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Annual Report



A B R I D G E D
ANNUAL
REPORT **20**
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VISION & MISSION

Grootbos Foundation is an independent non-profit organisation, established in 2003. Our Grootbos Foundation vision is the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom and the upliftment of the communities therein. It is our mission to conserve the unique Cape Floral Kingdom in the Walker Bay Region which we call home, and to develop sustainable livelihoods and active citizens through ecotourism, enterprise development,

sports development and education.

We create sustainable project models which are replicable and scalable in order to assist surrounding communities. Many of our projects generate their own income and/or are partially self-sustaining. Our programmes address 13 of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals



Achumile Mdoda, sports participant



*Lumka Mdoda (left) and Nosipho Mosi (right)
Green Futures Students*



Carly Vlotman, Entomology Curator

Our overarching objectives include:

Using sports and sports facilities as a tool for youth development and integration, promoting healthy lifestyles, increasing environmental awareness, promoting life skills and providing the skills training necessary for youths to prepare for the world of work.

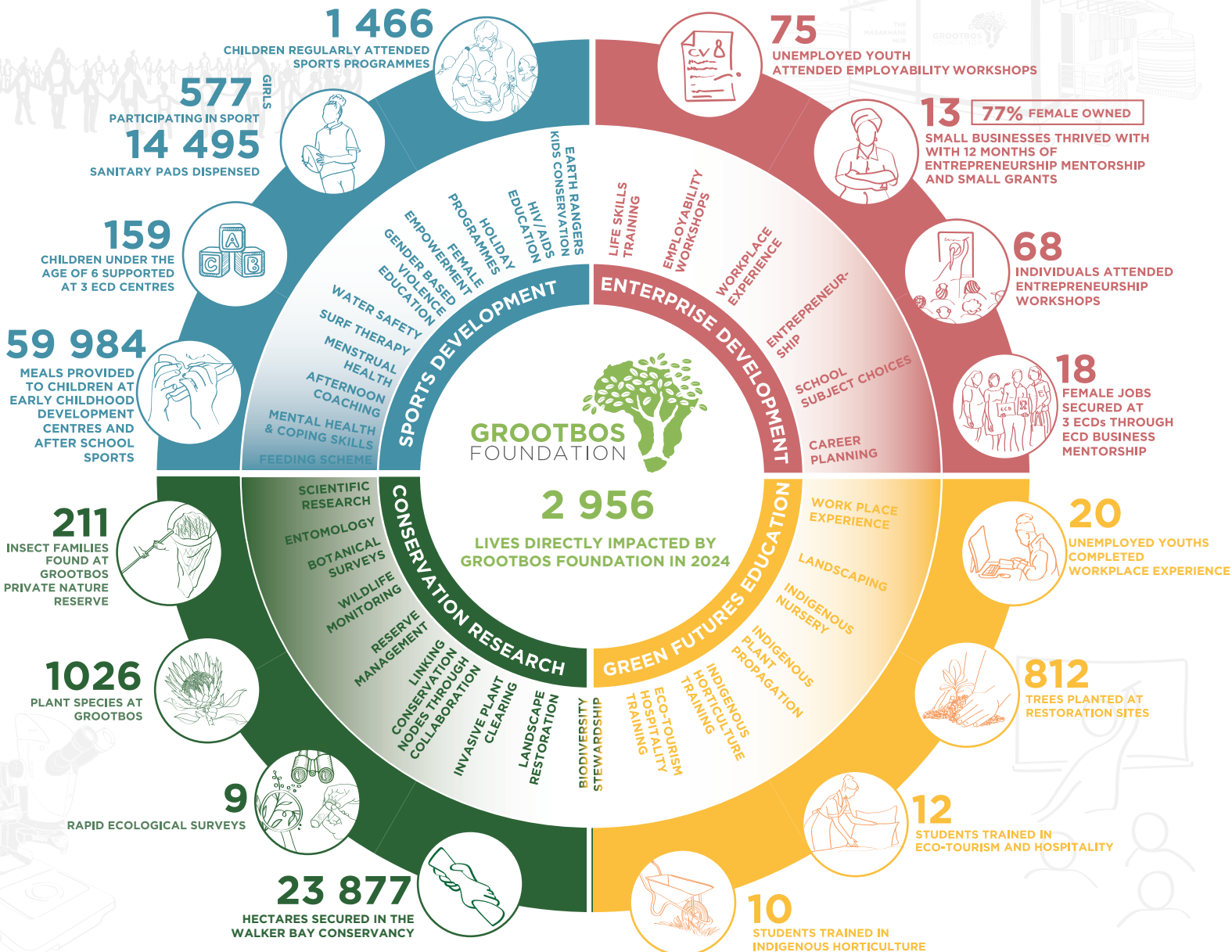
The provision of education relating to indigenous horticulture, conservation, eco-tourism and life skills education.

Training and skills development for disadvantaged persons to enable them to obtain employment or become self-employed, particularly in the green economy and fynbos landscape

Research, including ecological, educational, social and scientific research on topics related to our core programmes.

