



Greening the Nation - is a DEAT funded programme which is been spearheaded by SANBI in 6 different Provinces including the Western Cape. Locally the project was implemented by SANBI staff but later outsourced to a Service Provider – namely Lukholo Training and Development.

In the Western Cape the specific duties and obligations of the Service Provider includes –

- the greening of 35 schools – schools on the Cape Flats and in the Overberg area;
- Creating jobs for the local community;
- Developing indigenous gardens in the various communities including Lavendar Hill, Khayelitsha, and Mitchells Plain;
- Development of a useful plants nursery in the Overberg;
- Planting street trees in Kleinmond, Lavendar Hill, Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain;
- Provide training to the workers on the project to ensure that this improves future employment opportunities;

A highlight of the project is Levana Primary situated in Lavendar Hill, this school serves the communities of Lavendar Hill, Hillview and Seawind, and Vrygrond which is a nearby informal settlement. Lavendar Hill is a relatively poor community with a high unemployment rate and also a gang-ridden area well known for drug abuse.

The Peace Park Project – the school community decided to address certain of these contentious issues, because it seems as if parents are unable to control and educate their kids. Due to the aggressive nature of most of the learners from this school, Ms F. Abbas and Mr. Nober together with the school community engaged in the Peace Park Project to address the problems of aggression. A section of the Peace Park is allocated to each grade to make learners aware of positive qualities, such as caring, love, tolerance, patients and non-aggression.

This park is also part of a broader behaviour improvement programme – linked to a similar programme in Manchester in the United Kingdom. A group of teachers from Manchester have also adopted a section of the Peace Park at the school.

Due to financial constraints, the school was only able to do the initial design and layout of the park. After approaching SANBI, many resources for the garden and manpower (from the local community) were provided to facilitate the entire process. Workshops

were also held with members of the school community to assist them with the necessary gardening skills.