

Appeals:

In December 2016, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Federation for a Sustainable Environment appealed against the grant of a water use licence to Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd (Atha) for its proposed Yzermyn underground coal mine in the Mabola Protected Environment.

In terms of the National Water Act, 1998, an appeal against a water use licence suspends that water use licence. The rationale for the suspension is that if water use commences under an inappropriate licence, that will cause unacceptable damage to the environment, and specifically water resources, which may be irreparable.

The Mabola Protected Environment is part of a strategic water source area and a national freshwater ecosystem priority area. It is also a threatened Grassland Biome in South Africa, namely the Wakkerstroom Wet Grasslands Area. Atha’s proposed mine will dry up the wetlands and will likely generate acid mine drainage.

In 2017, at Atha’s request, Minister of Water and Sanitation uplifted the automatic suspension of Atha’s water use licence, enabling it to commence the licenced activities. Accordingly, acting for the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Federation for a Sustainable Environment, the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) wrote to the Water Tribunal asking it to expedite the hearing of our clients’ appeal.

The appeal was ultimately set down for hearing from 26 to 28 March 2018. Regrettably, the appellants’ scientific expert and legal counsel were committed in other matters and were not available. The appellants were forced to seek a short postponement of the hearing to May 2018. Atha opposed that request. Atha did not, however, indicate how a short postponement would prejudice it.

On Monday, in Pretoria, the Water Tribunal heard argument on the request for postponement. The Tribunal refused the request. It also found that Atha had not shown how it would be prejudiced if the matter is postponed. The Water Tribunal accordingly removed the appeal from its roster and indicated that the parties may approach the registrar for new dates.

Litigation:

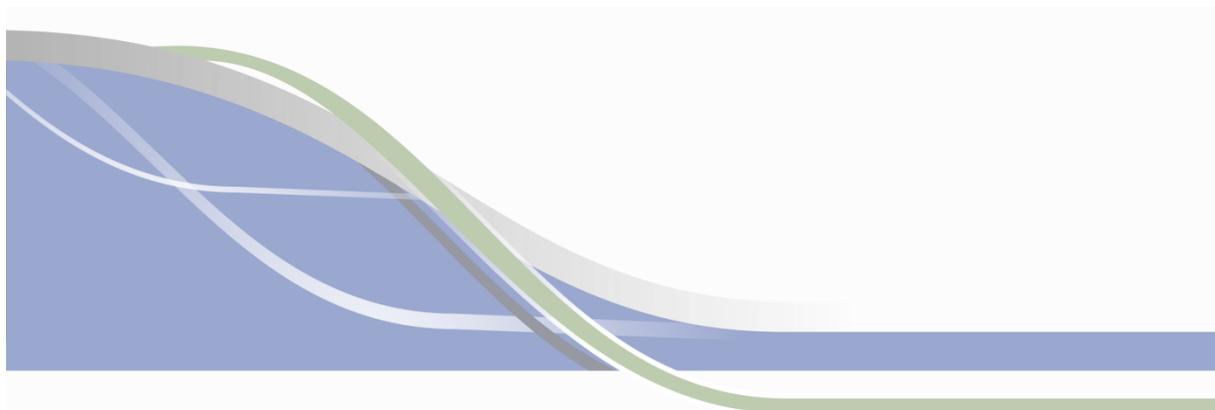
1. Preparation with the Legal Resources Centre of court documents: Removal of Tudor Dump

Legal Interventions:

1. Assistance with judicial reviews and appeals: De Beers and Fluorspar Mine -Mining and Prospecting applications in Groot Marico.
2. Preparation of documents re the alleged environmental contraventions by Mintails SA (Pty) Ltd. Follow up on SAPS Case 89/6/2014.

Date	Activity
March 1	Written Comments on the Draft EIA Regulations for Mining
March 2	Author of Spilpunt article titled “Oorsig van die Konsep Nasionale Water en Sanitasie Meesters Plan” Development of lecture material for Gold Fields’ South Deep schools’ project

