

Editors Column

We are pleased to bring you the August edition of our company newsletter. Regular features include information on upcoming world environmental days and events, local environmentally related news and an Environmental Legislation Corner

In this issue, the two global events discussed are World Population Day and International Youth Day. With these two events in mind, the main theme is People and the Environment.

In recognition of Youth Day, included are four environmentally themed poems written by primary school children from Chisipite Junior School and Chikurubi Primary in Harare. A special thank you to the pupils who participated and to their teachers for their assistance.

We welcome your comments and environmental contributions which you may kindly send to The Editors on: infor@blackcrystal.co.zw

Thank you and happy reading!
Chiyedza and Clara



Environmental Consultants
Caring for the environment beyond today

Black Crystal Consulting is one of Zimbabwe's leading reputable companies offering a quality service in environmental and socioeconomic consultancy services. Black Crystal Consulting believes in *caring for the environment beyond today* to ensure that biodiversity is maintained and that natural resources are not depleted for the next generation.

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International Youth Day

Background

In 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995 (resolution 50/81).



International Youth Day (IYD) is commemorated every year on 12 August. The Programme on Youth selects a theme for the day in consultation with youth organizations, the Department of Public Information and other UN system offices and agencies. It also organizes a commemoration of the Day at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Programme encourages youth around the world to organize activities to raise awareness about the situation of youth in their country. This year, the theme of IYD is 'Change Our World'.

Did You Know?

Every day 50 to 100 species of plants and animals become extinct as their habitat and human influences destroy them.

Forests cover 31% of the earth's total land area

Forests are home to 80 % of our terrestrial biodiversity

World Population Day: 11 July

World Population Day was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations in 1989 as an outgrowth of the Day of Five Billion marked on 11 July 1987. The United Nations authorized the event as a vehicle to build an awareness of population issues and the impact they have on development and the environment.

Since then, with the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) encouragement, governments, non-governmental organizations, institutions and individuals organize various educational activities to celebrate the annual event.

This year's theme was "Calling Attention to Urgent Global Issues" UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon expressed the following as a message for the event:

"This year's World Population Day falls during a milestone year, when we anticipate the birth of the Earth's seven billionth inhabitant. This is an opportunity to celebrate our common humanity and our diversity. It is also a reminder of our shared responsibility to care for each other and our planet."

What are the global issues needing urgent attention? Ones that quickly spring to mind are global warming, biodiversity loss and climate change, all of which are exacerbated by ever increasing population pressure. It is evident the environment is being seriously damaged by the impact of rapidly growing populations and over-exploitation of the earth's natural resources.

"All environmental problems become harder – and ultimately impossible to solve – with ever more people".

David Attenborough

The Impacts of the Human Population on the natural Environment

The natural environment refers to all living and non-living things that occur naturally on the earth's surface including humans. Human activities such as industrialization and burning of fossil fuels have negatively impacted on the environment especially on

the earth's water bodies, air quality, flora and fauna. Rapid human population growth has also contributed to the depletion of the environment's natural resources. Most of the environmental problems that we face today as humans are a result of our actions and if we do not become more sensible and take necessary action to protect our environment there will not be a clean and safe environment for the future generations.

We must love and respect our planet, protect it, become more responsible and guard it jealously. It is the only one we've got.

Local EnviroNews, Arts and Culture

Make an Environmental Promise Today

Promise is a grass roots group of women who are fashioning jewellery and accessories from magazine paper and bottle caps. The recycling of magazines - or what is now popularly known as upcycling (the process of converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or a higher environmental value) is the passion of Promise.



This talented group of women uses waste to make art because it feels good and they love it. In this age of consumerism and mass production, Promise prides itself in the hands of the women who roll, twist, cut and paste paper into three dimensional shapes and adorn it with beads.

The business is growing and has enlisted the help of orphans in Tafara who have learnt to make the beads and they are now supplying Promise as they try to keep up with all the orders. They hope to be an

inspiration for young Zimbabweans. The future lies in our hands and these women are choosing to create beauty that does not harm the planet and encourages community. So think twice before you throw away old magazines and newspapers.



If you have posters, magazines or bottle caps that you would like to donate, please send an email to: remember2morrow@gmail.com

For inspiration, you can Google 'upcycling'.

Did You Know?

The manufacturing, importing, buying and using of thin plastic bags is now banned in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

NEW!!! Tambira Galleries: less than a 5 minute walk from Black Crystal offices

Opened in June 2011 in Harare, **Tambira Galleries** features on-going exhibitions of Zimbabwean contemporary sculpture and painting. As part of the founders' program to promote artistic heritage in all mediums, it also presents traditional and contemporary crafts from partner communities throughout the country. Furthermore it features works by young children whose parents passed away from HIV/Aids. The gallery is situated at the former home of the late Director and benefactor of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Professor Cyril Rogers, and his late wife Betty in Mount Pleasant.

