



LANDMARK FOUNDATION EDUCATION REPORT 2015

LANDBOUSKOOL OAKDALE **ENVIRONMENTAL- CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

ANNUAL BIO-SCHOOL CAMP – DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE

This year marks the fifth Bio-School Camp with the grade 10 learners of Oakdale Agricultural School. Despite the very rainy conditions it did not hamper the learning experience.

This annual camp is of utmost importance and Landmark views it as a priority education program. Here the learners obtain a broad, practical hands-on understanding of what is taught in class. It is also integrated with many aspects of conservation and a holistic approach to land management. The Grade 10's life science includes biodiversity, soil management; plant diversity; sustainable development and eco-tourism; some of these components of life sciences are expanded on in grade 11.

The main objective is to string together the theory learnt in the classroom with a practical experience using leopard conservation as the base.

A point allocation system is used with this group as this forces them to be attentive and conscious at all times. *It is extremely valuable that the learners camp and manage themselves and their group throughout the three days.*

They are allocated points for:

1. Camp set up. (observing their logical skills regarding sunlight, wind factor, rain, shelter etc) and of course the layout – things lying around, wood etc.
2. Leopard camera set up. (camera placement, and ingenuity in setting it up)
3. Variation in species caught on camera. 1 point per species.
4. Information retained. (Throughout the two days we cover a number of topics. A “test” in the form of a quiz brings fun and competitiveness to the experience and we can assess knowledge gained, learners get quite serious at this event)
5. Camp pack up. We assess the learner's ability to leave a place better than they found it. Basically the camp site is ready for the next visitor. A good life long philosophy.

After a well-earned highest point collection, winning team and runners up receive prizes in the form of LMF caps and LMF t's. These are practical useable prizes.



OUTCOMES ACHIEVED: SKAV (SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND VALUES

Aspects of the two day course included knowledge and skills which included topics such as: Biodiversity, IAP (Invasive Alien Plants), The history of the De Hoop Farm and how it went from stock farming to Nature Reserve, Ecosystems, Biomes, Hot Spots, Montagne Fynbos, Raptor birds including Vultures and Eagles, Leopard conservation and a comprehensive holistic talk on the state of the planet. This also included water resources, energy, loss of biodiversity, economic development and its impact on the planet etc.

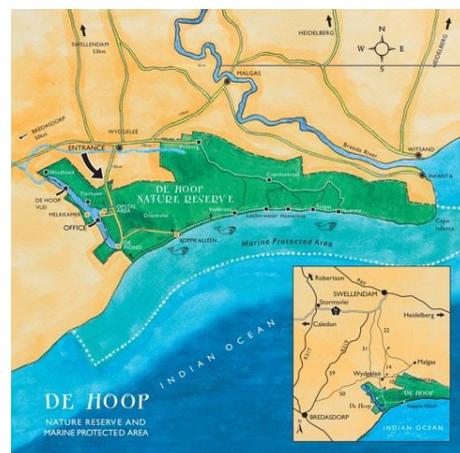
Attitudes were changed in many ways about Leopard conservation and breaking down myths about Leopard behavior, habitat etc.



...or what the planet has to offer were also



De Hoop Nature Reserve is one of the largest natural areas managed by CapeNature. The reserve is 34 000 hectares. It is linked to an MPA - which extends 5km out to sea, it is one of the largest marine protected areas in Africa. It conserves a vast and fascinating variety of marine life. De Hoop has one of the best hiking trails in South Africa including Potberg and the Whale Trail. It is an ideal location for learning



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Willie Van Rensburg for his commitment to his subject and for going the extra mile in giving the learners the opportunity to have such an experience in their school career. His approach and insight into his subject is commendable.

We will definitely continue to support this annual camp and look forward to next year's group.

Regards,

Monica Vaccaro

Education

Landmark Foundation

Leopard and Predator Project

monica@landmarkfoundation.org.za

For more pictures follow the link <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1083291488371789.1073741939.133657930001821&type=3>