



## Primary Incubation Hub



**Beyond Expectation Environmental Project (BEEP)** has a joint partnership with **Environmental Entrepreneurs Support Initiative (EESI)** in its 3 incubation hubs with the support **Global Risk Governance programme (GRG)**, a research unit within the Law Faculty at the University of Cape Town. EESI is supported by the **Mauerberger Foundation Fund**.

BEEP understand that many young people who are trapped in the confines of the township environment, across Cape Town are faced with many social difficulties. This has prompted an idea to expose many young people from local communities to the ecological world, such Table Mountain. BEEP believes that an exposure to the ecological world serve as the psychosocial intervention. BEEP is of the view that nature therapy in the tranquil of Table Mountain bears fruits in transforming the lives of the troubled young people, and the supposed impact in helping those who endeavour to confront their social challenges whist transforming their lives.

Our long-term goal is see more young people fostering relationships with Table Mountain, because the mountain in question belongs to all of us. BEEP understands that its vision of creating a system that reproduces a big pool of visionary leaders, young professionals, and green scholars will be in danger, if no attempts are done to the youth to counter their social challenges by exposing them to the ecological world with a hope to finding healing.

## **Table Mountain Education Trips**

Since the start of this project, BEEP has done **13 Hikes**, and exposing over **260 young people** in the process. The groups which have been exposed to Table Town, are a combination of our members from the three incubation programs. It remains our key strategy to ensure that our youth are empowered, educated whilst being environmental conscious. It is our hope that those visionary leaders, young professionals would serve as role models and help to inspire positive change, influence and promote environmental consciousness around the townships. It is hoped that such an exposure to green spaces will be used as a symbol of light, a symbol of hope, and a rare opportunity to rekindle their dreams. This also shows that for conservation to thrive, local communities ought to be integrated into the conservation areas..



BEEP pride itself for conscientizing children and youth from the township of Cape Town on the importance of preserving our ecological world, our biodiversity on Table Mountain. BEEP uses Table Mountain as a fitting space for the troubled township children to confront their social challenges, find healing through nature therapy, and hopeful improve their well beings. One of the aims of this organization is to change the children's mind-set and their general attitude about life whilst greening their minds, and developing young green leaders from a very young age.

**Anelisiwe Makhala BEEP Senior member said;**

*Growing up in an environment where crimes, and rape are everyday things and adolescent pregnancy is symbolised as a model of reaching adulthood. The moment I joined BEEP, I got exposed to a much more open-minded way of thinking, and the grooming and nurturing I received from the organization made me realise that there was more to life than what I was exposed to and I learnt that I could make better decisions for myself. The moments we got an opportunity to hike up Table Mountain, and being exposed to nature helped me to recollect my thoughts, introspect and for once I would be surrounded by life that yielded positive instinct and those moments helped me set up goals and create visions for the way I wanted to accomplish after completing high school.*

*BEEP exposed us on the environment where self-control and self-respect was taught. I adopted that as my motto as it helped me to overcome temptations that threatened my childhood. BEEP provided us with tutors who were patient and helped us with our studies. BEEP has assisted me in ways that my parents could not, and the organization gave me a sense of hope, and a courageous spirit which could never be taken away. I am now doing my third year at Cape Peninsula University of Technology( CPUT), studying Somatology. My academic success can be credited to BEEP, and the organization has done wonders for me, and many others who are part of this organisation. BEEP makes sure that I am well taken care of, as I am provided with mentoring and the mentors keep on encouraging me and protecting me from making ill-informed choices which might take me astray. All these are the lessons I am going to take with me everywhere, no matter where I go in the world.*

## **Secondary Education Incubation Hub**

This incubation program is centred on nurturing and further developing its junior members with their personal development, like boosting their self-esteem, enhance their communication skills, reinforce their leadership development. Under this incubation we work with young people who have progressed from our primary incubation hub, as we endeavour to produce visionary leaders. Over the course of this project, we have met with all the members of our incubation program to ascertain if they wish to continue to participate as members of the incubation. We have then met with **25 parents** of the members of our program through our **Home Visits**, and we have scheduled to meet with the other 15 parents in the next half of the project. The purpose of the meeting is to ascertain if our members are behaving accordingly at

home and if they are doing their home-works, and studying at least two hours a day. Most importantly our goal is to make sure that we strengthen our relationship with the parents of our members in order for them to buy to our vision.



