



KARIEGA
FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION THROUGH COMMUNITY

2025-2026
INTEGRATED REPORT



A Purposeful Partnership

The Kariega Foundation Trust is the non-profit partner of Kariega Game Reserve. The partnership joins two separate, legal entities with independent governance structures and a shared vision towards the sustainable protection of the environment, the well-being of and advancement of local communities and the conservation of wildlife and their habitat.

The Kariega Foundation leverages eco-tourism activities on Kariega Game Reserve and within the protected area to raise donation funding in support of a broad range of conservation and community projects on the reserve and within neighbouring communities, as detailed in this integrated report.



KARIEGA
GAME RESERVE

In partnership with
 **KARIEGA**
FOUNDATION



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Message from our Chairman

As the Kariega Foundation heads into its second decade, our 'conservation through community' philosophy continues to guide everything we do. This year, my time spent within our target communities has been extremely rewarding, and it has reaffirmed just how significant our many programmes are in the lives of the people we serve.

Our Entrepreneurship Programme has been a personal highlight. Mentoring a dozen local entrepreneurs has shown me resilience and a will to succeed that is genuinely contagious. One story stands out: with the support of a few generous donors, Zanele channelled her energy and determination into a dream of her own; building the school her community needed. Watching that dream take shape has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my year.

Spending time in the community in December with the Amariders cycling initiative also helped me define, first-hand, many of the real needs facing our neighbouring communities. Education emerged clearly as one of the greatest of these needs, and I am proud that the Kariega Foundation continues to address it so directly through our ECD initiatives and many grassroots partnerships.

Looking ahead, I am especially excited about our Eco Sun Village, which will create a hub where communities can learn and grow in many connected ways: through entrepreneurship, education, digital connectivity and sustainable agriculture, encompassed by community-led governance. This initiative captures exactly what 'conservation through community' means to the foundation, building sustainable skills and sustainable land, side by side.

Governance remains a key strategic focus, ensuring the Foundation is built to last for generations to come.

And I ask again: What difference can you make? I encourage you to define your own answer, and to break it down into small, actionable goals.

Please consider supporting a local entrepreneur, or donating your time, expertise or resources to a cause you believe in. Together, one small community at a time, we can make this world better.

A.W



This year, my time spent within our target communities has been extremely rewarding, and it has reaffirmed just how significant our many programmes are in the lives of the people we serve.

Antony Wannell





...what stands out most is not simply growth in numbers, but growth in how we lead, how we report, and how we hold ourselves accountable to the quality of every project we run.

Lindy Sutherland



Message from our CEO

Progress, for the Kariiega Foundation Trust, has always been measured in relationships and results together. Looking back over the past reporting period, what stands out most is not simply growth in numbers, but growth in how we lead, how we report, and how we hold ourselves accountable to the quality of every project we run.

Our team has matured. As we have grown, so has our commitment to strong, distributed leadership across every project area, from conservation to community. This has meant fewer decisions resting on any one person, and more ownership held by the people closest to the work. That shift has been the single greatest driver of progress this year.

Alongside this, we have deepened our discipline around reporting. We are moving beyond simply tracking activity to genuinely understanding outcomes: what is working, what needs adjusting, and where do our resources create the most meaningful change. This discipline has not slowed us down; it has sharpened our focus and given our donors and partners real confidence in how their support is used.

That sharper focus has, in turn, driven a growing emphasis on the quality of each project, rather than the quantity of what we do. We would rather do fewer things exceptionally well than spread ourselves thin. Nowhere is this more evident than in our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) work, a truly unique thread running through our community programme. SEL has proven to be a genuine game changer, not an add-on, but a foundation. We are watching young people and adults alike build self-awareness, resilience, and the capacity for healthy relationships and positive decision making, and in doing so, change their families and communities from the inside out. It is quiet, patient work, but its ripple effect is extraordinary.

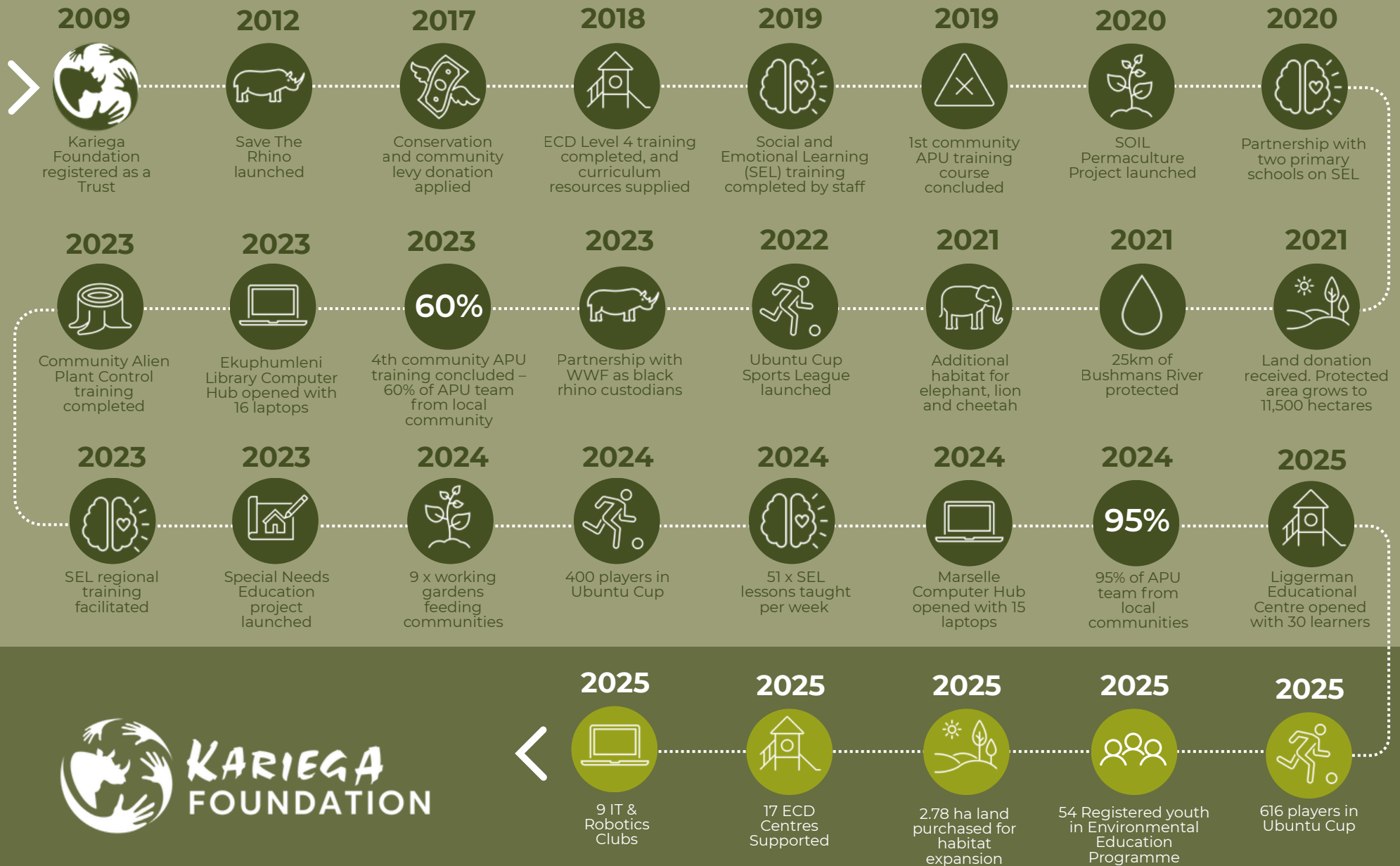
None of this would be possible without the leadership shown by our team across every level of the organisation, nor without the trust and collaboration of the communities of Ekuphumleni, Marselle, Klipfontein and Alexandria and Ndlambe Municipality.

Thank you to the Kariiega Foundation team and Trustees, to Kariiega Game Reserve, and to every donor and partner who continues to believe in what we are building together.

Ndiyabulela. I am grateful.

L.S

Our Milestones



Biodiversity Hotspots

We work in the Eastern Cape of South Africa at the convergence point of two, out of 36 global, biodiversity hotspots, where the Cape Floristic Kingdom meets the Mapututland, Pondoland, Albany biosphere. These biodiversity hotspots comprise only 2.5% of the Earth's surface, but are home to almost half the world's endemic bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species.

A biodiversity hotspot must support at least 1500 endemic plants, with less than 30% of the original vegetation currently protected. Biodiversity hotspots are irreplaceable, critical to our survival and currently threatened. The global target is to have at least 30% of habitat in biodiverse hotspots protected and under conservation management by 2030. Consequently, the Eastern Cape has been identified as a national priority with many stakeholders working together on the creation of the Addo to Amatole Biodiversity Economy Node (BEN).

As part of this vision, Kariega Game Reserve, in partnership with the Kariega Foundation, will continue to contribute to land expansion and the formation of ecological corridors to strengthen biodiversity while supporting conservation and community-based economic opportunities.

Africa's Biodiversity Hotspots

- Mediterranean Basin
- Horn of Africa
- Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa
- Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands
- Mapututland-Pondoland-Albany
- Cape Floristic Region
- Succulent Karoo
- Guinean Forests of West Africa



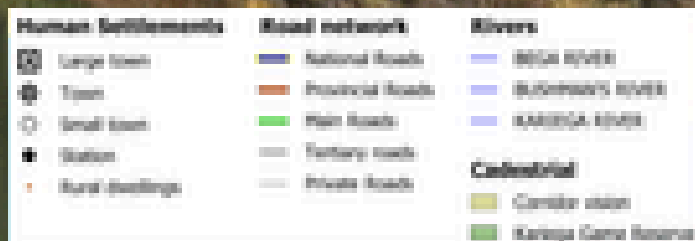
Greater Addo -Amathole Biodiversity Economy Node

The Greater Addo-Amathole Biodiversity Economy Node (GAA BEN) Master Plan is a strategic framework that integrates biodiversity conservation with economic development to ensure sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem resilience, and long-term prosperity. It outlines governance and institutional arrangements, identifies key biodiversity-linked industries (such as wildlife, tourism, agriculture, and bioprospecting), and sets out the enabling environment required for growth.

The plan promotes a sustainable biodiversity economy through synergies between conservation, community development, and economic sectors, structured around integrated spatial clusters for ecotourism, marine and coastal livelihoods, agri-business, and urban development. These clusters form the basis for collaborative investment in infrastructure, skills, and market access.

Aligned with the White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity (2023), the draft National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (2024), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and SANParks Vision 2040, the Master Plan provides a tool for government, businesses, communities, NGOs, and researchers to drive conservation-driven innovation and sustainable development.

The specific focus area for Kariega Game Reserve and the Kariega Foundation is the Bushmans River Corridor.



Minimum viable area of the Bushman's River corridor, illustrating the location of Kariega Game Reserve in relation to the BEN Master Plan

Vision and Mission



Biodiversity

The protection of biodiversity through habitat expansion.



Conservation

Development and implementation of Habitat and Wildlife Management Plans to ensure legal compliance and the highest research-driven conservation practices.



Protection

The protection of endangered species through the development of advanced technology surveillance systems and the management of a professional Anti-Poaching-Unit.



Community

Creating programmes and projects to sustainably and consistently uplift neighbouring communities, from cradle to career.



To be a united and conservation-minded community, working together to protect, preserve, and benefit our planet, people, and wildlife.

