INTRODUCING THE LATEST ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AREA OF FOCUS PART ONE

Presented by:

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September 2020

Rotary

New area of focus:
SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

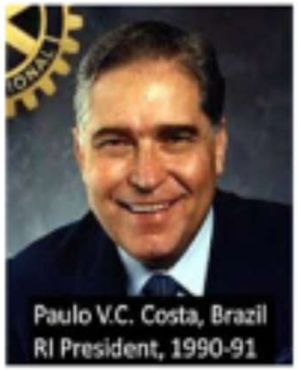
Fellow Rotarians of D9400

This power point will give you the background to enable your club to start thinking of the ENVIRONMENT as we run up to the launch of *SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT* on 1 July 2021

Rotary and its work within the Environmental sphere started with the Preserve the Planet Earth programme in 1990

RI President 1990-91: Paulo Costa, Brazil

Developed Rotary International's Preserve Planet Earth Program



We Rotarians are all citizens of the world, and we must take the lead in facing this greatest challenge in human history, the survival of our planet.

In 2017 we saw the real start of the drive and it gained momentum for a new area of FOCUS with PRIP Ian Riseley followed by PRIP Barry Rassin driving it.
Up to then clubs like Haenertsburg with support from other Rotary clubs tried to add another "Object" but unfortunately although tabled at Council of Legislation it was not voted on due to the fact that a similar proposal by France was already on the table and was not approved.

RI President 2017-2018: Ian Riseley, Australia

There is another aspect of sustainability that underpins all … which we can no longer put aside as not our responsibility. That is sustainability of our planet …

Today, environmental degradation and climate change threaten us all. They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable . . . Environmental sustainability ... is, and must be, everyone's concern. PRIP Ian Riseley's Theme Address to the 2017 International Assembly.

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RI President 2018-2019: Barry Rassin, Bahamas

Rotarians must acknowledge some hard realities about pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change.

With sea levels projected to rise two meters by 2100, “my country is going to be gone in 50 years, along with most of the islands in the Caribbean and coastal cities and low-lying areas all over the world.”

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THE SCOPE OF THE NEW AREA OF FOCUS

- **Focus attention** of all Rotarians on taking action to **protect and preserve the planet**;
- **Increase the number** of **environmental service** projects undertaken by Rotary clubs;
- **Encourage Rotary clubs** to form an **Environmental committee** in line with the new area of Focus
- **Promote awareness** among Rotarians and Rotary clubs of **environmental issues**; and
- **Foster the image** of Rotary & Rotary clubs as dedicated to **supporting the environment**.

Who are the CURRENT role players in Rotary focusing on the ENVIRONMENT ????

Preserve Planet Earth (est 1990)

Encourages Rotary Clubs to promote awareness amongst Rotarians, to foster concern for the global environment and sustainable development.

Sustainable development projects promote economic and social progress that alleviates poverty and preserves the environment for future generations.

Rotary International projects of this nature support agencies of the United Nations, governments, and community organisations having similar aims of creating a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Included in the charter is preserving heritage sites (including our indigenous past), buildings of historical significance and water ways.

Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) –

Assist Clubs, Districts and RI in:

- planning & implementing service projects
- building awareness
- building global and local networks
- inspiring action for sustainable solutions
- supporting RI in environmental initiatives

Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species

Rotary | Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species

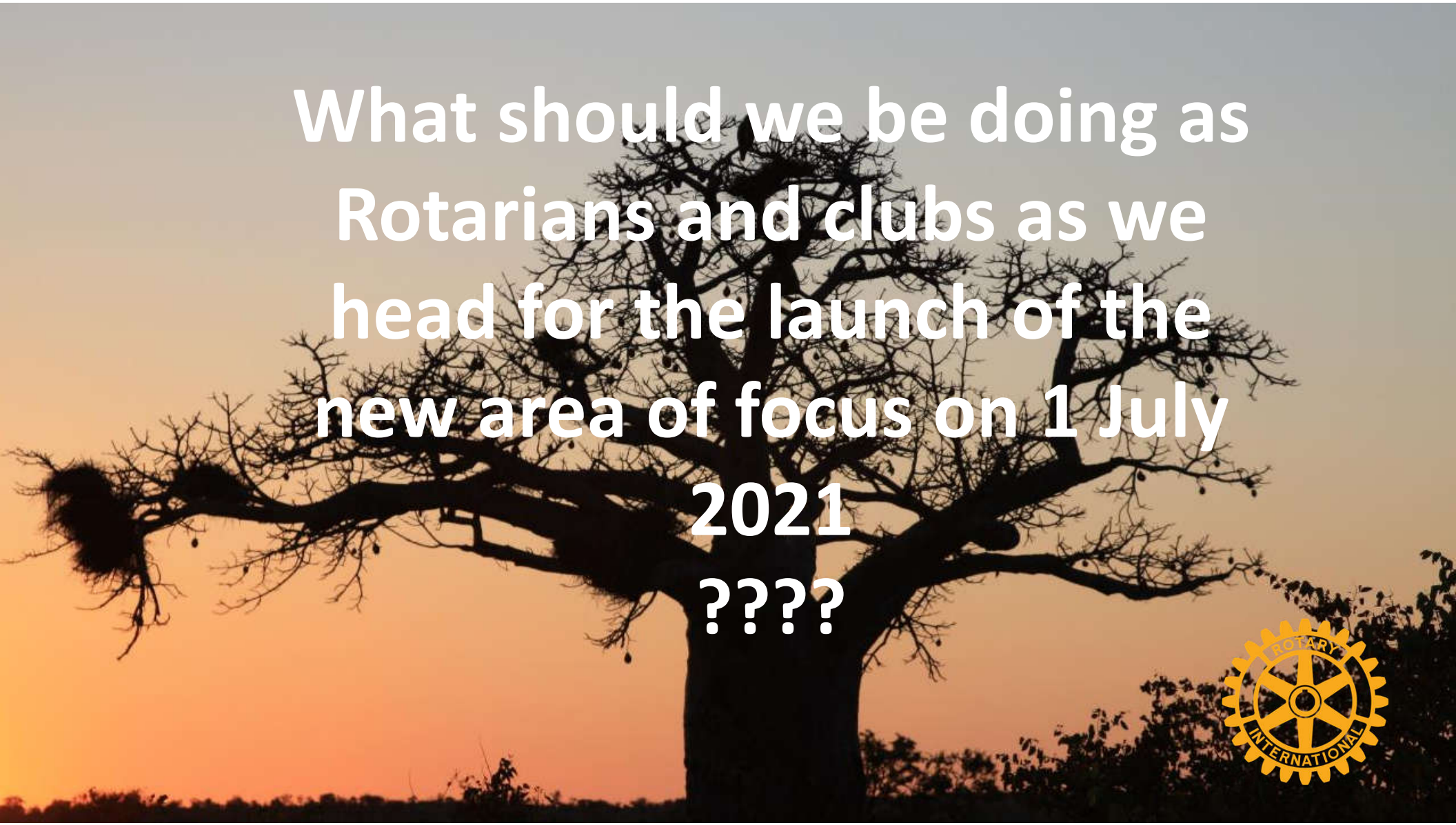
RAGES mobilizes the Rotary family to provide global awareness and focused action to preserve and protect ***endangered species*** and the ***communities that depend on them***.

While the group initially focused on elephants, rhinos, mountain gorillas, and chimpanzees in Africa, RAGES has expanded its focus to include other threatened species and the habitats they live in.

RAGES emerged from Save Our Rhino Project, a Rotary club-led project in South Africa.

The Environment Fellowship of Rotarians (EFR)

Unites all Rotarians, their spouses, and Rotaractors who are very interested and/or have a vocation related to the Environment.
Interest in the environment can be general or specialized, including contributing towards building an environment of peace and sustainable development.
EFR members are always ready to contribute their expertise in supporting environmental Rotary projects locally, regionally or globally.



