

A photograph of two women working on a wooden loom outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a red beanie and a light blue jacket over a purple top. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blue cap with the Thornybush logo, a grey t-shirt, and a watch. They are both focused on their work. The background shows a rustic setting with trees and a structure made of sticks and corrugated metal.

# Thornybush COMMUNITY

## 2025 Impact Report

Community | Social Impact | Sustainability

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# Board of *Directors*



**Richard Napier**  
Chairman



**Joanne Dickson**  
Non-Executive Director



**Jacki Raath**  
Non-Executive Director



**Shireen McWhite**  
Non-Executive Director



**Candice Grover**  
Non-Executive Director

# From the Chairman

I am proud to reflect on the significant progress that Thornybush Community has made over the past year. Throughout 2025, the organisation continued to expand its footprint and deepen its impact across the landscape.

Meaningful milestones were achieved across our core social impact pillars: educational support, conservation awareness and enterprise development. These programmes delivered tangible outcomes for over 3 000 beneficiaries, representing a year-on-year increase of more than 200%. This growth reflects both the relevance of our interventions and the organisation's increasing capacity to deliver at scale.

During the year, we saw steady programme expansion, strengthened partnerships and enhanced effectiveness to both planned initiatives and emerging identified needs. Notable achievements included the construction of a National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) kitchen at **Manyangana High School**, the introduction of several new partnerships including the Gogos in Conservation programme together with **Elephants Alive** and borehole installations at **Magoveni Beehives** and **Unity Agrifarm Agricultural Cooperative**, in Uthla village. In addition, a new bursary programme was launched for the year, in collaboration with Tracker Academy, complementing our existing **South African College for Tourism (SACT)** bursary programme. Numerous ongoing food security programmes were again successfully implemented.

A significant development going into 2025 was the appointment of Busisiwe Chauke as General Manager and additional team members to implement our programmes. Busi's appointment marked an important step in strengthening leadership, operational oversight and long-term organisational capacity. Together with the dedication and growth of our team, this has translated strategy into meaningful impact.

This progress would not be possible without the support of our donors, partners, lodges, lodge community champions and the communities we work alongside. Key values of creating trust, collaboration and shared commitment to positive change remain central to everything we do.

**Thornybush Community is well positioned to build on this momentum in 2026 and continue delivering measurable, community-led impact.**

**Richard Napier**  
Chairman

# Our Mission, Vision and Values

## Mission:

To create meaningful and sustainable change by uplifting, empowering and equipping underprivileged communities adjacent to Thornybush Lodges with the skills, resources, education and opportunities they need to become self-sufficient and thrive independently.

## Vision:

A future where conservation, community wellbeing and responsible travel exist in balance, ensuring thriving ecosystems and resilient communities for generations to come.

## Values:



### Community

We partner with our neighbouring communities through respectful collaboration that empowers locals and supports shared growth.



### Social Impact

We are committed to creating meaningful, measurable change that improves livelihoods, wellbeing and opportunity.



### Sustainability

We embed environmental responsibility and long-term outcomes into all our operations and programmes.



# Social Impact *Pillars*

1.



## **Educational Support**

Educational Support promotes access to quality learning, from early childhood development (ECD) through to higher education. We provide targeted academic support and bursaries to help vulnerable learners progress, strengthening long-term resilience and social inclusion.

2.



## **Conservation Awareness**

Conservation Awareness promotes environmental stewardship by increasing knowledge and community engagement around sustainable natural resource use. Through education and advocacy, we empower communities to protect ecosystems, strengthen resilience and support sustainable livelihoods.

3.



## **Enterprise Development**

Enterprise Development strengthens livelihoods by supporting inclusive, sustainable micro and small enterprises. Through skills development, access to resources and business support, we empower individuals and communities to increase income, build resilience and drive local economic growth.



# 2025 at a Glance



3,051

Beneficiaries reached



9

Communities added to our footprint



6

Bursaries awarded



5

Internships through Thornybush Lodges



21

Programmes executed



2

New guest experiences launched, in collaboration with Thornybush Lodges



# Methodology

## Our Results-oriented Programme Approach



### Needs Assessment

Conducting of participatory assessments to identify priority needs, vulnerabilities and context-specific gaps.



### Programme Design & Implementation

Designing of appropriate, needs-based interventions and delivering assistance in coordination with relevant stakeholders.



### Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL)

Monitoring of activities, review outcomes and analyse results to measure effectiveness, accountability and impact.

This is currently carried out through feedback surveys, community consulting, focus groups and quarterly programmes reports.



### Adaptation & Follow-Up

Using evidence and community feedback to adjust assistance, strengthen programme interventions and define next steps for improved and sustainable impact.

