

# Female Commander cares for Mother Earth

By Cdr Adri Liebenberg,  
SO1 Environmental Policy  
at Chief Logistics  
Photo: F Sgt David  
Nomtshongwana

A management tool for ensuring environmental compliance through personal and organisational empowerment.

The Department of Defence is subject to governance by civil society represented by an elected legislative. In this sense the Department is subject to all legislation issued by Government, as well as any national norms and standards fostered by civil society in the spirit of healthy civil-military relations.

As is the case with any other legislation issued by Government, the Department is not exempt from any environmental legislative provisions that have a bearing on its core business and it is obliged to comply. This obligation is reflected in the Corporate Environmental Policy Statement for Defence, which states the following:

"The Department of Defence shall, in compliance with the environmental obligations placed upon it by the Constitution, national and international regulatory provisions and within the constraints imposed from time to time by nature of its business, protect the environment through pro-active measures of Military Integrated Environmental Management; accept responsibility for use of the environment entrusted to it; minimise the impacts of its operations on the environment by means of a programme of continual improvement; promote open communication on environmental issues to all interested and affected parties; train and motivate its members to regard environmental considerations as an integral and vital ele-

ment of their day-to-day activities."

In order to honour this commitment the DOD established an environmental policy capacity at level 2 to ensure environmental compliance through the development, implementation and monitoring of internal environmental policies based on national and international legislative provisions. This capacity is personalised in the form of Cdr Adri Liebenberg, SO1 Environmental Policy at Chief Logistics. She is responsible for developing departmental environmental policies and for ensuring the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) for Defence based on the ISO 14 000 international standard for environmental management.

She obtained her BSc (Hons) degree in Natural Sciences at the University of Stellenbosch in 1988, after which she joined the SA Navy in 1989. She was transferred to the Facilities Directorate in 1998 after serv-

ing a period of nine years at the Navy Office as SO1 and SSO Environmental Services, responsible for managing and directing the environmental function within the SA Navy.

During the annual Defence Environmental Awards ceremony held at the Army Support Base Durban on 3 June 2004 Cdr Liebenberg was awarded the Conservamus Floating Trophy for Environmental Services in the DOD for 2003. This nomination was based on the development of a management tool for ensuring environmental compliance through personal and organisational empowerment, a comprehensive user-friendly departmental guide to international, national and provincial environmental legal compliance for all military commanding officers within all the Services of the Department.

As Chapter 8 of the White Paper on Defence relating to land and environmental issues transfers the responsibility  
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**Mr Jack Gründling, Chief Financial Officer, awarded Cdr Adri Liebenberg with the Conservamus Floating Trophy, while Brig Gen Siphon Ndabula, Director Facilities, looked on.**