

Green Tourism in the Pilanesberg National Park in South Africa



ALDO PAPONE
CASE WRITING COMPETITION

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PROFILE

Introduction

The following case study was conducted in the Bojanala region situated in the North West province of South Africa. South Africa is a land of visual diversity and a country of compelling, unforgettable beauty. All the landmarks, both natural and man-made, tell the story of a country with a fascinating heritage, richly endowed by nature and only partially tamed by man. For the tourist, South Africa offers a dazzling variety of attractions: from sandy beaches to arid bush, from tropical wetlands to spectacular mountain scenery. Whether you wish to laze in the sun, swim, track the Big Five, hike along the coast or in the mountains, see wild flowers in profusion, savour good food and wine or simply take in the history and culture of one of the world's most talked-about societies, South Africa has something special to offer.

The North West Province is one of the most diverse tourism destinations in South Africa. Here you will find some of the finest wildlife reserves, cultural sites, archaeological treasures and entertainment resorts. It is

an ideal getaway destination for international visitors seeking a wilderness experience or exposure to the cultural treasures of the country.

Here travellers can discover the world's oldest tourist route, where travellers have been exploring for over two million years. This "Heritage Route", which is the heritage of every person on the planet, is literally scattered with traces of Iron- and Stone Age settlements and is a unique tourist experience that is unparalleled in its significance and diversity. With its unique icons, such as Magaliesberg and Hartbeespoort Dam, the Pilanesberg National Park, Madikwe Game Reserve, Mafikeng Museum the Taung Heritage Site, Lesedi Cultural Village and of course the Vredefort Dome - situated in the beautiful outcrops near Parys in the Free State and Potchefstroom in the North West Province - tourists will be left with a wide array of meaningful experiences.

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in South Africa with the potential to create jobs and address poverty. Tourism depends heavily on the environment, which must be managed in a sustainable manner. This means that we must look after our environment and be responsible in the way we go about the business of tourism which is a key contributor to employment and economical growth in South Africa. Tourism does not only influence production and employment in the economy, but also improves the so-called "invisible side" of the country's balance of payments. For South Africa, tourism is the second largest earner of foreign exchange, with the number one earner being the mining industry.

CASE STUDY:

GREEN TOURISM IN THE PILANESBERG NATIONAL PARK

Organisation of Case Study:

This is a case study on green tourism practices at the Pilanesberg National Park. The Pilanesberg National Park is a well-studied game park where one can observe the most select array of South African wildlife; where one can experience the geological and cultural treasures of the area; and where one can engage in a variety of educational and recreational activities.

The case study presents some of the features of green tourism practices within the park. It is organised in the following sub-sections:

1. Problem statement
2. What is Green Tourism?
3. A Description of Pilanesberg National Park
4. Existing Green Tourism Practices
5. Recommendations for improving Green Tourism in the Pilanesberg National Park
6. Recommendations for tourists to travel green
7. Conclusion
8. Teachers guide and lesson plans

1. Problem Statement

Tourism is the world's largest industry. It creates an enormous amount of jobs and is seen as a leading economic activity that changes the lives of thousands of people worldwide. Tourism and the environment are

inseparable and by developing the tourism industry it can place a heavy burden on the environment as well as on local economies and cultures. This calls for responsible tourism practices. The question remains:

“Is it possible to adopt a green tourism strategy that embraces sustainable and responsible use of resources and still offer tourist a once in a lifetime experience?”

In this case study we will showcase a park where this is done very effectively. We will present the current green tourism practices in the Pilanesberg National Park. We will also make some recommendations to the management of the park and show how they can improve their green tourism practices in order to be more environmentally sensitive.

2. What is Green Tourism?

Green tourism is a phrase you may have heard banded about. But what does it really mean? There's not a strict definition as such, but overall green tourism is about being an environmentally friendly tourist or providing environmentally friendly tourist services. Historically the definition of green tourism refers to travel which is environmentally friendly, focuses on natural areas, visiting wildlife sites and committing to sustainable practices. Green tourism encourages sustainable development in natural, urban and rural areas.