# Education Support



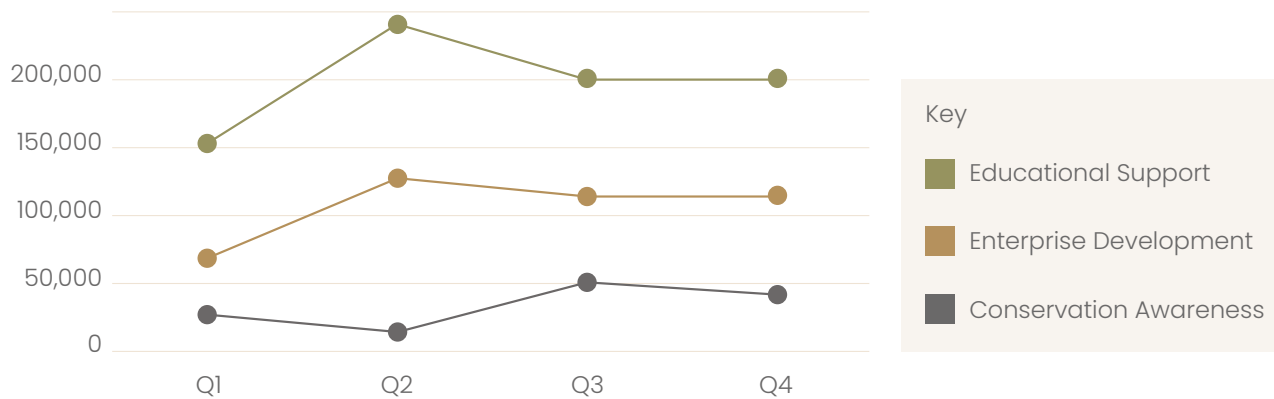
R797,581

Invested



2,780

Beneficiaries



## Summary



### Beneficiaries

- 6 Bursaries
- 5 Internships
- 1 High School
- 3 Primary Schools
- 4 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres



### Milestones

- Fence erected at **Tshembekani Creche**
- Back-to-School uniform donations to **Hananani Primary School**
- Partnership with Spar Hoedspruit to donate school shoes to **Sihlekisi Primary School**
- National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) kitchen build at **Manyangana High School**
- **60 000+** meals supplied through school gardens



### Communities

- Sigagule
- Welverdiend
- Uthla
- Dixie
- Islington
- Hluvukani
- Justicia
- Acornhoek
- Timbavati
- Thulamahashe

# South African College for Tourism (SACT)

**Location:** Graaff Reinet

**Beneficiaries:** 10

**The South African College for Tourism (SACT)** is a non-profit hospitality training institution that empowers youth from disadvantaged backgrounds with practical skills for careers in the tourism industry.

Through a long-standing partnership of 14 years, full bursaries are awarded to local youth, covering professional training in hospitality operations. In 2025, we were proud to witness the graduation of our five bursary recipients: **Portia Makhubela, Nhlanhla Malatji, Thandokunhle Mashele, Amber Mathebula and Donex Ngobeni.**

Graduates will move on to join a paid internship at Thornybush lodges in 2026, gaining hands-on experience in a world-class tourism environment. We also congratulate our Class of 2024, who completed their internships at **Thornybush Lodges**, with 40% absorption. Well done to **Martha Lubisi, Memory Sithole, Terrence Hlungwane, Truth Manzini and Mandisa Mhlaba.**

This initiative not only creates sustainable career paths but also develops skilled professionals who contribute meaningfully to South Africa's economy, specifically the tourism sector.



# Tracker Academy

**Location:** Sandringham Camp

**Beneficiaries:** 1

**The Tracker Academy** is a specialist training division of the **South African College for Tourism (SACT)** that preserves and professionalises the traditional art of wildlife tracking while creating meaningful career pathways in conservation and eco-tourism. In 2025, **Thornybush Community** offered a bursary to **Langutani Nwenya**, from Welverdiend, to join a pioneering first of its kind all-female tracking team class.

This bursary provided full access to accredited, field-based training in animal tracking, bushcraft and environmental awareness. The programme also culminates in an internship at the **Thornybush Lodges**, where the graduate gains hands-on experience in a world-class wildlife tourism environment, strengthening their prospects for long-term employment in the industry.

In addition to the bursary, our partnership with **Tracker Academy** brought added value to Scouts Camp by providing hands-on conservation lessons.

Learners explored wildlife tracking, bushcraft, and environmental stewardship, gaining a deeper appreciation for nature and biodiversity.



# High School

**School:** Manyangana High School

**Location:** Uthla

**Beneficiaries:** 700

**Manyangana High School** is a top 10 performing public secondary school in the Manyeleti District, recognised for its strong academic results, committed educators and a disciplined learning environment that supports learner success.

