

WESSA awards top environmental conservation, education efforts

The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) annual awards have paid tribute to a range of environmental achievements at its 92nd AGM, which was hosted by WESSA's Eastern Cape membership branch at Cape Recife near Port Elizabeth.



WESSA CEO Dr Thommie Burger, WESSA Chairman Professor Michael Kidd and award winners.

The WESSA Awards, which have been presented since 1974, enable WESSA to recognise and honour those who have made a significant contribution to the environmental conservation or environmental education sector in South Africa over the past year in an exceptional and sustained manner.

The WESSA Individual Award was presented to Duncan Paul, the WESSA Group Award recipient was the Friends of Blaauwberg Conservancy Area and the WESSA Award for Corporates was awarded to eThekweni Municipality and Nampak Plc.

WESSA also played tribute to Mavuso Msimang, who was awarded the prestigious WESSA Gold Award for his contribution to the transformation of the environmental and conservation sector over the past 30 years.

Grade 10 learner, Dikgang Atlegang of Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng in Rustenburg was awarded the WESSA Youth Award.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the programme at the celebratory event was structured around the theme of ***Local Initiatives for the Environment***. Dr Andrew Muir, chief executive officer of the Wilderness Foundation delivered the key note address. He spoke about the biodiversity characteristics of the Algoa Bay area, and in particular, noted that the Eastern Cape is the top region in the world for its biodiversity.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality holds the accolade of being the only city in Africa with five biomes.

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