

Project Update: May 2012

Dambari Wildlife Trust's Field Education Officer, Farai Mavhiya, launched the programme in February 2012. He is a graduate of Zimbabwe's National University of Science and Technology, has prior teaching and field experience and a creative mind - the perfect combination to inspire and challenge school learners and develop novel educational materials.

The five participating schools are Bazha Secondary, Whitewaters Secondary, Matopo Mission, Silozwe Secondary and Tohwe Secondary. Introductory lessons about biodiversity and outlines for the programme have been run, pre-programme evaluation questionnaires have been completed, and teaching the 25 team leaders on how to collect data will commence in early June 2012, once the biodiversity monitoring manuals have been printed. Learners will also contribute material to the upcoming project newsletter.





Dambari Wildlife Trust

Matopos Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Dambari Wildlife Trust leads a biodiversity monitoring education program that aims to educate students about environmental issues, encourage them to practice environmental stewardship in their community and to assist in the **finding solutions** for these issues, and introduce them to career opportunities in the environmental field. **Students learn** advanced training of data collection and monitoring methods.

The teaching program will be theme based and contains specific on-site, on-line, and post-site learning experiences that teach a progression of knowledge to prepare students for field activities.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Educate students about environmental issues, encourage them to practice environmental stewardship in their community and to assist in **finding solutions** for these issues, and introduce them to career opportunities in the environmental field.
- Educate the community in **becoming knowledgeable** about environmental issues and solutions that may effectively solve local problems.

What is biodiversity and its importance?

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things, including plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria and their interactions. It is the genes they contain and the ecosystems they live in.

Biodiversity is vital for supporting all life on Earth. It provides a lot of food and many industrial products and medicines.

Biodiversity helps with:

- Soil formation
- Nutrient, nitrogen, oxygen and carbon cycling
- Energy production
- Flood and erosion control
- Oxygen
- Clean water
- Preventing global warming
- Pest and disease control
- Food and medicines

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