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PARTNERS FILL LAKE NAKURU WITH 'WATER FOR WILDLIFE'

In a joint project dubbed 'Water for Wildlife', the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Ker & Downey Associates have gone into partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service to improve the quantity – and quality – of water in Lake Nakuru National Park.

Lake Nakuru National Park is special for a number of reasons. It has, for example, been earmarked by the Kenyan government as the site for a pilot project that will breed the endangered black and white rhinos for re-introduction into other protected areas. It is also an ornithological haven, home to some 400 bird species, of which the greater and lesser flamingos are the most prominent.

But the park lies in a dry basin and is short of fresh surface water. Recent climatic changes, the escalation of human settlement in the area and destructive activities in the surrounding water catchments have all made the situation worse. And it is not only in terms of quantity that the problem lies; quality is affected by an abundance of fluorine. 'Water for Wildlife' will boost the park's water supply by means of an 8 000-litre water tank, two pumps and six water troughs distributed over the 18 800-hectare protected area.

Speaking on behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW),

the regional director for East Africa, James Isiche, said, 'We are happy to witness the beginning of a new lease on life for the wildlife in this protected area in terms of water quality and quantity.'

David Mead, one of the partners of Ker & Downey Associates (K&D), added, 'We have a proud record of assisting Lake Nakuru National Park that spans more than 20 years, with donations from within our own resources, both in cash and kind. Also, many of our overseas guests respond generously to apparent needs in areas that have given them happy memories of our country.'

Representing the third partner, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), its director Michael Wamithi commented, 'It gives us great encouragement to continue with our challenging mission of wildlife conservation by having a thriving partnership between K&D, IFAW and KWS. Today, the huge challenge of supplying fresh water in this park is well on its way to being addressed.'

Discover more about IFAW projects in Africa at www.ifaw.org

AUDI TERRA NOVA'S FIRST NOMINEE FOR 2003

The Audi Terra Nova Award is presented annually to honour the conservation efforts of dedicated but unsung heroes who are quietly working to save the earth. The first nominee for 2003 is John Lemon.

Who would give up a stable, well-paid job to work in the bush in a foreign and politically unstable country? Not many people – but John Lemon has done just that. To him, nothing is more important than saving the painted (African) wild dog.

Lemon left his job as zookeeper at Western Plains Zoo in Australia a year ago and moved to Zimbabwe, where he became the project officer of the Painted Dog Conservation Project. Together with project director Greg Rasmussen,

manager Peter Blinston and other staff, Lemon has put together an impressive programme that will bring about positive change. It includes: monitoring packs by means of radio collaring; checking the dogs' health; and fitting the dogs with collars that have anti-snare plates, or reflective collars to reduce road kills.

Lemon says, 'I am humbled by the years of dedication by the two senior members, Greg Rasmussen and Peter Blinston. Without their foresight, the project would not be what it is today.'

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Groenvlei at Goukamma Nature Reserve - near Sedgfield.

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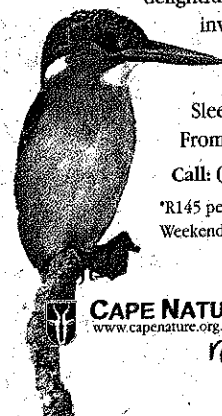
Whiskey Creek on the Keurbooms River Canoe Trail - near Plettenberg Bay

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Tierkloof at Gankaberg Nature Reserve - near Oudtshoorn

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