



# GLIMPSE

## - Tomorrow's leaders today -

### News Bulletin for the Conservation Leadership Group

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This CLG news bulletin has  
been compiled by the CLG  
staff and its student  
partners.



#### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Conservation Leadership Group is dedicated to capacitating disadvantaged individuals through mentorship and training programmes that lead to progressive careers in conservation, eco-tourism and environmental education, thereby mobilising a network of future leaders in environmental responsibility and sustainable living.*

#### CLG WINS YET AGAIN

The Conservation Leadership Group's (CLG) Bongisiwe Khoza was one of thirteen Laureates awarded the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) Women's Creativity in Rural Life prize. Bongisiwe is based in Jozini, KZN Natal and is one of six Rural Eco-Warriors working for the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT).

What makes the award so special is that only thirteen women from all corners of the earth can claim this coveted accolade. It was Bongisiwe's selfless passion towards the conservation of the natural environment and the wildlife within it and her hands-on approach to implementing practical solutions to local environmental problems that have reaped her this world recognition.

The WWSF announced the awards which included other women laureates from the Cameroon, DRC, Niger, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Costa Rica and St. Vincent.

Bongisiwe will receive her award at a special presentation on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, as part of the EWT Open Day.

#### CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAMME

The last camp for the Conservation Training Programme this year was held in August. The camp focused on mammals and related resource management issues, such as condition assessment and age/sex determination.

A special thank you needs to be given to EO&S and Telperion for allowing the CLG to make use of the game farm for all of its camps during the course of this year. Having a single base from which to conduct the CTP and LTP programmes has provided such stability to the programme and the students. An MoU between EO&S, Telperion and EWT has been drafted and will hopefully be formally signed soon. This agreement would forge the way forward for the CLG and its desire to support and mentor UNISA students while studying for their Diplomas. The CLG is looking forward to 2009 and plans on strengthening its partnerships with UNISA, EO&S and Telperion through developing and running mutually beneficial projects which will be implemented and managed by the senior CLG students.

The final formally planned and hosted function by the CTP and LTP programmes in 2008 was the annual student awards ceremony. The working group manager, Graeme Wilson, presented an overview of the

programme's activities for the year. Some facts and figures:

- *8 formal CLG conservation training camps where hosted*
- *A total of 33 days were spent out in the bush*
- *22 CTP and LTP students participated in formal CLG planned camps*
- *7 students participated in all of the CLG planned activities*

### **Award winners**



#### **Best LTP Student – Cornway Shirindza**

Cornway was nominated as a result of his many achievements over the year, which included working in Kwa-Zulu Natal on the Treverton College's nature reserve for six months.

On his return to Johannesburg, Cornway developed and introduced a project called Environment Speaks. This project, which is now a formal part of the CTP camps, requires camp participants to study up and debate some of the world's larger environmental issues, such as climate change and globalisation.



#### **Best CTP Student – Vhulahani Mushiana**

Vhulahani was nominated as the best CTP student for 2008 for her participation and commitment to her studies and career development. She volunteers her time freely and is never scared to get involved in activities planned by the EWT and with some of its partners such as UNISA.

As an ambitious student, Vhulahani always gives her best every time, while bubbling over with enthusiasm. She will go far in her chosen career!



#### **Merit Award – Innocent Lebepe**

This is the first year for Innocent with the CTP, but he has shown an insatiable hunger for knowledge and understanding. Innocent is a passionate and committed student of nature and the environment. Innocent has also been a valuable contributor to the Bakwena Owls Project (see Leadership Training Programme below).

Special Mention Certificates were also handed out to Teach Molepo and Precious Mohlala, both of whom were also associated with the Bakwena Owls Project. Both ladies have shown dedication and commitment to the EWT and the CLG.

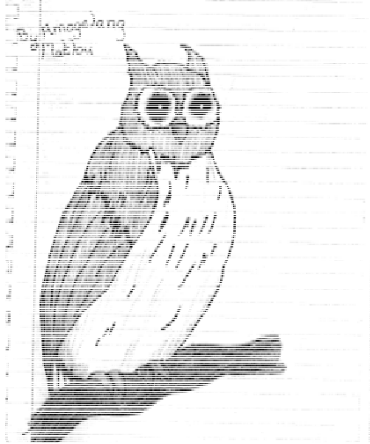
The CLG wishes all of our award winners this year all the success and good fortune in their conservation careers

### **LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME**

The LTP programme has also come to an end for the year.

The Bakwena Owl Project required three selected CLG students to visit three schools in the Hammanskraal, Garankuwa and Mabopane areas. The students were provided with formal training to be able to communicate with and support the teachers from these schools on owl awareness. Furthermore they researched and developed 8 basic owl lesson plans which are currently being developed into a teachers' support pack.

On completion of the project, the students had interacted with approximately 400 children each month for a 6 month period. Responses from the learners to a questionnaire prior to the LTP student visits were compared to those on completion of the project, and a favourable shift in perceptions on owls was evident: *"An owl is something that is dangerous, because it can kill"* was the comment from a Grade 6 learner before the project was implemented; after the project: *"We really loved your lessons and learnt a lot about owls and we wish you could be with us every day because it was fun to learn more about animals."*



A drawing by one of the learners

The lessons learned by the CLG during the course of 2008 have provided a number of interesting and varied possible avenues for the continuation of the collaboration between Bakwena and the EWT in 2009 and beyond.