Green tourism is creating a new buzz in the tourism industry but tourist should be aware of companies wanting to earn the lucrative "green dollar" market by promoting themselves as a green tourism or environmentally-friendly establishments when in fact they are not. Often the term green tourism is used as a marketing tool to promote environmentally friendly tourism. However, pretending to practice environmentally friendly operations, when these are not really happening is not green tourism. It is called 'green washing'.

'Green washing' is a trend towards the commercialization of tourism schemes disguised as sustainable, nature based, and environmentally friendly tourism. 'Green washing' includes labeling products and services as "green" and "eco-friendly", while behaving in environmentally irresponsible ways.

'Green washing' is environmentally destructive, economically exploitative and culturally insensitive. It is immoral because it misleads tourists and manipulates their concerns for the environment.

3. A Description of Pilanesberg National Park

The Pilanesberg National Park (PNP) is located in the Bojanala region in the North West Province of South Africa and is about a 2 hour drive or a 150 km north-west of the Gauteng metropolis, Johannesburg. The Pilanesberg National Park is situated immediately adjacent to the Sun City and Lost City Complex, and is seen as one of the most exciting nature resorts in South Africa.

Geologically, the area is world famous. Its structure was formed by volcanic eruptions some 1 200 million years ago. Prior to the park's establishment in 1979, most of the land was used for farming. Since 1979 this 550 km² island of natural landscape in a sea of urban and industrial development has undergone major reclamation and development and has now matured to a fully stocked, well managed and world renowned National Park. It does not only host the "Big Five", but has also become home and breeding ground to an impressive list of rare and endangered species such as the black rhino, roan, sable, tsessebe, buffalo free of foot-and-mouth disease, and wild dogs. This Big Five game reserve also offers luxurious accommodation like Bakubung, Kwa Maritane, Tsukudu, Manyane and Bagatla Bush Lodges. It includes a variety of visitor facilities such as hides, picnic areas and waterholes, enriching and informative nature experiences like game viewing, guided bush walks, elephant-back safaris, hot air balloon safaris, an educational centre, cultural shows and other nature based activities and experiences. All of this is made accessible to visitors through innovative world class interpretation programs.

The Pilanesberg National Park has become a significant anchor project in the Bojanala region, and is managed by the North West Parks and Tourism Board, a conservation organization that is known for its pioneering approach to people-based wildlife conservation. The North West Parks and Tourism Board believes that if conservation is to succeed in developing countries such as South Africa, the local communities and individuals must benefit significantly from wildlife conservation and related activities. Benefits such as job creation and the availability of business opportunities should create a firm support plan for conservation which, in turn, will lead to other spin-off benefits to the community.

The Pilanesberg National Park is a model for other protected areas. It aims to balance its conserving biodiversity and its unique geological and natural landscape assets with optimal utilisation of its commercial, educational and recreational potential as an alternative and viable land-use option. Its main objective is to benefit an entire region.

The Pilanesberg National Park is run as a three-way partnership between the State (represented by the North West Parks and Tourism Board), the local communities and the private sector. It should not be looked at solely as a protected area or tourism destination, but as a mature tourism anchor project that acts as a major social and economic core for the development of the region. It forms the heart around which the development of the entire region is based. In this rural area where development options are very limited, it has significant beneficial impact on local and regional economies, and greatly contributes towards the overall improvement in the quality of life of the largely disadvantaged rural communities and individuals.

4. Existing Green Tourism Practices

Some green practices undertaken in the Pilanesberg National Park and other product owners within the park include:

- a comprehensive and environmentally friendly waste management plan. Liquid waste is handled on-site and solid waste like paper, glass, plastics and cans are separated and sorted on-site and recycled where possible and if necessary, disposed of.
- water, energy and waste saving techniques. Rather than putting all these measures "behind doors" they have put it into action by using measuring devices to indicate tourist consumption to visitors.
- soap and shampoo dispensers in all facilities to minimise the impact on the environment.
- the use of bio-friendly, biodegradable toiletries.
- a truly green experience when taking a guided morning walk in the park instead of in an open vehicle. This means less CO² is emitted into the environment.
- a curio and craft area where locals can sell local products. Park management also supports the local community and economy by buying local produce.
- up-to-date scientific knowledge to protect the biodiversity, resources and the landscape.
- conservation research and empowering visitors and locals on how to live in harmony with the environment instead of destroying it.
- planting indigenous trees and plants on a regular basis.
- consistent monitoring of the ecological carrying capacity of the park in order to protect the environment. Park Management has implemented a variety of visitor management techniques that are aimed at increasing visitor carrying capacities whilst reducing impacts. Some of these strategies include:
 - the strategic placement of tourist facilities and activities that will reduce traffic into the centre of the Pilanesberg National Park.
 - constant monitoring of visitor profiles, pattern-demands and attitudes.
 - limiting vehicle entries to acceptable levels during peak periods.
 - the provision of conducted activities, visitor education and information programs
 - special arrangements such as subsidised conducted drives over peak periods, open days during off-season periods
- educational and information programs for tourists and the community.

