



# Annual Impact Dashboard

2025



## INTRODUCTION TO THE SINGITA LOWVELD TRUST (SLT)

The Singita Lowveld Trust (SLT), Singita's non-profit partner in South Africa, is committed to conserving Africa's wilderness while fostering meaningful partnerships with neighbouring communities. Guided by Singita's 100-year purpose, SLT supports innovative conservation to maintain healthy ecosystems, contributing to a landscape where wildlife and neighbouring communities flourish together in the Greater Kruger region.

SLT has become a recognised leader in purpose driven initiatives that champion biodiversity, sustainability, and community partnerships , with a well-established 20 year track record in this region. Moving beyond traditional conservation approaches, SLT drives transformative and collaborative projects, inspiring positive social and environmental change.

We invite you to join us in being part of a lasting impact on South Africa's natural and cultural heritage.



The first five years of a child’s life are critical for shaping their future success, with 85% of brain development occurring during this period, alongside physical growth and emotional development milestones.



## Early Childhood Development

To date, the SLT has supported 17 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres across nine villages bordering Singita Sabi Sand and Kruger Park. The SLT ECD Programme supports our ECD partners in providing a safe and stimulating environment for learning and play.

### REACH AND SUPPORT

**6 CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS** amplified impact and supported practitioners across these centres in the Greater Kruger region.

**2,113 CHILDREN** were enrolled across 17 ECD Centres.

**5,550 CHILDREN** have successfully graduated to Grade R since 2018.

### RESOURCES:

- 17 Lenovo M10 tablets were donated to ECD Centres to enhance admin capabilities, virtual connectivity, and practitioner access to educational tools.
- USD 19,000 was invested in outdoor play equipment at 17 ECD centres with new equipment, repairs, and shade installations. Every centre now offers improved outdoor spaces, including swings, jungle gyms, sand pits and shade.
- A Teachers Resource Manual developed by SLT was designed, printed and distributed to all 17 centres — equipping Practitioners and Centre Managers with guidance to use donated resources for play-based child development.

### UNICEF PARENTAL / CAREGIVER TRAINING

**1,520 PARENTS** have been trained in total.

**946 PARENTS** have been trained in 2025.

**547 PARENTS** have been trained in 2024.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

GANYANI DAY CARE CENTRE:

**USD 35,405** spent on building a new double-classroom. It was completed and officially opened in March 2025 (SLT / Wild Impact partnership).

**USD 2,703** worth of educational and play resources delivered, enabling structured learning across four age groups (2-5 years old).

NHLONHLORI DAY CARE CENTRE:

With the support of a loyal Singita guest donor and in partnership with Wild Impact, SLT has committed to fund the construction of a new double classroom at Nhlonhlori.

The construction of the double classroom is making good progress, with opening planned for March 2026.

XALAMUKANI DAY CARE CENTRE:

The building of a double classroom has been completed with additional funding provided by the SLT.



## ECD SPECIALIST TRAINER



MEET FRANK MAKWAKWA

Hands-on training and ongoing onsite support strengthens ECD centres from within. Our trainers work directly in classrooms to mentor practitioners, model effective teaching, and embed play-based, learning aligned with the National Curriculum Framework.



## Early Childhood Development

### MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

Historically, child assessments were complex and required specialists.

Today, we've embraced nationally recognised, outcome-based assessment tools. SLT is partnering with DataDrive 2030. Training 11 local Shangaan / Xitsonga speaking assessors and building regional capacity for data driven assessments and decision-making.

Using the Early Learning Outcome Measure (ELOM), we track progress of children aged 4-5 years old in five key areas:



MOTOR SKILLS (GROSS AND FINE)



NUMERACY



COGNITION & EXECUTIVE FUNCTION



LITERACY & LANGUAGE

This shift enables us to benchmark against national standards, monitor progress consistently, and adapt strategies using real-time insights, ensuring every child is on the path to school reaching their full potential.

### EXPANDING REACH & IMPACT

In 2026, SLT will take on an additional 10 ECD centres. Focus will be on a comprehensive support programme that includes creating stimulating learning environments, resourcing classrooms, and strengthening management systems. Trainers will provide mentorship, practical workshops, and curriculum guidance, while centres receive age-appropriate resources, outdoor play areas, safety and hygiene improvements, and parental engagement initiatives ensuring quality education and holistic child development.

81 APPLICATIONS

were received from ECD centres near Singita after a rigorous selection process.

37 PRACTITIONERS

will be supported.

17 EXISTING CENTRES

will continue receiving SLT support in priority areas identified through the child assessments as areas requiring further improvement.

1,170 CHILDREN

- A key criterion was prioritizing centres attended by children of Singita staff to strengthen community impact.

#### TSHOKWANE BUSH SCHOOL

A holiday school for Kruger Park's field ranger children.

