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Issue 9

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*Southern Right Whale migrating, off Hermanus, South Africa.
Photo: Richard Mann*



*Giraffes at sunset, Entabeni Game Reserve, South Africa.
Photo: Danie Beukman*

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*"The warm heart of Africa", outskirts of Lilongwe, Malawi
Photo: Adam Linnell*

Year one on the United Nations Security Council

New Zealand has completed the first year of its two-year term as an elected member of the UN Security Council.

New Zealand has contributed actively and positively to Council consideration of conflict resolution and prevention in Africa. Peace and security issues in the region have included conflicts in Libya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Somalia, Burundi and Mali, as well as the threat of Boko Haram and the impact of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

“As we committed during our campaign, we have actively consulted with African partners on the issues before the Council”, High Commissioner Richard Mann said. “This includes regional countries which have their own insights into the security issues affecting neighbouring countries, as well as troop contributing countries. New Zealand has also promoted effective coordination between the UN Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.”

Further afield, New Zealand has led efforts to involve the UN Security Council in the Middle East Peace Process, and co-sponsored a resolution on humanitarian aid access in Syria.

New Zealand assumed the Presidency of the Council in July 2015. As chair, New Zealand organised the first ever Council open debate on the peace and security challenges faced by Small Island Developing States, which was presided over by New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully.



Members of the United Nations Security Council vote on a resolution, with New Zealand in the president's chair.



New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Murray McCully chairs a meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

New Zealand Associate Minister for Primary Industries attends UN forestry meeting in Durban

In September 2015, New Zealand's Associate Minister for Primary Industries Hon Jo Goodhew visited South Africa to participate in the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) World Forestry Congress. The Congress is a forum for governments and forestry stakeholders from around the world to share ideas, practices, innovations and experiences in sustainable forestry management.



Hon Minister Jo Goodhew addresses delegates at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban

New Zealand has a total of 10.1 million hectares of forest, covering 38% of the country's land area. 5.2 million hectares is managed by the Department of Conservation, which protects indigenous forested land for biodiversity, heritage, and recreation. Forestry is also New Zealand's third biggest export industry, after dairy and meat. Exports total over NZ\$4.5 billion per year.



Minister Goodhew with South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries the Hon Senzeni Zokwana

Durban was the first city on the African continent to host the World Forestry Congress. Meeting organisers stressed that: "Africa epitomizes many of the most important global challenges and opportunities for forests and forestry including climate change, urbanization, and increasing demands for commodities and environmental services."

Minister Goodhew took to the stage with other dignitaries to address delegates during the Congress's High-Level Dialogue. During her speech, the Minister stressed the value of forests to New Zealand's environment, people and economy.

While in Durban, the Minister met with the Hon Senzeni Zokwana, South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. The Ministers discussed respective forestry sectors, and opportunities for cooperation between South Africa and New Zealand in forestry and agriculture.

In the margins of the World Forestry Congress New Zealand held a side-event to profile its forestry sector and to showcase innovations in industry. For example, the *Steepland Harvesting Programme* in New Zealand has contributed towards the development of innovative harvesting equipment to improve the safety and productivity of harvesting in hill-country forests.



Minister Goodhew talks kiwifruit with Mr John Rahme at the Joburg Market in City Deep, Johannesburg

Minister Goodhew also launched New Zealand's Third Country Report on the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators (electronic version available [here](#)). The Montreal Process provides a framework for countries to report internationally on progress made towards achieving sustainable forest management for both planted and natural forests. This is New Zealand's third national report under the Montreal Process and is a valuable contribution to our understanding of sustainable forest management.

Before returning to New Zealand, Minister Goodhew held a number of meetings with forestry and other primary industry stakeholders in Johannesburg and Pretoria. These included Clover-Fonterra Ingredients (CFI), a joint-venture between New Zealand dairy company Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd, and South Africa's largest dairy processor Clover SA, and John Rahme of Kiwi-King, a major importer of kiwifruit from New Zealand.

New Zealand's forestry sector at a glance:

- New Zealand has over 10 million hectares of forest. This comprises around 8 million hectares of indigenous and 2 million hectares of sustainably managed plantation forest.
- Forestry comprises New Zealand's third largest export sector. Exports, largely sourced from plantation forests, are valued at over NZ\$4.5 billion. New Zealand is the third largest exporter of softwood logs in the world.
- New Zealand exported NZ\$58 million of forestry products to South Africa in 2014 - largely wood pulp.

