

Land Funding Overview



Support our Strategy for the Acquisition, Regeneration and Protection of Land and it's Precious Resources.

Since 2004, after more than a decade of prior research on the cultural and ecological importance of White Lions, Linda Tucker has been securing critically strategic land to ensure their survival and flourishing, together with the interconnected biodiversity associated with their ecosystem.^[1]

By 2025, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** had succeeded in securing 9 different tracts of wilderness land identified under 4 territories:

- **The Heartlands (±1000ha)**
 - *Tsau* and *Tula*, two adjoining properties which span the arterial *Klaserie* river that supports the Greater Kruger ecosystem, and lies on the Nilotic Meridian.
 - *Shidolo*, the Sacred Site of the ancient Baobab Tree, directly bordering the greater *Timbavati* wilderness.
- **Sunlands (±400ha)** – situated to the North of The Heartlands, bordering the Greater Kruger, this property was acquired to prevent a large-scale industrial, monoculture citrus farming development that was threatening the *Klaserie* river, the critical perennial river supporting the entire downstream ecosystem.
- **Northern Territories – Malachite (±4000ha)** – by acquiring five neighbouring properties, we have created a government-declared Protected Nature Reserve of united Sacred Lands. Blessed with the beautiful *Makhutswi* river running through the property, an important tributary of the Olifants river flowing into the Kruger Natural Park, where majestic “inselbergs” (natural pyramid mountains) guard the landscape. These lands form part of a critically important wildlife corridor in the region, supporting the essential vision of the Kruger-to-Canyons Biosphere.
- **Southern Territories – Mbube (±700ha)** – meaning “*LionStar*” in the Zulu language, this property houses the headwaters of the sacred *Timbavati* river, another arterial river nurturing the central ecosystem of the Greater Kruger.

Our land strategy anticipates further acquisitions, committing to the ongoing regeneration and protection of our current land.

LAND ACQUISITION

LAND REGENERATION

LAND PROTECTION

[1] Saving the White Lions, Linda Tucker, 2013 and Ecologists Report on rare, threatened and endangered species within the White Lions endemic territories

LAND ACQUISITION

FUNDING TARGET – US\$13,500,000.00 (±R243,000,000.00)

Since acquiring the founding lands in 2004, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** has exerted significant influence on regional landowners and conservation authorities to review and reform entrenched extractive, consumptive and commercially-driven policies and practices.

These practices include trophy hunting, high-impact tourism, agri-industrial enterprises and housing developments.

Although our long-term goal is to drop fences to neighbouring wildlife properties, creating larger 'open systems', it would be irresponsible to do so while trophy hunting remains legitimised and promoted in these areas. **The Global White Lion Protection Trust** therefore has initiated a strategy to secure land of critical strategic importance to protect not only the White Lions but also the biodiversity within their greater ecosystem. This includes properties bordering *The White Lion Heartlands* as well as land within the Greater Region.

Extending the White Lions' ancestral territories, affords greater protection to White Lions and their associated ecosystem, ensuring they are free from exploitation.

To this end, we have set up a Land Acquisition Fund, to ensure that we have the funds available when strategic land comes onto the market. This funding target is set to match our previous Land Acquisition Fund received in 2020, which enabled us to make highly strategic decisions. This urgently needs to be matched so we can expand the biodiversity conservation frontier and critical wildlife corridors, which support the entire ecosystem within the K2C Biosphere.



LAND REGENERATION

FUNDING TARGET – US\$1,000,000.00 (±R18,000,000.00)

Nature knows how to regenerate herself - it is our role to promote this regeneration by dismantling damaging processes and implementing supportive ones. Permaculture, a design system based on natural laws, enables us to do this.

The application of *Permaculture Design Principles* allows for the creation of productive, ecologically stable landscapes together with the living communities thereon. It is a land management strategy that assesses the available natural resources and the state of the environmental processes (water cycle, nutrient cycle, succession, and energy flow) whilst assimilating the human needs and deliberately integrating various elements to nurture a diverse, healthy, and ever-growing ecosystem. With a regenerative mindset, *Permaculture* converts negative human impact into a positive contribution with lasting, productive action, helping to transform the consumer-driven era into a life-affirming model that consciously promotes life in all her forms, naturally leading to a state of abundance.

Our immediate and long-term vision is to create flourishing, ecologically sustainable environments throughout our organisation. Although the initial capital investment is relatively high, *Permaculture* becomes very cost-effective over time, as closed-loop systems begin to utilise outputs from one function as inputs for others, working with Nature to ensure enduring ecological sustainability.

StarSoil Solutions Program:

Employing Conservation Agroecology, based on a wide range of modalities that put Earth first, including Permaculture, Biodiversity Conservation, Agroforestry, Biodynamics, and *Regenerative Agriculture, alongside solid conservation methodologies*, the **StarSoil Solutions Program** is designed to regenerate the land while simultaneously providing a template for harmonious coexistence.

The **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** recent acquisition of Sunlands, in 2022 was highly strategic in halting an extensive industrial citrus farming development from contaminating the arterial *Klaserie* river, which serves a vast section of the *Kruger National Park*. The Trust now protects over 12.2km of river frontage, and has secured the water rights at a volume of 19,860,000 litres per annum, which amounts to an additional cost of US\$22,000.00 (R398,000.00) per annum. This purchase of water rights is way beyond the needs of our planned operation. However, our intention is to *keep the water in the river*, and therefore prevent extraction rights being sold to potential exploitative businesses upstream. Sadly, the developers had already cleared almost 200 hectares of indigenous bushveld in advance of their large-scale monoculture initiative. This land now needs urgent regenerative support. Left unsupported, its painstaking recovery will be inhospitable to animals and humans alike for decades.

Our vision in the **StarSoil Solutions Program** commences by pioneering a *100-hectare Indigenous Food & Medicinal Forest system* on the degraded land. In time, this will be opened to the *Greater Kruger Park* system, becoming a viable product yielding forest, an indigenous seed bank, as well as an oasis for the varied biodiversity that would be welcome to traverse the space.

We envision a *Permaculture Hub* and *Biodiversity Appreciation Centre* surrounding the existing dilapidated building complex. Capital required for 5 years of developing the plan to fruition amounts to US\$555,555.00 (R10,000,000.00). This eco-hub will serve as a future income centre for the **Global White Lion Protection Trust Center**, providing ethically processed indigenous medicinal and nutritional products to the high-end lodges in the area. In addition, we will be able to supply these valuable products at affordable prices to our underserved local rural communities who currently have little access to these health-promoting products. The eco-hub also presents an ideal education opportunity for the transfer of these regenerative land management practices and agro-processing skills to the greater community living on the borders of the Greater Kruger ecosystem.

LAND REGENERATION

Staff Camps Regeneration:

Our ecocentric approach extends to the many staff camps existing on our properties, currently being modified through regenerative design thinking. In time, our camps will become biodiversity hotspots for insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds and small mammals to call home, characterised by productive perennial plants, (providing food, medicine and soil regenerating capacity for the greater ecosystem as well as our people), restorative water management to promote penetration (increasing the water table and decreasing risk of erosion) and optimal management of all fresh waste through composting processors.

Costs for this transformation will be minimised due to our staff's ethos and involvement. Furthermore, the **StarSoil Solutions Program** will supply most of our plants and fertility inputs, saving on costs.

Ongoing Regeneration of the Land:

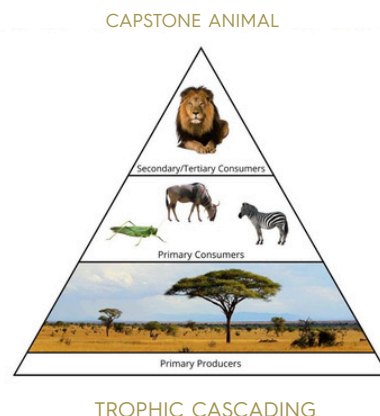
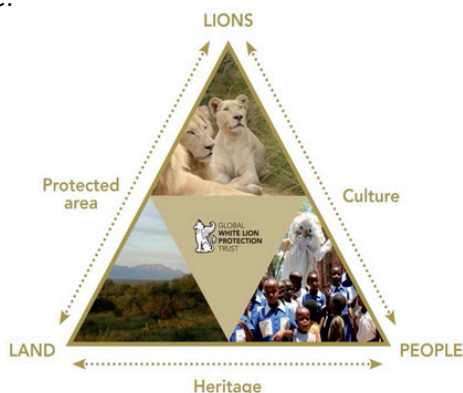
Due to historical mismanagement, both in the region and on several of our properties, ongoing land regeneration is currently required. These interventions include measures to prevent rampant soil erosion, ecologically sensitive clearing of invasive vegetation, replanting of indigenous trees, improving soils, and applying sound water management principles on all 4 of our territories.

Owing to past overgrazing and other soil-disrupting practices, the pioneer plant, sickle bush, has taken over large tracts of land. As *Permaculturalists*, one of our primary goals is to fast-track regeneration by building soils and creating a diverse array of plant species that ultimately lead to ecological balance.

We require a dedicated bush clearing and wood chipping team to move between our properties, opening up the bush to allow more sunlight for other plants (grasses, shrubs and trees) while creating wood chips to rebuild the soil, as invaluable mulch or composting input.

This team will need to be equipped with a vehicle, a trailer, an industrial wood-chipper, essential tools and a solar-powered mobile camp. The funds required to cover salaries and all equipment for a three-year period amount to US\$245,000.00 (R4,400,000.00). Thereafter, the team will operate as an income centre for the **Global White Lion Protection Trust**, offering their valuable services to other regional landowners in the region also in need of regenerative measures.

In this way, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** is supporting land regeneration from the very tip of the Pyramid of Life (by reintroducing the *White Lions* as the *Capstone Species*), all the way down the food-chain to the base of the *Pyramid of Life*.



This model truly represents whole-system regenerative ecology for Lions, Land as well as People and the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** is one of the only projects on the planet to address this.

LAND PROTECTION

FUNDING TARGET – US\$300,000.00 (±R5,400,000.00)

Each of our properties has a different risk profile. Until we achieve a world in which Lions, Land and People flourish in *Harmonious Coexistence*, we need to ensure the protection of Nature and her sentient beings. At **the Global White Lion Protection Trust**, we achieve protective measures through three fundamental strategies:



Daily Celebration of Nature



Construction and maintenance of fences
("force-fields of love")



Effective counter-poaching interventions.

While the first strategy carries no cost, the other two are financially onerous on the Global White Lion Protection Trust.

Our Force-Fields of Love (Fencing):

The **Global White Lion Protection Trust** has installed so-called predator-proof fencing on the perimeter of our borders to ensure our Lions' safety, as well as protecting other wildlife populations, creating a "force-field of love" around the kingdoms of life. To date, more than US\$660,000.00 (R12,000,000.00) has already been invested in the installation of these security and protection measures. The use of high-spec materials, solar-powered electrification and modern construction methods also allows for better management of other wildlife populations.

Disastrously, although part of a national regulatory requirement for predator areas, electric fencing has also been a significant contributing factor to the declining numbers of pangolin and tortoise populations. Accordingly, we have invested considerable funds into installing additional neutral lines at the bottom of our fences, to deter these magnificent creatures from reaching the live "tripwire". As a prototype solution, we are monitoring the success of this trial construction, and will then take the next step to advocate that this becomes the new minimum requirement within the national legal standards.

The fences require daily inspections and continued maintenance to ensure that the force-field of love is never dropped. The combined exterior fencing for our properties amounts to almost 73 km, and this excludes the acclimation and relief bomas on each property. It also excludes the protective fencing around all camps where staff or guests are housed, as well as the corridor fencing erected to reduce the risk of lions reaching national roads.

The **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** annual cost for necessary upgrades and maintenance of fences (excluding new installations) amount to approximately US\$28,000.00 (R500,000.00) per annum. This amount will vary depending on various land acquisitions and the state thereof.

LAND PROTECTION

Counter-Poaching Teams:

In our area, wildlife poaching crimes has reached pervasive proportions. Generally, poachers are either highly organised and well resourced, targeting specific animals such as Lion, Rhino and Pangolin for the illegal global trade. Alternatively, poachers are poorly resourced and highly opportunistic, setting snares and hunting with dogs for 'bush meat' to be sold in local markets. Both present a huge threat to the safety of the wildlife in our region. Proactively clearing snares and monitoring roads, fence lines and river crossings, our counter-poaching units play a vital role in ensuring the protection and safety of our sacred White Lions and all the other species living on their Land.

We are in desperate need of two 4x4 vehicles for our counter-poaching teams, who are currently operating only on foot. It is crucial for our teams to be highly mobile in order to quickly access locations where there is a poaching threat.

It is difficult and dangerous work to be a counter-poaching officer, and trusted officers are hard to come by. Much of their work is conducted at night and under strenuous conditions.

Accordingly, we hope to purchase a *Thermal Vision Monocular*: The *FLIR Scout III 640* is a brilliant device which allows our counter-poaching team to see in the dark. Using high-tech heat-mapping technology, our team will be able to scan the horizon and identify if an animal or human is in view. This type of device is invaluable during night patrols, when shining an ordinary torch into the bushveld may give away our team's position to potential invaders.

Our counter-poaching interventions (excluding vehicles and high-tech equipment) cost in excess of US\$ 84,000.00 (R1,500,000.00) per annum.



"The White Lions are a genetic rarity and a spiritual treasure, guardians of an ancient ecosystem. Protecting them means protecting all life forms in their habitat. When we restore their land, we regenerate the soul of nature itself."

Linda Tucker