

NOTICEBOARD

ENVIRONMENT AND THE RDP

There are 13 different departments responsible for waste management. This is just one of the many disturbing facts contained in a well researched IDRC draft discussion document, "Environment, Reconstruction and Development in the New South Africa." It has been produced by the International Development Research Centre using top local environmentalists and will be presented to central government and major stakeholders in the nine regions for comment. For further information contact Gill Addison or Khadija Richards on (011)403 3952.

BEWARE BEFORE YOU RESCUE:

Hand rearing orphaned wild animals is not easy. Unbalanced diets can lead to severe health problems. If possible refer your orphan to an organisation such as the Animal Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) or contact them for expert information.



ARC welcomes volunteer workers but some degree of skills and training are required. Animal lovers can also "Adopt-a-Wildlife" by helping ARC financially. Adoptive parents have some "visitation rights." For further information, please contact ARC News on Box 15121 Lynn East 0039 or call Sue on (012) 808 1106.

COLONIAL CONSCORP: In a major expansion drive, the Conservation Corporation has purchased two game lodges in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as a major share in East African hotel group, Windsor Hotels. The two lodges are Kichwa Tembo Camp bordering the Maasai Mara in Kenya and Ngorongoro Crater Lodge in Tanzania. Windsor Hotels will be renamed Conservation Corporation East

Africa. "This deal is part of our long term plan to offer quality safari destinations across a continent ravaged by a lack of funds to keep wildlife going," says chairman, Dave Varty. For further information contact Jane

Conyngham-Cowles on (011)803 8421.

TRAFFICKING IN ARMS, DRUGS AND RHINO HORN:

Police are finding more and more evidence that gun running, drug smuggling and the illegal wildlife trade are connected. It makes sense. The traffickers are only interested in making money so any commodity will do. TRAFFIC — Trades Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce — recently renewed its drive to alert the public to wildlife smuggling. People are asked to watch out for ivory, spotted cat furs, sea turtle products, reptile skins, coral, plants (especially cypads, succulents and orchids), wild birds and tortoises. The local TRAFFIC office (there are 120 member states) is located at the offices of the Endangered Wildlife Trust in Johannesburg. The public is asked to help with funding and information. Contact David Newton on (011)486 1102.

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SCIENTIFIC SNIPPETS (New Scientist)

THE AMBLING CETACEAN

The "missing link" between swimming whales as we know them today, and the four legged land mammals from which they evolved, has been found. It is a whale that both walked and swam: the 50 million year old fossil whale with legs, aptly named Ambulocetus (the ambling cetatean) Ten million years later came Basiliosaurus, a serpent like ancestral whale with only vestigial legs

DRAGLESS BUZZ:

Tobacco companies and doctors agree on at least one point — most smokers cannot give up the habit. Nicotine is highly addictive but the pro smoking lobby has much to say in its favour. For example, nicotine is one of our safest social drugs. It stimulates, sedates, enhances feelings of pleasure yet does not produce dramatic intoxication or hangovers. Like a "smart" drug, it improves concentration and memory. It helps with Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and ulcerative colitis. The only problem is that nicotine in cigarette form is dangerous and unpleasant for others. A Johannesburg health department poster says that cigarettes contain "loo cleaner" (ammonia), "lighter fuel" (butane), "mothballs" (naphthalene), vinegar and methanol. Pure nicotine seems "healthy" by comparison. Some people think that doctors ought to be able to prescribe nicotine in different forms

WATCH OUT VAAL TRIANGLERS: For every 10 ug/cubic metre of particulate matter in the air, there is a 1% increase

VIDEOS

AECI BIRD VIDEO: If you loved Monty Brett's bird course, still listen to his bird call tapes in your car and have the badge (no T-shirt as yet) then the video that Monty and Clive Hopcroft have produced in conjunction with AECI is a MUST. Now you can enjoy the humour, the easy tricks for identifying songs, AND see photographs of the birds on your TV screen. To obtain a copy at around R70 call (011)783 6629

in the number of related deaths, British scientists have calculated. Unpublished government data suggests that fine particles in exhaust fumes are killing 10 000 people a year in England and Wales. According to the CSIR, there are dangerously high levels of particulate matter in the Vaal Triangle, partly due to vehicles but mostly caused by winter coal fires.

