

Short Bio: Michele Hofmeyr

Michele is a botanist and an environmental ecologist with an Honours and MSc in Botany. Michele is also a registered carbon footprint analyst and an EMI (Environmental Management Inspector). Michele lived in the Kruger National Park for 17 years. During this time Michele worked for SANParks Scientific Services as the science communication manager. Michele then for SANParks Conservation Management as manager of the Skukuza Indigenous Nursery for 10 years. This work also included research and propagation of endangered plant species such as the Pepperbark (*Warburgia salutaris*) and critically endangered Swazi Lily (*Adenium multiflorum*) and various cycad species. The work in the nursery included community outreach programmes, school greening projects, WFW projects, botanical research projects and field work to collect plant material for research and propagation in the nursery. This included working with partners such as EWT/ SANBI/ ARC/ local and international universities and local stakeholders/ community members. Michele spent 2 years in Botswana based in Maun with by Great Plains Conservation as their environmental officer for their concessions and lodges in the Okavango Delta and Zimbabwe. This role was to assist in ensuring environmental compliance and sustainability in all sectors of the company operations and future developments including community outreach work and audits with National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World. Michele is based in Mtunzini and is currently heading up the SAPPI KZN *Warburgia* Conservation Programme while working with various organizations in plant conservation and rehabilitation projects. Michele is also working at Twinstreams Indigenous Nursery and the new Eco Estate under development – Salta – in Umhloti as the botanist assisting in alien plant removal and coastal dune rehabilitation. Michele lives in Mtunzini, northern KZN.