ANNUAL REPORT 2019
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Earthchild Project operates in disadvantaged primary schools in the Western Cape. Working with children and teachers, our educational programmes focus on providing practical skills that compliment the academic curriculum. Earthchild Project aims to inspire a new generation of confident, conscious and responsible young leaders.

**OVERVIEW**

Earthchild Project operates in disadvantaged primary schools in the Western Cape. Working with children and teachers, our educational programmes focus on providing practical skills that compliment the academic curriculum. Earthchild Project aims to inspire a new generation of confident, conscious and responsible young leaders.

**FOCUS AREAS**

- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Leadership training

**LOCATION**

Western Cape
South Africa

**PBO** 930032635

**NPO** 062-936

**FOUNDED**

2007

**BUDGET (2019)**

R3 230 000

**CHILDREN REACHED (2019)**

3500

**TEACHERS REACHED (2019)**

300

**DEMOGRAPHIC**

100% black & coloured
2019 marked our 13th year and it really felt like we entered a new chapter as an organisation, a phase of maturating and becoming deeply grounded in our work. Many of our team members have been with Earthchild Project for over a decade and so not only has the organisation entered this phase, but on an individual level as well, I have seen a greater sense of confidence and conviction emerge.

As a result of this shift, we have seen exciting new developments as our senior team members embrace the role of leaders and mentors to both the children and teachers we work with. Through the positive feedback from our Teacher Training pilot, we are seeing how our impact can be magnified when we empower teachers with tools to use in their classrooms and for their own personal development.

Another example is how through the ongoing mentoring of our Eco Warriors, several incredible young activists have risen to the fore. Through the Climate Strike youth movement, they’ve had an opportunity to reach local and international audiences and we’ve been deeply inspired by their strong voices and commitment to caring for the environment and making a difference in their communities.

I am excited about what will come as we continue to empower the children and teachers we work with. As we become more intentional in nurturing their leadership potential, our reach can truly be amplified. This also shows the value in focusing more on quality over quantity which has continued to influence our decisions around the growth of the organisation. In 2019, we continued to work with our existing 8 schools, and rather than expand, chose to focus on consolidating and improving our programmes and internal systems.

Although our team is relatively small, we exist within an ecosystem of stakeholders who support our work in so many ways. We have really seen how long standing partnerships can add so much value and lead to a variety of exciting initiatives. An example of this is the beautiful new food garden at Levana Primary, whose success is a result of the coming together of the school & community, Urban Harvest, The Real Thing and Earthchild Project. This garden is such a perfect symbol for what can be achieved when we work together. Proving that we truly can CONNECT, CULTIVATE & INSPIRE a new generation of earthchildren.

We remain deeply grateful to everyone who forms part of the Earthchild Project ecosystem - our donors, partner organisations, ambassadors, volunteers, schools, teachers and, of course, our very special earthchildren.

Janna Kretzmar
Earthchild Project Director
Over the last thirteen years, the Earthchild Project has developed and nurtured earth children, instilling mindfulness practices and an awareness of environmental issues. The vision that Janna had when she first conceptualised the project really bore fruit in 2019 as the team and their beneficiaries flourished.

Janna and her team have developed deeply connected and strong relationships with their beneficiaries. ECP is more than an NGO to many of the children that take part in the programme, it has become a way of life, and a coping mechanism for those living in adverse conditions during these trying times.

The yoga classes create a safe and nurturing space for children to reconnect with their bodies and breath and to tune in to their emotions. The living classrooms and hiking clubs allow children to get in touch with the environment and harness the healing power of nature. These programmes coupled with the pure vision of the organisation, have built a resilience in both the team and the children which allowed them to respond so incredibly well to the global pandemic we are currently facing.

At this time in our history, as climate change and global pandemics, become a part of our daily lexicon, where all of us need tools to cope with the anxiety and stress of our world, organisations like the Earthchild Project become even more vitally important.

As we move into the future, the team continues to reflect and strengthen their offering in order to provide high quality, nurturing programmes to support our communities.

The Earthchild board of directors is grateful for the support of our partners, friends, broader community and especially our donors for investing financially and emotionally in the important work we do.

