The past year had been one of phenomenal growth and achievement for the Grootbos Foundation. For the first time since our inception in 2003, we have reached and positively benefited more than 10,000 lives in a single year! This has been through the mammoth commitment of a most wonderful team, and the scrupulous management of a very tight budget. We couldn’t be more delighted, proud and grateful for these outcomes.

Benefited more than 10 000 lives in a single year

The work of the Grootbos Foundation continues to support the Sustainable Development Goals identified for 2030, directly delivering against 10 of these. The SDG’s recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection and job opportunities, whilst tackling climate change and environmental protection.

Our Growing the Future farm has increased production to five tonnes of organic vegetables through the addition of a second tunnel, and has this year produced 43,436 eggs and more than a tonne of honey. This profitable farming project not only supports the financial security of our Foundation, but also directly contributes to the sustainability of Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, by reducing carbon miles, and ensuring that guests enjoy an organic, farm-to-table experience.

Unemployment and real opportunities for meaningful employment remain one of our biggest challenges in South Africa. The Grootbos Foundation’s Green Futures College saw 12 successful graduates complete the ArgiSeta accredited certificate in Indigenous Horticulture, and has welcomed 12 new students for the 2017 year, increasing the alumni to 156 students, since 2003. Six members of the Masakhane community completed their Lobster Ink accredited Hospitality Service training, and the next group of 10 trainees started in June 2017. We have also trained sports coaches, and various apprentices through our jewellery and beekeeping projects, to support sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion.

Our vision remains the protection of the Cape Floral Kingdom and the support and development of the communities that reside within this World Heritage attraction. Our conservation team, under the leadership of Director Sean Privett, has been hard at work to link the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy to the Agulhas National Park. 10 key properties have been identified which would extend the conserved area to 52,000 ha. The conservation team has been monitoring the critically endangered Elim ferricrete fynbos on relevant properties, compiling species lists and management plans. In addition, these properties have added to the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy, increasing the protected area to 16,500 hectares. This project would not be possible without the generous support of the Table Mountain Fund for which we are incredibly grateful.

The work of the Grootbos Foundation continues to support the Sustainable Development Goals identified for 2030, directly delivering against 10 of these. The SDG’s recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection and job opportunities, whilst tackling climate change and environmental protection.

In response to an extensive needs analysis conducted in 2013/14, our Foundation launched the Gansbaai Community Farm offering agricultural support and opportunities to create sustainable livelihoods within the greater Gansbaai community. Our urban agriculture curriculum has been approved by the Department of Agriculture. Through this programme, 45 participants were trained in 2016, each of whom received an allotment for growing their own vegetables to support food insecurity within the community. Thus far, 35 of these ‘urban farmers’ are actively tending their allotments, and selling produce to the community and to the kitchens of Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, our partner and key supporter.
Our Football Foundation remains our most extensive programme, and has the largest impact. Through sports training and environmental education programmes, we have reached 7 884 beneficiaries at 16 sites, and 13 Overberg Schools in 2016. Through this year, we have seen a 78% increase in female participation, which is very exciting. Two new water-based initiatives launched in 2016 a ‘Learn to Swim’ project, through which we have reached 100 Grade R’s in Gansbaai area – and our Development Canoeing project – ‘Rock the Boat!’ – in partnership with the Stanford Canoe Club, also continues to grow. Not even a year in the making, and Amy Duffet won the U12 SA championship and Victrix Ludorum at the SA Canoeing Championships.

Through the support of ABSA, our Careers, Employability and Entrepreneurship Programme has reached 2 370 high school students with career guidance and educational camps. This programme gives young people from the Overberg seed funding, support and the chance to try their hand at opening and running their own businesses, and gives them a step up in starting off their careers.

78% increase in female participation in the sports programme.

Now in its fourth year, this programme will be extended to school leavers, with our new partner, Swiss Re.

2 370 high school students benefited from career guidance

In the year ahead, we look forward to working in the fundamentally important Early Childhood Development realm, in partnership with the Overstrand Municipality and the Flower Valley Conservation Trust. This will enable us to provide a solid foundation for at least 120 preschoolers per year. We also have a number of exciting renovations planned for our Growing the Future farm.

