

PROGRESS REPORT – 1 JANUARY 2002 - 30 NOVEMBER 2002

dear friends,

Greetings from all at ABALIMI! We have been a hive of activity over this period, and whilst it means that we are sometimes overstretched, it also affirms the absolute necessity for the work that we do.

We have an endless stream of applications for support from groups and individuals in the community who want to empower themselves, improve their environment, put food on their tables and provide their children with correct nutrition and good health. New group project applications increased over 100% from 40 in 2001, to more than 100 in 2002. We are grateful that we are able to assist them in their endeavours and pray that we will continue to do so for many, many years to come.

Warmest regards
Rob Small, Director

P.S. This being the last newsletter for 2002, we wish you a jolly festive season and a prosperous New Year!



A bright future - little ones love trees!

GREENING

Nosisa Merile is becoming the driving force behind the greening outreach programme. She is vibrant, capable and confident and her appointment has catalysed both our training programme, and our impact within the community.

Nosisa is growing her **HORTICULTURE COURSE**. Two courses, each running over a period of 8 weeks, have been held since January with resounding success. A shining example is the Gugulethu-based Masizakhe Group. They are dynamic individuals who took the knowledge they gained and went on to green 17 households and 2 churches in Gugulethu. This is a clear indication of how the Green Streets “movement” is extending beyond the parameters of Khayelitsha, and reaching into surrounding communities.

ABALIMI applauds their wonderful work and wishes them well in their continuing accomplishments!



Left: Nosisa (centre) and a street greening project in action!



Above: Members of the the industrious Masizakhe Group planting up a new home garden with indigenous, water wise Cape Flora.

One **CARETAKER TRAINING COURSE** has been conducted this year with enthusiastic attendees from approximately 14 schools within Khayelitsha. ABALIMI has provided follow-up support to the schools and is proud



to report on their consistent and outstanding progress.

Left: Nosisa demonstrates to observant Caretakers at one of the 20 desert schools on the ABALIMI waiting list.

ARBOR WEEK 2002

ARBOR WEEK FOCUS & CELEBRATION

This year our Arbor Week focus and celebration was held at Phakama High School in Lower Crossroads, on Saturday 7 September. It was a joyous occasion, with a busy programme and a wonderful turnout from the community. The school was awash with excited children and our fieldworkers tirelessly dispensed over 1 600 trees and advice to an endless queue of residents. In the week prior to this event, Nosisa and her team of helpers planted 108 trees in the streets of the community and we



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Left: Choosing a tree

ARBOUR WEEK 2002 (continued)

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hope that in time to come the trees will provide much needed shelter from the hot sun. A big thank you to all involved – especially our core partners, the GreenTrust WWF-SA and DWAF, in making our Arbor Week and celebration the grand success that it was!



Above: Waiting patiently for a tree



Above: Proud tree owners!



Above: Greening the home.

TOTAL SA GREEN SCHOOL

Total (SA), in partnership with ABALIMI, launched its 9th School Greening Project in Khayelitsha on Wed, 4 September 2002. Since 1994, Total SA has been working in partnership with ABALIMI to make Environmental Renewal become a reality for schools in Khayelitsha. This year, Total, ABALIMI and Masiphumelele Primary School are working to transform its desert-like environment into a flourishing indigenous garden. This project was completed in October.

Masiphumelele Primary is a brand new school that has recognised the need for a greening project to be established on its new premises. Total (SA) is sponsoring the transformation of the school's entrance area, with the school contributing 50% of the budget. This level of commitment from the school is an inspiration to both ourselves and other schools in the area. The project was launched during Arbor Week in September, with a tree planting ceremony.



Above: Planting the first tree: Kevin de Wet, Zanele Ntuli (Total SA), Mrs Ivy Matiwane (Principal) and members of the Governing Body.

The following poem was sent to us in 2000 by Patty Sides of Pinelands – we kept it to be inserted in our newsletter, as it pays delightful homage to the tree. To Patty, thank you so much for sharing it with us so long ago – we hadn't forgotten!