We provide targeted support through the provision of learning materials and educational tools that enhance teaching and learning outcomes, as well as ongoing infrastructural development.

In 2025, this includes the construction of a new National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) kitchen, which plays a vital role in improving learner wellbeing by ensuring access to nutritious meals, creating a healthier and more supportive environment for academic achievement.



# Primary Schools

**Schools:** Hananani Primary School, Sihlekisi Primary School, Mugidi Primary School

**Location:** Dixie, Sigagule, Timbavati

**Beneficiaries:** 1,359

**Hananani Primary School** is supported through initiatives that promote learner wellbeing and access to quality education. This includes the provision of school uniforms for orphans and vulnerable children, supplying essential school resources, maintaining a school garden to support the food and nutrition programme and creating opportunities for conservation education through our conservation awareness programmes.

**Mugidi Primary School** is supported through essential school supplies and this year, we created opportunities for learners to participate in our conservation programmes, encouraging academic growth while fostering an early appreciation for conservation and environmental responsibility.

At **Sihlekisi Primary School**, our initiatives strengthen access to quality education and learner wellbeing. Our support includes the provision of educational resources and learning supplies, opportunities to participate in our conservation programmes and the distribution of school shoes.



# Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres

**ECDs:** Tshembekani Creche, Wisani Day Care, Good Life Creche and Nourish Eco Village (RISE)

**Location:** Islington, Dixie, Waverdiend, Makrepeni and Sigagule

**Beneficiaries:** 710

**Tshembekani Creche** received vital support at the beginning of 2025 following flood devastation, with the erection of new fencing to ensure a safe and secure environment for the children.

At **Wisani Day Care** we provided educational supplies, hygiene items and seedlings for a nutrition programme, as well as infrastructural support for a new school building. Additionally, the children received blankets lovingly made by guests at **Thornybush Lodges**.

**Nourish Echo Village** was supported through initiatives that enhanced both learner wellbeing and community development. We provided educational supplies, clothing donations and blankets, while also contributing to the organisation's revenue-generating streams by partnering for Community Tours, helping Nourish sustain its programmes and create lasting impact for the children and families it serves.

**Good Life Creche** was supported through educational supplies, classroom furniture and a water tank, creating a safe, well-resourced and conducive environment.



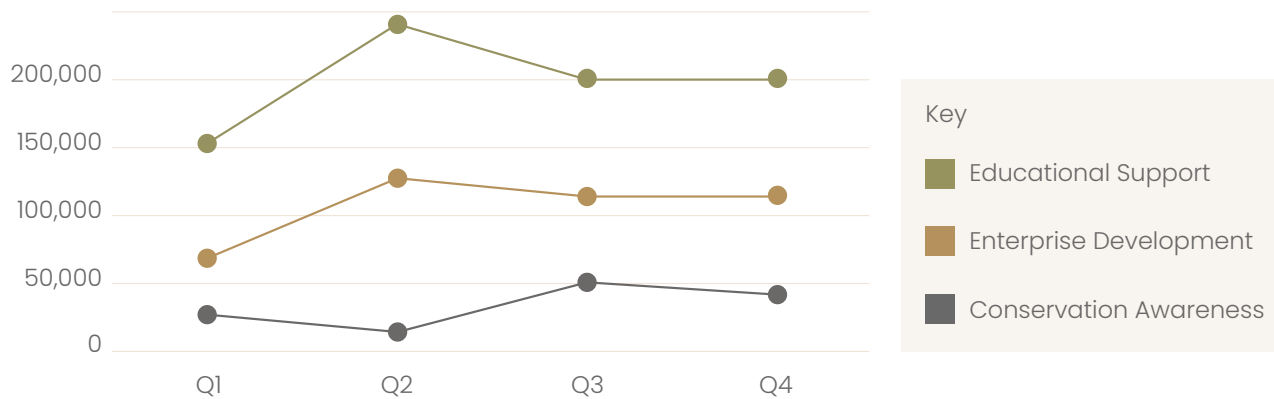
# Conservation Awareness



**R137,836**  
Invested



**194**  
Beneficiaries



## Summary



### Beneficiaries

- 6 Scout Groups
- 1 Kids in Conservation Group
- 2 Gogos in Conservation Groups
- 2 High Schools
- 3 Primary Schools
- 5 Wild Shots Outreach Groups



### Milestones

- 3 Scout Camps
- 4 Kids in Conservation Excursions
- 2 Gogos in Conservation Camps
- 5 School Safari Game Drives
- 4 Wild Shots Outreach Game Drives



### Communities

- Hluvukani
- Seville B
- Gottenburg
- Uthla
- Dixie
- Makrepeni
- Mkhuhlu
- Welverdiend
- Sigagule
- Timbavati
- Islington
- White City
- Kurhuleni
- Chavelangaza
- Acornhoek

# Kids in Conservation

**Location:** K2C Region

**Beneficiaries:** 14

**Kids in Conservation** is a programme designed specifically for the children of **Thornybush Lodges'** employees, providing them with hands-on learning experiences that foster an early love for nature and wildlife conservation.

