

WILDERNESS
FOUNDATION
AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



Integrating **SPECIES, SPACES** and
PEOPLE to protect and sustain life
on earth.

WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

A F R I C A

ABOUT US

Wilderness Foundation Africa is an African conservation and youth development organisation.

It is a registered non-profit organisation (009-437) and Public Benefit organisation (130000632).

All our people-focused intervention projects are housed under Wilderness Foundation Africa Youth Development, categorised as a voluntary association / non-profit organisation (NPO: 264-532 | PBO: 930061704). The entity is a BBBEE level 1 organisation and conforms with the definitions contained in the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Act and subsequent Codes of Good Practice 2013, against Statement 100 Annex B. It is confirmed to have a beneficiary reach of 100% Black people from designated groups, with a focus on

Youth, at least 51% being Black women and 100% Black new entrants.

OUR VISION

A world with thriving intact natural ecosystems and wilderness areas that are valued and effectively protected for the benefit of all.

OUR VALUES

- Promoting equity, adaptation, resilience and transformation
- Respect for people, wildlife and the environment
- A passion for direct conservation action and a commitment to conservation education
- Operations that demonstrate integrity, transparency, sustainability and innovation





"If we lose wilderness, we lose forever the knowledge of what it means to be human."

- Dr Ian Player

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride that I present the Chairperson's Report for Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA) for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. This past year has been one of both significant achievements and challenges, as we continue our mission to protect and sustain wilderness areas and the biodiversity they support, while also empowering communities and youth through innovative nature-based solutions.

VISION 2040

We find ourselves at a pivotal moment in conservation in South Africa. In September 2024, South African National Parks (SANParks) officially unveiled its initiative, Vision 2040, an actionable, inclusive conservation strategy aimed at social justice, economic empowerment, and widespread participation. Following recommendations set out by the High-Level Panel and subsequent White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity (2023), Vision 2040 signals a much-needed paradigm shift.

These developments lay the foundation for transforming national parks into inclusive, economically empowering spaces, ensuring that every South African is a stakeholder in conservation. Mega Living Landscapes (MLL) as the implementation initiative of Vision 2040 will be instrumental in overcoming long-standing barriers to protected area expansion, while also

unlocking pro-nature economic development that directly benefits local communities.

MILESTONES

One of our proudest achievements to date has been our long-term campaign to reduce the demand for rhino horn in Vietnam. The Wild Rhino Demand Reduction campaign began in 2014, during the height of the rhino poaching crisis in South Africa. Ten years on, we reflect with pride on its impact. Through this initiative we have reached over 38 million Vietnamese citizens through our social media campaign, more than 700,000 people through direct engagement, and 5.1 million individuals through indirect interactions.

This year also marked a milestone in our climate advocacy work. In March 2025, the 18-month Climate Resilience project - in partnership with the Presidential Climate Commission - culminated in a dialogue session with stakeholders to test and give final input into a Draft Climate Resilience Framework Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan. The project is now engaged in getting the framework and plan accepted and adopted by the local council and implemented as per the Climate Change Act's requirements of metros, which includes the establishment of a multi-stakeholder climate change committee.

This year we also launched the Eco-Crusaders Programme which continues to shine as a beacon for

youth empowerment in the face of climate change. By promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability among young South Africans, the programme seeks to ignite the passion and responsibility necessary to address the root causes of environmental degradation. In doing so, it also builds community resilience and encourages behaviour change that supports a sustainable future.

Throughout the year, WFA has remained steadfast in supporting the development and implementation of progressive biodiversity and climate policies in South Africa. By actively engaging and mobilising civil society, and through targeted capacity building, we contribute to legislative and governance frameworks that protect ecosystems while empowering communities.

Our forward-thinking initiative, Exploring Conservation Futures in Africa, has positioned itself as a strategic and participatory tool for informing conservation action. The report published in March 2025 analyses the future operating landscape for conservation, focusing on socio-economic and ecological transformations, governance challenges, and innovative approaches to conservation effectiveness. It seeks to identify future

priorities, promote integrated solutions, and ensure that conservation aligns more closely with broader societal needs.

Our Protected Area Programme has also made considerable strides. The Augrabies Landscape Project (ALP) was launched in 2024, which aims to safeguard the region's exceptional biodiversity and natural resources while contributing to national conservation priorities such as the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy, MLL, and the Northern Cape Protected Areas Expansion Strategy.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the unwavering support of our partners and long-standing funders, whose dedication makes our work a reality. We remain deeply grateful for your commitment to safeguarding the natural world for future generations.

In closing, I extend heartfelt thanks to my fellow Trustees of the Board for their ongoing guidance and commitment, and to our CEO and the entire staff at WFA. Your daily efforts and dedication continue to inspire and uplift us all, as we work together to make the world a better, more sustainable place for nature, for people, and for generations to come.

- Todani Moyo



KEY IMPACTS

13 years of vehicle support for rhino protection

To date, **280** black rhino & **40** white rhino DNA samples collected

Over **43.8 million** Vietnamese citizens reached through Wild Rhino Demand Reduction

To date, over **3 363 flying hours** of rhino monitoring and protection



57 priority sites identified and Biodiversity Site Assessments conducted

28 priority sites presented to the Provincial Protected Area Expansion Review

18 new Conservation Agreements signed

33 873 ha under negotiation for new Contractual National Parks

Biodiversity knowledge enhanced for **62 481 ha** of previously under-surveyed areas in the Northern Cape



To date, over **69 765** youth have experienced nature through Wilderness Nature Trails

To date, **2 057** youth have received wellness & job readiness training through Siyazenzela

75% of Siyazenzela Graduates who completed training between April 2024 – March 2025 have been placed in employment, further training or workplace experience opportunities.