**This is one of the meetings with held by our incubation members early this year.**

**Nokwanda** wrote on her experience of working with some of the members of the secondary education incubation hub, and **she said;**

*I was given a mandate to tutor **2020 matriculants**, and incubation members as well as some of our university students. It certainly a daunting task to mentor our junior leaders but yet a great experience. For example, our matriculants were hosted in my home last year, so I was able to tutor them almost every-day. I feared that failure of the matriculants would be an ill reflection on me and the project at hand given the task given to me. Teenagers will always be teenagers, therefore I had the duty of ensuring that they spend their time on their books specially given how challenging 2020 was. I had to sacrifice some of my nights to apply for them in different institutions of higher learning and assist with bursary applications.*



*Dealing with different behaviours and attitudes was very challenging and it tested my patience and my people's skills. It was a fun experience as well as I got to share the little wisdom I had about life after high school with them. Being there for them in their important phase in life was amazing as I vowed to assist them till the end in which I did. Giving them advice and being there when they need help was one of the things I enjoyed the most as I love helping people. Being part of such an initiative was heart-warming and seeing them working hard to fulfil their dreams using me and our resources to the best of their abilities was a life changing moment for me. It was great to see their school performance improve steadily, their marks getting better and better until 5 of them passed with **Bachelor** and 1 passed with **diploma**. Now all of them have enrolled at different universities, and we are very happy about that because now they are part of our University incubation program.*

## **Tertiary Education incubation Hub**

This Incubation in essence is designed to ensure that it creates young visionary leaders, young professionals, and young entrepreneurs. BEEP program already has over 56 university and college students, but only **20 students** applied for the services that this incubation provides, which are pre-counselling, counselling, tutoring, editing and proof reading of BEEP students assignments, **mentoring, leadership development, and financial planning training**. We also held two different trainings on **financial management, and entrepreneurial training**.

BEEP has held over **20 tutoring session** already since the start of this project, and tutoring were both for **grade 12** by university students and for some of the **University students** especially first year and second year students.



Luxolo Sikho, Ngxokela had this to say about his experience with BEEP from Primary School to University, He said;

*I joined BEEP back in 2011 when I was doing grade 5 at St Mary's Primary. I participated in the **BEEP workshops**, and that programme made a lot of **transition** in my life, socially and academically. The lessons that were taught were quite insightful, it is where I got more knowledge with regards to environment, or conservation, pollution, food garden, and other aspects related to the environment. The **Table Mountain Hike** programme for me was like an escape to the '**conducive environment**', as it is so peaceful and quite on the mountain. I had the privilege of engaging with nature, and developing my interests with it from a young age. When I moved to high School, I formally joined BEEP as a junior leader and I acquired leadership skills from BEEP, which certainly made me a better person in my community as I was able to make good decisions for myself. Furthermore, I also acquired **entrepreneurial skills**, courtesy of the **entrepreneurial trainings**. During my final years in high school,*

*especially when I doing my last year, BEEP has assisted me to finding a perfect career choice to pursue in varsity, and now I am a third year student, which is my final year in Accountancy at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). When things get tough, I make use of the counselling that is offered by BEEP, which helps me to overcome challenges I face in life. If it weren't for the counselling, I would have probably drop out in varsity. One of my favourite's programme is the tutoring services for the high school learners, as it gives me the opportunity to add value to other BEEP members (juniors) and assisting them on preparations for their next chapter (varsity).*

**Sibongiseni Bangani says;**

*I joined BEEP in 2013 when I was doing grade 6 at Liwa Primary School, which is based in Nyanga township. I am one of the young people and young leaders who has being groomed to become **future leaders**, **visionary leaders** and young professionals by the organization in question. The **mentorship** I get from BEEP is way more than what words can explain. Being groomed by people with a great deal of passion and dedication has brought me to where I am today. The motivations, and advices that keep coming have led to where I am today. The support from my actual family is what has been lacking in my life .*

*However, ever since I joined BEEP and become part of BEEP team I have enjoyed a great deal of **support** is much needed in one's life. I will forever be grateful that I have been given another chance to improve my life and be the best I can be in life. I am a young woman now and very proud of what I have achieved thus far, still determined to achieved more, possess the zeal and the **confidence** to reach for the stars. I am now doing my second year in LLB (Law) at University of Western Cape (UWC), which does not happen often for young people like me coming from communities like Nyanga. I am grateful for the **mentoring** from BEEP which has restore a belief in me, and gave me the courage to thrive, and be the best that I can be, because of the support system I get from BEEP, my family.*



*My name is **Yolisa Malo**, I have been with BEEP since 2011 when I was in grade 5 at St Marys Primary School. I'm currently doing my third and final year in Human Resource Management at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). I am in charge of Elethu ILifa Incubation program.*

**Yolisa's account on Mentorship, She says;**

*In my experience of working with the **mentees** as a mentor whilst been **mentored** myself. I would say the mentor, mentee relationship is built on trust that the mentor will guide the mentee on issues that include academics, social matters and personal issues. All these have to cater to the individuality of the mentee hence we try and match the mentees with a mentor and sometimes mentors that might be on similar paths as them academically, with their families and things that they might like doing on their personal capacity. The relationship sometimes becomes the pillar of strength for the mentee because in their time of need they know that they have someone that is willing and capable of helping them.*

In the last half of the project, we plan to get started with our **leadership Camps** and our daily **workshops** as we were forced to put them on hold due to Covid 19 regulations. We also intend to do more home visits, run more hikes on Table Mountain, more **tutoring sessions**, continuous **mentoring** as well as running more **financial management**, and **entrepreneurial trainings**. We are grateful for our partnership with Entrepreneurs Support Initiative (EESI) and support from Global Risk Governance programme (GRG), a research unit within the Law Faculty at the University of Cape Town and Mauerberger Foundation Fund with support EESI.