Over the course of the year, participants enjoyed four educational excursions to iconic destinations including **Echo Caves, God's Window, the Blyde River Canyon, Meropa Lodge, Lisbon Falls and Moholoholo Animal Rehabilitation Centre**, where they learned about biodiversity, ecology and the importance of protecting natural habitats.

Through these immersive trips, the children not only gained practical knowledge about wildlife and conservation practices but also developed teamwork, curiosity, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.



# Scouts Camp

**Location:** Thornybush Nature Reserve HQ

**Beneficiaries:** 69

**Scouts Camp**, in partnership with **Thornybush Nature Reserve and Conservation South Africa (CSA)**, offers young learners unique experiential learning opportunities during school holidays at the **Thornybush Nature Reserve Headquarters**. The camp combines outdoor adventure with structured educational programmes, allowing participants to develop practical skills, environmental awareness and an appreciation for conservation in a safe and immersive bush setting.

During the camp, learners engage in activities that promote teamwork, leadership and personal development, while also gaining hands-on experience in nature-based skills and responsible outdoor practices. By blending fun, education and conservation, the Scouts Camp fosters confident, community-minded young individuals and creates memorable experiences that inspire a lifelong connection with the natural environment.

**“Thank for your ongoing support and partnership. Your commitment to nurturing the next generation through the Scouts programme has had an incredible impact on our young members and the broader community.”**

Monica Mthabane,  
Senior Community Outreach Coordinator



# Gogos in Conservation

**Location:** Thornybush Nature Reserve HQ

**Beneficiaries:** 19

**Gogos in Conservation** is a community-focused programme run in partnership with **Thornybush Nature Reserve, Elephants Alive's Ndlopfu Gogos, Hoedspruit Elephant Rehabilitation and Development (HERD) and Relate Bracelets**, aimed at empowering elderly women (gogos) to engage with conservation and environmental education. Through workshops, hands-on activities, and community projects, participants learn about wildlife protection, sustainable practices and the critical role they play in preserving the natural environment.

The programme also fosters social connection, creativity and a sense of purpose, with initiatives such as crafting **Relate Bracelets** to support conservation efforts and generate income. By combining education, advocacy, and community engagement, Gogos in Conservation strengthens intergenerational involvement in environmental stewardship while celebrating the wisdom and contribution of older women in local community.



# School Safari Game Drives

**Schools:** Sihlekisi Primary School, Mugidi Primary School, Nhlengelo Primary School, Manyangana High School and Mdluli High School

**Location:** Thornybush Game Lodge, Saseka Tented Camp and Simbambili Game Lodge

**Beneficiaries:** 45

**School Safari Game Drives** offer learners a unique opportunity to experience wildlife and conservation firsthand in the **Thornybush Lodges'** protected areas. Over the year, five safari game drives were held with **Sihlekisi Primary School, Mugidi Primary School, Manyangana High School, Mdluli High School and Nhlengelo Primary School**, giving students the chance to observe animals in their natural habitat while learning about ecosystems, biodiversity and responsible conservation practices.

These immersive experiences combine education with adventure, sparking curiosity and inspiring a lifelong appreciation for nature. By engaging directly with the lodges and environment, learners gain practical tourism-related experience, knowledge about wildlife management, ecological balance and the importance of protecting our natural heritage.

**"Thank you so much once again for affording the learners a chance. You are inspiring and educating the mind of these young ones."**

Mikison Mnisi,  
Educator at Nhlengelo Primary School



# Wildshots Outreach

**Location:** Thornybush Game Lodge

**Beneficiaries:** 47

In partnership with **Wild Shots Outreach**, this educational programme brings wildlife photography and conservation awareness directly to local communities and schools. Through interactive sessions, learners are introduced to the art of wildlife photography while learning about animal behavior, habitat preservation and the importance of protecting biodiversity.

**Thornybush Lodges and Thornybush Community** are also supporting the skills development of two alumni photographers, **Vusi Mathe and Karabo Magakane**, who are actively involved in capturing community content photography

By combining practical photography skills with conservation education, **Wild Shots Outreach** fosters creativity, curiosity and environmental stewardship, helping young learners develop a deeper connection with nature while supporting local talent in the photography and conservation fields.



