



MEDIA RELEASE

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Thungela's land rehabilitation efforts recognised as pioneering at G20 UN University workshop

Thungela recently hosted delegates for a workshop organised by the United Nations University (UNU-FLORES) at the Kromdraai site. The workshop, a partnership between the G20 Global Land Initiative (G20 GLI) and the Land Rehabilitation Society of Southern Africa (LaRSSA), focused on Post-Mining Landscape Restoration. It provided a critical platform for industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to witness Thungela's transformative approach to mine closure.

"The closure of a mine is not the end of our journey; it's the beginning of our commitment to create landscapes that are safe, stable, and capable of sustaining future generations. At Thungela, we see mine closure as a powerful opportunity to drive positive environmental renewal," says Johan van Schalkwyk, Thungela's chief operating officer.

The site visit demonstrated how Thungela has turned previously mined land into safe, stable, and functional ecosystems, setting a new standard in responsible environmental stewardship. Thungela's approach prioritises long-term environmental recovery, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land use. During the site visit, delegates, including representatives from the UN, G20, African and South African government departments, universities, and industry leaders, witnessed how Thungela is turning mine closure into an opportunity for environmental renewal through initiatives such as:

- **Rebuilding natural ecosystems** – reintroducing native vegetation and improving soil conditions to create a landscape that supports plant and animal life long after mining operations have ceased.
- **Improving water systems** – implementing strategies to restore wetlands and enhance water quality, ensuring that nearby communities and natural habitats benefit from cleaner, healthier water sources.
- **Repurposing land for economic benefit** – exploring opportunities to use rehabilitated land for agriculture, conservation, and community-driven projects, ensuring that former mining sites continue to provide value.
- **Applying advanced rehabilitation techniques** – using the latest technologies, drone monitoring, data-driven soil restoration, and innovative land-use planning- accelerates the rehabilitation process and maximises long-term impact.

Thungela's Commitment to Responsible Mine Closure

Thungela's rehabilitation strategy goes beyond standard regulatory compliance to deliver tangible environmental benefits through innovative projects such as:

- **The Kromdraai Water Management Project:** A flagship initiative supported by an R380 million investment to restore natural water systems and improve water quality for surrounding communities.

- **The Dongalock™ System:** A passive water treatment technology developed to enhance water quality and support ecosystem recovery.
- **The One Million Trees Project:** A large-scale biodiversity conservation effort focused on reforesting rehabilitated areas with indigenous vegetation to restore natural habitats.

“Our approach to mine closure is grounded in a deep commitment to responsible environmental stewardship. We continue to push the boundaries of what is possible in post-mining landscape restoration, ensuring that our practices align with global standards and contribute meaningfully to ecosystem recovery and community resilience,” added Johan van Schalkwyk.

UN University’s Dr Alexey Alekseenko said that Thungela stood out for its exceptional professionalism in coal mining and land management, which made it an ideal case study to learn best practices in post-mining restoration.

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For further information, please contact:

Hulisani Rasivhaga
hulisani.rasivhaga@thungela.com
083 370 2327

Bokgabo Tlhaku
bokgabo.tlhaku@thungela.com
082 532 4406

Editor's note:

Thungela, which means 'to ignite' in isiZulu, is a global pure-play producer and exporter of high-quality, low-cost thermal coal, with operations in South Africa and Australia. Our quality coal reserves and marketable production, positions us as a key player in the global energy market as we deliver coal through world-class ports, powering nations.

The Group owns interests in and produces its thermal coal from six mining operations located in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa, which consist of both underground and opencast mines, namely Goedehoop, Greenside, Isibonelo, Khwezela, Zibulo and Mafube.

Thungela acquired 100% of the Ensham Coal Mine in Queensland, Australia, reinforcing its strategic geographic diversification objective.

The establishment of Thungela Marketing International in Dubai underscores the company's commitment to capturing the full margin on our products and engagement with the international commodities market as a global coal producer.

In other parts of the value chain, Thungela holds a 50% interest in Phola Coal Processing Plant, and a 23.56% direct interest in Richard's Bay Coal Terminal. The terminal is one of the world's leading coal export terminals, with an advanced 24-hour operation and a design capacity of 91Mtpa.

Thungela is committed to operating in a responsible way to ignite value for a shared future. We want to ensure that our mining activities positively impact our employees, shareholders and the communities where we operate.