We look forward to strengthening and deepening our existing partnerships, and thank our volunteers and interns without whom none of the Grootbos Foundation’s dreams and objectives could be realised. And finally, the biggest and most heartfelt gratitude is to our generous donors, who enable us to continue to fight for the environment and communities of the beautiful region we are fortunate enough to call home.

Julie & Sean
The Grootbos Foundation is an independent, non-profit organisation established in 2003. The Grootbos Foundation vision is the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom and the transformation of the communities within, through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and active citizenship.

It is our mission to conserve the unique Cape Floral Kingdom, the region we call home; and to develop sustainable livelihoods through ecotourism, enterprise development, sports development and education. We create sustainable project models, which are replicable and scalable in order to assist the communities that surround us and those in other regions. Many of our projects generate their own income and/or are partially self-sustaining.

Our overarching objectives include:

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

• The provision of education relating to indigenous horticulture, agriculture, conservation, ecotourism, greening and life skills education.

• Training and skills development for disadvantaged persons with the purpose of enabling them to obtain employment or become self-employed.

• Using sports and sports facilities as a tool for social integration, promoting healthy lifestyles for youth, and increasing environmental awareness and life skills amongst communities.

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

• Developing sustainable and innovative solutions to tackle the issue of food insecurity.

The Grootbos Foundation vision is the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom and the transformation of the communities within.
Programmes for the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom, including a Horticulture and Life Skills College providing educational training in Horticulture, Hospitality and Guiding, since 2003.

**GREEN FUTURES**

Programmes for the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom, including a Horticulture and Life Skills College providing educational training in Horticulture, Hospitality and Guiding, since 2003.

**FOOTBALL FOUNDATION**

Our flagship sports programme, using sport as a vehicle to educate and empower more than 7,000 young people each year.

**SIYAKHULA**

Employability and enterprise development programmes, including organic farming, artisanal skills and ecotourism initiatives for sustainable livelihoods.
Green Futures was started with the understanding, foresight and vision that the education of our communities is an important priority for conservation of our region and the continued transformation and development of our society. Education is a critical investment in our future generations.

Green Futures understands that prioritising education and preparing learners for nature based livelihoods, contributes to the ethos of conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom.

Each year since 2003, 10-12 unemployed youths are carefully recruited to participate in our AgriSETA accredited indigenous horticulture and life skills training.

The life skills curriculum is an essential component of the course, covering topics such as computer skills, how to draw up a resume and basic financial skills. Practical skills are an integral component of the horticulture course and students assist with propagation for the on-site wholesale nursery and local landscaping projects. This practical experience benefits students by giving them on-the-job experiential training and the wholesale nursery assists in generating much-needed revenue.

To date 156 learners have graduated from the indigenous horticulture course. The Alumni of this course have gone on to pursue a variety of nature based careers and often refer back to their Green Futures lecturers long after they have ventured into the professional working world.

Building on 14 years of training experience, Green Futures now offers six-month hospitality and housekeeping courses and shorter in-service courses.

Thanks to the Green Futures College, members of the community receive training relevant to the growing tourism industry.
As enshrined in our mission and vision statement, it is our vision to conserve the unique Cape Floral Kingdom.

The Cape Floral Kingdom has been internationally identified as a critically vulnerable hotspot and World Heritage Site with a high concentration of plant and animal species under threat of extinction. A total of 1,736 fynbos plants are now classified as critically endangered or vulnerable.

The Grootbos Foundation tackles this conservation challenge with a dedicated conservation team, under the guidance of Sean Privett and in partnership with the other conservation bodies, initiatives and visions it lends support to.

The key ongoing conservation efforts of the Grootbos Foundation include:

• Future Trees Project
This involves the rehabilitation of ancient Milkwood tree forests, based on historic photographs we sourced, taken in 1937, with the aim to restore forests to resemble their previous occurrences. Trees are grown at the Green Futures nursery to ensure the local genetic sources are maintained. We have planted more than 3,266 trees to date.

