

• Maropeng • Happy Acres • Mogale's Gate •

Three world class facilities in the Cradle of Humankind partnering to ignite a love for nature in our future generations.



Maropeng gives a glimpse of the history of life on earth, the diversity of animals that have gone extinct, and the origins of humans.



Happy Acres shows the history of life forms that remain extant, their classification and structure, how they've adapted to survive, and how they interact with one another.



Mogale's Gate gives an indication of how diverse life in Gauteng was before mankind did so much harm, and the importance of conserving what is left.

We've teamed up to help you put the **Life** back into **Life Sciences**!

Why do we need this program?

It is crucial to teach children about the importance of conservation as they will be the future custodians of nature.

As technology advances, children are having fewer and fewer opportunities to get up close with nature, and most don't get opportunities to see living examples of what is taught in the classroom, or to see living organisms in their natural habitat.

The three organisations provide hands-on curriculum-based tours that aim to ignite a love for learning, and the importance of conserving our natural heritage.

The facilities are located 15 min drive apart, between Krugersdorp and Magaliesburg.

All are within an hour's drive from Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Rustenburg.

All Facilities Offer Guided Experiential Tours

Maropeng Visitors Centre's award-winning interactive displays focus on the evolution of life over millions of years that culminated in the development of humans. Learners take a journey through time starting with the formation of our planet through to life as we know it today.

Happy Acres provides a prepared environment with living and preserved examples of all major classes of plants and animals in the Educational Greenhouse and Animal House. Organisms are arranged phylogenetically to facilitate the teaching of classifications, structures, adaptations and interactions between living organisms. These lessons enable children to "see more" when doing the field-based lessons in the grasslands, rocky outcrops, river, or riparian forests. When more time is available, gamified hands-on lessons are used to teach most aspects of the life-sciences curriculum, and more.

Mogale Gate has a diversity of plants and wildlife that shows what Gauteng was like before man dominated the land. It's a rare opportunity to do field work while surrounded by animals and learning how dependent man is on a healthy environment.

Sections of the CAPS Curriculum Covered by Each Facility

	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Intermediate Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living and non-living things Structure of plants and animals What plants need to grow Habitats of animals Structures for animal shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants and animals on earth Animal skeletons Food chains Life cycles Skeletons and structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photosynthesis Ecosystems Food webs
Senior Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biosphere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements to sustain life Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants and animals Classification of living things Angiosperm Sexual Reproduction Variation within species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photosynthesis Respiration Microorganisms Interdependence within the environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ecology, ecosystems, feeding relationships energy flow, food chains, food webs balance of & conservation of ecosystems adaptations 	Grade 9
FET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants and animal tissues & organs Support & transport systems in plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> anatomy of dicot plants Biodiversity and classification Support systems in animals - skeletons Biospheres to ecosystems - fieldwork History of Life on Earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> geological timescale, mass extinctions, fossils Grade 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and classification of microorganisms Phylogenetic trees and cladograms – plants, animals Reproduction in plants Energy transformations – photosynthesis Population ecology / dynamics Impact of man – biodiversity loss Gaseous exchange structures - dicots / earthworms / insects / bony fish / mammals Grade 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to the environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plants, plant hormones, tropisms, defence mechanisms Evolution by natural selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emergence of new species artificial / anthropomorphic selection Human evolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of Africa theory, cradle of humankind 		

Colour Coding:



Maropeng



Happy Acres



Happy Acres or Mogale's Gate

Time Needed at Each Facility

Day Courses (Capacity)

Maropeng: (350) 1 hr tours

Happy Acres: (250) 4 - 5 hrs

Mogale Gate: (60) 2 - 4 hrs

Resident Courses

Happy Acres: (125) 2-3 nights allows coverage of the year's curriculum

Maropeng: (125)

Overnight stays allow learners to get the most from all three facilities.

Entrance & Activity Fees

Day Courses (Groups >30 only)

Maropeng: R100

Happy Acres: R100

Mogale Gate: R100

Meals available on request

Resident Courses (Grps >30 only)

1 night, 2 facilities: R800

2 nights, 3 facilities: R1450

3 nights, 3 facilities: R1850

Includes day & evening guiding, accommodation and meals

Best Time of Year to Visit

Maropeng: The displays are the same year-round.

Happy Acres & Mogale's Gate: The natural systems and life cycle stages change tremendously with the seasons. The diversity of life is most apparent and impressive from mid-September until mid-April. That is from the start of the rains until the colds sets in. These are the best months to visit if the intention is for learners to experience the abundance of life in the highveld.

During winter, many life forms are dormant so learners will see less. However, it is the best time to learn about the main drivers towards grasslands, and how life has adapted for the cold dry months and consequent fires.