



CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA  
IMPACT REPORT 2020-2022



BE WITH ME

We are intimately interconnected with nature, whether we like it or not. **If we don't take care of nature, we can't take care of ourselves.**

And as we hurtle towards a population of 10 billion people on this planet, we need to go into this future armed with nature as our strongest ally.

**INGER ANDERSEN**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

# R188 million

INVESTED IN THE LAST **3 YEARS** TO PROTECT, MANAGE AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.

We've not improved ecosystem services unless we've turned them into services directly accessed by rural communities.

## JULIA LEVIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA



Conservation South Africa supports economic development that values nature because people need nature to thrive. Our approach is simple yet transformative.

## OUR VISION

A South Africa where growth and development are catalysed through the sustainable stewardship of nature.

## OUR MISSION

Restore and secure key reservoirs of nature across South Africa for the benefit of all.

## OUR ORGANISATION

Conservation South Africa is an independent affiliate of Conservation International, legally registered as a Section 18A public benefit organisation in South Africa. As an affiliate, Conservation South Africa subscribes to the aspirational vision and mission, strategic framework, and operational requirements of Conservation International, but is enabled to adapt language and specific policies and goals to the unique context of South Africa.

CONSERVATION  
SOUTH AFRICA

Member of the CI Network





# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Conservation South Africa has been making a positive impact on people and nature for over two decades. The last three years, however, tested everything we thought we knew.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought uncertainty and pressure, but the team met the challenges boldly. We strengthened our partnerships with government, traditional authorities, the private sector and fellow NGO's and we experienced an unexpected period of growth.

Despite many personal and professional losses, we doubled our year-on-year investment. Throughout the COVID-19 period and beyond, we expanded our field operations and grew our staff complement from 42 to 100.

We help protect 150 thousand hectares and 75% of our budget goes directly to strengthening vulnerable hundreds of local communities and households. By re-establishing nature and local ecosystems we ensure access to water, fodder and jobs in a continuous virtuous circle.

We decentralised our activities and brought grassroots conservation champions onto our payroll through village-based staffing and initiatives – reducing our overhead costs and allowing us to continue to work safely throughout the pandemic.

The COVID 19 pandemic changed us for the better. It forced us to work more collaboratively, more dynamically and at a larger scale.

Our work has unleashed science and shown that scientists, conservationists and communities have intertwined goals that depend on one another. This emphasises the fact that people need nature to thrive and underpins the need for our mission to create a South Africa where growth and development are catalysed through the sustainable stewardship of nature.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to CSA's mission, from our staff and partners to our donors and investors. Your support and dedication have kept us inspired on our journey towards a more sustainable future. I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you as we work together to conserve our precious natural world for the benefit of people.

## **SIMON SUSMAN**

Chairperson, Conservation South Africa

COVID-19 has killed hundreds of thousands of people and infected millions.

**A growing body of research, including research by Conservation International scientists, points to a direct link between the destruction of nature and disease outbreaks** — spotlighting the role of protecting and restoring nature in preventing future pandemics.

[IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON NATURE](#)  
[CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE](#)

## BOARD MEMBERS: CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA

### **Simon Susman**

Chairperson

### **Independent Directors:**

Loyiso Pityana-Ndlovu

Owen Henderson

Professor Peliwe Lolwana

Dr Reuel Khoza

### **M Sanjayan**

CEO, Conservation International

### **Michael O-Brien Onyeka,**

Conservation International Senior

Vice-president, Africa Field

Division (outgoing)

### **Suzanne Ngo-Eyok**

Conservation International Senior

Vice-president, Africa Field

Division (incoming)

### **Lee Gillespie White**

Conservation International

General Counsel

### **Julia Levin**

Executive Director,

Conservation South Africa

**Securing the health of Earth's climate,  
ecosystems and biodiversity is essential to the  
survival of all people.**

The world now recognises that environmental collapse will not only disproportionately affect marginalised people, but touch all communities, all businesses, all consumers, all governments, all voters.

**PETER SELIGMANN**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

YOU NEED ME NOW MORE THAN EVER



# A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Nature is important to people in different ways. Clean rivers, springs and wetlands ensure our water security and when rangelands are properly managed, and free from invasive plants, they provide food for our livestock to sustain our livelihoods. The idea of nature supporting us is central to our community-centred work in underserved areas of rural southern Africa.

At CSA our focus has shifted in recent years from biodiversity to climate change. It is widely acknowledged that a possible 1.5 degree increase in the average global temperature is very likely to cause the extinction of many species and will also have many negative consequences for people.

To avoid the worst effects of climate change we need to halve emissions by 2030. Although a just transition to a low-carbon economy would help us reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit temperature rises, as agreed upon in the Paris Agreement, we will not get close to its targets if we disregard nature. Science tells us nature is 30 percent of the solution to removing carbon from the atmosphere, which is why we work to protect, restore and manage nature towards the goal of a stable climate.

We need to take action now. People are beginning to grasp the urgency of protecting and conserving our natural resources; loss of biodiversity, degradation of natural habitats, and climate change have far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for our planet and for people.

