



# Working for Water

## E-News

Welcome to the *Working for Water* electronic newsletter. This publication is aimed at keeping staff and stakeholders informed on the progress made towards controlling invasive alien plants (IAPs), the challenges encountered during implementation and the achievements of *Working for Water* nationally.

Volume 3- Edition 3

July/August 2010

The National Teachers' Conference is scheduled for the end of September and will act as a kick-start event for the National WeedBuster Week 2010 Campaign, which takes place in less than a month and preparations for this major campaign are underway.

We share with you the success of the Lead Teacher Camp and encourage staff to join in the 1Goal Education For All campaign.

We hope that this issue is informative and remind you that as we strive to bring you updates on the events taking place and important information in the department we need your contribution and feedback.

- *WfW E-News Team*



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**Our new physical address is: 14 Loop Street, Cape Town 8001**  
**Our postal address is: Private Bag X4390, Cape Town 8000**  
**Telephone Number: (021) 441-2700 (Switchboard) and Fax Number: (021) 441-2751**

## The National Teachers' Conference 2010

Kagiso Letsebe

The initiation of the National Teachers' Conference by the *Working for Water (WfW)* Programme in 2009 led *WfW* to embark on a Partnership Project with the Department of Education and other stakeholders involved in Environmental Education Projects. The aim of the Teachers' Conference is to create a platform for teachers to present and share their findings explaining how alien plants destroy biodiversity, useable land and large amounts of water, impacts of climate change on our biodiversity and the effects of integrated waste management on our environment.

The Teachers' Conference serves as a medium to bring greater awareness of the growing threat of alien invasion on water resources, water related issues, biodiversity and climate change as well as integrated waste management. The conference will also encourage the teachers of South Africa to, link to International, National and Regional initiatives such as the United Nations Decade of Education for sustainable Development (UNDESD).

The 2010 Teachers' conference will be held in Limpopo commencing on the 28 September to the 1 October 2010, it will serve as a kick start event to the WeedBuster Week 2010 Campaign. Teachers will be allocated 30 minutes to discuss topics ranging from the impacts of invasive alien plants on our natural environment, social livelihood, biodiversity, global warming to integrated waste management.

Teachers will submit their topic of choice to the respective regional office by 15 September 2010; regional offices will submit the topics to the *WfW* national office on 20 September 2010.

## TEACHERS' CONFERENCE 2009

See the pictures below



## INVADER PLANT/WEED IN MY GARDEN

### Lantana (*Lantana camara* L.)

by Debbie Sharp

Lantana belongs to the family Verbenaceae. Lantana originates from Central and South America. It is an aggressive invader that invades forest and plantation margins, savanna, watercourses, roadsides and degraded land (Henderson, 2001). This species has invaded all the provinces except the Northern Cape and Free state. This plant was cultivated for hedging and ornamentals.

Lantana is a compact readily flowering shrub that is usually covered in tiny thorns. The leaves are dark green above and paler below and have a strong odour when crushed. The flowers can be red, orange, pink, yellow and white with plants having more than one colour in a flower head. The fruits are black when ripe and are dispersed by birds. The whole plant, especially the unripe fruit are poisonous. Lantana flowers from September – April, but can flower all year round.

The leaves can cause skin irritations.

Lantana is a declared weed; the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983 governs the control of this species. It is a category 1 plant in terms of regulation 15 of CARA. This means that this plant cannot be grown, propagated or sold. It must be removed and destroyed.

#### Control methods

**Chemical** - The mature Lantana plants are cut at ankle height above the ground and treated with a registered herbicide. The regrowth is sprayed with a foliar application of a registered herbicide. A list of registered herbicides is obtainable from the Department of Agriculture.

**Biological control** - Is the use of natural enemies to suppress the growth of the alien plants thereby making other control options viable. There are several biocontrol agents that have been released in the past and an example of a successful agent is *Ophiomyia camarae*. *Ophiomyia camarae* is a herringbone leaf mining fly for Lantana. The adults are not readily seen.

The mines along the veins of the leaf damage the leaves' fluid transport system thus reducing the water and nutrient flow paths. This will ultimately result in premature leaf drop. The leafminer will augment the impact of the 11 agents already established on Lantana.