To date, **536** vulnerable youth have graduated with an accredited qualification through Umzi Wethu



SPECIES

The **Forever Wild Conservation Programme** uses iconic wildlife species as flagships to draw attention to challenges facing conservation and wilderness areas across Africa. Conservation interventions can then be directed towards these species resulting in the protection of landscapes and the



FOREVER WILD RHINO PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The Forever Wild Rhino Protection Initiative focuses on conserving free ranging and viable populations of black and white rhino in the wild. The initiative has several components that include the establishment of new populations in suitable habitat, law enforcement support, veterinary support for treating injured rhino when needed and rhino horn demand reduction in Vietnam.

VEHICLE FLEET

The Amarok double cab vehicles and Isuzu single cab vehicle continue to support rhino conservation across South Africa. The support from Volkswagen Group South Africa through their annual Amarok sponsorship is now in its 13th year and, in November 2024, the Volkswagen Amarok fleet was replaced with new vehicles allocated to priority rhino management and conservation reserves.

Ongoing activities during this reporting period included rhino poaching investigations, black rhino monitoring, support for the Satellite Hounds Unit in Kruger National Park, joint security operations between reserves in the Eastern Cape, on-the-ground rhino protection, assistance to WFA's aerial wing, rhino darting, and support for K9 units.

AERIAL SUPPORT

Both aircraft continue to operate successfully over Addo Elephant National Park (AENP) and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve (GFRNR), supporting SANParks and the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency

(ECPTA) in their partnership with the World Bank Wildlife Bond. Their primary focus being on the aerial monitoring and protection of black rhino populations.

Since 2015, the aircraft have accumulated over 3,363 flight hours dedicated to rhino surveillance and conservation efforts. This support is essential to the ongoing success of the Wildlife Bond initiative in both protected areas.

ZU-WFA also plays a vital role in supporting Marine Units through regular aerial, weather permitting, patrols for detecting and apprehension of abalone poaching.

However, both aircraft have now reached the end of their operational lifespan and require replacement to ensure the continuity of the project.

K9 SUPPORT

Over the past eight years, WFA has supported the AENP's K9 unit by providing a dedicated vehicle stationed in the Darlington section, enabling the transport and deployment of the K9 unit which is able to operate throughout the entire park.

In December 2024, two new K9s were purchased by WFA and have been active in the field. Both the dogs and their handlers are performing well, with daily training and tracking sessions progressing according to schedule. They are also scheduled to undergo further operational training at Kruger National Park in the near future.



WILDLIFE OPERATIONS GROUP

The Wildlife Operations Group remains active through facilitating intelligence support and ad hoc support required by the South African Police Service. With the ongoing threat of the illegal trade in succulent plants, increasing attention is also being given to this aspect of the illegal wildlife trade.

D.b.b

The aim of the project is to improve metapopulation management of South Africa's population of *Diceros bicornis bicornis* (D.b.b.) the critically endangered South-western Black Rhino. Activities take place through the Desert Rhino Action Group which was established and coordinated by WFA in partnership with key private and state black rhino population managers. Ongoing work also includes developing protected area expansion / consolidation and reintroduction plans for South Africa's population of South Western Black Rhino and Identification and planning of additional potential re-introduction sites for South Western Black Rhino.

WILD RHINO DEMAND REDUCTION INITIATIVE

The campaign entered its 11th year of implementation and activities have gone from strength to strength. A cohort of dedicated volunteers in Vietnam has enabled the campaign to implement a range of activities along with new and existing partnerships and collaboration with local NGOs, organisations, schools and universities in Vietnam. Social media remains an important aspect of the campaign and this is also driven through a partnership with a Vietnam-based volunteer and the reach in Vietnam is extensive.

Key milestones since October 2014:

- 725 333 Vietnamese people reached through direct interactions
- 38 million Vietnamese people reached via Facebook
- 533 in-person events held in Vietnam
- 5.1 million Vietnamese people reached through indirect interactions





RHINO DNA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

As the project enters its 4th year, we are pleased to report encouraging progress, particularly in advancing our understanding of the genetic profiles of rhino populations.

This highly important and necessary work, supported by funding from the SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, plays a crucial role in enabling more informed decisions regarding the relocation of animals and the management of

founder populations.

Through the genetic profiling initiative, both confirmed and tentative maternal linkages have been identified, providing greater insight into individuals within the population where previously little was known about their genealogical backgrounds.

Since 2013, DNA samples have been collected from 280 black rhinos and 40 white rhinos.

SPACES

The **Protected Area Programme** focuses on the establishment, development and management of new wildlife reserves with an emphasis on corridors and linkages between protected areas. It includes concept development and implementation of conservation corridors and management support to protected areas with specific attention on management effectiveness, as well as ecosystem rehabilitation.



