leader dies at ballot meeting

CT 2/7/93 Staff Reporter

TRADE union leader Mr Sikander Mohamed died yesterday of a heart attack in the middle of a strike ballot meeting.

The Peninsula Technikon branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) met to decide whether to strike over wages when Mr Mohamed, chairman of the shop steward council, collapsed.

Mr Mohamed, from Ravensmead, died while waiting for the ambulance.

Ms Wilhelmina Trout, chairwoman of TGWU in the Western Cape, said the union had lost "a valuable and strong leader".

The result of the ballot will be made known today, she said.

Kaolin: 'Most Capetonians against mine'

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

MOST Cape Town residents are firmly opposed to kaolin mining in the Noordhoek Valley and an official objection will be lodged with the Administrator, says the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

Reacting to this week's decision by the Western Cape Regional Services Council to approve Serina mining company's application, the action group said it intended lodging a strong objection with Administrator Kobus Meiring, who could "veto" the RSC ruling.

But Serina chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy welcomed the RSC decision which, he said, had been made "after a thorough and democratic process in which the public was able to raise objections".

"We have worked very hard to address community concerns and the decision vindicates our belief in the merits of our projects," Mr Van der Spuy said.

Action group spokesman Mr Ian Brownlie said the RSC decision was "hardly surprising", despite nearly six years of vigorous campaigning.

"During the high-profile campaign, doors have been consistently slammed in the face of the group by the authorities, and the RSC has shown consistency in this regard," he said.

"The disappointing aspect about this decision is simply that as the de facto representative of the people of this area, the RSC had an intrinsic responsibility to take cognisance of the wishes of the vast majority of the affected community, which has been amply demonstrated in the past."

In his statement, Mr Van der Spuy pointed out that both he and Mr Brownlie had made presentations to the RSC's land-use committee before the decision.

"Serina is determined to make this an example, not only for the new South Africa, but for the world as an integrated project that combines environmental issues with concerns and needs of the community and shareholders who are the employees of Serina," he said.

Electricity to combat pollution

CT 3/17/93
SD
Staff Reporter

AIR pollution in the city will only be combated effectively once cars are fitted with catalytic converters and townships received electricity, says the city council.

Air pollution levels in central Cape Town exceeded the fixed guidelines for the third day running yesterday.

He said while industrial smoke was fairly well controlled, there was no legislation to control the other major air pollutants — exhaust fumes and smoke from domestic fires.

Mrs Jenny Godfrey, of UCT's Department of Oceanography and Atmospheric Science, said the high pressure system which tended to trap pollutants seldom lasted longer than three days.

Feet of clay

Green scene

ARG 5/7/93

“NATURE is there for man, not man for nature”.

It's difficult to imagine a less appropriate comment than this gem, offered by a Western Cape Regional Services councillor last week as justification for supporting Serina's application to mine kaolin in the Noordhoek Valley.

Sexism aside, it's this type of attitude that has been responsible for the wholesale and sometimes wanton exploitation and destruction of natural resources, ecosystems and species on a global scale: tropical and temperate forests, the great whales, wetlands, coastal fynbos, pilchards, rivers, grasslands, Karoo veld ... the list is endless.

And for some species — like the quagga and blue buck — the destruction went beyond the point of no return.

Fortunately, there's growing consensus that the human race doesn't stand outside nature, and that however isolated the daily lives of many humans — city dwellers in particular — may appear to be from the “natural” world, we all remain totally dependent on nature, natural processes and natural resources for our survival.

Whether kaolin itself is essential for such survival is, of course, a moot point, and many residents of Noordhoek and Sun Valley in particular might feel quite strongly to the contrary.

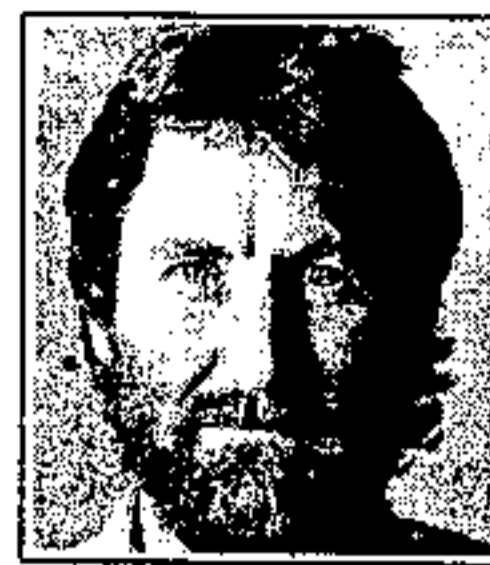
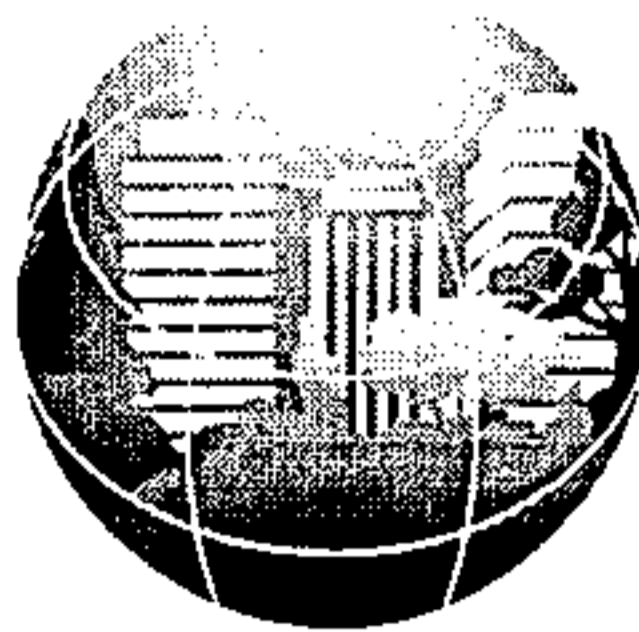
But when we come to analyse whether development (read mining in this particular case) has merit or otherwise, the suggestion that we are free to exploit to our hearts' — and pockets' — content is quite untenable.

That's why Environmental Impact Assessments are required; why Integrated Environmental Management principles and techniques were devised.

In the case of Serina, it's probably too early to judge the wisdom of the RSC decision last week.

Much has been said and written about the kaolin mining issue; much of this was utter nonsense.

One has to acknowledge that Serina's approach over the past year, under the guidance of its new chairman, has



JOHN YELD

been open, accommodating and sincere. Changes have been made and alternatives have been accepted that will cost the company's shareholders some of their potential profit.

That these changes will not satisfy all local residents is common cause, and there remains deep and fully justified concern about the principle of allowing mining in urban areas.

But, according to conventional wisdom, the best compromises are those which ultimately leave no-one completely satisfied.

Kaolin mining in the Noordhoek Valley could just be a case in point.

□□□

VARIOUS initiatives — particularly the UCT investigation into a holistic management plan for the Peninsula mountain chain, the visit by Sir Edmund Hillary and the launch of the SA Nature Foundation's Table Mountain Fund — have ensured a sharp focus on mountain conservation this year.

So perhaps this is the right moment to pose the question: just how well are the teams of labourers operating on the mountain trained, motivated and supervised, and are they subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to everyone else using these areas?

The question has been prompted by concern at recent events on Devil's Peak, and in particular by the fire on March 3.

There's prima facie evidence that this blaze was in fact started by someone in one of the teams operating on the Groote Schuur Estate below the King's Blockhouse, and perhaps the relevant management authority would

be prepared to confirm this. (Or would such an admission make them liable for all sorts of compensation, perhaps?)

But why are these teams allowed to make open fires at all?

Clearing alien vegetation (especially weeding seedlings), planting indigenous vegetation and constructing or repairing paths on the mountainside is always hard, often boring and occasionally dangerous work, and anything which can be done to make the job less onerous is to be encouraged.

But surely it is a logistically simple enough to provide hot water for tea and whatever other fuel source is needed for heat without these men having to resort to making fires? Small gas stoves operated from the back of the transport vehicle, industrial-type thermos flasks, portable diesel generators — there must be some safer method.

Yes, this probably will add to the cost of their operations, but measure that against the financial, labour and environmental loss to the city (in its broadest sense) which clearly can and does result from the careless — and illegal — use of fires, and there's simply no comparison.

There's another problem which needs to be dealt with in this regard: some of these teams are less than meticulous when it comes to clearing up.

I've been watching progress with removing black wattles on Devil's Peak recently and the volume of litter, especially plastic, left behind by the workforce is unacceptable.

It looks as though it's time management exercised a firmer hand — and the public need to be reassured in this regard.

E Rand pollution Star 5/7/93 a danger - study

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Levels of dust and smoke in the air at Edenvale, Kempton Park and Modderfontein are dangerous to health, according to a newly completed air pollution study (5b)

The Airkem project, by the CSIR and SI Analytics, measured air pollution over a period of 18 months and looked at the prevalence of respiratory diseases in children aged 8 to 12 years.

Dangerous

The study found that, on average, the level of particulates in the three areas approached the minimum health standards and could be classified as unhealthy. On at least eight occasions during the study period, smoke and dust in the air were at dangerous levels.

Respiratory illnesses in children aged eight to 12 were 20 percent lower than in the Vaal Triangle during the same period, the study said. However, it did show a higher incidence of illness occurring in certain neigh-

bourhoods — Hurlyvale, Sunnyrock, Sunnyridge, Rhodesfield, Esther Park, Edenglen and Highway Gardens.

The study found that levels of gaseous pollutants, such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, were below minimum danger level for close to 100 percent of the study period. Levels of pollen and fungal spores were also below danger levels.

Extensive complaints from residents in the study area about air quality and odours, gave rise to the AIRKEM project. The study was unable to determine the source of odours, but said that the matter needed urgent attention.

The results will be presented to all interested and affected parties in two open meetings on August 2 and 4 at Edenvale and Kempton Park. Details can be obtained from the two municipal health departments.

Airkem is being conducted in collaboration with the Department of National Health and Population Development, the National Association of Clean Air, and industries in the study area.

Environmentalists oppose luxury resort

Star 5/7/93

Pretoria Correspondent

Two more organisations — the Transvaal Chief Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation and Earthlife Africa — have joined the opposition to Pretoria City Council plans for a luxury resort in the Rietvlei Nature Reserve.

The chief directorate says wrong information about its views was given to a city council meeting. In a letter to the council's town-planning department, it said paragraph 4 of the report on the Rietvlei plans to the monthly council meeting on April 28 "are not a true reflection of the comments" made by a Nature Conservation official. (56)

The official was quoted in the report as saying

the development should not have a negative impact on the nature reserve. "What was said was that copies of the proposal should be sent through to this office for further study before he was prepared to comment," the letter said.

A council spokesman said that what was said in the report to the council meeting was an official's "perception" of what the Nature Conservation official had said.

In written comments on the planned development, sent to the council this week, the chief directorate said the development of a residential township consisting of 308 erven with an accompanying golf course was "totally incompatible" with the idea of nature-oriented develop-

ment in a public nature reserve.

It said all developed societies over the world had natural open spaces and the Greater Pretoria area should be no different.

The Pretoria branch of Earthlife Africa said in a statement that, apart from large-scale disruption of animal and bird life by the planned development, large dolomite formations in the area posed a problem.

"The risk of shifting in these formations due to excessive water drainage by the council (43 million litres a day) would have grave consequences for a large scale residential development of the nature envisaged by the developers and the council," the organisation said.

Anita Allen suggests one way out of the St Lucia mining dilemma

Stear 6/1/93

Make an offer they can't refuse



SOUTH Africans are witnessing a precedent-setting clash between development and conservation over mining on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia. In resolving this conflict, new regional, national and international policies are being clarified and standards are being created.

The written phase in public participation on St Lucia ended on June 22. In the current phase, the CSIR, as compiler of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), will get written responses from all the authors whose reports have been criticised.

It will also have to address any shortcomings pointed out in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which it issued. Then all the nearly four years of accumulated documentation will be considered by a review panel of five people chaired by Mr Justice Leon.

In October, members of the public can make personal appearances before the review panel.

After this, the panel has to make recommendations to the Cabinet on three things: Is irreparable damage likely if either mining/ecotourism, as proposed by Richard's Bay Minerals, or ecotourism, as proposed by the Natal Parks Board, goes ahead? Which land option is preferred? Under what conditions can the chosen option proceed?

We are fortunate in South Africa, that we can appeal to a principle that states: the environment is paramount. So the conservation of St Lucia's eastern shores is the priority. However, "where national survival is at stake and where no alternative sources are available on acceptable conditions can conservation be subordinated to development" (Report of the President's Council, 1984), in this case dune mining and ecotourism.

It is no longer a debatable question that South Africa needs development. It is the only way to save people from poverty, and to protect wilderness areas.

But there is a real need to create more conservation areas in line with the international Bio-diversity Convention which South Africa has signed. This calls for countries to reserve 10 percent of their surface area in formal conservation areas. South Africa has only about 6 percent and only about half of that is scheduled one national parks.

The negative impact of mining on the environment is not totally known. Alarm bells have been rung in various respected local and international quarters about proceeding with a risky venture that could be the last straw that drains the St Lucia wetlands.

Conservationists also say that what has not been considered is the number of tourists who would flock to see one of the great wonders of the world if Lake St Lucia won this battle with man — and how many would not bother if mining went ahead.

The economic benefits of mining are not greater than a really crackerjack ecotourism option sup-

ported by the local community and private enterprise.

However, if the application for mining was turned down, and it is legally possible to do this, then Richard's Bay Minerals would under law be entitled to compensation running into hundreds of millions.

One way out of the dilemma is to offer RBM something it can't refuse.

Last time RBM got to this point with the Department of Environment Affairs in the late '60s, it was over a prospecting lease south of the eastern shores, at Mapelane. This area, unlike St Lucia, has some marvellous indigenous forests on the frontal dunes and untramelled swamps. RBM was given the prospecting lease on the eastern shores, with its 65 percent pine plantations, in exchange for this wilderness.

This time maybe the Government should offer RBM some joint venture, say in the ecotourism industry which will bring in the same revenue. RBM already has the in-

frastucture to do this in its highly talented environmental section.

Lake St Lucia has wildernesses that have been proclaimed conservation areas since 1897, but its survival is dependent on the areas surrounding it.

The lake is fed by five rivers from a catchment stretching to the Drakensberg. This area is rapidly degrading and increasing sections show up white on satellite images. This means these are down to bedrock or are bare sand. Six thousand years of creation wiped out in our generation.

Every time it rains more soil silt up the rivers, streams and the reedbeds of the wetlands which are natural filters.

The Umfolozi River channel used to flow at the south end of St Lucia Lake on its way to the sea. Every dry season, the mouth would silt up. Once a year during spring floods, fresh water would flush out the lake system. This prevented the salinity of the lake water from rising too high.

Then some bright sparks decided that floods were doing too much damage to sugar plantations on other shores of the lake. The Umfolozi was diverted 7 km south, and now the lake and river have become separated and each has its own channel to the sea.

Less and less fresh water flows into the lake each year from its once mighty rivers. Now, every year, and more so during dry years, the salinity in the lake rises to levels dangerous to its functioning and bio-diversity.

Schools of young sea fish used to enter the lake system. They grew to adulthood in the lake as the mouth out to sea silted up and closed. These young generations now have to survive out at sea.

Fishermen who know the area and have watched its slow decline have tales to tell of grunter and shad runs and the incredible trophy fish caught. Not any longer.

But it could all happen again, that's the point. □

1 nation

Dam levels down to 41 pc

The total amount of water in dams in the Vaal River system which serves the PWV has dropped to 41,5 percent, well down on the 52,5 percent at the same time last year. The Sterkfontein Dam which feeds the Vaal Dam is 76 percent full. No rain has fallen in the PWV this month, where the long-term average is a mere 6,5 mm, according to the Rand Water Board — Staff Reporter (56)

Hijacker to appear in court

A 23-year-old man who hijacked a Royal Swazi Air passenger aircraft on Sunday will appear in the Kempton Park Magistrate's Court today. Police said no charges had been formulated as offences in terms of the Civil Aviation Act were still being investigated. The man was found to have false identity documents. — Sapa.

Guard beats off attackers

A gang of robbers fled empty-handed from a Vanderbijlpark scrap metals business after shooting at an employee, Bereng Mokwena (31), yesterday. Mokwena is recovering in hospital from a bullet wound. Police said five armed men approached Mokwena and began firing at him. The men fled when Mokwena returned fire. — Vereeniging Bureau.

Suspect shot in buttocks

A suspected robber was wounded in the buttocks in a shootout with police yesterday, after he and another man tried to hold up a Fidelity Guards team outside the Nedbank in Stanley Street, Auckland Park. — Staff Reporter.

Unions, post office agree

The Post Office reached a wage agreement yesterday with two trade unions which had rejected the company's pay offer in May. In a statement, the Post Office said the Post Office Employee Association of SA and the Post and Telecommunication Workers Association joined three other trade unions in accepting the company's wage offer. — Sapa. (248) (254)

Fire destroys 76 shacks

Hundreds of people were left destitute in Kuils River outside Cape Town yesterday after a raging fire destroyed 76 shacks. The fire started when a paraffin stove burst into flames. A strong wind swept the flames out of control and firemen could not save the homes. — Sapa.

IFP, AV 'discuss threats'

Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi met a delegation from the Afrikaner Volksfront in Ulundi yesterday to discuss threats to the Zulu and Afrikaner nations, according to a KwaZulu government official. They discussed multiparty negotiations and ways Zulus and Afrikaners could stand together to ensure their nations survived. — Sapa. (3677) (113)

Unrest restrictions lifted

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel yesterday lifted the unrest regulations for the magistrate districts of Estcourt, Winterton and Mooi River in Natal. The repeal appeared in a special Government Gazette and took effect immediately, SABC radio reported. — Sapa. (276)

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Mountain ranges and river systems should be key to new boundaries

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa should be divided into six primary regions — or nine alternative regions — based on environmental criteria such as mountain ranges and unified river systems, according to the Council for the Environment.

The council, a statutory body advising the minister of Environment Affairs, made a submission to this effect to the Multi-Party Negotiating Forum's Commission on the Delimitation of Regions at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park yesterday.

In marked contrast to most of the other submissions made to the commission, the Council for the Environment said individual river courses should never form political or administrative borders.

Its proposed six primary regions are the Orange/Vaal river basin, Limpopo/Olifants, Tugela/Mgeni, Kei/Umzimvubu, Cape and PWV.

The alternative proposal is



Professor Roelf Botha ...
"a prosperous nation cannot be constructed on a bankrupt environment".

based on dividing the Vaal and Orange catchments into separate regions, as well as separating the Limpopo, Olifants and Bophuthatswana areas.

Explaining the council's

reasoning, chairman Professor Roelf Botha said a prosperous nation could not be constructed on a bankrupt environment.

"A new South Africa can only be built on the effective conservation and management of its environmental resources, for the sustained benefit of present and future generations of South Africans.

"For that reason, environmental criteria are fundamental for determining regional boundaries."

The council's proposed regions would provide not only an adequate basis for the effective management and sustained use of South Africa's environmental resources, but would also provide a sound basis for its economic and human development, Professor Botha suggested.

Physiographic features were the main determinants for regional delimitation, he argued.

"(These features) determine watersheds which form the main territorial units for regional sub-division.

"They are clearly identifiable with boundaries marked by topographical highlands and unified by river basins and drainage valleys.

"Thus the physical features of the landscape determined by topography are the most reliable criteria to define regions.

"This is particularly so because physical buffers such as mountain ranges define relatively homogenous natural systems, human settlements and economic activity within unified river basins.

"In this way environmental characteristics have had a profound influence on the history of human settlement in general and in South Africa in particular.

"Mountain ranges divide and river valleys unite. For this reason, rivers should never form political or administrative boundaries."

Copies of the council's document are available free of charge from the Secretary, Council for the Environment, Private Bag X447, Pretoria 0001.

Council to extend Silvermine

ARG 9/7/73
56
CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THE city council is to spend about R500 000 on buying 110 hectares of land to add to the Silvermine Nature Reserve.

The executive committee yesterday approved a report recommending the purchase.

The land, on top of the Noordhoek mountain range, is covered by rock and alien vegetation.

Estates manager Mr Owen Tudor said buying the land would enable the parks and forests branch to keep alien vegetation under control and to limit fire hazards.

Four of six landowners have asked for compensation of R3 276 to R5 500 a hectare.

Negotiations are still in progress with two others, Serina Kaolin and De Goede Hoop CC. The land is not part of the planned kaolin mine.

● A meeting between exco and the Bonteheuwel Civic Association about the association's demands — including writing off electricity arrears — ended inconclusively.

The association, which occupied the Bonteheuwel rent office a week ago and left when exco agreed to yesterday's meeting, repeated demands for disconnected power to be restored and all other service arrears to be written off.

Acting exco chairman Mr Leon Markovitz said council policy was to not disconnect supplies provided consumers paid current accounts and at least R10 towards arrears.

● Tenders to lease the Grand Parade fleamarket for two years are to be advertised.

An annual lease expires at the end of the month.

Mr Tudor said many people had expressed an interest in the lease, in spite of increased informal trading elsewhere on the Parade.

The post-apartheid

Star 10/1/93

Feared SAP base protects cycads, rhino

JOHN PERLMAN
Chief Reporter

THE sign at the entrance says "NO ENTRY" — but the gate to which it has been wired stands wide open. There are Shetland ponies grazing near the fence; a vegetable garden bursting with green; and in the distance, herds of blesbok and hartebeest amble along the hillside.

This is the 1993 version of Vlakplaas, a name that not so long ago conjured up in many minds the deepest and darkest secrets of the South African Police. Nestling in the Magaliesberg hills south-west of Pretoria, it is now the home of the Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) of the SAP.

Allegations

Some might say that protecting "endangered species" was what Vlakplaas had always been concerned with. In November 1989, Captain Dirk Coetzee shook South Africa with allegations that hit squads operating out of Vlakplaas — where the police Anti-Terrorist Unit was based — had been responsible for the kidnapping and assassination of ANC members and other activists during the P W Botha years.

The SAP denied this was true and branded Coetzee — a former commander of Vlakplaas — a liar. Colonel Piet Lategan, head of the ESPU, is the man in charge of the farm now. And he's keen to take Vlakplaas and turn it into something new.

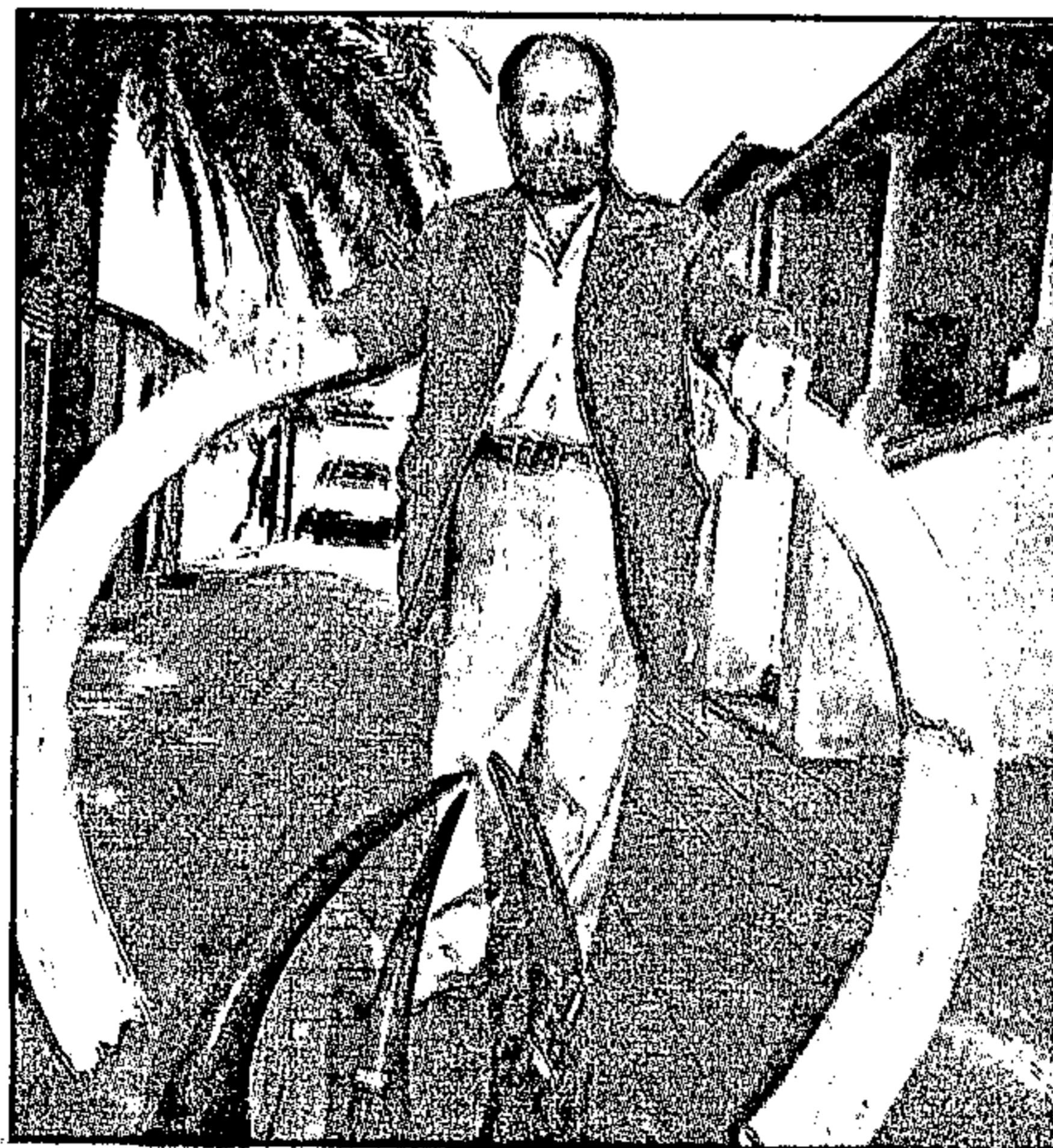
"We thought of changing the name," he said. "Let's call it the people out there are doing."

It became operational about 18 months ago.

It is to break the rings which move ivory, horns, cycads and rhino to countries where they can realise massive profits. "Most of the ivory and the rhino horn is destined for the East," says Lategan. His team of 24 detectives are also re-



POLICING THE ENVIRONMENT: Sergeant Gawie Bester of the ESPU (right) and Mossie Basson of Cape Nature Conservation compare notes on a cycad smuggling ring.



POACHER'S PROFITS: Warrant-Officer Adam Wood with tusks and rhino horns recovered after a smuggling ring was cracked.

● Photographs: STEVE HILTON-BARBER.

sponsible for investigating Chinese crime syndicates.

The contents of a massive walk-in safe at the farm — confiscated tusks, rhino horns and carved ivory blocks — graphically illustrate how lucrative the smuggling can be, and just what a brutal business it is.

The contents of one large box — about 4 000 ivory blocks — represent both enormous wealth and the slaughter of some 250 elephants.

"In the East ivory fetches about \$400 (R1 200) per 100g," says Lieutenant Mario Scholtz. "The average tusk weighs

about 8 kg. A rhino horn can fetch anything from \$21 000 (R63 000) to \$40 000 (R120 000) a kilo. We have bust smugglers selling horns weighing up to 9 kg."

Lategan, who used to command the SAP's stock theft division, admits he had no idea of what the smuggling entailed. "When I started this job, I didn't know the difference between a white rhino and a black rhino," he says.

"And I didn't have this urge to protect rhinos. All the people in this unit are normal policemen, trained detectives. We are definitely not greens and we do the job as objectively as possible. We don't try to save everything and we definitely eat meat," he says with a laugh.

Many applicants to the ESPU, Lategan says, expect a job that will take them out into the bush. "In fact we spend 90 percent of our time in the city centre. In Hillbrow and Durban as a matter of fact."

The closest his team get to nature most days is the farm at Vlakplaas. "We also use it to hold conferences and meetings," he says.

Askaris

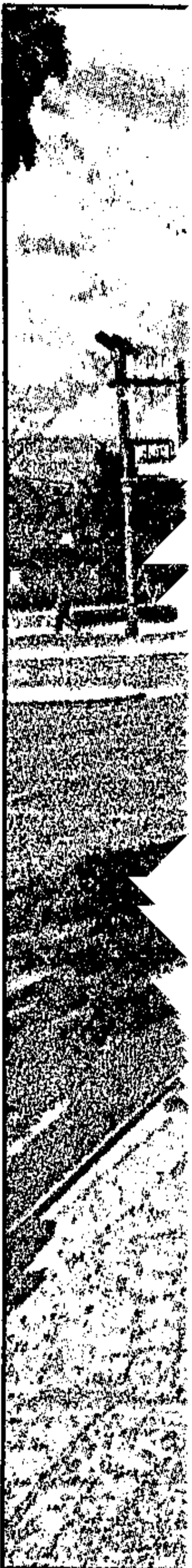
Almost on cue, a group of green and khaki-clad men from Cape Nature Conservation arrive to discuss joint efforts against cycad smugglers.

In one of the red-brick buildings, workers are busy getting a hall ready for a meeting of the Rhino and Elephant Management Group, a forum of policemen, parks authorities and non-governmental organisations working to crack down on the ivory and rhino horn rings.

Later two men pull up, talk briefly to Lategan and are soon gone. They are former Askaris — turned ANC guerillas who were a key part of the old Vlakplaas — who had come to see if there was any mail for them. "This is no longer their place," Lategan says.

Coetzee alleged that Vlakplaas was also the launch pad for raids on neighbouring countries. Lategan's work also takes him across borders — unarmed. He's just come back from Nairobi, where countries in the region met to start forming a "joint task force to investigate cross border smuggling".

"We are non-political," he says. "I would say we are almost a post-apartheid police unit. It is nice to be doing something that has public support."



OPEN DOOR: Cape Nature Conservation — once

Artheid Vlakteplaas

Star 10/7/93

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Askaris

st on cue, a group of nd khaki-clad men from ature Conservation ar- discuss joint efforts cycad smugglers.

e of the red-brick build- rkers are busy getting eady for a meeting of o and Elephant Man- Group, a forum of po- parks authorities and ernmental organisa- rking to crack down on y and rhino horn rings.

two men pull up, talk o Lategan and are soon ey are former Askaris d ANC guerillas who ey part of the old Vlakte- who had come to see if as any mail for them. no longer their place," s says.

ee alleged that Vlakte- as also the launch pad on neighbouring coun- tegan's work also takes ross borders — un- He's just come back airobi, where countries gion met to start form- int task force to inves- oss border smuggling".

are non-political," he would say we are al- post-apartheid police



OPEN DOOR: Colonel Piet Lategan, head of the SAP's Endangered Species Protection Unit, at Vlakteplaas — once the base of the Anti-Terrorist Unit and tainted by allegations of hit squad activity.



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CT 10/7/93

Storm fury

Cape passes closed

By MELANIE GOSLING and EUNICE RIDER

FORCE 10 winds ripping through the Cape Peninsula and torrential rain closed four mountain passes and shut down Table Bay harbour yesterday.

The Boland was also badly hit by winds gusting up to 90km/h — just two levels below typhoon strength on the Beaufort Scale — as homes were damaged and power lines to outlying farms went down.

The Berg River burst its banks in Paarl last night. On the Cape Flats hundreds of squatter shacks were flooded and damaged by wind.

As a succession of cold fronts hit Cape Town over three days, the N1, the main artery north, was closed by landslides and falling rocks.

Rockfalls on Chapman's Peak Drive have also caused structural damage and the road will be closed at least until Monday.

Bain's Kloof Pass between Wellington and Ceres, and Franschoek Pass between the town and Villiersdorp were also closed.

Traffic officials also warned motorists using Sir Lowry's Pass that they could be blown off in the strong winds.

There were also rockfalls on the coastal road from Gordon's Bay near Rooi Els, which have been cleared.

Boland towns described the storm as the most severe since 1984, and Table Bay harbour officials said shipping had not been so badly hampered in 15 years.

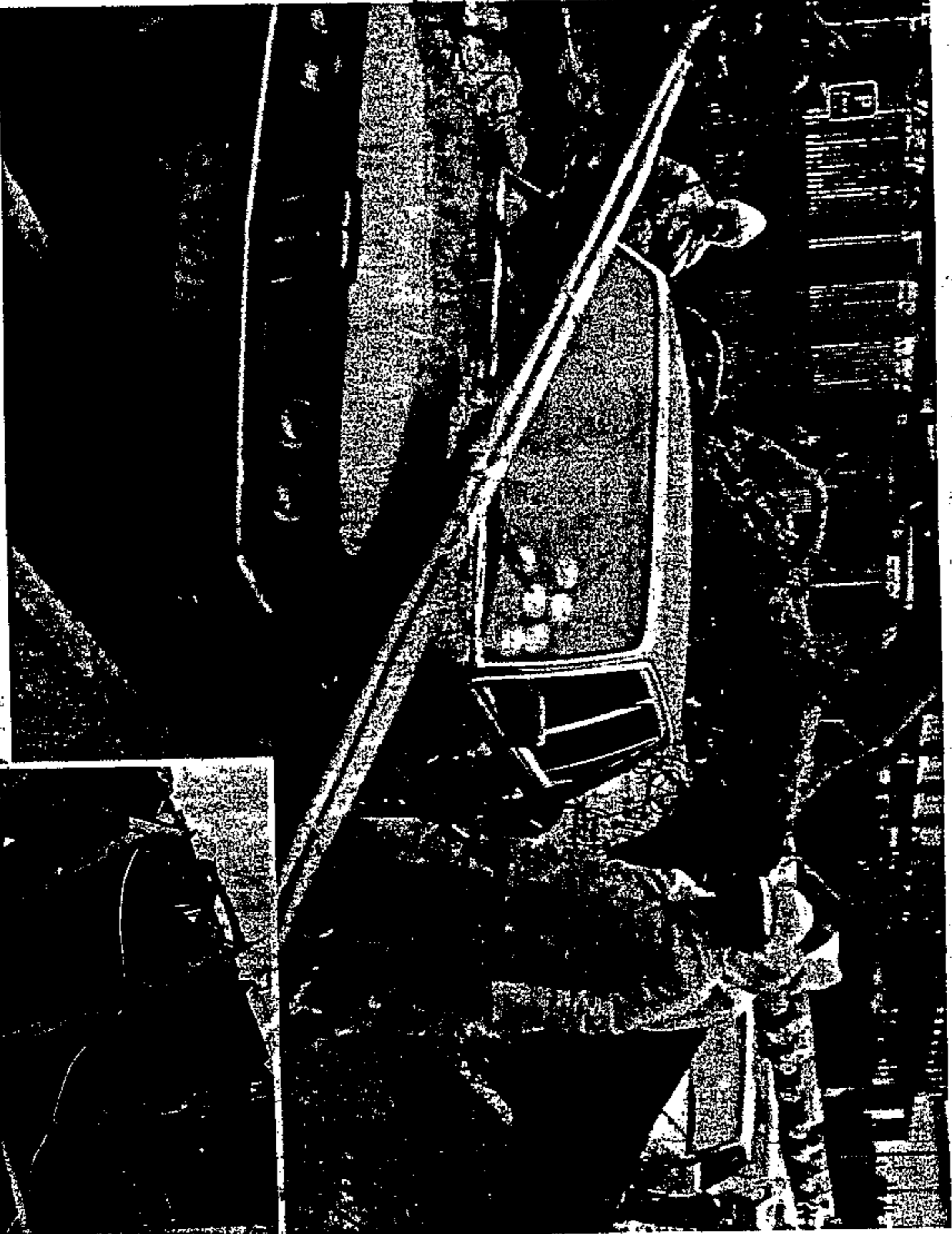
Paarl police said last night the Berg River had flooded its banks in several places and various minor roads had been closed.

Berg River Caravan Park worker Mr Johan Louw said last night the park was flooded except for a small raised area, but permanently parked caravans and removed to higher ground. Two years ago several caravans and cars floated down the river when this park was flooded.

In Somerset West several trees were blown over and a family had to vacate their home after a section of the roof blew off. Mrs Anna Uys said the rain had caused the ceilings to collapse.

In Somerset West's Paarde Vallei Road a bluegum tree planted last century and a certified national monument was uprooted in the winds. A spokesman for the municipality said yesterday there had been fallen trees and damaged roofs throughout the town.

"I have not seen such a bad storm since 1984," he said. In Grabouw several houses had their roofs blown off, trees were



BAD BREAK . . . A nasty surprise was in store yesterday for the owner of this car after wind uprooted a tree at Maynardville. The tree pulled down an electricity pole onto the car and live cables onto the street. **RIGHT:** Mrs Anna Uys and her family had to leave their Somerset West home when the roof was ripped off. Here Mrs Uys stands bravely with bucket and broly before being forced to give up the fight.

Pictures: WILLEM STEENKAMP and HAROLD KING

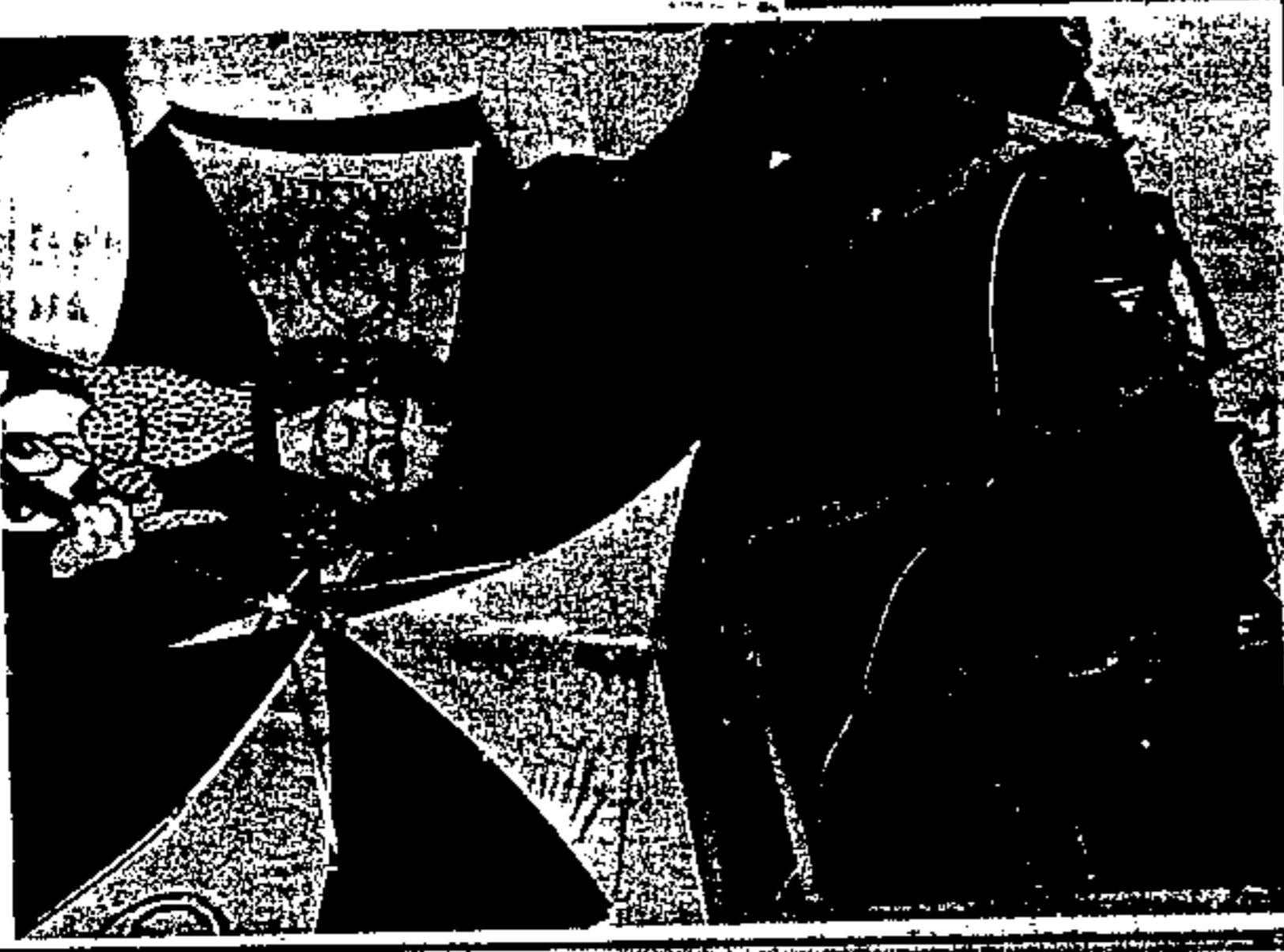
uprooted and in one area the telephone lines were down. In Hermanus the roof of a hangar was ripped off.

Flooding was reported in Ottery, Lansdowne, Crossroads, Macassar and Hanover Park.

Glaziers in Cape Town said they had been inundated with calls but had been unable to replace windows because of the winds.

There were power failures in Fish Hoek, Tlhabagh, Montagu and Kleinmond. A spokesman for Eskom said yesterday their teams were working overtime repairing rural power lines.

To page 3



Mrs Uys in Bill yesterday. A bad prevent- from working up. storm at sea to and running aground. are said six-metre waves were pounding the breakwater.

"We have a shipping backlog of 48 hours and are all geared up to work the whole weekend," he said.

At Site 5 squatter camp in Noordhoek 50 shacks have been flattened by wind and the roof of a crèche blown off. Volunteer workers are co-ordinating donations of food, blankets and building materials, for the destitute people, who have gathered in the local school.

Another cold front is expected to hit the Cape today. The weather bureau has issued a warning that a strong gale can be expected in the Peninsula and south-western Cape coastal areas.

The Franschoek Pass was re-opened last night, said a CPA Traffic Department spokesman. He said motorists wishing to travel between Cape Town and Worcester had been advised to go via Gouda and use the Nuwekloof Pass, or to use the N2 via Villiersdorp.

Rival regions argue for control of Kruger Park

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — The Kruger National Park has become the object of regional rivalry, with both the northern and eastern Transvaal claiming administrative rights over the territory.

At stake is R130m generated annually by the park through tourism and trade, as well as millions more in provincial levies and spin-off benefits for neighbouring communities.

With new regional boundaries currently under consideration by national negotiators and the delimitation commission, representatives from both the northern and eastern Transvaal submitted claims for the park earlier this month.

Eastern Transvaal regional development advisory committee executive director Pieter Rootman said the park would make a significant contribution to the economic stability of one of SA's fastest growing regions.

Contributing 10% of SA's GDP, with an annual growth rate of 5,5% and several major projects on the go, eastern Transvaal needed the park for the development and cohesion of a solid regional economic base, Root-

man said.

"The Kruger Park is part and parcel of the eastern Transvaal and should be kept that way."

Northern Transvaal NP regional secretary Danie Botha said that the eastern Transvaal was a rich region and could look after itself without the park.

At a meeting last week of the political forum for the northern Transvaal, which represents all parties from the NP and ANC to the Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu governments, it was unanimously agreed that the park should become part of the northern Transvaal, Botha said.

The income from the park would benefit development in the northern Transvaal, which was a poor region.

While the incorporation of the park into the northern Transvaal was the "very strong view" of all parties in the region, "we won't make war about it", Botha said. Everything would be done, however, to convince the delimitation commission of the merits of incorporation.

This included the hiring of a high-powered independent research team, led by HSRC constitutional development expert Bertus de Villiers, to present the region's case.

Both regional lobbies were aware of the possibility that the park could be divided along the Olifants River, with the northern section going to the northern Transvaal and the southern section to the eastern Transvaal.

"The idea that the park could be cut in half for some or other bureaucratic reason makes no sense at all," Rootman said.

A division would make administration of the park more difficult and, in any case, all the big camps were in the south, Botha added.

National Parks Board liaison officer Thys Steyn said the board did not want to get involved in the dispute.

"While we are quite sure the board will stay under the control of central government, there are definite benefits to be had with Kruger in your region."

Kruger was one of only four parks in SA which were consistently profitable, he said.

'Use nuke site for nature reserve'

CLIVE SAWYER
Staff Reporter

(56)

A SOUTHERN Cape site formerly earmarked for nuclear research should become a nature reserve, says a new guide plan for the Mossel Bay-Riversdale region.

The Gouriqua site should be conserved and existing infrastructure be used for tourism and recreation, the plan says.

A Department of Regional and Land Affairs spokesman said the plan was to guide economic development in response to the expected economic impact of Mossgas.

ARC 12/7/93
A development forum should be set up to guide development in an "environmentally-sensitive" way.

The area covered is from the Groot Brak River to the Duiwenhoks River, and includes Mossel Bay, Great Brak River, Herbertsdale, Hartenbos, Riversdale, Albertinia, Still Bay, Vleesbaai, and Gouritsmond.

Guidelines are provided for identifying land for low-income development and development in flood plains, around estuaries and on steep slopes.

Industrial development should be "pollution-free" and

there is provision for informal economic activities.

Other proposals include:

- A new storage dam in the Weyers River;

- Mining of construction materials and minerals;

- Use and protection of agricultural land; and

- Broad guidelines for overall land use.

Copies of the guide plan are available from the Department of Regional and Land Affairs in Pretoria, the Provincial Administration, and regional services councils and municipalities in the area.

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

FARMERS fear more damage to flooded lands and buildings as three more frontal storms head for the Western Cape and overflowing dams feed millions of litres of water into already swollen rivers.

With at least six weeks of wet weather to go this winter, Cape Town has had more rain than it normally gets all year — rainfall recorded at DF Malan Airport since January totals 520mm, 12mm more than the annual average.

And the Weather Bureau warns that "fairly heavy" rain will fall on Thursday and Friday.

The Boland has been hard-hit with Ceres having 130mm at the weekend and 100mm on Thursday and Friday.

The catchment area of the Breede River, which burst its banks and flooded in several places, is in the mountains above Ceres.

One of three sluice gates of Wemmerhoek Dam near Wellington has been opened to cope with the inflow of water, adding millions of litres to the swollen Berg River.

Sluice gates have also been opened at Clanwilliam and Steenbras.

University of Cape Town geologist Dr Clive Stowe said the capability of the sandy soils of the Peninsula to absorb water was good but Boland soils were less permeable and greater run-off and surface erosion was possible.

"The major problem (in the Western Cape) is that as the ground becomes saturated, slopes become unstable and the land tends to slip. This is usually very localised," he said.

Newlands was one of the wettest areas during the storms last week with 290mm in five days.

Steenbras Lower is 102 percent full, Steenbras Upper 101 percent, Wemmershoek 100,3 percent and Voelvlei 93 percent.

Later today the first of "three ugly sisters" — cold fronts spawned deep in the South Atlantic — arrives, bringing a north-westerly gale and heavy rain, particularly along the coast.

Partial clearance is expected tomorrow morning, but by the afternoon the next sister is expected to make her presence felt.

Rain and a strong to gale-force north-westerly will persist throughout Wednesday.

There will be no respite on Thursday as yet another front moves across the Peninsula and Boland.

"At this stage we are predicting fairly heavy rainfall, particularly on Thursday and Friday," the Weather Bureau said.

At the weekend the Boland was particularly hard hit, with Paarl recording 32mm on Saturday and Franschhoek 33mm.

The Franschhoek and Bain's Kloof passes were closed and rivers throughout the Western Cape burst their banks.

Chapman's Peak Drive is still closed to traffic.

... storms

Record Cape rain and much more on the way as cold fronts line up

Flood fears

(56)
Avg
12/9/93

Earthlife Africa attacks Absa over plan to build on dunes

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

FURTHER salvoes have been fired in the battle over the future of Absa banking group's Sandy Bay property.

The environmental group Earthlife Africa — a member of the coalition opposing Absa's plans to build houses on the Hout Bay sanddune part of the property — accused the bank of using "crude scare tactics".

But Absa deputy chief executive Mr Mike de Blanche said his group was one of the first property developers to consult all "interested and affected parties" in a process which was being undertaken at great cost, although without being required by law.

56 ARC 14/7/93
In a statement, the Cape Town branch of Earthlife Africa said Absa's claim that its property was worth between R23 million and R40 million appeared to be based on the assumption that no objections to the proposed development were valid.

"We further regard 'warnings' by senior Absa officials that Absa has been 'targeted' by the civics in the Transvaal, who are seeking land for low cost housing, and that the same will happen in Cape Town, as being crude scare tactics with distinctly racist overtones."

Unless Absa demonstrated "a real commitment to democratic principles, public participation and ecological responsibility",

Earthlife Africa would lobby a new government to withdraw business from the bank, the branch warned.

In a Press release, Mr De Blanche repeated his group's offer to give all the land on the Sandy Bay side of the Karbonkelberg to the community of Cape Town, "in recognition of the scenic unspoilt beauty of Sandy Bay".

"It is important to us to preserve Sandy Bay for current as well as future generations of Capetonians for a number of reasons. This is why we have allowed visitors to Sandy Bay, which is in fact our privately owned property."

CSIR denies double dealing

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The CSIR has denied "double standards" in accepting submissions on the St Lucia dune mining debate.

The institute is accused of rejecting comments by research scientist Mr Bruce Mann sent in the same package those from the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) in Durban after the June 22 deadline.

The CSIR said the ORI's faxed comments were received before the deadline but copies were posted because of poor quality. ^{9/14/79} (105)

Silt is 'threat to marine life'

SB CT 14/7/93

Staff Reporters

THOUSANDS of tons of silt dumped into Table Bay harbour by swollen rivers in the past week pose a threat to the offshore environment, environmentalists say.

Port Captain Bill Shewell said yesterday the load of silt deposited in the harbour by recent storms was the largest since 1977.

The "precious topsoil" had been washed down by the Black, Liesbeek, Salt and Rietvlei rivers, and would eventually be swept out by currents and dumped on the ocean bed.

Dr Iain Macdonald, of the Southern African Nature Foundation, said yesterday the topsoil run-off was bad for the ocean as well as the land, as silt smothered life on the ocean floor.

"This extreme weather has demonstrated our mismanagement of the land," he said.

"Soil erosion is the most funda-

Red Cross feeding 2 000

Staff Reporter

THE Red Cross Society of South Africa is feeding more than 2 000 people at five flooded squatter camps around the Peninsula.

Regional director Dr Elizabeth Fullard said yesterday the camps involved were Marconi Beam in Milner-ton, Hynes Park in Kommetjie, Weltevrede in Philippi and camps at Noordhoek and Nyanga.

Hout Bay's Imizamo Yethu camp is

being considered.

Red Cross had also distributed blankets in the squatter camps.

Dr Fullard said Red Cross was monitoring the situation and would continue to help. When families got their shacks up they would be given family food parcels.

She said there had been a strong public response to the report in yesterday's Cape Times on the society's flood relief work.

mental environmental threat facing us today, and everyone has a duty to curb it."

Chapman's Peak Drive, damaged by a rockfall last week, will be shut for at least a month, regional services council spokesman Mr Rory Gilmore said.

At least three people have died in the past week in weather-related accidents.

Insurance companies have received hundreds of claims for

storm damage, mainly to roofs and ceilings. However the claims were fewer than in 1984, a spokesman for a major insurance company said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Boland farmers are counting the cost of damage to their lands along the Breede, Wemmershoek and Berg rivers.

A Wellington Farmers' Union spokesman said damage could run to hundreds of thousands of rand.

Paper on Kruger Park 'not ANC view'

Staff Reporter

A DOCUMENT compiled by the ANC's agriculture spokesman suggesting that controlled hunting and grazing for cattle be considered in the future management of the Kruger National Park, does not represent the views of the ANC, the author said.

ANC agriculture spokesman Mr Derek Hanekom, who wrote the document with ANC member Mr Louis Liebenberg, said yesterday it was written in their personal capacities. Reports in daily newspapers yesterday suggested the document represented the views of the ANC.

"The document is a contribution to an important debate and is being distributed for comment," he said from Johannesburg yesterday. He said the Kruger and other national parks had the image of being elitist resorts to which the local people had no access because they could

not afford it. To these people, the costs of a national park outweighed the benefits. "The costs included forced removals and the loss of grazing rights, access to firewood, medicinal plants, thatching grass and hunting. They were never consulted about the land they lost."

He said a new approach was needed to national park management which should consider controlled access. National Parks Board spokesman Mr Thys Steyn said yesterday the board received a copy of the document. "We will not comment at this stage," he said.

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CS 16/7/93



Golden mean between environment and necessity

Shear 161-193

(56)

IMAGINE a management system in which everyone who is expected to apply it has been consulted during its formulation.

Imagine this system then applied throughout all government departments and in business and industry, and reaching into private homes throughout the country.

This is what the Government's 1993 White Paper on the environment is attempting to do, but the Government is not going to wait for everybody to climb aboard.

The White Paper is not only a statement of what the Government intends doing, it is also another step in a process started in 1980.

The White Paper, titled "Pollution on a national environmental management system" was pulled apart and scrutinised at two workshops last month, the first organised by Potchefstroom University and the second hosted by the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA), which compiled the document.

It is not inspired by, but is in line with, international environmental conventions and declarations — the Stockholm Declaration, the Rio Declaration and

the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources guidelines.

It describes a holistic and integrated strategy to take care of the environment based on the principle of sustainable development. "The Government policy is that a golden mean between dynamic development and the vital demands of environmental conservation should consistently be sought. The aim is, therefore, that man and nature should constantly exist in productive harmony to satisfy the social, economic and other expectations of the present and future populations."

In line with this, all government departments "from the highest to the lowest" were instructed in 1984 to accept the "golden mean" policy, which in principle allows for only one condition under which development would have a higher priority than the environment, namely:

"Only where national survival is at stake and where no alternative sources are available on acceptable conditions can conservation be subordinated to development."

The DEA is far advanced in framing policies for the control

of development. Here, the goal is equilibrium between demand and supply. Dr Colin Cameron, director-general of the DEA, succinctly identified only two demands that exceed supply: overpopulation and greed.

"We will not succeed in dealing with the environment unless we can control the population growth, which is a worldwide problem. The mere number of people will ultimately destroy Earth's carrying capacity," Cameron said.

Furthermore, the First World component must be prepared to accept a generally more sober standard of living. "The demand must be scaled down."

Science Writer ANITA ALLEN looks at the significance of emerging environmental policy.

... which applies internationally acceptable standards to the South African condition. The problem is its credibility. The workshops did not attract representatives of political parties or people who spoke for black constituencies. Some delegates felt that the only way

forward was through a National Environmental Forum (NEF). Cameron emphasised that the mechanism to mobilise political efforts on environmental matters had to come from people who felt this was the route to go.

The message was clear: those who wanted an NEF must organise it. In the meantime, the DEA's course lay elsewhere. Already, the Environment Conservation Act has been

amended to allow the Minister of Environment Affairs to make regulations without first consulting other government departments. Effectively, this increases his power and upgrades his Cabinet status.

The DEA is proceeding with actions to consolidate and rationalise legislation on the environment.

This involves at least three new Acts and amendments to 14 Acts. Unbundling environmental legislation is complicated by having 10 separate systems of control in the TBVC states and self-governing territories.

A spin-off of this work is four booklets available free of charge from the DEA which summarises all environmental legislation, responsibilities and penalties.

To meet its international responsibilities, the Government last month signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. This means South Africa is applying all the principles and will bring its laws in line with this.

In addition, it will be signing the Basle Convention on the movement of hazardous waste, and is already applying all the

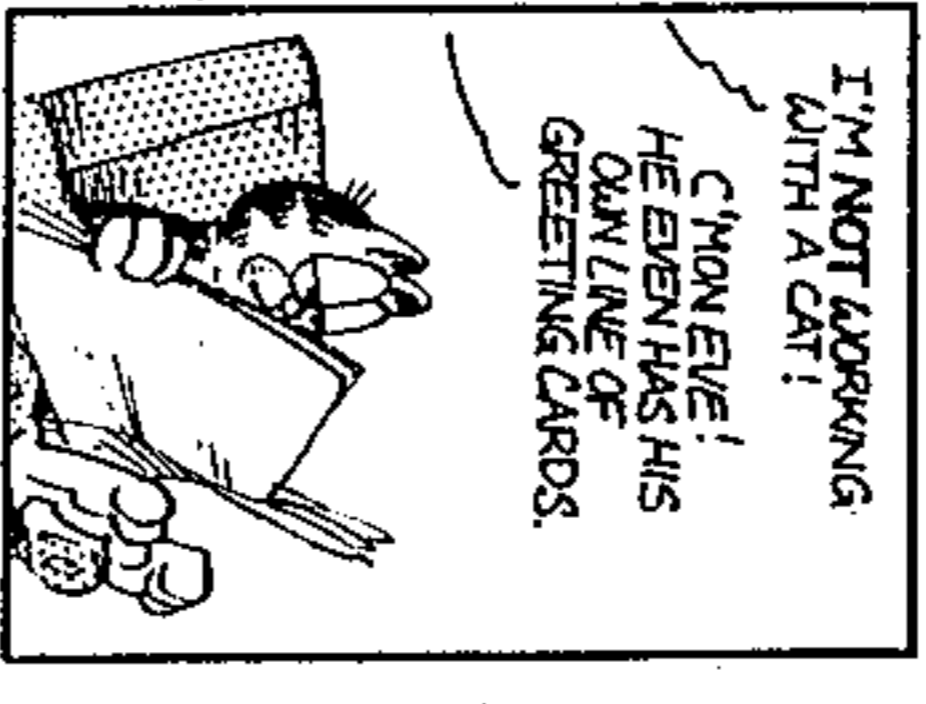
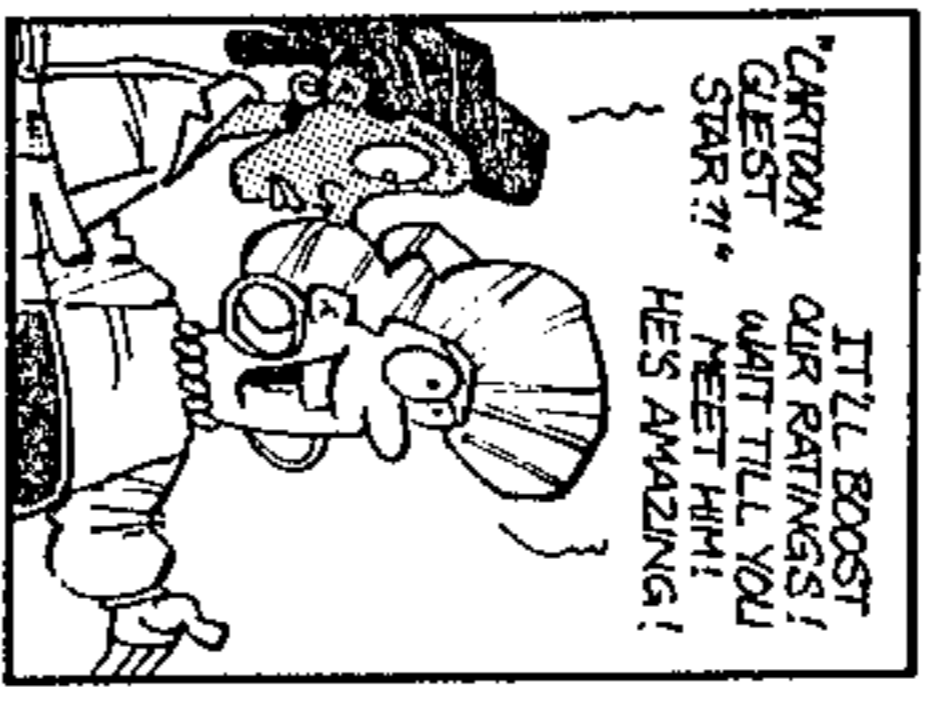
principles.

The 25-page White Paper published on March 22 lays out a strategy to meet national and international objectives. Delegates at the two workshops did not ask for any deletions or amendments. The 29 goals and objectives were endorsed.

The DEA has been instructed by the Government to proceed with implementation of the chosen system — Integrated Environmental Management (IEM). It is described step by step in another set of four booklets available free of charge from the DEA. The two paramount principles of IEM are accountability for the effect of activities on the environment and involvement of the total South African community.

However, what this means is that when the new government of national unity takes over sometime after April 27 1994, it is going to find that a management structure to deal with environmental matters is in place in all government departments and parastatals, and that legislation to give teeth to the policies has either been enacted or is at an advanced draft stage, with or without sanction across the political board. □

MADAM & EVE



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JOHN YELD

Weekend Argus Reporter

WITH the referendum of Rooi Els ratepayers in full swing over whether to continue contesting Somchem's lease of its nearby test site, accusations are flying like G5 cannon shells between opposing groups.

Last week, two of the "Concerned Ratepayers Group" — businessman Mr Philipp Wagener and his wife, National Party MP for Kempton Park Dr Tersia King — launched a strong attack on the Rooi Els Local Council and the Rooi Els Ratepayers' Association.

Their allegations included charges of failing to heed calls for an earlier referendum and of failing to inform ratepayers fully about the issue and its possible financial repercussions.

But, the council and the association have returned a broadside salvo, accusing their critics of issuing misinformation.

The chairman of the Rooi Els local council, Dr Denis Cowen, said all ratepayers — not only members of the association — had been briefed since 1989 on all the essential elements of the dispute, through detailed circulars, as

Artillery duel of words over test site

AGC 17/11/93

well as report-backs at the ratepayers' association's annual meetings.

Answering Mr Wagner's claim that the council had rejected his 45-signature request for a referendum, Dr Cowen said the issue had been referred to a senior counsel for an opinion.

On receipt, this 10-page opinion had immediately been sent to Professor W Modinger, chairman of the Concerned Ratepayers Group.

"What this opinion said was that Mr Wagner's 'question' was so unintelligible as 'to be not capable of being voted on,'" said Dr Cowen.

"The council also pointed out that official settlement talks at that time were to begin soon

with Somchem itself — not merely with any self-styled spokesman — and that a referendum then was premature."

In response to Mr Wagner's suggestion that the issue had split the small community, Dr Cowen said the tension and anxiety were understandable.

"But, Mr Wagner and his group should ask themselves how much they have contributed to this state of affairs...?"

He called Mr Wagner's group "a vociferous, disaffected minority" whose proposal had been defeated by 32 votes to eight at the annual ratepayers' association meeting in December.

Responding to charges of failing to brief ratepayers about the source of the coun-

cil's funding, Dr Cowen said all ratepayers had been informed in December that individuals in the Greater Hangklip area had — by means of private and voluntary donations — borne virtually all the council's legal costs which were then "already very considerable."

"Not satisfied with that, our opponents have asked for the names of donors to be disclosed, suggesting that we are being funded by some political party or even by anti-South African sources opposed to Armscor's — or Denel's — activities. The council takes serious exception to any such suggestion."

"The reason why names of donors have not been disclosed is because the council respects

the expressed wishes of donors that, were we to do so, they might be victimised, especially in their businesses.

"If, however, they are willing to have their names disclosed, we are perfectly willing to do so," said Dr Cowen.

Replying to allegations of procedural irregularity, Dr Cowen said the council was entrusted with control of its own procedure.

It was also the council's prerogative to invite people to be present when it went into committee to discuss strategy.

"We invite the chairman of the ratepayers' association as a matter of course. We feel he can be trusted not to divulge strategy to the opposition."

For several reasons, the council did not agree with Mr Wagner and Dr King that Administrator-in-executive Mr Kobus Meiring deserved praise for his role in the referendum, said Dr Cowen.

"He's wearing too many hats — we don't like his claiming the right to settle when he's also a co-defendant."

"He also talks about his concern about the 'possibility' of a vast costs order which could deprive ratepayers of their homes, but we have been advised by our own legal counsel and also by an independent senior counsel, who was shown the Administrator's arguments, that there's no such risk."

"And, we have said that this independent opinion may be in-

spected at our attorneys' offices and is available to ratepayers who want to get a copy."

Ratepayers' association chairman Mr Geoff Harris said the local council had been "overwhelmingly mandated" at the past three association annual meetings to fight Somchem's presence "to the bitter end", and he admired the council for its commitment.

Referring to his being invited to council committee meetings, Mr Harris said there was a tradition of co-operation and integrity between the two bodies.

"And, I've actively fostered that because I believe we can do more for the ratepayers by working together than through fighting with each other."

"But, I have disagreed with the local council at times and I've made such disagreement plain — it's a matter of record."

Mr Harris said Mr Wagner had claimed at the December ratepayers' association meeting that he (Mr Wagner) represented Somchem when putting his proposed settlement.

"Why was that offer never confirmed in writing by Somchem?" he asked.

Beware 'killer' make-up!

56
ARC 17/1/93

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

SOUTH Africa has a new list of animal-friendly cosmetics companies — and it's disturbingly short!

"Cruelty-free" buyers who think they are getting legitimate products need to make doubly sure, according to Beauty Without Cruelty, which warns that the new list has shrunk from 64 to just 12 companies — and that the major cosmetics houses make up only a tiny percentage.

In addition, many companies were misrepresenting the facts, according to Ms Beryl Scott, the organisation's managing trustee, who emphasised that the standards for cruelty-free products were set only by Beauty Without Cruelty and not by the manufacturers themselves.

And to counteract false cruelty-free claims, Beauty Without Cruelty was taking legal advice with a view to having the standards entrenched in law.

■ ANIMAL lovers who make up their faces each morning, convinced they're using cruelty-free cosmetics, may be in for a nasty surprise . . .

Discussing the list with Weekend Argus this week, Ms Scott said it was not final: "It hasn't been updated for several years and it took us 18 months to get this list together. We simply had to name a cut-off date, but that doesn't mean that no one else can be added.

"We have several applicant companies in the pipeline, one of which involves a well-known product."

The criteria for inclusion in the Beauty Without Cruelty list included:

■ Ingredients that were by-products of the meat trade were permissible, but those for which the animal was specifically killed, for example in the case of musk or ambergris, were not allowed;

■ No product that was test-

ed, or contained ingredients that were tested, on animals after January 1987 could be included in the list; and

■ Products might not be included if the manufacturer had any subsidiaries that were in any way connected with companies involved in animal testing.

Ms Scott said public demand for cruelty-free products was enormous which resulted in companies, anxious to jump on the bandwagon, employing their own standards to claim they were animal-friendly.

Anyone wanting more information about who was featured on the list, should contact Beauty Without Cruelty ☎ 61 4583 or write to Box 23321, Claremont 7735.

■ In the United Kingdom, which had a list of 120 companies in its cruelty-free A category (which disallowed even by-products of the meat trade), 3.2 million animals were used annually for testing in all areas.

World-wide, between 100 and 150 million animals were used annually.

Cape's 'brown blanket' causes concern

South 1717 - 211719



BROWN BLANKET: Cape Town under a layer of smog

ON WINTER mornings, Cape Town wakes up under a blanket. Not the woollen kind that keeps you warm — the poisonous kind you breathe.

Climb Signal Hill or drive along De Waal Drive and you'll see it: the blanket of smoke and exhaust gases smothering the entire built-up area.

The "brown blanket" is present when a cell of high pressure sits over the city, causing windless weather and trapping smoke and exhaust fumes.

These weather conditions are most common in winter, which explains the many recent newspaper reports about air pollution levels exceeding the recommended guidelines.

What is more, there is no sign that

the problem is anywhere near being alleviated.

Cape Town's air pollution control officer, Mr Derrick Oxley, says the guidelines are based on international standards for air quality.

Oxley said the pollution could reach a crisis situation if levels were greatly in excess of guidelines, and if it happened frequently — over 50 days a year. At present safety guidelines are exceeded about 20 times a year, although this varied.

1991 had been a particularly bad year for air pollution in Cape Town, and 1993 was turning out the same way, Oxley said.

The severe pollution seldom lasted for the whole day, which alleviated the problem to an extent.

However, the fact that air pollution was present and increasing was cause for concern. The increase was due partly to more cars on the road, and partly to the increasing number of squatters forced to burn wood or household rubbish for warmth and cooking.

"Any measures that are introduced to control air pollution can

take up to five years for their effects to be felt," Oxley says.

Electrification of squatter areas would alleviate that part of the problem.

An improved public transport network would also encourage commuters to leave cars at home. Cape Town's bus company, Golden Arrow, wants the introduction of special lanes to enable buses and taxis to travel faster than other rush-hour traffic.

Unleaded fuel, which is less polluting than regular fuel, is due to be introduced in South Africa in 1995, but can only be used in cars fitted with devices known as catalytic converters.

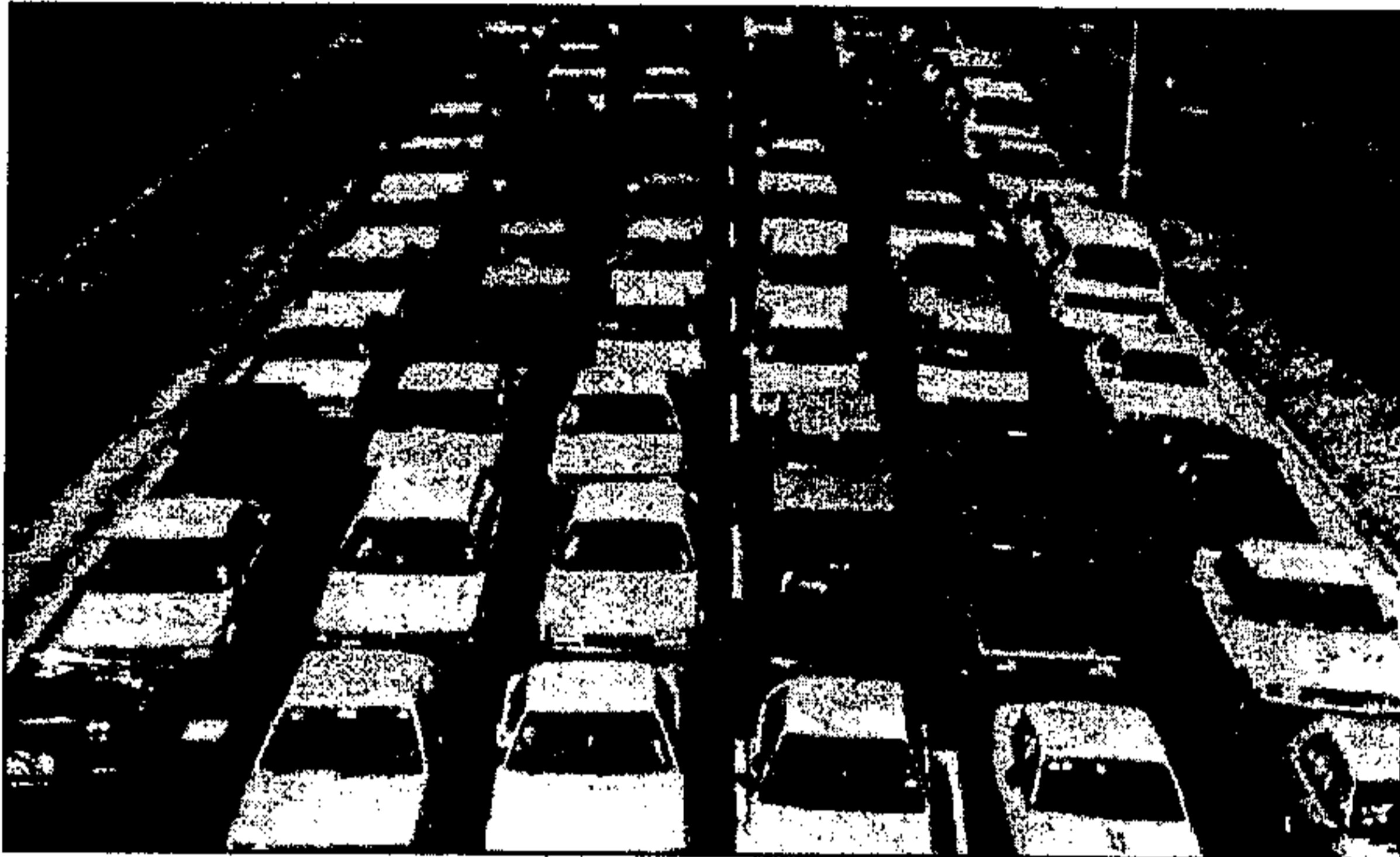
"Unleaded fuel must be made cheaper to encourage people to use it," Oxley said.

"People will question whether the country can afford this, but in fact we can't afford not to do this."

"It's a known fact that it's extremely difficult to change people's habits," he warns.

"Sadly, the situation will get worse before it gets better."

JUSTIN PEARCE



POLLUTION MAKERS: 85 cars with 100 people

Capetonians do it in cars

South 1717 - 211719

CAPETONIANS are aware of air pollution, but continue to drive cars if they have them. This was what SOUTH reporters found when they did a snap survey of car-driving commuters on Thursday July 1 — the day air pollution levels reached a two-year high.

Most people we spoke to said they used their cars "for convenience", and would use public transport if the system was safer, more comprehensive and more reliable.

Only a few people argued for more cars on the roads and fewer buses, as a bus produces more fumes than a car. These people were forgetting that the passengers of a single bus would need about 80 cars if each was driving alone — and 80 cars cause far more pollution than a bus.

The majority of people spoken to realised the environmental hazards of car transport, but felt they had no choice but to drive into town every day.

"I'm aware of pollution, but there's not much you can do," said one commuter, who did not give his name.

Mr Martin Wyngaard, who drives to town every day, said: "If cars were 100 percent roadworthy there would be no excessive fumes, which could help lower pollution."

Mr Majid Cader suggested it should become compulsory for

cars to be fitted with devices that cut down the emission of poisonous fumes.

He was forced to drive because he lived far from a railway station and bus routes, but said he would use public transport if there was a better and safer service.

His comment was typical of people living on the Cape Flats, who feared crime on the trains or while walking from home to the station.

People from all over the city complained about the traffic, but felt this was compensated for by the convenience of being able to go straight from home to work without waiting for a bus, taxi or train.

Although some believed they saved money travelling by car, most people acknowledged that public transport was cheaper than driving — particularly given the cost of parking in the city centre.

Most car-drivers have to park on the Foreshore, which means a long walk to where most of the offices are.

But some disagreed. "I have no problem finding parking, and it's more convenient to use your car — public transport is never punctual," said one commuter who asked not to be named.

Several people suggested that it was a good idea for commuters to form lift-clubs, with three or more people travelling in one car. But most continue to travel alone in a vehicle designed for four.



READY TO GROW: Pupils from St Louis school in Langa take charge of trees donated by Stodels nursery to encourage the greening of the township. The pupils are among 240 children who attended a mini Earth Summit at the Waterfront to mark World Environment Day. All the pupils attending the event were given five trees to plant where they felt they were most needed

DELEGATES from all over Africa and the world will converge on Harare at the end of the month to discuss the environmental future of the continent.

The Africa Environment Expo and Conference has been convened as a follow-up to last year's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The Rio Summit set the agenda for international co-operation in con-

Green expo in Harare

South 1717 - 211719

serving the planet's resources.

While governments and non-governmental organisations in Africa have begun putting the Rio proposals into action, the conference has been organised on the understanding that there is a lot more that

could be done.

"Everything we do — social, economic, political and cultural — impacts on the environment and all these components must be brought together if we are to succeed in promoting action and sustainable devel-

opment," the conference organisers said in a statement.

"The environmental issue cannot and must not be isolated as a topic on its own".

Accordingly, the conference will look at community development as

being integral to the preservation the environment.

The three-day conference will be accompanied by an exposition where groups from all over the continent will display the work they are doing.

SOUTH's environment reporter will be in Harare for the conference. Watch the paper at the beginning of August for in-depth coverage.

JUSTIN PEARCE

Forget that cableway idea, he says — and make tracks!

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

FORGET about a cableway on Signal Hill — upgrade the existing tracks instead!

That's a proposal Sea Point-based designer Mr Marc Turok is taking to the Cape Town City Council.

"The cableway was an exciting idea but it bothered me — I just couldn't imagine that the people of Cape Town would allow this," Mr Turok said.

After walking the slopes of Signal Hill, he found at least six existing tracks which were dead-ends.

Upgrading these tracks and making short connections would create routes for tourists to visit Signal Hill from starting points in the city bowl area, he suggested.

Possible routes would include the former Military Road from The Magazine, Wale Street leading into Yusuf Road and the continuation of Longmarket Street.

All would lead to a central focal point at Lion Battery before continuing to the Lookout or other points on Signal Hill and the Kloofnek intersection.

"My concept is to try to interfere as little as possible, to keep Signal Hill as free of development as possible and to concentrate any development in the Lion Battery and Schoone Kloof areas," he explained.

Slopes on the existing tracks ranged from 10 to 17 degrees, which most modern vehicles could handle, Mr Turok said.

He also envisaged a road shuttle service — such as a small bus or a specialised electric-powered, non-polluting vehicle — for visitors not using their own cars.

The tracks, which could also be used for walking and cycling, could be connected with new trails offering circular walks.

"This would also distribute people over a broader area, so you won't load thousands of people into one spot," he said.

Boost for anti-mining lobby

(56) (58) ARG 20/7/93
The Argus Correspondent

lieved some members re-
cused themselves.

JOHANNESBURG. — The Council for the Environment, by a narrow majority of 8 to 7, has resolved to advise the Minister of Environment Affairs not to allow mining in the St Lucia region. It is be-

The Insitute of Town and Regional Planners has pledged support for the anti-mining lobby, bringing to 120 the number of South Africa institutions that are against dune-mining at St Lucia.

Environment plan sought

Staff Reporter

ABSA banking group is committed to developing 25 hectares of the 270 hectares of land it owns at Hout Bay and Sandy Bay but is consulting interested parties about an environment management plan for the rest of the area.

This was said last night by Absa deputy chairman Mr Mike de Blanche after a meeting between Absa representatives, interested parties and the Hout Bay Coalition on the future of the environmentally sensitive land.

Mr De Blanche said Absa need not necessarily retain ownership of the undeveloped land but would rather not abdicate responsibility.

Compromise ends Sandy Bay dispute

ARC 20/7/93 (5)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE battle for Sandy Bay is over.

After bitter controversy lasting more than 20 years, a compromise on the future of Absa Bank's prime 270 ha property comprising most of Sandy Bay, the Hout Bay sand dunes and the Karbonkelberg has been agreed in principle.

This follows a meeting last night between senior executives of the banking group and "interested and affected parties", including environmentalists and ratepayers.

In terms of their agreement, Absa will apply to build between 120 and 140 houses on 25 ha below the 95m contour line, with a 20m buffer between them and the dunes.

Earlier it proposed building more than 300 houses on about 31 ha — including much of the dunes.

Also, the rest of the property will be managed as a nature reserve in perpetuity, with Absa agreeing to take responsibility for developing and financing a comprehensive management plan which will

include removing all alien vegetation.

A road to the Karbonkelberg-Klein Leukoppie neck providing access to Sandy bay will be considered in conjunction with the community.

Announcing details today, Absa deputy chief executive Mr Mike de Blanche said he believed they had achieved a "win-win proposal".

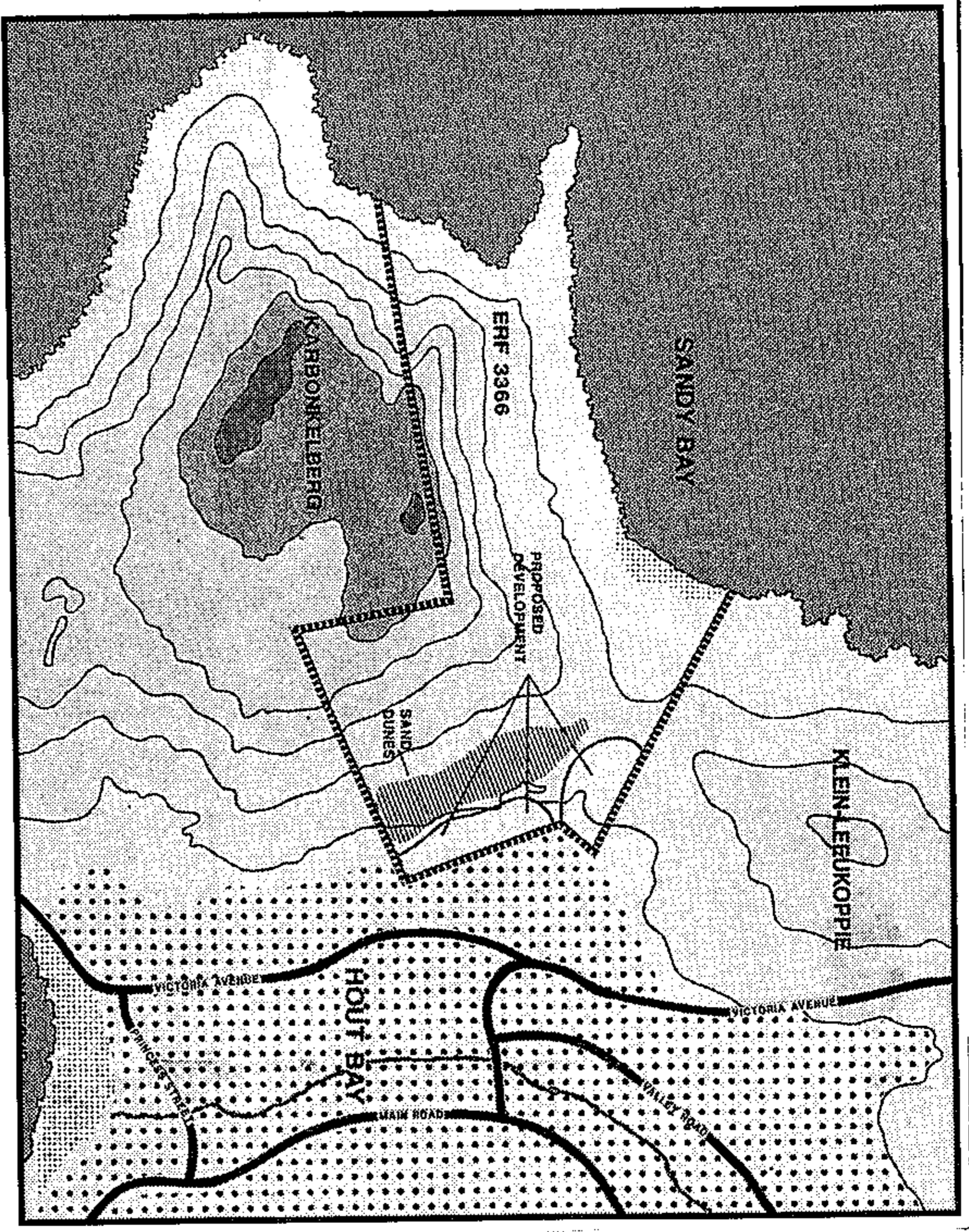
"The sand dunes will not be affected in any way," he said. Absa would take the lead in developing a management plan for the whole area and other landowners would be encouraged to join in.

"This must be a properly coordinated effort and Absa will accept responsibility for ensuring the process will run its full course," he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that at long last the problem of Sandy bay will come to rest and all parties will be happy."

Absa's proposal has been welcomed by the Wildlife Society, a key member of the coalition formed to oppose the original plan.

"I think we've done well and



the society is very happy with the situation," said conservation ecologist Mr Andy Gubb.

He stressed that integrated environmental management procedures still had to be followed for the proposal and that the public should have a say in the design.

Mr Ziggy Roux of the Karbonkelberg Trust said Absa deserved praise for following a public participation process and for guaranteeing finance to manage the area.

"This procedure is an important precedent and Absa should be commended for that," he said.

NEW PROPOSAL: Absa bank's new development plans for its Sandy Bay property which have been approved in principle by conservationists and ratepayers' representatives.

Fairest Cape 'higher profile'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

5 APR 21/193

THE Fairest Cape Association is to adopt a higher public profile and will issue position papers and comment on environmental issues, executive-director Mr Roger Hulley has disclosed.

The organisation's new strategy coincides with the appointment of highly qualified environmentalist Dr Greg Knill to broaden its activities.

"We wanted to strengthen our professional academic environmental skills," said Mr Hulley.

"We've had very good skills in terms of community work — for example there are now scores of small citizen groups who get together, identify problems in their areas and then organise clean-ups — and we've co-ordinated thousands of children's projects over the years.

"Now we've decided we want to get more plugged into environmentalism in the broader sense."

Mr Hulley said Dr Knill would be involved in four areas:

- Developing the organisation's resource centre and information base in the field of waste management.

- Offering a professional environmental review service to the association's corporate members.

- Developing position papers on environmental issues.

- Taking the association into the Western Cape's environmental network.

Environmental groups were starting to work together to achieve common ends, Mr Hulley said.

"In terms of our mission statement we want to be in support of environmental initiatives in general."

St Lucia plan 'voodoo economics'

DURBAN. — Six leading "interested and affected parties" have rejected the environmental impact report (EIR) on mining at St Lucia, saying it is biased and short-sighted.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said the EIR had used an approach that created hundreds of "lifetime" jobs from mining.

"This is voodoo economics at

its best. A 17-year mining operation does not create lifetime jobs."

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), which commissioned the report, has applied to mine the eastern shores of northern Natal's St Lucia estuary, the largest in Africa.

The society said no attempt had been made in the report to evaluate mining other areas of

state land.

The Natal Parks Board said additional research was essential to rectify critical shortcomings in the report.

The KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources said the EIR was misleading and biased.

Campaign for St Lucia patron Dr A Heydorn noted it was the already heavily-stressed Umfo-

lozi River system which would supply fresh water for mining, and this had serious implications.

The international wetlands conservation body, the Ramsar Convention Bureau, said the ecological integrity of the area would be permanently compromised.

A response to objections is due in August. — Sapa

Six parties reject mining in St Lucia

Star 23/7/93

56

DURBAN — Six leading "interested and affected parties" have rejected the environmental impact report (EIR) on mining St Lucia, saying it is biased and short-sighted.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said the EIR had used an approach that created hundreds of "lifetime" jobs from mining.

"This is voodoo economics at its best. A 17-year mining operation does not create lifetime jobs."

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), which commissioned the report, has applied to mine the eastern shores of northern Natal's St Lucia estuary, the largest in Africa.

The society said no attempt had been made in the report to evaluate mining other areas of State land, such as 5 000 ha of mineralised sands at Port Durnford.

"Contrary to the findings of the EIR, there is evidence to show the total benefits of the non-mining alternative outweigh the total costs (the efficiency test of the integrated

environmental management procedure); that the benefits appear to be fairly distributed (the equity test); and that the options for future generations are not foreclosed but are widened (the sustainability test)," said the society.

The Natal Parks Board said it was concerned that should permission to mine be granted, a precedent would be set "to support the submission of applications to mine in other protected natural areas which warrant the highest status of national and international significance".

The KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources said the EIR was misleading and biased.

Campaign for St Lucia patron Dr A Heydorn noted it was the already heavily-stressed Umfolozi River system which would supply fresh water for mining, and this had serious implications.

The international wetlands conservation body, the Ramsar Convention Bureau, said its main conclusion was that the ecological integrity of the area would be compromised.

Free range lions FM 23/7/93

After much soul-searching and consultation with local tribal leaders, the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board has decided to introduce lions to the Pilanesberg National Park, next to the Sun City complex.

But the decision is a controversial one. Only four months ago, a tourist was savaged to death by a lion newly introduced to the Phinda Game Reserve in northern Zululand. It's not only visitors who are at risk; because the area surrounding the Pilanesberg National Park is heavily populated, the introduction of lions to the reserve poses a hazard to the people living close to it.

The parks board's initiative is being supported by Sol Kerzner's Sun International group.

The advantages for the group are obvious. The introduction of lions will make Pilanesberg the first Bop park boasting the "big five" — lion, elephant, rhino (both species), buffalo and leopard — offering a significant drawcard for local and international tourists. The reserve is only a few minutes from Sun City and two hours' drive from the PWV.

Bophuthatswana Parks Board internal communications personal assistant Phil Johnson says the board has decided to introduce 20 Namibian lions from the Etosha Game Reserve. He claims the lions have no experience of associating humans with food and says: "Apart from being free of cat Aids, they have never hunted buffalo — which means our valuable herd of about 150 foot-and-mouth-free buffalo will also not be an immediate target."

As a further precaution, Johnson says Pilanesberg's perimeter fence is being raised to protect cattle and other livestock on neighbouring tribal land and all camps are being protected with improved electrified fencing. "We are taking every possible measure to ensure the safety of our visitors and neighbours," he asserts.

Sun International's recent R1m donation to the board was used in part to fund the introduction of an additional 23 elephants and hippos to the reserve, so the Bophutha-

FM 23/7/93

(56) (109)

tswana government is picking up most of the tab for the introduction of the lions, which is scheduled to take place on September 8. The big cats will share the reserve with three cheetahs and about 85 leopards. ■

Six affected parties slate St Lucia mining report

(56)

DURBAN — Six leading "interested and affected parties" have rejected the environmental impact report on mining St Lucia, saying it is biased and short-sighted.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said the report had used an approach that created hundreds of "lifetime" jobs from mining. "This is voodoo economics at its best. A 17-year mining operation does not create lifetime jobs."

Richards Bay Minerals, which commissioned the report, applied to mine the estuary's eastern shores.

The society said no attempt had been made in the report to evaluate mining other areas of state land, such as 5 000ha of mineralised sands at Port Durnford.

The Natal Parks Board said it feared that if permission to mine was granted, a precedent would be set "to support applications to mine in other protected natural areas".

Other bodies critical of the report include the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources, the Campaign for St Lucia, the Zululand Environmental Alliance and the wetlands conservation body Ramsar Convention Bureau.

Objections to the report are being analysed and a response report is due in August. Panel hearings on the response will begin on October 19. — Sapa

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(57)

Govt mum
Star 24/11/93
on St Lucia
mining plea

OWN
CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — The Government remained tight-lipped yesterday about a report from environmental advisers recommending that mining not be allowed at Lake St Lucia.

The report was prepared by the Council for the Environment and presented this week to Environment Minister Japie van Wyk. (Sb) (Sb)

Sources said council members came out strongly against Richards Bay Minerals' plans to mine St Lucia's dunes.

A spokesman for Van Wyk's office said it would be premature to publish the report.

St Lucia mine impact report under fire from the 'Big Three'

Sb
SP

APR 26 17 93

DURBAN. — Three leading "interested and affected parties" are among six that have rejected the environmental impact report (EIR) on mining St Lucia, saying it is biased and short-sighted.

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), which commissioned the report, has applied to mine the eastern shores of northern Natal's St Lucia estuary, the largest in Africa.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said the EIR had used an approach that created hundreds of "lifetime" jobs from mining.

"This is voodoo economics at its best. A 17-year mining operation does not create lifetime jobs."

"Contrary to the findings of

the EIR, there is evidence to show the total benefits of the non-mining alternative outweigh the total costs (the efficiency test of the integrated environmental management procedure); that the benefits appear to be fairly distributed (the equity test); and that the options for future generations are not foreclosed but are widened (the sustainability test)," said the society.

The Natal Parks Board said it was concerned that if permission to mine was granted, a precedent would be set "to support the submission of applications to mine in other protected natural areas which warrant the highest status of national and international significance".

Additional investigations and

research were essential to rectify critical shortcomings in the report and these findings "must be submitted in a revised EIR, not a response report, to the EIR review panel as part of the decision-making process".

The KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources said the EIR was misleading and biased and that, because of the risks involved in the mining option, nature conservation and tourism were more compatible with the sensitive estuarine environment and were jointly the most suitable land-use option for St Lucia.

Objections to the report are being analysed and a response report is due in August. Panel hearings will begin on October 19. — Sapa.

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Star 27/7/93

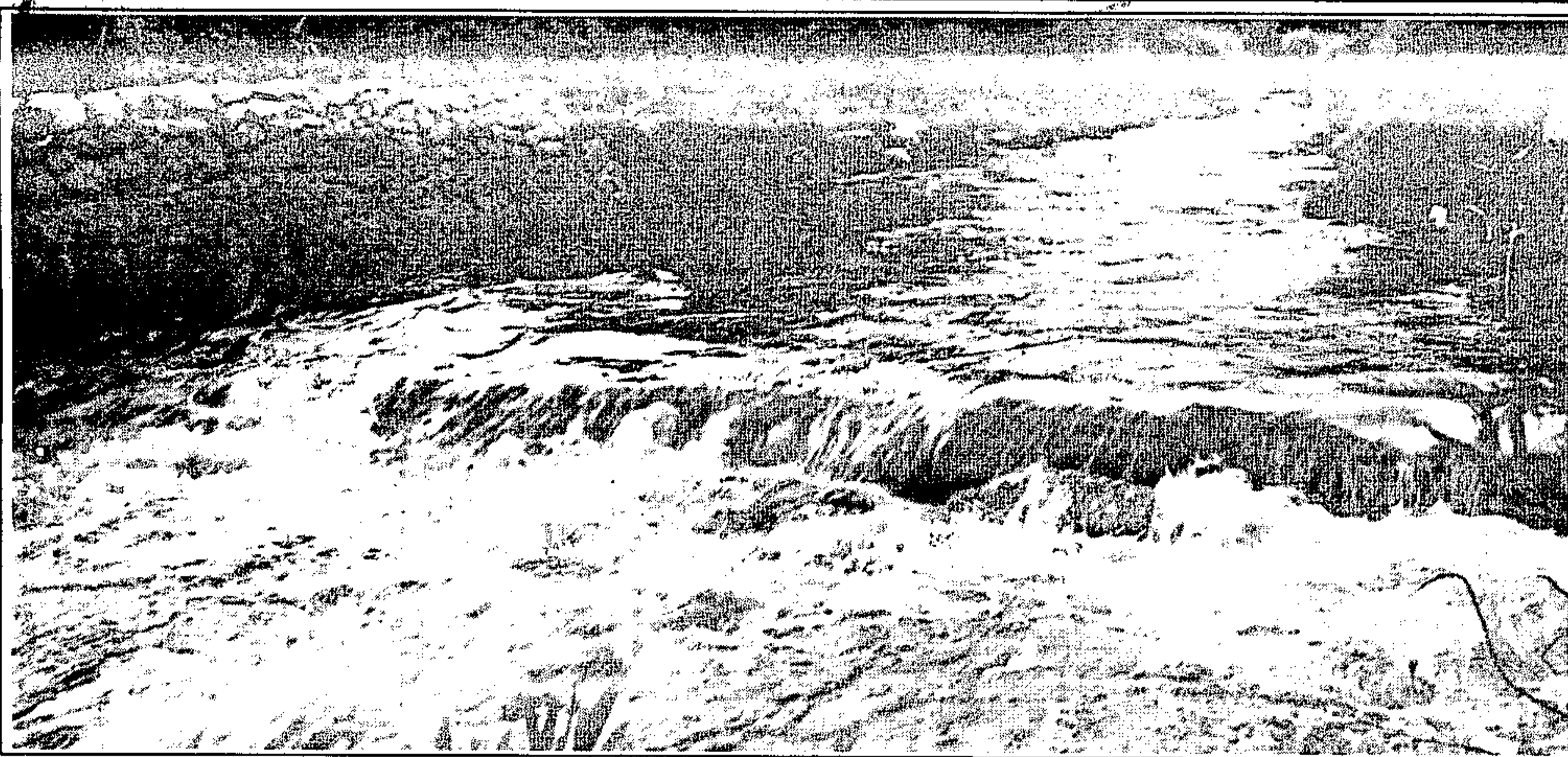
Sisulu: ANC briefs EC team

ANC representatives appointed to the investigation into the fatal July 18 shootout between police and bodyguards of ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu, yesterday briefed members of the European Community observer team. One bodyguard was killed and two were injured when their car rolled after the shootout on the Soweto highway. — Staff Reporter. (19)

Star 27/7/93

Dams lower than last year

Major storage dams are on average 10 percent lower than a year ago. Worst affected are dams in the northern Transvaal, north-eastern Cape and Namaqualand. The Cape is the only area with an overall increase over last year. — Sapa. (20)



South Africa needs qualified water engineers to harness the life-giving qualities of rivers such as the one above to as many users as possible

Moving water across country

Sowetan 28/7/93

By Bongani Mavuso

■ SEMI-ARID South Africa is not
blessed with water like other countries:

WATER MAY fall freely from the heavens but without the intervention of the civil engineer, who harnesses it and makes it available, most of it will flow unused to the sea.

So says Mrs C Barnard of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Barnard says where there is water, health, growth and development are possible.

"The key to a country's well-being is therefore a sound water engineering infrastructure."

Qualified water engineers are needed to bring this life-giving resource to as many users as possible at a cost that the country can afford.

In South Africa, Barnard says, many practical problems hamper the water engineer in his/her task. She says compared with many other countries, South Africa is not "blessed" with much water.

"Great tracts of land are semi-arid. Very little water occurs there naturally and rivers flow only sporadically."

She says severe droughts that occur regularly affect the flow of South Africa's largest rivers. In addition, many of the country's cities have developed far away from ample water sources.

Dams are built to store excess water

that falls during wet spells for use during dry periods.

That water then has to be transported to where it is needed which can sometimes be hundreds of kilometres away.

"Our country is therefore characterised by many large interbasin water transfer schemes that transport large volumes of water from rivers that have water to spare, but few users, to places with little water but great concentrations of people and industries," Barnard adds.

Referring to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, she says such projects will provide much-needed additional water to the PWV region in exchange for royalties that have to be paid to Lesotho.

Barnard notes that large water projects are extremely expensive and can only be embarked upon if they can be economically justified as being in the national interest.

Intensive and detailed engineering studies precede the construction of a dam or large water scheme.

Only if it is found to be a viable option, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry will proceed with the project.

These studies, she continues, are done within the context of river basins

and in consultation with all interested parties.

The volume of water that is available to the catchment, the users in the catchment, their water quantity and quality requirements, future water requirements and cost are all carefully assessed.

Water users include homes, agriculture, industry and the natural environment.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is responsible for bulk water supply.

This means that it has to ensure that a dependable water supply is available to all users.

Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the second tier of water supply, water boards or regional authorities to purify and supply the water to the third tier, namely local authorities who distribute it within their areas of responsibility, Barnard explains.

"Small, local and rural water schemes fall within the ambit of the last category and therefore ultimately slot in under the provincial authorities," she says.

Barnard says as the population growth rockets with its accompanying demands for more food, jobs and improved lifestyles, the pressure on South Africa's water resources will increase.

(56)

**Polluted river:
Action pending**

CT 28/1/93
JOHANNESBURG.

The Department of Water Affairs is to take legal action against the Witbank town council because of the pollution of the Olifants River.

A department spokesman said half-purified sewage was flowing from the Riverview Sewage Farm into the river.

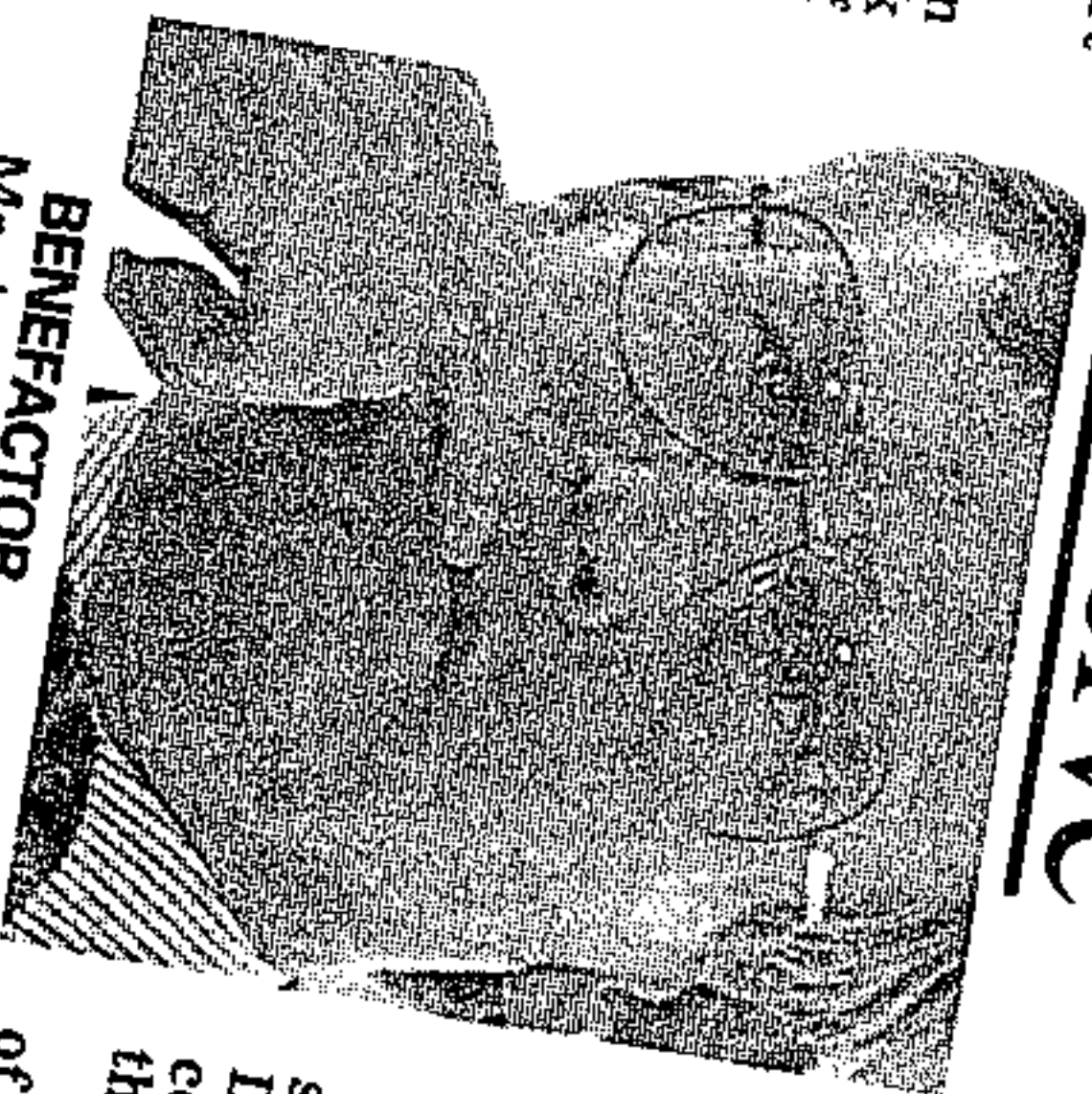
It was reported the water was declared unfit for human or animal consumption. — Sapa

Ecology boost for Rietvlei

Staff Reporter

THE environmental conservation of the Rietvlei wetlands in Milnerton yesterday received a major boost following an announcement that a major oil company has provided R723 000 for the purchase of the greater part of the area.

Caltex pays for nature reserve



BENEFACTOR ...
Mr Jock McKenzie

tion and attention would be paid to use Rietvlei as a recreational resource, considering the possible implications this would have on the ecology of the reserve. "It is clear that further development in this area will pose a

major threat to the ecological balance of this fragile wetland," he said.

Discussing the controversial Caltex refinery in the area, which has incensed residents because of smoke emissions, Mr McKenzie said a R130 million isomerisation plant was planned to remove lead from petrol to help combat air pollution. To ensure the refinery did not constitute a hazard to its neighbours, the company had invested R24m would be spent over the next five years, particularly on stack emissions.

Commenting on the ship, Milnerton town engineer Dave Brook said the council welcomed Caltex's involvement in the preservation of Rietvlei. "Rietvlei is situated at the end of a rural catchment area comprising 1 360 square kilometres with a river length of about 86km. The area attracts a large variety of birds and other wildlife." Mr Brook said it was this type of joint venture between the council and the private sector that would ensure the preservation of the area for all communities in the Western Cape.

CT28/7/93

58



PRESERVING RIETVLEI ... An aerial view of the Rietvlei wetlands in Milnerton. Yesterday Caltex SA announced that it had provided money for a nature reserve in the area. Picture: HAROLD KING

At a press conference in Milnerton yesterday, Mr Jock McKenzie, managing director of Caltex Oil SA, said the ownership of the land had been transferred to the Milnerton municipality, which, with the SA Nature Foundation, would be responsible for the management and control of the area once it had been proclaimed a nature reserve. The area ranges from the mouth of Diep River in Milnerton to the Blaauwberg Road bridge. Mr McKenzie said Rietvlei was currently the subject of an intensive management plan in instances which would provide guidance on the future use of the area after consultation with all interested parties.

The company envisaged it be used for environmental education.

news

in brief

Sowetan 29/7/93

Advice on use

of water

(5b)

USE water sparingly. That's the message from Minister of the Environment and Water Affairs Mr Japie van Wyk.

If South Africans do not take heed of this warning, "shortages may be common in future and the potential for conflict between various consumer groups is not

consumers

more

Cableway report slated

Staff Reporter

A CITY Council-commissioned consultant's report on the development of Lion's Head and Signal Hill came under sharp criticism from environmentalists and Sea Point residents Tuesday night when they slated it as "slanted".

Residents attending a meeting at which the development report was introduced said although a lot of work had gone into the report, it was biased and all plans by the Table Mountain Cableway Company should be "stopped dead" until a "fully re-

presentative government was in place next year" ^{56 308} CT 29/7/93

About 90 of the group of about 100 residents and environmentalists present indicated that they were "dead against" the development of a cableway.

An environmentalist and SA Mountain Club member strongly disagreed with the city council that a cableway was necessary to protect and restore Signal Hill. All that was needed was R1 million a year, which could have been donated to the area by the cableway company.

A bad winter for pollution

THIS could be one of the worst winters for pollution yet, city air pollution control officer Mr Derrick Oxley said yesterday, when air pollution levels exceeded the guidelines for the 19th time this season. (56)

Mr Oxley said it was "surprising" that the levels were already as bad as 1991. (31/1/93)

Nitrogen oxides (exhaust fumes) were "moderately high" yesterday but nitrogen dioxide levels were marginally below the guidelines.

ST LUCIA FACES SALTY DILEMMA

By RYAN CRESSWELL

THE drought in Natal has left conservationists at St Lucia Lake in an ecological dilemma. *SITimes*

The Natal Parks Board has kept St Lucia's mouth closed since a 150m thick sandbar began forming across it last December in the hope that fresh water would eventually pour down the dry riverbeds and breach it naturally. 11/8/93

But now NPB experts say lack of rain and evaporation are causing salinity levels in the lake — already higher than the sea — to rise steadily. If good rains do not come by spring they will probably dredge open the mouth at a cost of R100 000 to freshen the southern part of the water system.

It would, however, be a "catch-22" decision because

the water level of the lake is now lower than the sea and tons of saltwater would pour in, pushing a high concentration of salt into the northern section of the system. (56)

Mr Ian Porter, NPB head of the area, said a dredger was keeping the channel near the mouth open in case the sandbar needed to be breached at some stage.

Estuary ecologist Ricky Taylor said experts were operating on a "knife edge".

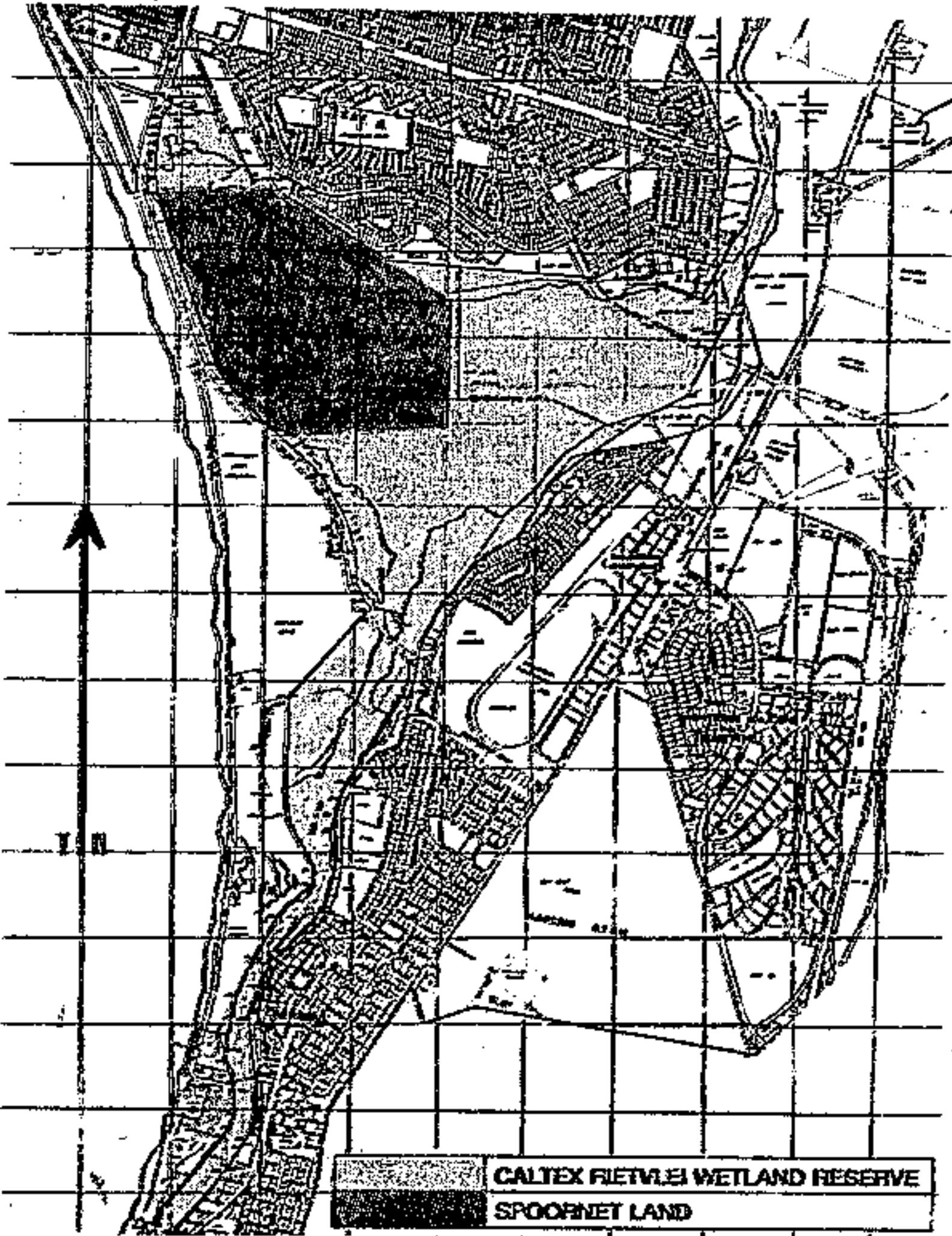
Freshwater fish like barbel had already died or moved to a small area of fresh water and seawater fish, shrimps, prawns and crabs had not been able to move into the sea to breed.

On the other hand, birds seem to be thriving in the unusual conditions and have had a great breeding season.

Move to seize land for Rietvlei

S I Times (C Mebo)
11/8/93

By EVE VOSLOO



DISPUTED AREA ... The dark-blue part of the map shows the area owned by Transnet

MILNERTON Municipality this week provisionally expropriated a piece of land which it wants to include in the environmentally important Rietvlei wetlands nature area after extensive negotiations to buy it from Transnet broke down.

Earlier this week plans to declare the wetlands a fully-fledged nature reserve received a major boost when oil giant Caltex donated a huge part of Rietvlei, for which it had paid R723 000, to Milnerton Municipality.

The wetlands are to be jointly administered by the municipality and the SA Nature Foundation.

Completely separate negotiations to buy the Transnet property — which is surrounded by the Caltex reserve — have been going on for three years.

The property (marked in dark blue on the map at left) mostly comprises two deep-water areas and is currently most actively used for recreation.

Environmentalists consider its inclusion essential as it will consolidate the reserve into a continuous whole and provide space for a small museum and an educational centre.

Transnet has dredged earth from the bottom of the property to fill parts of the container harbour in Cape Town's docks and has it on its books at a valuation of R32 million — which

includes the costs of dredging. Milnerton Municipality, believing this to be excessive, has offered R600 000 for it.

Transnet has turned this down and has appointed Cape Town property company, Equikor, to investigate the development potential — which has so far already cost Equikor about R80 000 for an environmental impact study with UCT's ecology department, said Dr Flip Coetzee of Propnet, a division of Transnet.

He said on Friday: "I am in charge of Transnet's under-utilised assets, which it is my job to try to turn around. Any money that can be made from these assets goes back to the government and consequently to the man in the street.

"Because I am not familiar with the market in Cape Town, I appointed Equikor to investigate the development potential of the property on our behalf. I can't just write R32 million off our books."

He said Transnet still used the area as "a borrow pit for reclamation material".

"We are not insensitive to conservation but at the end of the day we are a business," he said.

Milnerton's acting town clerk, Mr Pieter Groenewald, said the property was badly needed for the reserve.

"It's north-east side is below the 50-year high-water mark anyway and we believe it is unsuitable for development."

Mr Groenewald said the provisional expropriation order had been served on Friday but the municipality had so far had no response from Transnet.

At the press conference at which Caltex announced its donation, MD Mr Jock McKenzie said: "Further development in this area will pose a major threat to the ecological balance of this fragile wetland."

At the same press conference coastal ecologist and SANF special consultant Dr Allan Heydorn described Rietvlei as "a magnificent wetland which is still highly functional and of great ecological importance" as it was a green lung in a municipal area and was a refuge and feeding ground for birds.

A comprehensive management plan for the area is being drawn up by the CSIR and is due for completion within the next few months.



WETLAND RESERVE ... Rietvlei with Table Mountain in the background. INSET: A reed cormorant — one of the birds for which the vlei is a haven and breeding ground
Picture: JIM HOLT

News in Brief

Delay on St Lucia

56 210
CT 3 | 8 | 93

DURBAN. — The decision on the St Lucia dune-mining proposals has been delayed again as the CSIR's final report on the matter will be published only in mid-September and review panel hearings, scheduled for this month, have been postponed to November.

Mountain priorities to be ⁽⁵⁶⁾ protected

ARC 3/8/80

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE boundaries of the existing Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment — effectively the Peninsula mountain chain — may need to be changed to emphasise the continuity between mountain and sea.

Also, the Peninsula's natural areas could be zoned for different uses.

These were two of the points suggested by University of Cape Town professor Richard Fuggle, co-leader of their project team developing a management policy for the protected area.

At a media briefing last week, Professor Fuggle said the team had developed a draft vision to guide the project.

This emphasised the need to protect the mountain chain so that all people, now and in the future, could enjoy the mountain and its benefits.

To achieve this, there would have to be changes to existing legal, administrative and financial structures.

Professor Fuggle said: "So far, there seems to be considerable backing for a single, committed, accountable controlling body with executive powers, full-time staff and public representation."

He emphasised that, for the vision to be met, certain parts of the Peninsula would need to be strictly protected, while in other areas recreational and tourism facilities would need to be expanded.

"One way of doing this could be through zoning natural areas for different uses," he suggested.

A public meeting to discuss the UCT study is being held today at 5.30pm in Lecture Theatre 2C in the Leslie Social Sciences Building at UCT.

Intensive planning for use of 300 vital hectares

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

INTENSIVE planning is under way to ensure that more than 300 hectares in the Culemborg-Black River area — mainly the property of the former South African Transport Services — is used effectively in future.

The land, used mainly for railway services and as goods yards and industrial premises, is under-used and largely inaccessible to the public.

A joint Culemborg-Black River planning project has been established by Transnet, the SA Rail Commuter Corporation and the Cape Town City Council to re-evaluate its use.

A spokesman for the organisations described the area as "a well-located and large piece of land".

"This area is particularly strategic because of its size and location and presents a variety of opportunities for Cape

Town," he said. (56) **ARLT 3/8/93**
"Through careful planning, the area could achieve not only enhanced commuter and goods transportation services, but also help to meet the needs of the broader community.

"The re-evaluation of its usage will allow it to become an accessible and integrated part of Cape Town, and it could also provide a dynamic range of opportunities — including industrial, commercial, residential,

recreational, educational and conservation activities."

Planning is to follow a "package of plans" approach, whereby a series of progressively more detailed plans are prepared.

Work has already started on the two broadest categories — contextual and development frameworks — and these will be followed by precinct plans, site development plans and building development plans.

Act labelled 'cynical provocation and aggression'

ANC slates police in Holomisa guard row

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE African National Congress has accused the police of "cynical provocation and aggression" after Transkei leader Bantu Holomisa's bodyguards were taken to the Guguletu police station to be disarmed.

But police spokesman John Sterrenberg said: "It would appear there were certain irregularities about their having weapons in the country."

General Holomisa, in Cape Town as a guest of the Communist Party, leaves for Transkei today.

ANC spokesman Vincent Diba said General Holomisa's nine-strong private guard, members of the Transkei Defence Force, stopped for petrol at a Guguletu garage about midday yesterday and were approached by police.

They identified themselves

and the police told them they could go, Mr Diba said.

"But then their vehicles were forced off the road by the police, who insisted they accompany them to the police station.

"When General Holomisa received word of the police intention to disarm his guards he threatened to retaliate by disarming all South African soldiers and bodyguards in Transkei.

"This seemed to jolt the police," Mr Diba said.

An angry crowd formed outside the police station and senior Transkei consular officials and Leonard Knipe, head of the serious crimes investigation unit, hurried to the scene.

The issue was also referred to the South African Ambassador to the Transkei, who told the police of an agreement between the South African and Transkei defence forces permitting free travel through each other's territories, Mr

Diba said. (56) **ARLT 3/8/93**

"Eventually agreement was reached that the soldiers be issued with temporary permits for their guns. These permits were signed by Colonel Knipe," said Mr Diba.

"The ANC is outraged at this totally unbecoming show of force by the police. If President De Klerk goes to the Transkei with armed bodyguards no one is asked for permits.

But Captain Sterrenberg said police had had a report about "heavily armed men" in Guguletu.

After initially ignoring a police request to pull over, the cars carrying the guards stopped and police found weapons.

"After identifying themselves as members of the Transkei Defence Force they refused police access to the cars, and Colonel Knipe was summoned," he said.



HOME NO MORE: Mr Adam section of his Gympie S

Soekor retrenches more than 100 in Cape

Business Staff

MORE than 100 Soekor employees in the Cape have been retrenched as part of the restructuring of the oil exploration company.

Soekor public relations offi-

cer Francois Liebritz confirmed today that between 100 and 120 people had been retrenched.

He would not comment further but it is understood that the retrenchments — effective

yesterday — involve all levels of employees from management down. (56) **ARLT 3/8/93**

Sources in the company said further retrenchments would endanger the company's future.

UK ratifies Maastricht

LONDON. — Britain ratified the Maastricht Treaty on closer European union yesterday within hours of a private legal challenge being withdrawn, the Foreign Office announced.

The British ambassador to Italy, Sir Patrick Fairweather, deposited Britain's instrument of ratification at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Foreign Office statement said.

Ratification takes place in the Italian capital because that is where the Treaty of Rome, setting up the European Community, was signed in 1957.

Britain was the last country to ratify the treaty, which provides for close cooperation on foreign policy and defence matters among members of the 12-nation EC. The treaty also envisages a single currency by 1999, but that now seems unlikely.

The ratification process was bogged down in parliament for months, involving more than 200 hours of debate in the House of Commons and splitting the governing Conservative Party.

Prime Minister Mr John Major finally pushed a ratification bill through the House of Commons on July 23 by threatening to call a general election unless anti-treaty rebels supported him.

The last obstacle to ratification vanished yesterday when a former editor of The Times, Lord Rees-Mogg, decided not to pursue a legal challenge in the Appeal Court. — Sapa-A

(56) CT 3/8/93

Parks Board withdraws magazine

THE National Parks Board has stopped distribution of the June issue of its mouthpiece *Custos*, which contained a policy statement on the future of national parks in a new political dispensation.

The board said in a statement yesterday that the current "sensitive political situation" in South Africa was the main reason for the decision to stop distribution. **Sb CT4/8/93**

The board's chief executive, Dr Robbie Robinson, said in an interview from Pretoria yesterday that a committee had been appointed to look into the position of the board in a future political dispensation. The committee had not yet finalised that policy.

"There is nothing sinister about it at all. The board's committee is looking at a series of scenarios involving the posi-

tion of the board in terms of a new political dispensation, which they still want to debate at a meeting in September," Dr Robinson said.

He said he could not give details, but that the committee was looking particularly at the future of the board in terms of international criteria for managing national parks systems. These criteria emphasised the role of communities surround-

ing national parks.

Professor Fritz Eloff, chairman of the board, said the policy statement in *Custos*, compiled by staff of the board, had pre-empted the committee's findings.

"Some of what was written may or may not be part of the board's future policy. Because of that, it was decided that it would be better not to distribute it," Prof Eloff said.

Progress in mountain study

Staff Reporter

SEVERAL scenarios for the future uses of the Peninsula mountain chain should be available for public scrutiny by November, a public meeting by UCT's study team on the mountain chain heard last night.

Dr John Raimondo, director of UCT's environmental evaluation

unit, which heads the study team, said last night that mapping and zoning of the mountain for various uses — including reserved areas and high and low impact activity areas, as well as where urban development pressures might occur — was under way.

He said final policy options

⑤ CT4/8/93
would be presented for comment before policy guideline recommendations were made, and the project deadline was set for April 1993.

Dr Raimondo said the study — commissioned by the Administrator of the Cape — was the first of its kind and "novel" in its input from the public.

War of words over test site

56
257

CT5/8/93

Staff Reporter

A NEW war of words over rocket testing at the Somchem site above Rooi Els erupted yesterday as a group of residents placed an advertisement in a local newspaper claiming "20 tons of chemicals" had been dumped in the Buffels River dam.

However, last night parastatal Denel subsidiary Somchem hit back in a statement saying experts under oath in a continuing court case had found "no evidence of any chemical pollution".

The group of concerned Hangklip ratepayers have instituted legal proceedings against Somchem disputing their right to use the site in the water catchment area.

Yesterday independent industrial consultant Dr Nino Costa of Stellenbosch said he had found 20 000kg of hydrochloric acid, aluminium chloride and alumin-

Water 'not safe' say residents

ium oxide in the dam's water over the whole of last year.

He had headed a team of nine scientists in the project.

Denel spokesman Mr Paul Holtzhausen denied pollution had taken place.

He said the situation was regularly monitored by the CSIR.

It was stipulated in Somchem's land usage contract that their right to use the site would cease if their tests caused water pollution, he said.

Now a referendum, requested

by the administrator, is to be held among the 300 ratepayers next week on the question whether Somchem should continue using the area for rocket testing.

The action group have accused Somchem of trying to intimidate voters through a recent letter to residents.

In the letter Somchem warns that the Rooi Els Local Council is already potentially responsible for R3 million in legal costs and that Somchem would have "no option" but to enforce a court order for the attachment of rates and taxes should the court eventually side in their favour.

The action group also accused Administrator of the Cape Mr Kobus Meiring, a co-respondent in the Supreme Court hearing, of "playing into the hands" of Somchem by postponing the court proceedings for the referendum.

The administrator could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Isn't it terribly dangerous?
"We spend lots of time planning and replanning
dives and there are consequently few mistakes,"
Exley said.

Drive to teach children about household poisons

56
ARG 5/8/93

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

DANGER! Poison! Handle with care! Toxic — hazardous to wildlife!

These are familiar signs on scores of ordinary items used in the average household, but what happens to the empty containers?

Even worse, what happens when the expiry date is passed and the container is still half full?

To alert children to the dangers of chemicals found in their homes, a joint initiative — the Household Hazardous Waste Education and Collection Project — has been launched by the Fairest Cape Association, the chemical industry's information centre, Waste-tech and Pick 'n Pay.

The project includes a collection day at the chain's Ottery hypermarket next month when pupils will bring hazardous wastes — including old medicines, batteries, pesticides, cleaning agents and other items from the kitchen, bathroom, garage and workshop — for sorting and safe disposal.

The waste company's regional manager Steve Kimber said the project aimed to teach children to recognise hazardous household substances, how to handle them correctly and dispose of them in an environmentally-friendly way.

Standards in the waste industry and South African waste legislation had been "a little bit slack" in the past, he conceded.

Of some 1 600 landfill sites in the country, only 40 were properly licensed.

Hazardous waste should be disposed of in specially designed class one landfill sites.

● The project includes a competition between 25 participating schools. For further information contact Vera Lawrence of the Fairest Cape Association, ☎ 462-2040, or Waste-tech, ☎ 946-2660.

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Mines warned on tough new laws

JOHANNESBURG. — The mining industry was warned yesterday that tough new environmental legislation was planned.

The onus of proof would soon be on mining houses in cases where it was alleged that mining and prospecting operations were harming the environment.

The plaintiffs in such matters would no longer have to prove their cases.

Mining and prospecting houses found to be at fault in the protection of the

environment could face penalties as severe as, in cases of blatant disregard of legislation, compulsory liquidation.

This warning was sounded by environmental consultant Mr John Waters who told the second annual Environmental Management in Mining Conference in Midrand near here that the impending legislation was a follow-up to the Minerals Act of 1991.

Until now not generally publicised, the

act already requires any person or company wishing to mine or prospect, and those already so engaged, to submit acceptable programmes to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

The programmes must show how the environment would be and was protected during the operations as well as plans for the rehabilitation of the working areas when they were closed. Should a programme not be accepted, new operations would not be allowed to go ahead. — Sapa

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SBCT 5/8/93



City haze 'worse than LA'

Staff Reporter

A UCT pilot study on "brown haze" has indicated that Cape Town has a higher average concentration of air pollutants on hazy days than Berlin or Los Angeles.

But on clear days, it is lower.

The brown haze pilot study by UCT's Energy Research Institute was undertaken be-

cause of concern that air pollution might be increasing.

The average total concentration of particles in the air in Cape Town was found to be 127 micrograms per cubic metre on hazy days, compared with 122 for Berlin, 116 for Los Angeles and 93 for London.

On clear days the concentration for Cape Town was 39. However, the study stated

that because of limited resources, the sampling in Cape Town was done mainly on hazy days, whereas most other urban studies sampled air pollution unselectively — such as on every sixth day.

The degradation of visibility was only one of the effects of air pollution. Others were health problems and environmental damage.

"Bad visibility could dim the chances of exploiting Cape Town's natural beauty. Quality of life and public attitudes are also affected by visibility," the study stated.

The pilot study concluded that further research on Cape Town's brown haze was needed to establish the causes of the pollution.

51 CT 10 [8] 93

Rainbow 'polluted river'

Staff Reporter

(56)

~~3~~ ~~ADULTS~~

CT 6/8/93

RAINBOW Chickens in Worcester yesterday admitted to polluting the Hex River, after the Department of Water Affairs took action against them.

Rainbow Chicken Farms (Pty) Ltd and one of the company directors — who was charged in his personal capacity — paid admission of guilt fines of R1 500 each. A court could have

imposed fines of up to R50 000.

Mr Gawie Kies, principal water pollution control officer in the department, said last night an officer found water in the river was "grossly polluted" in April last year. The source was traced to Rainbow Chickens.

He said Rainbow Chickens rectified the matter as soon as they were informed, and paid admission of guilt fines instead of facing court action.

Kirstenbosch grows today

SB CT 6/8/93
Staff Reporter

THE Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens are being officially extended today by 4,47 hectares on which a library and laboratories are to be built.

Mr Wynand Breytenbach, Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs, said the Department of Public Works had intended to sell the stand next to Kirsten-

bosch but after urgent appeals and fund-raising by the National Botanical Society had decided to cede the land to the gardens.

He said the extension would be gazetted today.

The first phase of the library and laboratory project should be completed by the end of the year thanks to funds collected from the public.

Mr Breytenbach said the move was "a wonderful opportunity for South Africa to be at the forefront of botanical research".

"South Africa has a unique natural heritage ... Kirstenbosch is particularly rich — 6 000 of South Africa's 24 000 plant species are there — and I hope the granting of this land will lead to even greater achievements," he said.

Come to Kapiti . . . but beware of birds!

KAPITI ISLAND, New Zealand. — Visitors to Kapiti Island learn quickly what it is like to be mobbed by rare birds.

The red and brown Kaka swoop from the trees to perch on heads and shoulders.

"They're a stropy lot," said Conservation Department ranger Peter Daniel.

The Kaka, native parrots rarely seen in the wild, fed in groups of 10 or more from a trough of sugared water. When they had their fill, the black, green and white Tui took over.

"There's no bird that enjoys life so much as the Tui," said Mr Daniel, who has lived with the birds on Kapiti for 17 years and still considers himself a visitor.

Kapiti has become a sanctuary for rebuilding species decimated by Polynesian and European immigration. It is also an example of how native forest can regenerate after being three-quarters destroyed by axe and fire.

New Zealand's management of bird species has been criticised in the media for its bureaucracy. Kapiti represents a balancing act between competing interests.

These include disputes between conservationists about what species should and should not be put on the island, disputes with local fishermen over a marine reserve off the island, varying opinions on how to eradicate two species of rats from the island without disrupting bird life, and last but not least the rights of local Maori and general access to the island.

"It's so hard getting it right," said Mr Daniel.

Goats were eradicated in 1928, cats in 1934, sheep in the 1930s and 22 500 possums by 1986.

The eradication of possums was an

important milestone as opinion before the programme began was that it couldn't be done. Traps and dogs were used for several years.

New Zealand conservationists' biggest enemy was the rat, introduced by ship-borne European settlers in the 19th century. Rats had decimated the country's bird population, more than half of which was flightless before the vermin arrived.

Keeping the nature reserves free of rats was crucial, as most birds were slow-moving and unable to defend themselves.

Access to Kapiti, a thin sliver of land that rises majestically out of the Tasman Sea just north of Wellington, was tightly controlled by the government. Only 50 people a day were allowed to visit and weekend visitors could wait up to a year for a permit.

Sheer cliffs rose 520m to the summit of Kapiti on the western side and there were few landing spots. That made it perfect for conservation, which was now attracting international interest.

Inhabited by the Maori warrior Te Rauparaha, who used it as a stronghold in the 1820s, Kapiti became a whaling station and then was cleared and farmed in the 1840s when the vegetation was burnt off. It became a public reserve in 1897.

The Department of Conservation saw Kapiti's contribution to the survival of bird species as being of international importance.

The little spotted kiwi, smaller versions of New Zealand's national symbol, the brown kiwi, was a good example of Kapiti's success.

Around 1 000 little spotted kiwi out of 1 100 nationwide lived on Kapiti. The island was also used to supply birds to establish populations on other islands. — Sapa-Reuter.

Treasure trove of coins

PRAIA (Cape Verde Islands). — Divers of sunken wrecks near these islands off the coast of West Africa are believed to contain a treasure trove of precious coins.

Local historian Felix Monteiro said in a recently published article that more than 50 ships laden with coins minted in Europe for use in South Africa had sunk in the Cape Verde Islands in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Last summer a team of South African divers recovered more than a thousand silver coins and other artifacts from the wreck of the British ship Hartwell, which sank off Boavista Island in 1787.

Mario Fonseca, president of the

sources nor the funds to carry out this kind of work," he said.

Mr Fonseca said that under terms of a contract between the South African firm of underwater archaeological explorers Sealit and the Cape Verdean government, Sealit retained half the treasure retrieved from the Hartwell.

The rest was deposited with the national bank of Cape Verde.

Gavin Clackworthy, the head of Sealit, said his firm hoped to return to the barren Cape Verde archipelago in the summer of 1994 to continue its underwater exploration.

Mr Monteiro said most of the ships sunk in the Cape Verde Islands had foundered in the treacherous winter

Wolfgat reserve threatened

Conservationists say community must be involved

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

WOLFGAT nature reserve on the False Bay coast is extremely important ecologically and should be a conservation priority for the future.

But it need not be managed as a traditional First World reserve — surrounded by a fence. But the neighbouring Mitchell's Plain community — already using the area through schools' outdoor education programmes — must be canvassed fully about its future management.

This is the view of environmentalists, following a "position statement" on the reserve put to the city council's amenities and health committee.

At the committee meeting, parks and forests director David Daitz suggested Wolfgat could be downgraded to ordinary public open space, saying the Mitchell's Plain community would not be able to defend the nature reserve from informal settlers encroaching on its boundaries.

His remarks caused concern among environmentalists, who point to similar problems at the poorly managed Driftsands nature reserve nearby.

The 248-hectare Wolfgat reserve is bounded by the False Bay coastline between Manda and Monwabisi resorts and on the west by Tafelsig.

A portion of land on its north-western boundary is being cleared to house squatters, who are illegally occupying council houses in Tafelsig.

Wolfgat — named after the brown hyaena (strandwolf) which was found in the area until the 1840s — is the only reserve protecting the natural coastal dune and limestone systems of the False Bay coast.

It serves as a valuable conservation area for strandveld and dwarf coastal fynbos vegetation, both types being considered rare.

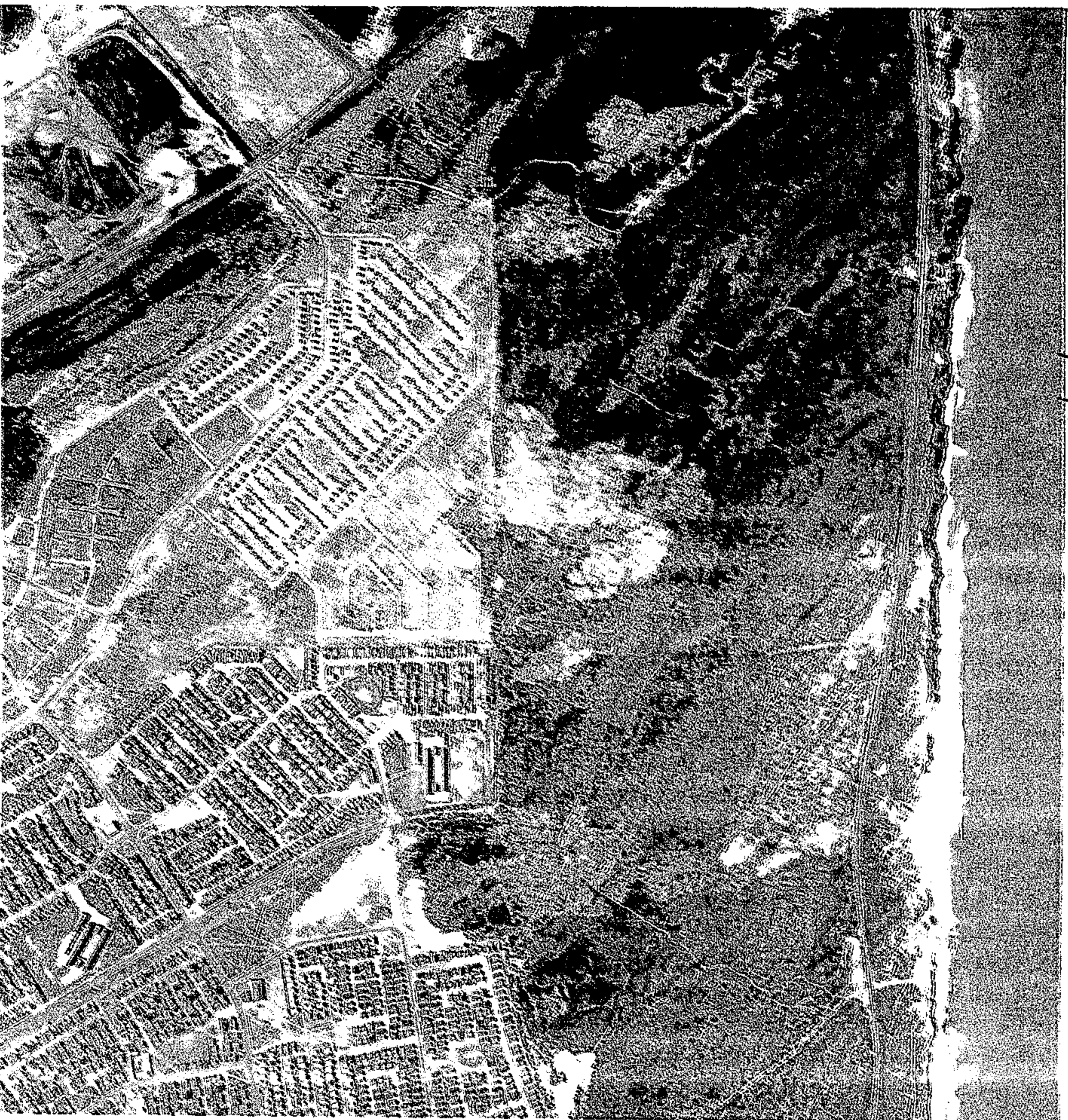
It is home to the only known mainland breeding colony of kelp gulls in the south-western Cape, and offers superb panoramic views of False Bay.

Barrie Low, the National Botanical Institute's director of education and information who compiled a report on Wolfgat for the council several years ago, said it had been identified by the Metropolitan Development Framework (MDF) as one of about 40 important "green", no-development areas on the Cape Flats.

The council was a partner in the MDF and any attempt to change Wolfgat's status unilaterally would be a "flagrant contradiction" of the MDF agreement.

It was necessary to show how Wolfgat was being used by the local communities and that it could also be an economic resource for squatters without having housing developed on it, Mr Low said.

"It's a critical conservation area . . . if you lose Wolfgat, it's going to be a tragedy for the whole of Cape Town, for local communities and



CROWDED OUT: The important Wolfgat nature reserve is sandwiched between the False Bay coastline at Swartkloip and the rapidly expanding urban development of Tafelsig in Mitchell's Plain.



Cape Verde Institute of Culture, said the South Africans had located 26 wrecks and the government was looking at ways of exploring more of them.

"This is because Cape Verde does not have the human or technical re-

sources of the nine inhabited islands. The former Portuguese colony, situated 400 km west of Senegal, became independent in 1975. Its 375,000 inhabitants depend on subsistence agriculture, emigrants' remittances and foreign aid to survive. — Sapa-Reuters.

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visitors."

Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Andy Gubb, who serves on the reserve's advisory committee, said he was concerned that interested and affected parties had not been canvassed about a possible change of status for Wolfgat.

"If there is a management problem... does the council not think it would be advisable rather to approach surrounding communities and concerned organisations, so that we can hear exactly what the problems are and possibly also become part of the solution?" he asked.



BAD MANNERS: Illegal dumping along the coast at Wolfgat nature reserve is a major headache for the council.



EASY ON THE EYE: They look superb but they do not smell so good! These Pentzi — commonly called stinkkruid — are among the many summer annuals in the botanically important Wolfgat reserve.

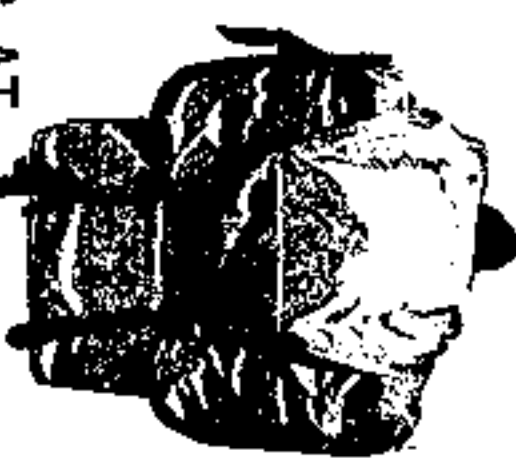
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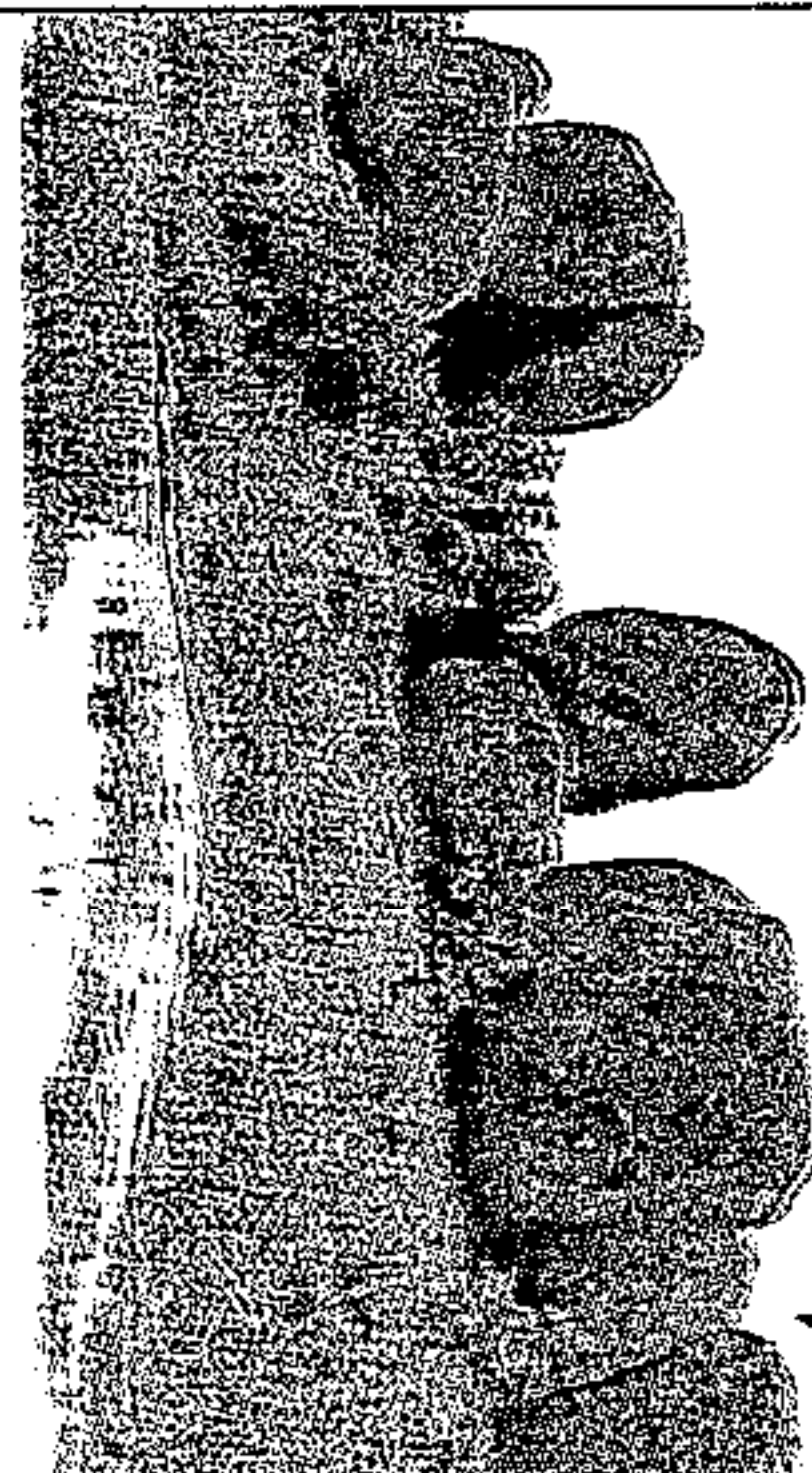
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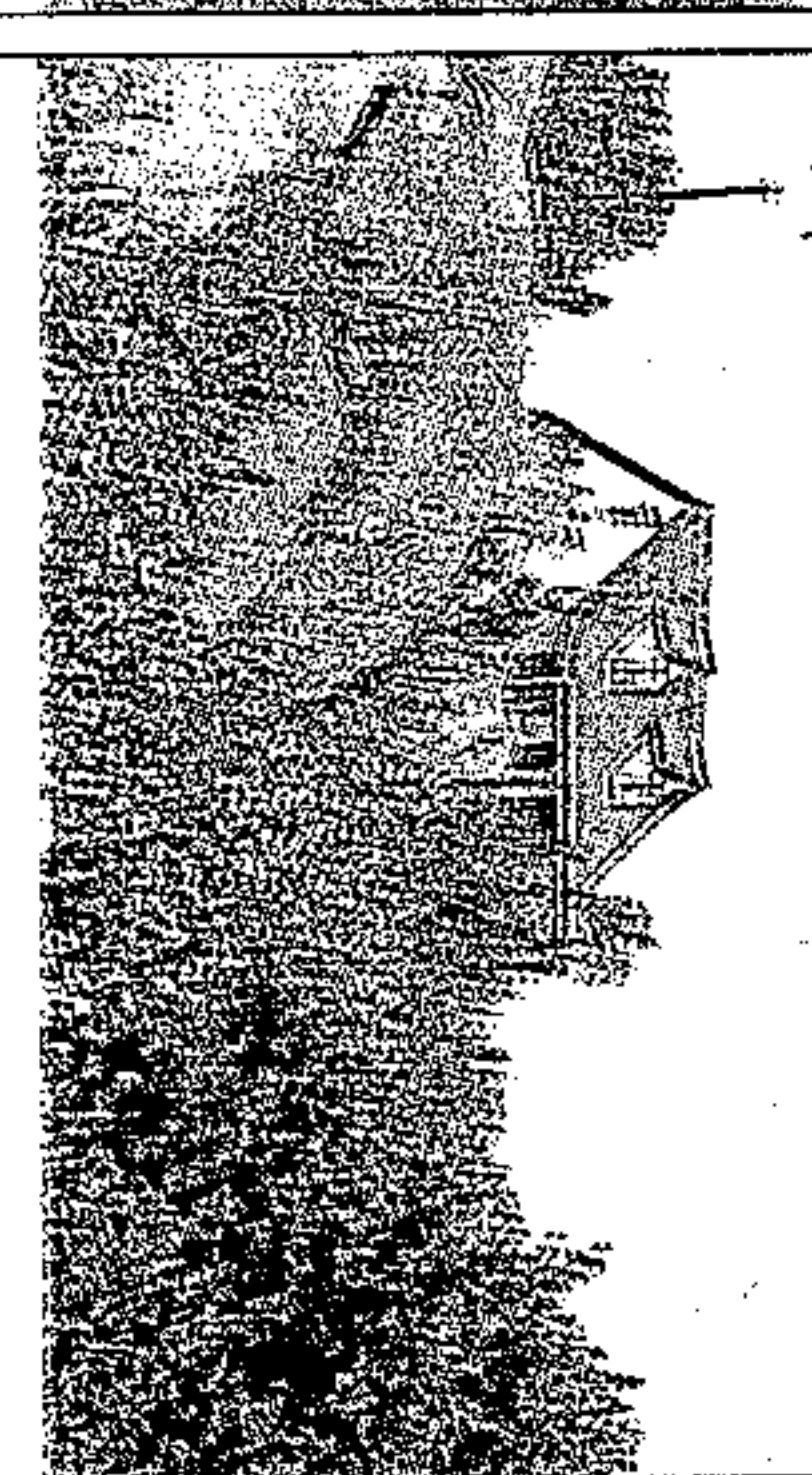
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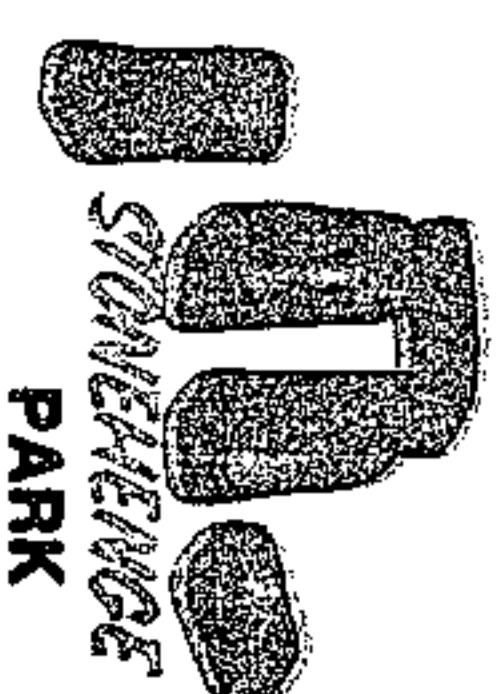
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Peace but little quiet as FW hits the road

ANC and Nat supporters trade slogans in the Overberg



WALKABOUT: President de Klerk shakes hands with supporters in the streets of Greyton.