The Tree

*Let us pause for the taking of inventory,
To measure the debt we owe the tree.
For the searching root that knits the soil,
The cooling shade for those who toil,
The air we breathe, nature's greatest gift,
And the leaf that heralds each season's shift.*

*Forget not the fruit that feeds man and beast,
The branch that burns to prepare the feast.
That sturdy frame that builds the home,
And the paper on which you read this poem.
The tree gives all and asks no prize,
Even making the axe that ends its life.*

Anon

URBAN AGRICULTURE

CHRISTINA KABA (WOMAN OF THE YEAR, COMMUNITY AFFAIRS 2001)

continues to play a central role both within her daily work and as a champion of community urban agriculture. Her ability to inspire people cuts across social, political and economic barriers. She was short-listed this year for the Woman Of Worth Award, is a nominee for the Desmond Tutu Footprints of Legends Leadership Awards 2002, and is the overall winner of the 2002 national Nestlé Community Nutrition Award! She remains dedicated and committed to her community and her work, and is tirelessly assisted by Sindi Mahuza. Together they have held over 13 urban agriculture training courses this year, for groups in and around Khayelitsha.



Above: A group of proud course graduates hold up their certificates.

NEW PROJECTS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH/ABALIMI PARTNERSHIP

Earlier this year the provincial Department of Health approached ABALIMI asking for assistance with more effective delivery of community gardens under their Community Based Nutrition Programme (CBNP). After countless project assessments, ABALIMI agreed to train and dispense start-up resources and follow-up to 60 community gardens, acting as a vehicle for the Department of Health in this commendable initiative.



Above: Hard at work, ABALIMI trains groups falling under the Department of Health.

GROWING AND GOING STRONG!

Some examples from the 100 groups currently on our books:

Bambanane Project: In April, 7 community members banded together and began a garden on nearby school land and are to date doing very well.

Ikwezi Project: A relatively new group who are industriously making beautiful handcrafts as well as devoting their energy to growing their garden.

Masincidane Project: This group has established a big garden on school land that is flourishing.

Imizamo Yethu Project: This group has moved out from under the Powerline Project's wing and have started their own garden in the face of appalling conditions. In spite of having to carry buckets of water back and forth to irrigate their crops, their garden is thriving and we are so proud of them.

Sizizamele Crèche: This crèche is minded by tireless individuals who are keen attendants at our Caretaker courses. ABALIMI has helped them develop their own "tyre garden" and after a long time of struggling to feed the children, they are now producing their own vegetables and the little ones fall asleep at night with full bellies!



Right: The Imizamo Yethu project

CARING NETWORK: PIONEER HEALTH GARDENS

The Caring Network runs a training and home-based care programme for communities most affected by HIV/AIDS, in Greater Cape Town. Nursing sisters supervise carers and their clients who are referred by clinics. Voluntary carers receive monthly financial relief and backup support from the organisation. The distribution of basic food parcels is an aspect of their medication support programme. In this instance the Caring Network, led by a community wish to produce food on a sustainable basis, approached ABALIMI for support. The Caring Network Co-ordinator at



Driftsands formed a group who were assisted by ABALIMI to establish a garden that is located at the community centre, which includes a crèche and a bi-weekly clinic. Another successful group health garden project was later established at Crossroads Clinic. These pioneer health gardens were kicked off by a R10 000 donation from the dynamic JDI foundation.

Left: Rosemary Smuts (Director) of Caring Network, marvels at the Driftsands Health Garden.

CNF: CNF@WEBMAIL.CO.ZA.

In August of this year, the up and coming Youth activist group, Community Networking Forum (CNF), launched a Community College with 14 other local and international community-based organisations (CBO's). The community college was established to create independent, constructive critical thinkers who, by integrating the academic with the wisdom-based traditional and spiritual education system, fully understand and are able to act on ideas to improve the conditions of social, economic and environmental justice. The Community College will be linked both locally, nationally and internationally.

CNF are planning a 3-month pilot project on Sustainable Development, focusing on water, waste and energy. A theoretical and practical course will be conducted, with the intent of educating 35 learners on the abovementioned issues and how they are impacted within their communities.

Networking is crucial for the survival of CBO's and CNF are true pioneers in this regard. We wish them all the best in these exciting new ventures!

JUNGLE JIVE – ENVIRONMENTAL STREET THEATRE

Jungle Performance, a professional actors collective, is assisting ABALIMI in creating environmental awareness in the township communities. They have created a production called Jungle Jive which combines tree planting with an exciting, visually stimulating street theatre event in the local community. Jungle Jive revolves around the awakening of environmental awareness in the lives of two regular people. The story is told using the traditional *intsomi* technique in Xhosa.