The opening exhibitions included the private collection of Prof. Rogers and his late wife. The Galleries are situated in an unusual 'jungle' garden in the heart of Harare, featuring a quaint 'Wild Tree Coffee Shop'. Artworks will be on sale in the gallery

and in time on the gallery website. All profits made by Tambira Galleries will help fund community projects for orphaned children.

Tambira means 'welcome'. It can also mean dance in Shona, a local language of Zimbabwe.

Address: 30 Arundel School Road, Mount Pleasant.
Hours - 9 am to 4.30 pm

Moving Planet by 350.org

Over the next couple of weeks, people will come together in communities around the world, and brainstorm ideas for their local Moving Planet events for September 24th. Will you join them?

Moving Planet is **350.org's** next BIG global day of action, and it's happening on September 24th. We're calling it "A Day to Move Beyond Fossil Fuels", and hundreds of events are already being planned--from big bike parades and marches with tens of thousands of people to smaller community education events. But in many communities, the local plan for September 24th hasn't been finalized yet. If you have been meaning to get involved in Moving Planet and waiting for the right moment to get going, now is the time to get started.

With strong local teams and solid strategic plans, we'll be able to make September 24th a historic day in the journey to move beyond fossil fuels. We hope you'll join us and start a meetup in your community.

Visit: <http://www.moving-planet.org/> for more information

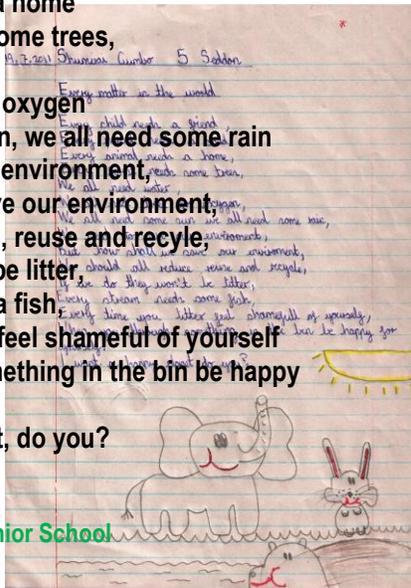
Environmentally themed poems:

In celebration of International Youth Day, Black Crystal invited school children at Chisipite Junior School and Chikurubi Primary from grades 4 to 7 to write creative poems or stories on any of the following topics: water; trees and forests; weather and climate; and wildlife (including veld fires).

Congratulations to Shumirai Gumbo of 5S and Tavonga Munatsi of 7DB at Chisipite Junior; and to Ashley Ziome and Michelle Ngoro of grade 7 at Chikurubi Primary for their winning poems!!!

Every Matter in the World

Every child needs a friend
 Every parent needs a child
 Every animal needs a home
 Every forest needs some trees,
 We all need water
 We all need trees for oxygen
 We all need some sun, we all need some rain
 We need to save our environment,
 But how shall we save our environment,
 We should all reduce, reuse and recycle,
 If we do there won't be litter,
 Every stream needs a fish,
 Every time you litter feel shameful of yourself
 When you throw something in the bin be happy
 for yourself.
 I want a happy planet, do you?



By Shumirai Gumbo
 Grade 5S, Chisipite Junior School

Water

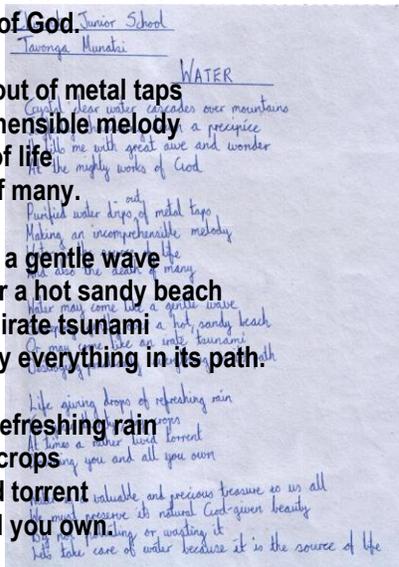
Crystal clear water cascades over mountains
 Joyfully thundering down a precipice
 It fills me with great awe and wonder
 At the mighty works of God.

Purified water drips out of metal taps
 Making an incomprehensible melody
 Water is the source of life
 And also the death of many.

Water may come like a gentle wave
 Sweeping gently over a hot sandy beach
 Or may come like an irate tsunami
 Destroying practically everything in its path.

