South Africa is facing a water pollution crisis

Johannesburg - By 2015, 80% of South Africa's fresh water resources will be so badly polluted that no process of purification available in the country will be able to make it fit for consumption. This will cause major health and environmental imbalance that will negatively impact on the human race. Just imagine a life without clean, purified, fresh water. “Water preservation and conservation was not just an environmental issue, but an economic issue.”

The Environment and Conservation Association said in a statement on Tuesday that it was estimated that in five years, almost 80% of the country's fresh water resources would be so badly polluted that no process of purification available in the country would be able to clean it sufficiently to make it fit for human or animal consumption.

"If we do not find a completely new source of water altogether in about two years, most of Gauteng will be without safe drinking water."

The impending disaster that would be created by acid mine drainage as well as sewerage and industrial pollution had on many occasions been brought to the attention of the government, with no positive results however, the association said.

The association would embark on a massive water monitoring project where it would roll out water testing and monitoring in the six major water catchments in Gauteng and Limpopo, to produce independent and accurate results of exactly how bad the country's water was. See how the oil pollution affects marine life (\*).

Those results would be released to the public and the media, both locally and internationally.

"We will need approximately R1m for this project. It is time that big businesses, especially those that rely on water for the production of their products like Coca Cola, SAB Miller, Windhoek Beer, all soft drink manufacturers and food producers, get involved and make a substantial contribution towards organisations like ours so we can save South Africa's water."

"Almost 56% of the products we consume rely directly on the supply of clean healthy water, and if this water is not available, those products cannot be produced.

"Water affects every single part of our daily lives and without it we cannot survive. We cannot eat and we will be left in a country made barren by pollution."

**Water Pollution Table:**

Water - Availability 1.25 thousand cubic metres [90th of 141]

Water - Dissolved oxygen concentration 7.54 ml/litre [78th of 141]

Water - Freshwater pollution 4.74 tons/cubic km [11th of 101]

Water pollution - wood industry - % of total BOD emissions 3.89 % [17th of 114]



Figure 1: Oil Pollution

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Adapted from an article found at <http://www.news24.com/tags/topics/environment>