

COIM - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

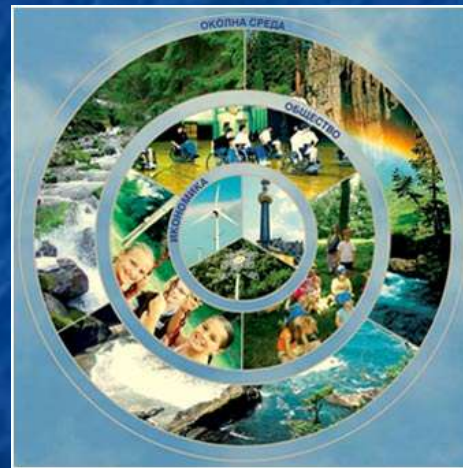


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BACKGROUND

COIM is a registered, non-profit organisation specialising in Environmental Education and rural community development

We have gained more than 24 years of experience in, Environmental education, Eco Tourism, Conservation and Community development throughout Southern Africa. The people in Africa are directly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. It is therefore extremely important to protect the biodiversity and ecosystems that support life



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION ROGRAMS

- Environmental education, conservation and social development plays a vital role, therefore it is an integral part in our youth eco-education.
- Children and youth attend development and outdoor adventure eco education program in nature, away from towns and cities. All subjects are presented in a learning manner where the emphasis is on practical participation, fun and enjoyment.
- Quality training, interesting and exciting programs are offered where they learn to take care of our creation and are taught life and leadership skills, team work, self respect and discipline as well as living a healthier and hygienic life style.

ADVENTURE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The programs fosters amongst learners a greater understanding, appreciation and respect for nature, conservation and our environment.

Problem solving, lateral thinking, discipline and decision making are all aspects which are taught and learned.

Children are encouraged to implement what they have learned.



PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

- Habitat management , wildlife, plant, soil and water conservation and study, birding, animal tracks and signs, field guide training, tracking, water articulation.
- Energy conservation, solar cooking, heating and lighting, recycling – plastic, glass and paper, household reducing waste, air pollution, global warming, sustainable development, reducing our carbon footprint.
- Greening of our environment. Water and the sustainable use. Ways and means of conserving water. Weather, rainfall wind energy, solar power, pumps use of sustainable energy

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



WATER



RECYCLE



SOLAR



BIO FUELS



Program and Activities

Adventure Activities

Canoeing, raft building, wall climbing, archery, mountain biking, obstacle course, orienteering, nature hiking, bush survival skills.

Social Development and Life Orientation

Subsistence farming of vegetables for households, drinking water, basic cooking skills, sleep outs, arts and crafts, role playing, song dance and drama.

The social skills sessions include cooperation games, trust exercises, problem solution games. All activities are practically implemented and are fun.

Safety is priority and all programs are monitored accordingly!



STAFF – YOUTH FACILITATORS

The programs are lead by experienced, trained facilitators. Senior Students identified on camps are invited to further leadership skills and those whom are willing can be trained to qualify as facilitators to lead groups.

Each facilitator has a group of not more than 15 to ensure personal attention and contact.

Not only do the facilitators support, teach, train and council the children but they also act as the “older brother / sister”. A very effective principal especially when it comes to abuse, alcohol and drug related problems. An ear to listen. Facilitators are continually trained on counseling.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

All programs develops, discipline, self esteem and goal reaching. The children learn to believe in themselves. It teaches patience, determination and the students learn not to give up so easily egg. climbing wall. The activities help build leadership and life skills, creative problem solving, team work

All activities i.e. problem solving, lateral thinking, discipline, decision making enhances social skills of participants. Continuous feedback is given to teachers and schools regarding leadership identified , learner participation discipline etc.