RUNNING CARS ON STRAW: A genetically engineered bacteria could turn the millions of tonnes of agricultural waste produced in Europe each year into ethanol, a cheap alternative to petrol. Farmers could either use the product themselves or sell it. Straw burning is forbidden by European law so using bacteria could double up as a cheap disposal method.

WARM WORKDAYS: Why is it always warm and sunny when you're at work but cloudy on weekends? It's not Murphy's Law at work but the direct warming effect of fuel burning in factories and vehicles during the week. A "greenhouse sceptic" scientist says this is the first real evidence we have that humans do influence global temperatures

LET'S DRINK SOME NICE SAFE PLUTONIUM: "Pluto boy" is the latest ploy by the Japanese pro nuclear lobby to win public support for its nuclear energy programme. Pluto Boy is the "star" of a promotional video and he says you can safely drink water with plutonium because it is so heavy it will pass straight through. A word of caution before you order one of these "Chernobyl Cocktails" if you swallow enough plutonium, your gut will absorb an appreciable dose

FROZEN IBIS: The Japanese government has decided to deep freeze the country's last two crested ibises with a view to one day resurrecting the species by cloning new birds. Good plan, as long as they don't let Pluto Boy near the birds.

BEDDING BOOKS: British Telecom is turning old phone directories into animal bedding, home insulation, car brake linings and egg boxes.

BOOKS

CAREERS IN CONSERVATION: School leavers will be turning their attention to tertiary education and careers – a career in conservation may be the answer. Barbara Hall explores the possibilities of working with natural resources, wildlife, marine life, people, industry, energy and waste, and samples university and technikon courses. *Westro, tel (011)402 4069.*

BUTTERFLIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA — A FIELD GUIDE by MARK WILLIAMS (*SOUTHERN*): After founding the Lepidopterists' Society of Southern Africa in 1983, Mark Williams went on to write this easy to use field guide which groups butterflies according to their coloration. The guide gives habitats and behavioural information, and illustrates some common larvae and pupae. R65.

TWO OCEANS, a field guide to the marine life of southern Africa by GA BRANCH ET AL (*WWF/DAVID PHILIP*): This "Newmans" of the sea and shores covers everything from sponges, corals and jellyfish to worms, sea spiders, crabs, fishes, reptiles, birds, mammals, seaweeds and coastal plants. R85.

GREAT GAME PARKS OF AFRICA Etosha National Park, Kruger National Park (*STRUIK*): These beautifully illustrated booklets provide concise overviews of the history, geography, climate and fauna and flora of the two regions as well as rest camps, facilities, wilderness walks and health hazards. With stunning photography, maps and charts, these books are a steal at R30.

REUSE REPAIR RECYCLE a mine of creative ideas for thrifty living by JAN MCHARRY (*GAIA*): Abstain, cherish, festoon, treasure ... says this this complete guide to a leaner, greener world. Part 1 gives information on recycling and waste reduction, Part 2 gives a snapshot of what is being done in selected countries, and Part 3 is an A to Z giving ideas for things to do around the home and office (R65).

EARTH USER'S GUIDE TO PERMACULTURE by ROSEMARY MORROW (*KANGAROO PRESS*): This is the idiot's guide to permaculture; a system of living that respects nature and lets her do most of the work around the home and garden. Never have the principles been laid out in such a clear and encouraging manner. (R75)

LAST OF THE FREE, BY GARETH PATTERSON (*Struik*) Patterson took over George Adamson's last three lions, left alone when Adamson was killed by bandits four years ago. He brought Batian, Furaha and Rafiki to the Tuli Block in Botswana. This book tells the bittersweet story. (R69,99)

