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caring for the environment beyond today

THE CRYSTAL

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WORLD NEWS

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Hie readers welcome to 2022 we hope that you are still working on your new year's resolutions and haven't swept them under a rug somewhere. We also hope that everyone is healthy and still keep a safe distance from the pandemic we're not out of the dark yet.

This month's newsletter will be focusing on environmental news, environmental days as well as other environment related topics this is to prepare you our readers for the year. You will get to understand the importance of the major environment days and how you can play your part in celebrating them.

We are always open to your comments and contributions especially what you are doing for the environment or what is happening in your area so that we can add it to our newsletter. Please send them to the Editor on infor@blackcrystal.co.zw. If you no longer wish to subscribe to the Crystal, please email us this instruction on the same email address.

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World Environmental News.

This year we have experienced a number of extreme weather and hazardous events, cyclones in the United Kingdom and USA, volcanic eruptions in Tonga and Ecuador, flooding and mass movements in Brazil, Iran and Madagascar, a mega drought in the USA, wildfires in Spain, USA and Argentina, a volcano-induced tsunami in Japan. This has all happened before the end of the first quarter of the year. I think it's safe to say we haven't seen the worst. These disasters have been becoming more and more common over the past few years. This can be attributed to climate change, which has been an ongoing phenomenon for the past 9 decades.

However, this should not worry us because we have also experienced some victories during the same period. The Mr Beast clean the ocean challenge has managed to remove 14 million kgs of trash from the ocean and beaches through donations from environmentalists around the world. We have also experienced a decline in greenhouse gas emissions, however, this decline has been largely credited to the global pandemic, which reduced the use of fossil fuels globally. Electric Vehicle (EV) companies have also increased and have made the technology available for economic zones. We have also observed that the attitudes of people have begun to change slowly, turning to more environmentally conscious decisions like buying green, adoption of EV technology, adoption of renewable energy, and holding policy makers responsible for their decisions in environmental issues. We have also managed to plant an average of 1.9 billion trees each year for the past 3 years, which is a big win.

Although the progress has been slow, we have managed to try and reverse the impact that we've had on the environment ever since the industrial revolution. More has to be done, but we are on the right path.



Local Environmental News.

This year Zimbabwe has experienced cyclone Batsirai, which caused flooding on the eastern part of the country. We also experienced a below average rainfall with above average temperatures. This might mean another drought year for the country. EMA is drafting policy documents guided by the Ramsar Convention and the Environmental Management Act to aid in the sustainable use of wetlands around the country. We shall be continuing with the presidential clean-ups; these will assist in spreading awareness on the importance of environmental awareness and management. Zimbabwe has also been part of several renewable energy projects; this will definitely help us achieve the COP 26 obligations to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Our waste management has become worse, especially with the use of disposable masks. These have become a menace as they can be found everywhere around the country, especially in the urban areas, as they are light and easily carried away by the wind. Our local councils have been slacking and need to be held accountable.



International Environmental Days.

Environmental days are special events that are celebrated on specific days of the year each of these have their own special meaning and way of commemoration that has to be observed. Below is a list of the major environment days:

- January 05-Bird Day.
- February 02-World Wetlands Day.
- March 03-World Wildlife Day.
- March 18-Global Recycling Day.
- March 21-International Day of Forests.
- March 22-World Water Day.
- April 13-International Plant Appreciation Day.
- April 22-Earth Day
- 3rd Friday of May-Endangered Species Day.
- May 22-International Day of Biological Diversity.
- June 05- World Environment Day.
- June 17- World Desertification Day.
- July 11-World Population Day.
- 3rd Friday of September-World Clean-up Day.
- September 16-International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- September 21-Zero Emissions Day.
- October 4-World Animal Day.
- October 14-International E-waste Day.
- 1st Saturday of December-National Tree Planting Day.

These are the major environment days of the year there are many more minor environmental days some of which are country specific. The reason why these days are important to us is that they are reminder that the environment we are living in is fragile and has to be taken care of in one way or another. They are also an opportunity for humans to correct our mistakes through taking action.



Information Corner

As Black Crystal Consulting (Pvt) Ltd, we offer many services for all your environmental needs such as Environmental Impact Assessments and Sustainable report writing.

According to the EMA Act, large-scale projects in the line of open cast mining, construction sites, estate buildings amongst many others require the process of an EIA and the operation of a large-scale company requires a sustainability report in its day to day operations and Black Crystal is highly equipped to cater for those needs.

Environmental Fun Facts.

The environment around us is full of amazing facts you might not know. Here are a few fun facts to help you to learn and appreciate the earth more:

1. Humans use only 1% of all available water.
2. Ants weigh more than humans.
3. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a normal light bulb for 4 hours.
4. The world's oldest trees are 4,600 years old in the USA.
5. Paper from trees can be recycled 6 times.

What's New

As the famous Greek Philosopher Heraclitus once said: "Change is the only constant" – it is evident in our day to day lives as so much is changing all around us. Here is what's new on our planet:

1. The Zimbabwean government has started consultations to amend the Environmental Management Act in an attempt to ensure comprehensive protection of the country's environment that leads to sustainable development.
2. Global warming and land use change is seen to drive more extreme wildfires. UNEP says that large fires that burn for weeks are already becoming hotter and burning longer in many parts of the planet where wildfires have occurred.
3. The world's largest Jurassic dinosaur - a 170-million-year-old winged reptile - has been discovered protruding from the rocks of the Isle of Skye in the UK.
4. Climate change is threatening to destroy treasures buried in the UK as the soils that protect them dry out.
5. A new and simple method for upcycling plastic waste at room temperature has been developed by a team of researchers at the Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies (CSCT) at the University of Bath. The researchers hope the new process will help recycling pay for itself as it becomes more economically viable.

part at the first Friday of every month in Zimbabwe

Conclusion.

As evident in this edition of our newsletter, Climate Change has become more visible all over the globe with quite a number of tropical storms occurring all over the world. As local citizens, we need to be more active when it comes the protection and preservation of our environment and this can be done by taking part in the Nation's Clean-Up Campaigns which take