

**JOBS 4
CARBON™**



THE JOBS FOR CARBON STORY

HOW DEA FUNDING
HELPED HEAL
A COMMUNITY
AND ITS
ENVIRONMENT



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Department:
environmental affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



I HAVE CHOSEN THIS STORY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES SUCCESS BOOK, BECAUSE:

The Jobs for Carbon project showcases beautifully how simple, well-funded projects can have far-reaching and lasting effects far beyond the original expectations of the project goals - effects that truly change peoples' lives and the environment for the better.

WHAT IS JOBS FOR CARBON

The literal expression of the project is the planting of spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*) cuttings in areas where it used to grow but has been degraded. The cuttings are sustainably harvested from healthy stands of spekboom, by local people who are employed through the project.

Spekboom does not recover naturally if livestock pressure is reduced, therefore in order to restore this type of vegetation active rehabilitation measures need to be employed. The indirect expressions of the project are far-reaching and indeed possibly not all even quantifiable - in addition to job creation and restoration with the intent of carbon farming, the project influence has permeated through the local community bringing tangible positive change to the lives of individuals directly and indirectly involved in the project, whilst simultaneously restoring the degraded landscape with spekboom. Trite as it may sound, the project in its essence is about healing that which has been damaged: healing a broken and dying landscape, and healing a broken, marginalised and isolated community.



I THINK THAT THIS STORY IS A SUCCESS BECAUSE IT SHOWS HOW ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES (EP) HELPED:

- THE ENVIRONMENT BECAME HEALTHIER AND
- THE EP PARTICIPANT LIVE A BETTER LIFE AND
- THE EP PARTICIPANT'S COMMUNITY OR FAMILY LIVE A BETTER LIFE

The details of how the 3 different areas of influence (listed above) of the Jobs for Carbon's project have been demonstrated are explained in the following pages, through various activities within the project:





TRAINING

Over the 4 years of its existence the Jobs for Carbon project has upskilled its team members far beyond the norm – building their capacity and confidence and helping them to become the assured, skilled individuals that they are today.

The team members have undergone training for First Aid, Health and Safety, Snake Awareness, Fire Protection, Entrepreneurship, Veld Rehabilitation, Landscaping, Unofficial human development training (such as public speaking), confidence building exercises and leadership development.

There has always been a great emphasis on the human skills development through all the supplementary training courses run during the Jobs for Carbon project. In one direct example of the benefits of training, one team member did sterling work in dealing with a crisis situation for which they had been trained: One of the team members was bitten by a puff adder, and one of the other team members – a young man who is a general worker - took control of the emergency situation and acted according to his training. In so doing the snake bite victim was successfully hospitalised in time, and spared from any after effects from the bite.

The training of the individuals employed through the project also became an asset for the community – the confidence that individuals displayed in their work filtered through to their personal and family lives, to the point that the positive effects could be seen in their children at the local school: confident parents lead to more stability and happiness in the homes.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The growth and development of the individual team members working in the project is arguably one of the projects greatest successes – the examples below highlight some of these great success stories:



KATRIAN'S STORY (ONE OF MANY):

Prior to the Jobs for Carbon project Katrian Opperman was a domestic worker in Vanwyksdorp. She applied to Jobs for Carbon as a planter and harvester (general worker). Through this process she was given the opportunity to apply for the position of team supervisor. Despite little-to-no prior experience or qualification for the post, she was appointed in this position based on the potential she showed. Katrian has over the last four years grown from strength to strength, both on a personal as well as managerial level and now leads her team with confidence, is able to speak in front of large international crowds about the project and her teams (in English, her second language) and has been very successful at marketing events for the project and the company.



PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

The Jobs for Carbon team members have had various opportunities to represent the J4C and GCBR on public platforms, which gave them the opportunity to develop and build on their confidence. In this they have excelled, and have truly mastered the skill of being ambassadors to their project, company and the environment.

WORK ETHIC

Not only has the project added incredible value to the lives of its employees, it has also demonstrated over time the incredible work ethic nurtured in the individuals – on numerous occasions members for the Jobs for Carbon team have prioritised the success of the project over their own desires, selflessly volunteering help in after-hours towards the project.

INTRINSIC VALUE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The project has also developed and nurtured an inherent love and respect by the team members for the natural environment. This is evident not only in their work ethic but in their change of behaviour and response to the environment in which they live, and how they translate that ethic to their families and community.

ENVIRONMENT

By planting spekboom – which is native to the area – the natural vegetation is encouraged to re-establish over time as the spekboom grows and creates more favourable conditions for the sensitive plant species. With recovery of the veld the soils begin to regenerate, as well as the various ecosystems services such as flood and erosion control. Notably, the restoration on spekboom-rich vegetation also has the important attribute of being able to capture atmospheric carbon at rates that may make carbon farming a possibility.

The water harvesting that results from spekboom restoration is significant – quantified at up to 10,000L per hectare from 10mm of rain!

To-date a total of 490 Ha of active restoration has been done, and a total 1649 Ha of passive restoration has been set aside. Of the active restoration (where spekboom was planted), the project has seen unparalleled successful survival rates of between 75-80%.

IS THIS STORY OF AN EP PARTICIPANT?

Yes

WHERE DOES THE PARTICIPANT LIVE

In Vanwyksdorp

PLEASE WRITE A SHORT PARAGRAPH EXPLAINING THE STORY

The Jobs for Carbon story is covered in the previous pages..

WHAT "WORKING FOR..." PROGRAMME IS THIS STORY ABOUT?

Working for Water

WHAT PROVINCE IS THIS STORY FROM?

Western Cape

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