

Mother Nature at her best

By **Matshidiso Pila**
 Photo: **F Sgt David Nomtshongwana**

One wise man once said that people should always appreciate what they have, because no matter how much money you have, nor how poor you are, there is one thing that we may all share, and that is Mother Nature. This might be the reason why Mother Nature is celebrated worldwide, because she is so precious. It does not matter who you are; she gives life to everybody.

By presenting the annual Environmental Awards event, the DOD recognises the importance of nature. The Environmental Awards ceremony was held at Army Support Base Durban on 3 June 2004.

On the way to Durban the audience from Pretoria, which included the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Jack Gründling, had the pleasure of witnessing Mother Nature at her best. They were afforded the opportunity to honour Mother Nature during the whole of that week - Environmental Week. When the guests visited the units they were welcomed by the popular divas of Durban, the Mahloko-door to door and wall to wall were much appreciated. The Master of Ceremonies was Maj Andrew Moeti. Mr Gründling presented the floating trophies and awards.

Army Support Base Durban was awarded the first trophy - presented by the Rand Water Award for Water Efficiency. Army Support Base Durban was chosen as the runner-up in the Environmental Education and Training and in the Integrated Waste Management categories. Sterkriver

Training Area also performed well by being awarded the Association of Clean Communities Award for Integrated Waste Management and by being the other runner-up in the Environmental Education and Training category.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust Floating Trophy for Ecological Management was awarded to SAS SAL-DANHA. The fifth trophy to be awarded was the Caltex Floating Trophy for Base Environmental Management, which was awarded to Naval Base Simon's Town. Army Support Base Potchefstroom was the winners of the Professor Kristo Pienaar Floating Trophy for Environmental Education and Training. The SA National Parks Floating Trophy Military Integrated Environmental Management was awarded to Air Force Base Overberg.

The last trophy to be awarded was the Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services, which was open for individuals or teams employ-

ed within the Department of Defence, or a civilian outside the organisation, whether involved full-time or part-time in military environmental matters. The winner of this prestigious trophy was Cdr Adri Liebenberg of the Logistics Division.

Mr Gründling congratulated Air Force Base Overberg for being the only military base that has fully implemented ISO 14000 and also the only military base that is ISO 14000 certified. "This is a major milestone in the history of the Department and ushers in an entirely new frontier in Military Integrated Environmental Management," Mr Gründling said.

"I am proud to announce the establishment of an interdepartmental Department of Defence Water Efficiency Programme with the Department of Public Works, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, as well as Rand Water. This programme aims at consolidating and co-ordinating the efficient use of water in the Department," he added. 



Awards for life!