To address these challenges takes a bold approach: landscape-level, human-centered conservation to manage and restore entire ecosystems – working closely with partners and drawing deeply on both science and indigenous knowledge.

Working with local communities and other stakeholders to develop sustainable and effective conservation strategies leaves a lasting impact that extends beyond our specific projects or initiatives. By adopting a more holistic and integrated approach to conservation that takes into account the needs of both people and nature, we are reimagining conservation.

To our donors, and members of our team, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your unwavering support, and dedication to CSA's mission over the past three years.

**JULIA LEVIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA  
AND THE CSA TEAM**



# MEET OUR TEAM

75%

OF SOUTH AFRICA'S SOIL CARBON  
IS STORED IN RANGELANDS

## RESTORED RANGELANDS

CAN STORE 0.8 TO 2.5 TONS MORE  
SOIL CARBON PER HECTARE  
OVER 10 YEARS

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# A NEW WAY TO PROTECT NATURE

## TOGETHER

It will take a collaborative effort to avoid temperature change by 2030.

**We need to work with each other and with nature.**

## OUR ONLY HOME

**Rangelands cover 80% of South Africa and about 45% of Africa** and have massive potential for stabilising the climate and supporting livelihoods.

## LONGEVITY

**Sustained action is based on support for nature-positive, vulnerable economies.** Jobs for Nature provides long-term livelihoods and careers that motivate people to restore, manage and protect ecosystems.

## WHAT WE NEED

**Supportive policies, spatial plans and funds** to embed our efforts and ensure government, traditional authorities, communities and the private sector implement responses at scale.





# WHERE WE WORK

We support improved management of 4 million hectares of communal rangelands through our landscape demonstrations in the Namakwa District, Alfred Nzo District and the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere.

These sites fall within the globally important Succulent Karoo and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany biodiversity hotspots. Our technical, policy and fundraising support offices are in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

## ■ NAMAKWA

**Area:** 12,683,600 hectares

**Location:** Namakwa District Municipality in the Northern Cape province within the Succulent Karoo Biodiversity Hotspot ■

## ■ KRUGER TO CANYONS (K2C)

**Area:** 1,073,100 hectares

**Location:** Western border of Kruger National Park into Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. Part of the site falls within the Maputaland–Pondoland–Albany Hotspot ■

## ■ UMZIMVUBU CATCHMENT

**Area:** 2,874,800 hectares

**Location:** The Alfred Nzo District Municipality and the area that runs along the northern boundary of the Eastern Cape Province. It extends from the Lesotho escarpment to the northern Wild Coast adjacent to the Indian Ocean within the Maputaland–Pondoland–Albany Hotspot ■



SAWUBONA

Channelling climate finance to the ground is not easy. SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE (SANBI)

Quoted in: *Taking adaptation to the ground. A story of accessing climate finance through a Small Grants Facility to support ecosystem-based adaptation*

# HOW WE WORK

## CONSERVATION REIMAGINED

Conservation South Africa works with government and partner communities towards a more compassionate, conscious, inclusive and diverse approach to conservation that prioritises rural women and youth in all aspects of landscape governance and amplifies the voices of those most vulnerable to climate change.

Nature is our first line of defence against climate impacts; when we **HEAR** what nature is saying we know what to do to restore and protect it. We also **LISTEN** to one another to understand the experiences of others, learn from them and then **DISCUSS** ways to change the status quo.

Together we can **LOOK** at how to address broader social and economic issues like poverty and inequality and how to improve our resilience to climate change. With our heads together we can **IMAGINE** how things can be better for nature and people.

### THINGS WE DO

- **Science-based research** to inform conservation policies and decisions.
- **Sustainable land-use practices** to reduce habitat loss and degradation.
- **Education and public awareness campaigns** to raise awareness and promote behaviour change.
- **Partner** with organisations and initiatives that prioritise effectiveness and impact.
- **Technology and innovation** to enhance conservation efforts, using remote sensing and artificial intelligence.
- **International cooperation and partnerships** to address global conservation challenges.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER



## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

support people  
to restore rangelands  
with methods that  
protect nature and  
promote prosperity

# REIMAGINING TOGETHER

## NATURE-POSITIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

At the core of responsible governance that strives to protect, manage and restore ecosystems are the stewards of the land – the farmers, and the communities they live in and work with.

Support for policy that favours long-term, scalable benefits for nature and for people begins with discussions about sustainable rangeland practices. Once these have been agreed on, a grazing association – a group of farmers who organise around grazing rights – signs a conservation agreement to implement rangeland practices that are informed by science and indigenous knowledge, in exchange for receiving benefits that will improve their livelihoods.

Grazing associations also work with traditional authorities who help identify vulnerable people in communities and leverage community buy-in relating to good rangeland management practice. They also promote the positive impact these practices have on livelihoods and support the spatial planning work being carried out, for example, through the Climate Positive Land-Use Strategy (CPLUS) tool being piloted at Mnisi in the K2C landscape.

