



LAPALALA
WILDERNESS SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





MISSION STATEMENT

To help our children and young adults discover the value of biodiversity in our natural world and our place within it, and to identify and nurture Africa's future conservation champions.

PATRON'S MESSAGE

CLIVE WALKER | PATRON: LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL

The Irish poet, WB Yeats, is credited with paraphrasing a statement by the Greek philosopher, Plutarch, about 2,000 years ago:

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire".

I have always held to the view that knowledge of itself alone is insufficient. However, in combination with a link to nature, it is the key to the development of a child's mind and character.

The Lapalala Wilderness School aims to blend these two elements into its teaching in a unique classroom without walls. Physical contact with nature has been an essential component of its programme since environmental education began here over 40 years ago.

An outdoor classroom filled with all the features and lessons nature can offer provides the fire we want to light. It is why we strive to save and conserve wild spaces. And it is why our responsibility does not end at the front gate.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

RICHARD WADLEY | CHAIRMAN: LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL

Stepping into the shoes of my illustrious predecessor, Dr John Hanks, was always going to be a daunting task. After all, John wore those shoes for 20 years! So, it is fitting that I begin my first chairman's report with a sincere thank you to him for his outstanding contribution to the Lapalala Wilderness School. The board and staff join me in recognising John's successful work to increase awareness of and support for the school among the conservation and donor communities.

The period to September 2025 was my first in the role of chairman of this institution, which celebrated its 40th anniversary towards the end of the year. In my view, the board of an institution needs to take care not to involve itself too deeply or interfere with the decisions taken by the operational management of that entity. To do otherwise risks undermining the authority vested in those whom the board has appointed to run the enterprise. I believe the role of the board is to set the strategic purpose and objectives of the organisation, to secure the financial resources needed to realise those objectives, and to identify, appoint and support the senior

operational personnel in their pursuit of those objectives. The board must also maintain a watching brief, ensuring that the organisation is progressing responsibly, sustainably and consistently towards its goals. I am fortunate to live quite close to the campus and I visit several times a year in my role as a voluntary lecturer. As a result, I have frequent opportunities to engage informally with staff and to see for myself how the operation is proceeding.

For over a decade, the Lapalala Wilderness School has found a highly competent, dedicated and enthusiastic director in Mashudu Makhokha. He is ably assisted by Merriam Mabilu in her role as financial and office administrator. Between them, they have ensured that the school has continued to focus on its primary role: "To help our children and young adults discover the value of biodiversity in our natural world and our place within it, and to identify and nurture Africa's future conservation champions."

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It is their responsibility to employ and retain suitably qualified educators and support staff; to budget, provide and account for the finances needed to deliver our product, and to satisfy the needs and aspirations of our guests. They have worked hard, often through extremely trying conditions and often beyond the hours for which they were remunerated. This financial year posed the unique challenge of operating for, and reporting on a period of 15 months (as opposed to the usual 12) as we aligned our financial year with the calendar year. This process will be completed by December 2026. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank Mashudu and Merriam for their outstanding service and their manifest total commitment to the school.

The director's report for the extended year highlights just how successful Mashudu and his team have been during this period. The new campus facility is occupied at near practical capacity, reports from our fee-paying schools, guests and tertiary institutions are unanimous in their favourable experiences, and there is a waiting list of community schools hoping to be included in the programme. The school's outreach operations continue to thrive and expand.

The period has witnessed the completion of two major projects, each several years in their planning and implementation. Both were formally launched on 22 November 2025, immediately following the annual general meeting.

The first is the Gianni Ravazzotti Biodiversity Centre, physical construction of which was completed in early 2025. The intervening period has been spent in finalising the design, construction and installation of the content of the facility. The centre houses what is, without doubt, the most sophisticated environmental educational resource on the African continent. It conveys the most recent thinking about

responsible resource utilisation, environmental conservation, the interplay between humans and all other earthly life, and the vital need for our surroundings to be managed in the context of population growth, urbanisation and changing climates. These are complex concepts. Yet within the centre, they can be explored and expanded to suit the intellectual sophistication of the visiting group. The exhibits are deliberately designed to be interactive: visitors are encouraged to use audio-visual and tactile displays thereby maximising engagement. Importantly, the centre is discerning in the use of electronic displays, bearing in mind its remote location from service and repair skills.

