

Project Update: November 2012

Major achievements from July to November 2012 were as follows:

1. Student Willem Matthee monitored rehabilitation interventions at 12 sites in the Eastern, Western and Northern Cape areas of the Karoo.
2. As a first step in splitting the business from the non-profit activities of Renu-Karoo, a Founding Meeting for Non-Profit Organization (NPO) was held on 24 October 2012. An Exco of 5 members was elected to manage “Wolwekraal Research and Conservation Organization (WCRO)” a NPO that will raise funds for management of the Wolwekraal Nature Reserve, and for environmental education and ecological restoration and biodiversity research activities in the Karoo. Renu-Karoo Veld Restoration cc will continue to run a biodiversity-based business specializing in Karoo veld consulting, indigenous nursery, composting and seed collection.
3. We purchased a delivery vehicle (Hyundai H100, 2010 model, 91,000 km) with canopy to transport people, seeds, plants and compost.
4. Sue Milton-Dean gave four public lectures on the need for ecological restoration and sustainable land use in the Karoo. Two talks were in Renu-Karoo hometown Prince Albert, one was in Beaufort West and one at Stellenbosch University. All four talks contained a title page acknowledgement to Rufford Small Grants Foundation. The TEDx Prince Albert talk can be viewed at <http://www.ted.com/tedx/events/4016>
5. We guided 70 university students and 111 visitors on nature walks, held a research information day for the local LandCare Forum, and trained three employees of the Endangered Wildlife Trust Riverine Rabbit Project in indigenous plant propagation.
6. Renu-Karoo staff housing was upgraded, foreman Willfred Luttig received an award from Department of Agriculture for “As General Farm Worker of the Year” for the district, and four people received temporary employment for two months to collect and clean indigenous seed in October-November 2012.

