

People

Funding Overview

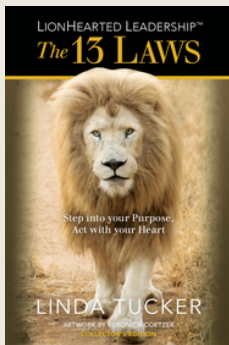


Support our Strategy for Building Strong Communities with Emerging LionHearted Leaders

Linda Tucker's primary research on the White Lions, dating back to 1991, highlighted the importance of Lions in humanity's evolution, as well as the vital role that humankind is invited to play in the restoration of harmonious coexistence at this time.

Understanding that our work locally in a Sacred Natural Site impacts the global paradigm-shift, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** encourages an ecocentric approach inviting humanity to re-align in right-relationship with Nature - and to become LionHearted.

LionHeartedness is that **quality of fearlessness inspired by love and respect for the Natural world** that enables us to transform the Human world for the better.



Get your **free download** of Linda Tucker's book *LionHearted Leadership™ The 13 Laws*. Visit www.whitelions.org

Since the inception of the **Global White Lion Protection Trust**, LionHeartedness has informed its ethos, which supports a range of eco-cultural educational programs (for both our local and global communities).

We are calling for funding to help sponsor three areas within our eco-cultural programs, fostering the growth of innovative, ecocentric leaders and communities:

LIONHEARTED EDUCATION

ECOCENTRIC COMMUNITIES

SACRED STRUCTURES

LIONHEARTED EDUCATION

FUNDING TARGET – US\$200,000.00 (±R3,600,000.00)

Many people are paralysed today, frightened and confused about how to live in a world where destruction seems inevitable. *The 13 Laws of LionHearted Leadership™*, inspired by the sacred White Lions, Nature, and Indigenous wisdom, provide the template for true leadership, offering the key to restoring not only ourselves but equally our environment, the exquisite web of interdependent life we call our ecosystem. The world needs LionHearted Leaders™ like never before - those who are committed and empowered to transform our human world through love and respect for Nature.

The growing global crises are evident even in the most local of challenges, all of which can be traced to the break in our sacred relationship with Nature, fuelled by corrupt, unprincipled and exploitative leadership. To co-create a world of harmonious coexistence, we need a new form of leadership grounded in the timeless principles modelled by White Lions - Nature's true leaders. This courageous and ethical form of leadership, based on love and respect for Nature, has the power to shift paradigms and change the human world for the better. We call it LionHearted leadership. In our leadership roles, we must have the integrity to uphold high standards of virtuous, mutually-beneficial and constructive governance, and in our roles as followers, we must have the courage to hold our leaders responsible for their actions or inactions. In this way, followers can help lead the necessary transformation, too.

StarLion Activations Program:

Playing a vital role in its efforts to protect our wildlife region and achieving 'revival beyond mere survival', the **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** eco-cultural education program adopts LionHearted action: restoring health and pride to the human world, and abundance to the natural kingdom. With the White Lions as core inspiration since its inception, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** has been establishing eco-cultural education centres in the underserved neighbouring rural communities surrounding our wildlife reserves. These lively education hubs are called "*StarLion Centres*" (inspired by the ancient myth that White Lions came from the stars). In 2007, our *StarLion Centres* presented to Nelson Mandela - and the reach of our program has been growing ever since.

Initially, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** constructed infrastructure, including classrooms, boreholes and ablution facilities, establishing nurseries and food gardens as nutritional hubs. However, while we continue to support structural upgrades at our *StarLion Centres*, our focus is now primarily on extra-curricular training, founded on the *13 Laws of LionHearted Leadership™*.

We are currently active in three primary schools, offering weekly training, ecological school holiday activities, school assembly activations, and experiential outings to the Kruger National Park. These sessions have a wide and lasting ripple effect not only on our young learners, but also their parents, teachers and peers, who are included in special events. Our mission is to expand our offering to high school students, teacher groups, parents, community leaders, traditional healers, and employees of other NPOs or organisations in our region. LionHeartedness transcends boundaries of age, culture and economic status, realigning hearts and minds with the original principles of harmonious coexistence. Drawing on the White Lion's radiant energy of creation and creativity, it empowers individuals to express their innate capacity to be ethical and service-based leaders, within their own lives, as well as those of their families and friends, and that of their communities at large.