PLAINS OF CAMDEBOO PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

In 2009, WFA identified the three individual properties that form the 8,827-hectare reserve known as Plains of Camdeboo. Since then, WFA has improved the area through various conservation efforts, such as ecosystem restoration, removal of extralimital species, and the reintroduction of historically relevant species. Plains of Camdeboo falls under the Mountain Zebra-Camdeboo Protected Environment.

Over the past two summer seasons, favourable rainfall and weather patterns in the Karoo have significantly improved veld conditions.

Throughout the year, continuous ongoing maintenance has been carried out on the 52km electrified boundary fence patrolled by rangers, along with the upkeep of 60km of

internal roads, 12 boreholes and their associated pumps, as well as infrastructure maintenance of the homestead and outbuildings.

According to ranger patrol photographs and reports, all game species on Plains of Camdeboo are in good condition. Rangers continue to monitor and record births and sightings of young animals across the reserve. It is encouraging to report the return of multiple blue cranes to the reserve for mating.

As part of game management efforts this year, 200 eland, 35 black wildebeest, and 28 blesbok were removed and sold. 100% of the income generated from the game and venison sales are reinvested back into the operational budget.



COMPLETING THE PROCESS TO HAVE THE SUCCULENT KAROO NOMINATED AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

An important milestone was achieved in this reporting period with the completion of the nomination dossier. This included the required reporting on stakeholder engagement and the socio-economic and tourism benefits study.

Next steps are largely related to the process of submission of the dossier to UNESCO and support will be given to the protected area agencies and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) to complete this process.

AUGRABIES LANDSCAPE PROJECT

The Augrabies Landscape Project (ALP) is a strategic conservation initiative developed through a multi-stakeholder partnership that includes The Nature Conservancy, SANParks, the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environment, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL) and local landowners.

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The ALP represents the culmination of extensive planning undertaken through the Lower Gariep Conservation Corridor Project and was initiated in October 2024.

It aims to safeguard the region's exceptional biodiversity and natural resources while contributing to national conservation priorities such as the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy, SANParks' MLL initiative, and the Northern Cape Protected Areas Expansion Strategy.

The project's planning domain encompasses the landscape downstream of Augrabies Falls National Park (AFNP) along the Orange River toward Gamsberg Nature Reserve. The current phase focuses on protected area expansion and enhanced land management.

Highlights and achievements over this reporting period include:

- The project hosted its Inception and first two Steering Committee Meetings at Augrabies-Falls National Park which was well attended. Keen interest was shown by the conservation communities of both the South African and Namibian side of the Orange River.
- Ten top priority sites were identified and six Biodiversity Site Assessments were conducted and presented at the SANParks Review Committee for Protected Area Expansion.

Through mechanisms such as land acquisition and biodiversity stewardship agreements, the ALP seeks to expand South Africa's protected area network and support the achievement of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework - to conserve at least **30% of the planet's land and ocean areas by 2030.**



- Advanced negotiations are currently underway to declare 33,873 hectares of privately-owned land as Contractual National Parks, contributing to the expansion of Augrabies Falls National Park. As part of this initiative, two property owners have already entered into written agreements with SANParks under Section 20(3) of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, 2003, formally consenting to the inclusion of their land within the boundaries of the park.
- Property Operational Plans and Rehabilitation Recommendations have been finalised for four properties and currently in advanced negotiation phase for inclusion in the AFNP.
- Implementing a Technical Assistance Programme aimed at enhancing land management practices and promoting ecological integrity across targeted properties. All interventions are carried out in close consultation with landowners to ensure relevance, sustainability, and long-term impact:
 - Alien plant clearing, with a particular focus on the critically endangered Lower Gariep alluvial vegetation
 - Enhanced security and access control measures
 - Upgrades to water infrastructure
 - Continued camera trapping initiatives for biodiversity monitoring and
 - Deployment of ecological monitoring equipment and weather stations.
- Facilitated a workshop focused on developing a Theory of Change and Ecological Management Guidelines for the Augrabies landscape. The session brought together 30 participants, including representatives from The Nature Conservancy, SANParks, DAERL, SAEON, independent specialists, and local landowners.
- Facilitated nine Strategic Development Sessions to engage key stakeholders and partners in addressing development and land use pressures within the Augrabies and Namaqua landscapes. Additionally, actively participated in two workshops on Mining and other Threats to Protected Areas, to contribute to broader conservation dialogues and strengthen collaborative efforts in safeguarding ecologically sensitive regions.
- Drafting a Theory of Change and Ecological Management Guidelines for the Augrabies landscape.
- Formal comments were submitted on nine prospecting rights applications lodged with the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR), ensuring that potential impacts on these sensitive landscapes are critically assessed and appropriately addressed.
- Biodiversity knowledge was enhanced for 62 481 hectares of previously under-surveyed areas in the Northern Cape. New location and distribution data were collected for two threatened plant and nine threatened animal species, providing critical information for consideration in development decisions and spatial planning.

- Promoted landscape-level collaboration, good governance, and optimal resource utilisation by hosting two Steering Committee meetings and facilitating a strategic engagement between SANParks and DAERL to address overlapping protected area expansion plans within the landscape.

