2008 National Conservancy Conference Speakers

Onkgopotse Tabane
Key Note Speaker

Onkgopotse Tabane is Chairman of Indalo Yethu, an independent trust of the Department of Environment and Tourism. Indalo Yethu is a national environmental awareness campaign and promotes greening and eco-friendly practices. "Save tomorrow. Today." He held positions in communications at the Chamber of Mines, SA Airways, the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism as well as the World Summit on Sustainable Development, where he won the Communicator of the Year Award in 2002. His other responsibilities include the non-executive chairmanship of the Utembezi Tourism Group, and non-executive directorships of the Johannesburg Tourism Company and the Gauteng Tourism Authority.

Chris Brown

He is the Director of the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), an independent non-governmental organisation whose mission is to promote sustainable development, conserve biological diversity and natural ecosystems, and foster the wise and ethical use of natural resources. He is also a Director and shareholder of the Gondwana Desert Collection, which owns a series of private parks and lodges in the different desert biomes of Namibia. The Gondwana Desert Collection is spearheading a programme of co-management with neighbouring properties to remove all fences and create open landscapes to help reinstate previous movement patterns of wildlife.

Previously he was Head of the Namibia Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and played a key role in drafting the environmental clauses in the Namibian Constitution. He was responsible for the initial establishment of the DEA and for building up its portfolio of environmental programmes, which range from the review and revision of environmental legislation, control of pollution and environmental impact assessment to natural resource economics, environmental information, biodiversity and community-based natural resource management.

He has published more than 100 scientific papers and reports, including Namibia's Green Plan and for 10 years was the editor of Namibia's scientific journal of arid zone biology and nature conservation research, Madoqua. He was one of Namibia's delegates to the Rio Earth Summit as well as the Rio +10 Summit and has led Namibia's involvement in the UN Desertification and Biodiversity Conventions. He coordinated the Namibia Bird Atlas project as part of a regional initiative, the largest biodiversity project undertaken in Africa, and maintains a strong interest in ornithology, particularly in birds as indicators of environmental health.

Carin Bosman

Carin Bosman is widely recognised as a leading professional in environmental management in South Africa. She as more than 19 years experience in the field, and is currently the Executive Director of Carin Bosman Sustainable Solutions, an independent advisory service she established in 2007. Prior to establishing her own company, she was the Director: Water Resource Protection and Waste Management at the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) since 2005, and has been a senior manager in the DWAF since 1997.

Ms Bosman is also a Director of the Responsible Container Management Association of South Africa, a section 21 company aimed at community protection.

She is an external associate of the Sustainable Governance for the Environment programme at the Faculty of Law of the Northwest University, a lecturer at the Environmental Law Programme of the Centre for further Education at the Pretoria University, and she presents the Environmental Elective in the MBA Programme of the Tshwane University of Technology.

Ms Bosman specialises in cooperative environmental governance, with particular emphasis on the development, implementation and interpretation of management tools, including legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines for integrated water resource management; water services; waste management (specifically hazardous waste treatment and disposal); remediation of contaminated areas and mine closure. She focuses her efforts on ensuring sustainability by managing sources of pollution (mines, industries, municipal areas, agricultural activities, etc) and their impacts on specifically the water resource (both ground and surface water). This, she believes, is to be achieved by addressing the information, knowledge and resource needs of those involved with causing the concern, those in a position to change the status quo, and those affected by the problem, especially at the community and local levels. She is a registered environmental legal compliance auditor, a skilled facilitator, and a member of several professional organisations. Ms Bosman has published a number of papers, and presented at various national and international conferences.

Qualifications
M.Sc degree (cum laude) in Environmental Management from North-West University, 2000
B.Sc Honours degree in Chemistry from Pretoria University, 1989
B.Sc degree from Pretoria University, 1988

Kim Kieser
Ashoka Fellow and Social Entrepreneur with 10 years experience in setting up, developing and establishing integrated river health and waste management/recycling systems in Environmental Round Tables in which previously-disadvantaged communities are partnered with funding/development partners from corporate, government and development agencies.

Kim Kieser – CEO and Founder of The Soul Foundation, had established highly successful health and fitness studios in both Johannesburg and Durban. After a long period of sustained growth she created a clothing design and manufacturing company which became a leading supplier of active wear. During this period, a deep restlessness and disillusionment began to set in. She was increasingly discomfited by the huge disparities in wealth and associated social malaise that she witnessed, and distressed by the deteriorating natural environment.

