

The Department of
Water Affairs and Forestry,
TOTAL SOUTH AFRICA and Food
& Trees for Africa ask you to:

- Protect our indigenous forests.
- Help prevent veld and forest fires.
- Plant and care for trees.
- Plant a tree in remembrance.
- At your tree planting event, encourage the community to hold hands around the trees and form a "peace chain" promoting peace in our country - this is the new "touching peace" campaign.

Food & Trees For Africa

Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA) is a non profit organisation helping communities throughout South Africa to plant and care for trees, develop permaculture food gardens and learn more about our environment.

FTFA works closely with the Department, TOTAL South Africa and many others to green our landscape and our society.

Companies and individuals who donate trees to those less fortunate, plant trees in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate birthdays and other special events, will receive personalised certificates acknowledging their living gift that keeps on giving.

For more information and to sponsor trees, contact FTFA on:

tel: 011 803 9750

fax: 011 803 9604 or

e-mail: trees@cis.co.za

For more on this great greening organisation visit FTFA's website www.trees.org.za

TOTAL South Africa has a vision for our beautiful country

It is a country in which companies and individuals care for and live in harmony with their environment. This vision is about working together to ensure that sustainability is more than just a word. It is about caring for our resources and the communities it serves.

Caring for the environment has been a priority for TOTAL South Africa since 1958, and the company has been actively involved with a variety of projects to promote environmental conservation and sustainability for the past 44 years.

This year, the 13th year, TOTAL South Africa has again partnered with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, as the main corporate sponsor for Arbor Week. At TOTAL South Africa trees are viewed as the lifeblood of the environment. Trees provide greenery, shelter and shade, but also raw material for our most basic needs.

During Arbor Week - Iviki Lezihlahla, which coincides with World Summit on Sustainable Development, all South Africans will have the opportunity to participate in working towards a greener, healthier and happier country by planting a tree for life.

arbor week | iviki lezihlahla
trees are life | mehlare ke bophelo

1 - 7 september 2002



www.dwa.gov.za



www.trees.org.za



www.totalarborweek.co.za

Arbor Week – Iviki Lezihlahla 1 – 7 September 2002

The year 2002 is a year of tremendous challenges! Amongst the most crucial, is the survival of the planet and the continuation of the human race. The National Arbor Week-Iviki Lezihlahla campaign is dealing with this challenge head-on by promoting sustainability through a culture of tree planting throughout South Africa.

With the theme Trees are Life – Mehlaire ke bophelo, Arbor Week – Iviki Lezihlahla encompasses the importance and value of human life on this planet, through the symbiotic relationship with trees, our most vital natural heritage and resource.

Significantly, Arbor Week-Iviki Lezihlahla falls at the same time as the World Summit on Sustainable Development, an international gathering which brings together global environmental experts, with the aim of poverty alleviation. The theme for the Summit is "People, Planet and Prosperity", focusing on protecting, advancing and preserving the environment. The Arbor Week-Iviki Lezihlahla campaign is therefore aligned to advance sustainable forest management as a way to alleviate poverty and stop the degradation of our natural forests.

In keeping with the objectives of national, provincial and local government in the forestry management sector, it is necessary to consider the economic, social and environmental importance of trees at this time. Firstly, in terms of social benefits, trees provide shade, recreation and parks and beautify our surroundings. Secondly, the controlled harvesting of certain bark from the forests

provides for sustainable medicinal use. Thirdly, for economic benefits, trees are essential in that they provide wood fuel as a source of energy, agro-forestry to provide animal feed and also income and woodlots production for paper pulp and furniture. Lastly, trees provide environmental education, in that parks and other green areas provide educational opportunities for learners and educators.

Through Arbor Week – Iviki Lezihlahla we intend to:

- Promote a better understanding of trees, particularly indigenous trees.
- Highlight the important role trees play in sustainable development and the livelihoods of people and their environment.
- Encourage communities to participate in various greening activities within their own surroundings.
- Raise awareness of South Africa's urban greening initiatives through the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Five easy steps on how to plant a tree:

- Dig a hole that is twice as wide and twice as deep as the container that your tree is in. Carefully remove the plastic cover from the tree and discard the plastic in a rubbish bin.
- Place the tree into the hole with the top of the container about 10 cm below ground level. Fill the hole with the soil (and compost if you

can get it) below and around the tree. Make sure that you press the soil down firmly.

- Tie the tree to a stick or stake to support it as it grows – not too tightly.
- Cover the hole with leaves or grass (mulch) which will reduce evaporation of water.
- You can also use a two-litre plastic bottle to irrigate your tree and conserve water. Punch a small hole at the bottom of a bottle and plant next to the tree so that the hole will water the roots. Fill the bottle once a week and put the lid on to prevent evaporation.

What about planting and caring for trees?

In the past, trees were not planted in townships although many suburbs were greened.

We need to plant trees in every town, city, school, clinic, street and home in South Africa. You can help by planting trees at home or working with your school, church, or local government to plant trees. Remember to water your trees once they have been planted. You can sponsor trees for those less fortunate. You can learn about trees and tell your friends and family about their importance in our lives.

Planting trees to remember our heroes

Throughout history, people have planted trees in memory of those we have lost. Trees can serve as a living memory to people who have contributed to our society. The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mr Ronnie Kasrils, started a three-

year project in 1999 dedicating trees to those who lost their lives in the struggle against apartheid. Trees have been planted and more will be planted all over the country as memorials to people who have contributed to a better life for all.

Discuss this issue in your community. Are there people who have served the society who could be remembered through tree planting? It is easy to plant a tree in memory of a loved one. Please don't forget to look after the tree. Tell the Department whom you would like to honour by contacting Mr Tebogo Mathiane on tel (012) 336 7903 or (012) 336 7738. The Department will then record the name in the national register and provide a plaque to be placed near the tree.

What can we do during Arbor Week – Iviki Lezihlahla?

- Motivate your local schools, clinics, churches and others to get involved in tree planting ceremonies.
- Organise a poster, essay, poetry or debating competition about trees at your school.
- Present a play, speech or poem about trees and the environment.
- Initiate a memorial tree garden in your community.
- Gather and distribute information on the planting and care of trees and forest fires.