

The Hoerikwaggo Trail Guides



1-9: Hard work, skills development & team building are all part of the guide training programme

Expanded Public Works Programme

In March 2004 the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) granted Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) R35 million to run a three-year Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The aim of the programme is threefold:

- to create conservation and tourism-based training and skills development opportunities for 450 people from the townships bordering the Park,
- to develop a strong and durable infrastructure that will minimize the impact of the TMNP's annual 4.2 million visits on the Park's biodiversity,
- to create a high-quality tourism infrastructure to help realise the TMNP's goal of becoming the world's premier urban National Park by 2010.

Workers who have been trained under the EPWP will all have developed skills that will enable them to compete on the open market once the programme is complete.



10-17: The guides at work

Trail Guide Qualifications

The Hoerikwaggo™ Trail Guides have the following qualifications:

- National Certificate in Tourism; Guiding NQF level 4
- MDT Basic Walking Leader Certificate
- First Aid levels 1 and 2

Resulting competencies include:

- Navigation
- Customer Safety
- Customer Care
- Ecological Studies
- Animal & Bird Theory
- History of Cape Town and South Africa
- Interpretive Guiding
- Emergency Response
- Itinerary Development
- Basic Computer Skills

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A main focus of the Expanded Public Works Programme has been the roll out of the suite of four Hoerikwaggo Trails. The development of these unique, nature-based tourism products not only provided an excellent training ground for our path building and facilities teams but promise to generate important tourism revenue for the Park going forward.

To this end we have trained up a team of professional guides to lead hikers on the trails. The guides have received comprehensive theoretical and practical training as well as coaching in speech and drama/story telling equipping them with essential knowledge about the flora, fauna and history of the city and the mountain - and the confidence to share it.



The Programme has received the full support of DEAT Ministers since inception
18: Former Minister Valli Moosa at the launch of the EPWP, 2004
19: Minister van Schalkwyk at the launch of the Table Mountain Trail, November 2005
20: Minister van Schalkwyk at the launch of the People's Trail, June 2005