



## GOLDEN GATE EIE PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION LENSES on a HIGHLAND ENVIRONMENT

"**Lenses on a Highland Environment**" can be presented as the main theme including 5 other sub-themes. The sub-themes are

- **National Parks and Conservation**
- **Eco Moods**
- **Stones and Bones**
- **Water Ways and Wild Weather**
- **People and the Past**

The programme can be presented as a week programme, with 2 half days on arrival and departure and three full days of activities. Themes can however also be picked for the length of available time and applicability. This can mean that the programme can vary from a half a day to a four-day programme. The focus areas of the theme days will make use of the resources within the protected highland environment of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

This programme is designed to be an experience and an opportunity to unlock the magic wonders of this cold, wet, highland GRASSLAND, by looking at a variety of areas through different **Lenses on a Highland Environment!** This is guaranteed to change your awareness, your appreciation, your approach and your relationship with the Universe!

### SHORT SUMMARY OF THE SUB-THEMES

**NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION** theme will include

- an introduction to what SANParks is and what their core function and aims are,
- an introduction of how many parks there are, where they are situated and why they were proclaimed,
- a brief discussion and explanation of Trans Frontier Conservation Areas with examples of such development areas

with emphasis on the Drakensberg/Maluti Trans Frontier Conservation Area,

- an introduction and orientation on GGNP and its main focus areas.

This will be presented by making use of a slide show, maps and a walk up the Brandwag-rock.

### NATIONAL PARKS and CONSERVATION

Did you know that the VISION of SANParks' is that  
*National Parks will be the pride and joy of all South Africans,*  
And that the MISSION is  
*To acquire and manage a system of national parks that represents the  
indigenous wildlife, vegetation, landscapes and associated cultural assets  
of South Africa -*  
*For the joy and benefit of the nation!*  
**There are 18 proclaimed National Parks in South Africa and each have  
unique conservation qualities!**  
**Come and learn about the exciting new concept of TFCA'S!**

**ECO MOODS** theme will be an introduction of the environment as a whole with all relevant aspects flowing from this. Topics and discussions on this theme will include

- what it means to be part and parcel of the environment,
- what responsibilities one has to manage the environment wherever you are,
- how to become a responsible and aware Earth Citizen,
- what different elements the environment consists of,
- what ecology is and what role the human being plays in it,
- what ecology-systems we encounter and which do we find in this particular part of the world, and
- an introduction to the animal and plant life of the park.

These aspects will be introduced by short talks and discussions and supported by fact sheets and short practical tasks. A guided interpretive walk will practically illustrate the learning areas.



### ECO MOODS

Nature the best classroom EVER!

ECOLOGY demonstrates the HARMONY in NATURE.

Where do I fit into the "thing" called the ECO-SYSTEM?

Am I responsible for anything else but myself?

Come and discover the unique PLANT and ANIMAL life found in this cold, frosty GRASSLAND BIOME!

Is EROSION always human initiated - and how do I distinguish and counteract this occurrence!

Learn about FIRE MANAGEMENT being essential but frightening when uncontrolled in the GRASSLANDS.

Know what it means to become an

**EARTH CITIZEN!**

**STONES AND BONES** will concentrate on

- the story of the formation of the earth and the wonderful illustration of the geology in this region,
- the story told of days gone by of early life on earth within and on the rocks of this area. This will touch on the areas of **paleontology** and **archaeology**.

This shared information will be enhanced by practical examples in different locations of the park. A trail on finding and identifying examples of the different types of rocks and stones encountered in the earlier lectures will be laid out for practical identification. A brief group discussion and a short assignment for the next day will also conclude the activities of this theme.

### STONES AND BONES

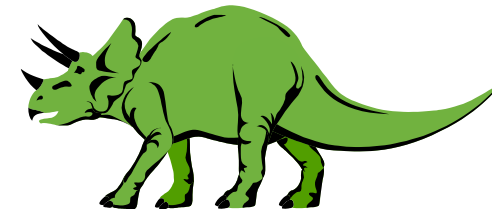
Golden Gate = Sandstone giants

Come and experience the story of the formation of the earth and the creatures that reigned during this period - the **DINOSAURS!** 230 million years ago huge amounts of mud were deposited during a wet period of lakes and rivers and changing in time to the prominent red coloured

### ELLIOT MUDSTONE

The overlay of cream coloured rock, the **CLARENS SANDSTONE** was deposited during a very dry period by massive sand storms from the south. 195 million years ago there were great volcanic eruptions that lasted for 55 million years - the birth of the majestic **DRAKENSBERG**

**BASALT!**



**WATER WAYS AND WILD WEATHER** will be an introduction to

- water catchment areas and the importance thereof,
- water systems that are encountered and developed in this water-rich area e.g. the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and the Sterkfontein Dam water project,
- river systems and wetlands,
- weather occurrences,
- erosion aspects and nearby water conservation schemes that are run from this highland area e.g. "Work for Water".

A river and wetland system will be visited within the park to practically illustrate and experience the different aspects of these areas. A short practical illustration on erosion control will also be done with the group. A practical illustration visit to a display area of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project in Clarens and the Ash Creek Outfall can also be undertaken.



**WATER WAYS  
and WILD WEATHER**

The Golden Gate Valley lies on a **WATERSHED!**

This Highland area lies within one of the most important **CATCHMENT** areas in South Africa.

In 2025 there will be a water shortage in our country - what are we doing?

What are **WETLANDS?**

The Highlands - a place of extremes in **SEASONS and WEATHER** - the causes and influences of these elements

Come and learn more on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project - supplementing the water supply to the Vaal River system and generating hydro electricity for Lesotho -

**A partnership for Life**

**PEOPLE AND THE PAST** will include

- a brief background history of the people of this area,
- cultural aspects of the inhabitants of this area, which includes the arts and crafts of the people.

This will be enhanced by a visit to the Basotho Cultural Village. This concludes the picture of adding the human aspect to the environment and how it enhances and impacts on it.

**PEOPLE AND THE PAST**

Come and walk in the footsteps of the **San**, appreciate their **rock art** under the Clarens sandstone overhangs, and find out why this heritage is deteriorating?

Learn about the arrival of the **Basotho** and the **Europeans** in the Valley?

Have you ever heard of **Lesoeana**, the cannibalistic captain who had a reign of terror in the Valley?

Experience the **culture** of the **Basotho** by learning of their Arts and Crafts and by visiting the Cultural Village!

Learn about the **history** of acquiring land, making this **esthetically** and **ecologically** important area available for the joy and benefit of **all South Africans!**

