

# Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region

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## K2C NPC BOARD NEWS

### Nodal Centre Opens



#### His Worship, Mr P Mafologele, Mayor of Maruleng officially opens K2C Nodal Centre

On 30 September 2011, His Worship Mr P Mafologele, Mayor of Maruleng opened the K2C Biosphere and Tourism Nodal Centre situated on the Zandspruit Bush & Aero Estate at a Sparkling Wine Function.

Eighty K2C Stakeholders witnessed the event and warmed to the Key Note address of Mr Ernest Mokganele, Director of Transfrontier Conservation Areas where he paid tribute to the work been done by the K2C. He stated that the K2C's contributions in their efforts to reconcile biodiversity conservation with sustainable development are valued.

## INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

### NPC Registration Finalised

On 1 August 2011, the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region Non-Profit Company (K2C BR NPC) was formally registered under the new Companies Act (Non-Profit Companies replace what was formally referred to as Section 21 Companies). The six initial board members are: Mr Tebogo Mametja (Chair); Ms MT Uys (Secretary); Ms D Thomson; Mr R Makhubela; Mr W Mashego and Mr A de Boer.

This board has the privilege to function with the sound advice offered by an Advisory Board consisting of SANParks, MTPA, LEDET, SAEON, the Maruleng and Bushbuckridge Local Municipalities and Mopani and Ehlanzeni District Municipalities.



KRUGER TO CANYONS  
BIOSPHERE REGION

## K2C - RHÄŦN BIOSPHERE PARTNERSHIP



*Southern Cross Pupils in  
WÄrtzburg*

### Southern Cross - MPG exchange trip

A delegation of eight Southern Cross College learners and three staff spent 3 weeks in the RhÄŦn Biosphere Reserve in Germany. They were hosted by learners & parents of a school called the Martin Pollich Gymnasium, in a small Bavarian town called Mellrichstadt. The purpose of the exchange was to share information and ideas about each others' Biosphere Regions and to learn more about each other's cultures. There are plans to bring a similar delegation to Hoedspruit in the middle of February 2012.

The group shared many incredible experiences together. A very interesting programme which included cycling and hiking to explore

The Board is overseeing the implementation of all the activities mentioned in this newsletter. A memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the K2C BR NPC and Maruleng Municipality is paving the way for more MoA's to come and will outline management and implementation strategies on the various levels required..

The Board functions within the strategic plan framework developed by the advisory Board where the vision of the K2C Biosphere is: **Partnering to achieve a sustainable future for all life in the K2C Biosphere**

## UNESCO 10 year Review of K2C



### Research activities such as the Bi-annual Biodiversity Day will be included in the 10 year UNESCO review of K2C

One of the requirements set out by UNESCO is that all biosphere reserves or regions have to undergo a review process every 10 years to ensure that they are fulfilling all the requirements outlined when registering as a Biosphere Reserve/ Region and accepting the official UNESCO status thereof.

Having officially received registration in Oct 2001, K2C is up for its 10 year review this month. The 10 year review document has been completed in collaboration with LEDET (Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism), together with K2C NPC and will be submitted at the end of this year to UNESCO for review and continued status for another 10 years as a registered UNESCO Biosphere Reserve/ Region.

## Collaboration Coordination



### Collaboration is vital in the Conservation of our Natural Resources

MTPA and SANParks are coordinating an initiative where better

the Rhon Biosphere was set up by the hosts. This included visits to ancient castles a pipe organ factory, an open air museum of old buildings, tours of organic farms and local industries and visits to environmentally sensitive areas like the famous Black Moor. The group also learnt about the revival of the Rhon Sheep, which was on the brink of extinction in the region and the process of producing a healthy organic drink called Bionade, to create sustainable insutry in the area.

[Learn More >>](#)



**The International Uni-Key Team**

### UNI-KEY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The K2C is proud that they are participating in a true Entrepreneurship Development Training Project. Entrepreneurship, and specifically Green Entrepreneurship, is seen by the K2C as a means to address our social & environmental challenges. The K2C's participation as the only non-European country in the development of an Online Training Course that prepares students for internships stems from the K2C-RhÅ¶n Biosphere Partnership. This project will run until the end of 2013 at which time the K2C will have co-ownership of the product that can be modified for our local circumstances.

