

### News

24 May 2011 10:45

**SA wins gold at the Chelsea Flower Show**  
**The South African National Biodiversity Institute's Kirstenbosch-SA Chelsea entry "Botanical Landscapes" won its 31st Gold medal at the 2011 RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London**  
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Inspired by two World Heritage sites, the Cape Floral Kingdom and the Richtersveld - which are two of only 25 biodiversity hotspots worldwide - the designs have once again captured the judges' imagination and ensured that South Africa's exhibit scoops another coveted Gold award.

A backdrop of Table Mountain with our ever popular proteas and fynbos, picked according to the Sustainable Harvesting Code of Best Practice, shows the diversity of our Cape endemic plants. In contrast, the dry desert of the Richtersveld sector shows some rare, and hitherto unseen at Chelsea, species as part of the Succulent Karoo biome which is the only arid biodiversity hotspot on Earth.

A joyful team celebrated at the show joined by jubilant sponsors, Gerrit van Rensburg, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Provincial Government of the Western Cape (PGWC) and Alan Demby Chairman of the SA Gold Coin Exchange and Scoin shops. These sponsors ensured that the Kirstenbosch-SA's 36-year run at the show remained unbroken.

Empowerment projects, sourced through the PGWC, have also been key suppliers to this display and Edwin Gouws of Mountain Dew and Dorah Siduka of Fynsa, representatives from two of these farms, were able to enjoy firsthand the fruits of their labours.

Visitors to the stand will also receive an eco-friendly bag sourced from women's cooperatives in Khayelitsha through a project called "Township." These are just some of the ways that the global community is experiencing some of the extraordinary job-creating projects that are thriving in our country.

#### 'A fascination for SA's unusual specimens'

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"Our exhibit is always popular but this year exceeded expectations as there was a fascination for the unusual specimens we were able to show," said designers David Davidson and Ray Hudson. "The display offers visitors many reasons to visit South Africa, but mostly because of the diversity of our plant life."

As a desirable tourist destination South Africa thrives on presenting exhibits such as these. With the hope

that Table Mountain will become one of the New7Wonders of Nature and that Cape Town will win the bid for World Design Capital 2014, potential visitors have a taste of what they can experience through the global excellence of this exhibit.

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