What should we be doing as Rotarians and clubs as we head for the launch of the new area of focus on 1 July 2021

????

Firstly *do a status quo check* of your town or city area regarding the environment, which in turn will generate project ideas:

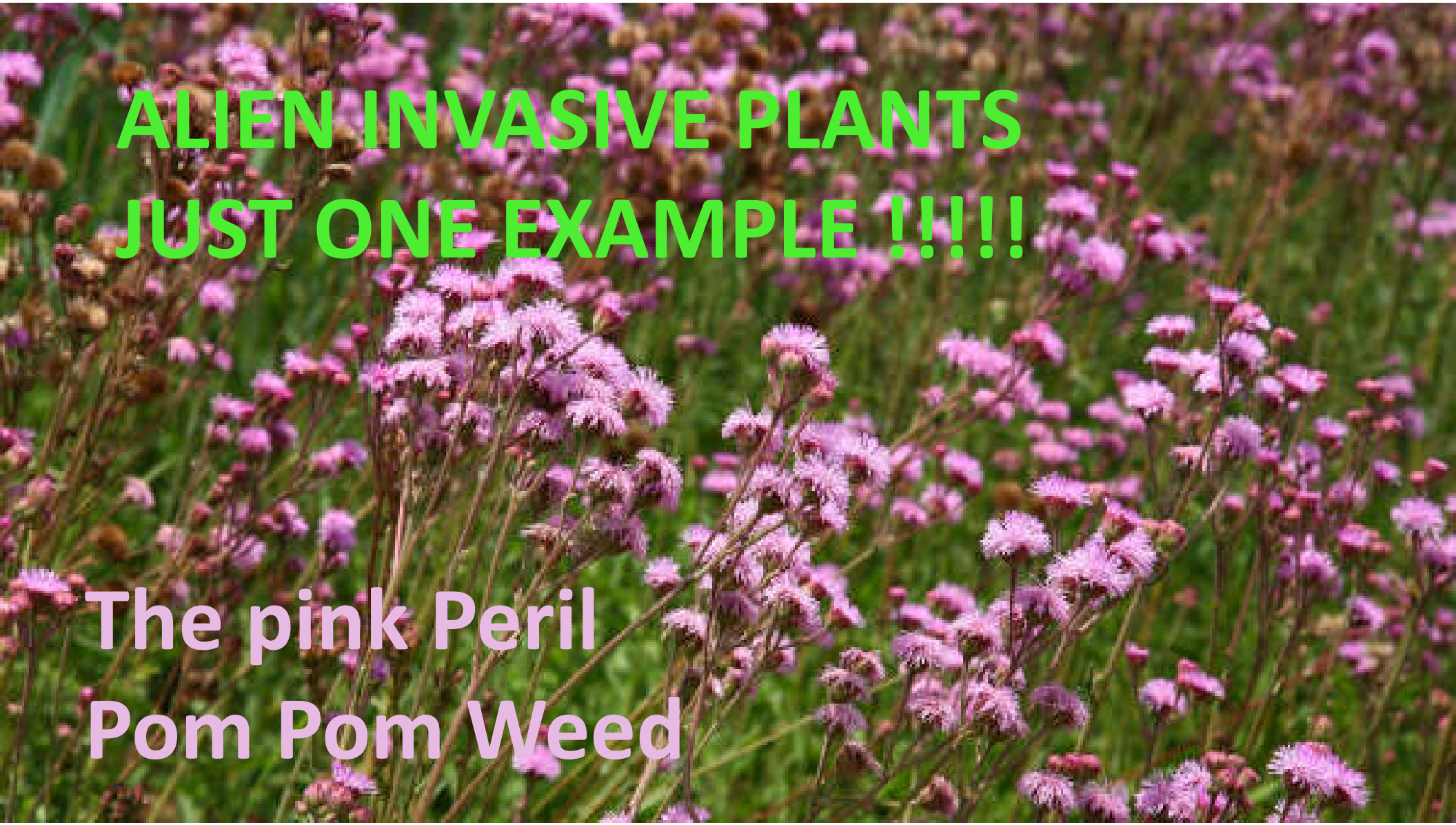
- Are there reserves, parks, green belts in trouble eg. infrastructure collapse, no maintenance, land invasion etc ?
- Do you have endangered vegetation types\wildlife and their conservation status eg Magaliesberg Moot Valley Bushveld, Cape Vulture, Black Stork , Haenertsburg grasslands, heritage trees or palms like Raffia groves in Mtunzini ?
- What is the status of littering and rubbish dumping ?
- Are there impacts of climate change in your area eg extreme temp, flooding ?

