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NEWS-LETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS
NUUSBRIEF VAN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENOOTSKAP VAN PLANTKUNDIGES

RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF NATURAL SCIENTISTS :

The Government Gazette of 4 November 1983 announced that the following associations, which comply with the prescribed requirements as set out in Government Notice R.1112 of 27 May 1983, are recognised as associations of Natural Scientists according to Article 7(3)(a)(ii) of the Act on Natural Scientists, 1982 (Act 55 of 1982) :

- a) The South African Chemical Institute
- b) The South African Institute of Physics
- c) The South African Society for Microbiology
- d) The South African Mathematical Society
- e) The Zoological Society of Southern Africa
- f) The South African Association of Botanists
- g) The Geological Society of South Africa
- h) The South African Society for Plant Pathology
- i) The South African Society of Animal Production
- j) The Soil Science Society of Southern Africa
- k) The Grassland Society of Southern Africa
- l) The South African Institute of Forestry
- m) The Southern African Weed Science Society
- n) The South African Institute of Ecologists.

WILD FLOWER INDUSTRY : Following Mr H C Taylor's report on the activities of the Flora Conservation Committee of the Botanical Society (Forum Aug 1983 page 61) Dr B de Winter, Director of the Botanical Research Institute, has submitted the following comment:

As a result of concern felt by the Department of Agriculture some years ago about the trends in the utilization of Cape veld flowers in the trade and our concern about the effect of this type of utilization on the natural vegetation, it was decided to collect information based on a wide-ranging questionnaire.

The main fields for which the information was required was of an economic, conservation and scientific nature and it was to be used as a basis to decide on future action.

At the time when the questionnaire was practically complete, the economic aspects of the trade in veld picked material had changed to the extent that the Horticultural Research Institute lost a great deal of interest. The parties were persuaded nevertheless to continue with the survey because of the conservation and scientific interest although a lot of the impetus was lost. For a questionnaire of this type to succeed a considerable input of manpower and funds is required and this was not available in the Botanical Research Institute.

Recently the project has been rejuvenated due to the interest shown by Mr J Eksteen (Winter Rainfall Region) in organizing and undertaking the survey, using the available and now completed questionnaire. I have recommended that this offer be agreed to by the Department and am awaiting a reply.

The BRI has no posts available for ecological research on the effects of flower picking on natural vegetation, even though it is accepted as falling within our mandate. Mr Morsbach, the Director of Nature Conservation of the Cape, has informally informed me that his organization has a post available for this purpose, but that they have not been able to attract an ecologist to undertake the work. Ecologists are not easy to find at present. The Botanical Research Institute also has vacancies in the newly created ecological team which is to undertake the National Plant Resource Inventory of the Department.

The future of the survey and of research on this topic, which is of great importance to the conservation of the Cape Vegetation is therefore not as bleak as it seemed some time ago.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL MYCOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IMC)

Professor Albert Eicker van die departement Plantkunde, Universiteit van Pretoria het onlangs die Kongres te Tokio in Japan bygewoon. Die Kongres, wat van 28 Augustus tot 3 September 1983 geduur het en deur die "International Mycological Association" gereël is, is deur bykans 1000 Mikoloë uit 41 lande bygewoon. Vier Suid-Afrikaanse Wetenskaplikes het ook deelgeneem. Die hele veld van Mikologie is gedek in die vorm van 48 simposiums waartydens 361 referate voorgedra is. Verder was daar 357 plakkate uitgestal. Professor Eicker het aan drie simposiums deelgeneem waartydens hy berig het oor die verbouing van eetbare sampioene en die navorsing daarop in Suid-Afrika en die

evaluering van swamdoders vir gebruik teen patogene fungusse van gekweekte sampioene. 'n Derde bydrae, in samewerking met mnr R C Sinclair, navorsings-assistent en prof Morgan-Jones van die Auburn-Universiteit in die VSA het gehandel oor een nuwe genus en ses nuwe spesies van mikrofungusse wat te Mariepskop in die Oos Transvaalse eskarpement aangetref is en deur hulle beskryf is.

