

Rhino Day

On 22 September 2010 we celebrated International Rhino Day. Everyone in South Africa made a noise at 13:00 to raise awareness about rhino poaching. The aim was to show government that we want them to take serious action to stop this.

All the schools in Paterson (Môreson Primary and Sandisulwazi High School) and a school from Uitenhage came together at Khaya Khulu Primary in Paterson and made posters to raise awareness and brought with their vuvuzelas (plastic horns used during soccer world cup), drums, pretty much anything they could find to make a noise a with. Shamwari's anti-poaching unit all kitted out in their bullet proof vests the works also joined us and did a talk with the learners about poaching and what measures they have put in place to protect our rhinos. We also said a prayer together and asked God to bring the poachers to justice as they are destroying lives. At 13:00 we marched down the streets of Paterson with our posters and making as much noise as we could. It was so much fun! There were close to 1000 learners and it was no problem controlling them at all because the whole point was to make as much noise as they could! Look at some of the awesome posters they made! The classroom that made the best posters won a visit to Born Free-Shamwari and will see our sanctuary and go on game drive to see rhinos in the wild!



Shamwari's anti-poaching unit talking to the learners



Marching down the streets of Paterson township





Some of the great posters the learners made



Everybody gathered up getting ready for the march



The classroom that won the trip to BFF-Shamwari



Me and Rebecca a volunteer making a noise for rhino poaching

BFF Holiday Group

The BFF holiday group visited Môreson Primary School and planted a tree with members of their Eco-Club to celebrate Arbour Week. They donated toys and stationery to the school.

Eastern Cape Environmental Education and Sustainability Forum (ECEES)

The Youth Summit that I've been working on for months finally happened and was held from 23 – 26/09/2010 in Port Elizabeth (PE) at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The focus of the summit was biodiversity, heritage and careers. There were 100 participants (learners and teachers) from all over the Eastern Cape. I was part of the core planning and co-ordinating team of the summit and I must say it was one of the biggest projects I have worked so I was happy to see it all pan out and it was very successful with few hiccups. Here is a diary with photographs of everything we did.

DAY 1

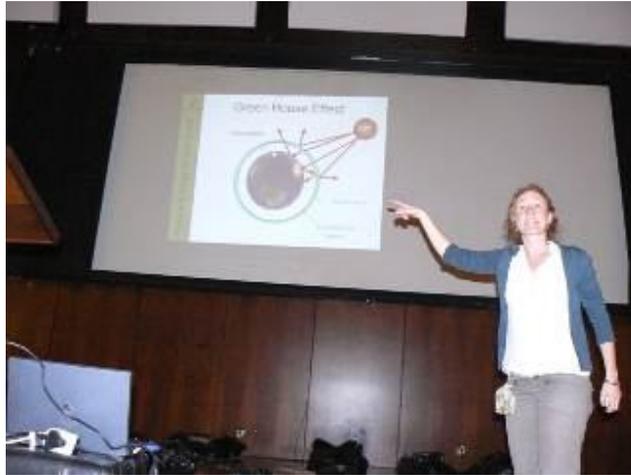
The first day was all about activities and outings to around PE to raise awareness about environmental and social issues.



*We attempted a beach clean up but it was very cold and windy, instead we picked up some shells and bones from the beach and I told learners about what organisms they are. We went back to the accommodation to watch *The Blue Planet*.*



All the learners went to the Red Location Museum which is a museum all about the Apartheid Era it was National Heritage Day so they had really good displays out



In the afternoon they attended a presentation and workshop on alternate energy sources and why they are necessary



After the presentation learners learnt how to make solar cookers using material pouches filled with polystyrene (the pot fits in between these two bags)



Group photo

DAY 2

Day 2 was a bit more formal as we were based at the university conference hall most of the time. Various presentations were done by learners, and myself (I did a presentation on biodiversity). We also had Miss Earth SA 2010 come and do a motivational talk with the learners.



Miss Earth 2010 SA talking to the learners



This school did a presentation on a biogas cooker they use at their school and other environmentally friendly measures they have put in place at school



This high school did a talk on a research project they did at their school when they found that learners were missing school due to illness. They found at that it was because of salmonella in the water. They show us their findings and what measures they put in place to control it (which was very successful I might add)





Afterward learners were divided into groups to do a debate the topic was: "Is biodiversity loss the responsibility of the government, industry or individual?" The debate was amazing, the learners comments really blew all the adults away and left US at a loss for words!



Rice we cooked in the solar cooker while we were busy with presentations. As you can see it worked really well.



After I did a presentation with learners on Careers in Eco-tourism they went outside where various partners of the ECEES Forum had career displays of the industries they are in. This was done to encourage learners to study further especially in the field of environmental studies.