- If you have rivers, dams or beaches, is there water pollution ?
  - Where is the source ? In the majority of cases failed Sewage works
- What's the status of **ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS (AIP)** in your area ?
- Air pollution – sources eg. coal mines etc
- Is there poaching -snares, hunting with dogs and to what scale ?
- Are there groups cutting down trees for firewood in many cases syndicates involved and in protected areas ?

Key to starting a successful club programme

- Find out who in your club would like to be part of your new **Supporting the Environment** committee. Don't forget the **Rotaractors** and **Interactors**
- Out of this group appoint a **chairman**
- If one does not exist, **create a board position** for your STE group
- Adjust your **club bylaws** accordingly
- The chairman will be your **link** to the District committee
- Start looking at possible projects and funding opportunities
- A **follow up Part 2** of this presentation will give ideas of what's happening in other clubs and countries
- Get ready for the launch on 1 July 2021

An example of one of the issues facing the region


ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS
JUST ONE EXAMPLE !!!!!
The pink Peril
Pom Pom Weed

ALIEN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

The Reality:

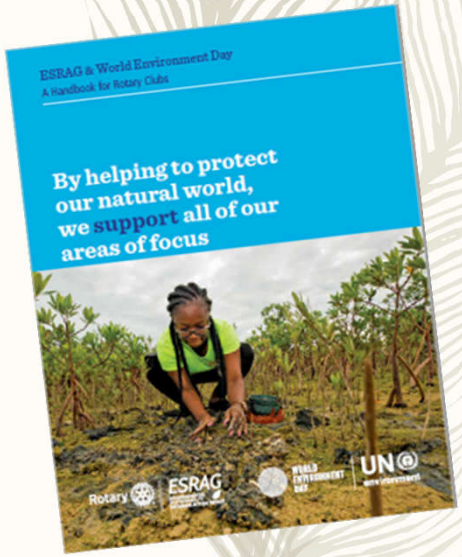
- Over 10 million Ha infested 8% of total area
- Cost over R 600 million a year
- If left will double in 15 years
- Wastes 7 % of valuable water resources
- Results in Biodiversity extinction
- Leads to fires, flooding, erosion, silting, poor water quality
- Security- thickets

Now that we have the WHATS's the issue lets look at WHO is involved ?

- Which like minded environmental organisations are involved in your town eg WESSA "People Caring for the Earth" on the ground since 1929. WESSA Friends groups in areas like Pretoria, Polokwane, Western Cape & KZN ?
- WESSA branches West Rand branch (Krugersdorp through to Roodepoort) Springs Nigel, Boksburg, George Knysna and a number in KZN
- Conservancies on outside of towns especially Gauteng, KZN & Western Cape
- Do we have Rotarians who are members of WESSA, Birdlife SA, Bot Soc, Game Rangers Association of Africa, Hon Rangers
- Also possible source of new members for Rotary
- Does your club have members belonging to the Rotary enviro related action groups eg Rotary ESRAG or RAGES or Fellowships ?

Information available:

PPE Manual
UNEP
ESRAG
WESSA



https://www.esrag.org/esrag-unep-handbook

Contact: John Wesson for a copy of this manual-

THE UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals
mostly aligned with **Rotary's initial Six Areas of Focus**:

- Promoting Peace
- Fighting Disease
- Providing Clean Water and Sanitation
- Saving Mothers and Children
- Supporting Education
- Growing Local Economies

Only six UNSDG Goals did not align:
Those that relate to the Environment

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The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030.