New Zealand—South Africa Senior Officials' Meeting

In October 2015, South Africa hosted a New Zealand delegation for the eighth South Africa-New Zealand Senior Officials' Meeting, held at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in Pretoria. Held every two years, the meeting enables high-level officials from South Africa and New Zealand to review developments in the bilateral relationship and look at opportunities for strengthening ties between the two countries.



Deputy Director-General Dr Anil Sooklal (centre) with Deputy-Secretary of Foreign Affairs Bede Corry (right) and High Commissioner Richard Mann (left).

This year, Dr Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director-General for the Asia and the Middle East Branch, met with

New Zealand counterpart Bede Corry, Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. They explored the relationship's promising growth potential, with a focus on inter-government relations, tourism, scholarships and education, science and technology, agricultural cooperation, and trade and investment.

South Africa is New Zealand's 4th largest trading partner on the African continent, and 35th overall. Trade between the two countries has been trending upwards in recent years, and in 2014 totalled NZ\$340 million (ZAR 3.5 billion). Exports from New Zealand totalled NZ\$200 million, and included a diverse range of commodities such as wood pulp, dairy products, machinery and other elaborate manufactured products. Private sectors from both countries are increasingly interested in the trade and investment opportunities that respective markets offer. The New Zealand High Commission in Pretoria is actively promoting new business relationships.

Dr Sooklal and Mr Corry recognised the importance of people-to-people connections such as sporting links and growing tourism visitors.

Dr Sooklal and Mr Corry also shared views on a range of regional peace and security issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council. These included the Middle East Peace Process, Libya, Syria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. New Zealand welcomed the opportunity to discuss these issues with a key partner in the region.

HOM presents credentials in Zimbabwe

On 3 September, Head of Mission Richard Mann presented his credentials as Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe to President Robert Mugabe. The ceremony took place in the State House in Harare.

After the formalities and photos, Mann sat down with President Mugabe for a half hour conversation which covered the outlook for the New Zealand and Zimbabwean economies, areas of cooperation such as rural agricultural projects and scholarships for Zimbabwean students at New Zealand universities, and developments in Africa. They also compared notes on the recent New Zealand cricket tour of Zimbabwe.

President Mugabe recalled the contribution of New Zealand missionaries Sir Garfield Todd and his wife Grace to Zimbabwe, both in education and in government with Sir Garfield becoming Prime Minister in the then Rhodesia. The President said that he had taught at the Todds' school for a year, and that Foreign Minister Mumbengegwi was educated there.

With this ceremony, Mann completed his presentation of credentials in all thirteen countries of accreditation for the Pretoria-based NZ High Commission.



High Commissioner Mann with President Robert Mugabe, and Foreign Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi

Climate monitoring cooperation with Mauritius

Scientists from New Zealand's National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) recently visited Mauritius for a capacity building project in collaboration with the Mauritius Meteorological Service (MMS).



Climate Services staff at Mauritius Meteorological Service with NIWA Climate Data and Applications Manager, Alan Porteous (second from left), pictured with the MMS archive of historical climate records. The systems installed by NIWA will assist MMS staff to digitally archive both historical and near real time data, and strengthen procedures for generating climate analyses, services and advice.

The purpose of the MMS is to deliver effective weather and climate early warning information to the people of Mauritius. Its focus to date has been on delivering and enhancing warning systems with respect to natural disasters such as cyclones, torrential rains and tsunamis.



Bernard Miville, NIWA Manager, Environmental Forecasting, with MMS scientists. Their discussions focused on time-saving data analysis and visualization tools that could be developed using the CliDEsc product generator.

NIWA's role during its visit was to help set up a climate database management system for climate data archiving and quality control, and to develop web-enabled tools to assist with production and publication of climate service information.

These services are the foundations of a climate early warning system.

Early warning systems provide access to real time climate data, including observations, data transfer, database management and climate services development. They enable countries to better understand climate risks on all time scales (today, next few days, seasonal and decadal).

Second Secretary visits Gaborone, Botswana...

In September 2015, Second Secretary Adam Linnell made an accreditation visit to Botswana. New Zealand and Botswana enjoy friendly bilateral relations, and shared ties through our membership of the Commonwealth and the United Nations. Botswana has looked to benchmark with New Zealand in areas such as public sector management.



Adam Linnell with Mr Kgotla Ramaphane (CEO) and Ms C Tiny Diswai-Moremi (Deputy CEO) at Botswana's Public Enterprises Evaluation and Privatisation Agency (PEEPA)

Botswana is also one of New Zealand's key development partners in southern Africa. New Zealand hosts a sizeable number of Botswanan post-graduate students, studying

in the areas of agriculture, water management and renewable energy at Master's level. New Zealand is also currently providing training support to beef farmers, in partnership with Whanganui based Tertiary Education Provider, Land Based Training (LBT). Check out page 11 of this issue of the *Southern Africa File* for more information.