This show has the power to draw a spontaneous audience of truly amazed participants.

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Left: Members of Sizizamele Creche, Masilime Group, Bambanane and Ikwezi Projects, on completion of their course.

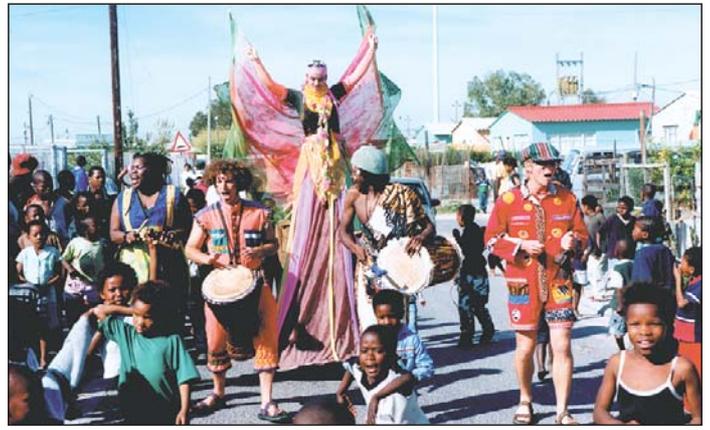


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Through this medium a substantial crowd of mixed ages and backgrounds is gathered to create an unforgettable tree planting experience. The five versatile actors, a unique stage, stilt walkers, original music, large puppets, the deeply symbolic story and the child from the audience who plants the tree, creates a unique event. This encourages a sense of responsibility amongst the community for their environment, and ensures that every time someone passes the tree, they are reminded of the performance and its message.

Jungle Jive founding sponsors are the Syfrets Trust and The Green Trust, WWF-SA. Jungle Jive urgently needs more sponsors! If you would like to get involved, please contact them: jungle@xsinet.co.za

Right: Jungle Jive bits the streets of Phakama at the Arbor Day Celebration.



NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

WWF DONOR TOUR: WWF-SA, through The Green Trust, which is in turn funded by Nedbank, has been a key ABALIMI partner for over 10 years. On the 7th May, ABALIMI was proud to host the South African CEO of the WWF, Mr Tony Frost and numerous of WWF's wonderful donors. We had a lovely day together, visiting the Powerline Project (Siyazama Community Allotment Garden – SCAGA) and then going on to the Manyanani Peace Park for refreshments. The WWF made a generous donation to ABALIMI of 8 computers, which are being distributed to worthwhile projects. A special mention is to be made of the caterer, Igugu Le Africa, a community business run by the capable and unflappable Mr Bokwe. He provided a veritable feast for our guests, and we thank him for contributing to the success of the day, and highly recommend his team!



Above: WWF-SA donors and friends touring the Powerline Project - SCAGA

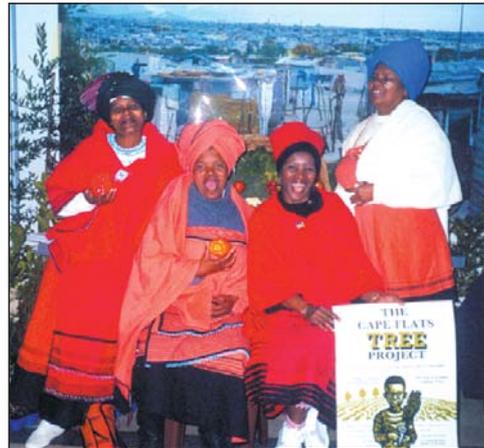
GREEN TRUST AWARD: We are very proud to mention that ABALIMI (represented by Rob Small and Christina Kaba) attended the Green Trust Awards in Johannesburg on the 5th of June. At a glittering ceremony ABALIMI was announced as the overall winner in the Urban Environmental Sustainability category. A beaming Christina and Rob received the award.



Above:
Back: L-R: Goven Reddy (Mail & Guardian), Tony Frost (CEO, WWF-SA), Derek Muller (Nedcor).

