

The constant need for business to increase conservation efforts

As our society becomes more environmentally conscious, private business owners are doing their part to protect the environment by building conservation efforts into their corporate strategies. But, according to David Anderson, Saint-Gobain Sub-Saharan Africa's general delegate and chief executive officer, more private sector organisations should be getting involved in local conservation.

In light of World Environmental Day in June, Anderson shares his thoughts on why private business should direct funds towards preserving the environment, and more specifically, rhino anti-poaching efforts.

It's been a year since Saint-Gobain Gyproc first entered its three-year sponsorship of The SANParks Honorary Rangers, aimed at furthering efforts to protect rhinos and augment anti-poaching strategies. The funds from the first R1 million sponsorship tranche went towards training and buying much-needed equipment in the field for rangers, and to support the SANPark's air wing and veterinary wildlife services. Gyproc's second million rand pledged this year, together with proceeds from Gyproc Rhino Branded products sold in 2017, will collectively go towards the continuation of the organisation's efforts to protect more rhinos.

Earlier this year, minister Edna Molewa from the Department of Environmental Affairs released poaching statistics which revealed that 1,028 rhino were poached in 2017, a slight decline of 26 animals from the previous year.

Despite this very minor decrease, the fact remains that nearly three rhinos are being killed every day. The problem persists and while we recognise the courageous efforts of The SANParks Honorary Rangers (SPHR), this awful crisis is still very much a reality and needs continuous private sector support.

We know that businesses can have significant impact on the ecosystem and those who depend upon it and with this mind, we sought an opportunity to make a real difference. The valiant efforts of the SPHR and its work to safeguard South Africa's rhinos made our decision to support the conservation of this beautiful species an obvious one.

For decades, World Environment Day has encouraged worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. But this subject is not something that should be discussed just once a year it is an ongoing point of discussion that should be focal point all year round. This is especially important as private businesses are increasingly understanding that investments in conservation can help to create opportunities, mitigate risk and protect business assets, environmentally friendly sponsorship opportunities are becoming a marketing imperative.

We saw an opportunity to align our long-


standing Gyproc RhinoBoard and RhinoLite brands to the protection of the rhino itself because the strength of these products encompasses everything our business stands for. For many years now, the plight of the rhino has been a constant news item, particularly in South Africa, but a significant and ongoing challenge is insufficient assistance from government in combating the threat to an iconic African species. Field rangers, who donate their time to help combat poaching, are in desperate need of skills development, legal backing, combat preparation and equipment. While budget allocation towards anti-rhino poaching efforts by the Department of Environmental Affairs is most welcome, the reality is that the fight to protect the species requires additional funds through private support.

Organisations like SPHR rely heavily on private partnerships to make up the shortfall and fundraising for them is an on-going priority. It requires a massive effort by organisations and authorities alike who are committed to rebalancing the population against the threat of poaching. The scale of the challenge of protecting South Africa's rhinos is clear and the rise in poaching in recent years is compromising conservation gains made over decades.

While rhino conservation and poaching are a complex issue, we don't believe that businesses can ever separate themselves from the environment. Around the globe, companies like ours have a significant impact on the environment but buzzwords like green and sustainability should be more than just a factor of our supply chain or production line. It goes deeper than that and what better way to communicate the conservation message than to incorporate it into our product sales, educating our consumers on this very real need for change for something that has been core to South African wildlife for so long.

To find out more about how Saint-Gobain Gyproc is supporting the SAN Parks Honorary Rangers, visit their Facebook and Twitter pages, @GyprocSA, using the hashtag #GyprocLovesRhinos.

