



MEDIA ALERT

WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATIONS

27 February 2020

Wetlands are our natural assets and natural infrastructure able to provide a range of products, functions and services, free of charge. Despite being high-value ecosystems they make up only a small fraction of the province. It is for this reason that Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, South African National Parks, and Maluti-A-Phofong Municipality, celebrating World Water Day on the 28 February 2020.

Under the theme “**Wetlands and Biodiversity**”, the main focus of these celebrations is to rehabilitate, use wisely and protection of wetlands in a manner that maximises employment creation, supports small businesses and transfers relevant and marketable skills in communities who live around wetlands. Wetlands are rich with biodiversity and provide habitats for variety of plant and animal species.

The activity will centre around workshops on preservation of wetlands and prevention and fire in the ecosystem. Wetlands are highly productive and biologically diverse systems that enhance water quality, control erosion, maintain stream flows, sequester carbon, and provide habitats to threatened and endangered species.

Our rich endowment of biodiversity comes with a huge responsibility of ensuring that our species and ecosystems are conserved and used sustainably for the benefit of all Free Staters.

End!

Issued by:

Communication Unit

Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs

Contact: Kagisho Leteane 051 400 9477 or Email: Leteane@destea.gov.za