• Botanical Herbarium
The conservation team has continued to collect, identify and verify more than 7,964 endemic indigenous plant species are found on Grootbos. This ongoing botanical work is carefully recorded in an extensive herbarium.

Bulelani Bashe

Bulelani grew up and matriculated in the Eastern Cape. Having few prospects, he gravitated to Gansbaai, where his brother had found work as a seasonal factory worker in the local fish factory.

Once here, he came upon the opportunity to study further at the Green Futures Horticulture and Life Skills College in 2010. Having no other options open to him, he was excited at the prospect of studying further.

He admits he didn’t know what he was in for. As the year progressed Bulelani applied himself to learning all he could. His love for plants grew, and in particular his passion for landscaping was ignited. He loves the process of starting from scratch, the careful planning and then implementing and building to a plan. Last year he completed a further qualification in landscaping through INTEC College and achieved a 96% average for his diligence.

Practically, Bulelani has worked on the Elim Road rehabilitation project and the new Masakhane Primary School grounds.

He admits, every time he drives past projects he has worked on, he is proud and happy to see what he has accomplished.

In his spare time, Bulelani journals and reads inspiring autobiographies. He finds it inspiring to read how other people have overcome the odds and made a success of their lives.

Bulelani’s next challenge is to study further. He aims to get a further qualification in project management, as this is an integral skill needed in his landscaping projects.

As a result of his hard work and dedication, he has been offered a position in the Project Management Office. He enjoys his role and is excited to see what the future holds for him at Grootbos.

More than 796 endemic indigenous plant species are found on Grootbos.

Bulelani Bashe
The Grootbos Foundation provides ongoing coordination, administration and management function to the greater Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy (WBFC). The WBFC currently comprises more than 16,000 ha and 26 landowners.

- **Alien Plant Vegetation Clearing Coordination**
  The conservation team collaborates on alien clearing efforts to clear and maintain vegetation free of alien species both on the 2,800 km of the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve and the broader WBFC.

- **Species Listing and Monitoring**
  As we continue to compile baseline species lists on both the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve and on the WBFC, nine motion sensor cameras have been set up to assist with documenting the occurrence and movement of species with phenomenal results.

The continued and ongoing conservation work forms a strong foundation on which to realise the vision of the Green Corridor initiative.

The Agulhas Green Corridor vision aims to establish a functional conservation and eco-tourism corridor of highly threatened and vulnerable land, linking the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy with the Agulhas National Park. The Agulhas Green Corridor vision is to create a recognised and economically viable corridor encompassing 52,000 ha.

The groundwork for the implementation of the corridor is underway and key milestones have been achieved in the last year:

- The details and terms of conservation services have been refined and legally drawn up and documented.
- All strategic landowners have been consulted and engaged.
- The Klipspringer mountain bike trail has been set up as the first eco-tourism product in the corridor.

“The threats are immediate and dire, and it is crucial that we act now to save this remarkable natural region.”
Sean Privett, Grootbos Foundation Conservation Director.
The Football Foundation is more than a football programme; it is development through sporting disciplines, and an instrumental cornerstone to building our communities.

The focus of the programme is encouraging social integration, environmental education and providing a safe, positive space for the children of the Overberg to learn and grow.

The Football Foundation is active in 13 Overberg schools and is anchored at the multipurpose sports facility in Gansbaai, providing daily sports coaching after school in the disciplines of soccer, hockey, netball and athletics. This facility is well-positioned, as it is equally accessible to all nearby communities.

The Football Foundation is active in 13 Overberg schools

The coaches, teams and activities offer a safe space for children to interact, learn and play, developing essential skills and tools for life.

The Foundation is based on the ethos of sport driving social impact and bringing about positive, constructive transformation.

Funds raised by committed coaches and volunteers have provided a portable swimming pool and the successful launch of the water safety programme. The water safety programme has had over 100 Grade R and Grade 1 children pass through the programme. The programme ensures the children have the essentials to remain afloat and know how to get out of the pool or body of water should they fall in.

The water safety programme is particularly relevant to this community as they are surrounded by large bodies of water and are without the facilities and the means to teach local children how to swim.