SAFE AND SECURE: SUPPORT TO NAMAQUA NATIONAL PARK

This project commenced in May 2024 and has three key objectives:

- Protected area management support
- Investigative support
- Community engagement

These objectives are supported by a range of activities that include providing management and strategic planning support to the park and developing a law enforcement approach, strategy and implementation plan. Equipping Park rangers to improve law enforcement capabilities as well as interprovincial collaboration are specific areas of focus. Interaction and communication with communities, park neighbours and stakeholders is being encouraged with an emphasis on conservation opportunities and threats associated with plant poaching.





WESTERN CAPE PROJECTS

WFA continues to support the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Branch with smaller projects which include a contract with the Table Mountain Fund to secure 67% of Cape Town's biodiversity network by 2027. This involves:

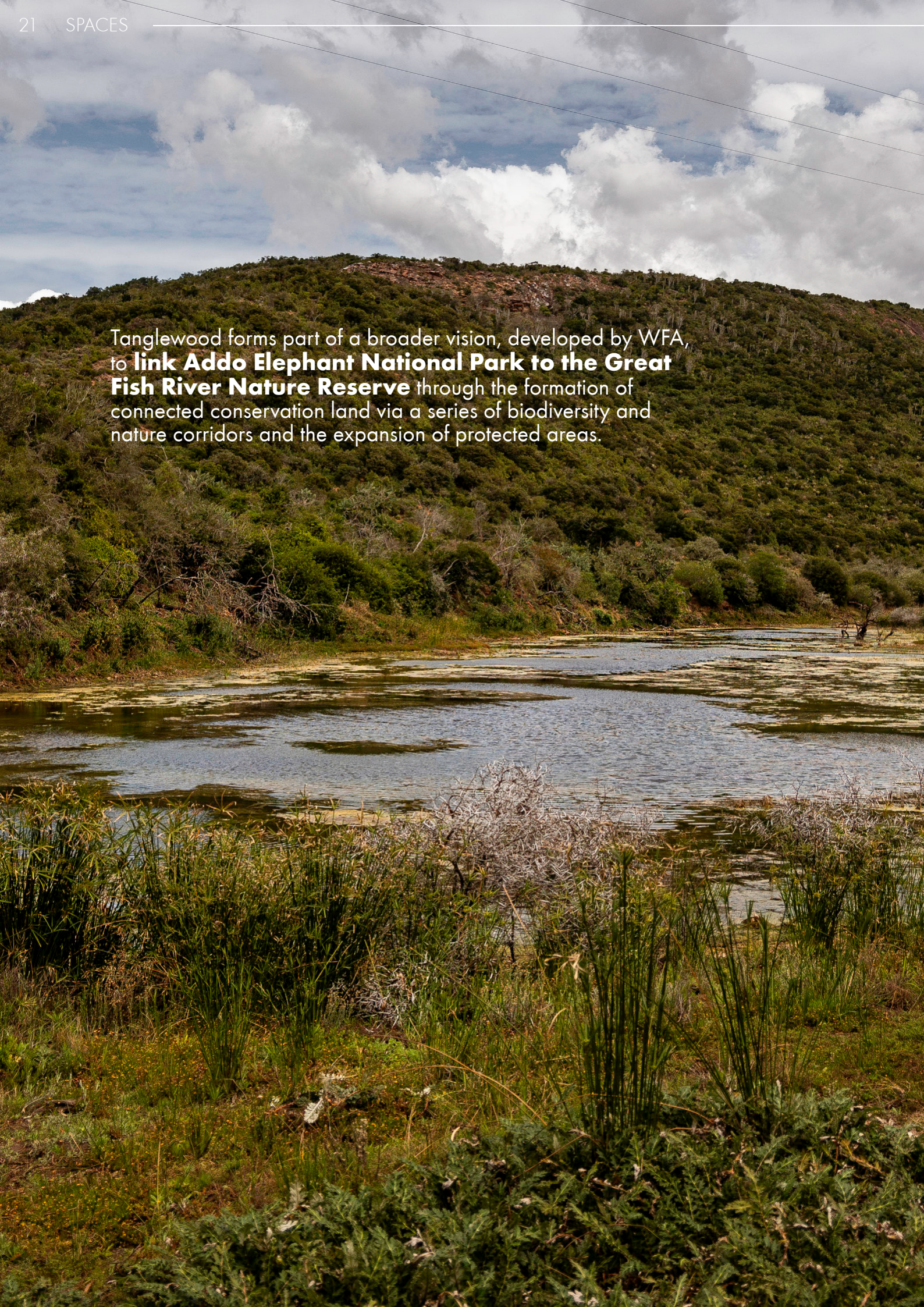
- Provisioning of professional services towards Protected Area Expansion including;
 - Drafting of surveyor diagrams,
 - Preparing of title deed endorsements,
 - Rezoning applications to Open Space,
 - Property valuations to plan and inform biodiversity and vesting of public land.
- Provisioning of Technical Incentives for Private Conservation including;
 - Signage for new Conservation Areas,

- Invasive Species Clearing projects;
- Ecological burning;
- Establishing walking trails etc.

TANGLEWOOD CONSERVATION AREA

Tanglewood Conservation Area (Tanglewood) lies within the "Bushman's River Corridor" in the Eastern Cape of South Africa and focuses on restoration and research of ecological infrastructure and the benefits this holds for ecosystem-based adaptation. Through this, sustainable development is supported by improving climate resilience for both ecosystems and communities.

Progress has been made to have the property declared as a protected area along with two adjoining properties and an agreement is at an advanced stage to drop internal fences with these properties to form a single land parcel to be managed for conservation.