Life giving drops of refreshing rain
 For your thirsty, dry crops
 At times a rather livid torrent
 Drowning you and all you own.

Water is a valuable and precious treasure to us all
 We must preserve its natural God-given beauty
 By not polluting or wasting it
 Let's take care of water because it is the source of
 life.



By Tavonga Munatsi
 Grade 7DB, Chisipite Junior School

Trees and Forests

Trees and forest,
 God created nature
 The way God created
 nature is beautiful.
 But! Because of man
 They have ruined and destroyed the beauty of nature
 by veld fires.

Fires have destroyed trees and where insects live.
 Man is the worst nightmare to nature.
 Trees give us fruits, books and wood.
 Without trees we would nit have all these things.

People do not know that the forest will turn into
 deserts .For us to stop all the veld fires, anyone who
 is seen setting a fire should be arrested.

By Ashley Ziome
 Chikurubi Primary School

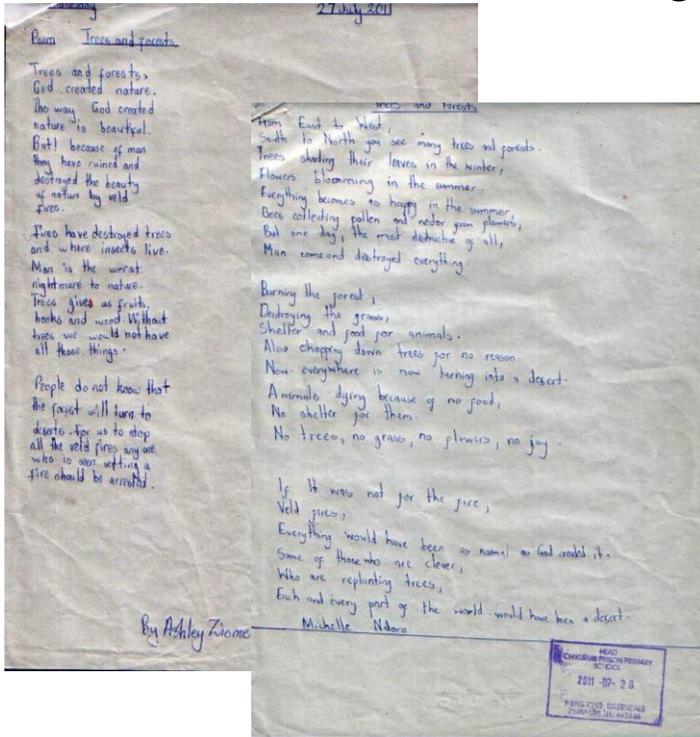
Trees and Forests

From east to west, south to north you see many trees
 and forests.
 Trees shading their leaves in winter, flowers blooming
 in the summer,
 Bees collecting pollen and nectar from flowers, but
 one day, the most destructive of all, man came and
 destroyed everything.

Burning the forests, destroying the grasses, shelter
 and food for animals.
 Also chopping down trees for no reason.
 Now everywhere is now turning into deserts.
 Animals dying because of no food, no shelter for
 them.
 No trees, no grass, no flowers, no joy,

If it was not for the fire, veld fires, everything would
 have been as normal as God created it.
 If it wasn't for those who are clever, who are
 replanting trees, in each and every part of the world,
 the world would have been a desert

By Michelle Ndoro
 Chikurubi Primary School



Legislation Corner

Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA)

EAPASA aims to advance the quality of environmental assessment practice in South Africa by establishing, promoting and maintaining registration of environmental assessment practitioners.

The South African Department of Environmental Affairs, as custodian of the environment committed itself to put in place a system for integrated environmental impact management and assessment within the context of the principles of sustainable development. The association was launched in April this year. It aims to advance the quality of environmental assessment practice in South Africa by establishing, promoting and maintaining registration of environmental assessment practitioners. This system will introduce a combination of initiatives and interventions including a framework of alternative tools and systems to enhance the current Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system, law reform and the integration of regulatory processes and coordination between organs of state.

Environmental Assessment Practitioners play a significant role in enabling integrated environmental management and sustainable development. This set of practitioners in consulting, government and parastatals carry a major professional responsibility on behalf of the environment and society through providing information and applying their objective professional judgment. Their ethics and competence is thus the bedrock on which good environmental decision-making needs to be founded.

Comment:

It would be a great if an organisation of this nature could to be set up in Zimbabwe!

THYME COTTAGE AT ENVIRONMENT AFRICA

Are you in need of trees and herbs? Then the place to visit is Thyme Cottage herbal centre, located at 76 Queen Elizabeth, Greendale.

Tel: +263 774 168 260

For information or questions regarding seedlings and saplings, speak to Kelvin.

