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— CREATING GREATER AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PRACTICE —

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Africa's Premier Hospitality Group Joins Heritage

Southern Sun Hotels and Resorts has joined Heritage making it not only the largest single member of the programme, but also the largest hospitality group in Africa to participate in an environmental certification programme.

Southern Sun operates a number of distinctive brands and internationally competitive properties including InterContinental Hotels; Garden Court; Stay Easy; Sun Square, Southern Sun Hotels and Southern Sun Lifestyle Resorts.

Founded in 1969, the Group has expanded its reach to include properties in Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Egypt, Nigeria and the Indian Ocean Islands. It also has two hotels in Dubai and is busy with an aggressive expansion programme for the Middle East.

In 2009, the Group celebrated its 40th anniversary in hospitality leadership - an era dedicated to building a dynamic company that has changed the face of the South African hotel industry forever.

Not only has the Southern Sun brand highly regarded in the region, but it also regularly wins top international awards and is ranked among the top 50 top international hotel groups in the world.

According to Heritage's managing director Greg McManus, it was thanks to the excellent cooperation from the management teams at each of the properties that Heritage was able to implement the

programme in just three months. It also proved Heritage's ability to successfully benchmark companies of this size.

Global interest in the emergence of environmentally responsible hotels and resorts continues to grow and it is estimated that over twelve million travellers worldwide make their destination and accommodation decisions based on the independent environmental certification of companies such as Green Globe, Heritage and others.



"It is gratifying to be given a vote of confidence from a group the size of Southern Sun and shows that Heritage's standards are now being recognised by the most respected names in the Southern African tourism industry," says McManus.



- 17 March** - National Water Week (SA)
- 22 March** - World Water Day
- 23 March** - World Meteorological Day
- 25 March** - River Day (SA)

Green Paper on Climate Change Policy Released

The Department of Environmental Affairs has released the much anticipated and long delayed National Climate Change Response Green Paper for comment. It outlines the government's approach to managing climate change on a national level and introduces a number of proposals and recommendations in this regard.

For most businesses climate change poses significant threats, and for the hospitality and tourism sectors, sustainability could be dependent upon the measures taken by businesses to minimise their impacts. Proposed measures include the introduction of reduced greenhouse gas emissions of 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025 below business as usual scenario; the introduction of incentives and disincentives: such as a carbon tax; a climate change action plan would be developed for the commercial and manufacturing sectors detailing short, medium and long term actions that are to be measurable, reportable and verifiable; annual mandatory submission of greenhouse gas emission data; and the setting of ambitious and mandatory energy efficiency targets.

- For more information visit: www.globalcarbonexchange.co.za



In Proud Association With:



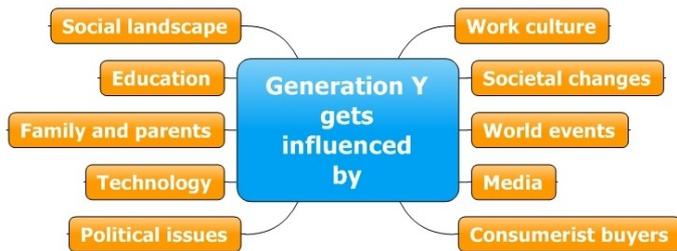
The Y-generation and the Green Revolution

Researchers divide people into categories (or demographics) in order to study commonalities pertinent to specific groupings. This enables the forecasting of social, business and market trends. One such category is set to revolutionise the workplace of the future in terms of its no nonsense attitude towards environmental commitment.

'Baby Boomers' was the name given to the post World War II generation; a generation with a strong social conscious and an era coloured by flower power; ban the boom, and hippies. However, in the work place, Baby Boomers are now reaching retirement age and the next generation ready and waiting to fill their shoes is the Y-generation. This generation - representing around 14% of the US population, brings with it a whole new wave of business and travel transformation. They are techno-savvy, mobile, challenging and more environmentally vocal than their more 'socially' responsible peers.

A recent study to determine workplace trends, which was conducted by Johnson Controls Global WorkPlace Solutions, reveals that the 96% of the Y-generation (18-25; 26-35; and 36-40 year-olds) want a 'green deal' with their employers.