Tanglewood forms part of a broader vision, developed by WFA, to **link Addo Elephant National Park to the Great Fish River Nature Reserve** through the formation of connected conservation land via a series of biodiversity and nature corridors and the expansion of protected areas.

CORAL TREE CONSERVATION

Coral Tree Conservation (PTY) Ltd is the commercial, conservation services consulting arm of WFA, which was set up to provide high impact, practical conservation solutions

The logo of WFA is the three leaflets of the Erythrina tree of which there are a number of species. It is more commonly known as the Coral Tree and the name is symbolic of the relationship between Coral Tree

Conservation and Wilderness Foundation Africa as the beneficiary of profits generated through the provision of conservation related consulting activities.

Coral Tree Conservation provides a full suite of conservation services from protected area planning and management, staff capacity building and feasibility and specialist studies.



PEOPLE

Through the **Youth Development Programme's** holistic skills development and education interventions, vulnerable youth are equipped to become economically active and environmentally responsible citizens.



EXPERIENTIAL WILDERNESS NATURE TRAILS

Through this project, WFA engages school-going youth from disadvantaged communities in an outdoor activity which assists them in finding a deeper connection with nature and inspires a sense of responsibility towards its conservation. The trails aim to introduce youth to the unspoilt beauty of true wilderness areas and the “healing power” found within its midst. At the same time, the trails are grounded in environmental education, with key conservation and environmental awareness messages being conveyed to the group.

The goal of the project is to provide opportunities for youth, who would otherwise have limited chances to access wild and natural spaces, to explore the natural environment and to become environmentally conscious citizens. The aim being for the beneficiaries to form a relationship, a feeling and a bond with the wild, which acts as a powerful catalyst for personal change.

Wilderness experiences offer young people an opportunity to disconnect from the distractions of modern life and re-connect with themselves, their peers and their natural heritage. It is a holistic experience that contributes to their development on multiple levels and is therefore incorporated into all WFA’s Youth Development projects. Where projects are implemented in protected areas with free-roaming predators e.g., Kruger National Park, beneficiaries are taken on hosted game drives to facilitate a similar nature experience.

The following Experiential Wilderness

Nature Trails were conducted between April 2024 and March 2025:

School (through Pride)

Number of trails completed	10
Number of schools/groups reached	10
Number of youth reached	67
Black participants	52
Coloured or Indian participants	15
Male	34
Female	33

Siyazenzela

Number of trails completed	7
Number of schools/groups reached	N/A
Number of youth reached	133
Black participants	108
Coloured or Indian participants	25
Male	61
Female	71

Game drives

Number of trails completed	4
Number of schools/groups reached	N/A
Number of youth reached	66
Black participants	65
Coloured or Indian participants	1
Male	19
Female	47

PRIDE OF TABLE MOUNTAIN

Pride of Table Mountain introduces hundreds of primary and senior learners to a one-day, entry-level outdoor experience in Table Mountain National Park every year. The learners come from areas such as Khayelitsha, Phillipi, Emfuleni and Mitchell's Plain, who see Table Mountain from a distance but never have the chance to visit it.

The Pride trails are led by trained volunteer Pride Leaders who come from the very same communities as the participants. These leaders serve as both role models and interpreters of the natural world, delivering environmental education with nature as the classroom. Along the trails, participants explore sustainability topics such as biodiversity conservation, water security and

recycling. Many of the Pride Leaders started their journeys with Pride as participants in their youth more than 15 years ago. Pride not only harnesses the healing power of nature for the leaders and participants, but also provides an opportunity for the leaders to develop their leadership skills and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

Below are the statistics for the Pride of Table Mountain Nature Trails conducted between April 2024 and March 2025:

Number of trails completed	22
Number of schools/groups reached	21
Number of youth reached	844
Avg Pride Leaders per trail	11
Additional visitors	15



SIYAZENZELA

Basic Employability, Wellness & Leadership Training

Siyazenzela (meaning “We are doing it for ourselves”) courses are modularised basic employability, wellness and leadership skills interventions targeting unemployed and vulnerable young South Africans from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The course is focused on empowering youth; preparing them for success in both their professional and personal lives. By enhancing their employability, promoting holistic wellness and developing their leadership skills, the course equips vulnerable youth to become economically active and environmentally responsible citizens.

Central to Siyazenzela is the objective of enhancing the resilience potential of the young people who go through the course by exposing them to nature’s resilience, which they are encouraged to adopt and adapt to their own circumstances.

