

DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE NEWS

Celebrating The International Day for Biological Diversity - 22 May 2022

“Building a shared future for all life”

Delta Environmental Centre participated in a celebration of *The International Day for Biological Diversity* on 20 May 2022 at the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden. The event was hosted by The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and was built around this year’s Biodiversity Day theme - **“Building a shared future for all life”**. The theme highlights the importance of considering the needs of all living things when trying to preserve ecological processes and guarantee a sustainable future for the planet.



Other participants involved include; **UNISA, Joburg City Parks & Zoo, Working on Fire, Gauteng Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, PIKITUP & Department of Water and Sanitation.**



water & sanitation

Department: Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



GAUTENG PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



John Ngoetjana and Khumbulani Ndlela from the Centre’s School Programme team presented the great work that we do to promote conservation and the protection of biological diversity through our educational school programme and activities. They also gave introductory remarks about the relevance and importance of the Biodiversity Day.

Geoff Lockwood then gave a presentation – **“Penguins . . . Pilchards. . . and**

People” which illustrated the complexities of balancing the needs of people against those of wildlife. Both the endangered African Penguin and people depend on Pilchards for food, and fishing too close to the islands where the penguins nest is making it difficult for the birds to find enough food for their chicks. This has resulted in a catastrophic collapse in the numbers of this



charismatic endemic species and the presentation looked at various strategies to halt this decline.

The Centre received the following letter of thanks after the event.

“Afternoon Colleagues

Thank you so much for participating and supporting the Biodiversity event held at the gardens last week. It was truly wonderful to meet some of you for the first time and to see familiar faces once more. Nangamso! For those that need them, please find the registers for stakeholders and beneficiaries.

In keeping with the spirit of collaboration, please continue inviting us to your theme day and career related events; we will do the same.

I am also inviting you to bring your teams to the garden for a hike one day. This will also be an information sharing session between my organisation and yours; to see what we can learn from one another and spark ideas on future collaboration.”

Kind regards
Lizeka Gqumani
Snr. Environmental Education Officer
South African National Biodiversity Institute
(SANBI)
Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden



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