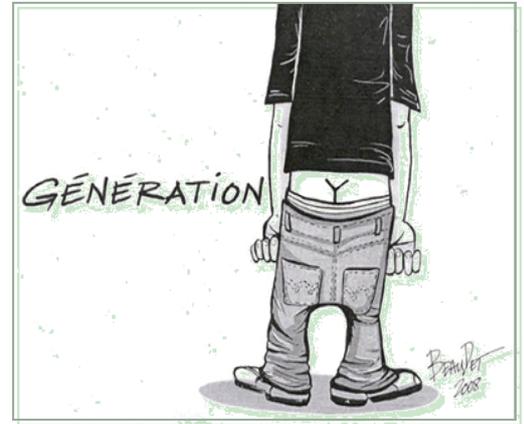
By 'green deal' they mean an environmentally aware workplace with visible green policies and practices. Indeed, 60% of those surveyed want their future employer to go above-and-beyond regulatory compliance.



Of the three age groups, the 18-25 year olds formed the core of the study as they are considered the rising and powerful future workforce of the 21st century - representing 1.7 million or 25.5% of the world's population.

They are a generation which prefers natural light, walking and cycling to work, in addition in the office:

- 70.3% want to have recycling bins
- 47.4% want water saving devices
- 52.7% want standby devices on all electrical equipment
- 71.6 want to share printers in the workplace
- 74% want solar panels on site.



Interestingly, in the South Africa portion of the global 'Oxygenz Workplace Study', conducted by Johnson Controls in conjunction with the University of Pretoria, 97% said they prefer their employer to demonstrate their engagement in environmental issues at work and going beyond regulatory compliance.

If this generation has such high expectations of their future employers and work environment...best get prepared for a more savvy, demanding green traveller!

2010 Nedbank Golf Challenge Gets First Green Certification in World Golf

The Nedbank Golf Challenge has become the highlight on South Africa's golfing calendar and one of the world's most successful tournaments over the past thirty years. Last December, the NGC achieved a world-first by being certified as a Green Golf Event.

The Certification by Heritage Eco-Events marked three years of hard work by the organisers and title sponsors - Sun International and Nedbank, to ensure the environmental impacts of the event were managed and mitigated.

The 2010 event attracted almost twenty-three thousand spectators over its five days and players from around the world participated in the anniversary tournament at the Gary Player Country Club course.

In achieving their 'Certified Green Event' status, the tournament organisers showed clear reductions in energy, water, emissions and management of waste, waste recovery and recycling practices. In addition, all aspects of the event's planning, management and operations were monitored by an independent team of auditors from start to finish.

While the overall scores achieved by the organisers were an improvement and a good indication of what can be achieved through planned and environmentally responsible eventing, it was the effort made by everyone involved in building on the shortcomings of the previous year that helped the 2010 Nedbank Challenge better its 2009 scores and achieve its certified green status.



Heritage also offers certification for 'Carbon Neutral' events where organisers are able to demonstrate commitment to reducing and managing an event's environmental impacts and emissions, and where emissions cannot be totally eliminated, secures offsets with internationally recognised, regional carbon credits in order to reflect emission neutrality. Heritage, together with **Nedbank Capital** are able to identify and source regional initiatives that provide carbon credits with sustainable projects for this. For more information contact (012) 665 1028.

Global roundup

United States - San Francisco

In the internet age, are the yellow pages still relevant? In fact, do phone books contribute anything more than massive amounts of waste? That's a question that San Francisco thinks it has an answer to as they continue their environmental initiatives by passing a law that will ban the distribution of phone books unless phone book publishers obtain prior consent from individuals and businesses to drop the books off.



United Kingdom - London



The hospitality industry has recognised the environmental efforts of the UK's best 'green' hotels at this year's Hotel Cateys awards. It named the Marriott Hotel in Marble Arch; Jury's Inn, Liverpool; The Park Royal Hotel in Warrington; and the Premier Moor Hotel and Spa in Sutton Coldfield as having top green credentials. The Langdale Hotel & Spa in the Lake District took away the

top prize for Green Hotel of the Year.

United States - New York

The Marriott International hotel chain is taking its commitment to environmentalism into the kitchen with a new programme aimed at bringing more sustainable seafood to guests' plates. Marriott has partnered with CleanFish Alliance to create the 'Future Fish' programme, a policy that asks all Marriott hotel restaurants to ensure at least 50% of the seafood it purchases is sustainable.

United States - Los Angeles

Hotels in Los Angeles' Gateway to L.A. business district have banded together to provide donations to homeless shelters and to meeting green lodging standards in the process. A new programme was initiated this month in the business district that is helping hotels reduce waste; meet green certification standards; and provide assistance to homeless shelters in the area. Partially used bottles of shampoos and lotions no longer go to waste: because "Hotels in the LAX corridor have the ability to make a big contribution to help provide for the basic needs of those less fortunate," states Julie Baylor, originator of the InnGage programme.

France - Paris

The Hotel Fouquet's Barrière in Paris has been named the first 'Leading Green' hotel in Europe, having been certified LECS (Luxury Eco Certification Standards) by the international organisation Sustainable Travel International. Only six hotels throughout the world carry this title.



United Kingdom - London

The historic Savoy Hotel has reopened after three years of renovation, claiming to be the most eco-friendly luxury hotel in the city. After a £200 million refurbishment project, the Savoy Hotel opened with £2.4 million worth of green technology, which could reduce the hotel's energy bills by up to 50 per cent and reward it with the title of London's most environmentally responsible luxury hotel, according to management.

China - Beijing



Luxury hotels in China and India are ramping up their 'green' efforts by pursuing green international standards or the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The hospitality industry in India was partially driven by the government's stepped-up sustainable initiatives with certification mandates over the past year

2011 International Year of Forests

2011 is the **International Year of Forests** (IYF) and celebrations were officially launched during the 9th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York earlier this year.

This initiative, which comes in the wake of the International Year of Biodiversity, represents an opportunity for evolving the work on sustainable forestry to a higher plane.

Forests are an issue with essential links to livelihoods, addressing climate change and other environmental challenges; the UN's Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development as a whole.

Forests represent many things to many people including spiritual, aesthetic and cultural dimensions that are, in many ways, priceless. But they are also cornerstones of our economies, whose real value has all too often been invisible in national accounts of profit and loss.

It is estimated that deforestation and forest degradation are likely to be costing the global economy between US\$2.5 and US\$4.5 trillion a year, more than the losses of the recent and on-going financial crisis.

If one further considers the loss of ecosystem services - from water supplies to soil stabilisation and from carbon sequestration to recycling of nutrients for agriculture - then perhaps the imperative to better manage these natural or nature-based assets becomes clearer.

Rehabilitating and restoring lost forest ecosystems is now a key pillar of UNEP's work in Haiti as part of the UN's wider strategy to reduce vulnerability, eradicate poverty and deliver a sustainable future for the Haitian people.

- For more information, visit: <http://www.unep.org>



Green Events - Marketing Hype or Business Imperative

The international move towards a more responsible and sustainable future has affected most walks of life and perhaps one of the more visible indicators of any company's environmental commitment is the way in which it exhibits, markets, celebrates and convenes. Green meetings, exhibitions and events have become the latest in a range of environmentally responsible ways of doing business and today it is estimated that as much as thirty-two percent of American events are now 'walking the talk'.

According to the Green Meetings Council of the United States, green meetings have become the new 'black' in international conventions and meetings, and Fortune 500 companies tend to regard this aspect as integral to their CSR initiatives across the board.

This is further supported by the CMI Green Traveller Study 2010, which notes that as more of society and business "goes green," so do the expectations of event attendees. More than 86% of the respondents approached said it was somewhat important for organisers of business events to utilise environmentally friendly practices.

In South Africa, a growing number of businesses have started insisting on greener and more responsible events and event managers are being asked to ensure less impactful corporate events by supporting environmentally responsible meeting and exhibition facilities.

The use of an accredited environmentally responsible venue is a good start but creating and holding an environmentally responsible event or conference includes a number of additional considerations by organisers – which touch on every aspect of the event from planning and roll-out, to final close out reporting.

South Africa's 2010 Tourism Indaba, the International Conference of Supreme Audit Institutions (INCOSAI), and the Nedbank Golf Challenge are just some of the events where event organisers considered their impacts in totality.

But a whole lot more needs to be done by a lot more companies if we want to continue to attract lucrative, international events to our

shores. A point in case is the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17) which kicks off at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Durban in November. This conference, cited as the most important platform for international climate change negotiations, is one of the largest conferences in the world and brings with it an estimated 30 000 delegates and a potential delegate spend alone of R300 million. More importantly, it brings with it the eyes of the world and is time to get our house in order if we want to be considered a serious global player.

Sustainable practices are no longer a luxury or a nice to have but an imperative! So where do you start? According to Greg McManus, managing director of the Heritage, there are four key elements to 'greening' your event.

The first and most obvious element lies in the **planning** of environmentally responsible meetings and events. From inception, every detail of an event needs to consider environmental impacts that may be felt and wherever possible, mitigating processes need to be put in place to manage or neutralise these impacts.

The second step towards responsible events includes the **operational processes** that must be taken at the venue itself. These include efforts such as recycling and waste separation, electricity and water management systems and the effective implementation of system controls designed to minimise resource use as far as possible. Obviously, accurate data collection and interpretation is an important step in this process as this determines the overall success of any event.

The third and possibly most important phase of a green event is **awareness creation**. Informing contractors, service providers, staff, delegates and guests of the 'green' status being sought and urging them to support the initiatives that have been planned are critical to any event. This process starts at the conference or event announcement phase and includes issues such as travel and accommodation choices, meals and catering, exhibition design and construction, waste management and a host of other issues.

And finally, the calculation of - and **reporting** on, the overall environmental footprint and the practical application of offset initiatives, tends to 'round-off' the overall process.

This last element is almost unique to South Africa and is being called the 'legacy' aspect. It is a way on which the organisers and delegates or spectators to events leave a legacy for the community most affected by the event. Sustainability is the key to what is now being considered an extension of corporate responsibility in recognition of the impacts that events have on the environment and on communities themselves.



New members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Heritage Programme:

Hotels and Resorts

The DaVinci Hotel and Suites

GreenLine Responsible Tourism

High Season Farm

White Shark Diving Company

Mannabay Fine Boutique Hotel

The Villa Rosa

The Fernery Lodge & Chalets

Dunkley House

!Xaus Lodge

Green Business

DuPont (sub-Saharan Africa)

Don't Waste Services

Tourist Attractions

Gold Reef City Theme Park

Full details of these members - and all other members of the Heritage Programme, please visit our website and select 'Our Members'.





Imvelo Awards
for responsible tourism

Heritage Members Shine at Imvelo 2010

Heritage certified members once again walked-off with the lion's share of the 2010 Imvelo Awards for Responsible Tourism at a gala function held in Johannesburg on World Responsible Tourism Day, Wednesday, 10 November 2010.

The FEDHASA Imvelo Awards, first held in 2002, recognise tourism businesses that demonstrate sustained responsible practice in their operations in terms of their natural, social and economic environments. Imvelo, which means 'nature' in the Nguni language, encourages industry members to adopt voluntary standards of responsible tourism practice and 2010 saw a record number of 219 high quality entries from across the region.

As has become practice over the years, a number of Heritage certified properties entered into one-or-more of the nine categories and based on the findings of a panel of independent judges, were found to represent the best in their category and awarded this prestigious recognition.

This year's winners in the various categories were:



◀ **Sun International Zambia – Overall winner**

This is the second year in a row that this resort has been awarded top honours. It also walked away with three other awards:

- Best practice – Economic Impact (group)
- Best social involvement programme (group)
- Best overall environmental management system



Carnival City Casino & Entertainment World ▶

Best single resource management programme (waste)



◀ **Drakensburg Sun Lifestyle Resort**

Best single resource management programme – energy (group)



The Table Bay Hotel ▶

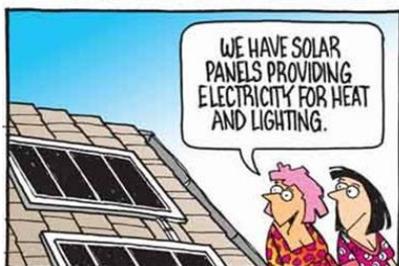
Most empowered tourism business award

◀ **Wild Coast Sun Resort**

Best single resource management programme – water

To all the winners, we extend our sincere congratulations and hope that you and all other members of the Heritage Programme enter the 2011 Awards in the same spirit and with the same commitment to responsible and sustainable tourism. This year's awards will be held on 9 November 2011 in Johannesburg. See you there!

