

Project Update: February 2014

Major achievements from April 2013 to February 2014 were as follows:

1. Renu-Karoo Veld Restoration cc and Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation have both established formal links with the South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON) <http://www.saeon.ac.za> As from April 2014, Richard and Sue Dean of Renu-Karoo will be mentoring the SAEON technicians and interns who will carry out long-term climate, vegetation and fauna monitoring and research both on the Tierberg Karoo Research Centre and the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve (see kmz files attached).
2. Rudi Swart, Renu-Karoo intern of 2009, now a Technical Officer with the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, is conducting research on seed germination for rangeland rehabilitation. Sue Milton-Dean is advising on this research.
3. Renu-Karoo intern of 2010, Willem Mathee is now a lecturer in Nature Conservation at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. He is continuing his research (supervised by Sue Milton-Dean) on rehabilitation interventions in the Karoo and has been partly supported by Rufford Small Grant funding Project 1036C.
4. Andrew Jackson (MSc student NMMU), is working with the Endangered Wildlife Trust is monitoring habitat restoration trials near Loxton. Sue Milton-Dean is an advisor on this project.
5. From May to December 2013 Albert College senior school students carried out research on trap door spiders and on impacts of treated sewage effluent on soil, vegetation and fauna in Wolwekraal Nature Reserve with guidance from Sue and Richard Dean.
6. In September 2013, Renu-Karoo presented a course on indigenous plant propagation for SANParks community nursery staff from Karoo and Addo National Parks.
7. Other public outreach included talks on plants, the Karoo and impacts of mining to the Prince Albert Garden Club, the Prince Albert Winter School, and the Libertarian Society AGM. During the reporting period we guided 242 visitors on nature walks including 75 Nature Conservation Students.
8. Further information on our activities is available on www.wcro.co.za and www.renu-karoo.co.za