By David Anderson, Saint-Gobain Sub-Saharan Africa's General Delegate and CEO




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NOTICE: RESOLUTION FOR PROPERTY RATES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

Notice is hereby given that, in terms of section 14(3) of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act 6 of 2004) read with section 21A of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000) the following property rates will be levied by resolution of the Council, Resolution No. 221/05/2018 dated 31 May 2018, in respect of the above mentioned financial year on the different categories of rateable property recorded in the general valuation roll:

The ratio indicated next to the category of property is in relation to residential property.
Residential properties
On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,000734 cents in the Rand. The first R 17 000.00 of the market value of all residential properties will be exempted from property rates.
Mining properties
On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,07784 cents in the Rand.
Businesses and Commercial
Businesses: On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,01850 cents in the Rand.
Shopping complexes
All shopping complexes and shopping malls on the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,01850 cents in the Rand.
Commercial: Holiday resorts and hotels with and without gambling rights in terms of the National Gambling Act, Act No. 7 of 2004, motels, entertainment centres including hospitality properties, offices, garages and shopping centres as follows:
Holiday resorts with gambling rights
On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,03660 cents in the Rand.
Holiday resorts without gambling rights
On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,03265 cents in the Rand.
Public Service Infrastructure (PSI) properties
A rate ratio of 1:0,25 is applied. This includes Eskom servitudes/way leaves, Telkom, MTN, Vodacom, Cell C, Roads, Railway lines, Runways and Air Traffic Control Units, National and Provincial Roads – On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,0001836 cents in the Rand. The first 30% of the market value of PSI will be exempted from property rates. The third year phasing-out discount of 60% is also applicable.
Public Service Purposes
State owned properties used as Hospitals, Clinics, Hospices, Libraries, Police Stations, Correctional Facilities, Courts of Law, Schools, Colleges and Universities on the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,05690 cents in the Rand.
Public Benefit Organisations (PBO)
A rate ratio of 1:0,25 is applied. This includes Welfare & Caring Institutions approved in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962 - On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,0001836 cents in the Rand.
Agricultural Property (Farms and Small Holdings)
A rate ratio of 1:0,25 is applied. On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,0001836 cents in the Rand.
Industrial undertakings
On the market value and the following tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,00595 cents in the Rand.
Multiple purpose properties
On the market value and the relevant determined tariff levied as rates on the property for the particular purpose that such land is used for in terms of the property rates policy of Council.
Vacant land
On the market value and the following determined tariff levied as rates on the property: 0,07784 cents in the Rand.
Other properties as determined by the Minister of local government
None
Other properties as determined by the Municipality and approved by the Minister of local government
None

Rebates:

Category/Description	Proposed rebate	Council's adopted rebate
Public Service Infrastructure (PSI)	Rate ratio 1:0,25 30% discount Phase out 5 years	
Properties used by Public Benefit Organisations (PBO)	Rate ratio 1:0,25	
Residential Properties (S.17(1)(h))	R 17 000.00	
Agricultural Land	Rate ratio 1:0,25	
Pensioner Households on residential properties only		
Household with income equal to 2 x monthly Old Persons Grant or less	100%	
Indigent Households – Registered as indigent		
Household with income equal to 2 x monthly Old Persons Grant or less	100%	
Places of worship (Churches)	100%	

Tribal Land


All rateable properties under tribal management registered in the name of the tribe will be remitted from property rates for the financial year 2018/2019, but excluding the following properties:
State owned and parastatal owned institutions like hospitals, schools, tertiary education facilities, administration buildings, post offices, magistrate courts, PSI buildings and installations, military bases, mines, mining installations and buildings including dwelling houses and infrastructure, servitudes, or any right in land utilized for business purposes.
Holiday resorts and hotels with and without gambling rights, motels, entertainment centres and any right in land, including commercial and industrial buildings, offices, garages/service stations, shopping centres and businesses.

General


The amounts due for rates as indicated in this notice shall become due and payable on 1 July 2018 but may be paid in 12 equal installments at the end of each calendar month during the financial year.
Interest at 9.25 percent will be charged on all amounts in arrears after the fixed date or dates. No interest will be charged on government institutions. Defaulters are liable to legal proceedings for recovery of such arrear amounts.

MR. M.V. LETSOALO | MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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Rhinos after the rain



White Rhinoceros, Kruger Wildlife