Bronwyn Maree, the curator of the biodiversity centre, has spent two and a half years shepherding the project from concept to reality. She encountered numerous philosophical, technological and construction-related challenges along the way, each with a time and cost implication. She is to be congratulated for her enthusiastic perseverance, for her patience in negotiating workable solutions, and for her ready and open communication with all involved. The real work starts now. Educators who use the facility will be trained in how to derive optimal value for their classes. Ultimately, only experience will determine the ideal approach for each type of group. The principal sponsor of the centre, Mr Gianni Ravazzotti, is thanked for his amazing generosity and for his constructive support and engagement throughout the period. His investment is sure to be well rewarded in the months and years ahead.

The second major project was the completion of a manual on environmental education, compiled by senior staff of the Lapalala Wilderness School both past and present. The publication is designed to guide organisations that might wish to set up and run a centre such as the Lapalala Wilderness School (for which there is certainly a need). It also served as an invaluable career development tool for our individual staff





members. For most, it was the first time they had been asked to write a professional account of their work role, to articulate their specific objectives and to communicate useful tips to colleagues. It is our hope that the manual is a useful resource that serves the broad community of environmental education on the African continent and elsewhere.

The Lapalala Wilderness School was founded in 1985: the brainchild of our patron, Clive Walker and his business partner and benefactor, the late Dale Parker who established the Lapalala Wilderness Reserve. Clive is now in his 90th year and is still an active conservationist and author. Thanks to the remarkable commitment of Duncan Parker and the Mapula Trust, as well as several longstanding donors, that little school has not only survived but is flourishing as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

I am delighted that Duncan serves alongside me in his role as vice-chairman of the school board. I am grateful for his unqualified support since my appointment, and for the several philosophical discussions we've managed to hold. Institutions such as ours need the commitment of patrons like Duncan and Gianni Ravazzotti in order to be sustainable and to retain high quality staff. We are fortunate indeed. My thanks also go to our donors and to all the members of the board for their involvement and contributions; I shall be looking to them for even greater engagement in the year ahead.

RICHARD WADLEY | CHAIRMAN: LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL



NURTURING CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS: SIMON LEHUTSO

As a 12-year-old boy on a school outing, Simon Lehutso was intrigued and inspired by his first visit to the Lapalala Wilderness School. He encountered wildlife on a game drive, learnt about environmental sustainability and marvelled at a kitchen that could feed a dining hall full of children.

Little did he know that he would return as Chef Simon – as he is affectionately known – to share his love of food and nature with the next generation.

Simon studied a three-year course at the Limpopo Chefs Academy, before completing a diploma in Culinary Arts from the City and Guilds Institute in London. He joined the Lapalala Wilderness School as a FirstRand intern *chef de partie* in March 2023 and was appointed to the permanent position of sous chef the following year.

Chef Simon loves to share his journey with the school's young visitors.

"It gives me a chance to teach them, not just about cooking but about where food comes from, how it's grown and why we need to protect the land that gives us life. I love preparing and serving nutritious meals for large groups of children. I love the unique opportunity of combining culinary arts with conservation and environmental education. My experience at Lapalala Wilderness School has shown me how significantly kitchens can impact the environment. I have learnt about minimising food waste, reducing plastic usage, sourcing ingredients from local suppliers and creating dishes using seasonal produce from our garden. I am the only qualified chef from my village, and I hope to inspire our youth to follow the same career path."

SIMON LEHUTSO

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

MASHUDU MAKHOKHA | DIRECTOR: LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL

The Lapalala Wilderness School concluded the year under review with a celebration of its legacy and a nod to its future. Forty years since it first opened its doors, the school continues to mark significant milestones on its journey.