Conservation South Africa has established links with government bodies starting with small local municipalities and the district municipalities that they fall under. Municipalities are responsible for delivering services and development in their jurisdiction. Working with them builds capacity and creates awareness of climate, biodiversity and freshwater issues.

Whether we like it or not, **we are locked in an ancient dialogue with the creatures that share our world**, and we're only just starting to understand the words they use.

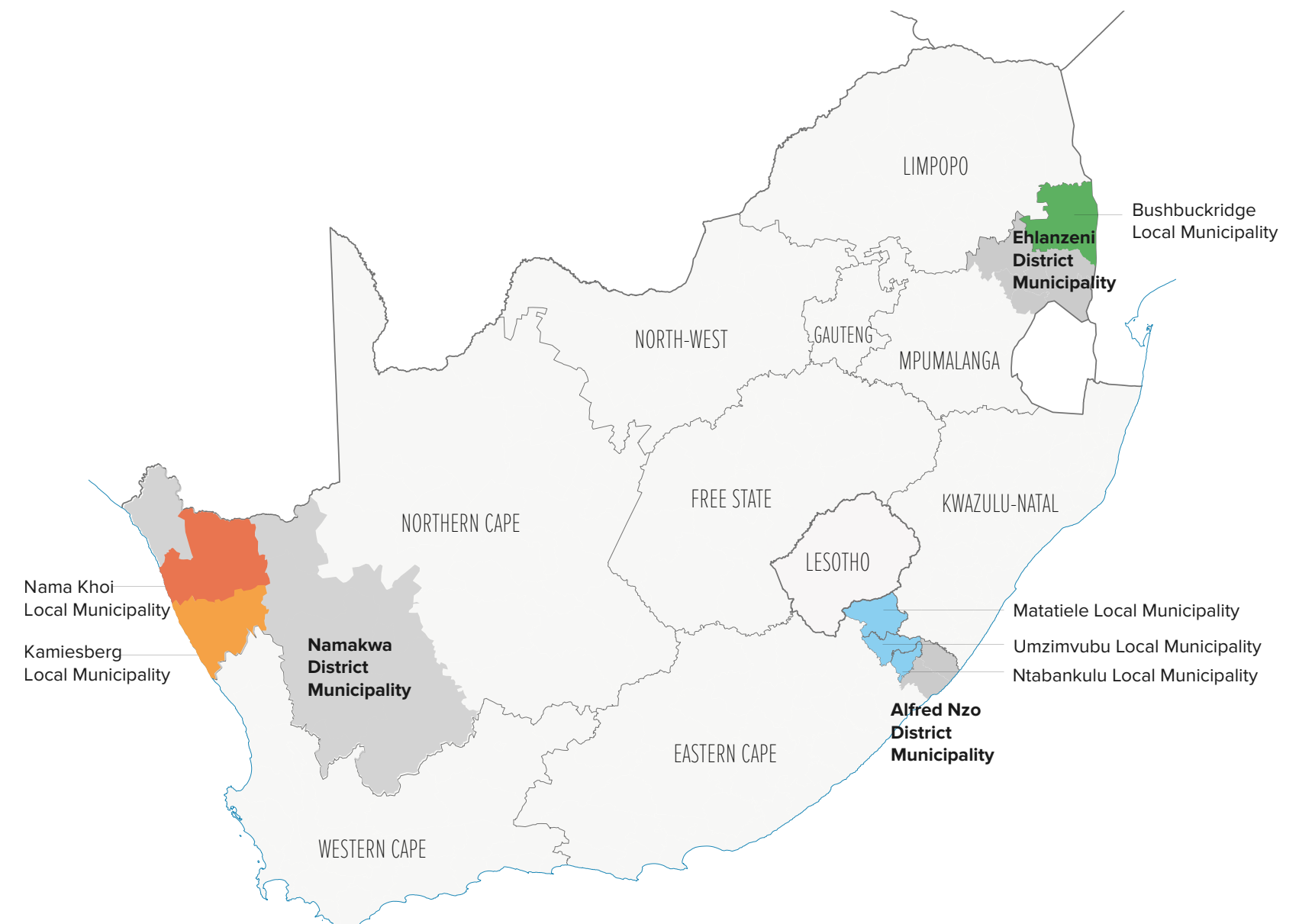
### ED YONG

I CONTAIN MULTITUDES: THE  
MICROBES WITHIN US AND A  
GRANDER VIEW OF LIFE

# OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

We support governance at all levels to enable decision-making that protects, manages and restores ecosystems to benefit nature and people.

The starting point is engaging with communities on the ground to establish valuable links between people, traditional authorities, community leaders and government to improve our knowledge of the area, its potential and its challenges.



## NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY:

- [Nama Khoi Local Municipality](#)
  - Steinkopf Bulletrap Cooperative
- [Kamiesberg Local Municipality](#)
  - Vooruitkyk Cooperative, Nourivier
  - Leliefontein Ontwikkelings Kooperasie
  - Saamwerk Bewarings Inisiatief, Kharkams
  - Sekisonki Women's Group, Spoegrivier

## EHLANZENI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY:

- [Bushbuckridge Local Municipality](#)
  - Mnisi Traditional Authority
  - Amashangaan Traditional Authority
  - Jongilanga Traditional Authority
  - Moraba Traditional Authority
  - Badikwenyana Traditional Authority
  - ba Pedi Dinkwanyane Traditional Authority (with our partner, the K2C Biosphere)

## ALFRED NZO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY:

- [Matatiele Local Municipality](#)
  - Bakoena Traditional Authority
- [Umzimvubu Local Municipality](#)
  - Ludidi Traditional Authority
- [Ntabankulu Local Municipality](#)
  - Amahlubi Traditional

## TALK TRIBAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Establishing links with local leaders is critical to conservation – particularly if traditional or cultural connections to the land and its resources are strong – and can provide unique perspectives and insights into ways to make conservation more effective.

- As stewards of the land, they use their knowledge, practices, and values to help manage natural resources in sustainable and culturally appropriate ways which includes practices such as rotational grazing and the best methods to manage vegetation.
- They work with conservation organisations and government agencies to create protected areas, such as national parks or community conservancies, that recognise and respect indigenous rights and cultural practices while conserving biodiversity.
- They help enforce laws and regulations related to conservation and natural resource management, using their knowledge of the land and community relationships to detect and deter illegal activities.
- They engage in education and outreach efforts to raise awareness, working to empower and engage local communities in conservation efforts and climate change mitigation.

### KRUGER TO CANYONS

Our community-level approach includes supporting self-sufficient management by setting up internet connections at the office of the Mnisi Traditional Authority and for youth, as well as accompanying them on trips into protected areas to show them the importance of communal rangelands and showcase the value of nature.

### UMZIMVUBU

We have worked with the traditional authorities, community leaders and municipal officials to pilot mobile sheep shearing in Boiteko, to implement ongoing volunteer clearing of invasive wattle in Mvenyane, and to provide a storage container for equipment.

### NAMAKWA

We have continued our work to extend the range of our stewardship programme in the Kamiesberg to 11,000 ha by including farmers from Paulshoek, and by increasing the number of stewards in the Steinkopf Bulletrap Cooperative from 17 to 51, through the signing of conservation agreements. We've also had the opportunity to celebrate our stewards in Klein Nouriver who were the recipients of farming equipment worth R150,000 in the 2022 Toyota Communal Farmer of the Year competition.

WE  
WORK WITH:

GRAZING  
ASSOCIATIONS

38

5  
COOPERATIVES

9  
TRADITIONAL  
COUNCILS



# PEOPLE NEED NATURE TO THRIVE

Around 490 million people in Africa live below the extreme poverty line,<sup>1</sup> despite its wealth of forests, savannas, lakes and pristine coastlines. To boost rural livelihoods so that people and nature can thrive, we need new models to regenerate and protect nature at a scale that accommodates natural movements and promotes real rural development for the people who live in close proximity to wildlife.

The Herding for Health programme uses herding and livestock management to regenerate Africa's rangeland ecosystems and enhance climate resilience in the communities that depend on them. Communities sign Conservation Agreements with site-specific good practice defined by scientific and traditional knowledge. Collective grazing, strategic grazing, herding and corralling are implemented by professional herders called "ecorangers". Participating farmers receive training and access to markets with key market readiness interventions (legal requirements and market systems) to ensure income flow.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unctad.org/press-material/facts-and-figures-7>

**Climate change is a threat multiplier. Things like poverty, conflict, harvest failures, food shortages, energy shortages, they're all interconnected.**

**GAIA VINCE**  
NOMAD CENTURY: HOW CLIMATE MIGRATION WILL RESHAPE OUR WORLD

## HOW COMMUNITIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HECTARES UNDER IMPROVED MANAGEMENT BY COMMUNITIES

150,000

3

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES

6

LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

38 CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED

WITH

1,223

STEWARDSHIP FARMERS OF WHICH

280

ARE WOMEN



# ACT GRAZING ASSOCIATIONS

Grazing associations are groups of farmers or herders who pool their resources to manage a piece of land for grazing.

In South Africa, small-scale livestock farmers use communally owned or leased land, and association members agree on rules and regulations for grazing their animals.

Grazing associations support the livelihoods of small-scale livestock farmers and for promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

Meat Naturally Pty's science-based communal grazing systems leverage government job creation programmes and market interest in sustainable meat to improve water and food security and access to livelihoods. They provide a scalable vehicle for African communal farmers to enter into a growing market for sustainably produced, grass-fed meat.



## HOW LIVELIHOODS WERE IMPROVED

LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

31

938

FARMERS SOLD CATTLE

15,500

VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED TO LIVESTOCK



# INTO AFRICA

The Herding for Health programme piloted in collaboration with the Mnsi Tribal Authority in the Kruger to Canyons demonstration site is being rolled out on 7 million hectares across Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This joint initiative, developed by Conservation International and Peace Parks Foundation, has been successfully tested across all key rangeland ecosystems (semi-arid shrublands, mountain grasslands, and subtropical savannas). The programme is being supported by \$150 million in site-based investments mainly from international institutions such as the Green Climate Fund and Agence Française de Développement.



