



## **FIM AFRICA: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VP: ENVIRONMENT (1 January 2018 – 31 October 2018)**

Dear President, Council Members and Federation Delegates

In the absence of regular FIM AFRICA sanctioned events, the Environmental Commission remains focussed to carry out powers and act in accordance with its responsibilities and procedures contained in the FIM AFRICA Statutes & Bylaws, FIM AFRICA Environmental Code, Commission's Term of Reference, as well as the FIM Sustainability Policy & Statutes.

We endeavour to act in a responsible, balanced and sensible manner. As such, we ensure that our objectives are sustainable and relevant to the physical environment, economies and societies in which we operate.

We are conscious of our impact on the environment and have been monitoring and mitigating this for several years. We have made meaningful progress, over the last decade. Our work and expectations, however, have become increasingly sophisticated, with demanding goals and tight accountability for outcomes.

Monitoring and recording compliance with the Environmental Code at all FIM AFRICA events and a constant reminder to FMNs, organisers and competitors of requirements of the Code, remains our primary focus. This goes hand in hand with education and awareness.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

The following individuals and Federations presented the FIM AFRICA Environmental Commission during 2018 – Marius Matthee (VP Environment / Chairman), Naoufal El Oddi (FRMM), Brian Townsend (ZMSF), and Jaco Deysel (MSA).

#### **2018 FIM AFRICA ENVIRONMENTAL CODE**

The 2017 version of the FIM AFRICA Environmental was unamended and subsequently rolled out as the 2018 edition.

#### **INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS**

FIM AFRICA was present at the annual FIM Commissions' Meetings (9-11 February 2018) in Geneva. Feedback was presented, at the CID Meetings, on the environmental work

performed by the FIM AFRICA Environmental Commission and affiliated African Federations during 2017.

The FIM AFRICA Environmental Commission had a formal meeting on 3 March 2018, at the time of the FIM AFRICA Commissions' Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. A revised Work Plan was discussed with Key Areas and planned objectives. A FIM Board Member and the FIM Programmes Director were present during this meeting.

The VP Environment was invited to present a webinar on 5 June (World Environment Day) at the FIM HQ in Mies. The topic of the Webinar was ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MOTORCYCLE PARTICIPANTS. For the purpose of the webinar, we relied on training material developed for FIM AFRICA to familiarise competitors with the environmental requirements of the FIM Environmental Code. The following was addressed:

1. The Motorcycle Competitor as Protagonist
2. Environmental Threats
3. Environmental Compliance and Non-compliance at events
4. Application of Best Environmental Practices
5. Pollution and Ecological Mitigation

I also would like to highlight the following:

### **1. MX of African Nations 2018**

This event has established itself as the highlight of the annual FIM AFRICA calendar and efforts are made to also give prominence to environmental awareness. Environmental Awareness covered two full pages of the official race programme.

The 2018 event was held at Mindola Dam, in Kitwe, Zambia. Reports received from the hosting Federation and the appointed Environmental Steward were positive. We realise that some African countries are dealing with special challenges, which is not necessarily the case in other countries or CONUs.

Every effort were made from the organisers' side to adhere to the Code, as well as continued efforts to raise the level of Environmental Awareness, through educational programmes and material developed by FIM AFRICA. Basic infrastructure and services are not always readily available in Africa, though. Team Botswana received the environmental award, as they were by far the cleanest and least litter free pit area. They received a trophy made with a baobab tree on it.

Every rider received a bag of seed balls in their rider gift bags. These tree and grass seeds are wrapped in a ball of fertilizer and nutrients which are intended for tossing out along future journeys to try and get new trees and grass to grow in deforested areas. An interesting and commendable initiative from the organiser and hosting Federation.

It is also worth mentioning that the organiser/venue owner was nominated for the 2018 FIM Environmental Award. What makes this nomination unique is that it addresses biodiversity and the role that venues (circuits) can play to establish and maintain natural ecosystems.

## 2. Challenges and the Way Forward

During the course of 2018, we have established contact persons within each African Federation to serve as environmental liaison. A few Federations (Kenya, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa) continue to follow and implement Environmental policies. From a domestic perspective, it remains difficult for FIM AFRICA to get the commitment and interest from a few other Federations.

It also seems that the FIM AFRICA Commissions / Working Groups work in isolation and not as a unified body to embrace the environmental policy of FIM AFRICA / FIM. I believe that all the FIM Africa Commission Members should attend the FIM / FIM AFRICA environmental seminars in future, so that everyone is been made aware of the concept of sustainability themselves, so they can then feed the information outwards to competitors and other role-players.

We will continue to invest in the skills of volunteers and to build human capital to optimise their services to the Commission and Sport. With nominations been awaited for FIM AFRICA Commissions, I express the hope that our Federations will nominate candidates for the Environmental Commission. We need a bigger group and the time is perhaps right to get new blood and ideas. Individuals who can build on the foundation that the Commission established over the last decade. We need to be aware of becoming too reliant on the vision and commitment of only a few commission members, since this make any group vulnerable.

Motorcycling is facing new challenges and all role-players need to realise that Sustainability will play an integral part in their strategy plans. The FIM has evolved in recent years by looking at sustainability from a holistic perspective. Whilst, in the past, we centred on environmental aspects, we also need to incorporate the social and economic aspects of sustainability in our quest to find better ways of doing things and making well-informed long-term decisions. Sustainability is not only about the environment, but also about the way we treat people and adopt responsible practices.

The biggest challenge is changing the mind-set and creating a belief in the benefits of sustainability. If we can all row in the same direction, it becomes easy.

The Environmental Steward will need to play a more important role in the future. His/her duties (and importance) stretches far wider than just completing a checklist after each event, or dealing with non-compliance. We need to boost the status of this key official. The ES needs to play a bigger role in pre-event planning, where mitigation forms a primary considering, as well as post-event to determine the final impact of an event. The level of skills and professional conduct needs to be addressed though continuous training. Communication with event organisers, venue owners is important to ensure appropriate deployment of the Environmental Steward.

Finally, I trust that the FIM AFRICA Environmental Commission will prosper in 2019 and beyond, with the full support of Council and all other stakeholders, and that we will remain focussed on the fact that we are here to serve the sport to the benefit of all.



**Marius Matthee**

**(VP: Environment)**

**31 October 2018**