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EPWP a win-win for employment and environment

In the past four years, the City's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in Environmental Management has assisted over 14 500 unemployed Capetonians with short-term job opportunities. The recruits gain skills and much-needed income, while Mother Nature benefits from their care.



The Environmental Management Department continues to be a key implementer of the City's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). From July 2023 to February 2024 alone, it created well over 2 000 job opportunities through various programmes. These include the Kader Asmal, Carbon Smart skills development, conservation skills development as well as the invasive species management and river warden programmes.

EPWP recruits help rehabilitate ecological infrastructure and support operations at City nature reserves. Teams clear invasive species from reserves, biodiversity sites, waterbodies and

***It pays to protect nature:** Some of the recruits who have secured short-term job opportunities through Environmental Management's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). Since 2019, more than 14 500 of these workers have had a chance to earn an income and improve their future employability, while helping the City to conserve and protect the environment.*



catchment areas. They also maintain reserve firebreaks and see to it that solid waste is removed from vleis and wetlands. In addition, they are trained to educate their communities about the environment.

Their time with the City has also seen many of the EPWP workers move on to longer-term employment. This is thanks to the theoretical and on-the-job training they receive as part of the skills development component of the programme. Training is provided in fields such as project management and administration, quality control, data collection and management, as well as environmental awareness and stakeholder engagement.