**Report: TOS WENTZEL
Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM**
PRESIDENT De Klerk preached peace on his Overberg whistle-stop "roadshow" — but there were times when he had little quiet.

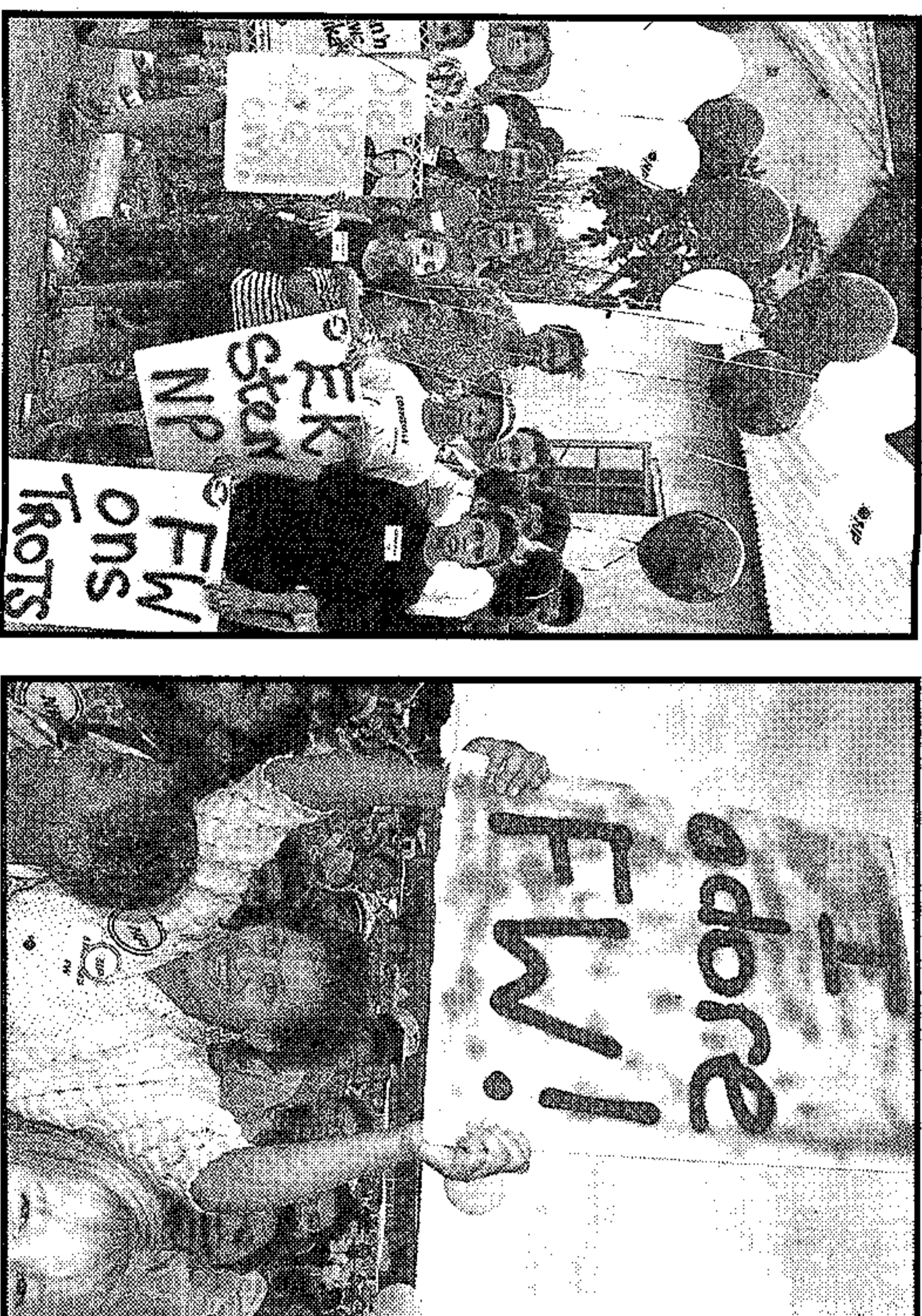
A small but vociferous group of African National Congress supporters, some of them shouting that he had blood on his hands, kept up their screams and chanting throughout his short speeches in Genadendal and Greyton yesterday.

With the vast majority of enthusiastic coloured National Party supporters shouting back, Mr De Klerk, who was appearing as leader of the NP, could sometimes not be heard. One of the ANC chants was "First you take our houses, now you want our votes." The posters of NP supporters said "FW our Pride" and "FW is lops".

There was great enthusiasm among the coloured NP supporters. At one stage Mr De Klerk and wife Marike walked down a Greyton street to the tune of a campaign song, *Klamm op die NP se waa*.

Mr Kenneth Kotze, a retired fisherman, whose Genadendal cottage was visited by Mr De Klerk, said the NP was popular with coloured people "because we grew up with the Boere. We have an affinity for them".

He added: "It is only some coloured people in the cities



ABOVE LEFT: National Party supporters wait for President De Klerk at the start of his "roadshow" in Genadendal.

ABOVE RIGHT: A Nationalist supporter in Riversonderend holds up a poster to welcome President De Klerk.

who want to try to be smart who will not vote Nat. De Klerk is a God-fearing, honest man. One cannot punish the younger generation for the sins of their forebears."

Mr De Klerk hit out at the ANC's intolerance and said it was counter-productive and an indication that the movement had doubts about its policies. Afterwards he told the journalists following him that the ANC behaviour had not bothered him all that much.

"It adds spice to what is going to be a very interesting campaign. Just watch us!"

Leader of the ANC supporters was ANC Western Cape deputy general-secretary Chris Nissen, who claimed that he had been assaulted in Genadendal and that part of his car's bumper had been torn off. There had also been a death threat and he had laid a charge with the police.

After Genadendal and Greyton the ANC protesters evaporated and Mr De Klerk was listened to attentively in Riversonderend, Stanford and Gansbaai.

His message was that the "new" National Party was the party of peace. It had renewed itself while the "old" ANC was clinging to outdated and failed policies and remained in the clutches of its communist partners. Communism had impoverished half of the world.



SWEETENER: Marike De Klerk gives sweets to a farmworker's child on the farm Riverside.

Continuing his blistering attack on the ANC, which he said was the NP's main opponent in the election, he said it was a dangerous party, unable to control its youth or its self-defence units. It intimidated its opponents. It intimidated its opponents.

He added that he was not going out of his way to bait the ANC — "it's doing a fine job breaking down its own image".

On the farm Riverside between Greyton and Riversonderend, the President spoke to farm workers harvesting onions.

It was here that Mr De Klerk struck a subject which is

likely to come up throughout the campaign — whether the vote is secret.

One of the farm workers said he had heard there would be a light above the voting booth which would show how people had voted.

The question of the secrecy of the vote came up again at Gansbaai.

Mr De Klerk went out of his way to reassure people that the vote was completely secret. This time there were no voters' lists and people's names were not checked off. Anyone with an ID book could vote anywhere in the country.

He told the story of how, at a

voter education exercise, the completed ballot papers were placed on a table and those who had taken part were asked to find their ballot papers, but could not.

A bouncy, confident Mr De Klerk repeatedly claimed the NP could emerge from the election the strongest party. It would be a bad thing for one party alone to get too big a share of the vote, he said. What was needed was balance in a government of national unity.

Mr De Klerk will be on holiday in Hermannus until January 8.

"I am working on getting my golf handicap down," he said.

SALE

20 000 PAIRS OF SHOES MUST GO!



BELOW: ANC supporters at Genadendal give President De Klerk their own kind of welcome.

CP calls for end to constitution advert campaign

PRETORIA. — The brouhaha surrounding the government's constitutional advertising campaign has intensified with the government saying it will step up the drive next month and the Conservative Party calling for it to be terminated.

Deputy Constitutional Development and Communication Minister Fanus Schoeman said yesterday the government would spend more money on a comprehensive second phase of the campaign from the middle of next month, using television, radio, newspapers, billboards, pamphlets and booklets.

The campaign might eventually cost up to R21 million.

The CP's broadcasting and information spokesman, Pieter Mulder, said the campaign favoured the National Party and should be discontinued.

About 20 percent of MPs opposed the constitution, Dr Mulder said.

The government should scrap the campaign and the SABC should stop broadcasting the advertisements.

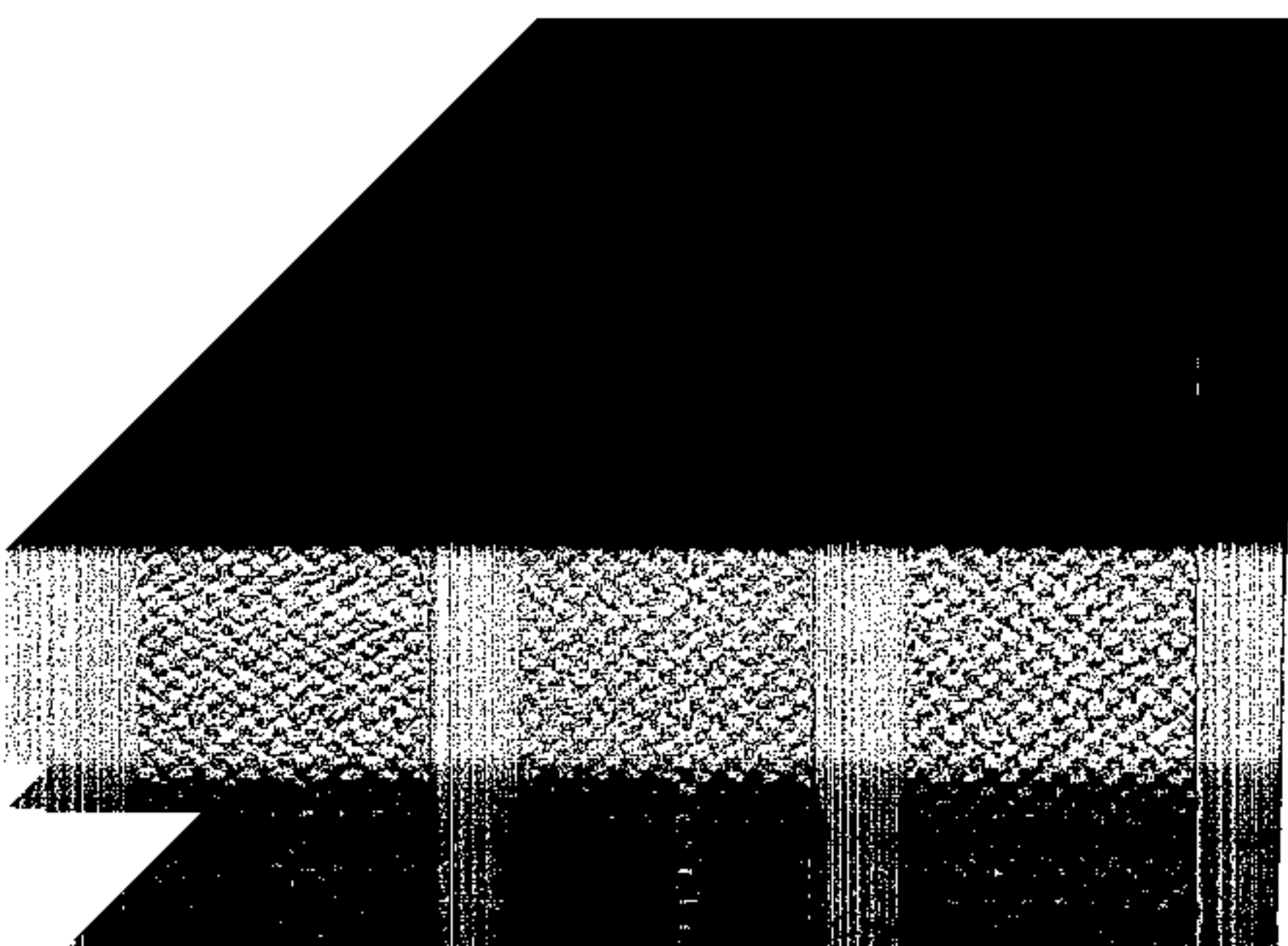
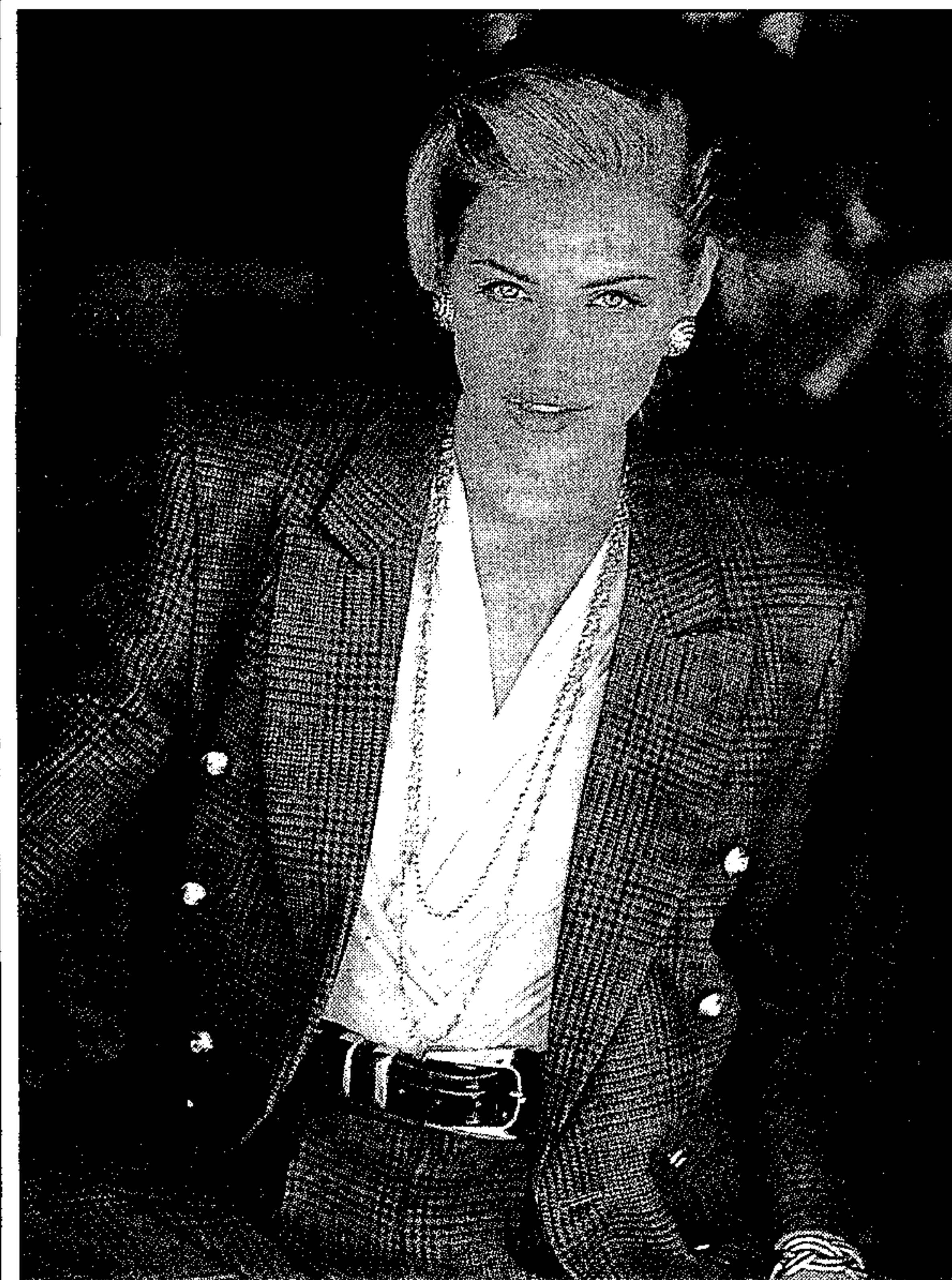
Mr Schoeman, speaking at a media briefing, said the NP had had nothing to do with the campaign.

It was a government initiative and the government had the right and responsibility to inform the public about the constitution.

The second phase of the campaign would continue until late February and would cost about R13 million, compared to the R2,2 million of the initial phase.

The cabinet had decided that the total cost should not top R21 million.

Booklets summarising the constitution would cost between R3 million and R4 million to produce and print, depending on the number of copies required, and would be printed in English, Afrikaans and other languages, Mr Schoeman said. — Sapa.



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Poaching Warr

(S) C127/12/93

Stern Warning on marine resources

By DALE GRANGER
AN UPSURGE of festive sea-son poaching of precious marine resources has prompted conservation officials to warn "ignorant" Transvaal holidaymakers sternly that they will be prosecuted and face huge fines if caught and convicted for exceeding local fishing quotas.

The warning follows mounting concern in nature conservation circles about the many up-country visitors being caught with marine resources in their possession which exceed permitted size and/or quotas.

The Cape Nature Conservation department (CNC) said recently a fisherman was caught with 101 Alikrukel, 31 of which were undersized. The bag limit for the species is five per person per day and the minimum size is 63,5mm.

Increased perlemoen poaching was also rife between Gansbaai and Die Dam and the CNC has increased patrols along the coast for the holiday season.

'Not immune'

Dr Johan Neethling, Chief Director for Nature Conservation, said yesterday that transgressors were mainly the "partly innocent" who came from the Transvaal and were "not aware of the rules and regulations about poaching".

"These visitors must be aware that we have restrictions and we will act against them. They're not immune from prosecution just because they're visitors pleading ignorance."

He added that "obviously if they (holidaymakers) are caught with one or two extra we will try to explain what it (the regulation) is all about and educate them."

"But if we get repeat offenders or those found with large numbers, pleading ignorance will not help," Dr Neethling warned. He said many visitors had a "vague

knowledge" of controls but were not aware of the numbers allowed.

Offenders face a maximum fine of R50 000 or five years' imprisonment. Hermannus CNC official Mr P Lourens said yesterday: "It's the same every year over the festive season. We expect the crime to pick up."

He said that of the 10 to 12 people caught daily, most were non-locals and the only saving grace this month had been the weather.

"Fishing-wise the weather was on our side," Mr Lourens said. "The wind has been blowing furiously on occasions and the surf has also been rough, which isn't ideal weather to put a boat to sea."

He said most minor transgressors paid admission-of-guilt fines but brochures and handbooks on the regulations were being distributed.

Fisherman require permits to catch crayfish and perlemoen and the regulations are:

- Crayfish: Tails must exceed 75mm and recreational fisherman may only take four a day per person.
- Perlemoen: Not smaller than 114mm in diameter and four per person per day.

The CNC said they relied heavily on members of the public to report offenders to patrolling officers of the CNC, the police or the Regional Services Council.

Informants would remain anonymous and could phone 531-9100 (all hours).

Reserved

● Gansbaai fishermen yesterday received a Christmas present worth R2,5 million when the Ministry of Environment Affairs, Mr J A van Wyk, increased their pilchard fishing reserve by 1 000 tons to 7 000 tons.

Mr Van Wyk said the additional quota would be reserved for fisherman in Gansbaai as a solution to their long-standing financial problems.

He said this decision was taken after recommendations by the fishermen, and recommendations from the Sea Fishery Advisory Committee. Mr Van Wyk said the quota "should contribute substantially to the upliftment of the Gansbaai community".



FESTIVE... Kepler Wessels and teammate Jonny Rhodes in festive spirits during the team's Christmas lunch at their Melbourne hotel at the weekend. Wessels may be withdrawn from limited-overs internationals in Australia to protect his long-term career in test cricket, and Jonny has a broken hand. To add to Jonny's Christmas cheer, his fiancée, whom he plans to marry next year, has joined him.

Kepler's knee a problem

From MICHAEL OWEN-SMITH

MELBOURNE — Kepler Wessels, the South African cricket captain, may have to withdraw from some of the limited-overs internationals still to be played against Australia.

The knee problem that caused him to miss the last day of the four-day match against Queensland, is causing him more concern than is being admitted publicly.

Wessels has had six operations on his knee, and there is little more that can be done for him medically. Two hours are rub-

bing against each other, causing severe arthritis.

It has been obvious how frequently Wessels struggles to rutherford singles in limited-overs matches and in the interests of international cricket he has been advised to withdraw from the one-day series.

Wessels remains South Africa's No 1 test batsman in open record, ability, expert opinion and temperament, and his team cannot afford to be without him for the upcoming test matches (six against Australia

three against England and another three against New Zealand).

● Our Durban correspondent reports that Ms Kate McCarthy, 23-year-old fiancée of South African fielding star Jonny Rhoades, has joined him in Melbourne yesterday. Wessels' fiancée, who is also a cricketer, was reported late last night from Australia that rain was falling heavily in Melbourne at 8 am Australian time — with more rain forecast for the whole morning.

● Match report — Back Page

Noise laws to be enforced

BIDAY 23/12/93

BEATRIX PAYNE

NOISY exhausts, loud lawnmowers and relentlessly barking dogs could be more effectively policed in future, if the Environment Affairs Department's White Paper on noise control regulations is approved by Parliament.

The White Paper proposed an environmental noise control policy to be drawn up and policed by regional or local authorities. To date all noise regulations have been drawn up by central government.

The White Paper, drafted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), should go before Parliament next year.

It proposed the department — which allocates about 10% of its R22m budget to environmental and noise control — draw up a national noise pollution Act to consolidate noise pollution aspects of existing

Acts such as the Aviation and Road Traffic Act.

"The new Act would be sufficiently flexible that each regional or local authority may structure regulations according to their own needs within the framework of the Act," the paper said. (56)

The paper proposed noise pollution control agencies be established by regional government to assist local authorities to enforce noise control. Agencies would be funded from government sources, services payments and funds generated by enforcement work.

Environment Affairs Department deputy director Willem Scott said it was expected current noise regulations would apply to all local authorities from the middle of next year.

This would pave the way for the development of regional noise pollution control agencies to enforce

regulations. At present local authorities had to seek departmental permission to make the regulations applicable in their area of jurisdiction.

CSIR researcher Govert Schermers said many local authorities had limited resources to enforce noise pollution regulations and in many cases smaller towns could not meet the requirements of the Environment Conservation Act to allow them to adopt the regulations.

Schermers said the White Paper placed greater emphasis on incentives — such as environmental taxes — to encourage manufacture of low-noise products rather than penalising those who did not conform to regulations as was current practice.

Although current regulations were considered acceptable, the White Paper proposed a more "people friendly" noise control policy, he added.

St Lucia may boost status

ROBERT KIRBY says the proposals of the Leon Review Panel on St Lucia offer members of the new Transitional Executive Council a golden opportunity to demonstrate their wisdom and faith

S Times 19/12/93

A HAPPY consequence of the findings of the Leon Review Panel will be that the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park could well become South Africa's first World Heritage Site.

WHS status is the most significant recognition which may be given to areas of natural inheritance. Sponsored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the 1972 Paris Convention provided for the designation of areas of outstanding universal natural and cultural value. The principal aim of the convention was to encourage and amplify international co-operation in safeguarding these.

There are only 90 inscribed natural World Heritage Sites in the world. The US has nine, including the Yosemite Valley, the Grand Canyon National Park, the Yellowstone National Park and the Everglades. Australia has six, including the Lord Howe Island Group and the Great Barrier Reef. India has four, the United Kingdom four.

No fewer than 22 are in mainland Africa. Tanzania and Zaire each has four and Zimbabwe three, as has the Ivory Coast. Ethiopia, Mauritania, Senegal and the Central African Republic all have inscribed World Heritage Sites. All have proved to attract tourists.

South Africa has none, but WHS attention is already focused on St Lucia, and this year the Department of Environmental Affairs asked the Natal Parks Board to begin working on the proposition.

Clearly these considerations were among those held paramount by the Leon Review Panel on St Lucia, which demonstrated in its findings a style of progressive and optimistic thinking which, once and for all, has set an unequivocal seal on the matter.

The lack of ambiguity was the most encouraging thing to

come out of the panel's findings. They proposed no halfway solution, evidently recognising the dangers inherent in trying to accommodate the needs of both parties in some compromise arrangement. (56)

Such would have guaranteed the worst possible solution and invited failure of both enterprises — a degraded environment and an uneconomical mine.

That the panel's decision yielded victory to the conservationists is not in doubt. It had been an uphill battle for them. They had to counter perceptions put abroad by the mining company, aided, as it was, by a luxury public-relations budget and, to some extent, reinforced by an inadequate environmental impact assessment produced by the CSIR.

The CSIR's reports revealed a fundamental deficiency, a consequence probably of its terms of reference. The council's appraisals were made principally from a scientific base. No proper evaluation was made of human benefit offered by the wetlands, something entrenched as much in the rights of local people as in the spiritual integrity of wilderness itself.

No sense of the place emerged from the reports and, as Professor Roy Siegfried of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute pointed out to the panel, there was too much that was trivial and irrelevant in the EIA.

St Lucia is a special asset to the nation. The recommendation of the panel is that it be given national status, superseding the regional and therefore being first in this category.

There will be others, and it is fitting that St Lucia, with its copious diversity of life and terrain, is first. Judge Leon's panel acknowledges that a valid and active programme to promote and sustain the resource is of ur-

gency. Obvious priorities include an effective supply of information to the local peoples, in the past too often kept in the dark. Their sense of belonging, of being consulted and being part of decisions, is of cardinal importance. Hand in hand with this must come regional planning.

Should World Heritage status be granted to St Lucia Wetland Park, with it will come international acknowledgment of the country's proven responsibility in conservation; and with that will come considerable international financial aid and advice.

This inflow of money is desperately necessary. In the immediate future environmental conservation will not list high in priority for government spending. The needs of housing and education and general social upliftment are too pressing.

But with WHS status there is a virtual guarantee of further monetary advantage in a prodigious amplification of the tourist business. The panel has recommended that, in the interim, funding should come from the government. At this stage application can also be made to the World Bank's global environment facility.

Judge Leon and his panel are to be congratulated on their findings.

If the final decision on St Lucia rested with the cabinet alone, there would be grounds for disquiet. That body has often played fast and loose with South Africa's precious national heritage. Happily, the matter will now go before the TEC and, since that authority speaks for the majority, there is hope.

The recommendations of the Leon Review Panel on St Lucia dune mining offers the TEC a splendid opportunity. In these first months of its influence it can demonstrate not only its sincerity but a measure of wisdom and faith.

SCARCE COMMODITY: More than a quarter of South Africa's people have no access to clean water - a basic prerequisite for health

Star 18/12/93

Solution in the pipeline

(56) Star 18/12/93

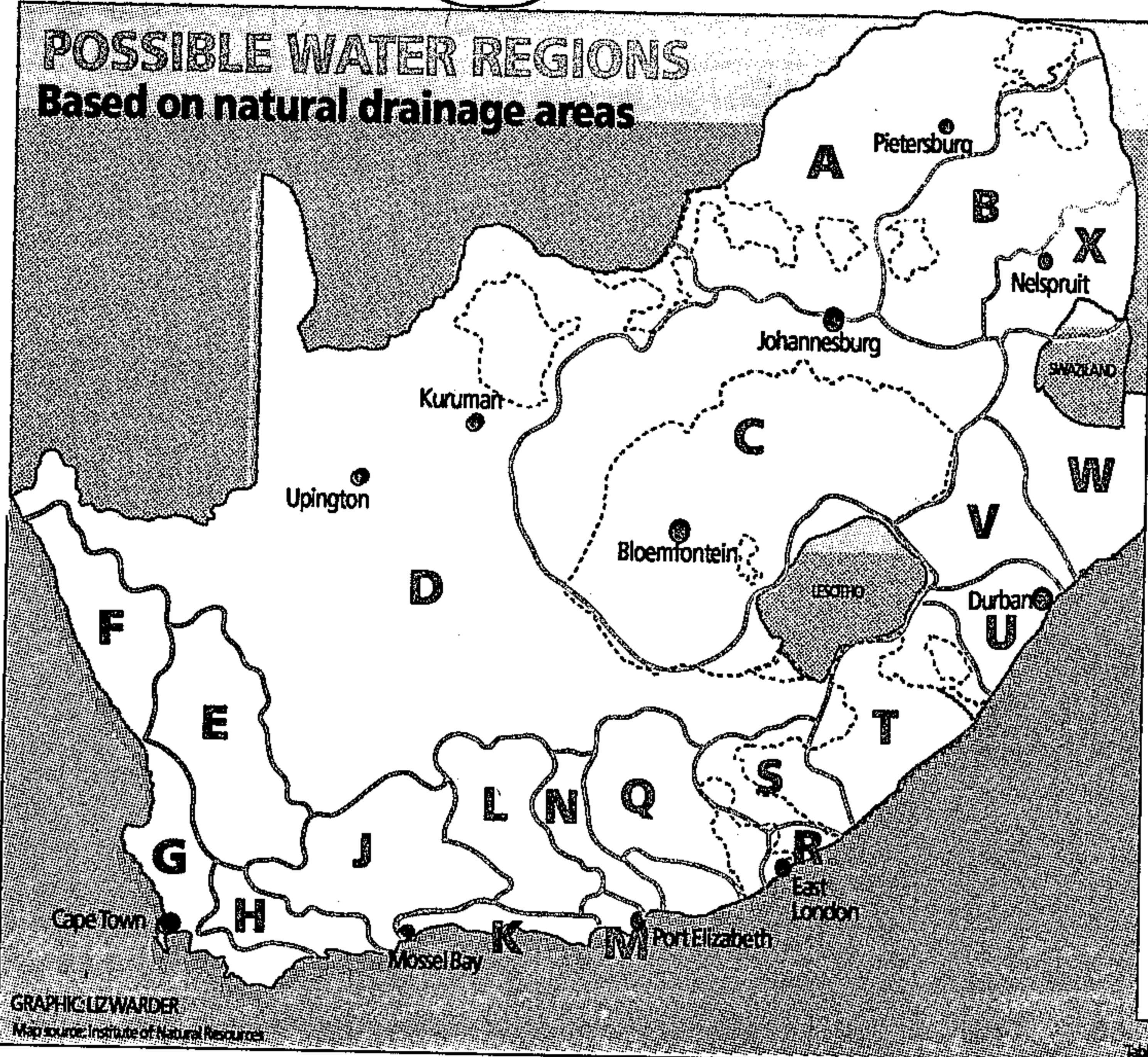
(56)

WATER looms large in the consciousness of millions of South Africans. At one time, these millions constituted the voiceless majority. No longer. Their needs are becoming demands that politicians will ignore at their peril. Health Writer DAVID ROBBINS reports.

THE people need water, says a nursing sister in the eastern Transvaal lowveld. "Our river is sucked dry by plantations and citrus farms. There are clinics here which try to deliver babies without water. Many children die of strict problems. Our hope is next April; but what if ter still does not come? Then we will occupy the ms and take the water that is also ours." This is fighting talk over a commodity most First rld people take for granted.

CLEAN water (and safe sanitation) is a vital onponent in the establishment of good public lth and sustainable socio-economic development. ow many South Africans are in this kind of d? More than 12 million lack a clean water sup- (8 million of them in rural areas), and 22 mil- (of whom 7,5 million live in the cities) lack ade- te sanitation - and this from a total popula- : of 40 million. These figures were established at a major workshop - Water and Sanitation 2000 - in just 1991. After the workshop, a standing committee on water supply and sanitation was estab- ad to "address the inability of existing water and sanitation or to meet the needs of all th Africans".

he financial requirements to e good this backlog are huge. nething in the region of billion will be necessary. he recurring costs of running expanded infrastructure d amount to about R1,6 bil- each year. ut the outlook is not all dark- . The standing committee has 1 working hard since its for- ion in January 1992. has come up with recom- dations which could trans- the management of what, all, is a scarce resource in h Africa. These recommen- ons have been fed into the ne-



Water region	Total water demand		Utilisable water		Surplus/shortfall	
	Year 1990	Year 2010	Year 1990	Year 2010	Year 1990	Year 2010
A	1,805	2,738	1,589	2,065	-216	-673
B	1,461	1,844	1,883	1,908	422	64
C	3,273	5,278	3,402	4,458	129	-820
D	2,143	2,701	6,074	6,182	3,931	3,481
E	490	505	688	675	198	170
F	13	15	10	9	-3	-6
G	868	1,274	1,236	1,443	368	169
H	910	1,124	1,350	1,338	440	214
J	335	339	334	338	-1	-1
K	215	297	820	842	605	545
L	198	219	347	361	149	142
M	128	226	91	128	-37	-98
N	204	312	120	87	-84	-225
P	43	53	44	49	1	-4
Q	479	660	287	317	-192	-343
R	186	285	422	474	236	189
S	337	400	714	734	377	334
T	1,227	1,328	5,237	5,279	4,010	3,951
U	1,297	2,002	2,502	2,501	1,205	449
V	668	992	3,333	3,337	2,665	2,345
W	1,516	1,850	3,509	3,418	1,993	1,568
X	1,247	1,446	2,428	2,419	1,181	937
Total	19,043	25,888	36,420	38,362	17,377	12,474

Table source: Dept of Water Affairs publication: Management of Water Resources in South Africa

Interregional transfers a logical way to go

negotiating process at Kempton Park.

Major problems in the existing system are the multiplicity of authorities involved with water and the absence of control over most drainage systems outside those affecting the metropolitan areas.

Our map divides the country into its natural drainage systems.

The committee recommends that second-tier water utility companies (like Natal's Umgeni Water) take charge of the total

water management in these 22 drainage regions.

A glance at the attached tables indicates the need for national managerial control as well. Have a look at the deficits which will exist by 2010 in regions A and C, for example, even though the country as a whole will have more than enough water.

Nationally controlled inter-regional transfers would provide a logical solution, as they do in certain cases even now.

For years the Witwatersrand's supply has been supplemented by

water pumped over the Drakensberg from Natal and, before long, the Lesotho Highlands project will also contribute water to the country's industrial and economic hub.

THE standing committee's proposals revolve around three-tier system, which would involve a central department reflecting government policy, laying down

minimum standards for the protection of health and the environment, and controlling inter-regional water allocation.

Second-tier water utilities would manage each drainage area, and third-tier institutions (such as local authorities and rural water and sanitation committees) would see to the reticulation to individual subscribers.

How is the country to pay for all this? Efficient management techniques, judicious tariff-setting and a rapidly expanding cus-

tomers base will provide significant amounts.

There can be little doubt, though, that a new government will need to earmark set amounts in its annual budgets, especially for major capital works.

However painful this might be to taxpayers, there is an upside. It has been calculated that an annual investment of about R500 million could generate 30 000 jobs and provide basic water needs for hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Greenprint for Cape

ARG 18/12/93

56

Housing planners look for more land

Environment Reporter

AREAS identified as suitable for urban expansion over the next 15 years include:

■ Along the southern and northern "spines" — essentially Main Road and Voortrekker Road — and in the more accessible areas on the Cape Flats. "It's important that densification takes place and that redevelopment or infill occurs in an environmentally (including visually) sensitive manner".

■ The existing urban area: "Here there exist opportunities for infill, and basic urban design should include usable open space systems and landscaping to improve environmental quality".

■ From Khayelitsha to the Strand (south of the N2), north of Kraaifontein and along the West Coast.

When development options within existing areas and in the above areas have been exhausted, consideration should be given to two major options:

■ Expansion along the West Coast corridor to Atlantis.

■ Expansion between Kraaifontein and Paarl, north of and along the N2.

No-go areas for urban sprawl

Environment Reporter

AREAS identified as having significant value and where development should be constrained include:

■ Land with major scenic, historical and biological significance which is the basis of the Cape Metropolitan Area's important tourism industry, which has high amenity value, protects biodiversity and contributes to the successful ecological functioning of the CMA. "In short, these are the 'quality of life' resources and natural systems that make metropolitan Cape Town a unique and special place".

■ Major primary productive land, including agriculture, forestry and quarrying.

■ Scarce water in the form of an underground aquifer at Atlantis and the larger Cape Flats aquifer.

■ The Kuils River flood plain: "While it is possible, with technology and expense, to overcome this constraint, the area also provides significant resource value".

■ The presence of the Koeberg nuclear power station.

■ A new report walks the line between the need for land for the poor and the need to conserve the environment.

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

EVERY effort must be made to provide land and basic facilities for the poor while halting the spread of urban development into areas of high environmental and socio-cultural value, says an important new planning report.

The Environmental Evaluation for the Cape Metropolitan Area, produced by the city planner's department of Cape Town City Council for the Urban Development Commission of the Western Cape Economic Development Forum, is being circulated for comment.

It is one of a number of studies being done as part of the attempt to formulate a new urban development policy for the Cape Metropolitan Area.

The report says future metropolitan expansion must be guided into areas rated as having low natural value and a low hazard rating for human health. Also, every effort must be made to improve the quality of human life of people already living in areas of extreme poverty.

Unless these problems are addressed, the health of the poor is likely to deteriorate, the report warns. Continuing poverty may result in the further occupation of environmentally sensitive land without proper services.

This will cause the Cape Metropolitan Area's natural environment — one of the world's finest — to deteriorate further.

The report states that the demand for land by the middle-to-high income group and the business sector is also having a severe impact on the environment of the metropolitan area.

Fortunately, the report continues, there is sufficient suitable land to meet urban development requirements in the metropolitan area for the next 15 years.

"However, a metropolitan land policy will have to be formulated if this goal is to be achieved," the report states. Key elements of the report which its authors believe will contribute significantly towards achieving this goal include:

■ Identifying the outer physical limits of expansion in the metropolitan area for the next 15 years;

■ Identifying land for immediate development;

■ Indicating new densities for future urban development if urban sprawl is to be halted;

■ Drawing attention to the need to improve dramatically public transport;

■ Making proposals for a metropolitan open space system (MOSS) to meet the areas' major open space conservation and recreation requirements;

■ Recommending that more detailed studies be undertaken on key resource issues, such as conservation of built and natural environments; and

■ Recommending a financial and institutional basis for local government which discourages urban expansion and promotes the conservation of the metropolitan area's resources.

Legal team works on policy to save dunes

Conservationist calls for tougher penalties

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A DRAFT policy to regulate the use of vehicles on all beaches and coastal dunes is being finalised by legal experts in the Department of Environment Affairs and should be gazetted for comment soon.

Such a policy is long overdue, say environmentalists concerned at damage being done along the southern Cape coast — and particularly between Hermannus and Agulhas, an area which attracts about 80 000 visitors each season.

Conservation officials say many visitors insist on climbing coastal dunes being painstakingly reconstructed at the Plaai area on the eastern bank of Hermannus lagoon, causing erosion.

Ian Martin of the Pearly Beach Conservation Society said vehicles on beaches was "a very big issue" at Pearly Beach. "But I would say at Hermannus it's even worse."

He suggested much tougher penalties for transgressors.

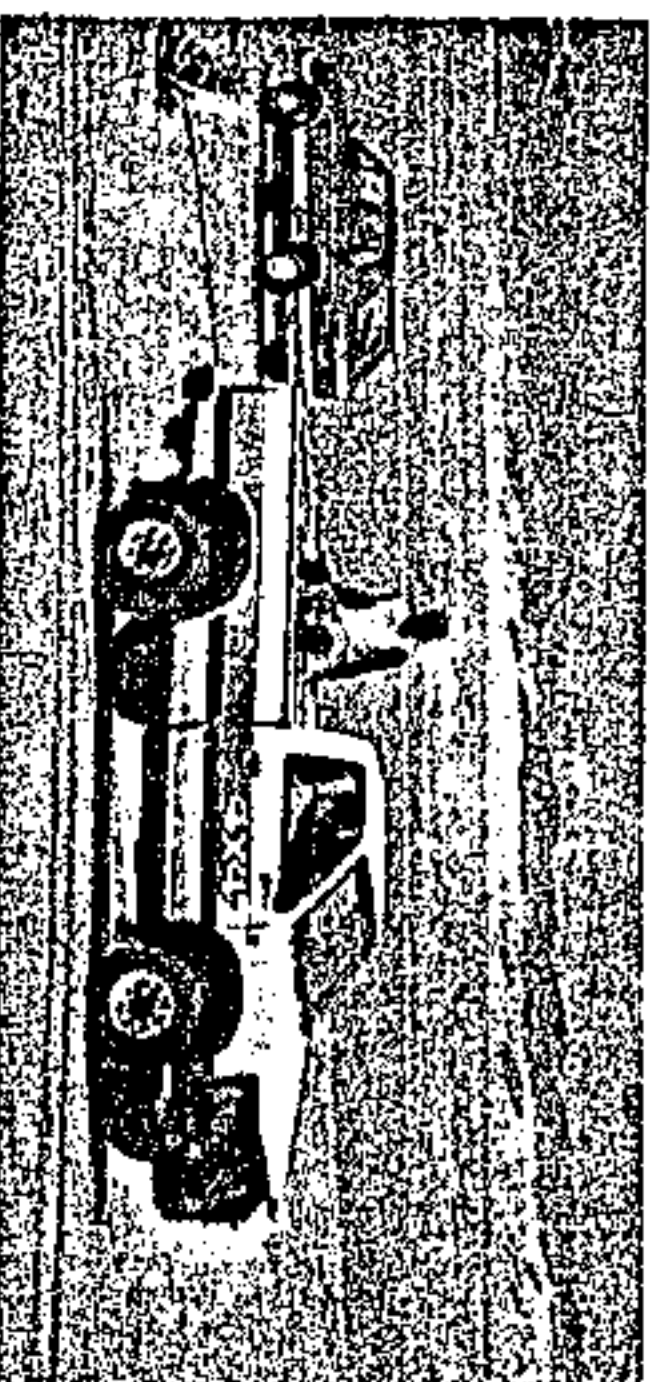
Conservationists say the coastline is virtually unprotected because there is only a handful of inspectors in the area and they can't cope.

Although there is a code of conduct for drivers taking their vehicles on to the Plaai, at the mouth of Hermannus lagoon, this is often ignored.

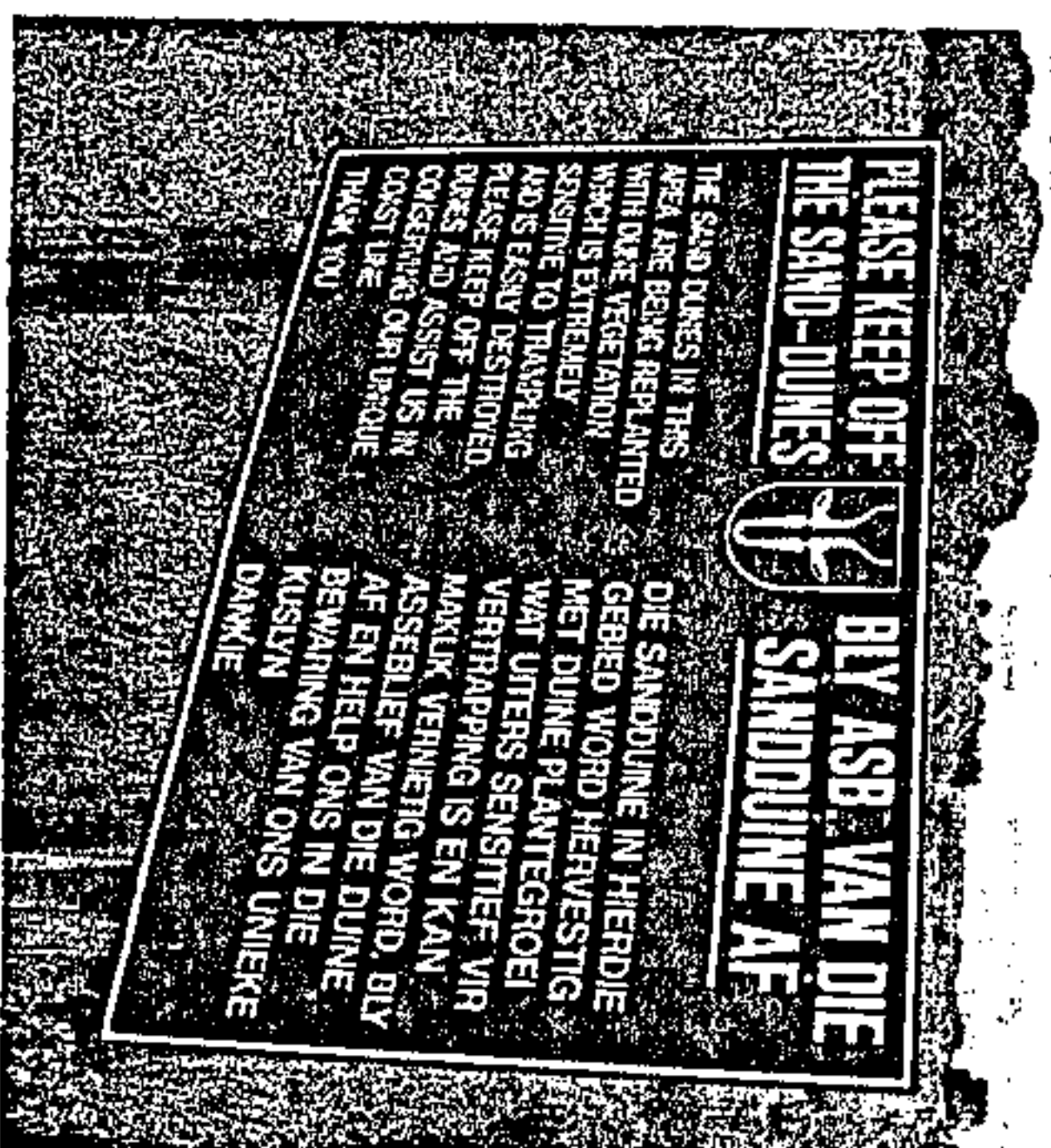
Not everyone agrees with this assessment and one regular visitor said he had seen Hermannus traffic inspectors policing the beach and that he had never witnessed serious problems at the Plaai.

But Mr Martin said some drivers abused the coastal strip, behaving as though they were "in the old-style Wild West".

Sean Schneider, principal environmental officer in the Department of Environment Affairs and author of the proposed beach policy, said the policy was a compromise situation as Natal had not been prepared to go along with a blanket ban on vehicles.



STRICTLY ILLEGAL: A holidaymaker tows his children behind his 4 x 4 on Hermannus beach.



In terms of the new policy, certain areas — particularly like ghost crabs, all bathing beaches, estuarine salt marshes and estuarine inter-tidal sand and mud flats — would be declared off-limits to vehicles.

"Other beach areas can be considered, subject to control," Mr Schneider explained. "The way has been paved for

the policy to be gazetted, but the next problem is going to be policing it."

The department was just as concerned about people as the natural environment, Mr Schneider added.

"We regard quality of life in urban areas as very important, and the impact of off-road vehicles on the recreational experiences of others can be severe. "You can't have them (off-

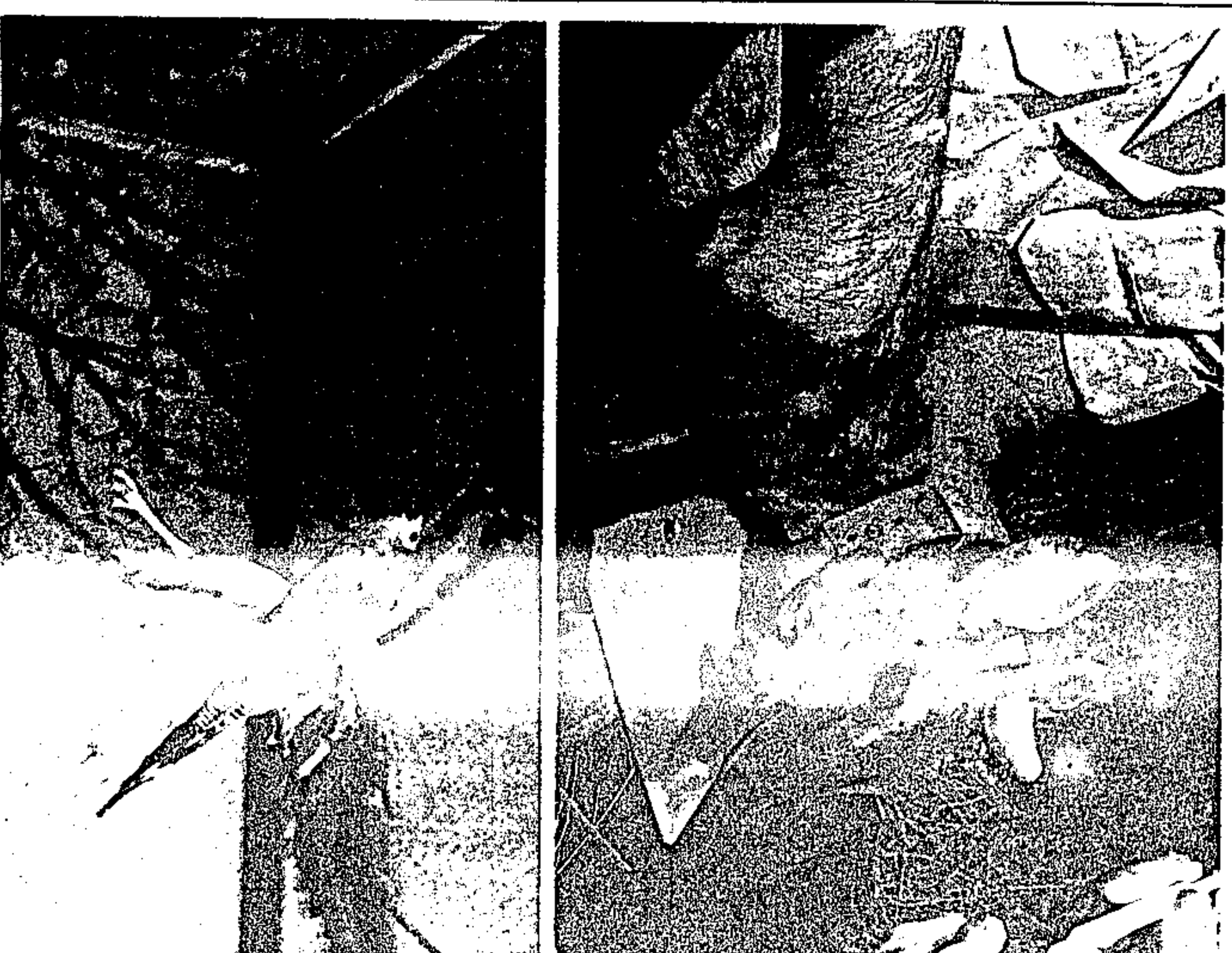
road vehicles) disrupting more passive activities and other forms of recreation."

There was nothing in the policy to force local authorities to allow vehicles access to beaches, and there was a blanket ban in several areas, he said.

"If the majority of people in an area feel very strongly against this (vehicles on beach), then there's no reason why it should be allowed."

TRACKING THE CULPRITS:

Conservationists, above, examine vehicle tracks on the Plaai area at Hermannus. Some of these vehicles are destroying sensitive dune vegetation. Top, the message is clear: The dunes are being replanted, please keep off — but it's being ignored by many beachgoers. Pictures: JOHN YELD. The Argus



Pictures: HANNES THIART. The Argus.

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE ZOO TODAY... Visitors to Tygerberg Zoo during the coming season will see several new arrivals — including a shy suri antelope, top, believed to be the first of its kind on display in the Western Cape. This picture was taken while Professor Ben Burger and his staff of Stellenbosch University's chemistry department were preparing to take samples from the antelope's preorbital glands to test them for the presence of pheromones — the chemical make-up used by this species for scent-marking territory. The buck's collar, fitted at Pretoria Zoo, has been removed since the picture was taken. Above: A gymnogone, one of Africa's strangest birds of prey, glides past the photographer. These birds, which use their long legs to reach down into holes in trees to extract nest contents, fly extremely quietly and have been likened to giant butterflies. Right: Zoo staff member Werner Fournie keeps a careful grip on the powerful beak of a male southern ground hornbill — one of two species of ground hornbill which occur in Africa. The other is the Abyssinian ground hornbill.



World Heritage status bid for St Lucia

Star 13/12/93

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

A battle in the St Lucia saga has been won, but the war is not yet over, according to Dr Nolly Zaloumis, chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia, which represents 140 organisations.

In a statement yesterday, Zaloumis commended the five-member Review Panel for its conclusion that mining should not be allowed on the dunes on the eastern shores of the lake.

He emphasised that the standpoint of the Campaign for St

Lucia had always been that the mining application should never have been considered.

"The panel's finding is one further step towards the ultimate goal — the creation of the Greater St Lucia Park," he said.

"The Campaign for St Lucia will now commence an international lobby to obtain economic and political support for the creation of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. The proclamation of this park has always been our mission," he said.

In its report, the panel emphasised South Africa's interna-

tional obligations.

"Mining would be in conflict with the Ramsar Convention and would prevent World Heritage status being accorded to this region. There are few areas in the world which qualify for the special sense of place," the report said.

(56)
"The unique combination of socio-political history and environmental and biological diversity makes the Greater St Lucia area a very special asset for the nation. There is no substitute."

The panel recommended that a national heritage park be es-

tablished by Parliament, to be managed by an independent board consisting of representatives of local communities, private and public conservation bodies, and the private sector.

This recommendation has been supported in principle by the Natal Parks Board (NPB). However, there was a feeling that administrative implications needed further investigation.

NPB deputy chief executive Dick Parris told The Star the NPB was already in the process of applying for World Heritage status for St Lucia.

The St Lucia report gets wide support

Sowetan 13/12/93

By Musa Zondi and Sapa

THE report favouring eco-tourism over mining for St Lucia has received widespread support from different groups in the country.

The Natal Parks Board welcomed the report by the review panel in favour of nature conservation-tourism land use options for Lake St Lucia's eastern shores. (215) (56)

Perhaps more importantly, the panel also strongly recommended that the issue of people who were dispossessed of the land in the 1950s be addressed "as a matter of urgency".

Chairman for the Transvaal branch of the Save St Lucia Campaign, Mrs Nora Crayer, said they were thrilled "that for once an environmental issue has been given priority". She said support received for the campaign had made the difference.

Chief executive of NPB Mr Dick Parris said: "The NPB supports the recommendation that both resident and displaced communities need to have a significant say in the management of the

area, and also supports the panel's recommendation on land allocation."

Mr Justice Ramon Leon, who chaired the review panel, announced the recommendations in Cape Town on Friday.

Richards Bay Minerals, which was going to mine the area, has expressed disappointment at the finding. The company said the findings did "not reflect the fact that mining, nature conservation and the development of eco-tourism can successfully co-exist for the long term benefit for all concerned."

"RBM continues to support the assessment process. At the end of the day, the Government will need to take into account all the factors involved, including the weight of opinion among the local population in favour of mining, the environmental impact studies and the Review Panel recommendations. If the Government then decides against mining, RBM will honour its commitment to accept that decision and discuss with the Government the basis on which the company's rights might be withdrawn," said the statement.

Tourism plan for St Lucia

BIDAY 13/12/93

MARIANNE MERTEN

THE Natal Parks Board is waiting for a final Cabinet decision on the St Lucia mining issue before launching its plans to extend tourism facilities.

Conservationists greeted with joy the special review panel's unanimous decision against Richards Bay Minerals' plan for titanium mining in the area.

Review panel chairman Judge R Leon said at a Cape Town news conference that the Cabinet, perhaps in co-operation with the Transitional Executive Council, would have to make the final decision.

Natal Parks Board CE Dick Parris said last week the board welcomed the panel's decision and was ready to develop ecotourism in the area.

Plans to expand tourism facilities had been delayed because of the uncertainty surrounding the mining dispute. Finance was already available, as were initiatives to include local communities in the running of St Lucia, he said.

RBM communications GM Barry Clements said the panel's decision was disappointing.

The review panel seemed to have placed more emphasis on "intangible factors" than on

the scientific facts of the CSIR environmental assessment. (56)

The company had missed an opportunity to put its point of view to the panel when it decided not to submit new evidence, but it was not the final step in the process, Clements said.

RBM would begin discussions with government on rights such as compensation if the Cabinet decided against mining, but would honour the final decision.

Clements said RBM hoped government would take into consideration the opinions of the local population.

Parris, reacting to the panel's conclusion that the Natal Parks Board was disliked among the local community because of low wages and alleged land acquisitions, said local people had been used as a pawn in the dispute and had been given some incorrect information.

To improve relations with neighbouring communities, the board would expand its awareness programmes to explain its function in terms of conservation.

Bill lays down law for April elections

ADRIAN HADLAND

CAPE TOWN — Legislation governing the conduct and duties of political parties and voters during the election was tabled in Parliament at the weekend. 13/12/93

The Electoral Bill sets out who is entitled to vote, registration requirements for political parties, the handling of ballot boxes, counting procedures, an electoral code of conduct and other details related to SA's first democratic election. (34)

The Bill states that parties standing for election to the national assembly are required to lodge a deposit of R25 000. Provincial legislature deposits are R5 000.

Parties that fail to gain a single seat in the provincial or national election will lose the deposit.

According to the code of conduct, parties are required to allow all election participants to canvass, erect banners and placards, hold meetings and express divergent opinions in all areas. Failure to adhere to the code could lead to a fine of R100 000, the forfeiture of a deposit or expulsion from the election.

Government also introduced the Regulation of Gatherings Bill to Parliament last week, described in its explanatory memorandum as "an essential instrument in maintaining order and peace in the pre-electoral period".

To regulate gatherings, a convenor must be appointed who must notify a "responsible officer", appointed by a local authority, that a gathering is to take place. The convenor is responsible for appointing enough marshals and ensuring gatherings comply with guidelines.

The Bill sets out general conduct at gatherings, lays down police powers, provides for civil liability and defines offences and penalties.

The Bill defines a demonstration as having up to 15 participants, with more than 15 constituting a gathering. It provides for fines of up to R20 000 or a year's imprisonment and prohibits gatherings close to Parliament, the Union Buildings in Pretoria or courts of law.

The wearing of masks, disguises or clothes similar to those worn by the security forces is also prohibited.

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New dawn over Lake St Lucia

Star 11/12/93

Death knell rings out for mining

FOUR years, R4 million and thousands of pages later, the final report of the Environmental Impact Assessment process into mining and ecotourism at St Lucia has ended in victory for the anti-mining lobby.

In a remarkably succinct 142-page statement, the five-member Review Panel chaired by Mr Justice Ramon Leon cut through the complex and acrimonious debate to make what it called a "value judgment" that no mining should be allowed in the Greater St Lucia area as a matter of principle.

According to most commentators, it is highly unlikely that the Review Panel recommendations will be overturned by the Cabinet, which will make the final decision.

Unacceptable

In addition to unanswered questions, uncertainties and risks, mining would significantly alter the perception of ordinary people's sense of place, the panel said, and was not compatible with the preferred land-use option, ecotourism.

"There comes a time when one must be prepared to say enough is enough. In our judgment, mining on the Eastern Shores would cause unac-

THE battle to halt mining of the dunes on the shores of Lake St Lucia has been won with the release of yesterday's Review Panel report, writes Science Writer ANITA ALLEN.

~~56~~ 56
ceptable damage to a place which is special because of its rich history, ecology and biological diversity and the significance it has in the eyes of its many visitors," the report said.

The panel saw the Greater St Lucia area as capturing in a microcosm much of South Africa's socio-political history and environmental diversity.

"Connections are to be found with many of the most significant events in our history over the past 500 years ... Nowhere else in South Africa are coral reefs, turtle beaches, high afforested dunes, freshwater swamps, grasslands, estuaries and wilderness to be found in such close proximity and with a history of conservation management," the panel said.

"This unique combination of socio-political history and environmental and biological diversity makes the Greater St Lucia area a very special

asset for the nation. There is no substitute."

In a major victory for the Natal Parks Board (NPB) — proposer of the ecotourism option — the Review Panel not only rejected mining but also rejected the resettlement of the Eastern Shores by people displaced by the State in the 1960s and '70s.

"The panel is also fully aware of the impacts which would arise if large numbers of people resettled in the area after restitution of land rights."

The panel took the view that the urgent need to address the abject poverty in the area had to take priority over everything else.

It recommended that two factors be kept in mind: ensuring that the special place remained a special place, and that local people be given a stake in the management of the area and derived direct economic benefits.

To give effect to these

objectives, the Review Panel recommended that:

- People displaced from the area should receive land in adjacent areas as well as money as compensation as a matter of urgency.

- A national heritage park be established by Parliament, to be managed by an independent board consisting of representatives of local communities, private and public conservation bodies, and the private sector.

"The board supports the spirit of the recommendation that an Act of Parliament should establish the Greater St Lucia area as a national heritage park but considers that the precise mechanism to be employed will require further investigation."

Further probe

The NPB also concurred that State funding should be provided for the management of the park and agreed with the spirit of the recommendation to establish a board to administer it.

However, Parris said, the administrative implications of this required further investigation.

He said the NPB had already taken all the necessary steps to have the Greater St Lucia area declared a world heritage site. Such status would most probably not be granted if mining were allowed.

Jubilation at St Lucia recommendation

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Conservationists have greeted with joy the outcome of the 11th round of the St Lucia title fight.

The five-member review panel chaired by former Supreme Court judge Mr Ramon Leon yesterday morning recommended unanimously that mining should not be allowed at St Lucia.

Allowing Richards Bay Minerals to mine the Eastern Shores of the lake would cause unacceptable damage to an irreplaceable "national treasure", they said.

Conservationists — who cheered, clapped and popped open champagne bottles — praised the "remarkable courage" of the panel in speaking out strongly in favour of the environment.

However, the review panel's recommendations have no legal effect and could be ignored by the outgoing Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett.

A spokesman for Mr Bartlett's office declined to comment on the recommendations. Richards Bay Minerals said it was "naturally disappointed" by the findings, but declared that the battle was

not over yet.

● Conservationists, who earlier expressed scepticism over the outcome, seemed stunned by the stand taken by the review panel yesterday.

Mr Ian Player congratulated the panel personally in a telephone message and declared that Santa Lucia, the patron saint of blindness after whom the lake was named, had answered his prayers.

ST LUCIA

56/CT/11/2/93

St Lucia: Ecologist slams 'squandering'

JOHN YELD (56)
Environment Reporter

THE wrong questions were asked during the environmental impact assessment of the proposed mining of the coastal dunes on Lake St Lucia's eastern shores and a great deal of money was squandered on collecting trivial information, says University of Cape Town professor Roy Siegfried.

Yesterday the government-appointed review panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge Mr Justice Ramon Leon recommended that no mining be allowed in the greater St Lucia area.

The panel's report included summarised submissions, made during its public hearings, by 76 individuals and representatives — including Professor Siegfried, director of UCT's FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology and one of the country's top ecologists.

Professor Siegfried told the review panel the original brief to the CSIR's impact assessment team had not been satisfactory.

According to a summary of his submission included in the panel's report, Professor Siegfried said the assessment process had been unsatisfactory because the original brief had been unsatisfactory.

"What should have been investigated was land-use planning."

The CSIR had done an outstanding job and it was not their fault that the wrong questions had been asked or that they had not been asked to conduct the correct investigations.

Professor Siegfried believed a great deal of money had been squandered in collecting trivial

information that would be of no assistance.

What was needed was an optimal land-use plan for the whole of the greater St Lucia area; the land-claims issue and the concerns about the possible negation of the Ramsar Convention protecting wetlands had both been "red herrings".

There was no point in having a forum which would not do the job.

"What was required was a special facilitation process in which the adversaries would be brought together by a very capable facilitator," the report quoted Professor Siegfried as saying.

Another top Cape environmentalist, former SA Nature Foundation chief executive and specialist consultant Allan Heydorn, in his evidence to the panel raised the question of the risk involved in the event of the market for heavy minerals changing.

The report said Dr Heydorn had raised this in relation to Anglo American developments on the West Coast, where similar heavy metals would be mined, and also to investigations taking place in Mozambique.

"Dr Heydorn said that what was really needed was a strategic economic development plan for the whole of Maputaland between the Umfolozi river and the Mozambican border, and that the environmental impact report had not taken a wider vision of the requirements of the region.

"He also urged that no final decision on mining be taken until such time as a greater St Lucia development forum had been established and had met in order to make recommendations."

CSIR gets 'thumbs up' for report

Environment Reporter

THE CSIR team which conducted the environmental impact assessment of proposed mining at St Lucia has been praised by the review panel for its efforts.

The team, led by Brian van Wilgen of the CSIR's Forestek division at Jonkershoek, was frequently maligned and attacked by some conservationists during its two-year investigation.

But, in its report, the review panel said the team had demonstrated "an objective and highly professional approach".

A number of critics had suggested that the CSIR report was biased in favour of mining, the review panel said.

"Our view is that the report is biased only in the sense that it leans towards mining, but not in the pejorative sense of being prejudiced ...

"In our view the suggestion that the report is biased, in the pejorative sense, and superficial, is unfair and unjust.

"The report has been produced by experts who have amassed, analysed and consolidated a considerable amount of information in three volumes.

"Thereafter, there has been a great deal of public comment which, in our view, has been dealt with in a satisfactory manner. While one may disagree with some of the conclusions and in certain respects with where the emphasis was placed, in our opinion the environmental impact report comes across as thorough, competent and highly professional."

St Lucia panel decision today

THE special review panel on mining at St Lucia will make its recommendations public today, and parties involved in the issue say they believe it might suggest that a final decision be deferred until a new government is in place. **BIDAY**

However, several environmentalists were optimistic yesterday that the panel would favour an ecotourism plan for the sensitive wetland region, rather than the controversial titanium mining option.

The panel's recommendations — based on public hearings — will be announced in Cape Town. Its report will be submitted to Cabinet for a final decision on whether to allow the Richards Bay Minerals (RMB) dredging operation. **(50)**

Endangered Wildlife Trust director John Ledger, who supports the mining, said the public hearings had been well used by the anti-mining lobby, whereas RMB had not presented any new evidence.

An RMB spokesman said the company continued to be positive about its prospects, although there had been no indication of what the panel would recommend.

Campaign for St Lucia spokesman Dave Casey said he believed the recommenda-

MARIANNE MERTEN

tion would probably be to delay a decision on mining.

Sapa reports from Cape Town that Rupert Lorimer (DP, Bryanston) said in Parliament environmental control could be chaotic unless the 63 departments with environmental responsibilities were centrally co-ordinated. **10112193**

Speaking in the second reading debate on the Environment Conservation Second Amendment Bill, he said the Bill would also give the Minister the power to enforce the international Ramsar Convention and, by implication, to stop mining at St Lucia.

Rob Haswell (Ind-ANC, Maritzburg South) said government would be obliged to prevent mining at St Lucia with the passing of enabling legislation that committed it to enforcing the Ramsar Convention on wetlands.

But Environment Affairs Minister Japie Van Wyk said even if the convention became part of SA law, it would not override any decision by the Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister on mining at St Lucia.

Save St Lucia!

— clear message

for government

ART 10/12/93

□ Panel says 'no' to dune-mining plan

JOHN YELD
Environmental Reporter

DON'T mine St Lucia!

That's the unanimous message to the government from a review panel on Richards Bay Minerals' application to mine the coastal dunes on St Lucia's eastern shores.

The panel, headed by retired judge Mr Justice Ramon Leon, was appointed by the government to evaluate alternative land uses for the eastern shores area. The panel also reviewed the findings of a formal environmental impact assessment of the proposed mining and the reaction of the public and environmental organisations to this assessment.

The panel's report was released at a media conference in the SABC's Sea Point studios today and was broadcast direct to Durban and Johannesburg.

To cheers from the Durban audience, Judge Leon said the panel had concluded that no mining should be allowed in the greater St Lucia area.

"In the panel's judgment, mining the eastern shores would cause unacceptable damage to a place which is special because of its rich history, ecological and biological diversity and the significance it has in the eyes of its many visitors.

"This unique combination makes the greater St Lucia area a very special asset for the nation. There is no substitute."

The area should be proclaimed a national park and should acquire World Heritage status.

Mining could irreparably reduce the biodiversity in its path and would significantly alter the sense of place that ordinary people had.

"The exact effects are impossible to predict."

The most urgent problem associated with the issue was the plight of the original inhabitants of St Lucia who had been forced to leave the area by the government during the apartheid era.

Their plight had to be addressed as a matter of grave urgency, partly be-

cause the environmental assessment had raised expectations of jobs and land restitution.

"However, the panel recognises that were the evicted people to return to the eastern shores, they would materially alter the sense of place which is so widely appreciated.

"But if there is no restitution for what the original inhabitants lost because of apartheid, St Lucia would effectively be a special place for only the elite to enjoy."

The original inhabitants should receive adequate land in adjacent areas and money in compensation as a matter of urgency, the panel recommended.

It asked for a copy of its report to be forwarded to the Commission on Land Allocation.

With regard to future planning, the panel recommended two objectives:

- "To ensure that the special place remains a special place".

- To ensure that those with historic connections to the area, local communities in the area, and those who had been displaced had a significant role in the management and operation of the area, and derived direct economic and other benefits therefrom.

"This is a special time in the history of our country," Judge Leon said.

"The evils of the past are being acknowledged and there is a spirit of reconciliation. It is time to act boldly and with vision.

"Unless we set aside places like the greater St Lucia area now, there may be no opportunity in the future for people who have been excluded and forcibly divorced from their culture and sense of place to rekindle and re-establish it."

Richards Bay Minerals was "naturally disappointed" by the review panel's recommendation, senior general manager of mines and works Jack Goedhals said after the conference.

"But the process is not over yet. We've always committed ourselves to this process and we would like to note that there are still some steps in this process," Dr Goedhals said.

Plan may 'tip scales' on St Lucia

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — An announcement on the St Lucia mining row will be made on Friday by former Supreme Court Judge Ramon Leon.

Mr Leon chairs a five-member independent panel which has been asked to recommend to the government whether mining should be allowed at St Lucia.

Although its decision is not binding, the recommendation could tip the scales when the cabinet takes a final decision on the matter.

It is believed the panel will advise Mr Bartlett to postpone the final decision until a democratically-elected government is in place.

Observers said recent land disputes have complicated the row. Rival tribes have staked claims on land around St Lucia following forced removals.

The announcement will be made in Cape Town at 10.30am.

ETG/12/93

Society wants answers on Steenberg decision

Environment Reporter

THE decision by Administrator Kobus Meiring to overrule the Constantia local council's objections and approve the R250 million development of historic Steenberg Farm has been met with "deep concern" by the Wildlife Society.

(S) ARG 2/12/93
The society has challenged Mr Meiring to make public his reasons for giving the go-ahead.

Earlier this week Mr Meiring provisionally approved Johannesburg Consolidated Investment's plans to develop an 18-hole golf course, country hotel, restaurant, winery and more than 200 luxury houses at the farm.

Mr Meiring's approval was "shockingly bad timing", said society conservation ecologist Andy Gubb.

"Not only is it being pushed through in this interim political period, but also while several studies on the Peninsula's mountains are still in progress.

"The fact that the Administrator can overrule local authorities and those interested and affected parties who have shown due concern for the potential impacts that the development may have on the area and its people is a matter of really grave concern."

The provincial administration's statement that "the motivation (for approving the application) is confidential at this stage" was unacceptable, Mr Gubb said.

"We call on the Administrator to give reasons why this decision went against public feeling and input. We call for transparency and accountability on the part of the decision-makers."

The society's major concerns about the development included:

- The potential impact on the underground water-table.
- The potential impact of fertilisers and herbicides which could be transferred to downstream water-courses and boreholes.
- The squandering of water, which would soon become a critical resource in the Western Cape, on a recreational amenity for an affluent minority.

Minor "window-dressing" in the form of landscaping with indigenous trees and Cape flora would "in no way" lessen hydrological and geo-hydrological concerns, Mr Gubb said.

"The Wildlife Society previously asked for these issues to be professionally assessed prior to any decision being taken, but we have not had any feedback."

Buffels River dam issue 'unresolved'

AN expert appointed by the Rooi Els Local Council to investigate the pollution of water in the Buffels River dam has said that Somchem had not been cleared of pollution charges.

(56) ARG 27/11/93
In a statement issued yesterday by Professor Denis Cowen of the Rooi Els Local Council, speaking on behalf of Stellenbosch expert Professor P P Burger, said the monitors had not concluded their findings. "The question of who is responsible for the great increase in aluminium and chlorides in the water of Buffels River dam remains unresolved".

Also, the minutes of the meeting — at which Somchem said it had been cleared of the charges — had not been confirmed, and Professor Burger had informed Somchem that he took strong exception to the company's "premature" announcement in this regard. Another meeting would be held in mid-December, said Professor Cowen.

However, Denel's Paul Holtzhausen, said on behalf of Somchem that experts from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Stellenbosch University and the Rooi Els Local Council had concluded that "Somchem could not be held responsible for the presence of aluminium and chlorides in the dam water".

Mr Holtzhausen acknowledged the aluminium content of the drinking water in the area was higher than the untreated water of Buffels River dam, but said this was due to inadequate process-control by the water purification works and was beyond Somchem's control. — Sapa.

Waste of sun 'ludicrous' ⁽⁵⁾ says expert ^{APR 26/11/93}

☐ Solar power use urged

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

SOLAR powered water heaters and rainwater tanks should be mandatory in all new houses in South Africa, says environmental scientist Guy Preston.

Dr Preston told The Argus/Fairest Cape "green breakfast" for the business community yesterday fewer than three in every 100 newhouses had solar heaters.

"I can assure you it is a cost-effective option. It's ludicrous in a country like South Africa not to make this mandatory.

"The same applies to water tanks — these make a lot of sense, even in the Western Cape ...

"Water is our most critical natural resource, which needs protection."

If just half the households with access to waterborne sewerage fitted dual-flush toilets — systems using less water for flushing liquid wastes than solid wastes — South Africa would save 160 billion litres of purified water every year, Dr Preston said.



Environmental problems could be broken down to two basics: Population growth and the use of resources.

"These are key criteria: The efficient and sustainable use of water and energy. Unfortunately these are not things people get too passionate about."

Most people did not realise how much energy they were using in their homes or which appliances used most energy, Dr Preston said.

Research indicated that making people aware led to energy conservation.

It was essential to change "short-term" mentalities on the use of resources.

An example was the reluctance to use long-lasting "polywood" products made from plastic waste:

"It baffles me that these sort of products are not getting support, especially from local authorities."

Dr Preston said proper impact assessments should be done on alternative sources of energy and water, and that individuals had an important role.

"You can make a difference, individually and through the people that you touch," he said.

Relaxing mine rules 'worrying'

285
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CT 25/11/93

By PETER DENNEHY

RELAXING the conditions under which Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd was allowed to mine kaolin in the Noordhoek Valley could be the first step onto "the slippery road to no control", a councillor said yesterday.

Mr E M Kramer, of Simon's Town, said yesterday that he was most concerned that the company had asked for several of the conditions imposed on it to be altered.

"If we go on like this, we will have less and less control over the environment in that area."

In June this year, the RSC approved the application to mine kaolin in Noordhoek, subject to many conditions.

The RSC reserved the right to impose new conditions if the proposed kaolin pipeline from the main mining site to the processing plant at Brakkekloof did not materialise.

About 30 people appealed against

the conditions, saying they were not stringent enough, and Serina also appealed, saying they were too stringent.

It would be extremely difficult, Serina contended, not to spill any kaolin from trucks.

Yesterday the RSC ruled that trucks leaving Trentham Farm, a subsidiary site where some mining will take place, had to have their loads covered and their wheels cleaned before leaving the property.

Serina asked for exemption, in the case of Trentham Farm, from the requirement that mining must take place at one pit at a time on each site. On Trentham, the kaolin is found at two different places. The RSC obliged.

It also conceded that requiring full council permission for any deviation from the 7am to 4pm mining hours was too harsh as the RSC only meets once a month.

But in another instance the RSC stood firm and said "no", refusing Serina permission to reduce the 30m buffer strip next to Chapman's Peak Drive to nine metres.

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Kaolin curbs 'slipping' away

Municipal Reporter

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WESTERN Cape Regional Services Council is on a slippery road, to having no control over kaolin mining at Chapman's Peak and Noordhoek, said Simon's Town councillor, Martin Kramer.

ARCT 25/11/93
A member of the RSC land usage and transport planning committee, Mr Kramer was commenting on an RSC decision to relax conditions of approval of kaolin mining at the two sites.

Conditions about controlling spill-

age from trucks, three-year revision of an environmental control manual, limits on the extent of mining, and a 30 m buffer zone next to Chapman's Peak Drive were relaxed after an appeal from Serina Kaolin.

Mr Kramer said he was concerned conditions gradually were being phased out.

● Plans for a Blouberg nature reserve were set back when the Western Cape Regional Services Council sent the matter back to its land usage and transport planning committee.

Dust still flying ⁽⁵⁾ over conditions set for kaolin mining

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

THE dust has not settled in the saga of kaolin mining at Noordhoek.

Applicants Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd have objected to Western Cape Regional Services Council's conditions to its approval of mining operations — prompting an RSC committee to recommend relaxing them.

And 30 objectors have asked Administrator Kobus Meiring to overturn RSC approval.

Objectors said kaolin mining at Noordhoek and Chapman's Peak would be bad for the environment and tourism.

The decision was taken by people who were not politically accountable to the community, at a time of pending changes to local government. Any decision should be postponed, they said.

Conditions to approval were too vague and could not be enforced.

Serina said the requirements of its mining licence issued by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs were enough to address RSC concerns.

Conditions included procedures for preventing spillage from trucks, a limit on mining to one plot on each site, and a 30m buffer zone next to Chapman's Peak Drive.

Changes to conditions were to be put to the RSC for approval today.

At a land usage and transport planning committee meeting, Simon's Town councillor Martin Kramer said he objected strongly to relaxation of the conditions "which were gradually being phased out".

RSC chief executive Daan van der Berg said changes to conditions had no significant impact in some cases.

Changes were recommended "in a spirit which would serve the best interest of the RSC and Serina," Mr Van der Berg said.

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Table Mountain visitor numbers might be curbed

□ Conservationist warns of erosion

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SO MANY people are visiting Table Mountain it might become necessary to introduce restrictions to limit erosion damage, says conservationist Douglas Hey.

At an Institute of Citizenship meeting at St George's Cathedral hall yesterday, Dr Hey said pressure of human numbers was one of the major threats facing Table Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain.

"More and more people are going up the mountain and this pressure is going to increase ...

"It might be necessary to limit the number of people, if it's being degraded by over-trampling."

Dr Hey, who chairs the Administrator's Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee, said he did not want to elaborate on how this should be done — "It's a very intricate problem."

Responding to a question, he said his advisory committee had considered the question of charging users of the mountain.

But it was impossible to fence the mountain and levy a fee at a single entrance point.

"My idea was that we could introduce a permit system, a semi-licence,

for which you would pay so much a year to walk in the nature area. I think that is one possible way," Dr Hey said.

The lack of funding was another major threat to the conservation of the mountain.

About R13 million a year was being spent on the maintenance and conservation of the mountain chain, but the advisory committee estimated that between R17 million and R18 million was required.

"We must reassess the funding," Dr Hey said.

The state could not opt out completely from its financial responsibility but local authorities, commerce and industry, which generated profits from the use of the mountain, and users themselves would have to be prepared to make a financial contribution, Dr Hey said.

Asked about new plans for the cableway, he said a percentage of all future takings should be ploughed back into a mountain management fund, irrespective of who operated the cableway.

Responding to another question, Dr Hey said his committee had not discussed the proposed cableway up Signal Hill.

"But my personal view is that I would not like to see it."

(56) ARG 19/11/93

Safety charter after gas leaks

DURBAN. — A special charter is soon to be adopted between AECI's Umbogintwini complex and the surrounding communities following gas leaks at the factory earlier this year.

The charter provides for improved emergency warning systems, community involvement in safety drills and participation in new developments at the complex.

CT18/11/93

Environmental policy slated

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The Environmental Law Association (ELA) has expressed "astonishment" that environment policy will in future be a regional matter.

Mr Jeremy Ridl, vice-chairman of the ELA, said: "It's almost like allowing local governments to declare war. Environmental policy is controlled by central and federal government in all civilised countries." (56) CT 18/11/93

SABS launches 'green' logo

Staff Reporter

THE South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) has launched its environmentally friendly logo which will appear on products which meet specific environmental specifications.

The logo is a diamond with a picture of the earth and a tree in the centre, with the SABS letters stamped on it.

Mr Roger Norman, SABS's manager of industrial chemistry, said from Pretoria yesterday there were many products on the market sporting environmentally friendly logos, many of which meant nothing.

"For instance, a certain brand of polish has a logo which says it is ozone friendly because it contains no CFCs. Well, polish

never has contained CFCs, so it is irrelevant," Mr Norman said.

He said there were many environmentally friendly logos but no independent body which monitored what went into the product.

So far only one product — a dishwashing liquid — has the SABS environmentally friendly logo, but more products are in the pipeline.

56 OCT 18 11 1993

Natal/KwaZulu parliament to decide on St Lucia

Political representatives elected to the Natal/KwaZulu provincial parliament on April 27 will decide whether to allow mining at Lake St Lucia.

This is the effect of changes to the draft constitution agreed to at the multiparty talks last night.

Star 17/11/93
Delegates from the Democratic Party, Pan Africanist Congress, Afrikaner Volks-unie, Transvaal Indian Congress and National People's Party joined together in the Negotiating Council to argue that environment should be added to the list

of provincial powers.

Initially Mohammed Valli Moosa of the ANC opposed this, saying the world trend was for countries to come up with national environmental policies. — Political Staff.

~~(56)~~ (56)



Killer gas is 'commonly used as pesticide in city'

56
CT 13/11/93
THE killer gas methyl bromide, which claimed the lives of two people in Port Elizabeth, is commonly used as a pesticide in Cape Town.

An inquest in Port Elizabeth this week found Mr Frederick Cilliers, 62, and Ms Erika van Rooyen, 23, died last year after premises were fumigated with the gas.

Mr Cilliers died after Oregon pine floorboards were fumigated at his work, and Mrs Van Rooyen went into a fatal coma after a neighbour's flat was fumigated.

In evidence at the inquest, a fumigation expert said methyl bromide was used because it was cheap and effective — and South Africa did not have adequate legislative safety measures.

A spokesman for Rentokil, Mr Joe Hindele, said yesterday that methyl bromide was used for a variety of pests, including wood borer.

"It is an acceptable means of pest eradication which is used here and overseas," Mr Hindele said.

He said premises were vacated and sealed before the gas was released.

Trust fund proposed to finance Common

CT 11/11/93 (56)

CAPE TOWN City Council's Parks and Forest Department has proposed — among other proposals — that a trust fund be established to finance the management planning of Rondebosch Common.

The department is anxious that the public participate in all stages of the plan.

It proposes to meet The Friends of the Common group and the Rondebosch Civic Association in a joint meeting to discuss the plan and to set up workshops for further discussions.

In the latest report — compiled from public meetings, questionnaires and workshops with interested and affected parties — it reiterates that the 32 ha site be zoned as public open space and be proclaimed a national monument.

Actions

Main issues have now been iso-

lated and 11 actions have been recommended. They are:

Control of invasive alien plants and grasses.

Maintenance and management of the stone pine areas.

Management of indigenous vegetation (including fire procedures).

Reinstatement of wetland areas.

Rationalisation of the footpath network (including seasonally wet areas).

Restriction of vehicle access.

Maintenance of formal parking areas (including cleansing).

Continuation of use for informal, low-impact recreational activities.

Provision of signage and environmental interpretation facilities.

Provision of personal safety for users (law enforcement).

Establishment of a trust fund

for financing management planning.

Mr David Daitz, the director of Parks and Forests, said: "We are making a concerted effort to get this plan off the table so that we can implement it. As professional managers of vegetation, we would like to get a final resolution.

"If necessary we will hold public workshops a number of times until we reach clarification on these issues. We particularly would like input on the use of fire to control vegetation on the Common."

The report said: "For many years concern has been expressed regarding the future use and management of the Common, and various interest groups (such as residents, ratepayers, conservationists, sports people, National Monuments Council and the recently formed Friends of Rondebosch Common) have voiced their opinions."

Gqozo orders 'were gross abuse of power'

BISHO — The order allegedly issued by Ciskei military ruler Oupa Gqozo that former homeland security boss Charles Sebe should be sought and destroyed was a gross abuse of power, the Bisho Supreme Court heard yesterday. 11/11/93

Attorney-General Willem Jurgens, SC, said Gqozo could not rely on the homeland's Indemnity Act to avoid prosecution for Sebe's death as the Ciskei leader had not acted in good faith when he gave the order.

Jurgens also argued that it was "totally immaterial and a futile exercise" to draw comparisons between Gqozo's position as head of state and that of the English monarch or SA's president.

The Ciskei leader was not above the law but, like all other citizens of the homeland, had to obey and subject himself to the laws of Ciskei.

Gqozo and his former bodyguard, Thozamile Veliti, face charges of murder for the January 27 1991 death of Sebe. Gqozo also faces an alternative count of incitement to murder.

Own Correspondent

Sebe and Col Onward Guzana were allegedly the leaders of a coup plotted against the homeland government, but were thwarted when they were confronted at an army roadblock near Stutterheim.

Guzana was fatally wounded and an inquest found that no one could be held criminally liable for his death.

Sebe escaped despite being seriously wounded at the roadblock and a large manhunt was launched. He was traced to Gubevu village the following day, where he was shot.

The State alleges that Gqozo issued an order that the search for Sebe should be a "seek and destroy operation" and that the former major-general in Ciskei's armed forces should be shot on sight.

The State also alleges that the seriously wounded Sebe was killed by soldiers — including Veliti — as he emerged to surrender to them.

Legal argument will continue today.

Mandela acts on St Lucia

DIRK VAN EEDEN

PRETORIA — The Campaign for St Lucia yesterday handed 200 000 postcards from around SA to the President's Office, calling on him to prevent mining the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia on Natal's north coast. 10/11/93

Among the signatures were those of ANC president Nelson Mandela, veteran politician Helen Suzman, sport stars Jonty Rhodes and Bruce Fordyce, actors, singers, academics and local and international environmentalists. 10/11/93

Transvaal Campaign for St Lucia chairman Nora Kreher said the postcards handed over were only those which had been audited and numbered. Thousands more were still being processed and thousands more signatures were streaming in every day.

Campaign spokesman Susan Pyne-James said the immediate objective was to prevent Richard's Bay Minerals' prospecting permit from being converted to a mining permit. The Campaign for St Lucia wanted the greater St Lucia area proclaimed a protected environment. (56)

ANC support for St Lucia campaign

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The names of leading politicians, businessmen, artists and sportsmen appear on a petition of 200 000 signatures delivered to President F W de Klerk by the Campaign for St Lucia yesterday.

The signatures include those of ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela, veteran politician Mrs Helen Suzman, former Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, and ANC chairman in the PWV region Mr Tokyo Sexwale.

A previous petition carried 300 000 signatures.

ET 11/11/93

Mandela acts on St Lucia

DIRK VAN EEDEN

PRETORIA — The Campaign for St Lucia yesterday handed 200 000 postcards from around SA to the President's Office, calling on him to prevent mining the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia on Natal's north coast. *Bay*

Among the signatures were those of ANC president Nelson Mandela, veteran politician Helen Suzman, sport stars Jonty Rhodes and Bruce Fordyce, actors, singers, academics and local and international environmentalists. *10/11/83*

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Campaign spokesman Susan Pyne-James said the immediate objective was to prevent Richard's Bay Minerals' prospecting permit from being converted to a mining permit. The Campaign for St Lucia wanted the greater St Lucia area proclaimed a protected environment. *(SA) (56)*

St Lucia 'only viable mining option' (56)

ARG 10/11/93

DURBAN. — Richards Bay Minerals has again ruled out the possibility of mining the Port Durnford area of Zululand instead of St Lucia.

Addressing the five member St Lucia review panel yesterday, RBM spokesman Dr Jack Goedhals said environmental bodies had suggested there were several other areas where the company

could mine heavy minerals.

However, RBM had investigated all available coastal dune cordons from the northern-most part of KwaZulu/Natal southwards through the Transkei and to the top of the Cape West Coast and had been unable to find any other suitable deposits.

Dr Goedhals also denied claims that the water needs of the pro-

posed St Lucia mines would harm other land users, including irrigation farmers.

Oliff D'Oliviera, of the Zululand Environmental Alliance, urged the panel to note that all major environmental groups of any consequence had condemned mining at St Lucia, and said it was those with financial interests who wanted to mine the area.

'Kruger unsuitable for farming'

PRETORIA — The physical and climatic conditions in Kruger National Park made it unsuitable for subsistence farming, Water Affairs Department chief engineer Alan Conley said this week.

He was responding to a recent suggestion that subsistence farming should be allowed within the park's boundaries. *B1204*

Speaking at the National Veld Trust's annual conference, Conley said the use of modern technology and techniques had shown that farming would not work in the area. *5/11/93*

The effective use of data bases, computer models and innovative decision support systems, as introduced recently by his department, could aid political and

ADRIAN HADLAND

environmental decision-making.

He said studies had shown the average rainfall required for viable subsistence farming was more than 500mm a year. Kruger Park recorded less than 400mm.

High temperatures in the area and the prevalence of hard sub-soil rock formations meant evaporation of surface water would be great while groundwater levels were likely to be inadequate.

Aside from a potential water shortage for residents and farmers in the park region, the soil was of poor quality. *(56)*

Modelling of other areas, with particular regard to water supplies and management, was cur-

rently under way in terms of a cooperative agreement between the Water Research Commission, water boards, municipalities and research organisations.

Political decisions on population settlement and land issues would be greatly aided by the acquisition and illustration of relevant facts, he added.

Lesotho Water Affairs Department representative H Pettenburger told the conference that the Lesotho Highlands Water Project was very much on schedule.

Excavation work for the Katse Dam had been completed and concrete was being poured at a rate of 25 000m³ a month, with a target of 90 000m³ by February next year.

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'Distinct lack of empathy for ecotourism'

St Lucia report biased, says Natal Parks Board

Stat 4/11/93

~~Stat~~ (56)

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — The St Lucia environmental impact report had failed to provide information suitable for a balanced assessment on the trade-offs that had to be made, Natal Parks Board chief executive Dr George Hughes said in Durban yesterday.

He was addressing the St Lucia review panel which is to make recommendations to the Cabinet on whether mining should be allowed in the Eastern Shores area of

Lake St Lucia.

The board believed that the shortcomings in the final report and the earlier environmental report were almost without exception to the advantage of the mining land-use option as opposed to ecotourism, Hughes said.

"There is a distinct lack of empathy for the nature conservation/tourism option evident throughout the report."

He said the board believed that nature conservation/tourism on the

Eastern Shores without mining would maximise the social welfare of the area because, among other things:

■ Nature conservation/tourism was an efficient land use which offered a wide spectrum of net benefits to society. This land use optimally exploited the ecotourism potential of the unique natural resources of the Eastern Shores.

■ It was sustainable — no irreparable damage would result from this land use and no future

land use options would be foreclosed. Mining, on the other hand, would not be sustainable. It would have irreversible impacts on the Eastern Shores which would reduce the future potential use of the area for ecotourism.

Because of the lack of meaningful comparisons, the board believed the review panel should find in favour of nature conservation/ecotourism — without mining — as the most appropriate land use for the Eastern Shores.

Parks board hits at dune mining report's defects

56 ARG 4/11/93

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — The St Lucia Environmental Impact Report had failed to provide information suitable for a balanced assessment on the trade-offs that had to be made, Dr George Hughes, chief executive of the Natal Parks Board said in Durban yesterday.

Dr Hughes was addressing the St Lucia Review Panel which is to make recommendations to the Cabinet on whether mining should be allowed in the Eastern Shores area of St Lucia.

Dr Hughes said his board believed the shortcomings in the final report and the earlier environmental report were almost without exception to the advantage of the mining land use option as opposed to eco-tourism.

Trust fund for all Cape Peninsula mountains urged

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A DEDICATED trust fund for the effective management of the entire Peninsula mountain chain should be established and should include funds from the proposed new development at Cape Point, says the Wildlife Society.

Society spokesman Andy Gubb was commenting on the Regional Services Council's "in principle" decision to accept Concor's development proposals for the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, including a funicular railway from the parking area to the summit of Cape Point and a restaurant complex.

The RSC has invited interested and affected parties to a meeting on Monday to discuss the proposals.

But Mr Gubb said the RSC should not sign contracts and appoint contractors without public consultation from the outset of any proposed developments.

"The public have not been brought in at the beginning and they were not afforded a say over the brief, permitted to see any of the plans, or to have a say on who would be appointed.

"The people of Cape Town will need to know whether the use of these proposed up-market facilities is going to be so tightly tied up that everyone — wealthy tourist and lower-income nature lover alike — is going to be forced to use them, thus driving our own people away from their own resources."

Mr Gubb said he hoped full details of lease agreements and financial projections of the proposed Cape Point development would be made available.

"The situation with the Table Mountain cableway company's lease has been a sore point for years and those mistakes must not be repeated. R10 million for the nature reserve sounds great — but against what projected total income?"

Table Mountain and the Cape Point reserve were the Western Cape's biggest moneyspinners and the public had to be satisfied that their future conservation and management were being properly funded by those using these facilities.

Peninsula mountain chain: Additional advisers likely

□ Decision follows meeting of province and environment groups

56 ARG 4/11/93

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CAPE Administrator Kobus Meiring soon may appoint additional members to the committee advising him on the management of Table Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain.

This follows a meeting between MEC for nature conservation Martha Olckers, senior Cape Provincial Administration officials, members of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee, and representatives of 14 Peninsula non-government environmental organisations.

The meeting was called to discuss the committee, with particular emphasis on:

- The recent call from environmentalists for a moratorium on new rezonings and developments within the protected natural area until the results of the current UCT study — scheduled for April — are released.

- A call for an undertaking from authorities that all interested and affected parties will be consulted about rezoning and development proposals.

- The overturning of local decisions by higher authorities, such as happened recently at Fish Hoek with a development proposal for the sand dunes.

The meeting was described by the environmental groups' spokesman Andy Gubb as "very positive".

The provincial officials had given an undertaking that Mr Meiring would be "favourably disposed" to having increased non-government organisation representation on the nature area management advisory committee, he said.

This would enable the committee to "make decisions based on full and accurate information and take cognisance of public concerns and needs."

The environmental groups would also be invited to help government and nature conservation officials develop a directive to all local government authorities to ensure interested parties would become involved before rezoning and development proposal decisions were taken.

"We feel this openness and positive attitude is a tremendous breakthrough."

Report 'anti-tourism'

(56) CT 4/11/93
DURBAN. — The St Lucia Environmental Impact Report showed a distinct lack of empathy for the nature conservation/tourism option for the northern Natal eastern shores area, Natal Parks Board chief executive Dr George Hughes said yesterday. He was addressing the

St Lucia Review Panel which is to make recommendations to the cabinet on whether mining should be allowed in the eastern shores area.

● Satour has also come out strongly against mining the dunes of St Lucia, saying it could drive away international tourists.

Moves to involve public in rezoning

56 CT 4/11/93 Staff Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL organisations, the Department of Land Development Co-ordination and Cape Nature Conservation will meet this month to discuss ways of ensuring that local authorities involve the public before approving rezoning or development proposals.

The meeting, scheduled for November 23, comes after 14 non-governmental organisations met representatives of these departments and MEC Mrs Martha Olckers last month. A Wildlife Society spokesman said this was a "breakthrough".

Parks Board on St Lucia

BIDON 4/11/93
DURBAN — The St Lucia environmental impact report showed a distinct lack of empathy for the nature conservation-tourism option for the northern Natal eastern shores area, Natal Parks Board CE George Hughes said yesterday.

Hughes was addressing the St Lucia review panel which is to make recommendations to the Cabinet on whether mining should be allowed on the eastern shores. The board believed shortcomings in the final report and in the earlier environmental report were almost without exception to the advantage of the mining land use option as opposed to eco-tourism. (56)

"This board is regrettably convinced that there is a distinct lack of empathy for the nature conservation-tourism option evident throughout the report. (207)

The board believed nature conservation-tourism on the eastern shores without mining would maximise the area's social welfare. It questioned key assumptions of the economic analysis on which the reports were based. — Sapa.

UWC cleaning staff on strike

5b CT 3/11/93
Staff Reporter

TOILETS haven't been cleaned and litter is piling up all over the campus of the University of the Western Cape as contracted cleaning staff continued to strike yesterday while their union is locked in wage negotiations.

A total of 199 full-time workers and 34 part-time staff of Cape Contract Cleaners have been on strike since Monday over their demand for a 16% wage increase.

University spokesman Mr Michael Doman said senior resident supervisors had arranged with matrons to do some of the cleaning work and students had been issued with cleaning materials to assist.

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — All the trees in southern Africa will be destroyed by 2030 if the current rate of fuel wood use is maintained, says the Forestry Department.

In a presentation to the National Veld Trust's annual conference yesterday, the department said at least one third of the region's population relied on biomass (wood, crop residue and animal dung) as a primary energy source.

Whereas in the past only dead wood was removed from the veld, living trees and green wood were now being used as fuel, the

Forestry experts foresee treeless subcontinent

B/Dav 3/11/93

department said.

Southern Africa would be treeless by 2030 unless the current use of trees and shrubs for fuel was controlled. The department said it had launched a rural forestry programme in a bid to combat the problem.

Submissions to the conference from a wide range of groups and organisations painted a gloomy picture of SA's environmental status.

The Ecoveld organisation reported that nearly

13-million hectares of SA's savanna was in a "serious state of deterioration."

In more than 30% of the northern Transvaal, perennial grass production had declined dramatically at the expense of bushveld woody plants. (56)

"As a result of the competition for soil moisture, bush encroachment caused pseudo droughts and a serious decrease in the (water) carrying capacity of the veld, Ecoveld said.

The Medical University of SA reported that plastic bags, nylon or plastic twine and other non-degradable materials were not only polluting SA's veld but were causing sickness and death among cattle.

Further afield, it was estimated by one speaker that 742-million hectares of land in Africa, or 26% of the continent's arable land, was undergoing desertification.

The Sahara was expanding at a rate of 1,5-million hectares a year.

A speaker from Pretoria University's department of soil science said 1,9-billion hectares of land, or the equivalent of mainland China and India combined, had been seriously degraded by human activities since 1945.

Eco-protection for Mossel Bay

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE government yesterday appointed an investigating committee to ensure that development does not swamp the ecotourism potential of the environmentally sensitive Mossel Bay/Riversdale sub-region.

The Deputy Minister of Regional Affairs, Mr Lampie Fick, said the committee would exam-

ine representations and comments that had been received regarding the draft guide plan for the area.

The chairman is Mr A C K Kannenberg, a town and regional planner. The assessors who will assist him are Dr A Heydorn, an environmental specialist, and Mr B Stokes, a landscape architect.

Mr Fick said the committee

had been appointed because the sub-region had an environmentally sensitive coastline. Representations received on the development and conservation of the coastal area "vary considerably".

The investigating committee will at a later stage allow all individuals who submit representations to further motivate their views.

56 CT 30/10/93

Court action over Fish Hoek dunes considered

Staff Reporter

27 30/10/93

AN environmental pressure group, the Silvermine Valley Coalition, has called on Deputy Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Mr Lampie Fick to rescind his decision that gives the go-ahead to development on the Fish Hoek dunes.

It said yesterday it was considering taking the issue to the Supreme Court on review if Mr Fick did not rescind his decision to amend the Peninsula Guide Plan, a legal requirement that permits development on the dunes. (56)

CPA opens up environment

Staff Reporter

IN a breakthrough for environmentalists, local land and environmental authorities agreed this week not to proceed with development proposals without consulting non-government organisations (NGOs).

The decision was taken on Tuesday at a meeting of 14 Peninsula-based environmental

NGOs and several senior advisers from the CPA and the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee (CPPNE-MAC).

Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring said at the meeting that he also favoured increasing the representation of NGOs on the CPPNE-MAC.

The CPA undertook to invite NGOs to meet representatives of

(56)
the departments of Land Development Co-ordination and Cape Nature Conservation before deciding about rezonings and development proposals.

CF 30/10/93
Mr Andy Gubb, Wildlife Society conservation ecologist, said: "We feel that this new openness and positiveness is a tremendous breakthrough and will follow up without delay."

Appeal ⁽⁵⁶⁾ brings even more trees for Africa

ARG 26/10/93

Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa is about to become a little greener, thanks to the efforts of the Lions Clubs International service organisation.

Trees for Africa (TFA), the non-government organisation which promotes tree-planting programmes throughout the country, has been given \$4 132 (about R13 500) from the Lions, following a local appeal.

Lions 1992 District 410A environmental chairman Clive Fox said he had applied for international funding on behalf of Trees for Africa, and the Europa Forum Euro Africa Committee — consisting mainly of British members of Lions Clubs International — had responded with more than \$4 000.

"Trees for Africa is an effective greening programme spreading environmental awareness by planting trees for disenfranchised communities, and we're delighted that the donation will be directed at areas where community organisations have applied for trees to improve their environments."

The Lions' cheque was handed to TFA at the Early Learning Centre in Athlone, one of the institutions to benefit from the donation.

TFA chairman and National Botanical Institute chief director Brian Huntley said more than R1 million in cash and about R3 million in kind — fertiliser and trees — had been raised since the organisation's founding three years ago.

Their original target of planting five million trees had been modified and the main objective was now to get as many South Africans as possible involved in greening activities.

"It's more important to get communities involved in upliftment programmes," he said.



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

KEEPING IT GREEN: At the cheque hand-over from Lions Clubs International to Trees for Africa (TFA) at the Early Learning Centre in Athlone are, front from left, TFA project leader officer Thokozile Boyboyi, Cheslyn Japhta, 4, Bradley Terry, 6, and Lions 1992 District 410A environmental chairman Clive Fox. Holding the cheque are TFA chairman Brian Huntley and Centre director Sandra van Rensburg with some of her charges.

Future of SA wildlife

Star 26/10/93

Firing the first retaliatory salvos in the battle for control of South Africa's national and regional parks, the chief executive of the Natal Parks Board (NPB), Dr George Hughes, blasts a recent proposal for centralised control as a non-starter.

Conservation in the new South Africa could best be vested in regional authorities, says Hughes in an interview at the NPB's headquarters in Maritzburg.

They should be free to draw up their own policies, as happens at present, under guidelines set by the Department of Environment, and not subject to a national executive body, which the National Parks Board recently proposed as its function in the new dispensation.

Regional conservation bodies such as the Natal Parks should not lose their independence, Hughes points out.

The Kruger Park, as one of our greatest national assets, is a special case, and Hughes "deplores" recent suggestions that it may be split between regions in the new South Africa.

"The area must be kept intact and management of the park should go to a specially constituted Kruger Park Authority," he suggests, rather like the Great Barrier Reef Authority in Australia.

The new government will have to look at conservation very critically and rationally, he warns: "Ahead lie sharp lessons to be learnt by all manner of people, but for the good of conservation everyone needs to rise above pettinesses and personal prob-

CONTROL of the country's national and regional parks — and who benefits from protected areas — are controversial issues.

Science Writer Anita Allen speaks to a man who doesn't pull his punches

lems."

He points out that foreign tourists alone, that is without local tourism, bring in 10 times the amount spent on subsidies on protected areas and nature conservation in South Africa.

He shakes his head at a suggestion that profits from protected areas are spent on improving facilities which will be used by affluent minorities, while neighbouring communities live in abject poverty.

"The presence of protected areas, especially our abundant wildlife, is the primary tourist attraction. This is proving of immense benefit to the many regions of Natal which have poorly developed infrastructures and little revenue-earning potential of their own.

"The creation of parks provides the economic stimulus for establishing sound infrastructures — good roads, electricity, telephone communications.

"Natal's 74 protected areas generate work opportunities. We contribute R37 million to the economy of the sub-region in



Dr George Hughes . . . an outspoken champion of autonomous regional conservation.

wages for about 3 000 staff, as well as improving skills and providing millions of rands-worth of natural products for neighbouring communities.

The forums, which were formally launched in 1986, also allow people living on park borders free access, they collect grass and wood free, get meat from culls at nominal rates.

The biggest threats to protected areas, Hughes says, are mining and resettlement.

"Land claims are emotional and, in many cases, justifiable, but, at present, I believe protected areas are getting unfair focus.

He is very disappointed by the socio-political direction taken in the CSIR's final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report on the Eastern Shores of Lake Lucia. The report last month

came out in favour of resettled indigenous people having the final say on the mining or eco-tourism options.

"It is way out of the CSIR's field of reference and has endangered every protected area in South Africa.

"Restitution is certainly necessary, but I would like to see the best form of restitution for people who have been displaced. The status quo of 50 years ago may not be the way to go. This requires rational debate among concerned South Africans."

At a stage when just about everyone in conservation is pessimistic about the future of protected areas in South Africa, given all the pressures for socio-economic upliftment, Hughes is positive.

"I can't stand all the hand-wringing," he says impatiently.

"The negativism being bandied about is gross and very discouraging. It's discouraging to hear senior State officials and others say that conservation will be low down in the priorities of a new government.

"I really don't believe this is true. No member of a major political party has ever said to me — and I have held wide ranging discussions with many players — that they intend to cut funds for conservation.

"We may not get the same increases in the future, we may even get less than expected because of the pressures to deliver, but no government, new or otherwise, is going to destroy one of our greatest assets — South Africa's protected areas."

Sand-dunes plan 'not acceptable' ⁽⁵⁶⁾

ARG 20/10/93

□ Coalition slams minister's decision

MICHAEL MORRIS and JOHN YELD
Staff Reporters

THE Fish Hoek sand-dunes have already been compromised by development, and controversial proposals for more building on the 35-hectare "Zone C" are not acceptable, says the Silvermine Valley Coalition.

The coalition, a group of 17 environmental and civic organisations formed in 1991 to oppose further development on the dunes, was reacting after meeting Deputy Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Lampie Fick yesterday.

Earlier this month, Mr Fick approved an application by Fish Hoek municipality to amend the Peninsula Guide Plan, changing the status of the dune property from "nature area" to "residential".

Mr Fick said after the meeting the government would urge the Fish Hoek council to reopen public debate on the controversial development and order a fresh environmental impact assessment.

Changing the guide plan to allow development on a third of the property meant the remaining two-thirds were gained for public use, and any development there would also have to comply with "strict" conditions.

"I thought that was a reasonable deal," Mr Fick said.

But his decision has been slammed by the coalition, which described Zone C as an integral part of the Peninsula's natural assets.

Coalition spokesman Andy Gubb said the deputy minister had not appreciated that the developer had previously applied for, and been granted, development rights to two other areas on the dunes — Zones A and B — and on part of Zone C.

"At that stage the compromise was that Zone C would remain a natural area, and in 1986 the then Environment Affairs Minister, John Wiley, ruled against the development of Zone C."

The "compromise" between conservation and development was already heavily weighted on the side of development, Mr Gubb said.

World body urges St Lucia rethink

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — President of the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation Vance Martin, fresh from the foundation's 5th World Congress in Norway, arrived here with a strongly-worded resolution on the St Lucia mining issue.

Mr Martin said plans to mine St Lucia wetlands were singled out as a major issue at the congress.

The resolution calls on all

nations to ensure that protected areas, including St Lucia, are protected and not subject to mining.

It also urged the South African government not to permit mining within the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park and Ramsar Site until more long-term and detailed research was undertaken to prove the areas would not suffer environmentally.

The resolution recommended

that the government undertook an extensive search for alternative mining sites that had no impact on designated protected areas.

SB REC 18/10/93
"We feel that if the post-apartheid South African government is truly interested in international opinion, it will take note of this resolution. If it does not, we see further problems ahead, and South Africa doesn't need more problems."

Training plan for 40 000

CT 15/10/93

56

From Chris Bateman

LONDON. — The R1-billion science and research park set to rise from the sand dunes near Muizenberg will draw on the world's top academic resources to train an estimated 40 000 workers, it emerged yesterday.

Professor Stanton Newman, head of the department of psychiatry at London's University College, who has been appointed to lead the newly formed Cape Science Foundation, discussed the centre yesterday.

He said committed local academic players were the Peninsula Technikon, UWC and UCT — with the Cape Technikon and Stellenbosch University showing "tentative interest".

Courses at the park tailored to various multi-national companies' needs would be followed by academic study at an institution.

Top academic support for the academic institutions would come from the University College in London (UCL), Bristol Univers-

ity and several North Carolina universities.

Peter Dennehy reports that the proposed science park will comprise about 32 circular industrial or research enclaves, according to plans released yesterday. An academic centre will be the central focus of the site.

Architect Mr Dennis Fabian said yesterday that the emphasis on manufacturing had been expanded in negotiations with the ANC, which had been particularly keen on job creation.

'Public pays Mossgas bill'

By MELANIE GOSLING

THE taxpayer footed a R1 million bill this year to clean more than 100 tons of marine fouling from the Mossgas rig — and will probably have to do so again next year.

Dr Peter Cook of the University of Cape Town's Zoology Department said at the Barologia conference at UCT yesterday this could have been avoided had Mossgas adopted anti-fouling precautions initially.

He said Mossgas' insurance cover allowed for only 100mm of marine fouling on the rig. But after only two years, the thickness of marine fouling — mainly mussels and barnacles — had exceeded this.

This meant Mossgas was operating outside the conditions laid down in their operating licence.

By the time the marine fouling was cleared away in April this year, the layer was nearly 300mm.

CT 16/10/93

(56) (88)

6

Koeberg can cope with slick

Staff Reporter

KOEBERG nuclear power plant could reduce power from 100% to 60% in "minutes" to cut off the seawater pumps in case of a massive oil spillage, a spokesman for the station said yesterday.

This follows criticism levelled at Koeberg for not having enough booms to ward off oil slicks from the sunken Afrikaner.

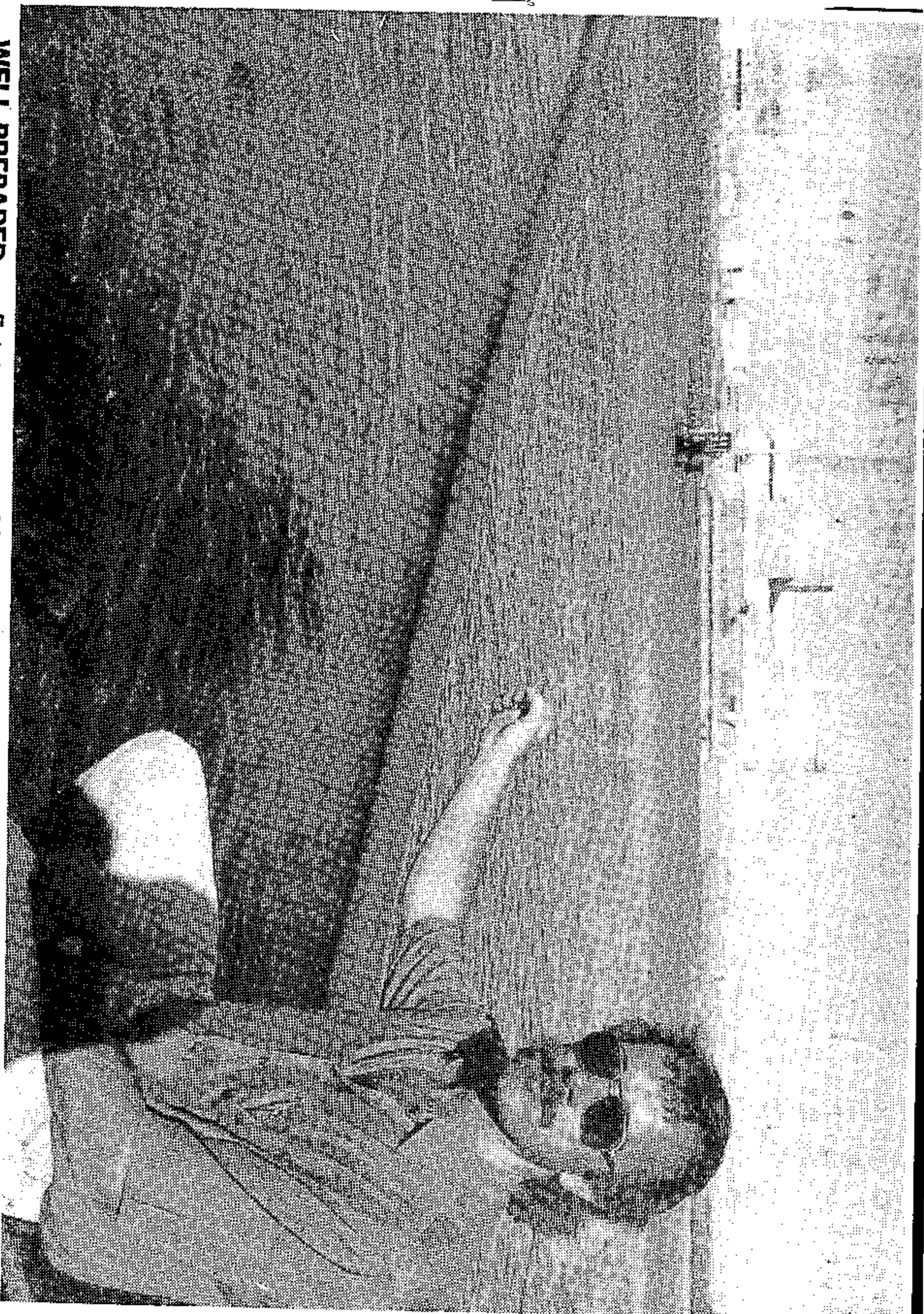
Spokesman Mr Donne Murray said yesterday that the power station had a contingency plan to cope with a massive oil spillage off the coast.

If there were any doubt about the ability to contain a large oil slick by booms, Koeberg would shut down.

Power from the Drakensberg and Palmiet pumped storage would be fed into the national grid to replace Koeberg.

"We cannot afford to get oil into the condenser tubes from the seawater pumps as they would foul the tubes, and would be extremely expensive to clean," Mr Murray said.

Koeberg's emergency options had been approved in 1991 by the International Atomic Energy Agency and in 1992 by the World Association of Nuclear Operators.



WELL-PREPARED . . . Estates manager Mr Gert Greef shows one of the anti-pollution booms being used as part of Koeberg's oil spillage contingency plan, which enables the plant to cope with a massive oil spillage off the coast.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

Society on the endangered list

JOHANNESBURG. — One of South Africa's oldest conservation organisations is under threat because of the lack of funds. (SB) CT 13/10/93

Founded 67 years ago, The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa has been in the forefront of environmental education, recycling campaigns, pollution monitoring and conservation of the region's wild species and natural resources.

Public relations manager Ms Lindy Nauta said yesterday the organisation received no government funding and "the society's good work is now in a precarious position." — Sapa

Artist donates two paintings

Staff Reporter

FAMOUS artist Professor Larry Scully has donated two of his paintings of District Six to raise funds for a planned memorial park in the area.

Mr Vincent Kolbe, spokesman for the District Six Museum Foundation, which is campaigning for the park, said the donation was made after a photograph of Miss Fatima February's District Six embroidery appeared in the Cape Times. They will be displayed with other works at a special forum in the city on October 30.

Mr Kolbe can be phoned on 593-7170.

Pollution: Koeberg in no danger

CT 13/10/93

(SB)

Staff Reporter

THE tricky task of rounding up dozens of oil-soaked penguins started in earnest on Robben Island late yesterday afternoon after bunker fuel from the sunken I & J trawler Afrikaner washed up on the island.

And the Regional Services Council started a major clean-up as oil washed up from Blouberg to Melkbos.

Kuswag anti-pollution vessels were busy yesterday breaking up a big slick just off Blouberg and booms were erected at the Milnerton lagoon estuary and at Koeberg.

There was no concern that oil from the sunken trawler could affect safety, Koeberg nuclear power station said in a statement last night.

As a precaution two booms had been placed across the intake basin to prevent oil from entering the cooling water system.

Using front-end loaders, many workers shovelled polluted sand into scoops, which were then loaded on to trucks and taken to Vissershok for disposal.

A spokesman for salvage company Pentow Marine said divers had plugged the wreck's main oil leak and would return to plug a smaller one.

The oil-streaked penguins will be taken to the SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds rehabilitation centre in Table View today for a thorough scrubbing.

Robben Island is one of the main breeding sites of the jackass penguin.

Robben Island's Correctional Services spokesman Captain Piet Venter said he saw 30 oil-covered penguins.

He said catching the birds could only start late in the afternoon when the tide dropped enough to allow a team from the Department of Environment Affairs and other helpers to get near the breeding colony.

He said about half a ton of "heavy oil" from the Afrikaner washed up on the island's west side during Monday night/yesterday morning as a result of a shift in wind direction.

Captain Venter said staff began to clean up by scooping oiled sand into 200-litre drums, which will then be brought to the mainland for disposal.

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NUM proposes powerful mine peace committees

B/Day 13/10/93

THE NUM has proposed the establishment of peace committees with wide powers to identify and neutralise trouble areas to prevent mine violence in the pre-election period.

NUM spokesman Jerry Majatladi said yesterday union president James Motlatsi had initiated the proposals to prevent the expected increase in mine violence.

In terms of the NUM model, peace committees would consist of eight elected members, four each from hostel residents and management. The chair would rotate between worker and management representatives and the committees would have the authority to resolve all matters relating to hostel organisation and

ERICA JANKOWITZ

administration". The NUM proposed that "it should be written into their constitution that mine management should be obliged to implement all unanimous decisions of the peace committees".

The NUM also proposed a code of conduct applicable at all mines.

The powers of the committees to impose penalties would be clearly specified in the code. These would be negotiated separately for each mine, but the NUM proposed that penalties should be prescribed for acts likely to lead to faction fighting.

It also proposed a prohibition on the carrying of weapons in the mine compounds and on equipment that

could be used as weapons. When investigating offences, the committees should "act like tribunals in that they should collect evidence systematically, summon witnesses and attempt to reach balanced conclusions. Accused people should be given every opportunity to disprove allegations and have the right to appeal," the union said.

The proposals have been put to Anglo American mines. Anglo human resources manager Fanie Ernst said yesterday the regions were considering the proposals.

The NUM said another miner at Randgold's Durban Deep mine was killed on Friday after faction fighting there last month which led to eight deaths and numerous injuries.

Growing opposition to St Lucia mining

THE campaign to protect St Lucia received major international backing when delegates from 27 countries at a conference in Norway signed a resolution against mining the dunes. B/Day 13/10/93

Vance Martin, president of WILD, organisers of the World Wilderness Congress in September, said last night the resolution had been sent to government to make it aware of international attitudes towards the destruction of the unique wetland.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

He said drastic exploitation such as large-scale mining threatened irreversible change to natural systems and prejudiced the long-term benefits that could be provided by ecotourism. (56)

The resolution urged government to prohibit mining unless more detailed and longer-term research could demonstrate that the proposed mining could be undertaken without harming the area.

Affluence 'a suicide risk'

KATHRYN STRACHAN

SOUTH Africans faced a greater risk of suicide as their standard of living increased, a recent study has found.

The study - conducted by Charles Parry of the Medical Research Council and Alan Flisher of the University of Cape Town - found that white...

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

Hi-tech project to save black rhinos (56)

ARG 12/10/93

PILANESBERG. — The black rhinos of the Pilanesberg game reserve have gone hi-tech, sporting microchip transponders as part of a pioneering programme to save the highly endangered species.

The park's 38 black rhinos are being darted and implanted with the chips in the most extensive monitoring project yet undertaken to conserve the species, whose numbers in Africa have shrunk from tens of thousands at the turn of the century to fewer than 2 500.

Danish biologists Hanne Lindemann and Hans Bjarne Hansen proudly claim that Pilanesberg's black rhinos are the best managed population in Africa.

The two have been coming to

this reserve in Bophuthatswana for two months every year since 1989 to help run the project.

The microchip enabled researchers to identify each animal in case it was killed or poached, Mr Hansen said.

None of Pilanesberg's herd of black rhino — 20 of which now carry transponders — has been killed so far, but other reserves in South Africa are starting to feel the effects of poachers moving south after virtually wiping out the rest of Africa's black rhinos.

Zimbabwe has lost 1 150 in the past two years, reducing what was once the largest population in Africa to just 350, significantly less than South

Africa's present stock of 800.

The rhinos, which can weigh more than a ton, are darted from a helicopter before the transponders are implanted. One of the chips is drilled into the horn and sealed with glue; the other is sewn into the flesh behind the shoulder.

The one-centimetre microchips are only part of Pilanesberg's monitoring project.

The rhinos also have their ears clipped in different patterns to make identification easier and Mr Hansen and Mr Lindemann have comprehensive files and photographs of each animal.

Ideally, Mr Hansen said, the Pilanesberg project should be extended to all game reserves

in Namibia and South Africa but lack of money was a problem.

Keryn Adcock, Pilanesberg's resident ecologist, said sufficient money could be raised from hunting out old rhinos.

But animal preservationists in the northern hemisphere have lobbied their governments to prevent imports of black rhino trophies.

The more common and less threatened white rhinos are hunted at an average cost of about R80 000 each.

There is little physical difference between white and black rhinos, the only real distinction being the lip, which is wider on whites. — Sapa-AFP.

ARC 12/10/93 (56)

Oil firms' assurance on tank farm pollution

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

INTERNATIONAL standards are being used to test for pollution in the old tank farm at the Waterfront, says a spokesman for the oil industry.

Environmental engineer Rod Camp of the Oil Industry Environmental Committee was responding to allegations by Earthlife Africa that the industry was not sufficiently concerned about the threat of pollution from contaminated material being used as fill for the new small boat marina.

Mr Camp said: "The tests we are doing are the AST tests which are the international

standard. We gave them a copy and we get the impression they don't understand the analysis and how this is done."

Samples of the allegedly contaminated material had been taken at Earthlife's request and in the areas and at the depth they had requested.

A full-time site engineer had been appointed to co-ordinate all work and monitoring was being done in conjunction with the Sea Fisheries Research Institute.

"We will be doing an in-depth analysis of all their (Earthlife's) concerns and we will be trying to alleviate their fears," said Mr Camp.

Oil from sunken trawler washing up on beaches

ARG 12/10/93

Staff Reporters

OIL from the sunken I&J trawler *Afrikaner* has begun polluting popular beaches between Blouberg and Melkbosstrand and the first victims — oiled penguins — have been sighted.

Kuswag anti-pollution vessels are trying to break up a big slick just off Blouberg and there is a smaller slick off the western edge of Robben Island.

Yesterday, booms were erected at Milnerton lagoon estuary and at Koeberg to prevent oil from polluting the nuclear power station's intakes.

Workers from the Western Cape Regional Services Council were today trying to clear oil from the beaches at Blouberg and Melkbos.

Sea Fisheries pollution control officer Lynn Jackson said several oil-covered penguins had been reported at Blouberg and Robben Island.

"These penguins are being rounded up and will be taken to Sanccob (SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) in Table View."

The penguin colony on Robben Island was not directly threatened because it was on the far side of the island, "but they go into the water", Dr Jackson said.

More oil was bubbling from the trawler, which sank 1,5 miles from Robben Island during salvage attempts yesterday.

The Kuswag 2 vessel was using break-

er-boards and chemical dispersants to break up the oil, Dr Jackson said.

Construction worker Christopher Strydom of Maitland who is working on a site in Little Bay, Blouberg said he noticed the oil at 7am.

"It was just a little at first and then more began washing up."

There's an oily smell around the bay.

A Table View resident, Irene Dickinson, who often walks her dog on the beach, said the oil stretched past Big Bay.

The *Afrikaner* was laden with 32 tons of gas oil and 68 tons of fuel oil — including some heavy oil — when she went down after running aground on Whale Rock off Robben Island yesterday.

Efforts to establish why the reason trawler ran aground in perfect weather continue today.

The laden 806-ton, 61m vessel ran aground on the notorious rock about 1am yesterday and 39 crewmen had to be taken off. A spokesman for the salvage company, Pentow Marine, Godfrey Needham, said divers had plugged the wreck's main oil leak yesterday and would try to plug the remaining leak today.

Althea Westphal of Sanccob appealed to people to watch for oil-covered penguins and other seabirds along the beach.

Anyone finding stricken birds can contact Sanccob, ☎ 557 6155.

CPA opposed to dune development

THE government's decision to change the Peninsula guide plan to allow a major development on the Fish Hoek sand dunes — part of a protected nature area — has been opposed by Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring.

A spokesman for the administrator's office, Mr Frikkie Odendaal, said yesterday the CPA had been one of the organisations asked to comment by the Department of Regional and Land Affairs on the application to amend the guide plan in July last year.

"We submitted our final comment to the department in February this year, which stated that the CPA did not support the application to amend the guide plan," the spokesman said.

"So far the CPA has not received. Despite this, the the Department of Regional and Land Affairs approved the application, thereby paving the way for development of Site C on the sand dunes.

The next step would be for the developers to apply to the CPA's Department of Nature Conservation for a permit to develop Site C.

any application for a permit to develop the site," Mr Odendaal said yesterday.

He would not say if the CPA would issue a permit or not.

However, informed sources have said it is "extremely unlikely" that CPA would issue a permit, particularly as the area was part of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

(S2) 21/10/93

No cynical moment in green lifetime

Star 11/10/93

OPTIMISM UNDIMMED

At a stage in life when most people are slowing down or at least showing signs of it, Ecolink director Sue Hart has the suppressed energy and optimism of a teenager. Her latest triumph is that Ecolink has achieved international status.

ANITA ALLEN reports.

TOMORROW

Need a new tennis racket? How about the Hammer, Sabre or Thunderstick? Or perhaps the Blast, Storm or Explosion? For something more ethereal, try the Galaxy, Genesis or Revelation.

Spring was in the air when Dr Sue Hart bounded into the pink and blue patterned room of a house set in a secluded Saxonwold garden last month. She had just flown in to Johannesburg from the National Botanical Society's Flora '93 in Cape Town.

Flower Power is something that Hart discovered and made her own exactly 10 years ago following a visit to Flora '83.

"How much I missed in my own life by omitting to give attention to the loveliest of Nature's children, which draw in deep draughts of sunlight and convert it into vital power with which to sustain not only themselves but the whole of animal creation," she wrote at the time in Nature's Notebook, one of three regular columns in the Rand Daily Mail.

Energy, optimism

That column, Nature's Diary and In the Wild were a mixture of prose and scientific observation.

At a stage in life when most people are slowing down or least showing signs of it, Hart has the suppressed energy and optimism of a teenager.

After a lifetime devoted to conservation, there is not one cynical moment. Her enthusiasm spills over in effusive words, animated by wide smiles.

The London-qualified veterinarian, author, teacher, broadcaster and journalist is presently director of Ecolink, the White River-based organisation which has taken basic environmental education and training to thousands of people in KANgwane, Gazankulu and Lebowa.

Hart's latest triumph is that Ecolink has finally been propelled to international status.

Ecolink is based on the 4 'A's

The Ecolink process is based on the four 'A's:

- Awakening to the realisation that you are part of the whole of life, not separate.
- Awareness of the environment, and sensitivity to the world in which you live.
- ◇ Alive to knowledge arising out of new found curiosity about how the whole works and your own responsibilities.
- Action, what can you do in living life and being part of it.

(56)

This week it will host the Southern African Assembly for Women and the Environment, under the auspices of the WorldWIDE Network, a Washington-based organisation that focuses on women, the environment and development, through affiliated organisations in 125 countries.

It is recognition that she richly deserves, because her commitment to the people of rural Africa has always placed her way ahead of her time in our apartheid society.

Back in 1977, Hart told a World Wilderness Conference in Johannesburg that "at this eleventh hour we must propel ourselves into immediately influencing the largest group of our youth — the millions of black scholars — to the re-establishment and the re-awakening of our links with nature".

Hart, at the time, matched her words with action. The film *Our Wilderness*, scripted by her in 1977, was considered a breakthrough in the field of conservation awareness.

Aimed at reintroducing city youth, mainly blacks, to the immensity and diversity of natural areas, it carried the message that wildlife is important to our quality of life.

A similar theme was followed in her next film script, *The Living City*, which was shot on the Braamfontein Spruit and detailed nature in the city.

While lecturing and conducting workshops in environmental education at the Mgwanya College of Education in KANgwane from 1982 to 1988, Hart edited a selection of prose and poems on nature by her pupils under the title *Cries of the Heart*.

What she wrote then, remains the central vision of her efforts: "The search for truth must begin by a deep look into ourselves."

Deep within

"Without that searching we cannot hope to tap the source of creative energy that lies deep within each and every one of us."

Creativity is something that Hart has in abundance.

As an author, she has written two children's books and several for adults.

Ecolink grew out of her work with student teachers in 1985, when Hart realised that reading students was not enough, because the community at large needed help.

The first programme to get under way was Earthcare, teaching women about recycling and organic gardening using litter as compost.

Since then six programmes, directed by a permanent team of 42, have been added. They range from water manage-



Flower power . . . Dr Sue Hart was spreading the conservation gospel long before it was fashionable. And she's still going strong.

PICTURE: GEORGE MASHININI

ment, which involves the location, harnessing and preservation of spring water, to soil care, teaching life skills, agroforestry and ethnobotany.

"Our Ecolink team works from the bottom up," says Hart. "Everyone owns it."

Hart believes that one of the problems with many donor companies, has been their lack of interest in the little man, the one who makes the tea or cleans the office.

"People are a resource," says Hart. "We have discovered ways of releasing this right brain activity, which brings confidence, and faith is established."

Hart remains supremely optimistic about the future for South Africa. Her work among the simple rural folk allows for nothing less, she says.

Dunes row: Flick in flak

56

ARC 9/10/93

Fish Hoek's sand dunes continue to kick up dust as a dispute looms over their development between environmentalists and the government. Weekend Argus reporter **HENRI du PLESSIS** investigates.

preserved as a nature area and access would be given to the public, developers' representative Bev Mitchell said yesterday.

Mr Gubb attacked Mr Fick for deciding to allow an amendment to the area guide plan. The plan was based on the developers' submitted environmental impact-study which had been described as inadequate by University of Cape Town environmental scientists.

He also said the Deputy Minister had "operated in tandem with the Fish Hoek Town Council in going directly against the spirit of participatory democracy", because the opinion of the local community had not been sought.

"The Deputy Minister said the amendment had been approved 'subject to the strict proviso of limited urban density as well as principles included in an environmental impact-study'. That statement is so vague as to render it almost unintelligible," Mr Gubb said.

Mr Mitchell said it was not clear why such a fuss had been kicked up over the issue, as the Deputy Minister had merely prepared the way for development proposals to be put forward for the site. "There are as yet no specific plans and the whole application process still has to start all over," he said.

"What people should realise is that all we have done is to identify portions of

the whole site which could be developed with a minimal disturbance to the environment.

"Until now, the site has not been accessible to the public. If the development goes ahead, the portion not developed will be donated to the public as a nature and recreational area."

Mr Mitchell admitted his firm's environmental study could not be considered a fully-fledged environmental impact-study.

"We achieved what we wanted to with the study — to identify where development could take place, and where not."

The study was done by a panel of four scientists — G Avery of the South African Museum, sociologist S P Cilliers of the University of Stellenbosch, T Helmen of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and hydrologist A Rooseboom of the University of Stellenbosch.

They identified sites of archaeological and natural importance, although most of the area was covered by alien vegetation, specifically rooikrantz and Port Jackson.

Indigenous vegetation found included blombos, Bitou, skilpadbesse, taatbos and waxberry, as well as a variety of wetlands species.

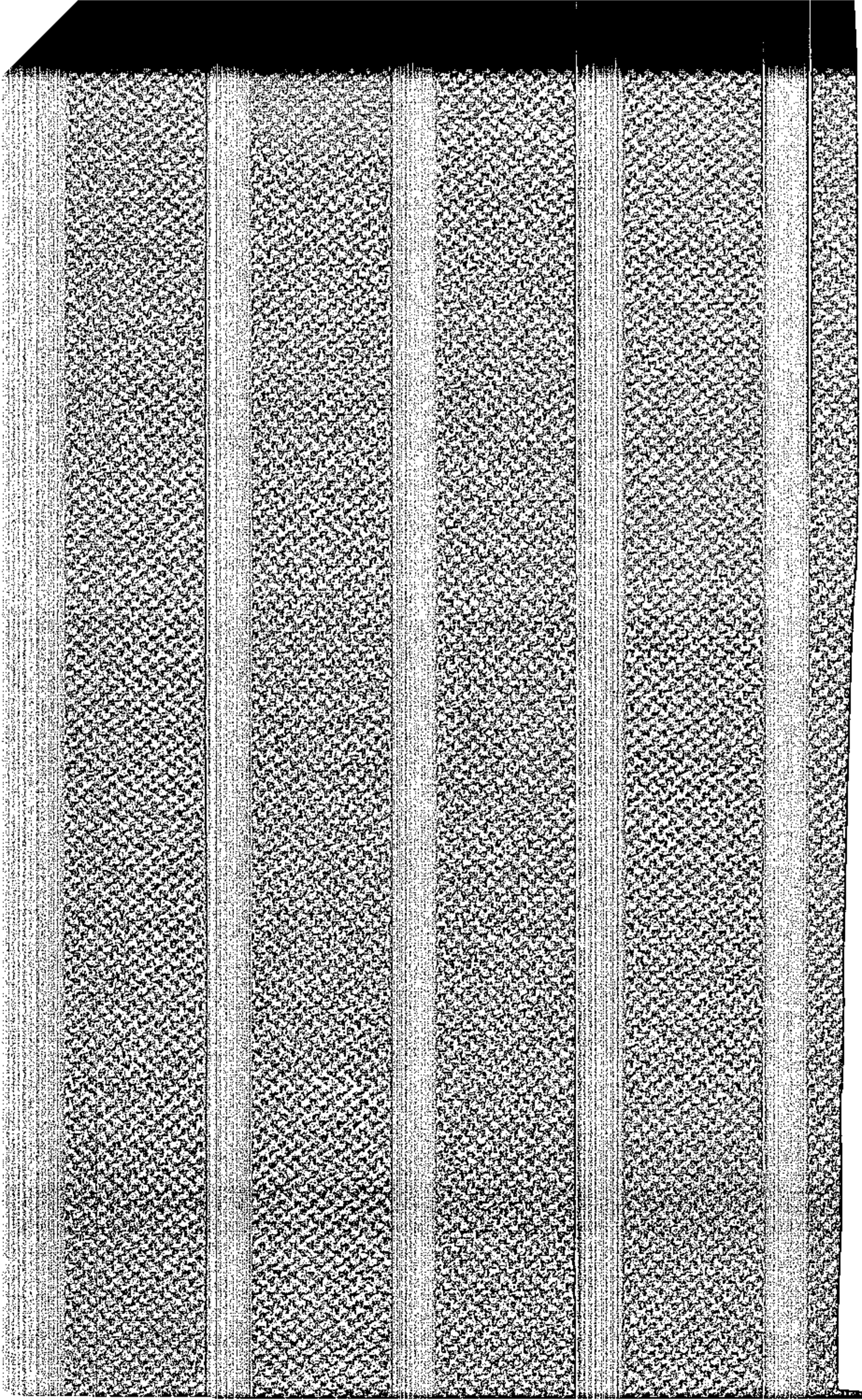
Mr Gubb said the application was not an application for the completion of bor-

ENVIRONMENTAL watchdog Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society has fired a broadside at Deputy Minister of Regional and Affairs Lampie Fick, for his decision to allow changes in the area guide plan that will lead to development of a certain section of the Fish Hoek dunes.

The area of dune and mountain land involved is about 35ha, of which 12ha are earmarked for actual development as a low density residential area. The rest of the site, 23ha, would be



COASTAL DUNES Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society has fired a broadside at Deputy Minister of Regional and Affairs Lampie Fick, for his decision to allow changes in the area guide plan that will lead to development of a certain section of the Fish Hoek dunes.



New dunes plan 'breaches compromise'

Municipal Reporter

THE Fish Hoek sand dunes below Peers Hill had already been the subject of a compromise between developers and environmentalists, but now the developers wanted more land, an objector said yesterday.

Mrs Kim Kruyshaar, spokesman for a group of 17 organisations called

the Silvermine Valley Coalition, said former environment minister Mr John Wiley had ruled that some land be given to the developer, and the rest preserved.

Yet now a new application had been made to put more than 200 houses on another 35 hectares on the sandy Fish Hoek side of the Silvermine River.

She said the Fish Hoek town council had approved a rezoning to allow this, but then it had been discovered that this contravened the guide plan for the area.

Representations were made to the minister, who has now changed the guide plan. Her group hoped this meant that the rezoning application had to be made afresh, so that envi-

ronmentalists could oppose it.

The prospective developer, the Fish Hoek Land and Estate Close Corporation, which is part of the Ryan Group, said yesterday that before changing the guide plan, the Ministry of Land Affairs had considered representations from local authorities, "scientific data supplied by accredited experts", and input

from local pressure groups.

Mr S D B Ryan said: "It is our intention to donate a substantial portion of the land, which has been scientifically identified as being environmentally sensitive, to the public. This would serve the purpose of providing public access to land which is presently inaccessible due to private ownership."

(SB) CT8/10/93

ANC wants conservation privatised

CT 8/10/93

Staff Reporter

IT was naive to think an ANC government would budget for urban conservation or would attach priority to what is perceived as a whites-only concern, ANC executive member Mr Basil Davidson said yesterday.

Mr Davidson, chairman of the Urban Development Commission, was speaking at a Cape Town Heritage Trust conference.

He said affluent white conservationists should "stop fooling themselves" by trusting in future government protection and should instead be preparing to buy up heritage sites themselves.

"The affluent sector of the population have the resources and are the ones concerned about conservation," he said. "They should put their money where their mouths are."

Responding to arguments that Cape Town's economic survival depended on preserving its tourist resources, Mr Davidson said that if housing was not provided, shacks would be erected on the slopes of Table Mountain and Signal Hill.

It was "likely" the ANC would adopt the existing draft conservation legislation, but it was doubtful if it would have the funds or inclination to enforce it.

Mines may be charged

PRETORIA, 18/12/93

The Council for Nuclear Safety is still seriously considering legal action against mining houses guilty of radioactive contamination, despite the fact that mines have said they will foot the bill for a big clean-up. (56)

A legal consultant for the Council for Nuclear Safety, Mr Jonathan Cooper, told a news briefing here yesterday the law provided for fines or imprisonment of up to five years or both.

Tests in certain scrapyards have shown the radioactive contamination of items emanating from mining companies was tens of thousands of times above the acceptable limit. — Sapa

Mountain important symbol for world'

(56) ARG 7/10/93
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TABLE Mountain is one of Cape Town's finest assets and an important international symbol, said World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) founder-president Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Prince Bernhard, who is on a private visit to South Africa, was speaking to the Cape Town Press Club yesterday.

Earlier, he unveiled a plaque commemorating the financial contribution of Caltex to the consolidation of the Rietvlei wetland conservation area.

Prince Bernhard said he had enjoyed a helicopter trip around the Peninsula and understood why English explorer Sir Francis Drake had written that the Cape was "a most stately thing and the fairest cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth".

He believed Table Mountain was an international landmark and a national asset of enormous importance and value to residents of the Cape.

"I've been surprised in my short time in Cape Town to hear several people tell me about the problems of Table Mountain and I get the impression that these same people see the mountain as something of a liability.

"What a mistake! This mountain is one of your finest assets!"

Prince Bernhard appealed to people to support conservation efforts on Table Mountain — especially the R25 million Table Mountain Fund appeal, launched by the SA Nature Foundation, the local branch of the WWF.

"I would go so far as to say that Table Mountain is such a powerful and important international symbol that South Africans cannot afford not to look after it properly.

"Let us turn the threats to the mountain into opportunities to show the rest of the world what a good job you can do to conserve a site that should be your first World Heritage Site."

Dune town: ANC MP slams decision

CTB/10/93

Staff Reporter

(56)

THE Peninsula Guide Plan had been amended to allow township development on the Fish Hoek dunes, deputy minister of Home affairs and Regional Affairs Mr Lampie Fick said last night.

"The application for amendment to the Guide Plan (was) approved after thorough deliberation of the facts (and) the objections of Silvermine Valley Coalition," he said in a statement.

Conservationists and residents protested when Fish Hoek Town Council approved an application from developers in April last year.

ANC MP for Simon's Town Mr Jannie Momberg said last night: "The decision is appalling. I will ask a future ANC government to rescind it."

Dunes scheme go-ahead 'disgusting' ^(S)

Change in Fish Hoek guide plan attacked by Momberg and conservationists

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE government's decision to allow a major township development on the Fish Hoek dunes by changing the official guide plan for the area has been described as "disgusting" by MP Jannie Momberg.

And conservationists, who last year formed a coalition of 17 organisations to fight the dunes development proposal known as "Site C", have vowed to do "whatever it takes" to prevent building from going ahead.

The required rezoning for the proposed development of more than 200 houses on the 35-hectare section of the Peers Hill property was approved by the Fish Hoek Town Council in spite of an outcry from many residents.

Development was prevented by the area's guide plan drawn up in terms of the Physical Planning Act, which designated the property a "nature area".

The developers, the Fish Hoek Land & Estate Company, then applied to the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs to amend the guide plan.

Deputy Minister Lampie Fick told Mr Momberg in a recent letter that an appropriate amendment to the guide plan — from "nature area" to "residential" — would be gazetted shortly.

Fish Hoek town clerk Harold Chapman today confirmed that he and a Western Cape Regional Services Council official had been called to Mr Fick's office about a fortnight ago.

"He indicated that he would approve it (the change to the guide plan) and there were a number of conditions which he didn't elaborate on," said Mr Chapman.

He had told councillors informally of the meeting, but the council had not discussed the issue formally as there had not yet been written confirmation of Mr Fick's decision, Mr Chapman added.

The property, between the Silvermine River and the proclaimed "internal bypass" road reserve on the edge of the sand dunes, is in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) and any development will still require a permit from the Administrator.

Mr Momberg said Mr Fick had made the wrong decision.

"This is against everything conservationists believe in.

"His letter says that because of the tremendous sensitivity of the area, the development must be done in terms of surveillance by the Cape Provincial Administration. That doesn't mean a thing — at the end of the day it means they are going to build on the dunes."

Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Andy Gubb, who helped organise the coalition against the proposed development, said he was "absolutely shattered".

He added: "If it is required, then we will be there in full force. It's a matter of principle and we're not going to give up on this — whatever it takes, we will find the resources somewhere."

New organisation aims to unite the 'homeworkers'

SHARON SOROUR
Labour Reporter ARCT 5/10/93

AN organisation has been formed for "homeworkers" — housewives and domestic workers alike — to bring employer and employee closer together.

Initiated by Women for South Africa, the newly-founded SA Homeworkers' Organisation (SAHO), hopes to attract thousands of domestic workers — and their bosses — as members.

Spokesperson Pule Matjile said that because "homeworkers" would soon fall within the ambit of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, it was important they and their employers had access to information on labour legislation.

The homeworkers' organisation was formed to fill this need. It had the structure and ability to serve workers throughout the country.

Membership was open to "any person working in a house, including housewives who do their own chores" and all domestic workers, chauffeurs and farm domestic workers.

"The organisation will serve as a mouthpiece for homeworkers and will supply free legal advice to members,"

said Ms Matjile. Other plans include negotiating "cost-effective" funerals and provident and sick fund benefits.

"It will look after their interests. Important aspects are the just treatment of employees, the acquisition of literacy and other skills and resultant job security and personal satisfaction," she said.

Services and benefits the organisation offered were:

- A specimen service contract and pay guidelines;
- A code of conduct;
- Regular newsletters and information about matters concerning "homeworkers"; and
- Access to training and self-enrichment programmes.

The organisation also hoped to help employers improve the standard of living of employees so that they could be "more motivated and content".

Training courses, run by the Women's Agricultural Union, would be offered, and members would have free access to programmes, with manuals would be supplied at cost price.

● Anyone interested can contact the organisation on 011 672 9676.

Environmental discipline 'vital for all businessmen'

Environment Reporter (5) ARCT 5/10/93
SOUTH African businesses must take environmental issues seriously or they will jeopardise their "licence to operate", a senior oil company manager has warned.

Derrick Burns, Engen's health, safety and environmental manager, told last week's *Green Management For The '90s* symposium that business and industry had traditionally set their own agenda for economic growth and development.

They now had to appreciate a "fundamental concept": That the

public granted them a *de facto* "licence to operate."

"It is this 'licence' that is being challenged by new entrants in the socio-political arena," said Dr Burns.

"Unless companies can show that they are committed to the principles of responsible environmental management and can show that they support and practise the sustainable development of renewable resources, they will find themselves increasingly pressurised by the environmental lobby."

Shock over govt dune decision

By MELANIE GOSLING

THE Department of Regional and Land Affairs has given the green light for township development on the Fish Hoek sand dunes — part of a protected nature area — despite strong public opposition and a thumbs-down from the Regional Services Council.

ANC MP for Simon's Town Mr Jannie Momberg said last night he had received a letter from the deputy minister for

land affairs, Mr Lampie Fick, informing him that the controversial rezoning of the sensitive dune area from nature to residential had been approved.

