

Be an agent for change this national Environment Month

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As World Environment Day is celebrated on 5 June 2021 this year (Reimagine. Recreate. Restore. Join #GenerationRestoration), South Africa has chosen to make the month of June, National Environment Month. There will be a special focus on stimulating awareness on environmental issues, and all South Africans will be challenged to become agents for change this June.

Alex van den Heever, world renowned animal tracker and author of *Changing a Leopard's spots*, believes one becomes an "agent for change" through the relationships that we build with ourselves, each other and ultimately with nature.

Van den Heever and lifelong partner Renias Mhlongo also co-authored the bestseller *Tracker Manual* field guide along with Master Tracker, Karel Benadie

"When humans interact with the natural world, they see reflections of themselves. Nature's relationships are perfect and we can learn from its interconnectedness. Reconnecting with nature allows us to see and understand its value", said van den Heever.

Amongst a long list of accolades, van den Heever has previously worked as the Environmental Manager for Londolozi Game Reserve and has over 25 years of tracking wild animals. He believes there is no more intimate way to be immersed into an animal's way of life, understand the landscape in which it lives as well as the challenges it faces by the current state of the environment, by tracking an animal in its habitat.

In *Changing a Leopard's spots*, van den Heever and wildlife tracker Renias Mhlongo share their experience of following elusive leopards through the dusty African bush, trailing grizzly bears in North America, pursuing jaguars in the Amazon, finding rare pumas in Patagonia and even tracking animals through the stark Australian outback.

As the two men walk the last wild places on Earth together, they share their poignant, intrepid, and sometimes hilarious journey with a rare sensitivity and honesty. Their story explores the profound humanity of real, unvarnished friendship, and reveal how our deep connection to the natural world is our greatest gift.

Their passion for the natural world, animals and the environment, positions them as true mentors for agents of change and the restoration of our environment.

Van den Heever is available for interviews during National Environment Month to discuss how his/their experiences and learnings can help South Africans in their normal daily lives, become agents of change.

For interviews or a copy of *Changing a Leopard's spots*, please mail kim@oursaladmix.com

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