

Feedback Sessions: June -July 2014

Feedback Team:

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1. South Africa: Lepelle and Botshabelo communities (Hoedspruit Region)

The team from CSIR and Nova Institute visited the communities of Lepelle and Botshabelo on the 17th and 18th of June 2014. The purpose of the visit was to provide feedback on the findings of the research project in which these two communities participated, and also to distribute hand-outs intended for the social education of community members.

In Botshabelo the team met with Chief Malapane, and provided feedback to the Chief and his entourage. The feedback consisted of an informal presentation of the research findings followed by an interactive demonstration of how playing with the cards and the game (as printed on the posters) teaches a person about environmental awareness. A small portion of the hand-out material (environmental playing cards and posters/game prints) was left with the chief for dissemination. Following this the team met with the local councillor and other prominent community members; this meeting was held at a local sports field and attracted a number of residents. The feedback was once again done by giving an informal presentation followed by an interactive demonstration. Posters and playing cards were left with the council for dissemination. Both these feedback sessions were well received and the communities were clearly excited about the hand-out material.

In Lepelle the team could not meet with the Chief, as she was out of town, but instead met briefly with the Chief's son. The feedback was then given to the head mistress of the primary school in Lepelle, who was grateful for the hand-out material that we brought. She intended to use the material to educate the school's children. Even though we could not meet with the Chief the team felt that the feedback session at the school had a big potential for positive impact, and we left in high spirits.



The Project team giving feedback at Botshabelo



The Project team at Lepelle with the Chief's son

2. Mozambique: Canhane and Cubo communities (Massingir Region)

The team from CSIR and Nova Institute visited the communities of Canhane and Cubo on the 8th and 9th of July 2014. The purpose of the visit was to provide feedback on the findings of the research project in which these two communities participated, and also to distribute hand-outs intended for the social education of community members.

Upon arriving in Massingir we first met with local government, as represented by the District Administrator of the village and surrounding communities, Mr. Alberto Lebombo. He was newly appointed to the Massingir District and carried little knowledge regarding the specifics of our research activities in the area. At least he was made aware of the existence of the project by his predecessor. The team proceeded to explain the scope of the research to him, and highlighted the main findings; we also demonstrated the use of the hand-out material in creating environmental awareness. All of which was well received by the District Administrator. He encouraged us to continue our work, and expressed interest in future collaborations. We left the offices of local government in Massingir feeling that Mr. Lebombo may be a good high-level contact if ever we continue our research in the Massingir area.

In Cubo the team met with the Councillor, Mr. Isaac Cubane, and with a teacher from the local primary school. The feedback session was carried out at the school, and was once again well received by all. We left the hand-out material with the school for dissemination to their students. Our final feedback session was done in Canhane, where we met with the Councillor and some of the other prominent leaders within the community. As was the case at other villages the feedback was extremely well received, and we were bombarded with questions after our presentation and demonstration – clearly indicating that we stimulated some thoughts. The hand-out material was left with the council, one of whom was a teacher at Canhane Primary school and (like the other teachers that were encountered on our trip) was excited about the prospect of having additional learning material for his pupils.

The project team was generally impressed with the eagerness to learn that was present in all whom we spoke with in Massingir.



The Project team with local leadership at Cubo Village



The Project team with local leadership at Canhane Village