

UNESCO MAB YOUTH FORUM VISIT KOGELBERG BIOSPHERE

UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme has celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2021. Its flagship programme is the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which today count 738 Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in 133 countries. In the Southern Africa region, the first Biosphere Reserve nominated in the Western Cape was the Kogelberg Biosphere. Today there are 18 Biosphere Reserves in 7 of the 9 Member States covered by the UNESCO ROSA Office. A number of projects are currently implemented to support the network in Southern Africa, under the label "Be Resilient: Biosphere Reserves as Observatories for Climate Change Adaptation in Southern Africa".

The Forum brought together young people (under 30) from each Biosphere and Natural World Heritage Site in Southern Africa for a series of events, including the hosting of a side event at the World Science Forum, titled 'Youth at the World Science Forum: A World Café on Youth, Social Transformation and Science'. The youth attending the event are expected to champion the Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage site at their return and continue to act as focal points for UNESCO.



The participants were hosted at Disakloof Camp Site at Bettys Bay from 5 – 8 December and visited the Kogelberg Biosphere and Winelands Biosphere as part of the event.

Jackie and Courtney Jacobs led the visit to Kogelberg Biosphere on behalf of the Biosphere Company. During the visit the participants were introduced to the projects that the Kogelberg Biosphere are involved in. Field visits included a visit to Harold Porter Botanical Garden, Stony Point Nature Reserve as well as Protea Dorp Community Park and Kleinmond Harbour to learn about the history of the harbour.



FIRE SEASON IS HERE...

At the start of the fire season we are reminded that fynbos is a fire-adapted vegetation type and is dependent on regular fires for its survival. Fire drives this cycle, and at appropriate intervals it stimulates re-sprouting and seeding of vegetation. The frequency of fires should however not be too long or too short. The period between fires is dependent on the time it takes before 50% of the slowest maturing Proteaceae species have flowered at least three times.

The Kogelberg Biosphere is classified as a strategic water source area due to its mountainous terrain and relatively high rainfall. It provides good quality water for the Cape Metropolitan Area. Frequent fires can however decrease the rate of infiltration by destroying the litter and organic layers in the soil, resulting in run-off and less water entering the dams.



Large fires that result in vast areas of young veld being burnt can also reduce food availability and pose a problem for the dispersal of animals if the distance between older veld becomes too large.

Fynbos vegetation is important for the seven species of birds endemic to the Fynbos biome. Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted Sunbird prefer mature mountain Fynbos, while Hottentot Buttonquail generally occur in young fynbos between the veld age of two and five years. Cape Siskin is associated with restio-dominated fynbos and the Cape Rock-jumper is found in high mountain areas with open rocky habitats. Large burned areas will have a negative impact on the habitat of these endemic bird species.



If you see smoke during this fire season please call Overstrand – 028 312 2400 or Overberg – 028 425 1690.

USE WATER WISELY...

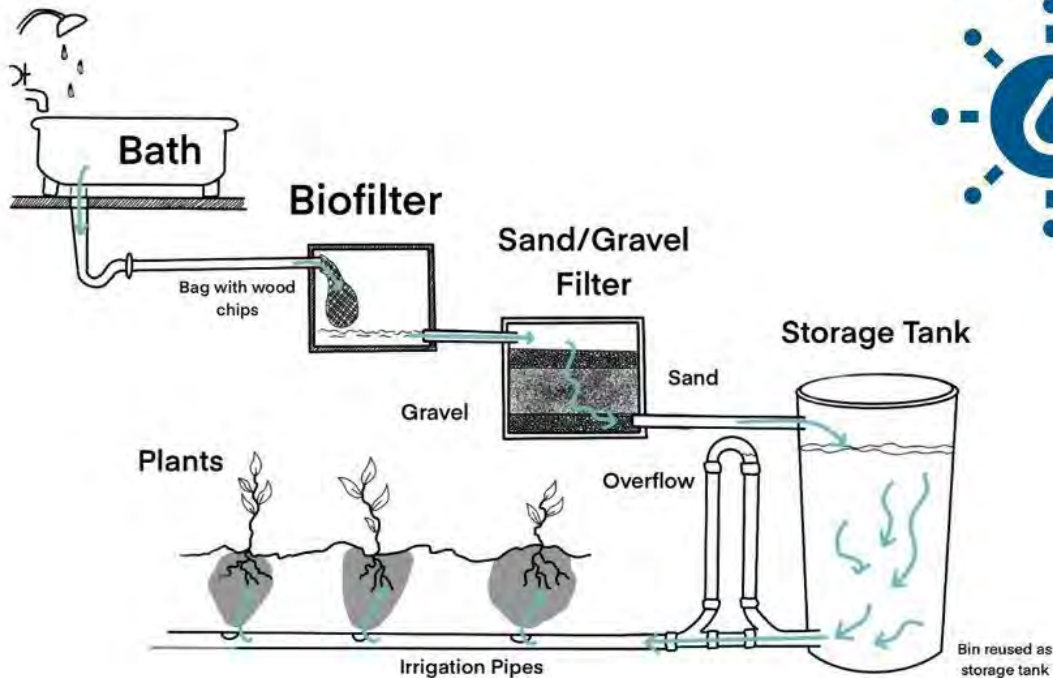
At the start of summer after a dry winter season we are reminded that water in South Africa is a precious and dwindling resource that must be used sparingly. Climate Change is upon us and rainfall patterns in South Africa are changing so we need to do our part to use water sparingly...

