



Plant Spekboom, Spaar water en bewaar ons natuur!



Air Pollution Deaths are double earlier estimates - Study

Between 40 & 80% of those excess deaths are caused by heart attacks, strokes and other types of cardiovascular disease underestimated up to now as a driver of smog-related mortality, researchers reported.

[Read more...](#)

Say no more! Air pollution-related deaths are double the earlier estimates as shown by studies.

If you would like to order your Spekboom, please send an email to any one of our committee members and they will assist you.

Elandtak Bewarings aktiwiteite / Conservation – 2018

Humankind has the unenviable duty to address the looming threats of runaway climate change and environmental collapse.

At risk are Earth's millions of species and our human civilisation, all of which could face

severe hardship or even extinction by the end of this century.

It seems like an impossibility: to meaningfully reduce our impact while thriving on fossil-fuelled technology and unrestricted population growth.

But, there are solutions that could not only slow the rate of climate change and ecological decline, but also reverse them to pre-industrial norms.

(Robert J Traydon - 2018-06-01 13:25, News24.com)

Many will regard the solutions as crazy but Elandtak feels that every member in our branch can make a difference.

At our February 2018 branch meeting, we launched our SPEKBOOM PROJECT.



There's no doubt about it, Spekboom (Portulacaria Afra) is a very special plant.



Also known as Pork Bush or Elephant's Food, this indigenous evergreen is an environmental miracle worker, with the potential to tackle carbon emissions like no other plant can. Whether you're a succulent fan or have yet to hear about this magnificent tree, here are 5 things you probably didn't know about this wonder plant.

1. Spekboom is proudly South African

It is found predominantly in the Eastern Cape, and especially in the semi-arid Karoo region, where growing conditions are ideal for this resilient plant. It favours North-facing slopes where it is exposed to maximum sunlight. Thriving in poor soils, it tolerates both drought and frost.

2. Spekboom is one of the best carbon sequestrators in the world

Hectare for hectare, Spekboom thicket is ten times more effective than the Amazon rainforest at removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. One hectare of Spekboom can sequester between 4 and 10 tonnes of carbon per year. This makes it a powerful tool in the fight against climate change and the move towards a zero-carbon world.

3. Spekboom can live up to 200 years

And Spekboom trees can grow as tall as 5 metres. Prior to the advent of large-scale livestock farming, some areas of the Eastern Cape had Spekboom forests so thick that it was said a grown human could walk across the top as if walking on a carpet. Spekboom propagates very easily, and a broken-off branch can quickly grow roots and create a whole new plant.

4. Spekboom are equipped with a unique mechanism for adapting to their surroundings

In the wet, cool months, Spekboom photosynthesises like other plants, opening its stomata during the day to absorb carbon dioxide. During drier times, the plant has the ability to open its stomata at night in order to prevent water loss during the heat of the day.

5. Spekboom is edible, with a very high nutritional value

It is a favoured food of black rhinos, elephants and kudus. The good news is that we can eat it too. With a slightly lemony taste, Spekboom leaves are juicy and full of moisture, making them the perfect 'pick-me-up' during a long day's hiking in the arid Karoo. Popular Cape Town restaurants like the Pot Luck Club use this succulent as accents to their beautifully crafted dishes.

The Problem

511 MILLION TONNES

The amount of carbon dioxide that South Africa releases into the atmosphere each year.



9.18 TONNES

South Africa's carbon emissions per capita, that's nearly double the world average at 4.49 tonnes.

24%

Percentage increase in South Africa's carbon emissions from the consumption and flaring of fossil fuels since 1996.



One tree at a time, we can start reducing the damage and building a greener tomorrow

At Elandtak we have +- 750 members

In 2018 we want to plant 500 spekboom by members

Each Spekboom = 1 x entry in prize draw

Only R20 gets you a Spekboom + an entry into the prize draw

In 2019 we want all members to bring back 1000 cuttings, to go plant on a farm for conservation

Grow your incredible carbon-reducing spekboom tree, do your part to tackle global climate change

Spekboom DIY!



Dig a hole the width and depth of a standard spade.



Sprinkle a few centimeters of compost into the hole.



Remove outer wrap and gently place tree in the ground.



Fill the hole with sand or dirt, sprinkle with water and give me a little love!

Spread the word

Climate change is a global concern. Don't forget to spread the word about carbon emissions and the power of environmental awareness.

Contact Frikkie Botha (Elandtak Bewaring): 082 466 2731 email fbotha76@vodamail.co.za

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