Staff member: My WESSA Journey

By Sabelo Sithole



Date

04 October 2025

Dream Delayed, Not Denied

Early Beginnings (2015):

- Studying at Mangosuthu University of Technology (Durban, KZN)
- Required to complete Work-Integrated Learning
- Dream organisations: WESSA, SANParks, Ezemvelo KZN
 Wildlife
- Inspired by WESSA's Blue Flag Stewardship
 Programme
- Opportunity didn't materialise → joined Ezemvelo KZN
 Wildlife for in-service training



Dream Delayed, Not Denied

Gaining Experience

- Internship at Michaelhouse as a Nature Reserve Custodian.
- Returned home (Durban) with no job prospects.
- Determined to stay active rather than idle.
- Decided to be an Uber driver.



Chance Encounters

Working as an e-hailing driver

- Picked up Lemson Betha, heading to WESSA offices
- Shared passion for joining WESSA
- Exchanged contacts and started a conversation which faded and felt heartbroken – thought it wasn't meant to be.

"Every call builds a bridge"



Opportunity Opened

2022: Call for internships opened

- Applied widely, including WESSA
- Shortlisted and interviewed by WESSA
- Made a promise: "This is my last and only shot to shape my career"

Passed the interview and joined in 2023



Growth at WESSA

- Actively coordinated projects
- Dedication recognised
- Successfully led projects
- Appointed as a Project Coordinator
- Making a tangible difference in environmental education
- Living my passion for conservation

"I love working with young people through WESSA Projects"



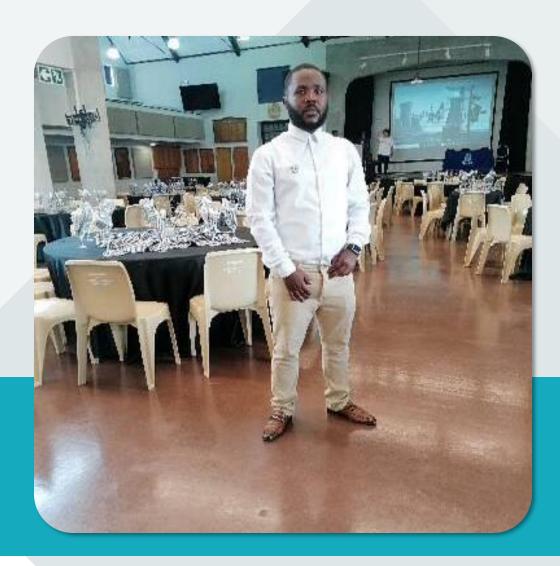
Vision for WESSA's Future

- Continue as a catalyst for environmental change
- Ensure citizens become environmentally conscious
- Extend WESSA's reach across all of South Africa and beyond
- Integrate environmental action into everyday life

How can we achieve this?

Harness innovation > Enable young people with knowledge, **skills & patriotism >** Support and live the organisation's vision

As CEO Cindy says:
"You don't have to be a greenie... as a citizen you have a responsibility to protect the environment you live in."



Together for the Next 100 Years

- **Support**: The Board, The CEO, Staff Members
- **Drive**: Drive WESSA's Mission and Vision
- **Keep**: Keep The Flame Alive For Generations To Come



"It has been a dream come true to be part of this amazing organisation.

As long as I'm here, I will give my all to WESSA's vision."



