After planting over 15,000 trees in Cape Town since 2010, The Greenpop Foundation expanded its Urban Greening Programme to include fynbos and other indigenous flora in 2018.

Cape Town is at the centre of the Fynbos Biome which is known for being exceptionally rich in floral biodiversity and exhibiting a high degree of endemism. However, in Cape Town, the biome has become highly fragmented and many unique species – plant and animal alike – are currently critically endangered. Moreover, many communities in Cape Town (particularly those in under-resourced communities) lack safe and beautiful green spaces and do not have access to their associated ecosystem services.

By incorporating fynbos into urban landscapes, we can uphold biodiversity and ecosystem services for the greater urban area while increasing the ecological linkages between natural spaces.

Greenpop’s Fynbos for the Future project was based on a vision of a green urban future where biodiversity is valued, accessible, and protected by an engaged and active citizenry. It was designed in conjunction with the Fynbos Corridor Collaboration, funded by the Table Mountain Fund, which saw Greenpop contributing towards the creation of a city-wide strategy for off-reserve fynbos conservation and restoration in Cape Town.

This project sought to not only reconnect biodiversity corridors but also to reconnect the public, especially youth living in marginalised communities, with their natural heritage. Over 5 years of implementation, Fynbos for the Future saw Greenpop install interactive fynbos learning spaces in 10 under-greened schools and educate thousands of students and community members in the effective management and conservation of fynbos.

Looking back, the project made significant strides towards achieving its objectives. By incorporating fynbos into urban landscapes, the programme contributed towards upholding ecosystem services for the greater Cape Town urban area, increased access to green spaces in under-greened communities, increased ecological linkages between natural spaces, and contributed to the broader effort of biodiversity conservation in Cape Town.
### IMPACT GOAL

Urban green spaces and the benefits thereof are equally distributed in all communities.

### TARGET OUTCOMES (1-3 years)

- **Ecosystem services** provided by urban green space (such as corridors for wildlife) have increased.
- **Nature appreciation and contact with nature** in urban areas have increased.

### INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES (<1 year)

- m² of functional green space in under-greened communities has increased.
- Citizens are more aware of the benefits of urban greening and how to create and care for urban green space.
- Learners are more aware of important local environmental issues and empowered to help solve them.

### ACTIVITIES

- Plant gardens and install complementary infrastructure (like seating) in under-greened communities.
- Run engaging and inclusive planting days with school learners, community members and corporate groups.
- Develop eco-education lesson plans.
# Fynbos for the Future in Numbers

## Logistics, Materials and Reach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Participants</td>
<td>1,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fynbos Garden Area</td>
<td>3,490m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonnage of Landscape Materials</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting Days</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Visits</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants Planted</td>
<td>12,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner Beneficiaries</td>
<td>8,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilometres Traveled</td>
<td>11,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different Species Planted</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fynbos garden designs by ARLA Consulting**
Alicedale Primary School is in Athlone, Cape Town and is a commuter school with learners coming from many different areas in Cape Town. The school was opened by Princess Alice, the wife of the then-governor of the Cape, in July 1940.

The school became part of the Fynbos for the Future programme in 2019 and had its first plant day in November of that year. In total, the school has had 7 plant days, during which we planted more than 1,400 locally indigenous fynbos plants. This garden serves as an outdoor classroom and is a showcase for the critically endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos vegetation type. To help combat the deterioration of this fynbos type, we've also planted several endangered and threatened species in this garden, including the beautiful *Erica verticillata*, which is classified as extinct in the wild!
CYPRESS PRIMARY SCHOOL
ATHLONE, CAPE TOWN

Cypress Primary School is located in Bridgetown, Cape Town. The school opened in July 1966 and has a rich history in sports achievement.

Cypress was included in the Fynbos for the Future programme in 2019 and had its first plant day in that same year. The programme concluded in 2021 after five plant days, during which time we planted close to 1,000 plants from 38 locally indigenous species. The plants in this garden showcase examples of the local Cape Flats Sand Fynbos vegetation type. Apart from providing learners with a mini Kirstenbosch on their doorstep, we also aimed to increase the diversity of plants and, consequently, animals on the school grounds. We hope that this garden will assist learners’ education, especially in the natural sciences, and also provide a colourful backdrop to school activities for many years to come.
Highlands Primary School is in the Woodlands area of Cape Town, 32 kilometres from the City Centre. The school, which opened in 1975, was one of the first schools in the area and is currently attended by approximately 900 learners. The school's principal, Ms Tanya van Graan, has been a phenomenal support and has always given us and the programme her full support.

