

Share-Net

Jim Taylor

This session was presented by Jim Taylor. It gave a short overview of the Share-Net resource development initiative (1. below) and then participants had the opportunity of exploring some examples of the materials (described in 2. below).

1. Overview

Share-Net is an informal network with the specific purpose of developing environmental education resource materials. It is collaborative in nature involving many individuals and organisations and a wide range of low-cost educational resource materials have been developed, and are now in use, through the project.

It should be noted that all materials are available to be re-developed, copyright free, for educational purposes. The materials are available in disk format to aid this process.

2. Examples explored by participants

Enviro-Facts

The Enviro-Facts resource is composed of sixty, simple, one page fact sheets on environmental issues. These accessible fact sheets are written in co-operation with specialist scientists.

Water Quality monitoring materials

Drought and water quality problems in Southern Africa have led to a demand for simple, low-cost, water quality monitoring equipment. Through co-operative development with GREEN in the USA and the Natal Parks Board three popular resources are now in widespread use. These are:

- i. The **Catchment Action Starter Kit**. This kit is ideal for younger children, or beginners, who are interested in becoming involved in water quality monitoring.
- ii. The **GREEN Water Quality Monitoring Field Guide**. This comprehensive field guide was produced by Rob O'Donoghue of the Natal Parks Board with Umgeni Water.
- iii. The **Coliform Tin**. This tupperware filter unit is popular for simple water quality monitoring research where total coliform counts are required.

Enviro-Picture Building

This resource comprises activity packs for building pictures of environments and environmental issues. It provides a useful framework for environment studies enabling a link to be formed with other resource materials. Two packs are available, the Urban Jungle and Madlusuthe's Farm.

St Lucia Pack

The St Lucia mining controversy proved to be the environmental talking point of 1993. To support pupils to come to a better understanding of the ecological issues of the area a simple resource pack was produced co-operatively with other concerned individuals and organisations.

Cardboard Libraries

A new concept in resource materials development, the cardboard Library (a shoe box like display stand with booklets) was displayed at the workshop. Three different libraries are now available, these are libraries covering the coastal and inland eco-systems as well as the Enviro-Fact project materials. This simple display stand provides the conceptual structure and exposure for the Hands-On series of booklets.

Through Share-Net data-bases of the **people** involved in educational resource materials development, the **places** where this takes place as well as the **publications** available are maintained. The information in the data-bases is constantly updated.

Share-Net was developed by the Wildlife Society along with the Natal Parks Board and the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa with many other collaborating partners.