[Learn More >>](#)



mutual understanding of different stakeholders' efforts towards biodiversity conservation and its benefits are achieved. Conservation, Research and Development Institutions are organising themselves into Task Teams. The first Task Team meeting of the Bio-monitoring Group was held on the 23rd November 2011 at the K2C Biosphere and Tourism Nodal Centre.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & UPDATES

### K2C Carbon - Voluntary Carbon Off-set Initiative



The K2C Carbon Initiative is a K2C Biosphere project that has been developed on the backbone of the Biocultural Development and is being funded through UNESCO Germany.

It will enable the development of a central credible carbon registry through which carbon can be traded on a local scale. Businesses within and visitors to the K2C region will be offered the opportunity to voluntarily offset their carbon produced while staying within the region or through their day to day activities.

These funds will then be directly implemented into development projects that will focus on carbon sequestration. The first pilot project that will be initiated will involve the extension of the Hlokomela Herb Gardens and the establishment of an Agro-forestry system on the extended grounds. For more information on the project please visit [www.k2ccarbon.org.za](http://www.k2ccarbon.org.za) (this website will only be live from after the first week in December).

The project is in the early planning phases and will look at a number of trial processes occurring from early 2012 and full launching of the project implementation from mid 2012 onwards.

**Learn More >>**

### Local cosmetics partnership development



In order to showcase the implementation of the Bio-cultural Protocol developed with the Traditional Health Practitioners (THP's) of Bushbuckridge, as reported on in previous newsletters in

#### MT and our Rhon Partners

##### MT'S GERMAN VISIT

The Kick Off Meeting of the UniKey Project (as reported on above), afforded K2C with the opportunity to touch sides with our German partners.

Marie-Tinka Uys was treated to a wholesome lunch with Ana-Lena's parents.

Ana-Lena is currently managing the Hlokomela Herb Gardens as a result of her K2C-Rh n exchange last year.

At a meeting with the management of the Rh n Biosphere in Fulda, common activities were planned for 2012. This includes Southern Cross School potentially hosting Martin Pollich Gymnasium on a return exchange trip (funding dependant), the joint presentation on the partnership in Europe, the 2012 Sustainable Living Festival's link up via webcams with a Festival in the Rh n; volunteer placement possibilities for K2C residents in the Rh n (see below) This will cover a range of vocational apprenticeships in Germany and will afford fantastic learning opportunities for K2C'nites.



A Typical Rhon Village

#### MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN GERMANY

Are you interested in doing an apprenticeship in the Rh n Biosphere in Germany? This will include a three year's paid apprenticeships, which will result in a formal qualification in skills such as baking, meat processing, or carpentry.

Rh n Biosphere is offering K2C residents the opportunity to benefit from skilled in-house training. Only requirement is



2010, K2C has initiated a project partnership between the THP's and our local leading cosmetic producer - the newly re-launched Godding & Godding (previously SilkSA). This partnership will see the THP's sharing long held secrets of the beauty/cosmetic properties of many of our local and indigenous species and the subsequent development of specialised beauty products using these species. Godding & Godding have signed a non-disclosure agreement with the THP's to keep any of the secrets shared as confidential until such time as lab tests have been completed to ensure the claimed properties of the individual species and subsequent products have been developed. Thereafter a partnership agreement will be entered into in which both Godding & Godding and the THP's as a unified and coordinated body will benefit from the full development of a new product or product range..

## BCP & Maburuburung Development



### Community chooses Conservation

In July 2011, the Maruleng Local Municipality (MLM) initiated a Feasibility Study for the possible development of the Maburuburung Eco Tourism project on Bazaine - a portion of community property on the western boundary of the Blyde Olifants Conservancy. The name Maburuburung refers to a series of impressive rock formations in the Olifants river and mimics the sound that the water makes when it cascades over the rapids and potholes.