Warmest wishes,

Taryn Casey
Earthchild Project Chairperson
We’re turning existing classrooms into ‘living’ interactive learning environments. Working together with the teachers during class time, we’re bringing our holistic and experiential approach to education into the classroom.

2019 REACH

81 CLASSES RECEIVED WEEKLY LESSONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

3240 LEARNERS

81 TEACHERS
1. LIVING CLASSROOM

YOGA & LIFE-SKILLS

Through interactive processes, yoga postures, relaxation exercises, games and songs, our weekly yoga lessons, are equipping children with practical life-skills and knowledge in how to be healthy, confident and resilient.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES FROM 2019

1. All time favourite lesson themes included the partner poses in the friendship and kindness lessons, and exploring the senses using ocean treasures.

2. Teacher support for the programme has been great this year with teachers being present during classes and requesting lessons and training in how to implement activities with their learners.

3. One Grade 4 boy came to Linci at the end of term saying that he wanted to share with her a decision he had made after their yoga class - “I have decided to become a better person!” So sweet, but so powerful, and such a testament to the work of our facilitators within these schools situated in the heart of South Africa’s ganglands.
“The Living Classroom gives me a different way of seeing things. It gives me enough energy to focus on my studies. I love yoga because it makes me happy. It's a place where I just feel comfortable and relaxed.”
WORM FARMING & GARDENING

Our Earthchild Facilitators set up a worm farm and container garden in each Living Classroom. We then use them as a practical resource to teach bimonthly lessons about the environment in a way that is fun and engaging.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES FROM 2019

In 2019 we edited our manual and made our lessons more hands on and interactive. For example, instead of printing out worksheets on what worms eat, the learners got an opportunity to become ‘worm chefs’ and design a meal using kitchen waste to feed their worms.

At the beginning of each year we have teachers who are squeamish about worms and often their farms don’t survive. In 2019 we had a champion teacher, Ms Dunjani, who took it upon herself to check all the worm farms and motivate teachers to take better care of them. By the end of the year all our worm farms survived!

We often see how the worm farms become a space for children with learning difficulties to thrive. This year, a grade one boy with concentration and behaviour issues really loved the planting lesson and decided to take responsibility to water the container garden for his whole class. His teacher also noted that he concentrates and behaves well during worm farming lessons.
“My kids are always full of light and excitement when it’s time for worm farming. You’ll hear them cheering and screaming. I also learnt so much, I went from being scared of the work to being a worm champion.”
- Ms Dunjani
Our aim is to empower and inspire teachers with the knowledge and tools to extend the reach of our Living Classroom Programme. Through quarterly workshops and monthly yoga classes, we are equipping teachers with facilitation skills and resources they can use with their learners, as well as supporting their own personal development.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES FROM 2019

1. We have been very inspired by how many teachers have reported using our material with their classes. Many now start their day with our Yoga Pledge and often use the games, songs and positive discipline tools.

2. Since we’ve started the quarterly workshops, we’ve noticed a significant increase in the teachers’ presence and participation during our yoga and worm farming lessons.
“I enjoy using ECP materials. I realized I could learn a thing or two from being in class when you guys are teaching and I enjoyed your workshops as well. I love your guys energy”
Our Extra Mural Clubs are held every week after school. They are an opportunity for us to work with smaller groups of mixed aged children.
Through positive, experiential and engaging sessions, our Grade 5 and 6 Eco-Warriors are learning about the role that each of them plays in our environment, as well as practical ways that they can take action within their own communities.

