



«True North Camps» – Central Karoo, South Africa

«True North» is a series of youth focused camps and workshops that uplift the spirits, and improve the skill profile and self-efficacy of youth in the Central Karoo.

- taking the youth out of their normal routine
- introducing them to specific concepts and ideas related to important life issues
- provide them with opportunities to be inspired
- bond with others from similar backgrounds, fostering a level of solidarity and community

These young people struggle with a number of socio-economic issues which have affected their sense of identity thereby also causing low self-esteem and a lack of ambition. They are left behind.

- This mostly stems from being historically disadvantaged as a result of Apartheid
- but also due to economic and environmental challenges
- Being part of rural communities with mostly semi-desert vegetation and lack of industry, living in a sparsely populated area isolated from the main cities has caused them to be left behind or forgotten.

A group of professionals have been assembled to design and facilitate each of these camps. In the pilot run, we test a specially formulated skills training programme adjusted to youth requests and the unique context of the central Karoo.

- Objectives include solution focused approach, «life skills and choices», «entrepreneurship»
- We identify specific youth and train them to become peer-to-peer trainers.

The CKFCA is a self-help umbrella organisation of local farm-dwellers-committees established in the Central Karoo

- The CKFCA's initial mandate was to support access to basic rights that were being infringed upon, and strengthen community building efforts within these very much marginalized groups.
- They became increasingly aware that they needed to extend their support to the youth in youth friendly ways.
- The CKFCA are supported by the Centre for Rural Legal Studies, based in Stellenbosch and they have also been a fepa partner for more than a decade.
- This youth initiative has been developed by CKFCA with active participation of Youth. An example is the youth workshop of 14.1.2022, held in Nelspoort, and pictured below:

