



# KhoiSan Karoo Upliftment and Conservation

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PC Ferreira

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in collaboration with *PLCnetwork of the Southern Hemisphere*



## Introduction

PC Ferreira is the owner of New Holme Guest Lodge close to Hanover, Northern Cape. The property is a traditional sheep farm turning into a nature-based tourism gem.

PC is the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation on the property with a passion for conservation and people. He lives on the farm with his wife, Marisca, and four daughters.

# Farming turning into conservation

PC developed tourism facilities on the original farm homestead with 4 different accommodation options, which can currently accommodate 27 guests.

PC tries to find a balance between commercial farming and conservation: he is reducing livestock and reintroducing several game species.

From 2020 onwards, the property operates under the umbrella brand of *KhoiSan Karoo Conservancy* and comprises 2 nature reserves: Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve (fully proclaimed) and Hanover Aardvark Nature Reserve (proposed).



## Nature-based and cultural activities



A unique combination of a working farm and Proclaimed Nature Reserve: the 8000 ha property is home to the only population of hippos in the Northern Cape.

PC received the SANParks Kudu Award for this conservation effort.

The 3-day Karoo Experience combines culture by visiting a Khoi rock etching site with early morning birding of over 200 species and other game drives. PC serves dinner at a braai in the plains and guests can enjoy some star gazing on the way back.

At night, he takes visitors on a night drive safari in search of the Karoo Shy 5: aardwolf, armadillo, porcupine, bat-eared fox and black-footed cat, besides many more.



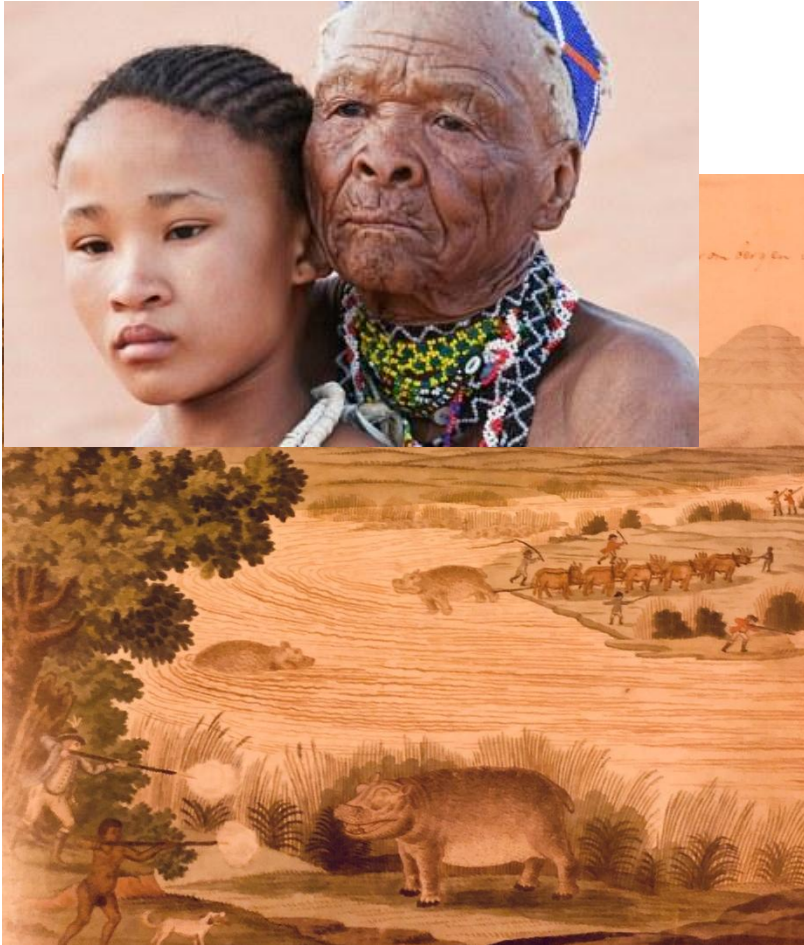
## Nature-based and cultural activities

### ETHNIC WALK

PC offers a 2 km guided walk in the koppies of the area to learn about the early history of the Khoi and San first people and their relationship with nature.

The Anglo-Boer war also left its mark in the Karoo and PC elaborates on the skirmishes and battles that took place in the area a hundred years ago.





## Natural and cultural history

San hunter-gatherers and pastoral KhoeKhoe lived in South Africa long before European settlers arrived – who started farming in the Karoo in the 1700s along the Seekoei River – well known are the records by Robert Jacob Gordon and the Governor Joachim van Plettenberg.

Hippos also thrived in the Seekoei River (Afrikaans for 'Hippo River') but by 1778, the last one was hunted and killed by the Dutch.

While researching the hippo reintroduction potential in 2005, PC found out that on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1775 a group of 26 farmers hunted and shot 166 Khoi along the Seekoei River, robbing them of their heritage.

## Solutions



The cultural inequalities of first people living in harsh poverty in Hanover, while PC is living a positive lifestyle, started weighing heavy on him. Today, he is trying to correct this dark history.

