

# 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.”**





# WESSA

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Advocate.  
Act.**



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