



# DRIVING

# FOOD SECURITY

## FROM ALIEN FISH TO WELCOME MEALS

Clearing a lake of an alien fish species is always good. Providing the fish to feed nearby disadvantaged communities is even better.

The Oceana Group recently linked up with the Gift of the Givers, Cape Nature and Invasive Fish Species Management to address the invasive carp fish problem that had long plagued Garden Route fresh-water lakes.

They simultaneously tackled the problem of hunger amongst disadvantaged communities in the area that was exacerbated by the pandemic.

The project soon restored the ecological balance in the lake, while the harvested fish were distributed to soup kitchens, feeding schemes and disadvantaged families in the area. Each catch feeds a minimum of 400 and an average of 800 people per day. To date the

project has provided over 110 000 meals.

The partners wanted to expand the project, but there was a catch. Table-fresh fish must be stored between 1°C and 9°C, and as they are moved from source, it's difficult to maintain that temperature.

That's when Oceana stepped in with a trailer-mounted freezer to allow them to transport more fish, further expanding the reach and benefits of the project.

Zodwa Velleman, who heads Corporate and Regulatory Affairs at Oceana, says the decision was an easy one.

***"Food security is integral to what we do as a business and our social investment partnerships. We always like our involvement to have a multiplier effect on the work our partners do and providing a mobile freezer to this project certainly achieves that."***