



UCPP NEWSFLASH #11: ECOFUTURES UPDATE Jan 2018

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP & TRAINING PROGRESS –

As part of phase 1 of the Eco-futures Programme (E-FP) which includes public awareness and opening opportunities to green economy career paths, UCPP held a “Green Economy Expo” in August 2017, which launched an open call for applications to interested school leavers, plus aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. About 94 applications were received in the entire Alfred Nzo District Municipality Area. Applicants were contacted to attend an E-FP Introductory Workshop on the 30th November 2017 as part of phase 1, and 53 of those applicants attended.

Participants were mainly from the upper Matatiele region covering the strategic water source areas (SWSAs) along the upper catchment. This workshop provided in-depth information about the framework of the programme and helped participants to start selecting a career stream which they would like to follow from these options, which included:

The programme was presented in September 2017 to key local government and state stakeholders, including the Department of Education, Matatiele Local Municipality, Department of Social Development, and Alfred Nzo District Local Economic

Development Forum (LED) to help streamline and integrate it with their programmes, and discuss opportunities and issues around green economic development in the district municipality. There is huge opportunity for the programme to grow within the District through awareness to all local municipalities for both in-school and out of school youth. Working with High School students, through curriculum support and hands-on activities linked with enviro-days will help inform youth and give them options to explore green economic pursuits as school leavers, despite lack of access to formal tertiary education.

In December 2017, 26 candidates attended a financial skills training day, by local AVOCADO Vision trainer Ms Bongie Mafuya from KwaBhaca Trust, which focused on basic financial management. The training received a very positive feedback from participants, saying they have learned about the best ways to manage finances effectively.

The career options which are emerging through the consultation process include:

- ECOPROCESSING: waste recycling / repurposing; hide and biomass / wood and fibre value adding; etc
- ECORANGING: extension support for stock farmers e.g. husbandry services, grassland management, auction preparation, etc
- CIVIL SCIENCE: water quality research and monitoring; technical maintenance of water supply lines, etc
- ECOENERGY: renewable supply through biogas, solar etc; manufacture, marketing, fitting and related opportunities
- ALIEN PLANT MANAGEMENT: supervision for plant clearing teams as a contractor on farms and on WfW projects or construction
- ECOLEGAL: environmental compliance support on construction sites (environmental control officer)
- ECOTOURISM: guiding, hospitality, cultural and conservation support, adventure tourism activities, etc
- And any OTHER IDEAS which may emerge through interactions



At the introductory workshop (left), participants at the Dec financial literacy training (centre) and (right) receiving their certificates

Upcoming events: Workshop on the 22nd February 2018 with practical exposure to selected career paths.

ECOFUTURES is a collaborative concept developed and driven by UCPP partners, facilitated by ERS with WWF Nedbank Green Trust support. Conservation SA is collaborating on a key component of the entrepreneurial training with support from CITIFoundation.