- zoning the park in order to organize development, visitor access and resource management
- teaching locals how to use empty containers to minimise litter and make crafts from empty cans and containers. This way they help the local community to create a source of income.
- using green messaging and consumer indication cards to urge guests to help protect the area and assist the hotel and park in its green program.
- choosing and buying locally produced products. Not only does this support local farmers and the local economy, but it also saves fuel, which would be used for the transportation of the food.

These are only some of the green practices followed within the Pilanesberg National Park. Two green thumbs up for this green effort!

5. Recommendations for improving Green Tourism in the Pilanesberg National Park

The present situation of the Pilanesberg National Park is very unique. Only the Nairobi National Park in Kenya shares its close proximity to large urban complexes. In Africa, no other game reserves of comparable size are within such easy reach of a major tourism market and international gateway. Being situated immediately adjacent to the Sun City and Lost City Complex, the Pilanesberg National Park's potential for attracting visitors must be unequalled in Africa.

The main challenge for tourism operator and product owners is crucial in protecting the environment and must incorporate appropriate green practices as part of their business strategies to meet the growing demands of today's consumer and that of our environment. Management of the Pilanesberg National Park must optimally utilise its vast tourist potential as a tourism destination, whilst still protecting the environment. In this regard, we have made recommendations for improving green practices in the Pilanesberg National Park and to really 'green-it' and mean it! This can be done by:

- printing marketing and collateral materials on recycled paper
- replacing plastic items with those made from recycled or biodegradable materials
- using electronic marketing materials e.g. online brochures to reduce the amount of printed material
- ensuring that any corporate gifts are environmentally friendly and made from recycled materials
- discovering environmentally responsible tourism products and services available in the area
- re-using, reducing and recycling waste
- employing locally
- reducing their water, energy and waste consumption
- , using harvested local materials to improve the aesthetic impact of new developments.
- When renovating or upgrading any of the facilities, replace existing non-responsible practices like flushing toilets with dual-flush toilet systems, and taps and showerheads with low-flow valves and heads.
- recycle used water supplies to water gardens and place notice boards in the rooms and at light switches and taps, urging tourists and staff to use these resources sparingly.
- install a water meter in the kitchens of accommodation facilities to monitor water use. Set targets for kitchen staff and reward them if they achieve the target.
- when renovating or upgrading any of the facilities, install automatic closing doors to prevent loss of cool or hot air, use energy saving light bulbs and fluorescent lights as well as occupancy sensors.
- try to create a reed-bed waste water purifying system. This natural water purifier not only purifies waste sewage and washing water before it returns to the environment, but also provides valuable habitat for wildlife such as birds, amphibians and invertebrates.
- launch an alien plant control program in the local community to inform them how to use alien wood or wood from bush-cleaning operations for firewood and preserve indigenous hardwood species.
- advise tourists on purchasing crafts that are sustainably produced. They must avoid curios or furniture made from indigenous hardwoods.
- use water systems like roof tanks to collect rainwater that can be used for watering gardens during cooler times of the day.

- initiate a buy-back program where the local community can generate income from picking up litter and selling it to local entrepreneurs who can create crafts from them and sell them at local craft markets.
- provide guests with separate bins in rooms to encourage them to separate waste.

6. Recommendations for tourists to travel green

For the serious environmentally aware travellers the main idea of travelling green is to preserve the planet no matter where you travel. To travel green is to think about the earth and how one's actions can impact on it. In African terms: it is our duty to care for each other. We have formulated some tips that may stimulate your ideas regarding Green Travel.