The UN **Sustainable Development Goals** are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

What can we do ???

Learn from the past and plan for the future

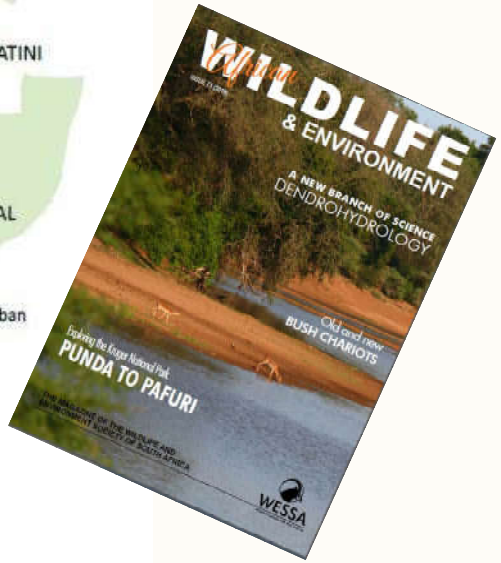
17 September 2017

RI President Ian Riseley's visit to Rotary Club of Brits Hartbeespoort and planting one, of the 1.2 million tree challenge

FORM PARTNERSHIPS WITH LIKE MINDED ORGANISATIONS

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY OF SA

www.wessalife.org.za



WESSA
PEOPLE CARING FOR THE EARTH
We invite you to grow with us !!
The leading environmental education specialists in Southern Africa
You Tube
www.wessa.org.za
www.wessalife.org.za

Friends Groups potential partners

WESSA
WILDLIFE ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
Conserving our environment & wildlife
Since 1926

WESSA FRIENDS GROUPS

Caring for the local environment

Some project ideas to start with

- Keep them simple to start with
- Don’t reinvent the wheel look at current activities in your area
- Involve your Rotaractors and Interactors as well

Examples of themes For potential projects

- Host a World Environment Day event
- Adopt a river
- Organize a clean-ups
- Measure and improve air quality
- Monitor and improve water quality
- Plant trees and restore forests
- Connect with nature
- Help a community go solar
- Build a community garden
- Beat plastic pollution
- Reduce our ecological footprint
- Participate in Earth Hour
- Make eco bricks to donate

USE SPECIAL DAYS

International Vulture Awareness Day
September 5, 2020

2019 YEAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

JANUARY – Waste

- 20 Penguin Awareness Day
- 26 World Environmental Education Day (4)
- 24 Int. Street Children's Day
- 31 National Cleanliness Day

FEBRUARY – Water

- 2 World Wetland Day (15)
- 4 World Cancer Day (3)
- 15 Earthworm Day
- 20 World Whale Day (16)
- 27 World Day of Social Justice
- 28 Polar Bear Day

MARCH – Energy

ENERGY MONTH

- 3 World Wildlife Day (15)
- 8 Int. Women's Day
- 17-23 National Water Week (6)
- 21 Human Rights Day South Africa
- 21 International Day of Forests
- 22 World Water Day (6)
- 23 World Meteorological Day (13)
- 30 Earth Hour (20:30-21:30) (13)

APRIL – Climate Change

- 2 International Day for Mine Awareness (16)
- 7 World Health Day (3)
- 20-26 World Day of Actions (17) (4)
- 22 Int. Earth Day (15)
- 22 Int. Mother Earth Day
- 22 Family Day (3)
- 25 Malaria Day
- 27 Freedom Day

MAY – School Grounds

- 1 Workers' Day (8)
- 5-11 Int. Compost Awareness Week
- 12 Mother's Day
- 17 Endangered Species Day
- 18 Int. Museum Day (11)
- 22 Int. Day for Biological Diversity (15)
- 23 World Turtle Day
- 25 Africa Day

JUNE – Biodiversity & Nature

ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH

- 1 Int. Children's Day
- 5 World Environment Day (15)
- 8 World Oceans Day
- 16 Youth Day (8)
- 17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (13)
- 16 Father's Day
- 20 World Refugee Day

JULY – Transport

- 11 World Population Day (4)
- 12 Malala Day
- 14 Shark Awareness Day
- 15 World Youths Skills Day
- 18 Nelson Mandela Day
- 29 Int. Tiger Day
- 30 Int. Day of Friendship
- 30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

AUGUST – Eco-Tourism

- 9 Int. Day of the Worlds Indigenous People
- 9 National Women's Day (5)
- 10 World Lion Day
- 12 Int. Youth Day
- 12 World Elephant Day
- 19 World Humanitarian Day
- 20 World Mosquito Day
- 31 African Traditional Medicine Day

SEPTEMBER – Clean-Up

ARBOR MONTH

- 5 Int. Day of Charity
- 8 Int. Literacy Day (4)
- 15 Int. Coastal Cleanup Day
- 15 Int. Day of Democracy
- 10-16 Cleanup and Recycle SA Week
- 16 Int. Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 21 Int. Day of Peace & Zero Emissions Day
- 22 World Rhino Day
- 24 Heritage Day
- 26 World Environmental Health Day
- 27 World Tourism Day (8) (12)
- 28 World Rabies Day (3)

OCTOBER – Marine & Coastal

- 2 World Habitat Day (15)
- 2 Int. Day of Non-Violence
- 4 World Animal Day (15)
- 5 World Teacher Day (4)
- 6-11 Weekbuster Week
- 9-15 National Marine Week (14) (15)
- 10 Int. Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (15)
- 13 African Penguin Day
- 16 World Food Day (2)
- 17 Int. Day for the Eradication of Poverty (1)
- 24-30 Disarmament Week (16)

NOVEMBER – Health & Wellbeing

- 10 World Science Day for Peace and Development (16)
- 14 World Diabetes Day (3)
- 19 World Toilet day
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 21 World Fisheries Day (14)
- 24 Birding Big day
- 25 Int. Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (5)

DECEMBER – Community & Heritage

- 1 World Aids Day (3)
- 2 Int. Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 Int. Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 5 World Soil Day (15)
- 10 Int. Human Rights Day
- 11 Int. Mountain Day (15)
- 16 Day of Reconciliation (16)
- 20 Int. Human Solidarity Day

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The colour dots with numbers refer to the relevant SDGs, helping you to align any planned activities to these important goals.

WESSA
PEOPLE CARING FOR THE EARTH

Potential Sources of funding for projects

Global Grants
Exact details awaited from RI
PDG Maurice Stander will give feedback

Direct from partner clubs overseas

Local partnerships for the environment

Involve PDG's as they are a great source of contacts & networks

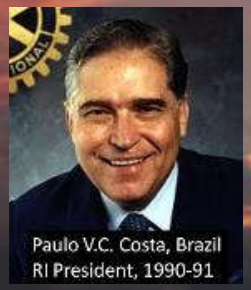
REACT

Local initiative across all Southern African Districts to talk about, share and encourage members to get involved in rolling out projects relating to the environment in their clubs and communities.

Convenor- PDG Jankees Sligcher

" God has made us Guardians of the Earth. This planet is our heritage as well as our legacy. Let's keep it in Peace, fill it with Love, honor it with Service. Let's preserve it. "

