

MEDIA RELEASE - 5 June 2003

School pupils learn about water in the Kruger National Park

Twenty-two grade 10 pupils from Khudu High School in Phalaborwa will learn all about water conservation in the Kruger National Park this weekend.

Says KNP social ecologist Ms Rochelle Mills, the children will be brought in on Saturday June 7 and will be taught how to be "Water-wise".

"They will be taken to the pond in front of the elephant hall, where they will test the water and identify all the magnificent creatures found there," she explained.

This education programme, which is timed to coincide with World Environment Day, also leads up to the World Parks Congress to be held in Durban in September 2003.

The school pupils from Phalaborwa will also be shown videos and taken in a game drive vehicle to a nearby hide where they will learn more about the environment and conservation.

Says the head of KNP social ecology, Ms Helen Mmethi, this is just one of the many projects the KNP is doing on an around June 6, 2003 "World Environment Day".

"Most of our projects will actually be in the communities outside the Park where we will celebrate the occasion with our neighbours on the other side of our fence."

The Kruger National Park's Social Ecology Department has, as its mission, the important task of engaging with and involving the communities neighbouring the Park with conservation efforts and empowering them with information about the benefits of conservation.

This department also empowers local people with training programmes such as the emerging contractor development programme.

... Ends

Issued by: Raymond Travers, Media Relations Practitioner, Kruger National Park. Contact: Tel: 013 735 4116, cell: 082 908 2677 or email: raymondtravers@parks-sa.co.za

Enquiries: William Mabasa, Public Relations and Communications Manager, Kruger National Park. Contact: Tel: 013 735 4363, cell: 082 807 3919 or email: williamm@parks-sa.co.za.