

Project Update: October 2010

Progress toward making Renu-Karoo Veld Restoration financially sustainable included rewriting our business plan and applying for awards that offer support for small business. Renu-Karoo was selected as one of five finalists in the innovative business section of the South African Small and Medium Enterprise Awards and will receive the award on 27 October 2010. Renu-Karoo was also short-listed for a SEED Award. This award, supported by UNEP, is designed to help environmental and social entrepreneurs make their business economically sustainable. To this end SEED provides guidance in business plan development and workshop

Unfortunately, because of the prevailing drought, it has not yet been possible to collect any seed this year. Nevertheless, progress toward supporting other small seed picking enterprises in the Karoo was achieved by collaboration with the National Working for Water Programme. This is a government poverty relief and environmental project that clears invasive alien plants from riparian areas and natural rangeland. Renu-Karoo was contracted twice by WfW in the past three month to provide guidelines and training for farmers who wished to employ people to gather indigenous seeds, establish small nurseries, and re-turn natural vegetation to land denuded following clearing of invasive shrubs. We are also involved in two initiatives to improve management of natural vegetation on roadsides in the Karoo. One initiative is sponsored by WWF and the other is a best-practice workshop convened by the National Roads Agency.

Research involvement over in the past three included trials with 300 tree truncheon cuttings for riparian rehabilitation, reassessment of the 2009 rehabilitation trials in denuded ostrich camps, and interviews conducted with 30 senior citizens to assess current use of indigenous medicinal plants and their perceptions on changes in the availability of these plants over time. Information on this research was presented to the garden club at the medicinal garden established earlier this year by Renu-Karoo at the local museum.



Renu-Karoo student monitoring
vegetation rehabilitation experiments
established March 2009 on bare ground

05 10 2010 12:55



Renu-Karoo staff tell garden club
members about use and status of
indigenous medicinal plants

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Renu-Karoo carried out field trials to establish indigenous trees along grey-water streams