Still wondering why the chicken crossed the road?





Green Globe international news

World Summit 2011 Hosted in Paris

The 2011 Green Globe World Summit – taking place from May 27th through May 30th – is an event where Green Globe Preferred Partners and their travel and tourism industry clients can discuss the latest developments in sustainability and responsible tourism. Leading experts from academia and non-government groups are also invited to present papers and a full schedule of presenters and sessions will be announced next month.

The 'uber'-sustainable and culture-rich Hotel Concorde Opéra Paris - located in the heart of Paris, France, has been selected to host the Green Globe 2011 World Summit.

Leading experts from academia and non-government groups are invited to present their views on global sustainability and a full schedule of presenters and sessions will be announced in March for those still considering attending the summit.

"Our choice of this property was for the most part based on the hotel's commitment to sustainable operations and management as demonstrated by their certification. But just as importantly, we want our partners and other summit guests to understand that cultural heritage, the preservation and promotion of historical places and their traditions, is just as important as the conservation of natural environments," said Guido Bauer, Green Globe Certification CEO.

Global snippets

- Green Globe Certification has announced a partnership with OBM International (OBMI), one of the world's leading international architectural and planning firms, to establish a global platform to bring sustainability standards through a certification programme to the operation and management of resort destinations and communities
- In order to raise awareness in the meeting, convention and event industry and recommend best practices, the German Convention Bureau (GCB), European Association of Event Centres (EVVC) and the Association of German Event Organisers (VDVO) have agreed to co-operate with Green Globe Certification (GGC).
- Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts has announced a new partnership for sustainability with Green Globe Certification. Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts President & CEO, Mr Jean Gabriel Pérès said 'Now more than ever we believe it is time to not only increase awareness with regards to sustainability in Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts and share best practice, but also more effectively measure our progress towards a sustainable future. For more information on Green Globe Certification worldwide, visit <http://www.greenglobecertification.com>

Certified Green Restaurants - Here's Food for Thought!

Restaurants are the retail world's largest energy user, consuming almost five times more energy per square meter than any other type of commercial building.

According to the recently released US study (and while no such data exists for our own restaurant industry), the average restaurant annually consumes roughly 500 megawatt hours of electricity and over 3,000,000 litres of water (that's roughly 3000 megalitres) a month. Using the latest EPA carbon equivalents, that amounts to 490 tons of carbon dioxide produced per year per restaurant in the United States.

In addition to these findings, the study found that restaurants produce far more waste than most other retail businesses and a typical restaurant generates over 45,000 kilograms of garbage per year! Yet - surprisingly, almost everything used in a restaurant can be either recycled or composted and researchers are now asking what can be done to ensure that restaurants become more eco-friendly?

One solution they say is to get restaurant owners to undertake independent assessment of their operational practices. There is a narrow line that runs between true commitment and clever marketing, and restaurateurs need to nail their green credentials to their walls to satisfy the demand of consumers that

are becoming increasingly vocal on this issue.

In spite of this, the study found that consumers need to take a leading part in the re-awakening of conscience with restaurateurs by asking managers if they have an environmental management programme in place and holding them accountable for the environmental performance of their business.

In South Africa, where it is estimated that there are more than thirty thousand restaurants and even more fast-food establishments, the impacts of this sector are largely unknown. Even the recently released Green Paper on Climate Change failed to recognise the impacts of this sector, but what is clear is that this sector will need to get its 'house in order' quickly to ensure its own survival amid rising costs for energy, water and waste management.