DURATION & FREQUENCY OF PROGRAM

The EE programs are presented during school hours Mondays to Fridays as the program forms part of the national school curriculum



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

The curriculum includes the following;

- **Nature Conservation program**

The need for conservation and the role of Eco tourism. Why poaching is detrimental, alternatives to poaching. Conservation vs. poaching. Illegal fishing, depleting of natural resources. Habitat management, roads and water articulation, orienteering, nature hiking, basic bush survival skills.

Wildlife – Animal identification, Ethology – behavior, senses, communication, social life, distribution and animal health & conditions. Tracks and signs - Droppings & pellets, Feeding sites, Nests & shelters.

Vegetation - Plants trees, grasses, shrubs, people plants, problem plants & alien vegetation, weeds, bush encroachment, veld retrogression, grazing management, and herbicides, Fire control.

Substance Farming – Growing organic crops, the importance of farming, growing food etc

Soil study – Composition different types, soil erosion, fallow land etc

Water study – Water life & quality, pollution and effects.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

* Environmental program

Energy conservation, solar cooking, heating and lighting, recycling – plastic, glass and paper, household reducing waste and the management of land fill sites, air pollution, global warming, sustainable development, reducing our carbon footprint.

Greening of our environment. Water and the sustainable use. Ways and means of conserving water. Weather, rainfall wind energy, solar power, pumps use of sustainable energy etc the environmental program encourages learners to implement what they have learnt. Projects include starting an rrecycling station, landfill site, making organic compost for gardening, saving water program. Starting a vegetable seedling nursery, Community clean up days. Implementing energy, water wastage and pollution audits.

Participating and promoting in the environmental calendar, World wetlands day, National water week, World environment day, National arbour week, World habitat day.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

- Social development and Life Orientation program

Organic Subsistence farming of vegetables for households. Domestic animal care, clean drinking water, basic cooking skills with solar power, role playing, song dance and drama.

Maintaining a healthy and hygienic life style, financial budgeting, setting personal goals and accomplishing them.

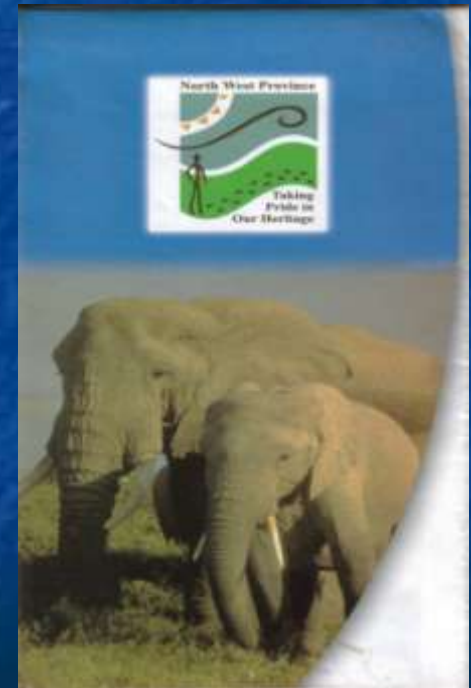
The social skills sessions include co-operation games, trust exercises, problem solution games. All activities are practically implemented and are fun.

Programs can be adapted to suit the specific needs of each school and group. A large amount of the EE curriculum embraces the current national curriculum for schools in life orientation, Natural and social Sciences and Arts and Culture.

Location

With many rural local communities in Southern Africa we source different sites and venues to present the Environmental Education program. Preferably close or in a national park or private nature reserve.

The secondary purpose of the programs to local Communities, youth and children, are also promote the conservation areas, reserves and businesses. This assists in the implementing and developing of the social responsibility programs of companies. Promoting an appreciation for the importance of sustainable development, the importance of conservation and our natural resources.



PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIPS

Generating partnerships is of utmost importance and we believe the success depends on mutual benefits.

- **National Parks and Tourism Boards** - To develop and build a long standing strategic alliance through a concession in the National Parks; To develop and promote environmental education and conservation amongst the youth of Southern Africa.
- **Local Government** – Especially in assisting communication to schools, in sponsoring and subsidizing impoverished rural community schools and children. Our immediate social responsibility lies with the rural communities regarding development and upliftment.
- **Corporate Partnerships** – Private sector, media and companies.