Potable water in the area is largely sourced from local rivers and groundwater and it is important that this resource is respected and used sparingly. The potable water that comes out of your tap should only be used for consumption; other water requirements should be met using alternative methods.



Remember that if you choose to take water from a natural resource, a water use license application (WULA) must be obtained from the management authority.

Rainwater can be collected from hard surfaces such as roofs or paved areas and piped to a tank. Rainwater is free of charge and can help you save on your monthly municipal bill. Rainwater can be used for irrigation, flushing your toilets, car washing etc.



Greywater is defined as the untreated household wastewater that has not encounter toilet waste. Greywater can be used for garden irrigation and toilet flushing. Greywater can be used for almost all types of plants, but must not be stored longer than 24 hours, the nutrients in it will start to break down, creating bad smells. Greywater must not be allowed to enter stormwater or other natural waterbodies.

TEST YOUR GEOGRAPHY KNOWLEDGE...

1. Ninety percent of the Earth's population lives in which hemisphere?
2. What are the names of South Africa's three capital cities?



3. Can you name a four-letter country in Africa?
4. Which country has the most snake species?



5. What country is home to Mount Everest?
6. Which lake has a famous mythical creature named after it?



7. What country has the largest population in the world?
8. What is the world's largest island?

9. Where is the largest volcano on Earth located?
10. Which country has the most pyramids in the world?



1 The Northern Hemisphere. 2 Cape Town, Pretoria, and Bloemfontein 3 Chad, Mali or Togo, 4 Brazil 5 Nepal, 6 Loch Ness, 7 China, 8 Greenland, 9 Hawaii, 10 Sudan

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

South Africa together with representatives of the United Nations in South Africa, finalised the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) resulting from the UNSDCF are a global call to action to protect the earth's environment and climate, end poverty and to ensure that people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are closely interconnected and without one the other cannot be achieved. The definition of “Sustainable Development” speaks to the three pillars of social, economic and environmental sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Without social and economic sustainability, we cannot achieve our goals of protecting the natural biodiversity, life-giving water resources and the ecosystem services provided to us by the natural environment. This is a concept that we must all understand and strive to work toward within the Kogelberg Biosphere.

The concept of sustainable development is something we must embrace, not only to look after ourselves and our loved one's well-being, but also the astounding beauty and biodiversity that we are so privileged to have on our doorstep!

JOIN THE KOGELBERG BIOSPHERE

The vision of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve is – “*the Cape Floral Kingdom’s model of sustainable living environment for all*”. To achieve this vision, the Biosphere focuses on bringing together government agencies, the private sector and NGOs to improve the lives of people and the environment. The Biosphere Reserve focuses on the following programmes:

- Growing the economy (Job creation)
- Environmental education
- Securing water
- Protecting nature
- Sustainable management of resources



Membership fees are allocated to the running of these projects and coordination role. The Biosphere offers resources, networking opportunities and connections to help you, your organization and/or your business.

By signing up annually, you can:

- Access resources such as information and maps only available to members
- Use our KBR logo (with certain criteria) and receive a KBR certificate to show your audience your commitment to sustainable development
- Work with the KBR to network with key stakeholders, such as municipalities and local government
- Enjoy the power of the KBR collective to have a voice in bringing about positive change
- Vote at our AGM
- Know about the projects we’re running and how you can get involved
- Enjoy access to joint marketing opportunities that fit our goals and projects.

Members can join as individual members, Affinity groups or Business members. Visit our website for more information.



For more information:

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#BIOSPHERELIVING . NATURE FOR LIFE .