USD 1,500

was donated to support the Education Holiday Programme at Tshokwane Bush School.

USD 5,047

contributed to resources at Tshokwane since 2024.





By equipping emerging entrepreneurs with vital skills and financial resources, the Hustle Economy Programme nurtures resilience within the informal economy, aligning with SLT’s mission to promote sustainable, self-reliant communities.



## Environmental Education

### ECHO4ECD WILD IMPACT PARTNERSHIP

This partnership with Wild Impact, promotes the Wild Hearts Environmental Awareness programme in ECD’s. SLT’s funding of USD 27,000 supported the purchase of all resources used to promote early learning through play and art across the 80 ECD centres supported through this partnership in Mpumalanga.

- Activities include storytelling, planting, eco-brick building, and recycled art, themed around international environmental days like Earth Day and World Water Day.
- The programme builds early environmental awareness while strengthening literacy, numeracy, and motor skills in 4-5-year-olds.

### BRINGING NATURE TO LIFE

#### Lessons in Conservation (LiC)

The LiC programme guides young children through a curated 6-lesson syllabus focused on ecological principles and conservation, creating exciting learning experiences. It fosters a lasting connection between people and wildlife through environmental education.

### OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

- SLT and select lodge staff received an intensive three day LiC training course. This enables them to host and facilitate an engaging six day syllabus.
- The content of this training was tailored to include regional conservation examples and solutions.
- 45 learners and school representatives across three groups completed the Lessons in Conservation (LiC) course, led by SLT Project Manager Morris Ngwenyama.
- The school learners gained foundational knowledge in ecology and conservation.
- Their learning was brought to life with a game drive in the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve, provided by Sabi Sand Pfunenani Trust.
- Learners also participated in lodge explorations, offering firsthand insight into conservation operations and inspiring future career paths in hospitality and environmental stewardship.



“For many this would be a once-a-lifetime experience. For some this would become a chance to get into the life of conservation and to one day walk in the footsteps of many other careers, rangers, lodging staff and conservationists before them.”  
– Morris Ngwenyama

## FACILITATING YOUTH DRIVEN CHANGE

### Job Journey Training

The Job Journey is designed to offer financial literacy, small business and work readiness training and mentoring. Promoting social change through lasting impact by educating, equipping and empowering individuals through positive interactive training workshops.

**13**  
**CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS**  
completed the Job Journey  
Training.

**8**  
**SCCS STUDENTS**  
completed three Job Journey  
modules during induction.

### Good Work Foundation (GWF)

Re-imagining rural education in the era of digital literacy.

**USD 74,260**  
**TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF THE JUSTICIA DIGITAL LEARNING CAMPUS.**

### ENROLMENT FIGURES

**1,057**  
**OPEN LEARNING ACADEMY**  
**FOR THE AGES OF 9-10 YEARS.**

**62**  
**BRIDGING YEAR ACADEMY**  
**FOR THE WORKPLACE.**

### Hustle Economy

Supporting rising local economies through community-led enterprise.

**USD 40,541**

- This funding supports the current group of 70 participants, who are now well underway with the business and financial mentorship and peer support programme.
- Singita guests are able to experience the impact of this programme by visiting a selection of vibrant Hustle-preneurs.
- This experience offers the opportunity to engage with the entrepreneurial spirit thriving in the communities surrounding Singita Sabi Sand and to observe firsthand how innovation, dedication, and resilience are driving positive transformation.





## THE SINGITA PODCAST

Students gain valuable hands-on, practical experience in top-class Singita lodge kitchens, mentored by seasoned chefs and supported by the Chef Skills Developer.



## Singita Community Culinary School

The Singita Community Culinary School (SCCS) offers young people from neighbouring local villages the opportunity to become professional chefs with a full scholarship. This is an intensive year-long culinary course, followed by a six-month work internship. Singita proudly partners with the globally renowned Prue Leith Culinary Institute, a leading academic quality assurance and accreditation provider.

Graduates of the SCCS earn a highly acclaimed, internationally recognised City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Professional Cookery, complemented by WSET Level 1 Wine certification and essential Fire Safety and First Aid qualifications.

### BURSARY AGREEMENTS AND PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

4  
students

SUCCESSFULLY  
COMPLETED THEIR FINAL  
YEAR END EXAMS. THEY  
WILL BEGIN THEIR 6  
MONTHS INTERNSHIPS IN  
JANUARY 2026.

119  
students 

WILL HAVE GRADUATED SINCE THE OPENING OF  
THIS CAMPUS IN 2007. \* THESE 4 STUDENTS WILL  
GRADUATE ON COMPLETION OF THEIR WORK  
INTERNSHIP IN JUNE 2026.