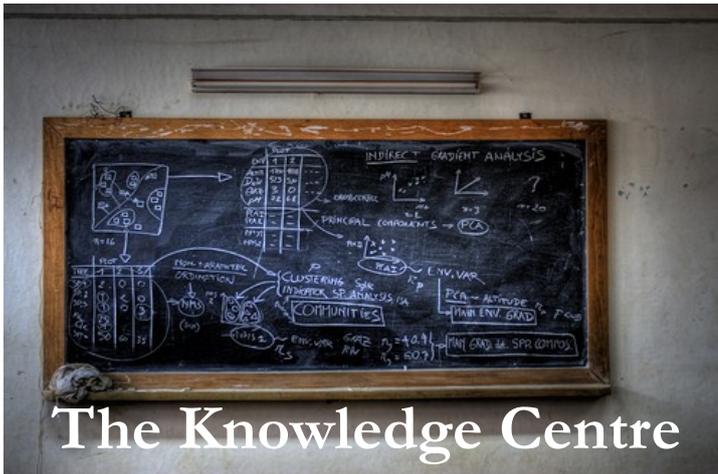
After all, where restaurants say no to responsible business practice ... well we suggest you don't eat there again and very importantly, tell them why!

Did You Know?

- Using 'green' building principles in restaurant design can reduce operating costs by up to 9 percent
- Fixing a leaky tap or pipe can save up to 450 litres of water per week
- Placing low-flow valves in the sprayers that pre-rinse dishes can save a restaurant 275,000 litres of water a year
- Replacing a standard urinal with a waterless one can save 150,000 litres of water per year (per urinal).

Source: USA Today and the National Restaurant Association (USA)





The Knowledge Centre

Heritage Launches Training Academy

In keeping with our vision of environmentally responsible business practice in the hospitality and non-manufacturing sectors, the Heritage Environmental Management Company has recently launched the Heritage Training Academy, a separate business unit dedicated to the development and provision of managerial skills development courses.

The first course to be offered by the Academy is the 'Green Leaders Workshop' and work is well underway on a number of additional courses in conjunction with amongst others Kundiza, a long-time training associate.

The aim of this Academy will be to provide further learning opportunities for managers in the industry through the use of both traditional and e-based learning initiatives.



simplifying
**Environmental
Management**

Green Leader Workshop

For more information on this training opportunity - or to select a date to suit your needs, visit : www.heritagesa.co.za and select the Members section

Being an Environmental Officer or EMS systems coordinator can seem a bit like wading through mud at times...

Join us in a one-day workshop specifically designed to enhance and develop the skills of Environmental Officers and to provide guidance on their roles, responsibilities and ability to effectively manage and develop your Heritage EMS



**The Heritage
Training Academy**

Webinars - The New Trainer

Kundiza Training and Consulting, in conjunction with the Heritage Environmental Management Company will present a series of webinars on best environmental practices for the hospitality industry from February 2011.

With the ever-increasing demand from consumers for more environmentally responsible tourism products and the introduction of the Consumer Protection Act in March, it has become necessary for managers across the industry to ensure that their employees are made aware of environmental issues and that they are empowered to minimise the impact of their activities on the environment. This coupled with a need for accurate communication on sustainable achievements and business performance has become core to most corporate strategies in responsible business practice.



In a first for this industry, Heritage and Kundiza will be introducing a series of web-based seminars (webinars) which are specially tailored to meet the needs of hospitality managers and employees, wishing to improve their awareness and knowledge on environmental issues and practices - through the convenience of interactive distance lectures 'streamed' right into their offices via the internet.

"Webinars are an interesting, easy and cost effective means of accessing training and we hope that the hospitality industry will see the benefits of participating in the webinar programme," says Lisa Gordon-Davis, Managing Director of Kundiza Training, and presenter of the webinars.

The 2011 webinar programme will be introduced with a series of hour-long interactive seminars covering subjects such as environmental awareness; energy, water, and waste management; and responsible tourism. 'Delegates' will be able to participate in each subject on a range of dates to suit their schedule after registering through Kundiza Training.

"This unique initiative provides an opportunity for environmentally-aware businesses to create greater awareness among their employees using the latest in technology," says Neal Dickinson, Heritage's Operations Director.

For a full schedule of Webinar dates, visit www.heritagesa.co.za



Is Gold Worth the Cost of Water? Acid Mine Drainage Threat

Shocking statistics and projections are coming to light around the pollution of the water table in the Johannesburg area. According to an article in Bio-zine the latest projections estimate that by the end of 2012, the rising level of acidic water from old gold mines on the Witwatersrand reef will begin to infiltrate and pollute the Johannesburg water table and it is already happening in the West Rand.