'n Interessante uitstappie was 'n besoek aan 'n sampioenplaas naby Yokohama waar die sogenaamde "Shiitake" sampioen, 'n gesogte gereg in die Ooste, gekweek word. Hierdie houtverrottende sampioen word op eikestompe gekweek. Na afloop van die kongres het prof Eicker die geleentheid gehad om vlugtige besoeke aan Taiwan, Thailand en Hong Kong te bring. Tydens die besoek aan laasgenoemde land het die tifoon "Ella" die eiland getref. Dit was een van die ergste tifone wat die verre ooste hierdie eeu beleef het en die skade en verwoesting wat dit aangereg het is haas onbeskryflik.

Die besoek is moontlik gemaak deur finansiële bydraes deur UP, die WNNR en die firma MSD Agvet.

CLADISTICS WORKSHOP : The Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, is considering the presentation of a workshop dealing with the theory and application of phylogenetic systematics (cladistics). This is a much talked about area of systematics but little research is currently being undertaken within South Africa. In order to best represent the interests of the participants of such a workshop, we would appreciate receiving particulars from interested persons concerning the desired scope of a cladistic survey, aspects most deserving attention, length of presentation (1 or 2 days) and a list of possible speakers to be invited. Suggestions, comments, and provisional intent to attend should be posted to Dr D L Koutnik, Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700.

NATURE AREA PROCLAIMED : Table Mountain, the Southern Cape Peninsula mountain chain and much of the adjoining seaboard was officially proclaimed a nature area on 6 October by the Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis.

The long-awaited proclamation, which follows more than a decade of intense pressure from conservationists to preserve the area, was outlined in a statement released in Pretoria.

The new Cape Peninsula nature area includes the whole of Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and the Atlantic seaboard as far as Kommetjie, and the area from

Chapman's Peak to Hout Bay and from the Sentinel to Luibaai, with the exclusion of Sunset Rocks and Llandudno.

Sandy Bay and the Tokai Forest, long highly sensitive issues between developers and conservationists, also fall within the new reserve.

However, according to the statement, kaolin mining will be allowed in certain areas set aside by the government in Noordhoek.

Included in the reserve is all the mountain land above the 152m contour.

Mr Heunis said no land in the nature area could be used for anything other than "the purpose for which it was being used at present without a special permit".

He said reservation of the area was the result of a thorough investigation, "with a constant consciousness of the unique environmental features, such as the mountain ranges and the fynbos area of the Cape Peninsula on the one hand, and the future exploitation of a scarce natural resource, kaolin, on the other, in such a way that both these assets can be used in the national interest."

SAUK TV : Met die oog op 'n nuwe program, "50/50", vir TV I wat vanaf Januarie 1984 op Sondagaande al om die tweede week gebeeldsaai word verneem ek graag of u organisasie ons sal help met moontlike program materiaal.

50% van die program handel oor natuursake en 50% handel oor die mens met sy sosiaal-maatskaplike probleme. Ons vra graag inligting oor enige gebeure en projekte wat vir u van belang is en wat ons moontlik visueel sal kan uitbeeld.

Dit sal ook waardeer word indien u vir ons van u Nuusbriewe, artikels, persvrystellings of tydskrifte gereeld kan aanstuur. Sodoende kan hierdie kantoor die nuus vanuit u kontrei verwerk.

Indien u enige voorstelle sou hê vir genoemde program of navrae, skakel my asb by 714-3030, 714-3460, 714-3034 of skryf aan : Annetjie du Toit, "50/50", SAUK, 13de verdieping, Posbus 8606, Johannesburg 2000.

1982 AETFAT CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS : The Proceedings, running to 698 pages, have been published in Bothalia 14, 3 & 4 (1983) and are available from the following at R30 + GST (RSA) and R31 overseas, postage free :

Division of Agricultural Information, Department of Agriculture, Private Bag X144, PRETORIA, RSA. 0001. Registered Congress delegates will receive a gratis copy in due course.

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