



# THE FALLS RESORT SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE

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best compost. Rich in humus, it retains moisture very well and is an excellent fertiliser, even in liquid form.

Resort General Manager, Mr. Storkey, said he was overwhelmed by such innovation, which was very critical in waste management and environmental conservation. He said he was glad that Sun International Zambia was fostering for the first time in Zambia.

Renowned horticulturist, the late Professor Kristo Pienaar, once pointed out that: Earthworms are not parasites that eat your plants' roots; they live off rotting organic

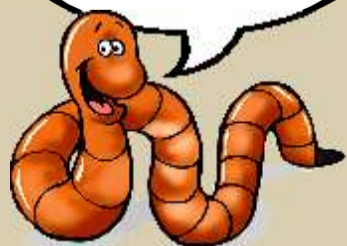
material in the soil and, by breaking down this material, they make its nutrients more readily available to plants. Nitrogen, for example, is transformed into ammonia and nitrates, ready to feed plants. Phosphates and potash, the other two macronutrients, are also increased. Earthworm castings (the excretions) contain five times more nitrogen, seven times more phosphates and eleven times more potash than the surrounding soil.'

"Worm farming is a highly beneficial way of sustaining the environment. As the falls resort, we embrace it because of its far reaching benefits. It will not only help to conserve nature through good waste

management, but also improve the lives of the local communities which will benefit from the organic fertilizer produced," said Mr. Storkey.

Sun International Zambia is hoping that more organizations will participate in such environmentally focused projects to help solve some of the pollution problems caused by green waste disposal and the growing problem of pollution that's leaching out of landfill sites into our natural ground water, rivers and streams by eliminating these organic green waste materials before they go to landfill sites, with the use of compost worms.

**How much do you know about earthworms?**



- A worm are cold blooded animals without arms, legs or eyes.
- Worms live where there is food, moisture, oxygen and a favorable temperature. If they don't have these things, they go somewhere else.
- Worms tunnel deeply in the soil and bring subsoil closer to the surface mixing it with the topsoil. Slime, a secretion of earthworms, contains nitrogen. Nitrogen is an important nutrient for plants. The sticky slime helps to hold clusters of soil particles together in formations called aggregates.
- Baby worms are not born. They hatch from cocoons smaller than a grain of rice.
- Even though worms don't have eyes, they can sense light, especially at their anterior (front end). They move away from light and will become paralyzed if exposed to light for too long (approximately one hour).
- If a worm's skin dries out, it will die
- Worms are hermaphrodites. Each worm has both male and female organs.
- Worms can eat their weight each day.



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