AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN” IN SCHOOLS IN MPUMALANGA

by

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submitted in accordance with the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

in the subject

DIDACTICS

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROMOTER: PROF C P LOUBSER

JUNE 2004
“Schools can contribute to making the environment everybody’s business by being active learning environments… schools and learners can move to action to address and report on the many problems …” (Asmal 2000:1).

dedicated to Riaan and Anri
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Professor C.P. Loubser for his guidance and continuous support.

- Sappi and Selati for sponsoring the printing of the Mpumalanga edition of the school environmental policy and management plan.

- Department of Education (Mpumalanga) for their support of the development and implementation of school environmental policies and management plans in school in Mpumalanga.

- All officials in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (Mpumalanga), who contributed to the success of the implementation of school environmental policies and management plans in Mpumalanga.

- All schools, principals, teachers and pupils from schools in Mpumalanga who made valuable contributions for this research.

Opinions and conclusions expressed in this research are those of the author, and should not be attributed to any of the institutions acknowledged above.
SUMMARY

Environmental education is a response to the environmental crisis. Due to the diversity of the environment, environmental education processes face a challenge, locally and globally, because it should respond to the diversity of local environmental issues, and contribute towards the addressing of local environmental issues. It is therefore important that environmental education programs focus on local environmental issues, and in the analysis thereof accommodates investigative, problem solving and environmental action skills, because such programs proof to be more successful.

The introduction of environmental education into formal education can only be successful within a structure that is conducive to a holistic integrated approach and accommodates investigative, problem solving and environmental action skills. Research however proves that within the school context, environmental education processes, as well as the addressing of local environmental issues, is fragmented. The development of a school environmental policy and management plan can provide a valuable framework for a holistic approach to the organization of environmental education processes in schools, that is integrated with the
curriculum, resulting in the effective management of resources and the addressing of local environmental issues.

Through this research, the implementation of school environmental policies and management plans in Mpumalanga was evaluated, in terms of the integration of environmental education processes in the curriculum, the organization of environmental education processes in schools, the effective management of resources in schools, and the addressing of local environmental issues.

The conclusion was drawn that the implementation of school environmental policies and management plans contributes towards curriculum integration of environmental education, the organization of environmental education processes, the management of resources and the addressing of environmental issues in schools. The more exposure a school gets in terms of implementation of school environmental policies and management plans the higher the achievement in the mentioned areas. It can therefore be deduced that exposure to the implementation of school environmental policies and management plans will lead to the integration of the environment in the curriculum, the organization of environmental education processes in schools, the management of resources and the addressing of environmental issues in schools.
Key terms:

Environmental education; Environmental policy; Environmental issues;
Environmental management; Environmental integration; Education for sustainability; School environmental policy; Curriculum development; Curriculum integration; Resource management.
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