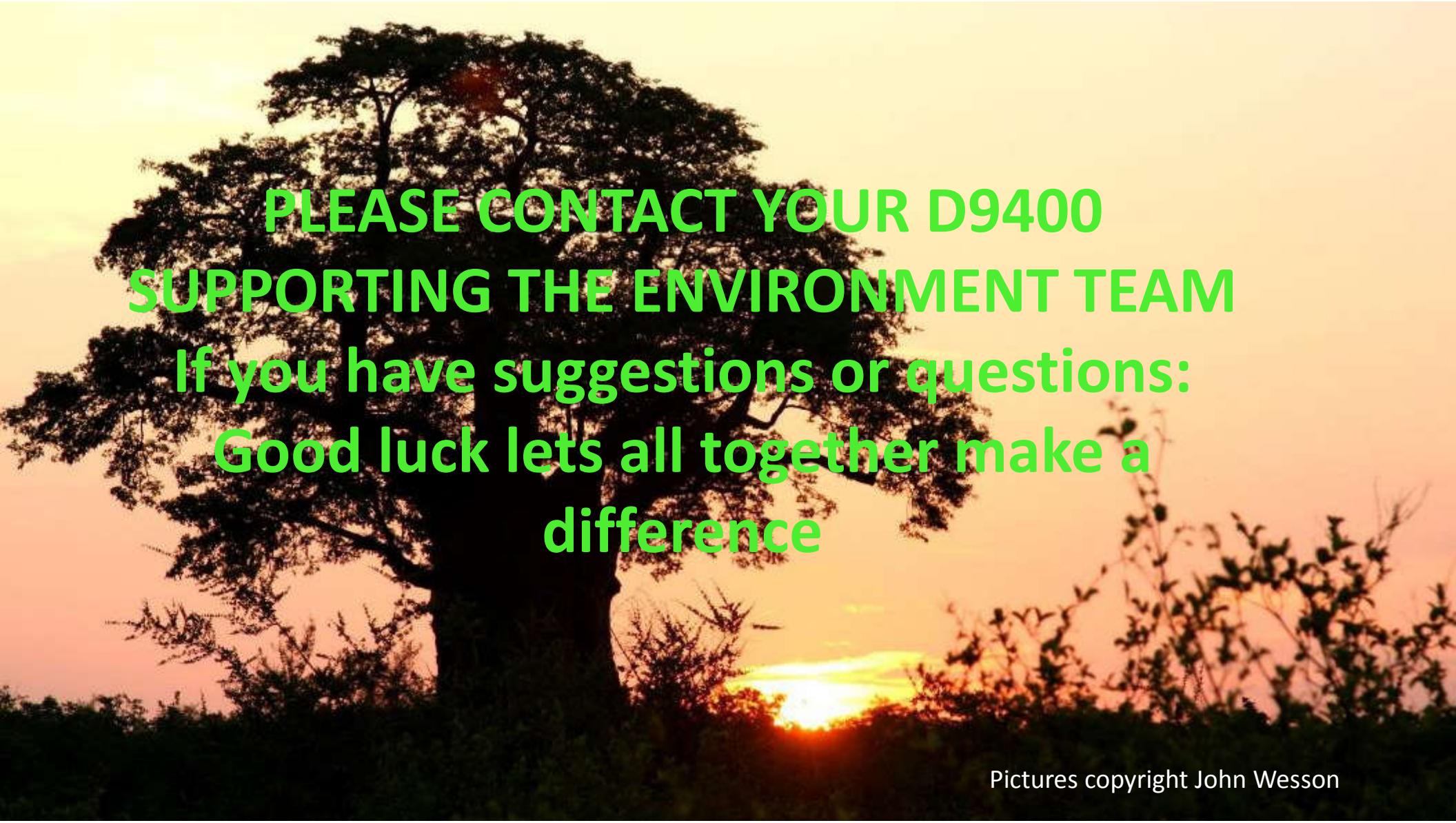
Paulo VC Costa, President RI 1990-91



HOLGER KNAACK, RIP 2020-21

… one way that we can listen to younger generations and make existing club membership more appealing to them is to **focus** more on the environment.
Recent disasters — such as the bush fires in Australia — underscore the importance of taking strong action.

Our last three presidents made a strong case for Rotary doing more to preserve the environment. … We are already **building environmental protection and sustainability into our service projects**, but we have to make these issues more of a priority.



PLEASE CONTACT YOUR D9400 SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT TEAM

If you have suggestions or questions:

Good luck lets all together make a difference

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