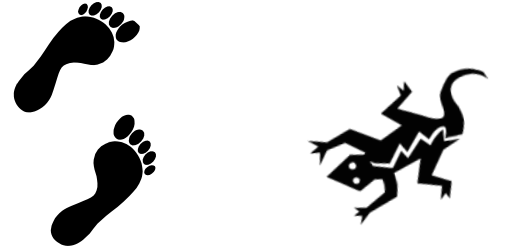




Enviro Kidz excursion 4 – 8 January 2010

NWR Enviro Kidz takes big leap into a more sustainable future



The Enviro Kidz programme, an initiative of the Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) has recently undertaken an excursion for a group of 30 children from the Oonte Orphans & Vulnerable Children Organization, a non-profit organization that runs an after-school programme targeting children from around the Ondangwa area. The children, in the age range 10 – 14, were mostly orphaned or from difficult homes which would potentially affect them emotionally, physically as well as hinder their progress in school.

In similar but yet different fashion, the NWR Enviro Kidz programme is aimed at providing opportunities to children from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, to experience the protected areas of Namibia, and in so doing create and nurture future generations of Namibians with a love and appreciation for their natural resources and environment.



The 5-day excursion, themed **Namibia's jewel and rare species conservation**, started on **4th January 2010** in Etosha National Park where the children stayed at NWR's Halali Camp; and concluded on **8th January 2010** at Waterberg Plateau Park.

Etosha National Park proved to be a real treat for the children whose School Science education was complemented by an extraordinary outdoor learning experience and with the aid of NWR's Tour Guides; the kids were able to gain deeper insight into the ecology of Etosha, animal behaviour and the importance of conservation. They visited the Etosha Ecological Institute and got a glimpse into Park management as well as biodiversity management. The two days at Waterberg Plateau Park opened their young minds to the history of Waterberg plateau and the conservation of rare species such as Black Rhino.

In between NWR guided activities, the kids had time to engage in educational games, an afternoon swim as well as a daunting hike up the plateau.

Ms. Iyaloo Shiimi, the Coordinator of Oonte OVC was lost for words with the experience afforded to this group of children most of whom she exclaimed, "... would most probably never have had the chance to venture even as far as Oshivelo". For the children, the Enviro Kidz excursion presented a profound learning experience with the majority in particularly grateful for the rich knowledge attained in the areas of Park management, the importance of tourism, History, Conservation and the protection of rare and endangered species.



This NWR coordinated programme was duly supported by the Ministry of Mines and Energy's Petrofund with a cash donation of N\$ 20,000; and Sense of Africa, who donated a Bus and the services of a driver for the duration of the excursion. NWR aims to hold another excursion at the start of the April and May school holidays, starting 29 April 2010.



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