Mining of the Black Reef Incline which is the Krugersdorp-Randfontein portion of the West Rand Basin has been polluting ground water since 2002 and has caused enormous ecological damage to the Krugersdorp Game Reserve, the Sterkfontein Caves and the Cradle of Mankind conservation area to name a few. By all accounts, Johannesburg is next.

Black reef rock is around 2650 million years old. When this rock was formed, in much the same way as the beach sand of today will be formed into rock in the future, the earth's atmosphere was vastly different with little or no oxidation taking place because there was almost no oxygen in the air.

This rock was covered for millennia until gold mining uncovered huge areas of it that are now reacting to the air and water of our 21st century earth. When gold mines are closed, the water pumps are switched off and water seeps in, collecting in the tunnels and being exposed to the chemical pollutants of the oxidising rock. Obviously the process is a lot more complex than that, but the basic premise remains – the exposed rock face of gold mines is contaminating the underground water.



The acid water is currently about 600 metres below Johannesburg's surface and rising at a rate

of between 0,6 and 0,9 metres a day. According to parliament's water affairs portfolio committee, in 18 months' time, highly acidic mine water could rise up and spill into the streets of Johannesburg.

This is more bad news for a country which may run out of fresh water by 2025, if the current rates of supply and consumption continue (WWF).

Over R200 million is needed to establish pump stations, pipelines and treatment works to rectify the problem. Meanwhile, Water Affairs is currently taking legal action against the mines.

Acid mine drainage or AMD is characterized by low pH (high acidity), high salinity levels, elevated

concentrations of sulphate, iron, aluminium and manganese, raised levels of toxic heavy metals such as cadmium, cobalt, copper, molybdenum and zinc and possible even radionuclides. It is not only associated with surface water and groundwater pollution but is also responsible for the degradation of soil quality, aquatic habitats and for allowing heavy metals to seep into the environment. The biggest issue, however, is that AMD is persistent and difficult to rectify.

It is a long-term threat, since production of AMD may continue for many years after mines are closed and tailings-dams decommissioned.

For more information on this subject, visit (www.southafricanbiodiversity.co.za)



Just a Thought...

On a smaller scale, further contamination of water is taking place at our land-fill sites. The more garbage we produce, the more water contamination we are responsible for.

Drought Predicted Worldwide by 2060

According to a study released in October by the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCSR) in the USA, large sections of the plant could experience extreme drought within the next 30 years unless greenhouse gasses are drastically cut. The study is of the opinion that despite warnings, the public and the climate change research community, on the whole, fail to recognise this looming environmental crisis.

Parts of Asia, the US, and southern Europe, and much of Africa, Latin America and the Middle East could be hit by severe drought in the next few decades, with regions bordering the Mediterranean Sea seeing almost unprecedented drought conditions.

These severe drought conditions will adversely affect agriculture, water resources, tourism, ecosystems, and even basic human welfare.

Conversely, higher-latitude regions from northern Europe to Russia, Canada, Alaska and India could become wetter. But this will not balance out the drier conditions felt across the rest of the world.

The study used the findings of 22 computer models used by the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to predict temperature, precipitation, humidity and other climate factors, based on current greenhouse emission projections developed this century.

The actual outcome in the next few decades will depend on factors such as greenhouse gas levels and natural climate cycles such as El Nino.

Sustainable Tourism Gets Boost With Launch of Global Partnership

The push for sustainable tourism was given a boost late last month with the establishment of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism that unites all stakeholders in the industry in influencing policies, developing projects and providing a global communication platform.

The Partnership was established at the first annual General Meeting in Costa Rica, hosted by the Costa Rican Ministry of Tourism and supported by the French and Norwegian governments, together with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

During the meeting, France was elected President of the Partnership Steering Committee and Costa Rica as Vice-Chair. The Secretariat to this Global Partnership will be housed with UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) in Paris, France and the emphasis will be to shift tourism onto a sustainable pathway worldwide.

Source: Green Lodging News