The overall purpose of this feasibility study was to provide MLM with clear guidelines on the practicability of the proposed tourism venture, constructive community involvement and an implementation map including procurement of required financial resources. The study provided the necessary information to guide decision making regarding the following:

- Negate community conflict that has thus far hampered the development of the project
- Constructive engagement of community members through vested interest/ ownership.
- . Framework for project implementation management.
- Attracting the required investment for the project and beyond.
- Ownership modeling.
- Additional opportunities for the development of Finale Village.

the ability to speak basic conversational German.

If you are interested or know of someone who might possibly be please contact either [Debby](#) or [Marie Tinka](#)

## ADDITIONAL NEWS



### Pick n Pay Sustainable Living Festival

On the weekend of the 30th Sept - 2nd Oct 2011, K2C hosted its 4th Sustainable Living Festival. K2c is very happy to announce that a partnership with leading retailers Pick n Pay has been secured and from this year onwards, the festival is now to be known as the Pick n Pay Sustainable Living Festival.

The festival was a great success although more feet and visitors were hoped for.

Plans for the 2012 festival are already well under way and should be yet another great event. [Learn More >>](#)



### K2C launches its own website

Another exciting development for K2C in 2011 is the launching of its own website. For the initial 10 years of operations, we have had to piggy back on the generous support of the commercial site [www.kruger2canyons.com](http://www.kruger2canyons.com), however, as of the middle of 2011, K2C now has its own dedicated website. Please visit us on [www.kruger2canyons.org](http://www.kruger2canyons.org) We have a number of relevant

The first draft of the Study was presented to the Community during the first week of November 2012 and one important recommendation was that the Community develop a Bio-cultural Protocol (BCP) as K2C has done in 2010 with the Traditional Health Practitioners of Bushbuckridge. The community expressed their wish to do so.

The aim of establishing a Bio-cultural Protocol is to increase the Community's capacity to drive the local implementation of international and national environmental laws pertaining to their knowledge and land resources. This will enable them to assert their rights to self-determination and improve their ability to engage with other stakeholders such as government agencies, business support organisations; NGO's and even potential private sector partners.

K2C Biosphere has facilitated a commitment from Natural Justice, its BCP partner to come and develop such a protocol with the Community. This will happen in February 2012.

documents and information available on the site for your reference and benefit. .

[Learn More >>](#)



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

It has been clear to some of us who have been involved with the activities of the K2C Biosphere Region, that working towards sustainable partnerships with various stakeholders for progressive development is not an easy task. As the K2C is approaching its 10th year of existence, it will be important for members of society, particularly those who are directly in contact with the K2C environment, to reflect on the journey that K2C has undertaken, since its inception. This reflection will be more pronounced particularly at this time when South Africa is hosting the Conference of Parties (COP17) in Durban this December of 2011.

**Collaborating with various stakeholders: institutions, government spheres, other biospheres in South Africa and abroad, has been within the collective spirit of advancing the cause of sustainable development, which will continue to be K2C Biosphere Region's fundamental pursuit into the future. K2C has seen various milestones achieved in the past. Feedback is provided in the various articles of this newsletter for some of these milestones.**

As the K2C Biosphere Region has been institutionally reorganised within the new Companies Act, and having taken occupation of the Biosphere and Tourism Nodal Centre on the Zandspruit Bush & Aero Estate, infrastructure is slowly being laid with the assistance from the Maruleng Municipality. My plea is to all the various communities within the biosphere and beyond, to heighten their level of interest and contribute to the activities of the K2C. This is so that we can begin rally behind solutions geared towards protecting the future of the next generation, be it our precious rhinos, rivers, vegetation, and people. The future is purchased by the present. The future is literally in our hands to mould as we like, but we cannot wait until tomorrow, for tomorrow is now.

**As we approach the festive period, may the good times and treasures of the present become the golden memories of tomorrow. From all at the K2C Biosphere Region Board, we wish you a wonderful, peaceful, and sustainable Christmas.**

***Tebogo Mametja, Chairman, K2C NPC Board***

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