# JOBS FOR NATURE WORK WITH NATURE

Our Jobs for Nature programme supports women and youth with short-term employment opportunities to gain experience in conservation and restoration initiatives, helping them to transition to climate-smart career paths, while also enabling us to take our nature-based solutions to scale through strategic partnerships.

## RESTORE

By clearing alien vegetation Jobs for Nature restores rangelands and gives people access to drinking water and land for grazing their livestock.

## MONITOR

Jobs for Nature enables ongoing monitoring and evaluation of environmental indicators of change using best practice methods.

## PROTECT

By managing and restoring our natural resources, Jobs for Nature is supporting the protection of biodiversity.

## SUSTAIN

Jobs for Nature promotes and supports sustainable farming practices that protect soil health and biodiversity.

# 1,386

## GREEN JOBS

### 535 PEOPLE

TRAINED IN FINANCIAL  
LITERACY AND  
MANAGEMENT

### 3,900 YOUNG PEOPLE

ENGAGED IN  
VALUES-BASED  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AWARENESS

## WARRIORS FOR WATER

The uMzimvubu is one of South Africa's few remaining near-natural rivers, flanked from source to sea by a unique matrix of grassland, forest, thicket and dune vegetation – some of the most biodiverse in the world. It serves more than a million people with water; and supports food security and livelihoods.

Overgrazing, erosion, invasive vegetation, mismanaged veld fires and draining of wetlands for commercial farming have rendered its fragile ecosystems vulnerable to loss of biodiversity. Longer dry periods and extreme flooding are also making life harder for the people who rely on the river and the land that surrounds it.

Our WASH (water, sanitation and health) activities in the catchment have aimed to restore and protect the watershed, while also raising awareness in hygiene education and supporting local communities with spring protection, and sanitation and water storage systems.

PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER

613

In all five villages there was increased knowledge of the relationship between rangelands, clean water from spring rehabilitation in the catchment, and the importance of taking care of these valuable resources for their daily needs.

**MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE, WASH IN WATERSHEDS, EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA**

### WHAT INTERVIEWEES SAID

- Access to water increased in almost every community.
- Fences protected springs from contamination.
- Grazing areas cleared of vegetation were easier to access and monitor.
- Communities relearnt hygiene habits and ways to protect themselves against disease, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- People were safer from criminals after the wattle was cleared.

## A CLEARING CULTURE

On a visit to one of the villages during the COVID-19 pandemic the mayor of Matatiele Local Municipality saw hundreds of people walking to work and was told they were going to clear wattle.

I was shocked to see so many people carrying their lunch boxes and walking quickly in small groups so early in the morning. The scene reminded me of people rushing to catch the train to go to work. I asked my team, 'Where are all these people going? There are no jobs here.' They told me about the project, and I was amazed at how much excitement and energy it was creating across the entire ward in such a difficult time

SONWABILE MNGENELA

Mayor of Matatiele Local Municipality  
Eastern Cape, South Africa

In one ward in Alfred Nzo District Municipality, where 770 jobs were created during a six-month clearing project, community members had enough resources and cash to rebuild when houses were damaged by a flood.

## BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

HECTARES CLEARED

2,310

1,821

INITIAL CLEARING

489

FOLLOW-UP CLEARING

PEOPLE EMPLOYED

770

37% WOMEN

53% YOUTH

HOUSEHOLDS WITH AN INCOME FROM WATTLE CLEARING

770

500 PEOPLE OPENED FIRST-TIME BANK ACCOUNTS

PEOPLE TRAINED ON RESTORING NATURE

735

926 PEOPLE TRAINED ON BASIC CONTROL OF ALIEN INVASIVE PLANTS

1

FIRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE TO MANAGE FIRE RISKS OF DRY WATTLE WOOD



# NATURE'S NURTURERS

## WOMEN LEAD CONSERVATION

Women are often more invested in the long-term outcomes of conservation efforts, have a better understanding of local social and ecological systems, and can mobilise communities towards conservation goals.

### LISTEN TO WOMEN

All over South Africa, women are the primary users and managers of rangelands. They collect water and fuelwood, feed their families and look after livestock. For effective, sustainable conservation strategies we need the knowledge and views of these women.

Women empowered with access to education, resources and decision-making roles promote gender-equitable and inclusive rangeland management and research shows that conservation

initiatives that include women, have a higher likelihood of success and sustainability. Women are often more invested in the long-term outcomes of conservation efforts, have a better understanding of local social and ecological systems, and can mobilise communities towards conservation goals.

Women-led conservation initiatives, such as those that focus on sustainable grazing, restoration of degraded rangelands, or water management, can also

create employment opportunities for women and improve their socio-economic status. Moreover, engaging women in conservation can contribute to their empowerment and gender equality, leading to broader benefits for society as a whole.