Gaborone is also home to the Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Officials briefed Linnell on the Secretariat's priority work agenda, such as the largely concluded negotiations on the Tripartite Free Trade Area which encompasses SADC, the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the forthcoming negotiation of an Africa continental Free Trade Area. SADC also plays a role in promoting regional peace and security, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Lesotho.

...and Lilongwe, Malawi

In December, Linnell visited Lilongwe, capital of Malawi, for consultations with the Malawian government and diplomatic representatives. Malawi is one of New Zealand's newest diplomatic relationships, with the accreditation from the New Zealand High Commission in Pretoria formalised in 2013.

While bilateral trade is modest, New Zealand and Malawi are building a development partnership focused on education scholarships and potentially in the area of agriculture and food security. Two Malawian students completed post-graduate study in the agriculture sector in 2015, and a further two students will begin at New Zealand universities in 2016.

Linnell discussed a range of UN Security Council issues with Malawian foreign ministry officials. Malawi is a current troop contributor to MONUSCO, the UN's Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Business profile: Spidertracks – using Kiwi technology to snare poachers

Spidertracks is a New Zealand-based company that specialises in real-time satellite aircraft tracking. The company has changed the face of the tracking environment through the introduction of their portable tracking devices known as “Spiders.” Spidertracks has been growing in Africa, and has been active in the fight against poaching.



One of Spidertracks’ customers is Africa Parks, a not-for-profit organisation that manages ten wildlife parks in seven African countries and protects an area of over six million hectares. The African Parks’ nine aircraft are always in high demand, from avoiding bandits and rebels in the Central African Republic to transporting an injured gorilla in the back of a helicopter in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

“Working in remote areas, fast changing weather conditions, and the risk of being shot at by poachers are some of the daily challenges we face here,” says Carien Soldatos, GIS coordinator at African Parks.

“Our parks are vast and remote and it’s extremely difficult for a park manager to know what is going on without being able to cover the whole area. Aircraft give a great perspective of the condition of the overall park and great insight into what may be happening in remote areas but managing the aircraft from one place has always been difficult.

“As well as being spread over a large area, diverse flying activities like vets hanging out the side of the aircraft to dart key research animals from the air is pretty unique to this part of the world and brings an increased need to know our people are safe.”

Soldatos adds that while real-time tracking on rangers and wildlife is being introduced to African Parks, having their aircraft fitted with Spidertracks now gives an unprecedented level of situational awareness over their entire operation.

“Poaching is a constant threat for us, but we’re using tracking data from these different sources as a new way to counter it. If a pilot spots something unusual like a poacher’s camp from the air, or identifies poaching incidents from recent carcasses we can deploy patrols or response teams quickly to those locations based on the aircraft’s position.”

“Having aircraft overhead can even act as a deterrent to poachers. When they can hear us patrolling in the aircraft, they know we’re nearby and often retreat to less protected areas,” she

says. Carien says that having Spidertracks on board provides peace of mind and increases safety for their pilots.

Spidertracks' CEO Dave Blackwell recently met with Carien during a trip to Johannesburg and says that it was humbling to learn of the work that African Parks are doing across the continent, "The work that African Parks does is truly admirable and I am incredibly proud for Spidertracks to be a part of it. Working with an organisation like African Parks is a great inspiration for us. Helping other companies do good and making their job easier and safer at the same time is really rewarding.

Carien adds that conservation efforts are greatly improved when working with partners who provide reliable and effective solutions: "Improved knowledge of what is happening in the air not only protects our pilots, but greatly enhances the safety of our teams on the ground. It allows us to deploy limited resources to areas most needed and aids the ultimate goal of conserving our precious wildlife."

If you are a New Zealand company doing business in Africa and you would like to be profiled in the next issue of *Southern Africa File*, please contact Danie Beukman: (danie.beukman@mfat.govt.nz).

New Zealand and South Africa explore joint scientific opportunities

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, the New Zealand Prime Minister's Science Adviser, recently visited Pretoria to participate in the inaugural *Science Forum South Africa* conference. The event, attended by around 1500 members of the African scientific community, showcased African science and provided a platform for leaders of the scientific community to collaborate. Sir Peter's involvement included addresses on climate change, science and society, and harm reduction.



Sir Peter Gluckman, Prime Minister Key's Chief Science Advisor (far left) speaking on a panel at *Science Forum South Africa* in December.