The ‘Rock the Boat’ development canoeing programme has opened up the sport of canoeing and the Stanford River to the youth of the Stanford community. Despite being new to the sport, the canoeing programme members have competed in regular regatta competitions and in the recent South African championships in Swellendam.

The highlight of the SA champs was undoubtedly Amy Duffet winning all her races in the U12 category, being awarded Victrix Ludorum and Mthunzi Nobandla receiving a silver medal.

Using sport as a medium, the Foundation runs educational programmes specifically addressing issues the children in the surrounding local communities are facing.

These programmes include:

• The female empowerment programme provides a safe, confidential place for young adolescent girls and women to discuss the pressures, concerns and questions they face.

• Dibanisa environmental programme is an excursion and experiential based programme designed to bring about an appreciation and passion for learners surrounding environmental issues.

• Food for Sport assists learners understand the basics of nutrition, how this plays a role on the sports field and teaches them the fundamentals of planting out their own home garden.

• Grassroots Soccer HIV/AIDS programme uses soccer as a medium to explain HIV in a culturally sensitive curriculum presented in a fun and interactive way.

Football Foundation Highlights

• Soccer
  Maxixole Dayizana and Lelethu Mlimisi, both under 13, were selected for the Western Cape Schools Soccer Team and got to compete in the provincial tournament in Durban.

• Athletics
  German Lewis broke both the 1500m and the 3000m records in the regional athletics meetings. German Lewis was awarded Boland regional colours for athletics and represented the Western Cape at the South African Schools Championships in Durban.

• Rugby
  Six of the Foundation’s girls represented Boland at the South African Rugby Union ladies rugby festival. Maxine Valentine was awarded ‘Player of the Tournament’.

• Hockey
  The hockey programme has grown to 312 regular child participants and a local league has been established.

More than 7 000 children’s lives were touched by the Football Foundation this past year.

More than 950 000 sports contact hours between coaches and children in our programmes.
The Grootbos Foundation volunteer programme started in 2010. Volunteers can elect to be sport volunteers, where they would add capacity to the Football Foundation, or participate in our organic farm initiatives and conservation activities as green volunteers.

The volunteer programme offers essential capacity to the Foundation and in turn, the volunteer programme offers youth the incredible experience that comes with exploring the Overberg, South Africa and connecting with local communities.

Two additional vehicles and an activities co-ordinator have enhanced the volunteer programme experience. The regular co-ordinated excursions have added a very popular dimension to the programme and have helped introduce some of the volunteers to some of the gems of the Overberg. Some of the activities volunteers have undertaken include: surfing, sand boarding, snorkeling, hiking, wine and beer tasting, canoeing, rock climbing, trail running and caving.

Danver Jaques August

Danver was born and raised in Gansbaai. He grew up on the same streets that the kids he now coaches live on. He has faced the same challenges, struggles and can relate to the kids about the issues they confront on a daily basis.

Danver has always had a passion for sport and played competitive rugby, until a severe knee injury meant he could never compete competitively again. His love for sport and his community kept him strong and he ploughed his energy back into the community as a local coach.

Danver has developed as a coach and attended numerous coach training programmes. He is now a highly sought after strength and conditioning coach and an integral member of the Grootbos Foundation coaching team. His love for sport, in particular for rugby, has inspired the growing interest and participation in women’s rugby.

His dedication to training the young girls and women has paid off by many in his team being selected for the regional Boland team. They are now in the process of training for the national squad selection.

Danver focuses his attention on the U16 and U18 teams, as these young women are the most vulnerable and face many challenges in their communities. Keeping the girls active and purposefully focused on positive pursuits lessens their susceptibility to fall prone to negative elements and the challenges that their impoverished realities present.

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The Foundation’s Siyakhula ‘We are Growing’ programmes facilitate socio-economic and enterprise development in support of surrounding communities.

The Growing the Future organic farm continues to run as a small commercial enterprise selling fresh produce, micro herbs, eggs and honey to the Grootbos lodge kitchens. Two tunnels and an area under shade net have assisted in boosting production to the lodge kitchens to five tonnes of fresh organic produce in the last financial year.