	<p>Meeting with and support to Vaaloewer Residents Association, Vaaleden, Lindequesdrift, Viljoenskroon, Vredefort, Parys and Loch Vaal regarding the Goosebay Farm Limited's application within the Vaaloewer area for the mining of 34 minerals. SRL Consulting.</p>
March 5	<p>Consutation with Dr Edwin Boegman regarding metals and impact upon human health</p> <p>Written comments on the Waagfontein Prospecting Application within the Pilanesberg National Park.</p>
March 6	<p>Meeting with the School Principal of the Westonaria Hoërskool in preparation of the school lecture to Grade 12 learners on Mining and the Environment</p> <p>Wonderfonteinspruit Catchment Management Forum Meeting: Oral and Written Comments, and written comments on Minutes of previous Forum Meeting</p>
March 8	<p>Mooi River Catchment Management Forum: Written comments</p> <p>Attendance of open day: Gold Fields' South Deep Mine and Westonaria Community</p>
March 9	<p>Request for Information: Pure Source Minerals Mining and Winnerspoint Trading 197</p> <p>Request to the DEA, the DMR and the DWS for an investigation and report on the activities of Pures Source Minerals Mining and Winnerspoint Trading 197</p> <p>News Media Interviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beeld: 7 Maart 2018 – “Vaalriver-dorpe skop vas teen myn” • Saturday Star: March 24 2018 – “Our Dusty Oasis”
March 12	<p>School Lecture in terms of agreement between Gold Fields' South Deep Mine and the FSE: Westonaria Hoërskool – Grade 12 learners and teachers</p>





Written comments on TAU Industries' application for gold prospecting right. Koesterfontein.

Assistance: G Havenga regarding accident while employed by Mintails. Request to the Department of Mineral Resources' for investigation and facilitation of meeting with Wits Law Clinic

March 14

Attendance, on invitation, of the Launch of the George Bizos' Human Rights Award

March 16

Tour with Mr Niel Pretorius, CEO of DRD Gold,

Benchmarks Foundation, Legal Resources Centre and National French Television (Martin Boudot) of the West Rand gold fields and Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine, and DRD Gold's operations

20 March 2018

Dear Mariette

I think the trip was a worthwhile endeavor.

I gave the situation at the Tudor site some more thought. This site, which will probably not take more than two or three months to clean up, is not just a health hazard but in fact an embarrassment to the industry. It's unfortunate that efforts to fix it are being delayed by red tape. I had a chat with an emerging miner yesterday, who is establishing a reputation with the DMR for cleaning up abandoned sites like these, and will be having a follow-up with him on Thursday. I am sure if we engage the right officials we can have this fixed in no time. We will continue to provide our assistance in this regard, as we had undertaken to the DMR.

All the best
 Niel Pretorius
 CEO: DRD GOLD

From: Palesa Diale
 [mailto:PDiale@csir.co.za]
 Sent: 19 March 2018

*"I can not thank you enough for organizing such a successful tour on Friday!
 It is always great to meet people who have similar passion to me, which is water safety and environmental and social justice.
 I will share with you some of the images I have taken.*

I am now invited to be part of a water research committee here at the CSIR.

This would not have happened if I had not gotten help from you with the information you provided in our meeting at your beautiful home and inviting me to the meeting at the Department of Water and Sanitation.

	<p><i>I would love to stay in touch with you and to form partnership through the CSIR to further a common goal.”</i></p> <p>Dr. Palesa Diale (Ph.D Chemical Engineering) Senior Researcher Material Science and Manufacturing Mechatronics and Micro Manufacturing email: PDiale@csir.co.za Tel: +27 12 841 2282 Cell: +27 83 460 8523</p>
	Interviews: National French Television – the Legacy of Gold Mining
March 17	Publication of my book titled “ <i>Rehabilitation of Mine Contaminated Eco-Systems</i> ” by Lambert Academic Publishing. ISBN 978-3-330-03076-3
March 20	Expanded public participation meeting. Digby Wells Environmental: Anchro Coal open cast coal mine application – Palmietkuilen (within the Blesbokspruit CMA). Written and oral submissions
March 21	Interview: National French Television – Martin Boudot
March 24	Attendance of Gold Fields’ South Deep Mine Open Day – Hillshaven Community
March 25	Interview: Environmental management Baseline survey_African Climate Change Project Climate Change and Mining. mpho@socialsurveys.co.za
March 28	Tour of the West Rand gold fields and South Deep Mine in terms of partnership between Gold Fields’ South Deep Mine and the FSE. Westonaria Hoërskool – 50 learners, the headmaster and teacher and South Deep Team
March 31	Community meeting: Riverlea and Snake Park, Tudor Shaft Informal Settlement and Accommodation Centre, Randfontein &