The principal and contact teachers of Radineo Primary school pose with their certificate of appreciation from the Bakwena Owl Project Students for being the most supportive and proactive school involved in

the Bakwena Owls Programme. The framed Certificate was surrounded by photographs taken by the students while working in the school.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

### **Biodiversity Environmental Education Project (BEEP)**

BEEP is a partnership between conservation organisations for the promotion of biodiversity conservation through active learning processes, specifically in rural-based communities and schools.

BEEP focuses on highly threatened ecosystems in South Africa, their resident communities and the threatened species occurring therein. Within resident communities directly affected by environmental degradation, the project aims to raise awareness of the importance of healthy ecosystem functioning and build the necessary capacity within these communities to better manage and sustainably utilise their natural resources.

BEEP consists of two components - Teacher Training Workshops and a Summit, where learners give presentations of their research or activities. The first BEEP programme, BEEP Midlands, is conducted as a partnership between the EWT, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ukhahlamba region) and the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa. Thus far, seven Teacher Training Workshops have been held in the Midlands and Ukhahlamba foothills with 87 teachers participating.

A very successful Summit was held in March 2008 with learners from a number of schools giving amazing presentations. It was a pleasure to see how enthusiastic the learners were to impart their newly acquired knowledge and how resourcefully they created props despite the low budgets. Presentations varied from songs and poems to poster presentations, all showing the outcomes of learners' research into endangered species in their areas. A second Summit for schools which have not previously participated in a BEEP Summit was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October at Midmar Resort (Howick, KZN).

The EWT is currently investigating a means to expand the BEEP project into other regions, with other conservation organisations. This will then allow for not only an expansion of the programme

but enable conservation organisations to create a united force and work together on a common goal – that of education towards biodiversity conservation.

## RURAL ECO-WARRIORS

### Statistics of REW school and community interactions, April to September 2008

<b>School statistics</b>				
<b>Environmental Education Officer</b>	<b>Area of work</b>	<b>Number of visits to schools</b>	<b>Number of teachers interacted with</b>	<b>Number of learners interacted with</b>
Samson Phakathi	Midlands, KwaZulu Natal	10	50	418
Mpinda Radebe	Memel, Free State	21	284	2759
Steven Segang	Barberspan, North West	8	22	248
Bongisiwe Khoza	Jozini, KwaZulu Natal	8	30	197
Peter Masilela	Dullstroom, Mpumalanga	11	56	1209
<b>Overall total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>4831</b>

<b>Mini-Summit 18 March 2008</b>	<b>Number of Schools which took part</b>	<b>Number of teachers which took part</b>	<b>Number of learners which took part</b>
	20	21	90

<b>Community Statistics</b>		
<b>Environmental Education Officer</b>	<b>Total number of community meetings/interactions</b>	<b>Number of community members interacted with during these meetings/workshops</b>
Samson Phakathi	24	364
Mpinda Radebe	23	908
Steven Segang	14	65
Bongisiwe Khoza	38	888
Peter Masilela	17	294
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>2519</b>

The Rural Eco Warriors are currently working hard at putting the final touches to their planned projects for 2009. In our next Glimpse we will introduce these projects in more detail.

## NEWS FROM THE WILD COAST AND ITS COMMUNITIES

Following the Stay of Execution of the mining license on the 31 October 2008 by the DME Minister a few weeks ago after her visit to the community, she has since told the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) that she is going to set the date for an appeal in order to allow for oral presentations to be made to the appeal board. The appeal board would then need to take a decision on whether mining in the area should continue or not. If the appeal board decides to allow mining to go ahead, then there is a good chance that this decision will be contested in a court of law. This appeal process is setting legal precedence as it is the first of its kind, under this new South African Minerals Act.

In a meeting at the Wild Coast held on 7 October 2008 between the Amadiba Crisis Committee and the legal team, it was decided that the LRC would continue to lead the appeal process on behalf of the community, while lawyers prepare the necessary court papers in the event that the appeal process is lost.

There has been progress with regards to the EWT Stewardship project, with the first draft of an agreement on conservation of grasslands being discussed. The outcomes of these discussions were seen as very positive. The participating communities are looking forward to finalizing and signing the agreement.

## **REGIONAL PROGRAMME on the MANAGEMENT of SUSTAINABILITY (RPMS)**

The second South African RPMS, which uses the Mutual Gains approach to resolve issues around sustainable development, is on track to be held from the 25-29 January 2009 at the ABSA Conference Centre, Pretoria. The dates for the second teaching session will be announced in due course.

We still have vacancies on this course, and should you wish for further information on the course, or wish to book your place, please contact Kirsty at [kirsty@ewt.org.za](mailto:kirsty@ewt.org.za) or on 011 486 1102.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

If you would like to receive any additional information related to any of the CLG's programmes please do not hesitate to contact us using the supplied contact details.

And finally the CLG staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the EWT, the CLG, its programmes and its staff and students.

Our Next Glimpse is being planned to coincide with the closure of the EWT offices in December.

### **Endangered Wildlife Trust Vision**

A healthy planet and an equitable world that values and sustains the diversity of all life

*NPO 015-502 PBO 930 011 777*