

**“We bonded strongly like a hydrogen bond ..”**

Following the success of ADVENVIRO 2009 - the SAEON Ndlovu Node's Winter Adventure School for learners in the Ba-Phalaborwa region - Education Outreach Officer Joe Sibiya received the following report from the learners who attended the event. *The report is published in its original format and has not been edited.*

## **THE ADVENTUROUS SAEON CAMP 2009**

Who would have thought that **Tsulu camp** in **Hamakuya** would be this adventurous? With twelve learners from **Phalaborwa** from different schools, and a great combination of five students from **Vhembe district**, making a tough, extraordinary team of 17 learners with one goal in mind; **learning about nature conservation in all aspects!**

By the time we were applying, we were overwhelmed by great expectations, beliefs and courage from our science teachers, not knowing at all that it was an eye opener to the real science world - **the hustle and bustle of rivers, bird watching, mountain climbing, long bush walks** and **early vibrating sounds of different animals, such as baboons**, as they followed their daily traditions.

Not knowing that, we would be accompanied by a great group combination of experienced scientists, both locally and internationally, educating us about the sustainability of our environment in this alarming era of **GLOBAL CHANGE!** In five days, adventurous moments such as the **Goldsworthy pictures**, the **Amazing Race**, **Fieldwork** and **Interviews** with the community of Hamakuya, were experienced.

Within five days we had investigated Hamakuya's biodiversity status through **fieldwork, surveys, and interviews** with the community members. We gained knowledge in **scientific investigations**, in **data analysis** and **presentations**. Not forgetting the fun we had as students. Even though we did not know each other, we bonded strongly like **a hydrogen bond**. We left behind our normal schedules, heading to a new road to success, far away in the wilderness, between two mountains, separated by a wide river called **Mutale**, in the Northern Hemisphere of SA.

Making the entire camp more interesting, with learners like **Avhapfani, Azwipfanele, Bongani, Ditshidze, Mogale, Ntwanano, Tihlologelo, Lungile, Masingita, Nhlamulo, Mudalo, Nelisiwe, Pharidah, Rembuluwani, Sindi, Thabiso** and **Tsakani**, producing the best highlight of the camp; **THE AMAZING CAMP!**

Overall, if you are considering pursuing a career in science, start focusing on Environmental Sciences because the limelight is not only on engineering and information technology.

To succeed in life consider this: Be                      **Spectacular**  
   **At an**  
   **Environment**  
   **Of a**  
   **New world.**

**SAEON, THE STEPPING STONE TO A BETTER FUTURE!**

Compiled by **Azwipfanele Dhandavhudzi, Bongani Mkhonto, Nhlamulo Mabunda, Nelisiwe Mmola, Ntwanano Mapfumari** and **Pharidah Machaka**