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South Africa targeted for rare plant poaching placing biodiversity at risk

24 May 2021 6:40 AM by [Barbara Friedman](#)
Tags: Plants CapeNature plant poaching

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Zanne Brink of CapeNature says plants such as Conophytum are regarded as collector's items.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Jean-Jacques_MILAN

According to CapeNature there has been an increase in the theft of rare, indigenous plants.



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A rare succulent conophytum is often the most prized target.

Last week, police arrested 18 suspects for the possession of a single endangered species. One consignment confiscated by police was valued at R500 000.

Collectors are literally stealing our natural heritage out of the ground. Refilwe Moloto speaks to Zanne Brink of CapeNature to better understand the scourge of plant poaching.

“ The interest in specific species has grown enormously and people want to own it legally or illegally. ”

Zanne Brink - CapeNature

“ It is a collector's item. They also get very old. ”

Zanne Brink - CapeNature

There is legislation in place in South Africa, she says.

Locals are now becoming aware of this threat and understanding

“ Rather than attaching value to the plant, attach value to the biodiversity of the plant to the area. ”

Zanne Brink - CapeNature

She says this is also key to tourist attractions in these areas.

Listen to the interview below:



Breakfast with Refilwe Moloto



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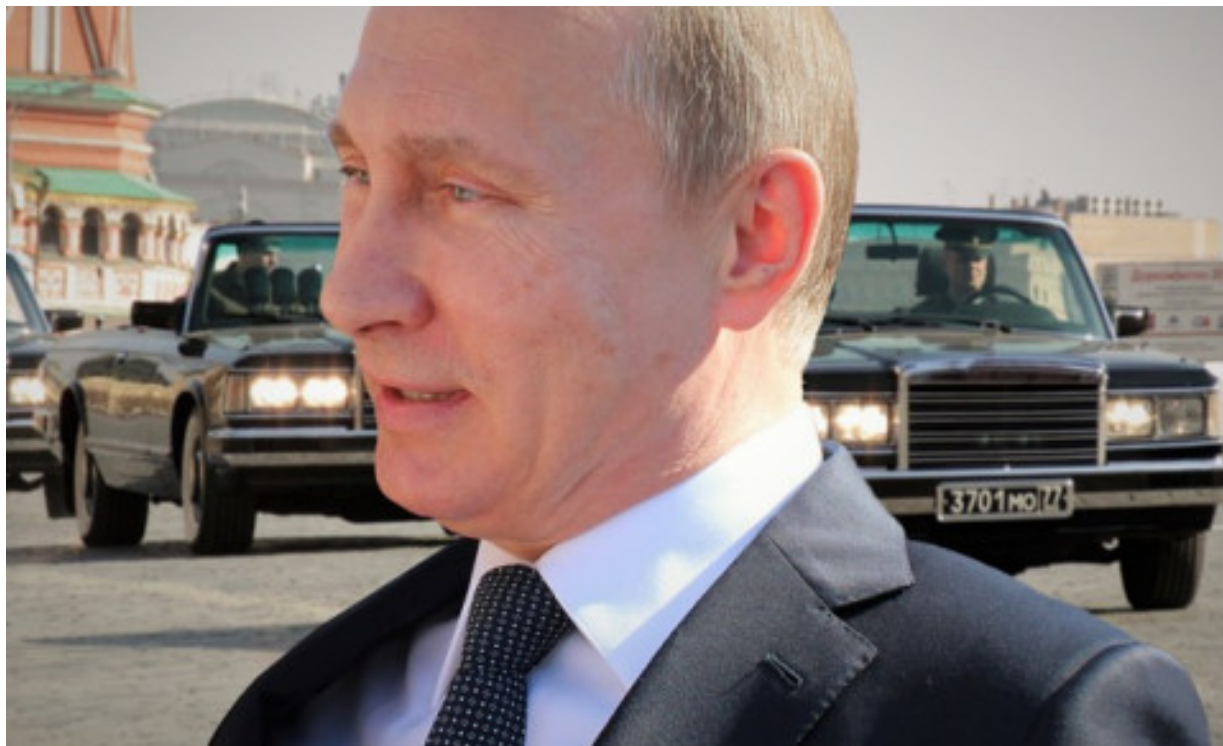
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Bruce Whitfield interviews Lindiwe Mazibuko about her attitude to money (hopes and fears, successes and failures, etc.).

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Refilwe Moloto speaks to UK correspondent Adam Gilchrist about stories making headlines in the UK and Europe.

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Africa Melane chats to Alderman James Vos, City of Cape Town's Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Opportunities and Tourism.

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All that glitters...Bonang shimmers Stateside at MTV VMAs

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Media personality Bonang Matheba jetted off to New York City earlier this year, telling her fans she had 'relocated'

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Briton Roshaante Anderson opens up about living as an intersex man

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Weekend Breakfast host Sara-Jayne King chats to Roshaante Anderson, a British man who was 11 years old when he discovered he was intersex.

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