*References. Henderson, L. 2001. Alien weeds and Invasive plants. Paarl Printers, Cape Town.*

**For more information please contact the Working for Water toll free number on: 0800 005 376**



Lantana flora

**WeedBuster Week Campaign 2010**

4 - 12 October 2010

**Theme: My river . . . My life****WeedBuster Week Campaign 2010***Kagiso Letsebe*

The annual WeedBuster Week campaign spearheaded by the Department of Water Affairs' *Working for Water (WfW)* Programme will be focused on aquatic weeds during WeedBuster 2010 in October, the campaigns aim is to consolidate awareness, support and ownership of the ongoing effort in order to ensure that invasive alien plants(IAPs) and invasive aquatic weeds control initiatives in South Africa are effective and sustainable.

A number of events have been planned in all nine regions that make up the *WfW* national team; these will include two media launch events of projects that the *WfW* Programme is embarking on. The campaign will be run as a month long campaign with most events planned for the first week of October.

To kick start the campaign the commencement of WeedBuster 2010 will be announced at the National Teachers Conference on 1 October 2010 followed by week long national events from the 4 October 2010 to the 10 October 2010 then ending the campaign with Flagship 2010 on the 27 & 28 October 2010 in St Lucia, KwazuluNatal where best performed projects within the programme will be awarded and recognised for the great work that these projects are doing in their respective regions.

**1GOAL CAMPAIGN****Let's join the 1Goal for education campaign***Kagiso Letsebe*

Education has been regarded as the key to success and as playing an immeasurable role in the alleviation of poverty. To this day millions of children around the world are still denied the chance to go to school, potential scientists, innovators, politicians and sports stars are faced with a lifelong struggle against poverty alone.

A 164 world governments joined hands in the year 2000 to create the Education for All goals, 189 governments also created the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and two of the eight goals involve ending poverty through education. These governments promised to make sure there was enough money and that the policies were in place to make it a reality, through this promise many countries managed to abolish school fees.

1GOAL is a campaign seizing the power of football to ensure that education for all is a lasting impact of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Raising our voices all over the world we believe that, together, we can make education a reality for the millions of children who remain out of school. 1GOAL is bringing together footballers, fans, charities, corporations and individuals to lobby and achieve the aim of education for everyone.

By joining the 1GOAL team, you can strengthen the campaign and enhance the campaigns' chance for success. The Working for Water staff members are encouraged to join the 1GOAL campaign so that millions of children in Africa and the world over can have better opportunities of changing their lives through education.

**Invasive alien plants in the Berg River are under siege**

*By Justice Molafo(DWA Western Cape Regional Office)*

Securing water and ensuring its sustainability is a daunting but not insurmountable task the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) is faced with on day-to-day basis.

The Department through its *Working for Water(WfW)* programme (an initiative to create jobs and alleviate poverty) contracts service providers to help curb invasive alien plants in order to secure water and biodiversity. The *WfW* programme was started in 1995 to conduct and coordinate alien plant management throughout South Africa.

The programme initially worked only in watersheds and riparian areas, but now leads alien plant management initiatives in all natural and semi-natural ecosystems. It has grown into one of the world's biggest programmes dealing with invasive alien species.

Currently the *WfW* programme has a project along the Berg River catchment wherein a specialized group of workers known as Arbor Team are removing invasive alien plants. Besides their notable consequence on water, forestry and human health, invasive plants are also widely recognized as the second-largest global threat (after direct habitat destruction) to biodiversity.

Liesel Bezuidenhout, Berg-Breede Area Manager, says the Arbor Team was started as pilot project in the country and it required extensive training due to its risky nature.

"The Western Cape region is the first one in the country to have such a team trained to do this job and more often than not the workers (team members) are exposed to danger when working under high voltage power lines", she said.

Explaining further about the project Liesel said the Berg River was chosen for pilot project because of a number of reasons such as its high water yield, biodiversity richness, providing water for irrigation and recreational activities and, it has massive infestation of large invasive alien trees.

However, contrary to the view that a normal team should consist of twelve members including contractor on site, the Arbor Team has seven members only wherein they are given 20-25 days to clear a field of invasive alien plants per site as allocated.

Source: (Working for Water: South African Journal of Science 100, January/February 2004)



Arbour team members cutting down IAPs in Berg River

**Water Affairs strengthens partnership with Department of Education and other environmental stakeholders.**

By Justice Molafo

The Department of Water Affairs in partnership with City of Cape Town (CCT), Cape Nature and SANBI is training teachers to address shortages of human capacity in the environmental education sector within government.

The department, through its *Working for Water (WfW)* programme held a Lead Teacher camp on 21-24 June at Portberg, outside Bredasdorp in the Overberg District. The aim of the camp was to empower and equip teachers with information to enable them to go back and conduct workshops on environmental issues with their staff and other teachers in their surrounding areas.

