

Enviro-Wise Project Report

August 2015

Introduction

The Enviro-Wise Project proposal was submitted in March 2013, requesting funding support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Wildlands Conservation Trust to conduct two components relating to environmental education in rural schools in KwaZulu-Natal. These components were:

Component 1

School based river and water related interactive, lessons in the region of two major rivers in KwaZulu Natal.

Component 2

Teacher training courses for teachers in the schools of those regions.

Achievements

Component 1 – School visits

School based river and water related interactive lessons were conducted by the Post Matric group from Treverton (under the guidance of Janet Snow) at schools close to the Mkomazi River in 2013 and the Phongola River in 2015. The project was also able to conduct lessons at schools (Winterton and Colenso regions) near the Thugela River in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Articles and reports relating to the school visits and lessons conducted are supplied in the following appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Article July 2013
- Appendix 2 - By Teaching you Learn and by Learning you Teach
Trevorton Gap-Year Students Teach @ Impendle
- Appendix 3 - Mkomazi (Umkomaas) River – Catchment 2 Coast Journey's End
- Appendix 4 - Report of Mkomazi River Survey
- Appendix 5 – Report for World Water Monitoring and Mini-SASS (South Africa)
- Appendix 6 – Photos of school visits - 2013.
- Appendix 7 – Photos of school visits – 2014
- Appendix 8 – Photos of School visits – 2015

The Post Matric excursions down the Mkomazi and Phongola Rivers were filmed. In 2013 the film was aired on the sports channel (with the focus on the excursion) and on 50/50 with the focus on the educational component (unfortunately a copy of this is not available).

Component 2 – Educator Training

A once-off visit to a school has limited impact and the long-term knock-on effect is minimal without ongoing support. The Enviro-Wise Project included a component for skills development for the teachers.

In 2013 Treverton hosted a training session on Teaching Biodiversity in Grade 10 – 12, Life Science. Teachers from the Implendle area attended the training session.

- Appendix 9 – Report Educator Training 2013.

In 2014 and the beginning of 2015 a full course (NQF Level 5, with 12 Credit Points) was conducted, the emphasis being Teaching Life and Living within the Natural Science curriculum in Grades 4 – 6. Teachers from the Implendle (near Umkhomazi River) and Colenso (near Thugela River) attended the course. Note teachers had to complete a Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) with assignments of proof of teaching for this course. All teachers from the two areas above completed all the requirements for the course. The PoEs are currently with Rhodes University for moderation and certificates.

- Appendix 10 – Report Educator Training 2014 and 2015

Income and Expenditure

The following is a basic breakdown of the budget income and expenditure. A comprehensive budget cost code and expenditure explanation is available, if required.

Income		Expenditure	
July 2013	R 70,000.00	School Lessons (2013)	R 14,751.00
September 2015	R 70,000.00	Educator Skills Development (2013)	R 30,249.00
Total	R 140,000.00	School Lessons (2014)	R 36,041.00
		Educator Skills Development (2014)	R 15,551.00
		School Lessons (2015)	R 18,552.00
		Educator Skills Development (2015)	R 24,856.00
		Total	R 140,000.00

Conclusion

This project has exceeded the initial expectations. The school site visits and interactive water-wise and wetland-wise lessons were conducted at schools near the Thugela, Phongola and Umkhomazi Rivers. Teachers from schools near the Thugela and Umkhomazi Rivers participated in Educator Skill Development training in either Teaching Biodiversity or Teaching Life and Living. The teachers who participated in the Teaching Life and Living course have completed all the requirements for the full course and will receive NQF credits and SACE (South Africa Council of Education) Continued Professional Teacher Development points.

Although the funding was for the project conducted in 2013 – 2015, when funding (from other sources) for other educator development courses, teachers from the schools where a relationship was established due to the project reported on above will be invited to attend.

We would like to thank the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Wildlands Conservation Trust for the support in this project and assisting with the upliftment of the teachers in the region and their teaching practices in the environmental field.

Thank you

Janet Snow

Treverton Schools

Environment Learning and Teaching