Partnerships & Sponsorships

- **Local Communities** - Creating work, training of facilitators, staff for camps i.e. cooking, cleaning, supplying of food and beverage, curios, tribal village, etc.
- **Local Youth Centers** – Staff and youth, development etc.
- **Secondary & Primary Schools** – To attend youth camps.



Implementation Of Subjects Taught

All the programs and lessons are taught in a practical manner and students are encouraged to implement it at home, school etc. Follow-up of programs taught will be done on a regular basis.

Examples of a practical implementation of activities taught.

The “Back Door” vegetable garden. This is organic vegetable farming. No pesticides or commercial fertilizer is used.



The “Back Door” Vegetable Garden

It's very simple - Dig a trench the size of a door
1m X 2m, and 200mm to 300mm deep.

“Through the back kitchen door” throw all decomposeable / bio degradable kitchen matter in the trench. Vegetable leftovers, green leave material, cabbage, spinach leaves, eggshells, tea bags, some fire ash, left over maize, maize leaves, cattle manure etc.

Anything that can decompose and create fertile compost.

Between each layer of kitchen garbage give a layer of soil, Wet well each time. When the trench is full form a vegetable bedding.



Now Companion Planting Starts

1 row of tomato plants, 1 row of spinach, 1 row of cabbage,
1 row of onion, 1 row of tomatoes, 1 row maize

(Planting Garlic, Chilies, Marigolds can act as insect repellent)

Cover the whole trench with grass/mulch to protect water evaporation and keep moist. The grass also acts as a deterrent for pests.

The tomatoes and onion acts as an insect repellent for cutworm, lice, etc. Cattle manure can also be added in small quantities. The cabbage can be replaced with more spinach and only be planted in the cooler months. Plant green beans next to maize. Beans give Nitrogen to maize.

One or two trenches will supply enough vegetables for a family of 6 throughout the year.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

It is estimated that in South Africa alone 3, 2 Million youths between the ages of 16-24 are unemployed. Many of them live in rural areas with little hope or future. With figures like this we aim to implement school leavers programs. This will specifically be for youths that have completed school and are unemployed in the specific communities. The objective is simply to educate in small business development.

To address this situation Small community businesses can take many forms and needs very little startup capital.

They include;

Setting up of recycling stations. Where community members deliver paper, plastic, glass and steel/cans etc.

Starting catering for weddings, functions and funerals

Home industries – Where chilies and garlic is grown to produce chili sauces.

Sewing – manufacturing of clothes, blankets, school jerseys.

Frail care – looking after the aged.

After school care – Looking after school children and assisting with home work.

Car wash

Delivery service

Grocery purchasing for households and the aged.

Sports development - Starting soccer teams and other sport events



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Other issues in the community is also addressed through providing much needed training. Programs include:

Literacy

Catering

Sewing, embroidery, beading

Subsistence farming

Animal husbandry

Small business management

Financial management

Marketing and advertising

Computer literacy

Construction



Conclusion

We believe education leads to understanding and empowerment. The learners can only gain, excel and be developed to their full potential, which in turn leads to becoming responsible adults. There are so many benefits as Environmental Education acts as a career guidance program; it exposes and encourages learners to pursue careers in conservation and environmental management. The teachers are equipped to easily link environmental learning to the curriculum and implement practical solutions, from recycling and vegetable gardens to energy audits etc.

The program promotes awareness, not only in the need and urgency of Conservation, sustainable development etc, but informs and fosters a love, appreciating and understanding for Nature and conservation. With the Environmental education programs children can only gain, excel and be developed which in turn leads to excellence in school, family life and extracurricular activities.

As custodians of our planet it is our duty and we need to educate, train and develop our children as to ensure a healthy, safe and clean environment to live in. A task that that can make us proud and ensure a wonderful life for all especially future generations.