Women can bring valuable insights and perspectives to rangeland conservation efforts, and their empowerment and inclusion are critical to achieving sustainable and effective conservation outcomes.

### A WAY OF LIFE

Communal farmers in Namaqualand, a semi-arid region of Northern Cape province, South Africa, have long depended on raising livestock to support themselves. But this way of life is threatened by the destruction of nature: overgrazing, soil erosion, and ploughing and draining of critical wetlands.

In conservation agreements with communal farmers, youth and emerging entrepreneurs commit to sustainable grazing, water and stock management, and predator control.

In return, Conservation South Africa provides infrastructure such as water pumps and facilitates access to markets for livestock sales. Implementing sustainable grazing and monitoring regimes brings opportunities for employment to the community.

Conservation South Africa also trains farmers in livestock handling, grazing and wetland management, restoration methods, and non-lethal predator control.

### SPACE FOR WOMEN

Funding has enabled us to integrate a systematic focus on gender equity into our programme and address the lack of earning opportunities for women in the area.

Our programme develops women leaders, builds skills, educates, and creates job and business opportunities.



## LOOK WOMEN AND YOUTH ON THE MARGINS

More than 750,000 of the 1.1 million people who live in Northern Cape Province are under the age of 35. Although this is good news from a labour force perspective, employment opportunities in this vast, semi-arid land are limited and most people in rural Namaqualand depend on the natural environment for their livelihoods.

**ROSY FORTUIN** has lived in Nourivier near Leliefontein in Kamiesberg Local Municipality all her life; like many other rural locations all over the world, the people here are marginalised and economically excluded. As a steward and a livestock farmer she is passionate about the changes Conservation South Africa and [Yes 4 Youth](#) have made in her community.

She talks with authority about the connection between land, water, livestock and people and the skills young people are gaining through training programmes introduced in the area.

Rosy farms with sheep and with indigenous Northern Cape Speckled goats – spikkelbokke or skilder goats – which she says tread gently on the fragile vegetation they graze and are also able to graze across a much wider area because of their ability to climb. Watch the video [here](#).

Like many other young women in Namaqualand, **TAYLIN LINKS** left school to help support her family. She tried working in the city but eventually returned to her village where she was offered an opportunity to work on one of Conservation South Africa's natural resource management projects. As a supervisor in our youth rangelands project Taylin is a role model who mentors other young women to strengthen the local legacy of nurturing nature.



### LIGHTFOOT

#### NORTHERN CAPE SPECKLED GOAT

The speckled goat or spikkelbok originated in the arid interior of the Northern Cape where it is favoured by pastoralists because it can negotiate difficult terrain, which increases its grazing range. Its light hooves are also kinder to vulnerable ecosystems.

# WOMEN IN RANGELANDS

## IMPACT ACROSS ALL 3 LANDSCAPES

280

WOMEN COSIGNED CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

818

WOMEN TRAINED IN RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

399

JOBS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

## GENDER PROGRAMME NAMAOKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

35

WOMEN COSIGNED CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

38

TRAININGS TARGETING WOMEN

86

JOBS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

7

WOMEN SUPERVISORS

202

WOMEN RECEIVED TECHNICAL SUPPORT



Women are the caretakers we wish to see involved in these activities; growing as people who have some control over the destiny of their resources.

**MALINDA GARDINER**  
STEWARDSHIP MANAGER  
CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA

# NEW HORIZONS

## A STRATEGY FOR PROTECTING OUR OCEANS

The South African Oceans Economy programme estimates that by 2033 oceans and coasts can boost GDP by up to R177 billion and create up to a million jobs.<sup>1</sup>

Proper planning, and public-private partnerships, underpinned by sustainable management and protection, can unlock its riches and benefit nature and people.

### A DEEP DIVE

Between 2014 and 2019, three marine protected areas were proclaimed along South Africa's West Coast in the Namakwa District and in 2022 South Africa released its first national spatial biodiversity plan for the marine and coastal environment.

Research conducted by Conservation South Africa in Saldanha Bay and Langebaan revealed many opportunities for innovative conservation finance mechanisms

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dffe.gov.za/projectsprogrammes/operationphakisa/oceanseconomy>





## AFRICA'S FIRST SEASCAPE

We are also exploring the possibility of developing Africa's first seascape along the West Coast in the unique Benguela Current. A seascape is a network of marine protected areas where governments, private organisations and other key stakeholders work together to conserve the diversity and abundance of marine life and promote human well-being. The world's five existing seascapes cover more than a hundred marine protected areas and surrounding waters.

In the "bottom-up" seascape planned for the Northern Cape province, small-scale fishers are linked and managed locally with terrestrial systems and protected areas where Conservation South Africa already has a footprint. Kelp forests also present blue carbon opportunities; seaweeds (including kelp) are thought to sequester nearly 200 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

## POLICY FOR OCEANS

Conservation South Africa has engaged with government through a collaboration around the Convention on Biological Diversity to assist in developing policy to support the global goal of 30% protection of both marine and terrestrial systems by 2030. Conservation South Africa also aims to demonstrate the value of other effective conservation measures (OECMs) to be locally managed through this goal.

## NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

# TIME TO ACT: CLIMATE SCIENCE

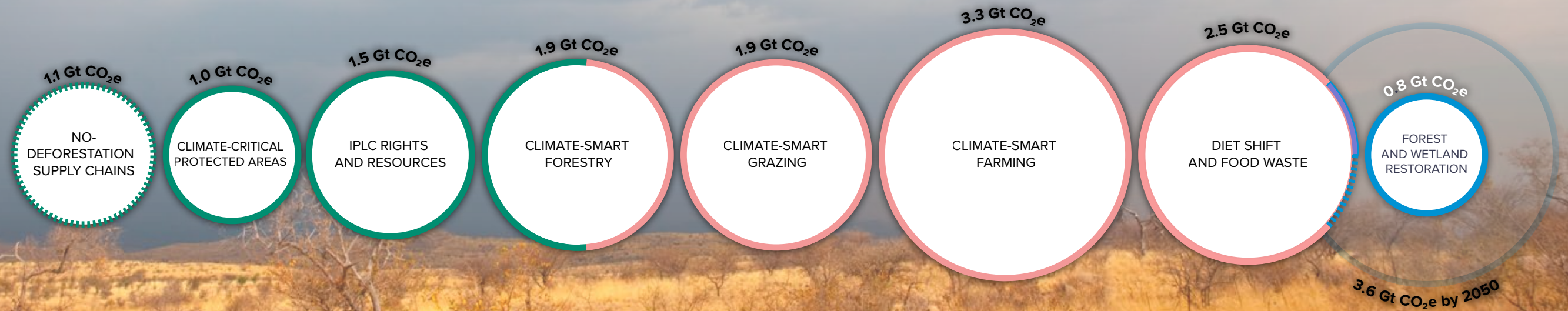
To stabilise global temperatures, achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and increase carbon capture by 2050, we need to fast-track natural climate solutions. Tools like the Climate Positive Land Use Strategy (CPLUS) enable local municipal and community-led implementation of our rangelands work. Traditional authorities, community leaders, farmers and local government can now identify, design and implement appropriate land-use actions that will promote sustainable development, agriculture, conservation, and restoration work.

The CPLUS tool reveals how land is used and looks at changes with the potential to increase carbon sequestration. The tool will enable us to expand our Herding for Health model that was initiated at our three landscape demonstrations in the Kruger to Canyons, Umzimvubu and Namakwa, thereby expanding our work to manage, restore and protect rangelands while enhancing resilient livelihoods for more people.

CPLUS also weights our proposals with material evidence to unlock novel financing opportunities. It is also opening up even more possibilities as it is expanded to the Greater Kruger landscape and other South African landscapes.

## ACTION TRACKS

The natural climate solutions in the diagram below are colour-coded according to whether they **PROTECT**, **MANAGE** or **RESTORE**.





# PUBLICATIONS

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6. Thoresen J., Vermeire M.-L., Venter Z., Wolfaard G., Krumins J.A., Cramer M., Hawkins H.-J. (2021) Fire and herbivory shape soil arthropod communities through habitat heterogeneity and nutrient cycling in savannas. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 25: e01413.
7. Vermeire M.-L., Thoresen J., Lennard K., Vikram S., Kirkman K., Swemmer A.M., Te Beest M., Siebert F., Gordijn P., Venter Z., Brunel C., Wolfaard G., Krumins J.A., Cramer M.D., Hawkins H.-J. (2021) Fire and herbivory drive fungal and bacterial communities through distinct above- and belowground mechanisms. *Science of The Total Environment* 785: 147189 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.147189>
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9. Venter Z.S., Hawkins H.-J., Cramer M.D., Mills A.J. (2021) Mapping soil organic carbon stocks and trends with satellite-driven high resolution maps over South Africa. *Science of The Total Environment* 771: 145384

## CASE STUDIES

1. CSA (2021) Evidence-based policy and decision making for Conservation Agreement projects as an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) - Case study I: Innovative financing for implementing Conservation Agreements in Namaqualand, Northern Cape, South Africa within communal lands.
2. CSA (2021) Evidence-based policy and decision making for Conservation Agreement projects as an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) - Case study II: Conservation Agreements for rangeland restoration in Namaqualand.
3. CSA (2021) The Small Grants Facility (SGF) as a financing mechanism for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Namaqualand, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.
4. CSA (2021) Policy brief: The importance of Ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation actions in the Nationally Determined Contributions. Conservation South Africa.
5. CSA (2022) Growing a sustainable oceans economy in South Africa, while expanding marine conservation: Lessons from Saldanha Bay Municipality.
6. CSA (2022) The war on wattle: The case of Ward 21 in Mvenyane, Eastern Cape Province South Africa.
7. CI & UCP (2022) Freshwater Health Index: Umzimvubu River catchment, South Africa.
8. Rose, C. (2019) Good practices for water, livestock and people in rural South Africa. Conservation South Africa.
9. Rose, C., Majola, M. S., Msomi, T., Matandela., F. and McLeod., N. (2021), A grassroots approach to spring protection in rural South Africa. South Africa: UCP.