Front: L-R: Christina Kaba,

EARTH FESTIVAL: Cape Town held an Earth Festival at the Civic Centre over the last weekend in August. The Festival ran concurrently with the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and The Green Trust WWF-SA kindly sponsored ABALIMI's display space. Representatives from various community projects manned the display. With their vibrant traditional dresses and the lively enthusiasm with which they joined in various dance performances, we were proudly represented, and certainly left no doubt in anyone's mind as to who we are and what we do!



Left:
Doing the communities proud! Beautiful planters at the Earth Festival in Cape Town.

CAPE CARE ROUTE: www.africandream.org

The City of Cape Town, in conjunction with Cape Town Tourism, Open Africa and various developmental projects have innovatively established a new tour route for visitors to the Cape. Various sub-routes are on offer, and the idea is to promote the work that is being done in both the "green" (environmental) and "brown" (social) areas. We are pleased to mention ABALIMI's involvement. The Powerline Project (SCAGA) and the Manyanani Peace Park are on the route, as well as the Peace Lily Project, an autonomous ABALIMI-supported project (funded by BP SA) and the Victoria Mxenge Women's Housing Project, whom ABALIMI assisted with launching their successful Green Streets project (funded by the Green Trust, WWF-SA). For more info, visit the African Dream website: www.africandream.org and click on the Cape Care Route button.

URBAN AGRICULTURE SUMMIT: This summit was organised by the City of Cape Town. It ran over 8 & 9 May and provided a rare and much needed platform and opportunity for grass roots organisations to have their say. Rob Small was asked to speak at the summit and rendered a speech that made us all proud and received resounding applause.

See Speech as separate insert.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (continued)

SFC: THE AFRICA WIDE PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LAND USE MANAGEMENT (PELUM) ASSOCIATION organised a Small Farmers Convergence (SFC) in Johannesburg during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002.

ABALIMI was represented by our very own Sindi Mahuza, Dennis Mawu and Landy Wright. Landy headed up the SA delegation and was an integral part of the co-ordination of the convergence. The purpose of the SFC was to create visibility for the small scale farmers in Africa and other developing countries, highlight the vital economic role that small scale farmers are playing, convey the message that small scale farmers are working and fighting for poverty eradication and food security, whilst balancing the sustainable use of environment for future generations. The plight of small farmers is affected by the fall of local currencies, elite globalisation, desertification as well as many other factors. The SFC has resulted in the launch of the Small Scale Farmers Movement (SSFEM). Participants came away richer from the experience, with a sense of solidarity - nationally, cross-culturally and continentally.

We shall actively encourage the growth of the SSFM and heartily applaud the unflagging efforts of Landy. *Our special thanks go out to our "Channel Islands Friend"*, who at the eleventh hour came forward with a grant which made it possible for the Western Cape Small Farmer representatives to attend.



Above:
Sindi speaks out at the SFC.



Left:
Landy heads up the Pelum SA Delegation.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

REPORTS TO BE PRINTED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER (#29)

- Emerging Association of Micro Farmers in the townships - another historic first
- Peace Lily Project progress report
- Flora Research Project progress report
- Jungle Jive Project progress report
- LA21 Partnership - Cape Town and Aachen

... AND MORE!

team news

We bade a sad farewell to Sam Ralston who went overseas to join her partner and together they ventured to Uganda to research primates. We miss her special presence. We warmly welcome Alan Fleming who has joined us as our Market Garden Developer, Shirley Dunn who is assisting Rob with fundraising, and Pippa Minshull who is assisting Rob in most aspects of ABALIMI life! Marc Caplan is continuing the Flora Research Project and the Jungle Jive actors join us to bring environmental street theatre into our delivery programme. Out in the field, we welcome Lovinia Mangcotwa to our staff. Lovinia is enthusiastically extending our outreach programme in Nyanga and Gugulethu.

SEED welcomes on board two new part time staff, Kendal Claasens, Materials Development Facilitator, and Zoleka Helesi, Environmental Education Facilitator.

thank you's

A very warm and heartfelt thank you to the following people who have generously volunteered their time and services during this period: Adriaan Augustyn - volunteer Field Worker, Desmond Stewart - Freelance Photographer, Samantha Wilson - Freelance Journalist, Tammy Gardner - JDI Foundation Trust, members of the ABALIMI Board.

Deepest thanks go to Jeremy Ball who donated new basketball hoops and boards to the Manyanani Peace Park - they were hailed with great delight and are well utilised!