Strong opposition from conservationists and residents was sparked in April last year when the Fish Hoek town council approved an application from developers.

In September last year, the

Western Cape Regional Services Council turned down the application, stating that the area should be conserved.

A spokeswoman for the Silvermine Valley Coalition, Ms Kim Kruyshaar, said last night the rezoning approval undermined the whole point of having a protected natural environment and set a "horrific precedent".

Spokesman for the Wildlife

Society of South Africa, Mr Andy Gubb, said he was "devastated" by the decision.

"We formed a coalition of 17 organisations to fight this last year, which shows the extent of public opposition to the move. We are not going to give up the fight," he said.

A Department of Regional Land Affairs spokesman could not be reached for comment last night.

CT 5/10/43

(56) (134)

'Extra' greyhounds used in poaching ^(SB)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THOUSANDS of "surplus" greyhound puppies are killed, while some surplus adults are used for illegal hunting, says Myfanwy Wood of the SPCA.

Mrs Wood, chairman of the Cape of Good Hope branch of the SPCA and a member of the National Council of SPCAs, was explaining her organisation's opposition to the legalisation of greyhound racing in South Africa in the latest issue of Compassion, the journal of Beauty Without Cruelty.

The chief problems of greyhound racing were the number of surplus animals it generated and their subsequent fate, said Mrs Wood.

In countries where greyhound racing was legal, as in

ARG ST10/93
Britain and the United States, animal societies were called on to perform euthanasia on ex-racing greyhounds.

It was estimated that up to 10 000 surplus greyhounds were disposed of each year in Britain and up to 50 000 in the United States.

"The SPCA already has proof of surplus racing greyhounds being used for illegal hunting in South Africa; this is also a problem overseas. Most, however — including thousands of surplus puppies — must be killed," she said.

At the weekend, police found 11 greyhounds being used by alleged poachers at Rietvlei.

Detectives have asked anyone with information to contact Table View police at 557 1215 or control at 1 0111.

Dairy polluted water resource

Staff Reporter

THE owners of a Little Karoo dairy have been fined R3 000 — or six months' imprisonment — suspended for three years for polluting water resources. (S6)

Department of Water Affairs spokeswoman Ms S de Jager said yesterday that Towerkop Dairy Co-Operative Ltd, near Ladismith, had been charged under Section 21 of the Water Act for not purifying effluents in accordance with prescribed standards.

The company had pleaded guilty to two charges. CT 5/10/93

Waters near outfall sewer may be safe

Municipal Reporter

56

MEDICAL officer of health Michael Popkiss could soon be asked to decide on taking down signs warning against swimming near the Green Point marine outfall sewer.

ARG 4/10/93

A city engineering official told the utilities and works committee progress on the new pipeline had been good.

The pipe now reached 1 000m out to sea. It would reach 1 700m when completed.

The water was probably safe for swimming and Dr Popkiss would be asked for a decision.

Committee member Kenny Penkin quipped that committee colleague and former mayor Frank van der Velde should be delegated to test the water.

This was a reference to a swim by Mr Van der Velde in the water in January last year after claims that it was dangerously polluted.

Land donated to nature fund

Staff Reporter

5 ARG 1/10/93
THE Table Mountain Fund has been given a major boost with the donation to the Southern African Nature Foundation (SANF) of three hectares of prime residential land in Hout Bay.

The donation, made by Coral Claude of Hout Bay, is worth more than R500 000 and increased the value of the fund to more than R1 million.

Mrs Claude inherited the property on the mountain slope between Skoorsteenkop and Constantiaberg on the Baviaans River from naturalist Bernard Carp.

"I made up my mind that I would

one day leave the land to nature conservation, but when the fund was opened I decided not to wait until I was in my urn. It was a wonderful way to boost the fund, so I just donated the land," she said.

Although the land is in a residential area, a third will be incorporated into the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

The remaining land will be divided into erven and sold by the Nature Foundation.

The Table Mountain Fund was opened earlier this year by the SANF to ensure the ecological integrity of the mountain.

City land donated for conservation

CT 1/10/93

56

A HOUT BAY woman has donated three hectares of prime residential land worth over half-a-million rand for conservation — the fulfilment of a 30-year dream.

Mrs Coral Claude handed over the land to the Southern African Nature Foundation (SANF) at a function in Hout Bay yesterday.

She said she had originally inherited the land situated on the mountain slope between Skoonsteenkop and Constantia-berg from her "mentor", Mr Bernard Carp.

"I have been extremely worried about the encroachment of development up the mountain in Hout Bay and originally thought of making the land



GENEROUS ...
Mrs Coral Claude

a private nature reserve.

"Now this wonderful opportunity has come up to donate it to the Table Mountain nature reserve chain, and I'm delighted," Mrs Claude said.

SANF's chief executive Dr John Hanks said the donation would increase the Table Mountain Fund, launched this year by Sir Edmund Hillary, to over R1m.

He said although the land was residential, a third would be incorporated into the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment. The remaining part would be divided and sold.

"It has been agreed that no cluster houses and not more than 10 houses will be built," Dr Hanks said.

Solar power for each rural home 'at half the cost of Moss gas'

□ A missed opportunity, says UCT 'green' boffin

HENRI DU PLESSIS
Staff Reporter

FOR less than half the cost of Moss gas, every rural household in South Africa could have been given solar power, a Fairest Cape symposium has been told.

Giving an overview of the problems of green management, University of Cape Town's Guy Preston said financing Moss gas represented an enormous "opportunity cost" in peace and stability.

"No-one would accuse (former State President) P W Botha of having had the wisdom of Solomon — among so many other gems, he and his advisers have left us with the wasted opportunity that is Moss gas," said Dr Preston.

"For less than half of the R12 billion South Africa has contrived to spend on Moss gas to date, we could have provided every rural household in the country with a photovoltaic solar panel, battery, light and television set."

Dr Preston said nobody knew what the impact of such a scheme would have been on the quality of life.

If done with the full participation of the affected people and if combined with an innovative restructuring of the country's "abysmal" television service, it could have had a significantly positive impact on the levels of education, capacity building, health, crime and other social elements.

"We need to understand the consequences of our decisions, and must be accountable for our decisions," Dr Preston said.

He also attacked the Department of Water Affairs over its plans for the Palmiet River Scheme.

"For the amount of money the department wanted to spend on the Palmiet Scheme — up to R500 million, plus the likelihood of very significant escalations and over R40 million a year for treatment and distribution — we could sys-

tematically rid our key catchment areas of invasive plants and create the potential for the sponge effect of fynbos to generate a far greater yield of water during the summer months," he said.

Spin-offs could include employment opportunities and long-term conservation benefits.

"And with the change left over from the clearing of invasive aliens, we could convert every cistern toilet in the Western Cape to a dual-flush system (low flush for fluids and full flush for solids) — repairing all leaking toilets while we do so — and install low-flow shower heads in every reticulated house.

"I use these examples not to flog dead horses, but to try to make the point there are opportunities — there may even be solutions. We need planning that has explored the alternatives.

"With innovation and accountability, we can make a difference."

(S6) (S5) ARG 1/10/93

More radioactive sites

PRETORIA. — Additional sites contaminated by radioactive scrap metal originating from mining operations have been identified by the Council for Nuclear Safety.

Among premises named were Scaw Metals, Rand Scrap and Columbus Steel in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging and Middelburg areas.

Contaminated material was also found at Phalaborwa's SPCA and at Miami Foods in Tzaneen.

The council said appropriate re-

strictions had been imposed on contaminated sites, and steps were under way to rehabilitate them. (56)

The council announced that a consignment of possibly contaminated scrap stainless steel being exported from South Africa to Britain had been stopped at Antwerp in Belgium.

Britain recently quarantined another consignment of contaminated material from South Africa. — Sapa, Own Correspondent CT 11/10/93

Radiation: (56) Funds needed

Staff Reporter

THE CSIR's Ematek urgently needs funds to buy equipment to monitor ultra-violet radiation at their Cape Point research station.

Ematek scientist Dr Ernst Brunke said yesterday it was in the public interest to be provided with a daily UVB index — a figure indicating the amount of biologically harmful ultra-violet radiation reaching the earth's surface daily.

Radioactive sites 'must be cleaned'

Own Correspondent

56
CF 20/9/93

JOHANNESBURG. — The Council for Nuclear Safety yesterday ordered mining companies to clean up radioactively contaminated sites, but the mines said they needed time to consider the proposal because of the large costs involved.

Council general manager Mr Jonathan Leaver said the six mining groups involved had been called to a meeting yesterday after investigations showed a further three sites were contaminated.

The companies have until Wednesday to respond to the proposal to establish a clean-up unit.

While the initial focus fell on mines in Phalaborwa, further investigations showed that mines on the West Rand and in the Free State were also found to be at fault for disposing of contaminated scrap material.

Stringent controls have also been placed on the premises of the SPCA in Phalaborwa and of Miami Foods in Tzaneen — although tests had shown that the contamination had not come into contact with the food.

Probe into radioactive metals at scrapyards

(56) ARG 29/9/73
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Scrap metal with radioactive contamination up to 100 times higher than permissible levels have been sold by several mines to scrapyards around the country for several years, says a spokesman for the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS).

He said scrapyards workers could be at risk because of the cumulative effects of long-term exposure to high radiation.

The CNS began an investigation after officials in the Netherlands city Rotterdam detected radioactive contamination in a cargo of stainless steel scrap components originating from Bushveld Recyclers in Phalaborwa and destined for a company in Sheffield, England.

Subsequently the CNS shut down Bushveld and the Phalaborwa Mining Company while investigations continued.

CNS spokesman Jonathan Cooper said the sale of radioactive material to scrapyards was a direct contravention of safety regulations contained in the Nuclear Energy Act.

Mr Cooper explained that about 20 mines had licences in terms of the Nuclear Energy Act to handle material defined as a nuclear hazard.

In the course of the processing of ore from gold, uranium and other mines, plants and mines became contaminated with radium concentrates. The machinery in those plants or mines was also contaminated.

"Then the plant is dismantled and the machinery or parts of the plant are sold for scrap," said Mr Cooper.

"Safety regulations have been broken. It has to be disposed of according to strict regulations," he added.

The CNS investigations are continuing.

to stop inquest

rt by such a procedure."
fe Mr Van Vuuren said he was
lt, arrested on July 14 last year in
connection with his wife's
murder and the stealing of a
ie firearm.

ed He appeared in court on July
d- 29 last year, where he pleaded
- not guilty on all charges.

ie Mr Van Vuuren said the case
ld

Nuke scare: Mines to be quizzed

CT27/9/93

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's major mining houses have been summoned to a meeting on Wednesday to explain high levels of radioactive contamination in materials found at public sites here and in other areas of the Transvaal.

Probe: 10
scrapyards
found with
'hot' metal

radioactive material had sold contaminated material to the public, via scrap dealers, with little control over such sales.

The mines fell under Anglo American, Anglovaal, Genmin, Rand Gold, and Goldfields.

"We will be asking them to tell us what they propose to do about it," he said.

Council for Nuclear Safety spokesman Mr Phil Metcalf said at the weekend that recent investigations of metal scrapyards had revealed unacceptably high levels of contamination.

It was believed most of the country's leading mining companies were guilty of distributing "hot" material to the yards, he said.

The council's probe was triggered when authorities in the UK found a cargo of radioactive stainless steel from South Africa bound for Sheffield. The cargo, supplied by Bushveld Recyclers, originated at the Palabora Mining Company (PMC).

Although the spotlight fell on PMC, further investigations of nine other scrapyards and recycling plants had linked other mining companies to contamination, Mr Metcalf said.

The mining houses were all "running for cover" now that the spotlight had fallen on the issue.

He said 20 mines licensed to process

Although local technology and detection equipment were on a par with international standards, he said, South Africa lagged behind in implementing controls because of the high costs and lack of expertise. There was also far less awareness here of the hazards of processing radioactive material.

Mr Metcalf said there had been a lot of resistance from the mines to control measures imposed by the council.

Earthlife Africa last week urged stricter enforcement of laws governing the disposal of hazardous waste, saying material dumped on scrap heaps was often scavenged and used to build shacks.

PMC's general manager Mr Bruce Farmer said on Friday his company was not sure that the cargo of stainless steel pipes had originated from the mine, "but we are acting as if it did... because we are committed to operating safely and because some contaminated equipment has left the mine".

GARDEN CENTRE:
 Wilfred Mbude, manager of Abalimi Basekhaya's Nyanga Garden Centre, among the trees and flowers that will be sold at half price for the next two weeks as part of the organisation's 10th anniversary celebrations.

Picture: BRENTON GEACH
 The Argus.



Flats' big garden plan celebrates 10th anniversary

Special offer to 'lure' all

Staff Reporter

A ROMAN Catholic Welfare and Development project that aims to transform the desert-like environment of Peninsula townships through gardening, has celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The ceremony was held at one of the organisation's garden centres in Nyanga.

Project co-ordinator Dave Golding said Abalimi Basekhaya (Home Agriculturists) had blossomed in leaps and bounds since its formation in 1983.

"The original aim was to help people on the Cape Flats to grow food at home. This was achieved by setting up a market garden and teaching holistic, organic gardening; composting trench beds; and companion planting, to name but a few," he said.

In 1985 the project embarked on low cost "people's garden centres."

The first resource centre was established in Nyanga in 1986. In 1989 a similar nursery was established in Khayelitsha. From these low-cost centres, clients from the surrounding areas purchase manure, seeds, seedlings, tools fertilisers, trees, shrubs and lawn.

The centres consist of a demonstration area, shop and seedling production sections. The demonstration area displays fertility beds with seedling and mature vegetables.

The project also focuses on education.

"Gardening courses and demonstrations are run for interested community groups," he said.

Mr Golding said 8 000 trees had been planted in the Cape Flats through the project. The goal was a million.

Abalimi Basekhaya offered a valuable service to gardeners in the townships, he said.

"Our broad vision of a transformed sandy plain becoming a living productive and green environment guides our work," he said.

During the celebration, sponsored by an oil company, father Desmond Curren of Khayelitsha's St Raphael's Church blessed the centre.

As part of the celebrations gardeners will be offered manure, vegetable seeds, seedlings and fruit trees at half-price for two weeks.

focus on environment

Sowetan 22/9/93

THE FUTURE OF LAKE St Lucia may eventually lie in the hands of the people who should have decided in the first place whether the Eastern Shores be mined or not.

These are the people who were forcibly removed by the Government from the area between 1959 and 1960 to make way for pine tree plantations.

In its final Environmental Impact Report, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research recommends among other things that negotiations between the State and claimants to the land should start as soon as possible.

"Because it seems certain at this stage that at least parts of the Eastern Shores will be restored to previous occupants who were removed from the area in the 1950s and 1960s to make way for a forest, it is recommended that a process of negotiation between agencies of the state and claimants to the land in the area be commenced, to achieve early agreement on the land issue," says the final report.

The report further recommends that if the land is given back to its claimants, "such communities should be supported in the process of examining and implementing sustainable, businesslike approaches to land uses of their choosing".

For the first time, people who used to stay in this area which has become a focus of one of the longest, most protracted environmental battles between environmentalists and a mining house have been recognised.

When this issue blew up in the face of Richards Bay Minerals and the Government as serious opposition to mining was mounted, everyone was talking above the heads of "indigenous people".

Sowetan reported at the height of the debate that this attitude of looking above the heads of local people was a recipe for disaster. The anti-mining lobby called a congress at St Lucia at the time. Journalists and interested parties were invited to attend.

When journalist Nomavenda Mathiane asked the organisers of the conference why local people were not there, a representative said: "Local people had been informed but seemingly did not want to attend".

They further said it looked as if RBM had "bought over" the local chiefs to support mining.

But if the Interim Government comes to power, no one can say for sure if they will approve the mining because the decision rests with the Cabinet.

Black organisations said at the time that such important decisions should not be taken until a new dispensation is in place.

The ANC, Azapo and Cosatu all said such an important decision cannot be left in the hands of

Controversial from its beginning, St Lucia's future hangs on a thread as its fate looks set to be decided by the original inhabitants of the area, Sowetan's Environmental Reporter **Musa Zondi** writes:



the Government that has proved neither capable nor willing to consult properly.

But back to the people of St Lucia. According to the laws of this country, if you own surface rights, you also own mineral rights. This means that if parts of St Lucia's Eastern Shores revert to original owners, they can decide what happens to the minerals underneath.

The Minister of Energy Mr George Bartlet has in many instances come out in favour of mining by saying, among other things, that "South Africa is a mining country. Mining is what this country has done and will always do".

Earlier this year, Bartlett and the then Minister of Environment Mr Louis Pienaar invited the Press to St Lucia, an occasion that was hosted by the mining house.

It was clear at the time that he was speaking like a man whose mind had been made up — even though he kept repeating that a decision would be taken after the EIR has been completed

and only when they proved no irreparable damage would be done to the dunes.

Unfortunately for the anti-mining lobby, the final report does not exalt tourism as the best alternative. The first report concluded that no irreparable damage would result from eco-tourism which was being flouted as an alternative.

But the final report says: "There is a real risk that a low carrying capacity for tourism or lack of funds may prevent the completion of the proposed development; alternately, full development of the plan would have serious impact on the suitability of the area as a tourist attraction through overcrowding."

It is recommended that these developments be subjected to proper intergrated environmental management procedures, with public participation.

But is eco-tourism an answer. Some people do not think so. A friend of mine, who works and stays at Empangeni says mining should go ahead to give people jobs. Further, he says this eco-tourism is only for the rich — and in the South African case it is basically white people who can afford to go to such places.

He says a few years ago, they were not even allowed on the beaches of St Lucia. But today, they are being asked to support the very process that excluded them.

Black liberation organisations said at the height of the debate that this country could not trust the Government which brought so much havoc to this country.

They argued the decision should await a new dispensation.

Maybe South Africa has finally reached that stage: let the people decide. It's about time.

South Africa is a mining country. Mining is what this country has done and will always do

Minister of Energy and Minerals George Bartlet

Politics will win in the end, say boffins

By CARRIE CURZON

THE long-awaited final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the fashionable St Lucia saga was released this week. So far, it has had a limited impact on the public.

The 3,5cm thick tome, compiled by the CSIR, contains an enormous amount of information and weighs nearly 2kg.

But at the end of the day, so what?

Even its authors admit that whatever happens to Lake St Lucia, the end result will be a political decision. All they can do is provide the information.

And while their report has succeeded in gleaning a lot of extra facts — thanks to public comment over the last few months, plus painstaking research — their original recommendations remain relatively unchanged.

One new conclusion pertains to water usage by the proposed mine.

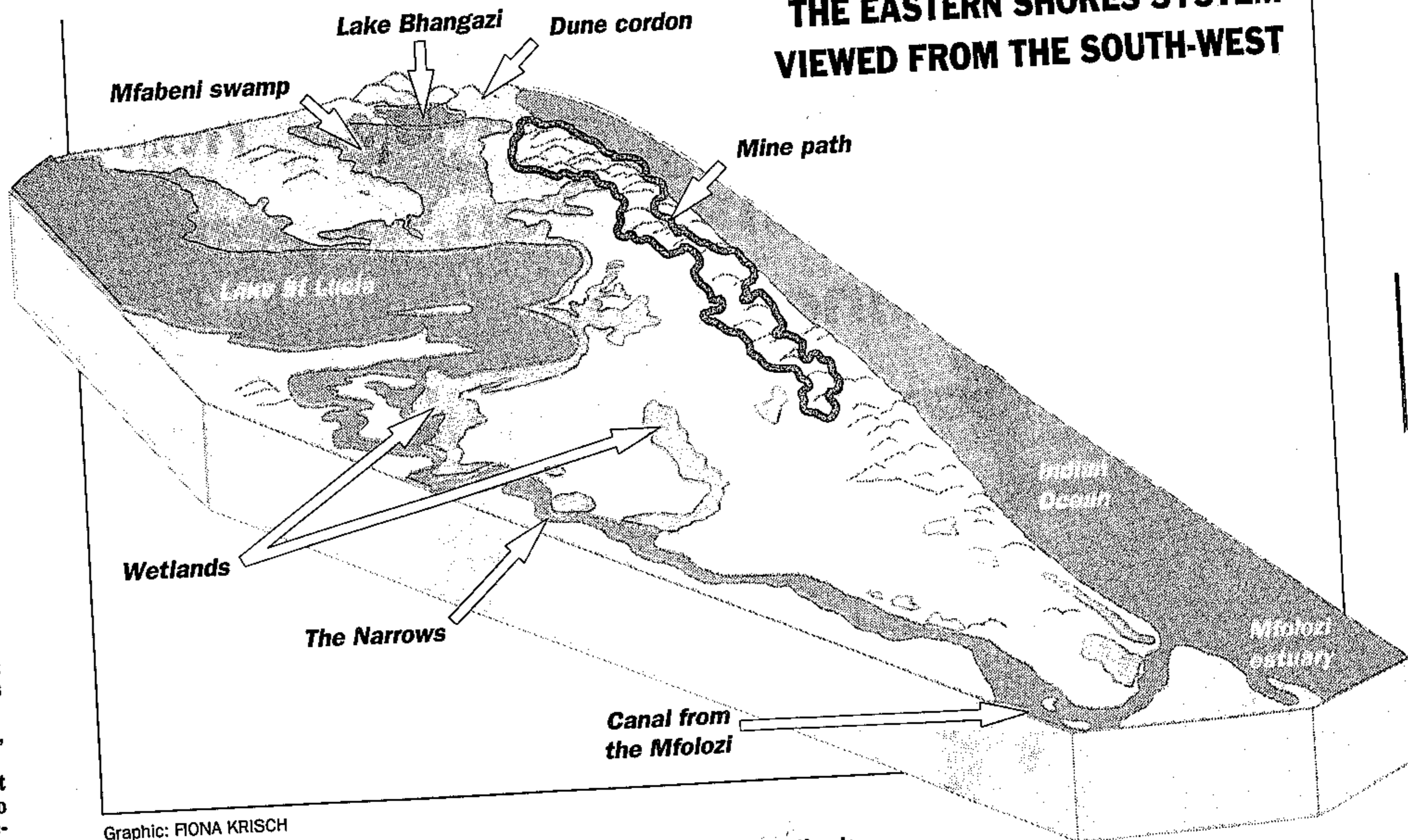
The investigations have shown that the mine's potential daily water use was previously underestimated, and would average 35 000 cubic metres a day, exceeding 60 000 cubic metres a day in about eight percent of the mine path.

The EIR notes that the water supply scheme would have to be increased to meet this demand, though the scheme "remains technically feasible ... and there would be no adverse effects on the Mfolozi River or estuary".

According to one of the authors, Dr Brian van Wilgen, set in context with South Africa's other major problems, the St Lucia issue has gotten out of all proportion.

"The mining issue is actually detracting from the real problem facing St Lucia," he says. "And that is not whether or not mining will take place here, but how best to conserve the area in the long term."

While the main part of the report is taken up with major, and largely political issues, such as land rehabilitation and whether or not the report is an attempt by government to white-wash a decision they have already made, a section is also devoted to other, secondary, "key risk"



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH

THIS diagram of the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia shows clearly that the wetlands on the coastal plain are separate entities from the lake. Although they ultimately drain into the lake through seepage or via the Nkazana stream, their contribution to the lake hydrology is small. The proposed mine path lies entirely within the dune cordon, and is

therefore separate from the wetlands. The only way in which the mining pond can affect the Eastern Shores wetlands is through alteration of the amount of water that may flow westward, within the dune system, to feed the pans, or the nutrients which this water may carry

Source: CSIR Environmental Impact Report

areas.

This risk analysis section does not form a big part of the report, and was not intended as an in-depth study. But it was something the CSIR was asked to do, says Dr van Wilgen.

"It was done in a couple of months and the input was mainly from about 15 of our own CSIR experts. It did not look at the most important issues that were covered comprehensively in the main body of the report, and since the report is supposed to be an independent study, it was not appropriate to call in environmental experts from outside. (56)

"We looked at a number of 'what if' situations that included anything from

earthquakes to change in government policies and the finding of a substitute for titanium (currently used as the base for paint). There wasn't time to cover all these things in depth, and anyway, many of these concerns were not well grounded.

"We were also criticised for not using data from Australia's Frazer Island findings," he added.

"The short answer to that is that the two areas are fundamentally different when it comes to soil and hydrology, and anyway, we were unable to obtain copies of the reports from Australia."

At the end of the day, the report differs little from its original recommendations.

It has changed a few definitions — for example when it comes to judging negative impact, the phrase "irreparable damage" now reads "moderate negative impact".

More importantly, the report has taken note of public comment, most of which was aimed at the possible "government-biased" nature of the CSIR, and so-called inadequacies of its research.

"Ultimately, what happens to St Lucia is likely to be a political decision," says Dr van Wilgen, "but at least the decision will be based on a lot of information, and the amount of public participation augurs well for future environmental management."

ST LUCIA IS NOT YOURS TO GIVE, MR BARTLETT: P25

P.T.O. 57

Rival clans in St Lucia land feud

THE dunes of the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia stretch like a crumpled ribbon of green and gold between the lake and the Indian Ocean.

By RYAN CRESSWELL

Vast tracts of the ancient dunes are covered in Natal mahogany, wild date palms, Hlithuwe creepers and wild bananas, punctuated with pine plantations.

The area — part of a game reserve until 1928 — is a haven for specially protected female bushbuck, bushpigs, buffalo, red

duikers, kudus and leopards. The 40km Mkuzi Trail starts on the high Eastern Shores dune called Mount Tabor near Mission Rocks and is so popular that it is booked up until next April.

But the busloads of school-children and hundreds of anglers who visit the area every year cannot help but notice the traces of black titanium in the sand — the trigger for a long-running psychological war between Richards Bay Minerals and pro-mining factions and opposing conservation bodies.

This week the final environmental impact report by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) introduced a human — and highly emotional — factor into the battle.

The report poses the possibility of the land on the Eastern Shores being given back to some 30 000 people moved from the area between 1950 and about 1974.

The two main claimants have emerged as the Mkhwanazi clan under Chief Mhneus Mkhwanazi and a much smaller group under traditional healer and chief's son, Mr Phineas Mbuyazi.

Chief Mkhwanazi is firmly pro-mining and has given RBM a written assurance that he has never opposed the proposed operation.

But Mr Mbuyazi says he wants the land returned to his people. On Thursday, at his home near Mubhatuba, Mr Mbuyazi said he had been visited by "a man from RBM" about four months ago.

"This man, a Mr Mthetwa, did not say much, but I told him we wanted our land back for cultural and ceremonial reasons.

"When we were moved, many of us were given no compensation, and the people who moved my family even shot my dogs," he said.

Mr Mbuyazi and his followers still visit the Mission Rocks area at least once a year to hold ritual ceremonies, and he recently told researchers he planned to move his people

back to the Eastern Shores within the next few months because he felt he was being squeezed out of the running.

The traditional healer was not keen to speak about his feud with the powerful Chief Mkhwanazi this week.

A Natal University study, however, reported that Mr Mbuyazi and his committee found it "very disturbing" that Chief Mkhwanazi had entered into "an understanding on the issues of mining on the Eastern Shores with RBM."

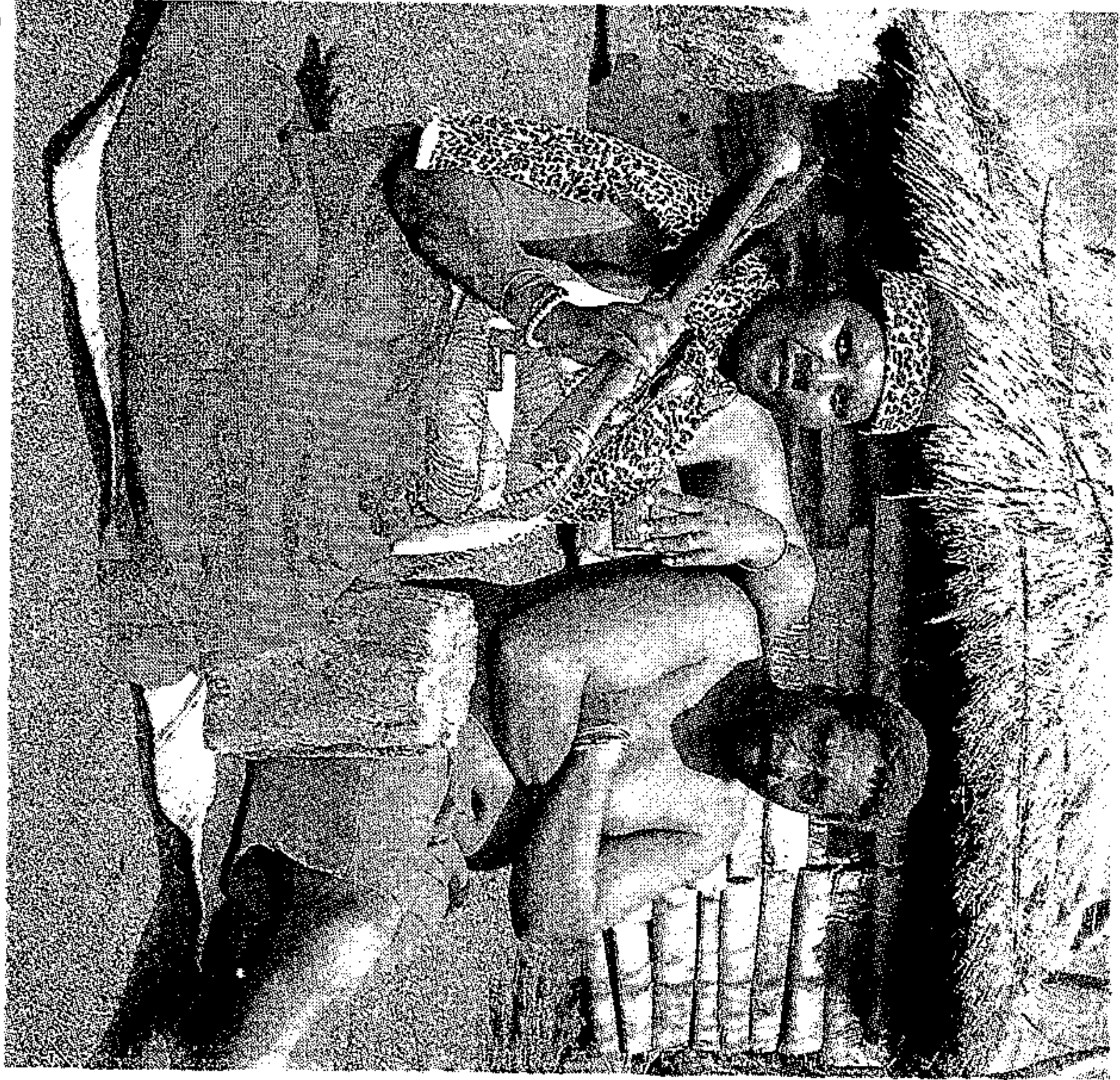
Mr Mbuyazi claims the Mkhwanazi clan was never the traditional leader of the territory across the St Lucia estuary, and warns that the relationship between RBM and Chief Mkhwanazi could lead to bloodshed.

The Mbuyazis say they believe RBM has manipulated the situation and that the company favours giving Chief Mkhwanazi centre stage because he talks the "language" which it wants to hear.

Mr Mbuyazi said his father, Chief Lokothwayo Mbuyazi, gave the land between St Lucia and Mission Rocks to white settlers, but kept the land from Mission Rocks to the north for cultural reasons.

Researchers Bonga Mlambo and Themba Mzimela of the Centre for Social and Development Studies at Natal University put forward last-minute claims — included in the CSIR report — by the Mbuyazi clan that RBM had manipulated the land issue.

According to Mr Mzimela, RBM and the Natal Parks Board recognise only Chief Mkhwanazi as a spokesman for people from the St Lucia area, but



STANDING FIRM ... Phineas Mbuyazi, pictured with his wife, Thokoziwe, says he wants land at St Lucia returned to his people. Picture: HORACE POTTER

"records" indicate that Mr Mbuyazi has the strongest claim.

RBM spokesman Barry Clements said this week it was the responsibility of the Commission of Land Allocation (Acta) to decide which of the two clans had a legitimate claim to the land.

"If RBM is given permission to mine, we would obviously negotiate with any party who has a rightful claim."

But, added Mr Clements, the controversy had now gone beyond a simplistic argument between anti-miners and miners and embraced wider socio-economic and political issues.

"The million people who live in the area are among the poorest and most marginalised communities on earth."

"Caught in this spiral of despair, many have neither the will nor the means to care for the environment," he said.

Concerned conservationists described the section of the report dealing with the

land issue as a "red herring" designed to raise dangerous expectations.

"Many conservationists feel the people who were moved should be compensated with similar lands, but there is no reason why this environmentally valuable area itself should now be handed back," said Mr Wally Meme, chairman of the Zululand Environmental Alliance (Zeal).

"This is a complex issue and should be sorted out by the land courts," he said.

ROBERT KIRBY and TONY POOLEY say the future of St Lucia may not be left to the National Party to decide

St Lucia is not yours to give, Mr Bartlett

St Times 19/9/93

(56) ~~222~~

*But man, proud man,
Drest in a little brief
authority,
Most ignorant of what he's
most assur'd...*

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

THERE can be few more eloquent examples of Shakespeare's cynical lines than the display given to the nation on *Agenda* a week ago by the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, George Bartlett.

In Mr Bartlett's performance could be perceived the quintessence of National Party political seductions — all bluster, lots of wind and very little substance.

Everything the Minister had to offer, either in explanation for or justification of the recently increased fuel prices, was dismissed with calm reason by his fellow panellists — that was when he actually allowed them to speak. And the more efficiently they destroyed his arguments, the more Mr Bartlett huffed and puffed. In the end, he managed only to blow down his own house.

Yet, it is into the care of these clumsy hands that the future of one of South Africa's most priceless assets has been conveyed.

George Bartlett has taken over the St Lucia dune mining issue with a vengeance. It is George Bartlett who recently has been writing all the letters to the newspapers. It is George Bartlett who is making up all the rules. It is George Bartlett who has stated that the decision on St Lucia will definitely not be delayed until after next year's election.

Despite his reassurances to the contrary, it seems obvious that Mr Bartlett has already made up his mind about St Lucia, certainly if

we are to go by another of his bizarre television exhibitions.

Some months ago, on *Agenda*, he argued strenuously on behalf of the dune mining. On that occasion, his reasoning again was simplistic. "South Africa is a mining country," he said. "Mining is what this country has always done and will always do." On that altar, presumably, may everything else of value be sacrificed.

Emitting warm reassurances that no decision has yet been taken on the matter of the mining, Mr Bartlett has referred frequently to what he terms "checks and balances" built into the system of evaluation of the mining proposals. These reassurances refer to the CSIR's Environmental Impact Assessment, published earlier this year.

The CSIR's first EIA was full of lacunae and dodged many issues, among which was possibly the single most relevant argument against dune mining. There is a strong possibility that the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park could be designated a Natural World Heritage Site by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Inspectors from the union have already visited St Lucia to investigate this possibility. With World Heritage Site status would come copious international funding for the preservation of the natural integrity of the area. Dune mining, almost certainly, will disqualify it.

It is difficult to imagine what the government has hoped to achieve in terms of the general South African benefit by its behaviour over the St Lucia issue.

The record reads like a farce.

Between 1972 and 1990 the government merrily issued



UNDER THREAT: The Mission Rocks shore at St Lucia. The dunes in the background will be mined if the government gives the go-ahead **Picture: HORACE POTTER**

prospecting licences for St Lucia while, almost synchronously, it signed an international agreement guaranteeing the preservation of wetlands like St Lucia. They announced proposals for a greater St Lucia wetland park while simultaneously considering applications for mining rights in the same area.

The government then signed another international agreement in which it undertook to preserve the habitats of migratory species animals, fish and birds. It then announced it was about to grant mining licences. It was only public outrage which forced it to commission the EIA.

TO all this questionable behaviour may be added the remainders of a shabby government avatar. Past casualties at St Lucia were often the result of the National Party's deviant rule, notably in the matter of forced removals which were undertaken to accommodate various designs, not least the malicious involutions of the NP's policies of homelands consolidation.

The details of these removals remain immune from scrutiny, locked away, either in government archives or in the records of Forestry.

The unstitching of this tapestry of political and social mismanagement will take many years to complete. In the meantime, surely no dispensation of land, or the rights pertaining to that land, may be made without the compromise of these records.

The new EIA is now published — renamed as a Final Environmental Impact Report. It must be observed that, as the CSIR was capable

of producing the first inadequate document, there is no reason that its second attempt should be regarded with any less suspicion.

It is encouraging, however, to see that this report recommends that traditional land rights in the area be both identified and ratified and that the people who have first claim to these lands be consulted.

In any event, a proper and careful evaluation of the new EIR will take some time. First examination of the new report, though, reveals both inaccuracy and bias. Again there has been trivial response to important questions. Some questions forwarded have simply been ignored.

A case in point is to be found in an Appendix to the new EIR, undertaken by sociologists from Natal University, and which states that black residents in the St Lucia area are resentful of "dispossession" and "removals from the Eastern Shores" claimed to have been under-

taken by the Natal Parks Board. This is palpably false. The board has never taken part in any removals.

In Mr Bartlett's recent statements, new and lubricious tactics are revealed.

Can the South African public be so naive as to entrust the future of a national inheritance of such intrinsic spiritual benefit, of such prodigious international and local value as St Lucia, to a government which, by its record, has long since proved itself so miserably incapable of prosecuting its brief?

It is an administration of runaway corruption, bureaucratic ineptitude and almost countless abuses. In the financial support of distorted racist policies, the South African economy has been crippled. The moral delinquencies of the National Party have made of South Africa a whipping boy.

Are we really going to leave it to these kind of people to decide?

Notwithstanding any of the above, at the core of the issue

is whether the present government owns the political right to rule on the matter. The ANC believes otherwise. It issued a statement on March 16 which, since it harmonises so snugly with general ANC policy, can be read as policy.

IN PART, it said: "We feel strongly that the South African government has no mandate whatsoever to authorise the mining at St Lucia". It continues: "In the context of the impending political transformation in South Africa, it is presumptuous in the extreme for the present apartheid minority government to make a unilateral decision on an important international issue such as the mining at St Lucia"; and, "We are convinced that this matter should be decided upon by a government of national unity and reconstruction."

That says it all. The entire exercise of EIAs and hear-

ings and consultations, all the rest of the NP political ventilation, adds up to, at most, an academic value.

A hundred EIAs and hearings may be mounted, but so long as they are the end product of unilateral National Party decisions, they aren't worth the paper. The present government is indeed illegitimate. Its function in these last few months of fumbling suzerainty is merely that of a caretaker.

It has no right to more than a small percentage of the say, let alone any right to impose decisions which will have resonance far down the years. Mr Bartlett and his colleagues are dressed in briefer authority than even Shakespeare might have predicted.

St Lucia is not theirs to give.

□ AC "Tony" Pooley, a recognised authority on conservation, worked for the Natal Parks Board for 22 years, of which 12 were spent at St Lucia. South African playwright Robert Kirby is also well-known as a columnist and journalist.

Mining St Lucia can be a win-win scenario

56 WM 17-23/9/93

Environmentalists have battled to stop the mining of St Lucia. But **John Ledger**, director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, believes there is a better solution

THE Environmental Impact Assessment for St Lucia is the most comprehensive study of its kind ever undertaken in Africa. It has withstood international scrutiny well, and has been praised for its attention to detail and fair public participation.

The various reports contained in the EIA reflect the depth of expertise in biological and environmental sciences accessible in South Africa, and are the work of some of Africa's best home-grown scientists.

As is the nature of any such wide-ranging study, the St Lucia report can be faulted on some counts. But it seems to us that most of the alleged shortcomings of the EIA are based on the most trivial of issues.

I am increasingly concerned that the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process is threatened by a small group of environmental activists behind the Campaign for St Lucia. This group has managed to hijack the local and overseas media, which have in turn conducted a huge campaign of disinformation.

Most people who rely on their newspapers, radios and television to learn about the issues at St Lucia have very distorted ideas about the whole business. There are numerous examples of biased reporting, perhaps none of them so misleading as the Ramsar Report.

This report has been widely cited as an authoritative document by the media. Yet it is so prejudiced and inaccurate that we can only assume that its authors were totally overpowered by anti-mining activists during their visit to St Lucia in April-May 1992.

Our detailed comments on the Ramsar Report have been submitted to the CSIR and there is no room to repeat them all here, but these two examples alone are an indication of the tone of the document:

● "... there can be few coastal forested dunes anywhere in the world where the trees grow so high, cover such a large area and exhibit such variety."

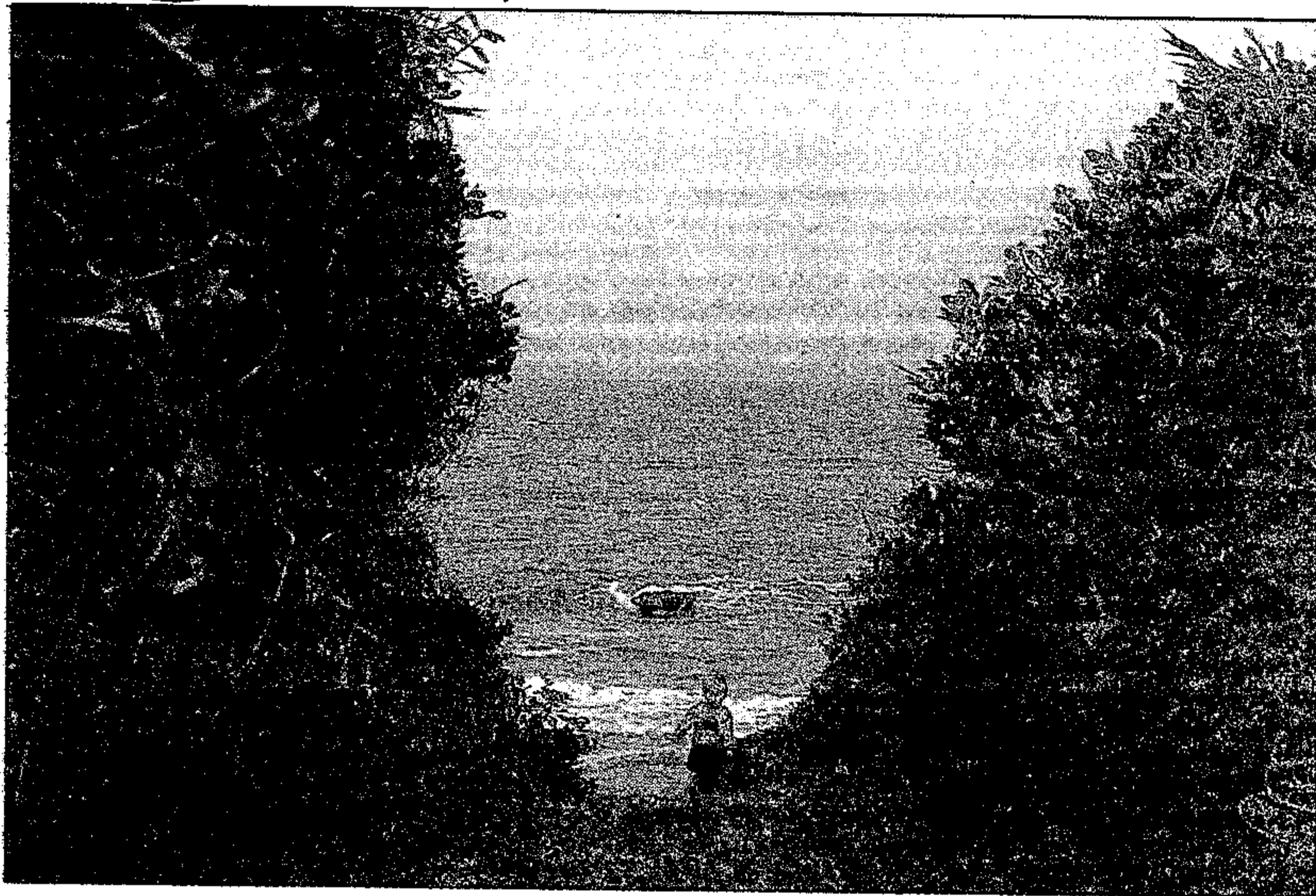
The Ramsar Report conveniently omits the fact that 5 244ha of the eastern shores state forest is planted with pine trees, and this includes two-thirds of the proposed mine path of 1 437ha. The mining will be done in 50ha blocks over some 20 years.

During this same period, extensive logging of the numerous commercial timber plantations around Lake St Lucia will take place, with considerable noise, visual damage to the scenery and heavy trucks creating a hazard to tourists on the roads.

● "... at the site of its current mining operation at Richards Bay, RBM (Richards Bay Minerals) is engaged in a project aimed at restoring dune vegetation ... In the area where this project has been going on for the longest period (15 years) acacia ... scrub has been established. While it does provide vegetation cover, the acacia scrub is considerably poorer than the original flora."

This mischievous piece of disinformation is a crude attempt by the Ramsar mission to denigrate the excellent achievements made by RBM in its dune revegetation programme.

The facts are that after 12 years the mined areas contain some 250



Preventing mining at all costs is a lose-lose situation

PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE HILTON-BARBER

CSIR report 'a threat to protected areas'

Julienne du Toit

CONSERVATIONISTS are enraged at the CSIR's latest report on St Lucia, saying that it immediately opens all protected areas in South Africa to the threat of land claims.

The CSIR this week released its final report on the St Lucia environmental impact assessment, in which it said that the eastern shores should almost certainly revert back to the people who had been displaced 30 or 40 years ago to make way for plantation forestry.

The CSIR had in one fell swoop prejudged what land claims courts might take years to do, said one conservationist.

Chairman of the assessment committee Dr John Raimondo said the Mbuyazi people, who had indicated they had historical claims to the area, would make the decision on what land use options to follow, and might not follow either mining or eco-tourism, he said.

Natal Parks Board (NPB) head Dr George Hughes said the NPB could not comment until the report had been examined fully.

But conservationists, who would not be named, said the CSIR's biologists had gone beyond their brief and were now dabbling in the socio-political sphere.

One senior state conservationist remarked: "It places all protected areas in jeopardy, because the CSIR has now prejudged the land claims court.

species of indigenous plants, about the same as before mining started, a process of succession is well under way, and this can be expected to result eventually in the same mix of species as adjacent unmined areas. In most animal groups studied, the number of species found on the 14-year-old rehabilitated sites is up to 75 percent of those recorded in the oldest surviving dune forests which are about 100 years old.

There is no such place as the "Greater St Lucia Wetland Park". This is a term used to refer to a mythical wilderness paradise, in fact an area of jumbled ownership, including land controlled by the Natal Parks Board (NPB), kwaZulu and various state forests, private and communal land.

The Greater St Lucia Area (GSLA) includes Lake St Lucia and its catch-

ment, and land under the control of both Natal and kwaZulu. Effective conservation of the area is made difficult because of the dual agencies responsible, the NPB and the kwaZulu Bureau for Natural Resources, and their ongoing conflicts at many levels.

The GSLA contains a large and growing human population, including some of the poorest people in the world. Many of their parents lost their land when the eastern shores of St Lucia were taken over by the government in the 1950s as state forest. These impoverished people do not have a stake in ecotourism, their attitude towards the NPB is negative, and they want their land back.

The catchments that feed Lake St Lucia are seriously degraded and the rivers have become little more than stormwater drains. The lake is silting

up and it is becoming shallower by the year.

The two real threats to Lake St Lucia are the socio-political changes coming to South Africa after elections in 1994, and degradation of its catchments.

These threats will persist whether mining occurs or not, and unless something bold and positive is done, the whole GSLA will become increasingly degraded.

A media myth has been cultivated that ecotourism is the key to the future economic welfare of St Lucia, and that mining will be detrimental to this dream. In fact, mining will be considerably less disruptive than commercial timber extraction, and could easily proceed alongside the development of tourism facilities.

The ecotourism plan put forward by the NPB as part of the IEM process

is totally unrealistic, and would require so many people being stuffed into camps and lodges that St Lucia would lose all its wilderness qualities anyway.

This false picture of huge ecotourism to St Lucia takes no account of the volatility of the international tourism market and its sensitivity to political unrest, nor of the re-emergence of Mozambique as a prime destination for tourists from the Transvaal, many of whom presently holiday in the St Lucia area.

Finally, the NPB has no track record of making money from ecotourism. Despite being custodian of some of the finest real estate in the world, the board still has to beg money from the private sector, as stated in a recent promotional brochure for its trust fund: "The NPB has also developed an ecotourism interest, run along the lines of private enterprise. Successful as this has been, it cannot generate sufficient surplus income to run the board's programmes."

Nobody has a plan for the GSLA. The debate so far has been conducted in the pale arena of white conservation politics, without reference to the looming socio-political and ecological factors that will engulf the whole region.

A bold plan must be put in place, with two immediate goals: to give local communities a stake in the ecotourism business around St Lucia, and to start work on rehabilitating the catchments that feed the lake.

How can funds for this bold initiative be found? Not from present or future conventional government sources, you can be sure!

What about mining? Why not turn the threat into an opportunity, and persuade RBM and the South African government to set aside a modest levy from the big profits that both parties stand to gain from mining the eastern shores of St Lucia? Money could thus be liberated to address the real problems of degrading rural poverty among St Lucia's neighbours, and the catchment destruction that is slowly but surely strangling the lake.

We suggest that a window of opportunity for conservation is now open, but it will not be so for too long. A Pyrrhic victory for the anti-mining faction will simply delay the inevitable, because the valuable heavy minerals in the dunes of the eastern shores will be mined, sooner or later.

Take note of this: our country is now home to almost 38-million people. In 2020 there will be 70-million South Africans. We must consider making a small sacrifice now, by allowing mining on condition that a fair title will go to the long-term protection of the GSLA.

By sharing the profits from mining with some of our poorest citizens, we will stand at least some chance of the lake still being mostly water in the year 2020.

If we squander this opportunity by giving in to the zealous campaigners against mining, we will simply prolong the unavoidable and contribute to the ultimate destruction of the entire ecosystem.

The Campaign for St Lucia seeks a win-lose outcome to prevent mining the eastern shores at any cost. We suggest that this will inevitably result in a lose-lose scenario, with mining going ahead anyway, against a backdrop of cattle, goats and fields of maize.

Our proposal is for a win-win decision, with carefully controlled mining of the eastern shores making a positive contribution to the overall health and wealth of the people and the ecosystems of this very special corner of Africa.

1 500 of the 2 500 RBM employees, has come out against mining. This, according to the CSIR, was because it thought RBM was underpaying its workers while spending money on social responsibility that benefited others.

The NUM was also sceptical about job opportunities and considered RBM's compensation policies unfair. There was a lack of community involvement in RBM's programmes and the union saw RBM workers' welfare as being poor.

Other new recommendations in the just-released report are:

● That a Greater St Lucia Development Forum be established to oversee the development of processes and structures that would make lasting contributions to the welfare of people in the region.

● That mining should not take place on the eight percent of land where loss of water from the dredging pond would be too great. The cost of transporting the dredger over these areas might in fact make the whole venture unviable, noted Raimondo.

This last volume of the Environmental Impact Report will be available for perusal at public libraries and universities all over the country.

Anyone wishing to make a presentation to the review panel should contact the Environmental Evaluation Unit at the University of Cape Town before October 11.

Panel hearings will take place in Durban and St Lucia from November 3 to 11.

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Election date likely to change

W/M 17-23/9/93
354A

CONTRARY to what the negotiating parties say, it is highly unlikely that South Africans will go to the polls on April 27 next year. All indications are that the country's first democratic elections will take place not earlier than May and probably only in June.

But do not expect either the African National Congress or the National Party to admit to this right now. Both parties realise that it will be politically unwise to say that April 27 is not attainable, because it may create the impression that they have political motives, or that they are not ready to face the nation.

The two major negotiating parties are for the present deliberately focusing on the scheduled election date in order to maintain the sense of urgency which has so far sustained the

It will be impossible to get everything in place in time for the election date, reports **Chris Louw**

momentum of negotiations and contributed to their success.

A senior civil servant, whose job it is to monitor the negotiations, this week told the *Mail & Guardian* that it would be impossible to get everything in place on time for the planned election date.

"The Transitional Executive Council will probably not be in place before November," she said. "Very little of the arrangements for the elections can be made before the TEC is established. They will be left with less than six

months — including the December holidays when the country 'closes down' for a month — to implement decisions.

"It is almost impossible to set up the structures for democratic elections in such a short period, especially given the fact that the overwhelming majority of people have never voted before."

What can be expected, she suggested, was that the TEC — and not a political party — would announce early next year that the scheduled date was not achievable for technical reasons.

"This would take the decision for the postponement away from the political arena, with all parties represented in the TEC agreeing on a later date."

For similar elections in Cambodia, two years

were needed to put all structures in place.

Serious obstacles that will have to be overcome before the elections include:

- The 11 members of the TEC will have to be appointed; the TEC will then have to establish itself, decide on its own working procedures, appoint staff and set up offices.

- It may be the beginning of December before the TEC can start functioning effectively — and probably only January, after the Christmas break.

- The precise election procedures will have to be decided before independent voter education, under supervision of the Independent Electoral Commission, can take place. Voters cannot be educated if the procedures to be followed are not known.

- The TEC will have to establish a Peacekeeping Force from members of security forces as diverse as the South African Police's Internal Stability Unit and the African National Congress' army, Umkhonto weSizwe.

These people are only trained to make war. They will have to be retrained to monitor elections and to accept a shared code of conduct.

- According to the TEC Bill, the Peacekeeping Force must have its own uniforms, transport, accommodation, equipment and other logistical support. It will take time to achieve this.

- The Peacekeeping Force, consisting of about 12 000 members under the direct control of the TEC's sub-council on defence, will have to monitor probably close to 8 000 polling stations.

According to military expert Dr Jakkie Cilliers, director of the Institute for Defence Policy, five people are needed to keep one soldier on the ground.

This means that there will be more polling stations than Peacekeeping Force members on the ground, which in turn means that important decisions about the deployment of the Peacekeeping Force still have to be taken.

It also means that the present Internal Stability Unit of the SAP, or similarly trained security forces, will have to be deployed. How this will be done has still to be decided.

- Little attention has been given to the costs involved in establishing a Peacekeeping Force. According to Cilliers, the budget for the Internal Stability Unit, with only 7 000 men, amounted to no less than R440-million during the current financial year.

- The kwaZulu government has refused to second members of its police to the Peacekeeping Force, creating serious problems of legitimacy, especially in Natal and on the East Rand where there are large concentrations of Zulu-speaking people.

- Peace monitors, both locally and from overseas, will have to be accredited, co-ordinated and subjected to a code of conduct which they approve.

- Various other structures — including a Joint Co-ordinating Intelligence Committee, a co-ordinating council on defence and a Special Electoral court — will have to be put in place.

- The exact powers of the Independent Electoral Commission in relation to the various parties have to be decided in order to ensure that the elections are free and fair. "The TEC will have to have sanctioning powers to act against parties who violate the rules," Goldstone Commission member Dr Johan Olivier warned.

- Political parties will have to register and abide by an electoral code of conduct, which still needs to be drawn up.

Decisions will also have to be taken on what sanctions will be applied against parties who do not abide by the election rules. These may include anything from penalties to being barred from participating.

According to Olivier three "critical steps" need to be taken in order to ensure free and fair elections: the IEC must be implemented as soon as possible; voter education must take place as a matter of urgency; and issues pertaining to the policing — including the monitoring — of the elections must be put in place.

Much thought will also have to be given to the different phases of the election process: the campaign period, the polling itself, and the implementation phase.

"There is not necessarily going to be peace after the announcement of the election results," said Olivier.

MK women ready for gender battle

W/M 17-23/9/93

What role will women have in the new, integrated army?

Pamela Dube spoke to women members of MK and the SADF

THAT'S out. It's patronising. Women should not be made window-dressing in any field," snaps the chief communications officer of Umkhonto weSizwe, Jackie Molefe.

Tough and straight-talking, 50-year-old Molefe is the most senior woman in MK, having been a member for 29 years. Her tart comment was directed at the SADF, whose policy is not to use women in combat.

It underscores one of the hidden snags in the proposed integration of a guerrilla and a regular army. Although Molefe declines to give details, she took direct part in military operations when MK was on a war footing. She and other MK women will not allow themselves to be sidelined into "support musterings" in a future SADF.

Typical of MK's battle-hardened female cadres is soft-spoken 55-year-old Elizabeth Nhlapo, who operated inside the country for 14 years. She was arrested in 1978 for recruiting for the ANC and on her release six years later continued training underground. "It was frustrating being in the country and not being able to communicate with my children. Fortunately they understood."

SADF policy states that women cannot be used "in the face of the enemy". Currently they are confined to traditional women's jobs such as catering, medical services, office work, telecommunications, personnel and public relations, as well as intelligence, radar operation, fire-fighting, logistics and the military police.

They make up 14,7 percent of the SADF's permanent force, says SADF media liaison officer Colonel Margaret Neethling. It took 57 years for the SADF to draft women in the army — the first intake was in 1970. Twenty-three years later there are 156 top-ranking women officers — 136 commandants, 14 colonels and two brigadiers.

Neethling stresses that SADF women have to undergo the same military training as men in similar positions. She experiences no discrimination, but adds: "Due to the operational requirements of the defence force, some practices may seem discriminatory."

The SADF's Lieutenant Talita Nothard is "comfortable" with the current policy: "I feel we are contributing enough as office workers to the army. I wouldn't want to be there in an explosive situation on the ground. In South Africa, traditionally women are not seen as fighters but peacemakers."

Nothard (24) was influenced by a soldier friend to sign up with the SADF in 1987. "But soon after joining, I realised there is nothing I enjoyed better than being a soldier."

The MK women concede that their equality



Jackie Molefe ... Chief communications officer of MK

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

was hard-won: "At first it was difficult for some MK cadres to accept us as equal partners," said Molefe, who joined MK in 1964 at the age of 20, was trained in the Soviet Union and later moved to Tanzania, specialising in communications. "But when they realised that we're as capable as they are, attitudes changed and we fought alongside our male colleagues."

"It also goes back to the policy of the organisation you are working for. In the ANC, the gender equality question has long been addressed. Many MK women hold powerful positions."

MK's chief-of-staff, Siphwe Nyanda, agrees that the army should not categorise military duties according to gender. "MK is an army of volunteers, we have no hiring system. Everyone who feels capable of doing the military work was trained regardless of gender. We are not dealing with statistics here, only soldiers." He cites the case of Thandi Modise of the ANC Women's League, who was arrested in South Africa while carrying out an MK operation during the 1980s.

MK women had always taken part in ground operations, and this should continue, Nyanda said.

Both sets of women agree on one thing: they see a larger role for themselves in the integrated army of the future.

"I suppose it will be an extremely interesting exercise," Nothard says, "I'm aiming for a higher position."

Even though Molefe and Nhlapo do not see themselves taking combat roles in the future, because of their age, they are ready to work as advisers.

Molefe says women soldiers should be involved from the outset in drafting policy for the new army. "I would definitely like to see many women footsoldiers in the future."

For her the war for gender equality in her chosen profession is not over. "We have to start fighting for our participation at all levels. We've won the battle with our male colleagues in MK — now we have to fight the repressive regulations of the SADF where women are concerned."

Motorist ^(S) must foot bill for pollution

By PETER DENNEHY

MOTORISTS who commute to and from the city centre by car should have to pay more to enable the council to recover the "true cost of using cars", according to a report from the City Planner.

The report indicates that among the costs are "detrimental impacts on the health of Capetonians (through

air pollution) and on the R1,4-billion-a-year tourism industry".

One of the suggested policies in the "discussion document" is that the council "investigate and promote appropriate measures to dissuade commuting in single-occupant vehicles".

Car emission pollutants have increased by over 80% in the past 10 years, the report says, and will probably double again in the next 10.

Former mayor Mr Frank van der Velde said he did not believe that stopping private cars from coming into the central city was the solution.

"We should press for unleaded petrol," he argued.

Dr Michael Popkiss, the city's Medical Officer of Health, said unleaded petrol could exacerbate pollution unless vehicle exhaust sys-

tems were fitted with catalytic converters.

• The report said an inspection of bus and minibus ranks in Cape Town, Mowbray, Claremont, Mitchells Plain and Wynberg had found that the council had not been particularly committed to upgrading public transport.

"All of these sites are still chaotic."

'Divide and rule' claim



Own Correspondent
SB OCT 16/9/93

DURBAN. — Startling allegations have been made in a new CSIR report that Richards Bay Minerals has adopted a "divide and rule" strategy with two tribal clans who claim ownership of the St Lucia dune mining area.

According to the report two clans have staked their claim to the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia — the Mkhwanazis and the Mbuyazis. The 25 000-strong Mkhawanzi clan

have declared themselves in favour of mining.

The smaller Mbuyazi clan, with nearly 2 700 members, claim the mining company have favoured the Mkhwanazi people because the Mkhwanazis are prepared to allow mining of the area.

● Spokesman for Richard's Bay Minerals Mr Barry Clements said the land rights question had to be settled by the Commission of Land Allocation. His company would be prepared to negotiate with the rightful owners.

Polluters target of cleanup drive

Biday 16/9/93

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — Industrial polluters have been targeted by the National Health Department which aims by next year to have identified those companies responsible for causing unacceptably high air pollution in industrial and residential areas.

After four years, the department — with research institutes such as Mintek — had virtually completed the "fingerprinting" of companies' emissions in the Vaal Triangle area, it announced this week.

These fingerprints, with those taken from other parts of the country, would be collated into a national databank allowing government to investigate complaints of pollution with information that would implicate the polluter.

Once general air sampling had begun next year, the department would be able to tell which companies, or sources, were causing pollution in specific areas, a spokesman said.

A number of studies had shown that air pollution in industrialised areas had contributed significantly to ill-health, lung disease and rising infant mortality rates.

"Until now scientifically based in-

formation on which sources contribute towards pollution has been sparse in SA," a department statement read.

The relative contributions of coal burning, grass fires, motor vehicle emissions or industrial pollution could now be identified and quantified, it added.

This would place local authorities and the department in a "much stronger position to apply appropriate counter-measures".

A possible result of the fingerprinting and sampling would be that legal limits on emissions could be altered, the spokesman said.

Even though companies were complying with the limits, if it was found they were causing significant pollution through particular climatic or environmental factors, steps would be taken to change the laws.

The guidelines of the US Environmental Protection Agency were being followed in the research and investigations, the statement added.

While the industrial emission fingerprinting was almost complete in the Vaal Triangle area, similar work on the eastern Transvaal highveld would be finished next year.

Displaced locals may decide on St Lucia

COMMUNITIES forcibly removed from the St Lucia area in the '50s and '60s to make way for pine plantations might decide whether titanium mining in the estuary dunes goes ahead.

This latest twist in the long-running controversy over Richards Bay Minerals' (RBM) mining plans came as the CSIR released its final environmental assessment report in Durban yesterday.

The report's joint author Brian van Wilgen said it seemed almost certain that the land would be restored to the original owners, in line with "the way things are going

15/9/93
Biday
MARIANNE MERTEN

at the constitutional talks? (56)

Under the Minerals Act, mineral rights are linked to surface land rights. RBM could not claim compensation under the current legislation if communities who had successfully reclaimed their land decided against mining. The new owners could also sell the land to the highest bidder (25)

The report, a summary of responses to the CSIR's initial environmental impact study, contained a survey of local community opinion which showed that atti-

tudes to mining were divided.

Pro-mining groups included employees of RBM and the Natal Parks Board (which was itself opposed). The NUM's opposition was because it distrusted RBM's employment record and compensation policies.

The CSIR report also included new recommendations, such as the establishment of a greater St Lucia development forum, consisting of representatives of local communities, business and government, to oversee the region's development.

There were 331 replies to the CSIR's initial study, published in March.

Displaced people set to have last word

Shock turn in St Lucia drama

Star 15/9/93

(56) ~~57~~

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

In an amazing twist in the St Lucia mining saga, indigenous people displaced from the area in the 1950s and 1960s will almost certainly have the final say on what land-use option will get the go-ahead on the Eastern Shores of the lake.

This was revealed yesterday when the final environmental impact report (EIR) was released by the compilers, the CSIR.

Some 2 000 pages contain the full set of submissions received during the public participation exercise. A second section addresses the concerns raised in these submissions.

Several new recommendations based on new information were made by the EIR compilers. Paramount among these was the complicating factor that the "Eastern Shores seem certain to be restored to previous occupants who were forcefully removed to make way for plantation forestry".

Because of this, the report recommended that:

- A process of negotiation between agencies of the State and claimants to the land in the area be commenced immediately to settle the land issue.

- A forum — the Greater St Lucia Development Forum — be established to oversee the development of processes and structures whereby lasting contributions to welfare in the sub-region can be made.

- Should ownership of part or all of the Eastern Shores revert to communities, that they be

FINAL environmental impact report contains full set of submissions and makes a number of fresh recommendations

supported in the process of examining and implementing sustainable, businesslike approaches to land uses of their choosing.

- Should the mining option be chosen, that the new land owners gain membership on the proposed Mitigation Monitoring Committee which will oversee rehabilitation of the dunes after the mining operation has been completed.

Ecotourism

Based on new information regarding the mining option, the report said the mine's potential daily use of water had been underestimated. Leakage in some places of the dune mine path would exceed 60 000 cubic metres a day. It was impossible to predict the impact of this. It recommended that if mining were allowed, it should not occur in these areas unless it could be proved to be safe.

Other new recommendations related to the nature conservation and ecotourism option.

The report said full implementation of the proposed development would have serious impacts on the suitability of the area as a tourist attraction

through overcrowding.

It recommended that if this land use option were adopted, the current preliminary ecotourism proposal be subjected to proper integrated environmental management procedures, with public participation. This would mean a completely new environmental impact assessment (EIA).

The report did reassess what could be considered irreparable damage to include moderate negative impacts in the long term: that is, up to 30 years. It found there would be irreparable damage to biodiversity in the mining path, and damage to land which would be covered by the catchment dam that supplied water for the operation.

One area of major concern raised in submissions related to dune geology and geohydrology. This was investigated in a new study, and about one-third of the final report relates to this issue.

The public participation exercise had added significant value to the process, with submissions from 331 individuals and organisations, covering 1 352 pages.

Volume 4 of the EIA will be available at public and university libraries. Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Review Panel in person on issues they feel have not been covered.

Panel hearings will be held in Durban and St Lucia from November 2 to 12. Appointments to address the panel can be made through Dr John Raimondo at the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit, telephone (021) 650-2866 or fax (021) 650-3791.

St Lucia 'may go back to locals' (56)

Own Correspondent

C7 15/9/93

DURBAN. — Plans to mine St Lucia were thrown into turmoil yesterday when the CSIR suggested that parts of the area would be returned soon to the original inhabitants — who might block both mining and tourism.

The new dimension to the protracted row emerged when the CSIR released a final report on whether mining should go ahead. It also made important changes to its earlier findings on "irreparable damage".

The CSIR suggested there was a strong possibility that land at St Lucia would be returned to indigenous people forcibly moved during the 1950s and 1960s. If this happened the new owners could refuse to allow mining, or to sell mining rights to Richards Bay Minerals.

● Wildlife Society spokesman Mr Jeremy Ridl strongly disputed some of the new findings, and called on the government to explain if it was rushing to beat a deadline before April 27.

The sudden introduction of the land issue seemed a "red herring" which could be used to destroy the credibility of conservationists in the eyes of the rural population.

'Green' pressure grows on SA companies

By TERRY BETTY

SOUTH AFRICA will have to fall in line with worldwide environmental legislation to succeed in foreign markets.

Deloitte & Touche international environment director Ken Beecham says pressure on multinationals prevents them from dealing with companies harming the environment.

Most SA companies do not meet high environmental standards.

Mr Beecham says "the trick is to 'green' products". The products are then presented as truly environmental friendly goods of the same quality and price as before.

"SA legislation falls far short of where it should be, potentially inhibiting access to foreign aid and investment. Most international aid has environmental restraints attached.

"Investors fear that even though legislation is lax now, 20 years on when laws are tightened they may find themselves responsible for cleaning up the mess.

"Clean-up costs are astronomical and a far greater deterrent than fines." Mr Beecham says that not only industri-

alised countries are getting tough.

"Certain Asian and East European countries are imposing high environmental standards. Brazil, a developing nation, has comprehensive environmental laws."

Mr Beecham says that by being environmentally friendly, companies gain a competitive edge in the export market. They are also able to counter competition from imports.

Pressure is so great that SA will not be exempted from complying with environmental protection measures, even if it claims it has to deal with other serious problems.

Mr Beecham says: "One of our SA clients, in tendering for an overseas contract, was asked to report on how environmentally friendly its source of electricity was."

Deloitte & Touche (D&T) senior consultant Mike Shorten says companies cannot merely consider their own impact on the environment. They should consider their

supply sources, how buyers use their products and how they will be disposed of after use. Disposal of packaging should also be considered.

A D&T survey shows that 78% of Swedish and Dutch companies consider suppliers' environmental performance. The figure for the rest of Europe is between 40% and 62%. In SA no more than 28% of companies review their suppliers' environmental standards.

Mr Beecham gives the successful example of an international paper company that reduced by 45% the amount of chlorine used in the manufacture of its products by switching to environmentally aware suppliers.

The company launched a marketing campaign based on a "green" product and increased its market share. Its "green" paper cost less than before.

Mr Shorten says the attitude of SA financial institutions tends to be: "We do not do anything to harm the environment. Why should we worry?"

But international banking is becoming aware of the potential costs of having to

clean up the environment and is wary of customers who harm it.

"Banks will not lend to a company that cannot prove it does not in any way harm the environment. If the bank had to foreclose on the company, it would inherit its environmental liabilities."

Many foreign banks have reappraised their customers and found that their exposure to environmental risks is greater than the value of their portfolios.

A D&T survey of the attitudes of SA chief executives shows that 73% of them expect future environmental legislation to affect their organisations.

They think SA laws are inadequate and seldom enforced.

A mere 30% of SA companies are aware that the demand for "green" products is growing. But 58% of them plan to improve environmental performance.

The survey shows that more than half the respondents think tougher environmental laws will have a positive effect on them. The rest view the effects as neutral or increasing their cost of sales.

SA companies are responsive to pressure — 79% of those under the spotlight

have implemented changes. But it seems as if insufficient pressure is being applied to companies to clean up their operations.

A total of 28% of companies reported environmental pressure from the public. But less than a quarter of the respondents reported pressure from environmental action groups, law-enforcement agencies and customers.

Mr Beecham says: "This implies 'green' groups are not doing their job."

Only 11% of companies reported pressure from shareholders in shaping environmental policy.

Mr Beecham says SA companies have a long way to go in formulating environmental policies.

"Many are still at the stage of mentioning environmental issues in one line of their report or putting a butterfly on the cover and thinking the public will believe they are responsible."

However, the public is not easily fooled. Mr Beecham says studies abroad show that about 5% of the public believe a company's statements, but about 75% accept those made by "green" groups.

Anti-mining side attacked

(30) (56) CT14/9/93

DURBAN. — Well-known conservationist Dr John Ledger has attacked the St Lucia anti-mining lobby and declared firmly in favour of mining the area.

In an article released on the eve of today's publication of the final CSIR report on St Lucia, Dr Ledger says local conservation bodies should consider making "a small sacrifice" by allowing St Lucia to be mined now, instead of later.

Dr Ledger, chairman of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, said criticism of the initial CSIR report was based on "the most trivial of issues". He claimed the media had been "hijacked" in a massive disinformation campaign.

● See Page 6

US conservationist finds good cause for environmental hope in Cape-

Environment Reporter

EARTH is losing between 50 and 200 living species each day, but a remarkable surge of environmental awareness in the past five years is cause for hope, says world-renowned conservationist Norman Myers.

The distinguished scientist, environmental consultant and author was giving a public lecture — *Global Challenges To Preserving The Variety Of Life* — as part of the international conference on botanical biodiversity in Cape Town this week.

Dr Myers pointed out that Earth's environmental problems were worsening at a progressively faster rate.

"(But) at the same time there is a remarkable sunburst of interest and commitment and enthusiasm for the environmental cause," he said.

"There are many reasons for increasing hope: It's a massive advance over where we were five years ago..."

"We live in a time when we could witness the elimination of species in their tens of millions during our lifetime.

"But, we also live in a time when we have an unprecedented opportunity to save species in their tens of millions.

"It's in our hands — it's up to us right now."

South Africa — and especially the Cape — had a "quite exceptional chunk" of the Earth's biodiversity (the range of all living species) crammed into a small area, noted Dr Myers.

"You also know that it's facing some risk of elimination within the foreseeable future.

"But, the best news of all, I've gathered, is that this ultimate crisis need never arise at all."

Because South Africa was in a state of great change and transition, it was also a good time to deal with old threats, he suggested.

"That window of opportunity that you face here is closing for sure, but in some senses that window is wider open than it's ever been before."

Dr Myers said several speakers at the botanical diversity conference had — "quite correctly" — emphasised the economic value of plants.

He pointed out that, according to recent calculations, the economic value of wild plant species in the health sector alone of industrialised nations would be worth \$500-billion in the 1990s.

"That's half a trillion dollars worth of medicine," he said.

56 MAR 11 1993

A richness for all the world to see

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

(56) ARG 11/9/93

Farmer Neil MacGregor, who has been taking visitors on flower tours on his farm Glenlyon for four years, says renosterveld is "far more endangered" than Cape fynbos.

The Swartland and South Western Districts were originally covered by renosterveld, possibly named after the black appearance of the bush.

The bush is useless for farmers, who remove it and even wipe it out after a couple of ploughings.

In the cracking soil of the the dolorite koppies near Nieuwoudtville, arum lilies grow. And the Karoo soil is custodian of the *skaapbossie* and *vygie*.

Ever wondered what's in a name?

It becomes clear when you look at the *bloutrots* of Nieuwoudtville, the yellow *gansog* and the orange *botterblomme*.

The flowers are "hand-painted by God", says Neil, who believes in stringent conservation.

His interest in flowers "enriches his life".

And he believes the workings of nature are so complex that man but "scratches the surface".

THERE is a place in Africa where the richness of the earth gives birth to nature's great wonders . . .

Wonders that have not gone unnoticed by the treasure-hunters of the Namaqualand's growing tourism trade.

Within a 15km radius near Nieuwoudtville a traveller finds fields covered with exquisite fynbos, endemic renosterveld, succulent Karoo veld and a fertile dolorite ridge.

What is more, the area has the world's greatest concentration of geophytes, or bulbous plants.

So it is no small wonder that the BBC natural history unit has made Nieuwoudtville its base for a film on plant strategies, *The Private Life of Plants*, and that biologists from all over the world have visited the area, where early spring transforms the land to a flower garden.

In the renosterveld you still find the red *kalkoentjie*, a plant which has become extinct in the Swartland, where persistent ploughing has damaged renosterveld beyond repair in many places.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus.

□ **NAMAQUA BULB:** Farmer and flower fundi Neil MacGregor shows the contrast between the hardy bulb of the heuningblom (*Lotinonis surpens*) and its frail flowers.



CONTEMPLATING NATURE:

Nieuwoudtville resident Denielle van Wyk, 8, relaxes on a carpet of flowers. University of Cape Town botanist Richard Cowling said this week South Africa had proportionately the richest flora in the world, but the country's major nature reserves did not protect "hot spot" areas of exceptional botanical diversity.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus



Diverse SA flora is still under threat

■ Some 1 400 Cape plant species are under threat and experts say that not enough is being done to conserve them. However, any plans to rectify the situation must take the communities affected by the schemes into account.

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa has proportionately the richest flora in the world, but the country's major nature reserves do not protect "hot spot" areas of exceptional botanical diversity, according to UCT botanist Richard Cowling.

Professor Cowling was speaking at an international conference, *The Conservation and Utilisation of Southern African Botanical Diversity*, organised by the National Botanical Institute at UCT this week.

He pointed out that only three percent of Cape flora and a "miserable" two percent of succulent Karoo vegetation was formally conserved in reserves.

Some 29 Cape plant species were already

New approach is needed

Cape and Succulent Karoo vegetation was of outstanding significance and there was an urgent need for the protected area network to be extended.

"South Africa is very special ... (but) we haven't got it right," Prof Cowling said.

He stressed that the economics of preserving biodiversity — the full range of living species — had to be properly assessed.

Also, conservation had to provide tangible benefits to the marginalised sectors of the community.

"This is one of our biggest challenges in the future," Prof Cowling said.

● Environment Affairs director-general Colin Cameron said the study of botany locally had to be directed at achieving benefits for all the people of southern Africa.

In his opening address to the conference, Dr Cameron said the speedy establishment of adequate botanical research facilities was urgent.

"But in these times of political and social upheaval, where poverty and despondency are rampant, we dare not study botany merely for the sake of scientific curiosity or personal satisfaction," he warned.

"Our endeavours must be directed at and

transposed into, useful results for the benefit of all the people who live in that region.

"Unless we address environmental issues in terms of human well-being, we neither understand our calling nor has our custody of creation any meaning."

The study of botany and biodiversity had benefits such as more effective food production, medicinal uses, energy, combating weeds and invader plants, as well as commercial, aesthetic and spiritual values, Dr Cameron said.

Noting the presence of delegates from several African countries, he said it was time to establish "an era of mutual endeavour".

"This conference must be far more than only a scientific event; it must also be a symbol of co-operation, understanding, peace and hope."

● The Cape Flats probably has the highest concentration of threatened "Red Data" plant species in the world, Julia Wood of the National Botanical Institute told the conference.

"The situation is not likely to get any better. Many plant species (on the Cape Flats) face extinction, and many are already extinct ... Urgent action is required to conserve what we have left," she warned.

The Dassenberg Darling area of the West

Coast, also extremely rich botanically, was directly in line with the next major urban growth axis of metropolitan Cape Town, she pointed out.

Proper planning was required to avoid further plant losses.

"We must try to avoid on the West Coast what has happened on the Cape Flats," Ms Wood said.

● There is an urgent need for countries to ratify the Biodiversity Convention introduced at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro last year, Stephen Njuguna of the East Africa regional office of the World Conservation Union said.

Although 161 countries had signed the convention — the United States signed on the last day it was open for signature — only about 20 had ratified it through their parliaments, Professor Njuguna said.

Another 10 countries had to ratify the convention for it to come into force.

● It was important for botanists to become involved in the development of secondary education syllabuses, Bruce McKenzie of the University of the Western Cape said.

"We've heard a lot about how our history will have to be re-written. What about the biology textbook at high-school level?" Professor McKenzie asked.

"We have to reconnect the people with the environment and get them interested in conservation issues."

ARG 11/9/93 (Sb)

Parks Board chief stays

Staff Reporter

NATIONAL Parks Board head Dr Robbie Robinson, whose job was rumoured to be on the line earlier this week because of his progressive policies, will not be axed as chief executive, the board of trustees said.

But the board noted "with grave concern" the existence of "divisive interpersonal tensions at the executive level relating in part to Dr Robinson's man-

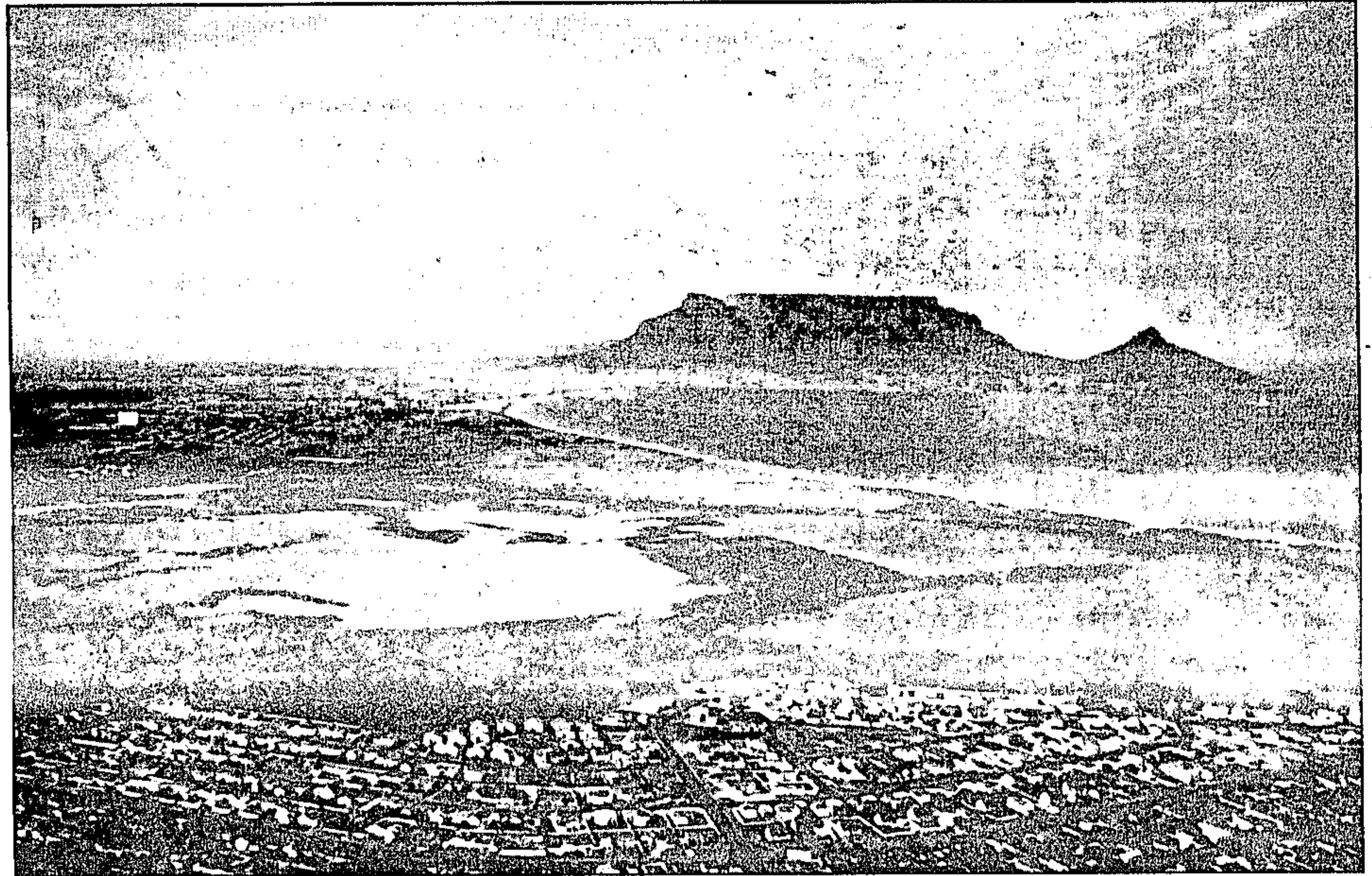
agement style".

Dr Robinson said yesterday that while the board had unanimously reaffirmed their confidence in him as head, "priority has to be given to the differences of opinion with members of my executive".

It was rumoured that Dr Robinson had come under fire from executive members after his two-day meeting with ANC members last month on the future of national parks.

(56) ET 11/9/93

Rietvlei to be nature reserve



SAVED: The greater part of the Rietvlei Protected Natural Environment area was bought by Caltex to save it from development

ENVIRONMENTAL conservation in the Western Cape received a major boost recently with the announcement that Caltex Oil has financed the purchase of the greater part of the Rietvlei Protected Natural Environment area.

This area ranges from the mouth of the Diep River in Milnerton (opposite the Otto du Plessis /Boundary Road intersection) in the south, to the Blaauwberg Road bridge in the north.

Mr Jock McKenzie, Caltex chairperson and managing director, said ownership of the land

had been transferred to the Milnerton Municipality which, in association with the South Africa Nature Foundation, would be responsible for the "proper management and control of the area" once it had been proclaimed a nature reserve.

Application for such a proclamation would be lodged by the municipality in due course.

The area will be known in the future as the Caltex Rietvlei Wetlands Reserve.

McKenzie said Rietvlei was currently the subject of an intensive

management plan investigation which would provide guidelines on the future use of the area, after consultation with all interested parties.

Caltex did, however, envisage that the area be used to further environmental education for the benefit of all South Africans.

In addition, attention would be paid to the use of Rietvlei as a recreational resource and the possible implications this would have on the ecology in the reserve.

McKenzie said he believed "further development in this area

would pose a major threat to the ecological balance of this fragile wetland".

Commenting on the sponsorship, Milnerton Town Engineer Mr David Brook said the council welcomed Caltex's involvement in the preservation of Rietvlei and the future management of the area.

"It is this type of joint venture between council and the private sector that will ensure the future preservation of the area for all communities in the Western Cape who will use Rietvlei for education and recreation," Brook said.

South 10/9 - 14/9/93
(56)

Fund-raising starts for Kirstenbosch glasshouse

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

56 ARG 9/9/93

FUND-raising for a new R2.5 million glasshouse at Kirstenbosch to display many of South Africa's world-famous succulent and bulbous plants starts in earnest this week.

A scale model of the glasshouse has been built as the centrepiece of an exhibit at Flora '93, the wild-flower show which opens at the Good Hope Centre on Friday.

Fund-raising for the glasshouse is the major goal of the Kirstenbosch Development Fund — part of the Botanical Society's support for the National Botanical Institute which manages all South Africa's national gardens.

The Kirstenbosch branch of the society has already raised R500 000 towards the glasshouse.

"The plants we really want to show are our succulents which are world-famous," said Botanical Society chairman Kay Bergh.

"You can see these exciting plants from the West Coast, the Richtersveld, Karoo and other semi-arid regions in southern Africa in major botanical gardens all over the

world, but not at Kirstenbosch."

The valuable collections of these plants at Kirstenbosch are under lock and key in working facilities closed to visitors.

The glasshouse has been designed by architect Julian Elliott, who studied similar facilities all over the world — including the "state-of-the-art" Princess of Wales Conservatory at Kew Gardens in London — to find an appropriate design for Kirstenbosch.

It would have a faceted roof to allow the optimal transmission of light from the north during winter, Mr Elliott said.

It will be a key element in a new visitors' complex at Kirstenbosch.

Concept plans for this complex, which include information and educational areas, a restaurant, a garden shop and exhibition area, have been finalised.

It will be built at the eastern boundary next to Rhodes Drive on the site of the present nursery. Most of the development will be outside the gardens and screened by the avenue of large ficus and camphor trees.

Kirstenbosch plans an educational glasshouse

50 CF 9/9/93

By JILYAN PITMAN

THE KIRSTENBOSCH Development Fund hopes to raise R2,5-million from the public to build an educational display glasshouse to compare with the world's best.

A model of the scheme will be on display at the wildflower show Flora '93 which opens tomorrow at the Good Hope Centre in Cape Town.

The plans provide for a new restaurant, a visitors' centre, a shop, an exhibition area and a small auditorium.

The complex is planned for the area outside the gardens' main gates, screened by existing large ficus and camphor trees.

The restaurant will be funded and managed by private enter-

prise, and the visitors' centre with money sought from local and regional authorities, and from commercial activities at the centre.

'Prismatic roof'

Mr Julian Elliot, the project's architect said: "Designing the roof for the glasshouse will be like shaping the ceiling of a concert hall. The acoustics and the transmission of light are of great importance. This "prismatic roof" will need the optimal transmission of north light in the winter months, especially."

He said he hoped a glasshouse at Kirstenbosch would follow in the tradition of the great glasshouses at Kew in England, as well

as those in Brussels and in Lisbon.

Mrs Kay Bergh, chairman of the Development Fund and the Botanical Society, said that despite attracting 500 000 visitors every year to the gardens, Kirstenbosch lacked adequate display facilities for its specialised plant collections.

The Kirstenbosch branch of the Botanical Society has already collected R500 000 towards this project.

The Fund proposes to erect a Roll of Honour in a prominent position in the proposed glasshouse which will feature the names of donors.

For more information call Mrs Barbara Kleinschmidt on (021) 61-5468.

Call to save West Coast fynbos

Staff Reporter

URBAN development on the West Coast should be carefully planned to avoid the massive destruction of rare species of the region's lowland fynbos.

This is the view of Ms Julia Woods, of the National Botanical Institute, who addressed the international conference on botanical diversity at UCT yesterday.

She said this planning should be done to avoid what has hap-

pened on the Cape Flats, where only one percent of the sandplain fynbos remains.

"This amounts to less than five square kilometres," Ms Woods said. (56) 218/19/93

The remaining sandplain fynbos can be found on Rondebosch Common and at Kenilworth Racecourse.

Ms Woods said it was predicted that by 2010 the population in greater Cape Town would have swelled to 4,5 million.

The increased population would need more land for houses, and the West Coast was an area earmarked for development, she said.

The lowland fynbos, or strandveld, in the Darling region has 93 plants that are listed as Red Data species. These are species which are internationally recognised as being seriously threatened.

"It is essential we secure areas there for conservation before development begins," she said.

Warning on unleaded fuel

Municipal Reporter ⁵⁶

UNLEADED petrol, which will be introduced in South Africa in 1995, could lead to the worsening of Cape Town's air pollution unless catalytic converters are made compulsory at the same time.

This warning was given at a council committee meeting by Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss. CT 8/9/93

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs said in a press release handed out at the meeting that the introduction of unleaded petrol

"would provide a foundation for future vehicle emission control which will allow South Africa to follow the world-wide trend towards more environment-friendly vehicles."

The department said unleaded petrol would be available at lower prices than leaded petrol to encourage its acceptance by motorists.

"A large proportion of motor vehicles currently in use can operate on unleaded petrol, although in some cases adjustments may be necessary," the department said.

Nuclear reactor site now a nature reserve

Staff Reporter

SB CT 8/9/93

A LARGE tract of land previously intended for use as a nuclear reactor site is to be converted to a nature reserve that would meet Unesco standards, land and environmental planner Mr Dennis Moss said yesterday.

The 2 455ha of land near Gouriqua, between the Gouritz river and Mossel Bay was sold for more than R10 million by the Atomic Energy Corporation when plans for the reactor fell through.

Education and conservation bodies will be encouraged to use the area.

Call to 'copyright' SA plants

By MELANIE GOSLING

SOUTH AFRICA needed to protect its indigenous plants with trade marks, copyrights and royalties to prevent overseas horticulturists from making money out of the country's flora, Dr Colin Cameron, director-general of the Department of the Environment, said yesterday.

In his opening address at the international Botanical Differ-

ence at UCT, Dr Cameron said southern Africa had 20 300 plant species, of which 80% occurred nowhere else in the world.

"Many of our indigenous plants have been taken overseas and hybridised and are now being re-imported.

"We need to protect our indigenous plant material with trade marks, royalties and

plant protection rights, because if we do not, the overseas nurserymen will do it and benefit," Dr Cameron said.

He said South Africa's horticultural industry had a whole-sale turnover of R390 million, and could expand profitably.

Dr Cameron said other commercial benefits of conserving the diversity of our indigenous plants included:

- More effective food pro-

duction by using wild varieties of plants for crops.

- Medicinal uses: Many drugs had their origins in plants and the search for new substances continued.

He said it was essential that environmental issues, like conserving biodiversity, be tackled to improve human well-being.

- Call to save West Coast fynbos — Page 7

S6 CT8 9/93

'Millions endangered by poor air'

B1509 7/19/93

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — Up to 25-million people in SA inhale unhealthy air on a daily basis risking chronic lung diseases, including cancer, research by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Mineral and Energy Affairs has found.

(56)
The impact of air pollution on human health due to the use of cheap household fuels was a critical environmental issue which needed to be addressed urgently, particularly in developing communities, the CSIR's Technobrief publication said.

Research indicated the use of household fuels such as wood, coal, animal dung and agricultural crops was a major factor in acute and chronic lung disease and other respiratory illnesses.

These fuels were also responsible for excessive infant mortality rates in certain communities. These communities were identified mainly as urbanised, not electrified, partially electrified and farm worker communities.

The infant mortality rate — because of lung infection — was 100 times greater in developing communities than in developed ones, the report said.

In another development the CSIR announced it had invented a new technique for converting wild and cultivated silk into spun yarn, creating a possible source of employment among developing communities.

Extensive and successful

trials had made the CSIR the first organisation in southern Africa to be able to manufacture a wide range of knitwear and fabrics from raw silk.

"Despite its aura of luxury and wealth, the production of silk is a labour-intensive, low capital-intensive activity, ideally suited for SA because of its potentially abundant supply of wild silk."

Wild silk, derived from the cocoon of the Gonometa worm which feeds on the Mopane tree, was found freely in certain areas of southern Africa.

The CSIR appealed to business to explore the possibility of joint projects "with a view to developing an industry around both wild and cultivated silk in the region".

Gloom on vehicle pollution curbs

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

THERE is little hope of the government giving priority to fighting pollution from vehicles, says amenities and health committee chairman Leon Markovitz.

Medical Officer of Health Michael Popkiss told the committee yesterday his department used every opportunity to press for emission control to be introduced at the same time as the planned introduction of unleaded petrol in 1995.

Arthur Wienburg said that encouraging people to use public transport instead of private cars would not work because pub-

lic transport was unsafe and unreliable.

He cited a report in The Argus about worsening air pollution problems linked to vehicle exhausts. A think-tank was needed to consider workable solutions.

Mr Markovitz said there was no chance of the government giving priority to the matter.

Replying to a suggestion by Abe Katz that the council send a delegation to the Minister of Health in the coming short session of parliament, Mr Markovitz said there was no hope of getting an appointment.

(56) ARG 7/9/93

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Knives out for chief of parks

56 CT 7/9/93

By MELANIE GOSLING

NATIONAL Parks Board head Dr Robbie Robinson may be ousted at a crucial meeting of the board of trustees this week because of his strategies for bringing the traditionally conservative organisation into line with the new South Africa.

Well-placed sources said yesterday that the knives of the board's old guard were out for Dr Robinson following his two-day meeting at Skukuza with members of the ANC last month to discuss the future of national parks.

A joint statement after the talks agreed that the board needed constitutional and cultural changes.

A spokesman for the board, Mr Thys Steyn, denied yesterday that Dr Robinson's job was on the line.

Dr Robinson's secretary, who said he was on sick leave, said staff had been instructed not to comment until after Thursday's meeting.

In June this year the board, because of the "sensitive political situation", stopped the distribution of its mouthpiece, Custos, which contained a policy statement by Dr Robinson on the future of national parks.

Strategic changes he suggested included:

- An affirmative action programme.
- A system to give bordering rural communities an opportunity to influence and share responsibility for the conservation effort.
- A corporate social responsibility to develop a positive working relationship with communities living on the borders of parks.
- A constructive relationship with the post-apartheid government.

Dr Robinson also said that conservation in South Africa was historically Eurocentric, with simplistic interpretations, in which blacks were seen as the problem and whites as saviours.

Creative

ANC spokesman on agriculture, Mr Derek Hanekom, said yesterday that if Dr Robinson were axed from his position, it would be due in part to his being victimised for his meeting with the ANC.

"This would confirm a whole lot of moves afoot to oust him. He is a creative thinker and all the senior black staff on the board give him undivided support. If it is true, the board itself is at stake," Mr Hanekom said.

Dr David Fig, research director of the Group for Environmental Monitoring (GEM), said in a statement it believed the trustees might be acting politically to suppress Dr Robinson's views.

Rooi Els arms site settlement

56 CT 7/9/82

Supreme Court Reporter

THE marathon legal battle over the Rooi Els rocket test site between the Rooi Els Local Council, Somchem and the Overberg Regional Services Council (ORSC) ended in the Supreme Court yesterday.

A settlement offer by Somchem — a Derel (formerly Armscor) affiliate — was made an order of court by Mr Justice H L Berman, who said he had read thousands of pages "to no purpose in the end".

Mr D P de Villiers, QC, counsel for the Rooi Els Local Council, said: "In cricketing terms on about the fifth ball of the last over we got the last signature (to the agreement)."

Rooi Els residents had been asked whether they wanted to continue the court case or settle.

On August 19, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring said that of 327 ballots sent out in a poll on the issue, 191 were returned — of which 113 were in favour of settlement and 78 against.

It was recorded that by accept-

Somchem offer is accepted

ing the offer, the Rooi Els Local Council did not concede the lawfulness of Somchem's occupation of the land.

Under the settlement:

- Somchem's lease of the land was limited to 10 years, while it may conduct artillery tests for 15 years.

- Somchem will pay its own legal costs.

- Somchem will keep portion 186 fenced and take adequate security measures.

- Somchem will allow access to ORSC officials in terms of the lease agreement.

- Somchem will take the public, on request, on guided tours of the area once a month.

- Tests of rocket propellants are restricted to six a year, but they must be advertised three days earlier in the Cape Times and Die Burger. Tests may not be held after 2pm on Fridays or in the December/January and April school holidays.

- Somchem will cease all testing should it pollute local water supplies to a degree making them unfit for human consumption.

Market rental

It was recorded that to date the water had been monitored by independent bodies such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and that in future it would be monitored by the CSIR or the SA Bureau of Standards.

It was also recorded that Somchem was paying a market-related rental to the ORSC and had also agreed to pay R40 000 to the RELC for nature conservation, fire-fighting and road upgrading.

Mr De Villiers and Mr Mike Donen, instructed by Mr Hilton Gischen of Mallinck Ress Richman and Closenberg Inc, appeared for the RELC. Mr R S van Riet, instructed by Van der Spuy and Partners, appeared for Somchem. Mr G D van Schalkwyk, SC, with Mr S A Jordaan, instructed by the state attorney, appeared for the Administrator.

Regional economic community SOON

56 OCT 6/9/92

MBABANE. — The Southern African Development Community annual summit closed yesterday with all 10 member states ratifying a key treaty which paves the way for a regional economic community.

After lengthy discussions here, the heads of state emerged to disclose that they had all agreed to the SADC treaty drawn up in Windhoek, Nami-

bia, last year.

The treaty commits the 10 Southern African states to a deeper and more formal arrangement for co-operation in trade and investment.

Current SADC chairman, Botswana president Sir Ketumile Masire, said this was the start of building a Southern African economic community.

All that was now awaited was South Africa's inclusion once the country had adopted a democratic government.

"I throw down a challenge to South Africans to ensure that by the time we meet next year they will have joined the SADC so that we can begin together the process of reconstruction," Sir Ketumile said.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma told the conference the SADC was reaching a crucial turning point in its history.

"The prospects of a new South Africa taking its place in the community will usher in an era of peace and security in the region, and enable us to focus on our development," Mr Nujoma said. — Sapa

Ecotourism 'best for good conservation'

56

ARG 6/9/93

□ Benefits available to all, tourism workshop told

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter
ENVIRONMENTALLY balanced tourism is the best way to ensure successful conservation and the socio-economic development of the African continent, says business consultant Noel de Villiers.

Mr De Villiers, a former managing director of Avis who has extensive experience in promoting tourism in South Africa, was giving the keynote address at a workshop "Science and tourism: Partners in the development of the coastal zone" held at Hermanus last week.

Ecotourism made the benefits of conservation available to all a nation's people, rich and poor, he said.

"Moreover, it can generate the cash needed to sustain its environmental resource base and in many instances even to enhance it.

"In fact, the benefits are generally so widespread that I have repeatedly borrowed from Churchill during the past five years in stating that there is nothing that can do so much for so many in less time, than tourism."

Unplanned tourism was a potential destroyer of the environment, Mr De Villiers warned.

"The globe is full of evidence of the aftermath of rampantly developed and badly planned tourism."

More than 46 percent of South Africa's workforce was unemployed, he said.

"We know that schemes are afoot to increase our manufacturing capacity, to improve our exports, to attract foreign investment.

"These schemes are laudable and impressive, but one does not have to be an economist to see that inevitably they are hopelessly inadequate.

"The rate at which we need to create jobs far outstrips

Penguin power . . .

Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa's negative attitude to the potentially lucrative penguin watching industry — such as at Boulders Beach near Simon's Town — is "just crazy", says University of Cape Town conservation biologist Peter Ryan.

He told the workshop on science and tourism that a small colony of nocturnal penguins in Australia was that country's biggest wildlife attraction.

Gate takings at this colony were R40-million a year from some 500 000 visitors, and their indirect spending amounted to about R200 million each year.

"We have much more attractive penguins," he said.

There was definitely a market for coastal bird-watching — "it's being partially met but it's not being met very well" — and penguins were a "real drawcard".

He suggested that South Africa's present policy of keeping people away from the Prince Edward Group of islands, including Marion Island, should be reviewed.

even the most optimistic estimates of what is achievable in the traditional sectors of the economy."

South Africa was ideally positioned with "exactly the right product at precisely the appropriate time" to meet the requirements of the world's biggest market — a desire to return to nature, Mr De Villiers suggested.

"Through the sustainable utilisation of our natural resources, we have the makings of an African-style economic revolution that could turn this country and continent around."

● South Africa must develop a service culture if it is to take advantage of the "golden goose" of tourism, says University of Cape Town ecologist Roy Siegfried.

In an introductory presentation at the workshop, Professor Siegfried said it was probably "a blessing" that large numbers of tourists were not yet visiting this country.

"We would be caught with our pants down — we would be embarrassed. We simply cannot handle them at this stage."

People in the tourism industry had to be properly trained

and a service culture developed.

A system of tradeable permits for tour operators would be a key element in a sound tourism policy.

● Red tide is a recognised problem but should not be over-rated as a danger for the seafood industry, says University of Cape Town marine zoologist George Branch.

"We needn't be scared of these things — we have the knowledge to manage them," he said.

In addition to the well-known seafoods like crayfish, mussels and perlemoen, South Africa enjoyed a wealth of edible marine species for which there was a potentially rich international market.

These included limpets, kelp and various species of seaweeds, whelks, periwinkles and sea urchins.

As well as being able to eat seafood, it was important that tourists — local and foreign — should be able to make the most of the experience of this food source, Professor Branch said.

"Probably nowhere in this country do we have a good seafood market."

Eco-tourism lifts gloom

STimes (Climetro)

5/19/93

ECO-TOURISM could be the miracle needed to ensure South Africa's economic survival — but it should begin with the domestic tourist and have the support of the host community.

This was said by business consultant Noel de Villiers, who gave the keynote address at a three-day Science and Tourism workshop in Hermanus.

The workshop, attended by leading marine scientists, tourism developers and entrepreneurs, explored opportunities for developing coastal tourism in a profitable and sustainable way.

"Environmentally balanced tourism is the one way to ensure conservation succeeds," Mr de Villiers said.

"The only hope for an economic miracle is through sustained use of environmental resources."

The world had realised it needed the wilds and contact

By GLYNIS VAN ROOYEN

with nature — which South Africa was ideally placed to offer.

The negative side was that the country did not have peace.

"Violence is filling the vacuum left by a lack of hope, so our focus must be on the domestic market first. Eco-tourism could be the answer to our quest for peace."

Eco-tourism had to work for the host community or it was not worth having, Mr de Villiers said.

His arguments were echoed by Dr Ernie Heath, Satour's chief director of tourism development, who said the country could become the eco-tourism destination of the world.

An example of the richness of the environment was given by Dr Peter Ryan, conservation biologist at the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, who

said the flocks of albatrosses to be seen off Hout Bay would thrill "serious birdwatchers from the United Kingdom".

Professor Roy Siegfried of the committee for Marine Science and Council for the Environment said tourists were demanding more as they wished to learn about what they saw.

However, Dr George Hughes, of the Natal Parks Board, said the country was ill-prepared for a wave of tourists. (56)

"State money must be spent on national parks — we are conservationists, not businesses."

In a similar vein, deputy chairman of Satour Peter Swarts said ignorance and greed were major obstacles to tourism.

Professor George Branch, author of *Our Living Shores*, said the country needed a good seafood market like those that were major attractions overseas.

'Disastrous results' for city's health, tourism

CLIVE SAWYER Municipal Reporter

56
ARC 3/9/93

POLLUTION from car exhausts in Cape Town has increased by 80 percent in the past 10 years — and in the next 10 years could double, with disastrous results for health and tourism.

The solution is to increase drastically the cost of using private cars to raise funds for public transport, says a city council report.

City smog guidelines exceeded 24 times

Municipal Reporter

POLLUTION guidelines have been violated 24 times in Cape Town so far this year, says medical officer of health Michael Popkiss.

Whether smog is visible depends on weather conditions, when warm air traps pollutants in a process known as inversion.

But even if pollution is not visible, it is there — and suspicion is directed mainly at petrol-driven engines and wood-burning in areas without electricity.

"The only way to reduce air pollution is to get it at source, and you can do that only by making cars with cleaner-burning engines, with catalytic converters and a proper fuel economy system," said Dr Popkiss.

He said unleaded petrol was a prerequisite for cleaner air — but warned that using unleaded petrol in cars without catalytic converters could worsen air pollution.

However, unleaded petrol and catalytic converters were not enough.

"You have to stop cars and for this you need a better system of public transport."

A city planner's draft report on a future public transport policy said that even if traffic growth increased more slowly, travelling speeds would drop by about 40 percent as congestion worsened.

"The detrimental impacts on the health of Cape Town people and tourism, worth about R1,4 billion a year, will be severe."

The report said Cape Town had to focus on public transport if it was to become one of the great cities of the world. This could be done by introducing policies on parking provision and fees, planning and development.

"Such a policy will undoubtedly be unpopular with many because for public transport to succeed, the playing fields must be levelled and motorists must start to pay the true cost of using cars.

"Motoring will become more expensive and the revenue collected should be used to finance public transport improvements."

A metropolitan transport authority "with sufficient statutory power, accountability and financial clout" was needed to co-ordinate bus, rail and mini-bus taxi services.

The population of metropolitan Cape Town was growing by about three percent a year and most new residents would be poor people living on the periphery of the city.

The number of travellers, and distances travelled, would increase dramatically. Most would have to use public transport.

A policy was needed to ensure public transport was affordable by all and offered an attractive alternative to car commuters.

"It is likely spending in the new South Africa will focus on people's basic needs — housing, jobs, education and health.

"Convenient, affordable and efficient transport will be essential in restructuring the apartheid city, but given the backlog of needs the construction of transport facilities is likely to be a low priority on the government's shopping list," the report said.

Proposed policies included:

- The city council supporting the principle that the motorist should meet the true cost of car commuting, and funds raised in this way be used to subsidise public transport.

- The council investigate and promote measures to dissuade commuting in single-occupant vehicles.

- The council recognises the urgent need to improve public transport termini.

- Subject to availability of funds, the council will give priority to the provision of public transport facilities.

- A parking policy that encourages use of public transport.

- A review of public transport subsidies to benefit users.

- Support and promotion of high-density development along public transport routes.

City planner Neville Riley and medical officer of health Michael Popkiss said the report should be put to the metropolitan transport advisory board and the Western Cape Economic Development Forum for discussion.

Mountain land: 'Public hearings not on agenda'

JOHN YELD ^{(S) ARG 2/9/93}
Environment Reporter

THERE is no provision for public hearings in the investigation into how to rationalise control of public land on the Peninsula mountain chain, Attorney-General Frank Kahn has told the Wildlife Society.

Mr Kahn, chairman of a working group of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee which is investigating the issue, was replying to the society's criticism that the public had been excluded from the probe.

In a letter to the society's conservation ecologist Andy Gubb, Mr Kahn said the problem of fragmented control of public land in the protected area was widely recognised.

His working group had been set up as a separate forum for senior representatives of the nine authorities involved in an attempt to reach consensus on an administrative solution.

"It must be emphasised that the working group is not a judicial commission or committee of inquiry and its activities do

not make provision for public hearings," Mr Kahn said.

"It is merely an administrative working group formed to deal with an administrative problem and does not determine management policy or influence the conservation status of land ...

"Involving the broad public in the deliberations of the working group would make the performance of its functions very difficult, if not impossible."

The working group's report would be sent to the various managing authorities before any decisions were made, Mr Kahn said.

"At that stage, I believe there will be adequate opportunities for each to consult with their own constituencies."

Also, the report would be sent to the UCT consultants commissioned to produce an overall management policy for the entire protected area.

"They may subject it to public scrutiny if the proposals differ materially from any they have already formulated and shared with the public," he said.

Council vote to take over cableway

Municipal Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council voted in secret last Thursday to give notice that it will expropriate the Table Mountain cableway next year.

In terms of the present lease, council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said, the council cannot get more than 2,5% of the cableway takings.

He said this was a mere fraction of the three or four million rands a year that the council spent on upkeep of the mountain.

In terms of the 99-year lease, the council has an opportunity once every 10 years to expropriate the cableway undertaking.

Mr Doman said notice of expropriation would bring the Table Mountain Cableway Aerial Company to the negotiating table. He said compensation would have to be paid to the company.

ical aid and private health care.

5 No PMF committee yet

A FINAL committee was not elected at the second meeting of the newly formed Peninsula Mountain Forum (PMF) in the Mowbray Town Hall last week.

After discussions by about 35 people attending the meeting, the steering committee agreed they would have to decide on a way to elect a final committee which would include all other 240 bodies interested in protecting the Peninsula mountains.

One member of the audience said that what the PMF was tackling was enormous and that issues were complex.

Professor Richard Cowling of the Institute of Plant Conservation at UCT and chairman of the PMF steering committee, said the PMF's guiding aim was to influence plans and decisions that affected natural or mountain areas for conservation or use.

WE PRICE CUTS ON



Ups and downs of cableway revamp R12-m, but 'essential'

□ Extensive refit and renovations could put operation deep into red

STAFF/19/93

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

A MAJOR upgrading programme for Table Mountain's lower and upper cableway stations — including a new booking system which will reduce queuing significantly — has been approved by the National Monuments Council.

The R12 million programme, if fully implemented, will put the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company "deep into the red" temporarily.

But, the new board of directors say they are determined to develop a world-class, environmentally-friendly tourist facility.

Key elements in the four-phase programme — which could be in jeopardy following the city council's decision to give notice of intention to expire the lease next year — include:

- A R50 000 computerised booking system, likely to be in place by November;

- Redeveloping the lower cable station at an estimated cost of R1.8 million to include a new entrance, a restaurant seating 80 to 100, pre-booking facility and landscaped hold-area, due for completion by Christmas next year;

- A R480 000 new restaurant block with conference facilities adjoining the restaurant at the upper station, also by next year;

- Refitting the shop at the upper station and improving the waiting area;

- Landscaping and restructuring the parking area outside the lower cable station;

- New signage, lighting, paving and landscaping similar to the Waterfront at the upper and lower stations;

- A long-term proposal to expand the cableway's capacity at an estimated cost of R9 million; and

- Sandblasting and repainting the cablecars with a new livery (already completed).

The opening hours will be extended and a toll-free telephone service provided for up-to-date weather checks.

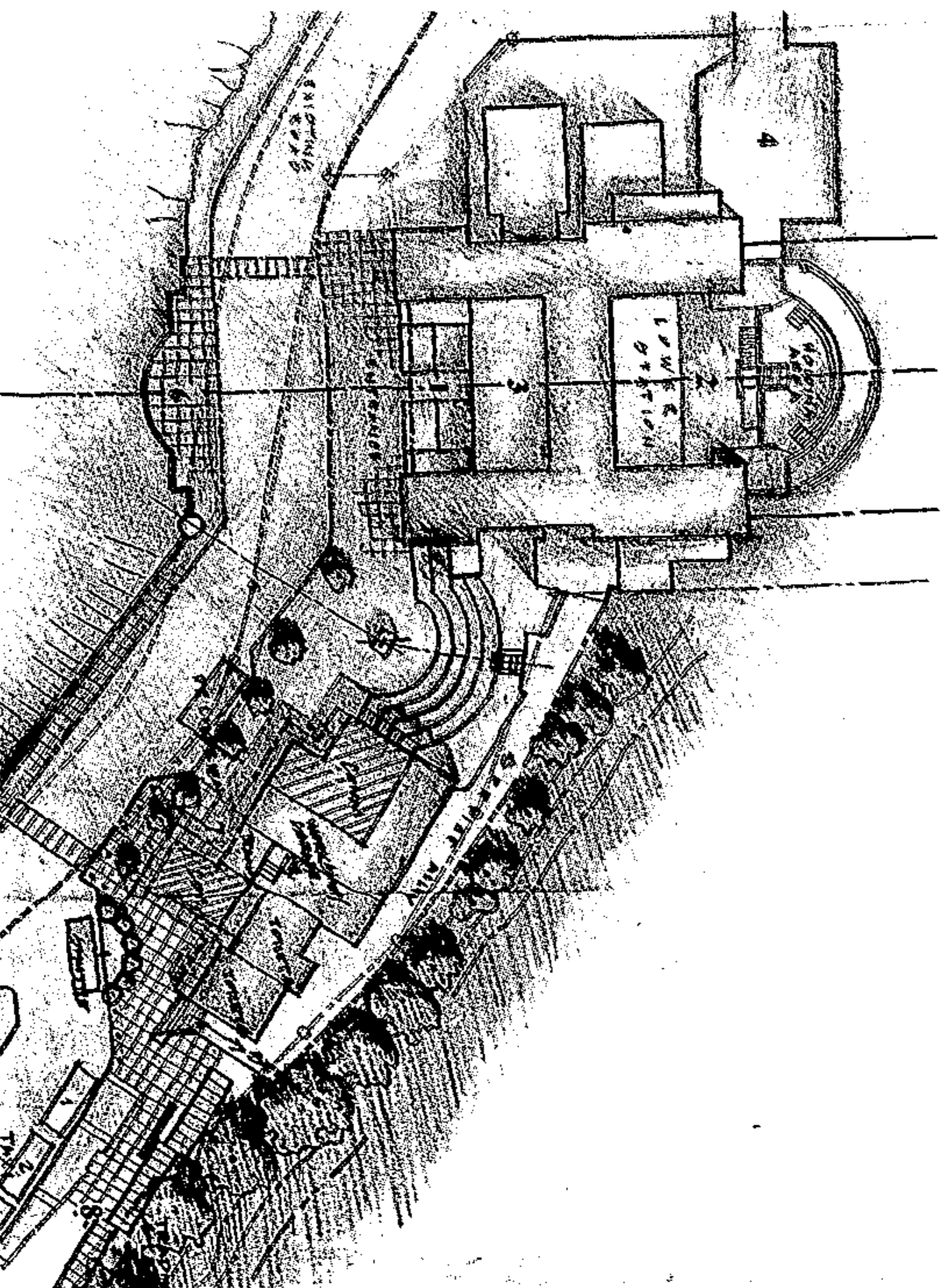
Director John Harrison said the company was considering an integrated booking system.

"This is of prime importance... We want to do away with queues and are attempting to guarantee something like 30-45 minutes maximum (waiting time).

"Also, we want to be more flexible, depending on the weather. We want to start at 6am or 6.30am because it's beautiful up there in the early morning.

Alex Robertson, the architect co-ordinating the proposal, emphasised that the upgrading would not be highly commercialised.

"We want to remove the queues and occupy and entertain people who are waiting, but we're doing this in a fairly



NO MORE QUEUES! An architect's proposals for upgrading the lower cable station on Table Mountain, including a new entrance in the centre of the building and a landscaped parking area.

low-key fashion. We're not creating Disney World here because it's an environmentally-sensitive area.

"We don't want to create any more major structures — we're looking at what we've got, retaining and upgrading it and, with some imagination,

turning it into a nice place to be."

Cableway company chairman Louis de Waal said it would be a major undertaking to increase the cableway's capacity above the existing 230 passengers an hour.

"You'd have to strip the en-

gine, increase the strength of the cable, increase the size of the cars, your whole drive system would be different...

"It's a headache to think of that at the moment, but it may have to be done — three, four, seven years from now," he said.

City council to take over Table Mountain cableway

JOHN YELD **SA** **ART** 1/9/93

Environment Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council has decided to exercise its option to expropriate the Table Mountain cableway in October next year.

Although the move could cost upwards of R10 million in compensation, the council believes it stands to make substantially more from a newly negotiated lease which will provide much-needed funds for the future management of the mountain. In terms of the complicated original 99-year lease agreement signed in 1929, the council has an option ev-

ery 10 years to expropriate the cableway, but must give at least one year's notice.

The last available date for giving such notice in the current 10-year period is October 4.

Conservationists have long complained that the council should be receiving substantially more than the two-and-a-half percent of ticket revenue — presently totalling less than R100 000 a year — which the cableway company has been paying since the lease was negotiated.

They point out that the cableway, which carries about 400 000 passen-

gers to the summit of Table Mountain each year, generates less income for the city than the lease of four tourist stalls outside the lower cable station.

There has also been strong criticism in the past of the cableway operation, particularly over lengthy queues of up to five hours during the seven-week peak season in December and January.

But ironically, the expropriation move has been made within days of the cableway company winning approval from the National Monuments Council for an extensive upgrading

programme costing several million rand.

The city council, which is understood to have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the expropriation at its monthly meeting last week, will probably issue an international call for tenders to run the cableway, either in its present form or as a substantially upgraded version.

The original Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company was recently bought out when chairman and chief executive Denis Hennessey retired and sold his controlling shares.

● See page 8

10% of land to be conserved

(56) CT27/8/93

SOUTH AFRICA'S environmental objective is to secure 10% of the country for formal conservation, the Department of Environment Affairs says in a draft environmental policy statement in today's Government Gazette.

Between six and seven percent is already formally conserved.

In the policy statement, Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Japie van Wyk said: "Every South African's life is entwined with the environment and I invite those who are concerned about conserving our natural heritage for future generations to react to the policy."

The statement, also published in today's Government Gazette, says "the mutual use of national resources, particularly by local

Govt sets out draft policy

populations, should be made possible within sustainable limits".

The concept of sustainable development is accepted as the guiding principle for managing environmental resources.

All development should be done "in such a way as to minimise the damaging impact on the environment and/or man, and to facilitate rehabilitation".

"All responsible government

institutions must apply appropriate measures based on sound scientific knowledge to ensure the conservation of ecologically sensitive areas," says one clause.

"The maintenance of protocols and conventions as well as the international treaties to which SA is already a signatory will be purposefully pursued," says another.

The policy also focuses on "immovable cultural heritage", the urban environment, pollution control and economic measures.

One of the underlying principles of the policy is that "every inhabitant... has the reasonable right to aspire to live, work and relax in a safe, productive, healthy and aesthetically and culturally acceptable environment". — Sapa, Political Staff

Council determined to expropriate vlei reserve

(56) ARGT 26/8/93
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

MILNERTON municipality has confirmed its intention to expropriate Transnet's 166 ha property at Rietvlei and documents are to be served "imminently".

This follows discussions between the Milnerton council and Transnet officials after a preliminary expropriation notice was served last month.

The Transnet property falls within the Rietvlei Protected Natural Environment, and Milnerton has been keen to acquire it as an essential component of the proposed Rietvlei nature reserve.

Caltex recently sponsored the R723 000 expropriation of the rest of the important Rietvlei wetland area for the creation of this reserve.

The owner of this section of the vlei, Milnerton Estates, has applied to the Supreme Court for the amount of compensation to be increased, but the matter is unlikely to be heard soon.

The latest expropriation will halt a proposed 350-unit, waterside development on a 10 ha section of Transnet's property on the northern bank of Flamingo Lake adjoining the Milnerton Aquatic Club.

Details of this development proposal were put to the Milnerton council by Equikor, on behalf of Transnet.

As part of its plans, Equikor-Transnet proposed a land-swop — similar to that recently offered by Absa at Sandy Bay — whereby it would donate the balance of its property to the municipality if it was allowed to rezone and develop the 10 ha section.

Milnerton town clerk Peter Gerber yesterday confirmed that Transnet officials had met the council recently to discuss the expropriation.

Afterwards, councillors had reaffirmed their decision and expropriation documents were being prepared.

The matter was being treated as a "high priority" and the documents would be served soon — "certainly within a week", Mr Gerber said.

Industry blamed for city haze

5b 26/8/93 CT
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN industry is the main contributor to the city's unsightly brown haze, a National Association for Clean Air (Naca) pilot survey has shown.

Addressing a Naca symposium in Stellenbosch yesterday, chief researcher Profes-

sor Dick Dutkiewicz of UCT said it was likely that the main source of the brown haze was particulate matter, of which industry was the biggest contributor, accounting for 50% of emissions.

Diesel engines accounted for 18% of particulate emissions and tyre wear for 12%.

Prof Dutkiewicz said that for

technical reasons the results should be "treated with circumspection" and blame could not be attributed to specific industries until after the main research project was undertaken next year.

The pilot survey undertaken in 1992 shows that industry emitted 85% of sulphur diox-

ide pollutants, followed by commerce with 10% and transport with 4%.

Transport contributed 53% to oxides of nitrogen emissions, followed by industry with 42%.

The main sources of elemental carbon were diesel engines, followed by industrial combustion of fuel oil.

Poultry disease hits penguins

Environment Reporter

(5) ARCT 25/8/93

THE Cape's jackass penguin population, already listed as vulnerable in the Red Data Book on birds, is facing a new threat: Newcastle disease.

Four breeding colonies in the Western Cape — Robben Island, Boulders Beach at Simon's Town, Dyer Island off Danger Point and Stony Point at Betty's Bay — have been infected with the poultry disease and may have to be sprayed with a vaccine.

The Boulders colony, which started in 1983, has been hardest hit, with about 75 birds — about 15 percent of the total — dying recently.

About 40 dead birds have been found on Robben Island, where the adult penguin count was about 7 000.

The Department of Agriculture, which is monitoring the situation, says it is not overly concerned.

"Penguins are resistant to Newcastle disease and we are not very worried," said deputy director (animal health) Walter Löwe.

The disease infected birds "from time to time", Dr Löwe said.

Several penguins have already been treated with a poultry vaccine.

"Fortunately they didn't become

sick, and as soon as possible we'll take blood from these birds to see whether they've built up an immunity.

"If this works we and Cape Nature Conservation will spray (the breeding colonies). Hopefully, we'll know within a few days."

Dr Löwe said Newcastle disease could be brought in by any bird, and it would spread because the birds moved between colonies.

● The jackass penguin, found only in Southern Africa, was once a thriving species, numbering about three million.

Today, fewer than 100 000 survive and environmentalists fear numbers may drop further unless urgent conservation steps are taken.

In June there were reports of several penguins dying of an unknown disease and their bodies washing up on Peninsula beaches.

Over the Easter weekend in April, storms and huge seas swept away between 30 and 40 penguin nests at Boulders — about 15 percent of the nests — and many chicks drowned.

Several years ago, an outbreak of avian cholera struck the Cape, killing an estimated 14 000 Cape cormorants.

Advice on 'thar she blows'

Environment Reporter (56)

A WORKING group to advise the government on an overall whale-watching policy is to be appointed "within the next week or two".

Sea Fisheries chief director Louis Botha said the group would include prominent scientists, conservationists, tourism industry officials and possibly representatives from coastal communities such as Hermanus.

South Africa had no official whale-watching policy, Dr Botha pointed out.

"So my intention is to get this small group together to formulate for the first time such a policy." ARG 25/8/93

The group would not be specifically requested to review the existing regulation, which forbids vessels or planes from approaching whales closer than 300m, although he assumed this would form part of its discussions.

The group would also make proposals on how to handle individual applications for whale-watching from boats, Dr Botha said.

**PURPLE
HAZE . . .**
Nitrogen
oxide levels
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City air pollution level soars again

CT 25/8/93 (5)

By DANIEL SIMON

THE nitrogen oxide level over Cape Town soared to more than double the stipulated level yesterday — exceeding the guideline for the 25th time this year and the sixth time this month.

Yesterday's nitrogen oxide measured 3 265mg/m³ — more than double the guideline level of 1 504. The nitrogen dioxide level, at 376mg, was 167mg below the guideline of 543.

City bowl residents telephoned the Cape Times yesterday about the high level of pollution, with one Higgovale resident complaining that the "smog smelt like sulphur".

Meanwhile, Johannesburg, roughly five times the size of Cape Town, recorded readings for nitrogen oxide of 282mg and nitrogen dioxide of 69,5mg.

However, comparisons of figures for different cities on the same day do not accurately reflect their relative pollution levels generally.

Johannesburg's worst day for air pollution this year was July 15, when a

nitrogen oxide reading of 2 256 was measured there — more than double its accepted guideline of 1 080.

Cape Town's worst nitrogen oxide reading of 3 674 was on July 1.

A recent UCT pilot study on "brown haze" indicated that Cape Town has a higher average concentration of air pollutants on hazy days than Berlin and Los Angeles.

A spokesman for the council's air pollution department said yesterday's reading was cause for concern, as it was the 25th time this year and sixth time this month that nitrogen oxide levels had exceeded the guideline.

The spokesman attributed the presence of pollutants for most of the morning to "windless conditions and the depth of the temperature inversion", in which a layer of cold air is trapped beneath warmer air.

As a result of the pilot study, a major study of the causes of air pollution in Cape Town was to be undertaken at a cost of about R300 000 sometime next year, the spokesman said.

Santu negotiator Thulas Nxesi said they had reached "a very critical stage" and would resume at an undisclosed venue this morning.

have affected about two million pupils.
But, atop union source said yesterday it seemed likely that the five-day-old strike would

general secretary Randall van den Heever said "we have mapped-out a reasonable route" for solving the rationalisation problem.
"My personal view is that the

Hovering Brown Haze — fires to blame industry and transport

(56)
ARG 2/8/93

LENORE OLIVER
Weekend Argus Reporter

INDUSTRY and transport have been identified as the main contributors to the pollution which leads to the unsightly brown haze that has become a feature of the city's autumn and winter skies.

According to a comprehensive pilot Brown Haze study by the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town, the main sources of air pollution around the city are vehicle emissions, the wood fires in low-income settlements and the burning of oil and coal by industry.

The study, initiated last year, was carried out at the Cape Showground and Hartleyvale sports field by researchers Richard Dutkiewicz and Mark

de Villiers.

The haze, which usually occurs from April to August, is characterised by a white to brown mist that extends over most of the Peninsula and Cape Flats — reaching a height of 40m or more.

The haze is most intense in the early morning and gradually disperses.

It consists of solid or liquid particles and gas molecules, which can be man-made or natural.

Activities of the pilot study included particulate sampling, gaseous pollutant measurement and the collection of meteorological data.

Brown Haze days were selectively sampled and, in addition, a few non-haze days were sampled for comparison.

In total seven haze days and

three non-haze days were sampled in June, July and August last year.

"On a hazy day industry contributed 50 percent of the particulate matter, while transport contributed 34,7 percent. Domestic contributed nine percent and commerce 6,2 percent," said Professor Dutkiewicz.

The total particulate composition on a hazy day was 297, compared to 35 on a non-hazy day.

During June and July this year pollution levels sometimes rose to well above the guideline.

The study concluded that further research was necessary to categorise those factors causing the haze, which could be mitigated through regulations.

Rooi Els, Somchem in agreement for now

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ARG 20/8/93

MOST Rooi Els ratepayers have told their local council to accept Somchem's "best offer" of retaining its gun test site above the village for 15 years — but the legal battle against the Denel subsidiary seems set to continue.

A Denel spokesman welcomed the poll result, saying Somchem's management and staff would now do their utmost to help resolve tensions in the community caused by the legal wrangling.

But the Save Hangklip Action Group has indicated it will continue to fight Somchem's presence.

In a surprisingly low 59 percent poll of Rooi Els's 327 ratepayers, 191 responded by Monday's closing date. There were 113 votes in favour of accepting Somchem's offer, 78 against and 12 spoilt papers.

The poll was held in terms of an agreement reached during the Supreme Court action in which the Rooi Els local council was trying to have the lease of Somchem's test site declared invalid.

Somchem's offer was to continue operating the gun test range for the next 15 years and its adjoining rocket motor test range for the next 10 years, and to pay its own legal costs.

Somchem also undertook to stop testing immediately if it was found to be polluting the Buffels River catchment area.

The results of the poll were announced yesterday by Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring and will be put before the court when the case resumes on September 6.

Rooi Els local council chairman Denis Cowen said he would convene a special meeting so the council could "deal with the question of the acceptance of the ratepayers' mandate, as well as the implementation of the offer".

Calling Somchem's offer "more of a threat than an offer", Dr Cowen said: "Although the legal case might now be a thing of the past, it's essential to bear in mind that the ratepayers of Rooi Els and the Rooi Els local council have no power whatsoever to deal with the rights and interests of the people of greater Hangklip, of which Rooi Els is but a very small part."

"As has been made obvious — most recently by the picket (by the Save Hangklip Action Group) on Tuesday — those people have not given up the struggle."

Rooi Els accepts Somchem offer

ET 20/6/93 (257)
(58)
BY CELEAN JACOBSON

SOMCHEM can continue testing ammunition at Rooi Els for 15 years, residents have decided in a referendum.

They were asked if they would accept a Somchem offer to continue its rocket motor and ammunition testing site for 15 years or if they wished to continue court action to have Somchem's lease declared invalid.

Somchem also offered to pay R40 000 a year to Rooi Els to improve the area.

The outcome of the CPA-run ballot released yesterday was 113-78 in favour of Somchem's offer. The poll was 59%.

Professor Denis Cowen, chairman of the Rooi Els local council, said of the referendum: "It was a loaded, unfair question, calculated to intimidate the person who had to answer it."

This was not the end, he said. "Rooi Els is only a small part of the greater Hangklip area. The battle will go on."

Time for the goose to share the Kruger egg

56 Wm 20-26/8/93

Julienne du Toit

SHINE up or we will redistribute the Kruger Park, a smiling Derek Hanekom of the African National Congress told a not-so-jolly National Parks Board head Dr Robbie Robinson last weekend at Skukuza.

The encounter, which fell somewhere between an intellectual debate and a haggling session between the ANC and the board, was precipitated some months ago when Hanekom was allegedly misquoted as saying the Kruger Park could be considered for cattle farming. Parks Board officials invited him and a retinue of ANC-sympathetic delegates to Skukuza.

Despite Hanekom's passing threat about redistribution, the meeting was largely cordial. The men in green heaved a sigh of relief after establishing that the ANC has no wish to kill the goose which lays the golden egg for South African tourism.

Much of the two-day meeting was spent trying to find ways in which Kruger Park could assist neighbouring black communities. The sale of curios was one way — plastic owls and squirrels are still sold in the park, while artisans are desperate to sell their carvings to tourists. Robinson immediately agreed to change this.

Kruger is keen to have a hand in establishing industries which can supply it with goods like linen. It was agreed that people had little knowledge of what the Parks Board does, and Kruger Park boss Salomon Joubert said plans were afoot to bus in schoolchildren from surrounding areas to teach them about the reserve.

Surveys conducted by the park in surrounding communities has shown that the greatest need is that for firewood. Delegates agreed that some way of meeting this need would have to be found. They also conceded that the land claims of people displaced by the park should be considered.

The thorniest issue, that of allowing cattle to graze inside Kruger Park, was not put on the table. But between sessions it was hotly debated.

ANC member and conservationist Louis Liebenberg argued that it could be done. Parks officials responded that the cattle would immediately pick up any of 16 diseases carried by buffalo. They also asked why the park should take responsibility for poor management which left no grazing in the dry season.

Julienne du Toit is a member of the newly formed environmental news agency, Keeping Track.

City smog way over guidelines

Staff Reporter **(5)**

ET 20/8/93

POLLUTION over Cape Town was particularly bad yesterday, with readings well over the guideline figures for the fourth time this month.

Yesterday nitrogen oxides read $2\ 423\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$ — well over the guideline level of 1 504 and the nitrogen dioxide reading was 596 — 220 above the guideline figure of 376.

A spokesman for the council air pollution unit said the pollution looked worse than usual because of the depth of the temperature inversion in which a layer of cold air is trapped beneath warmer air.

He said pollution had exceeded the guidelines 22 times this year.

Seal shooting: Witnesses 'reluctant' to make statements

JOHN YELD (56) ARG 19/8/93
Environment Reporter

WITNESSES to the shooting of seals at sea are reluctant to make sworn statements or to give evidence in court, says Cape Nature Conservation.

Also, when its patrol vessels are at sea, fishermen "rarely, if ever" shoot at seals.

The organisation, which is responsible for marine law enforcement, was responding to reports of widespread shooting of seals — particularly by snoek fishermen — and demands by conservationists for effective policing.

Cape Nature Conservation was opposed to indiscriminate shooting and torturing of seals, said spokesman Dieter Odendaal.

Legislation stated clearly that

the hunting or shooting of seals without permits was prohibited.

A recent incident off Slangkop involving alleged seal shooting by the crew of a Simon's Town-registered tunny boat and seen by honorary Sea Fisheries inspector Thero Ferreira — reported in The Argus earlier this week — would be investigated, said Mr Odendaal.

"We do acknowledge, however, that seals can be a problem, especially when they compete with fishermen for food.

"Therefore, we await the results of Sea Fisheries' scientific investigation into the necessity for culling seals.

"We hope that these results may present certain positive measures to resolve the conflict situation between seals and fish-

ermen."

There was regular law enforcement on both sea and land, said Mr Odendaal.

"The major problem is that when a patrol vessel is at sea, the fishermen rarely, if ever, shoot at seals.

"Cape Nature Conservation has to rely on eyewitness accounts of seal shooting, but this presents the second major problem — eyewitnesses are not keen on making sworn statements or on giving evidence in court."

● Cape Nature Conservation's patrol boat stationed at Hout Bay has been out of commission for minor repairs for the past month. It is expected to be back in operation by Monday.

Fishermen 'torturing seals'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SEALS are being killed or maimed by fishermen using automatic rifles and shotguns and there are unconfirmed reports that these protected mammals are being tortured in an attempt to keep other seals away from fishing boats.

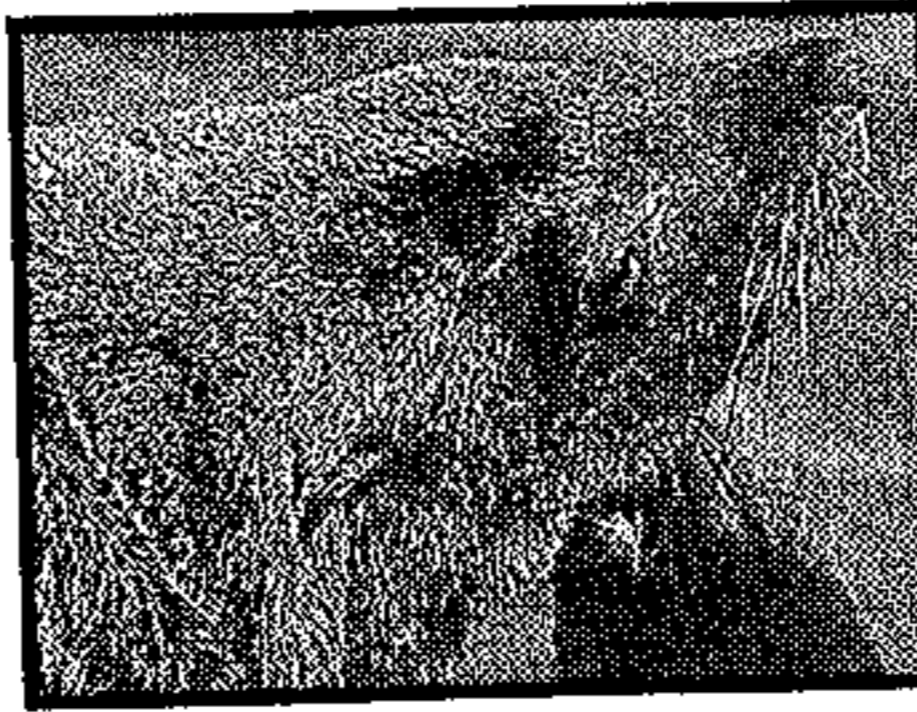
Angry environmentalists and animal welfare organisations are demanding conservation authorities step in to enforce laws protecting seals.

An account of a recent seal shooting incident off Slangkop has been given by eyewitness and honorary Sea Fisheries inspector Theo Ferreira.

Mr Ferreira, director of the White Shark Research Unit, said he had been fishing with some of his staff two weekends ago near a Simon's Town-registered tunny boat.

"We were lying about 40m from them. There were two guys fishing from the back, and another on the flying bridge," said Mr Ferreira.

"The guy on the bridge had an automatic rifle and was taking pot shots at seals. He hit a couple — one came past with blood spurting from a wound in the lower half of its back.



"I moved closer, showed him my identity card and told the guy who was firing, whose name is Smith, to stop immediately.

"A man who was fishing, apparently the owner of the boat, became aggressive and said he had given the man on the bridge instructions to shoot seals.

"I told him he was endangering the lives of fishermen and that seals were a protected species.

"He told me to go and get stuffed."

While they were arguing the owner caught a fish. As he pulled it in a seal went for it, Mr Ferreira said.

"The guy on the bridge then opened up and he must have fired off about 14 rounds in three seconds.

"Not far away there was a commercial boat which was opening up on seals with a shotgun.

"Within a period of about two hours and a radius of about 3km there must have been at least 10 to 15 sources of gunfire.

"The thing that annoyed me was that the chap on the bridge appeared to be shooting seals for personal pleasure."

Mr Ferreira said he had written an official report.

"I realise there are a lot of people who get emotionally involved about this, but there is definitely a seal problem," he said.

Kalk Bay harbour master Pat Stacey said he had received a report from a fisherman who had nearly been shot while fishing at sea last weekend.

"If he gives me a statement I'm going to follow it up."

David Barrett of the South African branch of the International Animal Welfare Fund said there had been reports of fishermen catching seals, hauling them aboard and then "dangling" the animals from various parts of the boat in an attempt to deter other seals.

ANC backs preserving of SA parks

CT 18/8/93

Political Correspondent

THE ANC has agreed to the preservation of the National Parks network to fulfil the development needs of a new South Africa (5b)

However, the ANC and the National Parks Board said in a joint statement yesterday that national policy should be changed to help sustain national parks.

The statement, issued after a meeting at the weekend between delegations from the two sides, said: "It is recognised that South Africa has one of the best protected area networks in Africa and the world and that it is an important element in the development of the new South Africa."

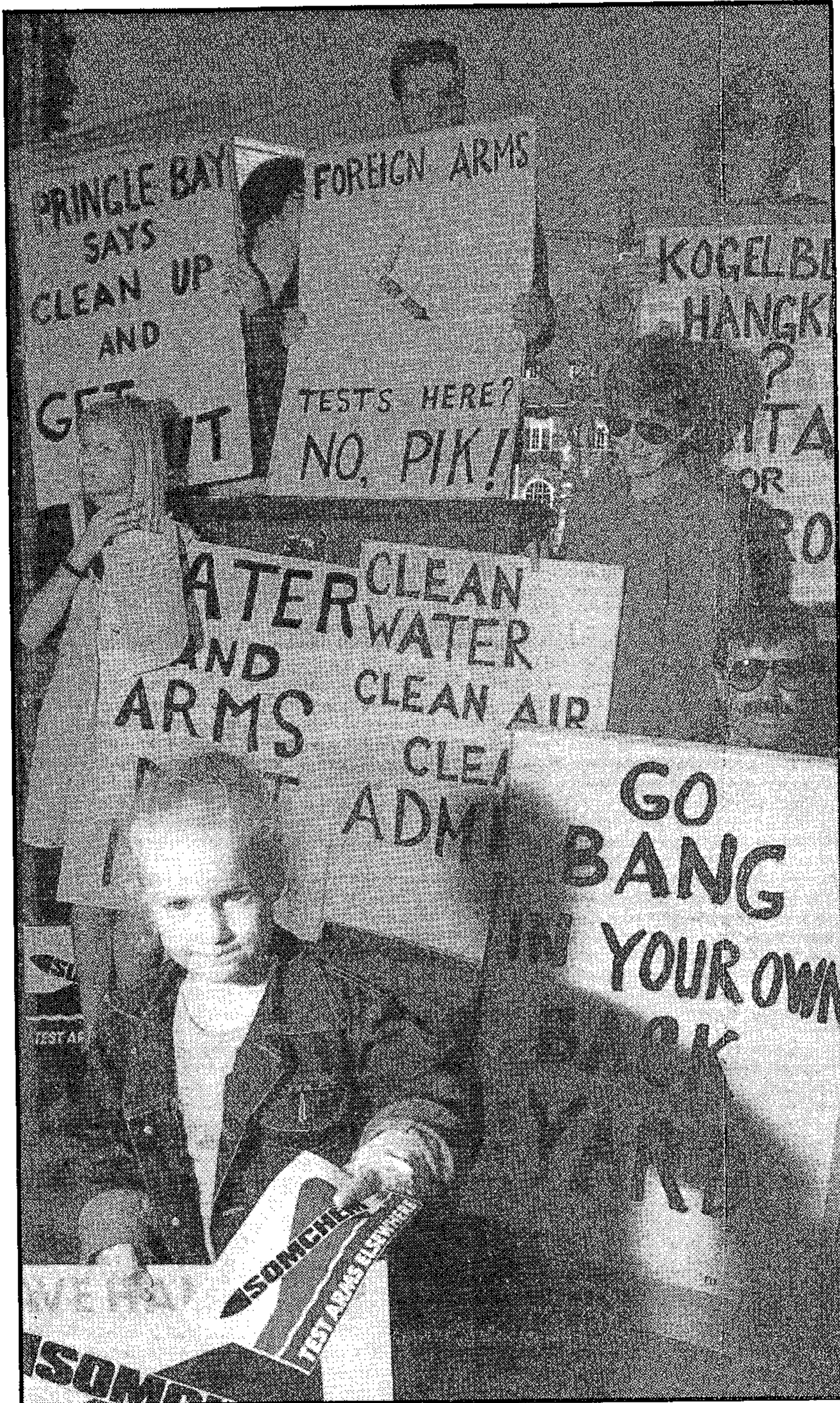
Follow-up discussions in "the near future" would concentrate on "the challenge to transform national parks in such a way that they become an asset to local communities, through direct involvement and real tangible benefits."

Counting starts in poll

Rooi Els ratepayers

17/8/93

□ Save Hangklip Action Group pickets building in city centre



JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

COUNTING of votes in the Somchem test range poll of Rooi Els ratepayers started in the Provincial Administration building in Wale Street today while members of the Save Hangklip Action Group held a picket protest.

In terms of a Supreme Court agreement, the ratepayers were asked whether they were prepared to accept a "best offer" from Somchem to continue operating its rocket motor and ammunition test site in the mountains above Rooi Els for another 15 years, or to continue court action to have Somchem's lease declared invalid.

By close of business yesterday, 191 ballot papers of the 327 sent out had been returned.

In terms of the court order, ballot papers had to be returned by yesterday and the result will be announced on Thursday.

There was disagreement between the parties before the ballot returns were opened by Provincial authorities.

Acting director of local government and finance Piet Conradie said a further seven ballot papers had arrived today.

"We need clarification on those that may arrive late."

After brief discussion in which the parties involved — Rooi Els Local Council, Somchem and the Overberg Regional Services Council — reserved their rights, it was agreed that ballot papers would be counted twice: first a count of those that had arrived by yesterday, and a second overall count before the result was announced on Thursday.

About 25 protesters from the Save Hangklip Action Group, including several children, held posters in the grounds of St George's Cathedral reading: "Go bang in your own backyard", "Static tests: what's next?", "HCL (hydrochloric acid) in our floral kingdom — no thanks" and "I can't squat in your water catchment".

In a statement, the group accused Denel-sub subsidiary Somchem and Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring of "holding a pistol to the head of Rooi Els ratepayers".

"The choice facing these ratepayers has been rape — of their rights, the natural resources of the region, the environment — or having the trigger pulled.

"Bureaucrats have wilfully intimidated citizens into believing they are under severe financial threat."

GO SOMEWHERE ELSE! She's only four, but Bianca Jooste is already a registered property owner at Pringle Bay. She joined other members of the Save Hangklip Action Group outside St George's Cathedral today to protest against Somchem's test site at Rooi Els.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

It is not too late to sign to save St Lucia!

NAME PLEASE PRINT	ADDRESS PLEASE PRINT	SIGNATURE	AGE	
			18+	18-
Nelson MANDELA	51 Plein St, Johannesburg	Nelson Mandela		
W. Anderson	Box 1910, Riet Spruit	W. Anderson		

Famous name . . . on the St Lucia petition.

St Lucia: Mandela signs protest list

■ STAFF REPORTER

Nelson Mandela has added his signature to the public petition protesting against the proposed mining of titanium at St Lucia, in northern Natal.

His signature was a major coup for the Save St Lucia lobby, which has collected tens of thousands of signatures appealing to the State President to stop the mining and to back the Wetlands Conservation Bill.

This Bill would protect St Lucia and other surviving wetlands in South Africa.

Campaign for St Lucia exec-

utive member Nora Kreher said: "We have been accused of being a bunch of hysterical greenies, but the signature of Nelson Mandela and other well-known people puts paid to that notion."

She said the campaign had the support of the African National Congress, the Democratic Party and the Conservative Party — but still needed the support of the National Party Government to prevent the mining from going ahead.

Among the signatories are Gary Player, Jonty Rhodes, Sir Laurens van der Post, Bruce Fordyce, Enos Mabuza and Siphon "Hotstix" Mabuse.

Agreement to conserve Kruger National Park

THEO RAWANA

THE ANC and the National Parks Board agreed yesterday that the Kruger National Park was an integral part of the nation's economy and heritage, and should be conserved, environmental monitors said.

Keeping Track, syndicators of environmental news, said a meeting held at Skukuza to discuss the park's future had agreed that people living in the area should be given the right to sell their handicrafts in the park.

The meeting was attended by 36 representatives including ANC land and agriculture co-ordinator Derek Hanekom, ANC environment spokesman Prof Stan Sangweni, National Parks Board head Robbie Robinson, and Kruger National Park head Salomon Joubert.

A spokesman said the meeting was characterised by some stiff circling around the issues initially, even though Hanekom swore he had been misquoted in saying the Kruger National Park could be turned into cattle farms.

An ANC member had complained that plastic curios were being imported to be sold at the Skukuza shop, while the people living outside the park were desperate to sell their handicrafts. *Sunday 16/8/93*

Kruger National Park official Chris Marais produced a wooden rhino from behind his chair, saying steps had already been taken to train the local communities in curio making and selling their products. *(56)*

Both parties agreed that the park should take a more active part in educating the people living near it about what it did and how it functioned.