- spend your money with businesses that are interested and committed to protecting the environment.
- strive to reduce the impact of your travel on natural and cultural resources.
- conserve plant life, wildlife, cultural and other resources.
- respect local cultures and traditions.
- find yourself certified environmentally friendly accommodation.
- purchase electronic-tickets for airline travel whenever possible. Less waste is produced.
- support facilities that are run by locals and that employ locals.
- find out if there is a recycling program and support it if there is one.
- let hotel management know, by speaking directly to management or writing them a note, that you want them to conserve and that you want to participate.
- re-use towels and linen. Let management know that it is not necessary to change your towels and sheets every day.
- leave little bottles of amenities in the guestroom if unopened.
- eat, shop and experience locally.
- promote green tourism among your friends. Tell them about your experiences and advise them on how to travel green.
- turn off all electrical equipment when you leave the room.
- book flights with airlines that recycle the waste created from serving food and beverages to passengers.
- use public transport as far as possible and enjoy walking tours. Walk where sensible.
- reduce your water and energy consumption and waste production
- support conservation programs and question the environmental credentials of products or services.
- re-use, reduce and recycle as much as possible.
- take only the brochures or maps necessary. Return others to the brochure stand.
- don't buy products made from endangered species such as tortoise shell, porcupine quills, ivory, animal skins or feathers.
- make a pledge to yourself not to maim or kill any living creature other than enemy or pest insects. Educate yourself as to which are "beneficials" and which are truly "pests."
- use binoculars and cameras to "hunt" animals.
- take only photographs. Do not take "souvenirs" from natural areas, historical areas or hotels.
- leave only footprints. Take everything out that you brought with you. No graffiti, no litter.
- pick up at least one piece of litter every day - especially at national tourist locations which are vulnerable to huge tourist populations.
- if you're driving, turn your motor off when idling. Encourage tour/bus drivers to turn the motor off when idling.

7. Conclusion

The Pilanesberg National Park has a success story to tell when it comes to applying green tourism practices. The Park has set benchmark standards for other nature parks world wide when it comes to responsible greening tourism practices. Travelling responsibly or green tourism is not a fad and good operators understand the increasing concerns of the impact of tourism on the environment. Green operators incorporate appropriate practices as part of their business strategies to meet the growing demands of today's consumer and that of our environment and not as part of empty eco-slogans.

For the earnest traveler it is important to choose green destinations, products and services without negatively impacting the ecosystem or disrupting the local economies of any destination. Tourism operators and travelers are urged to make conscientious decisions. Gone are the days of carefree tourists. Green travel is about taking responsibility for the impact of your actions on the environment.

8. Glossary

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LESSON PLANS

LESSON PLAN: Unit standard 11.2.3

SUBJECT: TRAVEL & TOURISM GRADE 11

SPECIFIC OUTCOME 11.2.3: Investigate and evaluate available infrastructure and businesses in the local community to support visitors to the area and make recommendations for improvement.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

We know the learner has achieved the specific outcome and objectives when he/she is able to:

1. Investigate and evaluate available infrastructure and businesses in the community.
2. Define the concept of responsible tourism.
3. Identify current economic, social and environmental responsible tourism practices.
4. Make economic, social and environmental recommendations for responsible tourism development.

AIMS/OBJECTIVES:

- Investigate and evaluate available infrastructure and businesses in the community/town or province
- Define the concept of responsible tourism development
- Identify current economic, social and environmental responsible tourism practices
- Make economic, social and environmental recommendations for responsible tourism development.
- Do a SWOT analysis in the learner's own town/province.

TEACHER ACTIVITIES	LEARNER ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT	RESOURCES
Task 1			
Divide the class into groups and provide each group with Worksheet 1 and a dictionary	One learner reads the worksheet to the group and they discuss activity 1.	Observe and assess team work. Baseline/ prior knowledge.	Worksheet 1, dictionary, pen, paper, magazines
Facilitate the report-back by groups on Worksheet 1 on the black or whiteboard	Each group presents their answers, pictures & activities to the class. The groups' presentation should include reasons.		Black or whiteboard, chalk or whiteboard markers
Summarize Terminology:	Write the summary from the black or whiteboard or transparency in their workbook.		Black or whiteboard or transparency, workbooks, chalk, pen, workbook
Hand out assessment Assist the groups while learners assess their ability to work as a group. After assessing the group work, let learners identify what they could have done more to function better as a team	Learners assess their ability to work as a group and complete Attachment 2 and paste it in their workbook. Learners make notes on how to improve their group work.	Observe and assess team work. Self assessment Peer assessment	Attachment 2, workbook and pen.

