

24 MAY, 2011 - 10:21

Tweet 3 Share 30

Chelsea Flower Show 2011: SA win gold medal

Gold for South Africa again at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London as the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI's) 2011 Kirstenbosch – SA Chelsea entry "**Botanical Landscapes**" scooped its 31st gold medal.

Exhibiting for the 36th year the hardworking team raced to put the finishing touches and add the unusual specimens to this year's exhibit in time for the judging. The long hours of preparation with the team of designers, SANBI members and volunteers were worth it!



The joyful team were joined by 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.

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 also celebrating.

Visitors to the stand will also receive an eco-friendly bag sourced from women's cooperatives in Khayelitsha through a project called "*Township*".

"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.

"This advertisement for our beautiful country benefits the Western Cape tourism industry and the rest of the country. It also serves as a showcase for empowerment farming projects that are creating jobs and contributing to the economic development of the country" said MEC Gerrit van Rensburg.

Alan Demby of the SA Gold Coin Exchange and Scoin shops was effusive in his praise for the exhibit and the team behind it.

"Some months ago, we heard that Kirstenbosch had lost their sponsorship and that they would not be able to attend the Chelsea Flower Show this year. The South African Gold Coin Exchange and The Scoin Shop decided to come to their assistance.

Dr Tanya Abrahamse, CEO of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was delighted: "The diversity of our regions, the richness of our plant life, the value we put on our landscapes are major tourism factors. Above all we are able to show how this exhibit benefits all communities in the long term".

REMEMBER Table Mountain is one of 28 finalists in the New 7 Wonders of Nature competition, in which the world's top natural sites are being whittled down to seven winners in an exercise in global democracy that is expected to draw over a billion participants. To cast your vote go to www.votefortablemountain.com