The camp raised awareness and provided ideas on environmental action education processes for environmental and quality education improvement amongst school communities. Part of the aim, amongst others, was to bring together expertise in order to expand and improve existing and future environmental and sustainability programmes. Forty Teachers from five districts of the province attended this camp which was the first of its kind initiated by the *WfW* national office, Education Unit.

The planning phase of the camp started in January this year and the idea was shared with sector partners namely CCT, Cape Nature and SANBI. The same training is being rolled out in other provinces and each province will choose at least 10 schools to attend the national conference scheduled for late September this year in Limpopo province where they will present their projects.

Meanwhile, the Western Cape will be the only region to host the provincial conference with 40 schools in order to select a shortlist of 10 schools that will present at the national conference. Schools will be selected according to the viability and co-ordination of their projects.

WfW Education Officer, Ms Florence Gamanie, said the national Teachers Conference will afford DWA and sector partners the opportunity to reflect on their National, Provincial and regional education which can inform future directions for environment education programme nationally. "Environmental Education plays a fundamental role in education and this project strengthens practice and collaboration towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in schools and surrounding communities", said Florence. Explaining the national conference, Florence said it will provide opportunities to strengthen the practices of educators nationally from all fields through sharing of ideas and proving a platform for collaborative projects in sharing learning material.

Teachers who attended the camp showed huge interest in advancing the training to their respective schools and came up with projects relative to environmental issues such as waste, water conservation and alien plants and vegetation. Ms Jolene Hencke of Ouplaas primary school found the camp to be informative, interactive and a platform for networking and learning. "We learnt a lot and shared examples of environmental improvement, education and training amongst different districts, local municipalities, government department and other organisations", she said.

The Western Cape Lead Teachers conference where 10 schools will be selected to represent the province on national level will take place on 3-5 September this year.



## Co-ordination of Outcomes and Development of Delivery Agreements

The Cabinet Lekgotla held from 20 to 22 January 2010 adopted the following 12 outcomes:

- Improved quality of basic education.
- A long and healthy life for all South Africans.
- All people in South Africa are and feel safe.
- Decent employment through inclusive economic growth.
- A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path.
- An efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network.
- Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all.
- Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life.
- A responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system.
- Environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced.
- Create a better South Africa and contribute to a better and safer Africa and World.
- An efficient, effective and development oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship.

At the end of April 2010, the President signed performance agreements with all 34 Cabinet Ministers. In these performance agreements, Ministers were requested to establish an Implementation Forum for each of the twelve outcomes. In each implementation forum Ministers and all other parties responsible for delivering on an outcome, will develop a Delivery Agreement.

All departments, agencies and spheres of government involved in the direct delivery process required to achieve an output, should be party to the agreement.

The Delivery Agreement will refine and provide more detail to the outputs, targets, indicators and key activities for each outcome, and identify required inputs and clarify roles and responsibilities. It will spell out who will do what, by when and with what resources.

Delivery Agreements will further unpack each outcome and each output and the requirements to reach the targets. Aspects that will be described in detail include the legislative and regulatory regime, the institutional environment and decision-making processes and rights, the resources needed and re-allocation of resources where appropriate.

*Source: The Presidency Website*

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## Glimmers of hope on HIV

We have known for a long time that AIDS in Africa is increasingly a woman's disease. In 2002, when Kofi Annan, then the UN Secretary General, famously declared that "AIDS has a woman's face," young women in sub-Saharan Africa (aged 15-24) were about twice as likely to be infected with HIV as men of the same age. Today, in the nine hardest-hit African countries, young women are about three times as likely as young men to be HIV positive.

A big part of the problem is that in societies where women have low status and enjoy few rights, they have little opportunity to practice safe sex.

(One study in Lesotho, for example, found that 47% of men, and 40% of women, agreed that women have no right to refuse sex with their husbands or boyfriends.) Rampant sexual violence exacerbates women's vulnerability.

So do conditions of extreme poverty. Too many school girls engage in risky sexual behaviors in return for access to education.

*Source: Originally published on <http://www.cfr.org>*

### Please forward contributions to

[FaredT@dwa.gov.za](mailto:FaredT@dwa.gov.za) or [JohnsoN@dwa.gov.za](mailto:JohnsoN@dwa.gov.za)

For more information contact the *Working for Water*

toll free information line on 0800-005-376

or visit our website [www.dwaf.gov.za/wfw/](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/wfw/) or send your queries to: [wfw@dwaf.gov.za](mailto:wfw@dwaf.gov.za)

To see pictures of invasive alien plants go to <http://www.agis.agric.za/wip/>