

## Centocow Teenagers

The project is based in Centocow, South Africa and is supported by Exmouth Quaker Meeting.

The project evolved out of a campaign to end the abduction of girls and young women for early marriage and other tribal practices. It is working with teenage girls to empower them to advocate for their education and gender rights by showing them the educational and vocational opportunities that exist when they delay pregnancies and teenage marriages and learn how to refuse the roles which are culturally expected of them.

The girls will work with trainers using an established and successful programme - the Women's Leadership Programme - to build self-confidence, knowledge, skills and moral integrity to equip them for positions of leadership and influence in society.

The project will also educate the wider community about the importance of wildlife in the immediate environment as Centocow has a great variety of biodiversity and biomes, including indigenous forests that are rare in South Africa. Wildlife experts will help the girls identify indigenous plants and flowers, frogs and insects in their areas, with a view to finding out whether there is sufficient biodiversity to work towards the declaration of a Key Biodiversity Area. A KBA would give the community access to international funding sources to enable further protection measures as well as addressing the huge problem of soil erosion.



Sibongile Mtungwa, director of the Women's Leadership Training Programme