It was also agreed that Kruger and other parks should be economically self-sustaining, and that communities should be involved in the functioning of the parks. Everyone, not just the perceived white elite, should be able to enjoy the Kruger National Park, delegates agreed.

Spotlight on ^(S) air polluters

JOHANNESBURG. —
An investigation to pinpoint major air polluters in industrialised areas has been undertaken by the Department of Health in conjunction with Mintek. *CT16/8/93*

Until now there has been no scientifically-based information on pollution sources, nor on the relative contributions of individual sources.

The aim was to "fingerprint" polluters, Mintek said. — Sapa

JOBS

Managing for Survival

STimes (Bus) 15/8/93

By CHERILYN IRETON

IT might jar the senses that corporate leaders are worrying about green issues while the country is bleeding. An executive faced with depressed markets, labour problems and all the trauma associated with South Africa's political transition will probably be tempted to shelve matters green and concentrate on survival.

But the Institute of Directors (IOD) suggests that by ignoring the issues executives may be jeopardising their company's future.

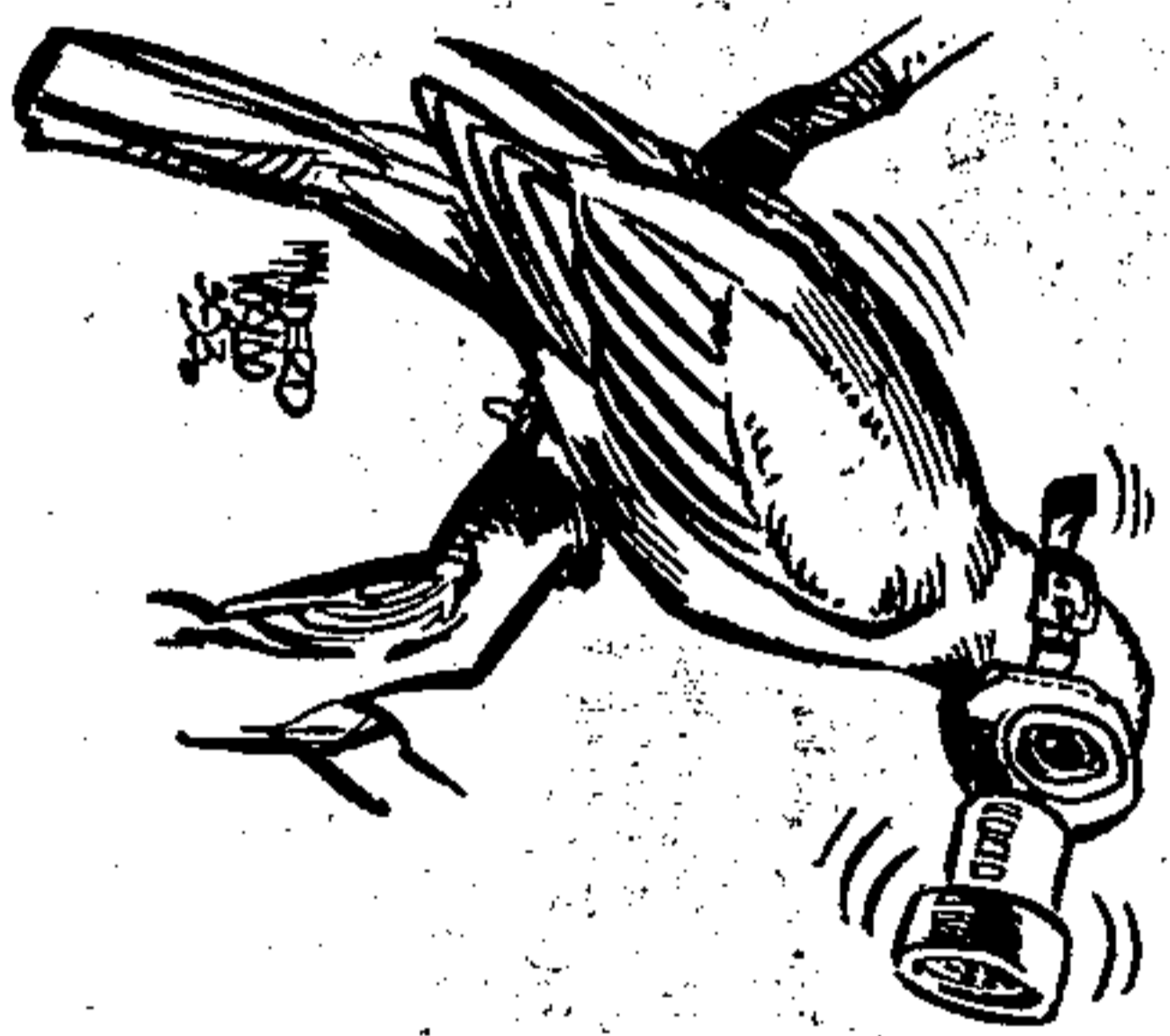
The IOD has just issued a set of directors' guidelines on corporate environmental management in an attempt to stimulate and guide decision making.

"Management should realise that the resources of the earth are finite and that if conservation is not positively practised, business will undermine the very basis of its existence by destroying its essential resources," says the study.

"Environmental management makes plain good business sense," adds Jonathan Hobbs, director of the Industrial Environmental Forum. "It is a fallacy that it is a nicety. Companies need to use resources more efficiently and effectively to enable them to sustain their business."

Part of the sluggishness of some business leaders in formalising environmental management in South Africa may be the apparent conflict it has with company profits and the reality that the long-term benefits are difficult to measure up from.

IOD president Basil Hersov says the institute's role is to assist and guide directors.



"As population continues to explode, pollution and exploitation problems become increasingly complex. Greater responsibilities are placed on our country's directors as they face decisions affecting both business profitability and survival." Executive director Richard Wilkinson says the IOD's concern with environmental management should not be seen in isolation.

"We participate in the peace accord, affirmative action, deregulation, corporate governance and other issues — like the environment — which are of considerable importance to directors."

The guidelines have been assembled by Margaret Rawicz, a consultant currently completing a doctor's degree in Business Environmental Management in SA.

Mrs Rawicz says the need for environmental management comes from several spheres including political, economic, socio-cultural, technical and legal influences.

Political influences include pressure

Key SA industries that require environmental management & auditing

- Chemicals
- Effluent treatment
- Electric and data processing
- Energy
- Engineering
- Food and drink
- Metals
- Beneficiation
- Coal
- Extraction
- Manufacture
- Mining
- Paper and boards
- Printshop
- Textiles and leather
- Waste disposal

Source: INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS Graphic: FOMW KRASCH

from bodies such as the United Nations, international legislation and treaties concerning conservation, and the growing support of green movements. Domestically, the tightening of environmental legislation, union pressure

and the growing education on pollution prevention and waste management are factors.

Economic influences include the growing awareness of the hidden costs of running environmentally risky businesses and of the benefits that environmental planning can bring.

"The penalties for ignoring environmental issues are the possibility of barriers to finance and to European markets, liability costs, increases in clean-up costs, insurances and taxes.

"The advantages include the potential for economic growth and the competitive edge that becoming a 'green' business may give in the markets."

Technical influences on management include advances in technology for pollution control, recycling, hazardous-waste handling equipment, and an increase in opportunities for technology transfers.

Legal factors that cannot be avoided are the international trend to stricter environmental laws, the national emphasis on stricter legislation for waste emission and disposal, and pressure and permitting requirements from the authorities.

Mrs Rawicz's study, which Mr Hersov describes as an unbiased, effective reference book covers:

- objectives, benefits and costs of environmental management;
- legislation and regulation;
- the role in relation to business management strategy;
- environmental management strategies;
- middle management's role;
- management planning;
- environmental auditing;
- environmental impact assessments.

Copies of the guidelines can be obtained from the Institute of Directors.

1 000 vines presented to Langa children

Staff Reporter

ONE THOUSAND sul-tana grapevines were presented to Langa school children at Groot Constantia yesterday as part of the Fairest Cape Association's township cleaning and greening campaign.

To mark the occasion vines were planted in front of Groot Constantia's historic wine cellar by the mayor Mr Frank van der Velde and Langa pupils.

The ceremony was dedicated to peace.

The grapevine project, Izitole, was initiated three years ago.

Of the 2 000 vines already distributed in Khayelitsha and Guguletu, 90% are thriving, an association spokesperson Mrs Sybil Nggela said yesterday. She said: "Vines are ideal for sandy conditions, requiring little ground space and maintenance. They also help beautify the environment and cultivate community pride."

The vines, bought in Wellington by the Wine Foundation, will be distributed to Langa residents through schools, clinics and community centres with compost and planting instructions.

VINES FOR LANGA . . . Mr Charles Whitehead, director of the Wine Foundation (left) and the mayor Mr Frank van der Velde, helped by Langa primary school children (from left) Bongiwe Masinda, Mtiziwe Magqazolo and Nomvuyo Mayekiso, at a vine-planting ceremony at Groot Constantia yesterday.

Picture: BENNY GOOL



Coalition formed to preserve South Peninsula

STC/S/8/93

NINE local and national environmental groups met in Simon's Town this week to form a coalition and sign a memorandum to the authorities framing concerns about serious threats to the conservation status of the southern Peninsula.

The groups issued a statement noting "with alarm the deviant subdivision and building development" proposed by private landowners in the protected natural environment at Smitswinkel Bay and Misty Cliffs.

Also tackled by the group was the subdivision and development "almost certainly being contemplated in unzoned or indeterminate zoned land at Red Hill near Botha's Camp by the Simon's Town Council", and in the PNE along the lower part of Red Hill Road and at Castle Rock by private landowners.

Possible undisclosed

plans at Noordhoek were mentioned as an additional concern.

The coalition has appealed to Simon's Town Council and the Regional Services Council not to downgrade the conservation status of the southern Peninsula when it should instead be upgraded and restored to "its rightful place as a world ecological exemplar".

Contentious

"Don't consider deviant or contentious development proposals if you haven't heard the voice of the concerned public in a fully democratic way and pending the publication of important southern Peninsula and Table Mountain chain policy and management guides whose existence and progress you are fully aware of," they urged the relevant authorities. The "superb" ecotourist export industry potential that the area holds for the Peninsula and the country should

not be ignored and its conservation status must be preserved and maintained to that end.

"Don't underestimate our determination to defend the conservation status of this area with every legitimate means at our disposal," ends the document.

The nine organisations which signed the document are: the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, the Red Hill Landowners Conservation Group, the Fish Hoek Residents' Association, the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group, the Kommetjie Ratepayers Association, the Ocean View Development Trust, the Scarborough Residents and Ratepayers' Association, the Simon's Town Flora Conservation Group, and the Smitswinkel Bay Residents' Association and Water Syndicate.

Speaking to the Review, Professor Arnold Abramovitz of the Red Hill Landowners Con-



ONE ACCORD... Mr Jan du Toit (back left), Professor Arnold Abramovitz, Mr Peter Sater, Mr Andy Gubb, Alida Croudace (front left) and Ms Felicity Purchase were sent to the authorities voicing concern over a number of environmental issues on the southern Peninsula. Picture: CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

ervation Group said: "We are tired of the fact that some developers and some local authorities seem to have not read the Environmental Conservation Act — or

need to re-read it — and who do not therefore understand just what a Protected Natural Environment is and the status it enjoys in terms of the law."

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

DP: Make city nature capital

CT 14/8/93
Political Staff

THE DP believes Cape Town should be the environmental capital of South Africa, Mr Hennie Bester, DP MP for Green Point, said.

Celebrating Arbor Day in Observatory yesterday, he said this should be because "we live in one of the great floral kingdoms of the earth, our peninsula is beyond compare, it is situated in a mild and temperate climate and it is full of caring people.

"We want the world and tourists to look at Cape Town as they look at Singapore — to marvel at its cleanliness and urban beauty," he said at a tree-planting ceremony with pupils from Observatory Primary School.

ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela will also be planting a tree today — in Alexandria near Johannesburg.

Hints NP govt may decide on St Lucia

CF 14/8/93
Political Staff

(24)
(56)

DURBAN. — Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett yesterday strongly hinted that he believed the present cabinet may make the final decision on mining St Lucia — in spite of calls to leave this to the future government.

Speaking at the NP congress he asked whether the country could afford to leave untapped R7 billion in mining resources.

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But no official decision yet, Bartlett insists

St Lucia: new nod for mining

Star 14/8/93

(Sb) ~~21~~

AMANZIMTOTI — Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett has again given his personal nod to the controversial mining of Lake St Lucia, but still insists that a decision has not been made on whether it will go ahead.

He told the Natal National Party Congress that the R7 billion of minerals that would be mined "will have a tremendous spin-off effect in the economy of Natal and KwaZulu and South Africa".

He asked if the country could afford to "sterilise" that R7 billion "if scientific reports say you can rehabilitate to such an extent that there is no irreparable damage to the environment".

A Council for Scientific and Industrial Research report on the mining would be available by September 15, said Bartlett. This would be followed by sittings of a review panel headed by Mr Justice Ramon Leon. The panel will then make a public recommendation. Following that, the Department of the Environment will forward the recommendation to the Cabinet with its recommendation before the Cabinet will take a

MINING at St Lucia will aid job creation and SA foreign exchange, the Natal NP congress hears. CHRIS WHITFIELD and MARTIN CHALLENOR report.

decision.

Tjaart van Rensburg, the appointed NP MP for Umfolozi, told the congress that mining was not a threat to Lake St Lucia — the biggest threat was posed by poverty. People living around the lake were among the poorest in the world.

Economy

He said "the greenies" got hysterical about mining. However, if they used all the energy to tackle poverty, "they will be doing a great service to that area".

Bartlett said 53 percent of South Africa's annual foreign exchange — about R80 billion — came from minerals and mineral products. Mining was the powerhouse of the economy.

The greatest challenge facing South Africa today was providing

jobs. If people sterilised mineral resources — that is, cut off access to them — "we are really destroying the wealth of this nation".

Some people felt a decision on mining should await a new government. But "one wonders whether we are that affluent that we can afford the luxury of saying sterilise it? If we do that, then what next might we decide to sterilise?"

Finance Minister Derek Keys, responding to a delegate's plea to ease the tax burden of married women, said that the time to ease personal tax had not arrived: "We have to wait for the moment when we can afford it."

But he added: "I think the charter of fundamental rights might come to your aid before the Minister of Finance does."

Keys hit out at those who "shake their heads about the economy", saying that "it has performed magnificently" through a difficult period. He also said the country's "social objective" had to be the creation of job opportunities.

National Education Minister Piet Marais directed much of his speech to the possibility of a South African Democratic Teachers' Union strike, warning that the Government had "taken a firm decision" that the principle of "no work, no pay" would be applied.

Tough action urged to protect seals

(56)

ARC
13/8/93

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

AUTHORITIES must enforce the Sea Fisheries Act "to its full potential" to prevent the indiscriminate shooting and torturing of seals and other marine mammals, especially during the snoek season, say conservationists.

They were reacting to a report of a "war" being waged on seals by fishermen who are angry over losing some of their catch to the wily marine predators.

But an experienced fisherman, who asked not to be named for professional reasons, said the conflict was exaggerated.

"Seals are a problem — they're intelligent animals and competition gets stiff, but it's not as though there's wholesale slaughter," he said.

"You hear the occasional shot out there, two or three a day, but it's not war. And it's restricted to the commercial fishermen."

Nan Rice, of the Dolphin Ac-

tion and Protection Group, which has been lobbying for more than a decade for effective controls against fishermen taking the law into their own hands, conceded that seals could be a nuisance and that individual problem animals existed.

"Shooting a seal today will not protect your catch from another seal tomorrow, and removing thousands of seals from the marine environment by so-called culling is not the answer either."

Too little was known about interactions between marine mammals and other marine organisms, Mrs Rice said.

"It is possible the seals also contribute to the health of the fish populations. You could wipe out the seals and conceivably end up with fewer fish at the same time."

Existing legislation clearly stated that shooting, disturbing, catching or killing marine mammals without a permit was prohibited, she said.

When black is 'green'

Environment Reporter

IT is a myth that black people lack environmental concern but "green" projects must be developed in co-operation with township residents, says University of Cape Town researcher and environmental consultant Tami Sokutu.

He told the conference that antagonistic attitudes to many environmental projects stemmed from the way these had been introduced to residents.

The benefits of such projects — like recycling — had to be explained.

Also, whites did not always expect blacks to be committed environmentalists.

Mr Sokutu suggested the creation of an affirmative action fund for developing environmental expertise.

EB ARG 11/8/93

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Star 6/18/93
Air pollution a health hazard on highveld

It's now official — air pollution on the Transvaal highveld, especially the PWV area, is a health hazard.

In the least-polluted areas this affects the quality of life of people and at its worst — in many townships — air pollution has been linked to infant deaths from acute respiratory problems at a rate 120 times higher than in Eu-

ropean urban areas.

This was one of the broad conclusions at the end of a three-day workshop on Air Quality and Impacts, convened by the Environmental Scientific Association (ESA) and the National Association for Clean Air (Naca).

The purpose of the workshop was to assess and synthesise air pollution research conducted in the

highveld since the 1988 report on air pollution in the eastern Transvaal highveld (ETH).

More than 32 experts presented research papers which updated and expanded the ETH "150" report.

The main conclusion at the end of the workshop yesterday was the urgent need to focus on air-quality change because of the health threat

to highveld inhabitants.

"Air pollution problems must be accorded the highest priority because of the health impact," Dr Tony Surridge of the Naca said at a press conference at Eskom's Rosherville research centre yesterday.

Research presented at the workshop also indicated that electrification alone did not lead to reduced levels of air

pollution.

Various studies highlighted that burning biomass and veld fires were major contributors to air pollution.

A positive aspects highlighted was that air pollution over the ETH was not as bad as the "150" report predicted. There was evidence that air quality had improved.

Also, the impact of air pollution on vegetation in the

ETH was not as severe as had been predicted.

Looking ahead, ESA chairman Dr Dan Walmsley announced that an ESA committee would synthesise all research from 1988 to the present to produce a book on air pollution that could be used in drawing up policies.

The aim is to publish the book on World Environment Day on June 6 next year.

New environment laws planned

The SA mining industry was warned on Wednesday that tough new environmental legislation was planned.

Sapa reports that the onus of proof would soon be on mining houses in cases where it was alleged that mining and prospecting operations were harming the environment. The plaintiffs in such matters would no longer have to prove their cases.

Mining and prospecting houses which were found to be at fault in protecting the environment could face penalties as severe as, in cases of blatant disregard of legislation, compulsory liquidation.

The warning was sounded by environmental consultant John Waters, who told the second annual Environmental Management in Mining Conference in Midrand, Johannesburg, that the impending legislation was a follow-up to the Minerals Act of 1991.

The Act already requires any per-

son or company wishing to mine or prospect, and those already so engaged, to submit acceptable programmes to the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department.

The programmes must show how the environment would be or was protected during the operations and also show plans for the rehabilitation of the working areas when they were closed.

Should a programme not be accepted, new operations would not be allowed to go ahead and existing ones would have to alter their plans.

Andrew Brown of the Water Affairs Ministry, which is closely involved with Mineral and Energy Affairs in evaluating the environmental programmes, warned delegates that the authorisation of existing projects was not guaranteed.

"This is not just a paper exercise. Approval will not depend on the

amount of paper you submit. Your objectives must be clearly stated and progress be measurable in both quality and quantity."

A ministerial announcement was expected soon to clarify the position.

MARIANNE MERTEN reports that Genmin safety, health and environmental management senior consultant Peter Fewell said SA was a major international mining country and should be aware of the impact mining had on the environment.

Environmental management formed part of business practices because it had a significant impact on the country's ability to operate. There was a strong connection between safety, health, environmental management and the quality of the workplace.

SA was on a learning curve as far as the role of the environment in mine management was concerned.

ENVIRONMENT

1993.

FEB - MAY

Where unclean waters kill

*The deadly disease cholera is spreading its tentacles in southern Africa, writes **ANDY MELDRUM***

A ZIMBABWEAN woman visits her rural home in the mountainous eastern districts, and when she returns to Harare comes down with a violent diarrhoea. Swazi children fall sick after eating dried fish.

Mozambican families trying to resettle their farms are decimated by disease. Fatal cases of diarrhoea are afflicting increasing numbers of Malawians.

Cholera, one of the world's oldest and most deadly diseases, is spreading through southern Africa like wildfire. In its most virulent form it can kill a person within 24 hours of its onset. And for every person who contracts it, an estimated 100 people are symptomless carriers.

The disease is expected to become entrenched in the region, unless there are significant strides in the provision of clean water sources and improved sanitation.

Mozambique and Zambia, with 23 864 and 11,218 cases respectively in 1992, are among the worst affected countries on the continent. Now the cholera is spreading to their neighbours, according to figures of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Swaziland had no reported cholera cases last year, but in January 2 281 cases were reported, including 30 deaths. Zimbabwe, sometimes called the "Switzerland of Africa" because of its high standards of hygiene, has also succumbed to the spread of the disease. By January there were 2 038 cases reported in the country, causing 105 deaths.

Cholera is also thought to have spread to South Africa, but as the country is not a member of the WHO, no statistics are available.

"There is no way to prevent cholera from spreading across borders," said Dr Levon Arevshatian, the WHO representative for Zimbabwe. "When I was in the Soviet Union we had very, very strict border controls to prevent the spread of cholera from Asian countries. But the barriers did no good, the cholera came any-



Health hazard ... Vendors at Mbare, Harare, roast maize cobs in squalid conditions
Photo: SARAH-JANE POOLE

way. It initially comes from another country. But then it establishes itself at the weak points and spreads from within."

Arevshatian and other health experts stress that improved water and sanitation facilities and increased public education are the only ways to control the spread of the disease.

The centre of Harare's main township, the Mbare Musika market and bus terminal, was declared "a breeding ground for cholera" by Zimbabwe's Minister of Health, Dr Timothy Stamps, when he visited it a few weeks ago. Nearly a million people pass through the Mbare centre each day, yet it has grossly inadequate water, toilet and sanitation facilities. Food is prepared and eaten amid filth. Harare city health officials have been taken to task for allowing conditions to fester.

Rural areas are also at risk, as there is a shortage of clean water and good waste disposal.

In Zimbabwe, clean-up campaigns and widespread education efforts have been launched, and last week the cash-strapped Mugabe government announced the allocation of 3,5-million Zimbabwe dollars (R1,75-million) to combat cholera. Further funds are

expected to come in from WHO, the Red Cross and the United Nations Development Programme.

"Zimbabwe's response has been very good. They anticipated the threat and the problem was recognised early. Health officials were mobilised quickly," said Dr Nicholas Chitimba, WHO's deputy representative in Zimbabwe, originally from Malawi. But it is estimated that it will still take up to three years to rid the country of the disease.

Cholera's current spread in Africa is part of the seventh world pandemic, which started in Indonesia in 1961. A disease of poverty and underdevelopment, it reached Europe in the 1800s, causing six major outbreaks.

The seventh pandemic is caused by a new strain of vibrio cholera, called El Tor. It made international headlines a few years ago when it spread throughout Latin America, striking especially severely in Peru.

El Tor first reached West Africa in 1970, spreading along coastlines, rivers and canals. From there it spread inland. Tropical coastal regions are particularly susceptible to endemic cholera.

Cathkin leads Heideveld in the War on Waste

SOUTH 27/2 - 3/3/93



SCHOOL children from Cathkin High School in Heideveld have officially joined a national War on Waste (WOW) campaign.

The campaign, launched by Sappi Waste Paper, is a large-scale effort to mobilise schools in bringing about a major cultural change that will see all domestic households in South Africa committed to recycling waste paper.

Last week some 800 Cathkin High pupils each received a WOW bin, made from recycled paper, to mark the start of an effort to eventually involve the whole community of Heideveld in the recycling project.

The WOW bins will be placed in the pupils' homes, so that households can deposit their waste paper in a separate container.

Waste paper is easy to recycle when it has not been contaminated with other household waste.

The waste paper is then brought to school in black plastic bags, where Sappi will collect it.

Mr Shafiek Dollie of Cathkin High, who is an active driving force behind the the school's Nature Society, initiated the project.

"I am delighted that our school has become a 'warrior' in the War On Waste. The enthusiasm with which the pupils have embraced the programme has been encouraging."

"Our aim is not only to educate our pupils and their families, but also members of the community. We would be thrilled if people in Heideveld who don't have children at our school, use our school as a depositing centre for their waste paper."

The proceeds from the sale of waste paper will be applied to the Nature Society.

Sappi Waste Paper's marketing manager Mr Steve Harley said South African households on average produce a ton of domestic waste a year.

A valuable resource is lost if the immense volumes of waste paper generated by households aren't recy-

clad.

Roughly a third of all waste paper in South Africa is currently being recycled, compared to 50 percent in Germany and Japan.

South Africa compares well to many other countries, but there is still tremendous room for improvement.

What is needed most is a change of culture.

"A significant advantage of recycling is that the lifespan of municipal landfills would be extended if paper is taken out of the waste stream. Not only are landfills expensive to maintain, they take up valuable space in the fast growing metropolitan areas," said Harley.

He added that WOW was a personal way in which parents, children and members of the community could exercise their responsibility towards the environment.

"Children are the ideal agents of change because they are naturally 'green' and that is why our project is aimed at schools."

Hazardous waste in your home

56 CT 24/7/93

Staff Reporter

CHEMICALS found in household products are often the same ones used in industry, Waste-tech regional manager Mr Steve Kimber said at a launch of a waste education project in Bellville yesterday.

Mr Kimber said although they were in small quantities, these chemicals were no less hazardous than in bulk quantities.

The Household Hazardous Waste Education and Collection Project, a joint venture between Waste-tech, Pick 'n Pay Ottery Hypermarket and the Fairest Cape Association (FCA), is aimed at identifying household materials which are potentially hazardous and classifying household material for storage and safe usage.

It is also aimed at planning to reduce the amount of hazardous waste produced, and at

how to handle its disposal correctly.

Participating schools and communities will be asked to bring all their household hazardous waste from their garages, garden sheds, kitchens and medicine cabinets, to a central point for safe packing and final disposal.

"Every household uses materials that are potentially hazardous, from shampoos to de-

tergents to insecticides and medication," said Ms Di White, environmental services manager of Waste-tech.

FCA executive director Mr Roger Hulley said some of the waste materials involved were nail polish remover, disinfectants and rat poisons.

Twenty-five primary and high schools from all over the Peninsula will take part in the project.

Teams of vagrants to help clean city streets

(58) ARS/113/93

□ Council will launch 'litter for food' campaign soon

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TEAMS of vagrants are likely to clean Cape Town's central business districts in an innovative "litter for food" campaign within the next few months.

Announcing the city's proposed "dirtbuster" campaign at the Cleaner Cape Conference yesterday, the city council's director of

cleansing services, Kendall Kaveney, said it was aimed at supplementing the municipality's regular CBD cleansing service.

"The idea is that strategic areas will be cleaned up, topping up what our work force does.

"The 'dirtbuster force' will bridge the gap between what we believe is an acceptable standard for Cape Town and what the (cleansing) branch can deliver," he said.

Emphasising that details of the campaign still had to be completed, Mr Kaveney said it was envisaged that teams of about seven unemployed people, supervised by an employed contractor, would pick up rubbish in the major CBD districts between about 4pm and 7pm — the time between shifts of the regular cleansing staff when significant littering happened.

Trial areas for the campaign are the CBD districts of central Cape Town, Athlone, Mitchell's Plain, Sea Point, Claremont, Wynberg and Muizenberg.

Those taking part would be rewarded with food for each bag of rubbish they collected, with a bonus for recyclable material, Mr Kaveney explained.

"This will be for food, not money, and the proposal is that the food will be enough to make up a balanced meal in a recyclable package."

The proposed campaign, which had already been promised financial support from at least one company and with several other offers being negotiated, was likely to be in operation before the summer, Mr Kaveney said.

The "dirtbuster campaign" was being facilitated and encouraged by the city council but was in fact a Fairest Cape Association initiative.

Goals included cleaner CBD areas and an improved perception of city cleanliness by tourists — who often arrived back at their places of accommodation at peak littering times — and by local entrepreneurs. It was a social enhancement scheme which could lead to a reduction in crime and violence.

Although possible problems included corruption and deliberate littering to be able to take advantage of the campaign, Mr Kaveney described the initiative as a "joint, balanced approach" that was more practical than the alternative of employing significantly more street sweepers.

● See page 9.

Chemical makers clean up their image

Buss. Day. 4/1/93

TRADITION has labelled chemical manufacturers as polluters and while AECI agrees that historically there is some truth in the allegation, today companies such as AECI are working hard towards a cleaner future.

Says MD Mike Sander: "While establishing environmental policies and principles, audits and commitments, as a group we recognise that education is the cornerstone for understanding and knowing how our activities make an impact on the environment."

Based on this assessment, AECI has developed environmental workshops for employees and schools and, to a lesser extent, for the public.

Heart

At its Modderfontein factory site, the company has its own environmental interpretation centre Isidleke, which means "the nest" in Zulu. It is the heart of the Modderfontein Conservation Park.

Sander says: "The employee workshop is aimed at plant operators



MIKE SANDER

who are in direct control of the impact their plants have on the environment.

"The objective is to create awareness and ownership of the environment. In this way each person is shown his responsibility towards his surroundings and how he can control the impact that his actions will have."

An important part of the workshop is that participants analyse their plants, highlighting potential pollution problems and identifying and committing them-

selves to environmental responsibility.

A range of education modules is being designed around the school syllabi.

The underlying focus is to show that it is possible for industry and nature to co-exist in harmony, on a sustainable basis.

The first of the modules The Modderfontein Experience was designed by teachers to meet specific sections of the standard four science, geography, English and history syllabi.

The programme is versatile and allows individual schools to select modules according to their needs, interest and even the time of year. Activities require maximum participation from students and adopt an experimental approach to learning. Two visits are needed to complete the whole programme. (5)

The Modderfontein scheme is not the only such programme being operated by the group.

At Umbogintwini on the Natal south coast, AECI and Tioxide SA have joined forces to develop an Environmental Education Resource Centre.

Situated in the Umbogavango nature reserve, the centre comprises 40ha of open water marsh land and indigenous bush.

The centre's thatched roof and slatted wooden walls are designed to blend in with its tranquil surroundings.

The lecture room is fitted with modern equipment and is used as a workshop for teachers, school groups, bird groups, special interest societies and is also available to the public.

Ensure

Says Sander: "Running of the centre has been taken over by the Wildlife Society to ensure it is fully and effectively used."

Tioxide SA financed the project to the tune of R110 000 and AECI Chlor-Alkali and Plastics managed the construction of the project.

The two companies see the centre as a venture which is helping to fulfil AECI's commitment to improving the quality of life for all communities through early exposure to environmental education.

New fears over toxic waste sites

Star 11/6/93

(56)

By Jacqueline Myburgh

While residents in Midrand, Kempton Park and Tembisa lobby for the closure of the Chloorkop toxic waste dump, experts have warned that other dumps not open to public scrutiny may be cause for even greater concern.

According to Rob Ball, a waste management consultant and vice-president of the Institute of Waste Management, only one in 10 waste disposal sites around South Africa are controlled and "audited".

Ball has been briefed by the Department of Water Affairs to draw up a list of minimum requirements for

establishing a waste disposal site. It should come into effect this time next year.

He said these regulations were not the full solution, however, and the shortage of water pollution control inspectors to police the dumps was worrying.

Even the Department of Water Affairs has admitted that policing is inadequate.

Deputy director Leon Bredenhann said that of the 1200 formal waste disposal sites in South Africa (12 of them privately owned and five of them for hazardous waste), only 60 had been issued with permits.

And the department employed 18 inspectors to control the dumps.

Bredenhann said the department's only real control measures were reactive. A

site first had to cause damage before the owners could be prosecuted.

"One can build an inspection team which can run into a hundred or more, but they must be paid by the taxpayer," said Bredenhann.

Peter Lukey, a member of environmental activist group Earthlife Africa, said existing legislation to control dumping was completely inadequate.

He said the solution lay in curbing the production of waste at source.

However, Graham Noble, manager of the CSIR's environmental services, warned against too much pressure being placed on the waste industry, saying this may drive the dumpers into the veld and rivers.

Concern over control of waste dumps

JACQUELINE MYBURGH
Weekend Argus Reporter

56
ARL 12/6/93

EXPERTS in toxic waste removal have warned that only one in 10 waste disposal sites around South Africa are controlled and "audited".

One of the experts, Mr Rob Ball, a waste management consultant and vice-president of the Institute of Waste Management, has been briefed by the Department of Water Affairs to draw up a list of minimum requirements in the establishment of a waste disposal site which should come into effect this time next year.

He said these regulations were not the full solution, however, and of concern was the shortage of water pollution control inspectors to police the dumps.

Even the Department of Water Affairs has admitted that policing is inadequate.

Deputy director Mr Leon Bredenhann said that of the 1 200 formal waste disposal sites in South Africa (12 privately owned and five for hazardous waste), only 60 had been issued with permits.

And to control the dumps the department employed 18 inspectors.

Mr Bredenhann said the department's only real control measures were reactive. A site first had to cause damage before the owners could be prosecuted.

"One can build an inspection team which can run into 100 or more, but they must be paid by the taxpayer," he said.

"I regard the public as part of our inspection team, in the sense of informing us for things going wrong."

Mr Bredenhann said dumps could only be controlled by monitoring the generator and the transporter of the waste.

Mr Peter Lukey of the environmental activist group Earthlife Africa, said the existing legislation to control dumping was completely inadequate.

Policing of the dumps was impossible and although Earthlife received anecdotal information about contamination, it was impossible to prove it without access to the dumps.

Mr Lukey said the solution lay in curbing the production of waste at source, but Mr Ball said this call was "like locking the loo door".

Mr Graham Noble, manager of the CSIR's Environmental Services, however, warned against too much pressure being placed on the waste industry, saying this may drive the dumpers into the veld and rivers.

Sewage Star 18/6/93 threat to Reef water

By Jacqueline Myburgh

An average of 30 million litres of raw sewage spills into rivers and streams on the Reef every day, according to the Rand Water Board (RWB) — but this is less than in previous years.

The situation has led the Johannesburg City Council to divert dirty base water, which had been flowing into Zoo Lake and streams in the south of the city, directly into the sewage pipes.

RWB pollution control manager Karl Lubout said the human waste being spilt into the streams did not threaten the quality of drinking water on the Reef, but did pose a danger to people using the water sources before purification.

Communities living along the Klip River and using the water might be in danger, especially if there were cholera outbreak. (56)

Lubout said the spills were chiefly due to overcrowding in the inner city and the townships on the East and West Rand. (4-1)

In Johannesburg, the city council's directorate of water and waste is also recording large sewage spills into the city's stormwater drainage system.

A spokesman for the directorate, who did not wish to be identified, said streams and rivers in the city were deteriorating rapidly.

Toxic dump illegal — council

Saw 19/6/93

(56)

LOUISE MARSLAND

THE partial construction of a toxic waste dump that has raised a stink among residents on the Kempton Park-Midrand border may be illegal.

The long-running struggle of residents to get rid of the Class One dumping site — designed to dispose of toxic industrial waste — took another turn this week when Dave Hidden, chairman of the Midrand management committee, said the dump at Chloorkop, in Kempton Park, was illegal because it was on land zoned as agricultural.

Ludicrous

Hidden said it was quite clear that Kempton Park had acted illegally. "It is ludicrous to allow a site like that in such an area. We fully understand that there is toxic waste that needs to be treated. But not there — that is crazy."

He also asked how Waste-tech, the company constructing the site, could create a hazardous waste dump only 1,5 km from Midrand's border and not consult Midrand. When approached yes-



RAISING A STINK: The Chloorkop hazardous waste site in Kempton Park.

terday with news of the council's alleged illegal actions, Kempton Park acting town clerk Jan Malan refused to comment, saying that because the issue was before a commission of inquiry convened by the council, it was sub judice.

Waste-tech said the Kempton Park Town Council had issued a permit for land use at the Chloorkop site last year, and the firm assumed the council had acted within its own municipal by-laws.

Waste-tech director Ken Bromfield stressed that the firm had nothing to hide, and everything done so far had been above board and within regulations.

The Chloorkop landfill site will cost R10 million, and will handle industrial waste — along with domestic and business waste. The site is situated on 23 ha of a 100 ha worked-out quarry, and is near the main R561 Midrand-Kempton Park road, 1,5 km from the Midrand border and the suburb of Chloorkop. The nearest residential site is the proposed Mooifontein informal settlement, 400 m from the dump.

Earthlife Africa, which is fully behind residents' attempts to stop construction of the dump, are putting together a report to be submitted to the Department of Water Affairs asking that the permit for Chloorkop be withdrawn.

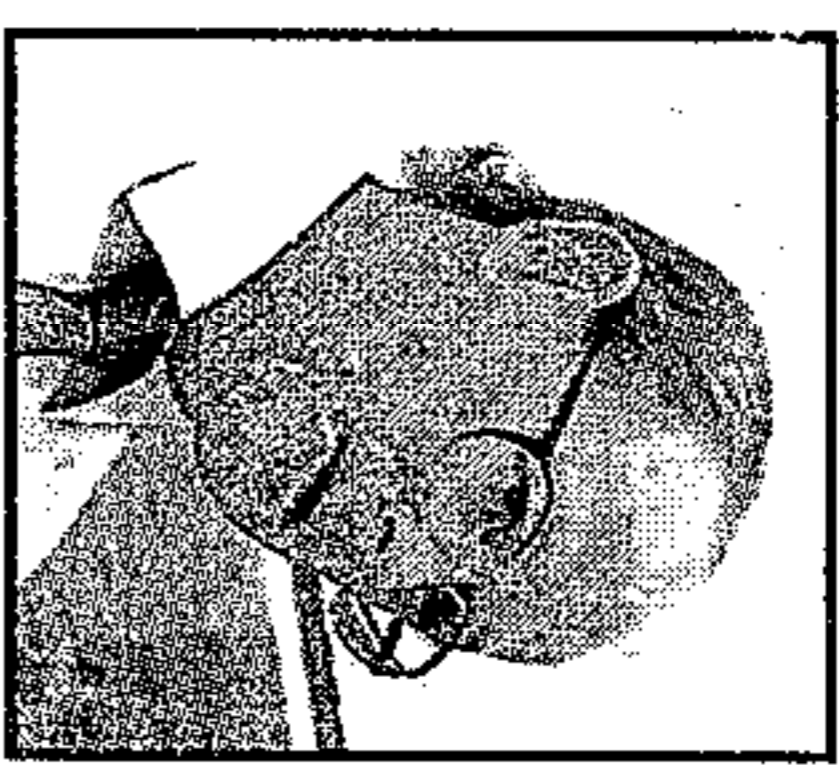
Natalie Haagen, of Earthlife Africa's Johannesburg branch, said the organisation was investigating air pollution from the planned medical incinerators at the site, and would also determine whether any groundwater was at risk. "We believe that the site is entirely unsuitable for hazardous waste. We maintain that

it is way behind the times technologically; that site security is poor; that Waste-tech has not considered nearby residential settlements, groundwater and soil conditions, and has merely considered the site's accessibility to their clients," Haagen said.

Bromfield countered that Chloorkop would be one of the most high-tech sites of its kind in the world.

● Photograph: STEVE HILTON-BARBER

KEN BROMFIELD: Waste-tech's managing director.



He said 90 percent of all its waste would be domestic or commercial, with only 10 percent hazardous or toxic.

Waste-tech's only other toxic waste dump in the Transvaal, Margolis in Germiston, is to close at the end of the year. Waste-tech said it still intended applying for the final permit for Chloorkop from Water Affairs by next month.

Waste-tech is currently involved in legal action against the Germiston City Council after it withdrew the permit for the Margolis site, allegedly due to complaints from residents.

Bromfield said Germiston had acted "irrationally" and that medical specialists called in had given the Margolis site a clean bill of health.

Recycling centre aids environment

By Kerry-Ann Holloway

Retail giant Pick 'n Pay has launched a recycling centre in a bid to preserve the environment.

Pick 'n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman launched the recycling centre, set up at the Boksburg Hyperama, at a function last week.

Statistics released at the function showed that South Africans generate 300 million tons of waste per year, which is approximately 500 kg of rubbish per person.

Ackerman said the company had set itself 14 environmental goals to be reached by the year 2000. The recycling centre marked the achievement of one of

these goals.

The Boksburg Hypermarket decided to develop the centre in response to demands from the public for a place where they could deposit their household waste.

The centre consists of various bins, sponsored by companies, where domestic waste can be dumped. The bins are placed in the shopping centre's parking lot. The money generated is channelled into other environmental projects.

● Father Christmas came early for four branches of Child and Family Welfare when Ackerman handed over a cheque of R5 000 to each of the branches on behalf of the company's Boksburg branch.

STAR 14/12/92

56

Uranium: Probe called for

THE Democratic Party yesterday demanded a full and immediate official disclosure on the details of the uranium spill at Pelindaba this week.

CF 12/12/92
The DP's spokesman on Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Roger Hulley, said that in view of the potentially disastrous nature of nuclear accidents, the government should come clean.

"The public is entitled to be informed as to what went wrong, the consequences and whether any steps will be taken to prevent the recur-

rence of incidents of this nature," Mr Hulley said in a statement. (S6)

Earthlife Africa said yesterday it was concerned about the possible health and environmental implications of the uranium spill.

The organisation said it was also "concerned at the apparent attempts at withholding information concerning the incident from the public".

The AEC said the incident posed no danger to employees or to the public and there had been no reason to introduce emergency measures. — Political Correspondent, Sapa

Dump on Signal Hill: Lawyers studying Act over need for licence

(56) APR 10/12/92
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

LAWYERS are studying the Environment Conservation Act to determine whether Cape Town City Council needs a licence for its huge dump on Signal Hill.

The site, within Table Mountain Nature Reserve, has been operated by the council since 1982 for dumping spoil from roadworks. About 100 000 tons have been deposited in and around a former borrow pit for an old brickworks.

Regulations in the Environment Conservation Act on the licensing of dump sites are administered by the Department of Water Affairs, which wrote a strong letter to the council after the dump's presence was reported in *The Argus* in September.

But the department's contention that the council was obliged to register the site — and therefore also bound to rehabilitate it to the depart-

ment's satisfaction — has been challenged by the council.

This was confirmed by Dr John Lusher, deputy director for water quality in the Department of Water Affairs.

He said department officials had held discussions with city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton and his deputy about the dump and that both parties were taking legal advice.

"This is not quite as simply defined in the Environment Conservation Act as other matters. It's a grey area; not as black-and-white as you would think," Dr Lusher said.

"As matters stand, the city council and ourselves are seeking legal advice on an interpretation of the Act."

● Responding in early October to criticism of the dump, Mr Clayton said the "basic filling stage" was nearly complete. "As soon as sufficient cover material has been accumulated to enable final contouring to be carried out, deposition of material will cease."

Mouille Point pollution slated

56
CT 2/12/92

By PETER DENNEHY

A STARTLING report from the city engineer showed yesterday that pollution counts off Mouille Point beach — right beside the broken sewage outfall pipe — are regularly 100 times over the guideline level for bathing water quality.

Swimming has not been allowed there since the 1,7-km underwater pipe broke in July 1989.

The European Community (EC) guideline for bathing-quality water is that there should not be more than 100 faecal coliforms per 100ml water sample 80% of the time.

Clean bill

Deputy city engineer Mr Henk Beekman gave a strong assurance yesterday that no ill effects from the high level of pollution near the broken pipe ever reach any of the popular swimming beaches.

Yesterday's annual council report on the bacteriological quality of sea water in the year to September gave a clean bill of health to all beaches in the area between Graaff's Pool and the end of the city council's area of Atlantic-side jurisdiction at Bakoven. Popular Clifton and Camps Bay are both included among the beaches with water quality that is well within the EC guideline level. In June the Camps Bay tidal pool failed to meet the guideline, but in the latest report it does.

The cleanest beach of all, in terms of faecal coliforms, is a little-known beach called Horne Bay, near Bakoven.

However, Rocklands and Three Anchor Bay again failed to make the grade. There are signs warning the public against swimming at both places.

Mr Beekman said yesterday that there was convincing evidence indicating that problems at these little beaches were related to stormwater runoff, and not to the broken sewage pipe.

When stormwater at Rocklands had been diverted into a sewer recently, readings had shown a marked improvement, he said. Three Anchor Bay has three major stormwater outlets.

Passed this time

On the False Bay coastline, readings which consistently failed to meet the EC guideline level were recorded near the Mitchells Plain stormwater discharge, east of Mnandi, at Kalk Bay harbour beach (as in June) and at two points near the Cape Flats wastewater treatment works outlet.

The Mitchells Plain wastewater treatment works, which has failed to meet the standard in the past, did meet it this time. Its settling pools have recently been expanded.

More nuclear waste shipments expected

Cape route 'line of least political resistance'

Sb
ARG 1/12/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SHIPMENTS of high-level nuclear waste — generated during the production of plutonium and each containing 15 times more radiation than was released during the Chernobyl disaster — are scheduled to begin from Europe to Japan in 1994.

And because of the soft line by the South African government on the Japanese plutonium shipment now off the coast, these transfers will probably also use the Cape sea route — as this appears to be "the line of least political resistance".

This assessment was offered during a press conference yesterday by Greenpeace International nuclear waste spokesman Mr Damon Moglen, who is visiting South Africa to draw attention to the Japanese plutonium shipment.

Mr Moglen was also guest speaker at a public meeting in the Mowbray town hall last night, organised by the local Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments and attended by about 130 people.

At the meeting, speakers slammed both the Japanese and South African governments as "extremely arrogant", "irresponsible" and uncaring about the potential dangers of plutonium to the environment and human health.

Mr Moglen described the shipment of plutonium as "unprecedentedly dangerous" and said it was disturbing that Japan was proceeding in conditions of complete secrecy.

"Clearly this route was chosen relatively close to the last moment, based on the fact that the ship will take the course of least resistance."

Calling the reprocessing of used nuclear fuel as a "very dirty and dangerous business", Mr Moglen said the production of each unit of plutonium generated 160 times as much high-level nuclear waste.

This waste was also scheduled to be transported back to Japan from 1994 onwards.

"These will be the most radioactive shipments ever," Mr Moglen said.

There was little doubt that Japan had used economic and political leverage to persuade the South African government to retreat from its apparently tough stand initially that the shipment had to remain outside the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

Garbage for food to keep Cape in shape

27/11/92
Municipal Reporter

56

KHAYELITSHA residents in Site C will be able to exchange bags of rubbish for food vouchers in a new scheme to be launched by the the Fairest Cape Association.

The FCA will launch the grassroots clean-up campaign in the township early next month.

FCA chief executive Mr Roger Hulley said in his 1992 review that residents will be given refuse bags to collect rubbish.

They will swap the filled bags for food coupons.

"The system is based on one pioneered in the city of Curitiba in Brazil," he said.

In a similar campaign in Botshabelo, near Bloemfontein, residents have been paid R1 for a bag of rubbish.

Artist angry over dumping on scenic drive

56
ARG 26/10/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE dumping of surplus road material at and over the edge of Victoria Road — a proclaimed scenic drive — at Klein-Koeel Bay, Bakoven has enraged a Camps Bay resident.

The dumping — on an extension of a small parking area on the sea-side of Victoria Road — is probably illegal in terms of the Seashore Act as some of the material has been pushed into the inter-tidal zone, conservationists suggest.

Also, the site appears unstable and cracks have formed along the edge, prompting fears that hundreds of tons of material could slide into the sea.

The dumping, which appears to have been done officially by the city council's roads branch, was reported to The Argus by angry Camps Bay artist Mr Chrisman Stander.

He said he had initially reported the dumping of soil on the site to the council's cleansing branch.

"I recognised the soil from a building site in Bakoven and I phoned the council to ask whether they had given anyone permission to dump there.

"They said 'certainly not' and that they would look into it immediately, which they did. The builders admitted dumping there and were told to remove it."

Mr Stander said he returned to check the site the following morning and had found half-a-dozen council officials there.

"Then I saw that someone else had been dumping there, including building materials and chopped up tar.

"One of the officials said 'Mr Stander, you know what, this is the council, and in particular the roads branch'."

The roads branch had been working near Camps Bay Primary School at the time, Mr Stander said.

"Looking at these bricks this (dumping) is most probably from there."

● The city council has been asked to comment.

Council to act on Clifton dumping

Staff Reporter

THE city council is to take action against builders dumping sand into the sea at Clifton.

After a complaint from a resident yesterday, a Cape Times reporter went to investigate and saw a group of men at a building site filling bags of sand and emptying them into the sea.

An irate Victoria Road resident said that dumping of sand there had happened "quite a few times".

"Bags of black soil are being thrown into the sea." Approached yesterday, Mr Jock Schoeman, spokesman for the city planner's department, said he would "certainly take further action on the matter".

"We have been very perturbed about what has been going on down there," he said.

Mr Robert Ross, owner of a demolition company occupying a Moses Beach site, emphatically denied any dumping was taking place.

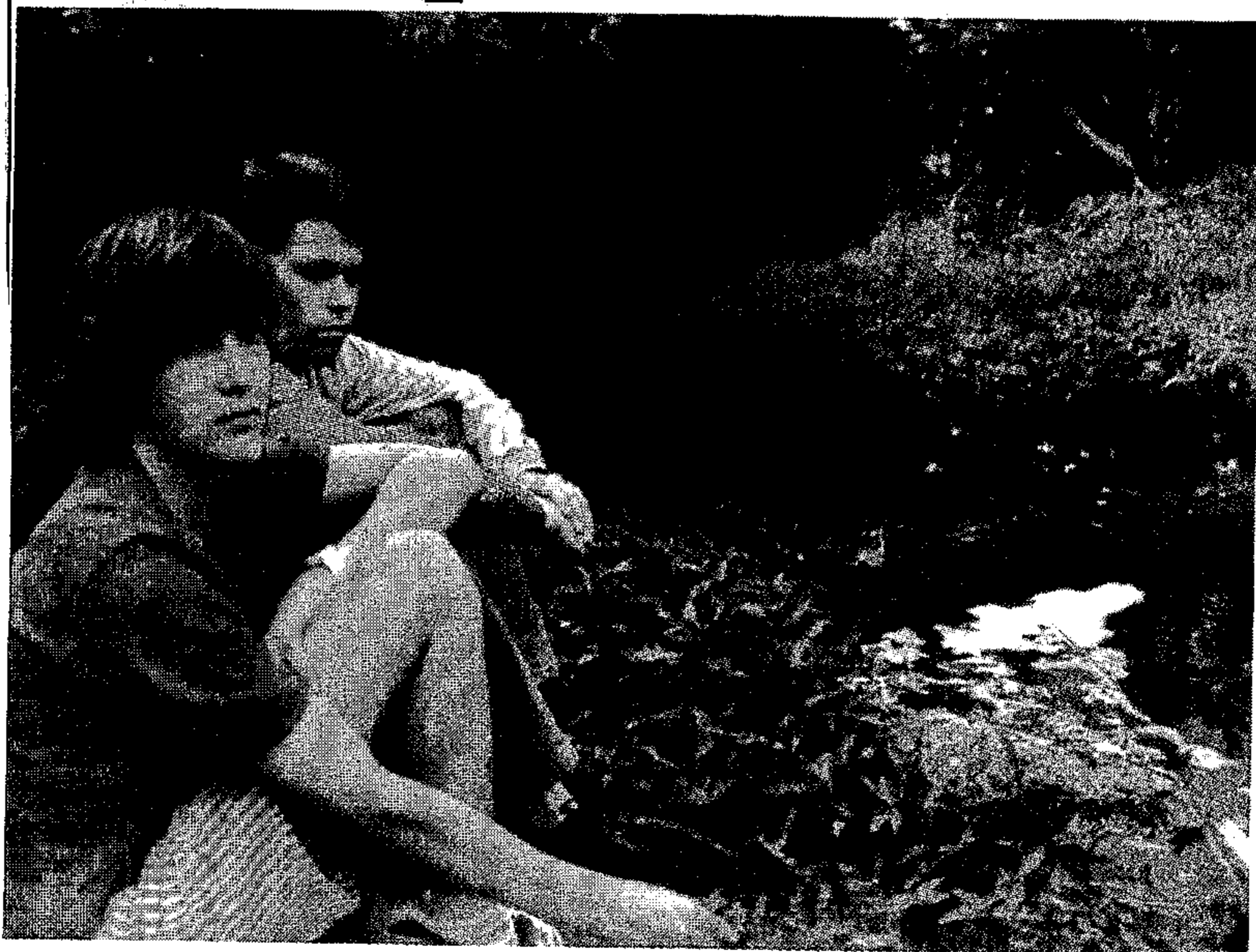
"My workers have strict instructions not to go anywhere near the sea. My company has been working on the site for several months, and we have not dumped anything into the sea up until now."



DUMPING SAND . . . Workers dump sand from an excavation site into the sea at Moses Beach, Clifton, yesterday. The city council has promised to take action to stop this.

Picture: HAROLD KING

Crisis squad swoops to defuse pollution scare



Kim Leih, 14, and Andrew Devereaux, 19, on the banks of the Umbilo Picture: HORACE POTTER

EMERGENCY action was taken yesterday to dam one of Natal's biggest rivers to prevent the spread of chemical pollution.

As a section of the Umbilo river flowing through Pinetown turned black, Water Affairs officials moved downstream and erected a temporary sand dam near a bridge.

The polluted water will be pumped from the river into a dam.

The pollution began when thousands of litres of water containing chemicals seeped into the Umbilo river after being used by firemen to put out a blaze at a Pinetown cosmetic factory yesterday morning. *S/Times*

Insured 4/10/92.

The blaze at Rapidol Limited, a British-owned cosmetic company, is estimated to have caused more than R1-million damage.

Mr Lin Grovelet Blondin of Water Affairs said the factory had supplied him with a list of chemicals, which appeared to present a "low hazard".

"But however low the hazard, the Umbilo river is flowing black and we may lose a lot of fish and other animals."

Divisional officer of the Pinetown fire department Siegfried Greef said the factory contained barrels of ammonia,

56 By **GEORGE MAHABEER**

peroxide and other chemicals.

"We are using sand to dam the river near a bridge and then pumping the polluted water into a dam that belongs to pharmaceutical company Smith and Nephew," said Mr Blondin.

Managing director of the factory, Mr Roderick Warren, said the company produced hair and skin cosmetics.

"Our head office is in London and the company is insured," he said.

"We have a staff of 86 at Pinetown and the fire has come at a bad time as we were preparing stocks for Christmas."

Yesterday, a Sunday Times team saw dead and dying frogs and crabs in the river.

A Sunday Times photographer suffered a mild asthma attack — apparently triggered by the chemical smell in the air.

Mr Brendon Wolff-Piggot of Earthlife Natal, an environment watch group, said he was happy officials had acted swiftly to prevent further pollution of the river.

"We would like the Department of Water Affairs to make all the information available because we want to know what damage has been caused to the river," he said.



GOING GREEN . . . Ska/rock band The Streaks launch UCT's innovative and comprehensive campus recycling scheme Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

UCT launches bold new plan to recycle waste on campus

By GLENDA NEVILL (56)

THE University of Cape Town went green this week after a comprehensive recycling scheme was launched on campus.

The UCT branch of Earthlife Africa held a survey earlier this year which showed recycling was taking place but in an "ad-hoc, haphazard, inefficient and unfeasible manner" says Earthlife Africa campus representative, Ms Tania Katzschner.

In response to the survey's findings, Earthlife Africa proposed that UCT start its

own recycling depot which would fulfil three functions — dealing in a responsible and environmentally friendly manner with the large quantities of waste being produced on campus; providing an accessible place for students to bring their own rubbish from home; encouraging more students to recycle and generating funds for the university.

The proposal was "enthusiastically received" by UCT administration, Ms Katzschner said.

5 Times (C) Metro 4/6/92

War on waste at UCT

Education Reporter

56 (56) ARG 1/10/92

THE University of Cape Town's pioneering recycling system is up and running.

In a festive atmosphere enjoyed by hundreds of students, the campus hosted a one-day "UCT Goes Green" exhibition complete with recycling demonstrations and "ozone friendly" rock music.

UCT is believed to be the first university formally to implement a comprehensive recycling system on its campus.

Materials that can be recycled such as paper, glass, metal and plastic will be separated

at source by campus staff. These materials will be placed in containers provided by various companies which will be buying them.

Long-term contracts have been signed with the major users of these materials and these companies will eventually supply bins for each office.

Apart from promoting recycling, the scheme should cut down campus litter.

Proceeds from the sale of the materials will be shared by the library fund, student needs and employees in various departments.

Dump material 'not toxic'

Environment Reporter

(56)

THE city council's dump on Signal Hill will not close immediately and operations will continue "until the site has been formed", says city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

Responding to strong criticism by the Wildlife Society yesterday, Mr Clayton said the council had been dumping material on the site since 1982, amounting to about 100 000 cubic metres.

But University of Cape Town ecologist Professor Eugene Moll

APR 23 1992
has also hit out at the council for dumping in a nature reserve and said the area should be handed to a body such as the National Parks Board "which wouldn't desecrate it".

Mr Clayton denied that any of the material being dumped was toxic, saying it consisted mainly of pieces of concrete, rock and soils ranging from sand to clay.

The site was the latest of a number which had been filled in and rehabilitated over many years, Mr Clayton said.

Council in Signal Hill dump row

Staff Reporter CT 23/9/92

56
THE Cape Town City Council yesterday defended its right to dump surplus bitumen and road waste on Signal Hill, within the Table Mountain Nature Reserve, saying it was done in a "controlled manner".

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said the council had been dumping surplus non-toxic bitumen, gravel and sand in a gorge above Military Road, Bo-Kaap, for 10 years.

It was done in a "controlled manner" and did not include plastics or domestic waste.

The director of the National Monuments' Council, Mr George Hofmeyr, said Cape Provincial Protected Natural Environment members had expressed their concern.

Mr Clayton said the council would stop using the dump if asked to by ecologists formulating the new blueprint for Signal Hill.

He said the site was a "donga in an eroded area". "We have arranged the waste in terraces to combat further erosion," he said. "Indigenous vegetation can be planted on the site, which was originally covered in alien growth."

Big problems for Rhodes's legacy

ARG 21/9/92

56

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Groote Schuur Estate, left by Cecil Rhodes to the people of South Africa, is deteriorating rapidly in many areas and immediate ecological restoration is imperative, consultants for the estate managers have been told.

Also, the estate's management structure and mode of operation are unclear.

These were among points made at a recent "progress report" meeting when initial findings by the consultants were presented to a wide range of environmental and political groups and individuals.

The five professional consultants — led by prominent planner Mr Barry Gasson — were appointed as a sub-committee of the Groote Schuur Landscape Advisory Committee, created by the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs to oversee developments on the estate.

The sub-committee was briefed to determine whether developments on the estate were in line with the requirements of Rhodes's will (as embodied in the Act of 1910) and to suggest guidelines for future development.

At the progress report meeting — attended by, among others, city councillors and council planners, Groote Schuur MP Ms Dene Smuts and representatives from UCT, the ANC, SA National Civics Association, Cape Nature Conservation and numerous conservation bodies — it was pointed



Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus.

LITTER "HERITAGE": Some of the garbage being dumped on Groote Schuur Estate, left to the people of South Africa by Cecil Rhodes.

out that environmental deterioration was happening rapidly "and on many fronts".

This included inappropriate use of parts of the estate — for dumping — invasive alien infestations and erosion on and off footpaths.

Also, the estate was part of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE), but plans for it were being formulated prior to the commissioning of an overall plan for the PNE.

The many roles fulfilled by the estate suggested that the existing Public Works management structures could be hard-pressed to coordinate, finance, implement and monitor various proposals made by the consultants.

"As the estate is a public amenity, it ought to be run by a management body which is representative of the broad community. Accountability to that community must be a central facet of its modus operandi," said the summary.

Professor Eugene Moll of UCT's Botany Department was concerned about the consultants' report, which is scheduled to be made public in November.

He said there were major floristic changes taken place on the estate and the issue of ecological restoration was not being addressed.

"They are doing an incredibly superficial job," he charged.

● See *The Green Scene* on page 8.

Toxic waste 'won't be offloaded'

A SPOKESMAN for the agents representing the Maria Laura, an Italian ship carrying toxic waste that is due to dock in Table Bay tomorrow, denied yesterday that the cargo would be offloaded in South Africa.

The Maria Laura is carrying 18 tons of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) from Fremantle, Australia, to Le Havre, France. 56 15/18/92 CT

Environmental activists plan to board the ship tomorrow and symbolically blockade the waterfront complex in protest against plutonium shipments.

Environmentalists speculated this week that the toxic waste cargo by the Maria Laura might be offloaded in South Africa and dumped in an unnamed Third World country.

A spokesman for the ship's agents strongly denied this.

The protest against future plutonium shipments is organised by the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments, spokesman Mr Steven Smith said yesterday. — Staff Reporter, Sapa

Sewage contaminates Johannesburg rivers

THE Rand Water Board has warned swimmers and watersports enthusiasts to keep away from the Klip River and the Rietspruit in Johannesburg.

A statement said board samples had disclosed microbiological contamination in the two rivers, making them unsuitable for recreational activities.

It is believed the contamination comes mainly from overflowing sewage works in the southern Johannesburg area.

The statement also said the Vaal River Barrage reservoir and the Loch Vaal had been found safe for watersports in accordance with national and international water quality criteria.

It added that both the Klip River

and the Rietspruit drained into the Vaal River Barrage.

The sampling programme, which was instituted by the board in 1990, provides information on all recreational sites at both the Vaal River Barrage and the Loch Vaal.

"Should conditions deteriorate in any way, the board will immediately notify river users of the causes and implications for water sports," the statement said.

A project to monitor air pollution has meanwhile found that air quality in the Edenvale, Kempton Park, Modderfontein area falls within international standards.

A report from the Airkem project, initiated in 1991, suggests that sum-

mer period levels of respirable dust and smoke, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides at the three monitoring points did not exceed 24-hour or monthly health standards.

The report said a source identification study had been launched to investigate the high incidences of respirable dust and smoke in the region during the winter period, which had exceeded health standards "a number of times".

Meanwhile, Sapa reports the Water Affairs Department warned the Jukskei River north of Johannesburg was polluted with sewage.

The department said a seal in the main sewage pipe to the sewage works near Lone Hill had burst.

The department expected to complete repairs at the weekend.

ADRIAN HADLAND

56

31 DAY 3/8/97

Private waste gets 'green' light

Staff Reporter

(56)

The Johannesburg City Council has finally given the go-ahead for independent waste collectors to pick up waste.

Peter Killick of Paper Pick-Up, a division of Mondi PaperWaste, said old newspapers, magazines and junk mail could be picked up on a door-to-door basis with immediate effect in more than 110 areas in Johannesburg.

Previously city regulations prevented companies from collecting waste in the heart of Johannesburg.

Killick said they hoped to collect at least 150 tons of paper a month from the city initially.

"The potential is there to collect more than 500 tons a month, which we hope to achieve in a very short time."

Killick says the environmental spin-offs are huge. Waste paper that would otherwise take up space in municipal dumps and landfills, shortening the landfills' life, is now a valuable renewable resource.

Newsprint with recycled content reduces the number of mature pine trees required to make the paper.

To make 100 tons of conventional newsprint requires 188 more trees than newsprint with a recycled content of 25 percent.

Mondi says South Africa recycles almost 600 000 tons of paper waste a year, equivalent to 31 percent of the country's overall paper consumption.

Anyone requiring more information on paper collection can call 08000-22112.

Tin can recycling scheme plea

Municipal Reporter

SCHOOLS and the Fairest Cape Association are to be asked to lend a hand to find funds for tin can recycling points.

A motion by Mr Ian Iversen, calling for a city engineer's investigation into the feasibility of setting up can recycling points, was accepted by the utilities and works committee.

Meanwhile, the city council says it has persuaded banks and totalisators to clean up their act.

The committee said pressure should be kept up on all institutions to help prevent littering by sweeping up automatic teller machine slips and tote cards. (56) ARG 2/3/93

Dump dispute goes to minister

CT 5/3/93 (Sb)

Municipal Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council has taken a dispute over the siting of the Bellville refuse dump to ministerial level in an effort to find a solution.

Bellville municipality does not want to move the dump as it says the only available place for it is the present site, adjoining the residential area of Belhar.

Belhar resident Mr Charles Basson said at a recent press conference that the RSC agreed the dump was badly sited, but felt it could do nothing as the dump was under the jurisdiction of the Bellville municipality.

Some homes were only 100 metres from the dump, he said. It gave off bad odours and its presence encouraged people to dump refuse illegally in its vicinity.

Sometimes there were fires on the dump and the ash blew on to washing hung out to dry, Mr Basson said.

Mr Chris Mocke, chief executive officer of the Western Cape RSC, said the Bellville municipality was responsible for the landfill site.

The RSC had in fact asked Bellville to remove the dump as it was a nuisance to adjacent residents.

Bellville responded that the dump site was the only one in Bellville available.

Bellville had tried to fence the site to stop people from taking refuse into the residential area, but all attempts had failed as some saw this as "depriving them of their income".

The RSC does remove illegally-dumped refuse on the Belhar side of the dump — in its capacity as an agent for the Minister of Local Government in the House of Representatives.

Mr Mocke said the RSC had taken the matter to ministerial level. It had also initiated investigations to identify a possible regional dumping site on RSC-owned land in the Stellenbosch/Paarl area.

Views differ over system for waste

BIDAM 16/3/93

MARIANNE MERTEN

(56)

THE ANC and the CSIR are at loggerheads over an integrated waste system for SA, says an Environment Affairs Department report.

The report "Hazardous Waste in SA: Summary of Responses" says the mining and waste industries also disagree on most principles and approaches.

The CSIR report into the handling, treatment and disposal of waste was published by the department in response to the 1992 President's Council recommendations on environmental management systems.

The two most contentious recommendations were the "polluter pays" principle, by which polluters were held responsible for clean-up costs whether pollution occurred through intent or negligence, and the "cradle to grave" principle which involved tracking waste from the generation site to final disposal.

The latter holds landowners and developers responsible in perpetuity for pollution of properties.

The ANC welcomed the "polluter pays" principle as the basis for future legislation. But mining and industry respondents pointed out the difficulty in determining guilt and negligence. The Chamber of Mines also disputed the "cradle to grave" principle's effectiveness and recommended that the Minerals Act provisions for closure certificates should be more rigorously applied.

Respondents said a single regulatory authority would be the best approach to integrated waste management, but did not agree on the balance between self-regulation and government intervention.

The ANC has favoured strong statutory regulations along the lines of the CSIR's recommendations. The Chamber of Mines, Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut and the Industrial Environmental Forum preferred a self-regulatory system driven by industry and underpinned by minimal legislation. Government should be restricted to a monitoring role, the forum said.

Municipality probed over sewage in river

Staff Reporter

THE Department of Water Affairs is to probe allegations that the Stellenbosch municipality has been responsible for contaminating the Eerste River with sewage effluent.

Samples of the water have been given to the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) for testing.

Farmers said the water near the town was pitch black and had a pungent odour. They feared an outbreak of disease as the river water pre-

sented a serious health hazard.

Farmer Mr Kallie Kirsten lodged a complaint with the Department of Water Affairs and said the municipality was one of the main culprits responsible for the water contamination.

Senior water contamination officer Mrs K J Carden said the municipality, subject to certain preconditions, is free to drain a certain quantity of effluent into the river throughout the year.

(56) (200) CT/6/3/93

Ohlsson's in push to clean up Liesbeeck

(56) CF 20/1/93

By CLARE STERN

OHLSSON'S Cape Breweries in Newlands has fitted its two main storm water outlets with protective sumps which will divert any accidental leakage of industrial effluent away from the Liesbeeck River and pump it instead into the sewerage system.

It is also raising its stormwater manhole covers in the bottling hall area to a level just above the floor "to prevent beer from broken bottles, or water containing washing up detergent, from seeping into the storm water pipes".

These moves were confirmed this week by Mr Dave Elston, consulting engineer to the Rondebosch firm, commissioned by Ohlsson's last October to investigate complaints of hot, foamy, discoloured water flowing from the brewery into the Liesbeeck.

"We did a survey in Ohlsson's bottling hall and found that when the floor was being washed water sometimes leaked through the storm water manhole covers. You know what soap does when it gets into water... it foams like crazy... hence the foamy, discoloured water in the river."

Ohlsson's draws its water for brewing from a Table Mountain spring, which is fed through an underground pipe system to a tank at the brewery. Fresh spring water overflows from this tank into the river, alongside the Josephine Mill.

Mr Elston said the flow of this unpolluted water would not be impeded in any way by the new system but an old and broken storm water pipe running from under the present brew house to the river has been disconnected to avoid the danger of any contaminated water in the soil flowing into the river.

This was the pipe into which a video camera with a fish-eye lens was inserted last year to pinpoint potential hazards.

Ohlsson's has also commissioned its engineers to label more than 500 manholes in roads linking the brewery with identifying stainless steel engraved plates.

"This is merely a housekeeping operation to facilitate efficient maintenance," Mr Elston said.



EYESORE . . . Cape Town's rising level of litter and dirt is likely to harm the tourist industry Picture: JACK LESTRADE

S/ Times CC (Metro)

Litter has tourist industry leaders spoiling for scrap

15/8/93

(5b)

By EVE VOSLOO and WILLIAM BARKER

THE rising level of litter in Cape Town is causing "increasing anger" and could damage the R1,6-billion tourism industry.

This was told to delegates at a "Cleaner Cape" conference this week. The conference was hosted by the Fairest Cape Association and attended by leaders in the packaging industry, experts in recycling and waste management engineers.

Mr Roger Hulley,

Democratic Party MP and chief executive officer of the Fairest Cape Association, said that if Cape Town wished to preserve its status as a tourist destination, it would have to adopt an aggressive strategy against litter.

As the Cape had 69 local authorities, each with its own policy, this did not make it any easier to find a solution, he said.

Mr Gordon Oliver, chief executive of Cap-tour, said questionnaires answered by tourists reflected disgust at the city's growing litter problem.

"Tourism is our life-blood. It is worth R1,6 billion a year to this area. We are talking economics, housing, jobs — a way of life."

Mr Ebrahim Rasool, ANC treasurer for the Western Cape, said

waste management should aim first to make the environment more habitable.

"This concern knows no boundaries of race, group area, ethnicity or language and is therefore a potentially unifying process," said Mr Rasool, who also heads the ANC's regional environmental desk.

"We protect, as we should, life on the N2 — but no one sends in health services to protect the inhabitants of the shacks along that road against cholera."

Delegates heard that up to 80 percent of household waste could be recycled or composted.

Disposal

However, several speakers warned that recycling was nowhere near being the final solution.

A comprehensive strategy was needed that included waste's being reduced even before it reached the disposal system, the re-use of containers and other waste, composting, recycling, and correct dump management.

It was agreed at the conference that the Fairest Cape Association would set up a task group in September to the problem.

'Holistic' solution to litter problem proposed

Environment Reporter

56 APR 84 13/8/93

THE best way to tackle Cape Town's mounting litter and waste problems is through a "holistic" approach which includes simultaneous action in tourist areas, the central business districts and the poorest townships.

This emerged from this week's Cleaner Cape Conference, organised by the Fairest Cape Association and the Western Cape Recycling Forum.

In response, a task group has been formed by the association to devise a programme for tackling waste management in the informal housing areas.

Several speakers at the conference, who included politicians, waste engineers and packaging industry representatives from South Africa, Australia, the United States and Europe, emphasised that recycling was only part of effective waste management.

Although up to 80 percent of household waste could be recycled or composted, a comprehen-

sive strategy was required that also involved significantly reducing the amount of potential waste, before it entered the disposal stream.

Also, correct management of landfill sites (dumps) was essential, speakers noted.

Individual communities needed to apply their own "mix" of waste disposal methods, depending on their status and area.

Barbara Jenman of the Recycling Forum appealed to local authority waste engineers to familiarise themselves with "creative" waste management concepts — particularly waste reduction and recycling methods.

City engineer unhappy about tin-can plan

Municipal Reporter

CITY engineer Arthur Clayton wants to squash a proposal by utilities chairman Ian Iversen that the council sets up tin-can recycling points.

He said the council did not have a formal responsibility for recycling and could be heavily criticised if the proposal went ahead at the expense of statutory duties.

The scheme could succeed only if subsidised. The cost of collecting tin cans made recycling uneconomical.

"If the council should wish to become involved in uneconomical activities it will be cheaper to make a cash donation to the beneficiary, rather than a non-profitable operation which runs counter to the basic recycling ethic, which is to save money."

Mr Clayton said aluminium can manufacturers intended establishing "a strong presence" in the South African market.

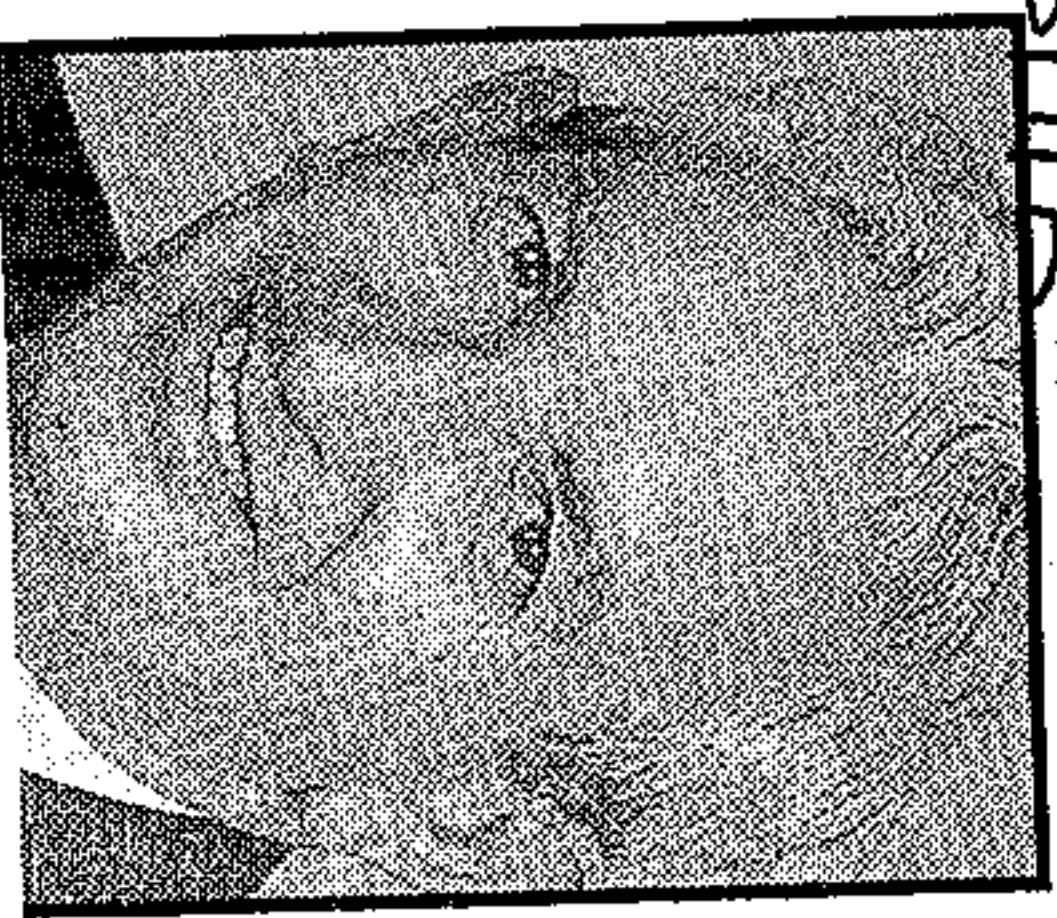
"My latest information is that they intend to pay R100 a ton for used aluminium cans. "No special equipment or ar-

rangements will be necessary to ensure aluminium cans disappear after being dropped in the environment if this promise is honoured."

Another practical problem was there was no way of controlling "the hygiene of such a situation". The council would be blamed for health risks.

● The council is to buy 13 kits to convert trucks into bin-lifting compactor vehicles.

The conversions, to cost R1 947 920, are part of the changeover from plastic bags to 240 l refuse bins.



Mr Arthur Clayton

City described as blot by Clean City Awards chairman

Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN has become a dirty city in comparison with Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban, a leading businessman has said.

Speaking at a meeting of the Clean City Awards committee, chairman John Malone said he noticed the city's slide into the mire on his return from a visit to the others.

Mr Malone is also chairman of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce community affairs committee.

Drastic action would have to be taken to stem pollution and dirt, he said.

But, there are those who do work hard to keep the Cape clean, and they are in line for the Clean City Awards. These will be made by the Mayor of Cape Town in the first week of December.

The award was first made in December 1990 by former mayor Gordon Oliver, after a campaign by The Argus, the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and the Fairest Cape Association, which aimed at getting people in the city's central business district to "clean up their acts."

This year, however, organisers have included the whole of the Cape Town municipal area in the campaign.

In November, all nominees will be appraised and six finalists would be chosen, a committee decided yesterday.

The finalists would be hosted by the Cape Town City Council at the Mayor's Parlour early in December, when the winner will be announced.

● Nominations may be made to the Fairest Cape Association or the Chamber of Commerce before the end of October.

56 Apr 30/10/93

TOXIC WASTE CRISIS

4-million-litre-a-month dump forced to close down

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Seventy percent of South Africa's hazardous and toxic waste — four million litres a month — could be left without a legal dumping ground after a Rand Supreme Court judgment yesterday effectively closed the country's biggest Class 1 landfill site, at Margolis in Germiston.

There is now no alternative site as public pressure forced the waste management company at Margolis to halt the construction of another Class 1 landfill in Kempton Park.

The impasse has left industry in the Transvaal, Free State and parts of Natal without a toxic waste dump.

Mr Justice Beasley found yesterday that the February 1992 decision by the Germiston City Council to cancel waste management company Waste-tech's Class 1 permit at Margolis was "lawful and valid. He dismissed the company's appli-

cation for a review of the city council's decision.

This means that for up to nine months there will be no easy access to a toxic dump for the many industries in the three provinces which have used Margolis. The only other Class 1 site, owned by rival WadeChem in Springs, can take 10 percent of the Margolis load.

Waste-tech spokesman Brian Gibson said the company was obviously disappointed at the outcome and would decide next week whether to apply for leave to appeal.

"The challenge is now for decision-makers in local government to take a stand. For better or for worse, the company has been left with sole responsibility of tackling an issue of national concern."

Germiston town clerk Tonie Heyneke said: "We acted only in the interests of the public. Margolis was a problem. The company has been bringing toxic waste in from all over the country to Germiston. Why should we be the toxic waste dump of the country?"

Dirty city surf now 'relatively clean' ⁽⁵⁾

CT 18/11/93

AN environmental watchdog group has given Cape Town's surf a relatively clean bill of health for the coming holiday season.

Bathing water in False Bay and Table Bay will generally meet South African and European Community safety standards this summer, according to the 1993 annual report of the Table Bay and False Bay water quality committees.

The only major hazard would be untimely rains that wash contaminated urban run-off into the surf of Cape Town's beaches.

The report warned, however, that all informal settlements in the catchment areas had to be adequately serviced for them to be eliminated as a source of contaminated stormwater.

Recent laboratory microbiological monitoring of water flushed from Khayelitsha into False Bay has shown a high count of microbiological organisms. — Sapa

Because of increasing environmental awareness among the public, the business of waste disposal has become a veritable minefield of environmental and legal considerations. Science Writer Anita Allen reports

Star 24/11/93

The high price of coming clean

Scoping is a relatively new concept in South Africa. It refers to the initial stages of investigation into a development project where all interested and affected parties are consulted. In the new South Africa, developers are paying dearly for ignoring this stage.

Richard Bay Minerals did it at St Lucia and evoked such an outcry that the Government had to step in and order a full-scale environmental impact assessment that is now in its fourth year.

Waste-tech did the same thing with its Chloorkop hazardous waste landfill in Kempton Park and has plunged itself into confrontation and controversy. The problem has been compounded by the fact that, unbeknown to Waste-tech, the Kempton Park Town Council granted consent for the Chloorkop site to be used as a Class I landfill, but neglected to rezone the area for this purpose and notified Waste-tech in writing that the site was "suitable for the intended purpose".

Contamination
Objectors discovered this contamination, which has been attributed to administrative error. What should have been a fairly straightforward rezoning hearing has been turned into a battle by Kempton Park and Tembisa residents, backed by the ANC at local, regional and national level, Earthlife Africa and the neighbouring municipalities of Midrand and Sandton, which are all objecting to the rezoning.

After three days, the hearing was adjourned to November 29. Amid the uncertainty, Waste-tech has halted development at Chloorkop after spending more than R5 million.

The beleaguered company has been fighting a rearguard action over another of its landfill sites, Margolis. Troubles at the site surfaced

In reports emanating from the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) about contamination of ground water in the area. This has been sensationalised in the popular press, to the point where Waste-tech's handling of hazardous waste, and the integrity of the man who manage the company, have been questioned.

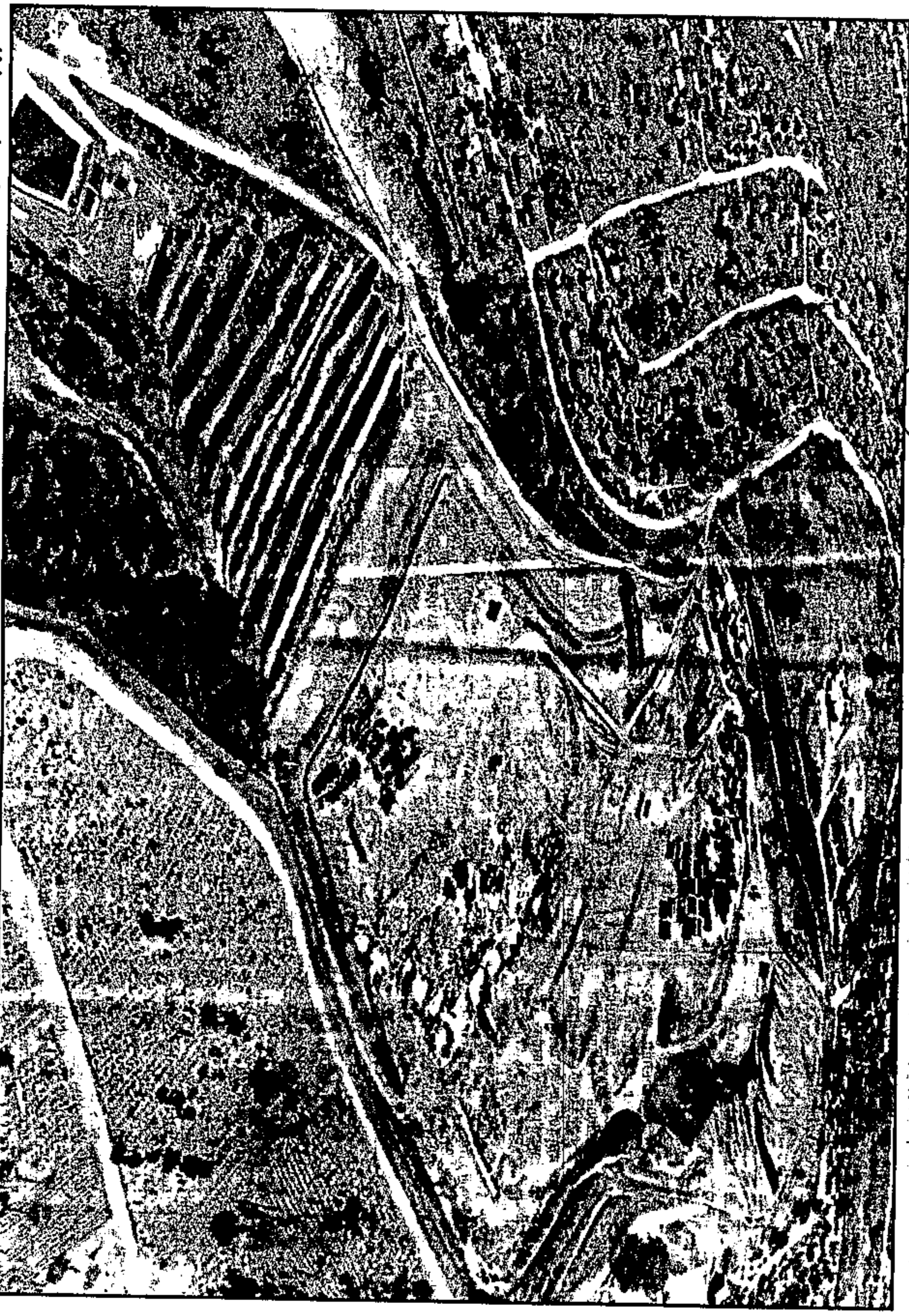
To put the matter in proper perspective, one needs to go back in technological and legislative history to when the first of the two waste sites at Margolis was opened. Rietfontein opened in 1971 and closed in 1978. It was constructed by Purple, a British firm, which was subsequently acquired by Darling Hodgson, the SA partner in the venture. Then there was a management buyout and a merger with TTI, a transport company.

The waste handling side was changed to Waste-Tech and this was acquired by Fraser Alexander. Legally, it one buys a company, you buy the liabilities, and that is exactly what Rietfontein has proved to be for Waste-tech.

The DWA has unequivocally stated that the combined complex is polluting surrounding boreholes. It has been established that the old Rietfontein site is leaching, and the same thing could occur at Margolis because the two sites are designed on the same, now outdated, technologies of the 1970s.

Samples of water from residential boreholes downstream of Margolis do not show the same pollution characteristics as the boreholes immediately surrounding the site. The implication is that while the Margolis complex is leaching, there are clearly other, as yet unknown, pollution sources.

There is no threat from this pollution provided people do not drink borehole water, which is in any event illegal in South Africa. Waste-tech engineers have taken on the difficult challenge of sealing Rietfontein and con-



Living on the edge... the Waste-tech site in Umhlatzi, licensed to accept some types of hazardous waste, has people living on its boundary.

would not constitute a health hazard, provided the site is properly managed.

At its Class II (A) site in Umhlatzi, which is licensed to accept some types of hazardous waste, people live on its boundary. Elsewhere, such as the Mangosuthu Buthelezi Technikon, buildings surround sports fields located on the top of old Waste-tech sites. Margolis could become a golf course, for example.

At Margolis, the company handles about 11 000 tons a month of hazardous waste from 875 customers — more than 80 per cent of the hazardous waste handled in the Transvaal.

Approximately 55 tons of medical waste, from 1 457 hospitals, clinics and surgeries in the PWV, are incinerated each month. Finding alternative disposal sites for these kinds of volumes is not viable.

Tempting

Waste-tech knows Margolis is approaching the end of its economic life. It was in anticipation of this that work at Chloorkop started six years ago. But since that site is now embroiled in legal dispute, the only course of action open to the company was to appeal against Mr Justice Beesley's judgment.

Waste-tech managing director Ken Bromfield comments: "Waste-tech will take this matter to the highest court in the land. We realise that this may make us unpopular with some of the local residents, but we really have no option.

"It is sometimes tempting to let campaigners against our Margolis and Chloorkop sites have their own way, and for us to withdraw from the hazardous waste treatment and disposal market. But Mother Nature would never forgive us.

"We offer an essential environmental protection service and will do so for as long as the law allows us."

taking the pollution.

The furor and the fact that Margolis is nearing the end of its economic lifetime contributed to the Germiston City Council's withdrawal of consent for Class I

activities at the site. Waste-tech's application for a review of the withdrawal was recently turned down by Mr Justice Beesley, who also granted an interdict against the continued use of

the site for Class I activities. Waste-tech has taken the matter on appeal.

Objectors to Chloorkop like to use Margolis as a whip with which to beat Waste-tech, but

comparing the two sites is like lining up a Rolls-Royce against a jalopy in a scrappy race.

Chloorkop is not Three Mile Island revisited, starting Jane Fonda. It is a meticulously en-

gineered site, constructed in accordance with internationally accepted standards, which recent South African legislation has adopted. Living next to such a site

Toxic dump inquiry hearings resume

56

#24 1/12/93

KEMPTON PARK. — A committee considering the rezoning of Waste-Tech's toxic dump site at Chloorkop, adjacent to Midrand and Kempton Park, has resumed sitting to hear evidence.

Waste-Tech's dump site development was halted last year when it was discovered the land was in fact zoned as agricultural land.

Environmental organisations are opposed to Waste-Tech's Chloorkop site because of its unsuitability as a toxic dump and its potential negative environmental impact.

Abby Dudney of the Toxic Dump Action Committee, one of the complainants at the hearing, says maps of the area and the evidence of long-time residents prove the existence

of a stream running through the site.

The stream could result in a run-off of toxic substances from the dump into ground water and the Jukskei River.

Mrs Dudney submitted a videotape to the committee showing water flowing off the site after a storm, and deep gullies left by previous downpours. The video was made a week ago.

Mrs Dudney also objected to the site because of a nearby squatter community at Mooifontein.

Waste-Tech, however, maintains the site is environmentally safe, and exceeds South African standards.

The committee is expected to be in session until the end of next week. — Sapa.



Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

HEAVE-HOI Commicare worker Thembelane Ntiyana sends one of 2 000 bags of waste, collected by residents of the Wallacedene informal settlement area in exchange for food parcels, into a skip for removal to a landfill site.

Food for clean thoughts

(56) ARG 10/12/93

□ Wallacedene squatters meet Fairest Cape's Association's challenge

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

HEALTHY people in a clean environment — that's the aim of the Fairest Cape Association's new "food for waste" project which shows every sign of being a runaway success.

This week, several hundred residents of the informal settlement Wallacedene near Kraaifontein turned up at a collection point each carrying, dragging or pushing in old supermarket trolleys five bags of waste collected in their areas.

In return, each was given a food parcel containing 500gm

of samp and beans, 62,5gm of tea and a kilogram each of sugar, rice and mealie meal.

Wallacedene was chosen as it was an area without a local authority to provide normal services, said Fairest Cape chief executive Roger Hulley.

A non-profit utility company had been contracted by the CPA to provide some of the township's services, but the only cleansing system was a number of skips, used by the residents on a voluntary basis.

"So this (food-for-waste) acts as an extra incentive to bring waste in."

The project had been given a trial run in Khayelitsha before

starting at Wallacedene where it would done weekly from now on, Mr Hulley said.

"This is our second time at this location and it's already running beyond the budgeted number of 400, so it looks as though we'll have to expand it."

The response from the community had been "almost overwhelming".

"What's good about it is that this is a cost-effective way of achieving waste collection, at the same time improving the environment, empowering people to take charge of their own areas and getting some rudi-

mentary nutrition," Mr Hulley said.

"And I suppose there's also some community spirit being built up — there's a good vibe here today."

Fairest Cape staff organise the project while the budget for the food parcels is provided by the Department of Health's food and nutrition programme.

"We get these parcels at a very special price of R10, whereas they probably cost about R15 in the shops," Mr Hulley said.

● For further information contact the Fairest Cape Association ☎ 46-22040.



FOOD FOR WASTE: Fairest Cape Association chief executive Roger Hulley hands Wallacedene resident Princess Skomo a food parcel in exchange for her five bags of rubbish.

WEEKEND Argus

ON SATURDAY

Holiday time what's on

TABLE Mountain? Or the beach? The Waterfront? Or the movies? Dunno what to do? The answer is simple — see WEEKEND magazine.

We know all about fun in the sun, and to prove it, we've got eight pages of what to see and where to go. For you.

All the property news

CHECK out CAPE PROPERTY — your full guide to the property scene in the Western Cape. Only in Weekend Argus on SATURDAY.

□□□□

WEEKEND SHOWCASE: a further property pointer, only in Weekend Argus Classified.

ON SUNDAY

• Top freezer

City is dirty

says ex-mayor

CAPE TOWN is dirty and embarrassed city fathers have promised to do something about it.

This emerged yesterday after former mayor and CapTour head Mr Gordon Oliver wrote to the city engineer, Mr Arthur Clayton, requesting that a group of senior city officials join him on a walk around the city to see the problem for themselves.

"Perhaps after a walking tour of the main streets of the city we may get some action."

Mr Oliver said anti-litter advertising programmes initiated by the City Council were non-existent or "not visible" and refuse containers were not available to hawkers and vendors.

"My walks around the city have led me to believe that the cleans-

ing supervisors in the city area spend most of their time somewhere else instead of where the problems are," he said.

On a walkabout with the Cape Times yesterday hawkers showed Mr Oliver stacks of cardboard boxes which they were unable to dump and heaps of rotten fruit and vegetables.

They said their needs would be properly served if containers were provided for them to dump their rubbish.

Mr Oliver said he was angry because he had been talking about cleaning the city for two years.

Chairman of the amenities and health committee Mr Chris Joubert said he agreed with Mr Oliver and was making it his objective to do something and would table a motion to that effect with-

in the first week of the new year.

"I feel ashamed of the city and of the parks and forest department. I am not blaming the parks and forests director, his hands are tied by financial constraints.

"It is our task to do something. We must get our act together," Mr Joubert said.

However Mr Clayton denied the city was dirty. It was in fact cleaner than two years ago.

"There are times when the wind blows strongly that it's impossible to control the dirt."

Mr Clayton denied the anti-litter campaign was a failure, saying it was getting considerable publicity in newspapers and on the radio.

Trouble spots identified by Mr Clayton were Adderley Street and Strand Street because of the taxi ranks.



CLEANING UP . . . Former mayor Mr Gordon Oliver and a local street vendor help to clean up the bus terminus area of Cape Town yesterday to highlight the city's serious litter problem.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

Joint winners for Clean City Award

□ Sappi, Paarden Eiland Association

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THE Clean City Award has been given jointly to the Paarden Eiland Association and Sappi.

The two were chosen from six finalists.

The award, a joint promotion by the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, Fairest Cape Association and The Argus, is given annually to the person or organisation which has made the best contribution to keeping the city clean.

Chamber president Roland Hudson-Bennett said the two were so close it had been decided to give a joint prize.

He said Sappi, with its War on Waste recycling programme, showed how big business could make a meaningful impact, while the Paarden Eiland Association's particular strength was its "volunteerism" in keeping its area clean.

Fairest Cape Association chief executive Roger Hulley read out citations at a ceremony

hosted by acting mayor Llewellyn van Wyk.

● The Paarden Eiland Association had over the past few years created a "culture of cleanliness" in an industrial area which otherwise would have been ugly.

"Its deep environmental concern has led it to be proactive in keeping neighbouring wetlands clean.

"The association is a wonderful example to other industrial areas of how a co-ordinated and sustained team effort can positively contribute to the overall cleanliness and beautification of our city."

● Sappi was a superb example of big business doing something positive for the environment.

"The War on Waste programme has to be one of the most ambitious, well-publicised, wide-ranging and successful of its kind.

"The impact on schools in particular is considerable with many pupils having become environment converts.

ES/ARLs 6/15/93
The effect has been positive

in large organisations, with a number of them now recycling their paper on a much increased scale."

● The Table Mountain Climb Company was praised for encouraging people to pick up litter on the mountain.

● Groote Schuur Hospital had reduced its waste output by separating litter at source.

"As much as possible recycled or imaginatively re-used for occupational therapy purposes."

● Royal Cape Yacht Club had cleaned up its act after two years ago coming under fire for the "disgusting" state of the water in the yacht basin — a problem for which it was not entirely responsible.

Recycling had been introduced and all waste was handled professionally.

● George Louw of Parkade Mall ensured pavements around the mall were cleaned regularly.



THEY KEEP IT CLEAN: Finalists for the Clean City Award were, back row from left, Jocelyn Kaeli and Pat Weaver of Groote Schuur, Peter Moon of Royal Cape Yacht Club, Gary Fisher of the Company, Carlos Casavolone of Sappi, Tanya van Biljon of the climb company, and George Front row: Peter Albert and Hester Black of Paarden Eiland Association, Dennis Skéate of Sappi and the Paarden Eiland Association — so Sappi and the Paarden Eiland Association

'Council has no plan on waste'

Municipal Reporter

THE war of words between Cap-
tour head Mr Gordon Oliver and
the city council over litter in
Cape Town continued yesterday
with Mr Oliver saying the city
did not have a waste manage-
ment policy plan.

Last week Mr Oliver invited
the media on a walk-about
through the city centre to point

out the dirty state the CBD was
in during the peak holiday sea-
son.

In an open letter released yes-
terday Mr Oliver said Cape
Town had lost its reputation as
the cleanest city in South
Africa.

The filthy condition of the city
was a major public issue which
detracted severely from efforts
to promote the city.

Mr Oliver said that the remov-
al of controls over street hawk-
ing in the past two years had
been a major negative influence
in the city, but "this situation
has been a reality, just as much
as the south-easter is a reality in
this city".

Neither factor should be used
as an excuse instead of the coun-
cil coming up with a manage-
ment plan.

(5) CF27/12/93
He suggested that the two-to-
three hour gap between the end
of the cleansers' day shift and
the beginning of the night shift
should be closed.

Utilities and works committee
chairman Mr Ian Iversen ac-
knowledged yesterday that there
was a litter problem but said the
council lacked the resources to
deal with it.

City harbour is wallowing about in cesspool of waste, says sailor

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

FILTHY Table Bay Harbour has generated some cutting correspondence between an irate international yachtsman and Royal Cape Yacht Club officials.

"Having just returned from Sydney and sailed extensively in the harbour and surrounding bays, I am struck by the great contrast between their pristine waters and the filthy, disgusting and disgraceful condition of the water in the Royal Cape Yacht Club Basin," sailor Steve Lee wrote to Royal Cape.

"Boat owners at Royal Cape pay hundreds of thousands of rands for their yachts and then spend several thousand a year trying to keep them in good condition.

"Meanwhile, their pride and joy is sitting in a cesspool. If it isn't heavy oil, it is light oil; if it isn't light oil, it is plastic; if it isn't plastic it is some other muck or garbage in the water.

"It appears to me and, I believe, other yachtsmen at RCYC, that the club does nothing to alleviate the problem and little to prevent it happening in the future."

Royal Cape Yacht Club general manager Nico Rees-Jones responded: "The cause of the pollution, be it oil or rubbish, is not necessarily generated in the RCYC by the RCYC.

"Because of this, the management of the club is in constant contact with the port authorities, health authorities, I&J, Globe Engineering, Cape Town City Council, Dorbyl, Pentow, CTT, Unicorn and many others who use the port and produce waste.

"With the number of people involved, it is difficult to effect a complete transformation, but by closer contact we are achieving results through a process of education and communication."

Mr Rees-Jones said a team of staff employed by the club was responsible for cleaning the Small Craft and Elliot basins under the supervision of a bosun.

(56) ARG 31/12/93
"Until such time as the handling of rubbish throughout the port, the dumping of infill in the Ben Schoeman Dock and the high levels of oil spills throughout the port are seriously tackled by the port authority and other harbour users, we will not cope with the pollution," Captain Moon said.

Responding to the problems of oil-spills, new Port Captain John Woodend said there were six bunker oils spills in the first three weeks of December but the bunker company was repairing its lines and "hopefully bunker spills will be a thing of the past within 12 months".

Captain Woodend has promised to put all his experience gained in cleaning up the Saldanha Bay tanker port to good use.

Yesterday, Captain Moon said Captain Woodend's statement was "too accepting".

He said he planned to organise a round-table conference early in the new year to which he would invite Portnet, oil companies, the city council, Captour, the Fairest Cape, shipping companies and agents, Taiwanese fishing companies and government representatives and the departments of transport and the environment.

"The present system does not work. We must be pro-active," he said.

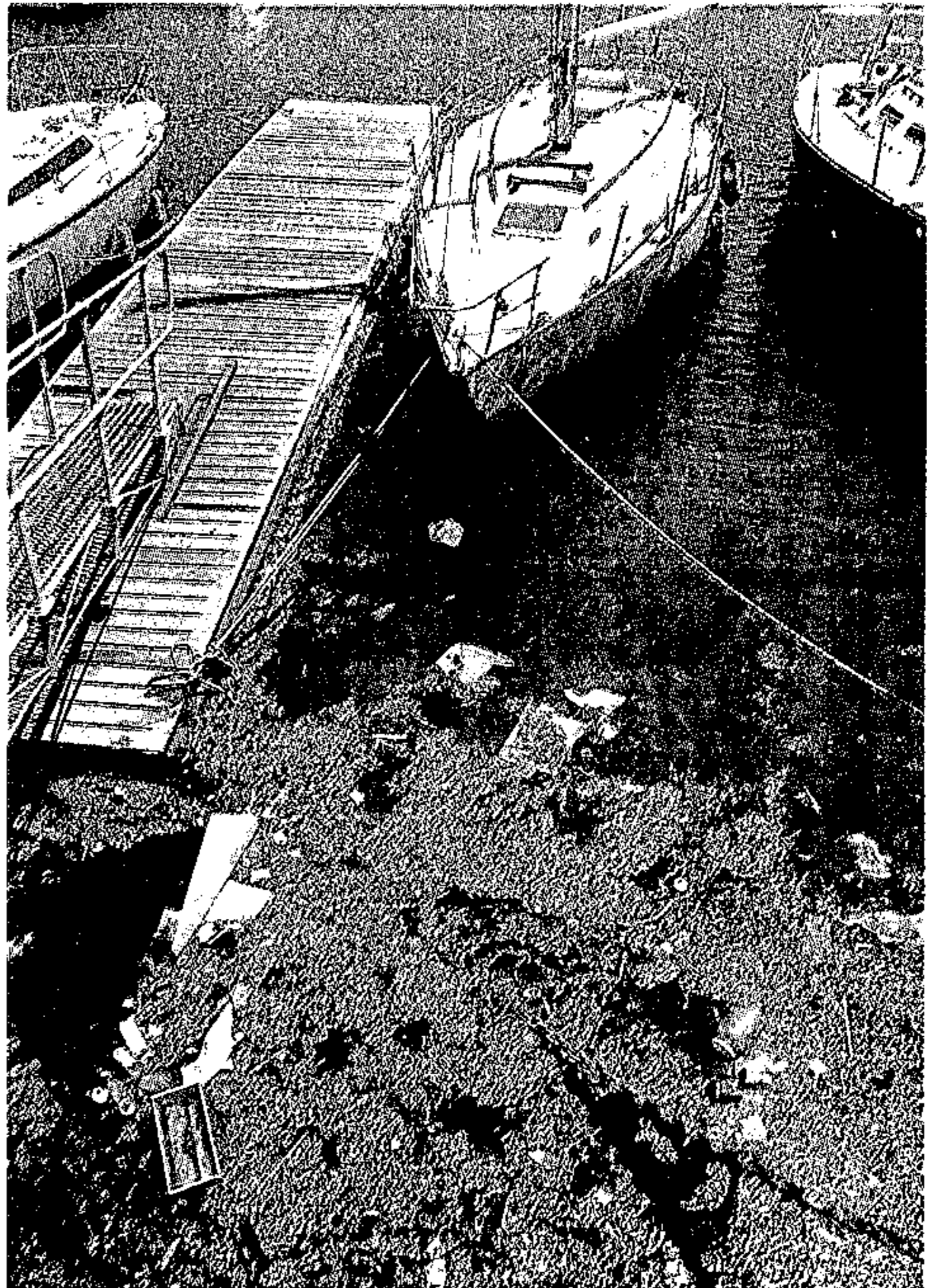
Captour boss Gordon Oliver has been joined by a spokesman for the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee in appealing for the adoption of a co-ordinated cleanliness ethic.

The team removes day-to-day refuse, controls oil spills and carries out a daily inspection of moorings and public areas.

"It may not always seem apparent, but I assure you action is being taken both long-term and daily to try to cope with a problem not necessarily of our own making — a problem that is taken extremely seriously from commodore to cleaner," Mr Rees-Jones concluded.

In a newsletter to members, Captain Peter Moon of Royal Cape's general committee said the club had improved handling, collecting and disposal of self-generated waste.

But he admitted "both our mooring basins end up as cesspools".



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

MURKY WATERS: Not even the consistently strong southeasterly winds of the past week were able to blow the filth out of Cape Town harbour. Royal Cape Yacht Club warns that unless steps are taken by Portnet and the city council, the Tavern of the Seas could lose out on hosting future international yachting events.

Squatters threatened by health crisis

By MOSES MAMAILA

THE impoverished Klipptown squatter community is fighting a war against water-related diseases.

Dozens of residents in the informal settlement just outside Soweto, draw their water for house use from the nearby river not knowing it is infested with filth from an open sewerage system.

When City Press visited the area this week, children were playing in the small trenches in which sewage water runs.

The area, which poses a serious health hazard, smelled strongly of human excrement and other rotten substances.

Community leader Mothela Masithi, also an organiser for Sizanani Homeless Organisation, said although the authorities were doing nothing to improve living conditions in the area, residents were prepared to improve conditions on their own.

This month residents, under the auspices of Sizanani, will launch a cleaning campaign geared at making the squatter camp a healthier place.



DANGER PLAY ... Carefree Klipptown children play in a river loaded with sewage and debris. Squatter camp residents plan to clean up the area before disease spreads. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINENKA

"We want to motivate our people to develop a sense of responsibility by giving them food parcels donated by sympathetic businessmen.

"We will ask the local town council to help us with trucks, though we will do the actual cleaning as the authorities are

either unwilling or unable to clean this area," said Masithi.

He said major problems in the area were the lack of toilets, water and electricity.

He said the "Easy Loos" in the area were not serviced and most of them were full. The remaining few were locked

by individuals who claimed to have bought them.

Masithi said that as a result, most people used the veld near the river as a toilet, adding that they did not seem to realise that the filth was deposited in the river after heavy rains.

"Some residents use river water for washing and for cooking and this is a health risk," said Masithi.

Those interested in assisting can contact Sizanani on (011) 988-1278. Masithi added that any assistance to fight the degradation of the area would be appreciated.

ENVIRONMENT For ten years an aware group has called for people to care for their environment

Let's do things ourselves

IN OUR continuing, debate on the cleanliness — or lack of it — in black areas, Carlos Mokojoa of Neighbourhoods Environment Awareness in Kagiso blames black communities for the lack of action. He says black people should have pride in themselves and stop hoping that other people will do things for them.

THE Neighbourhoods Environment Awareness Taskforce, whose motto is Let's Keep Our Neighbourhoods Neat, criticises the black community for its comfortably

Every time there is a clean-up campaign, only a few people turn up and the rest pass by?

Swakhe 24/93.
inept ideas (armchair criticism and passing the buck to some white council officials.)

During the ten years Neat has been in existence, we have concluded that the black community hates itself and is lazy too. Every time there is a clean-up campaign, only a few people turn up and the rest pass by with remarks like: 'That's maspala job'. When asked to donate for volunteer refreshments, they say the

Sto
council must pay up.

When we ask people to plant grass to avoid soil erosion and the dust that dirties their own houses and cars, they refuse. Are we going to blame the Government for our dumping acts in front of other people's houses, churches, schools and shopping centres? Where is our self-respect?

Neat started the campaign by sweeping the streets of broken bottles, nails, stones, litter and soil as an exercise to



Musa Zondi's

ROOTS

educate our people that we can do some of these things ourselves. We need by-laws that deal with proper pet control. Dead dogs and cats can be found everywhere and the stench is unbearable. There is still a problem of people not understanding the importance of trees.

Trees properly planted improve the value of houses and, however minimal, this is also a tiny part of black empowerment. At Neat we hope black communities will start annual garden contests and also celebrate the annual environment highlights. This is our dream.

Star 5/4/93

Nuclear spill 'no threat to public'

A spill of about 29 kg of radioactive uranium at the Pelindaba nuclear enrichment plant outside Pretoria posed "no threat whatsoever" to the public, say nuclear experts. (S)

Atomic Energy Corporation spokesman Nick Ligthelm said the spill was mainly confined to the inside of the building, but a small quantity of the gas was released into the atmosphere.

Ligthelm's opinion was echoed by Professor Harold Anegarn of the Schonland Research Centre at the University of the Witwatersrand. (S)

Cape Town is facing 'environmental chaos' threat, says mayor

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CAPE Town must not be allowed to degenerate into the environmental chaos evident in Rio de Janeiro, Mayor Frank van der Velde has warned.

Speaking at the recent launch of Ms Arlene Cameron's Earthyear magazine as a quarterly publication, Mr Van der Velde said Cape Town and Rio shared a "terrific contrast" between wealth and poverty.

On his recent trip to the Brazilian city as a competitor in the Cape-to-Rio yacht race, he had been struck by the amount of pollution there.

"That city has run away with itself environmentally," Mr Van der Velde said.

"It's exceptionally easy to lose control of the environment as economic pressures take over ... It's very easy to take the aesthetic and put it aside, particularly when you have all the problems here in this city (Cape Town) today."

Cape Town's environment had to be managed holistically, Mr Van der Velde continued.

"The environment is not only something pleasing to the eye — it's part of the upliftment of the community ...

"Somehow we've got to impress on our citizens that the environment is worth keeping because if you let it go, it will be very difficult to recover."

Nature Conservation in Cape may be privatised

Environment Reporter
CAPE Nature Conservation could be transformed into a private company with the provincial administration as sole shareholder, said Cape MEC in charge of nature conservation Mr Frikkie van Deventer.

Speaking in parliament, Mr Van Deventer said the state's funding priorities had changed in recent years in favour of social and related services.

If nature conservation became a company, it could compete for funds.

Mr Van Deventer appealed for public reaction to the proposal and said all submissions would be studied.

56

ARG 7/4/93

56 ARG 7/4/93

Private sector urged 'to come clean'

KEEP SA Beautiful Association chairman Llew von Essen has urged the corporate sector to become involved in anti-litter activities.

CSIR statistics had shown that the average urban South African generated up to 2kg of waste every day. This meant local authorities had to collect about 65 000 tons of rubbish daily and about 24-million tons each year, the association said today.

Companies could "reduce dramatically" their environmental

impact if environmental factors became central to corporate decision-making, Von Essen said.

Environmental audits into a company's environmental impact would also save money "considering the mounting costs of not doing them", he said.

The Keep SA Beautiful Association has established three campaigns — Tidy Town, Waste-Wise and Zibi — to raise public awareness on litter pollution.

MARIANNE MERTEN

(56)

B1027 19/4/93

W Cape 'needs waste strategy'

Municipal Reporter

AN OVERALL waste management strategy should be commissioned by the Regional Services Council for the whole of the Western Cape, UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit has advised.

But in the meanwhile, the RSC's existing site near Klapmuts should serve the council's own immediate needs in the Paarl and Stellenbosch areas. 56 CT 28/4/83

The unit had been asked to select a landfill site in the Paarl area but an early report by the unit had drawn a lot of criticism.

So instead of choosing a site in Paarl, the unit has recommended that the Klapmuts site be used while a broader study is done.

South environment

Squatting in slime at Marconi Beam

South 29/5 - 2/6/93

Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milnerton is a shocking example of how environmental deterioration can affect the health and living conditions of residents. Sabata Ngcai reports.

STAGNANT flood water at the Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton is making life a daily hell for residents there.

The stinking water poses a health threat for the residents, especially the children, but their demands that the municipality drain the camp have fallen on deaf ears.

Children play in the slimy, green water in front of their homes. Wooden fences and gates erected by the residents to keep them safe are not effective.

Parents are concerned that the children will drink the water and get ill.

Residents believe the municipality is ignoring the poor conditions at Marconi Beam to force them to move to the Du Noon settlement, about 4km away.

But they insist that they are not prepared to leave Marconi Beam because it is near to their places of employment.

While the municipality dragged its feet a one-year-old child nearly drowned at the Easter weekend when heavy rain hit the area.

Mrs Maureen Morris's shack is so wet inside that she has to sit on her bed with her feet off the floor whenever she is inside.

She has to leap from her doorstep onto her bed every time she goes inside to keep her feet dry.

"It's terrible, but I don't know what to do," Morris said. "The municipality is not doing anything to help us."

Residents fear that the floods and resistance to the move to Du Noon could result in conflict among themselves.

"When people drain water out of their shacks it usually runs into other people's homes and that's where the trouble starts," explained Mr Bonga Bukwana.

South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) spokesperson, Mrs Elda Mahlentle, said she had told the municipality about the drainage problem in June 1991.

"They promised to bring pipes to drain the water but they never returned," she said.

"Although we are living in a pigsty, we are not prepared to



Photos: Yunus Mohamed

NO WAY OUT: Resident Elda Mahlentle is trying to find her way out of the water

move."

The situation at Marconi Beam is made worse by the garbage which is scattered around the shacks.

The municipality is adamant that it cannot do anything to help the residents.

"There is nothing we can do because we pointed out to them where they should erect shacks," said Milnerton town clerk, Mr Pieter Gerber.

He said the municipality is still negotiating with Sanco to move the residents to the Du Noon site.

Gerber insisted that the municipality could not provide services in Marconi Beam but could only do so when the people had moved to Du Noon.



PLAYGROUND: Simbongile Sijobo plays in stinking water

NO waste dump in our

IT SMACKED of the heated rhetoric of the past few weeks. With hundreds of eyes intently focused on him, the ANC official warned: "We are prepared to mobilise thousands of our people. We will fight!"

And before his last syllable had died away, there was a wave of thunderous applause — only this time from an audience of hundreds of whites!

They weren't from trendy Left Yeoville, modestly Marxist Melville or even diffidently Democratic Dunkeld. They were from middle-class Birch Acres in Kempton Park, within mass marching distance of sprawling, often neglected, Tembisa.

Message

ANC official Bengeza Mthombeni blinked in surprise at the enthusiasm. And he couldn't suppress a grin when a voice boomed out from somewhere in the middle of the hall: "Can we come and toyi-toyi with you?"

The township dwellers and suburbanites sit on different sides of the political and social divide, but they do have one thing in common: they share the same backyard. The message that went out clearly on Tuesday night at a protest meeting at the Birch Acres Primary School was: "Not in our backyard!"

That backyard is a wide-open space at Chloorkop, which is about to be turned into a hazardous waste dump (a development they were not aware of until a few months ago, and about which the first "consultative meetings" took place only five weeks ago).

Threat unites most

unlikely bedfellows

STAFF REPORTER

What the good burghers of Kempton Park may have previously lacked in environmental awareness, they certainly made up for in enthusiasm, clustering around Mthombeni after the meeting, shaking his hand and planning to get down to the nitty-gritty. There was heady talk in the air of "mass action" — marches on the Kempton Park Civic Centre, picketing of the dump site operator Waste-Tech, even consumer boycotts...

But the newly formed "rain-bow coalition" may not have much time. Acting Kempton Park town clerk Jan Malan, who attended the meeting, spoke ominously about "certain rights" already having been granted to Waste-Tech to operate the dump. He was plainly uncomfortable as he tried to explain how difficult it would be to undo what has already been done in terms of granting permission.

Also at the meeting was Waste-Tech managing director Ken Bromfield, who received a roasting from an angry heckler virtually every time he tried to speak. Throughout it all he remained pleasant but firm: Waste-Tech had the right to go ahead and the site would be operational "about the middle of the year."

"That's June — only a month away!" shouted a woman before

her protests were swamped by other shouts of derision at the discomfited Bromfield.

Department of Water Affairs deputy director Leon Bredenhahn, whose department carried out environmental impact assessment studies on the dump site over a four-year period from 1985 and later granted an operator's permit to Waste-Tech, took his fair share of slings and barbs from the angry homeowners.

He tried to reassure those present that their fears about pollution were unfounded (greeted with hoots and jeers) but told people that if they felt aggrieved they could approach the Minister with an official objection.

Bromfield battled through continuous verbal flak as he tried to give the Kempton Parkers the big picture. Waste, he said, was an unavoidable by-product of our society and our lifestyle. It has to go somewhere. If left where it lay, an environmental disaster would be the result. Better to manage it in a controlled way.

Environmental activist Peter Lukey, of Earthlife Africa, didn't have to try hard to win his audience over when he sketched for them his version of the big picture. In Britain, laws were much stricter than here, yet one of Britain's biggest waste-management companies had been accused of a host of crimes.

Midrand management committee member Alan Dawson was

one of the star turns. His council, he said, was never consulted about the project, even though it was close to the Midrand border. Midrand would oppose it because it was "environmental madness" because Waste-Tech had a bad record with a similar site at Clayville, and because the Chloorkop site contravened basic community health rules which said such sites should not be closer than 800 m to existing or planned housing. Chloorkop would be only 400 m away.

"We will fight in court if necessary and we will use our money — our ratepayers' money — to fight this!" vowed Dawson in a stirring conclusion which brought the hall to its feet in a standing ovation.

The combined soothing words and assurances of Malan, Bromfield and Bredenhahn did nothing to calm the troubled waters.

Demands

In a resolution passed to unanimous cheering and clapping at the end of the meeting, the people demanded that construction on the site cease immediately, that permission for the site to be used as a dump be withdrawn by the Kempton Park council and that Waste-Tech be barred from operating any waste-management facility in an urban area.

It won't be an easy fight, but the combined communities of Tembisa and Kempton Park — with a little help from their friends in Midrand — will be formidable foes when their mass action gets rolling.

Perhaps there's a lesson somewhere in there for the rest of the country...

backyard
Star 8/5/93

Bid to halt toxic waste dump in Midrand

A MEETING between the Midrand Town Council, the Kempton Park Ratepayers' Association, Earthlife Africa and the ANC Tembisa branch will be held today to discuss strategies on how to stop Wastetech developing a toxic dump at Chloorkop.

Midrand managing committee member Alan Dawson said yesterday legal steps would not be taken on the basis of environmental concerns because the laws were inadequate. Instead, lawyers had started a deed search and had submitted a second request to see the Water Affairs Department permit which allowed the site's development after the department had not responded to last week's application.

56
MARIANNE MERTEN 56

Legal proceedings would centre on the National Health guidelines which specified that no planned or established residential area could fall within 800m of a toxic dump, he said.

Dawson said Wastetech's environmental impact assessment study had failed to mention the planned Mooifontein residential area which would be only 400m away from the Chloorkop dump. There were also two industrial sites within the 800m limit. The planned residential area was reason enough for the Water Affairs department to withdraw the permit, he said.

11/5/93
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11/5/93



MOUNTAINS OF WASTE: Mondi Paper Waste Transvaal manager Hennie van den Berg

Waste not want not, pick it up and use it

S Times (Buss) 16/5/93.

By DON ROBERTSON

THE collection of wastepaper is not only about protecting the environment, it has become a multimillion-rand business for manufacturers.

South Africa's two main paper producers, Mondi and Sappi, recover about 600 000 tons of wastepaper each year. They convert it into corrugated boxes, newsprint, cartons, egg boxes, speciality paper, newsprint and tissue paper.

SA is becoming one of the largest users of wastepaper in the world in terms of capacity. It uses about 30% recycled paper in total production.

Annual world use of wastepaper is 80-million tons and the average recovery rate is 30%. Some countries, such as the Netherlands and Japan achieve 50% recovery. The figure for Europe is 35% and for Australia 25%.

It is estimated that the use of recycled paper will increase to 120-million tons by the turn of the century to meet expected legislation in some countries. New laws will require that at least 50% of paper and board production come from waste.

John Lay, general manager of Mondi Paper Waste, says that depending on quality, companies will pay between R150 and R220 a ton for waste. It is separated into 15 different categories, depending on its eventual use.

Mondi has opened a R120-million plant at its Merebank factory in Durban. It uses recycled paper only. Sappi has a similar plant in the Western Cape.

Both companies have introduced "post-consumer collection" schemes by which they collect paper from households. Mondi operates about 30 trucks for the scheme.

The Mondi scheme, which operates nationally and was launched in Johannesburg last month, has had a 12% response from householders.

Sappi's "war on waste" concept has resulted in a 300% to 400% increase in collections in the past 18 months.

Refuse

Steve Harley, marketing manager of Sappi Waste Paper, says the scheme has saved Western Cape municipalities alone about R13-million a year in refuse removal.

Mondi and Sappi also collect from "paperbanks" on street corners and other locations and from schools and welfare organisations. They offer shredding services for documents and buy from hawkers who collect paper for a livelihood.

Black and white fight rubbish issue together

By Anna Cox

Black and white residents have joined hands in the fight over an illegal rubbish dump situated between Tembisa and Kempton Park.

The dump is on Tembisa land and is used to dump daily refuse from the township. It has been operating illegally for over a year.

Birchleigh North and Tembisa residents claim their properties are infested with flies all year round.

They fear that rubbish from the dump will be washed into the river which flows through the two neighbourhoods.

The Kempton Park Town Council says because the dump is not within its municipal border, it can do nothing.

The Department of Water Affairs recently conducted a

ground water study and found there could be ground and water pollution and has ordered Tembisa to stop dumping on the site.

The ANC has stepped into the fray on behalf of township residents.

"Residents have never been consulted about the dumping of rubbish on the site, which is right on the doorstep of many residents. Children play and scavenge on the dumps. It is dangerous because no one knows what is being dumped," said Tembisa ANC deputy chairman Timothy Mabena.

Kempton Park Ratepayers' Committee spokesman Ian Oldfield said: "The dump has to be closed. There is no policing and we have seen semi-hazardous materials dumped. If these get into the water system many people will become ill."

Sanco offers a housing policy

Blom 18/5/93.
PRESENT housing policy should be jettisoned as it is orientated towards housing "within a racially defined framework", says the SA National Civic Organisation.

Sanco has produced a blueprint for an alternative housing policy, which it says will alleviate the country's housing crisis.

In its proposals, which were endorsed unanimously by its national executive committee at a workshop in Johannesburg at the weekend, the organisation says government's role in the housing delivery process has to be redefined to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency.

It says a workable housing policy should be underpinned by a housing delivery process, which is responsive to community needs.

Such a process involves — among other things — appropriate land allocation, streamlined legal and administrative procedures, affordable housing construction, accessible mortgage finance and the equitable granting of government subsidies.

The organisation says land for residential development should be located close to transport infrastructure and employment opportunities. "Land speculation should be discouraged in order to ensure the cost of land is kept low."

WILSON ZWANE

Sanco says access to land should be facilitated through a variety of mechanisms, including the breaking up of "land monopolies" through expropriation and punitive taxation.

The organisation says housing construction should be undertaken by labour-intensive methods and should focus primarily on low-income rental accommodation.

The organisation also proposes establishment of community-controlled financing institutions. These institutions, says the organisation, will ensure that mortgage-lenders are responsive to community needs.

Sanco says it will present its blueprint to the National Housing Forum for discussion. The organisation will also seek meetings with government to discuss its proposals with a view to having them incorporated into future housing policy.

In another development, Sanco has drafted a preamble to its proposed legislation, which will seek to subject banks to a greater public scrutiny.

In this preamble, the organisation says efforts should be made to restore banks' credibility, which has been eroded by their reluctance to give credit to the "disadvantaged" communities.

Caxton-Argus case resumes

SUSAN RUSSELL

AN APPLICATION by CTP Ltd (Caxton) for an order restraining Argus Holdings from publishing a series of publications resumed for argument in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Caxton alleges the publications breach restraint agreements concluded between the two companies.

Blom 18/5/93
It is seeking an order interdicting Argus from publishing free "knock and drop" or local newspapers in SA and Namibia.

The company also wants Argus interdicted from publishing a series of Focus publications aimed at particular areas of the Witwatersrand and distributed as inserts in The Star.

Caxton alleges that the Focus publications are an attempt by Argus to poach a share of its own free and local newspaper market, in breach of two restraint agreements concluded in 1980 and 1985.

Argus denies that the disputed publications are newspapers.

The company contends that they are supplements and are not free because they have to be purchased with The Star.

Argus also contends it would never have renounced the right to publish these supplements under the restraint agreements.

Argument continues before Judge E Goldstein today.

Drive to combat pollution

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — A major effort has been launched by the Environmental Affairs Department to integrate business, industry, local authorities and other organisations in a national campaign to fight pollution.

Business and industry were yesterday asked to give the highest priority to taking part in the rationalisation of laws governing environmental control.

Department director-general Colin Cameron said one of the country's most pressing issues was existing and threatened pollution.

Whatever was ultimately decided would have to be acceptable and implementable.

A department spokesman said there were currently 47 pieces of legislation dealing with environmental control and protection. These would have to be rationalised.

The aim was "integrated environmental

management".

Discussions were taking place with political parties and trade unions.

All were invited to take part in the consultative process. Local authorities had a vital role to play.

A forum representative of the private sector would be held in Pretoria on June 2.

This would mark the end of the first phase of the project being undertaken for the department by the company L&W Environmental.

The goal of the forum would be to develop a national holistic integrated anti-pollution policy.

Parties involved in or affected by any control legislation would be identified and all matters related to air, waste and soil pollution would be thoroughly investigated and explained.

Kempton Park thinks again on toxic dump

MARIANNE MERTEN

KEMPTON Park Town Council is to reconsider its position on the establishment of the Chloorkop toxic dump, after recent public protests by the Kempton Park Ratepayers' Association, the ANC Tembisa branch and Earthlife Africa.

Kempton Park town clerk Hans Müller said yesterday a final decision on the Chloorkop toxic dump would be taken only after the results of a second commission of

inquiry were known.

The council had appointed the commission — it included a town planner, an environmentalist and a senior legal counsel — to establish whether the 1991 probe had been misled, he said.

The council had reconsidered its position after receiving a petition.

Former Development Aid men deny fraud charges

The State has closed its case against two former employees of the now-defunct Department of Development Aid accused of 112 charges of fraud, bribery and corruption.

At yesterday's hearing, defence counsel Johan Engelbrecht denied allegations that Jacobus Marthinus Koen (56) of End Street, Lytelton, and Christiaan Bothma (51) of Alcade Avenue, Lynnwood Glen, Pretoria, had received money in a fraudulent and corrupt manner.

Engelbrecht said the men had obtained money by renting out timeshare they owned at coastal resorts, through investments that had matured and from their wives' hobbies.

Bail of R10 000 was extended to July 8, when the case reconvenes. — Pretoria Correspondent.

Sewage works may be charged over spill

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

The Department of Water Affairs may lay charges against a sewage works which it found was illegally discharging chlorine into the Jukstel River last Friday.

However, a spokesman said the discharge could not at this stage be connected to pollution which caused the deaths of fish along the river over the past 10 days.

According to director of water quality management

Sakle van der Westhuizen, water samples taken on Friday confirmed that levels of chlorine in excess of standards were being discharged into the river from Johannesburg municipal water Northern Waste Treatment Works.

He said it had been determined that no monitoring of chlorine discharge was in place at the works and his department was considering legal steps because the standard had been exceeded.

"A possible link to pollution over the last week or so is still being investigated," Van der Westhuizen said.

(56)

Dr Henk van Vliet, director of hydrological research at the Department of Water Affairs, said the fish deaths could have been caused by chemicals such as acid, caustic soda or chlorine.

Johannesburg municipality's deputy director of water pollution control Dr Loraine Lotter confirmed that small amounts of excess chlorine had been discharged into the river from the

Northern Waste Water Treatment Works.

However, she denied that the amount of excess chlorine found in samples taken by the Department of Water Affairs on Friday could have caused the fish deaths. Lotter also ruled out the possibility that any accidental spills of chlorine from the works could have occurred without her knowledge.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the regional offices of the Department of Water Affairs at (012) 299-2541 or 299-2924.

RISE  **SUNSET**  **MOONRISE**

Today 5.28 pm
Tomorrow 5.27 pm
Today 4.35 am

TEMPERATURES WORLDWIDE

Min	Max	Min	Max
15	22	12	23
14	26	16	30
17	22	6	17
27	32	7	22
10	21	15	18
16	22	11	18
13	26	13	23
		11	18
		13	19

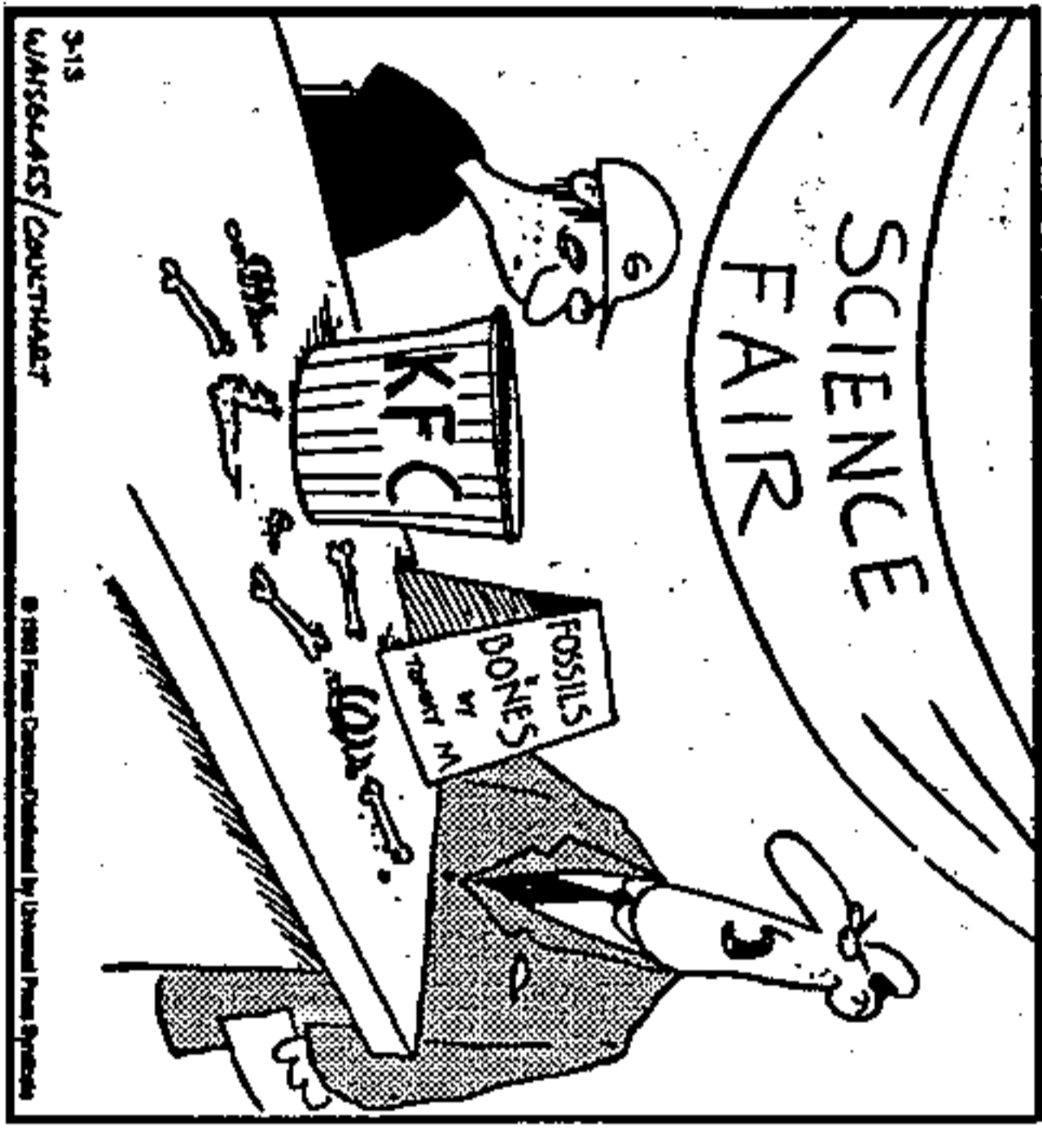
TEMPERATURES NATIONAL

Min	Max	Min	Max
8	27	5	22
3	24	7	25
3	25	4	26
12	19	1	21
15	23	15	26
		2	23
		8	24
		9	30
		13	19
		8	25

For forecasts for the P.W.V. area are available on the answering service. The number is (012) 219521.

Farcus

by David Walsglass
Gordon Coulthart



Let's put a little more effort into this, Tommy!

Cable theft cuts off phones

Theft of Telkom's telephone copper wires is costing it a fortune. Last year R5 million worth of cable was stolen on the Witwatersrand, said spokesman Gert Schoeman.

In Soweto, 150 clients have been without service since Saturday after another cable theft.

The service would be restored in a few days, Schoeman said.

Copper cables are sold to scrap dealers. — Municipal Reporter.

ANC man's home bombed

Arsonists petrol-bombed the Soweto home of senior ANC official Sydney Mafumadi yesterday, causing about R1 000 damage, police said.

Police received a call at about 1.40 am informing them that a house in Diepkloof had been petrol-bombed.

Mafumadi's wife Nomasa and their 12-year-old daughter were asleep in the house at the time. — Crime Reporter.

For the record

A report in The Star last Friday about a satellite police station at the Westgate Shopping Centre, on the West Rand, incorrectly stated that the crime rate at the centre had increased, and attributed certain crime statistics to the centre. It has been pointed out that the statistics represented the entire Roodepoort area. The Star regrets the reporting error.

THE CURRENT INTEREST

FIXED DEPOSITS Non-Compounding

Amount invested	Period invested	Nominal rate pa
R 1 000 or more	6 months	11.50

The Star yesterday referred to the SABC Staff Association as a whites-only organisation. This information was provided by SABC labour relations manager Christo Pretorius. The association has objected, saying that although its membership is predominantly white, it does have non-white members.

Crucial meeting for Soweto today

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE ending of longstanding rent and service boycotts in SA's largest township hinges on today's meeting of the Soweto Crisis Committee in Johannesburg.

The committee is expected to review new proposals put forward by Soweto's civics, as well as suggestions by the major political organisations.

Payment levels in Soweto are less than 5% and residents owe R800m in arrears. Last week the TPA and Metropolitan Chamber issued warnings that unless the issue was cleared up soon, Soweto would not survive the transition to democracy.

Soweto stands poised on the edge of a "catastrophic" plunge into unrest and disease as services collapse.

TPA MEC Burger Lategan said last

week that even the most basic of services would come to a standstill because of the financial deficit.

The Soweto civics held a meeting at the weekend, and sources indicate that they have reached agreement on tariffs and interim arrangements for the overseeing of the township during the transition to new municipal structures.

Although the civics have remained silent about their proposals, sources said these would be put forward today, and would probably determine the outcome of the meeting. Also expected to attend today are the major political parties, the TPA and the city councils of Johannesburg and Roodepoort.

Quatro deaths 'in main from disease'

DIRK VAN EEDEN

MOST of the people who died in the ANC's notorious Quatro "rehabilitation camp" died of malaria and a lack of medical treatment, not torture, said former ANC security chief Joe Nhlanhla.

Testifying before the Motsuenyane commission into alleged human rights abuses in ANC camps yesterday, Nhlanhla said he only took over the security desk on the condition that Quatro and some other camps were to be upgraded.

Quatro had been primitive and too small. Inmates had to remain locked up for too long. Ordinary criminals, such as rapists, were kept in the same cells as security suspects.

He said the ANC's national executive committee decided to overhaul the camp and plans had been drawn up for a modern camp, at which inmates could be separated according to alleged crimes.

However, these plans were never carried out because the ANC did not have the funds to build the new camp.

"In that light one cannot say that the delay in overhauling the camp was undue. But, it is true that many things would not have happened if we could build the new camp."

He said that immediately after he took charge in 1987, criminals were separated from political prisoners and the criminals were removed from Quatro.

Any death in the camps had to be reported to the ANC's secretary-general. If someone had died unnaturally, his death had been regarded as a criminal case, until proven otherwise.

If it was proven that any person was responsible for an unnatural death, the case had been handed over to the authorities of the local government.

"It was an iron rule that the ANC would not protect its members if they committed crimes.."

He said the treatment of detainees had been a constant point of discussion within the ANC leadership.

Sewage works blamed for polluting river

MARIANNE MERTEN

GOVERNMENT is considering legal action against Johannesburg City Council's Northern Sewage Works for discharging high levels of chlorine into the Jukskei River.

The chemical - used in sewage purification plants as a disinfectant - was possibly related to the recent deaths of fish in the river, a Water Affairs Department statement said yesterday.

Water Affairs director of water quality management Sakkie van der Westhuizen said chlorine tests conducted on Friday had showed levels in excess of the Water

Act standards which applied to the Jukskei River. The test results would be sufficient scientific proof in court, if legal proceedings were initiated.

There was no direct link to the purification plant as the chlorine had been discharged over a sustained period.

Johannesburg City Council's deputy director water reclamation Tony Pitman said yesterday he was not convinced that the Northern Sewage Works' effluent had caused the deaths.

Safety of dumping site to be probed

Kempton Park City Council, forced by objections, has ordered a new investigation into the safety of a proposed local dumping site for harmful chemical waste.

Town clerk H J K Muller said in a statement the council had ordered "an objective investigation" by experts into the desirability and safety of the Chloorkop

dumping site between Midrand and Kempton Park.

The site was proposed by Waste-tech, which had been granted conditional approval by the council.

"Since the city council ... announced its approval of a dumping site where harmful chemical waste can be disposed of under controlled

circumstances, unprecedented objections have been filed from certain sectors," Muller said.

The council would make public the findings of the independent investigation, he said.

"Kempton Park City Council will make certain that all activities around the

dumping site will be in the best interests of residents and the environment."

He also said Waste-tech had been granted conditional approval after the council ascertained it had complied with all the legal requirements and the regulations of the relevant Government departments. — Sapa.

56

Star 20/5/93

Make city a better place to live in — mayor's challenge

Environment Reporter **(56)**

THE annual Mayor's Award for "greening" the city is being changed to a two-yearly event, with the next awards ceremony due in the third quarter next year.

"The change is to ensure that a high standard for this prestige award is maintained," a council spokesman said. **ARG 29/6/92**

Previous winners include individuals and institutions such as schools, companies and Spoornet.

Announcing the change, Mayor Frank van der Velde challenged all citizens, and particularly school and youth groups, to assess their contribution to making the city a better place to live in.

● For further inquiries about the awards, contact Mr Fitzmaurice, ☎ 400 2142.

Eight fight for two Krugersdorp seats

By Glen Elsas
 West Rand Bureau



Eight candidates are vying for two Krugersdorp council seats in a by-election which is to take place in Krugersdorp West and in a section of Noordheuwel on Tuesday.

The seats fell vacant when former mayor, Alderman Sakkie Nel, resigned from the council this year. A month later Dr Benoni van Graan resigned from the council after he had been appointed as the chairman of the West Rand Regional Services Council.

Six of the candidates are standing in Ward One, Krugersdorp West, while the seventh candidate, Clive Derby-Lewis, withdrew his nomination on May 5. Derby-Lewis was arrested on April 17 in connection with the murder of SA Communist Party leader Chris Ham. Johannes Adam Spruyt

Lategan, a broker, has stepped into the breach and is now the Conservative Party's official candidate in the area.

The only other organisation-affiliated candidate is Joey Swanepoel (42), who is described as a director of companies, who is standing as an AWB candidate.

Henry John de Beer, the ~~superseded~~ AWB "Wenkombando" colonel, is standing as an independent, as are Lodewyk Jan Hurter, who owns a scrapyard, Marie Louise Mourau, a company manager, and Johannes Jacobus van der Nest.

The two candidates for Ward 11, which includes a large part of Noordheuwel, are businessman Johannes Christiaan (Poen) Harding (62) of the Conservative Party and insurance broker Rayne Snyman (31) who describes himself as an autonomous Nationalist.

Weekly airspora count

Weekly airspora count for the PWV (current week):

Pollen: 2 grains/cu m.
 Fungi: 1 000 spores/cu m.

These counts are typical of early winter conditions.

When levels exceed 50 for pollen and 3 000 for fungi, all sensitive persons will experience allergic symptoms.

FOR THE RECORD

We have received no reports of factual errors in The Star for today's column.

Wrangle over toxic waste dumps on E Rand

By Shirley Woodgate

Dumping of toxic waste on the East Rand has come up against a wall of opposition from environmentalists and growing numbers of residents who claim hazardous substances pose a serious health problem.

The target is waste management company Waste-Tech.

The sites are located in disused quarries at Margolis I and II dumps, Rietfontein, the Old Howell quarry and Highway Hole, all situated near Corobrik in a triangle between the R22 and R24 affecting Bedfordview, Edenvale and Germiston; and a proposed landfill site at Chloorkop, between Midrand and Kempton Park.

Backed by reports, Jane Grater, a member of Action for Environmental Protection and spokesman for residents opposing the existing

sites near Corobrik, said complaints of deteriorating health over the past three years included a higher incidence of upper respiratory problems, runny noses, stomach cramps, rashes, eye inflammation, itching eyes and skin, and hair loss.

Waste-Tech managing director Ken Bromfield warned that the environment would suffer if landfills were forced to move away from residential and industrial areas.

Some industries would dump industrial, and often toxic, waste into class-2 landfill sites not designed to handle hazardous products, and others would dump on uncensured factory sites, on open ground or in rivers.

He said those who wanted landfills removed would have to accept that professional waste management companies were part of the solution, not part of the problem.

ENVIRONMENT — 1993

APRIL — JUNE

Move to delay ⁽⁵⁾

Rooi Els case

JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

IN a surprise move in the dispute over Somchem's alleged "illegal" occupation of its testing range above Rooi Els, Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring is applying urgently to the Supreme Court today for the matter to be postponed.

The hearing is due to resume in the Supreme Court on Monday, after the parties failed to reach an out-of-court settlement in negotiations which started on April 14.

Mr Meiring is one of the respondents in the application by the Rooi Els local council for Somchem's lease to be declared invalid and its use of the range to be declared illegal.

The others are Somchem and the Overberg Regional Services Council, which leases the 395 ha site to the former Armscor subsidiary.

The Rooi Els local council is citing an alleged pollution threat to the area's water supply as part of its argument.

Previously Mr Meiring filed notice that he would abide by the decision of the court — effectively placing himself outside the dispute.

But today's application for a postponement is understood to be based on concern about the cost to Rooi Els ratepayers if the council loses the case and becomes liable for the respondents' costs.

The Save Hangklip Action Group has all ratepayers of the Hangklip, Bet Kleinmond and Gelberg to contribute towards a letter managed by the Town firm of Point.

According to a newsletter, the firm will cause R200 000 worth of damage to be made. R250 000 is still being

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Confusion over Star 13/5/93 St Lucia deadline

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Confusion has arisen over the closing date for written comment on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on dune mining at St Lucia and it is feared interested parties will miss the cut-off date.

In fact, the closing date is tomorrow. An extension until June 22 announced last week applies only to those parties which notify the CSIR in writing by May 14 that they will be submitting comment.

Bill Bainbridge of the

(50)
221
Natal Park Board said that incorrect information on the extension endangered the whole public comment phase.

"Non-government organisations will now delay their submissions on the strength of the newspaper reports, without realising that in fact no extension has been granted."

Anyone intending to comment must do so in writing to the CSIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001.

Comments can also be faxed to (012) 841-2103.

Move to delay ⁽⁵⁶⁾

Rooi Els case

ARGTB/5/93

JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

IN a surprise move in the dispute over Somchem's alleged "illegal" occupation of its testing range above Rooi Els, Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring is applying urgently to the Supreme Court today for the matter to be postponed.

The hearing is due to resume in the Supreme Court on Monday, after the parties failed to reach an out-of-court settlement in negotiations which started on April 14.

Mr Meiring is one of the respondents in the application by the Rooi Els local council for Somchem's lease to be declared invalid and its use of the range to be declared illegal.

The others are Somchem and the Overberg Regional Services Council, which leases the 395 ha site to the former Armscor subsidiary.

The Rooi Els local council is citing an alleged pollution threat to the area's water supply as part of its argument.

Previously Mr Meiring filed notice that he would abide by the decision of the court — effectively placing himself outside the dispute.

But today's application for a postponement is understood to be based on concern about the cost to Rooi Els ratepayers if the local council loses the case and becomes liable for the respondents' legal costs.

The Save Hangklip Action Group has asked all ratepayers in Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Hangklip, Betty's Bay, Kleinmond and the Kogelberg to contribute towards a legal fund, managed by a Cape Town firm of attorneys.

According to a recent newsletter, the communities have raised R200 000 but more than R250 000 is still needed.

Political economy of elephant stampings

Winnick 7/5-13/93



(56)

FIRST there was the fierce bull elephant that stomped a tourist to death in the Plianesberg Game Reserve. Then a lion mauled and killed a woman inside a lodge at the Phinda Reserve. This was followed by the death of a game ranger in the Kruger National Park at the feet of a bull elephant.

Are these freak accidents, tragic events that are unlikely to recur — as some conservationists, especially those connected to the game parks where the incidents took place, argue?

Or are they on the increase because the animals are responding in unusual and erratic ways to the practices of this country's burgeoning wildlife industry?

There are no easy answers to the debate that now rages in the conservation fraternity.

Les Carlisle, spokesman for the Phinda Reserve, says the lion attack was a chance occurrence which, statistically, has little chance of repeating itself. Researchers in Plianesberg found an abscess at the root of one of the elephant's tusks, suggesting that it was a giant toothache that sent the bull into a killing frenzy.

Others see an emerging pattern related to three economic factors:

● The boom in wildlife tourism has resulted in large-scale transportation of potentially dangerous animals from one reserve to another.

● Most translocated elephants are young bulls who have been orphaned during extremely traumatic culls in the Kruger National Park.

● In the process of being handled for commercial purposes, wild animals become accustomed to human contact and lose the wariness that keeps them at a distance from people.

"My concern is that we are beginning to play God too much. We are moving animals around a lot without too much knowledge about the effects this has on their behaviour," says Clive Walker, chairman of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation.

There is a story doing the rounds that the elephant from Plianesberg, which was shot dead after the attack, had been sold to the reserve after being involved in rogue attacks at a private game lodge in the northern Transvaal. Though some conservationists are taking it seriously, there is as yet no evidence to support the story and it is more likely that the bull

Three people died recently in

wildlife attacks. Were these

freak incidents, or part of a

trend resulting from man

playing God in the wilds?

By EDDIE KOCH

came from the Kruger National Park, where adult herds are regularly culled and their offspring sold to other game reserves.

"There is a lack of information about these elephants and we perceived this as a problem some time ago," says Walker. "What are these elephants going through and what are the psychological effects of losing their mothers?"

"Translocated elephants get used to humans by virtue of their capture or holding. They can lose their fear or build up a greater fear of humans. One thing is clear: people get killed by elephants that have been harassed by man."