LIONHEARTED EDUCATION

Our *StarLion Activations Team* consists of 3 dedicated and well-trained officers who facilitate the weekly sessions. Some of the *StarLion Centres* are in remote rural areas, requiring extensive travel on dusty, badly potholed roads. Besides the ongoing costs of salaries, fuel, outings, infrastructural support, and equipment for the exciting *StarLion* sessions, we are also in need of 2 laptops, 2 cameras and a *StarLion* vehicle.

The *StarLion Activations Program* has the capacity, both in reach and influence, to reawaken love and respect for our Natural world and ignite the courage to bring about positive change.

Indexes and indicators of the success of our program include **high attendance, expanded vocabulary, growth in confidence, enhanced emotional intelligence, improved literacy and excellence in public speaking and performing arts**, as well as a **deep love and commitment to being stewards of the natural world**.

Academy of LionHearted Leadership:

The **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** eco-cultural education is not limited to young learners. In 2012 the *Academy for LionHearted Leadership* was launched, and in 2020 it was taken online. The *Online LionHearted Leadership Training* provides a platform for self-paced, deep exploration of the *13 Laws of LionHearted Leadership*, while the onsite Academy is an immersive experience of these laws in action. Cross-cultural engagement and learning are important aspects of these gatherings and participants come from all parts of the globe. Since its conception, we have recognized the importance of ensuring that members of our local community as well as Indigenous leaders from other global cultures join these onsite intensives. To this end, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** calls for donations to support scholarships for deserving candidates.



LIONHEARTED EDUCATION

Train-the-Trainers – Relearning Permaculture:

Honouring the fact that Nature is able to restore herself without human intervention, we recognise the critically important role Lionhearted humans in service of Nature can play as restorers of harmonious coexistence on Earth. All the while celebrating the innate intelligence of Nature, the systems and practices we are implementing on our sites evidence the support role humans can play using consciously designed, closed-loop systems, allowing for the flourishing of healthy human settlements alongside thriving biodiversity. Our *Train-the-Trainer* programs encourage these methods, whilst rekindling ancient understandings of Indigenous foods and medicines, both in local communities and further afield.

By empowering people with the knowledge, commitment and leadership to restore harmonious coexistence, we reconnect people to purpose. In this way, we help co-create thriving ecosystems, inspiring regenerative livelihoods, generating abundance for all living and future generations, both human and more-than-human.



We seek funding support to facilitate this skills development aspect of our ***StarSoil Solutions Program***, where we can reforest human minds and ignite ***LionHearted Leadership***: that quality of **fearlessness**, inspired by love and respect for the **Natural world** that enables us to transform our human world.

ECOCENTRIC COMMUNITIES

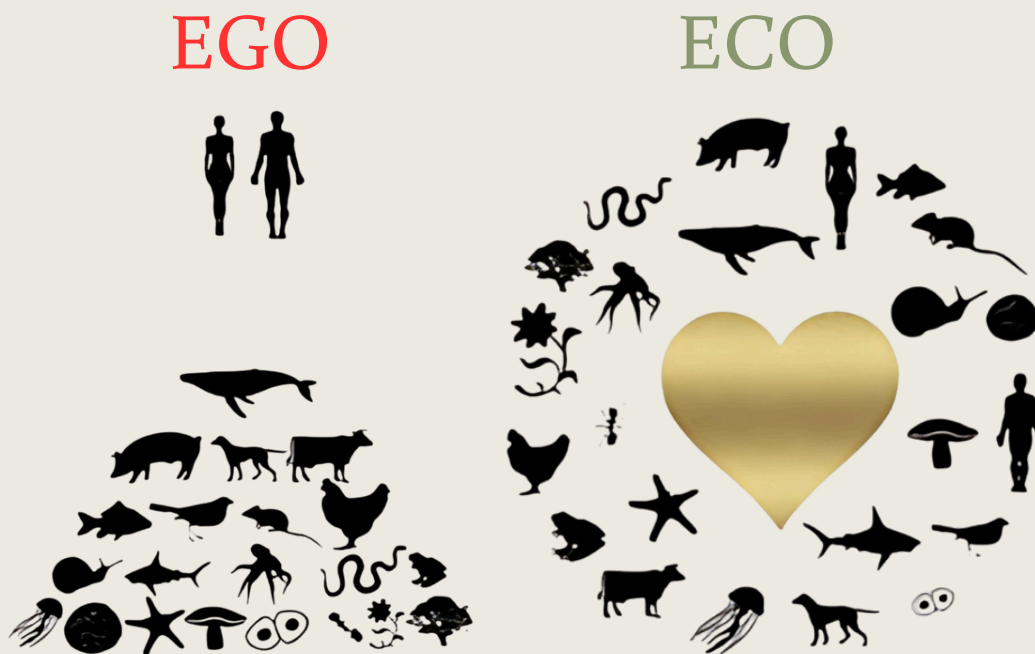
FUNDING TARGET – US\$200,000.00 (±R3,600,000.00)