We create and implement sustainable, replicable and scalable project models to promote and support:

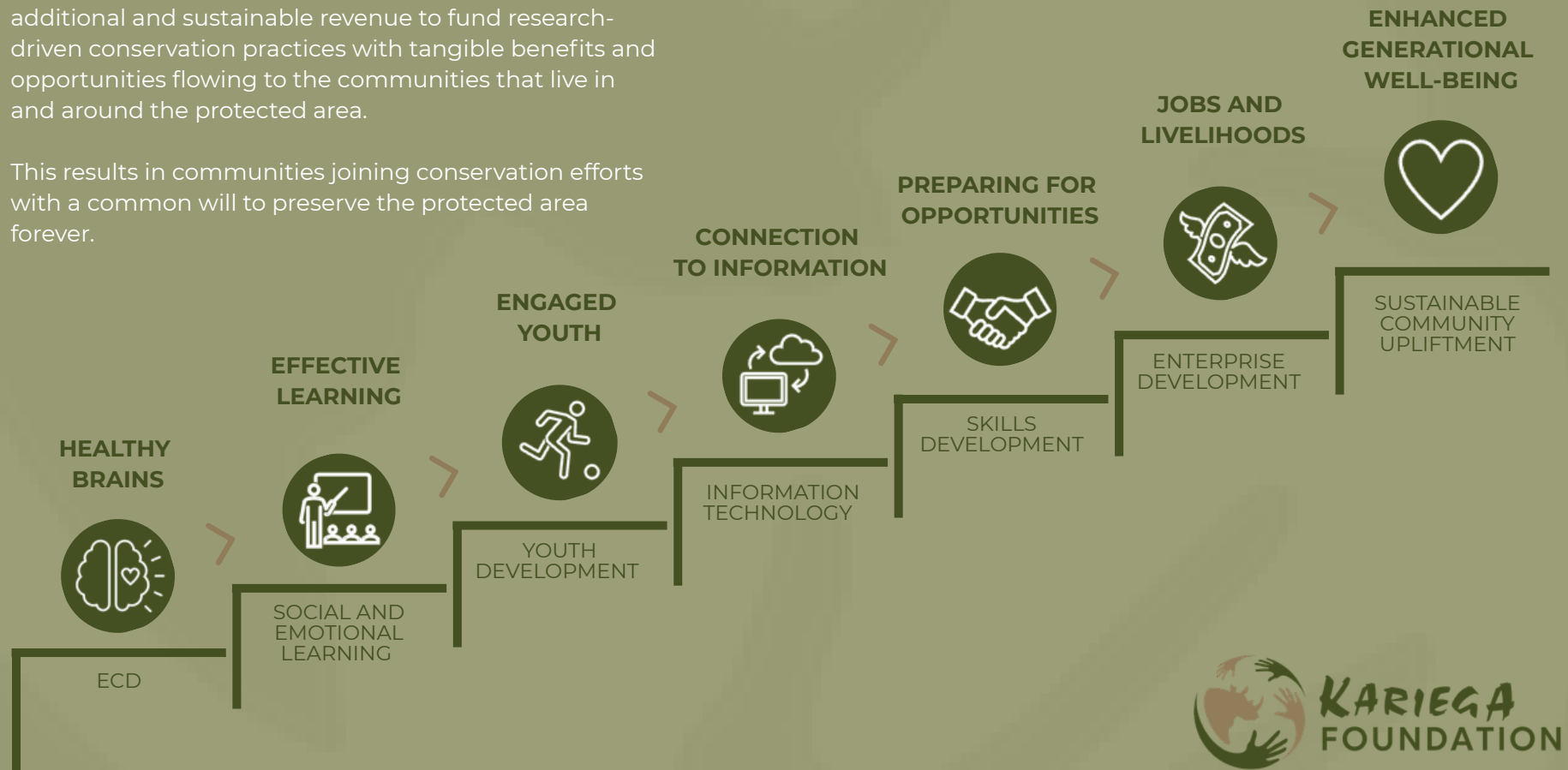
Our Philosophy

Conservation Through Community → Community : Theory of Change

We believe that the sustainable protection of biodiverse landscapes can only be achieved when land use through eco-tourism (or other means) generates additional and sustainable revenue to fund research-driven conservation practices with tangible benefits and opportunities flowing to the communities that live in and around the protected area.

This results in communities joining conservation efforts with a common will to preserve the protected area forever.

Sustainable Community Upliftment :
From Cradle to Career



Conservation through Community in Action

2025 at a Glance : Key Achievements



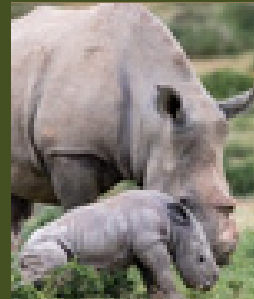
R14 MILLION
INVESTMENT



4500
COMMUNITY
BENEFICIARIES



678
CHILDREN IN
ECD CENTRES



ZERO
RHINO
POACHED
SINCE 2012



1000 LEARNERS
RECEIVING
WEEKLY SEL



LIGGERMAN
ECD
CENTRE BUILT &
OPENED



95%
APU FROM
LOCAL
COMMUNITIES



2 X
COMPUTER
HUBS –
30 LAPTOPS



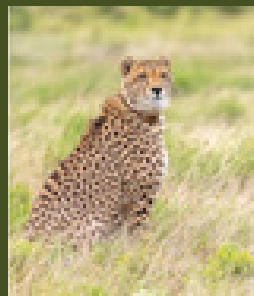
86 SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT
LEARNERSHIPS
AWARDED



300 COMMUNITY
ANIMALS
RECEIVED
VETERINARY
CARE



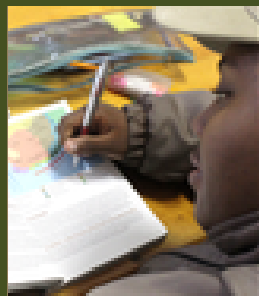
12 000
HECTARES OF
BIODIVERSITY
PROTECTED



CONFIRMED
PROTECTION OF 85
SPECIES LISTED
UNDER IUCN AND
NEMBA



616
PLAYERS IN
UBUNTU CUP



Trustees



ANTONY WANNELL
Chairman and Trustee

Passionate conservationist and experienced entrepreneur with a drive to make a difference in the Eastern Cape.

Career highlights include:

- 20 years as a board member of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, including serving as deputy chairman.
- 27 years building an entrepreneurial trading business.
- Management of a property portfolio focused on student accommodation.



LINDY SUTHERLAND
CEO and Trustee

Family owner at Kariega Game Reserve, with a deep love for nature, people and community upliftment. Passionate about creating lasting change through holistic investment in youth.

Career highlights include:

- Co-author of the COOL TO BE ME SEL curriculum
- Developer of the SACE-accredited SEL CPTD course
- Co-author of The Coolplay Way: Coaching with SEL
- SEL trainer and mentor



GRAEME RUSHMERE
Trustee

Family owner at Kariega Game Reserve, with a background in commercial law, business management, hospitality and wildlife conservancies. Passionate about the Eastern Cape, its landscapes, people and wildlife.

Career highlights include:

- Founding Partner of Harty Rushmere Law
- Executive and consultant at PEG Retail Group
- Co-CEO and Chairman of the Kariega Group
- Trustee of the Kariega Foundation since its inception in 2009



MANUEL KOSER
Trustee

A seasoned entrepreneur and business leader in e-commerce, technology, and venture capital.

Career highlights include:

- Co-founded and MD of Silvertree Brands.
- Co-founder and CEO of Zando in South Africa and Jumia in Nigeria.
- Non-executive director at FIN, (a credit, savings, and insurance provider) and several tech and venture-backed startups, including Ozow and Old Mutual's corporate venture capital fund, Next176.



IMRAAN SOOMRA
Trustee

An ethics-driven leader driving stakeholder value by shifting from traditional capitalism to profit with purpose.

Career highlights include:

- CEO of EASE Holdings.
- CEO at Global Fishing.
- 30 years of extensive experience across diverse industries at senior executive level.

Imraan resonates with organisations and individuals focused on addressing socio-economic, race, gender and religious imbalances.

A group of two adults and seven children are posing in a garden. The adults, a man and a woman, are wearing blue caps and shirts. The children are wearing various clothing, including orange shirts. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. In the foreground, there are large green leafy plants. The background shows a fence, a utility pole, and a blue sky with clouds. A green overlay with a tomato and hands graphic is in the center, containing the text "PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS".

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Biodiversity

-Habitat Expansion

OVERVIEW

The Habitat Expansion Project supports the Kariega Foundation's long-term vision to protect and restore the Bushmans and Kariega River Valleys. By securing priority habitats, the project strengthens ecological corridors, improves landscape connectivity, and safeguards vulnerable and endangered species.

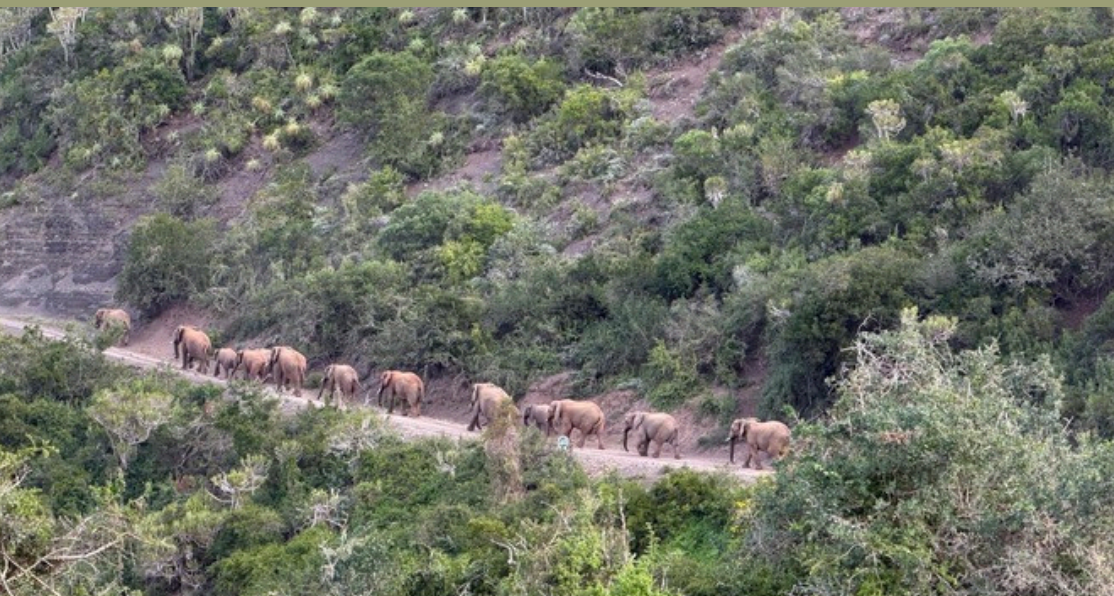
Each expansion opportunity is assessed for its ecological value, sustainability, wildlife management needs, land-use potential, and benefit to surrounding communities. Partnerships with donors, conservation organisations, landowners, and other stakeholders help grow this protected wilderness for the benefit of both wildlife and people.

The project also feeds into the broader Bushmans River Valley Wildlife Corridor, contributing to South Africa's national and global biodiversity goals.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The incorporation of Aquavista 299 into Kariega West is a key milestone for landscape connectivity and long-term conservation. The property is included in the new Certificate of Adequate Enclosure and will be reflected in the updated Protected Area Management Plan.
- Initial engagements between Kariega Game Reserve, Kariega Foundation, Kusela-Emanzini, and Kusela Foundation directors explored future land expansion and collaboration within the Bushmans River Conservation Corridor.
- Alien plant control has progressed across Kariega East and West, targeting Opuntia, Port Jackson Wattle, and Lantana in priority conservation areas.
- The Alien Plant Control team's capacity has improved through dedicated staff support, greater autonomy, and upgraded storeroom infrastructure for equipment, herbicide, and firefighting resources.

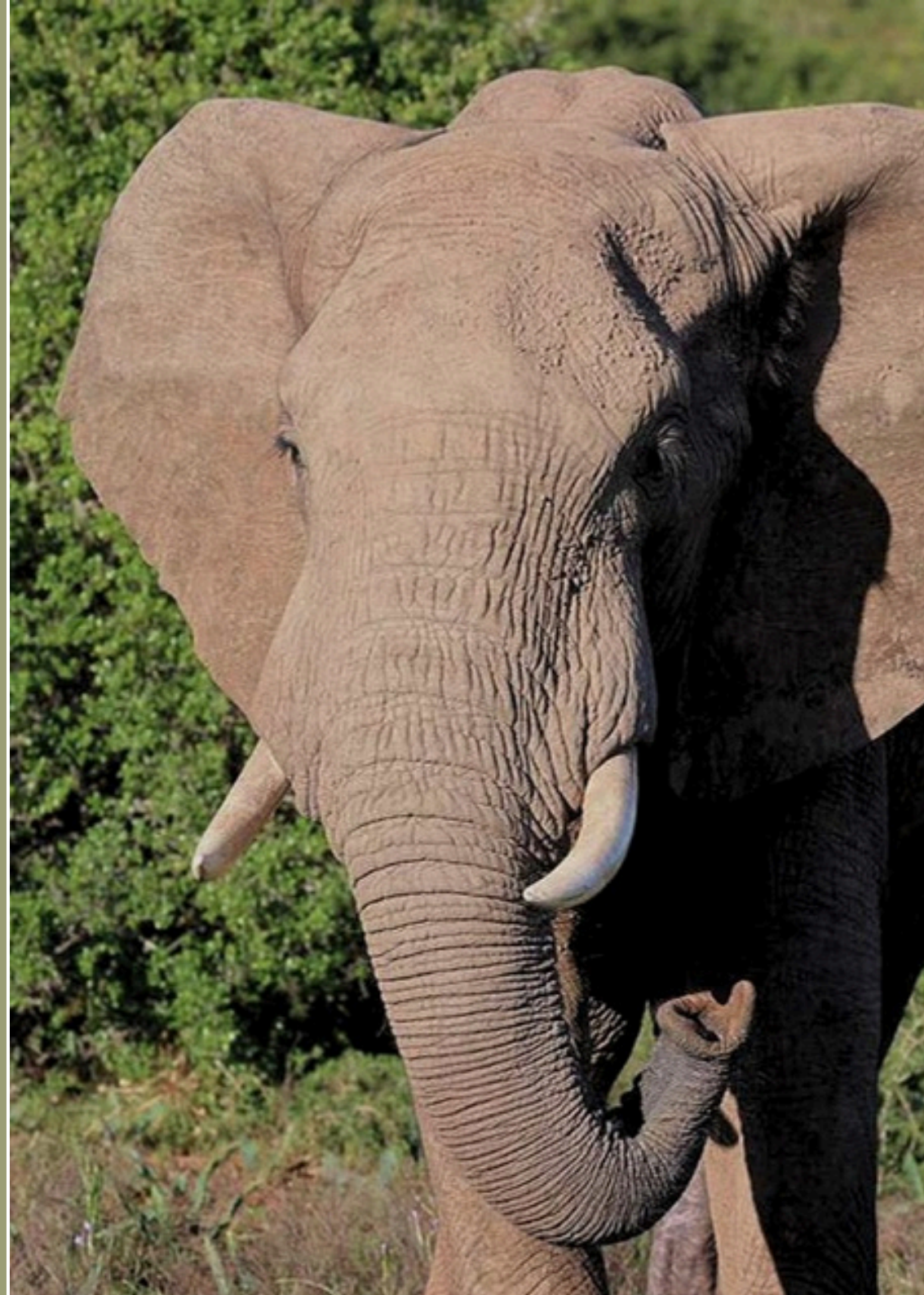


Conservation Development Timeline



Research Projects

- 2017** ● Africa barred-owlet taxonomy classification
local
- 2018** ● Serval research
local
- 2019** ● Brown hyena genetics and distribution
regional
- 2021** ● Secretary bird nesting behaviour
regional
- 2023** ● Elephant behavioural responses to land expansion
local
- 2023** ● Mesocarnivore camera trap survey
national
- 2024** ● Black rhino habitat selection
local
- 2025** ● Leopard population dynamics
regional
- 2025** ● Rhino dehorning effectiveness in protection
national





Inspiring Story

In June 2025, the Kariega Foundation launched a year-long aquatic biodiversity study to better understand the reserve's freshwater and estuarine ecosystems. Covering 12 sample sites from the APU Hut to the Poort Valley, the study follows the reserve's salinity gradient and is already revealing the richness and resilience of aquatic life.

