

1st Strand Scout group
Helderberg District
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Just Trees
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1st Strand Scouts planting of Cedar trees in Boontjieskloof, northern Cederberg

On the weekend of 16 to 18 May 2014 a group of people from the 1st Strand Scout group took part in the yearly cedar planting project at Boontjieskloof in the northern Cederberg. This is the 3rd year that the 1st Strand Group has planted Cedars in this area. Once again Cedar trees were provided by Just Trees from Paarl with permission from Cape Nature.

The trees we got this year were very small trees called plugs. These small trees are a lot easier to carry when having to hike up into the mountains. We place 3 small plugs in a 2l cooldrink bottle to protect the young trees while being carried up the mountain. The small trees are also easier to plant closer to the rock in tiny crevices where larger trees cannot be planted.



Small trees 3 to a bottle

We hiked from Grasvlei which is at an altitude of 830m for 4.5km to Boontjieskloof which is at an altitude of 1050m.



Team ready to leave for Boontjieskloof

We slept at the hut in Boontjieskloof to get an early start.



The late autumn mornings at 1050m in the Cederberg are quite cold but the colours with the rising sun are awesome.



This year we focused on 3 areas as indicated on the map below. The younger people in the group climbed higher up on one of the south facing slopes in Boontjieskloof and planted at a higher elevation.



We try and plant the trees as close to rocks as possible and where there is the most shade for the tree. We also try and look for places where the tree will be protected from veld fires.

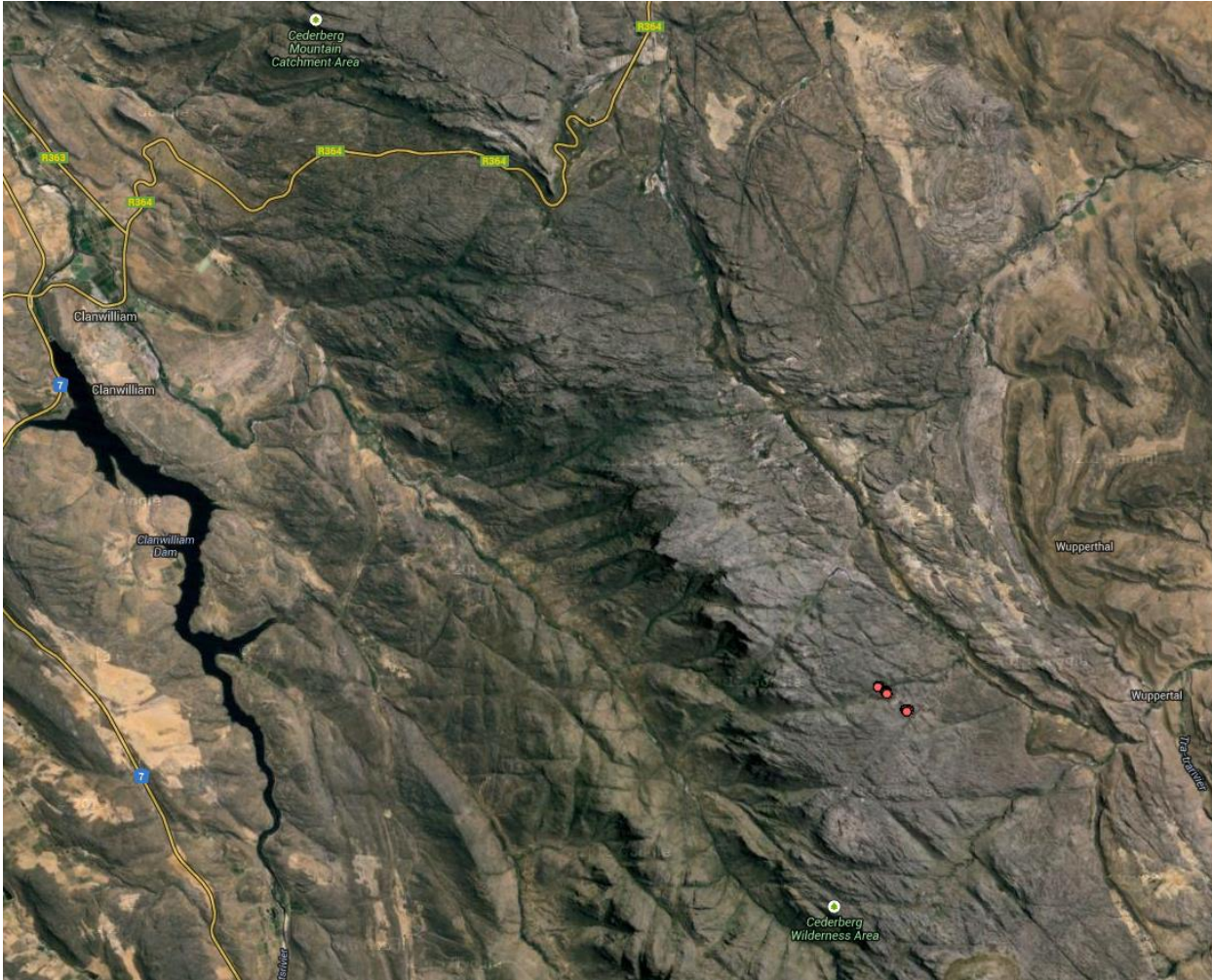


We mark every tree, record the location, height and who planted the tree. We also take a picture of the tree to assist with finding the tree again. We provide Cape Nature with the location information of all the trees. The height information is used to see how much the trees grow each year. Knowing who planted the tree is great for showing the young people in later years who planted which tree.

We are encouraging the younger people to get involved in this project so that they can carry on doing it in the next generation.



The area where we have been planting cedar trees for the past 3 years is quite remote and not easy to reach. Not many people come to this area. On the map below you can see where we planted the cedars this year (three small red dots) in relation to Wuppertal and Clanwilliam.



Once again thank you to Cape Nature for giving the Scouts the opportunity to do this project and to Just trees for providing the trees.



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