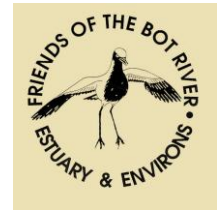


# botfriends newsletter

## april 2019



### Have you noticed it's colder?

Climate change is a cross-cutting issue that impacts on different sectors and contexts in different ways. Adapting to climate change therefore cannot be limited to the environmental sector and must be integrated into planning and implementation processes in different spheres of government, sectors, business and civil society. Developing climate change standalone strategies at different levels is essential to provide strategic guidance on responding to climate change in South Africa. However, if climate change adaptation is not incorporated into the different national sector plans, provincial and local government, and private sector strategic plans, then it will not be prioritised in these spheres.

Climate change will result in significant physical and socioeconomic effects in South Africa. It is important that decisions made in planning for these effects are based on access to accurate and current data and research. Investment in high-quality climate modelling data and research on the projected impacts of climate change will help reduce risk and enable the development of more effective actions. Currently there are many institutions involved in climate related research in South Africa. However, there is a lack of coordination between the different institutions and no central database or platform where climate related data is shared.

Climate change is a challenge that will impact on multiple sectors and requires systematic interventions in order to improve the awareness and capacity of a range of stakeholders. Stakeholders need to understand the causes, impacts, and key vulnerabilities associated with climate change, as well as how to respond to these vulnerabilities (DEA 2011). One of the most effective ways of improving awareness is to mainstream climate change into different education and training curricula at different levels, such as schools and tertiary institutions. Awareness and capacity are also particularly important in all three government spheres so that officials are equipped to guide climate change response in their respective jurisdictions. Since new knowledge is being generated on the impacts of climate change and appropriate responses, awareness and capacity building is required on an ongoing basis.

South Africa's international climate change commitments, the global sustainability movement, as well as changes experienced in climate have resulted in many government sectors and departments, as well as private organisations and communities implementing climate change adaptation projects in South Africa. Despite some coordination taking place in different spheres and sectors, clarity around mandates, especially in the government sector, is unclear in current legislation. Communication between

different sectors is lacking and there is a risk that organisations are conducting similar work, making use of funds that could be better spent. Adopting a more integrated approach to climate change where roles, responsibilities and mandates are clear and where partnerships are promoted will help to ensure that South Africa's climate change adaptation goals are met timeously and efficiently.

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*[from National climate change and adaptation strategy (NCCAS) Department of environmental affairs Govt Gazette 6 May 2019]*

Anyone who wants to comment on the document can access it and a comment form at the end at: [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/201905/42446gon644.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201905/42446gon644.pdf).

### **BOTFRIENDS MEMBERSHIP 2019 – 2020**

**Just a reminder to pay your fees please- they are small enough! R75 for a member, R100 for a family and R25 for a bird card. Additional donations will be most welcome. Thanks so much to those who have already paid.**

**If there are issues which you would like Botfriends to put on the agenda, do let us know: [botvlei@gmail.com](mailto:botvlei@gmail.com).**

## Our AGM

Our AGM was held on 4 May 2019. Thank you to those who braved the cold and attended. Frans Theunissen resigned as treasurer – we thank him for all the work he did in this regard. A new Executive Committee was elected, as follows:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Michael Austin    | (chair)           |
| Alan Woolnough    | (vice-chair)      |
| Renee Austin      | (secretary)       |
| Linda Woolnough   | (treasurer - new) |
| Jonathan Robinson |                   |
| Wendy McFall      | (new)             |
| Adele Snyman      | (new)             |
| Philip Howes      | (new)             |

We welcome the new members; their portfolios will be decided at the first exec meeting. We'll be telling you all about them in coming editions of the newsletter.



### GREENHEART PROJECTS

For proper and effective  
*private plot clearing* and  
follow-up, phone Mike

0832610543 for a quote.

## Changing for the better in the future

Climate change is happening now and to all of us. Every week brings a new example of climate-related devastation. No country or community is immune.

And, as is always the case, the poor and vulnerable are the first to suffer and the worst hit. My heart goes out to the hundreds of thousands – perhaps millions – of people affected by the recent cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Such events are becoming more frequent, more severe and more widespread and will become even worse unless we act urgently, now.

It is clear that climate change threatens decades of development progress and places in jeopardy all our plans for inclusive and sustainable development. From increased poverty and food insecurity, to growing water stress and accelerated environmental damage, climate change is a clear and present threat.

Yet it is also true that tackling climate change provides an opportunity to consolidate and accelerate development gains through cleaner air, improved public health and greater security for nations and economies. We have no excuse not to act. We have the tools to answer the questions posed by climate change, environmental pressure, poverty and inequality. But tools are no use if you don't use them. We need action, ambition and political will. More action, more ambition and more political will.

Last December, in Katowice, Poland, Parties to the United Nations climate convention agreed a work plan for the Paris Agreement so it can unleash its full potential.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said we have

less than 12 years to avoid potentially irreversible climate disruption. Last year's IPCC special report found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will require "rapid and far-reaching transitions" in how we manage land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities.

To help generate ambition, and to show that our goals are feasible, I am convening a climate action summit. I am telling leaders: "In September, please don't come with a speech; come with a plan." I am calling on leaders to come to New York on 23 September with concrete, realistic plans to put us, once and for all, on a sustainable path. These plans must show how to enhance Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020. The United Nations, with its new generation of country teams stands ready to assist.

I also want leaders to demonstrate how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade and get to net zero emissions globally by 2050. That is what science says is needed.

I will also ask leaders to address issues such as a just transition – where no one is left disadvantaged by necessary climate action. And I will ask them to demonstrate the many benefits of climate action, such as job creation, reduced air pollution and improved public health.

We all know that the green economy is the future, but we must make sure that everyone benefits, and no one is left behind.

I am also counting on leaders to make sure their plans include women as key decision-makers. Only gender-diverse decision-making has the capacity to tackle the different needs that will emerge in this coming period of critical transformation. The climate action summit will bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organizations to showcase and develop the ambitious solutions we need. It will focus on the energy transition; sustainable infrastructure; sustainable agriculture; forests and oceans; resilience to climate impacts; and investing in the green economy.

Solar and onshore wind are now the cheapest sources of new power in virtually all major economies. But we must set radical change in motion. This means ending subsidies for fossil fuels and high-emitting, unsustainable agriculture and shifting towards renewable energy, electric vehicles and climate-smart practices. It means carbon pricing that reflects the true cost of emissions, from climate risk to the health hazards of air pollution. And it means accelerating the closure of coal plants, halting the construction of new ones and replacing those jobs with healthier alternatives for the people there employed, so the transformation is just, inclusive and profitable.

Young people are demanding that today's leaders act on behalf of future generations. I echo that demand. The youth are torchbearers and the future is now. That really is the only one choice to be made.

[from speech by Antonio Guterres UN Secretary General 28 March 2019]

Editor: Renee Austin