

THE NATIONAL JUNIOR LANDCARE PROFILE

Background and purpose

The national junior LandCare programme is an initiative by the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to contribute to the national Government priority of youth development. The programme started in 1997 as one of themes of LandCare Programme. LandCare has four themes which are soil care, water Care, geld care and junior care. The junior care aimed at addressing this other themes through the youth. The purpose of this programme is to Empower youth to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner since natural resource are key to their survival in the future. The programme seeks to put youth in the four-front of natural resource management and give them a voice when it comes to issues of natural resource management. The junior LandCare programme believes that youth are the future leaders of tomorrow and if they become empowered and Educated on the issues of natural resources management now, we will be able to have solutions in the future. The programme focuses on youth in school and youth out of school.

Objectives

- Empower youth in and out of school to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner
- To produce young agricultural entrepreneurs
- Increase number of young people in to farming communities.
- To reduce high number of youth unemployment

Junior LandCare programme is a national programme that is implemented in the Provinces by Provincial departments of Agriculture through national LandCare grand funding;

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES; LIMPOPO PROVINCE

1. Project background.

Modimolle Junior LandCare project is situated in the Modimolle Town, focused on the farms that are under the jurisdictions of Modimolle Municipality but leased to farmers interested in livestock farming. Since the area is on the catchment of Nyl river, alien and invader plants are transported from upper stream into the area and invaded the river as well as the grazing area. The project was established in 2012 through funds from the LandCare conditional grant.



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





GAUTENG PROVINCE

Sefikeng Primary School

The school is situated at Leeukop Prison Sunning-hill, Midrand. The school uses the garden as a connection of learners to the environment, through outdoor classroom experience. Permaculture principle is practiced in the garden. The school produces great results in the garden, not only for the vegetable produce but also in the achievement of learning outcomes.



School camp programme

School learner's camp is a programme within GDARD – SRM with a specific focus on disadvantaged primary schools. The programme is aimed at encouraging young people to develop a sense of responsibility towards the land and other natural resources to conserve them for future generation.



FREESTATE PROVINCE

- Aasvoëlberg Junior LandCare Project: Junior LandCare strives towards creating awareness in terms of environmental issues as well as to create a conservation ethic among the youth of the Free State.
- The Aasvoëlberg Outdoor Centre is situated a few kilometers outside Zastron at the feet of the well known Aasvoëlberg. Aasvoëlberg directly translated means "The Mountain of the vultures". There use to be many vultures in the past on the mountain. It is a beautiful place and a perfect scene for children to receive training in on environmental management
- The project are addressing critical LandCare issues and assisting groups in implementing their own small projects at the school or in their communities. These groups/ learners will be assisted by means of a follow-up visit to the Outdoor Centre and follow-up visits by the centre's staff to the schools to help plan and implement their projects.
- The programme that they are following during the visits fits into the school curriculum and addresses indigenous vs. alien invader trees & shrubs, water conservation & water management, soil conservation and erosion structures, life skills development etc.
- The programme is coupled to adventure exercises and group activities which help to develop the learner's self confidence and problem solving skills. Adventure plays a big role and therefore the programme is very popular and has a big impact on the all the children that participate.
- The Department of Agriculture Junior LandCare project is taking about a 1000 learners annually through the centre.
- All the schools that are invited to partake in the Junior LandCare Project are from very poor communities who would not have had the opportunity to visit such an institution. The LandCare Programme sole funder of the project.
- The Department of Agriculture is also looking at possibilities of expanding the project.
- The groups consist of learners from previously disadvantaged areas and comprises of 40% male and 60% female learners on average.
- The Project is covering disadvantaged learners of all five districts of the Free State.



WESTERN CAPE JUNIOR LANDCARE SUMMARY

Project Purpose

- Youth development
- Awareness of veldcare/conservation
- Development of sustainable food gardens
- Youth camps

Beneficiaries

- Disadvantaged schools in rural communities
- Disadvantaged pupils and teachers in rural communities
- Schools within the Breedevalley & Langeberg local Municipalities will be targeted.