According to the **ASSEGAIA model for the protection of Sacred Natural Sites**, the sensitive rural areas surrounding sacred natural ecosystems should be seen as “*Thrive Zones*” rather than “*Buffer Zones*” (a widely-used term that evokes human-wildlife conflict). Activities within the *Thrive Zones* need to be sensitised to protect the *Sacred Natural Site*, and could include: heritage interpretative and information centres; transformational travel experiences; permaculture and regenerative agricultural models for sustainable production and education; as well as meaningful and connective experiences with Nature.

Ecocentric Communities recognise that a shift from **ego** to **ecocentrism** is essential if we are to restore harmonious coexistence on Earth. Currently, humanity’s dominant worldview places human desires, control, and consumption at the centre of decision-making, leading to the inevitable exploitation and desecration of nature and other forms of life. In contrast, ecocentric communities recognise that humans are part of a much larger web of life, where every organism has intrinsic value and plays a vital role in sustaining the whole.

This worldview fosters reverence for life rather than dominance over it. When all of Nature is recognised as sacred, humans can find their true purpose, in service of Nature, allowing for healing, reciprocity, and resilience. As *Thrive Zones*, the ecocentric communities informed by this wisdom, flourish by embodying practices that protect, support and revere the sanctity of Nature.

These “*Thrive Zones*”, ignited by White Lions, seeded by the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** and amplified through the *Assegaia Alliance*, have gained a momentum that promises an alternative ecologically sustainable model for Earth and all her sentient beings.



ECOCENTRIC COMMUNITIES

Traditional Knowledge Keeper Centre:

Indigenous cultures, both globally and in Africa, understood the intricate interconnection and interdependence of all life; that each individual – and species – is dependent on, and required to contribute to, the health of the system as a whole. This is the core of *Ubuntu* – “*I am because you are.*” The “you” referred to is not merely the human collective, but this web-of-life on which we are all dependent. This understanding inspires a deep reverential relationship with Nature, which is at the core of *LionHearted Leadership™*.

Although critically important for the long-term flourishing of all, Indigenous wisdom has been assaulted and largely dismantled by the reductionist framework of colonialism and global economies. However, pockets of true indigeneity remain, and the **Global White Lion Protection Trust** supports these wisdom keepers and their work in various ways.

We are currently assisting the traditional healers of the Greater Region to build a centre where they can gather regularly to support, share and unify their knowledge, thus creating a stronger foundation for ancestral knowledge systems that serve Earth. An estimated US\$45,000.00 (R1,500,000.00) will be needed for this initiative.



Sustainable Accessibility for Rural Communities:

Rural communities neighbouring our wilderness areas are generally occupied by previously disadvantaged population groups and widely recognised as poverty nodes. They often lack access not only to permaculture knowledge and practices, but also to affordable resources essential to implement such practices. Often, there is a price premium placed on organic composts, mulches, and indigenous plants, excluding the local communities from accessing their benefits.

This gap limits the ability of these communities to restore soil health, grow nutritious food, and revive local ecosystems. We intend to transform this by providing subsidised, locally-appropriate products and solutions that empower communities to live in harmony with the land. To make this vision a reality, we are seeking financial support to ensure these products, tools, and teachings are accessible to those who need them most.



SACRED STRUCTURES

FUNDING TARGET – US\$1,500,000.00 (±R27,000,000.00)

The *White Lion Heartlands*, on the golden leyline of the *Nilotic meridian* has been recognised as a *Sacred Natural Site* for many hundreds of years by African kings and wisdom keepers, and in 2019 it was officially declared a *Sacred Natural Site* by **ASSEGAIA**. In accordance with their model, activities within the *Thrive Zones* surrounding such sites, need to honour, support and protect the site itself as well as the iconic species and biodiversity within the site.