**Growing the Future Organic Farm Highlights:**

- **Eggs**
  We now have an average of 600 free range chickens and 43,436 eggs were supplied to the lodges in the last year.

- **Honey**
  More than 1,200 kg of honey was harvested and 220 hives are active. The aim is to have 300 hives active in the new year.

- **Water**
  The water bottling project supplies Grootbos lodges with still and sparkling water products, has removed more than 95,000 single use plastic bottles from the reserve and has created two full time employment positions.

Growing the Future assists the Grootbos lodges to significantly reduce their food miles and contributes to their sustainable food sourcing policy as part of their environmentally mindful ethos.

**More than 1 200 kg of honey was harvested in the last financial year**
The Community Farm project aims to create a movement of household food producers, improving community nutrition and food security. In the course of the last year, the project team comprising Lily Upton, Pontsho Chiloane, Zokhanyo Bikani and Siyabonga Mankayi have worked hard at developing and transforming the 2 000 square metre site, with assistance from Burmar Civils, into a green, productive, vibrant space.

The programme provides urban agriculture training (endorsed by the Department of Agriculture) and is followed by the allocation of allotments and the provision the necessary inputs required. To date, 62 participants have undergone training and received allotments.

The community farm project will serve as an agricultural hub and support beneficiaries with training, access to markets for surplus produce and assistance in developing and producing value added products.

Community Farm Highlights:
- An irrigation system and shade netting have been installed.
- A shade house for seedling propagation has been set up.

In partnership with the Department of Agriculture the aim of the project is to ultimately set up home gardens and develop a community culture of urban agriculture.

In the coming year, the enterprise and entrepreneurial components will be extended to school leavers. The aim is to assist young community entrepreneurs with a passion for a business idea the opportunity to actualise their dream.
**ECD Early Childhood Development**

The Foundation has extended its educational focus to include three local Early Childhood Learning Centres in Masakhane (Good Hope, Takalani and Masakhane). Currently there are over 700 children under the age of 5 in Masakhane and the centres currently only have capacity for 130 places. None of the Masakhane Early Learning Centres are currently registered with the Department of Social Development.

Our involvement in the Early Learning projects includes operational and governance assistance, mentoring and assisting centres to work towards higher standards and working towards assisting centres with the registration with the South African Department of Social Development. This registration will provide much needed funding per child to the centres and allow for them to take part in the government feeding programmes.

We have partnered in the Early Learning Centres with Flower Valley Conservation Trust who focus on the provision of curriculum, teacher training and day to day lesson plans.

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**Craft Candle Recycling Project**

The candle project has replaced over 37 000 imported votive candles this year, with handcrafted recycled candles made on-site and supplied to the Grootbos lodges. The candle project continues to assist in supporting two employment positions.

**Fynbos Botanical Jewellery Range and Apprenticeship**

The fynbos-inspired botanical jewellery range is available for sale in the Grootbos gallery shops. Training is ongoing in partnership with Ralph Walton Jewellers. The two jewellery apprentices are progressing well and are compiling a portfolio of their practical work. The training is qualification based on their prior learning and portfolio.

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**Ponsho Chiloane**

Pontsho Chiloane started as the Masakhane Community Farm manager and joined the Grootbos Foundation team in November 2016. He now splits his time between the Community Farm and our organic Growing the Future farm.

Pontsho grew up in the Limpopo province in the small town of Polokwane and this is where he began to learn about the world of agriculture. Whilst visiting his grandparents over weekends, he learnt to grow traditional vegetables and herbs and fell in love with the fertile Limpopo soil. In 2008, Pontsho was in Grade 10 and recalls learning the wonder of the science behind propagation. After completing his high school career in the Western Cape in 2010, Pontsho enrolled at CPUT to study what he loved most, horticulture. In 2014, Pontsho was introduced to the practical working environment and in 2015, he was appointed as head horticulturist at Springfontein Wines, where he worked closely with Hildegard Witbooi, the vineyard manager and Tariro Msayiti, the winemaker. During this period, Pontsho developed an interest in sustainability. He also realised that he wanted to combine his passion for horticulture with his deep-seated commitment to making a difference to the community.