Conserving, rehabilitating and protecting the natural environment of the Cape Floral Kingdom particularly the flora and fauna of Grootbos Private Nature Reserve and in the Walker Bay region.

YEAR AT A GLANCE 2024





DIRECTORS' REPORT

At Grootbos Foundation, we are rooted in a profound respect for nature and an unwavering belief in the potential of people. This year, as we reflect on our journey, we are reminded that true impact grows from the synergy between conservation and community. From the flourishing fynbos ecosystems we protect, to the lives we uplift through education, enterprise, and empowerment, every initiative speaks to a shared vision: a world where biodiversity and human dignity thrive together. In landscapes shaped by ancient forces, we see opportunities for innovation. In communities often overlooked, we witness resilience, creativity, and the seeds of transformation for a better future for the youth.

In Grootbos Foundation's 21st year, the predominant and urgent need in South Africa is to develop pathways to employment and to tackle the national unemployment crisis.

Green Futures College opened its doors in 2003 and offers vocational skills training within the green economy to young adults. In 2024, the college enrolled 10 Indigenous Horticulture Students and 12 Ecotourism Hospitality students for skills training which nimbly combines learning with workplace experience in order to equip graduates with knowledge and confidence.

Green Futures Nursery, the practical learning space for Indigenous Horticulture students also branched out into the world of landscaping work. Taking on 7 external landscaping contracts gave students the opportunity to practice the skill of indigenous landscaping while at the same time enabling the nursery to generate

funding for further skills training in the community. The landscape of Grootbos Private Nature Reserve is managed by a dedicated, hardworking Reserve Management Team whose practical efforts and strategic planning ensure that the natural fynbos ecosystem is healthy and thriving with a critical conservation management plan in place. The physical work of invasive plant clearing and erosion control in the landscape surrounding Grootbos is carried out by independent teams of female contractors who have received Biodiversity Stewardship training. In 2024, the teams worked across 10 properties and removed alien invasive vegetation from 922 hectares of fynbos in the Walker Bay Protected Environment delivering genuine conservation benefits and employment opportunities. The Conservation Research Team conducts ongoing surveys, research and landscape level conservation

which provides the underlying fabric of science at Grootbos. This scientific research underpins the Foundation as well as the Reserve, and informs the botanical art of Grootbos Florilegium. This beautiful art collection has successfully captivated the imaginations of thousands of people turning them into fynbos fans which was so thrillingly demonstrated at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024 when Leon's Kluge's fynbos exhibit won 3 awards for South Africa. Bulelani Bashe from Green Futures Nursery and Chris Lochner from the Grootbos Florilegium both accompanied Leon to London in May 2024 to help build the South African fynbos exhibit. No one was quite prepared for the success of the exhibit nor the exuberant response from the public in London but what really surprised everyone was the joyful support shown by 18 000 South Africans who visited the replica build of Leon's design when he rebuilt the exhibit as *Chelsea Flowers in Stanford* in September 2024.



The friendly faces of Grootbos Foundation greeted visitors to Chelsea Flowers in Stanford

All profits from *Chelsea Flowers in Stanford* were donated to the youth programmes of Grootbos Foundation. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket as you directly supported not only ongoing conservation efforts but also children's programmes in the Stanford and Gansbaai area. The team of conservation scientists conducted 9 rapid biodiversity surveys on properties in the Walker Bay

Fynbos Conservancy throughout the year. These bioblitzes build awareness, curiosity and respect for biodiversity in the broader region and have supported the expansion of the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy to 50 members accounting for 23 877 hectares of land protected by a layer of conservation management. Botanical surveying has led to the identification of over 1 500 plant species in the greater conservancy (of which 1 026 plant species have been recorded at Grootbos).

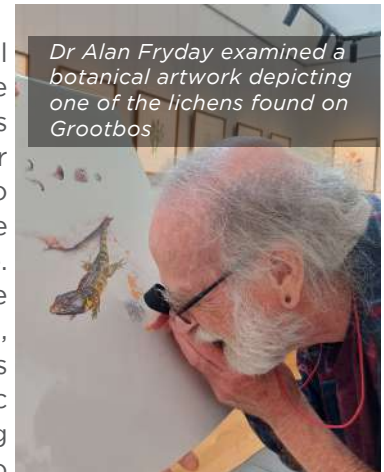
Botanical research is a first love of Grootbos. The relationship between plants and pollinators is key to ensuring a healthy fynbos ecosystem which has driven the burgeoning passion for insects. Entomological surveys have resulted in a collection of 63 155 pinned insect specimens across 210 families and 853 morphospecies with Andrenidae (Mining bees) being the newest recording at Grootbos.

The Threatened Vertebrate Survey (TVS) has identified areas of conservation value within the greater Agulhas landscape by selecting and surveying ten threatened species including frogs, birds, and a snake as ecological indicators.

Grootbos Environmental Centre nestled deep in the pristine fynbos provides a perfect homebase for external researchers to study aspects of the ecosystem and landscape. The centre was the home of 18 research projects, hosting 64 academics from various academic institutions including Dr Alan Fryday who identified 113 lichen morphospecies.