During the visit, Sir Peter Gluckman also met with senior officials at the South African Department of Science and Technology to discuss opportunities for bilateral science collaboration. South Africa and New Zealand have a number of areas of scientific interest in common, such as in agriculture and agritech, climate change, and the interplay between indigenous knowledge and modern science. South Africa and New Zealand are working closely together on the implementation of the Square Kilometre Array, a massive radio telescope project that will be built in South Africa and Australia.

Sir Peter Gluckman returns to South Africa in February 2016 to participate in an African science conference hosted by the Academy of Science of South Africa, and to conduct a two-day workshop for participants from 20 countries across Africa on Science Advice for African Scientists.

New Zealand supports beef farmers in Botswana: One year in

New Zealand High Commission Aid Programme Manager Ms Thandiwe Moyana-Munzara visited Botswana in September 2015 to monitor the implementation of the New Zealand Aid Programme-funded beef sector training initiative.



A trainee farmer, with her herd, in Botswana

The multi-year project is currently being delivered in partnership with Land Based Training, a tertiary education provider based in Whanganui, New Zealand. The project is directed towards improving vocational training and extension services, and increasing productivity in Botswana's communal beef sector, and draws on new technologies and research. Trainees include cattle farmers, herdsmen and agricultural extension workers.

Over the course of the first year of implementation, Land Based Training delivered four seasonally-relevant theoretical and practical training modules, drawing on New Zealand expertise in beef farming. In addition, local agricultural tutors have been up-skilled to undertake the training in the specialist topics of animal health, farm management, breeding and nutrition.

While in Botswana, Moyana-Munzara met with several farmers who have participated in the programme. All said that the training was very useful and practical. For some farmers, the programme has provided their first opportunity for formal agricultural training. Further courses will be run throughout 2016.

English Language Training for Officials: Course 5

The New Zealand Government's fifth English Language Training for African Officials (ELTO) course began in October at Victoria University of Wellington. The aim of the course is to improve the English language skills of foreign affairs ministry officials from French and Portuguese speaking African, thereby equipping them to represent their countries effectively on an international platform.

The ELTO course is also strengthening ties between New Zealand and the participating countries, as officials learn about New Zealand's government, foreign and economic policies and culture. Participants from 16 countries across the continent were selected for the latest course.



ELTO students and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials at Victoria University of Wellington

NZ Development Scholarship Alumnus: Fredrick Ajwang, Kenya

In 2014 you graduated with distinction. Congratulations! To what do you attribute your success?

Whakawhetai ki a koe. I attribute my success to hard work, focusing on my studies, good time management and having supportive lecturers and course mates in the Institute of Development Studies. My two supervisors, Dr Prinsen and Dr Borovnik, were very supportive and provided a lot of guidance during my Masters thesis research work, enabling me to do an excellent job and complete the course way ahead of time. My course mates were also very helpful, offering encouragement and positive competition.

Why did you choose Massey University and the New Zealand Development Scholarship programme to further your studies?

Massey University attracted me because they were offering the course I was interested in (Masters Course in Development Studies) and they had a department with experts in different areas of development issues that were of interest to me. The university was very supportive throughout the application process. Furthermore, the department was supportive throughout my studies and I had the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with students from all over the world.

Secondly I chose the New Zealand Development Scholarship because it offered the opportunity to fully fund my studies and to return to Kenya to contribute to development. In addition to funding my studies, the scholarship was generous to pay my air ticket and offer a stipend for food, rent and other necessities as well as fund my research work which enabled me to fully concentrate on my studies. Hence, it was very easy choosing the New Zealand Development Scholarship amongst others.

How have your qualifications impacted your career?

When I completed my studies and returned to Kenya, I had to look for another job. Surprisingly, I received interview invitations for most of the jobs I applied for and along the way I was offered about three positions by different organisations. I finally settled in my current position of Research Officer—Knowledge and Learning at the African Capacity Building Foundation in Nairobi. My qualifications in Development Studies equipped me with knowledge of current global development issues and excellent research skills.



Scholarship Alumnus Fredrick Ajwang, from Kenya, whose qualifications in Development Studies equipped him with knowledge of global development issues and excellent research skills.

Were there any experiences and lessons that you learnt whilst in New Zealand that you could use to contribute to the development of your home country?

One of the lessons I learnt was on policy making. I had the opportunity to attend various workshops on New Zealand Government policy issues in different sectors as well as post-budget workshops. I have been able to use the knowledge I gained from these workshops in my current position which entails carrying out research to influence policy especially in the food security sector. My research skills and analysis have been vastly improved and I can engage with complex research policy analysis issues. Furthermore, I learnt about the farming methods in New Zealand which have enabled me to apply certain practices on my parents' farm by introducing dairy and fruit farming. I am also keen on beginning commercial dairy farming in the near future. Lastly, I have become a *tramper*!