Initial fieldwork recorded more than 9,000 invertebrates across over 100 families, providing valuable indicators of water quality and ecosystem health. Early findings show that even highly saline and mineral-rich waters support thriving aquatic life, highlighting the adaptability of the Kariega ecosystem.

The study will support long-term monitoring, conservation planning, climate resilience research, and adaptive management. With two academic papers anticipated in 2026, it strengthens the Kariega Foundation's role in biodiversity stewardship and applied ecological science.

KEY BENEFITS AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF LAND EXPANSION

- Expansion enhances reserve geometry (shape), improving the core-to-edge ratio and reducing edge effects.
- Facilitates natural animal movement and ecological processes at a landscape scale.
- Restores ecological dynamics while lowering anthropogenic pressures on boundaries.
- Supports authentic natural processes: dispersal, migration, predator-prey interactions, vegetation succession.
- Increases habitat availability, reducing mega-herbivore density pressures and vegetation degradation.
- Lowers predator conflicts (lions, cheetahs), reducing mortality and stabilising carnivore populations.
- Strengthens the ecological foundation for future land acquisitions and long-term conservation planning.
- Boosts resilience against disturbances (drought, disease, climate shocks).
- Improves predator-prey balance, supporting vegetation structure and ecosystem health.
- Expands habitat diversity, benefiting specialist species (e.g., black rhino) and wide-ranging species (e.g., leopards).
- Enhances protection of freshwater systems and ecosystem services (water quality, nutrient cycling, habitat provisioning).
- Increases capacity for monitoring and protection of vulnerable species.
- Overall, expansion provides qualitative ecological value beyond size, ensuring biodiversity persistence, ecosystem function, and resilience.

Protection

-Save The Rhino

OVERVIEW

The Kariega Foundation governs the strategic development and advancement of the Anti-Poaching efforts on Kariega Game Reserve, including a professional and well-resourced Anti-Poaching-Unit (APU); K9 Unit; application of advanced surveillance technology and continued implementation of dehorning and collaring programme.

Due to sensitive and confidential nature of this work no detailed information can be shared.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Zero rhino poached since 2012.
- 95% of the APU team are from communities surrounding Kariega Game Reserve.
- Low staff turnover has contributed to operational consistency, improved morale and stability in the team
- Strong leadership and management skills, contributing to team coordination and efficiency.
- Excellent training of K9 unit and handlers, resulting in more effective operations.
- The team passed polygraph testing, reinforcing confidence in their integrity and commitment.



Inspiring Story

Conservation is not only about protecting wildlife; it is also about protecting futures.

During routine camera trap monitoring, two youths were detected hunting illegally in the reserve. They were later identified, and SAPS and the Anti-Poaching Unit conducted a follow-up visit in Marselle, where a formal warning was issued to the older boy and his mother.

But the response went beyond enforcement. The Foundation saw the incident as an opportunity to intervene early, engage the family, and explore ways to guide the young person toward a more positive path.

This reflects our belief that conservation is strongest when accountability is balanced with compassion. Protecting wildlife and investing in youth go hand in hand, and sometimes conservation begins with a conversation.



“Inspiring Story

In 2025, the Alien Plant Control team achieved remarkable progress, increasing the total area cleared across all invasive species by 53% compared to 2024.

This growth represents far more than a statistic. It marks real ecological recovery: restored thicket, improved wildlife movement, reduced pressure on water resources, and better grazing for herbivores. In areas once dominated by Port Jackson, Lantana, and Opuntia, sunlight is reaching the soil again, indigenous seedlings are emerging, and biodiversity is beginning to return.

The achievement also reflects the growing skill, confidence, and efficiency of the team. With continued investment in training, mentorship, and equipment, this 53% increase tells a powerful story of momentum, perseverance, and shared commitment to restoring the land.

Conservation

-Alien Plant Control

OVERVIEW

Supporting species conservation is an ongoing habitat management programme with a strong focus on controlling and removing invasive alien plant species.

A trained team of Alien Plant Control Technicians, developed through our youth employment and skills development initiatives, uses technology to map, monitor, and manage species such as wattle, blue gum, and Port Jackson.

Through continued site monitoring and follow-up clearing, the programme supports long-term ecosystem recovery, strengthens habitat resilience, and helps protect the biodiversity of the reserve.

ALIEN PLANT CONTROL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Intensive eradication of specifically three Opuntia species on Kariega East
- Removal of alien plant species, has opened new areas to stimulate the recovery of biodiversity
- For the first time, the team can address severe Acacia saligna / Port Jackson infestation in the previously inaccessible Red Cliffs area, now safely reachable following the recent land expansion.
- A 53% increase in areas cleared in 2024 to 2025 across all species.
- Significant clearing has targeted large Lantana infestations near the Kariega East main gate and adjacent areas in Kariega West, where the species remains a growing challenge.

Conservation - Alien Plant Control

Area cleared (Hectares): ■ Jan-Jun ■ Jan-Dec

Lantana camara

Chemical



Acacia mearnsii

Mechanical & Chemical



Opuntia stricta

Chemical



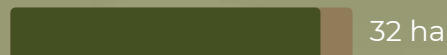
Sesbania punicea

Mechanical & Chemical



Opuntia ficus-indica

Chemical



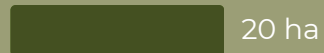
Acacia cyclops

Mechanical & Chemical



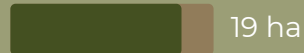
Eucalyptus spp.

Mechanical & Chemical



Pinus spp.

Mechanical & Chemical



8

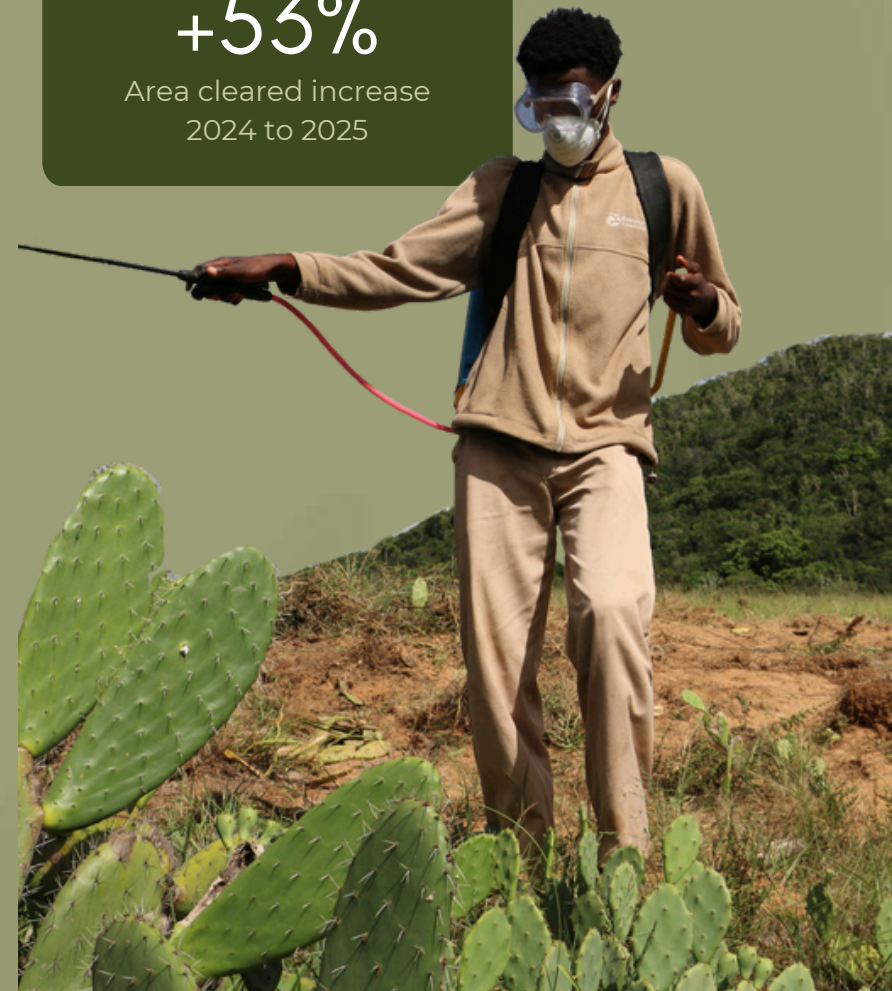
invasive species targeted

339 ha

339 ha total cleared Jan-Dec

+53%

Area cleared increase
2024 to 2025



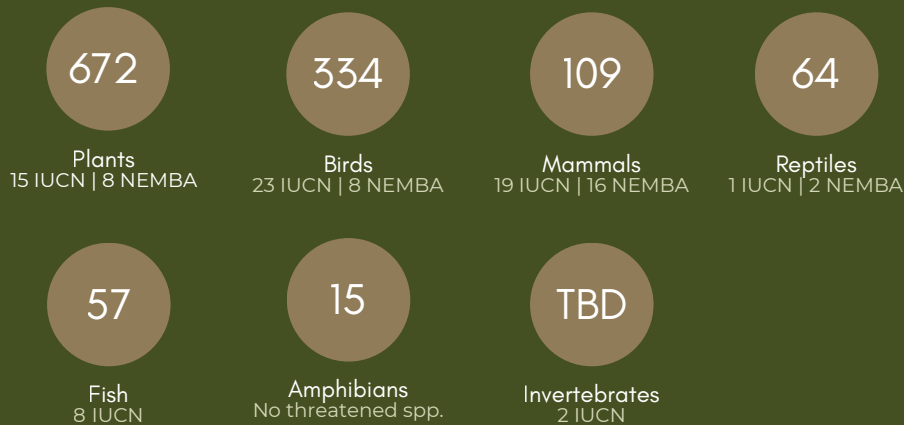
Protected Species

We use two endangered species lists: internationally, the IUCN Red Data List; locally, the TOPS list under NEMBA (Act 10 of 2004).

Kariega Game Reserve has 1,251 listed species, 85 of which are protected: 34 under both lists, 43 under Red Data only, and 8 under TOPS only.

The figure below breaks down species richness by life form group, showing protection status under each list.

Biodiversity –Species Overview



1,251 Recorded Species | 68 IUCN Red List | 34 NEMBA-TOPS / SANBI

-Species by Protected Status

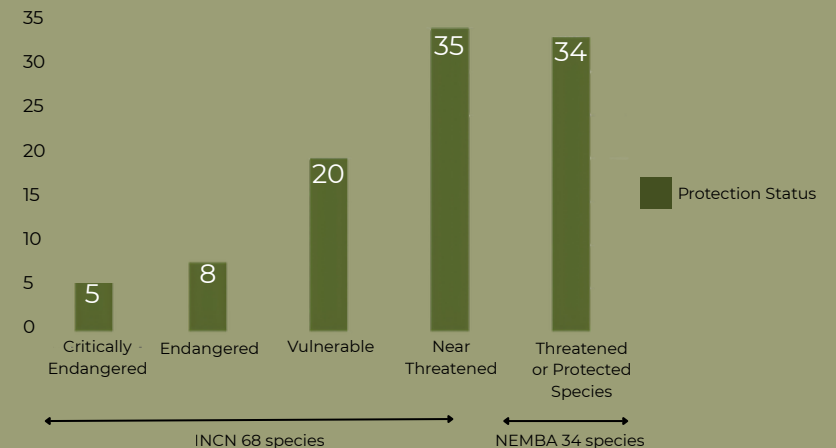
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Black Rhino
- White backed Vulture
- Esturine Pipefish
- Hottentots boegoe
- Euphorbia bupleurifolia – Newly discovered

ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Mountain reedbuck
- Martial Eagle
- Dusky Cob
- White Steenbras
- Albany Adder
- Inquieta Spiny-backed Spider
- Cape Dwarf Eelgrass
- Eastern Province Rocky

Note: The white rhinoceros is currently listed as near threatened. However, they are currently the most targeted animal by poachers and at risk of quickly moving up the list to endangered.