Thanks to Mrs Jeanette Stokell, Principal's Secretary at the Wynberg Girls High School, for her donation of a Flower Press, to be used by our Cape Flora Research Project.

A heartfelt thank you goes to an incredible man, who made a generous donation to ABALIMI as a way of marking his beloved wife's birthday. We were deeply moved by this gesture and felt it deserved a special mention!

Gratitude goes to the many of you who have been so kind as to give us wonderful feedback on our newsletter. To mention but a few: Wilfried Baudoin, Roselle Frasca-Burman, Audrey Muller and David & Nicola Tullie.



Above: Basketball at the Manyanani Peace Park

ROLL OF HONOUR

thank you to all our friends!

This list covers the period April 2001 until the end of September 2002. NOTE: If there is anyone who should be mentioned or anyone who no longer wishes to be mentioned, we will make amends. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and commitment. Every cent is efficiently utilised to deliver results. Audited financial statements are available on request.

Friends great and small who are regular, committed donors and funders, or who have requested a special mention:

AC Louw Trust	Lynette Croudace Trust
Anglovaal	M.A. Honig
AusAid	M.J. Dawkins
Avmin	MISEREOR
BOE Corporate	National Botanical Institute
B. Ashton & K. Bond	Netto Financial Services
Botanics Nursery	Newlands Nursery
BP Southern Africa	N/O Fund
Breadline Africa	Old Mutual
Buxton Garden Club	P. van Wouw
Caleb Consulting	Prof & Mrs Ruddick
Cape Jewish Women's Flower Group	R. Kelley
Catholic Welfare & Development	R.J.W. Graham
CBNP - Department of Health	Rotary Club of Paarden Eiland
Channel Islands Friend	Rotary Club Waterfront
C.M. Hughes	S. Thompson
C. Nicks	St Ola's Trust
City of Cape Town	Syfretts Trust Limited
City of Tygerberg	T. Keusen
Constantia Berg & Valley Garden Clubs	The African Language Society
Countess Labia	The Cold Chain
D. Howenstein - Jambo International	The Dangwen Trust
De Beers Fund	The Goodhope Fund
D. & A. King	THE GREEN TRUST-WWF-SA
D.G. Birkett	The N/O Fund
D.G. Murray Trust	The People's Development Trust
Dr P. Baraitser	The Synchronicity Foundation
DWAF	The Shuttleworth Foundation
E.A. Stewart	South Africa Support Group
Ecologic	Total SA
Equant	Treffellas
Helderberg Rotary Club	University of Stellenbosch
H.M. Tempany	University of Western Cape
I.F. Reddihough	Vito D. M.M.
J. Wilter	Vodacom
J.D.I. Foundation Trust	W.H. Rice
J. Ball	Woolworths
L.L. Donlin	Wynberg Girls High School



notice board

OUR WISH LIST!

- We are searching for an administrative and computer "whizz-kid" volunteer with own wheels, needed two days per week in Khayelitsha. We know you are out there!

Please contact Pippa at the Observatory office (021) 447 1256.

- SEED facilitator - see SEED insert.
- Whiteboards for our workshops.
- Good Printers for the donated WWF-SA computers.
- Good garden tools and equipment are always most welcome and will be snapped up by urgent survival gardeners!
- We desperately need a delivery vehicle (bakkie)! We have applications out there but these wheels turn slowly and our need is urgent.
- Our wonderful Photostat machine donated by the Housewives League in 1997 is applying for light duty! Would someone like to sponsor a replacement?



OUR "EXTRA MILE" STOP ORDER FRIENDS: Though few, your impact is great. We feel you should be honoured, but have taken precaution to exclude your initials to protect your privacy.

Abrahams	Euvrard	Hammer	Mudie	Tulle
Addington	Faulkner	Helise	Muller	Waddell
Been	Garber	Hodgetts	Richardson	Wilson
Booth	Graves	Legum	Robinson	Worthington-Smith
Van Essen	Green	Mouton	Schlesinger	Yates

To all our other Friends – Individuals, clubs, small businesses, social and church group, who often wish to remain anonymous or who have not specifically requested separate listing in the thank you section – please remember that it is your ongoing interest and support that keeps our work going. We are deeply grateful.