Walker notes that the killer lion at Phinda had been imported into the Natal reserve, just three weeks before the attack, from a game farm in the

northern Transvaal where lion are either bred for commercial purposes or have experienced extensive human contact. "Any lion that has had the slightest exposure to human beings is a major threat," he says.

At the heart of the problem, at least as far as this school of thought is concerned, is the way in which game ranches and other ecotourism enterprises are mushrooming around the country.

This is a positive development that increases the amount of land used for conservation and that generates rural jobs. And game farming is much less damaging to the environment than cattle farming.

But there is some concern that the growth is taking place without the necessary regulations. There are now some 800 reserves, excluding those owned by the National Parks Board, ranging from exclusive resorts like Mala Mala and Londolozi to small tribal resource areas in the homelands.

According to the National Game Organisation, in 1990 there were 9 000 game ranches owned by individual farmers, covering some eight million hectares across the country.

And the number of new reserves and farms that have been converted to game ranches continues to grow.

A total of R355-million was generated by game farming in 1990: 75 percent came from safari hunting and the rest from tourist visits, game auctions and the sale of venison.

The government, recognising that these kinds of ventures can help kick-start the rural economy, has made made R600-million available in subsidies and plans to increase the amount of land used for ecotourism by 800 000 hectares in the next five years.

"Farmers are selling their cattle, erecting game fences, stocking their land with wild animals and building lodges," says ecologist David Crossman.

To attract the best-paying tourists or safari hunters, these entrepreneurs are under pressure to introduce the "big five" — which include lion, leopard and elephant.

This has resulted in a vibrant wildlife industry, probably the biggest in the world, with animals being purchased at frequent game auctions and transported around the country.

This is why South Africa is the only country in the world which has an insurance company that covers entrepreneurs for the risk involved in transporting game and stocking their land with wild animals.

Phinda's Carlisle says incidents like the recent lion attack happen sporadically in game reserves all over Africa and that there is not necessarily an emerging pattern which requires game park managers to adapt their methods.

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But it appears that the industry began to thrive in an unregulated way ahead of the kind of research needed to devise the best methods to manage the treatment of these commercialised animals. For this reason, the Rhino and Elephant Foundation decided to sponsor an academic research programme, headed by Marion Carai, on the behavioural effects of culling adult herds of elephants and then putting their offspring on to the market.

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Bill tells mines
to rehabilitate
environment**

MRG 8/5/93
DRAFT legislation aimed at forcing mines to rehabilitate environmental disturbance caused by their operations or by prospecting was tabled in Parliament yesterday. (56)

According to a memorandum on the Minerals Amendment Bill, the measure will force an applicant for a prospecting permit to give details on how it will rehabilitate surface disturbances caused by prospecting.

It will also allow the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to suspend mining operations until a mine has taken "rectifying steps" on rehabilitation. — Sapa.

Environment the focus of Minerals Act amendment

CAPE TOWN — Legislation has been tabled in Parliament which will increase the responsibility of mine owners to rehabilitate environmental damage.

The Minerals Amendment Bill, which will amend the Minerals Act, also lays down regulations which will boost the environmental planning requirements of aspirant miners.

The legislation makes provision for certain steps to be taken for the rehabilitation of mining areas within a period of five years before mining operations are ended.

The effect is that it will no longer be possible to wind up a mining operation until a certificate is furnished certifying that adequate provision has been made for the rehabilitation of a mining area.

A new section to the Min-

TIM COHEN

erals Act gives a senior departmental official the power to issue notice to a mine owner that assets may not be disposed of until adequate plans have been approved for the rehabilitation of the environment.

This step would be taken if a Mineral and Energy Affairs regional director was of the opinion that a mine was likely to cease mining operations within a period of five years.

The official would then give the mine notice that it would not be allowed to dispose of its assets unless adequate provision had been made for the rehabilitation of the mining area.

The official would have the power to make specific recommendations.

The maximum fine for contravening this section is R50 000.

Healthy environment in new bill of rights

THE DP yesterday unveiled a "truly libertarian" bill of rights, which includes unique measures to give constitutional effect to socio-economic rights.

DP MP and chairman of the drafting committee Mr Tony Leon described the proposal as a "radical departure from traditional bills of rights" which was short, tightly drawn and not a mere "laundry list" of specific provisions.

The proposed bill contains provisions regarding equality and the outlawing of "unjustified differentiation" which differ from ANC and government proposals.

It also contains a unique provision dealing with "second generation rights" which proposes a mechanism to make "essentials of life" justifiable.

The bill provides that every citizen shall be entitled to food and water necessary for survival, shelter, basic health care, basic education and a healthy environment.

Mr Leon justified the inclusion of

ESB CT 12/5/93

DP now out the closet on gay discrimination

THE Democratic Party yesterday became first South African political party to call for the protection of gay rights in a bill of rights.

Earlier this year the National Party dodged the question of gay rights but saying the matter still had to be resolved, and the ANC said the issue would have to be resolved by the courts.

The DP, however, said discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation would be prohibited in terms of its bill, which it released at a press conference yesterday.

these second-generation rights as necessary because otherwise the bill would be "empty, cruel words echoing in a wasteland of deprivation and denial".

The bill also provides for an array of enforcement mechanisms, including provisions to secure information from the state, rights to administrative justice and easy procedure.

The articles on the right to equality contain a provision protecting but limiting "private choice", the right to life, liberty, privacy and property.

New Friend has the course taped

JEFF ZERBST

JOHANNESBURG. — New Friend has scored both his career victories at the Vaal and he can add a third at tomorrow's meeting at the Vereeniging course, where he contests a Bottom division handicap over 1400m.

The three-year-old gelding rates a Jackpot and Pick 6 banker.

New Friend set a class record when beating Montereau over 1300m at the track a fortnight ago and he will strip even fitter now in his third run after a lay-off.

A few months ago pundits may have dismissed his claims on the basis of the No 1 draw, so often a major drawback down the Vaal straight in the past.

However, at recent meetings the going on the inside of the track has proved just as good as that on the outside rail and if jockey Stephen Jupp elects to make his run along the inside, his mount's progress will not be retarded as a result.

Fillies Piaster and Wicked Hazel look the main threats to the selection.

The topline, the R55 000 Vaal Bookmakers' Handicap over 1800m, looks ultra-competitive and at least half the runners have winning claims.

Daddy's Darling gets a narrow vote of confidence on her good last run.

The Elevation filly looked a spent force when Chasing Gold

came to challenge her 100m out in a 2000m Newmarket feature. However, she rallied under jockey Jeff Lloyd and was beaten by only a short head.

With Lloyd in the saddle again, and in receipt of weight from her principal competitors, Daddy's Darling could get home first this time.

Instant Power could prove to be her toughest rival on the evidence of his last win.

The Prontisimo gelding was always highly rated by his connections but seldom put his best foot forward until he was gelded.

Since that operation Instant Power has won twice, the last being most impressive.

That was in a minor feature at Gosforth Park

at the height of the feature-race season.

He drew clear late to beat useful Natal challenger Seal Ring by 2,75 lengths and that run suggests the four-year-old is now beginning to realise his full potential.

Another runner with scope is Fun To Fly, who was cramped 100m out last time when a finishing close eighth behind Night Attire in a feature over the distance at Newmarket.

Fun To Fly finished in good company that day and a line of form through Chasing Gold suggests he's got a chance tomorrow.

Fine Fancy, who landed a betting coup last time, steps up in class but enters the reckoning, as do Maximum Power and Copper Lustre.

■ Turf Topics ■ Turf Topics ■ Turf Topics ■ Turf Topics ■

Kingmambo wins Guineas

PARIS. — Kingmambo, the only colt to have beaten English 2000 Guineas winner Zafonic, established himself firmly as a horse to beat this year when he claimed the French 2000 Guineas yesterday.

Michael Roberts took second place on Bin Ajwaad.

Group One Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2000 Guineas), 1600m, Longchamp: 1 KINGMAMBO (ridden by Cash Asmussen), 2 Bin Ajwaad (Michael Roberts), 3 Hudo (Eric Saint-Martin), 4 Semillon (Alain Baudel).

10 ran. Dist: 1½, 4. Winner owned by Stavros Niarchos and trained in France by Francois Boutin. — Sapa-Reuter

Zafonic heading west

to the Breeders' Cup, said his handlers.

Zafonic, a three-year-old colt trained by Andre Fabre, broke the race record in the 1600m classic at Newmarket.

Rugby day

EFFERVESCENT Nicky Bullock, formerly of Kenilworth racecourse, still has her finger in the racing game and is involved in a get-together for the Villager Rugby Football Club.

The request is for rugby players who are owners to race their horses and also be at Milnerton racecourse on Wednesday, May 19.

"The club is looking at

Teubes on ☎ 4094239 (w) or ☎ 5316119.

Houdalakis off

JOHANNESBURG. — Jockey Lucky Houdalakis has been suspended from riding in and attending race meetings for one week.

Rami still on schedule

RAMI, third to Flaming Rock and Topasannah in Saturday's Grade II Drill Hall Stakes at Greyville, is still on schedule for the 1600m Schweppes, writes Barry Hopwood.

"He ran well, and it must be remembered it was his first race in sev-

At an inquiry in Johannesburg on Friday morning Houdalakis was found guilty of contravening Rule 62.2.5 in that while riding Fighting Brave in the ninth race at the Vaal on Tuesday, he allowed his horse to shift outwards at the 100m mark.

"Rami is not a young horse anymore, and he would have felt Saturday's outing, so another race inbetween might be too much for him. It would probably be better to give him more time to recover from this race."

Kannemeyer practi-

BOWLS

All Cape Women's Fours

Round 2

Section 1: Caledon bye, Beacon Bay (A Robinson) 15 Green Bushes (C Wolff) 19, Fish Hoek (R Fudge) 14 Bellville (N Friskin) 21, Port Elizabeth (P Hiscock) 29 Sterkstroom (P Hart) 15, Mowbray (M Phipps) 19 Pinelands (M Burkimsher) 13. **Section 2:** Albany (V Hollick) 22 Mossel Bay (H Green) 18, Jagers bye, Three Rings (E Herselmann) 21 Buffalo (G van Heerden) 16, Muizenberg (J Craig) 16 Helderberg (J Minnaar) 22, Plumstead (T Lomax) 18 Bergvliet (L Rice) 11. **Section 3:** Gordon's Bay (J Brink) 9 Hill Pk (V Klein) 23, Cradock (J van Heerden) 15 Camps Bay (E Chiat) 28, Pinelands (G Mackie) 16 Regent (B van Eeden) 27, Keurboom (R Wolfsohn) 15 Cambridge (S Karshagen) 17, Victoria Pk (J Hattingsh) bye. **Section 4:** Walmer 24 (D Wood) East London 17 (L George), Hout Bay (P Schmidt) 22 Koeberg 21 (B van Niekerk), Claremont (D Bastick) 25 Plettenberg (B Heath) 14, Rondebosch (D Coldrey) 13 Diaz (M Delpert) 29. **Section 5:** Clovelly (M Almond) 15 West Subrubs (E Sendall) 35, Howard (O Butler) 26 Koeberg (J Kirsten) 11, Villiersdorp (P Pelteret) 22 Fish Hoek (B Bradley) 20, Rondebosch (T Douglas) 7 Strand (R Slabbert) 31, Gonubie bye. **Section 6:** Glen (E Lissack) 18 Liesbeek Pk (K Hall) 12, Outenique bye, South West (J Marriott) 27 Muizenberg (I Scott) 15, Hamilton (A Verwey) 32 PE Moths (W Brown) 8, Camps Bay (J Steyn) 15 T A Bay 31. **Section 7:** Constantia (J Smuts) 20 Highcam (D van Schoor) 30, Howard bye, Graaff Reinet (M Walker) 27 Van der Stel (A Lee) 22, Oakdale (M McDonagh) 20 Goodwood (D Wilson) 14, Witsand (A van Noordwyk) 11 West View (J Rossi) 30. **Section 8:** Pinelands (J Tiltman) 26 Edgemead (I Pieters) 8, Kidds Beach (D Ralph) bye, Durbanville (S Stander) 17 Meadowridge (L Pyper) 16, Jeffreys Bay (R Gossling) 33 WPCC (E Adams) 19, Constantia 20 (D Butterworth) Hermanus (L Taylor) 24. **Section 9:** Riversdale (B van Wyk) 25 Edgemead (J Botha) 20, Pollsmoor (L van den Berg) 28 Parow (F du Plessis) 12, Kenton (E Ball) 25 Constantia (E McLean) 19, Milnerton bye, Plumstead (M Kessler) 21 Komga (E Elliott) 21. **Section 10:** Vryburg (A Marais) 28 Camps Bay (E Eckard) 12, Marist bye, Bellville (A Gerber) 16 P Elizabeth (B Montgomery) 23, Howard (B Davis) 21 Som West (S de Jongh) 17, King W'Town (C van Niekerk) 34 Observatory (M Harwood) 12. **Section 11:** Howard (B McDonald) 25 Hermanus (E Louw) 14, Milnerton bye, DSC Boland (M Steyn) 22 Old Selbornians (T Dewar) 10, Fresnaye (V Flower) 15 Mill Park (J Urquhart) 12, Edgemead (E Clack) 35 Rondebosch (A Faasen) 19. **Section 12:** Edgemead (M McTaggart) 9 Park Drive (A Bayliss) 29, Oranjezicht (D Prendergast) 31 Prieska (E Penderis) 9, Helderberg (J Boyd) 16 Pinelands (L Trigwell) 15, Glen (M Klein) 24 Strand (L Neethling) 12,



PADDLING THEIR OWN CANOES... visitors leave the rat race far behind, enjoying spectacular bird and wildlife views as they drift lazily down the tranquil Okavango Delta

Eco-travel to generate income boost

SI Times (C | Metro) 9/15/93

(56) ~~200~~

A RISING star in the tourism industry is eco-tourism — a sector that South Africa is well-equipped to serve. Eco-tourism is "responsible travel" to natural destinations using tourism income to sustain the environment and the well-being of nearby communities. According to Phillip Lategan, marketing director of Afro Ventures, bringing tourism to some wilderness areas is the only viable way to sustain them. "Eco-tourism is a long-term venture. Bringing tour-

ists to a remote, ecologically interesting area generates income and jobs for people, many of whom exist at subsistence level. Apart from the benefits to locals, the wilderness area is retained," he says. "Take Botswana for example. The north of the country is poorly developed and there's no way to get people economically active other than tourism. It starts at the lowest level with shops that supply the industry with food and perhaps petrol. "Other employment is

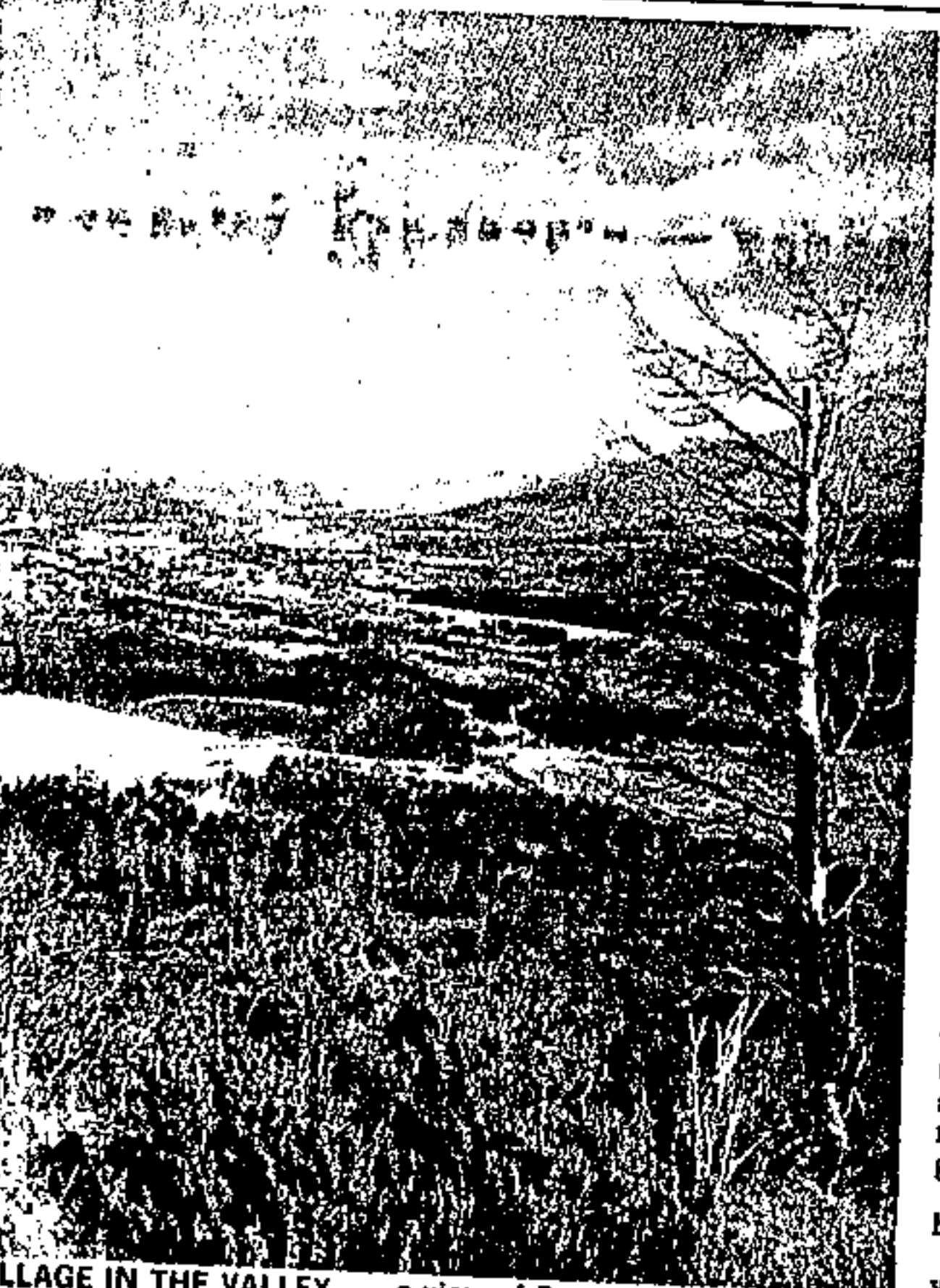
available to people who repair tents, or who work as drivers, trackers and even canoe polers. Often the cash income can support a family of seven people. "In Namibia's Caprivi area there's no industry. The introduction of tourism led local people to recreate a traditional village which visitors are charged to see. Locally-made curios generate income and ex-poachers have become game guides," said Mr Lategan. "Eco-tourism is the non-consumptive use of a natural resource and has to be well

managed. It's not a high density form of tourism and takes place in sensitive areas that require sensitive care. South Africa's natural resources are largely untouched and eco-tourism is a great way of preserving them." Wayne McLintock, marketing director of the Conservation Corporation, says eco-tourism has a financial benefit for the country. "First World tourist money filters into the system and comes out at the bottom — the local rural community in wilderness areas. It helps

take care of the wildlife and the land too," he says. "Tourism dollars put the quality of life into rural areas. Clinics, schools, shops and recreation facilities can be built for locals and the people themselves are recruited to staff them. Eco-tourism generates small business development as well — entrepreneurs can use their skills to become drivers, provide entertainment or any number of other services. "The principal eco-tourism areas in South Africa are the Eastern Transvaal,

famous for its game, northern Natal, also a wildlife destination, and the Cape where there are plenty of environmentally interesting regions. "Eco-tourism will play a major role in South Africa's tourism industry in the future. A wealth of natural resources from game reserves to beaches and mountains will have attracted about two million international travellers by the end of the century. "Costs are tailored to different markets. On average, accommodation at a private

game lodge in the Transvaal will cost between R600 and R700 per person per night. At a national park, the figure drops to about R70 a night," says Mr McLintock. Clive Walker, chairman of the Wilderness Trust of Southern Africa, sounds a note of caution. "Eco-tourism is a valuable job creator, a method of rural development and a good way to fund conservation, but it has to be managed properly," he says. "For example, the desire to view a predator on the move at night is high on any tourist's list of activities but what about the impact to the habitat from off-road driving? If done occasionally it may not have a serious impact, but done every night by a succession of vehicles, it could cause irreparable damage.



VILLAGE IN THE VALLEY... a view of Franschhoek from the pass that overlooks the Boland town, a popular tourist spot

Picturesque Boland town has all visitors could want

SI Times (C | Metro) 9/15/93

IF YOU had to draw up a blueprint for what makes a village appealing to visitors and attractive to tourists, what would you say? That it had to be beautiful, picturesque, historical and offer things to do, interesting items to buy, great places to eat and a couple of points of special interest — like fantastic vineyards and superb wine estates. If you add to this a touch of French flair, then you could be talking about Franschhoek, the small Boland town, that is fast becoming the gourmet capital of the western Cape and a "must" on the agenda of the thousands of visitors who flock to the wine lands each year. As everyone who did Std 4 history remembers, Franschhoek was where the French Huguenots settled around 300 years ago when they fled to South Africa to escape religious persecution in France. The names they gave their original farms still exist today, and many of the villagers have surnames that date back to the original group that settled there in the 1650s. Then, in the early 1980s Franschhoek was discovered again. This time, the influx was of people who recognised the potential of the valley and planted it with new vines, revitalised old, tired estates and

restored historic homesteads. The wine farmers, conscious of the valley's French traditions and also the need to promote it and their wines, banded together to form the Vigneron de Franschhoek, a unique association that has done much to put Franschhoek on the map. Of course, as new people arrived and the town grew, restaurants, auberges and guest houses opened to cater for the increasing number of visitors. The town of Franschhoek guards its history and French traditions jealously, and proposed buildings and restorations are scrutinised with care. The Franschhoek Trust has won wide acclaim for work done in this regard. **Superb** But back to the present, why do people visit Franschhoek? Well, first there's the food. For a population of little more than 3 000, there are more than 20 restaurants and eateries, ranging from simple country fare to fancy French. Where wine is made there is usually excellent food — and Franschhoek is no exception. One of the reasons is that there are superb fresh ingredients on the doorstep — including

several salmon trout farms. Being a "foodie" area, local farmers have also gone into sidelines — like wonderful sun-dried tomatoes and home-made ricotta cheese. Franschhoek has plenty of summer sunshine, much sought-after by sun-starved people from Europe. Winters are seldom too cold. There is much for visitors to do in Franschhoek — the main street is lined with galleries and small craft stores, plus a good sprinkling of antique shops. Many local potters sell their wares. At the end of the street is the Franschhoek monument, set in beautiful gardens, flanked on one side by the museum which houses fascinating exhibits of the town's history. In spring, the blossoms are fantastic and, in summer, the fruit sells for prices reminiscent of the mid-60s. Farm stalls and small food shops have interesting selections. Most visitors to Franschhoek spend a couple of hours wine-tasting at the estates or at the Wine Centre. The town has become a popular stay-over destination — but it's still less than an hour's drive from Cape Town. — Penny Gordon

Ventures "One has to take into account the problems of waste disposal, consumption of firewood, noise, general over-use of tourist facilities and harassment of wildlife. "Eco-tourism is set to become a big business in South Africa and people in management positions should pay as much attention to management of the wilderness as they do to the economics of their ventures. "The 'if it pays — it stays' philosophy should be avoided. There are serious problems ahead in terms of environmental quality of wildlife if urban development techniques are applied to wilderness areas. "Eco-tourism brings the benefits of jobs, foreign earnings and rural community co-operation, but although wildlife is big business, business can be unscrupulous and it should be realised that tourism could become too much of a good thing," says Mr Walker.

St Lucia: More time to comment

ARG 8/5/73
PEOPLE wanting to tell the government what they think about mining at Lake St Lucia have been given more time to do so. The deadline for comment has been extended to June 22. (56)

Comment should be addressed to: EIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services, PO Box 395, Pretoria 0001. — Weekend Argus Correspondent.

Conservation comes first in Waterberg

STAR 8/1993

(56)

THREE private game reserves in the Transvaal have united to form a conservation area of 54 000 ha, with the potential of eventually extending this to 150 000 ha.

Located in the spectacular bushveld of the Waterberg mountains, near Vaalwater, the Waterberg Nature Conservancy combines Touchstone Game Ranch, Lapalala Wilderness and Kwalata.

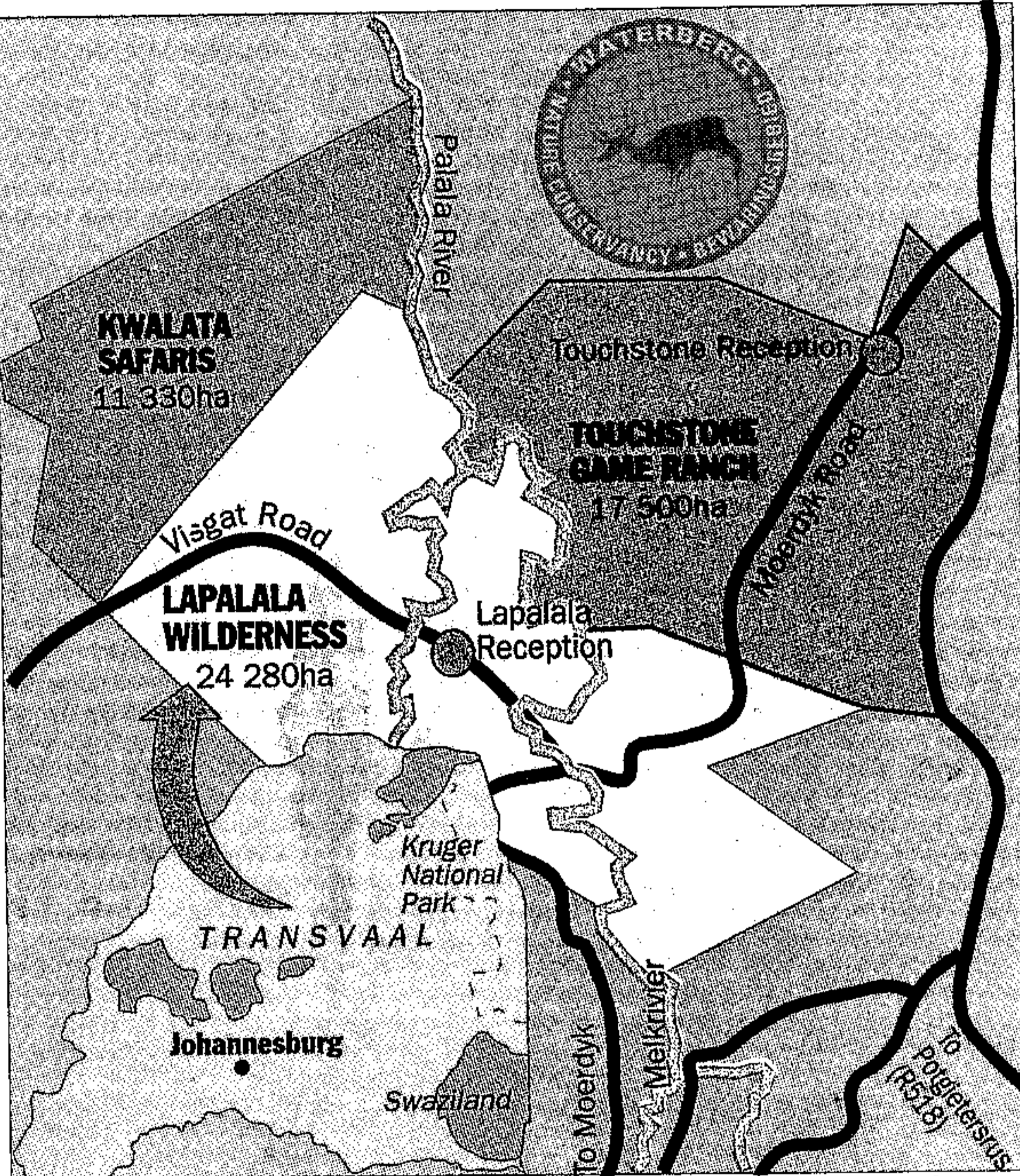
Together they offer everything from luxurious, fully catered lodges to self-catering bush camps and hiking and pony trails — as well as an environment education school for up to 60 children, and conference facilities for up to 28 people. Kwalata offers bow and rifle hunting.

Game includes more than 50 species of mammal, including elephant, rhino, buffalo, hippo, leopard, roan, sable and black impala, and about 50 fish and 300 bird species.

Philosophy

However, game viewing is actually a secondary — albeit lucrative — consideration of an integrated conservation and development focus typical of the best reserves in South Africa. The philosophy of the Waterberg Conservancy embraces the preservation of endangered species, the economic upliftment of the community, and environmental education — particularly of children.

The conservancy's dramatic terrain varies from rocky escarpments to untouched riverine areas along the Palala River and its tributaries. The Waterberg is actually a plateau, created from sediments laid down by ancient streams from the north about 1,7 billion years ago. The range is just north of the rich tin deposits of Rooiberg, and



ON THE MAP: The new private conservancy is 300 km from Johannesburg, along the N1 to Pietersburg via Nylstroom and Vaalwater.

MAP: DAVIDA TANCHEL

Game reserve works hand in hand with community

THE amalgamation of three game reserves in the northern Transvaal has created the Waterberg Nature Conservancy, which offers the tourist unusual opportunities in a little-known area, says Science Writer ANITA ALLEN.

its minerals include traces of tin, copper, uranium and even gold.

The area receives an average annual rainfall of 600 mm, and has three distinct vegetation systems. The sourveld may lack certain nutrients, but

boasts many spectacular specimens of plant and tree species.

There is evidence of very early activity by man, with Iron Age smelting sites and nine Bushman sites found in the conservancy, which is

classified a natural heritage site.

Driving in private vehicles is not permitted, but the conservancy offers a choice of organised game-viewing drives, hikes and horseback trails.

Author, artist and con-

servationist Clive Walker, who is chairman of the conservancy, holds that the area is unique, but has never received the recognition it deserves. This is a situation that the conservancy hopes to change as it moves to incorporate marginal farmland on its boundaries.

In addition to white rhino, Lapalala has two breeding herds of black rhino. The first calf, Bwana Tshiwana (Mister Orphan), which was born prematurely and was rejected by its mother, is already a media star. Nursed through the first critical months by Karen Trendler of the Animal Rehabilitation Centre, near Pretoria, the calf is now back at Lapalala and is making history as the first black rhino to be raised in captivity in South Africa. He has been joined by another black rhino orphan from Natal, and both will remain in holding pens until they are old enough to be released into the rhino sanctuary at Lapalala.

Monitored

Touchstone has a herd of 10 juvenile elephants rescued from culling in the Kruger Park. Unlike other such herds, they will not be integrated with an adult female, and their adaptation is being monitored in a PhD research project by Marion Garai.

The conservancy also bought five hippo from an American zoo, which were born in the US from stock imported from Kenya. They have given birth to two calves.

A future project is the reintroduction of red-billed ox-peckers after an absence of about 30 years. Ian Whyte, senior research officer in the Kruger Park, has notified the conservancy that its application has been granted and a breeding family of 50 birds will be available in September.

In the most ambitious project yet, the conser-

vancy is moving into the people business. The overall goal is to help entrepreneurial developments based on mutually beneficial links between the conservancy, neighbouring farmers and communities in Lebowa.

The chairman of the committee representing the eight farmers' unions of the Waterberg, Pieter Prinsloo, said the farming community supported the outreach and upliftment programme. Farmers, he said, were already conservationists, and most had herds of wild game on their farms.

Over the past 10 years, farming had become increasingly difficult, and uniting with the conservancy was a distinct possibility.

Farmers, the conservancy and the Government have already combined forces to build a 110-pupil school on land given by farmer Jannie Nel.

At the official public launch of the conservancy last weekend, Dr Piet Mulder, of the Directorate of Nature Conservation of the Transvaal, paid tribute to the private sector's exceptional contribution to conservation.

He said 30 percent of the Transvaal consisted of conservation areas, 18 percent of it in the hands of the private sector.

6/10/99 7/5/93
New St Lucia deadline
COMMENT on the 1 500-page St Lucia environmental impact report had been extended to June 22, Environment Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk said in Cape Town yesterday. ^{S6}
The deadline had been extended after complaints that the study was longer than expected, and that there had been too few copies.
The new deadline would not delay the decision-making process on the future of St Lucia, and review panel hearings would still take place in Durban and St Lucia in the first week of August.

More time to Star 7/15/93 comment on

St Lucia tome

Own Correspondent



DURBAN — The Government bowed to pressure by angry environmentalists yesterday, agreeing to allow them another five weeks to comment on the voluminous St Lucia environment impact report.

Environment Minister Japie van Wyk said in a statement he appreciated that the 1 500 report was "bulky", and hoped the time extension would be valuable to interested parties.

The controversial report was released in Durban in March and interested parties were originally given until May 14 to file written responses to the document. The new deadline is June 22.

Nevertheless, he said, the extension would not affect the dates of review panel hearings set down for Durban in the first week of August.

Wildlife Society spokesman Jeremy Ridl welcomed the extension, but noted that it had been granted only under duress.

"It needs to be said that we did not go cap in hand to the authorities. We told them quite bluntly that the original time frame was inadequate, and we in fact demanded an extension.

"We are quite serious about this process and are definitely not using delaying tactics. Richards Bay Minerals does not want to mine St Lucia before the turn of the century, and we cannot understand the Government's desperate hurry on this issue."

Ridl also expressed serious concern that replies supplied after May 14 could effectively be ignored or "lost in the debris".

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hensive ever built — consists of 20 separate isothermic containers and includes a community are to accompany the shipment in mid-June.

Midrand to prevent dump

BIOM 715793.

MARIANNE MERTEN

MIDRAND Town Council will take "whatever legal steps" necessary to prevent Wastetech establishing its Class 1 toxic waste dump at Chloorkop.

Midrand management committee member Alan Dawson said in a statement this week the council opposed the dump because of negative experiences with Wastetech's Clayville dump. It maintained the dump was illegal by Water Affairs Department standards because it would be sited within 400m of residential properties.

Dawson said the council had not been consulted about the site's establishment. This infringed on its "culture of consultation" with residents.

"We had never seen an environmental impact study, the geo-hydrological report or the water quality

monitoring plan," he said.

Although the proposed dump would not fall within Midrand Town Council boundaries, Dawson said the council would be responsible for funding maintenance of the access routes such as the Allandale Chloorkop Road.

The annual impact of about 100 Wastetech heavy duty trucks on the road could be compared to a 10-year period of normal traffic flow, he said.

Wastetech MD Ken Bromfield said yesterday the company had no reason for concern at the moment, but would monitor the developments.

The company was satisfied it had taken all steps necessary — including wide-ranging consultations with local communities — to establish the site, he said.

The nearest residential areas are Rabie Ridge (1km), Chloorkop (1,5km) and Tembisa (3km).

□ Sapa reports that SA will host a training course early next year on the safe handling of radioactive waste.

This follows SA's first participation in the deliberations of the technical working group meeting of the African Regional Co-

operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (Afra).

The Atomic Energy Corporation said yesterday the availability of an advanced level of waste management, and the infrastructure around the Vaalputs waste repository, presented an excellent base for the course.

SA will also host a training course in nuclear instrumentation early next year, and a course on research reactor technologies in April and May, 1994.

AEC said the entry into Afra represented a first for SA. It served as a meeting ground where communal projects could be discussed and provided the opportunity for a sharing of resources.

"The aim is to extend the technological base more widely through Africa to the benefit of all its member countries and peoples.

"In this, SA can play a leading role and has already been recognised by the rest of Africa as a leader in the nuclear field."

SA will host the 1995 Afra technical working group meeting and will serve as chairman of Afra for that year.

Charles Schulz



ARC 615/93
56

Public view on Peninsula range sought

Environment Reporter

WAYS of involving the public in recent major initiatives around Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain will be discussed at a meeting at Kirstenbosch tonight.

The meeting, organised by the Wildlife Society, is to discuss the proposed formation of a co-ordinating body, the Peninsula Mountain Forum.

"There's a need for the public to participate meaningfully in decisions which are made concerning the management of the Peninsula mountain chain," said spokesman Mr Andy Gubb.

"At present, there is a substantial gap between the authorities and the public."

Recent vital developments included the appointment of consultants to identify a future overall management policy for the mountain chain, the suggestion that it be declared a national park and the Southern African Nature Foundation's announcement of the R25 million management and conservation fund, he pointed out.

The meeting, in the lecture hall at Kirstenbosch at 7,30pm, will be chaired by University of Cape Town botanist Professor Richard Cowling.

Group wants kaolin mine land usage call rejected

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SERINA'S application to the Regional Services Council for a change in land use at its proposed Noordhoek kaolin mining site should be rejected, says the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

A final decision on the application, which the RSC insists must be approved before any mining can start, is due to be taken at the full council meeting at the end of the month.

It was considered by the land usage and transport planning committee yesterday.

Serina chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy has pointed out that the company has advice from senior counsel that it is entitled to start mining immediately and that the application to the RSC was made as a gesture of public spiritedness.

The action group's statement follows an announcement by Mr Van der Spuy last week that his company had negotiated a five-year monitoring contract with UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit.

AKG 6/5/93
The action group acknowledged negotiating certain "concessions" to ameliorate the effects of mining in the Noordhoek valley with Serina last year, but said it was still convinced open-cast mining was an unacceptable activity for "the Fairest Cape", spokesman Mr Ian Brownlie said.

"A low profile was subsequently adopted following the negotiations, but the group reserved its rights to demonstrate and exercise its democratic rights as and when it saw fit."

The Cape's natural areas and wine-lands had to be conserved if this region was to fulfil its rightful place as a premier tourist destination in South Africa, Mr Brownlie said.

"The recent government White Paper on tourism underscores this belief and adds that tourism is the main long-term money-spinner and employment creator for this area, and any attempt to degrade these assets should be resisted.

"We therefore appeal to the RSC to heed the wishes of the people and to send a strong signal to Serina by rejecting the application before them."

Man-made wetlands in water-purifying study

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Wetlands are usually in the news because of potential pollution threats to the delicate ecosystems they support, but a three-year study is focusing on the use of wetlands to purify polluted water.

Natural wetlands function as natural water-filter systems through a number of complex interactions between physical, chemical and biological components of the system. By imitating these natural processes, about 50 artificial wetlands have been constructed in South Africa to purify sewage, industrial effluent or polluted runoff.

The principle underlying the purification of sewage or effluent is that organic material will be bio-degraded in time if exposed to sufficient oxygen. A high-tech modern sewage works is specifically designed to ex-

pose biological material to large quantities of oxygen.

However, nature achieves the same end result naturally in its wetlands. Here water flows through a dense bed of reeds, whose roots release sufficient oxygen to allow exactly the same process to take place. This is the process at work in the Okavango Delta, for example, which delivers pure, crystal-clear, almost distilled water as the end product.

In fact nature does such a good job that man-made wetlands have been created in some places to remove remaining impurities from water after it has been purified with the aid of the latest technology.

These artificial wetlands are much cheaper to construct than expensive high-tech plants, and they do not require a large trained labour force, energy or large-scale maintenance to operate.

There are also environmental advantages, given that artificial wetlands often attract insect and bird life and can be used as

a nature reserve at the same time.

The study, by consulting engineers Stefen, Robertson and Kirsten and funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC), is a comprehensive research project aimed at preparing a set of guidelines for wetland usage in future.

The first phase of the project involved gathering information on existing man-made wetlands. Now, in the study's second year, researchers are analysing the information to determine the effectiveness and defects of each system, and how to solve the problems encountered.

According to project leader Dr Andrew Woods, there is no "recipe" for a successful man-made wetland, which can quickly become a stinking swamp if all the interacting factors are not right. This means right size, right soil, and right plants and plant densities.

Woods says the artificial wetland system is particularly suited to smaller communities which cannot afford expensive

technology to purify sewage. Municipalities that are already using the system include Ladybrand, QwaQwa, Bethlehem and Lethlabile, outside Pretoria.

Smaller systems are ideal for leisure resorts, rural schools and informal settlements which have no access to a municipal sewage system.

Such wetlands are already being used to purify sewage from the camps in the Kruger Park and to treat septic tank effluent for remote service stations along highways.

Certain mines also use the system to ensure that runoff from mine dumps after a downfall is collected and purified before being released into rivers.

The Water Research Commission is funded from tariffs built into rates for water supplied to urban, industrial, agricultural or domestic users. It does not itself undertake research, but enters into agreements with other organisations to carry out the research. In 1992, the commission supported 225 projects with more than R33 million.

Star 4/5/93
56

Drought after-effects still remain

DEEPENING drought would continue to affect SA's economy and people despite the recent good rains which saved this year's maize crop. *56*

A National Consultative Forum on Drought March update report said the Border-Transkei and the Natal-KwaZulu regions in particular were badly affected. Drought after-effects would continue to be severe in the northern and eastern Transvaal, and government declared a further 10 areas drought stricken last month. *56*

Rural communities in the western Transvaal who relied on subsistence farming were suffering because of restricted access to water and a failure of subsistence crops. The problem was compounded by retrenchments in the mining areas, the report said. *140M 315793*

A continued lack of sufficient rain and dam water reserves meant planting for the next season would be difficult and crops would suffer in the long term.

Citrus fruit farmers in the northern and eastern Transvaal, who produced a good

MARIANNE MERTEN

crop this season because of irrigation water from the Fanie Botha dam, now faced water restrictions and worsening prospects for next year's crop.

Employment opportunities on coffee, tea and fruit plantations in the areas were also affected. *56*

The report said unemployment might worsen as funding for emergency job creation schemes such as soil conservation projects ended in March.

Natal's grazing was only about 20% to 30% of normal and some northern and coastal areas were experiencing high livestock deaths. Although Natal's crops were better than last year, results were still poor compared with an average season. Cane growers were especially affected.

About a third of livestock in the Free State was in poor condition. Wheat farmers harvested only 35% of their crops. Although cotton and potato harvests were good, lucerne was deteriorating because of the cold weather, the report said.

Kaolin mine calls in UCT

By GLENDA NEVILL

THE Serina Kaolin mining company has signed a multi-million rand contract with the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit to advise them on environmental management at their controversial Chapman's Peak site.

Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, chairman of Serina Kaolin, said he had set aside R500 000 a year

for the next five years for this purpose.

The company has also established a R1-million trust fund to guarantee environmental rehabilitation of the sites after mining is completed.

The project will be supervised by Professor Richard Fuggle and Dr John Raimondo.

"We will be acting as consultants" Professor Fuggle said yesterday.

Let public decide about ^{SOUTH AFRICA} Table Mountain ^{29/1/51} Mountain ^{2/6/193}

THE PUBLIC must have a say in how Table Mountain is used in the future.

This is strongly recommended by the consultants looking at policy for the management of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE), an area comprising the Cape Peninsula mountain chain and

56

adjoining areas.

The UCT-based team has been given the task of devising an integrated management scheme for the mountain chain, which at present falls under the control of a number of different local authorities.

The consultants recently released their preliminary findings, which

will be put before the public before final recommendations are made. Researcher Ms Sue Lane said the team would begin a process of public consultation later this year.

The preliminary report was drawn up after consultations with people and organisations working in the CPPNE. The report indicates

that the present policies to manage the mountain are inadequate, with matters being tackled on an ad hoc rather than an integrated basis.

There was a feeling that a single accountable body with executive powers be given the task of administering the entire CPPNE.

Justin Pearce

Environmental affairs may fall under town planning ⁽⁵⁶⁾

Municipal Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL matters could be added to the portfolio of the city council town planning committee.

Deputy town planning committee chairman Mr Llewellyn van Wyk won support for this proposal during a council debate on the future of the environmental advisory committee.

Mr Van Wyk said plans to widen the powers of the environmental committee would founder because it would be able merely to make recommendations. ARG 1/5/93

Changing the town planning committee's brief to include environmental matters would indicate the city council's seriousness about such issues, he said.

Star 30/4/93

St Lucia challenge

In The Star today is an advertisement paid for by members of the public who have clubbed together.

A group anxious to save St Lucia from mining has squared up to the mining company which has spent hundreds of thousands of rands on advertising in wildlife magazines.

The public group believes the environmental report on St Lucia failed to mention alternatives to mining there.

— Staff Reporter.

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B689E
 The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(1) During 1992, 75% of all petrol sold in the Transvaal was manufactured by Sasol's synthetic plants. If Sasol's production through the Natref crude oil refinery (in which it has a 63,64% shareholding) is added, the volume of petrol manufactured by Sasol as a percentage of sales in the Transvaal increases to 90%. A portion of Sasol's fuel production from crude oil is also sold in the Free State, Northern Cape and Northern Natal.

(2) Sasol and Total, the latter having the balance of shareholding in the Natref refinery, who supply almost 100% of the fuel sold wholesale in the Transvaal, are responsible for the cost of distributing these fuel products by pipeline and other modes of transport from their plants in Secunda and Sasolburg to the various depots which constitute the total market.

(a) Detail regarding specific cost elements is company confidential information.

(b) Falls away.

(3) No.

Medicine: parallel importation

*6. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether, with reference to a press conference held by her on or about 11 March 1993, she intends proceeding with allowing the parallel importation of medicine; if not, why not; if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) what does the parallel importation of medicine involve;

(2) whether the same registration requirements will apply to parallel imported medicine as are applicable to locally manufactured medicine; if not, why not;

(3) whether steps will be taken to combat the importation of counterfeit medicine; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(4) whether the economic and legal implications of parallel imported medicine have

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

been assessed or will be assessed before parallel importation is allowed; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant particulars? B690E

The MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) Yes,

(a) parallel importation is already possible as the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965) does not prohibit this and

(b) a parallel imported medicine involves the registration of that medicine, which is the same medicine as that already registered by the original applicant for use in South Africa, by a different applicant. The parallel imported medicine should also originate from the same manufacturing facility as the previously registered medicine, or from manufacturing facilities belonging to, or falling under the control of the parent company;

(2) no, because parallel imported medicines are the same medicines as those which are known in South Africa; the data of which are already on file with the Registrar of Medicines. Regulation 15, which sets out the format of an application for registration, will have to be amended accordingly;

(3) no, no specific steps are necessary as the medicine registration process lends itself to the combating of the importation of counterfeit medicines;

(4) no, the legal implications have not been assessed as these are the responsibility of the applicant in each case. The economic implications are under discussion at the moment.

Air pollution

*7. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether air pollution reached unacceptable levels (a) at any city centres and (b) in any regions in the Republic in 1992; if so, at which city centres and in which regions;

(2) whether any steps were taken in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps in each case? B691E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) (a) and (b) Yes,

Cape Town, Vaal Triangle region, Edenvale, Kempton Park and Modderfontein region, as well as unelectrified urban areas;

(2) yes,

Cape Town:

The nitrogen oxide levels were exceeded a number of times. Monitoring of the pollutant concentrations and research into the occurrence thereof are being carried out. The pollutant mainly originates from motor vehicles. Control thereof by means of catalytic conversion will be considered when lead-free fuel becomes available.

Vaal Triangle region:

High levels of particulate pollution are experienced during the winter months. Research is carried out to identify the main sources. Improved control of industrial sources is being continued but smoke from domestic coal combustion can only be reduced by the use of alternative forms of energy such as electricity.

Edenvale, Kempton Park and Modderfontein region:

An excess of particulate pollution was experienced a number of times. Investigation into the sources causing the high levels is being carried out. Industries in the area are, however, still engaged in reducing their emissions.

Unelectrified urban areas:

No control can be exercised before alternative forms of energy such as electricity are in general use. Investigation into alternative fuels which will be less polluting are also being carried out.

Goldstone Commission: reports

*8. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

(a) How many reports of the Commission of

Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (Goldstone Commission)* have been submitted to the State President to date and (b) what is the title of each of these reports? B692E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (for the Minister of Justice):

(Reply partially laid upon the Table with leave of House):

(a) Nineteen (19).

(b) 1. First Interim Report

2. Interim Report on the Violence at Mooi River.

3. Report of the Second Committee appointed to inquire into the Violence at the President Steyn Gold Mine in Welkom.

4. Second Interim Report.

5. Report to the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation from the Committee established to inquire into the involvement of 32 Battalion at Phola Park.

6. First Interim Report to the Commission by the Committee investigating Public Violence and Intimidation in the Taxi Industry.

7. Interim Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into Train Violence.

8. Second Interim Report to the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation from the Committee established to inquire into the Taxi Industry.

9. Interim Report on the Violence in Hostels.

10. Report on the Bisho Incident.

11. Report on the Planning or Investigation of Acts of Violence by members of the South African Police in the Vaal Area.

12. Report on the Inquiry conducted by the Committee of Inquiry into the Violence at Tokoza.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

But when she came home from set him free, she said.

Storm brews over forest station move

JOHN YELD (56) ARGV 28/4/93
Environment Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council is running into a storm of controversy over its handling of the move of Hout Bay's forestry station.

The station, which is being evacuated to allow for upgrading of the Imizamo Yethu village, will move to Bethel Farm in Valley Road, beside the World Of Birds.

The RSC has apparently settled on the property after looking at several alternative sites in the valley, but has refused to confirm this publicly.

The reported price tag is about R4 million, which some estate agents believe is grossly inflated.

The agents suggest the 16,7 ha property, part of the estate of the late Mr Carl de Beer, is worth "between R2 million and R2,5 million at most".

They also expressed concern about a possible conflict of interest as, they claim, a senior RSC official is related by marriage to the De Beer family.

In response to questions by The Argus, the RSC refused to confirm it was making a bid for the farm, but two days later placed a legal notice advertising a rezoning proposal for the property.

The notice, published last Friday, does not give any reasons for the rezoning application, but documentation in the RSC offices states the property will be used

for the establishment of a forestry station".

The Argus questions to chief executive officer Mr DJ van den Berg included whether a member of the De Beer family was employed by the RSC, if so whether the person had anything to do with land acquisition as part of his duties and whether he was asked to recuse himself in this instance.

Responding in a letter dated last Wednesday, he said the council had not "as yet" entered any agreement to buy Bethel Farm or any other property.

"Delicate negotiations are still taking place and therefore it is, at this stage, not possible to comment on the details of any possible transaction.

"Once negotiations for a new forestry station are concluded, full details will be supplied," his letter stated.

"You are assured, however, that the council is taking every possible step to ensure that taxpayers' money is utilised in the best possible manner and, if precautions need to be taken against the possibility of a conflict of interest of employees, such precautions will be taken."

The legal notice about the proposed rezoning calls for objections by May 19.

Although the notice said details of the proposal were available at the RSC offices, all that was available on Monday was a property diagram.

This does not state the name of the applicant, although an RSC staff member on duty said: "It's for our Hout Bay forestry station."

According to the notice, the proposed change in zoning is from subdivisional area, single residential and public open space, to local authority purposes.

A Hout Bay agent who deals mainly with undeveloped property described the reported R4 million-plus price tag as "way over the top".

"Professional estate agents wouldn't put a higher value than R2,5 million," the agent said.

"This is not a very healthy situation — there are lots of rumours flying around."

Ratepayers' association chairman Dr Cedric Nathan said he had heard rumours about the deal but it had not been discussed by his committee.

"I don't know very much about it. My feeling is that it will have to come before our development sub-committee, which will be the appropriate time to react," he said.

A Hout Bay resident, who asked not to be named, expressed support for moving the forestry station to the farm.

This would be in keeping with the "sheer natural beauty" of the area, she suggested.

But another resident who lives close to the farm said she was strongly opposed to the move.

Stellenbosch in pollution case?

THE Stellenbosch municipality could be facing charges arising from the pollution of the Eerste River.

Dr John Lusher, deputy director of water quality, Department of Water Affairs, said water samples were taken after effluent from a sewerage works ended up in the river last month.

"We have taken legal advice and pressed charges against the municipality for dumping a large amount of unpurified effluent into the river," he said.

The case has been referred to the attorney-general for a decision to prosecute. (56)

The maximum fine for contaminating water is R50 000. ET 28/4/13

'Initiatives threaten ecological integrity'

THE appointment of consultants by Cape Town City Council to develop policy guidelines and a management plan for Signal Hill to Lion's Head is just one of the initiatives which threatens the environmental integrity of our mountains.

According to a statement released by Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, it is the failure of various bodies to "adopt an holistic environment and development approach to the entire mountain chain in the interests of the people of the region" which presents the threat.

Others initiatives include the Cape Town City Council and the Regional Services Council's identification, protection and development of Peninsula scenic routes; an initiative to split the Peninsula by forming a South Peninsula Local Authority; the appointment by the CPPNE Management Advisory Committee of consultants to identify future policy and management options; and the focus by the RSC on structure plans for the southern Peninsula.

Important

He said that in the past, most people in the region had been excluded from full participation in management decisions concerning the mountain.

He said: "The initiatives listed above imply that important and far-reaching management decisions will be made in the near future — and once again, participation by the public is either lagging behind, or at best highly structured within a pre-determined framework.

"It is essential that this be rectified, and that the public play a vital role in establishing a single management authority and an holistic management plan for the entire mountain chain.

Public meeting

"It is urgent that some form of public forum be developed which will ensure full public participation in environmental management and development decisions."

As an initial step towards this forum, a public meeting will be held at 7.30pm on May 6, in the Kirstenbosch lecture hall. As well as the Wildlife Society, other groups including the Botanical Society of South Africa, Captrust, CPPNE, Earthlife Africa, Habitat Council, the Cape Town branch of the Mountain Club of SA support this initiative in principle.

! GENTLEMEN!

Pollution down as pipe progresses

A MARKED decrease in pollution levels has already been recorded as work progresses on the Green Point marine outfall.

Though far from complete — the pipe is now about 1 000 m long as opposed to its final length of 1 700 m — Green Point councillor Neil Ross reports that much less pollution is being picked up in the bay.

He said: "The contractors are continuing with the trenching and concreting of the pipe but will be packing up work for the winter relatively soon.

"It was originally hoped that the pipe would be finished by summer but it should be completed by early next year."

56 07/14/93
Full of holes

He said the consultants add sections to the old 300 m pipeline, which was full of holes, and as it gets further out to sea pollution levels in the area decrease.

"The project has undoubtedly had the desired effect," he said.

Uitenhage Provincial Hospital: expenditure
206. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare:

What, in respect of the Uitenhage Provincial Hospital, (a) was the amount budgeted for each category of expenditure, and (b) (i) was the revenue and (ii) were the sources thereof, as at 31 December 1992? B461E

THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

- (a) Personnel R14 124 000,00
- Consumables R 4 832 000,00
- Non consumables R 410 000,00
- Operating costs R 1 211 000,00

- (b) (i) R9 003 363,00 and
- (ii) Hospital fees R8 861 121,00
- Board and lodging... R 34 015,00
- Rent R 17 403,00
- Meals R 6 332,00
- Crèche R 39 536,00
- Sundries R 44 947,00

Provincial hospitals: uniform system of tariffs

212. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare:

(i) Out-patient tariffs

- H1-hospital patient.....
- H2-hospital patient.....
- H3-hospital patient.....
- Private and private hospital patients

(ii) Daily bed tariffs

- H1-hospital patient.....
- H2-hospital patient.....
- H3-hospital patient.....
- Private and private hospital patient....

- (c) the first phase of the uniform tariff system was implemented on 1 May 1991 and the final phase is to be implemented on 1 May 1993 and
- (d) the basic tariffs as reflected in (b)

(1) Whether a decision has been taken to introduce a uniform system of tariffs in all provincial hospitals; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom was this decision taken, (b) what are the tariffs in respect of (i) out-patient visits and (ii) daily bed occupancy, (c) on what date will this tariff system take effect and (d) how do these new tariffs compare with those levied by each province;

(2) who will decide on tariff changes in future? B499E

THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) Yes,

(a) by Cabinet on 15 August 1990,

(b) this is an extremely complex matter to answer in this format because of various types of services, categories of patients and the different types of hospitals providing the services. Therefore only the accepted basic uniform tariffs are supplied.

Community hospital

- R 6,00
- R15,00
- R22,00
- R29,00

Regional/Academic hospital

- R 19,00 per admission
- R 46,00
- R 92,00
- R184,00
- R 24,00 per admission
- R 59,00
- R117,00
- R234,00,

above are uniform in all provincial hospitals except for the following tariffs in the Cape, Transvaal and the Orange Free State which differ:

Out-patient tariffs:

Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope:

- Private hospital patients R43 at community hospitals
- Private hospital patients R55 at regional/academic hospitals

Provincial Administration of Transvaal:

- Private hospital patients R40 at community hospitals
- Private hospital patients R55 at regional/academic hospitals
- Category H3 hospital patients R25 at community hospitals
- Category H1 hospital patients R8 at community hospitals

In-patient tariffs:

Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State:

- H1-hospital patient None

(2) each administrator of a province can decide on tariffs in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the report on the uniform system of tariffs for health services report in consultation with the Department of State Expenditure.

Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme: expropriation of farms

266. Adv C H PIENNAAR asked the Minister of Water Affairs:†

(1) Whether any farms in the districts of Bethlehem, Clarens and/or Fouriesburg have been expropriated for the purpose of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme; if so,

(2) (a) what (i) is the name, (ii) is the name or are the names of the registered owners and (iii) is the extent of each of the farms concerned and (b) what is the amount paid or to be paid by the State in respect of each of these farms;

(3) whether plantations of trees on any of these farms had an effect on the prices thereof; if not, why not; if so, in respect of which farms? B641E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes, by the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority and the Department of Public Works. The provision of particulars of the land expropriated by the Department of Public Works is the responsibility of that Department and the Minister concerned.

Community hospital

- (1) Glen Lyen 384
- (2) Portion 1 of Pietersdal 1207
- (3) Portion 3 of Bethel 1390
- (4) Beginsel 346
- (5) Remainder of Verlestonein 341
- (6) Subdivision 2 of Larola 511

56

(ii) (1) D Exley

- (2) M Martin
- (3) K Kleynhans
- (4) Lesotho Enterprises
- (5) C J van Blerk
- (6) M E Burtls
- (iii) (1) 12,3500 ha
- (2) 35,200 ha
- (3) 0,1100 ha
- (4) 4,8100 ha
- (5) 12,2500 ha
- (6) 21,0959 ha

- (b) (1) R5 000,00
- (2) R180 000,00
- (3) R110,00
- (4) R3 200,00
- (5) R8 500,00
- (6) R120 000,00

(3) No, as no plantations of trees were involved in the acquisition of the portions of land concerned.

Schools: re-classification of minibuses

281. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Transport:

(1) Whether the classification of minibuses

Hazardous fuels depot under fire

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

(56)

PORTNET'S claim that early disclosures about its proposed bulk-storage facility for hazardous chemicals in Cape Town docks would lead to "unfounded public criticism" has been strongly criticised by conservationists.

ARC 26/4/93

The terminal, a joint venture between Portnet and a Richards Bay company, will store hazardous liquid petrochemicals, ranging from styrene to solvents.

Initially, the facility proposed for the Eastern Mole will handle an estimated 20 000 tons of chemicals a year.

The University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit was commissioned to make an impact assessment of the proposal and a draft copy of its report was sent to various organisations for comment.

The report states: "Due to concern for potentially unfounded negative public response to perceptions of risk and visual impacts, the client specifically requested that no scoping should be undertaken until these two potential impacts had been addressed in more detail." Scoping refers to identifying and involving interested and affected parties.

In its response, the Wildlife Society said the developers' request was contrary to the spirit of public participation in the decision-making process.

"Also, it's inevitable that public suspicion is aroused once they become aware that, prior to the release of any information, there's been so much 'behind-the-scenes' planning and negotiation," said spokesman Mr Andy Gubb.

The lack of operating and emergency protocols in the development proposal was a serious shortcoming. These had to be developed and made public, he added.

In its response, Earthlife Africa expressed "very grave reservations" about both the impact assessment process and the draft impact report.

"At the outset, we must voice our objection to the lack of public participation and access to information... than this, we demand, as members of the public, to be fully informed of potentially hazardous activities."

Earthlife said it was particularly concerned that workers, who were most likely to be affected by the project, had not been asked to comment.

Environmental evaluation unit general manager Dr John Raimondo said he accepted Earthlife's concerns.

The Press definitely would have been informed at some point, thereby giving people a chance to raise any concerns, said Dr Raimondo.

"We agree the relevant unions should be aware of the proposal and our report. We would have chosen to go to them once we had received comment from the various authorities. Perhaps our timing is at fault."

Dr Raimondo noted that all the chemicals which would be stored at the proposed site were being used in the Cape Town metropolitan area and were being imported in bulk via other harbours and sent by road to Cape Town.

The pollution sleuths

Star 24/4/93

WHEN an emergency call comes in, "policeman" Fritz Bekker is out on the road within minutes — armed not with a firearm but with sample bottles and sophisticated electronic testing equipment.

Because Bekker is not a normal policeman — but a member of the "pollution police" of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

His job is to get to the site of a chemical spill or other form of pollution as quickly as possible. The longer he delays, the more chance that the "evidence" will become diluted, increasing the difficulty in tracking the culprit.

In a worst-case scenario (a few of which the department has had to deal with in recent years), a tardy response to an

emergency could be a death sentence for part of a river.

The Saturday Star recently caught up with Bekker and the department's deputy director, Dewald Steyn, as they stared glumly up a storm-water drain which ran into a small river. A foul-smelling black substance was lying in a viscous puddle, the concrete sides of the drain stained with it.

While Bekker measures the oxygen content of the water with an electronic sensor, Steyn takes samples. The instrument confirms their suspicions: the black "gunge" has already effectively starved the water of oxygen. The sample bottles will be taken for analysis as the first step in a long detective story to find out what the substance is and, from there, track down its source.

Midrand environmentalists were impressed last month

Haste is crucial for Water Affairs squad

BRENDAN SEERY

576

with the speed with which the department reacted to allegations that a local factory was dumping phenol compounds into the environment via water pipes. Bekker came out on a Sunday morning to take samples, and Steyn followed up later with a thorough inspection of the factory site. A charge has been laid against the firm.

Even as Steyn was inspecting an outflow pipe from the factory, he noticed heavily polluted water being released from an adjacent pipe. He then traced the pollution back to its source: allegedly the mechanical workshops of

the Midrand municipality. A charge is to be laid.

There are only about 20 pollution control officers to cover the whole of the Transvaal including the highveld region, which is home to South Africa's biggest mining-industrial complex.

Steyn says big companies and mining groups are becoming increasingly environmentally conscious and generally try to comply with the law. It is the smaller players — businesses and the odd municipality — which have to be watched closely.

And it's not always the most pleasant job out in the

field. Pollution control officers are sometimes greeted with antagonism by the people they are investigating, while tramping through foul and occasionally toxic liquid is all in a day's work.

Bekker jokes that in the coal mining districts of the Transvaal, where water leaching through dumps is virtually turned into sulphuric acid, his veldskoens last only a few weeks.

It wasn't fun either for the pollution control officers who had to wade into water choked with festering, blood-clotted abattoir waste to find a hidden pipe discharging raw untreated effluent into what should have been a clear bush river.

There are compensations, though, for men like Bekker who, as a biologist by training, does not have to be told about the fragility of the environment.

When a trainload of tanker trucks carrying highly toxic "black liquor" crashed into the Wilge River in the Transvaal last year, it looked like an environmental disaster that was too ghastly to contemplate.

Water Affairs officers such as Bekker remained camped at the site for three weeks, supervising the building of four dams above and below the spill site, diverting the river so that users lower down were not deprived of water, and salvaging hundreds of thousands of litres of the pollutant. The clean-up operation included rescuing fish from polluted or about-to-be polluted water.

Today there is little sign of the mishap, and fish have even been successfully reintroduced. "That makes you feel good," says Bekker with a smile.

Windless weather increases city smog

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CALM autumn weather played havoc with Cape Town's air quality yesterday and health guidelines were exceeded during the first smog of the season.

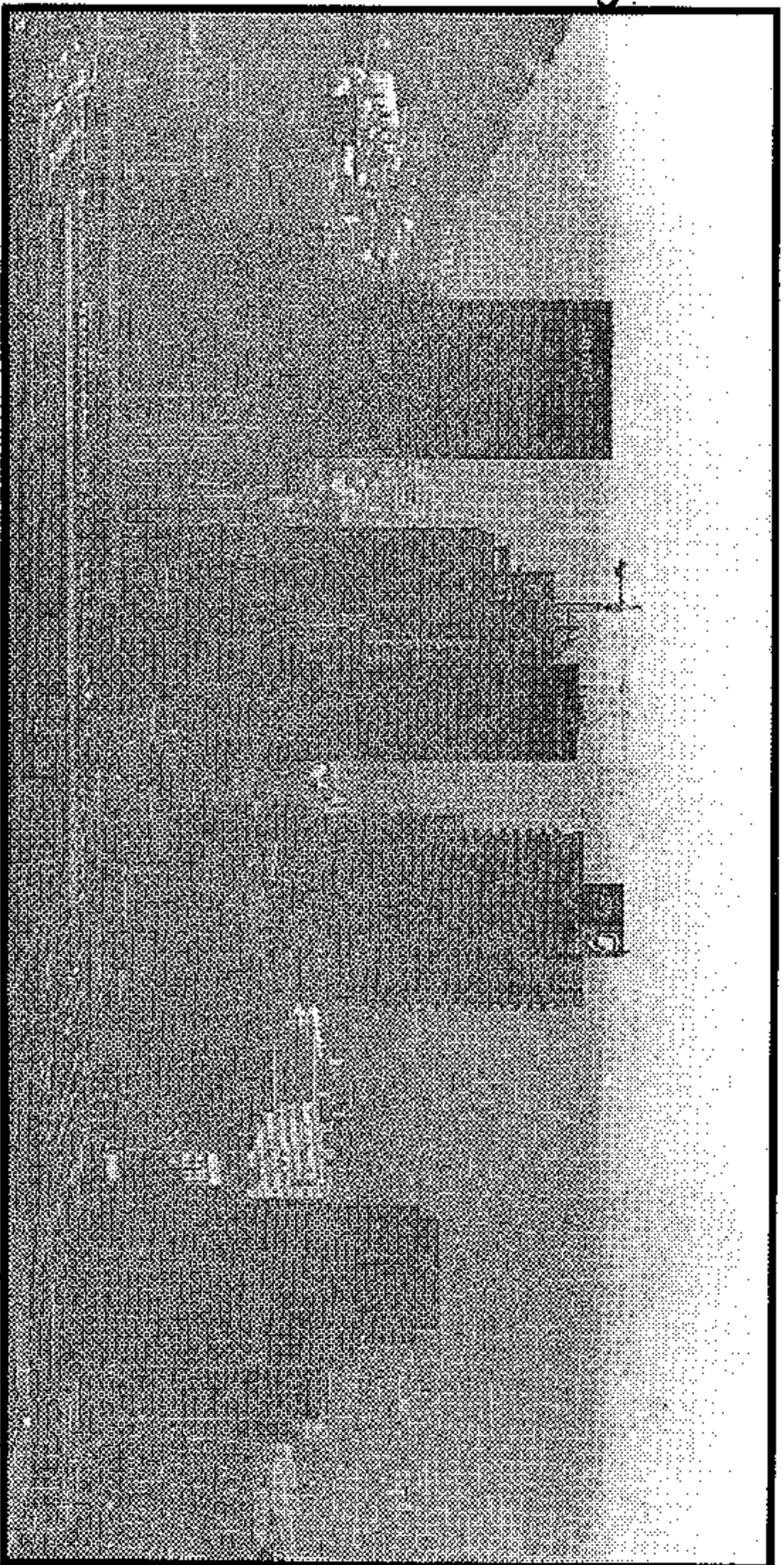
The uncalibrated measurement for oxides of nitrogen was 2 297 and for nitrogen oxide 470, reported the Cape Town City Council's pollution control officer Mr Brian Oxley.

The State health guidelines are 1 504 and 376 respectively.

Partly because of the wind, Cape Town is considered one of the cleanest of the world's major cities, and occasional excesses during windless weather in spring and autumn do not constitute a general health problem, experts said.

"The levels and frequency (of measured pollution) in Cape Town are not considered a health hazard in situations like these," confirmed Mr Oxley.

Several people from Table View, Montague Gardens and Higgovale telephoned The Argus to complain about yesterday's pollution.



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

BACK TO BOILING: Just when you thought winter was knocking on the door, temperatures top the summer 30s again. And, on a windless April Tuesday, a heavy smog settled over the Peninsula. The smog layer made tall buildings look for all the world like croutons in a city bowl of pea soup.

day's pollution.

Some of the callers claimed the Kynoch fertiliser factory at Milnerton was responsible for much of the pollution.

Asked to respond, production manager Mr Martin Burr confirmed that the factory had contributed to the smog but insisted its emission was harmless.

"Today is a very bad day as far as the weather is concerned, with a temperature inversion and very little wind

movement, and our contribution doesn't look pretty.

"But our pollution is to the best of my knowledge not a health risk at all, although it is a source of embarrassment."

Mr Burr said the factory's emission was in the form of an extremely fine LAN (limestone ammonium nitrate) dust — "as fine as cigarette smoke" — equivalent to about one or two bags of fertiliser bags an hour.

"People conceive of this as a health risk. I would happily put

my head in a duct but I accept that people have this perception and it certainly didn't look attractive," he said.

Several measures to deal with the problem had been initiated.

● The results of a pilot study into brown haze over the Cape Town region — caused mainly by vehicle emissions and other forms of combustion — should be handed to the Western Cape branch of the National Association for Clean Air within a month.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

General Affairs:

Leakage of chlorine gas at Prospecton

1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Manpower:

(1) Whether any chlorine gas leaked into the atmosphere at Prospecton on or about 15 March 1993; if so, what was the cause of this incident;

(2) whether he or his Department has taken or intends taking any steps to prevent a recurrence of incidents of this nature; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

D173E.INT

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER: Mr Chairman, the answer to the first part of the interpellation is yes, but the cause of the incident is still under investigation.

The answer to the second part is yes. A formal inquiry is being conducted by inspectors of the Department of Manpower in terms of section 24 of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983. A preliminary report from the regional director in Natal reads as follows:

Initial investigations at Crest Chemicals have shown that the apparent cause of the incident resulting in the release of chlorine gas on 15 March 1993 may lie in the incorrect coupling of the hydrochloric acid in a tanker to a tank containing sodium hypochlorite solution. As the hydrochloric acid was pumped into the sodium hypochlorite solution, a reaction occurred which resulted in chlorine gas being emitted from the vents in the storage tank. A cloud of gas resulted which was conveyed on the gentle southwesterly breeze into the Metro Trade Centre across the road. At this stage it appears that 94 people were affected to various degrees by the inhalation of chlorine gas.

This incident is still under investigation and no further detail is available at present.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, as the hon the Minister has just indicated, on 15 March 1993, 58 people had to be hospitalised as a result of that particular incident. An invisible gas began killing people at the trade centre in Prospecton. All of these people complained of severe chest pains and one, in fact, suffered a heart attack. Fortunately, all of them recovered.

I was a little surprised to hear the hon the Minister indicate that the cause of this near tragedy is still under investigation. However, according to media reports the cause has been traced to someone who accidentally pumped hydrochloric acid into a wrong tank at Crest Chemicals.

A few days later a similar occurrence led to schoolchildren being evacuated from their school. Those in charge quite correctly took a decision to evacuate the school timeously.

I want to tell the hon the Minister, and I am sure he will agree with me, that this state of affairs is quite unacceptable to us. Indeed, it is unacceptable in any society. It is bad enough through apartheid to juxtapose residential and business areas to industrial areas, as is the case in Isipingo and Prospecton, but it is totally irresponsible not to ensure that accidents of this kind do not take place in future. I am indeed disappointed that the hon the Minister, although he has indicated that he is not sure what the reasons for this mishap were, has not given us an assurance that his department will, in whatever way it can, prevent the recurrence of an incident of this nature in future.

Mr P GOVENDER: Mr Chairman, I want to thank the hon member for Springfield for raising this issue. When I heard about this matter at quarter to nine on 15 March, I went to the nearest hospital and visited some of the patients. What surprised me was that it had taken the authorities two hours to clear up the situation and bring it under control.

I contacted the hon the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and asked him for a full investigation and report, and this is what I received from AECI:

An independent investigation committee including international and local experts is to be appointed as a matter of urgency. The committee's task will be to audit the existing production and handling facilities as well as all the operating and safety procedures involved

in the manufacture of chlorine at Umhombini. It will specifically be asked to assist the local community close by the plant and recommend corrective measures if necessary. They are not prepared to operate this kind of facility in any area which poses a material risk to our employees and the surrounding community or the environment.

[Time expired.]

Mr N SINGH: Mr Chairman, on behalf of this side of the House, I should like to congratulate Mr D Naidoo on his appointment as the new hon member for Glenview.

I wish to endorse what the hon member for Springfield has said, namely that we on this side of the House are very disturbed at the fact that this matter is still under investigation. This incident took place on 15 March and we believe that by this time a final report should have been presented. As the hon member said, a similar incident occurred in the same area a few days later. Do we have to have more fatalities before these investigations are carried out more expeditiously?

It is common knowledge that people of colour were dumped in areas such as Merebank and Isipingo, areas which are highly industrialised and in which there is a great deal of air, traffic and other kinds of pollution. Therefore the State has a responsibility to the people who live in these areas not only to introduce legislation which would make it safe for them to live there, but also to ensure that such legislation is enforced. [Time expired.]

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, I want to draw the attention of the hon the Minister to the fact that this is a mini Bhopal. If this had occurred on a wider scale, the hon the Minister responsible would have been lynched by a mob in Isipingo by now. Notwithstanding the fact that this occurred twice, what would the position have been if the leak had occurred at night when the community would have been asleep?

I read in an editorial that the private hospital that was treating these patients could not get this particular institution to give it the formulas in respect of the gases that had affected the people so that an analysis could be made and the kind of treatment that should be meted out decided on.

This occurred not once but twice, and therefore very serious consideration should be given to

whether the manufacturer of this particular gas should move his factory to a different site. [Time expired.]

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I must agree with the hon member for Arena Park who said this could have been a mini Bhopal. I must disagree with him, however, when he lays the blame entirely at the door of the hon the Minister.

Mr A RAJBANSI: I did not say that. I said, if

Mr M RAJAB: I take the hon member's point. The simple fact is that legislation in this regard is in place. I would expect the hon the Minister to tell us this afternoon that he has instructed the people in his department responsible for this aspect to ensure that the legislation is not only enforced thoroughly, but is policed as well.

Talking about the legislation, I trust that the hon the Minister will take us into his confidence this afternoon and tell us precisely what the department can do in similar cases.

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER: Mr Chairman, I should like to thank all the hon members who took part in this debate and I should like to endorse the sentiments expressed by various hon members with regard to this particular incident. Undoubtedly the department and I are just as concerned about this incident as hon members are. One should not take issue with one another when it comes to that. The crux of the matter is simply that what we are dealing with here is an investigation. I assure hon members that I shall impress upon those involved in this investigation that they should speed matters up and not drag their feet.

I should like to tell the hon member for Springfield that we should also like to have completely new legislation in this regard. We have done a lot of work in this field. We have published legislation after having scrutinised it and canvassed it with various interested parties. The fact of the matter is that we are living in a modern society and we have to live up to the expectations of that society. Consequently one will have to respect the need for the security of the workers on the one hand and that of the people who could be affected by whatever is happening in the industrial community on the other.

I would like to assure the hon member, therefore, that we are not indifferent to this matter. We shall see to it that this issue is scrutinised in

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

depth and that we get modern, up-to-date legislation on the Statute Book in this connection.

Debate concluded. 

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Transport Advisory Council: Grosskopf Commission

*1. Mr M RAJBAB asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether the Transport Advisory Council has (a) examined and (b) reported on the report of the Grosskopf Commission in regard to compulsory balance of third party insurance; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? D162E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, the Transport Advisory Council, taking note of the recommendation by the Grosskopf Commission that the compulsory balance of third party insurance not be made compulsory as well as similar recommendations by the Wessels Commission and the South African Insurance Association, reported to me that it does not see its way clear to recommend that such insurance be made compulsory.

Purchase of school textbooks: tender basis

*2. Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Minister of State Expenditure:


(1) Whether school textbooks are purchased on a tender basis by the various education departments; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, (a) why not and (b) what is the position in this regard;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D169E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (for the Minister of State Expenditure):

(1) Yes, in respect of schools under the con-

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Schools not to follow the tender procedure which is imposed on Indian schools?  The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as I have indicated, I am replying to these questions on behalf of my hon colleague, and I do not have an intimate knowledge of what is going on with regard to the procedures of the State Tender Board. I request that the hon member table his question again so that my hon colleague can reply to it in full.

Production of nuclear devices: cost

*3. Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Minister of Defence:

What was the total cost of producing the nuclear devices referred to by the State President in the course of the joint sitting on 24 March 1993? D171E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

About RM 800.

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I would like to ask whether, in view of the fact that R800 million was spent, it would not have been wise to have referred the dismantling of these nuclear weapons to the multiparty negotiating forum before dismantling them?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: It is not quite clear to me what the hon member for Arena Park's question is. Could he repeat it?

Mr A RAJBANSI: My question was that since R800 million was spent—if one takes inflation into consideration this amount would be higher today—should the multiparty negotiating forum not have been privately informed of the State's intention to dismantle the nuclear weapons before such dismantling took place?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I can reply to the hon member for Arena Park by saying that the situation which existed when this project was started, which was some 15 years ago, has no bearing on what is happening at the moment. I think the hon the State President was quite entitled to enlighten South Africa and its people about this project.

I can expand by saying that the amount which I mentioned covers the cost of the whole project and not only of the devices. I think that the spin-offs South Africa has had, such as the fact that

we have become world leaders in the medical field with regard to the production of isotopes for medical use, and that money is going to accrue from enriched uranium, are sufficient to justify this amount of money.

Dr K RAJOO: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I would like to know whether, in view of the particularly low cost of R800 million in respect of this nuclear device, and considering the fact that this project was started 15 years ago, is this the final figure for this project, or are we going to discover later on that more monies were spent?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, this amount was announced by the hon the State President. This is the total amount for the whole project since its inception. It was not started with a view to making these devices, but as a uranium enrichment plant. As a result of the difficulties experienced during those years, it eventually came about that these devices were also produced. To the best of our knowledge R800 million is the final figure for the whole project.

Toxic gases: deaths

*4. Mr M RAJBAB asked the Minister of Manpower:

(1) Whether any deaths as a result of incidents involving toxic gases were reported during the latest specified period of three years for which statistics are available; if so, how many;

(2) whether he or his Department has taken or intends taking steps to prevent a recurrence of such incidents; if not, why not; if so, what steps? D174E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(1) Yes. Nine.

(2) Yes. Formal inquiries were conducted by inspectors of the Department in terms of section 24 of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983.

These incidents were assessed to review current safety standards and were statistically classified, but no prosecutions resulted from any of them.

As I indicated earlier on, during the debate on the interpellation, we plan to

HOUSE OF DELEGATES 

depth and that we get modern, up-to-date legislation on the Statute Book in this connection.

Debate concluded

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The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (for the Minister of State Expenditure):

(1) Yes, in respect of schools under the con-

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

trol of the Administration: House of Delegates, the Administration: House of Representatives and the Department of Education and Training. Purchases of school books are made in accordance with the State Tender Board Act and regulations issued in terms thereof.

No, as far as schools under the control of the Administration: House of Assembly are concerned, including those which are administered by the four Provincial Administrations.

(a) Seeing that state sponsored schools (Model C-schools), which constitute 94% of all the schools under the control of the Administration: House of Assembly, do their own purchases, no period contracts are arranged on a tender basis.

(b) The remaining public schools, which are primarily smaller primary schools, purchase their textbooks on an individual tender basis under the standing powers delegated to state departments by the State Tender Board as the arranging of period contracts are not cost effective.

(2) No.

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is he aware that the schools under the Administration: House of Delegates adopted the same procedure as that adopted by Model C schools under the Administration: House of Assembly, and that the State Tender Board gave instructions that the order for textbooks be placed out to tender? Secondly, will the hon the Minister agree that it is unfair competition for a firm—publishers, wholesalers, authors, bookbinders, retailers, etc—to compete with retailers only?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as I am replying to this question on behalf of the responsible hon Minister, I suggest that the hon member table his questions so that he can receive a reply from the hon the Minister of State Expenditure.

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, having made that request, will he be prepared to convey to his colleague that it is unwise for White

Schools not to follow the tender procedure which is imposed on Indian schools. The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as I have indicated, I am replying to these questions on behalf of my hon colleague, and I do not have an intimate knowledge of what is going on with regard to the procedures of the State Tender Board. I request that the hon member table his question again so that my hon colleague can reply to it in full.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER: It is not quite clear to me what the hon member for Arena Park's question is. Could he repeat it?

Mr A RAJBANSI: My question was that since R800 million was spent—if one takes inflation into consideration this amount would be higher today—should the multiparty negotiating forum not have been privately informed of the State's intention to dismantle the nuclear weapons before such dismantling took place?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I can reply to the hon member for Arena Park by saying that the situation which existed when this project was started, which was some 15 years ago, has no bearing on what is happening at the moment. I think the hon the State President was quite entitled to enlighten South Africa and its people about this project.

I can expand by saying that the amount which I mentioned covers the cost of the whole project and not only of the devices. I think that the spin-offs South Africa has had, such as the fact that

we have become world leaders in the medical field with regard to the production of isotopes for medical use, and that money is going to accrue from enriched uranium, are sufficient to justify this amount of money.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, this amount was announced by the hon the State President. This is the total amount for the whole project since its inception. It was not started with a view to making these devices, but as a uranium enrichment plant. As a result of the difficulties experienced during those years, it eventually came about that these devices were also produced. To the best of our knowledge R800 million is the final figure for the whole project.

Toxic gases: deaths

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(1) Whether any deaths as a result of incidents involving toxic gases were reported during the latest specified period of three years for which statistics are available; if so, how many;

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The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(1) Yes. Nine.

(2) Yes. Formal inquiries were conducted by inspectors of the Department in terms of section 24 of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983.

These incidents were assessed to review current safety standards and were statistically classified, but no prosecutions resulted from any of them.

As I indicated earlier on, during the debate on the interpellation, we plan to

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

have new legislation placed on the Statute Book in this connection.

*5. ~~RAJBANSI~~ RAJBANSI—Local Government. [Withdrawn.]

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Durban-Westville : establishment of dental faculty

1. Mr M RAJAB asked the ~~Chairman of the Ministers' Council:~~

- (1) Whether a decision has been taken by the Ministers' Council in respect of the establishment of a dental faculty at the University of Durban-Westville; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D172E.INT

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL: Mr Chairman, in reply to the first part of the interpellation, the health function was transferred to the Department of National Health and Population Development by proclamation on 1 April 1993. This included the transfer of all dental faculties to the Department of National Health and Population Development.

With regard to the second part, the Ministers' Council believes that the establishment of a dental faculty at the University of Durban-Westville is essential to serve the needs of the people of Natal, especially in view of the very large indigent population in that province.

The present training of oral hygienists and dental therapists is highly relevant in the national health policy plan with respect to primary health care. Some 22 000 patients received treatment at that institution during 1991, and approximately 24 000 during the ensuing year. This Administration remained committed to funding the institution, and an amount of R2,838 million was included in the budget for 1993-94, and transferred to the Department of National Health

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

and Population Development owing to rationalisation.

My Ministers' Council and I undertake to pursue the matter with the hon the Minister for National Health and Welfare.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I am quite taken aback by the deftness with which the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council has completely sidestepped the thrust of my interpellation. He tells us this afternoon that the health function has been transferred to the Department of National Health and Population Development from 1 April 1993. We all know that the health function under this Administration was, in fact, being carried out on an agency basis by the provinces in any case.

The fact of the matter is that the University of Durban-Westville falls within the jurisdiction of the hon the Minister of Education and Culture in this House. My interpellation referred to the University of Durban-Westville as well.

I was quite pleased to hear from the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council that he would support such a move, and that he would, in fact, make representations to his counterpart to try to ensure that a faculty was established at the University of Durban-Westville.

I just want to say that it is a crying shame that Natal, which accounts for some 26% of South Africa's population, does not have a single school of dentistry at present. This is further evidence, in our view, that Natal is treated as a Cinderella province when it comes to getting its share of Government funds.

As I have already indicated, as far as the UDW is concerned, I believe that this Administration must fully support the recent call by its rector to establish such a dental hospital under the control of that particular university. At present there is no adequate facility at the UDW to treat dental patients. I believe that the establishment of a dental hospital at this institution would provide a convenient academic institution for Natal whilst providing much-needed dental and oral hygiene care to the economically deprived people in the greater Durban development region at the same time. [Time expired.]

Mr K PANDAY: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Springfield indicated that the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council did not quite

answer the interpellation, but had sidestepped the issue. In very much the same vein he has acceded to the point that the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council together with the Ministers' Council was fully supportive. I am happy that there is a tremendous degree of support in this House for the transfer of the health function to the Department of National Health and Population Development. It is important that that matter be addressed.

However, I might just state that education is the key to freedom. What is education without training? Can a dentist be a dentist if he does not have training? Imagine the problems one would encounter if there were no dental faculty. I agree wholeheartedly with the hon member that there is no dental faculty in Natal and that such a faculty is a necessity.

Rev C PILLAY: Mr Chairman, I must state that it is totally unacceptable to us in the rejuvenated Solidarity that the dental faculty at the University of Durban-Westville did not come to fruition despite the numerous representations and the loud outcry of the deprived community in Natal.

We must not use the transfer of power on 1 April, as it were, as a scapegoat. The question I want to ask is what the Ministers' Council's recommendation was prior to health services being transferred to general affairs. I also wish to ask what the Department of National Health and Population Development's response was to this matter. I say Natal needs a dental faculty. It was approved by the Government, but a moratorium was placed on this essential faculty.

Solidarity feels that there is a dire need to establish a dental faculty at the University of Durban-Westville. If this is not done, we will say, "Bring Dookie back, bring Dookie back!" [Interjections.]

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, against tremendous odds and in the face of political pressure the Cabinet decided in 1987 that there should be a dental faculty at the University of Durban-Westville. I suggest to the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council that he look at our budget allocations for that particular year. Money was set aside.

I think the problem was between an individual at the university, who wanted to structure the faculty in his own way and go against established

norms, etc, and our Administration. At the time we had a brilliant director-general, namely Dr Giliiland. If he had had his way, the dental faculty would no doubt have been established. What happened was that a different party came to power after we made the announcement, so we did not get the Phoenix Hospital and the dental faculty.

They robbed us of our faculty long ago and gave it to the University of the Western Cape. They started a dental faculty at the University of the Western Cape with Indian staff, an Indian head and Indian students. That was a political decision.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I am afraid that the comments made by the hon member for Montford do not ring true. The question could well be asked, and in fact has been asked by the hon member for Arena Park, as to what Solidarity has done in this regard in all the years it controlled this Administration. [Interjections.]

I am aware that in April 1989 approval was, in fact, obtained for a dental hospital in Natal with 61 dental chairs. All that remained was for the Treasury to approve this particular project. We know that recently money was found to build two hospitals in Durban and we appreciate that. I wish to take this opportunity to call on the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council, who in fact is a member of the NP and the Cabinet of this country, to use whatever influence he has to prosecute the claim for the establishment of a dental faculty at the University of Durban-Westville.

I am not interested in the personality clashes that may have occurred in the past. I do not believe that we should allow personalities to deprive us of a dental faculty.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL: Mr Chairman, I would like to thank hon members for their contributions to this debate. I must place on record the efforts made by the hon member for Arena Park as well as the hon member for Red Hill in trying to secure a dental faculty for the University of Durban-Westville.

Last year we had a meeting with the rector of the university. Perhaps I should quote briefly from a statement that was issued jointly:

A delegation from the University of Durban-

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

International help in St Lucia debate

BIDM 20/4/93 (20) 56

FINANCIAL gains from mining titanium ore at St Lucia were worth only a hamburger for every South African, Australian ecologist John Sinclair said during a recent visit to SA.

Sinclair, credited with stopping titanium mining on Queensland's Fraser Island, spent two weeks in SA advising the Campaign for St Lucia on strategy for the midyear review panel hearings on the issue.

The St Lucia debate was comparable to that about the peninsular conservation area of Fraser Island because in both cases government had to assess whether short-term financial gains were more beneficial than long-term environmental protection.

Sinclair said it was important to realise the campaign target was not Richard's Bay Minerals (RBM) but government, which would have to decide whether it would honour the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands or "bow to economic expediency and sell St Lucia for a mere R153m".

The R153m was the "discounted present net value" estimated in the environmental impact assessment. RBM said this figure was misinterpreted, as the total economic benefit of mining the St Lucia dunes would exceed R8bn at current rand value.

Sinclair said that although the Fra-

MARIANNE MERTEN

ser Island ore deposits were about 10 times greater than St Lucia's reserves, the Australian federal government had decided to ban mineral exports from the area.

In SA, the possibility of government intervention was real because of political developments.

Sinclair said the basis of the St Lucia environmental impact study was "shoddy scientific research that failed to do a proper literature search of the subject". He said it also failed to mention a seven-year sand mining research project conducted in the mid-'80s in eastern Australia.

Australia's sand mining technology was the best internationally. RBM had sent one of its geologists to observe the project.

Sinclair also criticised the Natal Parks Board's ecotourism option because it meant developing tourist sites in an area the board wanted to protect. Any ecotourism development should take place outside the reserve. The emphasis should be on developing the town's infrastructure and creating employment spinoffs in the informal settlements around the wetlands.

Other ore deposits were available for titanium mining, Sinclair said.

Trade and the environment

BIDAY 2014/93.

MARIANNE MERTEN

WORLD trade has accelerated environmental degradation through unsustainable economic activity in recent years, but the free market can also create environmentally aware trade relations, says author Hilary French.

French, in her book *Costly Trade-Offs*, says the aims of environmental protection and international trade are not incompatible.

She says that, for example, the EC had passed "hundreds of common minimum environmental standards" to regulate trade.

The book lists several short-term clashes between environmental protection and free trade promotion, such as when Iceland's fish stocks were depleted through overfishing because the country relied on its fish exports to earn foreign currency.

If environmental production costs such as energy use, resource depletion and waste generation are included in the production price, developing countries will be able to protect their natural resources more effectively and establish sustainable economic development, French says.

A major benefit of the increasing international trade is the move towards tightening and standardising environmental laws through such agencies as GATT and the EC.

World trade in 1991 totalled \$3.5-trillion, an eleven-fold increase since 1950. Trade in services and foreign direct investment is also growing.

Hunting scheme to help rural poor

THE Bophuthatswana National Parks Board has announced a plan to tackle rural poverty by offering hunting packages in "tribal areas".

Income generated from hunting would be ploughed back directly into rural development projects for the benefit of local communities, a board statement said recently.

The game which lived with domestic livestock in these areas belonged to the local communities and as such could be viewed as a "valuable resource" which had generated about R750 000 over the past four years, the board said.

Hunting was one of the measures used to control surplus game in some areas of Bophuthatswana. Quotas were set annually with the co-operation of local communities.

MARIANNE MERTEN

The responsible devolution of administration and marketing of the hunting safaris was also part of the board's community development programme.

At present the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board levied a fee equivalent to one third of the value of the hunting package to cover some of its costs. Once communities were able to administer the safaris themselves, the full value of the packages would accrue to them.

Hunting camps and other infrastructural developments which had been funded by SA Development Bank loans had also created secondary employment opportunities for local people, the board said.

Used motor oil ^(SB) 'polluting SA's ^{ARG 19/4/93} water resources'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa's precious water resources are being severely polluted by an estimated 16 to 20 million litres of used motor oil every year, a leading oil company has warned.

BP Southern Africa said much of this oil was dumped illegally and seeped through the soil to contaminate underground water supplies.

Other used oil was dumped into stormwater and domestic drains, eventually polluting streams, rivers and the sea.

Mr Anthony Kent, the company's brand manager (commercial), pointed out that one litre of oil could pollute up to five million litres of fresh water and up to one hectare of surface water.

The company had decided to launch a major public aware-

ness campaign after market research revealed the problem of dumping used crankcase oil.

"Do-it-yourself" oil-change motorists and farmers were responsible for nearly 65 percent of oil dumped illegally, he added.

"In the Western Cape particularly, it's common for motorists to purchase oil from a supermarket, drive to a spot on the Cape Flats, dig a hole in the sand and drain the car's sump straight into the ground before putting in new oil."

BP has established a network of 180 dealers country-wide who will collect used motor oil free and store it for recycling.

● There are 80 collection points in the Cape. Anyone wanting to know where they are can contact Mr Kent at 408-2441.

\$7.5m study for a huge game park

SITIMAS (Buss. Trip)

18/4/93

(56)

THE World Bank and the Mozambican Government have approved a \$7.5-million study which could lead to the creation of one of the largest protected ecological areas — incorporating the Kruger National Park — in the world.

The study will be funded by a grant from the Global Environment Facility, a World Bank-administered fund to prevent global warming, promote biological diversity and prevent depletion of the ozone layer.

Mozambique will put the project out to tender. SA ecological consultants are expected to apply.

Terms

The study intends identifying the possible conservation use of a tract of land — larger than the Kruger Park — stretching along the SA border from Swaziland to Zimbabwe.

A key aspect of the study will be the needs of people who live in the area, including those who have been displaced by war in Mozambique.

The area under study is said to be sparsely inhabited, mostly in a pristine condition although largely denuded of wildlife.

The developments hold the prospect that in time fences on the Kruger Park border will be removed to allow the free movement of animals on an ecological rather than political basis.

"We're finalising the terms of reference and will call for tenders for the study," says Milagre Cezerilo, director for Forestry and Wildlife in Mozambique.

The intention is that wildlife management should pay for itself, so tourism proposals will form an important part of the study. Private companies, it is envisaged, will operate tourism facilities.

Miss Cezerilo says Mozambique is

By KEVIN DAVIE

keen to use SA expertise in the rehabilitation of these areas.

"We have been in touch with SA officials who are showing interest in working with Mozambique," she says, adding that technical assistance from SA will be welcome in certain areas.

Part of the area to be studied is now a hunting area.

Salomon Joubert, executive director of Kruger National Park, says the project holds the prospect of being "one of the most exciting wildlife developments in the world".

He says meetings three or four years ago identified the possibility of such a project with Mozambique, but the war prevented progress.

Now — with peace holding since October — studies can begin in earnest.

Core

Dr Joubert says Kruger Park officials are likely to provide input for the feasibility studies, but stresses that much ground work including surveying still has to be done.

"The core conservation area in Mozambique could be larger than Kruger Park," says Dr Joubert.

"Somewhere along the way it might be possible to cut the fences, but we would want assurances," says Dr Joubert.

The Global Environmental Facility is a \$1.3-billion fund which intends assisting developing countries to protect the environment. Countries with a per capita income of less than \$4 000 and a United Nations development programme in place are eligible for GEF funds up to \$10-million a project.

NEW WEALTH: Game reserves promise to create employment on land that broke farmers' hearts and pockets, luring a new species of tourist — the ecotourist

Havens bloom in veld

STEEL 17/4 193

56

28

28

WITH the latest game reserve proclamations, nearly a fifth of the Transvaal is now under some form of wildlife management. Some believe the province is Kenya's biggest rival in the race to become Africa's most exciting destination, writes **JAMES CLARKE.**

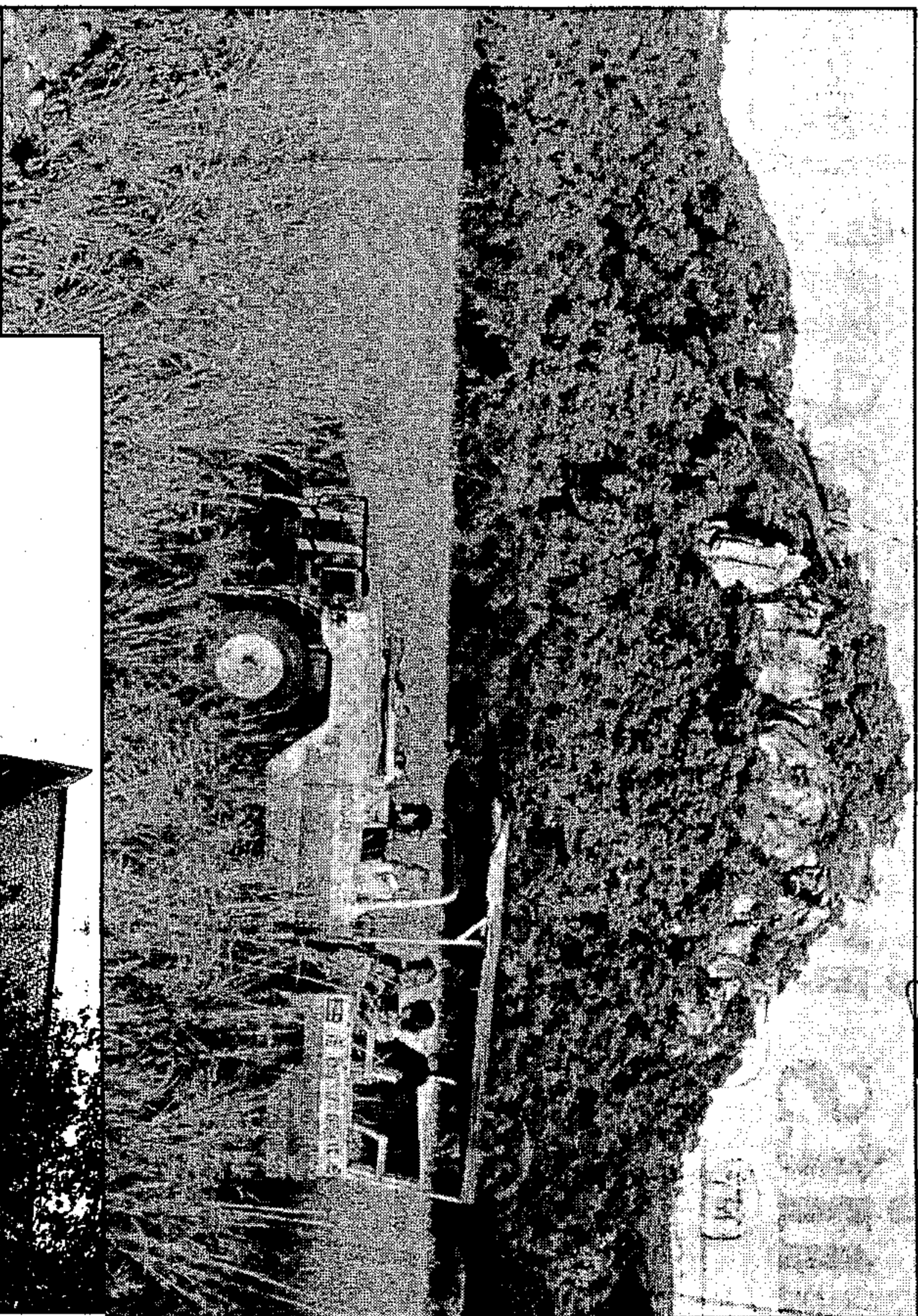
FOUR very different game reserves, covering more than 80 000 ha and promising new wealth and jobs in rural areas, have been proclaimed.

They will boost South Africa's bid to become the world's top ecotourist attraction.

Eastern Transvaal towns such as Hazyview and Hoedspruit are experiencing new wealth as ecotourism stabilises the Transvaal's wild places in a way conservationists had not dreamt possible.

The proclamation of more national parks and game reserves is helping some areas produce wealth for the first time. Marginal farmland which broke the hearts and pockets of farmers now has a chance of becoming profitable — as wildlife reserves.

The trend is turning the Transvaal into Kenya's biggest rival in the quest for ecotourists, a species quite different from traditional sightseeing tourists. The latter are more interested in urban cultures and in seeing the countryside from



ACTION HOLIDAYS: Yuppies, squeezed out of national parks and private game reserves by dollar-paying foreign tourists, are

same, but owners can build in affordable stages.

The reserve, which can expand to 20 000 ha by pulling down the fences around it, is to reintroduce the big five. Provincial experts advise that Makalali's 6 000 ha, with its big tree ecology, can accommodate 16 elephants. Settled land separates the complex from the Kruger Park/Timbavati/Kiaserie/Sabi-Sand block, but a link-up might well be possible in the long term.

South Africa's newest major public reserve — the 46 000 ha Kransberg National Park — plans to reintroduce the big five, as does the adjacent 25 000 ha private Welgevonden, 2½ hours from Johannesburg.

Welgevonden can accommodate up to 60 elephants and Kransberg more than 100. Culling could be done by fee-paying hunters inside the private area (national parks do not allow hunting). The well-wooded hills and valleys, mostly sourveld, are hostile to cattle and largely uninhabited by humans.

When the 22 km fence separating Welgevonden from the national park comes down, it will create a contiguous zone larger than Mauritius.

Welgevonden developer Pienkes du Plessis is offering, freehold, 51 unfenced sites of 500 ha each on which each owner can build a 10-bed lodge either for personal use or to run for paying guests.

FACH owner may have a single 10-passenger vehicle and

...the country's available as well as life reserves.

The trend is turning the Transvaal into Kenya's biggest rival in the quest for ecotourists, a species quite different from traditional sightseeing tourists. The latter are more interested in urban cultures and in seeing the countryside from the comfort of a five-star bus. Ecotourists want to experience the outdoors in a more physical way.

They like action holidays involving walking and camping in wilderness areas — preferably in big game country. They go for whitewater rafting, canoeing the Orange or Zambezi, horseback trails, elephant-back safaris, hunting, fishing, snorkelling, skin diving, birdwatching and nature photography.

ACTION HOLIDAYS: Yuppies, squeezed out of national parks and private game reserves by dollar-paying foreign tourists, are seeking their own pieces of unspoilt Africa where they can be sure of accommodation any time they need it. The latest trends in time-share, shareblock and syndicate developments allow individuals to buy stakes in game park developments for private use or as an enterprise. You could run your own game drive (above) or build your own accommodation (right) in a game reserve.



Worldwide, the search for exotic beaches is losing its allure. The damaged ozone layer and warnings of skin cancer have put many in the northern hemisphere off sunbathing.

South Africans are spending nearly as much as foreign ecotourists — almost R2 billion a year — exploring their own country.

S

OUTH Africans might just be the most ardent ecotourists in the world. Wilderness trails, coastal trails and trails in Kruger Park are booked out a year ahead. You apply and your name goes into a hat. It's the same for trails in Natal. It is the nearest South Africa gets to a state lottery.

And because of the violence and foreign tourists' resultant nervousness, South Africans are getting a chance to buy their own private family lodges in the bush at — in some cases — bargain prices.

As national parks reach saturation point in terms of the amount of accommodation they can offer and private game reserves pitch their tariffs at tourists paying in dollars, Deutschmarks and sterling, middle to upper-income South Africans feel squeezed out. This

has led to a trend among Yuppies to seek their own piece of unspoilt Africa where they can be sure of accommodation any time they need it.

Yuppies are now more likely to aspire to a smaller home in the suburbs and go for time-share or a shareblock in the great outdoors. The trend has sparked several kinds of game reserve development:

1. New kinds of national parks, open to all at prices affordable to the working person, especially if he likes a camping holiday. Last month the National Parks Board announced details of its newest national park — the 45 000 ha Kransberg National Park in the heart of the Waterberg, in the near northern Transvaal. Board secretary Herman Botha said the reserve could be quadrupled in size by setting up "contractual national parks" on abutting private land.
2. Timeshare in national parks and reserves. Firms or private individuals can build small private camps or own cottages in Kruger Park for as little as R45 000 — but the accommodation must be available to the public for 10 months of the year.
3. Resort-type Province-run game reserves. Accommoda-

tion is inexpensive. Recently the Transvaal Provincial Administration described a new role: its scientists and administrators were facilitating the ecological merger of private reserves with adjacent public reserves.

4. Private reserves offering timeshare.

5. Private reserves offering shareblock schemes. The newest, Makalali, is about to be launched in the eastern Transvaal bushveld 40 km from the Strijdom tunnel. It is offering easy ways for people to build their own family lodges in "big five country".

6. Private reserves offering freehold portions. These freehold properties are within associations of neighbouring landowners who are dedicated to the same wildlife goals. Welgevonden — a huge region in the Waterberg abutting Kransberg National Park — is one that was recently announced.

The trend is bringing a more even spread of development. In the Transvaal bushveld it is creating new jobs, and in some areas, a boom.

Take Hazyview. Roads, which a year ago were lowveld tracks bordered by acacias, are now surfaced.

The new R20 million Kruger Park Lodge there epitomises the trendy timeshare complex. On the banks of the Lower Sabie, 20 minutes from Kruger Gate, it was recently taken over by Stocks & Stocks, which developed Bakubung and Kwamartane — two highly successful timeshare luxury lodges on the perimeter of the Pilanesberg National Park.

Peter Foaden of Stocks & Stocks says R12.5 million has been committed to relaunch Kruger Park Lodge as a new kind of ecotourist development. Its village of thatched cottages, strung out along the deeply forested banks of the Lower Sabie, boasts an 18-hole golf course. A luxury four-bedroomed lodge costs R750 000, but some are much cheaper, and one can book a week per year on a long lease for just more than R13 000.

It is already having to consider culling surplus buck. This underlines an interesting spin-off from these reserves — meat. That not used in the members' restaurant or clubhouse will go to locals, who are also benefiting through jobs and contracts for hatching grass, wood, fuel and other commodities.

Ecotourism is the fastest-growing sector in the lowveld. The beauty of it is that the reserves are utilising land where there has never been much work; marginal land where farming has failed. Makalali, a 6 000 ha reserve near Mica, is designating 150 unfenced sites where private accommodation may be built according to prescribed design.

Developer John Penny of Sandton believes Makalali has the most spectacular viewpoints in the lowveld — great Pterine-like landscapes of bush-clad plains backed by a mountain vista. Giant specimens of maroela, lambotte, leadwood, sycamore fig, jackalsbessie, red ivory, bushwillow and knob-thorn characterise the area. The cost of a site — each out of sound and sight of its neighbours — is about R125 000. Building a four-bedroomed lodge would cost about the

500 ha each on which each owner can build a 10-bed lodge either for personal use or to run for paying guests.

EACH owner may have a single 10-passenger vehicle and can hunt according to the game policy established by the regional wildlife authority.

The cost of each site is R1 050 000 — and that doesn't include building.

Du Plessis says owners will have the opportunity to own a big five game farm, freehold, without the responsibilities of running it.

Sales director Trevor Jordan says Welgevonden is planning the biggest private wild animal translocation exercise in history. A complete herd of elephant is to be drug-darted and moved to the area, where it will be kept in a semi-tranquillised state until it is habituated to the Waterberg. The area already has animals worth about R3.5 million, with another R5 million worth to come.

The project, underwritten by Rand Merchant Bank, will be launched as soon as the first 16 buyers are signed up. So far eight have signed.

Levies? Jordan, who developed Ntsiri and other successful shareblock reserves, says: "We intend to ameliorate running costs by running a five-star lodge aimed at foreign tourists and allowing hunting. We anticipate that 95 percent of members will not want to exercise their right to hunt. But we will still be forced to cull."

Lampies Lambrecht, deputy head of the Transvaal Nature Conservation Division, says that, not counting Kruger Park's 1.9 million hectares, the Transvaal has 3.1 million hectares under some form of wildlife management.

With Kruger Park, 18 percent of the province is set aside for conservation — almost double the international recommendation that each region of the world set aside 10 percent of its land to guarantee the survival of 50 percent of its indigenous species of flora and fauna.

Project 'nothing like St Lucia'

Star 17/4/93

(51) (11/11/93)

If environmentalists had their way, Sappi would not be allowed to plant trees anywhere,' Science Writer ANITA ALLEN was told.

AS MOZAMBIQUE recovers from war, the picture that emerges is pristine wilderness, unspoilt beaches and marine paradises — 27 islands of the Quirimbas archipelago and five islands of the Bazaruto archipelago.

Another picture is a country devastated by war, with large areas of land sparsely populated where wildlife has been hunted out. A country absolutely desperate for development.

The single biggest challenge in reconciling these pictures is development without compromising the ecological integrity of wilderness areas. Already the first clashes between developers and conservationists have occurred over an afforestation project by the South African industrial giant, Sappi. Conservationists have raised the spectre of a St Lucia-type controversy because a Sappi project south of the Maputo Elephant Reserve is an ecologically sensitive wetland area, and no environmental impact study has been conducted.

In addition, they say, the Sappi concession poses a threat to traditional migration routes of elephants which move along the Futi watercourse between the Maputo reserve and South Africa's Tembe Elephant Park. Sappi wood resources man-



COMPLEMENTARY: The director of Mozambique's National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife, Dr Milagre Cezario, sees development and the environment as two sides of the same coin.

ager Neville Perry, who this week returned from an aerial reconnaissance of Mozambique, hotly disputes these allegations. Putting "the proper perspective" on the issue, Perry said Mozambique covered some 800 600 sq km. Gazetted wildlife areas covered 87 000 sq km, or 11 percent of the total. Sappi's project involved 350 sq km, or 0.04 percent of the whole.

"Our original concession was for 150 000 ha south of the Maputo Elephant Reserve right up to the Maputo River. We are taking up the option to plant on 30 000 ha east of the Futi watercourse. We have taken into account concerns over elephant migration routes and have left a 10 km-wide by 40 km-long corridor for them."

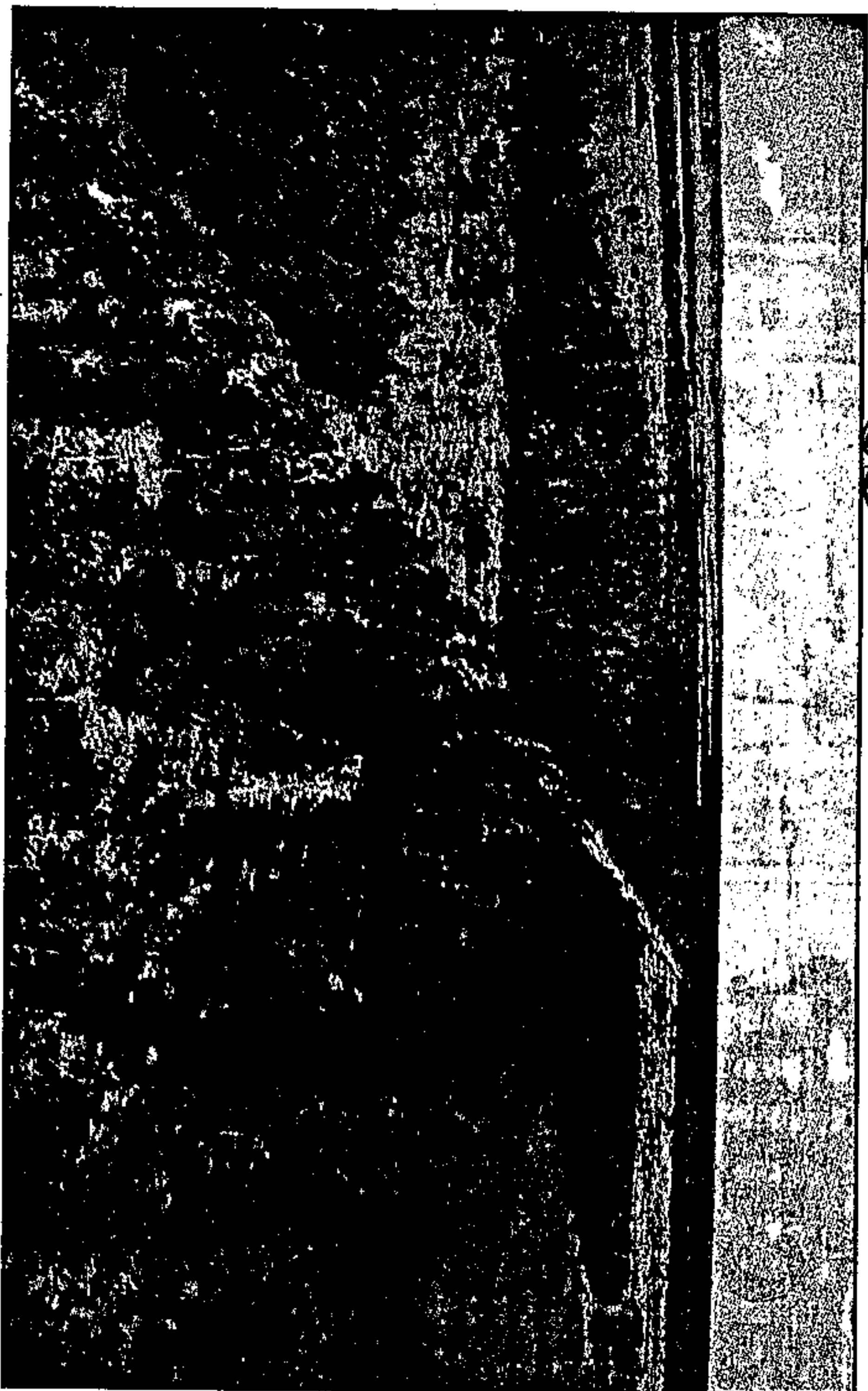
He said there was absolutely no similarity between Sappi's project in Mozambique and the St Lucia wetlands. "We will not be planting in sensitive areas and our project does not include wetlands. It is predomi-

nantly grasslands, with sandy soils and marshy pans.

"There are a few small areas of indigenous scrub, which we will leave as micro habitats. We will not be planting right up to the coastline and the one indigenous forest area along the Futi watercourse will be left intact. Exact boundaries are still a matter of discussion.

"We are not going there to ruin anything. The project was started several years ago, but we have been prevented from going in there because of the war. This project has been well planned. We have called in consultants, who have done aerial and field surveys. The entire study runs to two volumes.

"We are working on this in conjunction with the Mozambican government; in fact, the process is controlled by them. It is a complete socio-economic development which will uplift the community and open up hundreds of job opportunities. It involves housing, infrastruc-



PROJECT AREA: The road from Maputo to Ponta de Oure in southern Mozambique snakes through Sappi's planned commercial forestry concession, which includes previous scappy eucalyptus plantations. Clashes have already erupted between conservationists and developers over the afforestation project by the South African commercial giant.

ture such as towns, schools and training in informal farming."

For South Africans who are still embroiled in the St Lucia controversy, the claims and counter-claims will be all to familiar. But unlike St Lucia, no environmental impact assessment has been called for by the Mozambican government, nor is there any legislation to make this mandatory.

Environmental impact assessments are unknown in Mozambique, according to Dr Mi-

lagre Cezario, director of Mozambique's National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife (Direccao Nacional de Florestas e Fauna Bravia — DNFFB). In an interview in Johannesburg, she said a National Environmental Commission had

now been established, to deal with such issues. Commenting on the Sappi project, Cezario confirmed that as far as the DNFFB was concerned there was no controversy.

"I believe Sappi will cooperate with us in connection with environmental issues. They have shown they are willing to consider the environment."

Perry said that no matter where Sappi moved to, environ-

mentalists would never take a balanced view. "The facts are that we have been hounded by environmentalists in South Africa to the point that we have to look across our borders to grow trees. If they had their way we would not be allowed to plant trees anywhere."

Perry does not disagree that forestry operations have an impact on the environment, but he said Sappi is an environmentally conscious company. "We do a lot of environmental rehabilitation — clearing exotics such as wattles, unblocking and up-grading of riverine areas and woodlands. But we get no credit for this from environmentalists. Yes, we take out. But we do put back."

Sappi is just one of many companies and private entrepreneurs attracted by the potential for development in Mozambique. Where this much-needed development affects the environment, the director of the DNFFB is confident the process can be managed so that there is a win-win solution.

"We don't look at development and the environment as different issues. They are associated. Today's developers also see it this way. No one can afford bad management. In the long run they have just too much to lose," Cezario said.

In South Africa, sometimes bitter experience has proved that legislation by the Government is the only way to ensure that adequate environmental impact assessments are done by developers going into wilderness areas.

Rietvlei pollution risk from squatters

56

ARG 17/4/93

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter

PLANS to establish an informal settlement at Du Noon should be postponed for at least six months to save the sensitive ecology of Rietvlei.

Dr Alan Heydorn, specialist consultant to the South African Nature Foundation, said this in calling for time to allow the CSIR to complete a management plan for Rietvlei.

He added that a comprehensive environmental assessment was necessary to establish the effect of the proposed settlement of more than 2 000 families from the Marconi Beam squatter camp.

"Currently the Rietvlei area is in a relatively healthy state. It is true that the increase in nutrients in the water has led to an increase in reeds in the vlei," he said.

The reeds help to keep the level of nutrients down — and too high a level of nutrients could lead to growth of oxygen-consuming organisms which, if allowed to increase unchecked, would make the vlei waters sterile.

Dr Heydorn said up to now the clean water of the Diep River had helped to flush the vlei system clean. But if nutrients from proposed storm water outlets from the Du Noon

■ There are growing fears that a decision by Milnerton municipality to settle more than 2 000 squatter families at Du Noon, north of Table View, could cause pollution damage that could destroy the Rietvlei estuary.

settlement were allowed to flow into the river as planned, the ecological system of the vlei could be endangered.

There was also a health hazard. The vlei was used by thousands for recreation. Already, treated water from the Milnerton sewerage farm was pumped into the vlei, along with industrial effluent from Montague Gardens. If effluent from Du Noon were added, the water quality could become a problem.

Dr Heydorn told of moves by the SA Nature Foundation, the Wildlife Society, the Cape Nature Conservation and several other bodies to procure land near the vlei for a wetland reserve.

Mr Rob Reeve, for Concerned Ratepayers and Voters of Table View (Cravot), said that up to now no comprehensive environmental impact study had been done by Milnerton municipality.

"We find it incredibly irresponsible that this has not been done. After all the vlei is the natural heritage of all the peo-

ples of Cape Town and should be protected as such.

"The municipality says the Du Noon settlement will house only about 2 000 families and that each plot will be serviced. How naive can they really be? There is no doubt in our minds that if they go ahead with these plans in 10 years we will have a squatter settlement with hundreds of thousands of people.

"And what will the impact on the vlei be then? The truth is that Milnerton municipality is under pressure from a small group of wealthy people who live next to the Marconi Beam camp and want these people moved from their doorstep.

"It would be a tragic to give in to the demands of a small group of people to move the squatters a couple of kilometres up the road and in doing so eventually destroy the sensitive ecological area of Rietvlei."

■ Mr David Brook, Milnerton's town engineer, said no comprehensive environmental impact study had been undertaken to establish the impact of the Du Noon settlement on Rietvlei.

Elevated status for peaks in W Cape?

(56) ARG 17/14/93
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TABLE Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain should enjoy an elevated legal status, the Kahn working group has decided.

The group, headed by Cape Attorney-General Mr Frank Kahn, was appointed last year to suggest how the management and control of public land in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) could be rationalised.

In a statement after the group's third meeting this week Mr Kahn said they had discussed submissions from management authorities.

"The concept of consolidating the conserved areas into northern and southern entities was given attention and accepted, subject to certain details being clarified and approval by the principals," he said.

Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring's recent announcement that he would soon ask the Minister of Environment Affairs to declare the CPPNE a national park had also been discussed.

"The working group expressed itself in favour of elevated legal status for the area.

"As a longer-range vision it also favoured a single management authority, but would continue to strive for rationalised management and control by two of the main participants as a practical interim step."

The two "participants" are understood to be the Cape Town City Council and the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

Previous disagreement has been where to divide the CPPNE.

The city council reportedly wants the management boundary to be drawn through the Fish Hoek valley, giving it responsibility for the Constantiaberg area and the Karbonkelberg at Hout Bay.

The RSC is apparently arguing to give it management of the Silvermine nature reserve currently run by the city council.

According to the statement, the working group does not see any management role for Cape Nature Conservation, as suggested by Mr Meiring in his national park call.

Wetlands as water purifier

BYDAY 16/4/93 MARIANNE MERTEN (56)

THE Water Research Commission has appointed an engineering consultancy to investigate the building of artificial wetlands for sewage purification.

The system, which Kruger National Park was using at its camps, offered a potential solution to small communities which could not afford extensive water purifying technology, the commission said yesterday.

However, not all such wetlands had been successful. Project leader Andrew Wood said a wetland could quickly become a "stinking swamp" if preconditions such as soil, plant density and area size were unsuitable.

There were already cases where wetlands did not work because they were not properly constructed.

"Unfortunately there is no such thing as an instant recipe because the needs and circumstances of each potential user differ," Wood said.

About 50 man-made wetlands existed in SA to purify industrial effluent and polluted mine dump run-offs.

Programme to boost SA botany

Star 16/4/93

(56)

Indigenous plants get the recognition they deserve in a new programme aimed at reversing the trend towards species extinction and the loss of traditional knowledge. Science Writer ANITA ALLEN reports.

ETHNOBOTANY, a term first used in the late 19th century to describe the study of the use of plants by people, comes of age in South Africa with the recently announced launch of the Indigenous Plant Use Programme (IPUP).

The initiative is funded and supported jointly by the Foundation for Research Development, the National Botanical Institute, the Institute of Natural Resources, Gencor and The Southern Foundation.

With more than 30 000 different categories of plant species, Southern Africa has one of the highest concentrations of botanical diversity and possesses unique habitats. This biodiversity is reflected in the rich customary knowledge of indigenous plant uses developed over the millennia and passed on mostly by oral tradition.

Current commercial exploitation of indigenous plants by agriculture, pharmaceutical companies and traditional healers and their clientele is enormous.

However, burgeoning population, increasing industrialisation and urbanisation are all taking their toll. The collection and trading in wild plants has become a vital source of income for many people. For others still it is the only source of fuel.

As is happening worldwide, the pressure on plant resources due to human activities has become unsustainable. Instances of plant extinction in the wild have been recorded and the list of endangered species is growing. In addition, customary knowledge is being lost due to cultural changes.

The IPUP's mission is to reverse these effects by co-ordinating efforts nationwide aimed at conservation and sustainable use of indigenous plants. Broadly, the objectives are:

INDIGENOUS PLANT USE PROGRAMME



- To promote research into plant use for food, medicine, pesticides, clothing and shelter.
- To identify plants with market potential and to develop new crops from these species.
- To maximise the conservation of diversity.
- To develop a database for information storage and to produce an encyclopedia of Southern African plant use.
- To facilitate interaction and partnerships between parties interested in plant use.

In the past, botany has tended to be the orphan of the sciences with the majority of research funding going to the so-called hard sciences such as physics and chemistry. Unlike in the United States, where an economic botany course was started at Harvard in 1876, it has not been possible to get formal training in this field in South Africa.

As part of its commitment to the IPUP, the FRD has made R1 million available over the next five years to establish a centre of expertise in indigenous plant use at a tertiary institution still to be chosen. In the same period the FRD plans to invest R625 000 for bursaries for Master of Science and doctorate students doing indigenous plant research.

In addition, the FRD has agreed to play a management role in the IPUP and will be supplying logistical support in the form of a secretariat responsible for organising workshops and seminars, arranging field trips and courses and promoting the IPUP locally and internationally.

A document outlining the proposals for a national programme on indigenous plant use has been compiled and is available from the FRD. An international conference on biodiversity is being organised in Cape Town in September to coincide with the Flora '93 exhibition.

The goal of the conference will be the development of proposals for a strategic plan for conservation and plant use for the year 2000 and beyond. □

'Low' conservation bid scorned

JOHN YELD (56) ARG 16/4/93
Environment Reporter

A R600 000 offer by conservationists for the undeveloped section of the Atomic Energy Corporation's Gouriqua property is "ridiculously low", according to Dr Waldo Stumpf, chief executive of the AEC.

He was replying to the Botanical Society, which expressed deep concern at the AEC's calling for tenders for the property at Ystervarkpunt on the southern Cape coast.

The land was to have housed a now-scrapped nuclear research facility and included 2 000 hectares of pristine lowland fynbos, which is of great conservation

and ecological value.

The AEC suggested the land was worth R8 million. There were seven bids, including one of R600 000 from the SA Nature Foundation for the conservation area only.

Dr Stumpf told the Botanical Society: "The AEC is proud that it turned a few lots of farmland and 4km of over-exploited coastline into a nature reserve worthy of the concern of a number of conservation-minded associations such as yourselves.

"This, however, happened purely as a by-product of what we hoped to establish. The primary object was a nuclear research project.

"The infrastructural improvements you may well call futile today, but those were the necessary beginnings for an approved project."

The AEC was still concerned about the future conservation of Gouriqua, said Dr Stumpf.

"We did make provision for the tenderers to indicate their willingness to include a clause in the title deed regarding future development and the highest tenderers were willing to accept this condition.

"This means that future development will take place only with the approval of Cape Nature Conservation."

'Mountain chain needs national park status now'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(56) ARG 16/4/93

IMMEDIATE action is necessary to declare Table Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain a national park — even if this requires legislative amendments this year, said Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring.

In a statement, Mr Meiring clarified his remarks during the provincial debate in parliament last week when he called for the mountain to be declared a national park, managed by Cape Nature Conservation and local authorities.

His call took many environmentalists by surprise as two groups appointed recently by his administration are looking at aspects of managing the mountain.

Mr Meiring said he had personally requested the National Parks Board in 1991 to declare the mountain chain a national park, under the board's management.

"To my disappointment, this was rejected," he said.

"The situation now is that this area, which definitely deserves national park status, is now neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring."

His administration's striving to declare the mountain chain — the proclaimed Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) — a national park was not an attempt to "outshine" the National Parks Board, said Mr Meiring.

If it did become a national park, it would boost the bid to have the CPPNE declared South Africa's first World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

Mr Meiring said his recent announcement had been based on "fine progress" made by the Kahn committee, which he had appointed at the end of last year to ensure rationalised management of the CPPNE.

His request to the Minister of Environment Affairs to have the CPPNE declared a national park would be done in consultation with the UCT committee he had appointed to draw up a management policy for the area.

"The management of the area will through this process be handled on a regional level, which addresses the challenges of any future dispensation.

"As is clear from my suggestion in 1991, the CPA was not against the idea that the National Parks Board manages the CPPNE as a national park.

"In the interests of the residents of the Cape Province and their particular heritage, we cannot allow this matter to be held back any longer."

City environment committee gets wider powers

(56) ARG 16/4/93

Municipal Reporter

PROPOSED wider powers for the city council environmental advisory committee have been approved by the executive committee.

In future, the environmental committee will be able to put "matters of environmental significance" to any standing committee.

The committee will also make recommendations on building plans in terms of section 7 of the National Building Regulations and Standards Act.

The Act became prominent in planning debates during the Avenue St Charles affair in 1991. An application was made to build seven-storey flats, technically allowed by the zoning scheme, but councillors turned it down, claiming the building would not fit in with the neighbourhood.

Nuclear industry denies Koeberg meltdown risk

JOHN YELD (56) ~~80~~
Environment Reporter

THE nuclear industry has rejected a Greenpeace report claiming that half the nuclear power plants in Western industrialised countries have an increased risk of meltdown. ARG 16/4/93

The report follows the discovery of a cracking phenomenon in certain reactors.

The industry denied Greenpeace claims that it had underestimated or ignored the problem of small cracks which had been discovered in some pressurised water reactor units (PWRs), and said the problem posed no threat to the present safe operation of the units.

Koeberg — South Africa's only nuclear power station — is a

PWR and was built by the French company Framatome, named by Greenpeace as one of the manufacturers which experienced the cracking problem, known technically as vessel head penetration cracking, or VHPC.

Eskom has done a theoretical safety test for VHPC at Koeberg and says South Africa's licensing authority, the Council for Nuclear Safety, is satisfied with the results.

A Press release by the Nuclear News Network of the European Nuclear Society says micro-cracks have been found in 13 reactors of the French electricity utility, Electricité de France, after the first discovery at its Bugey-3 reactor in August 1981.

"Electricité de France then launched a special national remedial action programme covering all its 900 and 1 300 megawatt PWRs. The action was approved by the French nuclear safety authority, DSIN," said the Press release.

"The fissures, believed to be caused by stress corrosion, were found in a few of the about 60 control-rod guide-tube sleeves fitted to the vessel heads of each of the reactors."

As an added safety measure, the French utility had fitted some cracked sleeves with a system to detect possible leaks and PWR operators in other countries were taking similar steps, said the release.

Corruption scandal mushrooms

Star 16/4/93

By Jacques Pauw

Hundreds of tons of chemicals are being dumped in Lebowa after the homeland's government signed an irregular multimillion-rand contract with a South African chemical firm.

A few months after the Lebowa government signed the R15 million contract with Firechem Lebowa, the company donated R100 000 to the ruling United People's Front (UPF), which at that stage was in serious financial difficulty.

The contract, which was never put out on tender as regulations stipulate, was approved by Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and his Cabinet. Ramodike is also UPF leader.

The contract will lead to a massive oversupply of chemicals to the homeland and amount to a waste of millions of rands.

A Star investigation has also found that millions of rands of taxpayers' money is still being lost through maladministration in Lebowa — despite promises by Ramodike to clean up his administration after the damaging De Meyer Commission report, published late last year.

De Meyer revealed evidence of massive corruption and incompetence amounting to hundreds of millions of rands.

Ramodike, who calls himself "governor" of the homeland, was both directly and indirectly implicated in the corruption. He refused to accept responsibility but vowed to take steps to rem-

edy the situation.

However, corruption and wastage of money seem to continue unabated.

The De Meyer Commission found serious shortcomings in the process of allocating tenders. Three weeks ago the Tender Board awarded a contract of R1,3 million to a cousin of Ramodike to supply meat to State hospitals.

Ronald Rasebotsa, owner of Black Movie Butcherers, not only tendered R227 000 more than the lowest tender — but was awarded the contract despite not even owning a butchery.

Another example is a brand new fleet of 20 luxury Mercedes-Benz cars worth between R3,5 million and R4 million being delivered to Ministers and their deputies.

The new luxury cars are intended to replace 26 existing Mercedes-Benzes which are only two or three years old.

A Star attempt to interview former Tender Board chairman L P Mpya on the Firechem contract ended in failure.

Firechem managing director William McNaught said he would not like to comment on the contract with Lebowa, but said the whole deal was above board and that his company acted in good faith.

He confirmed the donation to the UPF, but said there was nothing sinister in doing so as his company had a policy of "ploughing something back in the community".

● From traffic policeman to "Governor of Lebowa" — Page 6

56

Oil dumping a major pollutant ⁵⁶ research

ARC 16/4/93

UP TO 20 million litres of used motor oil are dumped illegally in South Africa every year, seeping through the soil and contaminating precious underground water supplies.

In Austria, for example, no one can buy less than 20 litres of oil from a supplier unless the oil change takes place on the premises of the supplier.

BP Southern Africa says its research has revealed alarming implications: One litre of oil can pollute one million litres of fresh water and up to one hectare of surface water.

In South Africa, few oil resellers and no supermarkets had such facilities.

"Do-it-yourself" oil change motorists and farmers are responsible for nearly 65 percent of the problem.

In an attempt to redress this situation, the company has established a network of 180 resellers countrywide, who had agreed to accept used motor oil at no charge to the customer and to store it prior to collection for recycling.

"It is common for motorists to purchase oil from a supermarket, drive to the Cape Flats, dig a hole and drain the car's sump into the ground."

The network comprises BP service stations, co-operatives, agents and distributors.

Such behaviour is forbidden in Europe by law.

For further information contact BP's Anthony Kent at (021) 408-2441. — Sapa.

VOYAGE

FUTURE WATCH:

A 'north-o-centric' bias could obscure understanding of the truly global changes affecting Earth and its 5.4 billion inhabitants

A planet in peril

STAR 10/14/93.



GLOBAL change threatens to plunge the human race into crisis. But what can be done? **PAUL KENNEDY** examines the options.

NO OBSERVER of contemporary trends can doubt that, as we pass from this century to the next, we will all be affected by powerful forces for global change.

The internationalisation of manufacturing, services and investment flow and their effect on companies, towns and entire regions is intensifying. New technologies, bright with promise for their inventors and investors, threaten to undermine traditional ways of making, growing and trading things. National currencies are dwarfed by the sheer volume of daily foreign-exchange dealings.

As Earth adds nearly 95 million people to its total population each year, the pressure on environments and resources increases, the pace of illegal migration quickens, and entire societies in the developing world collapse under the strain. While each of us has to grapple with



...ginning to look anxiously to-
wards the future.

Given the complexity of these forces for global change, it is not surprising that interpretations of what they might imply abound. To the "techno-triumphalists" in the United States — such as economist George Gilder and Ben Wattenberg of the American Enterprise Institute — capitalist enterprise and scientific breakthrough are transforming our lives in profound, though beneficial, ways that only left-wing doom-sayers will deny.

TO KENICHI Ohmae, chairman of the Japanese arm of management consultant McKinsey, a "borderless world", in which the rules of the global market prevail over traditional State-centred concerns, and governments become increasingly invisible, is in sight.

By contrast, Lester Thurow, dean of the Alfred P Sloan school of management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, detects the emergence of three giant trading blocs — north American, European and east Asian — engaged in a bitter, head-to-head struggle for global economic advantage.

The most recent world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland, was full of talk about protectionism, containing surging Japanese trade surpluses, analysis in world trade talks, the sagging German economy, saving Russia, and quarrels over aerospace subsidies. Not everyone, it seems, finds capitalism's "creative gales" as stimulating as Gilder.

To focus on issues such as United States-Japan trade relations or the plight of French farmers, important as they are, betrays a very "north-o-centric" bias that could obscure understanding of the truly global changes affecting Earth and its 5.4 billion inhabitants. Upon which trends should our gaze be

focused were we to attempt to answer the question: "What are the really big forces for change bearing down upon our planet between now and 2025?"

The first is that there are likely to be many more of us — perhaps as many 9 billion people — and that about 95 percent of newcomers will be born in the poorer regions of the globe.

By contrast, the populations of the world's richer societies are forecast to grow slowly or even (as in Japan, Italy and France) to decline — unless, of course, they admit the many millions of immigrants eager to flee their own lands.

Europe, North America and Japan might slug it out commercially during the next few decades, but as they do so their collective demographic power will be falling steadily. When this century began, Europe was at the height of its international influence and, perhaps not coincidentally, enjoyed its brightest share of world population. During the next century, that share will shrivel to 7 percent or less.

These demographic forecasts suggest that the 21st century could bring neither a "new world order" nor a "borderless world" but, instead, a deeply troubled and fractured planet.

CHINA'S population, which already (at 1.1 billion) outstrips its land resources, is projected to rise to 1.5 billion. India is heading towards 2 billion. Africa, buckling under its 680-million inhabitants, has perhaps only the growing pandemic of Aids to curb its forecast rise to 1.6 billion by 2025; large rises are also expected in the populations of Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico and Iran.

In all these places, gigantic internal migrations will take place as peasants seeking jobs stream into shanty-cities of 20- to 25 million inhabitants with totally inadequate infrastruc-

ture and utilities. Demographic-ally their societies will be adolescent, with perhaps half of their populations under the age of 20 (or even, as in Kenya's case, under 16) — an ideal prescription for social turbulence.

Why should a Piedmont farmer or a Tokyo housewife concern themselves with the plight of Bangladesh? Hasn't our planet always contained a rich minority and a poor majority? Will we not have enough of a challenge to prepare our own societies for the technology-driven changes of the next century without being distracted by the fate of badly run developing countries? What, in any case, have the poverty-stricken

peoples of Africa in common with well-heeled bankers and brokers engaged in creating a "borderless world" in the north? Apart from humanitarian grounds, there are three powerful reasons to take seriously these disturbing demographic trends and to seek to lessen their impact. The first is the possibility that the collective economic activities of 5 billion to 8 billion people might indeed be contributing to global warming as ever more trace gases pour into our atmosphere.

It is no longer an issue of local environmental damage, serious though it is to witness the gross pollution of the Mediterranean and the disappearance of the Aral Sea; the destruction of plant species and wildlife habitat in Brazil; and the steady denuding of India (where forest cover has shrunk from one-half to one-seventh during this century alone). The planetary ecosystem could be at stake.

White the developed countries probably possess the capi-

tal and scientific resources to become environmentally "clean" by early next century, the effects of such virtue on the atmosphere are likely to be eclipsed by the continued increase in pollutants from fast-industrialising countries.

If we are concerned about the more of this in the future? And how far will the robotics varied consequences of global warming, rises in sea levels, increased heat stress and greater weather instability, we need to devise technologies to help poorer nations to reduce emissions.

The prospect of further surges in large-scale illegal migration from stress-ridden,

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The prospect of further surges in large-scale illegal migration from stress-ridden,

overpopulated societies to richer, demographically stagnant regions in the north could be equally serious. Already, millions are being held in camps or are en route from central America, Africa, south Asia and the Middle East to the US, Germany, Australia and other favoured destinations — this movement being stimulated (ironically) by a communications revolution which displays, globally, television programmes like "Dallas" and "Brideshead Revisited".

The Spanish and Italian navies patrol daily to check the flow of illegal immigrants. As Africa's population threatens to treble while Europe's stagnates, ought we not to expect much revolution coming out of Japan — where automated factories are assembling products more efficiently and cheaply than plants employing low-cost labour in south-east Asia — underrmine the task of creating 40 million to 50 million new jobs worldwide each year to ensure employment for fast-growing

or Frankfurt are in range of north African-based missile systems before we get serious about proliferation of arms?

This brings us to the fundamental question: what, if anything, can be done in the coming years to ameliorate and slow (better still, reverse) these potentially dangerous trends?

Clearly, a great deal depends on the peoples and leaders of developing nations. European and American assistance can hardly be expected to produce improvements in countries where corrupt and obstructive regimes prevail; ethnic and religious rivalries dominate politics; deeply held animist or fundamentalist religions impair any changes in the status and education of women (thus impairing the prospects of reducing average family size); and faulty economic policies smother growth. We ought to be ready to offer a package of policies to reform-minded, developing countries which plead for our co-operation and aid.

These should include increas-

ing the amount of development monies to at least the internationally agreed target of 0.7 percent of GDP annually; ensuring that such aid goes to environmentally sound, sustainable projects in co-operation with local communities; and not to the clumsy "giganticist" schemes of the 1960s (steel mills, huge dams, etc); supporting the tens of thousands of engineers and scientists released from Cold War-related research to produce low-level solutions to these global problems — solar energy projects in general are a good example here; transferring the fruits of breakthroughs in bio-tech agriculture (disease-resistant and heat-resistant crops) without requiring large patent and user fees from poor nations.

None of these programmes guarantees that we will head off global disasters. Taken together, however, they offer the best prospects of repairing at least part of our planet's troubled condition.

One further ingredient is necessary. Concerned intellectuals, editors, businessmen and members of the public cannot by themselves ensure that such reform policies will be implemented. This requires the whole-hearted co-operation of political leaders, especially those in today's richer democratic societies. — Financial Times, London.

The writer is professor of history at Yale University and is author of *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers and Preparing for the Twenty-First Century*.

REQUESTS from tens of millions of married women in developing countries for safe, cheap contraceptives to permit them to stabilise family size must be responded to, and access to education for as many girls and women in those societies as possible must be aided.

None of these programmes guarantees that we will head off global disasters. Taken together, however, they offer the best prospects of repairing at least part of our planet's troubled condition.

One further ingredient is necessary. Concerned intellectuals, editors, businessmen and members of the public cannot by themselves ensure that such reform policies will be implemented. This requires the whole-hearted co-operation of political leaders, especially those in today's richer democratic societies. — Financial Times, London.

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Anglo donates land to Tygerberg Reserve

(56) CT16/4/93

By EUNICE RIDER

TYGERBERG Nature Reserve yesterday became 60 hectares richer when Anglo American Property Services (Ampros) handed over the title deeds to an adjoining property.

The presentation took place at the Welgedacht Country Estate housing development on the slopes of the Tygerberg hills, which form part of the Nature Reserve.

Ampros sales and marketing director Mr Grahame Lindop said, in handing the deeds to the mayor of Bellville,

Mr Awie Kempen, that environmentalism would become "the cutting edge of social reform, and absolutely the most important issue for business".

He said Ampros saw the donation as a commitment to people living in the area, and to South Africa's future.

"A commitment to the environment implies a faith in the future — no matter how testing our political challenges may be, we need to keep faith in the future," Mr Lindop said.

Mr Kempen said the Bellville Council was proud of its nature reserve, and would ensure it was well-kept.

Used oil contaminates SA's water supplies

56 CT 16/4/93

UP to 20 million litres of used motor oil is dumped illegally in South Africa every year, seeping through the soil and contaminating precious underground water supplies.

The problem, 65% of which is caused by "do-it-yourself" oil change motorists and farmers, has alarming implications, says BP Southern Africa.

One litre of oil can pollute one million litres of fresh water and up to one hectare of surface water.

BP says it is common for motorists to buy oil from a supermarket, drive to a spot on the Cape Flats, dig a hole in

the sand and then drain their car's sump straight into the ground.

Few South African suppliers had such facilities as in Austria where no less than 20 litres of oil can be bought unless the oil change takes place on the premises of the supplier, BP said.

In an attempt to redress this situation, the company has established a voluntary countrywide network of 180 service stations and other suppliers to receive motor oil free of charge and to store it for recycling.

Further information on volunteer outlets can be obtained from BP's Mr Anthony Kent at (021) 408-2441. — Sapa

Star 14/4/93

Joint air-pollution assessment

By Anita Allen
Science Writer **56**

The much-debated question of air pollution in South Africa will be assessed in a joint venture between government, the CSIR and Eskom.

Known as Kiepersol, the venture will for the first time establish a national network for monitoring and research into acid rain. Management of the project will be funded primarily by the Department of National Health and Population Development, and also

by the CSIR and Eskom. Financial support for the running of the project will be sought from the private sector. ~~56~~

The project will first seek to intergrate, standardise and expand existing individual facilities currently in place. The ultimate aim is to obtain comprehensive information to formulate future policy.

Eskom has already invested R1 million in a network of monitoring stations around its existing power stations. Its

Technology Research and Investigations unit, which won the 1992 Technology Top 100 award recently, has been involved in air pollution monitoring for 13 years.

Its extensive network and database will be combined with that of the CSIR's division of earth, marine and atmospheric science and technology (Ematek) to provide data comparable to international standards. This has become an important consideration in investment by overseas companies.

Move into SA, investors told

LONDON — Stockbrokers James Capel have urged international investors to move into SA now to reap high nominal bond yields, despite political uncertainty.

Capel analyst Jon Bergtheil said the investment picture had improved now that the ANC and government had pledged to hold a national election by April 1994.

"They said (on Friday) they will set a date within four weeks for an election. After that SA will have access to IMF and World Bank facilities — access to international capital it very much needs." US pension fund clients, in particular, were holding back until a date was agreed on.

"About 70% to 80% of people who have had moral concerns will drop them once that date is announced," Bergtheil said.

"Our biggest trade in the past two months has been with US funds, some of them municipalities, which are sensitive to ethical concerns and are often geared to black Americans."

Capel first recommended buying SA bonds in March on the back of a rising discount between the commercial and financial rands, indicating nervous foreign investor sentiment. That gap widened after the murder of SA Communist Party leader Chris Hanu on April 10.

But bond yields moved higher, offering even better value.

"SA remains a buy, with yields at around 21.5%," said Bergtheil.

The financial rand correlated well with the gold price.

The domestic fundamental outlook was more bullish with inflation contained at 9.7%, money supply under control and an end to the severe drought of 1992, which on its own had caused a 2% drop in gross domestic product, Capel noted. — Reuter.

Unions widen the recruitment drive

COSATU affiliates are embarking on a drive to recruit monthly-paid, skilled workers in what has been termed the "second wave" of unionisation.

SA Labour Bulletin editor Karl von Holdt, writing in the latest issue of the journal, says Cosatu and Nactu have been successful in organising weekly-paid workers in lower skills categories.

However, these federations have been prevented from recruiting other categories of workers by closed shop agreements and restrictions placed on bargaining unit composition by recognition agreements.

Unions, having realised the limitations they have been placed under, are now looking at ways of getting around this obstacle.

For example, the NUM opened its 1993 wage proposals to the Chamber of Mines with a demand for the amendment of its recognition agreement to grant it "the right to represent employees in all categories of employment in the collective bargaining process".

Von Holdt says the NUM is not opposed to the closed shop per se, but wants the establishment of a multi-union shop which would allow unions to compete for members within the

ERICA JANKOWITZ

closed shop. It would also give members the freedom to choose which union to join.

Von Holdt says under present bargaining arrangements, talented worker leaders are often "promoted out of their bargaining unit and so out of the union".

Therefore, if unions can recruit more widely, they stand to gain additional members, their skills and "their influence in the workplace". Their subscriptions, usually set as a percentage of gross income, could also help the unions' cash flow problems.

However, Von Holdt recognises the role played by craft unions which have traditionally represented white collar workers. He says the benefits offered by these unions — such as pension and medical schemes — could not be matched by Cosatu.

Also, most Cosatu organisers have come through the blue-collar ranks and are unfamiliar with "grievances and working conditions of monthly-paid artisans, clerical workers and technicians", he says.

Von Holdt argues that in the medium term "craft unions are likely to survive and retain their influence".

Business urged to 'green your contract'

ENVIRONMENTAL issues which might affect business decisions have become part of a Johannesburg law firm's legal information sheet.

Werksmans' newsletter *Environmental Concerns* has highlighted environmental concerns such as integrated environmental management and how to "green your contract".

The most recent issue dealt with the consequences of SA's increasing

international acceptance and return to international trade.

SA had been excluded from many environmental legislative developments governing international trade over the past 20 years, it said. Legislation which could "force compliance with or adoption of national domestic standards in other countries" would affect SA's trade potential.

MARIANNE MERTEN

Blom 11/5/93

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Blom 11/5/93

(Bus.) STimes 11/4/93

They're playing our dune

VIOLENCE still hogs the headlines in SA, but behind the scenes, in a string of forums and committees, solid progress is being achieved in arriving at formulas to make the new SA work.

There are, for example, a set of regional economic forums which are searching for regional solutions to the problems caused by apartheid. While foreigners expect to find a dogmatic and polarised nation, they instead report flexibility and a thirst for solutions which will enjoy popular support.

But Government still makes too many decisions behind closed doors. Cabinet, for instance, agreed to buy the Swiss-made Pilatus air trainer without first fully explaining its reasons to the people who will pay the R500-million bill.

Debate has followed the decision, and not the other way around.