Conservation

-Current Research Projects

In addition to delivering on a busy annual, ecology calendar across wildlife and habitat management, our ecology team also facilitates the following research projects in collaboration with numerous partner organisations and academic institutions:

- Social dynamics and animal health – Elephant Reintegration Trust (ERT).
- Effects of landscape expansion on group associations, spatial utilisation & stress hormones - Bring The Elephants Home (BTEH).
- Black and White rhino monitoring focused on habitat selection, associations, habits, conditions, population dynamics, breakout and poaching risk.
- Lion monitoring focused on prey preferences, habitat selection, associations, population dynamics and breakout risk.
- Cheetah monitoring focused on prey preferences, habitat selection, interactions, population dynamics and breakout risk.
- Leopard research in partnership with NMU and other INDALO reserves on a PhD leopard study to help determine the region's population dynamics, range use and prey selection using camera trapping and genetic data.
- River systems research, understanding macroinvertebrate diversity and changes across a salinity gradient in the Bushman's River Estuary, Eastern Cape. – Tshwane University of Technology.
- Integrating community values and principles into conservation approaches for human-elephant landscapes - University of KwaZulu-Natal and Bring The Elephant Home (BTEH).

Community -Education

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)



OVERVIEW

Social and Emotional Learning forms the foundation of our Education Programme. The purpose of SEL is to develop a child's emotional literacy (EQ) and teach them the skills needed to manage the challenges of growing up in an under-resourced, rural community by developing self-awareness and the ability to regulate emotional overwhelm, make good choices, build healthy relationships and become agents for positive change within their communities. Research has shown that social-emotional learning contributes significantly to overall health and happiness as well as academic progress.

We work in partnership with two Primary Schools, where our comprehensively trained Youth Development Practitioners (YDP's) teach weekly SEL lessons to almost 1000 learners from Grade 1 to Grade 6. This project is endorsed by the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDOE).

HIGHLIGHTS

- SEL is now fully integrated into partner schools' annual teaching plans and standard timetables.
- Educator participation in the online SACE-accredited SEL training continues to grow, reflecting a stronger commitment to embedding SEL in classroom practice.
- SEL has strengthened teamwork, emotional intelligence, and productivity within the Youth Development Programme (YDP) team.
- YDPs are increasingly being invited to support behavioural challenges at secondary and high schools, demonstrating growing trust in their expertise.
- Parents have reported positive changes in their children's behaviour and academic engagement.
- Parent feedback also highlights stronger learner-parent relationships as a meaningful outcome of the SEL programme.

SEL Programme Overview

Social & Emotional Learning 2 Schools
6 Youth Development Practitioners

894

Learners Reached



46 + 22

SEL + Phys Ed
Sessions per Week

Ekuphumleni

505

Learners

3

YDPs

Grade 1-7

25

SEL Sessions/wk

14

Phys Ed/wk

Nompucuko

389

Learners

3

YDPs

Grade 1-6

21

SEL Sessions/wk

8

Phys Ed/wk

Curriculum: SEL Competencies

Cool To Be Me (www.cooltobeme.com)



Inspiring Stories

Likhaya, a Grade 4 learner, was an energetic boy who struggled with self-control and self-regulation. Through the SEL programme, he learned skills such as deep breathing, empathy, and active listening. Over time, Likhaya began using these tools when feeling overwhelmed, which helped him manage his emotions more effectively.

His relationships with peers and educators improved, and he became known as a kind and thoughtful classmate. His journey reflects the positive impact SEL has on learners' emotional development, confidence, and wellbeing.





Reflections on SEL - Oza



It has been such a blessing to teach Social and Emotional Learning in schools, through my netball clubs, and with my Environmental Education teams. It has truly been a life-changing experience for me. SEL has helped the learners and young people I work with become more self-aware, express themselves with confidence, and understand their emotions better. I have seen them develop self-management skills, improve their communication, stay calm, concentrate, and remain focused without being easily distracted. They have also learned to set goals for themselves and work hard to achieve them.

Across all the teams I guide, I have seen learners grow into strong, supportive groups who understand one another, solve challenges together, and build positive relationships. Their communication, teamwork, and willingness to work towards a bright future continue to inspire me. This growth can be seen across all the programmes I am involved in, including Social and Emotional Learning, the school Environmental Education team, the SOIL garden project with five home gardens, robotics and coding, and netball.

For me, SEL is not only something I teach. It is something I see growing in front of me every day, in the way our young people speak, lead, care, try again, and believe in themselves. That is what gives me hope for the future.



Education

-Early Childhood Development

OVERVIEW

Early Childhood Development lays the foundation for healthy brain development, school readiness, emotional well-being, and lifelong learning. In under-resourced communities, quality ECD support can help create safer, more nurturing, and more stimulating environments for young children.

Through this project, the Kariega Foundation strengthens ECD centres through needs assessments, educator support, improved infrastructure, nutrition, learning resources, and age-appropriate stimulation. A key focus is helping centres meet the standards required for formal registration, enabling access to future government support and long-term sustainability.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Expanded programme implementation into the Alexandria area, increasing our community reach and service footprint.
- Successfully built and installed jungle gyms at 12 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres:
 - > Six in Alexandria (two at Wenzel Park, one at KwaNonqubela)
 - > One in Marselle
 - > Two in Klipfontein
 - > Three in Ekuphumleni

These installations have significantly enhanced safe outdoor play and gross motor development opportunities for young learners.



Inspiring Story

The installation of jungle gyms has had an immediate and positive impact on the children at participating ECD centres. For many of these young learners, this is their first opportunity to engage in structured, safe outdoor play. The equipment provides not only physical development benefits but also supports social interaction, coordination, and emotional well-being.



Education - Early Childhood Development Data

17
ECD Centres



1,356
Children



120
Practitioners



24
Jungle Gyms



Children by Area



Infrastructure & Resources



12

Jungle Gyms
Ekuphumleni



3

Jungle Gyms
Klipfontein



6

Jungle Gyms
Alexandria



9

Practitioners
Trained



4

Vegetable
Gardens

Community

-Legacy Project : Liggerman ECD

OVERVIEW

Liggerman Education Centre is a registered NPO in Marselle, providing Early Childhood Development services to 32 learners. Established as the legacy of the Liggerman family through Helping Rhinos, the Centre reflects a long-term commitment to community upliftment through education.

Now registered with the Department of Basic Education, the Centre has developed a sustainable funding model through government learner grants, school fees, and fundraising. Kariega Foundation will continue contributing 25% of running costs until June 2026, after which the school will become fully independent.

Operating from a beautiful wooden structure, the Centre provides daily meals, supported by a sustainable vegetable garden, and continues to invest in staff training and development.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Celebrated the official opening of the new school building with UK funders, municipal leaders, and community representatives, marking a proud milestone for the centre and community.
- Increased enrolment from 29 to 32 learners, with 10 children preparing to progress to Grade R in 2026.
- Established a healthy organic vegetable garden to support nutrition, environmental awareness, and practical food garden learning.
- Created permanent local employment opportunities, including for a former Kariega Foundation Youth Programme participant.
- Secured Department of Education approval for future ECD funding support, strengthening long-term sustainability.
- Expanded access to early learning, while enabling parents and caregivers, especially mothers, to seek employment.
- Advanced towards full independence within six months, reflecting sustainability, empowerment, and lasting community impact



Inspiring Story

The Liggerman Early Childhood Development Centre was born from a simple but powerful need: young children in Marselle deserved a safe place to learn, play, and grow. Without a nearby early learning facility, many children stayed at home, and parents, especially mothers, were unable to seek work or support their families.

Together with Helping Rhinos, the Kariega Foundation helped turn this need into hope. Today, the Centre provides a nurturing space where children are welcomed each day with care, learning, and encouragement.

Children who once had no access to early education are now growing in confidence, curiosity, and school readiness, while their families gain new opportunities for stability, dignity, and a brighter future.

Reflections on Community - Noma



The Kariega Foundation's community programmes are helping to bring hope, care and meaningful change to the communities we serve.

Families facing difficult circumstances are supported with compassion and dignity, while also being encouraged and empowered to create a better future for themselves. Through peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution, communities are finding healthier ways to work through challenges and strengthen relationships.

Safe and welcoming spaces allow people to speak openly, feel heard and know that they are not alone. This support is giving young people renewed hope for their future and inspiring them to believe in the opportunities available to them.

Most encouraging of all is the growing spirit of Ubuntu. Community members are supporting one another, showing greater kindness and care, while children and young people are making more positive choices, taking responsibility for their education and beginning to see the important role they can play in shaping their own futures.



Community

-Welfare : Special Needs Education

OVERVIEW

Before this project, children with disabilities in our communities were largely overlooked, with families and caregivers receiving little support. Guided by donor and mentor Randy Steen, the Foundation learned that, with the right therapies and interventions, these children can reach their full potential and grow into adults who contribute meaningfully to society.

The project began by raising awareness and encouraging greater care for children with special needs, leading to the re-opening of Eluthandweni Special Needs School, which now supports 13 learners and 3 practitioners. The Foundation provides monthly staff stipends, learner transport, food support, and teaching resources, and recently renovated the school to add a second classroom and vegetable garden.

Through this work, once-hidden children have been embraced by the wider community, reflecting the spirit of ubuntu. The long-term goal is to mentor the school toward government funding and self-sustainability.



HIGHLIGHTS

- LeaNear enrolment has grown from 9 to 13, reflecting increasing community trust.
- Classroom renovations and new furniture have created a more supportive, structured, and comfortable learning environment.
- A new jungle gym promotes physical activity and play-based learning.
- Learners are progressing across their different developmental phases.
- Children are building friendships and engaging socially with one another.
- Learners now engage with their community without rejection or judgment for their special needs.

“Inspiring Story

Eluthandweni Special Needs School is not only transforming the lives of its learners, but also the families who surround them. A strong and supportive parent community has begun to grow around the school, creating a shared sense of encouragement, understanding, and hope. As parents witness their children becoming more independent, learning new skills, and coping beyond the safety of their homes, many are beginning to see their children's abilities in a new light.

One parent shared, “I never thought my child could cope on their own or outside our home. But now I see them learning and growing every day.” This renewed belief is also reaching siblings, who are forming deeper bonds and taking a more active role in supporting their brothers and sisters. Through the school, families are becoming stronger, more connected, and more hopeful about what their children can achieve.

Community

-Youth Development

OVERVIEW

Our Youth Development Programme is an after-schools programme focused on engaging our youth in positive activities that foster personal, community and environmental well-being. It includes three core focus areas:

- 1.Sport development
- 2.Information Technology
- 3.Environmental Education

-Sport Development

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Kariega Foundation's Youth Development Programme plays a vital role in developing sporting talent and fostering positive values among local youth. Led by six Youth Development Practitioners (YDPs), 547 registered players participate in netball, soccer, tennis, and mini cricket.

Practices are held three times a week and follow the CoolPlay Way, a coaching approach that integrates essential life skills and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) on the field or court. Players are grouped into teams and compete in the Ubuntu Cup League, which promotes participation, skills development, and sportsmanship rooted in respect, dignity, compassion, and unity.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Eleven Ubuntu Cup/League boys, scouted at local soccer trials, represented the programme at the Dana Cup Youth Tournament in Denmark.
- Foundation-sponsored Denmark participants gave back by coaching U11 and U13 teams and organising a match day.
- Two netball players were selected for the 2025 Sarah Baartman Under-19 team, coached by Noma (Community Manager and Head of Netball); Olwethu (Youth Development Practitioner) made the male netball team and was appointed manager of the senior ladies' team.
- Newly qualified netball coaches and umpires are strengthening local sporting capacity and community leadership.
- A coaching clinic gave Ubuntu League players valuable technical and tactical skills, while donated soccer boots boosted enthusiasm, training attendance, and match-day participation.
- Strong community support at events fostered unity, pride, and encouragement for young athletes.
- A new Teampact account is improving data accuracy, monitoring, and programme tracking.



Inspiring Story

Rooted in Ubuntu, “I am because we are,” the Kariega Foundation’s Ubuntu Sports League is transforming youth sport into a powerful movement of hope, unity, and opportunity. Across the field, young players are learning that excellence is not achieved alone, but through teamwork, discipline, respect, and belief in one another.

For Shining Stars FC in Klipfontein, access to training and proper equipment sparked remarkable growth, nearly doubling participation and building renewed pride and confidence. Investing in our youth is now opening doors once thought impossible. In 2025, scouts selected 11 Ubuntu League soccer boys to represent South Africa at an international youth tournament, the Dana Cup in Denmark. From dusty, uneven fields to a global stage, their journey proves that when youth are supported, futures are re-imagined.