Highland’s first of seven Fynbos for the Future planting days took place in October 2019, and the programme in its current form came to a close in November 2022. During this period, learners, teachers, sponsors, and volunteers helped to plant close to 1,000 plants from 48 species. These plants are all locally indigenous to this area and belong to the Cape Flats Dune Strandveld vegetation type. We hope that this garden not only provides an outdoor classroom for the learners from the school but also helps conserve the precious natural heritage of the area.
Mountain Road Primary School is located next to the Greenpop Eco-Education Hub in Woodstock, Cape Town. The school opened in 1883 and is currently attended by close to 700 learners.

The school was the pilot site of the Fynbos for the Future programme and one of our flagship schools. Mountain Road’s first planting day took place in October 2018, and the final one in November 2022. The school garden now boasts more than 1,000 locally indigenous plants, a bench, two seating areas, a pergola, big trees and many areas to explore the special Peninsula Shale Renosterveld (PSR) vegetation type. Some examples of the 43 species we planted are *Athanasia crithmifolia*, *Chironia baccifera*, *Salvia aurea*, and *Pelargonium capitatum*. PSR is a critically endangered vegetation type of which only 2km² remains in the world.
Silukhanyo Primary School is located in Asanda Village, Strand. The school opened 15 years ago and has a school population of close to 1,500 learners. Our point of contact at the school is Mr L. Colana, who is a phenomenal educator at Silukhanyo.

Silukhanyo’s first Fynbos for the Future planting day took place in May 2021 and the last one in August 2022. Together we planted more than 650 plants, all belonging to the Cape Flats Sand Fynbos vegetation type. In an effort to help combat biodiversity loss in this very special vegetation type, we planted multiple threatened and endangered species, one of which is classified as extinct in the wild. This list includes *Agathosma glabrata* (endangered), *Cliffortia ericifolia* (endangered), *Serruria foeniculacea* (critically endangered), and *Erica verticillata* (extinct in the wild).
Sinethemba High School is in the Philippi area of Cape Town. The school serves as a safe space for primary school learners who come to the school after they finish their day. The school also has a vegetable garden, which is maintained by community members. The produce from the vegetable garden is used in the school's feeding scheme. The hope is that the fynbos garden will provide a habitat for all manner of pollinators and beneficial creatures, which in turn, will help boost the vegetable garden's production.

Sinethemba's first planting day took place in May 2021 and the garden now boasts more than 700 plants from 19 species, all of which are locally indigenous to one of Cape Town's most threatened fynbos ecotypes: Cape Flats Dune Strandveld.
Strandfontein Primary School opened in July 1978 and is in the Mitchell’s Plain area of Cape Town. The school has an active Eco Club led by the brilliant and enthusiastic Mr Ezra Peters, who is a teacher at the school.

With the help of countless learners, school staff members, sponsors, and volunteers, we planted over 2,000 locally indigenous plants at the school between November 2018 and November 2022. Some of the more special fynbos species we planted here were *Psoralea glauca*, *Muraltia mitior*, and *Aloe ferox*. These plants all form part of the Cape Flats Dune Strandveld vegetation type, which occurs in the area where the school is located.
Trafalgar High School is a public English medium co-educational secondary school in District Six of Cape Town in South Africa. It was the first school for children of colour in Cape Town. Many people at the forefront of the anti-apartheid struggle were either teachers or pupils at this school.

Trafalgar’s first planting day took place in July 2019, and by the final plant day in September 2022, we had planted more than 1,200 locally indigenous plants. Through this programme, we’ve engaged with hundreds of learners from the school and made a great impact on the biodiversity of the site. The school is located within one of the smallest fynbos vegetation types within Cape Town: Peninsula Shale Renosterveld. Most of this vegetation type has been transformed and only 2km² remains.