Government has also opted to introduce lead-free petrol. The result of several years of behind-the-scenes lobbying by the oil and motor industries, there is no formal public document available which sets out the pros and cons, the tax concessions and the costs.

The political order is being shaped by compromise. Can a similar approach be applied to dune mining at Lake St Lucia? Comment by **KEVIN DAVE**

All we really know is that lead-free fuel will be on sale early in 1995; whether we need it and can afford it remains to be seen.

So the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed mining of the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia is welcome. A document has been tabled for public scrutiny. The costs and benefits of dune mining is compared with those of ecotourism.

ANSWER

The EIA, said to be the most comprehensive of its kind to date, finds that mining the dunes of the eastern shores of St Lucia would have no severe persistent effects on the functioning of the ecosystem.

The authors know that not all will be pleased: "In terms of people's sense of place, irreparable damage would occur to the perceptions of only some of the people who view

the St Lucia subregion as pristine wilderness."

But, they say, the area is not a pristine environment, having had a long history of disturbance, including plantation forestry.

The EIA calculates the value of the mining option at just R153-million by discounting net economic benefits to present-day values.

It asks: "Would South Africans be willing to pay — in other words, forego by not mining — R153-million in order to avoid the predicted impacts on the environment?"

The answer appears simple. Give Richard's Bay Minerals R153-million to go away and threaten another country's priceless dunes.

But the truth is that dune mining at St Lucia will bring significant benefits for the South African economy.

Minerals worth R7-billion at today's prices lie dormant in those

dunes. That's R7-billion of exports to help strengthen the rand and reduce pressure on interest rates.

That's tax revenues of R1,25-billion in today's money over the life of the mine for Government.

That's 2 500 full-time jobs over a five-year period, plus many more indirect jobs associated with the project.

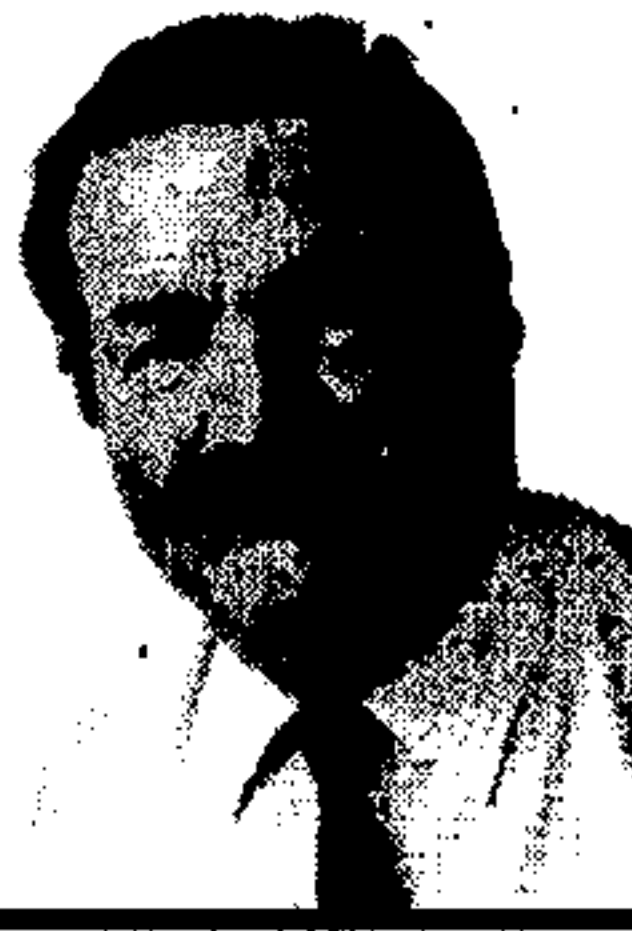
And — as is clear from the EIA report — the mining option can co-exist with the development of ecotourism in the region, giving one of SA's more depressed areas a further boost.

BENEFITS

Safeguards, as spelled out by the EIA, such as joint committees of conservationists and miners to oversee operations, will be necessary.

Purists will not be happy, but SA sadly does not have the resources to forego the economic benefits which the mining option will bring.

The wise management of natural resources is not unlike people management. SA's political order is being redesigned through compromise and safeguard. The natural order need be no different.



JAMES
Clarke

Credibility is *Star 10/4/93* the keyword

(DM) *(SG)*

THE environmental impact report on St Lucia raises quite a few questions about objectivity.

THE report by the Ramsar Bureau in Switzerland, which criticises the environmental impact report on what would happen if St Lucia were mined, makes a very interesting point. It says the environmental impact assessment (EIA) should have been financed by the Government and not by the mine.

Just to recap: the Ramsar Bureau was set up as a result of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran, in 1975. The convention protects the world's dwindling number of wetlands. South Africa was among the first signatories.

Ramsar appointed an international group of scientists to visit St Lucia last year. Since then, its members have had access to the EIA drawn up by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) with the help of the Government. It found several quite fundamental flaws, which will be fully reported in *The Star* on Tuesday.

The mission says that despite "elaborate arrangements to ensure the objectivity of the EIA process, many of the NGOs (non-government organisations) who addressed the Ramsar members at St Lucia retained considerable doubts about the EIA's objectivity. The mission, after meeting many of those in-

involved in drawing up the reports, as well as four of the five members of the review panel, is convinced of the fairness of the process and of the independence of the individuals.

"Nevertheless, it would appear important for future operations of this kind that the process should be (and be seen to be) official and financed from official sources at the outset."

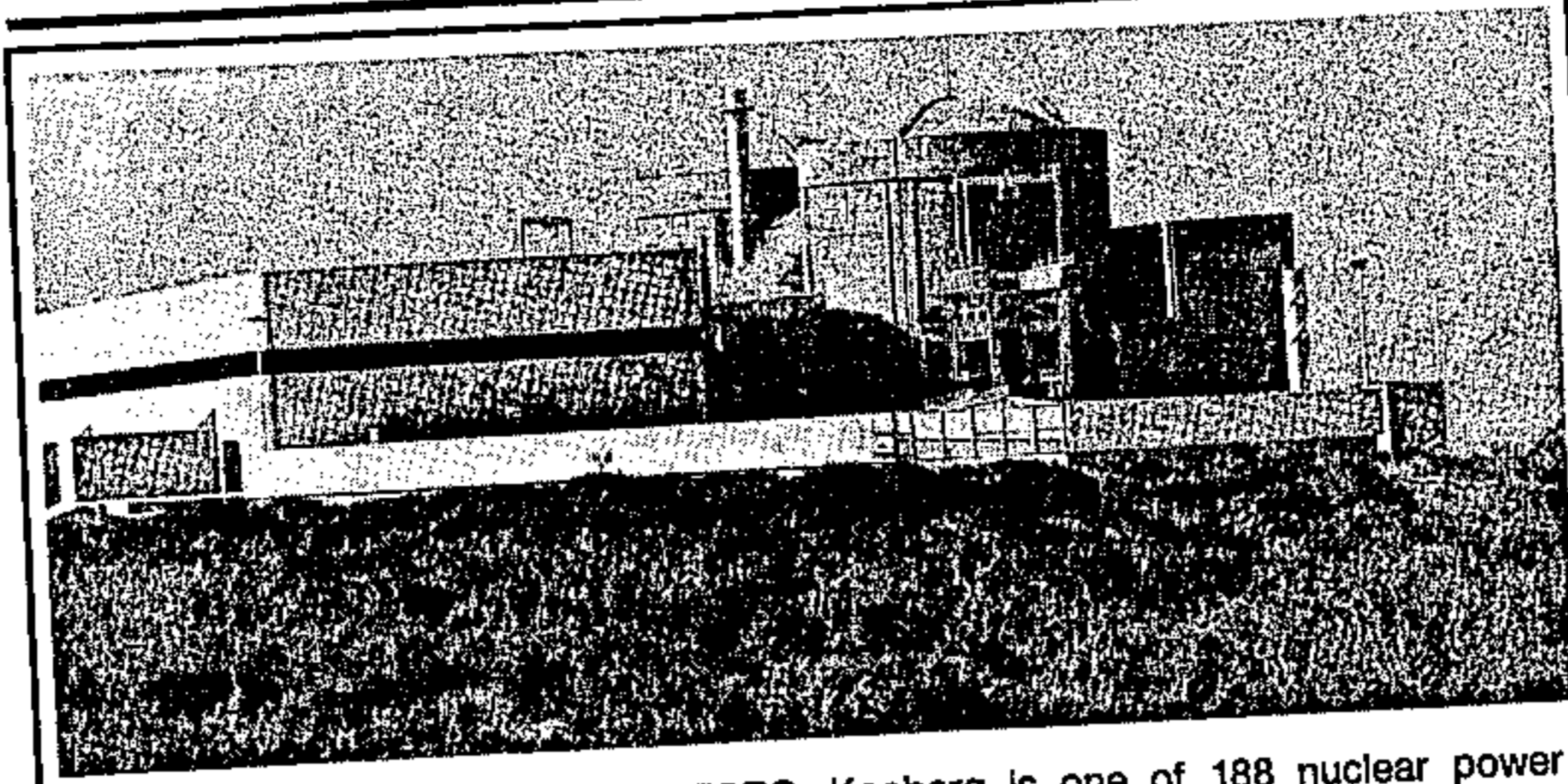
In the past I have felt that the developer should pay. After all, all society is asking of the developer is that he does his homework thoroughly and then lets the public know precisely what the environmental advantages and disadvantages are likely to be.

Process to test accuracy

RBM had a part in the selection of the scientists and, naturally, it is hardly likely to employ scientists who are antagonistic to mining. That's fair. The public is hardly likely to employ scientists known to be on the payroll of RBM.

The Ramsar mission is part of the public process of testing the accuracy of the EIA.

The only other way is to have an independent environmental protection agency, funded by Government but answerable to the people, to conduct EIAs. But the developer should pay.



□ **PRESSURISED WATER REACTORS:** Koeberg is one of 188 nuclear power plants which operate with PWRs, according to the Greenpeace report.

Koeberg: How safe can it be?

ARG 10/4/93 (56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL protesters this week demanded the immediate closure of Koeberg nuclear power station and the scrapping of South Africa's nuclear energy industry.

Their demand follows the publication of a Greenpeace International report which claims more than half of the Western world's nuclear reactors now have a higher potential risk of catastrophic meltdown because of a recently discovered cracking problem.

The protesters — members of Earthlife Africa Cape Town who picketed the entrance to Koeberg — were also responding to confirmation in parliament of an accident last year at the Pelindaba nuclear enrichment plant outside Pretoria.

Answering a question by Democratic Party MP Mr Roger Hulley, Energy and Mineral Affairs Minister Mr George Bartlett acknowledged that an accident last December had released about 29kg of radioactive uranium into the atmosphere.

Eskom, the owner-manager of Koeberg, responded to Earthlife by saying it was aware of the cracking problem — known technically as Vessel Head Penetration Cracking, or VHPC — and that a theoretical safety test had been performed to check South Africa's only nuclear power station.

"The results of this analysis were referred to South Africa's licensing authority, the Council for Nuclear Safety, who were satisfied with the results and had no reasons for concern regarding VHPC," said Eskom spokesman Mr Donne Murray.

The cracking phenomenon was discovered on the French electricity utility, EDF's Bugey-3 nuclear power station on August 5 1991 when this 900-megawatt unit had been stopped for its 10th-year inspection and refuelling.

According to the Greenpeace report, compiled by nuclear engineering experts in Germany and France, other

■ "Shut Koeberg before there's a meltdown!" say environmentalists. "Nonsense — there's no problem at all," responds Eskom. The long-simmering row over the possible dangers of nuclear power has flamed anew with the publication of a Greenpeace report alleging a major problem in many nuclear power stations.

pressurised water reactors (PWRs) are experiencing similar cracks in their primary containment systems.

These cracks could lead to a malfunction of the control rods, the most central component of a reactor's safety system.

This would sharply increase the risk of a meltdown of the reactor and leave no effective safety mechanism to combat it, Greenpeace said.

The cracking had already affected 13 reactors in France and had also appeared in Swedish, Swiss and Belgian reactors.

Although EDF had described the phenomenon as the most serious problem it had faced in its nuclear programme, the discovery had sparked virtually no action by nuclear authorities outside France, Greenpeace claimed.

It said there were 188 pressurised water reactors operating world-wide — including Koeberg.

Reactors at highest risk of developing the cracks appeared to be those built with a particular alloy present in the pressure vessel.

The French company Framatome — which built Koeberg — was named as one of the companies using this alloy.

"The meltdown potential of Western reactors has risen alarmingly," Greenpeace nuclear campaign co-ordinator Mr John Willis said.

Mr Murray said Eskom had been informed of the cracking problem soon after it had been discovered.

"In the light of the French experience, Eskom conducted a theoretical safety analysis. However, a physical test similar to the one performed at Bugey was not required."

Mr Murray said Eskom and the Council for Nuclear Safety were continuing long-term investigations and evaluations.

"There is regular contact between Eskom, Framatome Owners Group — of which Eskom is a member — EDF, the World Association of Nuclear Operators, and other owners' groups regarding this topic. As is normal practice in the nuclear industry, this topic will receive continuing inspection and evaluation."

In a strong statement, Earthlife Africa accused the government and South Africa's nuclear industry of having "committed a crime against Africa and the African people in the development and construction of weapons of mass destruction".

The South African nuclear industry has a history of releases of radioactive material, it alleged.

"It is unacceptable that these are regarded as 'normal operating experience' which only become public knowledge when discovered and exposed

"This supports our belief that the production process is inherently dangerous and therefore unacceptable."

The nuclear industry has squandered large amounts of public money without consultation, Earthlife charged.

It also suggested Koeberg could also have structural damage.

"The nuclear industry is dangerous, uneconomical, and produces waste which cannot be safely handled.

"Furthermore, the industry protects itself behind a veil of secrecy and duplicity.

"We demand that South Africa bring its nuclear industry in line with the call by the Organisation for African Unity for a nuclear-free Africa.

"We demand independent verification of the present status of the industry and its dismantling."

Keegan slams the 'eco-murders'

56 146 10/4/93

DEPUTY mayor Mr Clive Keegan has lashed out at the attitude of some councillors and officials who feel that concern for the environment is just a passing fad.

Mr Keegan, chairman of the city council task group on the environment, said protection of the environment was essential if the city was to prosper.

"In discussing recent adverse publicity about the council's alleged 'dumping' on Signal Hill, a senior official advanced the argument that we should not concern ourselves too much about the environment because environmental concern was just a passing fad.

"This may be an extreme viewpoint, but undoubtedly many in the bureaucracy and elected councillors appear to consider environmental concerns of little importance and a hindrance to seeking to attract development to the city, and to provide services," Mr Keegan said.

■ The deputy mayor of Cape Town has accused certain councillors and officials of regarding concern for the environment as a passing fad.

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

In the first report of the task group, tabled at this week's executive committee meeting, he said environmental degradation threatened natural, cultural and historic resources needed by the tourist industry.

"Environmental degradation is not just something that offends our eye or nose and threatens our economic growth, rare plants and animals and nice buildings — it threatens people's quality of life, health and survival."

The poor felt the environmental crisis the hardest, because of a lack of housing and suitable dry land for shelter, lack of access to potable water, inadequate solid waste disposal, little or no sanitation, no electricity, and inadequate health care.

Arguing for the need for concern, he said

the council should take its environmental responsibilities seriously or it would have difficulty enforcing future legislation.

Environmental groups such as Earthlife Africa and the Wildlife Society were "increasingly antagonistic" because of the city council's perceived failings as a custodian of the environment.

Environmental concerns were being used frequently as a tactic to block developments, Mr Keegan said.

The need for action was urgent.

Policies to protect the environment had to be part of a comprehensive framework and should be addressed at metropolitan level.

The city council did not have an adequate framework of environmental policy.

"That is not to say no environmental poli-

cies have ever been adopted by council.

"Many have, but they have never been drawn together in a coherent whole. Worse, many are completely forgotten," Mr Keegan said.

Management inadequacies worsened the problem. These included:

■ A defensive and secretive attitude about council activities with potential impact on the environment;

■ A lack of clarity about who was responsible for what in terms of standing orders;

■ Petty jealousies between branches and departments.

The council did have considerable environmental expertise on its staff, but skills were not being used to their best.

Mr Keegan said city planner Mr Neville Riley should prepare a draft environmental policy framework within three months.

The role of the council environmental advisory committee should be re-evaluated at the end of the year once amended terms of reference were adopted.

Rietvlei ecology ⁽⁵⁶⁾ threatened by reeds and water nutrients

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Weekend Argus Reporter

RIETVLEI, the sensitive ecological estuary near Table View, is being choked to death by reeds — with nearly a third of the vlei already clogged.

And now fears are increasing that the intended Du Noon informal housing development north of Table View, which will be home to more than 2 000 families in the vicinity of the Diep River, may cause further damage to Rietvlei's sensitive ecological balance.

As a matter of urgency, the Milnerton municipality recently cut a channel through a large section of the reeds to ensure a faster flow of water towards the sea in an effort to rid the water of nutrients and to prevent possible flooding of residential areas during the winter.

The level of the Diep River dropped by more than a metre after the channel was cut. The reeds had kept back the flow of water and, according to Mr David Brook, town engineer of the Milnerton municipality, there was a very real danger of flooding in winter.

The extent of the reed problem becomes evident when it is taken into account that only about 20 hectares of the 500-hectare vlei were covered with reeds in the early 1970s. Now about 120 hectares are overgrown.

This is a direct result of the increase in nutrients in the vlei — a result of the development of residential areas and the industrial area at Montagu Gardens.

Mr Brook confirmed that more than 20 million litres of water are discharged into the vlei every day. Much of this discharge, which is rich in nutrients, is from the industrial area.

Nutrients that land in the vlei lead to an increase in the growth of reeds and the activities of organisms that feed off nutrients. It is feared that the development of the Du Noon informal housing settlement close to the banks of the Diep River may further aggravate the problem.

Environmentalists are concerned that storm water from this development will further increase nutrient levels in the vlei. Organisms feeding off nutrients use up oxygen in the water and — if they increase too much — the level of oxygen in the water may be depleted to such an extent that the vlei could become sterile, killing all life.

In a draft document by the Planning Partnership, the consultants appointed by Milnerton municipality to draw up a concept plan for the Du Noon development, two points on the banks of the Diep River were identified for the discharge of storm water into the vlei.

Mr Brook admitted that no detailed environmental study had been done to establish the potential impact of the development. "But we are not lacking in environmental consciousness and the development will be in accordance with the Integrated Environmental Management Procedure (IEM)."

This procedure is a process developed by the South African Council for the Environment to ensure that important environmental standards are taken into account to minimise the impact on the environment.

Administrator of the Cape Mr Kobus Meiring said although the Du Noon development had been approved in principle, the Cape Provincial Administration would see to it that the requirements of the IEM would be met.

Mr Niel van Wyk, director of Nature Conservation of the CPA, said his department would closely monitor the situation and it was their duty to ensure that the environment is protected.

"Rietvlei is a very sensitive nature area and we will certainly make recommendations to ensure the adequate protection of the area if necessary," said Mr Van Wyk.

■ Mr Brook has called on the municipality to make money available so that a full environmental study can be done on the ecological impact of developments around Rietvlei.

St Lucia thumms-down

AN international scientific mission has seriously criticised the environmental impact assessment (EIA) which Richards Bay Mining Company has prepared about the likely impacts of mining titanium in the dunes of St Lucia on the Natal coast.

They found it would be "difficult — indeed impossible" to restore the original forested dune structure after mining ceased.

Last month, the South African EIA, co-ordinated by the CSIR, claimed the only severe damage that would be caused by open-cast titanium mining would be short-term and that no irreversible damage would be done.

The Ramsar Bureau of Gland, Switzerland disagreed. The bureau was established as a result of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1975 and to which 62 countries are contracting parties.

The Ramsar mission visited St Lucia a year ago and has since read the EIA drawn up by RBM and government-appointed scientists.

The mission, led by Mr Michael Smart of Ramsar, said the very basis of the EIA was inadequate.

It contradicted many of the EIA's premises.

The other members of the mission were from Kenya, Australia and Britain.

The mission said it did not question the independence of the scientists involved in the EIA and said it was convinced

International scientists, invited to see the St Lucia issue first-hand, say it would be impossible to restore the area after mining there. Their report boils down to two words: "Don't mine!"

JAMES CLARKE, Weekend Argus Reporter

of the good intentions of the parties.

Nor did it wish "to pre-empt the conclusions of the EIA" which was now awaiting the South African public's input.

The mission's aim was to apply Ramsar's monitoring procedure and to "pin-point issues which the authorities may wish to consider more fully".

The mission reminded South Africa that in signing the international convention it was "essential that, after a wetland has been designated for the list (of internationally important wetlands) its conservation

status should be maintained" and that the "concept of preventing change in the ecological character was fundamental to the Ramsar Convention."

It also noted that South Africa was one of the original seven contracting parties which brought the convention into force on December 21 1975.

Of the 62 contracting nations (collectively safeguarding 527 wetland systems) not one had asked for a wetland to be "de-listed".

The mission said the most important chapter in RBM's EIA was the one dealing with

56 ARG 10/4/92

"geology and landforms" because "these are the fundamental units upon which other studies such as hydrology, soils and vegetation are based — and it is important to have the basic earth science component well documented".

"In this regard, the report on landforms and geology is generally inadequate for obtaining the necessary information for assessment purposes."

It said that "given a variety of constraints in the study" the hydrology report was "excellent and scholarly in its treatment of the macro-scale hydrology".

Regarding a third chapter of the EIA — the one on wet-

lands — it said it lacked a description of soils and stratigraphy in wetlands. It said there was no information on the survival of plants in response to various periods of inundation and water logging (as would happen during the mining process). It reminded those involved with the EIA that the Ramsar Convention "is essentially concerned with habitats, not species. This is its originality and strength. Therefore, it is wrong to see the author's (sic) repeated assertion that Ramsar is a convention about ducks, geese and swans". A point that flabbergasted the conservation lobby in the South African EIA was its contention that the eastern shores between Lake St Lucia and the sea — the barrier dunes which were to be destroyed and then reassembled by RBM — had little ecological effect on the lake's well-being. The mission disagreed with RBM and contended "there is absolutely no doubt that the sand dunes of the eastern shores play a vital role in the hydrology of the entire system. "It is, therefore, surprising to read that the 1436 ha, including infrastructure of the proposed mine path, is located on dry land on top of the sand dunes and so cannot be defined as wetland within the Ramsar or any other definition." It saw the St Lucia system as a "perfect" example of what an international wetland was all about. It also viewed it as "one of the best preserved" (RBM has claimed St Lucia is doomed). It refuted the argument that the trees on the dunes were not part of the wetland system saying they formed an "integral part of it."

Nats stand alone on dune mining

Star 8/4/93

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — The ANC and the Conservative Party became strange bedfellows yesterday when they and the other opposition members in the extended parliamentary sitting banded together to challenge the Government's alleged support for dune mining at St Lucia. (12)

ANC MP Rob Haswell (Pietermaritzburg South) challenged the National Party to put the issue to a vote, but this was rejected by the Speaker.

It is likely that a vote against mining would have been passed with 12 NP members in the House facing 20 members of the ANC, DP, CP, IFP, Solidarity Party, Labour Party and National People's Party. (13)

DP MP Mike Ellis (Durban North) demanded that the NP come clean on the issue. "I am concerned that members of the NP made up their minds to support mining long before the environmental impact assessment (EIA) came out." (56)

CP representative Joseph Chilo (Pretoria West) said the CP rejected the EIA — which favoured mining — as biased.

The Old man and the sea

Witness 8/4-15/1993.

Richards Bay Minerals and the Natal Parks Board both have claims to the St Lucia area, but Phillip Mfeka and the many other people who were evicted from their ancestral land also want it back. By **EDDIE KOCH** and **ENOCH MTHEMBU**

THE last time Phillip Mfeka visited the shores of Lake St Lucia he was clutching the branch of an *umhlabankosi* tree in his hand and whispering to its leaves as he waded, along with a solemn procession of women, children and grandchildren, across the narrow straits that separate two bays in the estuary.

That was six years ago after a *sangoma* told his family they were afflicted by poverty and disease because their ancestor was angry at being left behind when people were forcibly evicted from their homes around the St Lucia estuary to make way for pine plantations.

"The *sangoma* told us to take a branch of the tree (whose name means the land of God) that grows in our yard to our ancestor's grave. We went there and spoke to him, saying he should not be angry because it was not our choice to leave without him," says Mfeka.

"Then I planted the branch in the grave and took it with me. While we crossed the lake everyone remained silent and they were forbidden to look back. I spoke to the spirit of our ancestor in the leaves of the branch and told him 'We are crossing the river that now separates us from you. We are taking you back to our new home.'"

The Mfeka clan was among hundreds of Zulu families removed from the land around the St Lucia estuary between 1950 and the early 1970s. The evictions, carried out by the Forestry Department which operates large plantations in the area, made it possible for St Lucia and its environs to be declared a game reserve.

The area is now perhaps the most hotly contested piece of land in the country, subject to competing claims by Richards Bay Minerals, which wants to stripmine R5-billion worth of titanium in the sand dunes that line the eastern shores of the estuary, and the Natal Parks Board which, bolstered by an environmental alliance, wants to retain the area as conservation land. Caught between them are the discarded people, those whose removal has made it possible for these two protagonists to duel over the fate of St Lucia without considering the fate of its original owners. Two large communities were removed between



Homecoming ... A joyful Phillip Mfeka happy to be back at the St Lucia estuary, even if it's just for a visit

Photo: GUY ADAMS

1950 and the early 1970s from the very dunes that will be mined. Another 3 400 people were evicted in the late 1970s from an area to the north of the dunes so that the South African Defence Force could build a missile testing site which has now been turned into a nature reserve.

"I remember the day," says Mfeka, 72. "It was in 1973. I was working in Durban and got messages *Amahlalizi* (the Department of Forestry) was telling us to move. When I got home my family was already gone. They just loaded them in lorries with their belongings and tossed them away."

According to Mfeka, the trucks simply dropped people off at various locations along the main coastal road that runs inland from St Lucia from the town of Mthabatha northwards to Mkuze. The dislocated families were left to negotiate the building of new homes with local chiefs in the area.

These people who lived on the eastern shores, between St Lucia in the south and beyond Cape Vidal in the north, belonged to many clans: the

Mfekas, the Mthiyanes, the Ngunbanes, the Mbuyazis and many others. They fell under the collective rule of a chief from the Mbuyazi clan.

Mfeka says clan members experienced severe problems as a result of their displacement. "We are now scattered all over. Some of us are staying in Nongoma, Mthabatha, Mfekayo and kwaMtsane. Since we were tossed out we have little land to farm, our cattle died because there was not enough water for them (in the resettlement areas), some were living from fishing in the lake and are no longer allowed to do so. *Uma ukhipa intlanzi emanzini ayifi na?* — When you take a fish out of water does it not die?"

For many years people have coped with their collective stress by making regular visits to the graves of their ancestors where the *umhlabankosi* ceremony is a regular practice. Chief Mbuyazi's people are said to practice another ritual. They often sneak on to the dunes, collect sand from the traditional graves and take the dust back to their

homesteads, where it is scattered to the winds.

These remedies have had limited effect. "Things are even worse now. There is a shortage of land here and the chief says he can no longer afford to give Mbuyazi's people more land. We are being forced to move yet again."

Increased pressure on the subsistence levels of the dislocated people prompted them to form the committee which is now negotiating with the kwaZulu government. On March 17 this year, a committee travelled to Umtali where they began negotiating the restoration of their title to the land. "Our position is that we want to go back to our ancestral land. Once we are there then we will negotiate with RBM and anybody else who wants to use the land. We are not against mining but we must get some benefit from it."

According to Barry Clements of RBM: "The people from the eastern shores will negotiate with the government of the day. We will abide by whatever decision that government takes."

New study ordered in St Lucia row

Star 8/4/93

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

The Natal Parks Board (NPB) has commissioned an independent scientific survey into how the St Lucia wetlands function, according to planning head Bill Bainbridge.

The survey will be included in the NPB response to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) released last month by the CSIR.

At the time, NPB chief George Hughes attacked the "simplistic interpretations" of the EIR, particularly the finding that the area would not be damaged permanently if mining were allowed to go ahead.

As a result, the NPB had commissioned an additional independent study, Bainbridge said.

However, he reaffirmed the NPB's commitment to the EIA process.

"Not only are we participating fully, but, more than any

other interested and affected party, we have responded to all the specialist reports, and will respond in depth to all additional reports," he said.

The EIR forms part of the process of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) into two land-use options for St Lucia — mining and ecotourism, as proposed by Richards Bay Minerals, and ecotourism without mining, as proposed by the NPB.

(DMS)
Untenable

(56)

The EIA was ordered by the then Minister of the Environment, Louis Pienaar, in 1989. As the proposer, RBM is paying for the report, which will cost as estimated R4 million.

Bainbridge was quoted last week as saying it was "totally untenable for RBM to sit on the assessment management committee (AMC)" which manages the EIA process.

However, the NPB had two representatives on the original 18-member Co-ordinating Com-

mittee appointed by the Department of Environment Affairs and which ratified the appointment of the 17-member AMC.

Asked why objections to RBM's membership on the AMC were not raised in these initial phases, Bainbridge said the EIA had been a learning experience for everyone.

Another attack on the credibility of the EIR was made by the Zululand Environmental Alliance (Zeal), which said last week its 110-page submission had been largely ignored.

Brian von Wilgen of the CSIR, one of two people at the CSIR mainly responsible for collating the EIR, pointed out that the Zeal submission was reproduced in its entirety together with responses to the submission in Volume 1 of the EIR.

The three volumes of the EIA thus far are available at municipal and university libraries. The public and interested and affected parties have until May 14 to submit written comment to the EIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001.

Scientists

Star 8/4/93

query

St Lucia

report

By James Clarke



An international mission of scientists has severely criticised the recently published environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the effects of mining the dunes at St Lucia Estuary, Natal.

It says the basis of the EIA report — the chapter dealing with geology and landforms — is "generally inadequate", and yet it provided the basis for the vital hydrological and soils and vegetation studies.

The mission was sent by the Ramsar Bureau in Gland, Switzerland, and comprised scientists from Australia, Kenya, Switzerland and Britain. South Africa helped establish Ramsar in 1975 when it became one of the first nations to sign the Ramsar Convention to protect the world's internationally important wetlands.

The mission's critique, generally couched in diplomatic terms but sometimes quite sharp in its phraseology, does not believe South Africa should go ahead with the open-cast mine and questions the validity of the argument that it is of national strategic importance.

The scientists, who visited St Lucia last year, appeared to have been unimpressed by the RBM mining company's 15-year-old tree planting project in the mined-out dunes of Richards Bay. It describes what RBM has created as "acacia scrub".

The report says it is impossible for RBM to restore the dune structure after it has mined and that it is wrong to say the dunes and their present vegetation have no significant effect on the St Lucia Estuary as a whole.

The Ramsar mission was released by South Department of Environmental Affairs last night, 22 days after the department received it. (See Greenpeace column in Saturday Star.)

● New study ordered — Page

SA 'equipped to sustain development'

8/10/93 15/14/93
MARIANNE MERTEN

SA WAS in a better position than most other developing countries to promote sustainable development because of its strong technological, scientific and managerial capacity, a study said. (102)

A recently published report — Findings of the Rio UN Conference on Environment and Development: Implications for SA — said SA business and industry were well placed to initiate clean technology policies and more efficient production processes.

The ANC and govern-

ment had committed themselves to sustainable development and all major parties had "advocated a reorientation of energy strategy towards clean and renewable energy resources".

The report said SA was characterised by "northern consumption patterns" and "southern poverty".

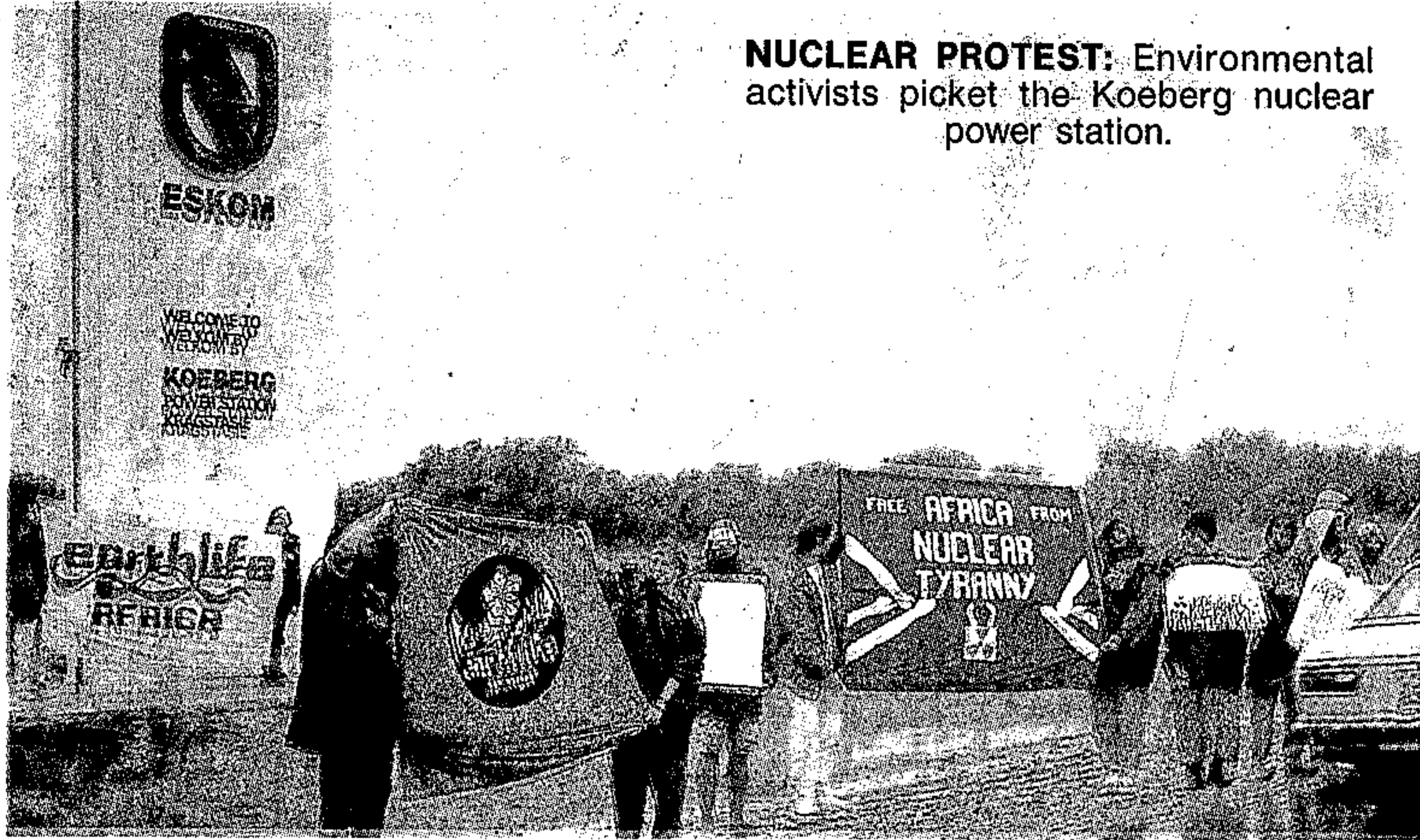
Only a third of South

Africans had access to electricity, yet the country produced one of the highest per capita emissions of greenhouse gases and waste in the world. (57) (56)

Poverty, population growth and overconsumption problems would only be solved if they were regarded as interrelated.

Long-term efforts to eradicate poverty would depend on "low cost initiatives which promoted self-reliance".

NUCLEAR PROTEST: Environmental activists picket the Koeberg nuclear power station.



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

Koeberg demo over 'increased meltdown risk'

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

56 7/4/93
ENVIRONMENTAL protesters have picketed Koeberg nuclear power station to highlight a Greenpeace report claiming more than half the Western world's nuclear reactors face an increased risk of meltdown because of unexpected cracking.

The protesters — members of Earthlife Africa's Cape Town branch who picketed outside the gates of Koeberg this week — were also calling for South Africa to respect an Organisation of African Unity decision to keep the continent nuclear-free.

Eskom has confirmed that it is aware of the problem — known technically as VHPC (vessel head penetration cracking) — and says the matter has received "considerable attention".

But South Africa's licensing authority, the Council for Nuclear Safety, "has no short-term concern regarding this phenomenon", Koeberg spokesman Mr Donne Murray said.

He also confirmed that Koeberg's unit 2 had been shut since January, but said this was for "a normal routine maintenance shutdown and refuelling".

"The unit will return to service, connecting with the national grid, on May 6, with the unit reaching 100 percent power by mid-May."

Soon after President De Klerk's recent announcement that South Africa had scrapped its nuclear weapons arsenal, Earthlife said deceit around the question of weapons could not be separated from "deceit and secrecy" which characterised the nuclear industry world-wide — "and South Africa's Atomic Energy Corporation in particular.

"Information from France reveals that reactors similar to Koeberg are suddenly and unexpectedly developing cracks in the vessel heads, which could result in a major breach of the container and a meltdown."

Lease of Valkenberg house ceded to UCT

Political Staff

56 (2004)

THE University of Cape Town was to take over the lease of the historic Valkenberg manor house, the Minister of National Education, Mr Piet Marais, said yesterday.

CT6/4/93

Replying to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr Roger Hulley (DP, Constantia), Mr Marais said an agreement had been signed on March 23 between UCT and the National Monuments Council.

in historic Hout Bay



HOUT BAY TODAY . . . Colourful trawlers moored in the harbour create a picturesque scene

Pictures: **JANEK SZYMANOWSKI**

From page 8
 ers aplenty, several banks, chemists, service stations and even a colour photocopying service. And if you want to visit a farm stall, you'll find that too.
 If you want to buy in the area, there are also a legendary number of estate agents guaran-

teed to find exactly what you want.

Then there's the rock shop, with a delightful pebble-picking patch where you can gather your own polished semi-precious stones, and of course the internationally famous World of Birds which houses hun-

dreds of different species from penguin to flamingo, and owl to eagle. In cleverly landscaped aviaries, they behave just as they would in the wild — and you are on the inside looking out.

Of course there is the opportunity of numerous walks (alone or with a museum guide), of horse riding, or of scenic sea trips.

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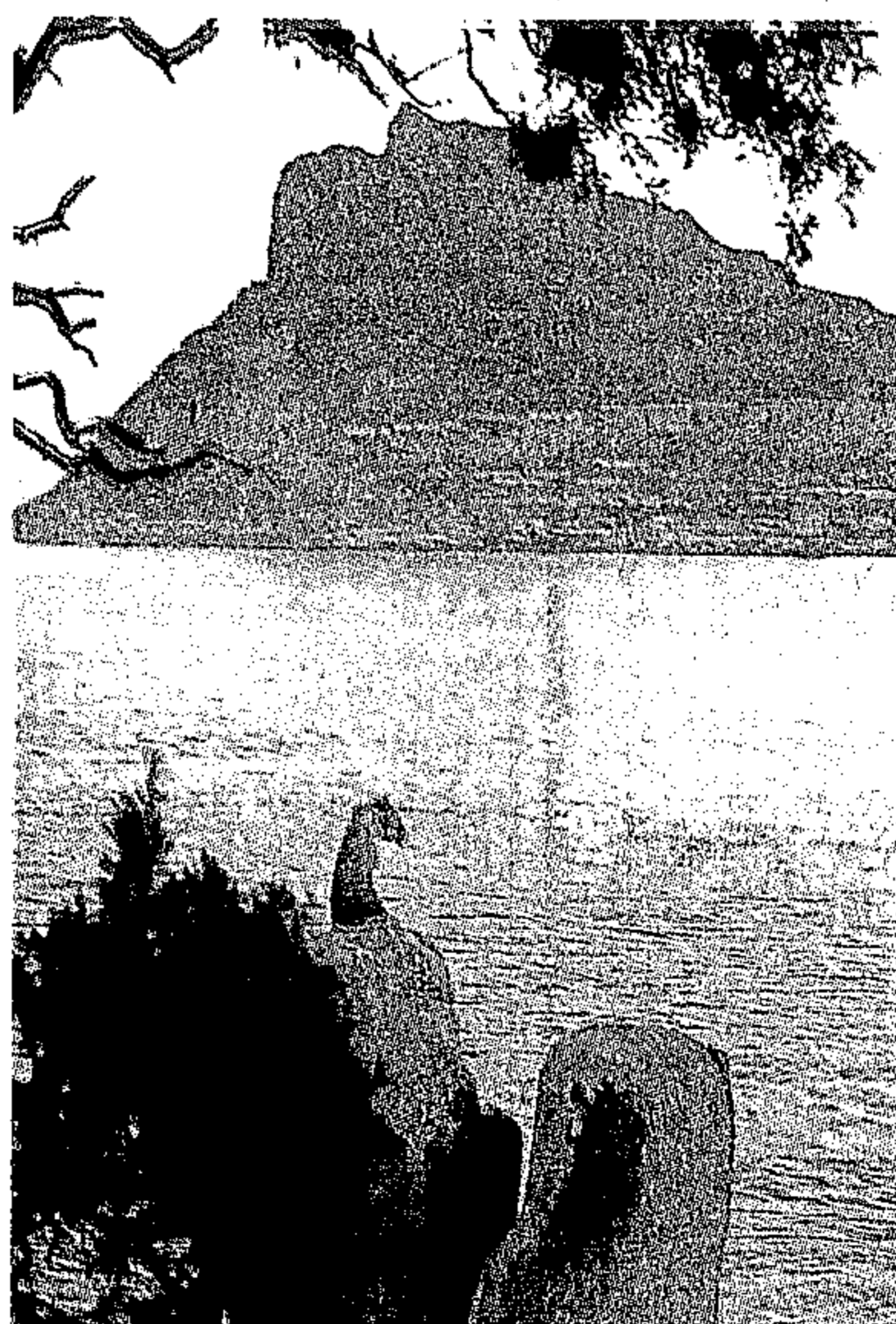
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CATCH OF THE DAY . . . An old salt waits patiently while the catch of the day is offloaded



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Although depleted, the trees are still a feature of Hout Bay, but the picturesque fishing village has numerous other holiday attractions. PENNY SWIFT reports

Contrasts abound

ALTHOUGH there are only remnants of the forests which gave Hout Bay its name, there is nothing like the threat of the removal of trees to get residents up in arms.

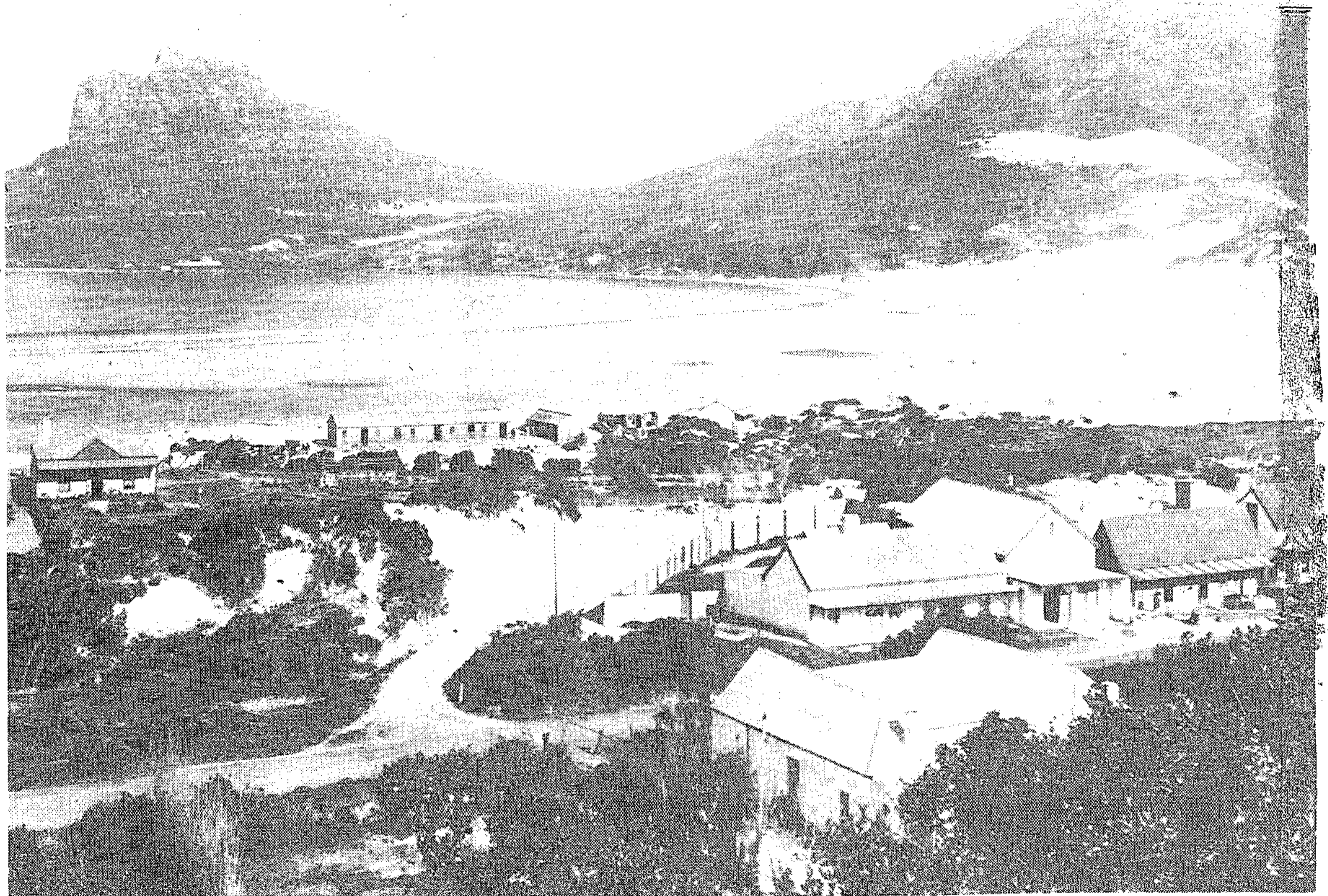
When Victoria Road was widened several years ago, ratepayers were furious that trees were to be removed — especially the line of palm trees adjacent to Mount Rhodes and one special pine tree which had become a landmark over the years.

For more than a decade, there has been a continuing dispute between the authorities and residents about the possible removal of oak trees lining Main Road. Some say they are diseased and dangerous, while those who have grown to love the winding approach to the valley are willing to put up with the odd inconvenience after storms of branches in the road.

Origins

And then, of course, there is the debate about the advisability of removing pine trees — which are alien — from the hillside which now accommodates a growing informal settlement, Imizamo Yethu. The argument is that these will, at least, shield the area from general view.

While Hout Bay has origins which can be traced to the late Stone Age, its recorded history dates to 1607 when an English sailor, John Chance (after whom the place was originally named Chapman's Chance), noted its posi-



LOOKING BACK . . . Hout Bay nearly a century ago. Today this main road is lined with supermarkets and shops.

Picture: HOUT BAY MUSEUM

tion. Less than 10 years later, another English sailor took wood from the forest to mend his boat, and then, in 1652, Jan van Riebeeck named it Hout Bay, after describing its forests as the finest in the world.

In those days, according to the Hout Bay Museum, the forests extended along the south

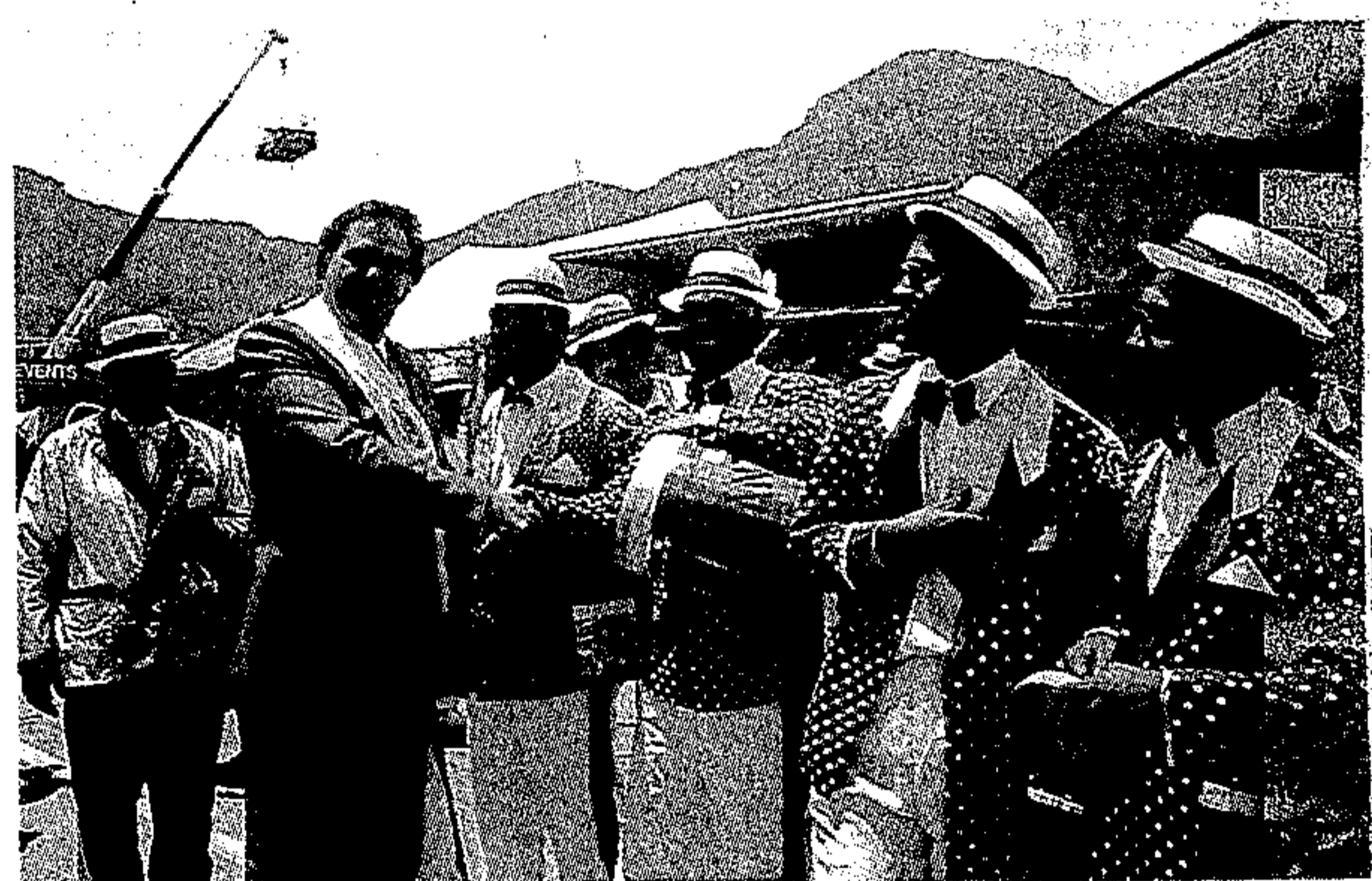
facing slopes of the mountains and in shaded ravines, covering an area as close as 50 paces from the sea. In 1668, the first permit to cut and saw wood in the Hout Bay forest was granted, and little less than a decade later, the government's head woodcutter was based there.

It was Governor Simon van der Stel, who perhaps fortunately failed to set up a saw mill in Hout Bay because the forest was already dwindling in the late 17th century, who began planting alien trees in the area.

The woodcutters have all left and there is no threat of milling; and those who walk in the area can still enjoy the beauty of the forests that remain on the slopes of Grootkop (adjacent to Orange Kloof), in Myburgh's Ravine and in Myburgh's Corner. There are also small original forest trees in the ravines on the Constantiabergh and a grove of Yellowwoods on the Karbonkelberg; and most of the residents will continue to fight to ensure that these are not destroyed.

When a group of Hout Bay separatists declared a republic seven years ago, the cynics said it wouldn't last. But it has — in its own way.

The president still does his civic duties (from time to time) and



PRESIDENTIAL ROLE . . . Hout Bay president Len Pothier fulfils civic duties at many of Hout Bay's functions — particularly those organised to raise funds for charity

tourists flock to shops selling passports. Furthermore, stories abound about people using these to cross into once forbidden lands. During the season, the powers that be, in that part of the world, traditionally close the borders without warning,

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Originated as a means to raise money for the local service clubs, this unique passport policy

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□ To page 9



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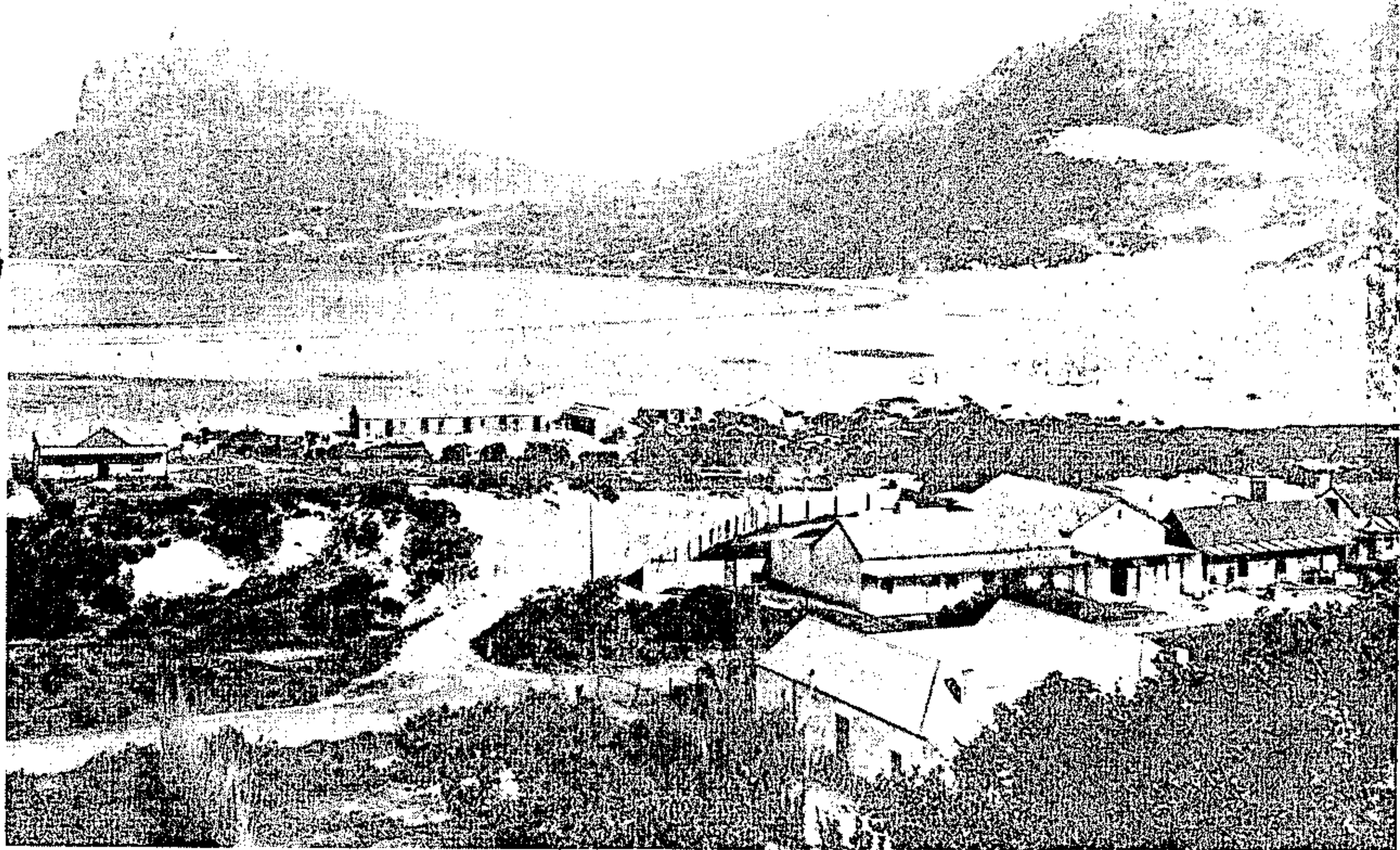
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BIRD LIFE . . . Walter Mangold with two colourful Mackaws against a backdrop of flamingoes in the World of Birds, the largest bird sanctuary in Africa

in historic Hout Bay



HOUT BAY TODAY . . . Colourful trawlers moored in the harbour create a picturesque scene

Pictures: JANEK SZYMANOWSKI

From page 8
 ers aplenty, several banks, chemists, service stations and even a colour photocopying service. And if you want to visit a farm stall, you'll find that too.
 If you want to buy in the area, there are also a legendary number of estate agents guaran-

teed to find exactly what you want.
 Then there's the rock shop, with a delightful pebble-picking patch where you can gather your own polished semi-precious stones, and of course the internationally famous World of Birds which houses hun-

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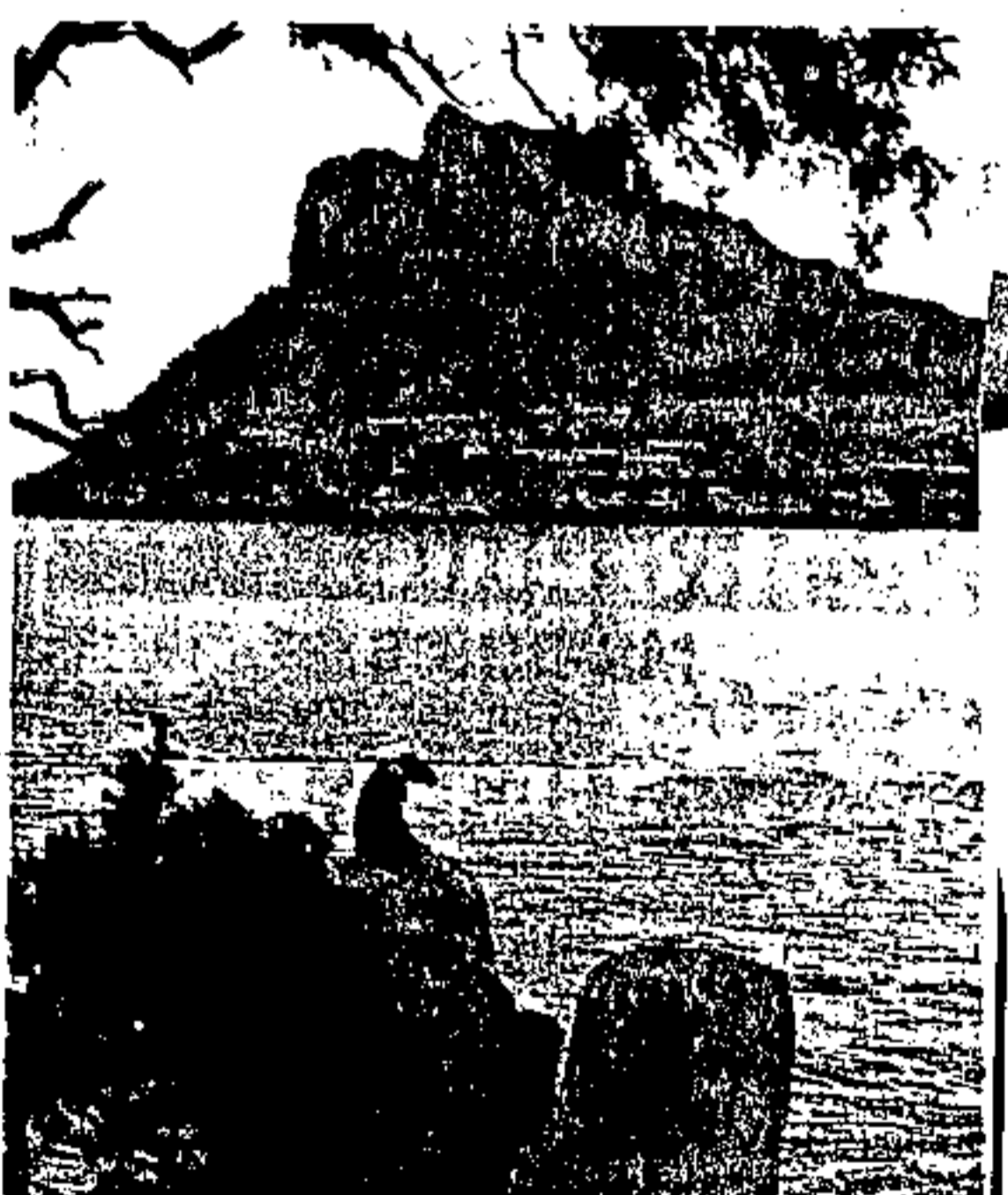
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Absa may revise dune plan

56
AR 3/4/92

JOHN YELD, Weekend Argus Reporter

ABSA Bank and its planning consultants are meeting conservationists, ratepayers' representatives and others in an attempt to resolve a controversial proposal to build more than 300 houses on Hout Bay's sand dunes.

Absa officials stressed the meetings this week were an attempt to reach agreement on drawing the public into the planning process and not to discuss the merits of the particular application submitted to the Western Cape Regional Services Council in February.

The application has been postponed.

During a heated meeting in Hout Bay two weeks after submitting the application Absa deputy chief executive Mr Mike de Blanche announced a six-month moratorium.

Mr De Blanche said yesterday there was a "distinct possibility" that Absa would revise its application after further public discussion.

"Let's be honest — we will probably have to revise it," he said.

"Extremely positive" discussions had been held with the Wildlife Society, Karbonkelberg Action Group, Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, Hout Bay Delegation, Earthlife Africa, Karbonkelberg Trust and Hout Bay environmental scientist Dr Guy Preston, Mr De Blanche continued.

"We would like to resolve this issue once and for all and we can't afford to continue discussing it indefinitely."

Mr Ludo Verheyen, one of Absa's planning consultants handling the new initiative involving the public, described this week's meetings as an attempt to create a "code of conduct" for the planning process.

He hoped to arrange the first in a series of meetings of all "interested and affected parties" within three weeks.

A full record of these meetings — where scientific information could be queried and reviewed — would be kept for those making the final decision to consult.

"There might not be consensus, but at least there will be a very proper record of the issues and who raised them so an informed decision can be taken," Mr Verheyen said.

Mr De Blanche said: "This is really an open invitation for people to come forward with any suggestions and ideas. This is a much wider issue than just Hout Bay and we will welcome any proposals," he said.

■ The new closing date for objections to Absa's current proposals is June 12, although this date could change.

Conservation headache

(56) ARCF 2/4/93
 Fynbos fire hazard grows in unspoilt kloof

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE lovely Orange Kloof on the back slopes of Table Mountain is a biological treasure chest on the city's doorstep — but it is also giving city council conservation managers a particular headache.

This broad valley of about 285 hectares above Hout Bay, which forms part of the catchment area for the Disa River, hosts the largest remaining block of indigenous forest in the Peninsula.

Because the area has escaped serious fire since 1935 and people have been denied access since 1947, the forest is thriving — so much so that it could eventually cover most of the Orange Kloof valley, as it did before the arrival of the wood-hungry European settlers.

Careful protection of the area — it is part of the Table Mountain nature reserve — also means the forest is now surrounded by 60-year-old fynbos. Because fynbos this age occurs nowhere else in the Peninsula, it is of great scientific interest.

But the older the fynbos gets, the more of a fire hazard it becomes. If it ever goes up in flames in an uncontrolled blaze, it could destroy much of the precious indigenous forest it surrounds.

Staff of the parks and forests branch of the city engineer's department are re-evaluating their management of the area, but people — particularly careless people — are a real problem.

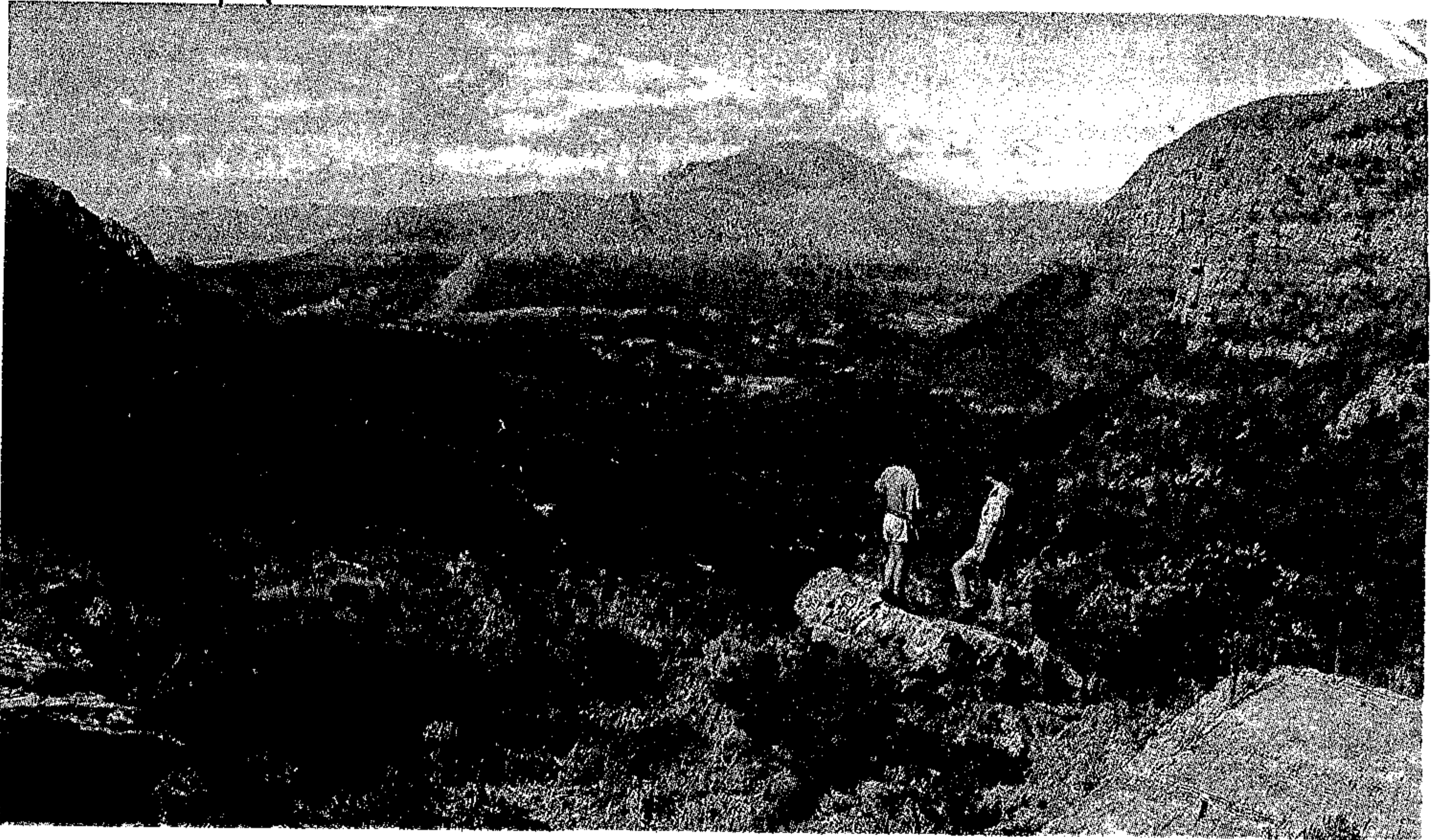
"As soon as you allow people in there, the fire danger goes up by 1 000 percent — just one match and a strong south-easter and the whole forest can go up in flames," said Orange Kloof forester Mr Hennie Homan.

In addition to carefully controlled burning of the surrounding fynbos, management options being considered include re-establishing beds of tough Palmet reeds in the Disa River to break the force and impact of flood waters.

Because of the sensitivity of Orange Kloof, council managers are unlikely ever to allow unrestricted access, despite increasing public pressure. As an interim measure, escorted parties may be taken on environmental education outings.

Funds have been requested for an interpretive footpath into Orange Kloof along the spectacular upper gorges and council planners are looking at using an existing building as an environmental education centre.

Orange Kloof's long isolation may be about to end — but its ecological integrity will remain the top priority, council officials insist.



Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

NATURAL WONDER: City council conservation officials James Jackelman, left, and Hennie Homan survey the protected Orange Kloof from a vantage point on the Back Table.

Wind power project is more than lot of hot air

COPENHAGEN (New York). — A power company in New York state is testing two giant windmills on a remote rise near Lake Ontario in an experiment that could help to determine the viability of wind power in the northeastern United States.

Researchers at Niagara Mohawk Power Corp want to know whether newly designed turbines can withstand the region's severe climate.

The two 360-kilowatt turbines sit on 24m towers and are driven by 33m three-bladed propellers. Each turbine can produce enough electricity for about 60 homes.

Earlier turbine designs took

advantage of fairly constant winds at steady speeds, like those generated in California by the interaction of desert and ocean air, said Edward F Neuhäuser, Niagara Mohawk's wind project manager.

A new variable-speed turbine aims to capture the power of the strong gusts off Lake Ontario 48km to the east, and unpredictable winds from the northeast.

Niagara Mohawk will test the turbines for two years. They can generate power starting at wind speeds between 13km/h and 113km/h, said Bruce Bailey, president of AWS Scientific, which is responsible for the daily site operations.

The system can withstand gusts of up to 193km/h, he said.

A New York state agency plans to establish a 300-kilowatt wind farm later this year.

Wind farms have been a common sight for more than a decade in some western states, chiefly California, where 15 500 wind machines account for 1.2 percent of the state's electricity. The machines produce about 70 percent of the world's total wind energy production.

"A lot of people dismiss wind energy as a 'California thing,' but their perspectives are five years out of date. Second-generation turbines have overcome earlier operational prob-

lems," Mr Swisher said.

Henry Dodd, supervisor of wind energy technology at the US Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, believes wind power can provide as much as 20 percent of America's energy needs within a few decades.

The costs of wind power are approaching five cents (15c) per kilowatt hour in some areas of the Pacific Northwest. That compares with about nine cents to 11 cents (27c to 33c) per kilowatt hour for solar and thermal electricity and around 30 cents (90c) for photovoltaics. — Sapa-AP.

The Argus, Friday April 2 1993

11



'Environment time-bomb'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE energy crisis in rural areas still without electricity is developing into an "environmental time-bomb", Minister of Environment Affairs Japie van Wyk has warned.

At a function yesterday to announce the Tree of the Year, Mr Van Wyk said indigenous trees and plants were being exploited to the point of extinction in areas where no other sources of energy or building material were available.

"Estimates show that some eight million tons of fuelwood will be consumed annually in South Africa by 2 000," he said. "With as much as 30 percent

of our population depending on wood as their main source of energy, one doesn't have to be a prophet to see a serious problem arising."

Because of mounting pressure on these natural resources, the department's directorate of forestry extension and conservation had recently shifted its main focus from commercial forestry to promoting rural forestry development, Mr Van Wyk said.

More than 100 projects had already been initiated country-wide, and the department aimed to implement 3 000 during the next decade.

"This shift in emphasis is not only in accordance with present international tendencies, but is also a matter of necessity," said Mr Van Wyk.

"But the success of these projects doesn't lie in the hands of extension officers or policy makers — the key lies in community involvement."

Western Cape extension officer Pierre Combrinck said 15 rural forestry projects had been initiated regionally, including one at Mamre where a nursery of 2 000 trees had already been established.

The community had decided the trees would be used to beautify the mission village to enhance tourism and would also be sold on a private enterprise basis.

Ten projects had been started in the northern Cape, including one at Alexander Bay where the department was

helping a farmer establish a nursery of between five and ten thousand trees, Mr Combrinck said.

Most of the trees were the white karee (a *Rhus* species) and the *Acacia Karoo* or sweetthorn, and would be used for firewood.

"I've been amazed at the great enthusiasm — these communities are very positive," he said.

● This Year's Tree of the Year is the weeping boer-bean, *Schottia brachyptala*.

Also known as the tree fuchsia, this species occurs naturally in dry savannah lands, often along river banks, where it grows to about 15m.

It is adaptable to other frost-free areas, and many speci-

mens have been planted by Bellville municipality on pavements where they are already flowering prolifically after only two or three years.

Mr van Wyk said the species was chosen five years in advance to give nurseries an opportunity to propagate supplies.

Mr Van Wyk also announced that from next year, Arbor Day would be moved from the second Friday in August to the first in September, to facilitate plantings in cold areas such as the Highveld.

Next year's Tree of the Year is the tree wisteria, to be followed by the river-bushwillow, the pepper-bark tree, the false buffalo-thorn and the white pear.

work of landscaped pedestrian paths and a development and lake and embankment will be R30m. many of the original offices in the building have been four courtrooms, including the original three, will be completely rewired.

Garden city venture

on cards for Rosslyn

NISSAN SA and Murray & Roberts have agreed to be partners in what they believe could be a first for Pretoria and SA.

They have embarked on a joint venture to create Nissan/Rosslyn Garden City within easy access of Nissan's Rosslyn plant, northwest of Pretoria.

The project will aim to create a quality living environment for 3 000 to 4 000 Rosslyn employees. However, the idea is not to create a Nissan-only village, which would not result in bond support from the financial institutions, says BDA Worker Housing and Development Consultants spokesman J Dunstan.

Planning

But Nissan will be the front-runner to the community development, with low-cost, fully serviced homes surrounded by parks, child care facilities and other amenities.

The facilities will be built as the practical part of a job creation and training programme to be run by M & R Sunflower, which

will hold small business training and literacy courses. M & R Construction will be responsible for planning, community and worker liaison, training, costing and project management.

The housing units will be priced to suit the pocket of every grade of worker at Nissan. Houses are expected to cost about R28 000 each.

Nissan's involvement will be participation in the planning of the environment as a corporate social investment project. Its involvement is likely to cost about R50m.

Finance will be raised from the private sector and agencies like the IDT. An approach will be made to Nissan Japan. Nissan and M & R have already purchased 140ha of land at what they describe as the "amazingly low price of R2 100 per hectare".

Zoo animals to live in

'natural' surroundings

IN THE year 2000, all animals in the National Zoological Gardens will live in enclosures resembling their natural habitats as closely as possible.

This will be due to the Masterplan for the zoo, commissioned by the Public Works department and executed by Pretoria architectural firm Dry and Joubert at a cost of R250 000.

Expected to be implemented over just more than 10 years, it will cost more than R12m. With government subsidising R5m of that amount, the rest will be generated by the zoo itself and the public and private sectors will have to become actively involved to guarantee the plan's success.

Turnabout

The masterplan was designed to meet the major turnabout in philosophy towards total naturalism during the last 15 years, says Public Works director-general Theo van Robbroeck.

Zoo animals will be grouped according to the six continents. As the cause-effect relationship between climate and vegetation determines the type of animal found in an area, environmental aspects such as topography, slope, vegetation, soil and water at the zoo have been studied.

In the new zoo, natural barriers will separate visitors from animals and species from one another. Depending on the type of animal, separations will take the form of dry or water-filled moats, natural fences concealed by shrubbery or raised paths.

KPMG Aiken & Peat audits council, gov

INTERNATIONAL audit firm KPMG Aiken & Peat's involvement in Pretoria dates back to 1902 and since then the group has attracted major clients such as Telkom, Iscor, the SABC, Volkskas and the Pretoria City Council.

Alken & Peat's Pretoria office is the second largest KPMG office in SA, comprising 13 partners, under the leadership of senior partner Dawie Jordaan, and 104 staff members.

A large division of the office specialises in the provision of internal audit services, mainly to municipalities and government entities - the primary client being the city council.

The public sector group specialises in the audit of, assistance to and consultancy of government and quasi-government clients, including the Wheat, Maize, Citrus, Egg and Tobacco boards.

The computer audit department is responsible for backup and support of computerised auditing functions, as well as carrying out internal control evaluations, systems evaluations and client support.

The performance audit group attends to "value for money" evaluations of primarily government and quasi-government organisations.

Training

Internal and external training courses, workshops, technical updates, publications, technical bulletins, seminars and research projects are handled on behalf of clients by the professional practice and training department.

Other services offered by KPMG Aiken & Peat include litigation support, fraud investigations, forensic accounts, executive search and staff support.

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BACK TO SCHOOL: The average South African has not yet come to grips

with democratic participation, which requires informed opinion

The lessons of St Lucia

Scar 22/5/92

THE St Lucia environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the most extensive investigation of its kind in South African history. Four years into the study, the opinions of scores of specialists, critics and opposing proponents run to three volumes of more than a thousand pages — and there is still much more to come.

This content won't be worth the paper it is printed on if people do not trust the process. Unfortunately, this seems to be what is happening with the St Lucia EIA.

For most South Africans it is their first exposure to democratic decision-making on environmental issues and they simply do not understand it.

The underlying philosophy rests on a strategy of integrated environmental management (IEM), which promotes the sustainable use of nature. In a radical departure from past practices, it involves the fullest possible participation by society in a decision-making process that seeks to strike a balance between two extremes — rigid preservation and unfettered development.

Unfortunately, the average South African has yet to become emancipated into democratic participation, which requires informed opinion. Most of the public response to date on the St Lucia issue has been based on a kneejerk reaction stemming from an in-built mindset.

Furthermore, the media have proved to be powerful manipulators in cementing opinion and prejudices. The St Lucia issue has been dogged by misinformation largely because the media have not understood the process.

Based on international standards, the procedures for IEM have been formalised by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in a set of six booklets which have been available since last year. Simply put, the process involves generating information and opinion on the likely impact of specified



THE MINING SCAR: A view of the proposed mining operation from Catalina Bay on the shore of St Lucia estuary simulated by photomontage. If mining of the dunes were allowed, this is the closest it would come to the wetlands — a distance of about 800 m.

DEMOCRATIC decision-making lies at the heart of the St Lucia environmental impact assessment, and people are missing the boat if they do not buy into the process.

Wetlands expert PROFESSOR KEVIN ROGERS, freshwater ecologist DR DAN WALMSLEY and hydrologist PROFESSOR CHRIS JAMES

The same unbending attitude exists at the opposite extreme, where people believe that development should take priority over all else.

Whatever the final decision, the specialist reports and the refining process

THE MINING SCAR: A view of the proposed mining operation from Catalina Bay on the shore of St Lucia estuary simulated by photomontage. If mining of the dunes were allowed, this is the closest it would come to the wetlands — a distance of about 800 m.

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In the first phase of the St Lucia EIA, 23 specialist investigations into the impact of mining were conducted and the reports were circulated for comment to 16 leading interested and affected parties (IAPs), representative of an identified 123 IAPs. Specialists then responded to the comments and, where appropriate, corrected their reports. All of this is printed verbatim in volume 1 of the EIA.

This then generated the second phase, where the information was classified into key issues of the proposed development. Where it was apparent that the specialist reports were not adequate, further specialist investigations were commissioned. A total of 12 new reports were generated in this phase, including a new study of the functioning of the wetlands. This is all recorded in volume 2 of the EIA.

All this information formed the database for the third phase — the environmental impact report (EIR). This volume 3 contains conclusions on the impact of the two land-use options — mining followed by ecotourism and ecotourism on its own — as well as recommendations on the conditions under which either option should be allowed to proceed.

These three volumes were released for comment on March 18. The EIA compilers are obliged to respond to all written comment received by May 14. Other comment received under the conditions of the extension to June 22 will not be responded to, but it will form part of the record that is assessed by the appointed review panel chaired by Mr Justice Ramon Leon.

As a result of criticisms received so far, the EIA compilers have commissioned a further study of the role of the dunes in the functioning of the wetlands. The Natal Parks Board has also commissioned a study aimed at more in-depth understanding of the same key issue. At least one IAP has commissioned an evaluation of the economic arguments of the EIA. All of this will

DEMOCRATIC decision-making lies at the heart of the St Lucia environmental impact assessment, and people are missing the boat if they do not buy into the process.

Wetlands expert PROFESSOR KEVIN ROGERS, freshwater ecologist DR DAN WALMSLEY and hydrologist PROFESSOR CHRIS JAMES evaluate the journey so far and the challenges that lie ahead.

form part of the eventual completed documentation.

The EIA process has not yet been completed, and still has to go through public hearings before the review panel. Thereafter, a public recommendation will be made to the Cabinet of whatever government is in power, and the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, who is legally responsible for granting the mining licence or turning down the application, will announce the Cabinet's decision in writing.

For those parties and people who have not understood and participated in the EIA process, there will definitely be a problem with accepting the final outcome — no matter which way the decision goes.

THE ecological evidence in the EIA so far indicates that the mining activity will have a major impact, but only on the dune system.

It will leave a long-lasting scar on the landscape, albeit eventually covered by rehabilitation. The effect could be compared with having a body scar which is concealed by plastic surgery. According to expert opinion, such a scar would not affect the long-term functioning of the St Lucia wetlands system, although it would reduce species diversity in the short to medium term (five to 30 years).

We have assessed all the specialist reports, and we agree with the opinion expressed at this stage of the process.

There are other parties who have disagreed, notably Ramsar — the international convention which protects regulated wetland systems such as St Lucia — and environmental societies. The EIA process recognises, records and comments on their opinions in a democratic fashion. So far, these opinions

have not been substantiated with evidence that justifies or proves their position and, therefore, disproves the specialist reports.

What needs to be said is that certain parties appear to have participated reluctantly or even antagonistically in the process.

The Ramsar report and related press coverage is an example. South Africa is a signatory to the international wetland protection convention known as Ramsar and the greater St Lucia area is a registered Ramsar site. The DEA is responsible for co-ordinating the EIA as well as maintaining links with Ramsar.

Accordingly, in 1990, after the EIA had been initiated, Ramsar was informed by the DEA that St Lucia was potentially threatened by the proposed mining developments. The Ramsar response was to place St Lucia on a "red list" and to send a delegation to South Africa in April 1992.

At that stage the Ramsar members had access only to the 23 specialist studies of phase 1. The Ramsar mission officially submitted their report to the DEA in March 1993, six days after the first three volumes of EIA documentation had been released for public comment. The Ramsar report raised many pertinent issues, so it was fortuitous that a draft was provided via the Natal Parks Board (NPB) to the EIA compilers in January 1993, who were in turn able to respond to the issues raised. This is contained in the EIR (Vol 3).

The original wetlands study, which was one of the 23 specialist reports in phase 1, was not produced by someone we would consider as a wetlands expert. Taken in isolation it was far from comprehensive. However, when one considers the corrections and additions made in response to Ramsar criticisms relayed by the NPB, and the contents of other reports, we feel that there is sufficient evidence from which to draw conclusions.

Given that the consultants had re-

sponded to the Ramsar report and that the report itself makes it quite clear that it is a response only to the first 23 specialist studies, it was surprising and somewhat disappointing that articles appeared in newspapers citing the Ramsar report as a condemnation of the conclusions of the entire EIA.

These articles distorted the situation to the public by presenting an unbalanced and biased opinion of the Ramsar commentary in relation to the EIA. Such media coverage jeopardises the process and encourages the public to make uninformed emotive decisions on environmental management. Informed lobbying, on the other hand, has a positive role to play in that it keeps participants on their toes and alerts decision-makers to public feeling.

FORTUNATELY, the process is much larger than the people, and the issues tend to be levelled within the process itself.

Obviously, perceptions of parties are wide-ranging and difficult to reconcile. However, the EIA process — if properly conducted — specifically serves to present these perceptions to decision-makers through open, democratic public participation. There should be no need to circumvent the process with hidden agendas.

The most important lesson of the St Lucia EIA is that environmental management is not only about preserving nature. Social, economic and political issues must also be considered. People and organisations fixated on a traditional preservationist approach to environmental issues can expect to have a problem accepting this IEM strategy. They object to development on a matter of principle, and no studies or evidence will change their point of view.

The same unbending attitude exists at the opposite extreme, where people believe that development should take priority over all else.

Whatever the final decision, the specialist reports and the refining process they have been subjected to through open debate has contributed to better understanding of St Lucia as an environmental, social and economic asset. As such, better-informed management of the system can be expected.

There is no doubt that previous decisions on environmental management as well as land-use planning of the St Lucia area have been inadequate. The EIA has highlighted the bad decisions and contributes towards ensuring that these do not happen again.

A key lesson is that the media have an important role to play in keeping the public informed and helping it to participate. As such, the media have the potential to either facilitate or derail the process. Future EIAs should explicitly involve the media as objectively as possible in the process so that they can fulfil their responsibility to keep the public informed.

A recommendation that is acceptable to the South African public will tax the combined wisdom of the review panel. The facts presented to date predict that the ecological impact will not be major in the long term. Economic benefits of mining with ecotourism will outweigh the conservation option.

There is a strong anti-mining lobby which could create political and social problems if the mining option is selected. This would complicate the decision.

However, it is not only the St Lucia issue which is at stake, but also the EIA process itself. It is imperative that the panel's final recommendation, as well as the Cabinet's decision and the reasons for that decision, are conveyed correctly to the South African public. The subsequent response of the public and the IAPs will then be the real test of acceptance of the EIA process.

Will the public, the IAPs, the specialists, the review panel and the Cabinet be clearly seen to have "bought into" the process and accepting of its democratic potential? Or will hidden agendas, politics or emotion be exposed as the real driving forces?

The EIA still has several months to run, and for everyone involved in the process it bears remembering that "the show isn't over until the fat lady sings".

End of drought aid will spell social disaster, warns forum

THOUSANDS of people will be left without access to water and employment opportunities if drought relief schemes are ended because of this year's successful commercial maize crop.

In its recently published report, the National Consultative Forum on Drought said most rural communities were still without sustainable water and food sources, although millions of rands had been spent on water and feeding schemes.

The forum questioned the allocation of emergency funds and government's criteria for determining drought areas, which seemed to favour commercial agriculture.

It said the criteria did not take into account the social effects of drought on job opportunities and subsistence farming.

Only long-term strategies, including a broader definition of drought, would minimise the effect of drought in rural areas.

Meanwhile Sapa reports that limited food aid would be continued for about 300 000 households in Lesotho this year.

Emergency efforts were necessary because of a substantially reduced area of planted crops and expected crop failures.

Our Port Elizabeth correspondent reports that Agriculture spokesman Sue Miskin said many eastern Cape districts did not have enough fodder reserves to last the

winter and the outlook was critical.

A Karoo caterpillar infestation was also causing severe damage in the drought-stricken Tarkastad district.

In many districts conditions ranged from poor to critical, Miskin said.

"In the Addo and Sundays River areas the outlook is very poor, with critical water shortages for stock. The irrigation quota has been cut by 50%."

Rain was urgently needed in the Alexandria/Paterson/Nanaga districts. There was almost no water left and farmers were receiving water under an emergency scheme, many carting it for long distances.

In the Adelaide/Fort Beaufort/Bedford districts farmers were facing one of the toughest winters in many years.

Only isolated portions of the Lower Albany region remained in fair condition.

The King William's Town, Komga and East London districts were also suffering from acute water and fodder shortages.

In the districts of Queenstown, Tylden, Tarkastad and Sterkstroom there was very little runoff into stock water dams.

The winter outlook in Wodehouse, Molteno and Indwe ranged from poor to very poor, Miskin said.

MARIANNE MERTEN

56
Blom 2/5/93

Management⁶⁶ of environment

○ **MARIANNE MERTEN**

GOVERNMENT would like to see all businesses and local authorities which undertook development voluntarily adopt the principles of integrated environmental management.

Environment Affairs Department deputy director of development control Wynand Fourie said in Pretoria yesterday the department encouraged the programme, although the principles could not be enforced legally.

The 1989 Environment Conservation Act made no provision for such guidelines. However, under the Act's Section 2, the Environment Affairs Minister could lay down general rules which would then become part of local by-laws.

B/DAM 21/5/93

GREEN PAGES: *Tourism for the people*

Conservation to help a community

A R10-million development plan would allow small, community-based eco-tourist projects to harmonise the interests of conservationists and rural people, reports
ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK

It may well be the cutting edge of eco-tourism: small communities that traditionally farmed the land through slash-and-burn agriculture or overgrazing are being encouraged to turn towards conservation projects aimed at local and international tourism.

If eco-tourism succeeds on this grassroots level, it will be the cherry on the cake for advocates of eco-tourism as a profitable and sustainable path of conservation at all levels.

The latest boost to the concept comes from a R10-million fund that the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) suggested the Ministry of Finance provide for community development projects. According to the Development Bank, this fund will be ideally suited to small, community-based eco-tourism projects.

"The importance of wildlife and game reserves has only recently featured more prominently in regional economic planning," says the DBSA's Elsa Kruger-Cloete. "Nature reserves already make a sizeable contribution to the regional economy through wildlife viewing, the sale of endangered species like rhino, and game culling.

"From both the supply and demand perspective, there are opportunities for expanding the industry and increasing eco-tourism's net contribution to the economy and to the wellbeing of rural communities."

Countries like Zambia and Zimbabwe are already producing valuable lessons through projects like Campfire and the Luangwa Integrated Rural Development Project, where rural communities are turning to eco-tourism, and receiving in return both income and employment opportunities that could not exist before.

In South Africa, similar projects are being explored in kaNgwane, Bophuthatswana and at the Sabie-



Business boost ... Rural communities in kaNgwane could benefit from selling their wares to eco-tourists
Photo: KEVIN CARTER

Sand Reserves.

Two such projects are already up and running under the management of the kaNgwane Parks Corporation (KPC).

While the small, 1500 ha Mahushe Shongwe Game Reserve belongs to the Matsamo tribe, it is leased by the KPC, which has built a tented camp that is open to the public.

"The camp already runs at a profit, but the game reserve itself does not," says KPC director Dr Jeremy Anderson. "So funds from the camp are turned back into the reserve, and wildlife is harvested to offset costs. When the reserve is running at a profit, the funds will be redistributed to the tribe. Carcasses of culled game are already distributed to the tribe via their leaders."

The second project, the 7000 ha Mthethomusha Game Reserve, belongs to the Mphakeni tribe. The KPC has built a large rest camp, which

they have leased to the private sector to run, and they allow a moderate harvest of game for trophy hunting.

"We as the Parks Corporation pay a lease to the tribe for the land on which their own game reserve is situated — and it's more than they would earn from farming it with cattle," says Anderson.

"The funds go into a tribal account, and they decide how to spend it — usually on community-related projects."

The reserve is managed by a committee comprised mainly of members of the tribe, with two members of the KPC.

"They discuss management issues, as well as how money is to be spent on projects. The initiative always comes from the tribe, not from us. Once the reserve is running at a profit, anything above the running costs will go to this committee."

"What in effect we have done, is created over a hundred permanent employment opportunities where

none existed previously."

The total investment in the Mthethomusha game reserve runs at about R6-million, while about R750 000 has been invested in Mahushe Shongwe, with a gain of 15 permanent jobs. If the tourists keep coming, both reserves will return the investment before long.

Nevertheless, Anderson advises caution in the utilisation of the R10-million the state has made available. "I think one needs to have an objective assessment of where the opportunities are."

"Many local authorities and governments are not aware of opportunities sitting right under their noses. Unless it is brought to their attention, they could pass up something which could bring a lot of eco-tourism to their regions."

"If that budget was mine, I would first do an assessment of opportunities, then look at which would give the

biggest bang for your buck, and then look at drawing up plans for implementation.

There are a lot of problems associated with this kind of thing: there just hasn't been the expertise and independence to recognise opportunities for development."

The lesson of the defunct and defect-riddled Department of Development Aid would also be salutary in this context: millions of rands earmarked for development projects went untouched because civil servants in local authorities couldn't be bothered with the administrative burden. And then there is the billion-rand job creation fund that is still virtually untouched after more than a year.

Kruger-Cloete believes the smaller size and the very nature of the community development fund will preclude such underutilisation.

"You don't have a top-down approach, as you had with those funds. For this initiative to be sustainable, it must come from the ground. We will also communicate it through the interaction between the communities and our project leaders at the front."

The DBSA is also encouraging "resource exchanges", says Kruger-Cloete: "The notion is that local communities can engage in brick-making partnerships, provide sand, thatching grass and labour to resource reserves, who can in turn provide management, administration, cash, building materials and a client base for articles such as basketry and weaving."

The future of eco-tourism is not entirely rosy, however. On the ground, new problems present themselves and require the utmost tact and diplomacy to solve.

"You might have tremendous opportunities available, but then maybe a small section of the community has its own vested interests," says Anderson.

"We had an opportunity next to the Numbi Gate of the Kruger Park where we could have put in a camp that would have provided the community with new employment, but half a dozen cattle farmers opposed it and forced us to pack up the idea. In the end it's the people and the youth of tomorrow who have lost out."

Satour sees the light on eco-tourism

21/5 - 27/5/93.

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GOVERNMENT funds to sponsor wildlife lodges, the fastest growing rural industry in the country, should be granted only to those entrepreneurs who ensure that villagers participate in the management of the enterprise.

That's the suggestion from senior officials in the South African Tourism Board (Satour), a state-funded marketing body for the travel industry, in a far-reaching discussion document aimed at bringing local eco-tourism in line with the latest international guidelines.

Mike Fabricius, Satour's director of tourism development, notes that most foreign visitors to South Africa come here to experience wildlife and scenic beauty that is most often found in depressed rural areas of the country.

"Uplifting our people is the biggest challenge facing the tourism industry of this country," says Fabricius in the discussion document. "If tourism fails to contribute to meaningful socio-economic improvement, we have lost the challenge." The paper marks a dramatic policy

A new Satour discussion document shows the state-funded agency has had a change of heart on the need for rural development.

By EDDIE KOCH

shift for Satour, a state body which has traditionally had little concern about the need for rural development. "By employing the principles of

community participation, eco-tourism can provide tangible benefits to the disadvantaged, particularly in rural areas where it is most needed," says Fabricius. "The ultimate goal of eco-tourism development is for it to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of our people, particularly those living in and around areas of particular ecological and cultural value, both through direct gain and indirect spin-off."

The government has made some R600-million available, through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), as capital to subsidise the establishment of private game reserves and wildlife lodges. A recent White Paper on tourism notes that this industry has the potential to "kick-start" the economy and to provide the fuel for political reform. It is hoped that the amount of land set aside for tourism infrastructure in the rural areas will expand by some 800 000 hectares in the next 10 years. "As a result, funding has been made available at preferential financing rates for the development of eco-tourism facilities," says Fabricius.

"Such developments and funding have, however, not been evaluated on the basis of specific eco-tourism policy guidelines but rather on the basis of economic viability."

Satour is critical of this and is now lobbying the IDC and other financial institutions to ensure that all applications for government-sponsored wildlife programmes adhere to the principle of community-participation, as well as financial viability, before financial support is granted.

Fabricius points out that tourism projects — especially those centred on regions which have cultural and ecological value — should involve local communities and entrepreneurs in an equal partnership that ensures both parties benefit from the enterprise.

"Such management requires a continuous, participative process, the cornerstone of which is effective involvement of all stakeholders, namely tourists, local communities and the tourism industry throughout the life span of any eco-tourism project," says the paper.

This should allow rural people the right to joint involvement in the design of projects and their management as well as joint sharing of the benefits that derive from these.

Many of Satour's new, and fairly radical, ideas derive from a study of wildlife programmes in Kenya, Zimbabwe as well as South Africa that have begun to implement the principles of community-friendly conservation.

Dr Frank Vorhies, who runs a consultancy called Ecoplus, points out that the government of Botswana has passed regulations which insist that all tourism ventures have plans to promote rural development and community upliftment in their proposal before land leases are granted to the entrepreneurs.

Satour officials acknowledge their plans to emulate such programmes are likely to run into obstacles before being translated effectively into practice.

One of the most important tasks is to overcome the historical antagonisms that have built up in black communities toward conservation because of forced removals and other apartheid-style policies that have characterised game reserves in the past.

But that they are determined to ensure the policy does not remain at the level of rhetoric is evident by the fact that Satour is pushing for a code of ethics for the tourism industry in an effort to "establish a true participatory approach to eco-tourism development".

The organisation is calling for the government to make it mandatory that all new tourism enterprises be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment and that information about the project's ability to promote democratic participation and rural development be included in these studies.

The approach, says Vorhies, is a shift from a "mine set" that South Africa's wealth can only be generated by exploiting non-renewable mineral resources to a realisation that using renewable natural resources can be as valuable, if not more so, for the economy.

The saga of St Lucia, now in its fourth year, continues. The CSIR has already received about 100 submissions on its environmental impact report on Richards Bay Minerals' proposal to mine the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia, and it expects more because the comment period has been extended to June 22. And that number doesn't include all the run-of-the-mill pro and con letters.

One letter, however, does stand out from the pack. It's from David Pearce, a professor of economics at University College London and director of the Centre for Social & Economic Research on the Global Environment. Pearce, who acted as a reviewer for the economics assessment of the report and is one of 52 experts listed as contributors to the report, says he found some comparisons of economic and environment impacts to be "quite misleading." FM 21/5/93

He says the person who prepared a table of projected jobs, tax revenues, foreign exchange earnings and relative values placed on mining and conservation "has no understanding of the economics of development-environment comparisons."

For instance, he notes that the summary projects R153m in profits for Richards Bay Minerals, but doesn't deduct the repatriation of profits to overseas shareholders.

The CSIR, which prepared the report, says there are bound to be mistakes and misinterpretations in the three volumes of information and 29-page summary. "We welcome David Pearce's response," says Brian van Wilgen, joint editor of the report. "If there is an error we must correct it."

CSIR project manager Alex Weaver adds: "It is a bit out of the ordinary but we have to deal with it. If there's something wrong we want to know about it. There's a lot at stake, including the CSIR's reputation, and it's not in our interest to hide anything. That would only cut ourselves down. The letter will not be hidden; it will be responded to. That's part of the process." ■

Visitors to Common to be asked about its use

By JILYAN PITMAN

A PRELIMINARY investigation into why people use Rondebosch Common and what they want for its future is now under way.

It is being undertaken by the Friends of the Common group, with the co-operation of nearby Rustenburg Girls' High School

The group has had 3 000 questionnaires printed; it said it would print more if necessary.

The results of the investigation will be sent to the Parks and Forests Department of Cape Town City Council to be included in their second preliminary management guideline.

Suggestions

Mrs Monica Sutherland, on behalf of Dr Chris Dare, chairman of the Friends group, said: "This preliminary investigation aimed at specific users of the common by members of our group is to find out how the public feels

about the common and its present management, and is calling for suggestions for its future management."

She said the Parks and Forests Department had received several letters about the whole matter and now the group had decided to help them by fielding questions and suggestions. "We will help the council with a broader survey which they propose in the future.

"People in the area mustn't be surprised if they see people waving questionnaires around. We want to ask as many people as possible for their views and we have prepared nine questions that need to be answered.

"These are: How often do they visit the common, age group of those visitors, how close do they live to it, why do they visit this historic tract of land, do they approve of its present management, do they envisage any changes to the common, is the gravel parking

area used, does anyone disapprove of any of the uses to which the common is put, and do they see other uses for it?"

Writing exams

Mr Paul Britton, senior landscape architect at the council, said: "We encourage this because we would like public participation in the planning process."

Mrs Ronelle Kemp, a biology teacher at Rustenburg Girls' High School, said: "The girls are writing exams at the moment and when they finish some of them will help with the survey."

Mr Ian Iversen, councillor for Mowbray, said he had intended to initiate a survey but said that now the Friends group had started he would not duplicate its effort. He said he would give it any help he could.

Mrs Sutherland said if anybody would like to help with this survey they could contact her on (021) 685-2601.

ing which we will take a serious look at the issue and put it before our next congress in August." But, he adds, any changes to the status quo could be considered only if implemented in a "orderly and planned" way.

Some consumers may not be willing to wait. Says SA Feedlot Association CE Piet de Wet: "The huge price gap between maize consumer and producer prices remains the major structural problem in the system and needs to be urgently addressed." ■

ST LUCIA

F. M. 21/5/93
56

Digging ever deeper

The saga of St Lucia, now in its fourth year, continues. The CSIR has already received about 100 submissions on its environmental impact report on Richards Bay Minerals' proposal to mine the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia, and it expects more because the comment period has been extended to June 22. And that number doesn't include all the run-of-the-mill pro and con letters.

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The next step in the process is for the CSIR to prepare its responses and place them at libraries around the country for public consumption. Then a five-member review panel will hold public hearings in Durban and St Lucia, possibly in August. Following the hearings, the panel will prepare its report and submit it to government. From then on it's anyone's guess on a timeframe or outcome.

Van Wilgen says the submissions already in hand have raised a number of issues. "For example, they are asking about hydrology and economics and how we know that the rehabilitation of the area will be successful, and also our definition of irreparable damage has been questioned."

Still, there are some issues that haven't been touched on much, if at all. Chairman John Raimondo of the Assessment Management Committee, who was appointed by government to oversee the project at the beginning, says, for example, that it has received very few comments on the original land rights and whether the dispossessed Zulus should have the right to grant the mineral leases.

Raimondo hopes the "media-hyped" St Lucia saga doesn't set a precedent, though that's unlikely since about 20 mineral-rights rulings have been passed during this period. "It's gone on for too long and far too much has been spent." ■



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Council 'not fish killer'

~~JOHANNESBURG~~ MARIANNE MERTEN (56)

JOHANNESBURG City Council this week denied it was responsible for the death of fish in the Jukskei River.

Council deputy director of water pollution control Laurraine Lotter said reports that the fish had died because of chlorine discharged into the river from the Northern Sewage Works were a "gross exaggeration".

Fish had also died in large numbers near Zevenfontein which was upstream from the Diepsloot sewage works, she said. *Blom 21/5/93*

The chlorine used in the purification process was in a gaseous form and could not be spilt into the river as a liquid, she said.

The chlorine containing effluent complied with the Water Act standard of no more than 0,1mg of chlorine a litre.

This was lower than the chlorine level in Johannesburg's drinking water, she said.

for living in their own houses. [Interjections.] However, there is no disclosure unless we ask these questions. In addition, there are allegations of corruption and maladministration in these territories. We had the De Meyer Report and the Parsons Report. We are still waiting for the last De Meyer Report. I hope that is not going to be made public after we leave this place.

THE MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Why were you not here when I discussed it? You were absent that day.

Mr P G SOAL: I told the hon the Minister that I was going to be absent. [Interjections.] I went to the multiparty talks. [Interjections.]

We need transitional executive councils for the self-governing territories. This Government must not act unilaterally. The hon the Minister talks about the multiparty conference, but we must move towards transitional executive councils for the self-governing territories in order to bring the extravagant, wasteful system of self-governing territories to an end.

THE MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I thought there would be another speaker before me.

I would like to reply briefly to the hon member for Johannesburg North. I think we must just establish one point.

It is the point of view of this side of the House—and I hope the DP will support that—that we stand for strong, autonomous regional government. If things are wrong in terms of the present system, we must rectify them. There is a full opportunity to discuss these things now, at the multiparty conference, for instance, the functions and the responsibilities of regional government, how this will be financed, etc.

However, in the interim these territories exist in terms of an Act of this Parliament. We cannot just dismiss them as if they do not exist.

I think the hon member abused the situation today by bringing up many arguments that are not related to this specific issue. [Interjections.] I would like to say to the hon member we have also introduced the Sapro system, the Structural Adjustment Programme, where my department, the Department of Finance and the Department of State Expenditure sit together, to discuss with the self-governing territories their budgets and

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

their financial controls. [Interjections.] We are discussing these aspects with them.

Mr R M BURROWS: [Inaudible.]

THE MINISTER: Yes, but they are autonomous in terms of an Act of this Parliament. We cannot argue about that. [Interjections.]

What surprises me is that the hon member for Johannesburg North has such a bad relationship with the Black leaders of South Africa that he has to ask me for answers. Why does he not go to the self-governing territories and ask them for the information that he requires? It is because he is *persona non grata* and they do not want to see him. They have no trust in him. [Interjections.] But I shall help him in that regard.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Questions standing over from Wednesday, 12 May 1993:

Hartebeespoort Dam: pollution

*3. **Mr A GERBER** asked the Minister of Water Affairs:†

Whether there is any pollution in the water flowing into the Hartebeespoort Dam; if so, (a) what is the (i) nature and (ii) extent of this pollution and (b) what steps are being taken to (i) combat and (ii) prevent the pollution? B762E

†**THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:**

(Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

Yes. Whenever there is human activity and land use, there is an influence on the quality of the rivers and other water sources. The quality of the water in the Hartebeespoort Dam, however, is at present in compliance with the quality requirements for the purpose for which it is utilised.

(a) (i) Storm water drainage from the rural and urban areas, which comprise

large parts of the catchment of the Hartebeespoort Dam, causes drainage of pollutants such as phosphates, nitrates and micro-organisms, as well as salts, to rivers. Chemical, physical and biological pollutants resulting from industrial effluent also occur in the catchment on a small scale.

The main water source for the Hartebeespoort Dam, especially during drought periods, is treated effluent from nine sewage treatment works in the catchment. Two large residential areas, namely Alexandra and Tembisa, with sub-standard infrastructure and informal housing on the banks of the rivers in these areas, are of major concern. Littering and dumping of waste also causes aesthetic pollution.

(ii) Sporadic sewage spills cause unacceptable situations from time to time. Such spills can be attributed to a number of factors such as blockages, breakages in the system, poor maintenance and operation as well as sabotage. This type of pollution causes mainly aesthetic problems and health risks in the immediate vicinity and to a limited extent in the Hartebeespoort Dam. Excessive algal growth in the Hartebeespoort Dam, resulting from eutrophication, has various negative impacts on recreation, aesthetic values, and water use for agriculture.

(b) (i) and (ii) The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is continuously in contact with local authorities and special committees have been established to facilitate liaison with interest groups. Examples are the Jukskei and Hennops River Water Quality Community Committees. The objective is to promote, in co-operation with the community, the aim of fitness for use of the various water sources.

Urban pollution is controlled by local authorities and they endeavour to combat and solve sewage related problems, as well as other pollution related problems within their areas of jurisdiction. Regular cleaning-up operations are instituted to remove litter. Storm-

water is monitored at various locations to identify sources of pollution.

Effluent from sewage treatment works is monitored to ensure compliance with the Department's General as well as the Special Phosphate Standards. The aim of the phosphate standard is to prevent eutrophication of the Hartebeespoort Dam. Bodies in control of sewage treatment works were initially granted a period of grace in which to improve their works to comply with the specified 1 mg per litre phosphate standard, but this period has since expired. The implementation of the phosphate standard has already resulted in a runoff to the Hartebeespoort Dam from sewage treatment works and the expectation is that this will improve further once the betterment works to all of the sewage treatment works have been completed and the specified phosphate standard complied with.

Vlekpoort Conservation Area: status

*8. **Mr E K MOORCROFT** asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether the status of the Vlekpoort Conservation Area near Hofmeyr in the Eastern Cape is to be changed in any way; if so, in what way;
- (2) whether the said area or any portion thereof has been leased to any persons; if so, (a) to whom and (b) under what terms;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B768E

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) No. In view of the high erosion tendency of the land, the status of the Vlekpoort Conservation Area known as Spitskop, in extent 4 742 ha, is not to be changed at all. It is at present managed by a multi-disciplinary committee within the Department of Agriculture on which is represented the Directorate: Soil Conservation and Drilling Services and the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute.

Soil conservation works are being maintained and research into soil conserva-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Sanco offers a housing policy

BIOMY 18/5/93
PRESENT housing policy should be jettisoned as it is orientated towards housing "within a racially defined framework", says the SA National Civic Organisation.

Sanco has produced a blueprint for an alternative housing policy, which it says will alleviate the country's housing crisis.

In its proposals, which were endorsed unanimously by its national executive committee at a workshop in Johannesburg at the weekend, the organisation says government's role in the housing delivery process has to be redefined to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency.

It says a workable housing policy should be underpinned by a housing delivery process, which is responsive to community needs.

Such a process involves — among other things — appropriate land allocation, streamlined legal and administrative procedures, affordable housing construction, accessible mortgage finance and the equitable granting of government subsidies.

The organisation says land for residential development should be located close to transport infrastructure and employment opportunities. "Land speculation should be discouraged in order to ensure the cost of land is kept low."

WILSON ZWANE

Sanco says access to land should be facilitated through a variety of mechanisms, including the breaking up of "land monopolies" through expropriation and punitive taxation.

The organisation says housing construction should be undertaken by labour-intensive methods and should focus primarily on low-income rental accommodation.

The organisation also proposes establishment of community-controlled financing institutions. These institutions, says the organisation, will ensure that mortgage-lenders are responsive to community needs.

Sanco says it will present its blueprint to the National Housing Forum for discussion. The organisation will also seek meetings with government to discuss its proposals with a view to having them incorporated into future housing policy.

In another development, Sanco has drafted a preamble to its proposed legislation, which will seek to subject banks to a greater public scrutiny.

In this preamble, the organisation says efforts should be made to restore banks' credibility, which has been eroded by their reluctance to give credit to the "disadvantaged" communities.

Caxton-Argus case resumes

SUSAN RUSSELL

AN APPLICATION by CTP Ltd (Caxton) for an order restraining Argus Holdings from publishing a series of publications resumed for argument in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Caxton alleges the publications breach restraint agreements concluded between the two companies.

It is seeking an order interdicting Argus from publishing free "knock and drop" or local newspapers in SA and Namibia.

The company also wants Argus interdicted from publishing a series of Focus publications aimed at particular areas of the Witwatersrand and distributed as inserts in The Star.

Caxton alleges that the Focus publications are an attempt by Argus to poach a share of its own free and local newspaper market, in breach of two restraint agreements concluded in 1980 and 1985.

Argus denies that the disputed publications are newspapers.

The company contends that they are supplements and are not free because they have to be purchased with The Star.

Argus also contends it would never have renounced the right to publish these supplements under the restraint agreements.

Argument continues before Judge E Goldstein today.

Drive to combat pollution

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — A major effort has been launched by the Environmental Affairs Department to integrate business, industry, local authorities and other organisations in a national campaign to fight pollution.

Business and industry were yesterday asked to give the highest priority to taking part in the rationalisation of laws governing environmental control.

Department director-general Colin Cameron said one of the country's most pressing issues was existing and threatened pollution.

Whatever was ultimately decided would have to be acceptable and implementable.

A department spokesman said there were currently 47 pieces of legislation dealing with environmental control and protection. These would have to be rationalised.

The aim was "integrated environmental

management". Discussions were taking place with political parties and trade unions.

All were invited to take part in the consultative process. Local authorities had a vital role to play.

A forum representative of the private sector would be held in Pretoria on June 2.

This would mark the end of the first phase of the project being undertaken for the department by the company L&W Environmental.

The goal of the forum would be to develop a national holistic integrated anti-pollution policy.

Parties involved in or affected by any control legislation would be identified and all matters related to air, waste and soil pollution would be thoroughly investigated and explained.

Kempton Park thinks again on toxic dump

MARIANNE MERTEN

KEMPTON Park Town Council is to reconsider its position on the establishment of the Chloorkop toxic dump, after recent public protests by the Kempton Park Ratepayers' Association, the ANC Tembisa branch and Earthlife Africa.

Kempton Park town clerk Hans Müller said yesterday a final decision on the Chloorkop toxic dump would be taken only after the results of a second commission of

inquiry were known.

The council had appointed the commission — it included a town planner, an environmentalist and a senior legal counsel — to establish whether the 1991 probe had been misled, he said.

The council had reconsidered its position after receiving a petition.

CT 18/5/83
R100 000 for
Fairest Cape

THE Fairest Cape Association (FCA) yesterday received a R100 000 cheque — its first financial benefit from the scratchcard game launched nine months ago to raise funds for environmental education.

The Totalisator Agency Board, which masterminded the project, handed over a cheque to FCA representatives.

An FCA spokesman said the money would be used to continue environmental education and help to fund a resource centre (58)

Fish killer may be untraceable

JOHANNESBURG. — The chemical compound which has been killing fish in the Jukskei River is unlikely to be identified, but the Department of Water Affairs is following several leads (56)

The department's Dr Henk van Vliet said yesterday the chemical could not be determined because of the relatively strong flow of the river.

Post-mortems showed that a strong caustic chemical had seriously wounded the fish externally. — The Argus Correspondent. ARG 115/93

Squatter pollution a big problem

(56) (206) ARG 115193
PRETORIA. — Pollution from water run-off in squatter areas had reached such serious proportions that water from sewage purification works was often of better quality, according to the Water Research Commission.

WRC research manager Dr Steve Mitchell said in a statement that it was for this reason the WRC had decided to intensify the focus of its research into sanitation on the needs and problems of developing communities and rural areas.

"The first challenge is to educate people to refrain from polluting their environment because of the health hazards involved.

"The second challenge is to develop affordable ways of preventing pollution by making available cheaper and practical, but above all, socially ac-

ceptable, sanitation facilities for the communities that need them," he said.

Dr Mitchell said much time and money already were being spent on the problem and research teams had been establishing the extent of river pollution throughout South Africa.

He pointed out that rivers like the Umgeni, which flowed through densely populated areas in Natal, the Klip River, which flowed through Soweto, the Jukskei River past Tembisa on the East Rand, and rivers on the Cape Flats were some of the worst examples of the effect of a lack of sanitation and refuse removal.

Dr Mitchell said finding more effective ways of disposing of sewage sludge was a major research need in developed areas. — Sapa.

New row brewing in RSC over Chapman's Peak mine

□ Sources claim committee will ditch staff 'no' recommendation

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE proposed kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak should be refused, planning staff of the Western Cape Regional Services Council have recommended.

But, this apparently was not accepted by the RSC's land use and transport planning committee at a meeting last week, where Serina kaolin mining company chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy made a personal presentation.

The committee's chairman, Mr CHRIS HATINGH of the Strand, declined to comment on what their recommendation would be to the full RSC meeting at the end of this month.

However, sources said the committee had rejected the staff's recommendation that Serina's application to allow mining above Chapman's Peak Dye be refused.

The company's application for a change in land use to

mine at its Trentham Farm site off Noordhoek Main Road was supported by the RSC staff report.

Mr Van der Spuy said after the committee meeting he was "very confident" Serina's application would be approved and that the legal procedure of mining approval would be completed within two months.

The RSC staff report noted that there had been an "unprecedented negative response" from the public when the application had been advertised for objections.

There were about 2 300 objections, of which 850 were in the form of personal letters from as far afield as the southern and eastern Cape, Natal, Transvaal and overseas.

About 17 percent of the letters were from Noordhoek and about 28 percent from the Noordhoek/Sunnysdale area.

The Noordhoek and District Civic Association also had opposed the proposal, the report noted.

"The concerns are, in essence, the potential spoiling of the quality of the natural environment and the consequent loss of man's enjoyment of it.

"It is, therefore, the visual aspect of the operation that requires closest analysis as the element having the most immediate effect."

The proposed mining site would be visible from about 70 percent of the Noordhoek Valley, including parts of Fish Hoek, most of Sunnysdale, Ocean View and Kommetjie, and the visual impact would be "significant".

"The all-encompassing view of sea and mountain is valued and obviously the less disturbed the mountainside, the more it is enjoyed...."

"The Noordhoek area, and particularly the amphitheatre where the mine will be located, is attractive to residents because of its rurality and this quality is not now readily

available elsewhere in the Peninsula...."

No consideration had been given to the possibility that mining operations could cease temporarily because of adverse economic conditions, it added.

"The Trentham deposit, for example, was left unmined for many years and no rehabilitation programme introduced.

"The possibility exists, therefore, that the Chapman's Peak site remains unworked and only partially rehabilitated for a period which could run into years."

The report recommended that the RSC deem the Chapman's Peak mining proposal undesirable and that it reject the application.

Because the Trentham deposit was small and could be fully exploited within two years, and because it was surrounded by land shortly to be developed for residential and agricultural purposes, this application should be approved, stated the report.



PERSONAL APPEARANCE: Serina kaolin mining company chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, who attended the RSC meeting on kaolin mining. Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

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SADF mum on 'plan for merger with MK'

By PETER DENNEHY and RONALD MORRIS

THE SADF was tight-lipped yesterday over the question of whether between 8 000 and 12 000 uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) soldiers might be integrated into the SA Defence Force within weeks.

The SADF declined to comment on a Sunday newspaper report concerning the imminent merging of MK with the SADF. It was a matter for the Ministry of Defence, the SADF spokesman said. Commandant Riaan Louw, a spokesman for the ministry, said yesterday that it was well-known that exploratory talks over a future Defence Force were taking place between the SADF and other organisations — "not only the ANC". It is reliably understood that the other organisations involved are the homeland defence forces.

MK Commander-in-Chief Mr Joe Modise said a great deal of progress had been made in bilateral talks with the SADF and the SAP but no finality had been reached and expectations should be tempered.

Meanwhile, ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela reassured senior SADF officers in Uppington on Saturday that all contracts with staff in the Defence Force will be honoured in the event of a merger with MK.

Mr Mandela said MK was essentially a guerrilla army and conventionally trained soldiers were needed.

The ANC was sending young people overseas for training and was building a nucleus already.

Table Mountain 'defeats' Hillary

CT 17/5/93

Staff Reporter

HEAVY clouds have thwarted efforts by Mount Everest pioneer Sir Edmund Hillary to reach the summit of Table Mountain — but he was struck by the beauty of the mountain and the Peninsula during a helicopter tour yesterday.

Sir Edmund is here as a guest of the Southern African Nature Foundation to launch a major fund-raising appeal for Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula Natural Environment.

Speaking at the harbour yesterday after visiting Robben Island, Sir Edmund said he would love to return to Cape Town. He had been unable to do what he did when he came to South Africa 38 years ago — travel up the mountain by cablecar.

"I just hope that the political situation calms down and does no harm to the environment," he said before setting off to see the winelands.

Picture Page 2



South Cape nuke site sold ⁵⁶ ^{APR 11 15 1983} for R7 million

□ Buyers agree to abide by conservation safeguards

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Atomic Energy Corporation's Gouriqua property on the southern Cape coast, which includes about 2 000ha of pristine fynbos, has been sold to private buyers for R7 million.

The corporation called for tenders for the property at Yster-varkpunt last year, saying it was worth about R8 million, after scrapping plans for a nuclear test facility.

Several conservation groups called for the proposed sale to be halted and for the property to be handed to back to the state so that it could be managed for conservation purposes.

But, the AEC rejected their demands and called a R500 000 bid by the SA Nature Foundation "ridiculously low".

It announced last week that a

private company, Rein's Nature Reserve, was to be established by the buyers.

"Rein's Nature Reserve complies with the requirements regarding future development of the site and also submitted the highest tender," said AEC.

A spokesman said: "The tender was accepted after the AEC and Cape Nature Conservation were satisfied that the future development of the site or any changes in land usage would be undertaken only with the approval of (Cape) Nature Conservation.

"Registration of an appropriate servitude in the title-deed of the property will be a pre-requisite in terms of the contract."

The Botanical Society's flora conservation committee, which had expressed deep concern about the proposed sale, said it welcomed the conservation aspects of the contract and called

on the AEC to ensure that the future landowners abided by them.

"We would be interested to learn of any development and nature conservation plans the new owners may have," said Mr Barry Heydendrych, the society's acting conservation officer.

The area was of great conservation and ecological value, he added.

"We hope adequate protection will be given to areas representative of all plant community types and that these areas will be large enough to permit natural ecosystem functioning."

Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of Cape Nature Conservation, expressed satisfaction with the inclusion of the servitude.

He pointed out that the property was zoned agricultural and that any development proposal would require a rezoning application and a full environmental impact assessment.

Applause for SA's vote on whaling

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's support for the creation of a Southern Ocean whale sanctuary has been applauded. (56)

The international community voted overwhelmingly yesterday against whaling, calling for the creation of a sanctuary. CT 15/5/73

The votes were counted during the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Kyoto, Japan.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare's Southern African representative, Mr David Barritt, said South Africa's support displayed "a wise and humane attitude".

Norway and Japan had to be told they would not be allowed "to hunt whales to extinction".

St Lucia's forgotten issue

Star 15/5/93

(56)

IN THE coming months, the debate over what effects mining will have on St Lucia is set to shift significantly. CHIEF REPORTER JOHN PERLMAN visited the area and found out why.

TO MINE or not to mine ... that is not the question. Not, at least, as far as Phileas Mbuyazi is concerned.

"All this talk about St Lucia makes me angry because they are talking about my land," he says. "I am not opposed to mining. But first my people must go back to our land and then the mining people must contact us and settle an agreement."

Mbuyazi, a man in his early 50s, is the second son of Chief Lokotwayo Mbuyazi, who ruled a group of clans living on the eastern shores of St Lucia until the early 1970s. The 1400 ha of dune land, which Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) wants to mine in the face of fierce opposition, falls squarely within his family's ancestral lands, Mbuyazi says.

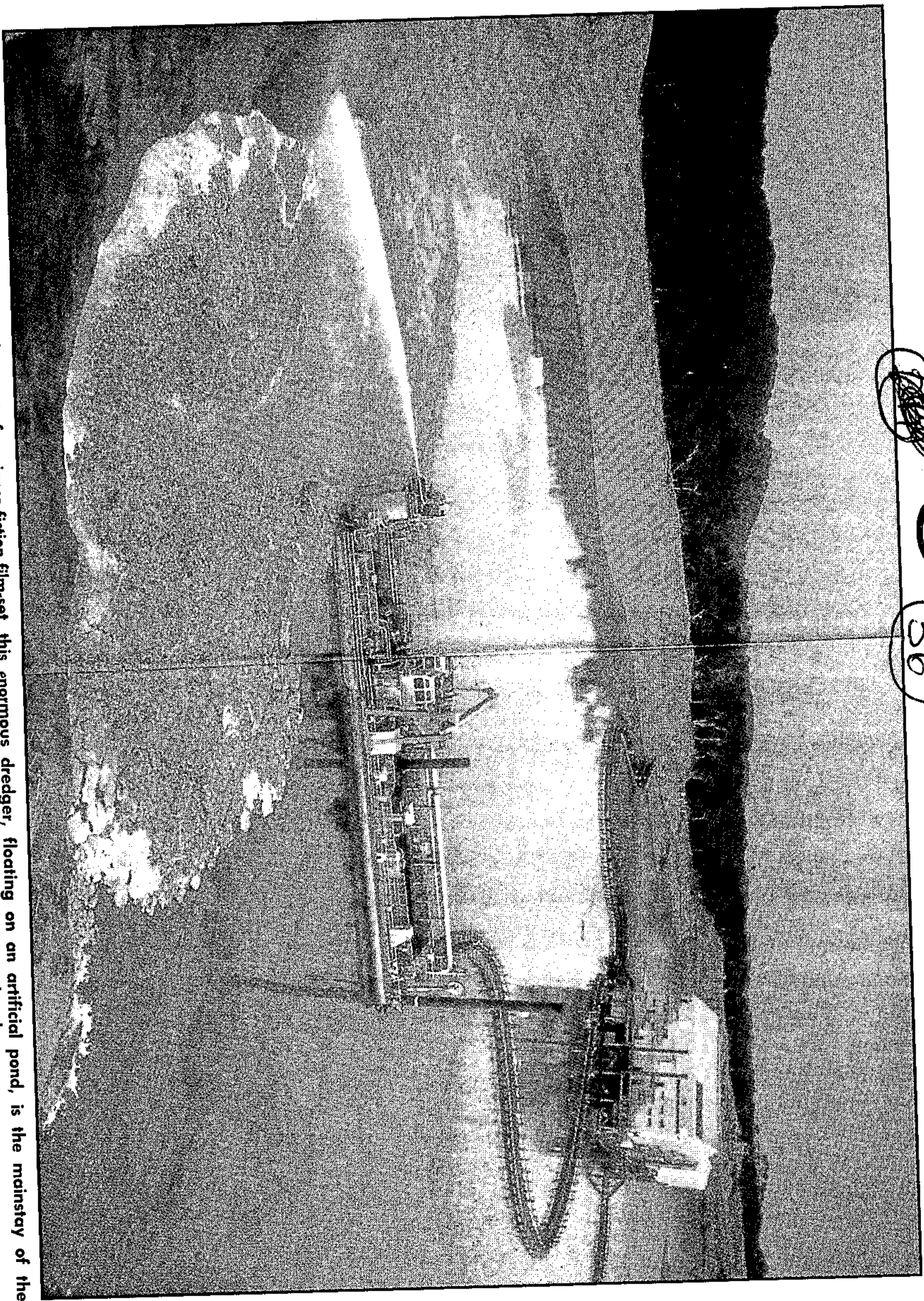
He says it was only a forced removal in 1973 — two years after Chief Lokotwayo died — which has allowed RBM on the one hand and the Natal Parks Board (NPB) and "green" groups on the other to wrangle over the ownership of the place he still calls home. Mbuyazi's memories of that day are bitter.

● See Editorial on Page 10

"We were told that there was a bomb in the forest that was going to go off," he recalls. "We were told to pack only the things we could carry away. Many things remained there on our land. When we came to Mthabane there was no agreement with the chief here to take us. We were just dropped off along the road."

Mbuyazi secured a siver of land in KwaMxane township, but an angry sweep of his arm indicates that the rest of his claimmen have been scattered far and wide. "There is acute land shortage in this part of Natal. A small plot next to his ramshackle house, which he has leased to grow sugar cane, will be taken back by the owner after this season's crop is in. Mbuyazi's spiritual sustenance seems to come from a large white envelope bulging with letters —

from the KwaZulu government, from Pretoria, from various authorities, from St Lucia's east-coast claim to St Lucia's eastern shores is being taken seriously. Since 1974, he and others have been trying to get their land back. At first Ullundi was not prepared to say if they were the right people to deal with this issue," he says. The matter was then



MEAN MACHINE: Looking like something out of a science fiction film-set, this enormous dredger, floating on an artificial pond, is the mainstay of the mining operation in the St Lucia area. It is able to dig up and process about 3 000 tons of sand an hour.

Voice of the people can no longer be ignored



HELPING HAND: We give nature a kick-start, says RBM's Piet Maré. Dune regeneration is speeded up by seeding.

Mining company fighting for a better image

Star 15/5/93
JOHN PERLMAN, Chief Reporter

Piet Maré, head of public relations at Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), gets a real kick out of telling this story: "We had these university students out here in the forest and one of them said: 'How can you mine this beautiful place?' Our chief ecologist, Paul Camp, answered: 'We already have!'"

Maré has probably told this story a thousand times. RBM, which is pushing for the right to mine a section of the St Lucia reserve, is fed up with its "wuthless dune-raper" image. In the past two years it has invited a wide range of people — about 15 000 in all — to hear its side of the St Lucia story and see how the company operates.

RBM has been mining dunes in the Richards Bay area for limonite, zircon and rutile for the past 14 years. The operation generates more than R1 billion a year in foreign exchange.

Extending operations to St Lucia, RBM says, will earn at least another R6 billion for South Africa. Unlike other minerals, it is easy to forecast the

the power either" Mbuyazi says this stonewalling never made him despair — partly because he secured from the NPB the right once a year to visit the place where his ancestors are buried.

"When there is something worrying me and I go to that place, I somehow feel relieved by the fact that I have once again seen my father's kraal. Now I want to go back and live close to my ancestors," he says.

Mbuyazi's hopes have risen steadily since 1990, "when Ullund said this was now a time of free political activity". The Mbuyazi's claim is currently before the Advisory Committee on Land Allocation. "Now we are just waiting for a letter from De Klerk," he says.

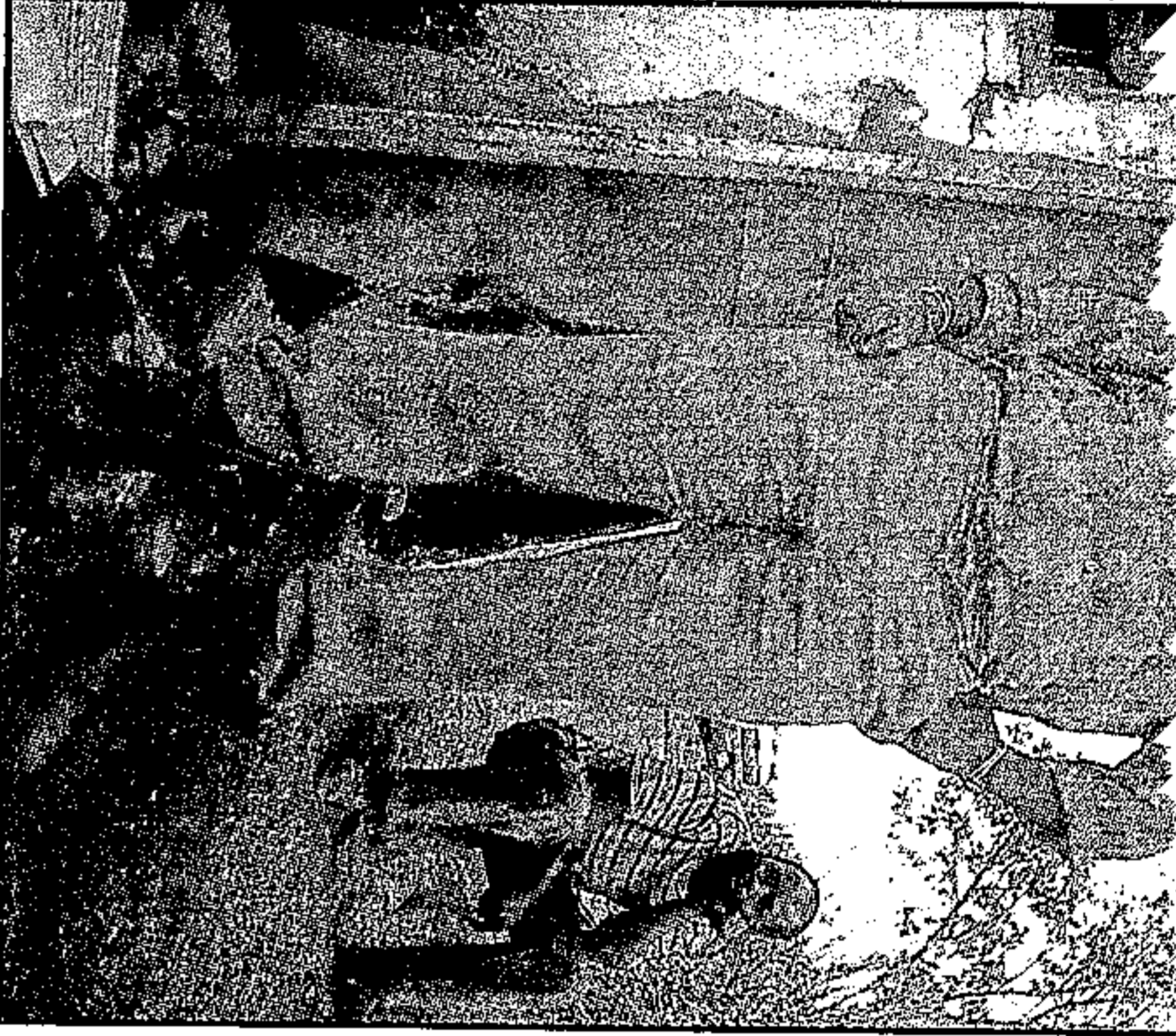
Disputes

RBM officials say they have canvassed chiefs in the area, and all support mining — among them Chief Mzondeni Mkhwanazi, who rules the area where Mbuyazi lives. "The people the company has spoken to are out of order. Chief Mkhwanazi is a chief of Mtshatsha. He has never lived in St Lucia," says Mbuyazi.

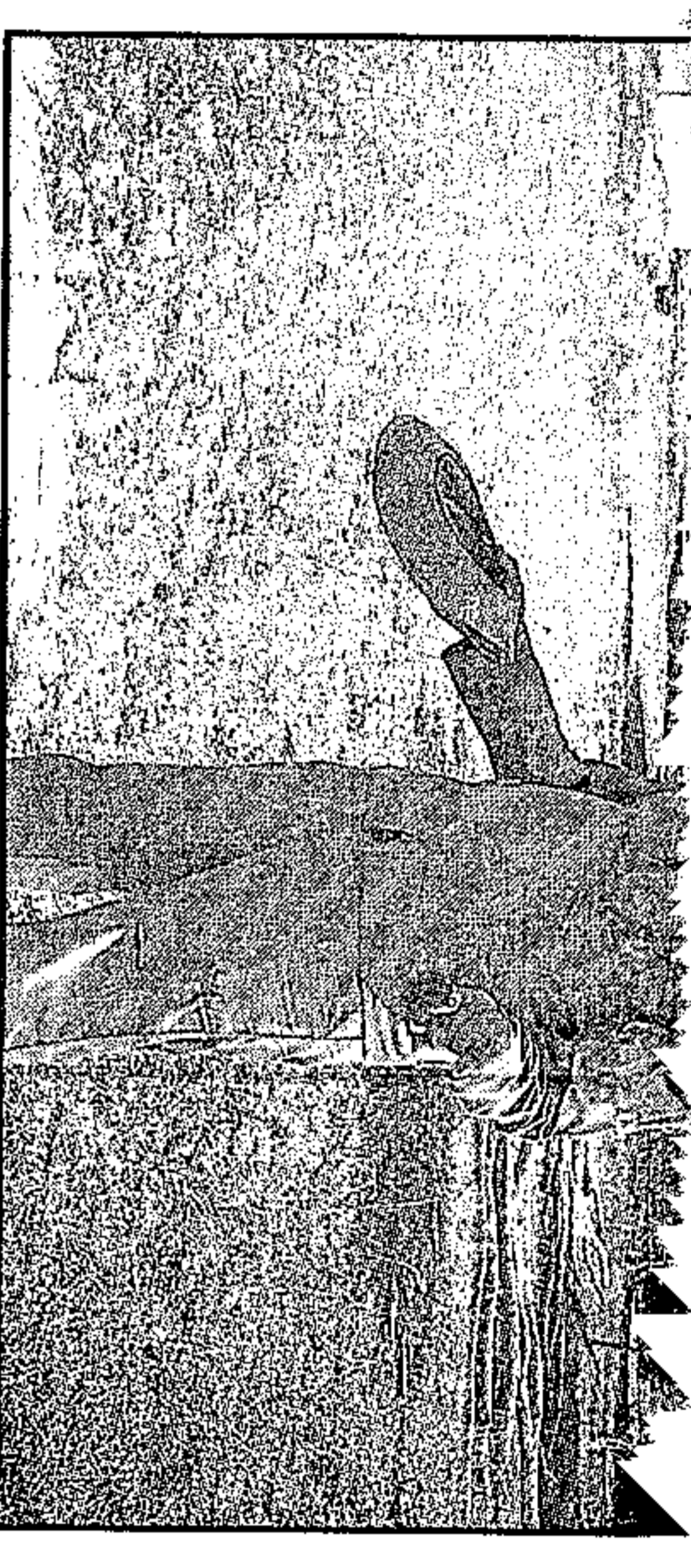
Mkhwanazi is all too aware that nerve ends get raw when land disputes resurface, and there are plenty in these parts. RBM's plans to build a service dam and pipeline in nearby Sokulu has already created another complicating conflict because this would necessitate some resettlement — said two contractors working on the scheme were shot dead earlier this year.

"I am not the one to say that people should go back to St Lucia or they should not go back," he says. But the chief leaps smartly off the fence on the question of mining. "The people are happy about the mining. They want it right now."

Mkhwanazi's sentiments are echoed by ordinary people in the area. Widely repeated, too, is his view that black people in north-east Natal have only seen conservation from the sharp end. "The NPB has never helped the community with a single



SPEAKING OUT: Phineas Mbuyazi (left), the son of a thief who ruled a group of clans in the St Lucia area until the early 1970s, says all the talk about mining makes him angry. All he wants is the land back for "my people". **RIGHT:** Chief Mzondeni Mkhwanazi is all too aware that nerve ends get raw when land disputes resurface, but leaps smartly off the fence on the question of mining. "The people are happy about the mining," he says. **ABOVE:** Hlangwa Meka claims the Natal Parks Board has done "nothing for us". Let's have a mine so we can work there." **PHOTOS: JOHN PERLMAN**



not the game reserve. "They think going there is for rich people," he says. Zulu himself sees St Lucia as "like a paradise. Because of ignorance we don't enjoy that paradise to the fullest." He himself has visited many parts of the reserve and is dead against mining. "Money is always needed but St Lucia is a special case. It needs to be protected."

Grim checklist

Talking to some matric students — bright, articulate, interested — it seems at first that Zulu has won them over. "It has taken a tree so long to come into existence, and now it will be destroyed for nothing," says Stanley Mazibuko. "Our beach will be destroyed," says Sibusiso Sithole.

But then the talk turns to next year — school finished, what next? Each student names a career — chartered accountant, dentist, engineer — then recites reality's grim checklist. Parents unemployed or on pension, siblings waiting for their turn in school, bursary ap-

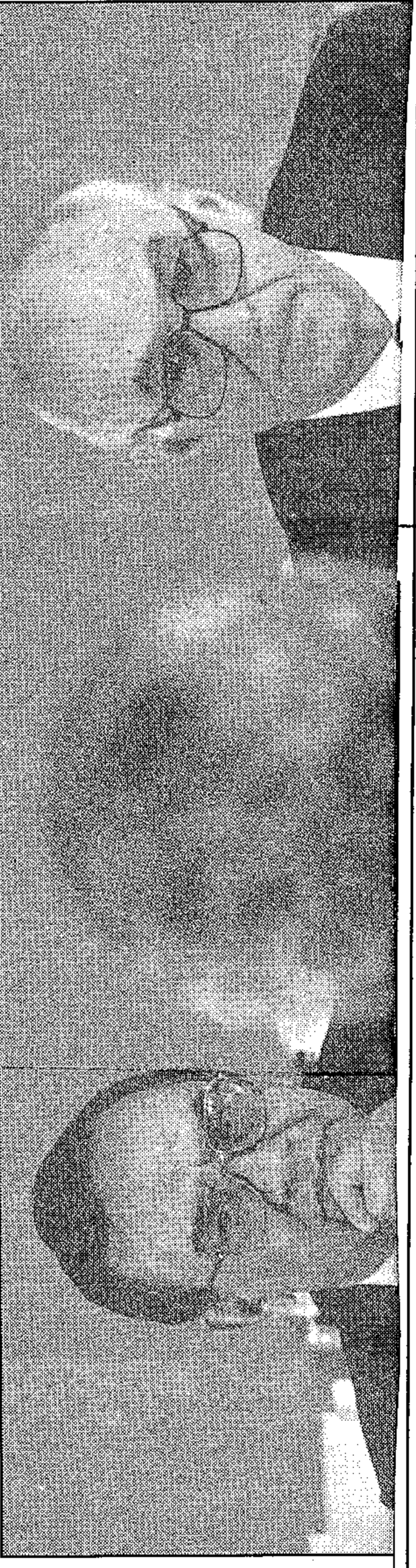


peals unanswered. "After we have completed matric, where will we find work?" Mazibuko asks. "The beach you just enjoy, but you don't get any money there. The nature belongs to the parks board people, who are white."

Battle

"I am not saying that nature should be killed," says Dumnise Manyango. "But it won't give us anything." Only Sithole sticks to his guns. "Nature is the most important thing we have," he says. The NPB's most dogged supporter at Nikodibe

hasn't exactly been offered encouragement. In five years at the school, which is half an hour from St Lucia, Sithole and his classmates say they've never been invited to visit the reserve, never hosted a speaker from the NPB, never been sent a poster or some literature for the library.



Chief Reporter JOHN PERLMAN writes programmes, certain TV programmes, prospectives for a new SABC board is not unlike THE public quizzing of candidates for a new SABC board

Mixed bunch, mixed

Star 15/5/93

Contribution to community

The dredger leaves an ugly gouge in its wake. But RBM points proudly to the dunes already mined — within a year they sport a thick covering of indigenous grass; within 10, lush forests.

"We give nature a kick-start," says Maré. "By seeding and the use of topsoil we dramatically speed up a process that would normally take 50 years."

RBM employs 2 500 people. Educational projects director Richard O'Brien says: "Because our operations are capital intensive, we wanted to make some contribution to the economy and the community in the region."

RBM has donated R1 million a year for the past seven years to a technical high school and has fostered primary schools and clinics, a computer centre at the University of Zululand, a small business advice centre and numerous rural development projects.

RBM's Barry Clements says 60 percent of the area to be mined consists of pine plantations. "The entire controversy has arisen over just 1 400 ha — that's half a percent of the whole greater St Lucia wetland park."

Public outcry over the mining led to an exhaustive environmental impact assessment, which recommended that further ecological safeguards be built into the rehabilitation process.

The EIA cannot offer guarantees: in the end, society has to make a choice. RBM says it is determined that it should be an informed one.

THE EDITORS UNDER

It is Editors Under

SaturdayStar

BOOK FAIR

unveiled at fair

freedom to be

Book on press

THE most important book in recent decades about the struggle for freedom in the South African press is to be launched during the week of the Saturday Star Book Fair.

World whale boss sounds off, quits

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

(56)

THE chairman of the International Whaling Commission's scientific committee has resigned in frustration at the "contempt" shown for his work.

This follows the IWC's refusal to adopt his committee's final version of a revised management procedure for managing commercial whaling, despite having approved a draft version last year.

In his resignation letter, Cambridge-based Dr Philip Hammond said his committee had completed its work and unanimously recommended that this be adopted at the IWC's recent meeting in Kyoto, Japan.

ARLT 30/6/93

"One of the most interesting and potentially far-reaching chapters in the science of natural resource management (had come) to a conclusion.

"The commission could now put in place a mechanism for the safe management of commercial whaling, regardless of whether or not the 'moratorium' was lifted," he wrote.

But although the scientific committee's work had been praised at Kyoto, its recommendations had not been adopted.

The morale of the scientific committee was lower than at any other time in his experience.

● Two South African scientists — Professor Doug Butterworth of UCT's applied maths department and Dr Peter Best of Pretoria University's Mammal Research Institute — serve as "invited experts" on the scientific committee.

Zeekoevlei ⁽⁵⁶⁾ CT 14/5/93

pollution at 'serious level'

Staff Reporter

POLLUTION of Zeekoevlei has reached such a serious level that the bacterial load in the vlei is often higher than water that has been processed through the municipal sewage purification works.

This was disclosed by the head of the national Water Research Commission, Dr Steve Mitchell, who said Zeekoevlei was one of the worst examples of run-off pollution in the country.

"Pollution from water run-off in squatter areas has reached such a serious proportion that water from sewage purification works is often of better quality," he said.

He said the water in Zeekoevlei was not toxic "but I understand the number of cases of diarrhoea has increased considerably among the squatters that use the water".

"We have embarked on a major research programme to alleviate the problem, but it is going to take time.

"Meanwhile, the only short-term solution open to health authorities is to educate people to refrain from polluting their environment."

Zeekoevlei Civic Association chairman Mr Eddie Gardener said the water in the vlei was of such poor quality that "I don't even use it on my garden because it kills the flowers".

He said municipal officials, who checked the toxicity and bacterial level of the water once a fortnight, had explained that the problem was caused by water running into the vlei from the Big Lotus River.

Deputy City Engineer Mr Hank Beekman said: "All we can do is monitor the situation."

He said health authorities considered it to be "more of an educational problem".

Act may be needed for Peninsula mountains

JOHN YELD ⁽⁵⁶⁾
Environment Reporter

AN Act of Parliament may be necessary to protect and manage the Peninsula mountain chain, according to a University of Cape Town consulting team which is drawing up a blueprint for its future management. ARG 14/5/93

The UCT team, appointed by the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) management advisory committee on a year-long contract, is making satisfactory progress, said CPPNE chairman Dr Douglas Hey.

Commenting on its initial report, Dr Hey said today the UCT team had met a range of people and organisations and found general support among people in existing management structures for a specific Act of Parliament to protect and manage the CPPNE.

"There is also support for a single, committed, accountable controlling body with executive powers and public representation, and for a technical arm of the controlling authority that could employ existing local authorities to undertake day-to-day management," he said.

The consultants suggested that the legal status of the mountain chain be strengthened and that boundaries of the CPPNE required revision.

"As a continuity of landscape between sea and mountain crest is an outstanding feature of the Cape Peninsula, the consultants suggest that the boundaries of the CPPNE be modified to include this feature," said Dr Hey.

But the UCT team had not made any specific recommendations on this, he added.

In keeping with a recognised need to expand recreational and tourism facilities on the mountain chain, the consultants had suggested a zoning system for multiple use of the area.

"Grades of development and degrees of utilisation could vary from area to area, with core 'wild areas' being identified with surrounding buffer zones and areas for limited development," said Dr Hey.

The UCT team emphasised that a secure source of funds was crucial for effective management.

Star 14/5/93

S Cape site sold for R7-m

The Atomic Energy Corporation has sold its Gouriqua property in the southern Cape to Rein's Nature Reserve — a company still to be established — for R7 million. "Rein's Nature Reserve complies with the requirements regarding future development of the site and also submitted the highest tender," said the corporation in a statement yesterday.— Sapa.

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"Comed" is the Co-ordinating Committee for Medical Procurement in the Department of National Health and Population Development which is responsible for the compilation of tender documents for the acquisition of medicine and on the basis of whose recommendations, the State Tender Board approves tenders for the supply of medicine to certain government institutions;

"medicine" means medicine as defined in the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965): Provided that if a manufacturer registers and/or markets medicine with the same ingredients himself or indirectly under different names, such medicine will for the purposes of this prohibition be deemed to be the same medicine; and

"manufacturer" means a person described as such in regulation (1) of the General Rules issued in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 and 1965) and registered in terms of the Pharmacy Act, 1974 (Act No. 53 of 1974).

(14 May 1993)

"Komed" die Koördinerende Komitee vir Mediese Bevoorrading in die Departement van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling wat verantwoordelik is vir die opstel van tenderdokumente vir die aankoop van medisyne en op grond van wie se aanbeveling die Staatstenderraad tenders vir die lewering van medisyne aan bepaalde owerheidsinstansies goedkeur;

"medisyne" medisyne soos omskryf in die Wet op die Beheer van Medisyne en Verwante Stowwe, 1965 (Wet No. 101 van 1965): Met dien verstande dat indien 'n vervaardiger medisyne met dieselfde bestanddele self of op 'n onregstreekse wyse onder verskillende name registreer en/of bemark, sodanige medisyne vir die doeleindes van hierdie verbod as dieselfde medisyne geag sal word; en

"vervaardiger" 'n persoon wat aldus omskryf word in regulasie (1) van die Algemene Regulasies uitgevaardig kragtens die Wet op die Beheer van Medisyne en Verwante Stowwe, 1965 (Wet No. 101 van 1965), en geregistreer ingevolge die Wet op Aptekers, 1974 (Wet No. 53 van 1974).