MYSTERY PLANT

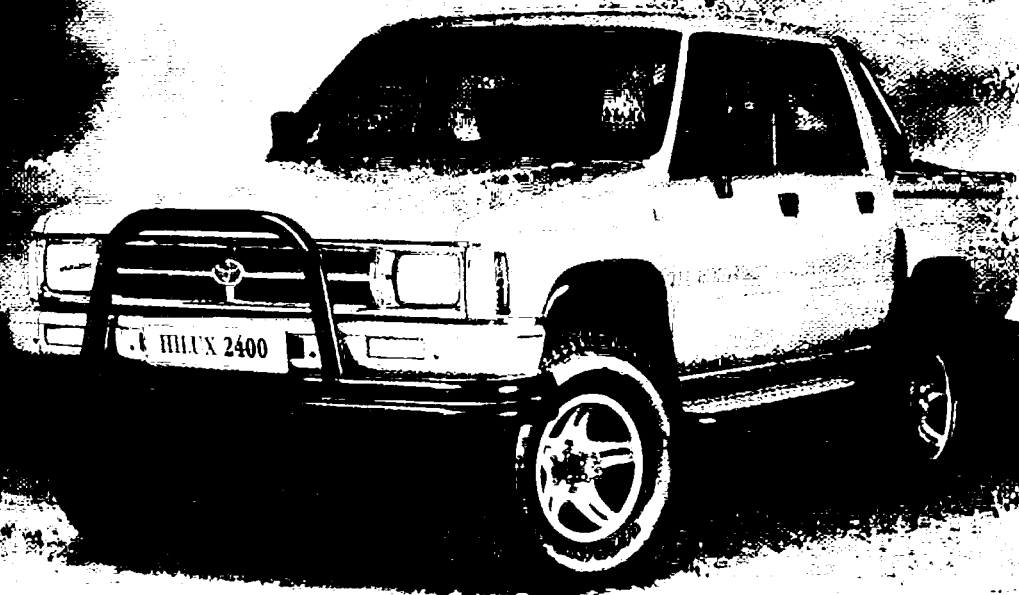
Can you identify this plant?
We came across it in Uganda



South Africa's best-selling bakkie
 now has an added advantage.



Introducing the powerful Toyota Hilux.



For a choice of bakkies, over four hundred thousand South African Toyota bakkie owners know there's only one serious contender. When toughness, reliability, durability and economy are the main criteria.

Now there's the new powerful high torque 2400 cm³ overhead cam petrol engine for

extremely low maintenance and economical performance. Maximum torque is 186 Nm at 3200 r/min. Maximum power is 80 kW at 4800 r/min.


There's power steering on all 4x4s and improved ventilation on all models. Most models have new chrome grilles and all have the new oval corporate emblem.

And a limited slip differential is standard on the Diesel Raider and optional on all other Hilux 4x2s.

The Hilux will keep its resale value close to or above what you paid for it.* And the country's top dealer network, with over 300 dealers, is always right behind you.

Shown with optional alloy wheels
 And finally, every new Hilux has a full one year unlimited kilometre warranty.

So, it's not surprising that Hilux has been South Africa's best selling bakkie for 23 years.

Everything keeps going right
 **TOYOTA**
 H I L U X

Hilux Range: 1800 SWB column shift, 1800 LWB column shift, 1800 S, 1800 SR, 2200 LWB, 2400 S, 2400 SRX Raider, 2400 4x4, 2400 4x4 Raider, 2400 4x4 Double Cab, 2400 4x4 Double Cab Raider, 2.4 SWB Diesel, 2.4 LWB Diesel, 2.4 Diesel Raider, 2.4 4x4 Diesel. * Source: Mead & McGrouther November 1994 edition indicates that, based on the average resale values of a cross-section of Hilux models, a 1985 Hilux will get 129.2% of its original value back.

On Truck, Johannesburg, 1995

Updates

Elephants vs rhinos: A number of reliable reports have been filed of elephants killing and injuring rhinos. This could be a natural phenomenon – or the result of disrupted social structures due to game relocations, says elephant researcher Marion Garai in the May issue of the newsletter *Bushcraft*. Garai is collecting anecdotes on elephant/rhino encounters, and would appreciate any such information. Contact her at Box 98, Vaalwater 0530, or phone (014) 7552 and ask for 1514.