It was at this time that Pontsho applied and was appointed as farm manager for the Masakhane Community Farm. Pontsho has led by example, earning himself the nickname of "The General". He has transformed the Community Farm from a sand dune to a green oasis! We are incredibly proud of what he has accomplished on-site in less than a year.
Even though the Grootbos Foundation is a charity organisation, the ethos of kindness is central to our vision. Instances sometimes arise where the Foundation team identifies causes where we feel compelled to step in and do what we can. Here are some examples where the Grootbos Foundation has spread the love.

• The storm damage – roof refurbishment in the community
• Hospice Garden
• Beanies & Cupcakes
• ECD garden at Strandlopertjies, in Blompark
• Mandela Day function

We have selected three students to work for two weeks at the Eden Project in Cornwall, UK and a further two weeks in Kew Gardens, in London in the UK. The students will have a month of international experiential learning at these world-renowned botanical institutions.

We are thrilled to have the support of Steppes Travel in the UK assisting with travel expenses and are working towards fundraising for the balance of their trip expenses.

Bon Voyage Charne Koert, Sibusiso Mtshwetshwe and Chumani Nyelisi!

Growing the Future Extension & Refurbishment

We have selected three students to work for two weeks at the Eden Project in Cornwall, UK and a further two weeks in Kew Gardens, in London in the UK. The students will have a month of international experiential learning at these world-renowned botanical institutions.

We are thrilled to have the support of Steppes Travel in the UK assisting with travel expenses and are working towards fundraising for the balance of their trip expenses.

Bon Voyage Charne Koert, Sibusiso Mtshwetshwe and Chumani Nyelisi!
Mr Xolani Msweli was born in the Eastern Cape and started working as the gate attendant at Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, in 2004. He worked his way up to Bar Manager and during his Grootbos career participated in the Cape Legend Inter Hotel Challenge and was nominated the most upcoming sommelier in the country. He is currently a Municipal ward councillor for the Overstrand and is passionate about fighting poverty and uplifting communities in the area. He is currently furthering his studies with a further qualification in Public Accountability at the Nelson Mandela University.

Sean Privett (Conservation Director)

Sean Privett has been involved in Grootbos since 1997 and with the Grootbos Foundation since inception in 2003. He holds a Masters Degree in Botany and has a passion for conservation and community. Sean’s current focus is on developing the Agulhas Green Corridor project and mentoring young conservationists.

Julie Cheetham Gettliffe (Managing Director)

After more than 15 years in the corporate world, Julie joined the Grootbos Foundation in 2014. She has worked across financial services, consulting and manufacturing companies with companies such as Standard Bank, Distell, BMGi and the National Bank of Australia. Julie has proven expertise in strategic business development, general management and programme leadership and holds a B Comm (NMMU). Her passion lies in the field of community development and the empowerment of women.

Leán Muller

Leán Muller has been involved in the non-profit sector since 2008 with areas of expertise in community capacity development, programme design, fundraising and public private partnerships. She obtained her BA Humanities as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing Management at the University of Stellenbosch. Her projects have received several nominations and awards in the development sector.
The Grootbos Foundation is a Section 21 not for profit organisation, as registered with the South African Department for Social Development (#2003/034519/08). The Foundation is audited annually by KPMG and has tax clearance from the South African Revenue Services (SARS).

A board of seven directors is in place, and meet twice per annum. The directors are registered with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), and all meetings are minuted. The Foundation’s leadership team also meet monthly, and meetings are minuted.

The following documentation and certification is in place and up to date:

- Articles of Association
- Constitution
- Public Benefit Organisation registration (PBO # 2002033719)
- Independent Codes of Good Governance for Non-Profits in South Africa
- Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Level 1 contributor, with more than 90% of our beneficiaries being previously disadvantaged.

Donations made to our programmes are eligible for inclusion in various dimensions of the donor organisations’ BBBEE scorecards.