Community - Sport Development Data

547

Registered Youth



30

Coaches



248

Monthly Sessions



4

Areas



Registered Youth by Area

Ekuphumleni

248

176 boys | 72 girls | 9 coaches | 52 sessions/mo

Marselle

222

185 boys | 37 girls | 2 coaches | 24 sessions/mo

Alexandria

50

50 girls | 3 coaches | 32 sessions/mo

Klipfontein

27

27 boys | 1 coach | 16 sessions/mo

Gender Split

388 Boys (71%)

159 Girls (29%)

Sports Offered



Netball



Soccer



Tennis



Mini Cricket

Coaching approach: CoolPlay Way | League: Ubuntu Cup | 3 practices per week



Youth Development - Sport : Ubuntu Cup League

OVERVIEW

The Ubuntu Cup is a youth sports league founded and sponsored by the Kariega Foundation, promoting healthy competition, team spirit, skills-building, and ubuntu values across communities.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The first official Ubuntu League matches were successfully played in Alexandria, marking a significant milestone in eThe first official Ubuntu League matches were played in Alexandria, marking a milestone in expanding structured youth sport.
- Community interest continues to grow, with more teams registering for organised matches.
- Engagements with local soccer and netball associations are helping position the Ubuntu Cup/League as an officially recognised development league.
- The Foundation strengthened team participation by providing playing kits, soccer boots, training gear, and other equipment.
- The YDP team is building stronger league and fixture management skills, including coordinating schedules with stakeholders to maximise impact.

Inspiring Stories

The soccer boys who represented South Africa in Denmark returned with more than match experience — they gained confidence, resilience, and a deeper sense of responsibility. Competing at the Dana Cup exposed them to a global youth football environment, bringing together players from many countries and testing their skills beyond South Africa.

Beyond performing well on the field, the boys learned to adapt, cope, and carry themselves with confidence while abroad. As sponsored representatives of the Kariega Foundation, they've brought that experience home by giving back to their community — assisting younger players and sharing what they learned. Their journey shows how sport can develop character both on and off the field.



Reflections on Sports - Khaya



The recent success stories achieved by our young participants in netball, football, and tennis have inspired many more children and young people in our communities to aspire to become part of the programme. Their achievements have not only motivated their peers but have also strengthened our relationships with sports associations and key stakeholders, resulting in increasingly positive engagement and support for our program.

Our Sport Development Programme has reached a significant milestone, with almost 1,000 registered participants in the Ubuntu Cup Development League. The league now comprises 40 teams competing across three sporting codes: netball, football, and tennis. This remarkable growth reflects both the quality of the programme and the trust it has earned within our communities. Rugby and boxing is our next target (Not sure if we need to include this part).

The Ubuntu Cup Development League remain the only structured junior league in our area. As a result, neighbouring communities have expressed a strong desire to have us extend our reach, recognising its value in creating meaningful opportunities for young people.

Beyond developing sporting talent, the programme has proven to be a holistic youth development platform. It equips young people with discipline, resilience, teamwork, leadership, and confidence; qualities that extend far beyond the field of play. Increasingly, we are witnessing participants become positive role models who are changing the narratives of their families and communities.

The continued growth and impact of the programme reaffirm our belief that sport is a powerful vehicle for social transformation. Through the Ubuntu Cup Development League, we are not only developing athletes but also nurturing a generation of young leaders who are empowered to create lasting change in their own lives, families and in the communities they call home.



Community

-Legacy Project : Ekuphumleni Youth Development Centre

OVERVIEW

Khayaletu "Coach Cool" Ngangqu, Kariega Foundation's Youth Development Manager and former Bafana Bafana player, has long dreamed of building a multi-purpose sports facility in his home community of Ekuphumleni, where young people have little open space to play.

With support from the Seagull Regatta and the Ferguson Family Trust, the Foundation purchased a 10,000 m² site for a community-owned Youth Development Centre featuring a FIFA-size soccer field, two netball courts, and a clubhouse with changerooms.

The project is progressing through EIAs, site planning, and rezoning, with pro bono work from Fluid Architects and Peter Sulter and Son, plus support from Global Adventure groups via Be Moved and Freedom to Roam Adventure guests. Khaya's dream is becoming reality.



Inspiring Story

On World Wetlands Day, community children and Kenton stakeholders came together with hope, gloves, and a shared commitment to protect our wetland. Their clean-up efforts showed the power of collective action, but also reminded us that this work cannot be done in one day.

The wetland remains heavily affected by litter, and ongoing care, education, respect, and community pride are needed to protect it for future generations. We are deeply grateful to Ndlambe Municipality, Bushman's Recycling, ECPTA, KOSRA, the Kariega Foundation, and everyone who helped make this meaningful day possible.



Community

-Youth Development : Information Technology

OVERVIEW

The Library Computer Hub Project partners the Kariega Foundation, Ndlambe Municipality, and BBD Software Development to build digital access and skills in rural communities. Fully equipped hubs in Ekuphumleni and Marselle Libraries give learners and community members access to 30 computers, staffed by an IT Technician and Facilitator who maintain the equipment, provide IT instruction, and run curriculum-aligned IT and Robotics clubs.

Through computer access, IT support, and coding/robotics clubs, the project builds digital skills and pathways to future learning and employment.



Community - Computer Hubs Data

Ekuphumleni Hub

18 Computers Available

Software Programmes Installed

- Microsoft office
- Microsoft teams
- Inspireware
- Scratch
- Boats
- Rangers
- Typing master
- Ace Code
- Tanks

Marselle Hub

14 Computers Available

Learner Engagement

University Preperation sessions for GR 12

8 Sessions/mo

2 Sessions/mo

School learner visits per month (average)

197 Visits/mo

233 Visits/mo

Learners' visits during holidays (average)

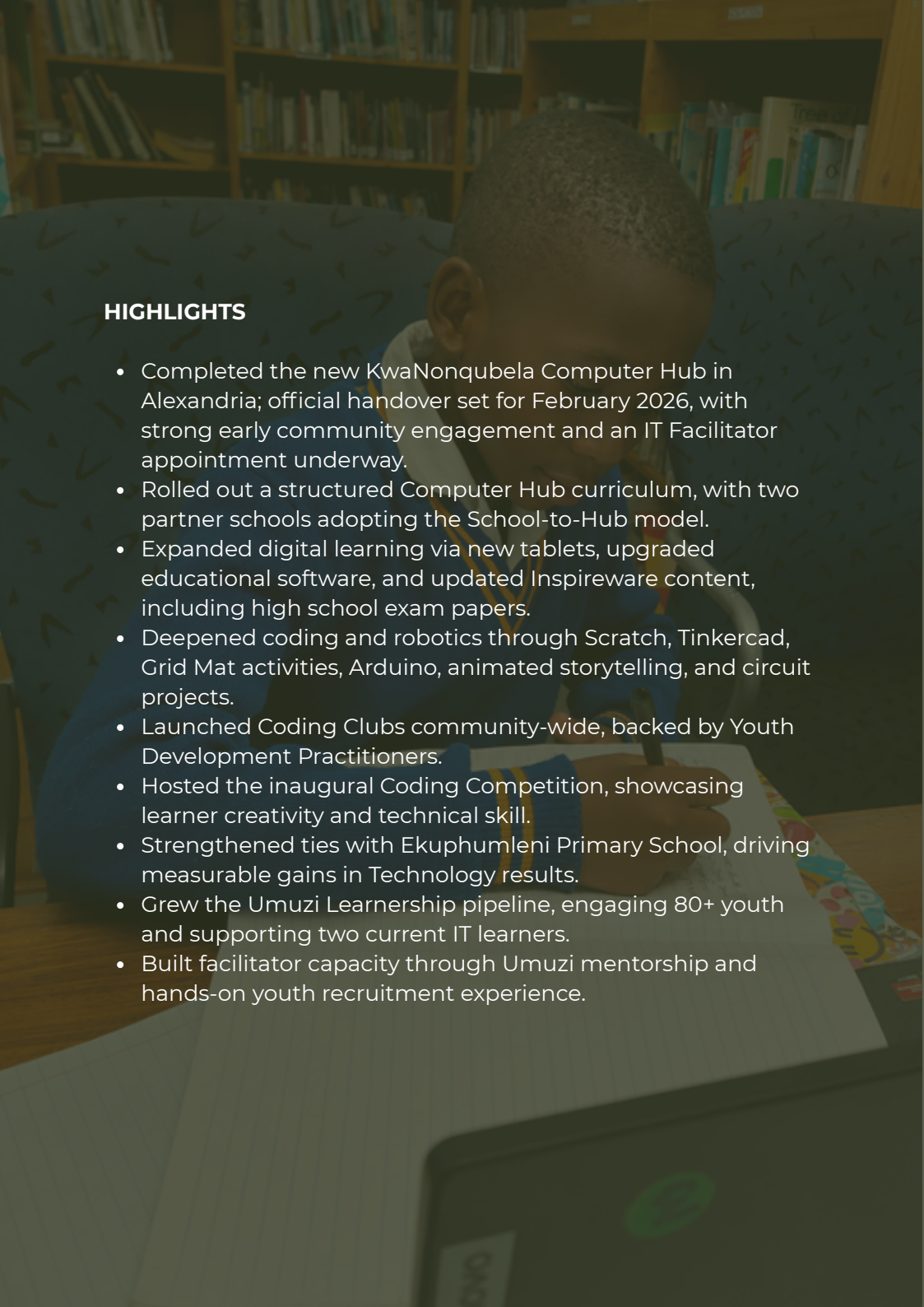
63 Holiday Visits (avg)

56 Holiday Visits (avg)

Community visits to IT or Library (average)

352 Visits/mo

182 Visits/mo



HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed the new KwaNonqubela Computer Hub in Alexandria; official handover set for February 2026, with strong early community engagement and an IT Facilitator appointment underway.
- Rolled out a structured Computer Hub curriculum, with two partner schools adopting the School-to-Hub model.
- Expanded digital learning via new tablets, upgraded educational software, and updated Inspireware content, including high school exam papers.
- Deepened coding and robotics through Scratch, Tinkercad, Grid Mat activities, Arduino, animated storytelling, and circuit projects.
- Launched Coding Clubs community-wide, backed by Youth Development Practitioners.
- Hosted the inaugural Coding Competition, showcasing learner creativity and technical skill.
- Strengthened ties with Ekuphumleni Primary School, driving measurable gains in Technology results.
- Grew the Umuzi Learnership pipeline, engaging 80+ youth and supporting two current IT learners.
- Built facilitator capacity through Umuzi mentorship and hands-on youth recruitment experience.

“Inspiring Story

At the Kariega Foundation, opportunity often begins with a simple shift in perspective. During a coding training session with Tangible Africa, our team discovered that coding can be taught through hands-on, offline activities, making digital skills accessible even without computers. This inclusive approach opened a new pathway for foundation phase learners and led Mr. Boma from Ekuphumleni FS Primary to invite our team to support their Coding and Robotics curriculum.

That same spirit of access is changing individual lives. One young community member, out of school and unsure of his future, was supported to apply for field guide training. Accepted into the 2025/2026 intake, he is now building a career in conservation, proving that with guidance and belief, new futures can begin.



Community

-Youth Development : Environmental Education

OVERVIEW

The Kariega Foundation Environmental Education Programme, run by our Youth Development Practitioner team, has 54+ active registered participants.

It builds environmental responsibility, sustainability skills, and connection to conservation through three goals: sustainable food production via permaculture (ten active gardens across two communities), waste management and community clean-ups, and hands-on nature connection at Kariega Game Reserve.

Registered Youth by Area

Marselle	31	3 gardens 8 sessions/mo 2 clean-ups 2 beach
Ekuphumleni	23	7 gardens 8 sessions/mo 3 clean-ups 5 beach
Klipfontein		1 garden 8 sessions/mo

*Focus: Permaculture, Waste Management, Conservation Connection
Klipfontein & Alexandria expansion planned*

HIGHLIGHTS

- 54+ youth actively registered across the programme.
- Ten permaculture gardens thriving across two communities.
- Children taking growing ownership of daily garden care, showing real pride and consistency.
- Learning spreading beyond sessions, with children starting backyard gardens at home.
- Several ECD centres stepping up to take over garden management, boosting local ownership.
- Garden activity now running more frequently each week.
- YDP team building stronger event-delivery skills — procurement, coordination, implementation, and reporting.



3

Areas Active



54

Registered Youth



10

Working Gardens



24

Gardening Sessions/mo



8

Community & Beach Clean-ups



“Inspiring Stories

A once-neglected construction dump site is now a thriving community garden and a powerful symbol of restoration, resilience, and possibility. With the guidance of Jumbo Williams, who also helped develop the Kariega Foundation SOIL manual, the garden has grown into a model of environmental renewal and enterprise development.

After a dedicated journey toward formal registration, its business operating certificate has finally arrived, opening the door for produce to be sold in local business areas.

This spirit of growth is also taking root in Marselle and Ekuphumleni, where 54 Kariega Foundation children are now cultivating home gardens.

As they plant, water, weed, and harvest, they are learning patience, responsibility, and wonder. Each garden is more than soil and seeds; it is a place where children, communities, and futures can flourish.