Task 2			
<p>Hand out Worksheet 2.</p> <p>Learners complete the worksheet.</p> <p>After completion of the worksheet, discuss the questions with the learners while they are reporting back.</p>	<p>Learners complete the worksheet.</p> <p>After completion of the worksheet, report back.</p>	<p>Questions and answers, self assessment.</p>	<p>Worksheet 2</p> <p>Workbook</p> <p>pen</p>

Task 3			
<p>Hand out Worksheet 3.</p> <p>Learners complete the worksheet by evaluating information and placing it in the green tourism or green washing category.</p> <p>After completion of the worksheet, discuss the questions with the learners while they are reporting back.</p>	<p>Learners complete the worksheet.</p> <p>After completion of the worksheet, report back.</p>	<p>Questions and answers, self assessment.</p>	<p>Worksheet 3</p> <p>Workbook</p> <p>pen</p>
Task 4			
<p>Hand out Worksheet 4.</p> <p>Learners complete the worksheet by making recommendations on green tourism practices that the Pilansberg National Park still can implement</p> <p>Hand out: Peer Assessment Form. Learners complete the peer assessment form on their pair activity.</p> <p>Self Assessment: Learners evaluate themselves and their ability to identify green tourism practices as well as make recommendations.</p>	<p>Learners complete the worksheet.</p> <p>After completion of the worksheet, report back and write in their workbook.</p> <p>Learners evaluate their ability to work with a partner.</p> <p>Learners evaluate their own ability.</p>	<p>Questions and answers, self assessment.</p> <p>Assessment form.</p> <p>Assessment form</p>	<p>Worksheet 4</p> <p>Workbook</p> <p>Pen</p> <p>Assessment form, pen and workbook.</p> <p>Assessment form, pen and workbook.</p>

Worksheet 1- Group activity

In your groups, using the dictionary and article on green tourism provided, look up the following words:

- 1. Tourism: _____

- 2. Tourist: _____

- 3. Tourism product:

- 4. Environment: _____

- 5. Protect: _____

- 6. Green Tourism:

- 7. Green Washing:

2. Identify a person in your group who will report back on your dictionary search.

Group assessment

Group: _____ Group leader: _____

Group members: 1. _____ 3. _____ 5. _____

2. _____ 4. _____ 6. _____

Learner reporting back: _____

Theme: _____

Green Tourism in the Pilanesberg National Park	Criteria	:)	:	:(13
1. All the group members understood the task and knew what they had to do.				
2. Each group member had a chance to participate				

Write down what more your team could have done to function better as a team.

Evaluate your own performance. How can you contribute more in order for the team to function better?

Task 2

Worksheet 2

Read through the following case study and answer the questions that follow:

Tourism is the world's largest industry. It creates an enormous amount of jobs and is seen as a leading economic activity that changes the lives of thousands of people world wide. Tourism and the environment are inseparable and by developing the tourism industry it places a heavy burden on the environment, which calls for responsible management. Travel operators and tourism product owners realise that some action needs to be taken to minimise the impact that tourism has on our environment.

Is it possible to adopt a development and management strategy that protects the environment whilst still offering tourist the once in a lifetime experience?

South Africa as Green Tourism destination

South Africa is a land of visual diversity and unforgettable beauty. As a green tourism or environmentally freindly tourism destination, South Africa offers a dazzling variety of sustainable green destinations, attractions and activities in several of its nine provinces.

The North West Province is well known as an ideal green tourism destination. Tourist can experience a variety of green products and services like wildlife reserves, green accommodation facilities, experiences and cultural treasures. The North West Province is an ideal getaway destination for visitors seeking a green tourism experience. Some of these green must-visit destinations in the North West Province include Madikwe Game Reserve, Taung Heritage Site, The Blue Pools, Dinkwaneng and the Vredefort Dome. But certainly one of the North West Province's most green icons which offer the most meaningful green experience to the environmentally conscious traveler is the world renowned Pilanesberg National Park.