# INVESTMENT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## REVENUE

Conservation South Africa receives generous support from a wide range of foundations, individuals, businesses, governments, and multilateral agencies. This diversity of funding sources allows us to continue our work in our three landscape demonstration sites with the assistance of research and technical teams, as well as strategic support staff located in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

- Despite the global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, revenue received from local grants and contributions (not including revenue from foundations, corporations, and the US government) remained stable at R13 million in FY20 compared to FY19 (R13 million). This increased to R18 million in FY21 and to R75 million in FY22.
- Total revenue has increased each year from R42 million in FY19 to R98 million in FY22. This increase was due to the exponential growth of our Jobs for Nature programme in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Total revenue from foundations, corporations and US government has fluctuated since FY19 (R29 million), having received R27 million in FY20, R30 million in FY21 and R23 million in FY22.

The most significant contributions in FY22 were from the Presidential Stimulus Fund, R34 million in total comprising 35% of our total revenue for FY22, as well as R23 million from NGO and universities providing 24% of our support in FY22.

## EXPENSES

We strive to ensure that Conservation South Africa has robust systems in place to effectively manage and support our complex work across the demonstration landscapes and that it is fully accountable to a wide range of donors with rigorous compliance requirements, while carefully managing our costs to maximise funding of our programmes and partners.

- Expenditure in FY22 totalled R94 million, a R55 million increase from R39 million in FY19. This significant increase in expenditure was the result of the programme costs associated with the Jobs for Nature programme.
- Our largest investment in FY22 was in our landscape demonstration sites, amounting to R65 million, or 68% of total expenditure. Additional investments were made in our support portfolios of research, policy, regional integration, and conservation finance.
- 98% of expenditure during the period under review is linked directly to the implementation and management of project activities and only 2% of funding was allocated to overhead costs.

# INVESTMENT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2022	2021	2020
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Grants, Contracts &amp; Contributions</b>	<b>R 86,335,814</b>	<b>R 45,850,104</b>	<b>R 39,736,086</b>
Foundations	R 17,786,228	R 25,355,334	R 23,955,321
Individuals	R 4,394,832	R 2,825,123	R 1,699,926
Corporations	R 6,107,374	R 4,775,680	R 2,402,646
NGO / University	R 23,630,054	R 11,002,296	R 6,252,392
Multilateral	R 448	R 701,199	R 2,074,940
US Govt	R 0	R 0	R 1,284,361
Non US Govt	R 34,416,878	R 1,190,473	R 2,066,499
Miscellaneous Income	R 12,463,078	R 2,425,039	R 1,574,465
Investment Income	R 163,080	R 38,487	R 87,843
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>R 98,961,972</b>	<b>R 48,313,630</b>	<b>R 41,398,394</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Landscape Demonstrations</b>	<b>R 64,700,862</b>	<b>R 27,108,635</b>	<b>R 18,992,783</b>
Namakwa Landscape	R 7,960,977	R 8,091,136	R 4,524,421
Umzimvubu Landscape	R 36,459,575	R 12,168,470	R 9,641,878
Kruger to Canyons Landscape	R 20,280,310	R 6,849,029	R 4,826,484
Regional Support Costs	R 14,096,037	R 10,913,830	R 9,300,122
Research and Technical Support	R 10,170,412	R 7,333,694	R 8,601,273
Executive & Leadership	R 3,554,210	R 3,522,650	R 3,188,084
Management & Operations	R 1,935,643	R 2,725,466	R 3,543,349
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>R 94,457,165</b>	<b>R 51,604,274</b>	<b>R 43,625,610</b>
Change in Net Assets before Non-Operating Activity	R 4,504,807	R -3,290,644	R -2,227,217
Finance Costs	R 1,752	R 1,072	
<b>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</b>			
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	R -760,455	R 2,531,261	R 4,758,478
Changes in Net Assets	R 4,503,055	R -3,291,716	R -2,227,217
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>R 3,742,600</b>	<b>R -760,455</b>	<b>R 2,531,261</b>

# OUR DONORS

Our sincere gratitude goes to all the individual donors, foundations, corporations and governments that sponsor our work so generously, and without whom none of what we do would be possible.

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United Nations Environment Program

Waverley Street Foundation

Wildlife Conservation Society

World Bank

World Wildlife Fund South Africa (WWF-SA)

Youth Employment Services (YES)





By working with local communities and other stakeholders to develop sustainable and effective conservation strategies, we create a lasting impact that extends beyond our specific projects or initiatives.

**JULIA LEVIN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA

# OUR PARTNERS

Conservation South Africa's work is wholly dependent on partnerships with government, civil society and the private sector. We are deeply grateful for these collaborations and would like to thank the following organisations in particular:





## CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA IMPACT REPORT 2020-2022

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