791 STUDENTS
278 SQM
REGION
PENINSULA SHALE RENOSTERVELD

6 PLANT DAYS
28 SITE VISITS
1,216 PLANTS
VULAMASANGO - OPEN GATES
PHILLIPI, CAPE TOWN

Vulamasango Child and Youth Care Centre is a non-profit Organization situated in Philippi, Cape Town, and has opened its doors to orphaned and vulnerable children from under-resourced areas in Cape Town. Apart from housing, it also offers after-school programmes for children and youth. It is a haven with positive and caring management, who take a holistic approach to ensuring these children lead happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Vulamasango's first planting day took place in March 2021 and the final plant day was in October 2022. The garden now boasts more than 1,000 plants from 43 locally indigenous species. The garden showcases the plants from the Cape Flats Dune Strandveld vegetation type, which occurs in the area. Some of the endangered species planted here include *Agathosma glabrata*, *Lampranthus stenus*, and *Cliffortia ericifolia*.
West Riding Primary School was originally established in Table View in 2008 in temporary prefabricated classrooms. This school started offering only foundation phase classes but then moved to its permanent home in 2009.

West Riding's first planting day took place in November 2019 and, by the final plant day in November 2022, we had planted 1,251 plants from 56 species, including the endangered *Serruria foeniculacea*. This garden is a botanical representation of Cape Flats Sand Fynbos, a critically endangered vegetation type which almost falls entirely within the boundaries of Cape Town. 85% of this vegetation type is transformed due to agriculture and urban sprawl and we hope that this garden helps promote some of the vegetation type’s most vulnerable plant species.
In order to assess the psychosocial impact of Fynbos for the Future, Greenpop surveyed learners over 3 years to determine their love of nature (biophilia) and contact with nature (the frequency at which they participated in nature-based activities such as playing in the garden or watching birds).

We found that learners did report an increased love of nature over the course of the project (the average baseline biophilia score was 82/100 and after 2 years it was 86/100). This finding was also confirmed in qualitative interviews with teachers reporting on learners’ attitudes towards nature.

Although interviews with teachers showed that learners spent a significant amount of time in the Fynbos for the Future gardens, the survey of learners did not show an increase in contact with nature over the course of the project (the average baseline score across the schools was 72/100 and after 2 years this score was 70/100). We assume that this result is due to various factors including the Covid pandemic which limited learners’ time outside at school, the fact that the survey was not given to the same groups of learners year on year, and flaws in the survey design which will be corrected in future projects.
To assess the environmental impact of Fynbos for the Future, Greenpop monitored plant biodiversity and insect abundance in our Fynbos for the Future Gardens as well as the percentage of the garden area covered by indigenous vegetation (as opposed to alien vegetation or bare ground).

We found that plant biodiversity significantly increased in all gardens. On average, the gardens had 9 different plant species during baseline monitoring and 45 plant species during final monitoring. Insect abundance also showed marked increases with the average number of insects found during monitoring increasing from 95 individuals at baseline to 156 individuals at final monitoring. Indigenous vegetation cover also increased from an average of 13% to 87% over the course of the project.
"Seeing ecologically appropriate lowland fynbos species being planted back in schools across the Cape Flats is a dream come true. And even better with Greenpop’s fantastic teachers leading the show!

Your work is so important in inspiring a future generation of environmental custodians. I look forward to seeing all the completed school gardens one day."

CAITLIN VON WITT
BOTANICAL ECOLOGIST
FYNBOS LIFE

"Fynbos for the Future is all about bringing people together through engaging with our magical natural heritage. The schools play a big role in bringing this dream to life, so it is essentially, outdoor classrooms by the schools for the schools, with Greenpop just being the catalyst."

DEON LOUW
URBAN GREENING MANAGER
GREENPOP
“At the plant day we sponsored, I loved that we learnt new things, and I loved being outside in the sunshine. My favourite parts were meeting new people and making a positive impact on the environment.”

ANNE-MARIE WOLFAARDT
QUINTESENCE (SPONSOR)

“Planting Fynbos makes me feel alive. It was amazing, I am very happy about it and I had a good day.”

GRADE 5 LEARNER
STRANDFONTEIN PRIMARY

“An important part of today was learning about the different plant names and chill outside instead of being in the classroom all the time. Being outside and learning things outside makes you like nature more and it makes you feel free. I feel free.”

GRADE 4 LEARNER
MOUNTAIN ROAD PRIMARY
We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the sponsors and supporters who made the Fynbos for the Future project possible.