In November 2025, the school hosted the official opening of the Gianni Ravazzotti Biodiversity Centre. On behalf of the entire staff of the Lapalala Wilderness School, we would like to record our sincere thanks to Gianni Ravazzotti for a gift that will impact generations to come. The biodiversity centre houses a breathtaking collection of exhibits on an array of topics. It is truly one of a kind.

At the same time, we took delivery of the first copies of a book that lays out a blueprint for environmental education in Africa. The book, titled *A model for environmental education in Africa*, is the culmination of time and skill invested by our current chairman, Richard Wadley; our past chairman, Dr John Hanks, and Kevin Walker. It is a comprehensive resource that shares the legacy of knowledge, experience and lessons from the Lapalala Wilderness School. We offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their input. To the Mapula Trust, our grateful thanks for funding the publication of the book.

These achievements are testament to the school's reputation as one of the leading environmental education facilities in South Africa. They are not only a sign of endurance but also a reaffirmation of our commitment to the transformative power of education. Since its inception, the Lapalala Wilderness School has strived to ignite a spark of wonder for nature amongst children, young adults and educators. While we

maintain a focus on environmental education and education for sustainable development, our objectives have moved beyond simply instilling a respect and appreciation for the environment.

We are confronted with profound global and regional transition. The world is approaching the final stretch towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The urgency to address challenges such as climate change, inequality, biodiversity loss, and energy and food security has never been greater. Education in South Africa, and particularly in Limpopo, carries the weight of history while facing the urgency of these challenges. It is not a quick solution to the environmental, social, political, and economic pressures that communities experience, but it provides the tools to navigate these realities. In this context, the Lapalala Wilderness School stands as a vital platform for learners, researchers, and educators. It is a space where insights are shared, practices are reflected upon, and networks are extended across disciplines and borders. By bringing together diverse learners, we strengthen initiatives that advance education for sustainability across our region and beyond.

The Lapalala Wilderness School has made significant progress to deepen its governance and oversight, with enhanced financial reporting and improved fiscal discipline. As a result, the board decided to migrate our financial year – which historically ran from July to June – to coincide with the calendar year i.e. January to December. This adjustment will be implemented across two 15-month periods. Our staff must be congratulated and thanked for rising to the challenge of navigating a '15-month year'.





CENTRE-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES (fee-paying schools, community schools, tertiary education)

Our centre-based education programme is delivered by four full-time educators who inspire our young visitors through a series of immersive learning experiences. During this reporting period, we welcomed over 4,000 guests from community schools (50%), fee-paying schools (30%), tertiary institutions (11%) and ad hoc groups (9%).

The programme takes a multi-disciplinary approach to the functioning of natural environments, integrating a range of topics from ecology, life science, geology, demography of humans and wildlife, as well as atmospheric science. Hands-on activities encourage our visitors to explore environmental issues in an ethical and creative way.

Our educators are an inspiring influence as they deliver a rich curriculum via sound teaching methodology. Visiting schools complete an evaluation at the end of their stay, and our educators are always highly rated. In turn, we receive feedback from the learners who rate their preferred activities. Sleep-outs, stargazing and game drives were firm favourites during this reporting period!

The Lapalala Wilderness School was pleased to accommodate an increased number of tertiary institutions during the period under review. For the first time, we hosted a group of 80 ecotourism students from the Vaal University of Technology. During their visit, they gained practical fieldwork experience in veld assessment, species surveys and water quality analysis.

The school is constantly looking for innovative ways to integrate our programme with current teaching in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). We are developing a plan to introduce learners to Geographic

Information Systems (GIS) as a powerful tool for understanding and addressing environmental challenges. Ultimately, we aim to prepare and encourage our local youth to realise their future as stewards of the environment and employable contributors to a sustainable economy.

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

As an implementing partner of the Sustainable Schools Programme, Lapalala Wilderness School continued to support a network of schools as they strive to make eco-conscious decisions in their grounds and communities.

We hosted a successful Sustainable Schools Rally which empowered teachers from our regional node (including Mokopane) with the skills to navigate the online hub; upload project evidence; use curriculum-linked resources; develop their school environmental management plans, and draft their environmental policies. The workshop gave us an opportunity to understand the challenges that the online platform presents for teachers in a rural setting. With the launch of the new Sustainable Schools Hub, we look forward to working closely with these teachers as they master the new online platform. In time, the Lapalala Wilderness School aims to support the online programme with a well-coordinated face-to-face programme that caters to the unique context of our region.

Eight of our schools took part in this year's Arbor Week and Arbor Month celebrations as they participated in the One Million Trees planting initiative. Learners, teachers and community members came together to plant indigenous trees that not only beautify school grounds but also support local biodiversity, improve air quality, and provide shade and shelter.

A group of Grade 7 learners from ND Mokonyane Primary School participated in a river health investigation of the Mogalakwena River. The budding young scientists spent the day exploring the biodiversity of the river, collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates, conducting water chemistry tests, and measuring pH levels. These activities are designed to inspire wonder, excitement and curiosity in the future guardians of our natural world.

OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Lapalala Wilderness School partners with various organisations to help address the economic, social and environmental challenges faced by our neighbouring communities.

We are acutely aware that we operate in a rural setting that is affected by a breakdown in social structure. During this reporting period, the school collaborated with Heartlines and Fathers Matter to address the weak family dynamics and reduced community cohesion that increase the vulnerability of youth and marginalised groups.

The Lapalala Wilderness School continues to partner with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where one of our former interns is completing their master's degree in the prevalence

of Schistosomiasis (bilharzia) in our local area. Guided by the One Health initiative, the study will help us to develop a proper water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme for the schools and communities in our region.

In addressing the general health needs of our surrounding villages, the school partnered with Renal Complex to host events that raised awareness and offered screening for kidney disease. We also worked with Soul Food to distribute Powa Packs of fortified porridge to pre-schools in our area.

Our collaboration with Nal'ibali (a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign) continues to bear fruit. Workshops for early childhood educators introduce these teachers to practical research and best practice on how young children learn to think, play, solve problems and use language.

The Lapalala Wilderness School values collaboration for its ability to harness diverse skills, perspectives and resources. This unlocks new possibilities for innovation, growth and resilience. We would like to thank all the institutions and organisations we have partnered with during this reporting period, in particular the IUCN, Italtile and Ceramic Foundation, Ford Wildlife Foundation, CATHSSETA, Duja Consulting, FirstRand and the many local organisations and NGOs that support our work in the Waterberg.





WORLD RHINO DAY

Lapalala Wilderness School once again set the stage for local high school learners to raise their voices against rhino poaching. The 12th annual World Rhino Day public speaking competition attracted 108 entries from schools across the Waterberg. Learners displayed posters and addressed the audience on the social, economic, political and environmental impact of rhino poaching. We eagerly await the next instalment of the competition. In 2026, our future conservation champions will have the option to speak on a wider choice of threatened species (both plants and animals).

FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The year under review presented the financial challenge of an extended 15-month reporting period. Thanks to the generous support of our donor community, the work of the Lapalala Wilderness School was not compromised.

We continue to nurture and strengthen our relationships with existing donors, while actively seeking to diversify our income streams. Digital fundraising (through crowdfunding and social media) presents a new and innovative approach, as do the commercial opportunities presented by our curio shop, laundry service and vegetable garden. While we have operated near capacity in 2025, we aim to attract even more fee-paying schools and tertiary groups, which contribute vital funds to our annual budget.

MASHUDU MAKHOKHA ATTENDED THE 2025 ECO-LOGIC AWARDS, WHERE THE LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL RECEIVED SILVER AWARDS IN THE NATURE CONSERVATION AND ECO-COMMUNITY CATEGORIES.

Photo credit: Charlie Sperring

AWARDS

The Lapalala Wilderness School proudly received two silver awards at the 2025 Eco-Logic Awards. The school was nominated in the Nature Conservation and the Eco-Community categories.

We were honoured to be surrounded by finalists who are all involved in work that is "good for people and planet". We were delighted to congratulate Nature Connect on their gold award in the Eco-Community category. This achievement recognises the outstanding impact of the Sustainable Schools Programme, which we are proud to deliver as an implementing partner of Nature Connect.

We also celebrated the achievement of one of our educators, Kutlwano Masilo, who won the *Women in Conservation* category at the 2025 Kudu Awards. Presented annually by South African National Parks (SANParks), the Kudu Awards honour individuals and organisations that make an exceptional contribution to conservation in South Africa.





THE BOARD AND STAFF OF THE LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 2025.

STAFF

The knowledge and skill of our staff drive the success of our programme at the Lapalala Wilderness School. It is important that we invest time and resources so that our staff can fulfil their potential.

During the reporting period, train-a-trainer certificates were awarded to all our educators, in addition to three outreach staff, the curator of the biodiversity centre, and the school director. We also congratulate all our educators on achieving professional recognition as facilitators. Well done to Lizzy Litshani, Bronwyn Maree and Johannes Monyeki who achieved their certifications from the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA).

We are grateful for two service providers who offered their services to our staff. Dr Tshifiwa Kodisang, a clinical psychologist, continued to support the mental health and emotional well-being of our staff, on a pro bono basis. Hannes Norval from Empfin Solutions conducted workshops on financial literacy.

IN CONCLUSION

As the Lapalala Wilderness School celebrates 40 years of impact, I call on all our stakeholders to strengthen your support and engagement. While we reflect on past achievements, we must galvanise support for the journey ahead. If we are to achieve lasting change, we will need a bold and collective effort to confront biodiversity loss, environmental disconnection, and the crisis of youth unemployment.

To our funders, strategic partners, dedicated staff and committed board members, I extend my deepest gratitude. You have ensured that the Lapalala Wilderness School remains a credible, capable and influential force for environmental education. Together, let us ensure that the school steps confidently into its next decade.

M. MAKHOKHA

MASHUDU MAKHOKHA | DIRECTOR: LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO THE MEMBERS OF LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL (NPC)

OPINION

The summarised financial statements, which comprise the summarised statement of financial position as at 30 September 2025, the summarised statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Lapalala Wilderness School (NPC) for the year ended 30 September 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarised financial statements are consistent, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the qualification paragraph, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SME's), and the requirements of the Companies Act 2008 of South Africa as applicable to summarised financial statements.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The summarised financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act 2008 of South Africa as applicable to financial statements. Reading the summarised financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The complete annual financial statements and the audit report thereon will be available at the offices and website of Lapalala Wilderness School (NPC).

THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND OUR REPORT THEREON

We expressed the following qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statement:

The basis for our qualified audit opinion was that as it is common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the organisation to institute accounting controls over income received from donations prior to their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the amounts recorded.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the summaries of the audited financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SME's) of the Companies Act 2008 of South Africa as applicable to summarised financial statements and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the summarised financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summarised financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summarised Financial Statements.

L. MARSH

VENTER AND CO, REGISTERED AUDITORS



IRBA Reg. No. 930512

SAICA PR. No. 23241

Registered Auditor

Date: 18 March 2026

THE LAPALALA WILDERNESS
SCHOOL HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS TO DEEPEN ITS
GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT,
WITH ENHANCED FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND IMPROVED
FISCAL DISCIPLINE.

LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL NPC 2005/022175/08

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	2025 R	2024 R
ASSETS		
Non-current assets	3,809,363	3,234,627
Property, plant and equipment	1,483,604	1,179,015
Sustainability fund	2,325,759	2,055,611
Current assets	1,561,736	2,079,482
Inventories	47,776	12,389
Trade and other receivables	538,495	2,135
Cash and cash equivalents	975,464	2,064,957
TOTAL ASSETS	5,371,099	5,314,109
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity	4,859,364	5,040,201
Retained income	4,859,364	5,040,201
Liabilities		
Non-current liabilities	–	6,767
Funds	–	6,767
Current liabilities	511,735	267,140
Trade and other payables	14,447	4,873
Provisions	497,287	262,267
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	5,371,099	5,314,109

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	2025 R	2024 R
REVENUE	14,649,733	12,727,760
Fee-paying schools	4,955,409	3,491,694
Donation income	9,694,323	9,236,066
OTHER INCOME	357,962	188,374
Costs recovered	65,115	114,459
Interest received	252,301	105,087
LWS shop income	40,545	(31,172)
Gross income before expenses	15,007,695	12,916,135
OPERATING EXPENSES	15,195,300	10,422,230
Accounting and audit fees	45,182	36,445
Advertising	192,981	189,729
Community outreach food	177,770	71,440
Bank charges	24,021	34,441
Bedding and linen	80,643	17,496
Board of directors' expenses	–	6,000
Capital expenditure: Mapula Trust	584,744	683,180
Cash shortfall	4,760	–
Catering supplies	1,417,885	1,244,017
Cleaning	259,932	162,560
Computer expenses	20,952	–
Depreciation	618,505	351,569
Educational resources	319,675	184,577
Fines	–	700
Fuel and oil	983,125	890,060
Impairment losses: Assets written off	3,448	15,281
Insurance	1,019,874	358,338
Interest paid	112	265
Licences and permits	19,298	1,307
LWS use of Kolobe	–	2,600
Memberships	111,911	57,030
Professional fees	3,705	30,666
Printing and stationery	196,729	88,549
Repairs and maintenance	795,787	298,029
Safety expenses	5,762	29,256
Security expenses	612,720	512,481
Staff expenses	6,966,170	4,353,109
Staff training	29,981	62,840
Sustainable Schools expenses	26,580	–
Telephone and communications	107,768	63,726
Transport: Community schools	352,137	558,795
Travelling	42,893	13,498
Water and sanitation	2,318	–
Youth development programme	167,919	104,336
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(187,604)	2,493,904



A SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

1 JULY 2024 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

TSHUKUDU (RHINO) R100,000 AND ABOVE

CATHSSETA
Chamberlain Foundation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Different Life (Pty) Ltd
Empact Group/Empowers Africa
EMS Foundation
G Ravazzotti
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
Italtile and Ceramic Foundation
International Container Terminals
Mapula Trust
Shambala (Anne and Antoinette Samaille)
Waterberg Welfare Society
Waterberg Rhino UK

THOLO (KUDU) R20,000 – R99,000

Anderson Game & Lodge Brokers (Pty) Ltd
Giveall2charity
Nature Connect
N Wallander
Redrhino Design Europe (Pty) Ltd
Zeederberg Family Trust

PITSI (ZEBRA) R10,000 – R19,999

A Dodson
R Wadley

PHALA (IMPALA)
R1,000 – R9,999
Bean There Coffee
B Maree
Lepogo Lodges
L and D Dieltjens
MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet
S Airy
Waterberg Nature Conservancy

DONATIONS-IN-KIND

Ashley McCarthy (books)
Douglas Clarke (binoculars)
Duncan Parker (laptops and bush hats)
Gianni Ravazzotti (books)
Livingstone's Supply Co.
(camping equipment and garden tools)
Mally MacCarthy on behalf of the
late Peter Blignaut (camping equipment)
Richard Wadley (book)
Susan Fish (binoculars and books)
Xanthe Williams (binoculars and books)



NURTURING CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS: KHUTHADZO MAHAMBA

Khuthadzo Mahamba currently works for SANBI in the role of deputy director: Eco-DRR project (Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction) monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning. He was previously employed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, where he focused on the intricacies of biodiversity policies and legislative frameworks.