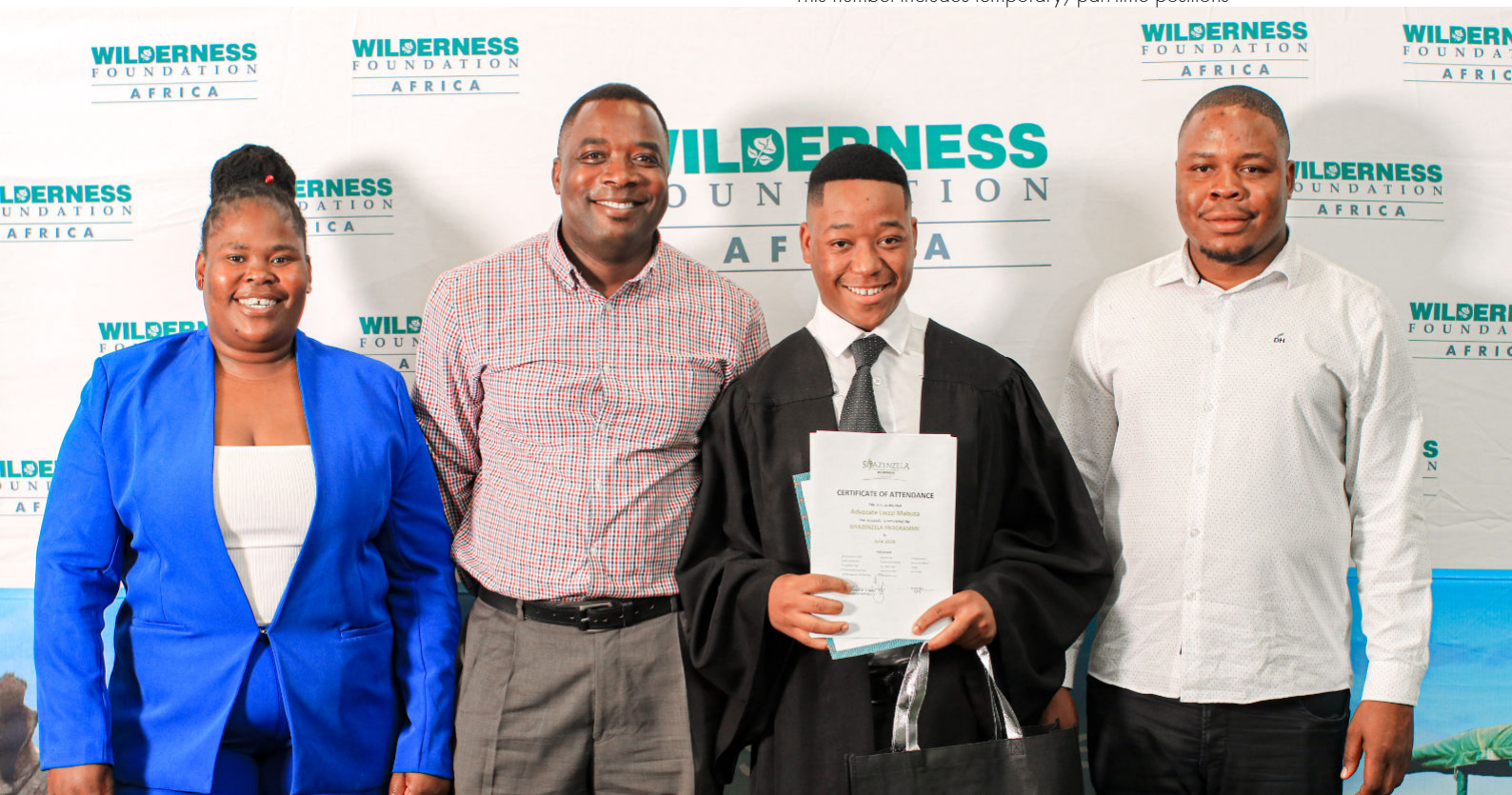
During the period April 2024 to

March 2025, the Youth Development Programme implemented 11 Siyazenzela courses, covering four South African provinces, namely the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Mpumalanga.

A summary of the courses completed between April 2024 - March 2025 is found below:

Number of courses completed	11
Number of youth selected	210
Number of youth graduated	199
Black participants	173
Coloured or Indian participants	26
Male	80
Female	119
Found employment*	71
Studying/Internships/ Learnerships	43
Completed Workplace Experience Programme	35

*This number includes temporary/part-time positions



IMBEWU

Experiential Education Workshops

Imbewu (meaning “Seed” in isiXhosa) constitutes experiential workshops which aim to deliver quality primary environmental education to disadvantaged youth to stimulate, spark and inspire their interest in biodiversity and conservation. Imbewu also aims to provide school going youth with an understanding of climate change and the importance of protecting our natural environment, while reconnecting them to their natural heritage.

During September and October 2024, YDP implemented environmental education workshops and trails with 46 beneficiaries from Addo Elephant National Park’s (AENP) Wildlife Conservation Bond. One of the Bond’s focus areas is to foster community involvement in conservation. YDP was delighted to be involved in educating children and youth from AENP’s neighbouring communities about conservation and the importance of protecting natural resources and its iconic species.

The intervention programme consisted of the following three components:

- Conservation & Environmental Education Workshops
- Wilderness Nature Trails
- Game Drives (implemented by AENP)

After attending the Conservation & Environmental Education workshops, beneficiaries were taken on educational wilderness nature trails in a non-predator area of AENP. Many of the beneficiaries would have had very limited opportunities to

experience wild and natural environments before. Throughout the trail, participants were guided in tracking wildlife, identifying both indigenous and alien plants and trees along with their medicinal and cultural significance, recognising birding calls and engaging in meaningful discussions centred around nature and biodiversity.

UMZI WETHU

Vocational Training and Scholarships

Umzi Wethu (meaning “Our Home”) is a vocational training scholarship programme which prepares unemployed youth, selected from WFA’s Siyazenzela courses, for positions in the conservation, eco-tourism and/or hospitality industries.