A description of Pilanesberg National Park

The Pilanesberg National Park (PNP) is located in the Bodjanala region in the North West Province of South Africa and is about a2 hour drive or 150 km north west of the Gauteng metropolis, Johannesburg. The Pilanesberg National Park is situated immediately adjacent to the Sun City and Lost City Complex and is seen as one of the most exciting nature resorts in South Africa.

Geologically, the area is world famous. Its structure was formed by volcanic eruptions some 1 200 million years ago. Prior to the park's establishment in 1979, most of the land was used for farming. Since 1979 this 550 km² island of natural landscape in a sea of urban and industrial development has undergone major reclamation and development and has now matured to a fully stocked, well managed and world renowned National Park, which not only hosts the "Big Five" but has also become home and breeding ground to an impressive list of rare and endangered species such as the black rhino, roan and sable antelope, tsessebe, foot-and-mouth free buffalo and wild dogs. This Big Five game reserve also offers luxurious accommodation like Bakubung, Kwa Maritane, Tsukudu, Manyane and Bagatla Bush Lodges, visitor facilities such as hides, picnic areas and waterholes, services which include enriching and informative nature experiences like game viewing, guided bush walks, elephant-back safaris, hot air balloon safaris, an educational centre, cultural shows and other nature based activities and experiences through innovative world class interpretation programs. The Resort has been awarded a Gold classification from the Heritage Programme for its

commitment to the principles of sustainable and responsible environmental practice. In addition to its Gold Heritage status, Sun City Resort was awarded the 2007 Overall Imvelo Responsible Tourism Award in South Africa. Imvelo, meaning Nguni "nature," forms part of an ongoing hospitality industry campaign to encourage industry members to accept voluntary guidelines by promoting responsible tourism.

The Pilanesberg National Park has become a significant anchor project in the Bojanala region and is managed by the North West Parks and Tourism Board, a conservation organization that is known for its pioneering approach to people-based wildlife conservation. The North West Parks and Tourism Board believe that if conservation is to succeed in developing countries such as South Africa, the local communities and individuals must benefit significantly from wildlife conservation and related activities. Benefits like job creation and business opportunities should create a firm support plan for conservation which in turn will lead to other spin-off benefits.

The Pilanesberg National Park is a model for other protected areas. It aims to balance the conservation of its natural assets while still utilizing the area for commercial, educational and recreational purposes. The main objective is to benefit an entire region.

The Pilanesberg National Park is run as a three-way partnership between the State, represented by the North West Parks and Tourism Board, the local communities and the private sector. It should not be looked at solely as a protected area or tourism destination, but as a mature tourism anchor project, that acts as a major social and economic core. It forms the heart around which the development of the entire region is based. It has significant beneficial impact on local and regional economies, as well as greatly contributes towards the overall improvement in the quality of life of the largely disadvantaged rural communities and individuals in this rural area where development options are very limited.

1. Why is tourism so important for a country?
2. List at least five advantages of tourism for a country.
3. Explain why tourism and the environment are inseparable?
4. Do you think that tourism can be responsible? Motivate your answer.
5. Tourism can have a large impact on the environment. Explain the positive and negative impacts that tourism can have on the environment.
6. Identify the location of the site that is mentioned in the case study.
7. List all the things that are unique to the area in the case study.
8. List the activities that this area offers to the visiting tourist.
9. Identify the role players involved in managing the Park.
10. Why can the Pilanesberg National Park be seen as a model for protected areas?

Worksheet 3

The Pilanesberg National Park, which covers some 57 000 hectares, is the fourth largest in southern Africa. This malaria-free park is perched on the eroded vestiges of an alkaline volcanic crater - one of only three such craters in the world.

The history of the Pilanesberg Park is unique. Prior to its proclamation as a reserve the Pilanesberg National Park was degraded and depleted of indigenous wildlife populations due to fairly intense settlement by commercial farmers. Today the land has been rehabilitated to such an extent that the conservation, cultural, recreational and economic benefits can be optimally used to the benefit of current and future generations.

Some green practices undertaken in the Pilanesberg National Park and other product owners within the park includes:

1. a comprehensive and environmentally friendly waste management plan. Liquid waste is handled on-site and solid waste like paper, glass, plastics and cans are separated and sorted on-site and recycled where possible and if necessary, disposed.