Ground hornbills released: Three valuable chicks of the endangered ground hornbill species, hatched at the Pretoria Zoo, will be released into the Malolotja Game Reserve in Swaziland. They are 'Abel' chicks – ground hornbills lay two eggs at a time; the chicks engage in a 'Cain and Abel' fight, and only one survives (Cain). Ground hornbill habitat has been reduced by 50 percent over the years; today, they are only found in the Kruger National Park and a few other protected areas.

Swissair lauded: 'Swissair has one of the youngest, most fuel-efficient and least polluting fleets in the world. After meals, flight attendants sort garbage into categories for recycling in Geneva and Zurich. At head office in Zurich, heat generated by computers is recycled to provide 60 percent of office heating.' – From *Environmental Planning and Management*, May 1995.

Water campaign: The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has launched a national water conservation campaign to try to make people aware that whether we have good rains or bad, water is a scarce resource and should be treated with respect.

Half South Africa's water consumption is by irrigation farmers; forestry and industry use about 7.5 percent each, and municipal and domestic use accounts for 12 percent. Quite a large percentage of domestic water goes on water-loving plants in dry areas of the country. Access to water is also badly skewed: in Cape Town, for example, wealthy people use up to 1 750 litres of water a day each, compared with 15 litres by people on the Cape Flats.

One way of saving gardening water is to 'xeriscape' one's garden, a landscaping method that relies on the following principles:

- Group plants according to whether they are high or low water users. Then you can restrict heavy watering to small areas.

- Make sure that most of your plants are drought-tolerant.

- Add compost to your soil to improve water

CONRAD STAMER



retention.

- Keep lawn areas small.

- Infrequent, deep watering causes strong, deep root systems to develop, which are more drought-resistant.

- Cover bare soil with mulches made of compost, dry grass, sawdust, etc.

- Don't overfertilise, because this results in more water use.

- Well done to Radio 702 for devoting an entire day to raising water-consciousness in 702-land

Leak sniffer: The CSIR has acquired a soil vapour analyser to help find spills and subsurface leaks of petroleum and other hydrocarbon liquids. For more information, contact Ed Retief of CSIR Earth, Marine and Atmospheric Science at tel (012) 841-3435.

SCIENTIFIC SNIPPETS

Happy pigs: The Swedes have designed a slaughter and livestock truck to carry pigs and cattle to their deaths in five-star luxury. Air conditioning to cool the nerves, regular water sprinkling and personal service from cabin crew are just a few of the perks which this truck offers to appease the powerful animal welfare groups.

Six-legged squatters: Insect lovers want a part of the Paris Metro to be declared a nature reserve, fearing the railway is becoming too clean for colonies of crickets in the tunnels. Originally from Afghanistan, these crickets eat organic waste, and the French associate their cheerful chirping with prosperity.

Spiders on speed: Spiders on marijuana get so laid back that halfway through weav-

Lions encroach on JHB:

Fearsome as they may be, lions are extremely vulnerable to the expansion of human civilisation. According to the mammologist Ray Smithers, there is '... probably no other species whose distribution range has shrunk over historical times to the extent shown by the lion'.

Last recorded in Greece in AD 100, in Palestine during the 1100s, in Algeria in 1891 and near Cape Town in the early 1700s, the monarch of mammals has largely been reduced to refugee status in its former ecological empire.

It is therefore comforting to note that 10 lions have recently taken up residence just outside Johannesburg on a fine piece of highveld, where dairy cattle have been driven into extinction. The pride was brought in from Tsukudu in the eastern Transvaal by Ed Hearn, owner of the Rhino Park Game Reserve, situated a few kilometres from the Sterkfontein Caves.

HELPING TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE VISUALLY.

SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING PROFESSIONAL PHOTOLAB. TEL: - JHB. (011) 29-7971 • SANDTON (011) 444-2700.