# Enterprise Development



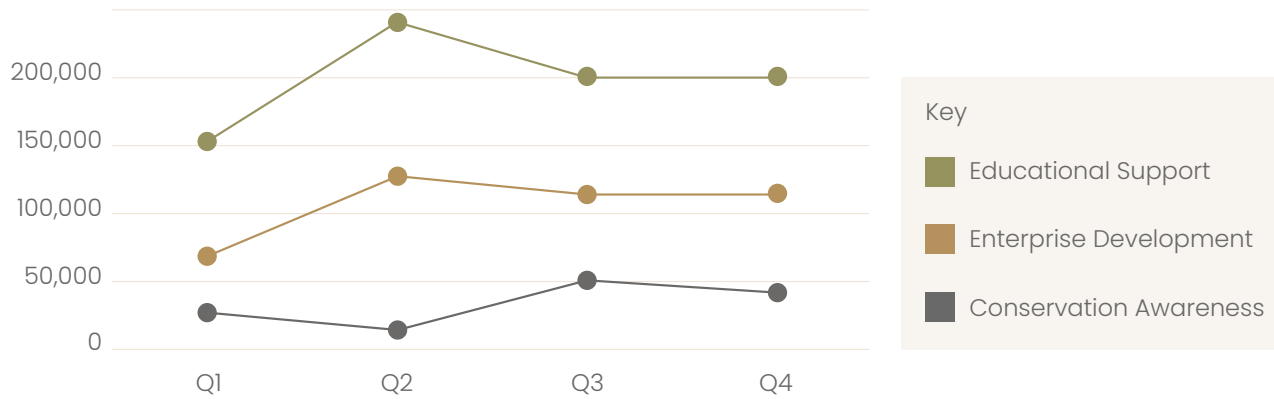
R429,138

Invested



77

Beneficiaries



## Summary



### Beneficiaries

- 6 Enterprises



### Milestones

- 2 New boreholes installed
- 2 Enterprise Development skills courses completed
- 5 Enterprises assisted with essential PPE, working tools and equipment
- 1 New enterprise onboarded as a Thornybush Lodges supplier



### Communities

- Uthla
- Dixie
- Cottondale

# Magoveni *Beehives*

**Location:** Uthla

**Beneficiaries:** 2

**Magoveni Beehives** has been supported to develop a sustainable organic honey enterprise. Two entrepreneurs received beekeeper training, along with beekeeper equipment and uniforms, while the programme was also supplied with 15 beehives, a borehole installation and other essential PPE items to ensure the ongoing success and sustainability of their honey production.

**“With your generous support, we are confident that we can bring this vision to life, establishing a farm that not only generates sustainable income but also uplifts the local community through employment, training and eco-tourism opportunities. Your contribution is instrumental and we deeply appreciate your commitment to our project. ”**

Clifford Mkansi,  
Co-Founder



# Thousand Herbs and Vegetable Garden

**Location:** Uthla

**Beneficiaries:** 5

**Thousand Herbs & Vegetable Garden** is a legacy programme that grows fresh vegetables and herbs to supply multiply lodges, including **Thornybush Lodges**, and local communities.

The garden promotes sustainable agriculture, supports local food security and provides a reliable source of nutritious produce, strengthening both community wellbeing and eco-tourism operations in the region. It is all-women owned and run by five female entrepreneurs, empowering women through entrepreneurship while contributing to the local economy.



# Unity Agrifarm Agricultural Cooperative

**Location:** Uthla

**Beneficiaries:** 31

**Unity Agrifarm Agricultural Cooperative** is a community-focused farming initiative that supplies fresh produce to local communities, and is now looking to expand its market to include lodges.

To support its growth and sustainability, we have installed a borehole, provided essential equipment and tools, electrified the site, supplied seedlings, constructed fencing and offered business compliance support.

These interventions have strengthened the cooperative's operations, boosted local food security, and empowered members with the resources and skills to run a successful agricultural enterprise.



# Hlayisani Nature Buyback Centre

**Location:** Uthla

**Beneficiaries:** 2

**Hlayisani Nature Buy Back Centre** is a vital community initiative focused on promoting environmental sustainability and responsible waste management. To strengthen its operations and support its mission, we have provided furniture donated from Thornybush, essential PPE, equipment, tools and business support, ensuring the centre has the resources needed to operate safely and efficiently.

These interventions not only enhance the day-to-day running of the centre but also empower the local community by creating opportunities for environmental education, sustainable practices, and income generation through recycling and conservation-related activities.

**“Your support comes at a crucial time for our operations. This contribution helps us avoid operational delays, maintain consistent production and continue expanding our waste collection services.”**

Motive Mashaba,  
Director



# Nduna Mabasa Farm Operations and Community Development

**Location:** Cottondale

**Beneficiaries:** 3

**Nduna Mabasa Farm Operations & Community Development** is a recently adopted programme that has demonstrated exceptional growth and community impact in a short period. The initiative has already been onboarded as a fresh produce supplier to **Thornybush Game Lodge and Saseka Tented Camp**, providing fresh, high-quality produce for hospitality operations while also supplying local communities to support food security.