What advice would you share with current scholarship awardees to enable them to succeed in their studies?

They should learn to plan their work and manage their time well. If you plan your work well, you get to complete your assignments and other academic work in time which in turn eliminates the last minute strain. Work with your course mates through discussion groups and assist each other to edit and read through assignments before you submit. Balance your work well so that you work for no more than 8 hours a day (just like going to the office) and get time to relax in the evening with friends, watch movies, take a walk, go biking or do anything of interest. Read, read and read again through essays/assignments before you submit!

Lastly, have fun! Tramp, go camping, skiing, fishing or anything. Enjoy New Zealand as it is a beautiful place!

Art workshops in Lesotho

Michelle Mann, spouse of the High Commissioner, returned to Lesotho in November with a group of diplomatic spouses to continue their collaboration with the Morija Arts Centre. This programme has run since 2013.

The group conducted art workshops with several classes in three Morija primary and secondary schools and the local youth centre. Activities included drawing and framing portraits of loved ones, making creatures with moving arms and legs, and making origami figures.

The group met with Her Majesty Queen 'Masenate Mohato Seiso of Lesotho to update her on the project.



Mrs Mann conducts an art class with a captive audience

Sporting connection: cricket, polo, rugby

Recent months have provided for some cracking entertainment on the sports field, with some excellent match-ups between New Zealand and some of our rivals on the African continent.

- In August, the Black Caps played a number of One Day Internationals and Twenty-20 matches against the Zimbabwe and South African national sides. Results were mixed for the Kiwis, who took out 3 out of 4 matches against Zimbabwe in Harare, and 2 out of 5 matches against the Proteas at venues around South Africa.



The New Zealand national polo team takes on the South African side in the second match of the series in Johannesburg.

- Polo fans were in for a special treat in September when the New Zealand National Polo Team visited South Africa for a two-match series. The team found victory on a cold and wet day in Durban – perhaps more familiar conditions for the travelling side! South Africa tied the series with a convincing win over New Zealand in Johannesburg. The tour was made possible by the generosity of members of the South African polo community, who lent their horses to the NZ team for the duration of the tour.

- On the rugby field, all gloves were off for the thrilling 2015 Rugby World Cup in October, hosted by England. The All Blacks faced Namibia in the pool stages, and secured a 58-14 win over the African side. High Commissioner Mann was in Windhoek to watch the game, with a sizeable Namibian audience. Mann reported that the biggest cheer of the night came with Johan Deysel's stunning try for the Namibian side in the 51st minute.



Nehe Milner-Skudder lands the second try of the match in the All Black's game against Namibia. Photo: 3news.co.nz

- In a tense semi-final, the All Blacks took on a defiant Springboks side (a team that had bounced back quite dramatically following a slow start to the tournament!) and emerged with a 20-18 victory. To the relief of the staff at the High Commission (the New Zealanders, at least!) the All Blacks carried on to win the 2015 Rugby World Cup with a 34-17 victory in an electrifying final against Australia.

The Santa Box Project

This year, the New Zealand High Commission was proud to contribute in a small way towards to the Santa Shoebox Project.

The Santa Shoebox Project began in Cape Town as an initiative of the Kidz2Kidz Trust, a non-profit organisation and charity that focuses on education in Africa. The Santa Shoebox Project team collects parcels sent in from all over South Africa and distributes them to thousands of underprivileged children across South Africa and Namibia.



New Zealand High Commission staff stand alongside the parcels prepared for the Santa Box Project.

In 2014, over 100,000 shoeboxes were received, and the team is aiming to top that in 2015. To help the team reach this goal, staff at the New Zealand High Commission took some time off in November to assemble 30 boxes of goodies for the Project.

Each shoebox contained a number of useful and fun items including toys, sweets and educational supplies, as well as toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletries. More information on the Santa Shoebox Project can found be at: www.santashoebox.co.za.

Staff changes in the High Commission

In September we said farewell to Immigration NZ's Market Manager, Mr Jon Hann. Jon and his family are now back in New Zealand, where Jon has taken up a new role at INZ headquarters in Wellington.

Following Jon's departure, we were pleased to welcome Mr Craig Pontifex as Immigration New Zealand's new Market Manager for sub-Saharan Africa.

We also welcome two additional colleagues to the High Commission. Eric Olebogeng joins us as our new driver. Vuyo Ngqebe joins us as our new Development Programme Administrator.