The catalyst for The Soul Foundation was an amazing dream, the message of which was to unite South Africans through nature and clean up the garbage.

Soul Foundation was registered as a Section 21, non-profit organisation in 1998 subsequent to a report of a murdered woman's body found dumped on a garbage heap. This symbol epitomised the urgency of improving the conditions many previously disadvantaged South Africans are living under; environmental degradation, unemployment and poverty having reached critical proportions.
Soul Foundation has developed an Integrated Waste Management and Micro-enterprise Development Model for the clean up and rehabilitation of urban and rural river course ways and surrounds in the first comprehensive approach that is unlike other existing initiatives - ongoing, actively engages communities in all aspects necessary for clean river and community waste management, and is underpinned by a series of socio-economic sustainability strategies. Researched and developed since 1998, endorsed by and in collaboration with learning and educational institutions since 2003. Soul Foundation has become recognised as an effective trailblazer and leader in its field.

From 2000 to date Soul Foundation has received many awards for its contribution to Black Economic Empowerment, Environmental Care, Job Creation and Training and Social Upliftment, including The Green Trust and Professional Management Review EmPower Awards.
In 2003 Kim was awarded a Fellowship by Ashoka, an international organisation with a mission to advance social entrepreneurs in recognition of creative and entrepreneurial leadership and commitment to making large-scale changes in society.
During 2004 she received third position in the prestigious Elle/ Elizabeth Arden Visible Difference Awards held in association with BMW South Africa for her outstanding contribution as a woman making a difference to the lives of fellow South Africans.
She has presented The Eco-Sanitation Model Paper at various national and international conferences over the past years.
In 2006 she was a finalist in the GIBS (Gordon Institute of Business Science) awards for "Social Entrepreneurs on the Brink".
In 2007 Kim Kieser was selected by Ashoka as a highlighted Fellow in the Environment Category for the World Bank and was selected by Against All Odds Productions (via Ashoka) to feature in a major photojournalism coffee-table book and media project in which forty of the world's top photojournalists focus on the global water crisis.
Recently, Kim Kieser has featured in articles in Women & Home (November 2007), Femina (December 2007) and Urban Green File (December 2007) in which her role and activities as an environmental activist and social entrepreneur have been highlighted. SATV have featured Kim Kieser/Soul Foundation in their eco-programme "50/50" (17 September 2007).

Mariette Liefferink

Mariette Liefferink, CEO of Federation for a Sustainable Environment, Chairperson of Public Environmental Arbiters and principally an environmental justice activist. Mariette has been involved in environmental advocacy and lobbying for 10 years, commencing with Shell, and her efforts are today largely focused on the gold mining activities on the West Rand.

Mariette's activities include:

- Delegate at World Summit for Sustainable Development (2002)
- Instrumental in effecting Policy Changes in Government (Appointment of Regulators Steering Committee, Team of Experts, re-establishment of Water Forums within the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment, etc.) (2003 – 2008)
  -Successful call to the National Nuclear Regulator for regulatory decisions pertaining to the uranium concentrations recorded within the catchment of the Wonderfonteinspruit
- Contributed to the formation of the National Water Resources Strategy, the Internal Strategic Perspective for the Vaal River, the Catchment Management Strategy for the Mooi River, the National Chemical Monitoring Programme, the Regional Monitoring Program me in the Catchment; the National Radioactivity Monitoring Programme of the Mooi River Catchment and the Regional Radioactivity Monitoring Programme,the Ground Water Monitoring Programme, the Interim Water Quality Objectives, Integrated licensing process, the Far West Rand Dolomitic Water Management Area Plan, the Terms of Reference for the appointment of Professional Service Providers to do a study to determine the risk of radioactive pollution to downstream users of the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment, etc. (2004-Ref. Mike Muller, Director General, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry)
- Contributed to the establishment of the Wonderfontein Action Group, and the re-establishment of the Kromdraai Catchment Forum, and MooiRiver/LoopSpruit Forum, etc. (2006 -Ref. Marius Keet, Regional Director, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry)
- Formation of a Federation of NGO's and Conservancies (2007)
- Empowerment of local and marginalized communities to articulate their environmental concerns and to participate meaningfully in environmental decision making (2003 – 2008)
- Participation in the development of national policies and guidelines
- Instrumental in effecting the enforcement of the polluter pays principle within the gold mining industry (2004 – 2008)
- Successful campaigning to put scientific official reports within the public domain (2006 – 2008)
- Effective lobbying to reform legal measures (Constitutional right to have access to sufficient water, promotion of access to information and promotion of administrative justice, freedom of speech and press, etc.) (2003 – 2008)
- Co-operative arrangements with multi-national corporations and organs of state (2005 – 2008)
- Participation in and/or conducting of workshops, inter alia the Government Task Team on Mining Closure and Rehabilitation, the West Rand District Municipality (Waste Management Forum), Uranium Exploration and Mining Workshop in co-operation with the National Nuclear Regulator and the CAPCAN AFRICA; seminars; conferences inter alia the International Conference on "Exploring transdisciplinary discourses: Water, society and the environment in Africa" , etc. (2002 – 2008)
- Awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for environmental projects by the West Rand District Municipality
- Public awareness campaigns and whistleblowing in co-operation with international and national news media (2002 – 2008)
- Invited VIP NGO at Al Gore's Live Earth Concert (2007)

- Extensive international and national news media coverage inter alia, the BBC, the BBC Canada, CNBC Africa, Al Jazeera, Carte Blanche – MNet, 50/50, SABC 2 & 3, E-TV, UNESCO, Finweek, Farmers Weekly, Human Rights Watch, SHEQ, Die Beeld, The Star, The Sunday Times, The Business Times, The Sowetan, The Citizen, The Cape Times, regional newspapers, etc .
- Successful engagement with the Human Rights Watch, the UNESCO, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and the Human Rights Commission (2002 – 2008)
- Contribution to the amendments to the National Environmental Management Amendment Act with regards to Public Participation
- Contribution to treatment initiatives for Acid Mine Drainage and rehabilitation programmes for historical tailings disposal facilities within the gold mining areas of the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment

Co-operation with research groups and scientist and instrumental in scientific research and the publication of reports such as:

- Cancer maps (Dr. Carl Albrecht, CANSA)
- Epidemiological studies inter alia a high confidence human health study in the Wonderfonteinspruit using human milk-teeth to determine health risk within a population that has had chronic exposure to heavy metals and radionuclide contamination (CSIR – Dr. Anthony Turton)
- A Hydrogeological Assessment of Acid Mine Drainage Impacts in the West Rand Basin, Gauteng Province (CSIR – Phill Hobbs)
- Water Research Commission Report, 1214 to determine the sources, pathways, mechanisms, current and future pollution by gold mining activities in the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment
- National Nuclear Regulator's Report on the radiological risks to the public within the gold mining areas of the Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment (Henk Coetzee)
- Effects of Acid Mine Drainage on karst and cave eco-systems and aquatic biota (Dr. Francois Durand)
- Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility in South Africa (Dr. David Fig)
- Peak Poison – The elite Energy crises and environmental justice (groundwork – Victor Munnik)
- Past and Present actions of environmental heritage in the controversial Wonderfontein Catchment – a critical assessment (NWU – Prof. Elize van Eeden)
- A historical assessment of NGO efficiency in progressing towards a sustainable environmental heritage focus, with as case study the Wonderfontein Spruit catchment (NWU – Prof. Elize van Eeden)
- Redressing Inequality (CSIR – Dr. Anthony Turton)
  Water, mining, and waste: an historical and economic perspective on conflict management in South Africa (Rebecca A. Adler, Marius Claassen, Linda Godfrey and Anthony R. Turton)
- Co-operation with inter alia the Centre for Environmental Studies, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria (Francois Friend (2004), University of Berlin Freie, Universitat Berlin (Jana Honke, Political Scientist), Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenburg (Prof. Dr. Peter Wycisk, Faculty of Agriculture, Geosciences, Mathematics and Computer Science) (2007)
- Co-operation with IUCN (Mike Buchanan, Prof. Gunther Pauli, Dr. Ger Berkamp) (2003 – 2008)
- Co-operation with Human Right Lawyers inter alia Richard Meeran, Richard Spoor and Advocate George Bizos (2003 – 2008)
- Advisor to the Legal Resource Centre on human rights violations within the gold mining areas of the Wonderfonteinspruit and in the preparing legal documents in the class action case to call for the declaration of the Constitution right of access to sufficient water and for the establishment of legal precedent

Trevor Mulaudzi

Trevor leads initial clean-ups of school toilets to discourage apathy with regards to unsanitary conditions. He has used his initial toilet-cleaning project to help schools raise both funds and awareness about health and sanitation within the community.