(14 Mei 1993)

NOTICE 410 OF 1993

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

PROPOSED POLICY ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

The document contained in the Schedule to this notice is published for general information and comments. Interested persons who wish to offer any comments in this regard are requested to supply such comments to the Director-General: Environment Affairs, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, within **60 days** from date of publication of this notice and to quote Reference P2/3.

C. M. CAMERON,

Director-General: Environment Affairs.

KENNISGEWING 410 VAN 1993

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGEWINGSAKE

VOORGESTELDE BELEID OOR WÊRELDOMGEWINGSVERANDERING

Die dokument vervat in die Bylae tot hierdie kennisgewing word vir algemene inligting en kommentaar gepubliseer. Belanghebbende persone word versoek om enige kommentaar wat hulle in die verband wens te lewer, binne **60 dae** vanaf datum van publikasie te rig aan die Direkteur-generaal: Omgewingsake, Privaatsak X447, Pretoria, 0001, met vermelding van Verwysing P2/3.

C. M. CAMERON,

Direkteur-generaal: Omgewingsake.

SCHEDULE

PROPOSED POLICY ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

SUMMARY

This document sets out proposed policy on global environmental change for South Africa and indicates local action required for the formulation of more specific strategies. Although the issue of human-induced change in climate is characterised by uncertainty and unknowns, most nations are regarding it as a distinct possibility and are responding accordingly. To date 155 states and the European Community have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Based on the best scientific information presently available, a comprehensive report on anticipated impacts and implications of climate change on South Africa is being compiled; these impacts and implications are briefly highlighted in this paper under the headings: energy use; water resources; food production; forestry; natural ecosystems; demography and the built environment; pollution; health; and the economy, including trade, industry and tourism.

56 Accepting realistic assumptions, including the fact that South Africa will be unable for socio-economic reasons to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the short to medium term, the principle elements of South Africa's policy on climate change are: a holistic approach, acknowledging that proposed actions in any one sector may have repercussions in other areas consistency with balanced development such that the country is able to anticipate, adapt to, and take advantage of climate change without affecting essential growth or prejudicing future generations; policy should be pragmatic and implementable, and must be beneficial to the country irrespective of whether global environmental change occurs or not. The need for sound planning, public awareness and education, research and monitoring, technology development and transfer, and international cooperation are stressed.

Strategies are proposed to achieve the broad policy objectives in a cost-effective manner. These include ongoing regular review of actions, strategies and research; proper coordination of global climate change policy and actions at all levels, preferably building on existing structures such as the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Global Environmental Change and the South African Global Change Committee; promotion of public awareness and appropriate education; and further development and adaptation of the expertise and measures that already exist to manage natural climate variability.

Essential actions resulting from the policy and strategies are identified and listed.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Index:

1. AIM
 2. DEFINITIONS
 3. OBJECTIVES
 4. BACKGROUND
 - 4.1 The greenhouse effect
 - 4.2 International reaction
 - 4.3 South Africa
 5. THE FACTUAL SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA
 6. ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES
 - 6.1 Assumptions
 - 6.2 Guiding principles
 7. IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA
 - 7.1 The possible effects of climate change per se on South Africa
 - 7.1.1 Impacts and implications for Energy Use
 - 7.1.2 Impacts and implications for Water Resources
 - 7.1.3 Impacts and implications for Food Production
 - 7.1.4 Impacts and implications for Forestry
 - 7.1.5 Impacts and implications for Natural Ecosystems
 - 7.1.6 Impacts and implications for Demography and the Built Environment
 - 7.1.7 Impacts and implications for Pollution
 - 7.1.8 Economic considerations including Trade, Industry and Tourism
 - 7.1.9 Impacts and implications for Health
 - 7.2 Effects of political response to the perceived threats of global environmental change
 8. POLICY
 9. STRATEGIES
 10. ACTIONS REQUIRED
-

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**1. AIM**

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This document sets out proposed policy on global environmental change for South Africa and indicates local action required for the formulation of more specific strategies.

2. DEFINITIONS

Global environmental change, also known as the "enhanced greenhouse effects" or "climate change": the change to the global environment brought about as a result of change in climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and is over and above natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Greenhouse gases: those gases (including water vapour) in the atmosphere, both naturally occurring and man-made, which by virtue of their radiative properties trap heat in the lower part of the atmosphere.

Sustainable development: development that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

"Win-win" approach: taking timely action based on current knowledge that is justified on environmental, economic and political grounds whether or not climate change takes place.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this document are to—

- (1) outline the national and international situation with respect to global environmental change;
- (2) indicate implications to South Africa of possible global environmental change and of international actions motivated by it;
- (3) establish a basis for policy formulation for South Africa with respect to global environmental change;
- (4) ensure a coordinated response by South Africa to possible global environmental change;
- (5) fulfil local responsibilities and international obligations;
- (6) identify actions required to facilitate the formulation of more specific global environmental change policies and response strategies.

4. BACKGROUND**4.1 The greenhouse effect**

Certain naturally occurring and man-made gases in the atmosphere such as carbon dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), through their radiative properties, act like a thermal blanket to stop heat loss from the surface of the earth and the lower layers of the atmosphere. As their action is analogous to that of a greenhouse, this process is generally referred to as the greenhouse effect and the blanketing gases as greenhouse gases. Although only present in the atmosphere in small quantities these gases result in the earth being warmer than it would otherwise be. The higher the concentration of these gases, the greater the warming effects. The biggest natural contributor to the effect is water vapour, while the main anthropogenic contributor is carbon dioxide which to date has increased in the atmosphere by 30% since the industrial revolution. Scientific monitoring has also shown that during the past 100 years the average temperature of the surface of this planet has increased by 0,5°C. Although there is not proof yet that this temperature increase has been caused by the increase in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, there is concern internationally that the projected continuing input of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by man might cause the climate of this planet to change in a manner and at a rate unprecedented in history.

4.2 *International reaction*

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Despite the considerable uncertainty surrounding the precise role of man-induced increases in greenhouse gases and possible consequent global climate changes, many countries, including South Africa's major trading partners, have formulated policies and are taking action to minimize the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Policies to adapt to future possible climate change are also being devised. Concerted international action in the form of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCC) is underway and already 155 states and the European Community have signed the Convention. The ultimate objective of the FCC is the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the [global] climate system".

Another international initiative which has positive effects for global environmental change has been the action taken to phase out the use and manufacture of CFCs. Besides being important man-made greenhouse gases there is strong evidence that CFCs damage the stratospheric ozone layer which protects the surface of the earth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation. Their reduction and ultimate phase-out is addressed by the Montreal Protocol to which South Africa is party.

4.3 *South Africa*

Scientific investigations indicate that regional effects of greenhouse warming may well differ in magnitude from predicted global changes. The potential impact of the warming in regions such as southern Africa, which are already subject to the ravages of droughts and floods, is of particular concern. South Africa's climate is characterized by considerable natural variability (the 1991/92 disastrous drought is an example), and the effects of global climate change, should it occur, superimposed on this could have far-reaching consequences for the region.

South Africa releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and accordingly is contributing, albeit in a small way, to the international greenhouse issue. In 1990 South Africa was ranked as the 18th highest producer of greenhouse gases in the world, emitting some 300 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually (equivalent to 8 tons per inhabitant), as well as greenhouse gases such as CFCs methane and the oxides of nitrogen. This results both from the developed sector of the economy and the actions of the large informal sector. Atmospheric pollution in South Africa is controlled by the Air Pollution Prevention Act, 1965 (Act No. 45 of 1965). This Act seeks to control noxious or offensive gases, smoke, dusts and emissions from vehicles, but at this stage does not control CO₂ emissions. Likewise, the ratification in 1990 of the Montreal Protocol on CFC use and production by South Africa was to protect human health by arresting further damage to the ozone layer, rather than to control CFCs as greenhouse gases.

South Africa has an open economy, and policy and action taken by our trading partners will have implications for this country. It is clear that South Africa cannot ignore the possibility of global environmental change. The actions taken at international level or the potential consequences for the southern African region on the economy, food production, sea level rise, health and welfare require inclusion in strategies designed to enable South Africa to meet its future commitments and the aspirations of a growing population.

In recognition of this, the Director-General: Environment Affairs in 1991 established the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Global Environmental Change to coordinate the actions necessary for policy formulation. The investigations of this Committee which accessed expertise in the public, private and research sectors, form the input to this document. It is inappropriate to incorporate detail in the present document, but, in recognition of the value of these investigations, the wide-ranging reports compiled for the Committee are scheduled to be published as a comprehensive document during the latter part of 1993.

5. THE FACTUAL SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

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- 5.1** South Africa contributes 1,6% to fossil fuel based global carbon dioxide emissions.
- 5.2** Because of the nature of its industry, economy, and population structure, and its inefficient energy use, South Africa is an energy intensive society. This results in a high per capita emission of carbon dioxide (8 tons per annum). The main reason for this is the country's dependence on coal as a primary energy source.
- 5.3** South Africa has a mixture of both developed and developing economies. In reality this country is judged by first world standards, whereas many of its problems are of a developing country nature.
- 5.4** The South African population, currently at 37,37 million (ref "Business Futures", 1991, ed. Spies, Institute for Future Research) is projected to increase by some 2,36% per annum.
- 5.5** Energy requirements and, by implication, carbon dioxide emissions in South Africa, are projected under moderate-growth economic conditions to increase at 3,5% per annum and there is little scope for significant reduction in these emissions in the short to medium term without harming essential economic growth and development. In this respect attention is drawn to the fact that about 66% of the country's population does not have access to electricity and currently makes use of less efficient forms of combustion for cooking and heating.
- 5.6** South Africa's basic energy policy is to make clean, consistent, affordable and appropriate energy available to all sectors of the country's community. Strategies which promote a balanced least-cost mix of energy supply and demand are being promoted within this policy framework. Coal is by far the most important source of energy and provides roughly 80% of the country's primary energy needs. It will undoubtedly continue to dominate the South African Energy scene for many years to come.
- 5.7** A major factor limiting growth in South Africa is the shortage of water. South Africa's rainfall is highly variable in time and is patchy in its distribution. The greater part of the country is semi-arid and subject to droughts, floods and high evaporation. South Africa's industrial, agricultural and domestic users are heavily dependent on this highly variable water supply and thus are very vulnerable to any potential negative climate change.
- 5.8** Water structures such as dams and distribution networks, as with other heavy industry infrastructure, are designed for long lifetimes (several decades) and also require long lead times from conception, through design to construction. This highlights the need for a timeous response to possible changes in climate which might affect the design and siting of such structures.
- 5.9** Except in times of drought, South Africa is largely self-sufficient in terms of food production and a major part of our population is involved directly or indirectly in various forms of agriculture, fishing and forestry. The formal agricultural/forestry/fishing sector contributed more than 11% of the gross domestic product in 1990.
- 5.10** Much of South Africa's crop production and forestry is practised on marginal land and hence is highly sensitive to variability and change in rainfall and climate. Environmental variability is also known to have caused major changes in a number of South African marine fish resources.
- 5.11** South Africa will need to feed, clothe and shelter its growing population.
- 5.12** Natural resource degradation resulting from processes such as soil erosion has already reached serious proportions and is likely to be considerably enhanced through global warming.

- 5.13** South Africa, situated in the Southern Hemisphere and surrounded by 3 major oceans, has a climate in which the oceans play a key role. Changes in these oceans and in their current systems associated with global environmental change have implications both for South Africa and globally because of the complex heat transport processes south of Africa.
- 5.14** Climate monitoring systems in South Africa and adjacent areas, in particular the Southern Ocean, are inadequate for local operational and research purposes.

6. ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

It is an accepted fact that the natural greenhouse effect keeps the earth on average about 32 °C warmer than it would otherwise be. It is also an accepted fact that emission resulting from human activities are increasing the atmospheric concentrations of some greenhouse gases. There is, however, considerable uncertainty whether or not these increases in concentrations would result in an enhanced greenhouse effect and global warming.

Informed international opinion has been articulated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environmental Programme. The IPCC (1990) have "calculated with confidence" that carbon dioxide has been responsible for over one half the enhanced greenhouse gas effect in the past and is likely to remain to in the future. Their calculations show that immediate reductions in emissions from human activities are needed to stabilize the concentrations of the long-lived gases (carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, CFCs) at present levels.

Although there are many uncertainties in predicting global environmental change, in particular with respect to timing, magnitude and regional patterns, current international thinking is that global surface temperatures could rise by 1 to 3 °C during the next century. South Africa is advised to pay heed to current international thinking.

There is considerable uncertainty as to how climate change might impact the southern African region. Temperature change per se is likely to be less important than changes in rainfall, humidity, winds, and the incidence of severe weather events such as tropical cyclone Domoina, the September 1987 floods in Natal, and the severe droughts in 1982/83 and 1991/92 in the summer rainfall areas.

6.1 Assumptions

- ▷ A growing number of countries will introduce legislation to control their emissions of greenhouse gases.
- ▷ The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will be ratified by sufficient states for it to enter into force.
- ▷ South Africa will be under pressure to comply with international action in respect of global environmental change.
- ▷ Any actions that South Africa elects to undertake will not be at the cost of essential development.
- ▷ Changes in climate over the next 50 years are unlikely to exceed current variability, but will be superimposed thereon.
- ▷ Present climate variability in the southern African region will not decrease. Possible future increases in variability are not excluded.
- ▷ Parts of the country could become drier and parts wetter.
- ▷ South Africa's population will continue to increase in the short to medium term.
- ▷ Demand for food, energy and water will grow as the country develops.
- ▷ Appropriate action now could mitigate these developments and effects, and could also enable South Africa to take advantage of them.

6.2 *Guiding principles*

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- ▷ South Africa's actions should be guided by the need for sustainable economic and social development.
- ▷ Any policy or response strategy developed by South Africa must be pragmatic, implementable and affordable.
- ▷ The "win win" approach as defined should be central to any policy on global environmental change. Such an approach should be treated holistically.
- ▷ South African policy should take full advantage of the opportunities which possible global climate change presents, whether or not climate change takes place. These opportunities include inter alia development of energy efficient technologies, making better use of all our resources (water, fuel, food), taking the lead in Africa and helping neighbouring countries with environmental problems. Through these actions the policy should enable South African to manage its environment and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, make the country more competitive in trade, promote optimal use of its resources, and benefit tourism, irrespective of whether climate change takes place or not.
- ▷ South African policy should emphasize adaptation to the local effects of global environmental change.
- ▷ Unnecessary restrictive measures should be avoided.
- ▷ Full cognizance should be taken of international efforts to address global environmental change. Appropriate international and regional cooperation should be facilitated.

7. **IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOUTH AFRICA**

The impacts and consequent implications of global environmental change for South Africa fall into two distinct categories: (1) the possible effects of climate change per se on the region, and (2) the effects of global and local political response to the perceived threats of global environmental change.

7.1 *The possible effects of climate change per se on South Africa*

Notwithstanding the considerable uncertainty surrounding global environmental change and the form it might take in the southern African region, it cannot be disregarded. Guided by international thinking (cf IPCC interpretations referred to earlier) a scenario has been developed by South African climate scientists. This scenario reflects current scientific opinion and will obviously need updating as knowledge of atmospheric and oceanic processes improves.

- For an effective doubling of global atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations which could occur during the latter part of the next century, equilibrium temperatures could increase by 2 to 3 °C. These changes, however, are likely to be dependent on latitude, increasing with increasing latitude. It is anticipated that the increase in temperature would be greater in winter than in summer, that it would be greater for minimum temperatures than for maximum temperatures, and that increases in temperature will be greater in the winter rainfall area than in the summer rainfall area.
- In the summer rainfall region, it is estimated that there could be greater variability in rainfall with a possible increase of up to 10% on average and a southward shift in rainbelts is predicted. In the winter rainfall region it is estimated that there could be more convective activity with a tendency for more summer distribution of rain.
- A sea-level rise of about 20 cm by 2020 and 50 cm by the latter part of the twenty-first century is anticipated. Possible changes in wind speeds and directions are unresolved at present due to large uncertainty. Changes in the marine environment around South Africa as evidenced by increasing sea surface temperatures and altered processes (e.g. currents) are possible and have the potential to feedback to regional and global climate. A southward shift in the tropical cyclone belt in the South Indian Ocean is likely.

- Superimposed on the postulated enhanced greenhouse effect during the next century will be changes in UV radiation as a result of the partial destruction of the protective ozone layer by past use of CFCs.

7.1.1 *Impacts and implications for Energy Use*

The need for sustainable development in South Africa and the need to bring affordable energy and specifically electricity to all South Africans is unlikely to be impacted significantly by climate change in the southern African region. However, it is anticipated that energy shortages and other factors such as existing hardships and ecological stress, which currently outweigh speculative future global climate change effects, may well be exacerbated by them. Growing public environmental awareness is likely to affect energy and resource utilization. This could result in possible changes in the energy mix (with a greater emphasis on renewable energy resources) in southern Africa and in technological advances in the energy sector with a view to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Current energy utilization in South Africa is generally inefficient, therefore energy conservation, energy efficiency and demand side management can be expected to play a major role in meeting future energy requirements. In the developing sector the impacts of climate change may enhance energy starvation due to fuel-wood depletion and environmental degradation.

7.1.2 *Impacts and implications for Water Resources*

Changes in the magnitude, variability and seasonal distribution of rainfall and runoff as a consequence of regional climate change will impact on industry, agriculture and general water-use planning. It is probable that changes in the sequences and magnitudes of extreme events such as droughts and floods will take place. The ravages of drought in Southern Africa are well known, while the postulated increase in climate variability and convective intensity will add to flood risk. Of particular importance to water use and resource planning will be changing yields from reservoirs, changes in required size and positioning of dams, changes in evaporative loss from water surfaces and soils, and changes in groundwater systems. Present natural year to year variability in South Africa is large and any changes brought about by global climate change will aggravate this because they would be superimposed on it. With water being the limiting natural resource for development in southern Africa, this could have major implications in most developing sectors of the economy. Moreover, water quality, already threatened by anthropogenic pollution, could be further impacted by increasing concentrations of salts and through eutrophication and increases in water-borne diseases, thereby becoming a major impediment to optimal utilization of water resources.

7.1.3 *Impacts and implications for Food Production*

Besides the increased degradation of the soil that is likely to result from the increased frequency or intensity of extreme events, changes in temperature, rainfall and evaporative moisture loss from ground surfaces will impact on the agricultural potential of southern Africa. A shift from grasses to woody plants has been predicted in some existing grazing areas, requiring change in enterprise selection and stocking rates. Crop distributions will also change (e.g. maize) but negative effects can be overcome by sound planning and proactive agricultural management. Deciduous plants, intolerant of higher temperatures, and longer-lived species (e.g. some fruit trees) will require a longer lead time for planning. Despite considerable uncertainty that exists, it can be anticipated that there will be a change in incidence and distribution of pests and plant and animal diseases.

Because of the present inability to predict the nature and scale of marine processes driven by climate, there is also considerable uncertainty about possible changes in the distribution and abundance of exploited living marine resources (fish). However, these are known to be sensitive to environmental change. It should be noted that changes in the fishing and agricultural sectors will have implications for associated infrastructure (distribution networks and processing plants).

7.1.4 *Impacts and implications for Forestry*

The location of optimum areas for afforestation is likely to shift in sympathy with climate change. Changes in temperature, soil moisture content and carbon dioxide levels with impact on the growth rate of trees and weeds and the hydrological cycle, while warming will also affect fire regimes and fire-damage ratings. Forestry and timber use could well be impacted by changes in plant diseases and pests. In view of the long-term nature (10–30 years) of tree-planting ventures, decisions taken in the near future could extend into the era of expected climate change. This would have repercussions for the forestry industry and associated infrastructure.

7.1.5 *Impacts and implications for Natural Ecosystems*

Natural ecosystems are highly complex and are generally well-adapted to variability and change. Whilst most ecosystems may be stable over many years despite changes in climate, when ecosystem change begins, it can be rapid. Man's utilization of ecosystems may compound potential impacts of climate change. Species loss due to inability to adapt sufficiently quickly to change will have an impact on biodiversity.

As indicated above, changes in vegetation from natural grasses to woody plants can be anticipated in some areas. As with agriculture, future rainfall is a key uncertainty with respect to terrestrial ecosystem change. Changes in pests, diseases, and invasion by alien species are likely consequences of climate change.

In the marine environment ecosystem changes are likely, but the uncertainty surrounding these precludes reliable prediction at this stage. Here the most obvious consequence of global change is rising sea level, estimated to increase by about 20 cm by 2020 and 50 cm by the latter part of the twenty-first century. A small rise in sea level during the next twenty years is expected irrespective of any future climate change because of a delayed response of the oceans to warming during the recent past. The impact of sea level rise on natural ecosystems will be most obvious in low-lying areas such as mangroves and estuaries.

7.1.6 *Impacts and implications for Demography and the Built Environment*

Changes in South Africa resulting from population growth and the development of a democratic society are likely to outweigh any changes brought about by climate for the foreseeable future. The projected population growth rate of 2,36% per annum is likely in the short to medium term to be a complicating factor in the formulation of any policy to stabilize or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases by South Africa. During the next century, with the expected upliftment of society in South Africa, the consequent move towards population stabilization would have a positive effect on the region's carbon dioxide emissions. However, possible changes in energy use and mix, agriculture, forestry, tourism, fisheries, industry, settlements governed by water availability, etc. cannot be ignored in future planning. There could be changes to man-made structures, e.g. roads, dams, bridges, harbours, low-lying developments, etc. brought about as a result of possible increased climate variability (storms, cyclones, floods) and anticipated sea level rise. A small rise of sea surface temperature in the Indian Ocean would result in the southward migration of the tropical cyclone belt. Should this materialize, there will obviously be risk implications in the financial and insurance sectors of the economy.

7.1.7 *Impacts and implications for Pollution*

Any potential impacts of global environmental change on pollution will be overshadowed by the effects of regional development and population growth, but these may be mitigated to some extent by growing public awareness. Changes in stratification and atmospheric processes (e.g. convection) could impact on the distribution of atmospheric pollutants, both positively and negatively. Any increased aridification could impact on atmospheric dust as well as on the quality of runoff water, while increased temperatures and desiccation of biomass could result in increased veld fires and consequent smoke pollution. In the marine environment rising sea levels together with pollution, could impact the quality of groundwater in coastal aquifers. Increased evaporative loss and greater re-use of water are likely to result in the build-up of salts and other pollutants in fresh water systems.

7.1.8 *Economic considerations including Trade, Industry, and Tourism*

The possible effect of global climate change in the fields covered in points 7.1.1 to 7.1.7 will most probably impact on the various sectors of the South African economy, including mining, industry, agriculture and tourism. Measures by our main trading partners, the developed countries, to reduce CO₂ emissions could also affect our economy, in particular coal mining and the energy-intensive beneficiation industry. Furthermore, increased stresses caused by climate change on flora and fauna, changed patterns of diseases, and the invasion of alien species could impact on eco-tourism. The effect on specific sectors may be positive or negative. However, with the limited knowledge available at this stage it is not possible even to attempt to quantify the effect on the various sectors or on the South African economy as a whole.

7.1.9 *Impacts and implications for Health*

Although the impact of global environmental change on human health is likely to be small in South African in comparison with health issues such as AIDS, it nevertheless will be superimposed on these and should not be ignored. Increased temperatures and the postulated southward displacement of summer rainfall could see the southward spread of tropical diseases such as malaria. In addition, increased stress on water supply could result in an increase of water-borne diseases, while local climate-related demographic changes could impact on health and health care. Furthermore, the continued destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer during the next century as a consequence of past releases of CFCs is likely to result in increased UV levels and incidence of non-melanoma skin cancers.

7.2 *Effects of political response to the perceived threats of global environmental change*

The extent of world opinion in respect of global environmental change is reflected by the large number of states (155 plus the EC) that have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Ratification and subsequent entering into force of this convention will impose obligations on the contracting parties to take action, either individually or collectively, aimed at stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at levels which are perceived not to interfere with the climate system. The type and extent of action taken by various countries will depend on their status either as developed or developing, and on their ability to make the necessary changes.

The primary impacts of action taken by the international community on global environmental change for South Africa are likely to be in the field of economics (international trade) and energy. The policy trend in highly developed nations, which include several of our main trading partners, is to switch to forms of energy (such as natural gas) which cause less carbon dioxide emission, and to promote development of service industries and industries of high value that are not energy intensive. A consequence of these actions could be a displacement of greenhouse-unfriendly and energy-intensive industries, including primary beneficiation of minerals, to developing countries. At the same time, unfair competition claims could be laid at the door of developing nations, and it is a distinct possibility that states that do not comply with developed country criteria in respect of greenhouse gas emissions could be subjected to punitive tariffs and trade duties or other measures. South Africa cannot afford to ignore these possible developments. Apart from the above, there is a distinct likelihood of a shift in developed countries away from coal utilization which will impact on South Africa's coal exports in the long term. However, the demand from countries with an acid rain problem (e.g. central Europe) for low-sulphur coal, which South Africa could supply, to replace coal which has a high sulphur content, could offset this.

Many of the impacts and implications for energy listed in paragraph 7.1.1 above will also be likely consequences of international action aimed at preventing, slowing or delaying climate change. Existing thermal power generation facilities in South Africa are at present under-utilized, and many of these facilities have a lifetime of decades. At the same time, there is an urgent need for sustained economic growth in South Africa. Even with a modest growth in the economy, the projected growth in energy demands could result in an increase of carbon dioxide emissions in South Africa of 3,5% annually up to the year 2000. Whilst it is recognised that every effort will be made to counter this with increased energy savings, with an increasing population, there is little prospect of reducing these carbon dioxide emissions substantially in the short to medium term without harming economic growth. It is only when South Africa reaches true developed country status during the next century and develops major service and low energy intensive industries, that stabilization or reduction of our carbon dioxide emissions will be possible. (In this respect it should be noted that the highly developed countries have already passed through this development stage.) These realities must necessarily guide South African policy on global environment change issues.

8. POLICY

South Africa accepts that global environmental change is a distinct possibility. Despite uncertainties associated with prediction of its magnitude and timing, climate change has to be taken seriously. South Africa supports the principle of an international approach to the greenhouse issue in the context of sustainable development as defined. In view of the mixed developed and developing nature of our society and the need for the improvement of the quality of life of those presently disadvantaged, a holistic approach to global environmental change is imperative.

There are many constructive actions which can take advantage of global environmental change or minimize its negative effects. In South Africa priority will be given to measures which are cost-effective and beneficial to the country irrespective of whether climate-induced change occurs. These measures should be consistent with the needs of a developing economy and will include increased efficiency of energy and water use.

Key elements for policy are:

- ▶ *Holistic approach.* Global environmental change has the potential to impact on all aspects of South African life. It must be recognised that any proposed action in any one sector may have repercussions in other areas. These must be taken into account. This also applies to South Africa's actions in the international context aimed at reducing man-induced climate change. Furthermore, part of this holistic approach must include the acute awareness of the relationship between the population growth and environmental quality.
- ▶ *Sustainable development.* Development in all sectors, while taking cognizance of the need for wise use of renewable and non-renewable resources, should recognise the interdependence of these practices with global environmental change.
- ▶ *"Win-win" approach.* Actions taken by South Africa will be in the context of the principle of no regrets. This is defined as taking timeous action based on current knowledge that is justified on environmental, economic and political grounds whether or not climate change takes place.
- ▶ *Planning.* Global environmental change has the potential to impact on South Africa on a timescale of decades. Those planning activities consistent with these time scales should, where appropriate, take the possibility of climate-induced change into account.
- ▶ *Energy policy.* South Africa's existing policy of making clean, consistent, affordable and appropriate energy available will not be affected significantly by climate change for the time being and is regarded as being compatible with greenhouse considerations. Increasing energy efficiency and conservation and the development and application of advanced technologies and renewable sources of energy will play a critical role in ensuring this compatibility.

- ▶ *Public awareness, education and training.* These are essential for ensuring the success of South Africa's approach to global environmental change.
- ▶ *Research and monitoring.* Factual information is a prerequisite for informed decision making. Research sensu lato aimed at reducing the present uncertainties surrounding global environmental change and its potential impacts on Southern Africa must play a key role in this respect. The research must be supported by appropriate objective-driven monitoring. Adequate funding and coordination of research and follow-up action must be ensured.
- ▶ *Technology development and transfer.* Those technologies that have the potential to contribute to the objectives of global environmental change policy should be actively promoted and developed with a view to appropriate transfer and application.
- ▶ *International cooperation.* Because of the nature of global environmental change, South Africa cannot act in isolation. Regional and international cooperation must be facilitated.
- ▶ *Legislation.* The use of appropriate legislation or fiscal and other measures should be considered where necessary.

9. STRATEGIES

To achieve the broad policy outlined above the following strategies are appropriate:

- ▶ South African global change policy should be regarded as dynamic and responsive to the evolving knowledge and information base. Central to this is the ongoing review of actions, strategies and research.
- ▶ Recognition must be accorded to the multidisciplinary nature of global environmental change impacts by ensuring that there is proper coordination at all levels. In this respect it is desirable to build on existing interdepartmental structures (such as the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Global Environmental Change) and research structures (such as the South African Global Change Committee).
- ▶ It must be ensured that appropriate information is available for the development of more specific policies.
- ▶ The public must be properly informed through the promotion of public awareness and appropriate education.
- ▶ Existing expertise and measures necessary for the wise management of the consequences of natural climate variability should be built on and further developed. By addressing management of the consequences of extreme events such as floods and droughts through improved predictive techniques, South Africa will be better placed to cope with the impacts of global environmental change.
- ▶ An appropriate level of funding must be assured to provide the necessary supportive education, coordination, research and monitoring.
- ▶ Cooperation between the public and private sectors both locally and internationally, and particularly within southern Africa, should be actively facilitated.

10. ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▷ A comprehensive report on the status of global environmental change in South Africa must be compiled and updated when necessary.
- ▷ Greenhouse gas sources and sinks in southern Africa must be quantified.
- ▷ Relevant existing policies should be reassessed in the light of global environmental change.
- ▷ Existing and future investigations and quantification of all aspects of energy saving must be coordinated and actively promoted. Sources of "clean" energy must be investigated.

- ▷ Possibilities for reducing South Africa's emission of greenhouse gases must be examined.
- ▷ A comprehensive investigation must be carried out into possible financial or fiscal measures to facilitate the effective control of emissions (e.g. incentives, carbon tax) and to stimulate the development of new technologies where appropriate.
- ▷ Comprehensive economic analyses must be made of the financial impacts of various options, scenarios and assumptions relating to global environmental change (including for example the assumption that more expensive energy would be harmful to economic growth in the South African situation).
- ▷ Implications of ratification of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change must be assessed.
- ▷ South Africa's research and monitoring needs with respect to climate change must be identified, prioritized and costed. This must be followed by the timely implementation of appropriate research and monitoring programmes taking cognizance of regional and international initiatives.
- ▷ A South African global climate change scenario document should be published and regularly updated.
- ▷ An appropriate and responsible public awareness and educational campaign must be launched to disseminate information both nationally and internationally.
- ▷ Water and land-management scenarios should be developed for forestry and agricultural land-use and production, and management scenarios developed for fisheries.
- ▷ Water management scenarios taking account of the possible impact of global environmental change on southern Africa must be developed.
- ▷ A strategy must be developed to procure funding to facilitate the proposed actions.
- ▷ Commercial and industrial opportunities arising from global environmental change must be identified.
- ▷ The feasibility of South Africa entering into partnerships with other southern African nations in establishing appropriate responses to climate change on a regional basis should be explored.
- ▷ In order to facilitate the above, existing administrative arrangements should be extended to ensure continuity and a coordinated and cost-effective response to an enhanced greenhouse effect. It is desirable that such a response including drawing up a proper plan of action with target dates as an urgent priority.

BYLAE

VOORGESTELDE BELEID OOR WÊRELDWYE OMGEWINGSVERANDERING

OPSOMMING

Hierdie dokument sit die voorgestelde beleid vir Suid-Afrika oor wêreldwye omgewingsverandering uiteen en toon die optrede aan wat hier te lande nodig is om meer spesifieke strategieë op te stel. Ofskoon die kwessie van klimaatsverandering deur die mens teweeggebring deur onsekerhede en onbekendhede gekenmerk word, beskou die meeste lande dit as 'n wesenlike moontlikheid en reageer dienooreenkomstig. Tot op hede het 155 state en die Europese Gemeenskap die Verenigde Nasies se Framework Convention on Climate Change onderteken. 'n Omvattende verslag wat op die beste inligting tans beskikbaar berus, word oor die verwagte uitwerkings en verwikkelings vir Suid-Afrika saamgestel. Hierdie uitwerkings en verwikkelings word kortliks in hierdie geskrif uitgelig onder die hofies: energiegebruik; waterhulpbronne; voedselproduksie; bosbou; natuurlike ekosistels; demografie en die beboude omgewing; besoedeling; gesondheid; en die ekonomie met inbegrip van die handel, nywerheid en toerisme.

New guide to legislation

DO you need to know what the law says about environmental matters, but don't have time to wade through all the legal fine print? **(56)**

The Department of Environment Affairs has come to the rescue with four definitive reference works. The four documents were drafted to guide researchers on legislation concerning the natural environment, built environment, cultural environment and pollution.

ARG 5/6/93

"Through concise summaries of sections of the Acts concerned, they provide persons who might not have legal knowledge with relevant, easily accessible information on the legal requirements they may face in complying with environmental legislation," an Environment Affairs spokesman explained.

● The documents are available free of charge from the Director-General, Department of Environment Affairs, Private Bag X447, Pretoria 0001.

REDISTRIBUTION: We have to move from a society oriented to satisfying

the wants of a few to one that seeks to satisfy the basic needs of all

The search for balance

Star 5/16/93

(56)

THE rich worry about pollution, managing waste, conserving wilderness areas ... matters very remote for the poor, who experience all the problems of a developing nation: finding work, food and shelter, writes Science writer ANITA ALLEN

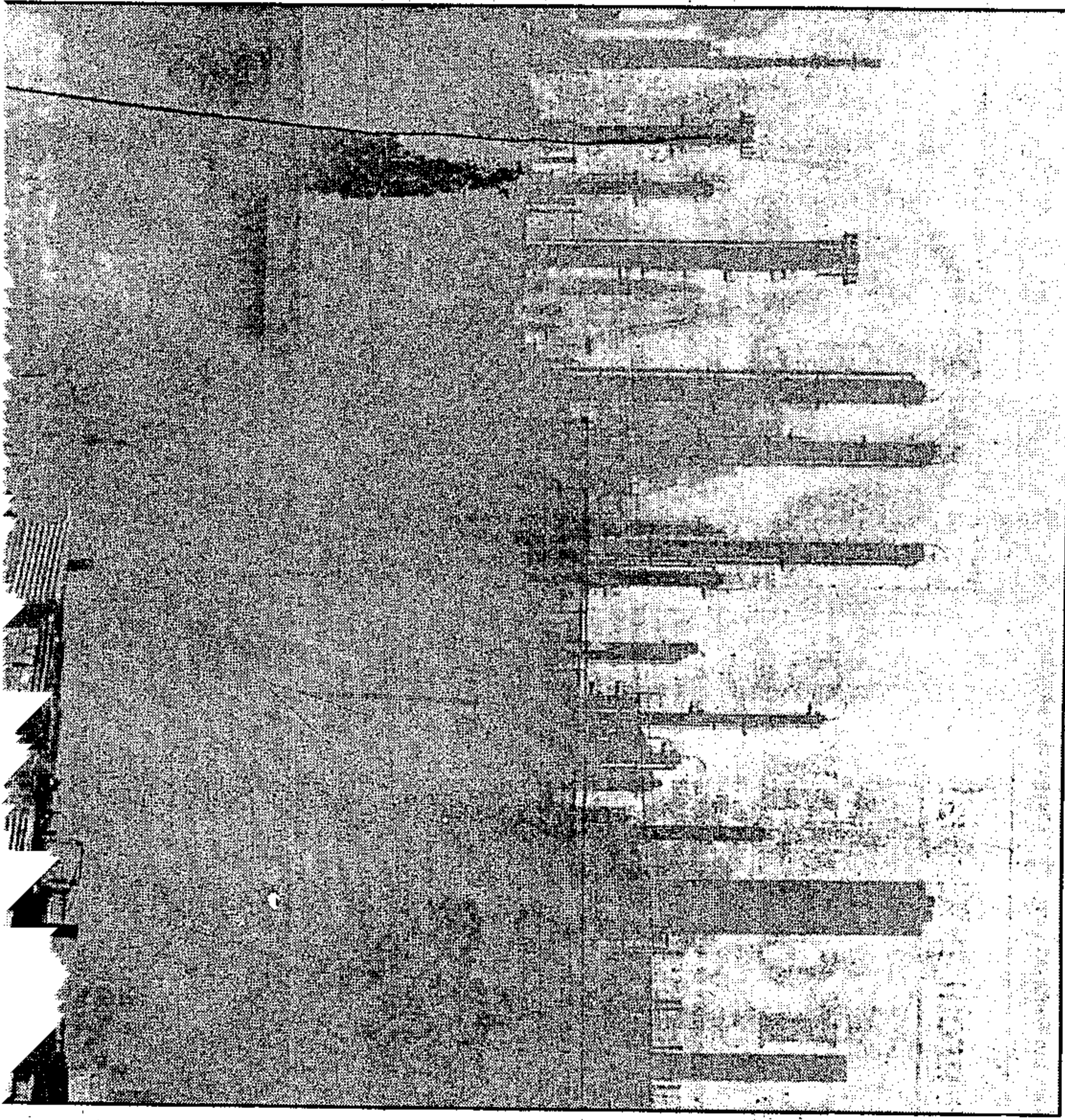
TODAY, International Environment Day, comes at the end of a week during which environmental issues should have dominated the headlines. They did not.

A year after the Rio summit, a mere three years into the decade heralded as the "green" age, South Africans remain oblivious to how fast time is running out for their environment.

Their country is losing the battle against pollution of all kinds, with losses outweighing gains. It has just experienced the worst drought in living memory, in which it moved from being self-sufficient in food production to having to import staples.

Land has become so degraded that when the rains do come, millions of tons of topsoil will silt up rivers and be washed into the sea. Thousands of people are being impacted for life — or killed — by hunger-related diseases.

THE environment is urgently in need of politically powerful patrons. The likelihood of any emerging seems remote. Leaders who are negotiating our future do not agree on many things, but one thing they are united on is the need for economic growth. They have different



In it, the Government accepts the principles of the Rio summit declaration. This means it accepts the principle of sustainable growth, which recognises limits, and implies redistribution — a move from a society oriented to satisfying the wants of a few to one that seeks to satisfy the basic needs of all.

The reality is that we live in a complex, interdependent society. However, we have narrow visions and lose sight of the broader picture.

At a World Environment Day symposium this week, Dr Mark Dent of Natal University's computing centre for water research said that when it came to the environment, this tunnel vision resulted in a Rubik's cube where one colour matched but all the others were hopelessly scrambled.

It was impossible for any one person to get the entire picture of the functioning of the environment, and what was needed was a multidisciplinary approach with the emphasis on integration.

Integrated solutions required excellent communication, through which a community could be formed. Such a community would consist of individuals who had learnt to communicate honestly with each other, Dent said.

"(These are) individuals whose relationships go deeper than their masks of composure and who have developed some significant commitment to rejoice together, mourn together, to delight in each other and to make each other's condition their own."

HE ADDED: "Community is a safe place because members have learnt to stop trying to heal, convert, fix and change themselves precisely because they feel safe and therefore free to discard defences, masks and disguises and to channel the energy thus released from these negative endeavours into becoming

THE environment is urgently in need of politically powerful patrons. The likelihood of any emerging seems remote. Leaders who are negotiating our future do not agree on many things, but one thing they are united on is the need for economic growth. They have different ways of saying it, but it comes down to one word: development.

It is fashionable to add the prefix "sustainable", which in terms of the accepted definition worldwide means development that can meet current needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

However, with few exceptions, development has a negative effect on the environment, and the more urgent the need for development, the more likely it is that "sustainable" is downgraded to whatever can be achieved within given financial constraints.

This means that a company such as Eskom, for example, is not obliged to install the latest available technology to clean up its pollution, because it is "too expensive". Economics come first, and what dominates is the philosophy that nature is there for mankind to exploit, rather than husband.

Obviously, given the social, economic and political challenges South Africa faces, economics and development are crucial factors.

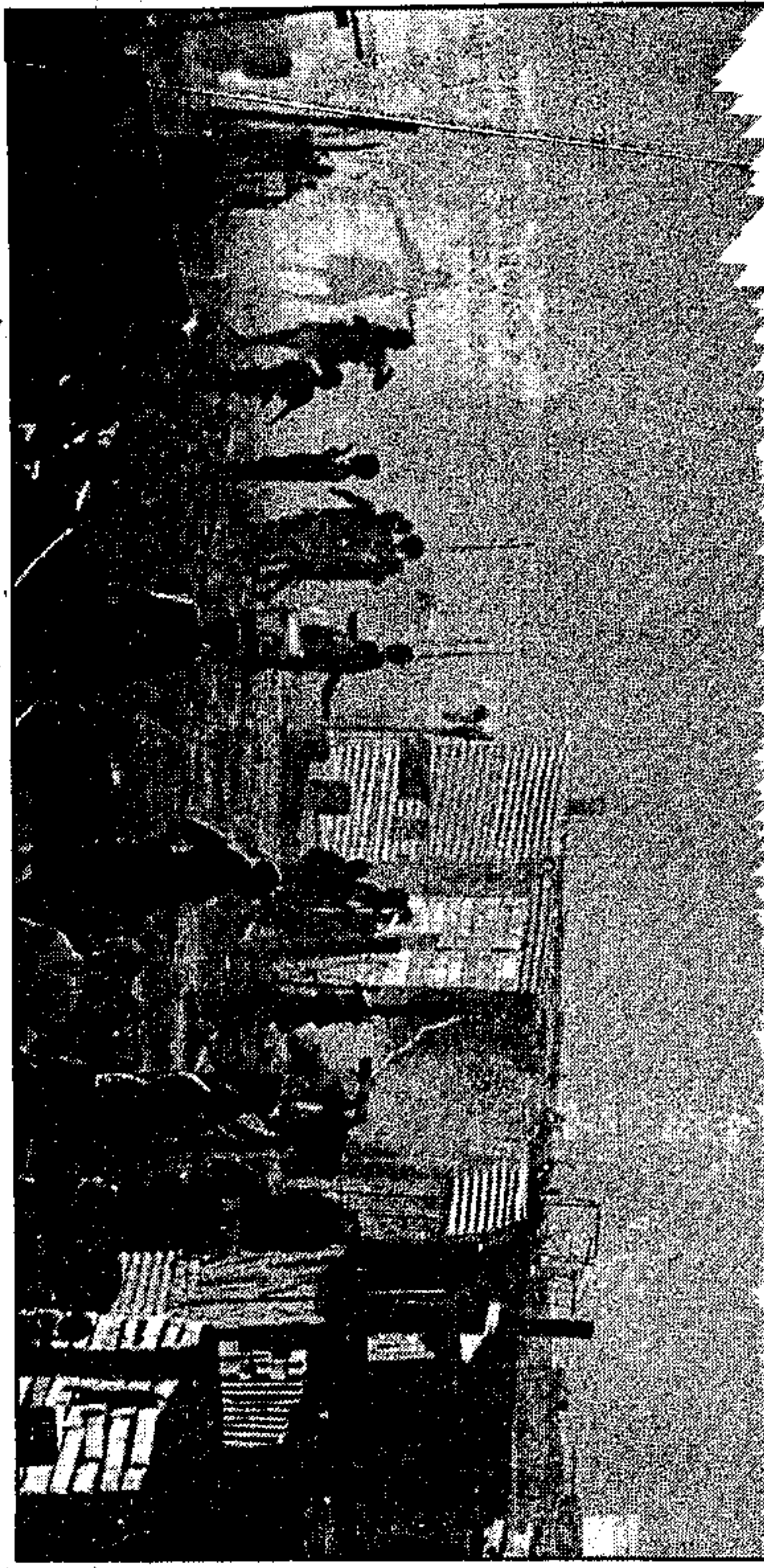
The trouble comes when these concepts outweigh all other considerations.

The principle underlying much conventional economic wisdom is that benefits sooner or later trickle down to the poor. In practice this rarely happens. Experience shows that the rich merely get richer, and the concentration of riches falls in fewer hands.

Nationally, the divide between rich and poor grows wider. Capitalism has proved that it is its nature to get bigger. It puts profits first and then takes into account social and environmental considerations — usually when forced to do so by law.

The point is that no country can afford the invisible costs of rampant growth for its own sake. The defensive spending needed to cope with just the health problems created by industry is beyond any national budget, as the American experience teaches us.

Immoral policies from the past have allowed ill-considered and avaricious development to force South Africa's environment to deteriorate at an unprecedented rate. The trend will continue as long as the environment remains a marginal issue on political agendas, and "development" and "environment" are not integrated into economic policy and decision-making.



PAROUS STATE: Children in a Third World township are reduced to playing in the shadows of First World giants, when they need to have a place in the sun.

It is a truism to say that South Africans need to change, but the fact that many are still saying it means that change is perceived not to be happening. It is happening too slowly.

Traditional divides — white and black, rich and poor — seem cast in stone. The rich identify poverty and population growth as the chief cause of environmental degradation, without reference to their own overconsumption and unsustainable lifestyles.

Statistics show that the affluent place 50 to 50 times more pressure on the environment than do the poor.

'Statistics show the affluent place 20 to 50 times more pressure on the environment than do the poor.'

RAACHEL Weinberg, in her report on the implications for South Africa of the Rio summit, highlights the crucial ingredient to controlling population growth: the empowering of women and uplifting of their status. It requires a huge leap of faith to believe that this will ever be a serious priority of the men who are plotting our future.

Weinberg comments that long-term efforts to reduce poverty depend on low-cost initiatives which promote self-reliance and are focused on basic needs. But South Africa's economic policy has an emphasis on export growth and technological upgrading to stay internationally competitive. Instead of creating jobs, this means fewer jobs because technology replaces the human workforce.

The theme for Environment Day is integrated environmental management, and its slogan is "assessment before ac-

tion". It highlights individuals' responsibility to consider the consequences — to the environment — of their actions.

Those among South Africa's few rich live in a First World, developed country. Their concerns typify those associated with industrialised countries: pollution, problems of waste management, conserving wilderness areas, and so on. All this is very remote for the poor, who live in a Third World South Africa, with all the problems of a developing nation: finding work, food and shelter.

The few rich who hold the financial power and have the education and training will have to make the effort to think Third World, think poor, get to know what their needs are and, with them, work out solutions.

South Africa has the expertise, the scientific and technological know-how and the infrastructure to solve these problems. What it lacks is sufficient people

ADDED: "Community is a safe place because members have learnt to stop trying to heal, convert, fix and change themselves precisely because they feel safe and therefore free to discard defences, masks and disguises and to channel the energy thus released from these negative endeavours into becoming whole, hence holistic."

To foster integration, South Africa needed to identify goals which transcended all divisions and which provided a renewed focus. The first step in assessing environmental impact was known as scoping: identifying and informing all interested and affected parties. In that process of community, a clearer picture of the issues emerged.

According to one study, community-building involves four stages. The first is pseudo-community, in which people talk past each other. Masks of corporeity are firmly in place and defences raised while individuals appear to engage in honest communication by being excruciatingly pleasant and avoiding conflict. This stage never works, says M S Peck in his book *The Different Drum*.

Sooner or later, pseudo gives way to chaos, in which defences give way to attack and group members rip at each other's masks. Power struggles burst into the open.

Peck believes there are only two ways out of chaos. One is into organisation, but this is never community. The other way is into and through emptiness, where members empty themselves of expectations, preconceptions, prejudices, ideologies, theology and the need to control, heal, convert, fix or solve. Emptiness is learning to surrender and to appreciate the truth that often there are parts to life that are not problems to be solved but mysteries to be lived.

ONLY after this can the group enter community. The group might repeat the cycle often by slipping back into pseudo, but with a bit of luck it will recognise where it is and progress quickly through the stages again until true community is achieved.

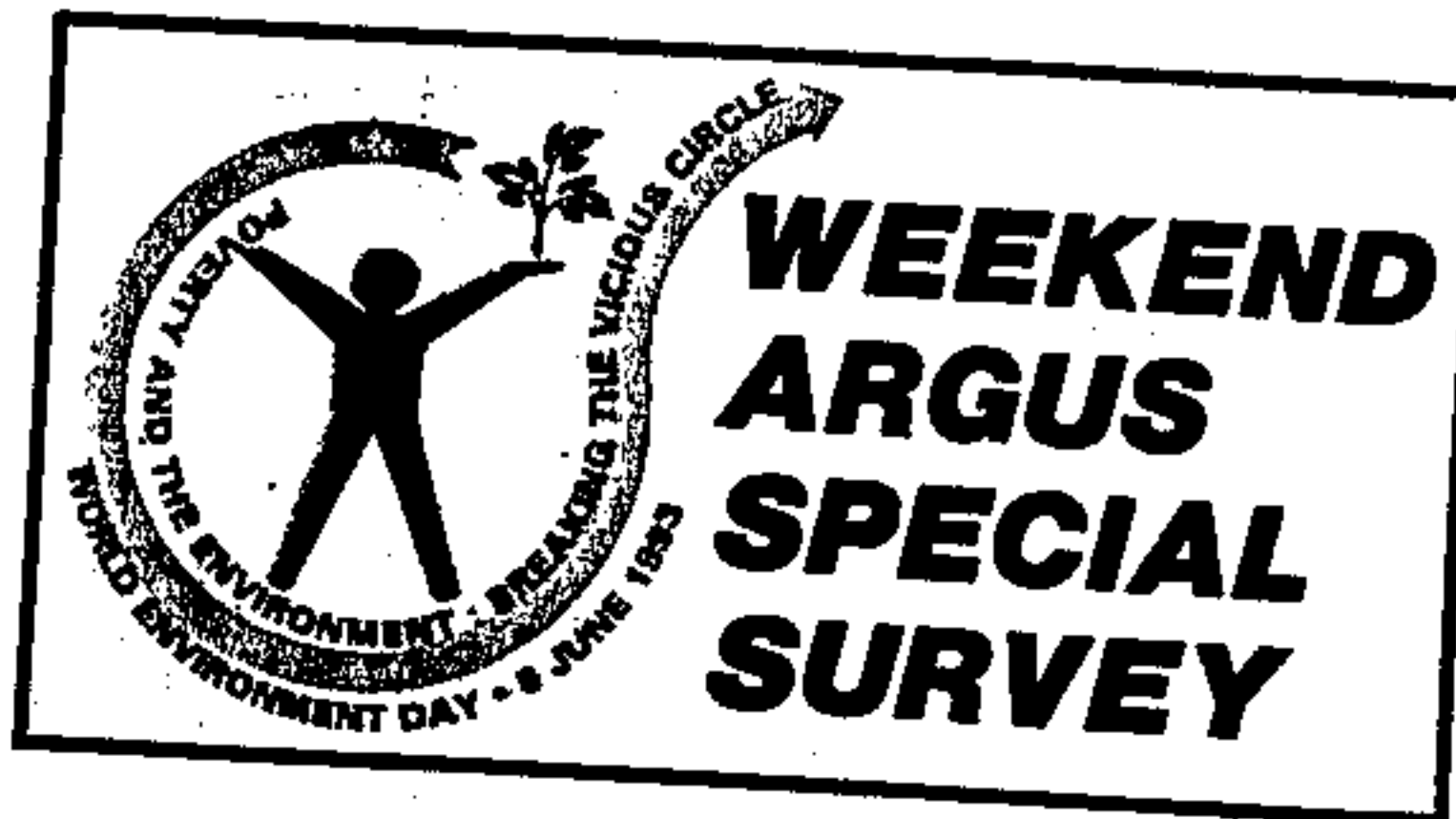
South Africans, unfortunately, have hardly started scoping. Preserving our natural heritage is an exciting challenge, but the vision requires a desire and an ability to interface, communicate and adapt.

Dent concluded: "The only way we can be sure that our map of reality is valid is to expose it to the criticism and challenge of other map-makers. The alternative is to live in a closed system, re-breathing our own fetid air, more and more subject to delusion."

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Cape Flats devoured by urban sprawl

(56) ARGUS 5/6/93



THE Cape Flats, once a huge wilderness area hosting an incredibly rich plant life, ecologically valuable dunes and seasonal wetlands and a wide variety of wildlife, is rapidly becoming a dense urban mass.

Between 1983 and 1989 alone, about half the remaining open space on the Cape Flats was lost, and the highest concentration of Red Data Book plant species in Africa is now found on the north-western section of this area.

Will increasing moves towards a democratic system of government mean a reprieve for the remaining open areas on the Flats, as old-style "apartheid" planning of townships far away from the city centre is replaced?

Not necessarily, says Mr Barrie Low, chairman of the conservation committee of the SA Association of Botanists.

"Those previously denied their inalienable right to basic housing now find new areas — literally and figuratively — opening up to them," he said.

"The scramble is on for more land, thus reducing priorities for provision of necessary open space."

Mr Low pointed out that open space was essential to any community's well-being.

"Throughout the world, decline in quality and quantity of such amenity has always led to a drop in living standards, coupled with a rise in crime and violence. The existing Cape Flats townships and low-income housing estates bear testimony to this."

Mr Low is promoting six crucial steps to ensure that future planning in the Peninsula and Greater Cape Town is holistic and reasonable:

□ An independent "ombuds-

team" must be appointed to act as impartial arbitrator where environmental issues are in dispute;

□ A metropolitan conservation body must be appointed to manage all natural areas within the metropolitan area;

□ Integrated Environmental Management procedures must be strictly applied and a broad structure plan — detailing significant natural resources and sensitive environmental areas — should be prepared to guide planning;

□ Developers must contribute to environmental conservation and education;

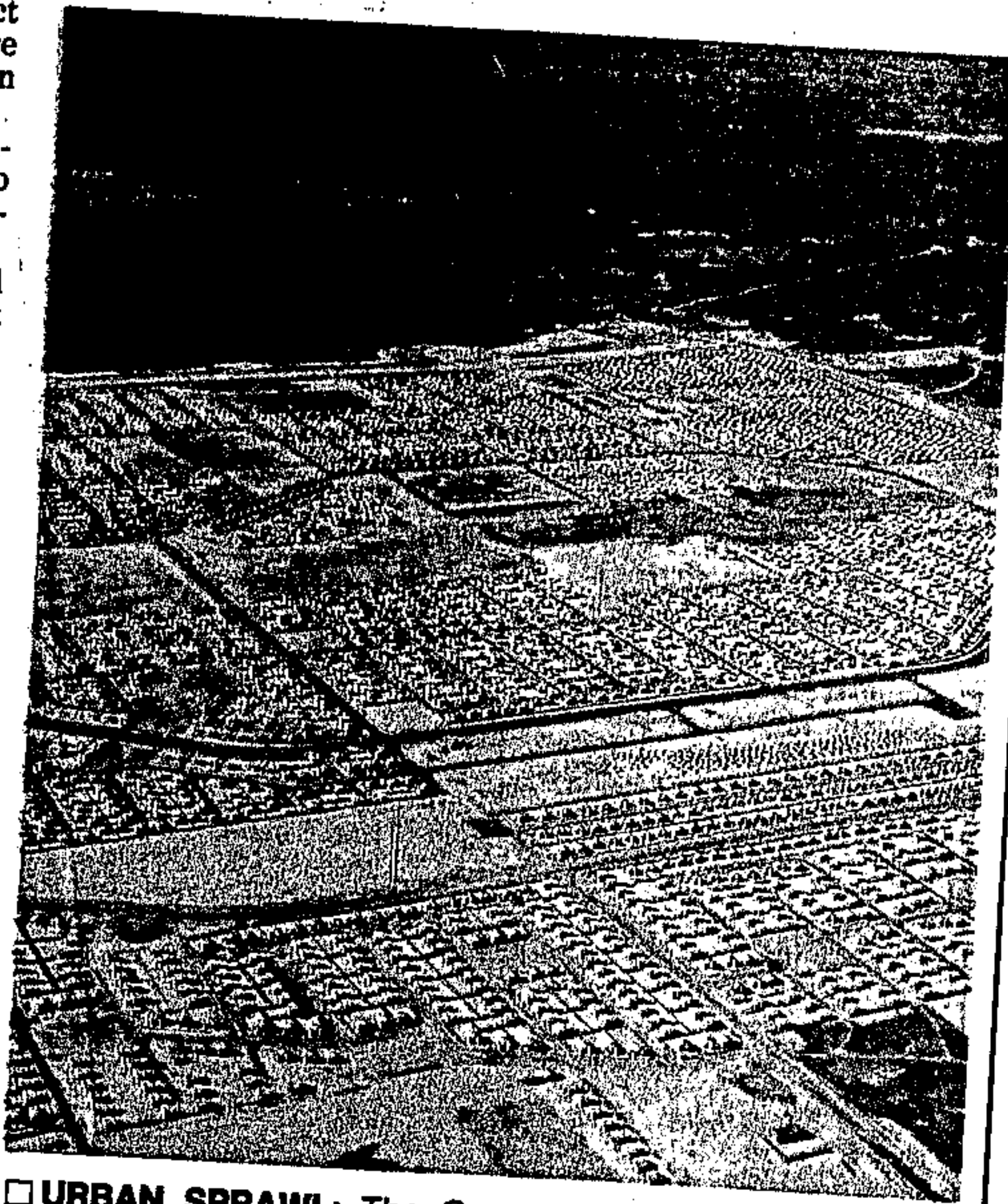
□ All conservation areas and other remnants of natural areas in Greater Cape Town must be linked; and

□ A top-notch education and public information service must be instituted, in which the value of natural and other open space as an irreplaceable asset is emphasised: for education, recreation, aesthetics, eco-tourism, the traditional use of indigenous plants, and other uses.

"As natural and other open space is fundamental to creating and maintaining an acceptable quality of life, it's vital that our unique environment informs development, and not the reverse," Mr Low argued.

"What is a priority now — for example, houses — may have reduced importance once affected communities have become more environmentally aware and have been provided with essential housing and other basic requirements.

"Thankfully, though, there are visionary thinkers such as John Neels of the SA National Civics Association, who acknowledge that a balanced approach to development is essential and promote this ethos vigorously among their various organisations."



□ **URBAN SPRAWL:** The Cape Flats, once a wilderness area rich in plant life.

Call for equal sharing

COMPANIES from industrialised nations must share equally with developing nations any benefits flowing from the exploitation of biological resources and indigenous knowledge in such countries.

This is one of the recommendations in a recent report from the World Wide Fund for Nature, *Ethics, Ethnobiological Research and Biodiversity*, authored by South African ethnobotanist Tony Cunningham.

The report calls for closer international

the collection, conservation, use and development of natural products.

It points out that while sales of the popular African violet are worth \$30 million (R93 million) each year, none of this is used to conserve the plant's original habitats in Tanzania.

Similarly, none of the income from sale of the anti-leukemia drug developed from the rosy periwinkle plant has been shared with countries where the original

Break this vicious circle

AR 5/6/93

WEEKEND ARGUS SPECIAL SURVEY

Reports by JOHN YELD

MORE than one billion people around the globe — one fifth of Earth's human population — live in extreme poverty, and their plight is also having a major impact on the planet's natural environment.

For many of these poor, the daily fight for survival means they are forced to live in a manner which severely degrades their environment: cutting down trees because there is no other source of fuel, or keeping destructive stock like goats because there is no other source of protein for them to eat.

"A part of being poor means destroying today what could have sustained you tomorrow. Not by choice, but as a necessity for immediate survival," says Ms Elizabeth Dowdeswell, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
UNEP is using World Environment Day this year to highlight the relationship between poverty and the environment.

In an editorial in UNEP's *Our Planet* magazine marking World Environment Day, Ms Dowdeswell pointed out that poverty was not the most important cause of environmental degradation.

"The poor use fewer resources, create less waste and do less harm to the environment than the rich.

"Wasteful over-consumption remains the single most powerful threat to the world's environment.

"But there is a threshold of poverty, however, below which the poor too become disproportionately destructive.

"There comes a point when present survival means destroying resources which could have nurtured the poor for years."

The most vivid image of this was of the farmer and his family eating their next year's seed grain — as had been happening in Somalia, she said.

"Other examples, less dramatic, are being repeated around the world.

"Wherever extreme poverty is a

problem, there you will find the poor sacrificing long-term benefits — what we call sustainability — to the short-term need to survive.

"Thus, extreme poverty is not only a result of environmental degradation, it is also — to some extent — a cause.

"Extreme poverty must be eliminated, not only for humanitarian reasons but also for environmental ones."

Ms Dowdeswell said there was a growing tide of opinion in the international community to the effect that poverty was itself one of the greatest causes of poverty.

"Not until the poor are given the means and opportunity to break out of the vicious circle in which poverty holds them, will real development — sustainable development — become a possibility."

The world had the ability to end absolute poverty. Once this was achieved, a major threat to the well-being of a large and growing number of people, as well as to the world's environment, would have been eliminated, Ms Dowdeswell



Elizabeth Dowdeswell

said.
"We must find the will and mobilise the necessary means to match our abilities, or else this poverty and degradation will continue to affect us all."

Unleaded petrol will cost South Africa a packet

AR 5/6/93

SINCE the late 1920's, lead has been added to petrol to increase the octane number of the fuel and thus make possible the development of high performance, spark ignition, internal combustion engines.

Practically all the lead entering the engine passes through to the atmosphere through the exhaust system, and a small quantity ends up in the engine lubricating oil.

Because of the known toxicity of lead compounds, concern has been expressed about lead entering the atmosphere by way of the motor vehicle population, and much debate and research have taken place.

Efforts have been made mainly in the United States, Japan and Europe to persuade the authorities to legislate to reduce or eliminate the lead in petrol.

However, the progressive removal of lead has been taking place because of the need to control other motor vehicle exhaust emissions which are more serious atmospheric pollutants. These are carbon monoxide, a toxic gas, as well as nitrogen oxides and burnt hydrocarbons — the precursors of photochemical smog.

Led by the United States, many countries have enacted legislation to control these emissions.

To meet these standards, it is necessary to install catalytic converters in the exhaust systems of cars. The only effective catalysts so far developed are poisoned and rendered ineffective by lead, thus unleaded petrol becomes a necessity.

Data compiled in the United States indicates that the lead-blood content of people tested has steadily declined since the turn of the century and that there is no long-term correlation between the use of lead in petrol and blood-lead levels. This may be more the result of direct ingestion of lead from sources such as water pipes, paint and industrial processes.

Lead is also naturally present in the soil in trace quantities, thus it does enter the food chain. Lead emitted from exhausts travels a small distance and one finds that the lead concentration is virtually zero within 10 metres of a road.

Elimination of lead from petrol also means a reduction in octane number, and as lead addition is the most economical way

of achieving required octane levels, expensive refinery processes are necessary to compensate for the effect of removing lead.

The cost of introducing unleaded petrol in South Africa will be high.

Total refinery capital expenditure will amount to about R1.4 billion and the RON 95 unleaded petrol will cost about eight cents a litre more to manufacture than RON 97 leaded petrol in 1992 money.

The South African car and light commercial parc (pool) consists of about 4.2 million vehicles whereas the world total is about 550 million.

The local market is thus small relative to the world market and we are dependent on technology input.

About 90 percent of new vehicles fitted with petrol engines sold worldwide are now designed to operate on unleaded petrol, thus we need to keep up with this trend.

■ This is Part 1 of a summary of a paper by Mr GEORGE BLEIMSCHEIN of BP Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd. Part 2 appears tomorrow.

Driven by poverty

to destroy livelihood

(57) AR45/6/93

THIS tragic scenario in a typical environmentally degraded area, described by UNEP executive director Ms Elizabeth Dowdeswell, has unfortunately become familiar in many countries around the globe.

"Stand with your back to the water and you will see the impact of poverty on the environment.

"In the foreground is a city whose most basic services have broken down.

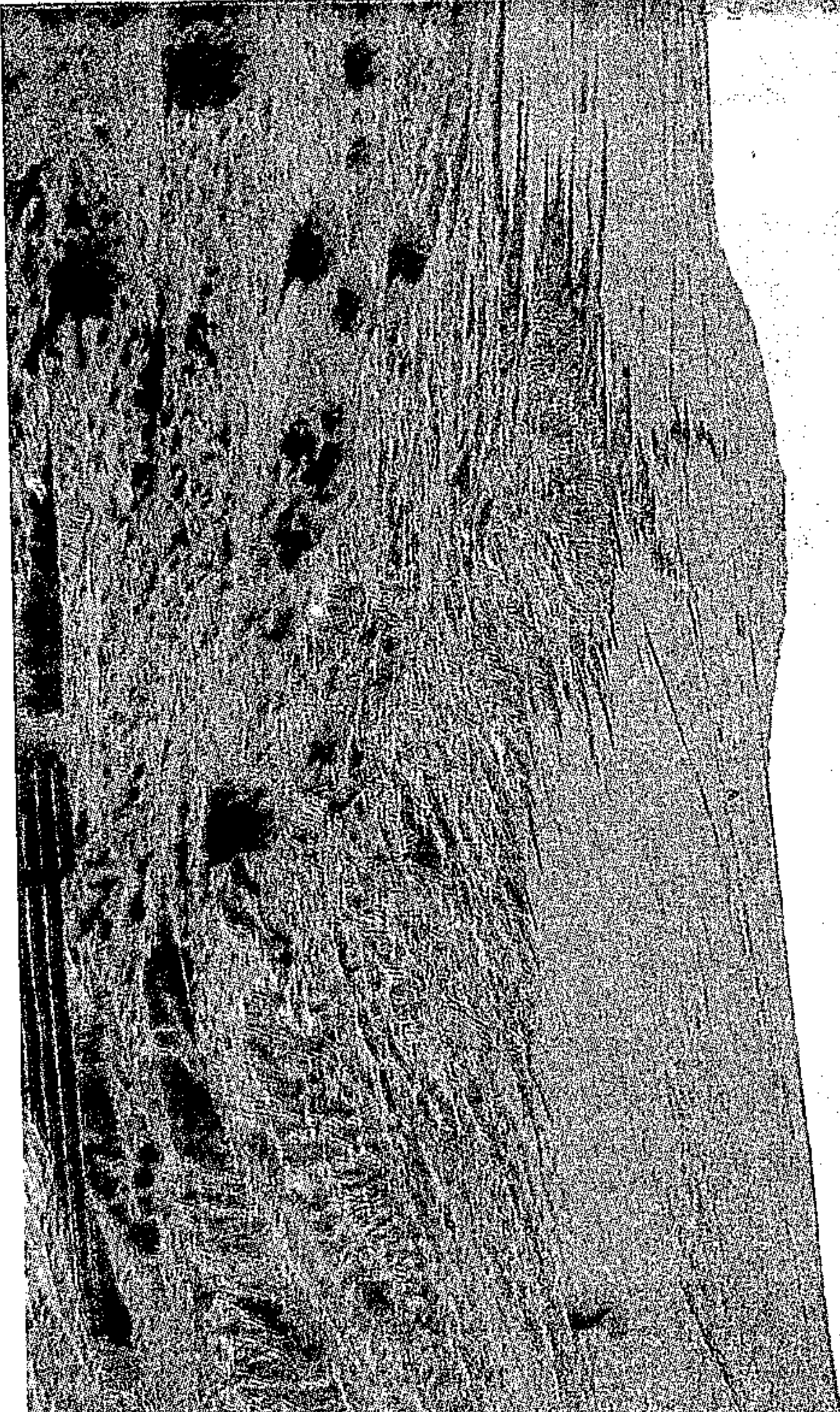
"Raw sewage is being pumped into the bay. Garbage collection is non-existent, and the carriers of infectious diseases are scurrying from one garbage pile to another.

"Lift your eyes and you will see denuded hillsides, cleared by people so desperate for fuel-wood they have destroyed the forests that hold the soil.

"If it's raining, you will see a river of mud - once rich topsoil - being washed through the town and into the sea.

"Turn around to face the sea or on a road and you will see the effect of this destruction: boats or vehicles with cargoes of refugees preparing for a journey to anywhere that will take them.

"This picture - of people driven by poverty to destroy their own means of sustenance - is repeated in many countries."



ERODED: Denuded Transkei hillside, cleared and over-grazed Picture: JOHN HANKS

Negotiators urged to include green rights in new SA

(57) AR45/6/93

POLITICAL leaders negotiating a new constitutional dispensation for South Africa are being urged to ensure that sound environmental rights and principles feature prominently in any new political system that is devised.

In one important initiative, the statutory Council for the Environment, which advises the Minister of Environment Affairs, has issued a two-part document aimed specifically at political leaders involved in the negotiation process.

Entitled *Environment in the New South Africa and Environ-*

mental Provisions in a new South African Constitution, the document emphasises that neither a new constitution nor a new political system will be viable unless both the rights and aspirations of all this country's citizens to a clean and healthy environment are recognised.

Council chairman Professor Roelf Botha said the document set out individual rights and responsibilities for such an environment.

The council believed these rights should be included in the new constitution as both a fundamental right and as directive principles, he said. In a second major initiative, three

organisations - Captrust, the Habitat Council (an umbrella organisation for a number of environmental and conservation interest groups) and the Environmental Law Association of SA joined forces to organise a series of workshops in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town last month, to forge a widely acceptable proposal for submission to the constitutional negotiations.

"The question of environmental rights has not been addressed in any constructive way at the constitutional negotiations which have taken place so far - neither at Codesa nor at the Multi Party Forum," ex-

plained Habitat Council executive officer Mr Wouter van Warmelo.

Legal experts and environmentalists at the workshop produced a draft three-part document consisting of a *Preamble*, *The Fundamental Right and Directive Principles*.

The principles refer to pollution control and waste management, education, administrative law, resource use and conservation, and administration.

The 28-page draft is being circulated among all taking part in the workshops for comment, and a final version will be sent to the constitutional negotiations.

Landfill sites are a necessary evil

NOBODY wants a landfill operation in their neighbourhood but the lack of such suitably managed facilities could lead to even bigger pollution problems, says Waste-Tech MD Ken Bromfield. (56)

He warns the "not in my back yard" syndrome prevents state-of-the-art hazardous waste landfill sites and could result in an increase in illegal midnight dumping.

He points out that if landfills are forced to move far away from residential and industrial areas, some industries could use unscrupulous waste operators to dump their industrial, and often toxic, waste into landfill sites which are not designed to handle this type of

hazardous material.

Other industrialists could decide to conduct their own dumping on sites such as unlicensed factory sites, open plots and in rivers.

Says Bromfield: "Midnight dumping will leave residents and their respective councils with an environmental headache of monumental proportions."

Far-flung

Those companies which adhere to the law will have to transport their waste to far-flung landfill sites and will be forced to pass on the additional cost burden to their customers.

Environmental lobby groups are touting waste minimisation as the answer to SA's waste problems.

Says Bromfield: "Re-use and waste minimisation at source are laudable objectives. However, it is unlikely that these measures will reduce the total amount of domestic and industrial waste produced, given the rapidity with which developing countries are industrialising and embracing the throw-away habits of the First World.

"Even if the waste minimisation ideal is reached, the remaining fraction of waste will be highly concentrated and toxic."

He says The Institute of Waste Management believes waste management will always include some element of sanitary landfill as the ultimate method of disposal.

Buss. Day 4/6/93

Looking further down the road is vital

INTEGRATED Environmental Management is the theme of this year's National Environment Week. The concept is intended to ensure that environmental considerations are effectively integrated into all stages of a physical development process.

The technique involves assessing possible effects on the environment at the conception of a project.

Included in the assessment are the identification of alternatives, continued reassessment in the course of a project, taking decisions on the development of a scheme and their physical implementation, and continuous monitoring of a

project's environmental effects, even after completion.

The aim is to avoid unforeseen effects on the environment as a result of developments.

Reckless

SA has a poor history in this regard. Reckless effluent disposal into rivers has damaged aquatic life and human water consumers. Inadequate air pollution controls and bad siting of smokestacks and chemical industry near residential areas has reduced air quality. Soil damage has resulted from ploughing or irrigation of areas unsuited to

these farming methods.

In the cities, urban planning has led to mistakes such as ill-placed freeway and rail routes through residential communities.

These situations might have been avoided if more thought had been given during planning to their effects on the environment.

The Environmental Affairs Department has put together a series of principles for the implementation of Integrated Environmental Management.

Broad

They include: a broad definition of the term environment to include physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, historical, and planning of proposals; informed decision making; an open, participatory approach in the planning of proposals; consultation with interested and affected parties; attempts to ensure that social costs of a development are outweighed by social benefits; accountability for information on which decisions are based and for the decisions taken; compliance with all the principles at all stages of a project's conception, planning and implementation, as well as concern for its decommissioning.

The Environmental Affairs Department's Theuns van Rensburg says the approach calls for concern for the environment from the "cradle to the grave" of a project.

"Development should involve the public at every stage of the process.

"The purpose of an examination exercise on a development proposal is to identify the major concerns of all interested parties, hear suggestions for improving the proposal or to find other ways of achieving the objectives, and identifying specific issues that the public and other parties would like to see addressed in the report.

Confidence

"Such participation gives the public confidence in planning professionals, specialists, developers and decision makers.

"The value of public participation should not be underestimated. People are educated in many important issues regarding the holistic approach to planning and development. Not only does everyone acquire a better understanding of the process, they also develop a better awareness of the environment and its sensitivity."

Metal can recovery boosted by ambitious new operation

Buss. Day 4/16/93

TAKING metal cans out of the waste stream and recycling the recovered metal has long been a feature of First World environmental programmes.

In SA, a limited scheme has been in operation, which has recovered a significant percentage of the country's annual can production. (56)

However, can recovery has received a much needed boost with the formation of a specialist can recovery company called Collect-a-Can.

The company is a joint venture between SA steel giant Iscor, Metal Box SA and Crown Cork.

In the initial stages Collect-a-Can will focus its efforts in the PWV region, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho.

Head of the new operation Nick Kock says Collect-a-Can will open two depots, in Industria and Pretoria.

The company is offering a financial incentive of one cent for every steel can delivered to its depots. Market-related rates will be applied to cans made from other metals.

Kock says Collect-a-Can is aiming to boost beverage can recovery from the current 20% to 50% within the next three years.

He says once the beverage can recovery goals are achieved, attention will be focused increasingly on other steel cans. In the meantime, Collect-a-Can will also accept other cans, provided they are clean and dry.

Kock expects the new

scheme will provide revenue-generating opportunities for the informal sector as well as giving schools, charities and other organisations another fund raising option.

Weight

The country's beverage manufacturers are also putting their weight behind the scheme.

South African Breweries human resources director Richard Davies says: "Collect-a-Can will significantly increase can recovery levels, addressing environmental concerns and providing job opportunities."

Crown Cork MD Harry Lavery says belief in the success of the scheme is founded on overseas experience, and "it does motivate the public".

Local populations must benefit from eco-tourism

HOW do you convince someone who cannot afford to send his children to school that the government is correct in spending millions on building a game park next door to him?

How do you convince a hungry man that the meat roaming on the other side of the fence is not for him to eat, but for rich tourists to look at?

It cannot be done, Satour has concluded. That man, and others like him, must benefit from the game park, otherwise eco-tourism, a major money spinner for the country, is doomed to fail.

More than R2,5bn was earned from foreign tourists in SA in the past financial year, and most of it came from game parks.

The suggestion from Satour, tourism development director

Mike Fabricius is that government funds to sponsor wildlife lodges should be granted only to those who ensure local inhabitants participate in management of the enterprise.

"Uplifting our people is the biggest challenge facing the tourism industry," Fabricius says in a document recently released by Satour.

Government recently made R600m available through the Industrial Development Corporation to subsidise the establishment of private game reserves and wildlife lodges.

Eco-tourism is one of the few industries in the world that allows a net flow of wealth from rich industrial nations to cash-strapped developing nations.

Research recently conduc-

ted by the World Travel Organisation shows that 85% of tourists want an "environmentally correct" holiday.

And in Kenya, a recent study showed wildlife tourism is 50 times more lucrative than cattle farming.

But is the cash going to the right people?

Buss
day 4/6/93
Together

Communities and conservationists, usually at loggerheads, got together at a conference last month organised by the Johannesburg-based Group for Environmental Monitoring.

A steering committee has been set up with community representatives from Kanguwane, Maputoland, Bophu-

thatswana, Gazankulu and the Richtersveld. It will be co-ordinated by the group, to make sure lines of communication are open and communities benefit from eco-tourism.

The communities around game parks have often given up their ancestral land, willingly or unwillingly, for wildlife to be preserved.

Frank Vorhies, resource economist from the Ecoplus consultancy, says the new priority being given to eco-tourism is a welcome shift from the "mine-set" that SA wealth can only be generated by exploiting non-renewable mineral resources. Renewable natural resources could be as valuable for the economy, if not more so. — Keeping Track.

AECI puts signature on charter

AECI was the first SA chemicals producer to set its mark on the International Chamber of Commerce's Business Charter for Sustainable Development.

MD Mike Sander says putting his signature to the charter commits AECI to the organisation's Principles for Environmental Management. 4/16/93

The charter was formally launched at the Second World Industry Conference in April 1991 and is designed to assist enterprises in fulfilling their commitment to environmental stewardship in a comprehensive fashion. (183)

Sander says in SA pressing needs for economic development, job creation, housing and social upliftment must be balanced by equally important needs for environmental protection and resource conservation. (56)

Richards Bay Minerals reaps rewards of rehabilitation

AS FORESTS around the world are destroyed and concern mounts about the future, the much maligned mining industry is holding out some hope for reforestation — restoring denuded forest to approximately their former glory, in a relatively short space of time.

For many years Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has been mining the titanium-rich sand dunes along the Zululand coast. While the dunes had already been damaged by farming and

grazing, mining completed the process.

However, before it began mining RBM appointed a full time ecologist — the first company in SA to do so — to investigate and implement appropriate rehabilitation practices observed in other parts of the world.

The results have been all that RBM might have wished. About 14 years after the first mining operations the dune forests are well on their way to being completely restored, some

to their original indigenous state and others to commercial plantations aimed at supplying a future fuel and charcoal industry.

Achievement

Chief ecologist Paul Camp says: "The greatest achievement in the dune rehabilitation process is that natural succession is successfully taking place against the expectations of a large number of critics." The first step in the process is to shape and contour

the mined sand or tailings to conform as closely as possible to the original dune topography. Following this process, nutrient-rich top soil and seed is removed from in front of the mining operation and spread over the tailings to a depth of about 10cm.

The next step is to sow a crop of cereal and indigenous seeds. A system of shade cloth windbreaks protect the seedlings from the wind. Within days the cereal seeds germinate and

provide additional protection for the slower germinating indigenous seeds.

The cereal plants, being annuals, die off after a short time and only the indigenous species remain.

The RBM project has provided academics and students from several universities with opportunities for furthering their research.

Two departments of the University of Pretoria are amongst the researchers involved in the project.

GO-AHEAD GIVEN FOR PAPER PICK-UP IN JOHANNESBURG

HOUSEHOLDERS in Johannesburg are now able to participate in Paper Pick-Up's recycling programme following a change in city regulations.

Paper Pick-Up is a division of Mondi Paperwaste operating a free national paper collection service.

National manager Peter Killick says old newspapers, magazines and junk mail are being collected on a door-to-door basis in more than 110 areas throughout the Johannesburg municipality. In the past it was prevented by Johannesburg City Council regulations.

Says Killick: "The potential is there to collect more than 500 tons a month and we hope to achieve these levels in a very short time."

"Promotional and collection aids in the form of brown paper bags have been issued directly to residents. The bags will make it easier for householders to save their papers and remember to put out the paper for recycling on the collection days."

Preserving 56

"I hope every household will get behind the project and assist us with our drive to recycle paper. The more paper we recycle, the more we are preserving our environment and SA's resources."

The paper being collected for recycling can be used to increase the quality of some paper products, especially newsprint.

Instead of taking up unnecessary space in municipal dumps and landfills, or becoming an unsightly litter problem, the waste paper also becomes a valuable renewable resource.

The recycled paper means fewer trees have to be cut to produce SA's daily diet of news. To make 100 tons of conventional newsprint requires 188 more trees than newsprint with a 25% recycled content.

Brown bags

Residents are requested to put old newspapers, magazines and junk mail into brown bags and leave them outside their front gates on collection days.

Says Killick: "If people do not have enough bags, they can make a pile of all their papers and tie them together with string, or even leave them loose with a brick on the top to keep papers from blowing away."

"Paper Pick-Up will collect the paper during the day, every two weeks, and residents will be reminded of their collection day through pamphlets."

If readers have any queries regarding the new service, they should contact Paper Pick-Up on its toll-free number, 0800-22112.

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Absa thrusts its weight behind awareness drive

Buss Day 4/16/93

(56) (58)

BANKING is becoming increasingly aware of the environment. Absa's staff are putting their ideas and efforts behind the National Environment Week.

Executive director (commercial banking) Nallie Bosman says World Environment Day and National Environment Week deserve the support of every organisation in the country, not only those that have a direct effect on the environment.

Says Bosman: "Absa believes that the most important contribution any company can make towards protecting the environment is through harnessing the commitment of its employees to be conservation minded.

"Absa has over 38 000 staff members in more than 1 000 offices throughout SA. By encouraging and supporting our staff to make a difference in their local communities, our country as a whole will benefit."

The bank's social manager, Kobus Conradie, says all branches and offices have been encouraged to launch a project in their local communities, aimed at furthering the aims of

World Environment Day. "We have appointed a panel of judges to evaluate the reports on the various projects. A large cash prize will be awarded to the branch or office that comes up with the best project."

Judging is on the basis of originality, impact and the degree of staff participation.

Where projects result in raising income through means such as the sale of materials for recycling, the funds will be paid into a central account and the proceeds donated to a prominent conservation body.

Selected

"This year we have selected the newly created Conservation Trust of the Natal Parks Board," Conradie says.

Absa offices are also vying for another cash prize. Staff, family and friends are collecting and raising cash, and the branch that raises the highest amount per staff member for the Conservation Trust, wins.

Conradie says participation is high, with almost every branch of Allied Bank, TrustBank, Volkskas Bank, United Bank and Bankfin putting together individual projects reflect-

ing local concerns and employee interests.

Together with primary school children, Volkskas Wynberg in the Cape is working to clean up the Silvermine Nature Reserve. Local businesses are contributing by providing food and drinks for the participants.

There is also a peaceful demonstration planned through the streets of Wynberg tomorrow.

TrustBank's Adderley Street branch in Cape Town is awaiting permission to clean off the graffiti from the rockfaces of Tafelberg. A clean up of the Cape Town station is also planned, as well as a waste paper drive and a tree-planting project.

Another TrustBank branch is planning a snare-hunt to remove illegal poachers' snares from its local wildlife reserve.

Conradie says these are just a sample of the hundreds of projects initiated by branches.

"We believe that through these conservation projects Absa staff members are making a meaningful contribution towards increasing awareness of the need to protect our environment," says Conradie.

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Russ Day 4/16/93

Sasol Oil leads drive for 'friendly' fuels

SASOL Oil — SA's oil-from-coal producer — is one of the leaders in the drive to develop fuels less hazardous to the environment.

MD Danie de Villiers says Sasol Oil's fuels are far more environment-friendly than is usually appreciated.

Says De Villiers: "We have achieved several major fuel formulation breakthroughs in recent years."

"People are often unaware that the Sasol processes used to produce diesel and petrol offer major environmental advantages over conventional fuels. We have one of the most advanced fuel laboratories in the world in which we develop and test new formulations."

He says the trend in First World countries is towards making reformulated or environment-friendly fuels by reducing aromatics, olefins and sulphur content, lowering vapour pressure limit, lead omission and adding of alcohol and other fuel oxygenates.

De Villiers says: "Our fuel-making process has major advantages over the traditional crude-oil fuels. Apart from olefin and lead levels, says Sasol's output

already conforms to most US reformulated fuel specifications. (2/5)

"The impetus came from within Sasol, where we are keen to make whatever cost-justified refinements we can to our fuels and their impact on the environment. This forms a part of our overall corporate commitment to environment-friendly products and processes." (56)

Sasol advances include:

- Removal of sulphur compounds, eliminating sulphur exhaust emissions and reducing harmful effects in motor vehicle engines;
- Reduction of aromatics such as benzene;
- An effective deposit-control additive package;
- Increasing amounts of oxygen-containing alcohols to improve the combustion process, while reducing noxious carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons in exhaust gases and;
- Reducing vapour pressure for lower evaporative emissions during vehicle refilling.

In terms of sulphur and aromatics content, diesel produced from coal by Sasol more than complies with the US's proposed diesel formulation for 1995.

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Law book on environment

PRETORIA. — A guide-book on South Africa's environment-related laws has been published in an effort to assist managers and developers.

(56)
The four-book guide to environmental legislation was released by the Department of Environment Affairs here on Tuesday and is available free of charge.

Commenting on the publication, company managing director Mr Ken Bromfield said developers were often confused by the quagmire of legal jargon pertaining to business and the environment.

ET 3/6/93
"Only after they have completed a project do they realise that they're contravening one act or another. They then either have to spend money to rectify the situation or they cover it up and hope not to get caught," he said. — Sapa

^{ALL}
^{2/6/93}
'Greatly improved water' at Green Point

CLIVE SAWYER (56)
Municipal Reporter

EXTENSIONS to the Green Point sewage outfall pipe, due to be completed this month, would improve water quality in the area significantly, said city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

In a report on bacteriological data for coastal waters from April to March, Mr Clayton said there had been a "general improvement" in the quality of water near the outfall since the extension of the outfall point to 500 metres beyond the sea wall last June.

But while water between Granger Bay beach and opposite Park Road had improved, it still failed to comply with European Community bathing water standards.

While water quality at Rocklands Beach was below standard because of polluted stormwater run-off, there was an improvement after stormwater was diverted to the sewerage system.

On the False Bay coast, the entire coastline from Kalk Bay to just beyond Mitchell's Plain complied with bathing water standards.

Water near two outlets from Mitchell's Plain was below standard because of polluted stormwater.

'Water quality has improved'

CT 2/6/93 (56)

Municipal Reporter
WATER quality has improved in the vicinity of the Green Point underwater sewage pipe outfall, assistant city engineer Mr Henk Beekman reported yesterday.

He said this was particularly so since the extension of the discharge point from 170m, after the pipe broke three years ago, to 500m beyond the sea wall last year.

A further significant improvement is expected, as the discharge point is to be extended to just over 1 000m by the time the engineers stop work for the winter this month.

In the period up to March this year, the latest for which official water quality figures are available, European Community bath-

City pollution 'double the limit'

Municipal Reporter

THE nitrogen oxides reading in the City Hall yesterday was more than double the guideline level owing to a "classic winter inversion".

Air pollution officer Mr Derrick Oxley said that in winter there was often a layer of cold air below a warmer one. Pollutants were trapped in the lower layer, and this led to vastly

increased pollutant readings.

The nitrogen oxides reading at 8am yesterday was 3 076 micrograms per cubic metre, while the guideline level is 1 504.

Even the nitrogen dioxide level was above the recommended level, although only marginally so. The NO₂ reading at 10am yesterday was 391, while 376 is the guideline figure.

ing water standards have not yet been achieved, on average, between Granger Bay and a point opposite Park Road in Green Point.

Off Rocklands beach the water has also not yet reached acceptable bathing water standards, Mr Beekman said.

On the other side of the Peninsula only two areas, both in Mit-

chells Plain, do not comply compared to five in the previous report on the False Bay coastline six months ago.

"Virtually the entire coastline from Kalk Bay to just beyond the Mitchells Plain Wastewater Treatment Works outlet complied with the bathing water standards."

The council regularly monitors sea quality at 40 selected points.

Telkom gets leave to appeal

TELKOM has received leave from the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein to appeal against a judgment restraining it from terminating the telephone service of a Cape Town man, pending the resolution of the dispute on his account.

The telephone service of Retreat naval employee Mr Ray-

mond Richardson was suspended on January 11, 1993 when he refused to pay three telephone accounts received in April, May and June last year amounting to R2 000.

In the Cape Town Supreme Court in February Telkom was restrained by Mr Justice RM Marais from suspending or termi-

nating Mr Richardson's telephone service.

Mr Richardson denied Telkom's claims that he had made 087 calls and said his bills were normally R100 a month. He said that during the period of the disputed amounts Telkom employees had been working on lines in the area.

CPA gives ambulance warning

Municipal Reporter

A BASIC life support ambulance service only will be provided to all communities in future — and any community that needs a higher level of service should supply its own additional finance, the Cape Provincial Administration has suggested to local authorities.

Dr J M Kotzé, director of emergency medical services, told local authorities in a letter that if local authorities which run ambulance services on behalf of the province exceed their budgets, they will have to finance the over-expenditure.

The city council's ambulance branch has also recommended that charges for ambulances to

attend sporting events be increased.

It has already been reported that the Administrator-in-Executive has reduced the ambulance budget for 1993/4 by R7 million, from R108m to R101m.

Guideline budgets have now been sent out, but these have

yet to be cut by a few percentage points, with the help of local authorities.

It was hoped that improving community-based health facilities would reduce the number of ambulance trips, and also reduce pressure on the more specialised medical establishments but this has not proved to be the case.



GREEN SEASON ... Sivi van der Venter, 17, took coloured flowers which a recently burnt area c

This will be its last... Don't miss today's

Locals build Phinda's second lodge

THE Conservation Corporation (Conscorp) has assembled its own community-based construction crew to build its second lodge at the Phinda reserve in Natal.

The 32-bed forest lodge is under construction in the north of the reserve, near St Lucia, and is scheduled for completion by October.

MD Alan Bernstein said the corporation had decided it would be more cost-effective and appropriate to utilise its own resources and the skills available in the adjacent KwaZulu area.

"This slots in with our philosophy of creating re-

PETER GALLI

gional wealth through utilising local expertise and resources. This involves the training and employing of local people and is done in close association with project managers Schneid Israelite," he said.

Between R2m and R3m of the total R7m construction cost will be spent in the region. The 35 Phinda construction workers have either already been employed at Phinda in other fields or were unemployed locals. Many of them have been taught skills.

"We provided all the training and building skills, to allow the team to complete the basic construction and establish the water and reticulation systems," Bernstein said.

While the project did not use conventional building methods, the quality of the work had been "excellent".

The novel design of the lodge, which was raised on stilts more than a metre off the ground, had proved an enormous challenge for the

project management team, which had to ensure that the disturbance of the sensitive forest environment was kept to a minimum.

"Apart from elevating the entire lodge above the forest floor, the other unique design elements are a flat roof of sisal poles covered in lichen, and glass walls opening up to the forest canopy," he said.

To ensure as little construction on site as possible, many of the lodge components — about 50% by value — were being manufactured off-site. "The 16 suites consist of a relatively simple timber, glass and core brickwork structure."

The lodge is on the fringe of a forest overlooking an open vlei. The aim of the design is to enable guests to feel part of the scene.

"It was vital that the architecture complemented but did not dominate the forest, and that the materials were sympathetic to the surroundings. An outer shell was designed using timber, sisal and plaster,

with a high-quality internal finish," Bernstein said.

The R7m for the forest lodge had been financed primarily through equity funding and long-term borrowings. However, the group's gearing was small, though it would increase as development took place.

The first lodge, Phinda Nyala, can sleep 44 and the forest lodge will accommodate 32 when it opens in October. Conscorp plans to construct another two lodges at the reserve, depending on demand.

"About 10% of our present funding is through borrowing. Our three lodges — Phinda, Londolozi and Ngala — have performed in line with projections, and the group is making profits at the operating level.

"However, the effects of the political upheavals over the past two months will probably be reflected only in six months' time. While the industry is fixed-cost driven, any pick-up in occupancies quickly results in improved profits," he said.

Focus on environmental issues

Buss. day 21/6/93

MARIANNE MERTEN

AT LEAST four conferences on integrated environmental management (IEM) have been planned over the next four months as SA companies become increasingly aware of the relevance of IEM principles in general business management.

Environmental lawyer Joe Campanella said IEM was "very relevant" in bringing about "moral suasion on big business" to adopt sustainable development practices which would not damage the environment. (56)

Government's recently published white paper — Policy on a National Environmental Management System for SA — was also a "serious signal" indicating its intention to promulgate environmental laws, he said.

In a paper delivered at an IEM symposium earlier this year, Campanella said that in terms of international trade, SA

would have to adhere "to environmental standards set by importing countries for products exported by SA industry".

Developments in the EC since the 1987 Single European Act came into effect had already shown the EC's willingness to pass legislation in the interest of environmental protection, although it might interfere with purely economic interests, he said.

The Johannesburg-based conferences are: Environmental Impact Management Today on June 3; a National Environmental Management System for SA symposium on June 10; a three-day conference and workshops on environmental liability and auditing on July 19 and 21; and the Wastex and Water Africa '93 exhibition from September 20 to 24.

PSA puts squeeze on govt

Buss. day 21/6/93

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The current 5% pay increase for the public sector and teachers was likely to be the last time government would "get away with it", Public Servants' Association (PSA) sources said last week.

Teachers' Federal Council chairman Allan Powell said a Bill incorporating all accepted international principles and criteria for the settlement of disputes between educators and government had reached an advanced stage.

It provided for the creation of a body along the lines of an education labour council which would fill in details and conditions governing dispute procedures.

PSA GM Hans Olivier said the Public Service Labour Relations Bill had had a first reading and he was optimistic it would become law before Parliament rose next month. (DUSTO) (BELL)

Once it was law there would no longer be unilateral decisions by government on

"non-negotiable" salary hikes, he said. Government would have to justify its stand in arbitration proceedings.

The current situation highlighted how totally powerless public sector workers were in labour disputes.

Government had admitted the 5% pay increase was inadequate and that there were special categories in the teaching profession and in the public service which merited sympathetic attention.

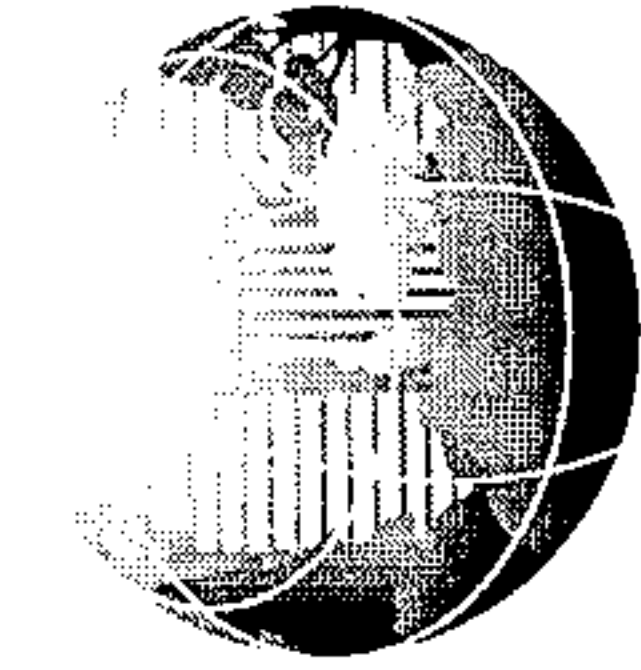
But Olivier pointed out that there was no intention of increasing the total amount budgeted for salary increases.

If some categories were given more than 5%, other categories would ipso facto get less than 5%.

But until the labour relations legislation went through Parliament there were no channels through which this could be effectively challenged.

Hands off our mountain

Green scene



JOHN YELD

57
AUG 31/5/93

IT'S time for cool heads and a general "hands-off" as far as Table Mountain is concerned.

That may sound paradoxical, coming from someone who's been agitating for more pronounced conservation action on the mountain, but let's look at where matters stand at present.

After years of relative neglect (was it under a cloud, perhaps?) this famous symbol of Cape Town is suddenly basking in the attention of politicians and conservationists.

Sir Edmund Hillary's brief visit and the launch of the SA Nature Foundation's R25 million Table Mountain Fund earlier this month had much to do with its metaphoric rise in prominence, but several important initiatives were launched last year, well before the current blaze of publicity.

The most important of these was the appointment of the University of Cape Town as consultants to produce a blueprint for the future man-

agement of the entire Peninsula mountain chain.

On paper, the UCT team's brief may have been restricted to an ecological inquiry, but — I understand — in practice the team's focus is, quite correctly, somewhat broader.

For the physical environment doesn't stand in isolation from the social and economic environments. Impacts have causes, and sound future management may not be possible in areas which, in previous years, were legally defined in ways which ignored or cut across natural ecological features.

Also, the Khan working group on how to rationalise existing public ownership has yet to report.

One of the major management problems on the mountain has been — and remains — the rapid spread of alien vegetation, and Democratic Party spokesman for the environment Rupert Lorimer is quite correct to draw attention to shortcomings in this regard.

But to point fingers at the

Cape Town City Council's record in particular is decidedly unfair. Council staff have, with limited resources, done a remarkable job in protecting the mountain area under their control.

Of course, this is not to suggest that the council's record on Table Mountain is unblemished. One only needs to look at the disgraceful and cynical abuse of Signal Hill, for example, where large-scale dumping of road waste continued for years after the original "erosion donga" had been filled.

There have been other isolated disasters — like the decision to put a concrete toupee on Lion's Head — and some management actions need urgent revision, like the

amount of water extracted from the Disa River.

But overall, I would suggest, the Table Mountain and Silvermine nature reserves are in reasonable shape.

There have been other heroic efforts on the Peninsula mountain chain — alien clearing in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve by staff of the Western Cape Regional Services Council; path rebuilding by a Kirstenbosch botanical gardens team; the removal of pine trees from precarious cliffs by the former Department of Forestry's "mountaineering" team.

Mr Lorimer would have done better to point his guns in the direction of some of the other landowners within the

fort in eradicating plants if a neighbour Department of Public Works has, until very recently, happily ignored its contribution to the plantations which seed far and wide in the south-easter.

Mr Lorimer is quite right to call for the mountain to be declared a national monument, something which should have been done years ago, but appropriate expropriation and/or management control are essential.

But just who should manage such a park is a matter for debate.

The city council has a long history of doubted experience in managing the mountain, but the RSC has similar experience.

The RSC has similar experience, although its "old-style" autocratic management are serious shortcomings.

Cape Nature Conservation also has appropriate experience, although it's a newcomer to the participation game and its record is not as clearly accountable as that of the RSC. But all three insti-

Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

The Department of Defence is one target he could have aimed at — among other shortcomings, the wattle plantation above Llandudno has caused immense ecological damage and is a serious disgrace.

Fish Hoek municipality has allowed its famous sanddunes to become totally overrun with alien acacia trees, as has Bankorp Properties at Sandy Bay.

And although the city council may have been doing more to remove young wattle plants from Devil's Peak, there's little point in spending huge amounts of time and ef-

Dam levels plunge as drought bites

Star 31/5/93

By Shirley Woodgate

Many dams countrywide are at critically low levels and large regions are in the throes of drought, according to Environment and Water Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk.

In the Transvaal, no water was being supplied from the empty Doringdraai Dam; Loskop Dam had been granted a 40 percent irrigation quota; the 4 percent-full Fanie Botha Dam on the Letaba River had irrigation water only until the end of June; and the Njelele Dam behind the Soutpansberg and the Hartbeesfontein Dam on the Crocodile River had been granted 60 percent quotas.

The Marico-Bosveld, Albasini and Lindleyspoort are either empty or have not enough water and strict restrictions are being applied to the Crocodile River, eastern Transvaal and the Komati River, Van Wyk said.

In Natal, irrigators relying on the Hazelmere Dam, which was at its lowest since it was built in the '70s, were maintaining a voluntary 30 percent restriction, but this may have to be raised to 70 percent.

Several rivers on the North Coast were subject to restrictions, he said. There was a total ban on irrigation from the White Mfolosi River and farmers dependent on Goedertrouw Dam were applying restrictions of 50 percent.

In the Cape, a 50 percent restriction had been imposed for the first time since the construction of the Orange River Project. This was a direct result of the abnormal drought which had led to the lowest recorded inflows in 1992-93, he said.

The water supply in rural areas of Natal-KwaZulu, Ciskei, Transkei and parts of the eastern Cape was causing concern. A combined effort by the Water Affairs and Forestry Department, the Water Supply Task Force, the Joint Services Board and the respective governments was providing emergency relief. Towns subject to strict restrictions were Richards Bay, Ulundi, Adelaide, Graaff-Reinet and Steytlerville.

Most towns in the northern Transvaal had restricted water supply, including a 30 percent supply cut in Potgietersrus, the Pietersburg-Seshego area, Tzaneen and Nelspruit, Van Wyk said.

Maybe rangers could beat up the tourists

Star 31/5/93

(56) ~~222~~

IT WAS the weirdest mountain region I had ever seen — an agglomeration of naked, smooth and unclimbable beehive-shaped mountains, curiously banded with black and red stripes. This is the Bungle Bungle National Park, in the arid Kimberley region of Australia's remote north-west.

I had reached it via Darwin with six other journalists from around the world. We flew south to the tiny town of Kununurra with its "boabs" (baobab trees) and crocodiles.

From here we used two light aircraft to fly a further 300 km south into the Bungle Bungle wilderness.

We landed on a hot, dry plain where John Burns, a tour guide, waited with a vehicle to take us to his camp.

The Bungle Bungle is wild, well-wooded country with a few sand roads. It has some patches of white "kapok plants" which come from Afghanistan. In the 19th century, Afghan camel drivers provided the main means of transport across the great deserts of Australia and their worn saddles, stuffed with kapok, dribbled seed wherever they went.

Our camp was spartan indeed. A few tiny, bell-shaped tents, each containing a single bed, were scattered among the spindly eucalyptus trees. A pair of sulphur-crested cockatoos were nesting near the corrugated iron shed which served as a larder and toolshed.

A blue-winged kookaburra clattered away above the primitive shower and, in a nearby creek, a flock of pea-green budgerigars burst from a bush.

From here we explored the high, narrow passages which penetrate the zebra-striped mountains — passages so narrow that, at times, we had to squeeze sideways. Some opened up into towering gorges forested by a tall endemic species of

In this new age of ecotourism, just how rugged should bush camps be for tourists? JAMES CLARKE stirs up a controversy in Australia.

palm. Many of the clefts end in silent, cathedral-like caves containing large pools.

Back in the bush camp there was no shelter from the burning sun nor from the freak cloud-bursts which, from mid-afternoon and throughout the night, dumped an unbelievable amount of rain on our camp.

The rains — so freakish that our disbelieving guide ran around taking photographs — precluded any more exploration of the narrow gorges.

It had never rained in May before, we were told. We managed to get out of the area in a four-wheel-drive bus which took five hours to do the first 53 km. It was an unplanned but exciting road journey which revealed more strange birds and plants.

We saw the sun set in a sky that was red and raw from its wounds but, in our distant wake, we could see blue-black clouds continuing to dump their loads over the Bungle Bungle.

At the usually arid Turkey Creek — the only dot on the map between the Bungle Bungle and Kununurra — we stopped in pouring rain at a roadhouse and fell into conversation with a local guide. We mentioned that the conditions in the Bungle Bungle National Park were a little too austere.

He looked at us in disbelief: "John Burns's camp is luxury!" he said. "Come back in 10 years and you'll find even fewer amenities than you see now."

I asked him why they did not consider building simple twin-

bedded wooden huts to replace the tents. People need private space and shade. And why not have paraffin lamps instead of the diesel-driven spotlights which light the camps?

He was dead against anything this permanent.

And a campfire, I said (by now feeling like a traditional carping tourist), is essential for the enjoyment of being in the bush.

"We will never allow the burning of wood from national parks," he said.

I told him that South Africa also forbids the cutting up of dead trees in national parks, but firewood is brought in from outside.

He said the ash would be a problem. I ploughed on: ash can be buried or put down the lavatory holes to kill the odour.

A few days later I raised the question of just how primitive wilderness camps should be, when I addressed a meeting of the Western Australian Tourist Commission.

I suggested that camps could be a lot more comfortable and that, every hour or so, the rang-

ers could hit tourists with sticks to make sure they were not enjoying themselves too much.

I was relieved when those in tourism agreed that being in the wilderness should be a pleasurable rather than a macho experience. Many questions followed about South Africa's attitude towards roughing it.

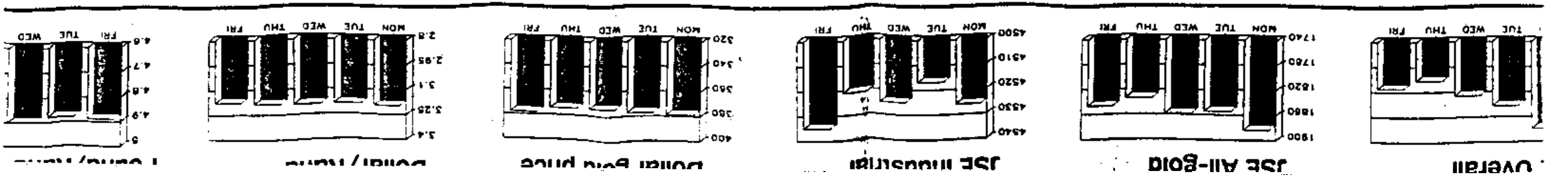
Australia, like South Africa, is still uncertain about where to draw the line when it comes to bush camps in this new age of ecotourism. Both countries fear that over-catering for tourists could ruin that which attracts ecotourists in the first place.

Australia — seven times the size of South Africa — has more unspoilt wilderness than the whole of southern Africa's land surface combined.

It is still largely undiscovered by tourists. Its 28 000 km coastline offers all sorts of uniquely Australian attractions.

Its 2 000 km-long Great Barrier Reef, which we visited, has an unrivalled richness of marine species and has been so jealously preserved that on only one of its 2 500 islands can tourists sleep over. □

MADAM & EVE



Star 21/5/93
Water project on track (56)

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project would not overrun its estimated capital cost of R5,9 billion, and water delivery from the project should start in January 1997 as scheduled, Minister of Water Affairs Japie van Wyk said last week, introducing his vote in Parliament. — Sapa. (56)

Star 31/5/93
Water project on track (5b)

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project would not overrun its estimated capital cost of R5,9 billion, and water delivery from the project should start in January 1997 as scheduled, Minister of Water Affairs Japie van Wyk said last week, introducing his vote in Parliament. — Sapa. (5b)

By MICHAEL CHERRY

BIODIVERSITY is the word on everybody's lips.

One of the more concrete obligations arising from the Rio conference last year is that signatories establish national strategies to combat the accelerating extinction of plant and animal species.

A group of South African and Namibian scientists met last month in the Namib Desert to consider the options for these two countries, where there are many other pressing demands, both on the fiscus and for land use.

They were in broad agreement on two issues: that conservation of representative habitats was more important than species conservation, and that the protection of biodiversity should, if possible, be linked with the social and economic development of local communities.

National Parks and other wildlife reserves, which at present occupy only six percent of South Africa's land surface, have tended to have been perceived with suspicion by local inhabitants, who have often been evicted from the land at proclamation.

The parks and reserves are visited largely by a middle-class clientele, and rigid restrictions usually prevent utilisation, sustainable or otherwise, of traditional resources by locals.

If more land is to be acquired to ensure adequate protection of our fauna and flora, the private sector is going to be a major player, and this means land use will have to be profitable.

When the then Minister of Environment Affairs Gert Kotze mooted the establishment of the Greater St Lucia Wetlands Reserve three years ago, the Conservation Corporation's progenitors thought their plans to create the Phinda Resource Reserve had been scuppered.

FUNDS

The state announced its intention to link the St Lucia and Mkuze game reserves, the Sodwana Bay National Park, and several state forests to create the country's third-largest reserve.

But in reality they had no funds to expropriate the land, and in October 1991, Phinda was opened.

Formerly a series of game, cattle and pineapple farms, it is now a private reserve wholly owned by the Conservation Corporation, set up two years ago to attract investment to undervalued or degraded natural wildlife resources.

It comprises 17 000ha in southern Maputaland, and contains a spectacular diversity of habitats: savannah, bushveld on the foothills of the Lebombo mountains, acacia thornveld, open grassland, and, most importantly, 800ha of sand forest, representing 90 percent of this vegetation type left on private land in this country.

This unusual diversity of habitat within a relatively small area means the reserve is rich in species, including 400 bird species and some rare mammals, notably sunni, and one of only three South African populations of the red squirrel.

It is also one of the most important sites in Africa of a group of marine fossils called ammonites, which were deposited in the sediment of the coastal plain between

PHINDA

Making ecotourism profitable for the people

SI Times 30/5/93

56



120- and 70-million years ago.

Over the past two years white rhino, elephant, lion, cheetah, giraffe, zebra and many antelope species have been reintroduced to the area.

A 48-bed lodge was built on a hill-top in the foothills of the Lebombos, and a second lodge, in the sand forest, is due to be completed by the end of the year.

Phinda does not provide people's tourism: rates start at R515 a person a night.

But low-density ecotourism is surprisingly labour-intensive: just in terms of formal employment, the reserve is providing jobs for 230 people, almost three

times the 80 former employees of the previous landowners.

In the adjacent area of KwaZulu, each wage-earner has up to 10 dependants, so they are already a major employer in the local economy.

There is further job creation derived from construction: nearly half of the R5,5-million contract for the first lodge was channelled into the surrounding community in the form of local wages and building materials.

A local poacher-turned-entrepreneur, Zibane Mazibuko, has been lent the money to buy two brick-moulding machines, which he is using to manufacture

bricks for the new lodge.

In terms of resource utilisation, Phinda allows harvesting of palm wine from the ilala palms, as well as that of wood, thatch and medicinal plants, on a sustainable basis.

Another former local poacher, Thomas Nokomo, has established a charcoal business in the reserve, with seven employees, using wood removed in the course of the reserve's bush-clearing programme.

The company has also established a Rural Investment Fund, which plans to attract investment and donations for development projects in the areas surrounding its reserves.

A grant from an anonymous donor is being used to establish a clinic, school and skills-training centre for the neighbouring KwaZulu communities of Nqobokazi and Mduku.

The Development Bank has agreed to finance the building of a new Sodwana Bay Road, which will run through the KwaZulu enclave, and generate more informal economic activity.

This would make the existing road, running along the reserve's eastern boundary, redundant, which could permit the removal of the boundary fences between Mkuze and Phinda.

Three months ago Phinda joined forces with other local private landowners to create the Mkuze-Wana Game Reserve, operating under one constitution committing them to certain conservation-based principles and defining ownership of game (an important consideration when fences come down).

MODEL

Ultimately, they hope to join forces with the Greater St Lucia Reserve to create a huge biosphere reserve in the region.

An important step towards realising this concept was the recent purchase of a block of land by the SA Nature Foundation, linking Mkuze to the 112 000ha Sodwana State Forest. This latter area, which abuts Lake St Lucia, was transferred to Natal Parks Board control in 1989 when the Department of Forestry's functions were rationalised.

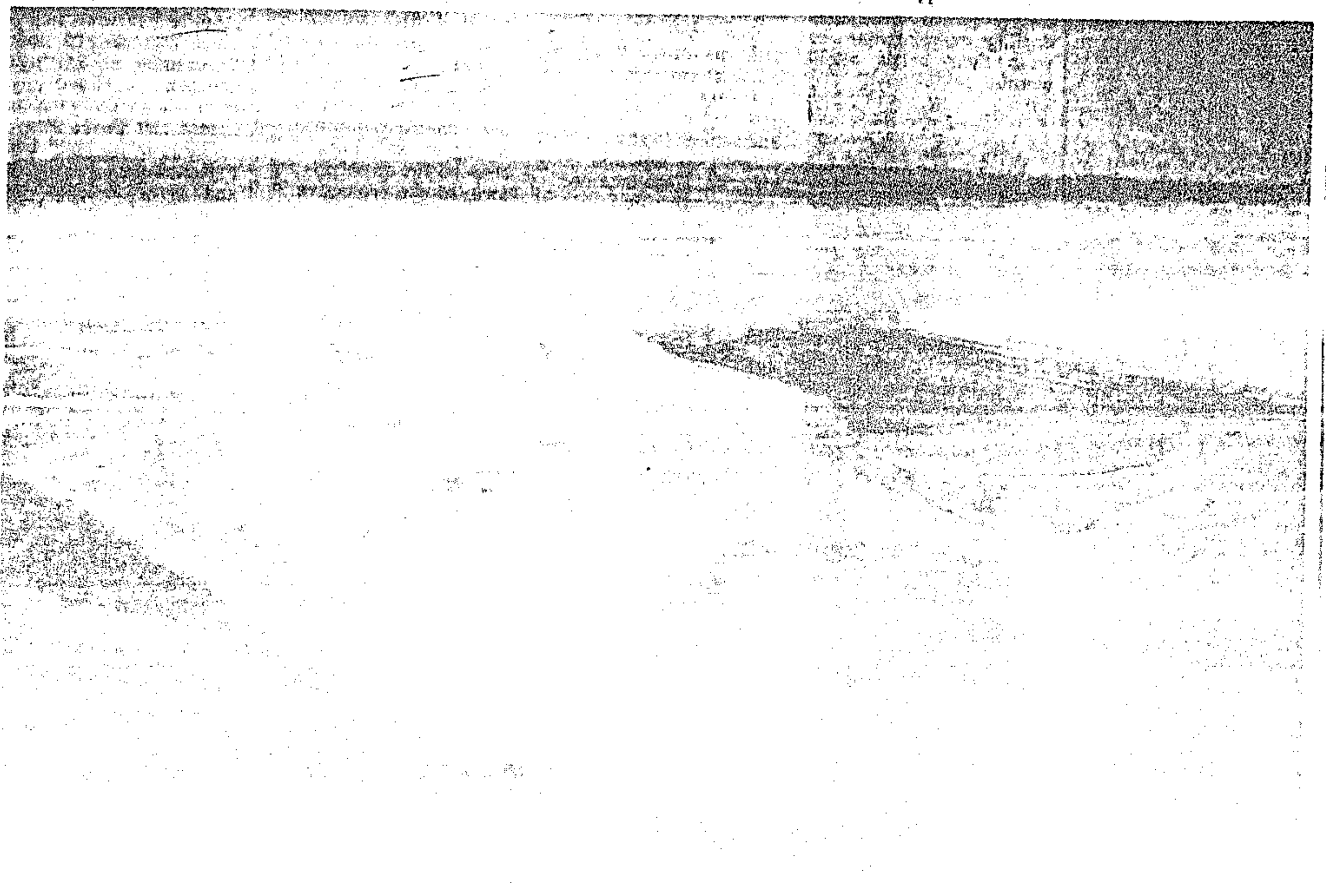
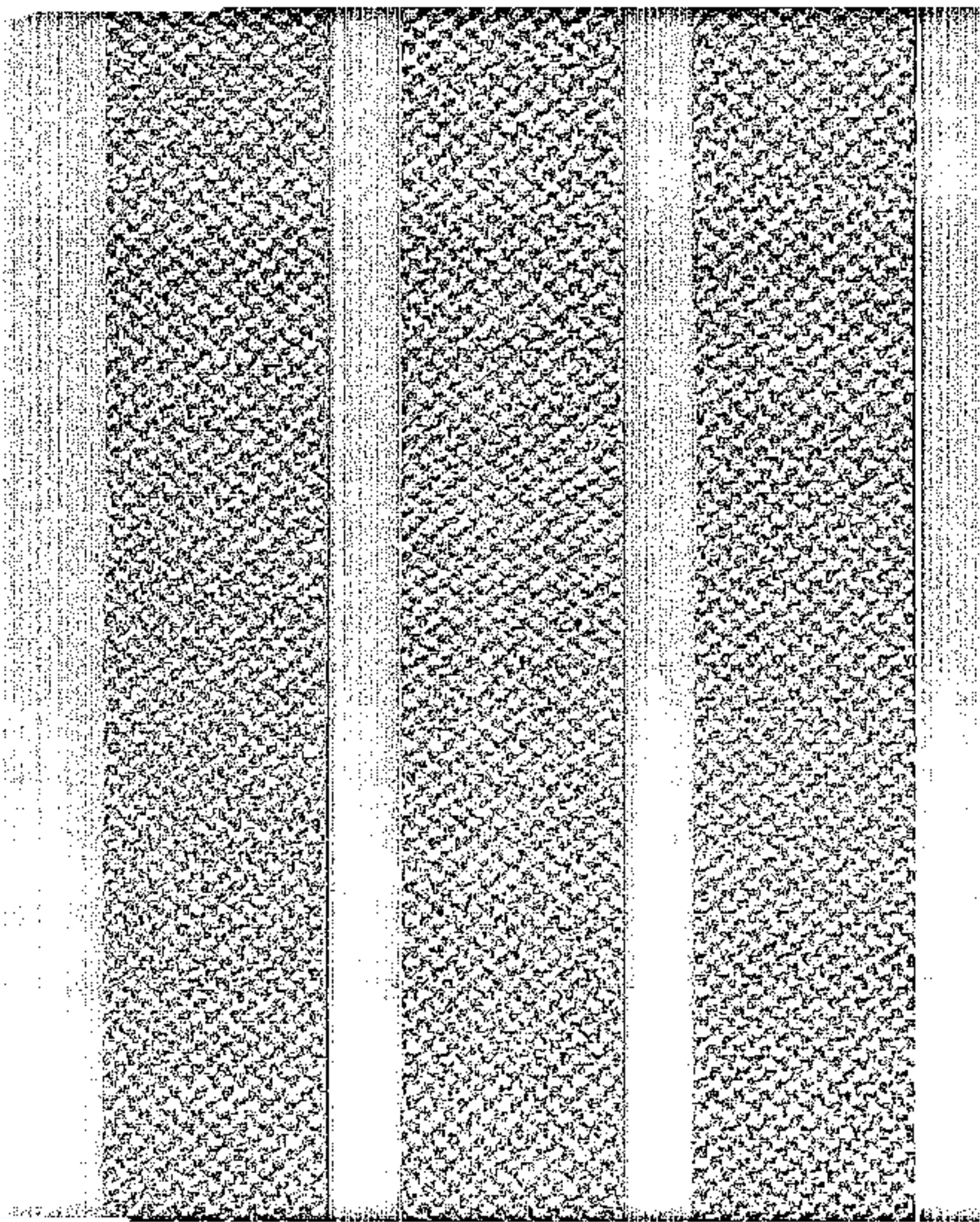
The Phinda development was financed by R78-million of equity, 39 percent of which was put up by foreign investors. The balance was raised locally, the major shareholders being Anglo American and De Beers, Metropolitan Life, Fedlife Assurance, Southern Life and the AECI Pension Fund.

The Varty brothers' Eastern Transvaal farm, Londolozi, which served as a model for the development of Phinda, also falls under the umbrella of the Conservation Corporation, of which Dave Varty is one of the four directors. It has also been leased 14 000ha on the western boundary of the Kruger Park from the National Parks Board, where it has refurbished the Ngala Game Lodge.

Tourism is one area in which the South African economy really could expand significantly. At present, it contributes only 2 percent of the GDP, as opposed to a world average of 6 percent, and employs only one in 70 workers, compared with a world average of one in 15.

Like everything else, the success of ecotourism in SA will depend on political stability.

Silting claims spark row over St Lucia



A ROW has developed about whether Natal's popular Lake St Lucia is silting up and growing smaller, writes RYAN CRESSWELL. *SI Times*

Maps and depth readings done by the British Royal Navy in 1889 indicate the lake has shrunk by more than half and the depth has decreased by about two thirds. Certainly, from aerial photographs, it seems silt and reeds are steadily encroaching into the lake.

But the Natal Parks Board refutes claims that the system is "dying" and says these are based on outdated research and old maps that are suspect.

Retired engineer Ernest Comley, 71, of Durban, said he had fished in the lake for many years and had watched the siltation with

growing concern. "The greens are campaigning against dune mining by Richards Bay Minerals because they say it will have a negative long-term effect. 30/5/93

"In my opinion, the real problem is that the lake is silting up and the Natal Parks Board has not done anything about it."

Professor DC Midgley and other engineers carried out a hydrological study of the lake, commissioned by the Natal Provincial Administration in the 70s, and came up with some disturbing facts. (5b)

The researchers predicted that siltation caused by intensified agricultural development would gradually turn the "lake into a swamp".

The report stated that the estuary should be kept open continuously to allow migration of marine life, the lake level should not fluctuate too much and lake salinities should not get too high.

At the moment, the estuary mouth is closed and some experts say the lake levels are dropping and salinity is increasing.

After the report, the parks board built a canal from the Umfolozi River to allow fresh water to enter the estuary, but the canal never went into operation and it appears financial restraints hampered any other rescue plans.

Parks board liaison officer Jeff Gaisford said: "We are not convinced that St Lucia is silting up. All the recent scientific data

shows the sediments in the lake are from degrading banks and are being filtered by the reeds anyway. The silt which people see is part of the system."

He said researchers commissioned by the parks board were looking at the lake constantly and the credibility of modern research exceeded that done in the past. (2/1)

"People have often said the system is dying, but we refute that," he said.

Mr Gaisford admitted the estuary had to be dredged constantly and the mouth was closed off.

"But we can't open the mouth prematurely because it closed naturally and it would just close up again. That would be a waste of R100 000," he said.

Govt still undecided over St Lucia, says Bartlett

Star 29/5/93

CAPE TOWN — The Government had not yet taken a final decision on proposed mining at St Lucia, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said yesterday.

Opening debate on his budget vote, he said publication of the environmental impact report (EIR) on March 18 was only the first step in a process of consultation and decision-making.

An extended period had been allowed for comment on the EIR and all facts, arguments and suggestions would be thoroughly evaluated before a final decision was taken.

This week the Natal Parks Board (NPB) released its 106-page comment on the EIR, which is said to be too flawed and inadequate to be used for decision-making. The NPB demanded that the EIR be regarded as a draft and that a final report be compiled after the public participation phase had ended.

Bartlett also announced the establishment of a new chief directorate in his department to deal specifically with mining and the environment.

Meanwhile, during debate on the issue yesterday, Lampie Fick (NP Caledon) said the death of the St Lucia wetlands system would come about through the degradation and deforestation in the catchment area, and not through mining on its Eastern Shores.

He said there was no possibility of protecting St Lucia while impoverished people were living nearby. "The disaster to the St Lucia wetlands system lies not in the possibility of mining, but its death will come about in what is happening in the catchment area."

Those against mining at St Lucia should realise that not everything the Government or big mining did was bad. "We need balance badly. How long can we go on pretending the environment is not a prerequisite for development?"

He acknowledged that the Government had made mistakes in the past, including the planting of pine trees in the wetlands around St Lucia. "But to base current bad faith on decisions made in the past is not on." — Sapa.

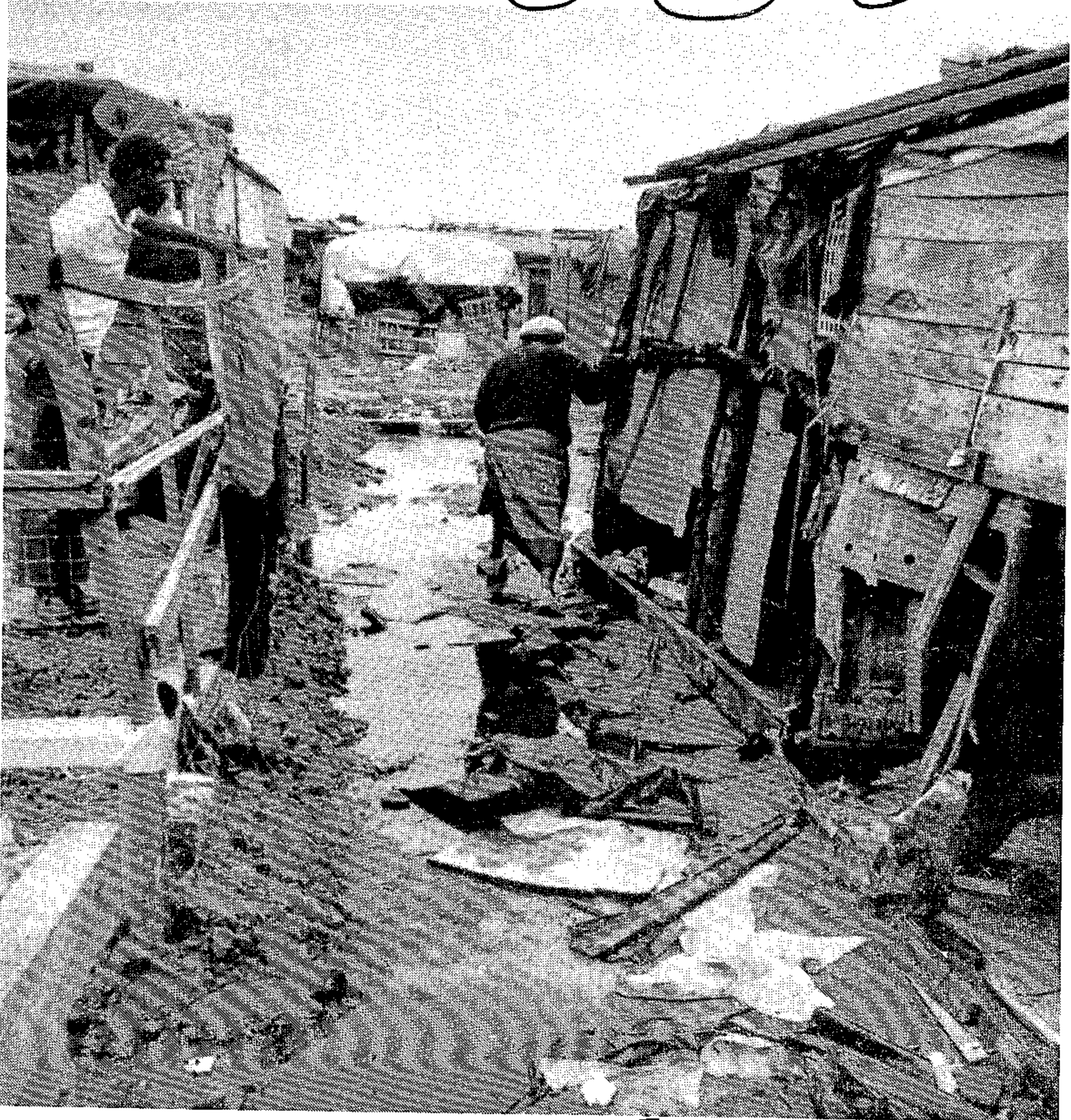
South environment

Squatting in slime at Marconi Beam

South 2915 - 216193



Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milnerton is a shocking example of how environmental deterioration can affect the health and living conditions of residents. Sabata Ngcai reports.



Photos: Yunus Mohamed

STAGNANT flood water at the Marconi Beam squatter camp in Milnerton is making life a daily hell for residents there.

The stinking water poses a health threat for the residents, especially the children, but their demands that the municipality drain the camp have fallen on deaf ears.

Children play in the slimy, green water in front of their homes. Wooden fences and gates erected by the residents to keep them safe are not effective.

Parents are concerned that the children will drink the water and get ill.

Residents believe the municipality is ignoring the poor conditions at Marconi Beam to force them to move to the Du Noon settlement, about 4km away.

But they insist that they are not prepared to leave Marconi Beam because it is near to their places of employment.

While the municipality dragged its feet a one-year-old child nearly drowned at the Easter weekend when heavy rain hit the area.

Mrs Maureen Morris's shack is so wet inside that she has to sit on her bed with her feet off the floor whenever she is inside.

She has to leap from her doorstep onto her bed every time she goes inside to keep her feet dry.

"It's terrible, but I don't know what to do," Morris said. "The municipality is not doing anything to help us."

Residents fear that the floods and resistance to the move to Du Noon could result in conflict among themselves.

"When people drain water out of their shacks it usually runs into other people's homes and that's where the trouble starts," explained Mr Bonga Bukwana.

South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) spokesperson, Mrs Elda Mahlentle, said she had told the municipality about the drainage problem in June 1991.

"They promised to bring pipes to drain the water but they never returned," she said.

"Although we are living in a pigsty, we are not prepared to

NO WAY OUT: Resident Elda Mahlentle is trying to find her way out of the water

move."

The situation at Marconi Beam is made worse by the garbage which is scattered around the shacks.

The municipality is adamant that it cannot do anything to help the residents.

"There is nothing we can do because we pointed out to them where they should erect shacks," said Milnerton town clerk, Mr Pieter Gerber.

He said the municipality is still negotiating with Sanco to move the residents to the Du Noon site.

Gerber insisted that the municipality could not provide services in Marconi Beam but could only do so when the people had moved to Du Noon.



PLAYGROUND: Simbongile Sijobo plays in stinking water

St Lucia

report 'has too many shortfalls'

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

The environmental impact report (EIR) on St Lucia is inadequate and has too many shortcomings for it to be used in its present form for decision-making on the two land-use options of mining and ecotourism, according to a review by the Natal Parks Board.

"In the opinion of the board, the EIR should be considered as a draft report which should be revised into a final report once the period for public comment has expired," the NPB said.

"Our main criticisms concern omissions and shortcomings in the study. The board disagrees with the assessed ratings of impacts; levels of certainty and risk have not been given due attention; the definition of irreparable damage is unacceptable; the analysis of the benefits of the two land-use alternatives requires attention; the potential impacts of mining on biodiversity are not adequately addressed."

The NPB also said the economic analysis of the two land-use options included a number of misrepresentations.

Bill Bainbridge, head of planning at the NPB, emphasised that the board had not rejected the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process.

"The in-depth evaluation demonstrates that we are participating fully in the process."

The EIR, which was compiled by the CSIR and released for public comment on March 18, drew conclusions and made recommendations based on specialist reports and comments gathered since the EIA process was initiated by the Minister of Environment Affairs in 1989.

All this documentation, and all comment received in the current public participation phase, as well as revisions by the compilers will be placed before a review panel chaired by Mr Justice R Leon.

The panel, which will hold public hearings in Durban and at St Lucia, will make recommendations to the Cabinet to assist it in deciding the fate of St Lucia's Eastern Shores.

The comments of the NPB are available on request to interested groups or individuals for inspection.

Talks on SA, EC ties

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — A major international conference on South Africa's links with the European Community is to be held in Brussels next month.

The conference will discuss investment and the prospects of new trade ties which might arise from membership of the Lome Convention.

Speakers will include Sir Leon Brittan, EC vice-president in charge of external economic affairs and commercial policy, and Lady Lynda

Chalker, UK Minister of Overseas Development.

Invited from South Africa are Trade and Finance Minister Mr Derek Keys, Housing Minister Mr Louis Shill, Reserve Bank governor Dr Chris Stals, Mr Wiseman Nkuhlu, head of the Independent Development Trust, Mr Nick Barnard of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut and Mr Warren Clewlow, Barlow Rand chairman and president of the SA Foundation, which is co-sponsoring the event on June 28 and 29.

MP: City fails Table Mountain

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE city council had not covered itself in glory over the preservation of Table Mountain which was a national asset, Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer, said yesterday.

"Alien vegetation continues to proliferate and general deg-

radation is continuing," he said in Parliament during the debate on the environment vote.

Mr Lorimer, MP for Bryans-ton, said Table Mountain was a national asset and should be administered by the National Parks Board.

The mountain belonged to the whole of South Africa.

"I'm afraid the Cape Town City Council has not covered

itself in glory. It seems they just don't have the capacity to do what needs to be done."

Mr Lorimer disagreed with the suggestion that the mountain be a national park administered by the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

"I do not believe that Cape Nature Conservation has the capacity to do an adequate job.

CT 27/5/93 (56)
"It just did not have the financial or logistical capacity to turn the De Hoop Nature Reserve into the tourist asset it should be but on a shoestring budget had done what it could."

The sort of development on Table Mountain that should take place was beyond the capacity of the Cape department, but the National Parks Board had that capacity, he said.

Table Mountain management row

(56) ARG 27/5/93

□ Kreiner hits back after MP's criticism

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

THE city council's inability to cope with spreading alien vegetation on Table Mountain was caused by years of provincial subsidy cuts, said executive committee chairman Mr Louis Kreiner.

He was responding to criticism in parliament by Mr Rupert Lorimer.

Mr Lorimer said the council "had not covered itself in glory" with the way it managed the mountain.

Alien vegetation proliferated and there was general degradation, he said.

The city council did not have the capacity to run the mountain and it should be done by the National Parks Board, Mr Lorimer said.

Mr Kreiner said the city council had to bear the financial brunt of running the mountain because of drastic subsidy cuts in the past four years.

He said Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring was making representations that the National Parks Board should run the mountain.

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said the city council had the knowledge, skills and experience to run the mountain but lacked the funds.

He defended the city council's alien clearance policy, saying it was better to upgrade areas already cleared than to try to clear all infested areas, which would result in everywhere being "lightly infested" with aliens.

Aliens were spreading at a rate where the city council could barely keep up, but he disagreed there was rapid degradation.

"With the resources we have, a remarkable job is being done," Mr Clayton said.

A limited special allocation of money

had been made in the council's new budget for alien clearance on Devil's Peak.

"We are becoming experts on re-vegetation — we learnt a lot in the aftermath of the Devil's Peak fire in 1991," he said.

Fire-fighting was another key area where the city council had the best knowledge and capabilities.

"If the mountain was run by the National Parks Board, which is remote from Cape Town, where would they get their fire-fighting staff?" asked Mr Clayton.

The city council had trained municipal workers ready to fight fires, where untrained people would be a "nuisance more than a help" in trying to cope.

The National Parks Board was even more strapped for funds than the city council, Mr Clayton said.

"You could never run Table Mountain like any other national park," he said.

"I am not opposed to it being a national park. There could be joint ownership and management, as happened recently with the Richtersveld."

Deputy-mayor Mr Clive Keegan has invited Mr Lorimer to tour Table Mountain to see the "sterling work" done by the parks and forests department.

In a letter to Mr Lorimer, Mr Keegan thanked him for drawing attention to the crisis of management of the mountain.

"But I believe your reference to the performance of the city council in this matter is not entirely justified.

"I extend a formal invitation to you and any of your colleagues to spend a day or part thereof in the company of me and officials of the city engineer's department, to apprise you fully of the sterling work being done by our parks and forests branch to preserve the integrity of this important national asset," Mr Keegan said.

RSC to inspect Kaolin site before taking decision

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

WESTERN Cape Regional Services councillors would inspect the proposed Chapman's Peak kaolin quarrying site before deciding whether to give the go-ahead for mining, said chairman Mr Piet Loubser.

He told the monthly RSC meeting the inspection would be "in committee" and the Press would not be allowed to attend.

A member of the land usage and transport planning committee, Mr Clive Keegan, said a Press report last week — that the committee had rejected the recommendations of officials — was incorrect.

"There has been no recommendation from the committee and no decision, except the one to visit the site," said Mr Keegan.

● The WCRSC is to write off about R1 million in bad debts for water, electricity and "sundry items", including ambulance and fire service charges.

A finance committee report said R34 974 was owed for property rates, R928 678 for electricity, R77 800 for water, R16 420 for

refuse and sewerage, while "sundries" accounted for R197 358 and VAT for R8 037.

"All possible steps were taken to recover these arrear amounts, but in vain.

"Outstanding debtors include one-time tenants who could not be traced and insolvent estates."

The WCRSC collected all outstanding property rates, but the ordinance allowed only for the collection of rates for the current year and two years before.

"In some cases attorneys apply the letter of the law exactly and do not collect previous years' amounts," the report said.

Deposits for electricity had been seized, but were not enough to cover arrears.

Many tenants left premises without telling the council and a moratorium on disconnections was a further contributing factor.

The worst areas were Melkbos-Bloubergstrand (R43 652), Atlantis (R236 077), Elsies River, Hout Bay, Matroosfontein and Grassy Park (R20 900).

Blue Downs residents owed R613 647 for electricity, Macassar

ARG 27/5/93

R5 635 and Scottsdene R8 861.

Other bad debts were R8 728 for ambulance services in the Paarl region and R33 000 for fire services in the Paarl and Cape regions.

Damage to council property caused many bad debts.

● Grassy Park library is to be extended to meet the needs of a population which has grown by about 25 000 in four years.

● A request by the Lotus River, Ottery and Grassy Park Residents Association (Logra) for an R800 000 subsidy was turned down.

Logra has led a rates boycott against the council since last year, demanding the reversal of a nine percent rates increase and the creation of a forum to discuss local government issues, and protesting against the area's lack of infrastructure.

Logra also asked for another R800 000 from the Minister of Local Government in the House of Representatives.

The request to the HoR was turned down.

Local council opposes Silvermine rezoning

CF27/5/93 (56)

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

THE Constantia Valley Local Council has come out strongly against the proposed rezoning of land surrounding the Silvermine maritime complex to permit "high-density residential and associated uses".

In a report tabled at last week's council meeting, Constantia's planner Mr Henry Aikman labelled the proposal as ignoring "its context at metropolitan, sub-metropolitan and local level".

He said: "The rezoning has not been framed in terms of a carefully developed urban design analysis, has not involved any real public participation and should therefore be rejected by the council.

"A great opportunity should not be missed to repair damage done by high-handed authorities 20 years ago," he said, referring to the acquisition of the land by the state from the Cape Town City Council in 1969.

The entire 90 ha site, bordered by Steenberg Road and Ou Kaapseweg, houses the navy's rescue co-ordinating centre as well as a sports centre and millions of rands' worth of roads, street lights and other infrastructure built more than 20 years ago but never used.

Mr Aikman recommended that the local council object "strongly" to the proposed rezoning and that Cape Town City Council be asked not to consider

any more "ad hoc schemes of this nature until such time as an urban design framework for the area is prepared".

He said the maritime complex — although under the jurisdiction of the Cape Town City Council — was an integral part of the foothills of the Steenberg stretching from Boyes Drive right around the amphitheatre of the Tokai/Constantia Valley.

"Both sewage and stormwater are discharged into systems within the LCCV area. There is no doubt that the scheme will have an impact on the valley.

Negative effect

"Any development here is therefore of concern to the council. In addition, the council-owned seven-hectare amenity site, forming an extension to Westlake Golf Club, is close to the scheme and could be negatively affected in terms of future potential."

He said the proposal conflicted with policies previously adopted by the LCCV — the recently formulated growth management and development plan, for instance.

"It is in conflict with the council's metropolitan, sub-metropolitan and local objectives. It ignores the development potential of this area as a regional recreation node and it ignores the inadequacy of the existing service infrastructure even to cope with limited growth.

The proposed development could harm tourism and environmental conservation, he stressed.

LANZON SERVICES

Knapp said: "Not only will the build-
-ing solve all these prob-
-lems ROAD

R50 000 boost for UCT's environmental programme

SA BREWERIES in Newlands has presented UCT's Department of Environmental and Geographical Science with cheques for R50 000 and R20 000.

The larger sum will be used for UCT's post-graduate environmental science Masters programme while brewery GM Mr John Eastwood also presented the department's head, Professor Richard Fugel, with the second sum for the university's Environmental Unit.

Professor Fugel said the new unit provided an environmental consultancy to those communities that could not usually afford the services of professionals to protect their natural environment.

SAB has supported UCT's environmental science Masters programme since 1974. Seventy-six students have benefited and many have become leading environmental scientists.

(56) (107)

CT 27/5/93

Kaolin sites inspected

CT 27/5/93

(57) (24)

Municipal Reporter

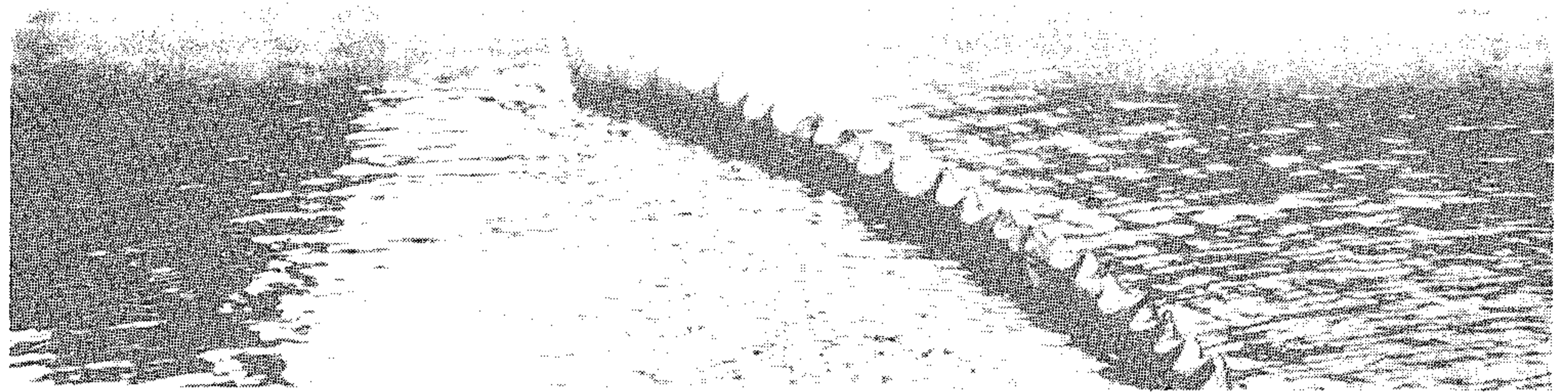
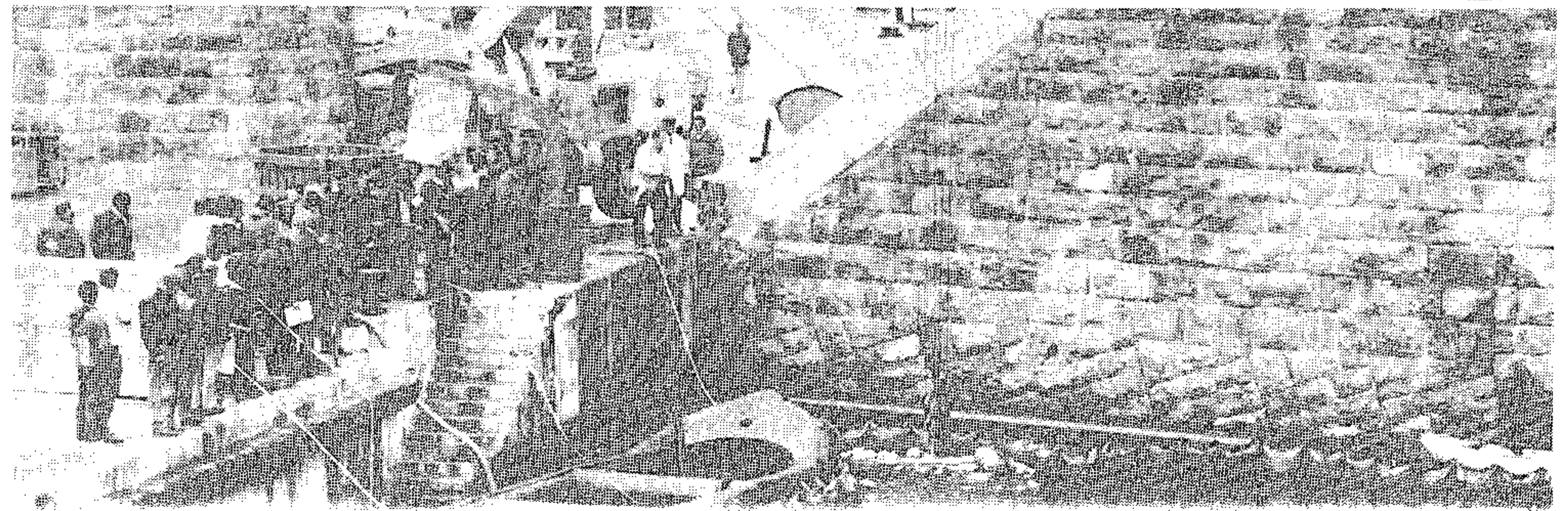
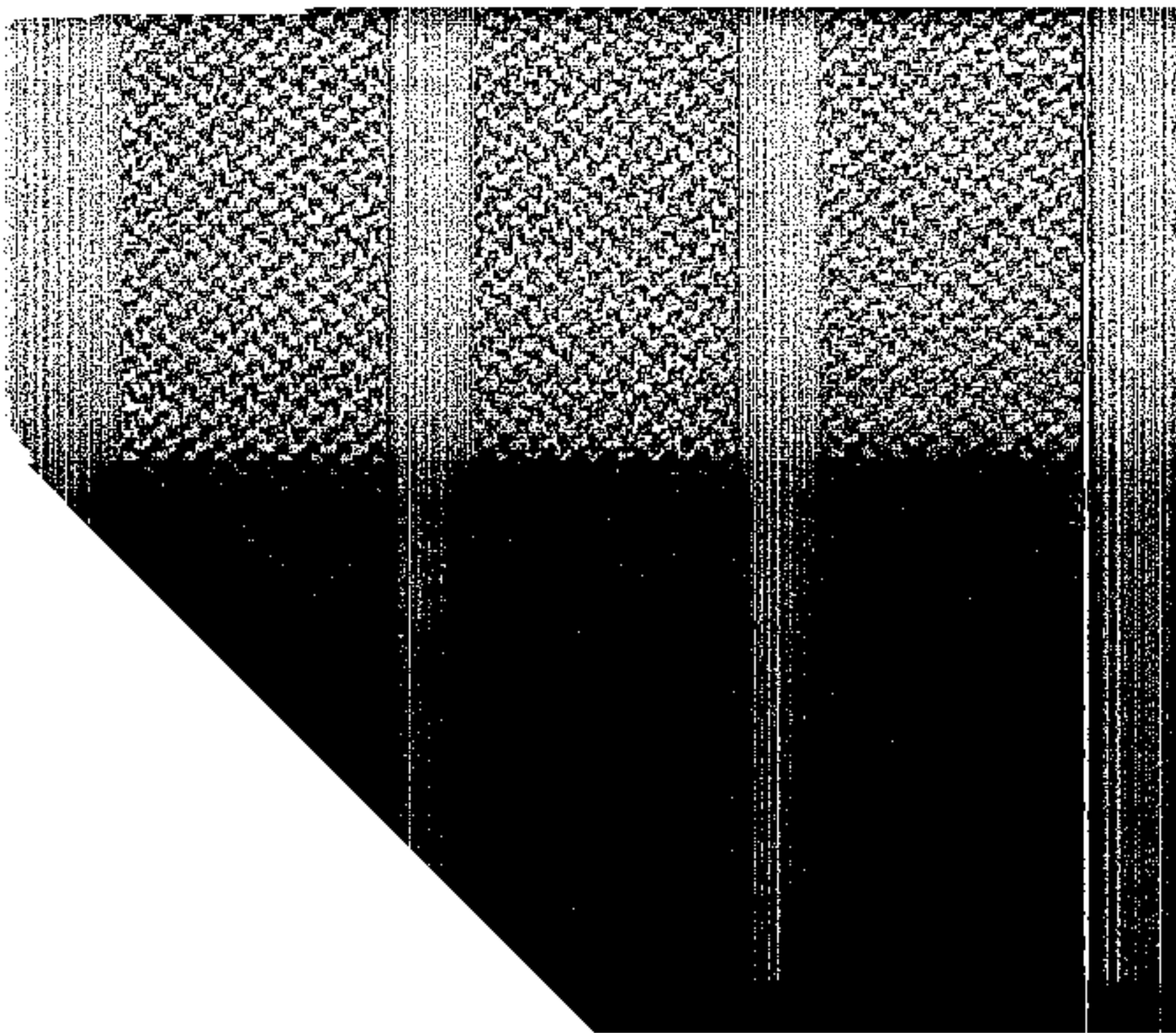
MEMBERS of the Western Cape Regional Services Council took a bus to Noordhoek yesterday to conduct an inspection in situ of the proposed open-cast kaolin mines at both the controversial Chapman's Peak site and Tréntham Farm.