The Scholarship provides accredited vocational training for disadvantaged youth and ensures that graduates enter the working world with hands-on experience and resilience to further themselves in their respective fields. To date, 536 vulnerable youth have graduated from Umzi Wethu.

The following vocational training course - Capsicum Culinary Studio Occupational Kitchen Hand Programme (NQF 3) - was completed between April 2024 - March 2025:

Number of students enrolled	2
Number of students who completed training	1
Number of students still busy with assessments	1
Male	1
Female	1
Black	2
Coloured	0

Through experiential environmental education, youth develop a deep **connection** to nature and a sense of **responsibility** toward its conservation.



ECO-CRUSADERS

Climate and Sustainability Education

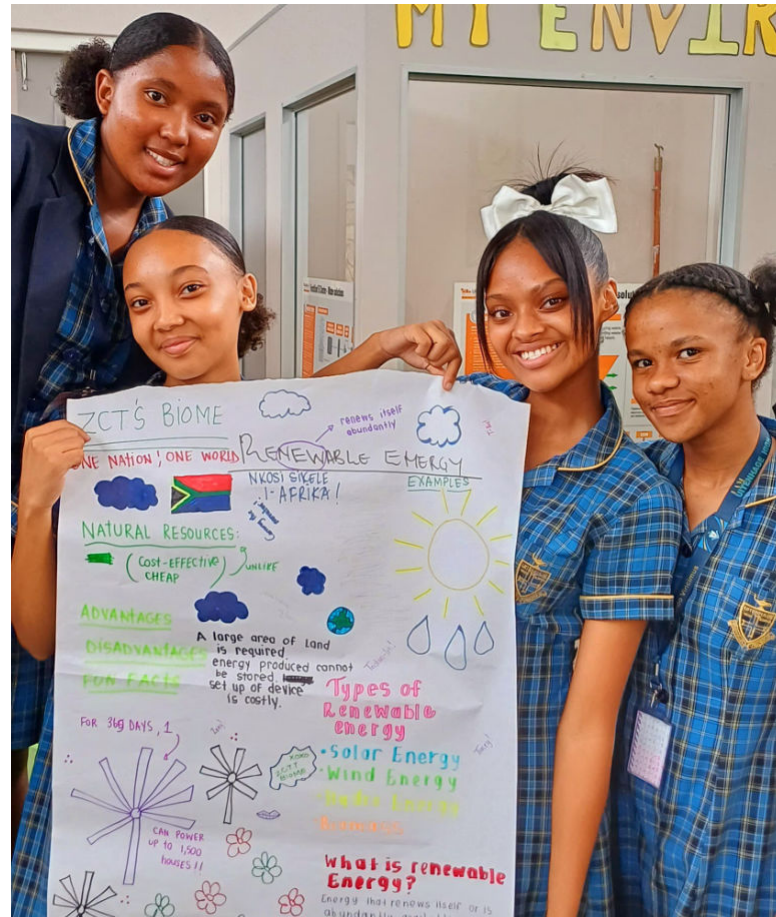
Eco-Crusaders seeks to tackle the underlying drivers of climate change by fostering a sense of environmental responsibility and encouraging advocacy among school going youth.

By raising awareness, influencing attitudes, and fostering behaviour change towards more sustainable practices, the project seeks to light the initial spark in the youth which will drive them to contribute towards minimising human activities which exacerbate climate change and advocate for climate action.

In addition to this, the project aims to build resilience within communities to cope with and adapt to changing environmental conditions. This addition emphasises the importance of preparing for and responding to the challenges posed by climate change.

The project consists of the following stages:

- Onboarding Briefing Workshop and Trail for Eco-Club Teachers from participating schools
- Pre-Workshop Presentations by participating schools' Eco-Club members
- Climate Change and Biodiversity Workshops for Eco-Club members
- Overnight Wilderness Nature Trails for beneficiaries
- Implementation of Eco-Club Climate Change Presentations and Sustainable Projects at each participating school



- Mini Climate Change Conference / Imbizo

The programme officially launched in August 2024 and reached the following targets by March 2025:

Number of participating schools	5
Number of teachers who completed briefing workshop	9
Number of teachers who completed the trail	9
Number of Eco-Club Pre-Workshops conducted	2
Number of Climate and Biodiversity Workshops	2
Number of Eco-Club members at workshops	54
Number of Wilderness Nature Trails conducted	1
Number of Eco-Club members at trails	10

ADVOCACY

We continue to promote a world with **thriving people and nature** by shaping conversations, influencing decisions and capacity building. Through strategic multi-level engagements we continue to strengthen environmental protection, advance just climate action and promote socially equitable and ecologically sustainable development.



POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Since 2020, WFA has been hosting high-level expert briefings and domestic and international field visits for South African Members of Parliament on a range of environmental issues affecting policy making. The aim of this project is to build political will in order to improve global environmental governance and coordinate interactions between policymakers and stakeholders.

Through nonpartisan engagement with legislators, we are ensuring that South Africa remains a global leader in conservation and sustainable development through knowledge sharing, capacity building and empowerment of Members and their constituencies.

The Climate Change Act, assented in July 2024, forms a comprehensive framework for South Africa's response to climate change. This Act aims to facilitate a just transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. The Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment conducted extensive public hearings across provinces to gather input from citizens and stakeholders. WFA supported these hearings with additional engagements with experts and civil society stakeholders, ensuring the bill addressed the nation's environmental and socio-economic challenges effectively.