Firstly, we would like to thank the **Table Mountain Fund** and the many **corporate donors** (listed on the next page) who provided funding for this project. Your belief in our work, willingness to get your hands dirty, and commitment to making a positive impact on the environment have been truly inspiring.

Secondly, we want to show appreciation to our generous in-kind donors: **Just Trees** for sponsoring trees, **Poleyard** for providing all the fencing materials, **ARLA Consulting** for designing the beautiful gardens, **Afrilandscapes** for their incredible landscaping work, **Reliance** for sponsoring compost and mulch, **Krive Trees** and **SANBI** for donating woodchips, **Lasher Tools** for supplying tools, **BOS Tea** for providing the plant day participants with delicious iced teas, and Caitlin von Witt from **Fynbos Life** for all the invaluable advice and feedback you shared - we could not have completed this project without all of your generous contributions and support. We also want to give a special mention and thank you to Ilse Pretorius and the Eco-Club learners from **Elkanah House** for assisting us with our 2022 insect identification and data collection.

Thirdly, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our Greenpop interns, our passionate volunteers (in particular the wonderful **Elizabeth Meinert**), as well as our peers at **Communitree** and **Ingcungcu** who dedicated their time and energy to this project. Additionally, we would like to give a special thanks to Nicole Bergmer who conducted her Master’s research on the psychosocial impacts of Fynbos for the Future and the **UCT Knowledge Co-Op** for making that collaboration possible.

Last but certainly not least, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to the school teachers, principals, and learners who were all phenomenal in their support throughout the project. Your positivity and enthusiasm were crucial and we are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with you all. Thank you for your commitment to sustainability, for helping us inspire a green urban future, and for helping to ensure the survival of fynbos far into the future.
PARTNERS & SPONSORS

TABLE MOUNTAIN FUND

Fynbos for the Future was the recipient of a grant from the Table Mountain Fund - Small Grants Fund.

SITE DONORS

NOTEWORTHY DONORS

The Body Shop  African Moments Travel
Naked Financial Technology  Strategic Risk Solutions SA
Skin Ingredients  Jan van Riebeeck High School
Zulustar / Sneaker LAB  Chloe Ellison
And a huge thank you to the countless individuals who supported this programme through monthly donations and fynbos certificates. Without your help, we would not have been able to make this programme a success.
IN-KIND DONORS

ARLA Consulting Landscape Architects designed all the Fynbos for the Future gardens.

Reliance Compost has supported FFF through the donation of compost and mulch.

Poleyard has supplied the FFF programme with poles, materials and resources.

Just Trees supports the FFF project through the donation of trees.

Krige Trees has supported FFF through the donation of mulch and materials.

Afri Landscape is responsible for all the hard landscaping of the FFF project.

Tiger Wheel and Tyre provided us with used tyres to build the amphitheatres at the schools.

Lasher Tools has supplied the FFF project with tools and equipment.

BOS Tea keeps staff and volunteers hydrated with ice cold cans of BOS Ice Tea.

Fynbos Life provided us with a wealth of critical information on species selection and other fynbos-related matters throughout the programme.

Sustainable.co.za sponsored and installed a multitude of solar equipment at our Eco-Hub.

Mountain Road Primary provides the space for our Eco-Hub, where we propagate and look after all our plants, and where we store our equipment.

Google Grants provided us with free Google Ads to assist with fundraising and raise awareness about the project.
THE GREENPOP FOUNDATION
RECOGNISED AS A GLOBAL LEADER IN ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.

As a UN Decade Restoration Supporting Partner, Greenpop is recognised as a leader in practical ecosystem restoration with considerable impact in terms of hectares restored and people engaged.

As a GLFx Chapter Coordinator, Greenpop fosters environmental action by empowering communities in South Africa with the necessary technology, knowledge, and motivation to connect, share, learn, and act in their landscapes.

ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL & GLOBAL GOALS

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)
11 (Sustainable Cities) and 15 (Life on Land)

WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT ONECAPE 2040
Enterprise Cape and Green Cape goals promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable farming practices.

CITY OF CAPE TOWN CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY (DRAFT)
Goal 2: Proactively reduce heat impacts on the city through urban greening.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
Fynbos is recognised as a significant within the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas

UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
Restoration and building environmental awareness