An application has been submitted to the RSC for "conditional use approval" to quarry for kaolin on both sites.

No decision was to be taken yesterday. RSC chairman Mr Piet Loubser said the matter was on green paper (it was confidential) and there would be no debate at the site.

"This is a viewing trip for the members of the council," he said.

Mr Clive Keegan, former chairman of the land use committee, said no decision had been taken yet on the matter.



OIL SPILL RECOVERY ... South African maritime and environmental experts watch a French-designed oil spill containment and recovery system in operation. The highly efficient system can recover about 60 tons of oil an hour.

Picture: STEWART COLMAN

New system laps up oil spills

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICAN marine pollution and environmental authorities were given a demonstration of a highly efficient French-designed oil spill containment and recovery system at Simon's Town harbour yesterday.

The system carries the approval of the French government's respected Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution.

South African marketer Mr Henri de Waubert de Genlis showed how the collar-like boom was laid round an oil

spill to contain it while a skimmer unit recovered up to 60 tons of oil an hour.

The recovered oil was pumped directly into a inflatable storage tank.

The Department of Environmental Affairs' oil spill co-ordinator Mr Anton Moldan said afterwards that the system

seemed to be perfect for containment and recovery of oil spills in harbours and other calm-water areas.

"I am so impressed with the floating storage tank that I have ordered one to form part of the anti-pollution recovery system we already have in South Africa," he said.

CT 26/5/93

(56)

Bottled water not so sparkling

By Shirley Woodgate

South African bottled drinking water is not all that it is cracked up to be, and tap water tastes better, a Rand Water Board test has shown.

Despite the growing popularity of bottled water which is often believed to be healthier than the tap variety, a two-year survey by the RWB has revealed poor microbiological quality, a lack of classification terms for the liquid bought off the shelf and inadequate labelling.

Addressing the Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA) annual conference in Durban yesterday RWB's Tony Bailey said unlike Europe, where the product was strictly controlled by EEC directives, local bottled water was subject only to the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectant Act 54 of 1972.

RWB investigations showed:

- No local brands had expiry dates on their labels.
- One local brand had storage instructions, namely "Keep refrigerated", yet was bought from the shelf.
- Of the 20 "quality" variables listed on labels, only seven

could be considered as having any significance to health, most reflecting only the mineral content of the water.

There was no uniformity in the use of classification terms in locally bottled water and many brands were wrongly classed as natural or mineral waters.

- Comparison of the aesthetic, physical, inorganic, organic and microbiological quality variables with chemical compositions listed on the bottle labels showed five brands were low in mineral content, and nine degassed sparkling waters had low pH values.

Although aluminium above

the criteria limit was found in six bottled waters, levels were below the maximum permissible limit.

One brand described as chlorine-free, had consistently high levels of trihalomethanes, known as by-products of chlorination.

- The six locally bottled still water brands failed to meet SABS requirements for standard plate count, possibly due to shortcomings in bottling.
- A taste test by the RWB's sensory panel ranked carbonated tap water higher than several well-known brands of sparkling bottled water.
- Control of bottled water in

South Africa did not match that in other countries and anyone could bottle water for sale without adequate quality monitoring of the product, Bailey said.

Local sales of spring, demineralised, carbonated, sparkling and still water were growing at about 30 percent yearly to an estimated 3.3 million litres in 1991, (2.8 million litres bottled in this country).

But Bailey warned: "If you prefer the taste of bottled water, or it suits your social needs, you are free to make that decision. But please do not blame unsafe drinking water for that choice."

European inflation dropping ^{56A} study

810 2575793

LONDON — Inflation across Europe is converging at lower levels, and most countries will meet the requirements for European economic and monetary union by the end of 1994, according to a study by economists at American Express Bank.

The study, published in the Amex Bank Review yesterday, claimed that greater convergence had been helped by an acceleration in German inflation, low commodity and oil prices, weakness in the dollar and weak economic growth.

"By the end of 1994, 11 of the 15 European countries analysed could meet the monetary union target of inflation within 1.5 percentage points of the three lowest inflation countries: the exceptions are likely to be the UK, Italy, Spain and Portugal," the study said.

It noted that the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM) had been valuable in keeping down European inflation.

The study broke Europe into four groups facing slightly different inflation problems. The first, including Germany, Austria, Netherlands and Switzerland, had suffered from the cost pressures of German reunification and "bucked the declining trend of other European countries".

However, structural factors were expected to ensure that inflation declined in the longer-term.

The next group, which included France, Belgium, Denmark and Ireland, had benefited from membership of the ERM and was expected to continue doing so.

The third group was composed of the laggards. Apart from the UK, which had brought its inflation rate down to 1.3%, inflation in this group was the highest in the community.

Apart from the inflationary effect of recent devaluations, these countries were likely to suffer from low central bank independence and growth in real earnings. Although Spain and Portugal remained ERM members, Italy and the UK remained suspended from the system. UK inflation was forecast to be back up to 4.3% by the end of 1994, with Portugal's rising to 6.3%.

By comparison, German inflation was expected to be down to 3% and French inflation at 1.5% by that time.

The fourth group was the Scandinavian countries — Sweden, Norway and Finland — that were forced to abandon their formal links with the ERM last year.

All had suffered deep recessions that brought a sharp slowdown in inflation. Recent devaluations were expected to have brought fresh inflationary pressures.

According to the study, long-term inflation might prove lower than in the third group, but "improvements may not prove as durable as in Germany and other ERM 'core' countries". — AP-DJ.

Star 25/5/93

St Lucia report 'too flawed'

By Charles Leftwich

106-page comment on the assessment and the environmental impact report (EIR) based upon it.

The Natal Parks Board (NPB) has rejected as "too flawed to be used for decision-making" the Government's environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the St Lucia mining issue.

The assessment, the biggest yet undertaken in this country, was intended to weigh titanium mining against ecotourism as the preferable land use for the lake's scenic Eastern Shores.

"The overall conclusion of the board is that the environmental impact report in its present form is seriously flawed, and cannot therefore be used for decision-making," declares the NPB, summing up its detailed

The three-volume, 1500-page EIA, seen as strongly favouring the mining, was compiled by the council for Scientific and Industrial Research and published on March 18.

It is due to be submitted in early August, along with public comments, to a review panel.

The panel is to hold public hearings in both Durban and St Lucia.

The panel will subsequently make recommendations to the Cabinet to assist it in deciding the fate of St Lucia's Eastern Shores.

**'Open mind
on St Lucia'**
Star 27/1/93

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Government still had an open mind on whether or not to allow mining at Lake St Lucia, Environment Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk insisted yesterday. (27)

Speaking in his budget vote in Parliament, Van Wyk said the St Lucia area was of special value to all South Africans. "We understand the emotions when people talk about St Lucia. (5b)

"We share the same emotions and are thankful for the immense interest in the area. This can only lead to a well-balanced decision.

"It is, however, a point of concern that people are fired up and do not want to give the draft impact report a chance."

Van Wyk denied accusations that the Government had already taken a decision in favour of mining St Lucia.

"A stance on this matter will only be taken once the recommendations of the independent review panel have been studied by the Government," he said.

'David's' sling takes on rockets

(56)
ARG 22/5/93

SAM SOLE

Weekend Argus Reporter

IN a bid to get rid of a rocket and weapons testing site, the tiny Western Cape community of Rooi Els is locked in a David-and-Goliath battle with parastatal giant Denel (formerly part of Armscor) and the Administrator of the Cape.

This week, the Rooi Els Local Council — representing just over 300 ratepayers — renewed its bid to have Denel subsidiary Somchem removed from the testing site.

The land, they say, is occupied illegally and the testing is polluting their pristine environment.

Somchem tests missiles and artillery at the range and has more recently tested solid fuel rocket engines with which it hopes to enter the Low Earth Orbit satellite market.

The Rooi Els council, led by its chairman Professor Denis Cowan, has for more than two years been trying to have its case heard, but has been stymied because a series of legal manoeuvres by its opponents.

The council claims the lease granted to Somchem was illegal because the land — above the Buffelsriver dam — was expropriated for water and recreational use.

The zoning, they claim, specifically precludes the conduct of a "noxious industry". In addition, the council claims fallout from the engine testing has led to dangerous concentrations of aluminium in the dam. Somchem has challenged the council to prove chemical pollution.

Stalling by, in particular, the Overberg Regional Services

■ A Cape community is battling the giant Denel, formerly part of Armscor, to free itself of what it claims is pollution created at a rocket testing site.

Council (which is responsible for the lease agreement) has led to repeated postponements of the case, but the hearing was finally set for the Cape Supreme Court this week before Mr Justice Berman and Mr Justice Brand.

Then, at the 11th hour, the Administrator stepped in to ask the court for a postponement so that he could investigate the financial affairs of the Rooi Els Local Council to ascertain whether the costly litigation could be afforded. He also wished to establish whether it had the support of the majority of ratepayers.

The case has cost the applicants more than R800 000 so far, most of which has been raised by donations to a "litigation trust" by residents of the greater Overberg area. "There has been a groundswell of regional support," Professor Cowan said.

In court, Professor Cowan, a former Dean of the UCT law school, said the move by the Administrator, who also threatened to dissolve the council if the case was not postponed, represented a "most serious and unwarranted attempt at political interference with judicial proceedings".

Counsel for the Local Council, Mr Dawid de Villiers, QC, told the judges this "abuse of the court's procedure" was "the product of ongoing partisanship and favouritism on the part of officialdom towards the huge government backed parastatal concern, Somchem, to the detriment of the small local council and the ordinary citizens who are its supporters and who

are doing nothing more than attempting to stand up for their rights and interests".

However, Mr Justice Berman asked Mr de Villiers if, "as a matter of practicality", people without sufficient means could "afford to seek justice in the court?"

"That is what the Administrator is really asking," he noted.

Unfortunately, the court will not decide that crucial question. The Rooi Els council instead picked up the Administrator's gauntlet and agreed to hold a referendum among ratepayers to "remove any doubt" about support for the court case.

Professor Cowan is no stranger to tilting at executive bullies: as an advocate he led a number of anti-apartheid sallies, including the fight against the removal of coloureds from the common voters' roll.

He said: "My response to the Administrator's concern whether poor little Rooi Els can afford its quest for justice is most sincerely to thank the ratepayers from the whole region for their votes of confidence as expressed in rands and cents.

"My council will be informing the Administrator in detail of its financial position.

"We are however shocked that officialdom has shown no interest in the real issues in the case. What about our concern for the purity of our drinking water and the integrity of the environment?"

The case has been postponed to September 6.

Teeth bared in fight over effluent

Star 22/5/92

56

56

POLLUTION in the Olifants River flowing into the Kruger National Park is so bad that camps at Satara and Olifants have had to sink boreholes, because river water is unfit for human consumption for long periods in the dry season.

Hippos in the Olifants have been affected by the pollution, while researchers have reported a number of "fish kills" in the river.

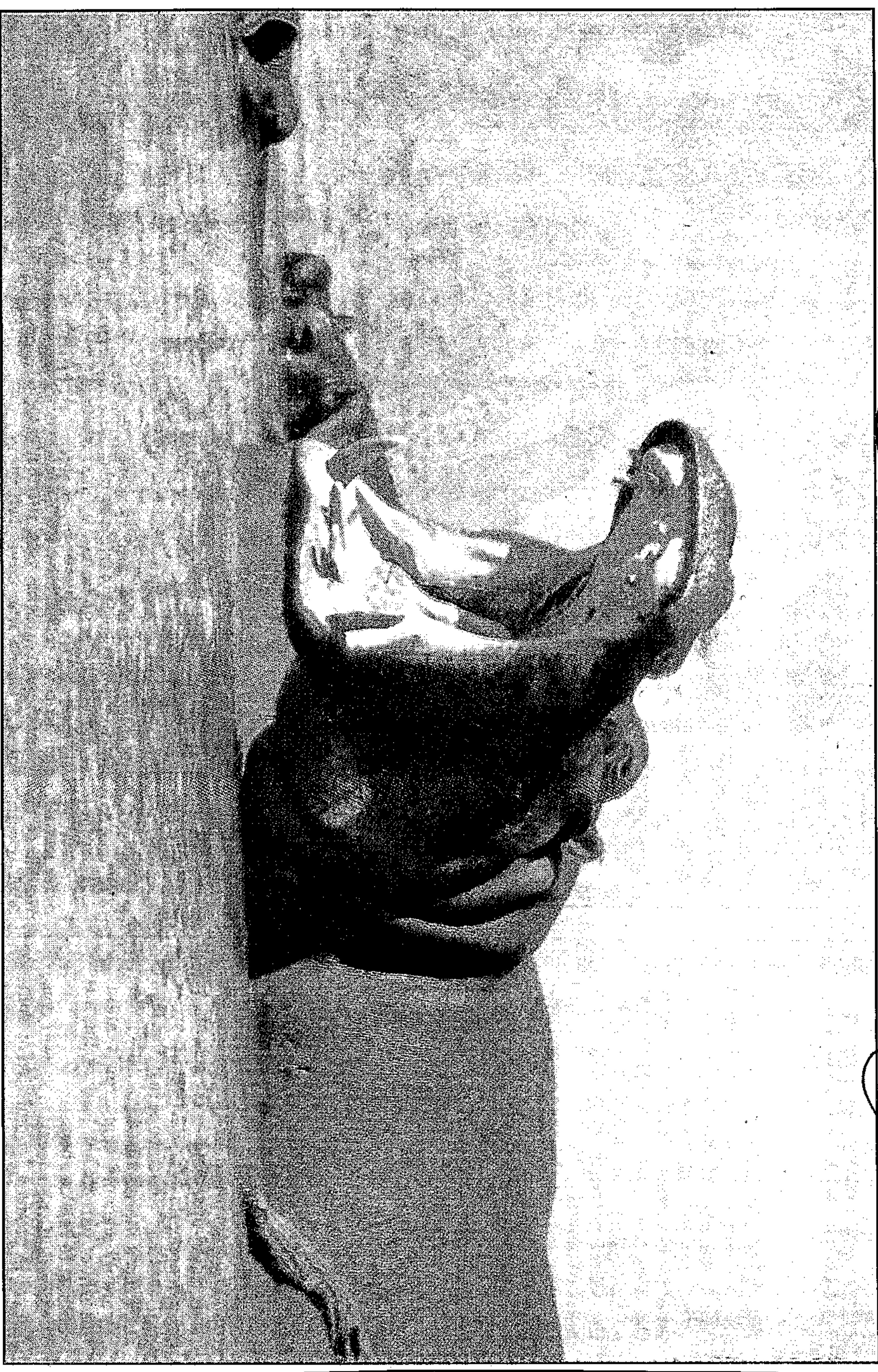
Primary sources of pollution are the Palabora Mining Company (PMC) and phosphate processing company Foskor, which both dump millions of litres of polluted water into the Olifants or its tributary, the Selati River. (Acidic water also gets into the Olifants in its upper catchment areas after leaching through abandoned coal dumps. Silt deposits from bad farming practices in overcrowded tribal areas also cause problems.)

Drought

The pollutant causing the most concern is fluoride, levels of which reached 18 parts per million (ppm) during the peak of the drought and dry cycle last year, when there was little or no water to dilute the chemical.

While small amounts of fluoride have beneficial effects on teeth and bones, concentrations exceeding 15 ppm are considered dangerous to human health if ingested over a long period.

Apart from causing "mottling" of teeth, excess fluoride consumption can cause the bone disease fluorosis. But possibly one of the most serious effects of the chemical is that it attacks the body's natural enzymes, and can seri-



IT'S NO YAWN: Hippos in the Olifants River that flows through the Kruger National Park are in danger from the high-level fluoride content of the water, caused by dumping from factories upriver. Step are now being taken to control pollution of the water.

● Photograph: ETIENNE ROTHBART

Hippos under threat from fluoride

THERE is cause for concern at the high level of pollution in the Olifants River. Not only does it pose a problem for the tourist camps in the Kruger Park but the excess fluoride which has been dumped in the water is harming the hippos. BRENDAN SEERY reports.

ously disrupt metabolic processes. A study of hippos living in the Olifants River was recently carried out by a researcher from the Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa), Professor Erich Raubenheimer. Some of the work done by Raubenheimer has been sponsored by the companies responsible for the pollution, which he said indicated the seriousness with which they viewed the problem.

By analysing the teeth of hippos and detailing the concentration of var-

ious elements present in the teeth, Raubenheimer was able to show that large amounts of fluoride had been ingested by the animals.

By comparing the teeth of animals recently culled in the river,

and knowing the growth rate of hippo teeth, Raubenheimer was able to show that fluoride pollution of the river had increased markedly over the past five years.

By comparison, teeth from hippos shot early in

this century or in the late 1800s showed very low levels of fluoride, proving the source of pollution was from the mines and factories along the Olifants.

The news about the river is not all bad, how-

ever. Dewald Steyn, a deputy director in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, said increasing pressure was being put on both PMC and Foskor to deal with the problem, and that the companies were taking steps. Steyn said it would be very expensive for the two companies to eliminate pollutants from the water they discharged into the river.

"We could insist they do that, but it would cripple the companies and you would virtually have to close the town of Phalaborwa." Water Affairs officers, together with representatives from PMC and Foskor, as well as nature conservation officers from the Kruger Park and representatives from industries in the upper catchment area such as Sasol Coal, have recently formed the Olifants River Forum. The body, according to Marianna Nieuwoudt, one of its members, is making a "very serious effort to tackle the problems of the river".

Eco-issues

comic book

21/6/93
A CITY businessman is to launch a comic book on environmental issues for young children which will base its stories on a superhero called Ecoman.

Ecoman Magazine editor Mr Alan Gemmell says he planned to launch the publication sometime next month once he had completed negotiations with a corporate sponsor.

Mr Gemmell said the non-profit publication would deal solely with environmental issues such as water and atmospheric pollution and would aim to educate young children on these issues by way of animated drawings.

INDIC

Dismantling of fence opens up Kruger Park

Star 22/6/93

(56)

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

A major victory for conservation is in the process of becoming a reality with the dismantling of the veterinary fence between the Kruger National Park and all private game reserves along its western boundary.

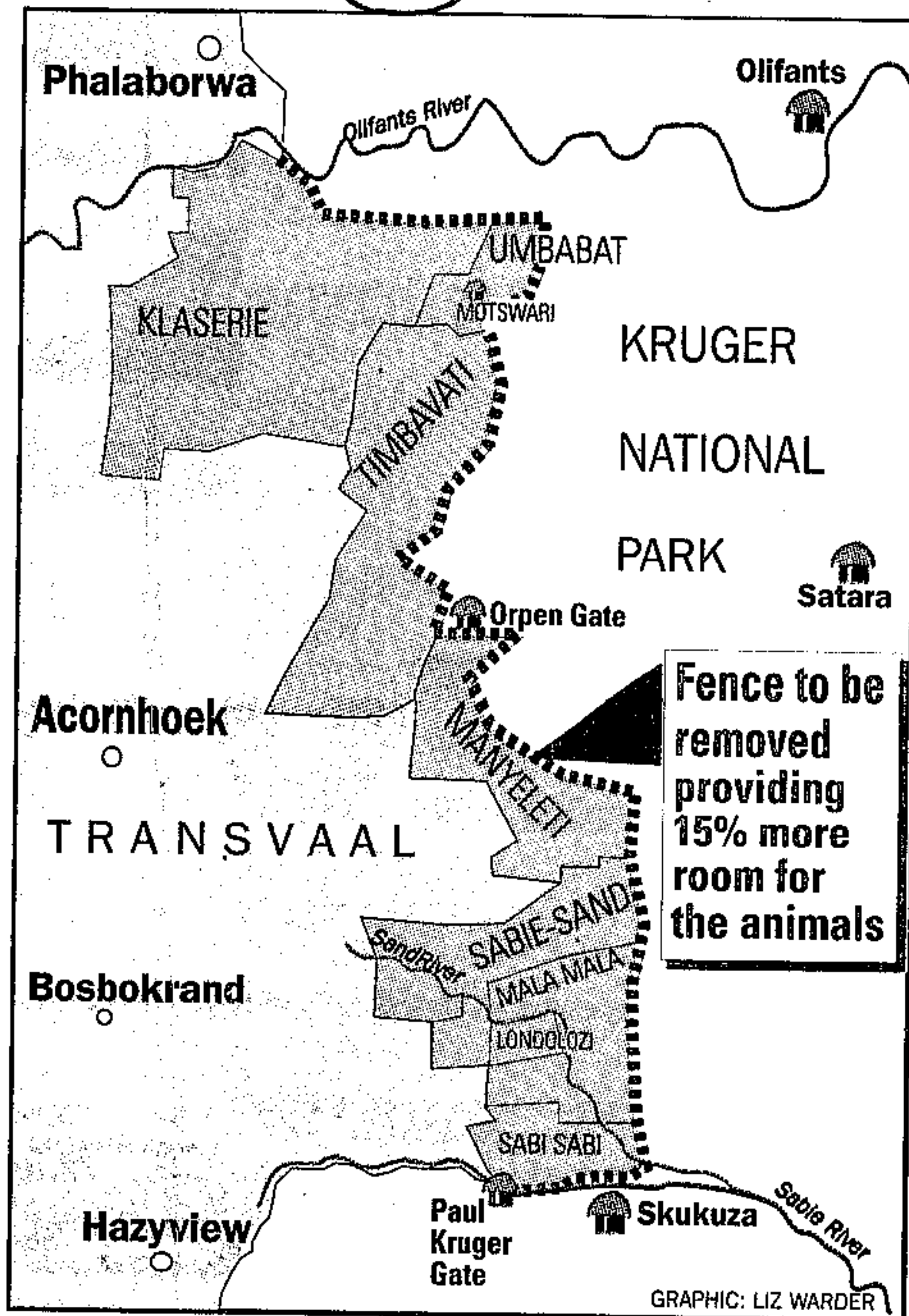
Dr Salmon Joubert, chief director of the Kruger National Park, and the main facilitator between various government departments involved, said that the official ceremony to mark the dropping of the fence would take place in the Kruger Park on July 6-7.

The veterinary fence was erected in 1960 along the entire 350 km length of the Kruger Park to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, carried mainly by buffalo, to what was then cattle farming areas.

Need

With the start of private game reserves in the '80s along the western boundary between the Sabie and Olifants rivers, the need for the fence along this 150 km stretch disappeared.

Discussion about its removal has been going on since 1989 and in March this year the go-ahead was given. With the exception of Manyeleti, the fence is either down or in the process of being removed. The private reserves will now be incorporated into a



Elbow room for the animals . . . the area where the fence is being taken down.

greater Kruger Park, which will effectively increase in size by around 15 percent.

For Manyeleti there will be a delay in removing its Kruger fence until that along its western boundary with Gazankulu is replaced with an electrified fence, accord-

ing to Judy Meeser of Khokamoya Lodge in Manyeleti.

Chairman of the liaison committee of Klaserie, Timbavati and Umbabat, Dr David Griesel, said that the fence had already been removed along the three reserves.

"It is a great thing, to the benefit of conservation in general," Griesel said.

A spokesman for Motswari in the Timbavati said that the fence with Kruger had been removed "a few weeks ago", and already they had had sightings of roan and sable, which used to be in the area and wild dog sightings had also increased.

At Mala Mala, 20 km of its 33 km fence are down, with everyone working to meet the July 6 deadline, a spokesman said.

The people of Sabie Sabie have particular reason to rejoice. The effect of legislation has been that the portion of its property between the left bank and the middle of the Sabie River has been part of Kruger, although it belongs to Sabie Sabie.

Riverine

The jurisdiction of Kruger has extended to the veterinary fence which is on the left Sabie Sabie bank, effectively cutting off the reserve's access to the riverine forest areas.

About 2 km of the 14 km stretch of barbed wire along the Sabie River is down and within two months Sabie Sabie will be open to the greater Kruger Park area.

In terms of conservation management the private reserves and the National Parks Board staff will be working in close co-operation, but visitors to Kruger will not be allowed in the private reserve areas, and vice versa.

GRAPHIC: LIZ WARDER

Blooming Kirstenbosch!

World-beating botanical gardens sowing seeds at grassroots level

56
Arg 21/6/93

On July 1 1913, the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa was established with its headquarters at Kirstenbosch. Recently, this organisation was amalgamated with the Botanical Research Institute to form the National Botanical Institute (NBI). On the eve of its 80th anniversary, Environment Reporter JOHN YELD spoke to NBI chief director Professor Brian Huntley about the institute's role in the new South Africa.

A POLITICAL journalist recently described world-renowned Kirstenbosch gardens to Professor Brian Huntley as "the jewel in the crown of colonialism".

"I laughed and told him that was true," the NBI's chief director recalled this week. "It's been there — but that's not where we're going."

So just where is the NBI heading and what are its priorities for the future?

World-wide, botanical gardens had experienced a decades-long slump, from the Victorian era to the early 1980s, Professor Huntley replied.

"But things have turned around dramatically. I've visited a large range of gardens over the past few years, from major gardens like Missouri and New York and Sydney to those in Third World countries, and it's very stimulating to see the growth pattern that is taking place."

For example, no garden had anything like Kirstenbosch's sunset concert series, he pointed out.

Several botanical gardens elsewhere had, like the NBI, started outreach programmes to involve disadvantaged communities, he continued.

"And the best of these, like New York and Brooklyn and Missouri, are not dramatically further ahead than we are, yet they've got millions of dollars being devoted to outreach programmes. We've only just started in the last couple of years, and we're very strongly supported by the community as a whole."

Botanical gardens had been established in most African countries during the colonial era, Professor Huntley said.

"The best garden in Africa outside South Africa is probably in Harare in Zimbabwe, which has got a really excellent garden and herbarium."

"But, strangely enough, if you go to a place like downtown Maputo there's a glorious botanical garden there in a perfect state of maintenance."

"In Angola, two gardens are still carrying on, while in Malawi they have a great botanical garden and national herbarium which has its own parliamentary act and which is very strongly supported."

"And in Cameroon, the government has put a lot of energy into re-developing the century-old botanical garden, and it's quite remarkable to see the extent of both external support and the amount of community involvement in the rehabilitation of that garden."

"So there are a lot of very positive signals out there that, regardless of political transition, botanical gardens have survived, and there's no reason to believe ours will not be strongly supported into the future. I'm optimistic."

South African politicians — with a few notable exceptions — were not attuned to the role of botanical gardens and their importance for society, Professor Huntley suggested.

"Paradoxically, virtually every foreign VIP who comes to this country — and there've been many — have insisted on coming to Kirstenbosch."

"I've had follow-up meetings and visits with quite a number of very senior overseas people, and they tend to hold our gardens and especially Kirstenbosch in far higher regard than any South African politician."

"That's worrying, but it's not something we're going to leave unattended. I spend a lot of my time lobbying with influential people from all persuasions about the future of our gardens."

The institute's mission was to provide the facilities, knowledge and expertise necessary to ensure the conservation, sustained use, appreciation and enjoyment of South Africa's exceptionally rich flora, Professor Huntley explained.

"We want to be a world leader by 2000 and we're already there, in many respects. For example, Kirstenbosch as a garden probably only has three or four equals in the world in terms of its displays, the quality of horticulture, of landscaping and maintenance, and so on."

"Per capita and per rand we are miles ahead in terms of return on investment in all areas, although obviously we can still improve our efficiency and our programmes."

"Secondly, and this is particularly important, when it comes to looking back in time, botanical gardens have not been relevant to all South Africans."

"This shortcoming was difficult to transform in the short term, Professor Huntley admitted.

"But we have got much of the transformation process pretty well in place now, in terms of our outreach and environmental education programmes."

"So what we seek in terms of the future is that, firstly, we will continue to provide living displays of the floral wealth of South Africa, because of its unique richness and beauty."

"Our mission is to make it possible for all South Africans and whoever from overseas to use and enjoy and conserve that flora — that's the bottom line."

"And the second key objective is to use all our botanical gardens and the researchers and other staff to examine the horticultural and economic and medicinal potential of our flora, and to research threatened species."

Professor Huntley pointed out that Holland earned more foreign currency from its horticultural industry — which was based mainly on South African plants — than South Africa earned from its gold mining industry.

"It's quite ridiculous — when you go overseas and see what they've done with even simple things like our pelargoniums and Barberton daisies and gazanias — we've let slip this enormous wealth."

Research into the best species for the rehabilitation of the ravaged homeland areas was also an important priority, Professor Huntley added.

Funding was always a problem, but there had been "extremely encouraging" support from the private sector for infrastructure in the gardens.

Substantial overseas funding for environmental education would be forthcoming, he suggested.

"I'm totally and not naively optimistic we'll get that funding once South Africa's situation has been normalised, and I also see every opportunity in the future of getting government support for increased funding for staff."

Kirstenbosch would be the Western Cape's second biggest tourist attraction after the Waterfront, and the gardens deserved financial support at regional and local government level, Professor Huntley added.

"That support hasn't been forthcoming yet, but I'm convinced that attitude will change in the not-too-distant future."

LOOKING AHEAD: Professor Brian Huntley, chief director of the National Botanical Institute, which celebrates its 80th anniversary next month.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM. The Argus

Changes will cost R25 million

THE redevelopment of Kirstenbosch gardens — which will include a new visitors' centre, conservatory and restaurant at a changed entrance — could be complete by the turn of the century.

An ambitious development fund with a target of R25 million by 1996 has been launched.

Major development components include:

- Completing phase one of the new research block and library on the recently acquired Newlands Heights property on the northern side of the gardens;
- Phase two — moving the Compton Herbarium across to the re-

search block;

- Using the existing herbarium buildings, when vacated, as the garden administration centre;

- New facilities for garden staff — already under construction — on the quarry site below the herbarium;

- A conservatory and display area for Karoo succulents and desert plants next to the existing nurseries on the southern perimeter of the gardens;

- A major new visitors' centre and parking at the end of the Hous Avenue, next to the conservatory, with a "new" entrance into the gardens through the original gate;
- A new restaurant.

Supply of clean water

Star 21/6/93

'vital'

By Shirley Woodgate

56

The supply of clean water to informal settlements should be one of the country's national priorities, says Earth-life Africa Pretoria office spokesman Henk Coetzee.

Reacting to an admission by the Rand Water Board (RWB) of a sewage threat to Reef water, Coetzee said his views were based on claims that the biggest causes of child death in SA were water or environment-related.

Doctors in informal settlements had long indicated one of their major problems was children suffering from diarrhoea, which was largely water-related.

At the same time one of the most basic health requirements was an adequate water supply and proper sewerage, but this was lacking in these areas.

RWB pollution control manager Karl Lubout said human waste being spilt into the streams did not threaten the quality of drinking water on the Reef, but posed a danger to those using the water before it was purified.

Coetzee said shack dwellers were being forced to buy clean water brought in by taxi, at incredibly exploited prices of up to R1 for 5 l, and using river water for cleaning purposes, which defeated the purpose of buying clean drinking water.

Although many informal settlements were provided with taps, the supply of taps was far below World Health standards.

In many cases, some 100 people shared one tap. Figures for 1991 on conditions in the south of Johannesburg showed up to two taps per 1 000 people was often the rule.

Coetzee warned that standards for tap water which was considered safe in South Africa fell far short of those in the European Community which allowed 1 micrograms of trihalomethanes a litre of water compared with local guidelines permitting 100 mg a litre.

The time had also come to look at the alternative to chlorine as a means of purifying tap water, but this raised serious cost questions.

Call for St Lucia rethink

AN INTERNATIONAL conference on global wetlands has called on South Africa to reconsider a proposal to mine titanium at St Lucia in view of the grave concern over its impact on the rare site.

South Africa was among the 77 countries at the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands which ended on Wednesday in Kushiro on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island. (56)

Delegates voted to "reconfirm the conference's grave concern at the potential impact on the South African Ramsar site of St Lucia of mining for titanium and other heavy metals".

They called on the South African government to give serious consideration to reviewing "the sustainable socio-economic development of the whole St Lucia area and its surroundings".

The co-ordinator of the Campaign

By PETER KENNY: Tokyo

for St Lucia, Oliff d'Oliveira of Empangeni, addressed the conference and recommended that the government prohibit proposed dredge mining on St Lucia's eastern shores.

"Mining would cause major impacts which would permanently compromise the ecological integrity of the site," he told the conference.

"The St Lucia system is one of the few Ramsar sites which meets all three of the groups of criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance.

"These are: representative or unique wetlands; general criteria based on plants or animals; and specific criteria based on waterfowl," Mr d'Oliveira said.

The eight-day meeting ended with a declaration that wetlands were not just home to waterfowl but also vital

decanter of life forms crucial to the earth's bio-diversity.

The Kushiro statement was adopted by the member nations at the Ramsar Convention. It is the first international declaration on the environment since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro last June.

"The sustainability of wetlands is crucial to human life," the declaration proclaimed, noting they were important for flood control, maintenance of water quality, pollution abatement and support for fisheries, as well as for recreation and contribution to climatic stability.

Each of the signatory nations has to register at least one wetland area within its borders and to undertake efforts to preserve that wetland.

● The Campaign for St Lucia has rejected the Environmental Impact Assessment and vowed to fight for a national park in the area.

St Lucia impact report 'a hoax'

DURBAN. — The St Lucia dune mining controversy heated up again yesterday when a wide-ranging group of conservationists dismissed the 1 700-page environmental impact report as a "hoax".

At a press conference the conservationists indicated they might challenge the report in court.

56 OCT 18 1993

... was dead after ignoring a warning to stop.

St Lucia study flawed, meeting told

DURBAN — The St Lucia environmental impact assessment (EIA) report had been discredited, Wildlife Society spokesman Jeremy Ridl said at a meeting yesterday.

The EIA's economic team had formally distanced itself from the report, he said.

Just before its publication, the geological section of the report "had been thrown into doubt" as new evidence was made available by monitors of the Ramsar convention on the environment, which was signed in Iran in 1978 by representatives of 77 countries.

Ridl condemned the "indecent haste" with which organisations had had to respond to the CSIR report, which said no irreparable damage would be caused by mining.

Campaign for St Lucia co-ordinator Oliff d'Oliveira said if mining were allowed, the wetland would have to be taken off the Ramsar convention list of protected wetlands.

B/Daw 18/6/93
MARIANNE MERTEN

If this happened, it would be the first time one of the convention signatories had delisted an internationally recognised wetland.

During a recent Ramsar convention conference in Kushiro, Japan, delegates recommended that mining at St Lucia should be refused on principle.

Zululand Environmental Alliance spokesman Jim Phelps said the EIA report's procedure was flawed.

The assessment management committee was not representative as it did not include members of conservation organisations or the public.

The principle of "hearing the other side" — a vital part of any impact assessment and integrated environmental management system — was "interfered with" because comments from the interested and affected parties were "filtered and digested" before they reached the review panel.

KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources director Nick Steele said the bureau had found "significant omissions and unacceptable bias" in the report.

The pro-conservation sentiments were supported by those invited to the meeting, which included representatives from political bodies and conservation organisations such as the Natal Parks Board.

DP MP Rupert Lorimer said his party had dedicated itself to the fight against mining at St Lucia, although "all environmental impact assessments meant nothing because the final decision was a political one".

CP MP Joseph Chiole said the CP did not want mining activity "anywhere in St Lucia".

NUM secretariat professional assistant Roy Sewnarain said his task was to "put the facts before the national executive" and facilitate a debate within the union.

UK govt changes mind on SAAF ban

LONDON — The British government yesterday announced the lifting of its ban against the SA Air Force being invited to the RAF's 75th anniversary celebrations at the Fairford International Air Tattoo next month.

Pressure, including a published letter from five former marshals of the RAF, has been levied on the government to lift the ban following the participation of the SA Navy in last month's 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

British government officials admitted their approach to the two events had been apparently inconsistent, but were concerned

B/Daw 18/6/93
Own Correspondent

that the appearance of SA military aircraft and personnel on the operational military base of RAF Fairford would be more clearly a breach of UN, EC and Commonwealth sanctions against SA than the navy event was.

The SA supply ship Drakensberg pointedly stopped at the civilian port of Milford Haven rather than the navy ports of Plymouth or Portsmouth.

However, officials have concluded that since Fairford is a standby base that will not be used operationally during the tattoo, and because this is a major his-

torical anniversary, the sanctions do not apply.

South Africans such as Field Marshal Jan Smuts played a major role in the creation of the RAF, and pilots such as "Sailor" Malan were heroes in the Battle of Britain.

Proportionately more SA pilots were killed defending Britain than those of any other nationality. There has been a steady drumbeat of RAF veterans demanding SA be included in the 75th anniversary celebrations.

The Chief of the SAAF is expected to be among air force chiefs from around the world to be invited to the tattoo. It is hoped that SA will at least be able to return to the original invitation: four Pitts Special aerobatic planes carried to Fairford in two SA Hercules C-130 aircraft. — Daily Telegraph.

Call for new joint plan

B/Daw 18/6/93
MARIANNE MERTEN

A credible national environmental management strategy was too important to be developed by government alone or with limited support from other groups.

Cape Town University Environmental Studies Prof Richard Fuggle said this week a minimum requirement was that participants in the multiparty negotiating forum agreed a national environmental strategy should be developed at this point.

All significant role players needed to commit themselves to such a strategy, he said.

Although the task of drafting the strategy would lie with a steering committee and its secretariat, wide-ranging consultations were also necessary.



Gallo Gallo

Dune mining study rejected as a 'hoax'

Star 18/6/93

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The St Lucia dune mining controversy heated up again yesterday when leading conservationists dismissed the 1700-page environmental impact report as a "hoax".

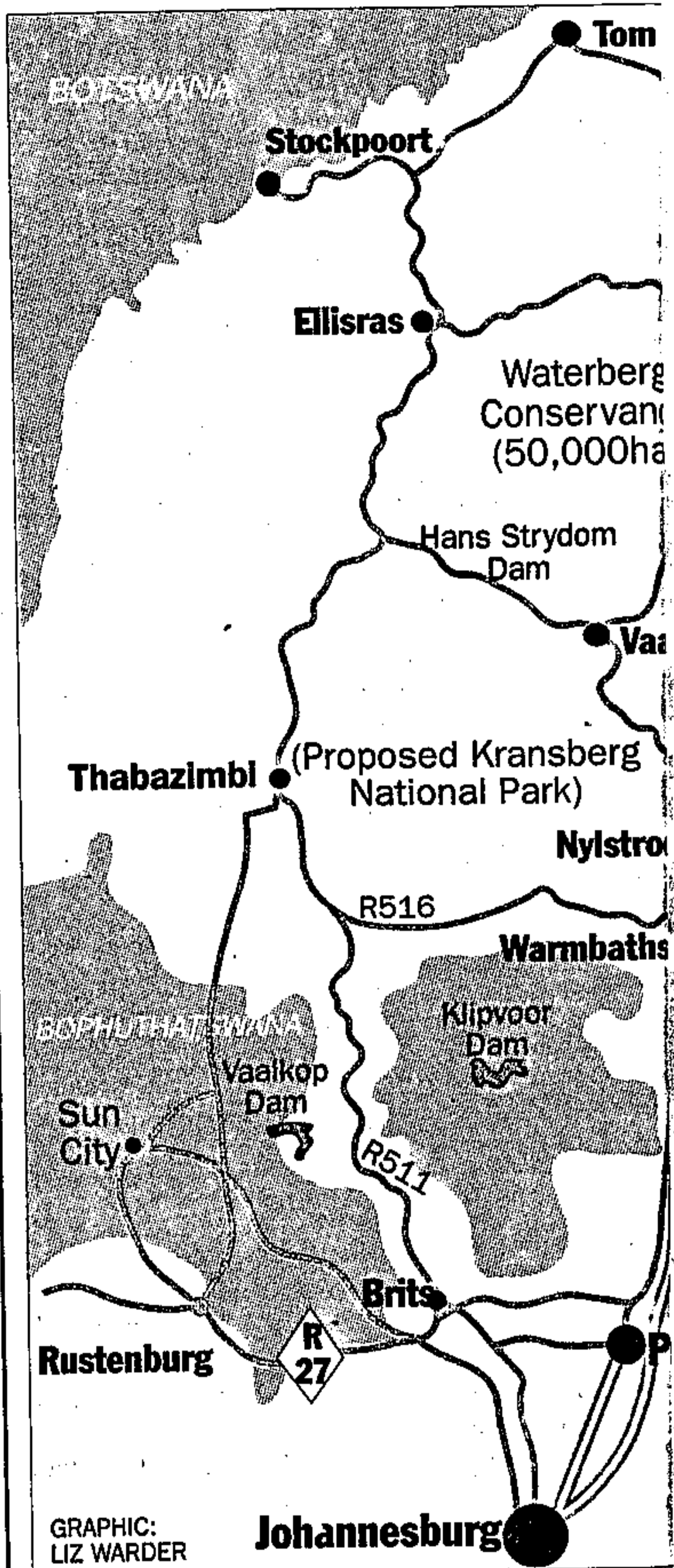
Members of the conservation movement are considering challenging the St Lucia dune mining report in court on the basis that certain decision-making procedures have not been adhered to properly. (56)

Those expressing their support for the Campaign for St Lucia yesterday included Dr Ian Player, Democratic and Conservative MPs, senior representatives of the Wildlife Society, the Natal Parks Board, the SA Nature Foundation and the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources.

Wildlife Society spokesman Jeremy Ridl said: "This is not an environmental impact assessment that has been done. It is an attempt to justify mining."

The Government should "put the report aside" and look for other areas to mine. Ridl slammed the "voodoo economics" contained in the report and said its findings on job creation were "absolute nonsense".

Conservative Party MP Joseph Chirole said Parliament would block the dune mining proposals by a two-thirds majority if President de Klerk allowed his MPs to vote according to their consciences.



Conference to examine law's future

Star 18/6/93
Staff Reporter

Legal dignitaries will address a one-day Johannesburg conference on the future of South African law on Monday to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the law firm Webber Wentzel.

The conference will be addressed by Mr Justice Goldstone, who will discuss whether law and

order can be restored in South Africa.

The Chief Justice, Mr Justice Corbett, will also address the conference, to be held at the Standard Bank headquarters in Simmonds Street.

The ANC's Penuell Maduna will speak on the legal profession's role in the new South Africa.

Senior partner at Webber Wentzel, Peter Rey-

nolds, said the firm wanted to ensure the legal system met the needs of a restructured South Africa.

"We wish to anticipate, in a meaningful forum, what will become of law in this country... and we want to play a part in guiding this country's legal system along what we believe to be the proper channels."

Big push for Bushveld

Star 18/6/93

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Bushvelders of the northern Transvaal are staking its claim as a major tourist destination of the future.

The formal launch of a drive to highlight the potential of the Bushveld took place at Nylstroom on Wednesday at a braai organised by the tourism committee of the Regional Services Council.

The area of about 48 000 sq km stretches from the Piensaars River just north of Pretoria, through Warmbaths, Nylstroom, Naboomspruit and Potgietersrus, and northwards to the Limpopo River. From

there it includes Koedoesrand, Ellisras and Thabazimbi across the Waterberg, and the Springbok Flats.

This encompasses 31 holiday resorts, 19 nature reserves, 31 hunting lodges and numerous dams, including Frikkie Geysers, Doorndraai, Glen Alpine and Hans Strydom, which offer watersports facilities.

Major attractions are the famous hot mineral springs at Warmbaths and Naboomspruit; the largest natural vlei in the Transvaal at Nysvley, which claims to have been home to the largest variety of water birds in the southern hemisphere, and the newly formed private game reserves Welgewonden and the Waterberg Conservancy, which is a natural heritage site.

There is also the game breeding centre for rare species run by the Pretoria National Zoological Gardens at Potgietersrus.

On the drawing board is the 100 000 ha Kransberg National Park just north of Thabazimbi, which is being planned along the lines of the Kruger Park and will be home to the Big 5.

It is expected to be open to the public in about two years' time.

The Bushveld is also of cultural and historical significance.

One of its most famous inhabitants was Eugene Marais, author of, among others, "My Friends the Baboons" and "The Soul of the White Ant". Both are landmark works in natural his-

tory written at the turn of the century. They have been translated into numerous languages.

Next month is the annual Thabazimbi Game Festival, with its special exhibitions, auctions and its not-to-be-missed game dinner.

Festivals are part of the region, and include the three-day Bushveld Festival at Ellisras, the Biltong Festival in October at Potgietersrus, the Warmbaths Sunshine Festival to celebrate the arrival of Spring, and the January Grape Festival in the Waterberg.

For information, contact the RSC's Bosveld Tourism Information at (0153) 7-1344/5/6 and watch for the new Bushveld video which is due to be screened on SABC-TV soon.

Murders harming economy - Holomisa

EAST LONDON - The unprecedented spate of killings of whites in Transkei has dealt its ailing economy a potentially ruinous blow.

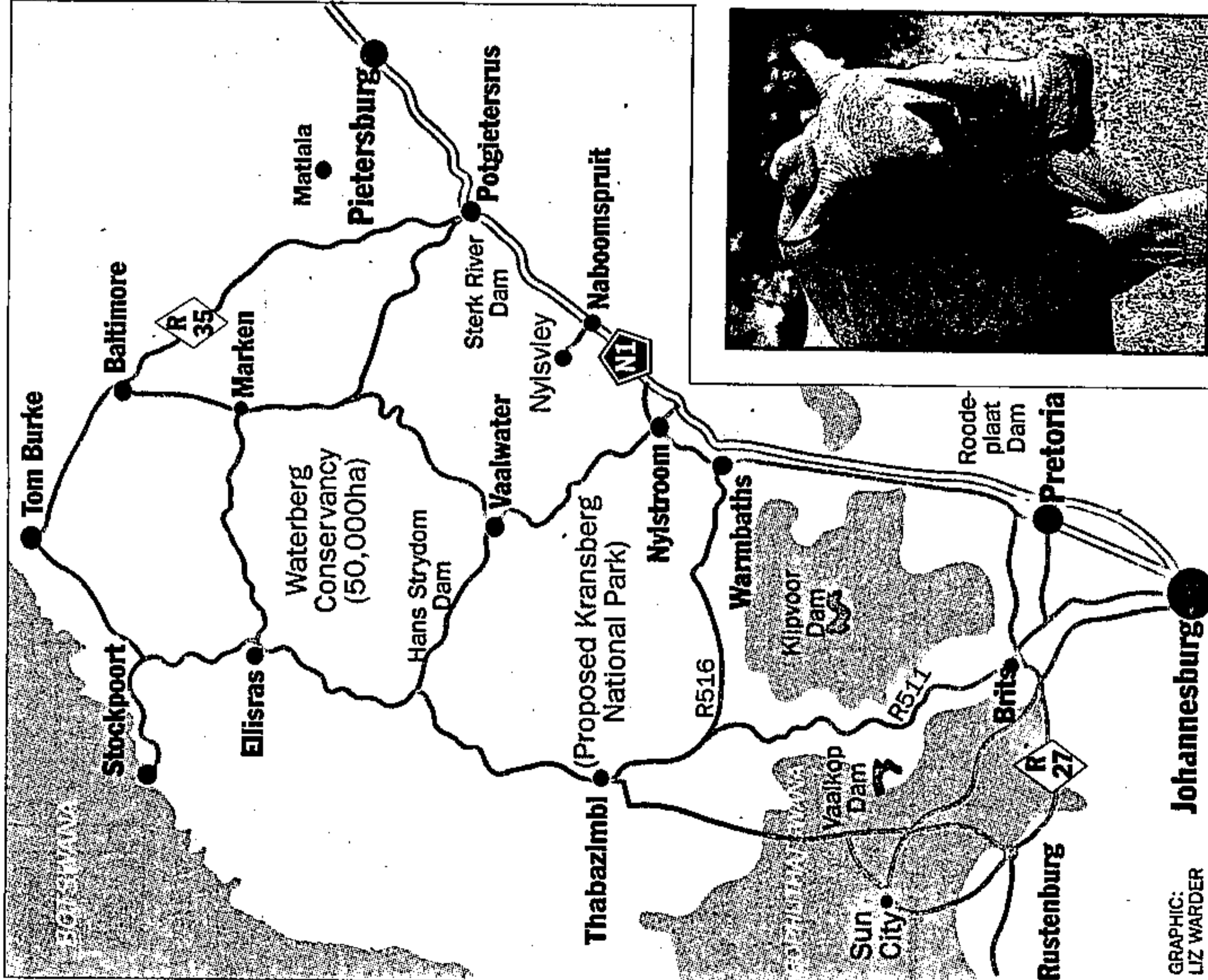
Transkei's military government yesterday condemned the murders and expressed concern about the future of investment and tourism in the territory.

Two more South Africans were murdered in Transkei this week.

Military ruler Major-

General Bantu Holomisa said: "Concerted government attempts at boosting investor confidence have been seriously undermined by the nefarious acts of the faceless dastardly few murderous gangsters."

Holomisa added: "The future of the tourism industry is becoming bleaker by the day as a result of these unwarranted bloody slayings of white tourists and other whites." - Elnews.



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More water restrictions Star 18/1/93 on the cards

By Shirley Woodgate

Stringent water restrictions are likely to be stepped up in the western, eastern and northern Transvaal if dry weather persists, according to Water Affairs Department spokesman Klaus Triebel. (56)

Two years of drought had brought dam levels below 50 percent in the Transvaal, northern Cape and Natal. These were well down from last June's levels.

The future of the country's water supplies lay in recycling and increasing the transfer of water from areas of good rainfall, in and outside the country, to areas where it was needed, Triebel said.

Between 30 and 40 percent of water used in the PWV was recycled mainly from sewage, which was processed and purified, then discharged into the Vaal River. The ultimate aim was to recycle at least 40 percent of PWV water.

Building dams was no solution since the stage had been reached when the more dams there were, the less incremental the yield.

The only area where the water situation was looking positive was in the western and eastern Cape.

Western Transvaal dams were down from 39 percent in June 1992 to 29 percent; eastern Transvaal dams were 42 percent full (49 percent last year); but although the Vaal River System supplying the PWV was down from 58 to 44 percent, water transferred from the Sterkfontein Dam would ensure a continued supply this winter.

Triebel said irrigation restrictions could be stepped up in the Letaba valley, while the situation was being monitored in the Komati River area and in the vicinity of the Loskop Dam and the two Crocodile rivers.

City pupils plea: Make trees freely available ⁽⁵⁾

□ World Environment Day message to leaders

243
ARG 17/6/93
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SUB-ECONOMIC areas should be "greened", trees made freely available and five trees planted for every one cut down, say Cape Town pupils.

This was part of their recent World Environment Day message to political and environmental leaders, drawn up at a function at the Waterfront.

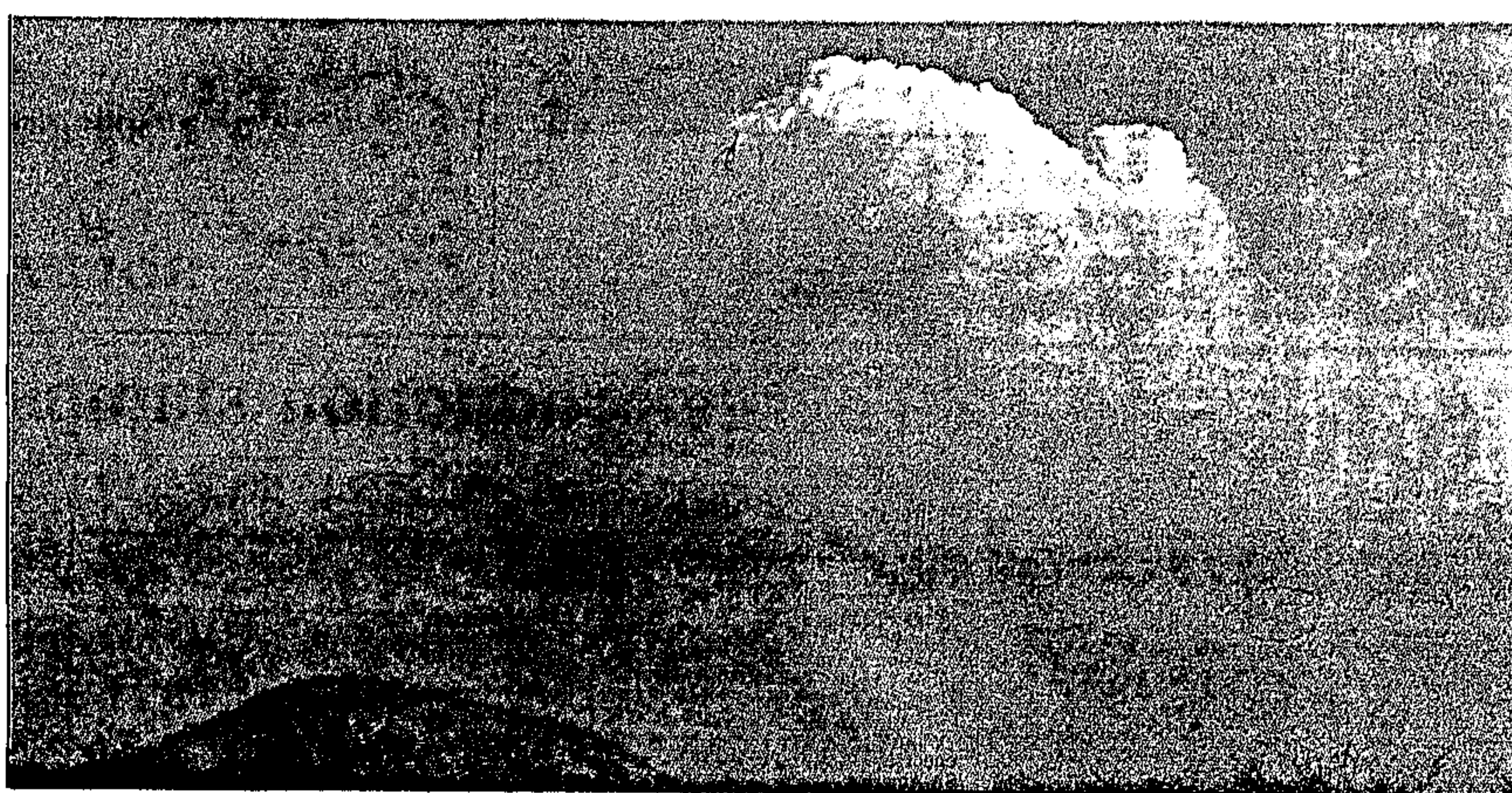
More than 240 pupils between 10 and 12 and representing schools across the socio-economic spectrum, took part in a mini Earth Summit, sponsored by the Wildlife Society, Victoria and Alfred Waterfront and Willards Foods.

Discussions about ecological issues culminated in a document of concern which was faxed to, among others, leaders of the ANC, PAC and Inkatha, United States President Bill Clinton, the United Nations Environment Desk in New York, Amnesty International, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace International.

Other points in the document included:

- Education should be a right and free.
- More money should be spent on the environment.
- Buildings should be recycled.
- In areas where gangsterism is rife, community centres should be built to educate people about the environment.
- Products should be recycled and cheaper than non-recycled goods.

"Leaders — don't become so involved with technology and power struggles that you forget children need green spaces to grow into adults concerned with the environment," the pupils pleaded.



Veld-fire plume . . . smoky clouds rise from controlled burning of about 2 000 ha of the Kruger Park near Pretoriuskop last year.

AN INCREDIBLE 200 to 300 million tons of African dust are carried annually across the Atlantic Ocean. Some of it falls on the Amazon Basin, where it is an essential source of phosphates, but South America is not the only continent getting African dust — Australia does too.

Unfortunately, not everything blown off Africa has a beneficial effect. Also bound up in the trans-oceanic air currents are huge volumes of ozone that create hot spots which dominate the global climate for certain months of the year.

The phenomenon has now been linked directly to veld fires on the African continent, with the epicentre being north of South Africa.

These facts emerged at the report-back meeting of scientists involved in the SAFARI '92 project, which is part of the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Programme — one of many components under the umbrella of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) studying global change.

Other facts that emerged included data showing that:

- Veld and forest fires globally contribute almost as much greenhouse and reactive trace gases to the atmosphere as the industries of the northern hemisphere countries.

- There is a direct link between veld fires and ozone, which forms within hours in the vicinity of a fire.

- Southern Africa has some of the biggest lower-level ozone concentrations found anywhere in the world.

- At certain periods most of the air over the region is not-

The even bigger question awaits

Star 17/16/93

(5b)

ing more than diluted smoke or photochemical smog, sometimes at levels toxic to vegetation.

- Clouds formed in smoky atmospheres are overseeded with particles, meaning they have a poor chance of producing rain.

The impetus for SAFARI '92 came from satellite data which indicated the development of distinct bands of ozone in the troposphere (the lower 10 to 15 km of the atmosphere) each year off the west coast of Africa. The bands extend all the way to South America, and to a lesser extent off the east coast towards Australia. They peak around September/October and persist through November/December before disappearing.

The northern hemisphere also develops ozone bands which are attributable to complex chemical transformations of industrial emissions. In the relatively undeveloped southern hemisphere, it is unlikely that industry causes the ozone build-up, and biomass burning was suggested.

This is what SAFARI '92 set out to test with a view to gaining a better understanding of the contribution of this biomass burning to the global increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and ultimately its part in climatic change.

It involved, and still involves,

SAFARI is an acronym for the Southern African Fire-Atmosphere Research Initiative, possibly the most exciting environmental science project to have taken place in southern Africa. Science Writer ANITA ALLEN reports.

multidisciplinary teams of scientists from South Africa, France, Germany, Britain, Canada, Belgium and the US, who took measurements of the behaviour and chemistry of veld fires in field studies conducted in Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa last year.

In addition to ground-based instruments, the teams used various aircraft, including a specially equipped DC8 belonging to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and a DC3 with instruments from Germany's Max Planck Institute which actually flew in the fire plumes.

The atmosphere consists of 99,9 percent nitrogen and oxygen, totally unreactive noble gases. Both are transparent to visible light and infra-red radiation — they let in light from the sun and let out radiation

from the Earth.

The atmosphere also contains carbon dioxide and water vapour, which let in visible light, but block infra-red radiation coming from the Earth's surface and are thus conservers of heat, creating a greenhouse effect. In addition, there are many naturally occurring minor constituents or reactive tracer gases in the atmosphere undergoing transformations.

The enhanced greenhouse effect that scientists fear will soon rapidly warm up the planet with dramatic climatic shifts stems mainly from increases in these trace gases, methane (CH₄), carbon monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), two nitrogen oxides — nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) — and chlorofluorocarbons — compounds that contain chlorine, fluorine, carbon and sometimes hydrogen.

These gases have an important but not well understood role in climatic control and some of them also affect the thickness of Earth's protective stratospheric ozone layer.

Ozone, an active form of oxygen, with molecules made up of three atoms of oxygen instead of the usual two, is opaque to ultraviolet rays from the sun which are harmful to life.

However, ozone in the troposphere is a greenhouse gas that

reacts with other chemicals and is converted to sulphuric and nitric acids, which readily dissolve in water droplets to find their way to Earth's surface as acid rain.

There are two processes in the Earth's biosphere which affect climate — naturally occurring cycles, like respiration and photosynthesis, and human activities.

While it is true that the Earth's atmosphere has never been free of change, its composition is being disturbed to an unprecedented degree by human beings.

So much is clear, but what human activities generate which emissions? How do altered concentrations of gases relate to effects? What are the consequences for the planet?

The search for more certainty to these questions gave rise to a global programme on change, the IGBP, which has many sub-programmes.

The most reliable data that go back the furthest indicate that emissions of the so-called greenhouse gases (the big three being carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) are increasing by 0,5 percent a year.

This has the effect of warming the mean temperature of the planet by 1 deg C every decade. It might not sound like much, but by the mid 2000s this will be the largest temperature change in such a short period of time in 500 million years.

The consequences will be a melting of the ice caps, an expansion of oceans and, by 2040, sea levels rising to cover land at present occupied by 250 million people.

Trying to develop policies to cope with climatic change is an even bigger challenge. □

Savannahs have huge potential

Star 17/16/93

DR BOB Scholes of the CSIR's division of forest science and technology (Forestek) supplied an African perspective at the SAFARI report-back.

Half of the African continent was savannah, the largest single ecosystem left in the world.

It had been subject to fires since the days when the continents were all one and it always would have fire.

In addition, all organisms and the survival of biodiversity on the savannahs were tied to fire. Therefore, a fire exclusion policy was a non-starter.

Biomass burning on

had an enormous impact on global climate in that it was the source of an estimated 37 percent of the global budget of greenhouse gases annually. (5b)

But, on the other hand, the savannahs had an enormous potential to be carbon sinks. Offsetting its ability to absorb with current emissions, Africa's contribution to the global budget was negligible.

According to Scholes, options to mitigate greenhouse emissions would entail new considerations for land use and land management based on a better understanding of the func-

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195/70 SR14

GPS

R286

B/Say 16/6/92

Forum on environment possible

BUSINESS and government are to work together in consultations for the formulation of a national environmental management system to improve the quality of life in SA. (56)

At an Environment Affairs Department meeting yesterday, former Sacob president Hennie Viljoen said a forum similar to the National Economic Forum "may persuade us at Sacob that this is the way to go".

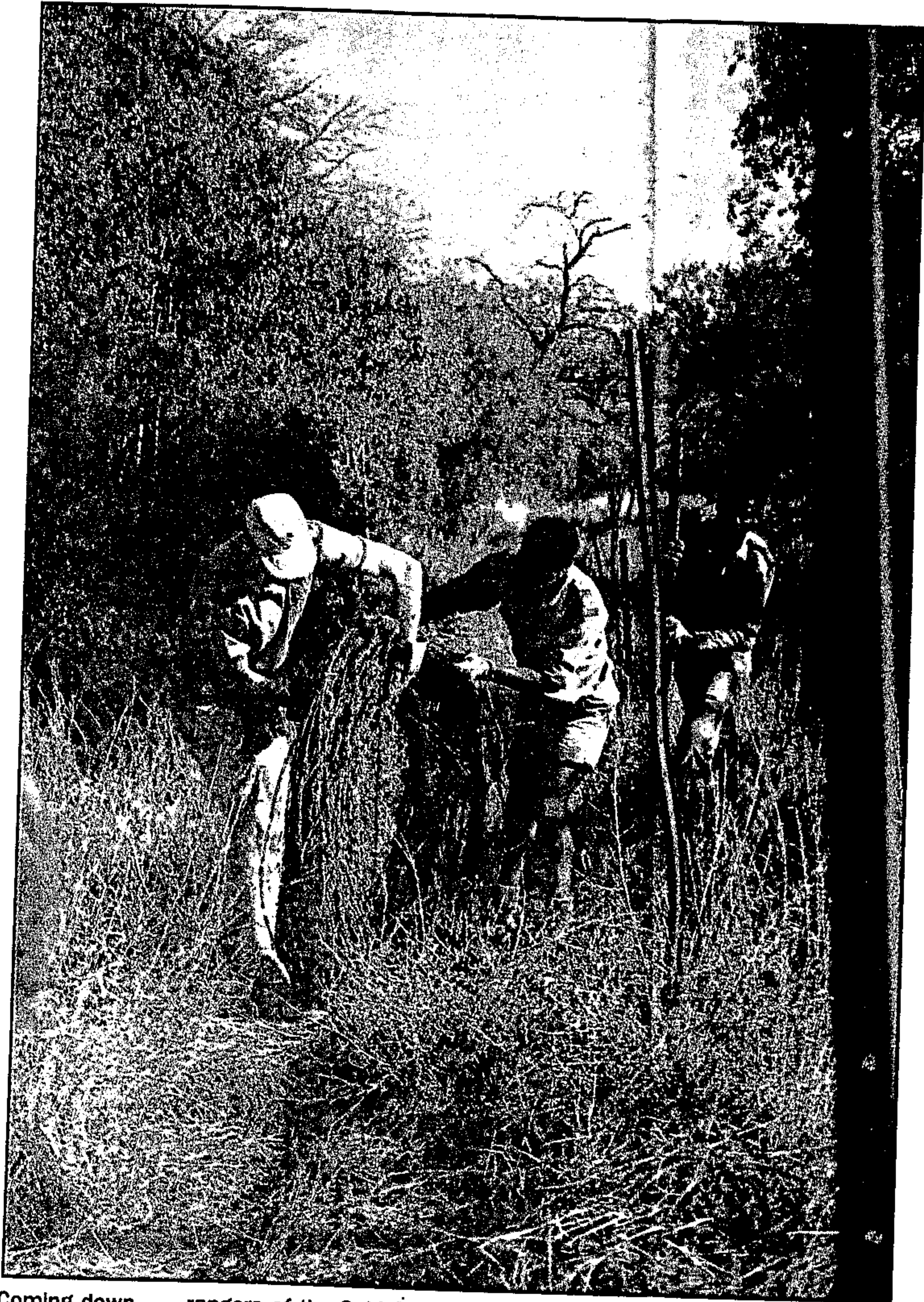
Major role-players — business,

MARIANNE MERTEN

non-governmental organisations, government and community based organisations — would participate voluntarily in the proposed national environmental forum to overcome different perceptions of what environmental issues were.

Business had to be involved in the system's goal setting process to ensure realistic and attainable objectives, Viljoen said.

Handwritten signature



Coming down . . . rangers of the Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve start taking down the 14 km fence along the Sable River, next to the Kruger National Park.

Smiles as fence ^{Start 15/6/92} bites dust

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

50

Everyone is smiling down Sabi Sabi way now that the fence between the private game park and the Kruger National Park is finally being removed.

The event has particular significance for Sabi Sabi because its common border with the Kruger Park is the Sable River.

Technically the private reserve's boundary is the middle of the channel in the river. However, the fence was erected on the Sabi Sabi side above the banks of the riverine forests, effectively cutting off its access.

At a special press outing to mark the dropping of the fences yesterday, Sabi Game Lodge managing director Peter Schoon, said that for Sabi Sabi the destruction of the fence was equivalent to the coming down of the Berlin Wall.

About 2 km of the 14 km stretch of barbed wire along the Sable River is down and within two months Sabi Sabi will be opened up to the greater Kruger Park area.

The fence erected in 1960, runs for about 150 km, dividing the park from the private game reserves on its western boundary.

Once the fence is down, the private reserves will be incorporated into the greater Kruger Park area, which will effectively increase in size by about 15 percent.

In terms of the new contractual status between Kruger and the private game reserves, there will no longer be any distinction between State and private conservation, and ecological and habitat management will be a co-operative effort.

Dispute over bottled, tap water

By Shirley Woodgate

Tap water is often unpalatable, full of unnecessary chemicals and, although not poisonous, may be detrimental to health, claims Hoogland Hydro's Abri Kruger.

Reacting to Rand Water Board claims that municipal water tasted better than bottled drinking water which revealed poor microbiological quality, bottlers have labelled the allegations one-sided and

called for comparative tests with RWB water.

Answering allegations that expiry dates were omitted on bottled water, Kruger said it was unnecessary as the water had an indeterminate shelf life since it contained no chemicals which could make it deteriorate.

But if bottled tap water were left in the sun, it became microbiologically receptive once the chlorine escaped.

Calling on the RWB to

name the six outlets which had been tested and found wanting, Kruger said products from some backyard bottling outlets may contain platelets or microbes.

IN THE colonial days governors simply drew lines on maps to designate the boundaries of their foreign possessions. In SA, the commissioners charged with the task of demarcating federal boundaries — currently hearing evidence at the World Trade Centre — will not have such an easy task.

They have language, political, tribal and historic considerations. Even when the boundaries are determined they will probably be subject to political disagreement. This, after all, ranks arguably as the oldest cause of dispute between humans.

The ideal would be for the commissioners to have available to them a non-contentious, scientific basis for demarcation which is capable of physical definition.

They could impose upon such a system the more sensitive requirements of communities and political groupings. If this could be achieved, it is possible that this powder keg for future conflict may be diminished, if not eliminated.

Drainage areas can dictate borders

BIDM 15/6/93

BRIAN MIDDLETON

There is a rational and scientific source for such a cartographic solution. Based on the work conducted over many years by the Water Affairs and Forestry Department, with input from independent water scientists, definable drainage areas created by ancient patterns of geological formation, rainfall and water flow have been mapped.

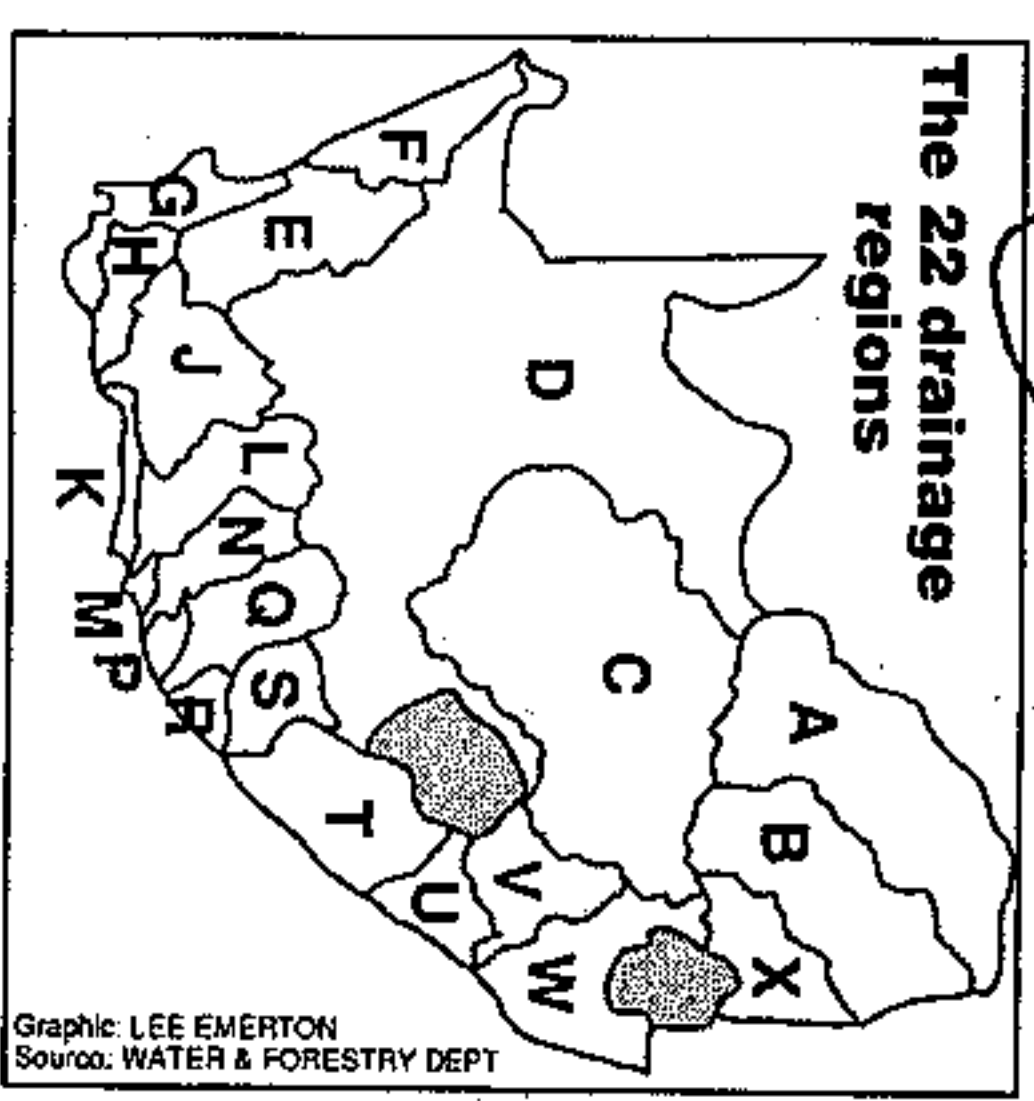
The lines that demarcate these areas are called river catchment boundaries. They divide river systems and create river basins or catchments, of which 22 primary drainage regions have been identified within SA's borders (see map).

What makes them relevant to the debate regarding regional boundaries is that the regional divisions proposed by the politicians can be modified easily to coincide with the drainage regions. Whereas the pro-

posed politically inspired boundaries are drawn according to river courses; political, magisterial or original grant boundaries; or lines of latitude and longitude — all of which are either invisible, impermanent or subject to political whim — river catchment boundaries are and will remain indisputable.

The use of these 22 primary regions can be manipulated logically with advanced computer technology in the form of the Geographic Information System.

This system applies stored data sets — such as land types, micro-economics and population densities — to the spatial representations of



the drainage systems. It would, for example, permit the use of demographics to influence the final determination of regions.

There are five reasons why this system should be used as the basis

- for the new regional dispensation:
 - The drainage area definitions are unambiguous — the line joining all the high points defines the boundary;
 - These boundaries are easily identifiable on the ground and on maps;
 - They do not change, except by major geological upheaval;
 - The areas they contain are physical entities;
 - Because they define river basins, they create manageable units.
- The latter reason may be the most compelling. Since water is probably the country's most precious resource — ultimately everything depends upon its availability and effective distribution — its regions of influence are logical concentrations for community existence.
- It is a natural rather than political basis for the demarcation of the country, which conforms conveniently, broadly speaking, to the politicians' requirements.
- Middleton is a director of consulting engineers Steffen Robertson & Kirsten.

DEVIEWM

Fishing vessel 'stuck fast in OWN gill nets' off West Coast

ANGUS | 6 | 93

□ Salvage operator turns a deaf ear to pleas for helping hand

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter



THE Portuguese fishing vessel accused of using gill nets in the Sea-mount Verna area off the West Coast is stuck fast — apparently in its own nets.

South African fishermen reported in March that the Martins Mar, a fishing vessel registered under the Panamanian flag of convenience, but operating out of Portugal with a Portuguese crew, was literally "strip-mining" marine resources at the underwater pinnacle about 500 nautical miles off the West Coast.

The vessel, which was seen laying vast numbers of gill nets in "blanket" fashion over the plateau of the sea-mount — an important area for the South African industry — was searched when it put into Walvis Bay for bunkers, but nets were not found.

A United Nations moratorium on the use of gill nets came into effect on January 1 this year.

Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, who complained to the Portuguese ambassador and alerted international conservation organisations about the Martins Mar's activities, said she had been told by salvage sources that the vessel had been stuck for about 10 days with netting wrapped around its propeller. A South African salvage company,

which she didn't name, had refused to go to the fishing vessel's assistance because of its activities, she reported.

The vessel's captain is apparently trying to hire a diver to cut the nets free, and the Osa Bremen, a foreign-registered "tug" — technically an anchor handler — which was in Cape Town, is reported to be on its way to help.

The agent could not be contacted to confirm this.

Mr Allan Louw of the only diving and salvage company in Walvis Bay said yesterday he was aware the Martins Mar was in trouble, but that he had not been approached for help.

The Portuguese Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Jorge Ritto, said last month his country could not accept responsibility for the vessel as it was registered in Panama.

But Mrs Rice responded by warning Portugal that unless it was prepared to investigate the incident and take appropriate action, it would face increased international conservation pressure.

Already, several conservation organisations in the United States have contacted the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Panama at the United Nations in New York to complain, and the British-based International Fund for Animal Welfare has asked the European Community to pressure Portugal to end the vessel's fishing.

**Hopes that ozone
depletion slowing**

S Times (Cimetro)
13/6/93

LOCAL scientists are optimistic that the ozone layer depletion is slowing down.

The CSIR believes this success is due to many countries, including South Africa, undertaking to reduce the use of CFC, the chemical that harms the ozone layer.

The baseline station for atmospheric trace gas research at Cape Point noted the "levelling off of the atmospheric accumulation rates of the CFCs, although their concentration is still increasing", according to a CSIR spokesman.

(56)

Voodoo economics' on St Lucia mining report

St Times 13/6/93

By RYAN CRESSWELL

THE conclusions of the Environmental Impact Report on mining at St Lucia are unsubstantiated and probably incorrect, two economists have found. (56) (E)

The report recommends that there would be a significant advantage to dune mining in the area, but Dr Frank Vorhies and Deborah Nolte Vorhies, hired by the Wildlife Society to review this recommendation, say they have found some "voodoo economics".

Their findings have been given extra weight by one of the economists who worked on the impact report, eminent British economist Professor David Pearce, of University College, London.

He has sent letters to various interested bodies in South Africa saying that the report contains some "quite misleading" comparisons of economic and environmental impacts.

Problems

He said he could not say how the "errors of fact and presentation" had arisen, but it was evident that "whoever drafted the economics table had no understanding of the economics of development-environment comparisons".

Problems found by Dr and Mrs Vorhies are:

- The assessment made no attempt to place a value on the mines.

- The assessment "falsely" assumes that the Eastern Shores are a perfectly substitutable resource from a conservation perspective and a non-substitutable resource from a mining perspective.

- The final report is completely inadequate in that it does not incorporate conservation values into its economic evaluation.

- The report in general accepts the plans and associated numbers supplied by RBM for mining the dunes, but when it comes to plans and associated numbers supplied by the Natal Parks Board for conserving the dunes, the assessment usually rejects them.

Putting man back

into the wilds

DEREK Hanekom, the ANC man who stirred up a hornet's nest a few weeks ago when he was reported as suggesting Kruger National Park could be turned into cattle farms, has broached the subject again.

Land distribution would have to occur and State land, including conservation areas, was the easiest in this regard, Hanekom said in a speech to a meeting of the Development Society of South Africa held at the Rand Afrikaans University on Thursday evening.

But this time, four officials from the National Parks Board heaved a sigh of relief when Hanekom swore he had been misquoted when he was reported as saying Kruger Park could be put to better use for cattle farming.

Forced out

In fact, Kruger and the other game parks and reserves in this country were a national heritage, and brought in billions in badly needed foreign exchange, Hanekom said.

The problem was that most of the people around parks very seldom benefited from them, even though many had been forced to give up their land for the parks without compensation.

THE LOCAL population living near game parks and conservation areas should be allowed use of this land and be made to feel that they can benefit directly from it. This, the ANC says, is the foundation on which future policy should be based. JULIENNE DU TOIT reports.

ANC outlines its policy to share out spoils

In fact, if the people living around the park, numbering millions, could vote about the park, they would vote it out of existence, said Hanekom. All this talk about the earning of foreign exchange meant nothing to them.

Something would have to be done, he said, and he invited ANC member and conservationist Louis Liebenberg to outline one of the options the ANC is considering.

In principle, said Liebenberg, there was nothing really wrong in letting cattle graze in the Kruger Park or other game parks during drought periods when people on barren lands adjoining the park looked longingly at the open expanse on the other side of the fence.

Of course this access

would have to be limited, away from the ecotourism. It would also have to be well managed, Liebenberg said.

Having cattle in the park might mean the number of lions would have to be cut down, he said. "I mean, how many lions are absolutely necessary in an ecosystem anyway? All this would have to be studied."

He said it was an artificial situation to have a piece of pristine land set aside without man in it. "It's unnatural to have a place where a kudu is walking around without any danger of a human hunting him. Man is part of nature," said Liebenberg, who has lived and hunted with Bushmen.

And instead of using expensive technology to combat poachers, why not pay a tracker a sala-

ry with the amount it would cost to keep a helicopter in the air for an hour? asked Liebenberg.

He said people should be able to participate in activities within the park and be made to feel, and know, that they could benefit directly. Money should not trickle back from an indirect source.

People should also have ready access to parks for medicinal plants, thatching grass and firewood. "As long as the resources are managed properly, there is no reason why this should damage the ecosystem," he said.

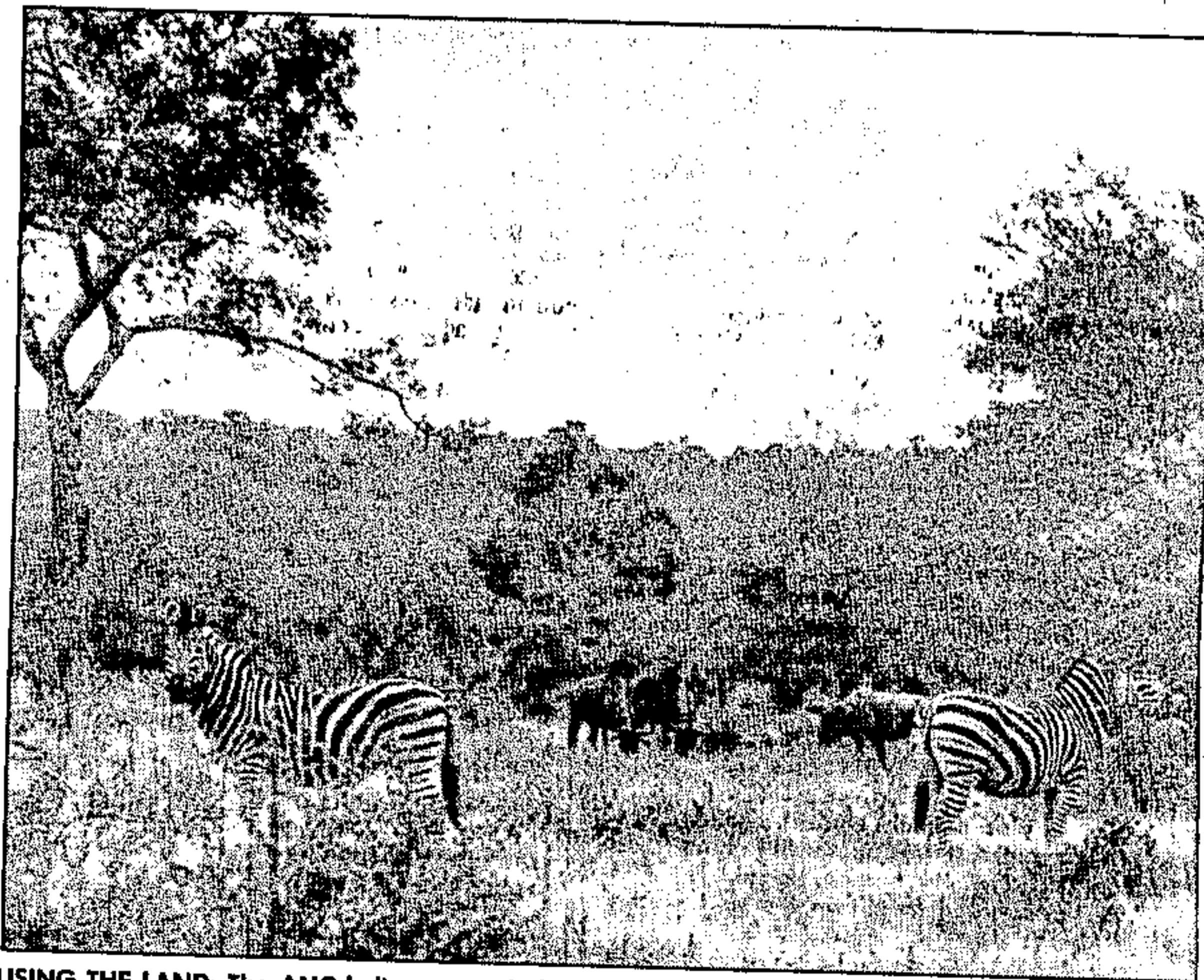
What should also happen was that local people must be encouraged to go into game farming as opposed to cattle farming only.

Good meat

Cattle were selective eaters and tended to de-grade the veld. This was not the case with wild animals, which also had the advantage of having good, lean meat; of being more resistant to local conditions, droughts and diseases; and of attracting ecotourism.

Hanekom and Liebenberg, neither of whom has been to Kruger Park, were promptly invited for a workshop by the Kruger Park officials, and were also invited to the Klaserie and Timbavati area by a landowner there.

"We should do this more often," joked Liebenberg.



USING THE LAND: The ANC believes people living near game parks should be encouraged to go into game farming and also be allowed to make use of the resources within them.

Everything

is green

See 12/16/93

On Venus

THE paradise of Venus lies halfway between Hazyview and Sabie in the eastern Transvaal — a plantation on the headwaters of the Mac Mac River.

Sappi forestry manager Bongay Bredenkamp admits he is fortunate to be steward of this corner of Earth and takes his responsibilities cheerfully.

On Venus, the industrial giant Sappi has no meaning. What counts are individuals, like Bredenkamp — one of a new generation of foresters who do not apologise for being caretakers of exotic plantations.

"Forestry is the primary agency for the conservation of mountain catchments and natural forests," he says.

"Forestry people have always seen themselves as conservationists," his boss Willem Olivier, general manager of Sappi's Transvaal Forests, elaborates. "In the past, the forestry industry made many mistakes through lack of understanding. Today, armed with greater knowledge and understanding, big companies are changing the way they operate."

Sappi has surveyed its 25 Transvaal plantations, scattered from God's Window to Piet Retief, to identify special areas.

Code of practice

This includes habitats of oribi, bushbuck, scarlet river lily, various watsonias, Berg aloe, indigenous forests, rivers, wetlands, krantzes, caves, waterfalls, graveyards and ruins — such as Blouboskraal, belonging to Indian inhabitants of 1000 BC to 1500 AD.

A code of practice, implemented in 1989, requires that each manager initiates at least one new environmental project a year. Spearheaded by environmental manager Stewart Meikle, an annual audit has been developed where projects are graded on a star rating from 1 to 5.

"The interesting thing about this," says Meikle, "is that if foresters do badly in

COMMERCIAL forestry is working hard to dispel its image as a despoiler of the environment, Science Writer ANITA ALLEN finds out.

New-age foresters ring the changes

their environmental assessment, it is reflected in other ways as well."

Forestry permits are not issued for more than 75 percent of a designated area. In Sappi's case, 72 percent of its land is afforested, and the rest is special areas which have to be managed. Of Venus's 8 447 ha, 5 983 ha is afforested, and Bredenkamp has a 5-star grading.

The major criticism of forestry is its effect on water supply. Forestry uses less water than irrigated agricultural lands, Olivier says, and it reduces flood peaks, soil erosion and sediment in run-off because trees are natural sponges and filters.

Mac Mac River water is crystal clear and the Sabie River which it feeds is one of the cleanest in the country — and among the richest in flora and fauna.

Critics seldom mention the extent to which forests can cool and humidify the air within and above the canopy, thus influencing rainfall, Meikle adds.

New plantations are not planted closer than 20 m to water courses, and weeds and exotics are cleared from riverine and protected areas. The main problems are wattle, bug weed, syringa, lantana, and Mauritius thorn, a parasite-type creeper.

In one project started in 1987, Bredenkamp has cleared 19 km or 350 ha along the Mac Mac River. It's a back-breaking job where exotics are hacked out tree by tree because herbicidal spraying is not possible. With wattles, a ring of cuts is made on each tree trunk and poison is injected. And Bredenkamp's team has made up to 30 return trips to cut out new growth. They have also planted thousands of indigenous saplings in protected areas.

"This doesn't mean we are managing everything perfectly and it's all fine and dandy," says Olivier. "We have inherited many problems, but we will iron out all these."

Another criticism of forestry stems from the perception that it has replaced indigenous forests.

"Sappi has never hacked down indigenous forests to plant exotics," says Olivier. "In the first place, it's a terribly expensive exercise, so we plant where no forest has grown before."

Up to World War 2, indigenous forests yielded the wood needed, he says. After that, commercial forestry started and has actually taken pressure off the indigenous forests.

These are protected areas and have been improved under Sappi management, Olivier says. Care is taken not to plant too close to the forests, and plantations are being cleared where they abut forests to allow for gradual spread.

Human side

Conservation also has a human side, says Meikle, and the code of practice emphasises education as well as social and cultural requirements of employees, their families and adjacent communities who may be deprived of some benefits because of afforestation. Collecting wood on the plantations has always been allowed, he says.

"We've got a system that works," says Meikle, "and we can measure the progress. As long as we are improving, I'm happy."

Sappi's outreach extends to Project MAP (management-aided planting) where farmers are given saplings to plant on under-utilised land, and trees are harvested by Sappi.

In Project Grow in Kwa-Zulu, Sappi has supplied seedlings, money and expertise to help 2 000 farmers earn income from forestry.

As they say down Venus way: Why be your worst, when you can be your best.

Rare plants under threat

Staff Reporter

INDIGENOUS plants on the Cape West Coast are increasingly being threatened as more and more land is cleared for irrigated crops, according to a report issued by the Flora Conservation Committee of the Botanical Society.

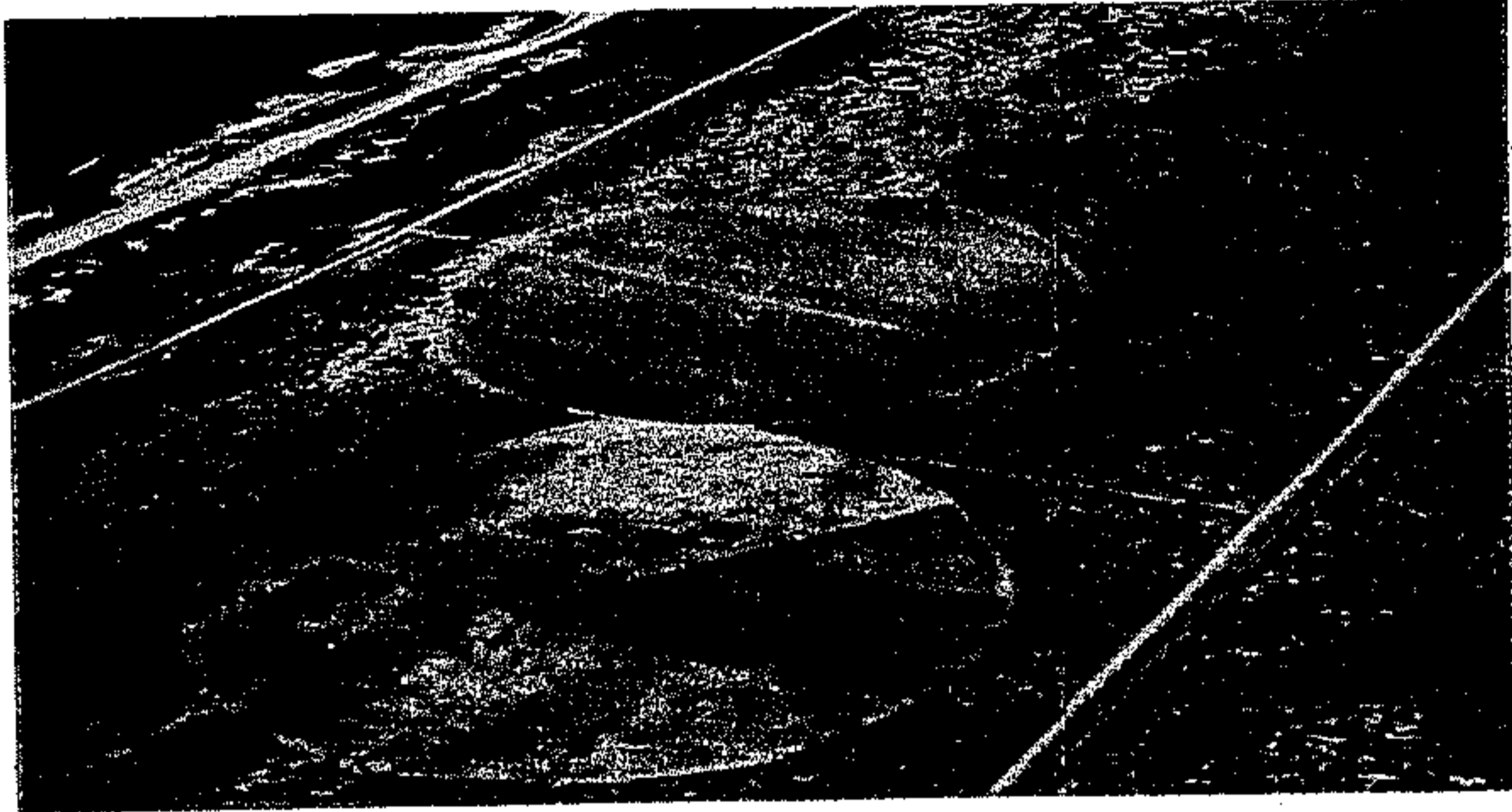
Acting Conservation Officer Mr Barry Hedenrych said that land clearing for centre-pivot cultivation — an elaborate circular overhead irrigation system — was found to be on the increase in many areas.

He said that certain species of rare plants were found to occur in areas presently being cleared.

The gradual expansion of this system meant the habitat for indigenous plants was being reduced.

The average size of the circular fields is 20 hectares. Farmers clear four times the area they need as laws governing crop rotation stipulate that they may not use a field more than once in four years.

The system is mainly used for seed potato cultivation.



THREATENING ... An example of the 20-hectare centre-pivot irrigation systems which threaten rare plants on the West Coast.

56 CT 11/6/93

Picture: MURRAY TAYLOR

Mr Hedenrych said there was concern that the centre-pivot system which requires large amounts of water may have a serious hydrological impact in the area which has not been adequately assessed.

The practice in the past, Mr Hedenrych said, was to use a row of indigenous land in between strips of crop.

Fees mooted for mountain walks

Staff Reporter

HIKERS may have to pay for the pleasure of walking up Table Mountain, it emerged during a city council seminar on the mountain yesterday.

Entrance fees to parts of the mountain will "inevitably" have to be charged, Democratic Party environmental spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said. His colleague in Parliament, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said he would have no qualms about charging "about R5 a head" for the 400 000 people a year who go up the cableway, as this was the price of "a not very good hamburger".

But mayor Mr Frank van der Velde warned that the issue could turn into a political hot potato. "We have been through this debate on the beaches, where proposed gate fees caused a political upheaval."

The new director of parks and forests, Mr David Daitz, said there was massive resistance to the "user pays" principle in the disadvantaged communities.

CT 11/6/93

(56)

Hansard

775. S S Seearsad 11005467 A M Moola School
 776. D Naidoo 10998501 Northdale Technical College
 777. V D Naidoo 11015047 Northdale Technical College
 778. P K Moodley 10998322 Northdale Technical College

Hansard

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

lation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
 (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B843E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) No. The K53-system is applied.
 (2) Yes. All SA Defence Force Examiners are qualified at the School of Armour in accordance with the K53-system.
 (3) No.

QUESTIONS

+ Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

SADF: military/civilian drivers' licences

361. Mr A E DE WET asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether the test for a military driver's licence differs from the test for a civilian driver's licence; if not, why not; if so, (a) why and (b) in what respects;
 (2) whether examiners testing prospective candidates for a military driver's licence are competent to perform this function in accordance with road traffic legis-

Afforestation applications

376. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (a) How many afforestation applications were received by his Department in each province in 1992, (b) (i) how many of these applications were approved and (ii) for what areas were they approved, in each case, and (c) (i) how many applications were refused and (ii) for what reason was each application refused? B872E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

	TRANSVAAL	NATAL	CAPE PROVINCE	ORANGE FREE STATE
(a)	32	42	31	NI [†]
(b)	26	40	31	NI [†]
(c)	4 514 ha	10 902 ha	5 981 ha	NI [†]
	6	2	NI [†]	NI [†]

(i) The maximum permissible area for afforestation in the relevant catchment or sub-catchment, which had been determined earlier by the Central Afforestation Permit Committee, had already been fully allocated.

R6 850 'lost' on each trauma victim

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — A retrospective study of 120 patients admitted to Groote Schuur Hospital's trauma unit in the first six weeks of 1991 found that an average of R6 850 was lost for each patient.

This startling figure was quoted by Dr J van der Spuy of the Medical Research Council at the annual congress of the Trauma Society of South Africa currently being held at the Elangeni Hotel in Durban.

"Of the average cost of R7 250 for each patient who suffers trauma in a car accident, the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accident Fund paid R400 — leaving the hospital to absorb the balance."

He said if this figure were extrapolated, the cost to Groote Schuur over a year was R6,4 million and it shot up to R19m if all other Cape hospitals were added to the equation.

One of the reasons private hospitals could not assist in carrying the burden of motor vehicle trauma was because the fund took between two and three years to settle claims.

"We have a tremendous problem with vehicle trauma — we are killing 10 000 to 11 000 people on our roads every year. And for every fatality there are three to four people injured. "Not only life and limb are in danger but the cost to the economy is enormous."

According to Dr van der Spuy the 9 000 road fatalities in 1991 cost the economy R4,5m a day, while serious injuries cost R3m a day.

"Altogether we are wasting close on R20m a day on vehicle accidents — a lot of money is lost to the economy!" Pedestrians formed around half of the 120 trauma admissions.

Costs mounted up in the provision of medicines, X-rays and length of stay — an average 22 days per patient.

Groote Schuur exhibits its own green message

GROOTE SCHUUR Hospital's waste management programme, started this year, has been so successful the hospital is holding an exhibition this week to spread the green message, reports said yesterday.

Senior medical superintendent Dr Peter Mitchell said a specialist company already removed and incinerated hazardous waste to reduce smoke.

During the past year 12 000kg of paper and cardboard had been sold each month. Plastic bottles were re-used and glass bottles recycled. The exhibition will be open until Friday. — Sapa

Boy dies: Abuse

PRETORIA. — The parents of three toddlers appeared in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday in connection with the death of their eldest child — a two-year-old boy — in 1991.

The boy died in hospital of injuries his parents blamed on a fall.

The Verwoerdburg couple's daughter was placed in foster care in March last year when she was two months old after doctors found a large bruise on her stomach, and their youngest child — now three months old — was Verwoerd Hospital five broken ribs charged. The man, 24, a June 18. Bail was admitted to hospital falling off a bed burst and he had died of these Police could not were not caused

Proposed committee on environment under fire

S6

ARC 8/6/93

□ 'A bureaucrat's dream', claims DP spokesman

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

NEW legislation creating a "Here 17" committee of top civil servants to play a decisive role in the government's environment policy has been slated in parliament.

The ANC and the Democratic Party have opposed it on the grounds that the interests of the environment are bound to come a poor second to the interests of state departments whose very function is to exploit the environment.

The Environment Conservation Amendment Bill provides for the establishment of a committee for environmental management to advise the director-general of environment affairs on anything that might influence the protection or utilisation of the en-

vironment, and to co-ordinate and promote the implementation of the Act itself.

This committee of 17 directors-general of various government departments was described as a "real bureaucrat's dream" by DP environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer.

"Excluded by right are any people who can lay claim to environmental expertise," he said.

He said the "Here 17" had a vested interest in development rather than in conservation and, in this respect, the "incompetent" Bill would not help solve the major problem of divided responsibility in environmental matters.

"Ideally, the Department of Environment Affairs should be given teeth to veto the proposed action of other

departments, but this is not yet the policy of the government."

Urging the government to drop the Bill, "even at this late stage", Mr Lorimer described it as a "thoroughly bad piece of legislation, which has the potential to be a dangerous piece of legislation in respect of environmental protection".

ANC MP for Simon's Town Mr Janie Momberg accused the government of "vacillating between a professed desire to do something positive about our deteriorating apartheid-wrecked environment and backing off giving legislative effect to it.

"They lack the courage of their convictions in that the National Party is clearly not prepared to raise the status of the Minister of Environment Affairs, nor to give the department any real say over the crucial needs of the environment."

'No quick change' in white judiciary

B/Day 22/6/93

SUSAN RUSSELL

EVEN if the recruiting ground for judges was widened it was still going to be a long time before suitable appointees other than white males were found, Chief Justice Michael Corbett said in Johannesburg yesterday.

He was speaking at the conclusion of a conference on the future of law in SA held as part of law firm Webber Wentzel's centenary celebrations.

His remarks followed a speech by ANC legal adviser Penuell Maduna who said the current white male-dominated judiciary lacked credibility in the eyes of the population and would have to become more representative in a future SA.

"While I agree there is an urgent need for the judiciary to be less dominated by white males, at the same time there is great difficulty in finding suitable appointees to the Bench," Corbett said.

"It may well be that the recruiting ground for the Bench should be widened, but even in those circumstances it will be a long time before one is going to find suitable appointees other than, I am afraid, white males.

The Chief Justice said he understood the concern of black people going to court who came into contact with white male judicial officers.

"But to a large extent that is a product of our history, social conditions and not something which I believe can be changed overnight."

Corbett said he believed there was nothing worse, for the public benefit and the morale of the individual concerned, than to appoint someone to the Bench who did not have the qualifications, because he soon

realised his deficiencies.

"I have seen in my own experience the moral disintegration that takes place when a man is put in that position and realises it," he said.

Both he and Goldstone commission head Judge Richard Goldstone, who gave the opening address, expressed "cautious optimism" that law and order would be restored in SA.

Goldstone said one of the elements needed to restore law and order was good, strong policing from a force seen by the majority of people as friendly and intent on protecting the public's rights.

"The police have already undergone dramatic changes," Goldstone said.

"I believe the SAP is much more conscious of the need for acceptance in the community and for the good co-operation of the community.

"There is not, however, very much chance of success before there is a democratic government that is in charge of the security forces."

Goldstone said his commission's own investigating team, which included local and international policemen, was a microcosm of what could happen, and what he believed would happen in SA in future.

The SAP members of the team, he said, found that policemen were policemen everywhere and that their problems were the same, Goldstone said.

Local police officers working on the investigation team had thoroughly enjoyed the experience, he said.

Water report castigates councils

B/Day 22/6/93

JONATHAN DAVIS

COASTAL municipalities could be seriously damaging valuable dune water resources, according to the Water Research Commission.

Up to 50 local authorities are operating boreholes in dunes but have little expertise in the proper management of the vulnerable water resource, it says in a report compiled for the commission by the Institute for Coastal Research at the University of Port Elizabeth.

The report found use of the aquifers, or fresh water deposits, was much more extensive than had been suspected. More research was urgently needed to prevent excessive use of aquifers in dunes from damaging coastal environments.

A questionnaire filled in by local authorities showed that few knew how much water was being extracted, or the full extent of their existing sources.

The report says water supplies in coastal dunes are a highly vulnerable and much abused resource.

The quality of water in the aquifers is important to the survival of coastal wetlands. The extensive use of these sources may cause water levels in dunes to drop, with serious consequences for coastal vegetation. The depleted aquifers may also become contaminated with sea water.

Water sources in sand dunes are also vulnerable to pollution, because they are not protected by a layer of impermeable soil or rock. Because of this, the report stresses the careful management of sewage and other waste in any development in these areas.

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R2,3m raised at Natal game auction

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — More than R2,3 million was raised at Natal's annual game auction in Hluhluwe yesterday afternoon after keen bidding by local and foreign buyers. Almost half of the cash (R975 000) was raised from the sale of five black rhino to the

privately owned Shamwari Game Reserve outside Grahamstown.

It was the first time black rhino had been sold to a private buyer in the Cape.

The Singapore Zoo, bidding for the first time at a South African game auction, scooped 10 giraffes (at R8 000

each), five black wildebeest (at R1 100 each), five red duiker and five blue duiker. Ex-Ladysmith resident Mr Gilbert Richmond bought six white rhino for his new Ongava Game Reserve near the Etosha Pan in Namibia. However, prices at this year's auction were generally

down, a trend the Natal Game Marketing Association attributed to drought and the poor economy.

The lot of five black rhino fetched less than half the amount raised at the 1991 and 1992 auctions.

However, Natal Parks Board chief Mr George

Hughes said he was nevertheless very satisfied with the prices, and noted that game sales at 20 auctions throughout the country raised R30 million last year.

Hunting revenues had earned R20 million in Natal, and R200 million throughout the country last year.

CT2216/92 (5b)

Police probing

Looking at ways to pay for the mountain

Municipal Reporter

OCT 21/6/93

A TASK GROUP based at the University of Cape Town is studying innovative ways of getting those who benefit from the presence of Table Mountain to contribute towards its upkeep.

Professor Richard Fuggle, head of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences at UCT, said yesterday that many people had adopted the notion of the user paying, but the concept of "user" still had to be defined.

"Not only those who walk on the mountain, or go up in the the cable car, are users of the mountain."

One possibility being considered was raising funds through modifications to municipal rate structures, and through levies on property transactions.

● According to the UCT interim report, "there is consensus that there should be a single, committed, accountable controlling authority with executive powers, full-time staff and public representation, and that a technical arm of the controlling authority could employ existing local authorities to undertake day-to-day management" of the mountain complex.

Star 231643
St Lucia: comments pour in

More than 1 000 pages of comment on the St Lucia mining report had been sent to the CSIR from 130 organisations by yesterday afternoon — the final deadline for comments to be submitted. The CSIR's response report is due to be published on July 14 and members of the public will be able to respond to this at public review panel hearings in Durban and St Lucia in August. The panel is expected to recommend early in September on whether to refuse or allow mining at St Lucia. The Cabinet will then make a final decision. — Own Correspondent.

(21) (56)

Rooi Els ratepayers say Meiring poll study biased

□ Residents face referendum on Somchem court case soon

ARCG 24/6/93

(56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A DOCUMENT by Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring dealing with the poll of Rooi Els residents on whether they want to continue their Supreme Court case against Somchem, is "one-sided and biased", say ratepayers.

The referendum is being held in terms of an agreement between parties involved in the court case, in which the Rooi Els local council is challenging Armscor subsidiary Somchem's allegedly illegal occupation of its ammunition and rocket motor test site in the mountains above the town. Somchem, Mr Meiring and the Overberg Regional Services Council are the respondents in the case which started last year.

Recently, Mr Meiring ap-

plied for a postponement of the case, arguing that it would have severe financial implications for the Rooi Els local council.

In terms of the agreement, ratepayers are to be polled from July 2 on whether to accept or reject Somchem's "best offer" — essentially to continue testing for a further 15 years.

They have to reply before August 16, with the results to be announced on August 19. The court will reconvene on September 6 to hear argument on the results.

In a letter to Mr Meiring earlier this month, Rooi Els Ratepayers Association chairman Mr Geoff Harris posed several questions about the referendum, including asking for details of voting and counting.

"Having examined Som-

chem's 'offer' — which is certainly not a firm open offer — my committee is puzzled and concerned at the references inferring that ratepayers could be held liable for costs incurred by the Rooi Els local council," his letter said.

"As laymen, we understood from the court proceedings that there was no foundation for this 'scare tactic'."

In a second letter, dated June 16, Mr Harris said he wanted to place on record Mr Meiring's refusal to answer ratepayers' "legitimate concerns".

The association had examined the referendum document and considered it "one-sided and biased towards ensuring a vote in favour of the respondents".

A "pivotal" paragraph in this document stated "there is a danger that they (ratepay-

ers) could lose their properties or have to dispose of them". This had been interpreted by the association's committee as "calculated to scare ratepayers", Mr Harris said.

"The answers given by senior and junior counsel directly involved with the case, but also confirmed by an independent senior counsel, impress my committee as being straightforward, clear and wholly reassuring ..."

"There is no foundation for any threats of financial loss where ratepayers are concerned and that they can vote in favour of continuing the case against Somchem with no fear of financial loss."

A spokesman for the Administrator confirmed receiving the letters from the association.

Go-ahead expected for kaolin mining

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ARG 24/6/93

THE long-standing controversy over whether to allow kaolin mining in Noordhoek Valley comes to a head at a meeting of the Western Cape Regional Services Council next week.

The council will consider a recommendation from its land use and transport planning committee on whether to approve a change to the zoning scheme that will allow the Serina mining company to exercise its mineral rights on the De Goede Hoop estate.

According to reliable sources, the committee will recommend that mining be allowed — contrary to the recommendations of the RSC staff.

At a briefing yesterday, Serina chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy said the chief economist of the Afrikaner Handel-sinstituuT, Mr Nick Barnardt, had calculated that South Africa's gross domestic product would decrease by R4,5 billion and 1 000 jobs would be lost if the kaolin mining project was dropped.

Over the course of the 30-year project, foreign exchange of about R1 billion in 1993 rand terms would be saved.

About R150 million would be paid in company tax and R120 million in salaries and wages.

"We have got uncontested legal rights (to mine) and we have committed more than R25 million to resolving community concerns," Mr Van der Spuy said.

"We will be making a major contribution to the economy."

Kaolin mine 'will go ahead'

Staff Reporter

SERINA will go ahead with plans to mine kaolin from the slopes of Chapman's Peak, even if the Western Cape Regional Services Council refuses the company permission during a full RSC sitting next Wednesday.

This was disclosed yesterday by Serina chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, who said his company had "uncontestable legal

rights" to extract kaolin there.

Serina had been granted a mining licence for the Noordhoek site by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

The company's legal advisers were of the opinion that it was unnecessary for the company to apply to the RSC for "conditional use approval", he said.

The Johannesburg-based com-

pany Partnership Acceptances acquired Serina, which comprises two existing mines and the mineral rights to the Noordhoek and Bonanza sites, from Federale Volksbellegings last year.

Serina had committed more than R25 million to resolving "community concerns" which included noise levels, dust control, pollution and the rehabilitation of the mined areas, he said.

SB CT 24/6/93

Passive smoking study: Firms sue

WASHINGTON. — A coalition of tobacco growers and cigarette manufacturers sued the federal government on Tuesday for claiming that passive smoking causes cancer and other health problems in non-smokers. (50) OCT 24 1993

The coalition is disputing the findings of the Environmental Protection Agency's report on passive smoking.

R J Reynolds Tobacco Co said the report was hurting cigarette sales. In the US 145 cities have banned smoking in public areas. — Sapa-Reuter

Sea poachers fined R450 000

Environment Reporter

MORE than 1 300 people were successfully prosecuted for contravening the Cape's marine regulations last year — including 318 for crayfish-related offences.

Disclosing law enforcement statistics for 1992, Cape Nature Conservation spokesman Mr Dieter Odendaal said they were encouraged by the fact that 75 percent of charges laid — 1 721 — had led to successful prosecutions.

Fines totalling more than R450 000 were imposed. These included:

● R141 505 from 460 charges and 318 successful prosecutions for crayfish offences.

● R110 160 from 296 charges and 198 prosecutions involving perlemoen.

● R74 340 from 23 charges and 18 prosecutions for net-related offences.

● R20 685 from 235 charges and 210 prosecutions involving the catching of linefish.

● R20 821 from 77 charges and 58 prosecutions involving bait.

In six cases suspended sentences and/or corporal punishment were imposed, while eight cases were withdrawn and one person was acquitted.

Four companies holding marine quotas were prosecuted, as were 12 boat licence holders and nine foreign vessels.

The income from confiscated items was R8 090 for snoek and R21 821 for perlemoen.

58) ~~SPRINGS~~
AUG 25/6/93

Pollution 'bad' in city

Municipal Reporter

56

CT 25/6/93

above the guideline figure of 376.

POLLUTION over Cape Town looked particularly bad yesterday, and readings on the city council's monitoring instruments confirmed that it was indeed a day of high pollution levels.

Nitrogen oxides in general read 2 488 micrograms per cubic metre (well over the guideline level of 1 504). The nitrogen dioxide reading was 134

Council air pollution spokesman Mr Derrick Oxley explained that yesterday's pollution looked worse than usual because of the depth of the temperature inversion, a common winter phenomenon in which a layer of cold air is trapped beneath warmer air.

He said it was unusual that the pollution persisted late into the afternoon, and that it could be twice as bad today.

Eskom bosses
of **April 26/6/93**
fynbos
park

DALE KNEEN
Weekend Argus Reporter

SUGGESTIONS have been made for the Overberg Regional Services Council on how to develop the area between Jansbaai and Struisbaai, a section of which has been bought by Eskom for a potential nuclear power station.

The Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, has given the RSC the go-ahead to "reprepare a 'sub-regional structure plan' for the area known as the Roostrandveld district of the southern Overberg.

Development suggestions will be included in the planning phase of the RSC's proposed structure plan, which was called for in response to Eskom's purchase of land at Bantamsklop.

Eskom's announcement in mid-1990 that it had bought the 30km southeast of Jansbaai, sparked controversy as conservationists felt it would destroy an area known as fynbos.

Eskom spokesman Mr Andre Heerden said it was unlike a nuclear power station "which would be built on the site 'this time' and that there was no genuine commitment to use the land for that purpose.

"The land was earmarked as a potential site for a nuclear power station, but that does not mean it will be used for that purpose. In the meantime we intend managing the site as a nature conservation area."

The Bantamsklop land was one of four identified as possible sites for nuclear power stations. The others are at Port Elizabeth, near Port Elizabeth, and Brazil and Schulpfontein near Kleinsee.

Anyone wanting to make representations is invited to submit written comments to the Chief Executive Officer, Overberg Regional Services Council, 26 Long Street, Breedsdorp 7280, before August 10.

Roads certified MAD

■ Roads are crumbling throughout the province while funds for maintenance are diverted to pay for anti-stone-throwing measures.

CLIVE SAWYER **April 26/6/93**
Municipal Reporter

ROADS in the Cape have gone MAD — which stands for Moisture Accelerated Distress, a condition caused by tyres wearing grooves in them, preventing proper drainage and leading to cracks and hazards for the motorist.

A funding crisis and more heavy traffic is worsening MAD throughout the Cape.

Provincial officials this week reeled off statistics that revealed a stark picture of the road network deteriorating to third-world standards.

It will get worse before it gets better, said provincial roads engineer Mr Theuns Kruger.

"Travelling around the country will become more problematic."

Fuel costs for motorists could soar. Fuel consumption of a passenger car at 100km/h was 8 percent higher on a paved road with a bad surface than on a road in good condition.

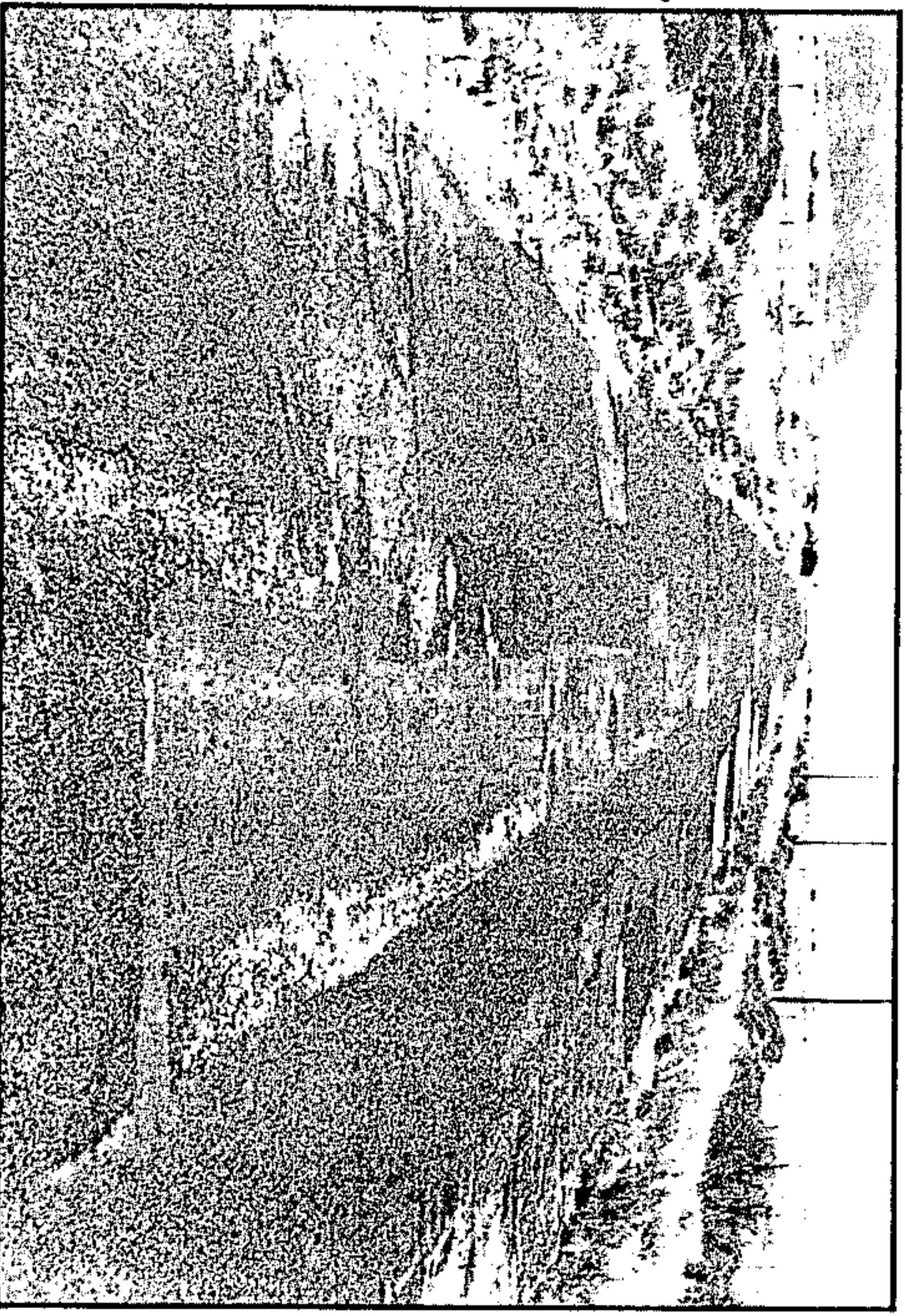
Treasury funds for roads had plunged in the past decade.

"Now, apart from road-safety problems, we have personal safety problems for which we have never had to provide in our budget.

It was disclosed the Gordon's Bay-Rooi Els road, badly in need of repair for years, was one of the maintenance projects put on hold to help fund new walls and bridges on the N2 "hell-run".

Repairs to a potholed road in the eastern Cape between Bedford and Adelaide, would have to wait because of emergency measures.

Funds had not been set aside for walls alongside the planned site for Du Noon on the N7 and



□ MAD, BAD AND DANGEROUS: Funds are needed to repair and maintain roads like this one in the Cape.

Those flyovers are going . . . nowhere!

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THOSE flyovers to nowhere will be with us for some time.

With a shortfall of maintenance money for roads reaching R1 billion, projects everywhere are being stalled.

Provincial roads engineer Mr Theuns Kruger said this week that this included

the developer — Milnerton Town Council — would have to find them.

The CPA recently built deviations at Jansenville and Molteno because of stone-throwing on divisional roads.

And, the very farmers at whom rocks were thrown, were asked to help fund road maintenance.

the incomplete Foreshore freeways.

"I would not say there is no prospect of their ever being finished, but they will not be completed in the foreseeable future."

But in spite of the crisis, a few projects were in progress — drastically fewer than these were:

■ The N1 from Koeberg interchange to the Old Oak interchange, a R3.9 million re-

habilitation project.

■ The road from Britstown to Brak River on route to Kimberley, involving the rehabilitation of 52km of road.

■ The Outeniqua pass between George and Oudtshoorn.

about work being done on black-top (tarrad) roads, because black-top roads are seen as being permanent.

Should you pause and carefully inspect such roads, you would most likely see cracking.

The shortfall in funds needed for maintenance of roads was about 6 000 km of roads in the province were more than

25 years old, 4 877 km were 15 to 25 years old, while only 660 km — less than four per cent of all roads in the province — had been built in the past five years.

It would cost R35 000 a kilometre to reseal roads to extend their lifespan by up to 10 years — but if they were allowed to continue deteriorating, this would multiply tenfold.

Meanwhile, rehabilitation of

roads was down to less than 1 800 km were classified as in "poor" condition.

Catching up with the backlog of rehabilitating only the roads older than 25 years would take 60 years, said CPA material chief engineer Mr Etienne de Villiers.

Rehabilitation projects or some of the very few reconstruction projects still in progress — but temporary — item: The provision of bypasses of a reasonable standard for traffic to be diverted from stone-throwers — money that could be better spent on permanent projects, said Mr Kruger.

He said many roads in the province could become toll roads, as part of the national network.

But, increasing the number of toll roads was a policy he opposed.

"I do not think toll roads are the best thing — funds should be raised rather through an increased fuel levy," said Mr Kruger.

It was possible "dedicated lanes" could be created on some freeways for high-density vehicles like buses, minibuses, and fully-laden cars.

Asked what prospect there was for road upgrades in neglected township areas, a provincial official said roads "of metropolitan significance", in theory, could qualify for assistance.

Building and maintaining roads in townships was the responsibility of the local authority, he said.

Not only tarred roads were facing a crumbling future, gravel ones also needed upkeep.

About R92 million was needed to repair gravel roads throughout the province, but only R42 million was available.

Asked if tarred roads could be ploughed up and converted to gravel to save money, Mr De Villiers said: "We are not contemplating ploughing yet, but it could happen where we could not do anything to patch up a road, and it would be cheaper to rip it up.

"But, I would hate to see that happen."

Two girls guilty of burning woman

DAVID YUTAR
Weekend Argus Reporter

TWO teenage girls have been found guilty in Cape Town juvenile court to charges of attempting to murder a woman by dousing her in methylated spirits and setting her alight.

The girls, aged 13 and 19, pleaded guilty.

A third girl, aged 14, pleaded not guilty, saying she tried to stop the attack.

The court found that four teenagers poured meths over vagrant Anna Swartz, who had been sleeping under newspapers on May 30 in Dean Street Gardens, and set her alight.

In statements before the court the two girls who pleaded guilty said they both ran away from home to become stragglers (street children).

That evening they decided to sleep at St George's Cathedral. During the night their blankets and some clothing disappeared and were found with Swartz.

They poured the methylated spirits over her and set her alight.

Magistrate Mr G Olwage postponed sentencing until July 30 for a probation officer's report. The hearing on the charge against the third girl was postponed until July 8 for further investigation.

Unions set a date to strike

Weekend Argus Correspondent

SIX Cosatu-aligned unions representing hundreds of thousands of state and municipal workers have set their sights on "the end of July and the beginning of August" as a tentative date for a general strike.

Mr Neal Thobane, assistant general secretary of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, confirmed this after attending a meeting of the Public Sector Coordinating Committee in Johannesburg.

The unions include health, education, municipal, post and telecommunications, police and prisons workers.

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Weekend Argus Reporter

STRUISBAAI sharkhunter Mr Trail Witthuhn faces prosecution if he continues to catch and tag Great White sharks.

This was the warning given this week by the head of Marine Conservation of the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA), Mr Willem Spence, who said Mr Witthuhn did not have a permit to catch and tag Great White sharks.

Officials of Marine Conservation visited Mr Witthuhn recently and instructed him to stop catching the sharks. "If we catch him, we will prosecute," said Mr Spence.

Great Whites are a protected species in South African waters and the Act clearly states it is illegal to catch, or even try to catch, them.

Mr Spence said anyone who caught a Great White had to cut the line immediately and free the shark.

Environmentalists phoned Weekend Argus this week and expressed outrage about Mr Witthuhn's shark-catching expeditions, saying this made a joke of the legislation intended to protect the species.

But, a furious Mr Witthuhn, who initially refused to speak to Weekend Argus and warned that if anything was written about him he would visit Newspaper House "to sort you out", later said he had been catching and tagging Great White sharks since 1968.

"I take people out to catch sharks — and I want to make this very clear because you are obviously very stupid — to catch sharks like duskies or mako sharks.

"There are no signs on the bottom of the ocean warning Great

■ A furore has erupted in environmental and fishing circles over the fact that a Struisbaai fisherman continues to catch Great White sharks even though these monsters from the deep are a protected species in South African waters.

Whites not to take the bait. If we happen to hook a Great White we play it till it can be brought alongside the boat and then we tag it and let it go."

Mr Witthuhn's wife, Mariana, confirmed that her husband regularly took overseas visitors on shark-hunting expeditions at R1 200 a day.

"We supply the food, fishing tackle and there is a special chair where the client can strap himself in. Many of the bigger sharks fight for hours before they are brought alongside and tagged," said Mrs Witthuhn.

Mr Witthuhn said that since the legislation protecting Great Whites was promulgated a couple of years ago, he had been catching and tagging sharks.

"And, I still have not been stopped. In any case, what does catch mean, does it not mean that you must land the fish?"

The section of the Act defines "catch" as having a fish "in, on, or next to a vessel".

Mr Rudi van der Elst, chairman of the Oceanic Research Institute (ORI) in Durban, confirmed that Mr Witthuhn had been tagging sharks for ORI for many years.

"No research has been done to establish what effect the catching and tagging has on sharks. But sharks that were caught in the nets at Durban and tagged have been re-sighted in perfect health.

Mr Van der Elst said he was aware of some ill-feeling between Mr Witthuhn and Mr Theo Ferreira, head of the White Shark Research Project in Cape Town, who used different methods to tag Great Whites.

The White Shark Research programme uses bait to attract white sharks to their vessel and the fish are not caught. When the sharks go for the bait a tag is thrust into the body of the fish.

Mr Van der Elst said he had been asked by the Department of Environmental Affairs to appoint a scientific working committee to investigate the key issues to ensure the best protection of the species.

"This committee also will investigate the tagging methods of both Mr Ferreira and Mr Witthuhn," said Mr Van der Elst.

■ Mr Ferreira said he was not impressed by the warning from the CPA to Mr Witthuhn.

"Last year, officials gave him a written warning to desist from catching Great White sharks, but the very next day he went out with a group of German tourists.

"Although statements were taken from these people, nothing happened," said Mr Ferreira, who believed his Research Project was "the only scientific white shark research programme in Africa."

"Mr Witthuhn has threatened my crew and told them Struisbaai was his area and that they should leave. He even drenched an international film crew on my boat by tilting the outboard engines on his vessel and spraying water over them," alleged Mr Ferreira.

■ Mr Witthuhn said he had been tagging Great White sharks years before Mr Ferreira. "I, at least, did not hunt, catch and kill them like Mr Ferreira did earlier in his life," said Mr Witthuhn.

A Great White

STRAISBAAI 16/1/93

furore



Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

GOING GREEN: Nurseryman Mr Robert Stodel with St Louis Primary School pupils, from left; Cwayita Mpohla, 7, Luyanda Magwaca, 8, Nokubonga Mrukwa, 9, and Buyiswa Antoni, 8.

Saying it with trees

APG 28/6/93 (58)
 JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A PLEA from the youth of Cape Town for trees to be made freely available and sub-economic areas to be greened has been answered by well-known nurseryman Mr Robert Stodel.

The plea was made in a "document of concern", drawn up by the more than 240 pupils who took part in the recent mini-Earth Summit on World Environment Day at the Waterfront.

Mr Stodel read about the pupils' concerns in The Argus — and promptly responded by offering each of those at the "summit" five trees to plant in areas they considered most in need of greening.

The first batch of almost 1 250 trees from his nursery was delivered to St Louis Primary School in Langa. Eight St Louis pupils had taken part in the Earth Day deliberations.

Teaching video will give the right vibe

Education Reporter

AN innovative video aid which could prove of major help to teachers in increasingly culturally-diverse schools is to be screened on television tonight.

The National Language Project's *Yo dutle, cosa wena kyk a?* will be shown on TSS at 9 pm.

The video introduces techniques which promote respect for all languages and cultures, learning and integration in multilingual classrooms.

According to the National Language Project (NLP), South Africa has experienced major changes that are bringing diverse cultures into closer contact with one another.

Increasingly, teachers find themselves faced with students of various ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. They have to reach out to individual pupils who find themselves isolated in the classroom.

Teachers may feel inadequately equipped to meet all the language needs of their pupils.

One of the aims of the Language Activity Class is to take pressure off teachers and allow them to use linguistic diversity as a teaching tool.

The Language Activity Class introduced in the video allows pupils to learn, through participation, about language, identity and social relations.

A guide booklet for teachers comes with the video.

The concept of the Language Activity Class was introduced to SA by Professor Rama Kant Agnihotri of India.

In the video he explains how to use the multilingual classroom to improve cognitive development and increase cultural tolerance.

The video and accompanying material cost R50 for individuals and community organisations and R100 for institutions. They are available from the National Language Project, P O Box 378, Salt River 7924 or by contacting 47 2760.

AT THE RIGHT PRICE

treads

FIRST

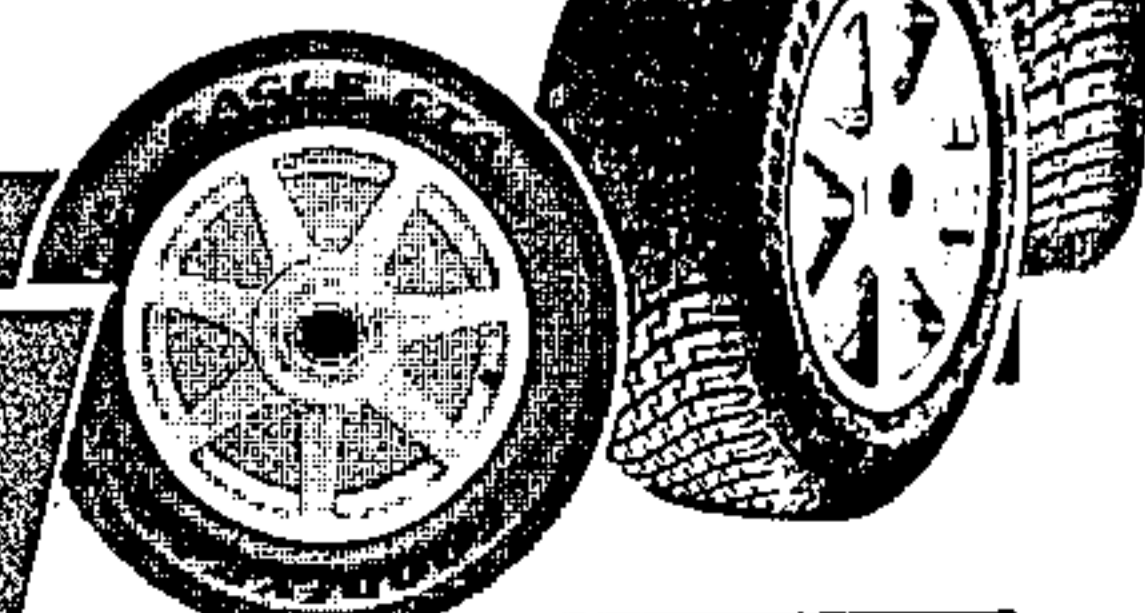


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AHI backs St Lucia mine

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The Natal region of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI) has come out in support of mining at St Lucia following a "careful" analysis of the CSIR's recently released environmental impact study.

Natal AHI representative Mr P J Pienaar claimed that disruption and damage to the natural environment would not be permanent and that on completion of mining rehabilitation could be successful with strict supervision and control by the business community. (56) (28)

"The study also indicates that the greatest financial advantage can be obtained by launching eco-tourism in conjunction with the mineral activity in the area," he said.

"The study also recommends further measures and preconditions in order to ensure that these two components develop in a complementary and controlled fashion. CT 28/6/93

Mr Pienaar said the project could be of crucial significance to the South African economy when there was an urgent need for a positive stimulus to growth and development.



Natal's severe drought could trigger migration

Star 29/6/93

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Severe shortages of water on the Natal South Coast could force an unprecedented migration of people to the Durban area, authorities fear.

Drought is taking its toll throughout Natal and in some areas of the province farmers are trucking in water for their animals.

However, hardest hit is the South Coast where springs and rivers are drying up and the combined storage of the dams is currently at its lowest recorded level.

The Sezela Sugar Mill on the South Coast has resorted to ferrying water in with tankers to keep working.

The principal engineer with the Department of Water Affairs in Durban, Norman Ward said yesterday that drought was "very serious" on the South Coast where the rural population relied on springs and rivers for their water supplies.

These had dried up and boreholes had been drilled in some areas. These were, however, likely to dry up soon themselves, he said.

"A lot of people in Government circles are not fully aware of the problem developing down the South Coast. It could cause a lot of people to migrate to Durban and cause a serious situation," he said.

The sugar industry has been particularly hard hit as well as smaller farmers battling mounting debts.

Estimates

Sugar production for 1993/94 is estimated at 1,25 m tons compared with a normal 2,1 m tons leading to a loss in gross revenue running to hundreds of millions of rands.

"The situation is deteriorating quickly — almost no rain has fallen since March," said Cane Growers' Association chief Rex Hudson. "Crops are withering and ground water reserves, relied on by farmers in previous droughts, are drying

up.

"Sezela sugar mill on the South Coast is relying on tankers to bring in water. Small and rural farmers are battling. In previous years better-off farmers supplied rural communities with water from boreholes, but that is fast becoming impossible," he said.

Meanwhile the Cane Growers' Association is negotiating loans with Government to aid stricken farmers relying totally on sugar for a living.

May rainfall figures from SA Sugar Association experiment stations show many South Coast areas, including Sezela, had no rain at all. In other farming areas, farmers are carting water and searching for fodder to keep their breeding stock going.

Other stock has long since been sold off causing an oversupply at the abattoirs and forcing meat prices to drop. In the longer term, a shortage of meat is likely to occur with prices likely to soar upwards.

In the timber industry the

two years of "unheard-of" drought has been catastrophic for growers, says Dr Carl Seel national chairman of the Timber Growers' Association.

The drought has given rise to devastating plantation fires at time when there are depressed international pulp and paper markets, a declining saw timber market and large-scale re-trenchments.

The Drakensberg has suffered a paucity of rain and snow for the last few years.

Underberg, renowned for its high and reliable rainfall has been so dry that some farmers have for the first time applied for drought aid.

Vegetables such as potatoes are plentiful and cheap because farmers made strategic use of water supplies, but if these are not recharged production next year will be well down.

Prospects for city dwellers in the Durban and Maritzburg areas is not yet serious although it is believed that if the spring rains later this year fail again, water restrictions will be inevitable.

St Lucia public Star 29/6/93 hearings postponed

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

~~211~~
56

Public hearings on the St Lucia mining issue have been postponed from August to October. This will allow more time for the compiler, the CSIR, to respond to comments received in the written phase.

In addition it will also allow for a longer period during which the CSIR's response report will be at the disposal of the public.

The review panel hearings will now be held in Durban on October 18 and 19, and in St Lucia on October 21 and 22. Announcing this yesterday, the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) said it had agreed there were shortcomings in the St Lucia environmental impact assessment (EIA).

"The next step will be for

the CSIR to respond to all of the formal written comments it has received. This response and any revision of the CSIR's findings and recommendations will be presented in the form of a written response report," the DEA statement said.

Dr John Raimondo, chairman of the management committee of the EIA, who was appointed by the DEA, said the process was working well.

"I remain convinced that the process adopted is appropriate for ensuring that the people who have to make recommendations to the Cabinet, namely the different government departments and the review panel, are correctly and fully informed about the extent of probable costs and benefits associated with the alternative land-uses that are being considered."

Quality of tap water defended

Star 29/6/93

By Shirley Woodgate

The quality of tap water in the PWV area is equal to the best in the world, has no known health risks and is completely safe to drink, according to Rand Water Board general manager (scientific services) Schalk van der Merwe. (56)

Rejecting criticism by Hoogland Hydro's Abri Kruger that municipal drinking water was often unpalatable, full of unnecessary chemicals and possibly detrimental to health, Van der Merwe said quality standards observed by the RWB compared favourably with those in Canada, Australia, the European Community, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organisation.

The bottled versus tap water controversy flared after the RWB claimed that tests over two years had shown expensive bottled water was not all it was made out to be.

The RWB came under renewed fire from Earthlife Africa last week after it was revealed that sewage from several townships is flowing into the rivers which eventually feed the region's water supply.

The organisation warned that standards for tap water which were considered safe in South Africa fell far short of those in the European Community, which allowed 1 microgram of trihalomethanes per litre of water compared with local guidelines permitting 100 micrograms per litre.

Bid to backtrack on Clifton bungalows

By PETER DENNEHY

CAPE TOWN City Council's executive committee is to recommend today that the council backtrack on last year's decision to sell the Clifton bungalow sites to the current lessees.

At today's monthly council meeting the executive committee wants the September 1992 decision to be rescinded, new authority to be sought from the Administrator and the whole process of objections to be started again from scratch.

Since the African National Congress indicated that it might take the matter to court the council wishes to ensure that its actions are procedurally and legally correct.

A complicating factor has been that while the council was considering objections to the sale of the land, the "ground rules have shifted".

Control over sales of public land reverted from the government to the provincial administration.

Revised directives were issued in the middle of May this year by the Deputy Director-General: Community Services.

Previously the decision to sell to lessees had been taken "as an exceptional case", under a procedure provided for in a 1991 circular from the Department of Local Government, Housing and Works: House of Assembly.

The council sought legal opinion on whether the change in directives made any difference and senior counsel believed the council could complete the sale under the original directives.

However, legal counsel also believed that if in the council's view there were "exceptional circumstances" and were challenged in this case, a court would probably uphold an application to review that council decision.

The council was advised it should "abort the present process" and start again under the authority of the new circular.

Govt breaks off talks with PAC

CT 29/6/93
JOHANNESBURG. — The government yesterday terminated further bilateral meetings with the PAC and said it would ask the multi-party negotiating council to "limit" PAC participation in the process.

Speaking after a meeting with the PAC last night, government negotiator Mr Roelf Meyer said the PAC's position that it would cease hostilities only when there was an agreement on the transitional authority was unacceptable.

PAC members told a news conference it would be a "terrible mistake" on the government's part to ask the council to expel it from the talks.

The PAC said its doors were open to anyone who wanted to talk peace, including the government, but emphasised it would not jettison its prerequisites for the cessation of hostilities.

These were agreements on transitional authority and a constituent assembly.

● Multi-party negotiations resumed — Page 2

Millard tradition to uphold

TONY MILLARD, son of retired trainer Terrance Millard, will try to uphold the family tradition on Saturday in the Rothmans July when he sends out the "galloping goldmine" Empress Club, a winner of R3 115 725 in stakes, and the three-year-old Dancing Duel.

From 1983 to 1990, Millard sen saddled six winners.

Betting yesterday was:
ROTHMANS JULY.
(Greyville, 2 200 m, Saturday)

3— 1 Dancing Duel



Independent valuator for Hout Bay dunes

CT 29/6/93 (56)

THE Hout Bay Coalition — a group of concerned environmental organisations formed to jointly oppose Absa's proposed residential development of the Hout Bay dunes — has appointed an independent property valuator to assess the site.

This follows a recent statement by the developers claiming that the prime 270 ha property including much of Sandy Bay and some Hout Bay dunes is worth R23 m.

After the last meeting arranged for interested parties by Absa's consultants, alternative proposals for the site were called for. These were narrowed down to a limited development option with the donation of the remaining land, and a no development option with fair compensation.

Price tag

According to Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, which is a member of the coalition, the latter alternative was favoured by most interested and affected parties.

He said: "At a meeting on June 14, Absa announced that they regarded R23 m as fair compensation. The Wildlife Society regards this price tag as completely unacceptable since it is based on non-existent development rights.

"The advice of an independent property valuator has been sought and it is hoped that Absa will reconsider their position, which has already generated substantial adverse public reaction."

Dangerous precedent

The coalition also opposed the proposed amendments to the Guide Plan for the Cape Peninsula and the rezoning of a portion of the Protected Natural Environment (PNE) which are necessary to allow the development to take place.

The group believes that any amendment to the guide plan or a rezoning in the PNE would set a dangerous precedent, paving the way for other applications to develop within protected areas.

They have submitted a proposal to create a controlled nature area which would incorporate a comprehensive management plan for the area as a whole, including a project to restart the movement of sand across the dune onto Sandy Bay. "We envisage hiking and horse-riding trails and facilities for outdoor programmes," said a statement from the coalition.

It's D-day for kaolin mine

(56) ARG 30/6/93

□ Council to rule on Peak's fate

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SERINA'S application to mine kaolin at Chapman's Peak and Trentham in Noordhoek should be conditionally approved, the Western Cape Regional Services Council land use committee has recommended.

The recommendation, which is contrary to that of the RSC's chief director of engineering services, is being debated by the RSC today.

The committee recommended by 12 votes to four last month that mining be allowed to go ahead.

Cape Town deputy mayor Mr Clive Keegan, Mr E M Kramer of Simon's Town municipality, Mr A B McWilliam-Smith of Franschhoek municipality and Mr W J E Schultz of the Cape Rural Council asked that their votes against be recorded.

Serina chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy requested a copy of the engineering services' report recommending that his application be rejected after details were published in The Argus. The report was tabled at the committee's May meeting.

Mr Van der Spuy alleged that some of the statements in the report were based on incorrect information.

A report on today's agenda says: "After careful consideration and so as not to create any precedent, it (was) decided only to provide the applicant with selected extracts from the report.

"Councillor Keegan recorded his objection to the fact that parts of this report had been released to the applicant while this had not been forwarded to the objectors, although he conceded they had not requested these extracts.

"Councillor Keegan also stated that although the proposed mining operation would provide employment, jobs would also be provided by the construction of housing in the area and tourism growth.

"He was of the opinion that the mining operation would undoubtedly have a visual effect which would result in the value of the Noordhoek Valley being severely diminished."

Serina must pledge to rehabilitate land scarred by pit

Environment Reporter

ARG 30/6/93

SERINA must submit a rehabilitation programme for its kaolin mining areas which allow the "long-term beneficial use" of the land, says one of the proposed conditions for mining approval.

The Chapman's Peak mine pit should be limited to 3 ha and advance clearing limited to 15m in front of the pit, the Regional Services Council's land use and transport planning committee recommended. (23) (56)

Special requests should be made for mining at any times other than between 7am and 4pm on weekdays.

Serina should also obtain approval for its proposed pipeline to transport kaolin in the form of slurry from the Chapman's Peak site to the beneficiation plant at Brakkekloof.

Lorries should be covered and washed before leaving the Trentham mining site.

An "environmental control manual" should be submitted to the RSC before mining and should be subject to review every three years. This manual should include site landscaping of worked or disturbed areas, building aesthetics, screening methods, surface and subsurface water control.

Horrible deaths

in the Jukskei

Star 15/15/93

Water Affairs has identified the deadly chemicals

ANITA ALLEN
Science Writer

THE Department of Water Affairs revealed to the Saturday Star yesterday that it had identified the category of chemicals that is causing widespread deaths of fish in the Jukskei River as well as the locality of the pollution.

"But at this stage we cannot reveal what it is," said Sakkie van der Westhuizen, director of water quality management.

"We are hopeful we will be able to identify the specific compound, and if it is what we think it is, then there is only one possible source."

Serious wounds

Pathological tests of dead fish pointed to the presence of a strong chemical, with a corrosive caustic action, like an acid or bleach, which caused serious external wounds. The source of the pollution had been isolated to upstream of where the Klein Jukskei entered the Jukskei.

Van der Westhuizen said he could not be more specific without prejudicing possible legal proceedings against the culprit.

The river was running at quite a high level at the moment, and the chemical apparently passed downstream fairly rapidly, where it had broken up

and become diluted, so that tracing the chemical was extremely difficult. Samples taken as far down as the Crocodile River had shown that the water quality was now good.

However, Van der Westhuizen warned that fish would most probably continue to die for a certain period as many of them had been too seriously damaged to survive.

Asked to comment on the toxicity to humans who ate the fish, Van der Westhuizen said the department had a responsibility to alert people. "While there is no evidence that it is toxic to humans, it would be safest at this stage not to eat any of the fish."

Post-mortems on the fish showed they had died a horrible death, his colleague Dr Henk van Vliet said. "Their skin started to come off right down to the muscle tissue. It ap-

pears that they tried to escape by swimming even into shallow little streams in search of fresh water," Van Vliet said.

Evidence pointed to a spill of several hours or days, indicating sustained land-use or activity. For this reason the department was hopeful that it would be able to positively identify the polluter, who could face a fine of R50 000 for a first offence and R100 000 for a second.

Both spokesmen highlighted the important role the public could play in containing pollution disasters and bringing culprits to book. They said their department was first notified of the problem on Monday, but investigations revealed that residents along the river had first noticed dead fish as early as last Thursday.

"People must react immediately to these incidents," Van Vliet said. "Coming days after the event means it is virtually impossible to trace the source and to legally prove who did it."

In another spill at Midrand, major damage was

averted by an alert caretaker at Fedlife who called the Midrand Crisis Control Centre to investigate a chemical smell emanating from a stormwater drain which has an outlet into the ponds on the Fedlife premises.

The chemical, identified as Xylol (di-menthol-benzine), does not pose an immediate threat and has been contained by erecting weirs to prevent its spread.

The source was traced to the Midrand police station. Asked to comment, Captain Bob Edwards said a staffer had poured the contents of a drum into the drain without realising what it was.

Roadside

The drum had been found at the roadside and delivered to the police station for safe-keeping.

"I've been expecting your call," Edwards told the Saturday Star.

● Anyone with any information on pollution is asked to immediately contact the regional offices of the Department of Water Affairs. For pollution in the Hartbeespoort Dam catchment contact Mr Roussseau at (012) 299-2541 or Mr Steyn at (012) 299-2924. For pollution in the Vaal Dam catchment area contact Mr Smit at (012) 299-2124 or Mrs M Oliveira at (012) 299-2936.