



# FORDOUN

## *Fordoun Environmental and Social Programs*

### THE CRANE FOUNDATION

#### Aim:

To reverse the trend towards extinction of the Wattled Crane in South Africa

A few years ago Fordoun donated 150 hectares of natural veld and wetland to the KZN Crane Foundation. At the same time two of our neighbours also donated land to make up some 450 hectares of land which is now a registered Reserve.

The purpose of the donations was to create in perpetuity an area which will remain natural and undisturbed as a sanctuary for Wattled Crane and for Oribi Antelope – both of which are critically endangered. The sanctuary is named the Bill Barnes Crane and Oribi Nature Reserve.

In early 2009 a decision was taken for the site to include a Wattled Crane isolation-rearing facility and roosting pens at the Bill Barnes Crane and Oribi Nature Reserve (BBCNR).


The Wattled Crane Recovery Programme is a member of the IUCN Re-introduction Specialist Group and is branded by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). Management of the program is provided by the Johannesburg Zoo in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust's South African Crane Working Group, the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria (PAAZAB) and the Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife.

Wattled Cranes lay two eggs, but only raise one chick. Field officers remove one egg from a nest and transport it to be incubated and hatched. From this point the chick is only exposed to a foster parent who has a 'crane' uniform. The foster parent walks daily with the chick or chicks in wetlands and open veld, teaching them eat invertebrates, seeds and bulbs, until such time as they have learnt to fly and can be introduced into a wild floater flock. **WATTLES ARE TOTALLY WETLAND DEPENDANT. PRESERVATION OF WATTLES**

- PRESERVES WATER - PRESERVES SOCIETY



This chick (now almost adult size) is currently in a pen at the Conservation Centre. On 5th February 2010 it flew for the first time. It hopefully will become part of a successful breeding program and will add to the 250 odd wild Wattles in South Africa



The damlet has been constructed and is ready to be filled with water. Wattled Cranes roost in shallow water at night, so the captive rearing pens will be constructed over dry land and slope down into the water.



Brenda McFee (Fordouns Energy consultant) and Elliot Ndlovu (Sangoma and botanist) with a stand of Leonotis Leonorus (Wild Dagga). This plant is used in traditional healing for irritated and damaged skin. It is a key ingredient in creams and oils in Fordoun's Ndlovu range of spa and cosmetic products.

## INDIGENOUS HEALING PLANTS

Because many plants used in traditional medicine are simply gathered from the wild, some are becoming rare and endangered. It is essential that there is a change from traditional wild harvesting to sustainable agricultural production.

Fordoun has a garden with over 130 varieties and we have put selected suitable plants into agricultural production on the farm.

The first of these trials, with plants like Hypoxis (African Potato), Leonotis Leonorus (Wild Dagga), Artemesia Afra, Mentha Longifolia (Wild Spearmint) and Helichrysum Splendidum, have been promising and already we are using extracts in our Ndlovu range of products.

Already we have products being produced at Fordoun which have key ingredients grown here. From soaps, shower gels, shampoos and hand and body lotions in the rooms, through to Spa products like oils, room and body sprays, body butter and body cream, lip balm and bath salts. The Ndlovu range of products is manufactured by a subsidiary company in which Elliot Ndlovu is a significant shareholder.

It is our goal to have up to 30 hectares in production by 2012 and the plant materials should have viable commercial yields for water based extracts, essential oils and teas.

By setting up an agricultural and manufacturing business, we aim to influence and teach rural communities of the entrepreneurial opportunities which exist for future sustainable propagation of

traditional healing plants. It is of note that the 'Muthi' industry in South Africa alone is estimated to be valued at at least Rands 2,7 Billion per annum. Without sustainable agriculture and protection, many plants will become extinct.



The Fordoun range of Ndlovu products. All are naturally preserved and all have key ingredients grown at Fordoun.

# HLANGANANI SCHOOL

A delivery of computers to Hlanganani school. In the last 3 months the computer centre has 6 desktops, a projector and screen. The aim is to have the school equipped with 20 desktop computers by the end of 2010.



Henry Ngcobo, Headmaster of Hlanganani with pupils who graduated December 2009 from the Pre-Primary into the Primary School



Hlanganani is the Zulu word for putting together and it is the name given to the Esiphetweni Sendiza Primary and Pre-Primary school near to Fordoun. The school was formed by the joining together of the Fordoun Farm School and the Easingwold School on the property owned by the late Peter Brown.

Hlanganani is an ongoing passion of Fordoun and the enthusiastic pupils and staff have impressed many of our guests.

It is such a pleasure to see the Headmaster, Henry Ngcobo and the Deputy, Dumisani Mculwane setting such a high standard to their staff and pupils. These teachers are truly dedicated to bringing out the best in learners during the important formative years. At Hlanganani one finds manners, discipline and enthusiasm which greatly enthuse one for the future of South Africa.

We work closely with the Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust in assisting the school with extras which would normally be beyond the budget of a rural government school.

Last year the Trust assisted with the supply and delivery of water to the school via new piping, taps and valves from the valley below the school. The library and computer centre were equipped with a computer projector and screen.

There has been much appreciated support from Bay Farm Tours, LTA Grinnaker, Mount West Garage, Stonehaven Lodge, Save Cash and Carry, Northmec and Alison Lee Foundation.

We have made it our goal to donate to the school a minimum of 10 desk top computers and screens during 2010. As a start we have purchased 3 of these and we have been promised additional funding contributions from guests who visited from the UK late last year.

## ENERGY AND ECO POLICIES



### Running water

Fordoun has 5 separate channels of running water creating ambient features around the historic buildings. All the water is circulated through a series of sealed channels and pipes from the lake and returned underground to the same body of water.

The channels host a large population of fresh water minnows which breed in idyllic conditions and provide a constant source of feed for the trout in the lake.



### Grey water

All grey water at Fordoun is returned to the earth via a vast and complex system of soak-aways which are sited below the soil of the large expanses of lawns and gardens.



### Energy

By installing Solar energy, the Spa at Fordoun has reduced from 8 geysers to 2. The main heated pool runs on a separate Solar heating system.

Of the 17 guest bathrooms, 6 are water boiler heated and 3 are solar assisted. Cost comparisons are underway to establish the most viable energy savings between the two systems.

The restaurant and communal areas are Solar assisted.

All in all, since 2009, Fordoun has reduced reliance on Eskom power by 50%..