### GUEST PARTICIPATION



Each year, over 100 guests join our cooking classes, meeting the students and making a difference in their lives. This guest activity directly funds scholarships, with enough raised annually to fully sponsor one deserving student.

### HOLISTIC STUDENT SUPPORT

- Psychological services continue to be provided by a local counsellor, covering stress management, accountability, peer pressure, and substance abuse.
- Student accommodation in the Singita Staff Village has been significantly enhanced with fresh paint, and study desks, and comfortable single beds—creating a welcoming living environment for these students.

### SHAPING THE FUTURE: RECRUITMENT FOR THE 2026 COHORT

- 453 applications for the 2026 cohort were received, with 90 candidates shortlisted for entrance exams and interviews.
- 20 finalists underwent a rigorous 21-day working interview in Singita lodge Kitchens—ensuring a deeper, hands-on evaluation of fit and potential.

8 

students

HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE 2026 COHORT, SIX FEMALES AND TWO MALES

### GRADUATE IMPACT STORY



A special impact story from one of our proud SCCS Alumni students, Mavis Ngoben.

In 2007, Mavis embarked on an incredible journey as one of six students selected for the first SCCS intake at Singita Kruger National Park. Mavis notes how she learnt essential skills like teamwork, resilience, and time management. Now Head Chef at Lion Sands Tinga Lodge, leading a team of 22, she credits her training at SCCS for equipping her to overcome challenges, support her family, and build a brighter future.

"I never imagined cooking could be a career. Growing up, I loved my mother's meals and wanted to cook like her, but my dream was to become a doctor. When my parents could not afford university, I thought my future was uncertain. Then came the life-changing opportunity to train at the Singita Community Culinary School."

Her advice to aspiring chefs is simple but powerful: **"Set goals for yourself, stay focused, and never stop learning. Picture your success and remind yourself of your dreams every day. Nothing is too hard for a determined person."**

Thank you to the generosity of Singita guests and donors, the SCCS has achieved tremendous success since opening its doors in 2007.





MAVIC UPDATE:

Mavic, the rhino orphan’s journey from fear to trust highlights the power of patient, compassionate care. Now thriving in his crush, he is preparing to move to an Intensive Protective Zone—marking a hopeful new chapter in his rehabilitation journey.



Mavic Update

In 2025, Singita trackers Vusi Nkosi and Ruel Ngwenya reunited with Mavic at Care For Wild — the rhino they helped rescue in 2022 after his mother was lost to poaching. Seeing him as a thriving 1.2-ton bull was a powerful reminder of resilience and the impact of dedicated conservation.

Being close to rhinos at Care For Wild, feeding them, noticing the intricate details of their tough, thorn-proof lips and learning how much the CFW team teaches each orphan-deepened their appreciation for the extraordinary work being done to give these animals a second chance.

“Seeing Mavic strong and healthy brought tears to our eyes. It reminded us why every step in conservation matters.” — Ruel Ngwenya.

Tracker Academy

Local youth interested in refining their skills in the ancient art of tracking.

USD 40,000

a scholarship costs USD 10,000 per student, offering a year-long in-field training course.

32

TRACKERS

are trained annually.

Finding work as trackers in eco-tourism, wildlife guardians or anti-poaching field rangers.

Sabi Sand K9 Unit



highly skilled dogs

these K9s (canines) are actively deployed, performing diverse duties including patrols, scenting, tracking, suspect apprehension, and detecting firearms and ammunition.

DRONE TRAINING & LICENSING

- USD 5,946 was invested in drone licensing for two team members, supporting environmental and anti-poaching efforts.
- This is a useful technology, supporting early detection and follow up activities, keeping the APU team safe.
- Enabling ongoing wildlife protection and monitoring.
- USD 12,973 has been spent on supporting the use of drones in field, since 2023.
- SLT also supports ongoing drone servicing for the K9 unit.

Surveillance and Early Alerts

USD 60,000

STRENGTHENING WILDLIFE MONITORING.

These donations enabled advanced anti-poaching technology - including AI-powered surveillance and smart monitoring tools - strengthening real-time wildlife protection across Singita Sabi Sand and Kruger National Park with APU teams, Sabi Sand Nature Reserve, and SANParks.

Rhino dehorning

USD 147,000

GUEST EXPERIENCE DONATIONS RECEIVED THROUGH SABI SAND NATURE RESERVE AND KRUGER PARK BY GUEST DEHORNING EXPERIENCES IN 2025.

- USD 498,700 has been raised through our Dehorning Guest Experiences from October 2022 to December 2025.

This dashboard showcases the transformative impact of SLT's initiatives in 2025. This is made possible through the dedication of our teams, partners, and the generosity of our donors.

Together, we continue to protect South Africa's biodiversity and partner with neighbouring communities, ensuring a sustainable future for all.