Earth Rangers is the name of the conservation programme aimed at turning local children into conservation-aware, planet-first ambassadors who care. 40 children from local primary schools became Earth Rangers in 2024.

The afterschool sports programmes of the Grootbos



Dr Alan Fryday examined a botanical artwork depicting one of the lichens found on Grootbos

Foundation present an array of fun games and sports activities for 1 466 children seeking fun and safe places. Our in-school activities reach 4 336 children and teenagers. Sports and fun physical activity is another language which brings children of various backgrounds together with ease and joy, and our team of dedicated coaches take on the role of mentors and life coaches for local youth. Six of our coaches attended an international exchange programme with North Carolina State University, North Carolina Football Club and Cape Peninsula University of Technology. These six coaches traveled to the United States in March where they engaged in activities and topics of Integration, Diversity, Equality and Justice in sport; in July a team of US coaches visited South Africa and Grootbos to continue the learnings and discussions in the South African context.

14 individual Rising Stars represented their region or province in 2024 in sports and we are proud of how their success has inspired their friends to join sports programmes and afternoon activities. 172 young women participated in Menstrual Health educational programmes; sanitary pads were made freely and easily available at all schools in Gansbaai and Stanford



287 children attended the Masakhane Homework Hub where they worked on school homework, conducted research for projects on computers, read books, completed puzzles and played board games in the care of classroom assistants.

and at every sports engagement.

Holiday programmes ensured the children and teenagers had safe activities during their holidays. 156 children between 2-5 years received daily meals at 4 Early Childhood Development Centres in Masakhane to ensure healthy growth and development.

Grootbos Foundation's enterprise programme has been engaging youth for a decade since 2014 to support career development. In 2024, 1 391 high school learners, youth and entrepreneurs participated in the programme, 732 of whom were Grade 9s making the big decisions of choosing subjects to set themselves up for success, 443 of whom were Grade 12 learners preparing to transition from the school system to the big wide world, 75 of whom were young adults in the Employability Programme seeking guidance, skills and confidence to begin jobs, 68 were eager budding entrepreneurs, 4 were Early Childhood Centre principals keen to manage their centres professionally and responsibly, and 69 were employed people seeking improved financial literacy skills. This enterprise development programme ensures that there is support and opportunity for people to generate their own income with dignity and confidence through small businesses. 13 entrepreneurs received small grants to kickstart their businesses but more significantly, they received 12 months of personal business mentorship and guidance to set them up for success.

This report is a testament to what is possible when people and the planet are placed at the heart of development. Through collaborative partnerships, science-led conservation, and a commitment to social equity, we continue to build a legacy of purpose-driven impact that resonates far beyond the borders of Grootbos Private Nature Reserve.

As we look to the future, we carry forward the stories of those whose lives have been touched, and the fynbos ecosystem that we seek to understand and to restore. Together, we are not only protecting a unique corner of the African continent but we are redefining what it means to grow sustainably and develop career pathways for youth.

Thank you to the friends, supporters and donors who have invested in the natural ecosystem of Grootbos and its surroundings, as well as in the future of the people of the local communities who are the natural custodians of this landscape.

Yours sincerely

*Michael
& Sean*

FINANCIALS

31 December 2024

Our annual financial statements have been audited by independent auditors, Villet & de Wet Inc, who were given unrestricted access to all financial reports and related data.



INCOME STATEMENT	Jan - Dec 2024 in ZAR	Jan - Dec 2024 in ZAR
Revenue	23,770,315	19,196,430
Operating Expenses	(19,528,803)	(17,858,568)
Gross Profit	4,241,512	1,337,862
Other income	56,107	0
Interest Received	1,951,541	1,460,514
Net surplus for the year	6,249,161	9,071,010
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	6,249,161	9,071,010

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Jan - Dec 2023 in ZAR	Jan - Dec 2022 in ZAR
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Vehicles, Plants and Equipment	9,534,894	9,660,039
Loans receivable	15,256,568	0
CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories	696,810	860,850
Trade and Other Receivables	841,223	742,660
Cash and Cash Equivalents	21,559,426	15,142,501
Loan Receivable	2,230,913	16,674,388
TOTAL ASSETS	34,863,266	43,080,438
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Income generated in advance	10,769,971	10,090,707
Trade and Other Payables	338,661	227,690
Accumulated surplus	39,011,202	32,762,041
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	50,119,834	43,080,438



Front cover image: from left: Carly Vlotman, Happiness Baloyi and Marelise Faul, researchers and scientists at Grootbos Foundation

GET INVOLVED

- FOLLOW US & SHARE OUR STORY.
 - Facebook: GrootbosFoundationNPO
 - Instagram: @grootbosfoundation
 - LinkedIn: Grootbos Green Futures Foundation
- MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

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NPC: #2003/014519/08 | NPO: #053-605-NPO | PBO: #930023319

BANK DETAILS

Grootbos Green Futures Foundation
First National Bank
Hermanus Branch Branch Code: 200412
Current Account Number: 62064420856
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJXXX



The full unabridged 2024 Annual Report is available online at grootbosfoundation.org. Scan the QR code to access the full digital Annual Report directly.