An initial step was to establish a BBBEE company with 3 female farmworkers entering into a game loan with government. Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve hosts this upliftment project and, in partnership with PC, they are among the first and only black buffalo owners in South Africa.





## Solutions

As a second step, in support of the South African government's goal to have 17% of land under formal protection, PC has begun the process of expanding the Khoisan Karoo Conservancy.

The aim is to proclaim the entire Seekoei River basin as a protected landscape scale reserve. This area covers 450 000 ha, populated by 75 landowners.

The vision is to establish a trust and secure 50 000 ha of the new reserve for the first people to utilize, protect and preserve.



## Community upliftment and conservation action

PC wants to re-establish the natural and cultural diversity of the Karoo landscape he lives in and acknowledge and empower the first people. Several innovative ideas took clear shape and in 2020 he decided to register an NPC with PBO status under the name of KhoiSan Karoo Conservancy.

This NPC is leading the implementation of 3 conservation and 3 community upliftment projects.

Over time, exciting people walked into PC's life who are supporting his journey and are becoming part of the team:

- \*Mr Johan Jonk, Dept of Conservation
- \*Prof Doreen Atkinson, KDF
- \*Mrs Mieta Lotriet, Dept of Social Development
- \*Prof Michael De Jongh, Anthropology
- \*Dr Vincent Zishiri, Health
- \*Mr Sarel Roux, Law



## Community upliftment and conservation action

PC is being supported by Dr Julia Baum. They met in 2019 over an inspiring coffee chat and are collaborating on all projects since then.

Dr Julia is heading a unique networking platform and consulting firm with a passion for private land conservation across the global South: the *Private Land Conservation Network of the Southern Hemisphere*.

The KhoiSan Karoo Conservancy is a member of this growing conservation network. Dr Julia, currently residing at the reserve, is taking the role of an independent facilitator, fundraiser and project manager to all tasks.





PC is pursuing the following 3 conservation projects:

- 1) Reintroduction of pangolin.  
Habitat will be assessed for suitability, 2 animals will be released and chipped for long-term monitoring. Overall project cost: R60 000.
- 2) Expansion of existing hippo population.  
Release of 3 young hippo cows. Overall project cost: R150 000.
- 3) Reintroduction of rhino.  
Security measures, tourism conservation model with long-term monitoring.  
Overall project cost: R460 000.

**Conservation action**

1) KAROO SAFE HOUSES  
– WHERE FALLING STARS ARE RESCUED

The *Karoo Safe Houses* and subsequent *Route of Hope* are aimed at providing emergency shelters for community members under distress of crime, gender-based violence and health issues:

- Avoid unnecessary deaths
- Support enforcement through the police and court
- Destitute STD and TB medication
- Advise on drug and alcohol abuse
- Build a DNA/family profile of each rescued person
- Identify each person's interest and skills (hospitality/tourism, agriculture/conservation)

Meetings with the police, church ministers and social workers have been conducted.

The vision is to implement up to 20 houses across the Karoo region.



**Karoo Safe Houses**  
- and Route of Hope -



**Community upliftment**



## 2) KHOISAN KAROO HERITAGE HUB – WHERE RISING STARS ARE CONNECTED

The heritage hub is aimed at bringing the Khoi, San, Anglo and Boer histories together in an accurate illustrative and descriptive space. The exhibition will explain the identities, time scales, geographical dependencies and social complexities of the region. It will incorporate a landscape approach explaining the rich natural capital of the Karoo with showcasing the values for nature-based tourism and conservation.

Without identity community members can not be rescued and uplifted.

- Educate the public about local heritage
- Illustrate last 500 years in a central place
- Provide identity to rescued persons
- Foster self-esteem and pride in first people.



**Community upliftment**

### 3) NEBULA SKILLS TRAINING FACILITY – WHERE STARS ARE BORN

The Nebula Facility is aimed at providing community members with access to skills development.

Interests are identified at the Safe Houses or participants otherwise targeted and referred. The facility and training will be registered with SETA.

- Offer two courses: hospitality/tourism and agriculture/conservation
- Target local youth off the streets, farmworkers and rural women
- Issue certificates on successful course attendance
- Provide advice on work or small business opportunities
- Support realistic future dreams for sustainable livelihoods.



Community Upliftment

## Financial requirements

### 1. Karoo Safe House

Property to be purchased and fully renovated adjacent to Hanover Aardvark Nature reserve.

Total implementation cost: R2 500 000 (purchase, full renovation, security fittings, start-up operations).

Annual operation cost: R500 000.

### 2. Nebula Skills Training Facility

Property already exists at the Hanover Aardvark Nature Reserve.

Total cost for full renovation with garden and stables, course material development: R450 000.

Annual budget: R8 000 per student (accommodation, education, and food per one month course). 10 groups of 10 students per year: R800 000.

### 3. KhoiSan Karoo Heritage Hub

To be built on the koppie at Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.

Total implementation cost including exhibition: R2 000 000.

Self-sustained thereafter.

Please feel free to ask any questions.

Thank you for your attention.