Beyond its commercial success, the enterprise has shown a strong commitment to social responsibility by donating fresh vegetables to local schools and centres for children with disabilities, ensuring that vulnerable members of the community benefit directly from its produce. Through these efforts, the programme not only strengthens local agriculture and livelihoods but also fosters a culture of giving back, community empowerment, and sustainable growth.



# Hananani Primary School Garden (Pfunekani Africa)

**Location:** Dixie

**Beneficiaries:** 1

**The Hananani Primary School** garden is overseen by a dedicated local custodian who manages the garden on a daily basis, ensuring it runs smoothly and efficiently.

As the primary caretaker, **Keysman Nkuna of Pfunekani Africa** is responsible for planting, watering, harvesting, and maintaining the garden, while also teaching learners basic agricultural skills and instilling the value of healthy, sustainable food practices.

His consistent presence and hands-on guidance ensure that the garden not only supports the school's nutrition programme but also serves as a living classroom for students to learn about food security and environmental stewardship.



# Communities Footprint Growth

## Thornybush Nature Reserve

Thornybush Game Lodge, Saseka Tented Camp & Nkelenga Tented Camp



+9

New Partnership Programmes



+6

New Communities Reached



# Communities Footprint Growth

## Sabi Sands Nature Reserve

## Simbambili Game Lodge



+3

New Partnership Programmes



+3

New Communities Reached



# SDG Alignment

Through our programmes, we have intentionally prioritised key **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to create meaningful and lasting impact in our communities.

By addressing **SDG 1 (No Poverty)** and **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**, we support food security through school gardens, agricultural cooperatives, and vegetable supply initiatives.

Through education-focused interventions like bursaries, ECD support, and skills development, we contribute to **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, while the provision of boreholes and improved sanitation addresses **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**.

Our livelihood and enterprise support programmes promote **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, and by encouraging sustainable farming, conservation awareness, and responsible tourism practices, we actively advance **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, ensuring that both people and the environment benefit from our efforts.



No poverty



Zero hunger



Quality education



Clean water and  
sanitation



Decent work and  
economic growth



Responsible consumption  
and production

# New Guest *Experiences*

## Impact Safari

In partnership with **Thornybush Lodges**, we launched **The Impact Safari Guest Experience** which offers responsible travellers a unique opportunity to combine adventure with purpose through a 3-day or 5-day conservation and community programme.

Guests engage directly with wildlife conservation projects, local community initiatives, and educational programmes, gaining hands-on experience in activities such as habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring, and community development.

Designed for those seeking meaningful ways to give back, the experience allows travellers to witness the impact of their support firsthand while contributing to the protection of South Africa's natural heritage and the wellbeing of local communities.

By blending immersive safari adventures with purposeful action, the Impact Safari creates lasting memories and inspires a deeper connection to conservation and responsible travel.



# New Guest Experiences

## Community Hour

The **Community Hour Guest Experience** offers lodge guests a meaningful way to give back without leaving the comfort of their accommodation.

In 2025, lodge guest participants took part in making no-sew fleece blankets, which were then donated to three local Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres supported by **Thornybush Community**.

This hands-on initiative allows guests to contribute directly to the wellbeing of local children while enjoying a purposeful and rewarding activity during their stay.



# Community Tours

**Community Tours** continue to offer guests a unique opportunity to explore the heart of our local communities, experience authentic culture and gain insight into the work of **Thornybush Community**.

Guests can witness community programmes firsthand and even participate as volunteers, contributing directly to initiatives in education, conservation and enterprises.

By combining cultural immersion with meaningful engagement, these tours allow guests to connect deeply with the people and projects shaping the region while leaving a positive impact.



# Thornybush Employee Engagement

We actively encouraged **Thornybush Lodges** and office employees to participate in community initiatives, fostering a culture of giving back and social responsibility. By getting involved, they give back to the communities they come from and love, creating a sense of ownership on the development that is rightfully theirs.

As part of employee engagement, we the launched **Mandela Day** event which took place at **Thornybush Commercial** offices, lodges and their neighbouring communities. We had a total of 120 volunteer hours contributed to cleaning communities, cleaning schools, packing exam preparation kits and making no-sew fleece blankets which were collected and donated to our community beneficiaries.



# In-lodge Community Champions

Some **Thornybush Lodges'** employees have volunteered to become **Community Champions**, demonstrating exceptional commitment to supporting local initiatives. They are present at the lodges, wearing badges, making it easy for guests to identify them and engage in conversations about **Thornybush Community** programmes.

