

Project Update: July 2010

In June 2010, *Renu-Karoo* had the opportunity to consult on a restoration for the Calvinia branch of the national “Working for Water” alien vegetation clearing and poverty relief programme. In our report to this national agency we drew on experience gained in the first 2 years of our operation. In response to the needs of the Working for Water Programme we have established a rehabilitation trial using 100 truncheon cuttings of each of 3 species of riparian shrubs differing in salt tolerance.

In July 2010, *Renu-Karoo* staff and conservation students created an indigenous medicinal garden and brochure for at the local museum to inform people about the cultural values of local plants, and planted an indigenous garden at the town entrance, attractions that advertise and increase the visibility of *Renu-Karoo*. We also provided 1-day work experience for final year schoolboys hoping to make a career in nature conservation law enforcement.

Progress toward obtaining formal conservation status for the *Renu-Karoo* property, home to many rare plants, included updating biodiversity checklists and making an appointment for formal a biodiversity status inspection by the provincial conservation body “Cape Nature”. Our application to Department of Water Affairs for herbicide for clearing alien *Tamarix* succeeded.





Working for Water: Namawa-District Municipality



Feasibility and benefits of veld rehabilitation following control of invasive Prosopis in the Calvinia area

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Figure 11. Collection, drying, cleaning and storage of bietou (*Tripteris sinuata*) and other seed at Renu-Karoo Veld Restoration facilities in Prince Albert. (G) Bietou seed orchard in September.