Community

-Welfare Donations

OVERVIEW

The Welfare Donation Programme responds to immediate needs while helping build stronger, more resilient communities over time. Rooted in the spirit of Ubuntu, the programme coordinates donations, food security initiatives, special needs support, and domestic animal care to ensure that vulnerable children, families, schools, and community members receive practical help where it is needed most.

Through trusted local partnerships with clinics, schools, ECD centres, churches, caregivers, volunteers, and community leaders, the Kariega Foundation ensures that donated goods, resources, training, and support are distributed fairly and responsibly.

While the programme offers essential short-term relief, it also contributes to long-term dignity, care, learning, food security, and well-being across the communities we serve.

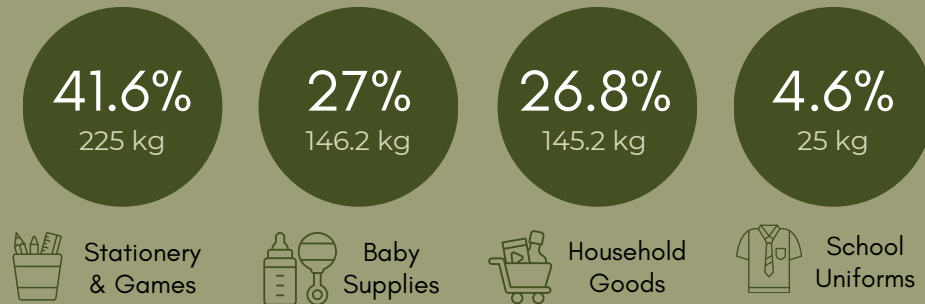


HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided urgent welfare support to 11 children living independently in Ekuphumleni, helping meet immediate needs and strengthen their support network.
- Assisted a Marselle family after their home was destroyed by fire, offering practical relief during a crisis.
- Supported vulnerable households in Klipfontein, Southwell, and Grant's Valley Farm, extending care to families facing severe hardship and isolation.
- Continued supporting soup kitchens in Marselle and Ekuphumleni, contributing to food security and regular meals for vulnerable adults and children.
- Provided surplus food from Main Lodge to the unfunded Ekuphumleni Soup Kitchen, helping sustain meals for more than 35 people daily.
- Complemented donor support at the Marselle Soup Kitchen through clothing and essential household donations.
- Donated rhino boards to Ekuphumleni Primary School, strengthening conservation awareness.
- Expanded reach into Port Alfred through a first-time donation of reading books to Port Alfred High School.
- Identified and supported two child-headed households in Ekuphumleni, each caring for more than 15 siblings after losing their parents.

Welfare Donations

Distribution Categories



Total: 541.4 kg

4 Areas Distributed

- 1 EKUPHUMLENI**
 - Stationery & Games, Baby Supplies, Household Goods & School Uniform
- 2 MARSELLE**
 - Stationery & Games, Baby Supplies, Household Goods & School Uniform
- 3 KLIPFONTEIN**
 - Stationery & Games, Baby Supplies & Household Goods
- 4 ALEXANDRIA**
 - Stationery & Games



Inspiring Stories

Through its growing partnership with the Age-in-Action Older Persons Centre, the Kariega Foundation is reaching elderly community members who may otherwise remain unseen. Regular visits and communication now help identify vulnerable households and deliver food donations from the reserve with dignity, care, and consistency.

In Marselle and Ekuphumleni, ongoing visits continue to reveal families carrying heavy burdens. During one visit, Noma met a 68-year-old Gogo caring for two unwell adult sons, one of whom is partially blind. The Foundation responded with beds, a mattress, food parcels, and toiletries, restoring comfort and dignity to the household.

Alongside this, support to local soup kitchens is helping provide regular meals, clothing, and essential items, turning community care into hope in action.



Domestic Animal Care

OVERVIEW

The Domestic Animal Care Programme promotes the health, welfare, and humane treatment of domestic animals in rural communities through education, preventative care, treatment, and sterilisation campaigns.

Through clinic days and mass sterilisation drives — offering washing, flea treatment, deworming, vaccinations, and health checks — the Kariega Foundation supports pet owners with practical guidance and veterinary access, reducing suffering and building compassion, responsibility, and safer communities for animals and people alike.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ran four mass sterilisation campaigns, sterilising 156 animals over six days.
- Held two clinic outreach days with Ikhala Vet Clinic and Medivet, treating 155 animals and sterilising 11 more.
- Revived the Dog Kennel Project, distributing 26+ kennels to vulnerable dogs.
- Expanded outreach into KwaNonqubela, Alexandria — a new community reached.
- Strengthened partnerships with veterinary groups, Dancing for Rhinos, The Periwinkle Trust, volunteers, and other organisations, funding campaigns and extending reach.

Inspiring Story

When Sisi the dog was found during the April Mass Sterilisation Campaign, she was frightened, severely neglected, and suffering from advanced mange, with almost no fur left on her body. She was brought in for treatment, sterilised, and cared for with compassion. Just three months later, Sisi is healthy, happy, fully coated, and thriving. Through the revived Kennel Project, she also received a new wooden kennel, giving her the shelter and dignity she deserves.

Her story reflects a growing movement of care. At recent outreaches in Klipfontein and KwaNonqubela, pet owners arrived early, eager for support and sterilisation services. With trust growing, the programme is protecting animals, empowering owners, and restoring hope, one life at a time.

Before



After



Domestic Animal Care - Programme Data

 **300+**
Animals Treated

 **111**
Animals Sterilised

 **70**
Dog Houses Delivered

VET CLINIC DAYS

Apr 2025
91 treated | 5 sterilised

May 2025
64 treated | 6 sterilised

Partners
KF, Medivet, Ikhala Vet,
Ikhilavet Clinic, Volunteers

Areas
Alexandria, Klipfontein

STERILISATION CAMPAIGNS

Oct & Nov 2025
45 treated (1-day clinics)

Apr & Feb 2025
100+ treated | 100 sterilised

Partners
KF, Volunteers, Prima Vet,
CVC, Domestic Animal Care

Areas
Ekuphumleni, Alexandria

DOG HOUSES

Wooden Kennels
26 built, 10 fixed, 2 donated
= 38 kennels delivered

Rubber Kennels
32 delivered via fundraiser
(Belinda Wolff / PE Kariega)

Built by
Calvin, Volunteers, KF,
DAC Kenton-on-Sea

All 4 Areas
Ekuphumleni, Marselle,
Klipfontein, Alexandria



Ekuphumleni



Marselle



Klipfontein



Alexandria

Promoting health, welfare & humane treatment of domestic animals in rural communities



Community

-Skills Development

Through the holistic investment in our youth, we have an emerging generation of self-motivated youngsters hungry for opportunities. An increase in diverse skills development and learnership opportunities is one of our key focus areas. In 2025, we achieved the following:

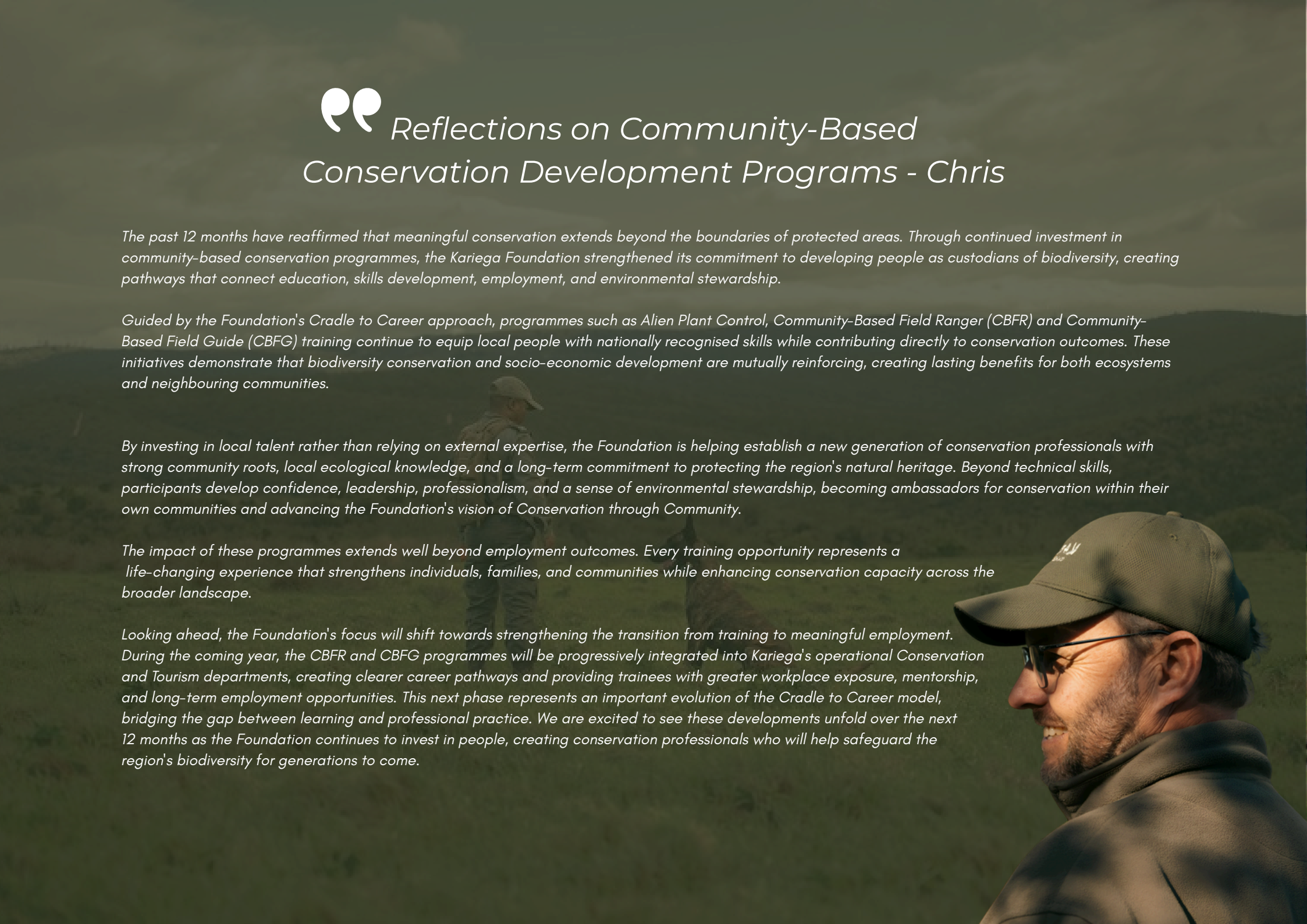
CBFR - Community Based Field Ranger APC - Alien Plant Control
CBFG - Community Based Field Guide SEL - Social Emotional Learning



86 Participants | 9 Programmes | 90%+ Avg Completion

Accreditations: CATHSSETA | FGASA | SACE | NQF2-4





“ Reflections on Community-Based Conservation Development Programs - Chris

The past 12 months have reaffirmed that meaningful conservation extends beyond the boundaries of protected areas. Through continued investment in community-based conservation programmes, the Kariega Foundation strengthened its commitment to developing people as custodians of biodiversity, creating pathways that connect education, skills development, employment, and environmental stewardship.

Guided by the Foundation's Cradle to Career approach, programmes such as Alien Plant Control, Community-Based Field Ranger (CBFR) and Community-Based Field Guide (CBFG) training continue to equip local people with nationally recognised skills while contributing directly to conservation outcomes. These initiatives demonstrate that biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development are mutually reinforcing, creating lasting benefits for both ecosystems and neighbouring communities.

By investing in local talent rather than relying on external expertise, the Foundation is helping establish a new generation of conservation professionals with strong community roots, local ecological knowledge, and a long-term commitment to protecting the region's natural heritage. Beyond technical skills, participants develop confidence, leadership, professionalism, and a sense of environmental stewardship, becoming ambassadors for conservation within their own communities and advancing the Foundation's vision of Conservation through Community.

The impact of these programmes extends well beyond employment outcomes. Every training opportunity represents a life-changing experience that strengthens individuals, families, and communities while enhancing conservation capacity across the broader landscape.

Looking ahead, the Foundation's focus will shift towards strengthening the transition from training to meaningful employment. During the coming year, the CBFR and CBFG programmes will be progressively integrated into Kariega's operational Conservation and Tourism departments, creating clearer career pathways and providing trainees with greater workplace exposure, mentorship, and long-term employment opportunities. This next phase represents an important evolution of the Cradle to Career model, bridging the gap between learning and professional practice. We are excited to see these developments unfold over the next 12 months as the Foundation continues to invest in people, creating conservation professionals who will help safeguard the region's biodiversity for generations to come.

Volunteer Programme

OVERVIEW

The Volunteer Programme is a key funding pillar for the Kariega Foundation, offsetting project costs while delivering lasting impact. Volunteers support both wildlife conservation on Kariega Game Reserve and community development across the Eastern Cape, gaining hands-on experience while helping people and nature.

Based at the Foundation's Conservation Centre, a farm homestead on the reserve's edge where wildlife is occasionally spotted along the fence line, volunteers also tend the permaculture vegetable garden, enjoying fresh produce as part of their meals.

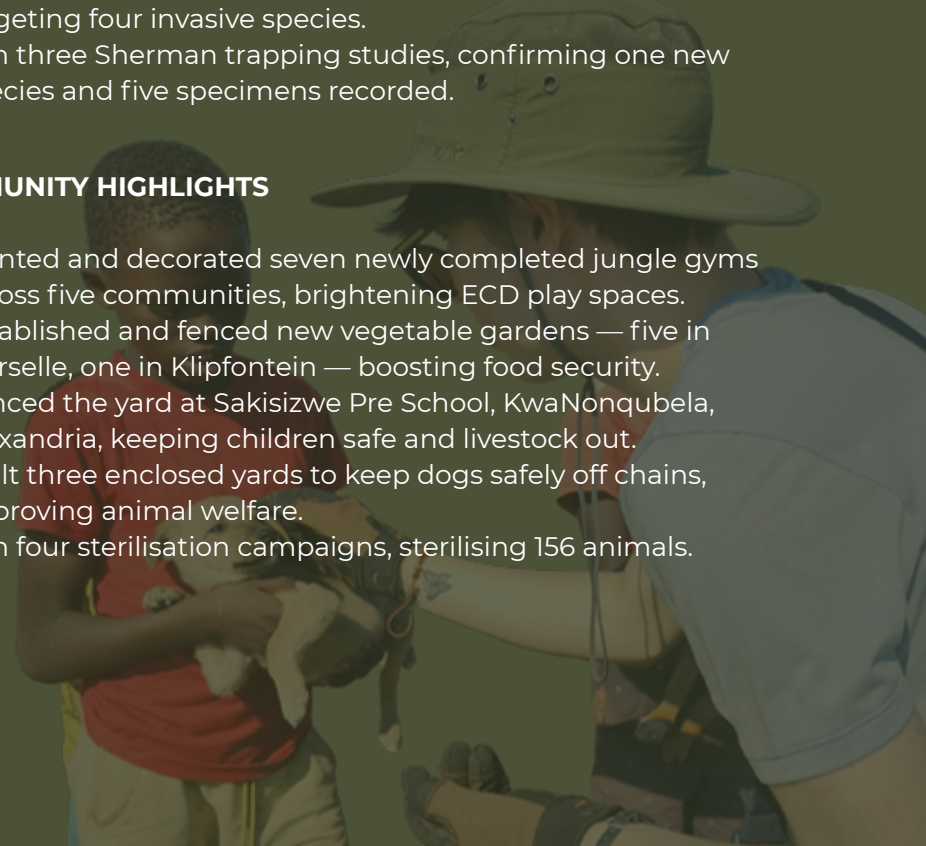


CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Submitted 149 Earth Ranger reports, strengthening ecological data collection.
- Updated 27 elephant IDs, supporting long-term behavioural tracking.
- Completed 83 hours of Anti-Poaching Unit support.
- Controlled alien plants across all three reserve sections, targeting four invasive species.
- Ran three Sherman trapping studies, confirming one new species and five specimens recorded.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Painted and decorated seven newly completed jungle gyms across five communities, brightening ECD play spaces.
- Established and fenced new vegetable gardens — five in Marselle, one in Klipfontein — boosting food security.
- Fenced the yard at Sakisizwe Pre School, KwaNonqubela, Alexandria, keeping children safe and livestock out.
- Built three enclosed yards to keep dogs safely off chains, improving animal welfare.
- Ran four sterilisation campaigns, sterilising 156 animals.



Volunteer Programme Metrics

111 

Total Volunteers

5 

Return Volunteers

10 

Nationalities Represented

2-3 weeks

Average Length of Stay (shortest 1 wk, longest 7 wks)

Nationalities Breakdown

60 

United Kingdom

19 

Canada

10 

USA

3 

South Africa

3 

Spanish

3 

Dutch

2 

Australia

1 

Hong Kong

1 

Philippines

9

Other

Programme managed by Kariega Foundation Trust since July 2024



Volunteer Testimonials

Thank you for a great visit. I really enjoy my volunteering at Kariega. This was my 10th trip. I already look forward to my next trip.
Graham, UK - 5 weeks

What you do is extraordinary guys!!! Thank you so much for taking the time to teach us and answering all our questions. Thank you to Mali, Wendy, Jo and Thomas and the rest of the KCC team for their kindness and thoughtfulness. I leave here with my head full of memories and my heart full of magical moments with the animals and the community. Who knows, see you next year?

Arianne Canada - 2 weeks

We have had the most incredible 2 weeks here at KCC! A huge thank you to Jaco, Mali and Jo. We have seen so many stunning landscapes and animals, the reserve is a beautiful and peaceful place to be. Being so involved, especially with the cheetahs was incredible! We have loved meeting the local children and helping with Mama G's fantastic work, she is truly inspiring.

Many thanks

- Izzy, Jessica, Ollie - UK - 2 weeks



FINANCIALS



Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 28 February 2026

	2026	2025
Revenue	R17 350 030	R13 835 448
Operating Expenses		
Administration	(R2 074 798)	(R1 961 826)
Conservation and wildlife protection	(R5 810 853)	(R4 504 847)
Community development, education and welfare	(R5 856 471)	(R3 289 484)
Conservation Centre (Volunteer Programme)	(R2 984 594)	(R2 697 183)
Total operating expenses	(R16 726 716)	(R12 453 340)
Operating surplus	R623 314	R1 382 108
Finance income	R253 752	R92 717
Finance costs	(R54 214)	
Net finance income	R199 538	
Surplus for the year	R822 852	R1 474 825

SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR 2026

R822 852

REVENUE 2026

R17 350 030

Comment

The Feb 2026 comprehensive income statement reflects the ideal allocation of operating expenses for the year, with admin costs under 12% and an equal investment between conservation and community.

EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Admin

12%

Conservation

35%

Community

35%

Volunteer Centre

18%

Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position
28 February 2026

Total Assets
R9 954 370
2025: R5 164 109

Total Equity
R2 266 360
2025: R1 443 508

Total Liabilities
R7 688 010
2025: R3 720 601

Statement of Financial Position: 28 February 2026		
	2026	2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
Trade and other receivables	R2 196 895	R548 658
Cash and cash equivalents	R6 236 870	R3 544 354
	R8 433 765	R4 093 012
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	R1 520 605	R1 071 097
Total Assets	R9 954 370	R5 164 109
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Trust capital	R1000	R1000
Contingency reserve	R1 600 000	-
Accumulated surplus (deficit)	R665 360	R1 442 508
	R2 266 360	R1 443 508
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other financial liabilities	R171 379	-
Trade and other payables	R690 373	R805 368
Amounts received in advance	R6 399 858	R2 915 233
	R7 261 610	R3 720 601
Non-Current Liabilities		
Other financial liabilities	R426 400	-
	R7 261 610	R3 720 601
Total Liabilities	R7 688 010	R3 720 601
Total Equity and Liabilities	R9 954 370	R5 164 109

Auditors Comment

The Kariega Foundation Trust annual financial statements for the year ending February 2024 were audited by independent auditors, PWC. The complete set of AFS can be requested from: accounts@kariegafoundation.com

Independent auditor's report

To the trustees of Kariega Foundation Trust

Our opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Kariega Foundation Trust (the Trust) as at 28 February 2026, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.

Director: S Williams

Registered Auditor

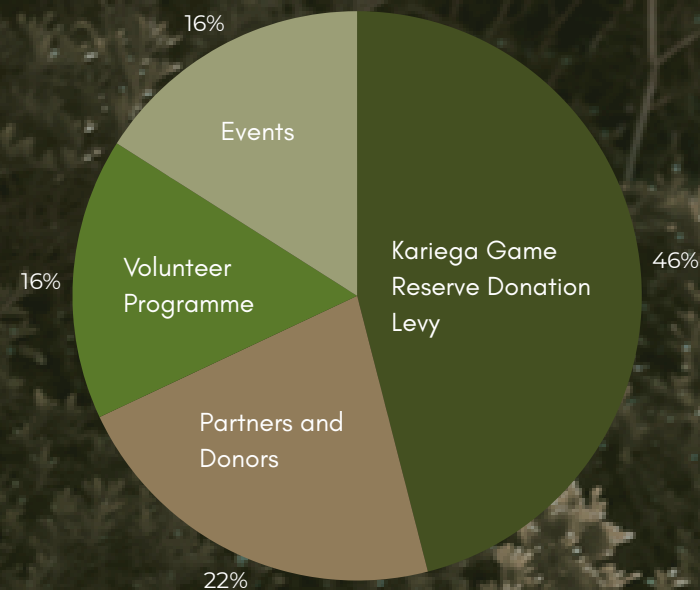
Gqeberha, South Africa

16 July 2026



Income Breakdown

Income Breakdown: Year end Feb 2026



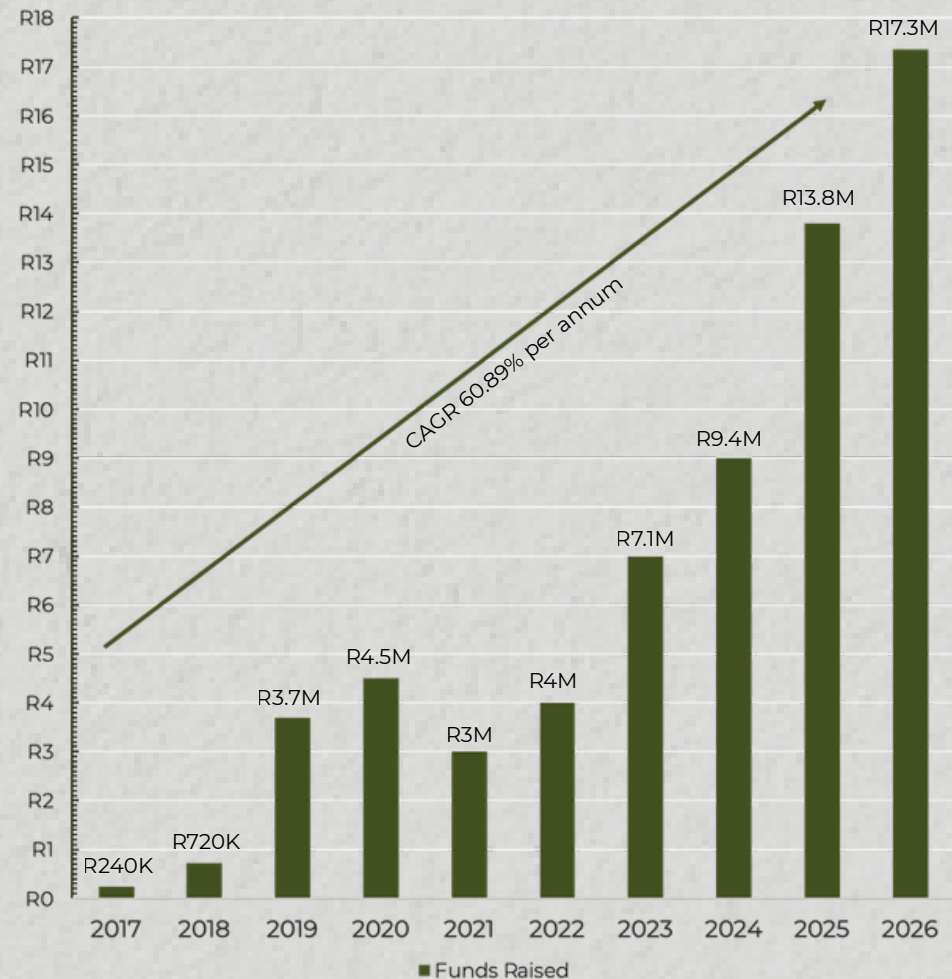
Kariega Game Reserve Donation Levy: 46%
Partners and Donors : 22%
Volunteer Programme: 16%
Events: 16%

Fundraising History

The Kariega Foundation Trust has enjoyed an upward fundraising trajectory over the past decade; from R240 000 in 2017 to just under R17.3 Million in 2026, reflecting a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 60.89% per annum.

Contributing factors include:

- Effective governance from board of Trustees
- Diversification of fundraising channels
- Management of the Kariega Foundation Volunteer Programme.
- Growing collection of Fundraising Safari Events on Kariega Game Reserve
- Good relationship building with new and existing donors
- Track record of tangible impact
- Good governance reporting structures





Fundraising Goals

Core Project Budget

- Goal : To achieve a sustainable operations Budget of R20 Million per annum by 2028

Legacy Project Budgets

- Goal : To raise R15 Million over 2026/27 for the development of the Ekuphumleni Youth Development Centre

Savings Reserve

- Goal : To raise a savings reserve of R20 Million – 1 year's operations budget. 80% of KFT operational budget is raised sustainably, but in partnership with Kariega Game Reserve. The savings reserve is to mitigate risk of possible disruptions to tourism that would impact these revenue channels.

Strategy

1. Maximise revenue channels on Kariega Game Reserve: guest donations; volunteer programme; fundraising events.
2. Allocate 80% of annual budget surplus to savings.
3. Run dedicated fundraising campaign to contribute to savings reserve.
4. Run dedicated Fundraising campaign for Legacy Project: Ekuphumleni Youth Facility
5. Strengthen and grow Project partners.