These champions serve as knowledgeable ambassadors, helping guests understand and get involved in our programmes.

We acknowledge and thank our 2025 Community Champions. Their passion, dedication and commitment helped us deliver meaningful community and in-lodge experiences.

## Thornybush Game Lodge

Agreement Phiri, Solomon Ndlovu, Mandla Mathonsi, Mandisa Mhlaba and Truth Manzini.

## Saseka Tented Camp

Wayville Mkhonza, Martha Lubisi, Bongani Sambo and Douglas Ndlovu.

## Simbambili Game Lodge

Terrence Hlungwane, Doctor Munetwa, Millicent Mabala, Comfort Khosa, Memory Sithole, Stanley Rakgoale, Nothando Ndlovu, Glory Mnisi and Trudy Gumede.



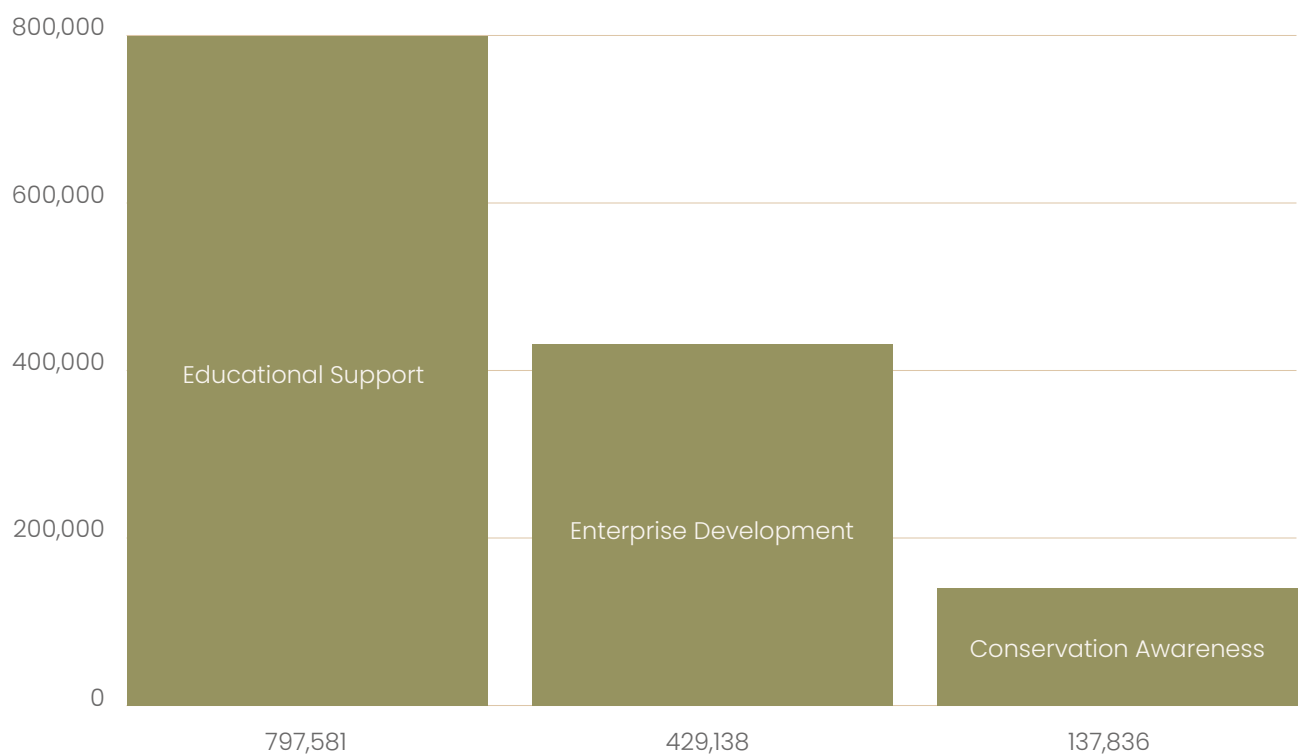
# Direct Investment

Total Investment across three social impact pillars:

R 1,364,555

## Programme Spend:

- **59%** Educational Support
- **31%** Enterprises Development
- **10%** Conservation Awareness



Key

Investment in Rands (ZAR)

# Donors

To our valued donors, thank you for your unwavering support throughout 2025.

**Thornybush Lodges**, our largest investor, continues to demonstrate a deep commitment to community development and socio-economic upliftment through generous monthly contributions and guest conservation levies.

We are equally grateful to **The Mikalsky Family, Wandering Thru, The Davies Foundation and The Andersen Foundation**.