Additionally, in April 2024 DFFE gazetted the Policy Position on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros. This emanated from the recommendations of the High-Level Panel, which CEO of WFA, Dr Andrew Muir, was a member of.

EXPLORING CONSERVATION FUTURES IN AFRICA

This project is aimed at exploring and addressing how conservation across the African continent can adapt to emerging socio-political, economic, and environmental challenges. The project brings together diverse voices from conservation practitioners, government, academia, and civil society to envision practical, inclusive pathways for the future.

In September 2024, WFA hosted a Conservation Futures workshop with leading conservation and futures-thinking minds from countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa, where we discussed the evolving challenges and opportunities in African conservation from diverse African perspectives. The workshop identified several priority knowledge gaps that must be addressed to enable positive conservation futures, and proposed key actionable recommendations and insights to address these priorities.

In March 2025, WFA published the workshop report which captured these key insights and strategic recommendations. The report is intended as both a discussion tool and a strategic framework to guide future inclusivity and resilience building.

READ THE
REPORT HERE



A CLIMATE RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK FOR NMB

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION

1. BUILD THE FUTURE WE WANT	2. DEFEND AGAINST THE EXTREMES	3. SECURE THE BASICS	4. STEWARD OUR ASSETS	5. CROSS-CUTTING THEME - WORKING TOGETHER
Shift to a sustainable, low-carbon economy (Renewable & Efficient)	Roads - Build Resilience to Flooding	Delivering municipal services	Carbon-conscious manufacturing	Working together - inclusive resilience planning, action and monitoring
Sustainable, low-carbon livelihoods and job transition plans	Sea - Prepare for sea level rise, storm surges, coastal flooding and erosion, and sand dune erosion	Disaster management planning and response	Skills and innovation	
Sustainable urban planning (Renewable & Efficient)	Drought preparedness and water security	Support community well-being and safety	Pollution prevention	
Urbanisation and efficient mobility corridors	Fire - Mitigate and the consequences	Governance	Protection / management / restoration of natural spaces and resources	
Waste minimisation and improved waste management	Heat - Building resilience to increasing temperatures and heat			

VISION:
A Climate Resilient Nelson Mandela Bay That Thrives
 (Clean, Safe, Working)

RESILIENCE OUTCOMES

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
 HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
 A THRIVING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
 RESILIENT EQUITABLE SERVICES
 RESILIENT BUILT ENVIRONMENT
 EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE MOBILITY
 COLLABORATIVE GOOD GOVERNANCE
 UNITED CIVIC PRIDE AND IDENTITY

CLIMATE RESILIENT NELSON MANDELA BAY

In March 2025 the 18-month Climate Resilience project - in partnership with the Presidential Climate Commission - culminated in a dialogue session with stakeholders to test and give final input into a Draft Climate Resilience Framework Strategy and an accompanying Action Plan. The 300+ people session included over 30 stalls displaying government, community and business initiatives which were helping build climate resilience at a local level and featured a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on the climate challenge faced by Nelson Mandela Bay.

The framework identified the vision of a climate resilient metro as "A climate resilient Nelson Mandela Bay that thrives (clean, safe, working)" and was centred on five pillars:

1. Build the future we want (e.g. low carbon livelihoods and economy);
2. Defend against the extremes (e.g. flooding and sea-level rise);
3. Secure the basics (e.g. the most effective climate resilience tool is a well-functioning local government);
4. Stewarding our assets (e.g. looking after our natural resources and up-skilling our citizens for a low carbon manufacturing economy);
5. The need to work together.

All present recognised that the metro, comprised of land and sea elements, is a complex inter-related system, which would require an all-of-society approach to adequately address the challenge.

The framework strategy had been developed through four broad phases:

1. An intensive desk-top scoping and assessment including interviews with key stakeholders to analyse the expected transitions climate change would bring to Nelson Mandela Bay;
2. Extensive engagement with stakeholders across the metro which included systems-mapping workshops and 11 public meetings;
3. Drafting of a framework strategy and action plan that was tested with key stakeholders and then presented at the Dialogue session for final input, this included a risk and opportunity assessment at a localised level at over twenty areas of the metro;
4. An embedding process from the get-go that sought to integrate climate responses in institutional and organisational planning.

The project is now engaged in getting the framework and plan accepted and adopted by the local council and implemented as per the Climate Change Act's requirements of metros, which includes the establishment of a multi-stakeholder climate change forum/committee.

It has been an eye-opening exercise in what collaborative planning can offer and a beacon of hope in what citizens and officials are currently doing and can do further.

FINANCIAL REVIEW



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Platform 62			
Rest Recycling			

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial

Income	R 38 047 457.00
Expenses	R 41 411 928.00
Loss	R 3 264 471.00

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalent	R 30 360 271.00
Property, Plant and Equipment	R 4 657 329.00
Investment	R 2 744 700.00
Total	R 37 762 300.00

Equity and Liability

Retained Income	R 7 428 287.00
Sundry creditors	R 548 862.00
Deferred Income	R 29 785 151.00
Total	R 37 762 300.00

HOW TO SUPPORT US

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Bank: First National Bank
Account: Wilderness Foundation
Branch code: 211417
Account number: 50750071629
SWIFT NO: FIRNZAJJXXX

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