Fundraising Channels

Kariega Game Reserve



Conservation and
community levy
donation

Volunteer Programme



Non profit volunteer
programme to support
conservation and
community projects

Fundraising Events



Bespoke Safari
Experiences - Give To Get.
Freedom To Roam
Adventures
Music in the Bush

Partnership and Philanthropy



Collaboration with
individuals, non-profit
organisations and Corporates



Freedom To Roam Adventures

Freedom To Roam Adventures (FTRA) 2025 events has grown into our most impactful fundraising events on Kariega Game Reserve, annually and raised significant funds in 2025.

From bespoke cycling adventures to art retreats (and soon birding) we give our FTRA guests carefully curated experiences on Kariega Game Reserve aligned with their unique passions, interwoven into a 'bucket list' itinerary with 30% of the package price built in as a donation to the Kariega Foundation Trust. Freedom To Roam Adventures are truly purposeful and unforgettable.

Founded by Trish Liggett, wife of world renown cycling commentator Phil Liggett, FTRA combines their love for nature and cycling with a heartfelt mission to protect Africa's wildlife and uplift local communities.

Inspired by decades of travel across wild Africa and a growing urgency to act, Trish launched FTRA in collaboration with the Kariega Foundation on Kariega Game Reserve. Her mission is as exhilarating as it is meaningful – an immersive, once-in-a-lifetime safari experience that directly supports conservation and community development.

During this financial year, 12% of total revenue was raised through FTRA and translated into impact across habitat expansion, youth development; alien plant control and rhino protection. Thank you to Trish and Phil, all FTRA staff and our guests.



Optimal Operations Budget

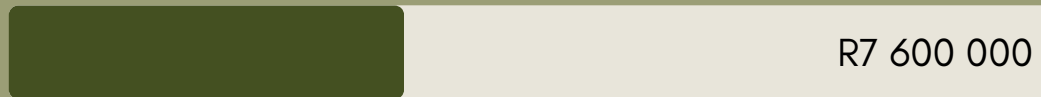
-Actioned by 2028

The graphic below details the optimal Kariega Foundation Trust operational budget breakdown based on a R20 Million per annum budget and all core projects implemented at scale, to deliver on the conservation and wildlife protection objectives on Kariega Game Reserve and Community development, education and welfare objectives in Ekuphumleni, Klipfontein, Marselle and Alexandria.

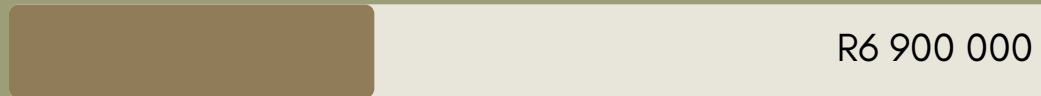
Our goal is to achieve this optimal budget and project implementation by 2028/29 Financial year.

Optimal Operations Project Budget by 2028

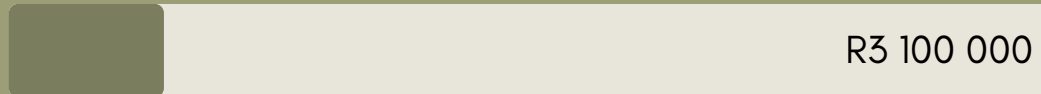
Conservation & Wildlife Protection 38%



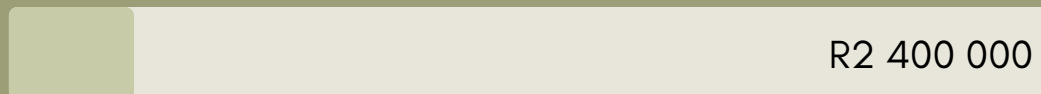
Community 35%



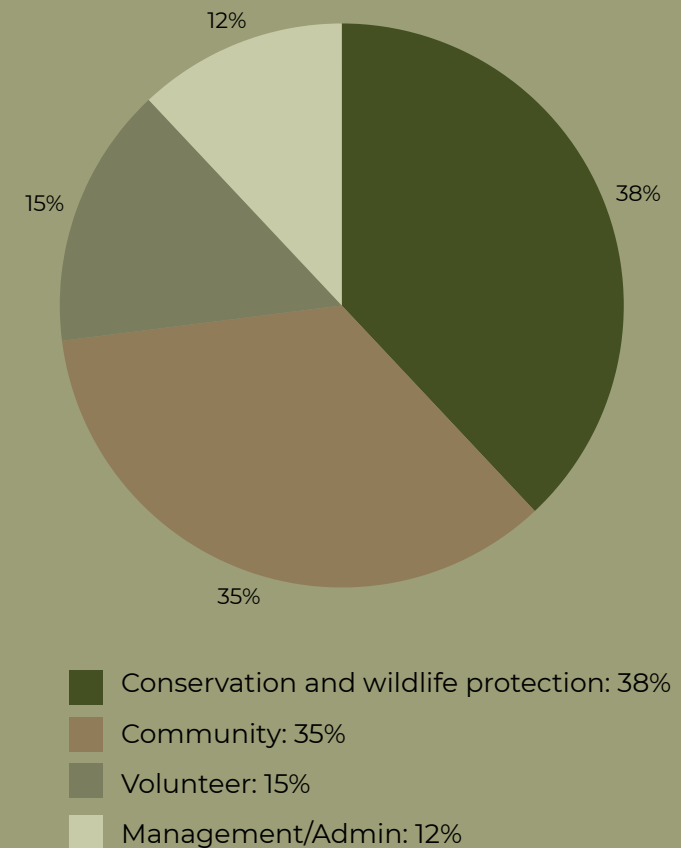
Volunteer 15%



Management/Admin 12%



KFT Optimal Budget Breakdown by 2028



Cradle to Career Projects

Implementation at Scale



Reaching 20,000+ beneficiaries across 4 communities
Kariega Foundation Trust

-Current Skills Development Programmes:



Donations At Work :

Choose how your contribution makes an impact



Scan & Donate Now

Conserve Biodiversity

R200/\$10

1 hectare/month

R2,000/\$100

10 hectares/month

R20,000/
\$1,000

100 hectares/month

Covers wildlife & habitat management,
restoration and alien plant control

Save The Rhino

R7,500/\$400

per day

R230,000/
\$12,200

per month

R75,000/
\$4,000

Collaring procedure

Covers all operational costs of APU and
advanced technology

Invest in a Child

R250/\$15

1 child/month

R3,000/\$160

1 child/year

R150,000/
\$8,000

Legacy Bursary/year

Covers SEL, Ubuntu Cup, environmental
education and IT facilitation

Key Donors

Our heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful donors and partners.

Your ongoing support enables us to keep growing our conservation and community footprint, uniting a conservation-minded community that is working together to protect, preserve, and benefit our planet, people and wildlife.

We look forward to working with you to grow our impact into 2025 and beyond.

Key Donors and Partners

These key organisations have donated more than R500 000 annually, or they have partnered with us on a specific project, with the vision for growth and expansion over time.



Habitat Expansion
Youth Development



ECD
APU Field Ranger
Training



Special Needs
Education



Community
Infrastructure
Development



Advanced
Technology
Management
Systems



Legacy project:
Ekuphumleni
Youth Centre

Laraine Kiely Harrison
CHARITY

Early Childhood
Development
Education/ SEL
Youth Development
Skills Development
Legacy Projects:
Eco Sun Innovation Hub
Ekuphumleni Sport Centre



Habitat Expansion
APU Training and
equipment
APU Field Ranger
Training



Advanced
Technology and
surveillance
resource and
equipment



Conservation and
Animal Welfare
Youth and Sport
Development
Legacy Bursary: Skills
Development



Admin, marketing
and staff costs
across all projects.
APU operational
costs.



Computer Hubs
and IT literacy

Additional Donors / Partners

*Every individual who has give us their time and
energy
– we appreciate you.*

*Every donation no matter how small makes a
difference.
Little bits make a lot!*

Thank you



Kariega Game Reserve

The partnership between the Kariega Foundation Trust and Kariega Game Reserve is a powerful example of what can be achieved when there is true dedication to regenerative tourism and leveraging a Big Five game reserve to raise funds into a non-profit entity for reinvestment into the protection and conservation of biodiversity and the advancement of neighbouring communities.

More than 80% of the Kariega Foundation funding is raised through this collaboration.

Every guest visiting Kariega Game Reserve becomes our partner via their donation levy.

- *Every volunteer that joins the Kariega Foundation Volunteer Programme working on Kariega Game Reserve and our neighbouring communities becomes our partner.*
- *Every guest that joins one of several safari, fundraising groups that take part in conservation activities, cycle, run or make art on the reserve become our partners.*
- *Every member of staff at Kariega Game Reserve is our partner.*

We are deeply grateful for you all. We exist to do the work we love because of each of you and the amazing Kariega Game Reserve.

Thank you



Stay Connected

Stay up to date with our news and stories by following us on social media.



[KariegaFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/KariegaFoundation)



[@kariega_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/kariega_foundation)

Get Involved

Connect with our CEO, Lindy Sutherland. Let's start a conversation.



[+27 83 278 7289](tel:+27832787289)



lindy@kariegafoundation.com

Scan &
Donate Now

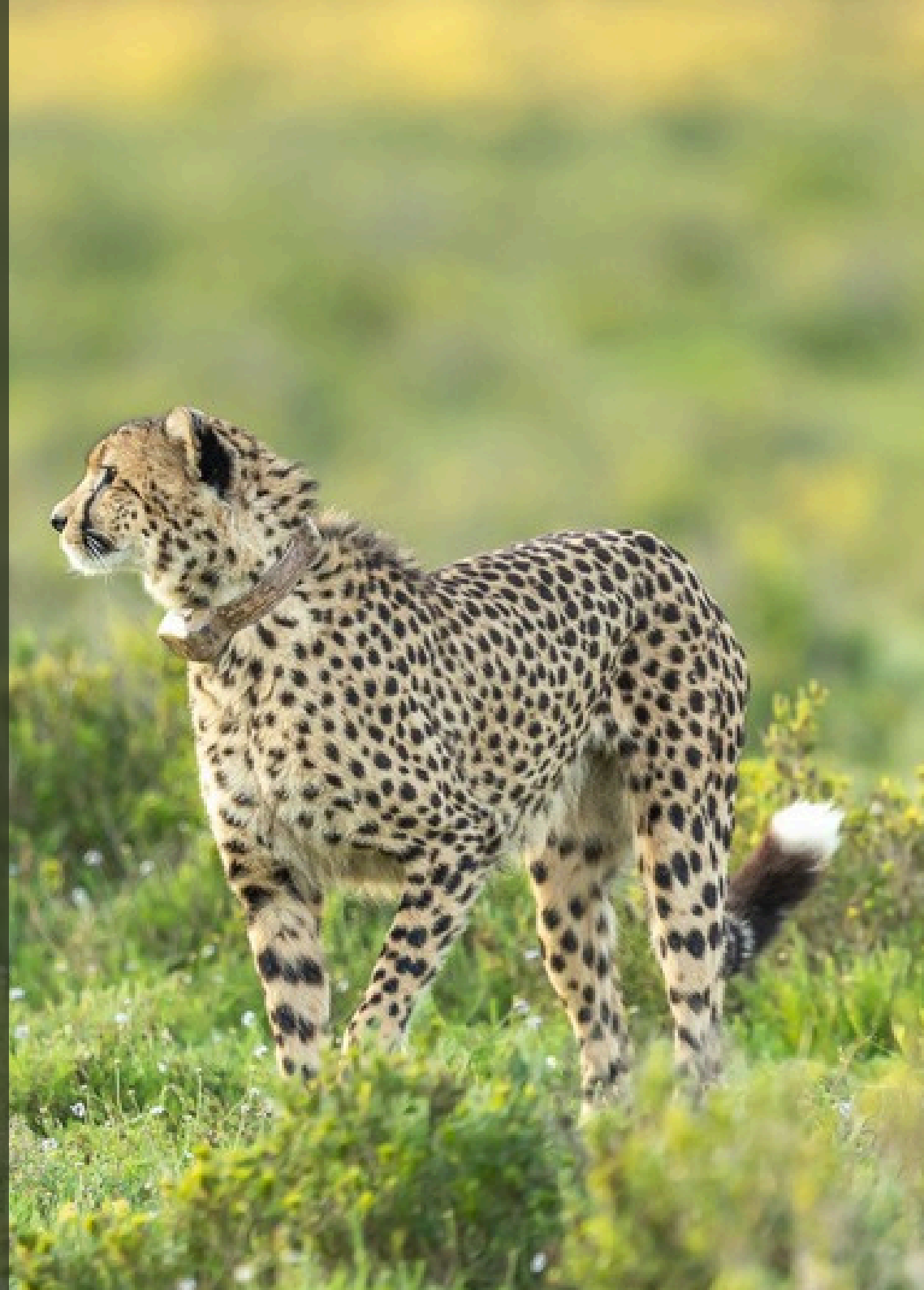




*It's surely our responsibility to do everything
in our power to create a planet that provides a
home not just for us, but for a life on Earth.*

*If working apart we're a force powerful enough
to destabilise our planet, surely working
together we are powerful enough to save it.*

Sir David Attenborough





KARIEGA FOUNDATION

CONSERVATION THROUGH COMMUNITY



Report design by WildSong Designs
(founder@wildsong.co.za / wildsong.designs)