2. water, energy and waste saving techniques. Rather than putting all these measures "behind doors" management and product owners within the park have put it into action by using measuring devices to indicate tourist consumption to visitors. This information is displayed on a notice board at reception. Park management also make use of green messaging and consumer indication cards to urge guests to help protect the area and assist the hotel and park in its green program.
3. in stead of a new bar of soap or little bottle of shampoo every time new guests checks in, soap and shampoo dispensers have been placed in mostly all bathrooms to minimize the impact on the environment. These soap and shampoo dispensers are filled with bio-friendly products to further minimize the impact on the environment.
4. the use of bio-friendly, biodegradable toiletries at facilities
5. a truly green experience when taking a guided morning walks in the park; going on a Hot Air balloon safari or on a booked open vehicle safari in stead of every tourist driving through the park in his/her own vehicle. This means less CO² is emitted into the environment and tourist will have the opportunity to come within a few metres of the animals in the park.
6. a curio and craft area where locals can sell local products. Park management also supports the local community and economy by buying local produce from surrounding farmers and wholesalers. Not only does this support local farmers and the local economy, but it also saves fuel, which would be used on the transportation of the food
7. up-to-date scientific knowledge that they get from researchers working in the park are used to protect the biodiversity and natural resources within the park. Conservation research is also used to empower visitors and surrounding locals on how to live in harmony with the environment instead of destroying it. This is done by information boards, tour guides, videos showing at the visitors centre, brochures, guest speakers etc.
8. the Park has also set up the Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust. The trust focusses on "conesevation for park and people" and assists in conserving the environment, education locals as well as the planting of indigenous trees and plants on a regular basis. Park management also support projects like teaching locals on how to use recycable products like empty containers, cans etc. make crafts they can sell. This way they help the local community to create a source of income.
9. the strategically placing of facilities (like accommodation) and activities (like bird waching hides) to reduce traffic into the centre in the Park. Because the park is devided into different zones (eg. Visitors zone etc.) it makes it possible for management to organise development, visitor access and to manage resources. Potential conflict between various user groups is therefore minimized. Each zone is developed according to principles accepted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).
10. park management remains flexible regarding visitor carrying capacities. Park Management has implemented a variety of visitor management techniques that are aimed at increasing visitor carrying capacities whilst reducing impacts. Some of these strategies include:
 - The strategic placement of tourist facilities and activities that will reduce traffic into the centre of the Pilanesberg National Park.
 - Constant monitoring of visitor profiles, pattern-demands and attitudes.
 - Limiting vehicle entries to acceptable levels during peak periods.
 - The provision of conducted activities, visitor education and information programs
 - Special arrangements such as subsidized conducted drives over peak periods, open days during off-season periods.

These are only some of the green practices followed within the Pilanesberg National Park.

Worksheet 4 – Working in pairs

Find a partner you can work with and complete the following worksheet.

One can see that there are green tourism practices in the Pilansberg National Park. Advise management by listing at least 3 more green tourism practices that the Park can implement.

On the Internet or any other resource material, try to find more information on the Pilanesberg National Park in the North West Province of South Africa.

Peer assessment form

Before you start:

- Be sensitive and respect each other's feelings.
- Be honest.
- Evaluate your partner's work and do not compare it to your own

Name of learner you evaluate: _____

Evaluated by: _____ Date: _____

Activity: _____

Question	Yes	No
1. Was you partner positive about the activity?		
2. Did your partner participate in the activity?		
3. Was the work evenly separated?		
4. Did your partner encourage you and praise you for your good work?		
5. Was the activity completed in the given time?		

6. What do you think was interesting about your partner's work?

7. On which area(s) can your partner improve?

8. Did you enjoy evaluating your partner's work?

9. Did you learn something while evaluating your partner's work?

Self assessment

Tick your answer here

I Can	:)	:	:(
1. Explain what green tourism entails			
2. Determine the advantages of tourism for an area			
3. Identify green tourism practices in an area			
4. Determine the importance of green tourism			
4. Give suggestions for more green tourism practices			
5. Explain why a site must implement green tourism practices			
6. Identify different role players involved in an area that needs to be environmentally friendly and practice green principles			
7. Give realistic recommendations for improving green tourism practicesS			