Our achievements would not be possible without your steadfast generosity. Your dedicated donations and continued annual support play a vital role in sustaining and advancing our work.



# Partners

**To our partners and supporters, you have contributed directly and indirectly to the success of our programmes.**

Thornybush Nature Reserve, South African College for Tourism (SACT), Tracker Academy, Elephants Alive, Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Foundation (GKEPF), Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Region (K2C), GreenMatter South Africa, Timbavati Foundation, South African Medical Exp (SAME), Wild Impact Conservation South Africa (CSA), Wild Dreams Hospitality, SPAR Hoedspruit, Global Conservation Corp (GCC), Hoedspruit Elephant Rehabilitation and Development (HERD), Relate Bracelets, SANParks, Indalo Inclusive, Wild Shots Outreach, James Mayinga Foundation, Koru Camp, Nourish Eco Village, Southern African Wildlife College and Sabi Sands Pfunanani Trust.

Your mutual commitment to the region has been invaluable. Through collaboration, shared expertise and an aligned vision, we continue to build programmes that empower people, protect our natural heritage and contribute to lasting socio-economic sustainability.



# Our Partnerships in Review

Throughout 2025, we collaborated on numerous campaigns and programmes with a range of impact partners and while we are proud of every initiative, we would like to highlight just a few.

In January, a new partnership was formed, with **SPAR Hoedspruit**. Through the national **SPAR/Bata Little Shoes, Big Smiles** campaign, we mobilised the Hoedspruit community and **Thornybush Commercial** employees, successfully donating 85 pairs of school shoes to learners at **Sihlekisi Primary School**, in Sigagule. Together, we are restoring dignity to education, one learner at a time.

The annual **Kick It for Conservation Soccer Tournament** continued in March, in partnership with **Royal Malewane, Nourish Eco Village and Southern African Wildlife College**. The event brought the **Thornybush Ingwes** onto the field, who took the cup for the second year in a row, with winnings being directed towards a community initiative.

Through this victory, we were able to begin our ongoing support of **Good Life Creche**, in Welverdiend.



# Our Partnerships in Review

June to August was an extended commemoration of Youth Month with three Career Days bringing together various local partners in workshops led by GKEPF, Timbavati Foundation and Global Conservation Corp (GCC) at Acorn to Oaks High School, in Acornhoek, and Mahlale High School, in Welverdiend.

These engagements exposed learners to career pathways linked to conservation and tourism. This supports our socio-economic development efforts by broadening opportunities, building skills awareness and strengthening the connection between sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship.

In December, the annual **GKEPF Soccer Tournament** organised by the **James Mayinga Foundation** in partnership with **GKEPF and SANParks**, brought together young people from across the Greater Kruger landscape through sport.

The tournament promotes conservation awareness and creates meaningful opportunities for youth talent development. In 2025, we proudly closed off the year as a partner, supporting an initiative that strengthens the bond between conservation and community through the unifying power of sport.



# From the General Manager

As we close this annual impact report, I am deeply encouraged by what **Thornybush Community** has achieved and equally so, by how we have achieved it. The progress reflected in these pages is the result of a dedicated team, strong partnerships and communities committed to their socio-economic development.

It has been a privilege to step into the role of General Manager during a year of such meaningful growth and to work alongside stakeholders who are committed to delivering impact with integrity and purpose.

Throughout 2025, our focus has been about ensuring that our programmes are responsive to both long-term development goals and immediate community needs. The growth in our reach and the depth of our impact is testament to the organisation's increasing operational capacity and the strong relationships we continue to build across the landscape. None of this work happens in isolation. I would like to sincerely thank **Thornybush Lodges**, our donors, partners, lodge community champions and communities for their continued belief in our mission.

Your support enables us to listen, learn and act together. As we look ahead to 2026, our priority remains clear: to deepen impact, strengthen sustainability and ensure that **Thornybush Community** continues to serve as a trusted partner in community development. With a strong foundation in place, we move forward with confidence.

## Busisiwe Chauke

General Manager



**Busisiwe Chauke**  
General Manager



**Surprise Ubisi**  
Programmes



**Sharon Ntimane**  
Marketing



**Fumani Ngomani**  
Programmes



## GET IN TOUCH

# Contact Thornybush Community

Get in touch with us to find meaningful ways that you can get involved through:

- Volunteering
- Donating

## Contact our General Manager, Busisiwe Chauke

✉ [busisiwe@thornybush.com](mailto:busisiwe@thornybush.com)

☎ +27 (0)83 5700 379

Scan the QR code to access our giving page and click on “donate now” to donate any amount of your choice, towards our programmes.

[thornybush.com](http://thornybush.com)



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# Thornybush COMMUNITY



## 2025 Impact Report

Community | Social Impact | Sustainability