Since its inception, the **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** outreach programs have encouraged respectful, ecologically sustainable activities that support meaningful human interrelationship with these sites, aiming to help stimulate conscious decision-making aligned with harmonious coexistence. Our Sacred Structures go to the root of reverential relationships. Throughout the history of humanity, great civilizations have built monuments to honour the sanctity of Nature, and sadly the paucity of these structures in our current culture mirrors the desecration and exploitation we see around us.

We have been honouring Nature with Sacred Structures in the Heartlands since 2012 when the acclaimed South African sculptor Andries Botha erected *Ingwavuma Rising*, the white crystal-lion facing due north and rising as a counterpoint to the *Sphinx in Egypt*. This was followed by the *Ascension Tower*. Then, in 2020, during the COVID lockdown, our entire team helped build the *Ankora Stone Calendar – a Temple to Nature* designed by Andries Botha and Linda Tucker, to usher in 1000 years of peace.



The White Lion Interpretation Centre:

As a *Founding Sacred Natural Site* of ASSEGAIA, the *White Lion Heartlands* is not open to the public. However, an important next step is to create an opportunity for the public to conceptualise the cultural and conservation importance of the White Lions without impacting heavily of the site itself. The *White Lion Interpretation Centre* will provide a space where visitors will have access to experiential learning opportunities within the *Thrive Zone*. Mbube (our southernmost property) is on route to the *Kruger National Park's Open Gate*, and in close proximity to the local community and various schools. This property has been selected as the ideal site for this initiative.

Architectural plans by South Africa's globally-recognised architect, Peter Rich, have been drawn up, and all levels of due diligence are being conducted to ensure utmost sensitivity to the site. Peter's designs are not only functional but deeply meaningful from a metaphysical and political perspective. Like the White Lions themselves, the design of the *Interpretation Centre* links the spiritual and metaphorical in form to create an extraordinarily beautiful structure. Visitors are taken on a *LionHearted* journey to rediscover their reverential relationship with Nature and realign their intentions in sacred service. Additionally, the *White Lion Interpretation Centre* will provide a training venue for our **StarLion Activations Program** and our **StarSoil Solutions Program**.

SACRED STRUCTURES

Rejuvenation of Existing Structures:

With the expansion of the **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** territories, we have inherited a number of buildings. Whilst some of these buildings have beautiful features, most have been constructed from a consciousness out-of-alignment with that of the Trust. All require serious rejuvenation. The vision is for these buildings to provide opportunities for people to re-connect and re-align with Nature, either through immersive peak experiences or to house the many operational functions driving the **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** goals and vision. Our aim is to reduce the footprint, by repurposing and rejuvenating existing structures rather than adding to them.

Malachite: This property's unique lodge overlooking the seasonal Ngalatobasa river was designed and built by award winning-architect, Sylvio Rech, more than 40 years ago. Built by master tradesmen, the design amplifies the distinctive natural elements in the landscape and show-cases a royal African aesthetic. Rediscovering this forgotten gem in the middle of a pristine biodiverse landscape is a "Lost Arc" experience in the Kingdom of the White Lions. Unfortunately, upkeep of the structures by the previous owners was sorely lacking and we need to revive this masterpiece and enhance its former glory. Furthermore, a few additional units are required to accommodate our curated ecocentric group experiences and intentional gatherings. This non-commercial lodge will host select guests who share our ethos and wish to contribute to a future of harmonious coexistence.

Sunlands: This property has an exploitative history evidenced in the heap of confused crumbling structures upon it. Although it is a renovator's delight, it's regeneration requires lots of imagination, with a matching budget. Satisfying all its own energy and water requirements, this off-grid property will eventually become home to the **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** head office and the administrative pulse, housing the needs of our **StarSoil Solutions Program**, our **StarLion Activations Program**, as well as our maintenance and mechanics departments.

Other Properties: Over the years, with **Global White Lion Protection Trust's** steady growth over the years, there is now a need to upgrade staff accommodation on our older properties. In addition to simple structural upgrades, we are steadily moving all our properties off-grid.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela