

Situated on the N14 at the Total Petroport is Biodiversity Park. This is where the near threatened* Giant Bullfrog (*Pyxicephalus adspersus*) can live in harmony with the environment and breed to its heart's content. The Park's zoning includes a nature reserve which provides habitat for the Giant Bullfrog and a multitude of other Highveld animals. Urban sprawl in and around Johannesburg has resulted in the dramatic decline of bullfrog populations.

*Source: The IUCN Red List Categories

For this reason, Total South Africa launched an environmental study to ascertain what impact the development of a Petroport on the Nietgedacht site would have. After studying the findings, Total commissioned environmental and ecological design and development specialists, Eco Scapes, to establish a nature reserve adjacent to the Petroport.

Eco Scapes' primary development objective was to harmoniously integrate the site's former and existing indigenous biodiversity with the service station operations. This integrated land-use model also enabled treated effluent water from the two stations to be recycled back into the wetland systems as "fuel" to sustain these eco systems.

Critical to the self-sustaining nature of the development, the Park's wilderness component is managed as a nature reserve. As with all of Eco Scapes' developments, the sustainable environment eliminates the need for all irrigation, chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers whilst benefiting the land user with maximum carbon sequestration and secondary fiscal benefits.

Says John Masson of Eco Scapes: "Given that local biodiversity is and always will be the foundation to a sustainable future, Total South Africa's adoption of this integrated local biodiversity model within its production landscape serves as the blueprint to sustainable business within the industry."

Total South Africa spends millions of rands on corporate social investment programmes. Says CEO Jean-Denis Royere: "At Total we believe that in order to achieve our goals of being a responsible corporate citizen, we must make a sustainable contribution to our country, whether it's people focused – such as our sport development initiatives with Unicef, or a contribution in conserving our natural heritage for future generations such as this bullfrog reserve. It is indeed a privilege for Total South Africa to have been involved in truly meaningful environmental sustainability and to see this project come to fruition, makes it all the more special. This Biodiversity Park is there for all South Africans to enjoy and we invite the school children and tourists to visit the reserve".

Call the Total Petroport on +27 11 4600397/8 for information on viewing times.