He graduated from the University of Venda, where he studied a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences (from 2008 to 2010), followed by an honours degree in environmental management. In 2023, he concluded his Bachelor of Law degree through the University of South Africa.

It was a two-week stay at the Lapalala Wilderness School that inspired his profound appreciation for the diversity of nature.

"During my honours year in 2011, we had the opportunity to participate in a two-week training programme at Lapalala Wilderness School. The immersive experience deepened my understanding of the behaviour and survival mechanisms of wild mammals and avian species, encompassing their feeding habits, distribution ranges, and demographic characteristics. We were introduced to remarkable techniques such as bat tracking. It was a revelation for me to witness the distinction between a white and black rhino. The relevance of that deep, personal experience is amplified as I go about my work for the DFFE today. The Lapalala Wilderness School was an idyllic setting in which to discover the wonder of nature. For me, it also instilled the imperative notion that communities should derive equitable benefits from the utilisation of natural resources."

KHUTHADZO MAHAMBA



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

MAKE A DONATION

Donors enable the work of the Lapalala Wilderness School. Visit our website to make a secure online donation or download our banking details for an electronic funds transfer.

We also welcome donations-in-kind, such as field guides and books on biodiversity. These will be added to our library at the Lapalala Wilderness School or presented to promising participants from our local community schools. Donated binoculars make a meaningful difference to our courses at the school. In exceptional cases, binoculars can be given to keen participants in our community courses. We are proud of two such recipients who have gone on to become full-time bird guides. Our company secretary will arrange the collection and transfer of donated books, binoculars and other items to the LWS.



LEAVE A BEQUEST

By leaving a bequest to the Lapalala Wilderness School, your legacy will help us to raise a generation of conservation champions. Please contact us if you are considering a bequest in your will.



CONSERVATION AND COFFEE

Your next cup of coffee could help us nurture a conservation champion. The Bean There Coffee Company will donate a percentage of the value of your order to the school. Visit www.beanthere.co.za, place your order and insert the code LAPA before making payment.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr Richard Wadley (Chairman)
Mr Duncan Parker (Vice Chairman)
Mr Peter Anderson
Mr Mike Gregor
Ms Ntokozo Mbuli
Ms Rose Mosiane
Mr Mavuso Msimang
Mr Graeme Wilson

COMPANY SECRETARY

Bronwyn Maree

PATRON

Clive Walker

STAFF

Director: Mashudu Makhokha
Financial Manager and Office Administrator: Merriam Mabilu
Administration Assistant: Vincent Mogale
Sustainable Schools Coordinators: Lucas Ngobeni, Takalani Ndonyane
Outreach Coordinator: Lizzy Litshani
Outreach Intern: Jonas Maduwe
Educators: Johannes Monyeke, Tendani Mavhila, Joseph Nkhumane, Bright Manganyi, Kutlwano Masilo
Finance Intern: Ndivheni Razimiswani
Information Technology Intern: Tumisang Precious Molapo
Communications and Marketing Intern: Karabo Tshepho Khwinana
Hospitality Staff: Ntsako Maluleke, Paulinah Chauke, Anna Tshelane, Elizabeth Moatshi, Letty Maluleke, Simon Tebalelo Lehutso, Vinolia Koko (intern), Kamogelo Maesela (intern)
Maintenance: Stanley Mello, Frans Phago, Hendrick Ratlou, Phineus Nkhumane, Aubrey Ramokgonami, Molekoa Eric
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Registered as a non-profit Public Benefit Company, LWS PBO registration number PBO930024138. The LWS is participating in the realignment of the environmental education qualification through the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Seta (ETDP SETA). LWS continues to provide practical training to many institutions of higher learning and even to some of the technical vocational education and training colleges (TVET) for hospitality management. Recognised by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, Waterberg Nature Conservancy and the Department of Basic and Higher Education as a credible and long-standing NPO. Section 18A receipt available for donations. Certified as Net Zero Carbon: Level 2.