



# Bridging the gap

## Para-ecologists in action

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13<sup>th</sup> Namibian Rangeland Forum, Neudamm, 27-29 October 2009

# Introduction

The aim of the film is ...

- to show how para-ecologists bridge the gap between the local knowledge and the scientists
- to document our experiences over years
- to illustrate that one does not need to be a scientist to do research, and
- to show the benefit of the program for PEs and communities
- Advertise the para-ecologist programme

# Introduction cont..

Target groups of the film are ...

- Schools
- Communities
- Ministries (Decision makers)
- Research projects and NGOs
- Various funders
- (Para-ecologists)



# Introduction cont..

When: 3 weeks in April/May 2009

Where: Nieuwoudtville

Who: Para-ecologists with support of  
Martin Gruber, Ute Schmiedel and  
Vilho Snake Mtuleni



# Process

- Watch various documentaries
- Discuss concept and layout of the film
- Get familiar with the video camera handling
- Learn how to film and being filmed
- Joint planning of all steps of the process





# Actions in the film

## Selection criteria for activities filmed

- Show variety of our work
- Represent typical activities
- Relevant for the target groups
- Possible to do at the site



# Actions in the film

## Activities shown in the film

- Interaction with school kids (awareness raising)
- Field work (monitoring of biodiversity)
- Work with communities (interviews, sharing of information)
- Annual training courses



# Editing of the film

- Editing was done by Martin (supported by Snake)
- Group decided which clips to include
- We discussed and selected suggestions made by Martin





# Learning experiences



- Be professional in the film
- Be patient (repeat until it is right)
- Be prepared to sacrifice favourite parts
- Time management
- Team work

# Thanks to

- Hantam Botanical Garden
- Nieuwoudtville Primary School
- Timm Hoffman
- Bettina Koelle
- David Kerneels Beukes (farmer)
- BIOTA Southern Africa
- German Federal Ministry of Education and Research



# **Bridging the gap Para-ecologists in Action**

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Thank you!!

