

Stichting Bergplaas van Lippe-Biesterfeld

Policy Plan 2024-2026

1 General

Stichting Bergplaas van Lippe-Biesterfeld with registration number (RSIN) 857042245 (“the Foundation”) is a Foundation created under the laws of the Netherlands. The Foundation was established by notarial deed on December 19th, 2016, established in South Africa. The legal shell of a foundation has been chosen for purposes of maintaining optimal legal certainty, good and transparent operational management and to safe-guard an independent and non-profit character, whereby the support of projects within the aim of the Foundation is secured. A copy of the articles of association is included in attachment 1.

2 Objectives of the Foundation

The objective of the Foundation is (as a public benefit organisation as referred to in article 5b of the State Taxes Act or a regulation coming in place thereof):

- I. to raise, manage and transfer funds in favour of the Spirit of the Wild activities,
 - a. to present courses to students of South African universities to enhance their training in nature reserve management as field guides and trackers and more particularly to equip them as so called Intuitive Guides in the program known as "Spirit of the Wild" endorsed by the Field Guides Association of South Africa (FGASA); and
 - b. to provide training in the SA College for Tourism Tracker Academy for young people from the disadvantaged communities of the Republic of South Africa aimed at providing the students with formal qualifications as tracker and thereby empowering them and enhancing their employability;
- II. to maintain the Bergplaas nature reserve, located in the Republic of South Africa, and to encourage nature conservation and ecological development in this reserve;
- III. to encourage nature conservation and ecological development in general, and to do all that is connected therewith, all to be interpreted in the broadest sense.
- IV. to encourage Bergplaas nature reserve to exercise her rights of nature - as much as possible and to communicate about this.

The foundation may not make any distributions to its founder or to those participating in its constituent bodies.

The abovementioned objectives serve the general interest.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization and does not have the objective to make profits with its charitable activities.

3 Board

The Board Members are the following persons:

- Elisabeth Fredrika van Galen, Chairperson;
- Justin Alfred Jan Willem Nieuwenhuys, Treasurer;
- Vacancy (April 2024).

Together they are referred to as the "Board" and individually as "Board Members".

A decision can only be taken by a majority of the Board. In case of a vacancy and 2 Board Members a decision can only be taken unanimously.

The Board Members, and thus the Foundation, operates independently from the donors and / or beneficiaries of the Foundation.

The Board Members are not entitled to a remuneration from the Foundation in respect of fulfilling his/her duty as a Board Member, except for a refund of a Board Member's out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred in fulfilling their obligations as a Board Member. These expenses should be reasonable and non-excessive.

4 Fundraising

The funds of the Foundation shall be formed by gifts and donations, subsidies, bequests and legacies.

At the moment, the equity of the Foundation has been formed by an approximately 8%-10% retention of the funds received in order to be able to cover operational expenses. The board will review periodically whether this retention is still appropriate in view of the actual operational expenses and will adjust the percentage / amount withheld accordingly. At the moment it is the intention of the Board to actively recruit additional donors.

The expenses of the Foundation will be in reasonable proportions to the grants made in accordance with the purpose of the Foundation. Until now, no expenses except for out of pocket expenses have been made for fundraising yet.

5 Investment policy

As of the establishment of the Foundation and in line with its long-term objective the Board has committed itself to keep any funds received in a conservative way. Therefore, any funds that are received and not immediately spent on the aforementioned objectives, are kept on an interest bearing bank account at Triodos Bank. If funds are invested, the investments should bear no to low risks. The Board does not expect to keep (substantial) funds as equity.

6 Appropriation of funds

The Foundation has the intention to ultimately spend all gifts received but at least for 90%

- a. to present courses to students of South African universities to enhance their training in nature reserve management as field guides and trackers and more particularly to equip them as so called Intuitive Guides in the program known as "Spirit of the Wild" endorsed by the Field Guides Association of South Africa (FGASA); and

- b. to provide training in the SA College for Tourism Tracker Academy for young people from the disadvantaged communities of the Republic of South Africa aimed at providing the students with formal qualifications as tracker and thereby empowering them and enhancing their employability;
- c. to maintain the Bergplaas nature reserve, located in the Republic of South Africa, and to encourage nature conservation and ecological development in this reserve;
- d. to encourage nature conservation and ecological development in general, and to do all that is connected therewith, all to be interpreted in the broadest sense;
- e. to encourage Bergplaas nature reserve to exercise her rights of nature - as much as possible and to communicate about this.

This financial and investment policy enables the Foundation to create a secure and stable financial position of the Foundation in the coming years. This would eventually enable the Foundation to also make donations in years in which it receives less funds from its donor(s). Furthermore, this policy would enable the Foundation to make larger donations to a project if the situation so requires.]

The donations made by the Foundation may be made in the form of one-time donations or long-term benefits. The Board does not wish to commit the Foundation in advance to a specific form of use. Each Board Member may propose a charity and/or project. The Board will decide by majority of votes on the proposals of the respective Board Members.

The Foundation will not hold more funds than necessary for the continuity of the activities of the Foundation.

7 Activities

At the moment, the activities of the Foundation are raising, managing and transferring funds in favour of the Spirit of the Wild, the conservation of the Bergplaas nature Reserve and the set up and communication regarding the rights of nature for Bergplaas nature reserve.

8 Administrative and financial affairs

All income and expenditures are administrated meticulously by the Treasurer. The administration will show specifically the refunds of expenses to the Board Members, the expenses relating to the (raising of) funds and the management of the affairs of the Foundation and the equity of the Foundation.

Any payments should be approved by two members of the Board. Financial statements are drawn up annually, compiled by "216 Accountants " and are subject to the approval the annual general meeting of the Board. These financial statements are published on the website of the Foundation within six months after the end of the relevant financial year.

A thereto appointed secretary will draw up minutes of every annual general meeting and of ordinary meetings of the Board. In addition, all related documents will be administered meticulously by the secretary.

9 Fiscal affairs

The Foundation will file a request with the Dutch Revenue Service to be qualified as a public welfare institution (“Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling”). The Foundation does not carry on an enterprise. It is therefore not necessary to file corporate income tax returns on a yearly basis.

10 Accountability

The chairperson of the Board shall annually draw up a report describing all carried out projects and related information. The report will be an integral part of the Annual Report. This report will be published on the website of the foundation annually.

11 Envisaged policy from 2024 up until 2026

The foundation contemplates to support the following projects in the above depicted time span:

- Spirit of the Wild activities in South Africa
- Conservation of Bergplaas nature reserve
- Set up and communication around rights of nature for Bergplaas nature reserve

The above list is non-limitative and may be adjusted throughout the mentioned period.

Drawn up in _____ on this _day of _____ and approved by the Board of the Foundation

Ms. Elisabeth Fredrika van Galen

Mr. Justin Alfred Jan Willem Nieuwenhuys