Trevor is a geologist in the rural north west of South Africa who goes by the distinguished nickname of "Dr Sh*t". The dramatic turn away from mining to sanitation came when he he noticed groups of schoolchildren wandering off school grounds during classroom hours.

When he asked why they were not in school, they replied that they were looking for ablution facilities. A subsequent visit to the school revealed that most of the school's toilets were out of order and that some learners were using the building as an informal shebeen (tavern). So, Mulaudzi gave up his corporate job and started a cleaning enterprise to convince students, teachers and education officials to take more responsibility for sanitation in schools.

Many South African schools, especially in black townships and rural areas, still suffer from a lack of adequate infrastructure and simply do not have the resources to tackle sanitation problems among multiple and urgent needs. Mulaudzi's approach is to get communities to own the problem through organised clean-ups. He comments that there were some initial suspicions from local residents thinking, "Who's this stranger who says he wants to clean other people's poo?" Upon entering a school, Mulaudzi and his team of professionally trained staff perform a heavy duty cleaning of the toilet facilities and educate the children on good toilet hygiene and general sanitation issues. In order to prevent further problems in the toilets, Mulaudzi physically takes a flushing toilet apart and shows the learners how it works. Once an initial clean-up has taken place, the school takes on the responsibility of maintaining its toilets, with the help of student cleaning teams or parents employed as cleaners.

Through his company, Mulaudzi also supplies low-cost cleaning materials and toilet paper to schools, some of which is then sold on to raise funds for the school. There are other positive spin-offs too, including an improved awareness of personal hygiene and sanitation among the broader community, and a more active involvement in the schooling of the community's youth.

John J Nzira

John is an expert in natural African farming & sustainable resource management. He was born in Zimbabwe and currently lives and works in South Africa.

He is one of the first African Permaculture legends and has been teaching and establishing farms and orchards and gardens for seventeen years. A former coordinator of the Fambidzanai Permaculture Training Center and program manager for Food and Trees for Africa, he is currently the director for the Ukuvuna Permaculture Consultancy. John is a recipient of the DEAT award for conservation, a MTK Awared (Mma Tsepho Khubane) and the Silver Gilt medal 2006 Chelsea Flower Show – UK Royal Horticultural Society presented by HRM the Queen of England.

Peter Lukey

Chief Directorate: Air Quality Management & Climate Change,
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

Sue Bellinger

Sue Bellinger is a sustainability consultant and founder of SB & Associates. She works and networks with communities, organisations, individuals and government departments to understand – and reduce - the impacts of our everyday living, and to improve the future for us and for future generations of all species. The Natural Step (TNS) is an international sustainability framework tool she frequently employs.
Sue is also the Regional Co-Ordinator for "Project 90 by 2030". This project aspires to influence a 90% change in the way South Africans live by the year 2030.

Willeen Olivier

Willeen Olivier has worked for many years in the field of Environmental Education, implementing programmes and later working on national policy formulation. In 2001 she transferred to the Biodiversity Management Section, working with international conventions, policy and legislation development, and stakeholder consultation. She is presently responsible for, among others, the Biodiversity Stewardship: South Africa programme.

Open Africa

Open Africa is a not for gain organisation under the patronage of Nelson Mandela and headed up by founder, Noel de Villiers. It was established in 1995 with the aim of optimising the synergies between tourism, job creation and conservation, resulting in the concept of "Afrikatourism" and the development of the Open Africa Project. Grounded on the twin principles of sustainability and community participation, this is tourism which reveals the many treasures of Africa while remaining sensitive to the needs of communities.
Francois Viljoen - Operations Manager - represents Open Africa

Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment

SABCA, launched in May 2007, is a four-year conservation project aimed at determining the distribution and conservation priorities of all butterfly species in the Southern African region, especially those threatened with extinction.
SABCA aims to train and educate the public to promote butterfly conservation, and to participate in this important project.
Because butterflies tend to rely on particular host plant species for food, they are particularly vulnerable to the transformation of natural lands. The destruction of natural vegetation for agriculture, urbanization and infrastructure is the main cause of butterfly declines and extinctions. Butterflies are also known to be particularly sensitive to climatic changes as a result of global warming.
Jeremy Dobson - Chairman - Gauteng branch of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa - represents SABCA