The Grootbos Foundation continues to record and measure its programmes to measure their effectiveness and gauge their impact. Each programme is evaluated on a combination of mechanisms particular to the programme theory of change. Mechanisms include the recording of attendance, pre- and post-testing, an annual community survey, parent surveys and volunteer surveys. We partnered with a number of external research partners to assist with our monitoring and evaluation capacity and methodology.

Our external research partners include:
- Htw Saar – University of Applied Sciences, Saarbrucken, Germany
- North Carolina State University, USA
- Technical University of Munich, Department of Sports & Health, Germany
- Coventry University, UK
- CPUT
- University of Sheffield
- NHTV (Netherlands)

The annual community survey completed in June 2017 surveyed 183 members of the surrounding communities. This year’s annual survey registered a high level of awareness of the Grootbos Foundation. 72% of respondents knew of the Grootbos Foundation and their programmes in the community.

The top needs identified by respondents were in line with challenges faced by many rural communities. In order of importance, Early Childhood Development, Alcohol and Drug intervention, Women Empowerment and Teenage Pregnancy were indicated as challenges faced by the community.

Education was identified as the most valuable intervention as it was regarded as the foundation of the community. In particular qualifications in gardening, housekeeping, computer literacy and cooking were identified as particular skill sets that would be of most value to the community.

It was great to see that there was a high recognition of one of our newest projects, the Masakhane Community Farm, as the site is located close to the community and is fast becoming a popular community center for training.

Grootbos Private Nature Reserve is one of 10 Global EcoSphere Resorts (GER), certified by The Long Run, (through the Zeitz Foundation) and is subject to an annual plan with specific goals in commercial, conservation, community and cultural categories (The 4C plan). The GER® standard is one of the most rigorous sustainability standards in the tourism industry. This standard was granted recognition by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council in 2015, and is only awarded to organisations that demonstrate a holistic balance of the ‘4C’s, excel in conserving nature and improve the wellbeing of the local communities. The Grootbos Foundation is the custodian of the 4C plan for Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, driving and documenting the ongoing progress in the 4C pillars.

Sustainability Snapshot
One of the key measurements of the 4C plan is assisting the Grootbos lodges with the measurement and reporting on their sustainability performance indicators. The Foundation has developed a sustainability dashboard for the Grootbos lodges based on the UK greenhouse gas reporting regulation compliance standards measuring amongst others fuel consumption, electricity, LPG gasses and waste management.

- CO2 Emissions
- CO2 emissions have decreased by 10% year on year for the last three years

- Water Stewardship
- Nine water meters are currently in place and a further 17 have been installed. Consumption is measured and grey water management systems are in place.

- Solar
- With our recent solar installations our electricity consumption has decreased by 11%.

- Waste Management
- Waste is carefully monitored, separated and recycled. Kitchen waste is fed to our pigs at the Growing the Future organic farm.
**Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2017**

Our annual financial statements have been audited by independent auditors, KPMG, who were given unrestricted access to all financial reports and related data.

**Income Statement**

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<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>(R 8 822 701)</td>
<td>(R 8 329 764)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross profit</td>
<td>(R 316 017)</td>
<td>R 871 088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net finance income</td>
<td>R 144 447</td>
<td>R 79 136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net surplus for the year</td>
<td>(R 171 570)</td>
<td>R 950 224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income for the year</td>
<td>(R 171 570)</td>
<td>R 950 224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and equipment</td>
<td>593 962</td>
<td>531 039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>3 595 601</td>
<td>4 019 057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>382 400</td>
<td>466 070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and receivables</td>
<td>429 653</td>
<td>191 185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student deposits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>2 783 548</td>
<td>3 359 375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>4 189 563</td>
<td>4 550 096</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserves and Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated surplus</td>
<td>3 310 995</td>
<td>3 482 565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>878 568</td>
<td>1 067 531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income received in advance</td>
<td>337 748</td>
<td>950 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>203 072</td>
<td>117 531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</td>
<td>4 189 563</td>
<td>4 550 096</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note – The small operating loss is attributable to a fire at Grootebos Forest Lodge. The closure of the Lodge negatively impacted income generating projects of the Foundation for 6 months. This is an isolated event.

**Supporters**

**Our efforts depend on the loyal support and partnership with passionate individuals and organisations.**

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