2019 REACH

4 CLUBS
80 CHILDREN
On Mandela Day our Eco Warriors partnered with the Eco Brick Exchange and Adidas SA’s head office to make hundreds of eco bricks. This culminated in a sports day event at Yomelela, where Adidas donated sports equipment and together we built sporting benches for the school using the eco bricks.
2019 saw us reignite our partnership with Urban Harvest and the first vegetable garden was planted at Levana Primary in April. A local community member has been employed to maintain the garden and all produce goes into the school feeding scheme. The Eco Warriors have been using the garden as an outdoor classroom and have helped with each stage from installation and planting, to pest control and harvesting.
A major highlight of the year was our Eco Warriors’ involvement in several local and international climate related events and the media exposure that has come out of it. Throughout the year our Eco Warriors joined local Climate Strikes, as part of supporting the international Climate Strike movement. Inspired by Greta Thunberg, two of our Eco Warriors, Yola and Othembela, have really started to make a name for themselves and were both invited to represent South Africa at local and international conferences taking place in Pretoria and Kenya. Subsequently Yola has been featured in dozens of local and international media items.
“We have a Mother to look after and that is Mother Earth and that is my inspiration to be a voice of change. Being part of Eco Warriors has taught me that my views on the world are valid and that I should continue marching, singing and standing up for our planet and a livable future.”

- YOLA MOGWANA
2. EXTRA MURALS

YOUNG WOMENS CLUB

We create safe spaces for adolescent girls to discover new pathways to personal growth and empowerment. The weekly extra mural sessions include movement practices and themed processes which aim to build positive body image, confidence and resilience.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES FROM 2019

One of our Ambassadors, Tamsin Sheehy from The Shala Yoga School, successfully fundraised to purchase 100 reusable sanitary pad packs from Project Dignity. Our Young Women’s Club facilitators then distributed the packs to our club members and other teenage girls with whom we work, together with an educational workshop.
“I love being in the girls club because it is the safe space where I can be ME without the fear of judgement.”
Through interactive processes, yoga postures, relaxation exercises, games and songs, our weekly yoga lessons, are equipping children with practical life-skills and knowledge in how to be healthy, confident and resilient.

2019 REACH

3 CLUBS
50 CHILDREN

"Yoga cools me, yoga calms me, and makes my body feel good"
Through our Eco Explorer hikes and camps, we aim to inspire Grade 7 learners to connect with and learn about nature, as well as empowering them with life skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication. Ultimately, growing future environmental leaders who become changemakers in their communities.

2019 REACH

3 CLUBS

60 CHILDREN
All attended 10 monthly day hikes and 1 overnight camp
HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES FROM 2019

We saw a significant increase in participation and attendance from the Lavender Hill group. Our first hike was very special because for all of the participants, it was their first time hiking.

We had a committed group of local volunteers joining the hikes who were able to build meaningful connections with the children. During one hike, a volunteer found out that the children had never been to the movies and decided to fundraise to take them to see the Lion King 3D Movie at V&A Numetro.

"I never knew that I can love hiking & nature this much"
During the March school holidays, Grade 3, 4 & 5 earthchildren attend a fun and inspiring five day programme, which is facilitated with the help of our Grade 7 Young Leaders and High School Alumni.

In 2019 we ran 2 Holiday Programmes in both the March and June school holidays.

REACH

KHAYELITSHA - 160 children & 34 Young Leaders.
LAVENDER HILL - 100 children & 23 Young Leaders.
HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES FROM 2019

At Yomelela Primary, we had incredible support from the school and community, with teachers and parents joining each day to volunteer and help out, and some even joined the morning yoga class.

The children were very committed, arriving on time and participating with 100% enthusiasm. Our team was also very impressed with the Young Leaders and Alumni and the responsibility they took in their roles – helping with registration, food preparation, facilitating sessions and time keeping.

In both areas one of the absolute highlights was the final Friday performance. We ended the week with a celebration where the children and young leaders had the opportunity to showcase and present the activities they had done throughout the week.

“I wish the school was like this everyday! I wish we could start our day with yoga every morning.”
This Programme focuses on nurturing the leadership potential of a select group of our primary school graduates throughout their high school years. Through quarterly skills development workshops, an 8-day camp, and helping to organise and run our Holiday Programmes, they experience deep personal transformation and practical opportunities to implement their leadership skills.

In 2019 we ran 4 quarterly workshops and an 8-day residential camp for 27 youth.
It was wonderful to include the Alumni participants in a review of the year and 2020 planning at our final full day workshop. The day ended with a special dinner to celebrate the year’s achievements and honour the three Alumni who were completing their Grade 12.

We were thrilled that we could run the 8 day camp in the 2019 Alumni Programme. This was also the first year that our local team was able to run and facilitate the entire camp without the PYE International facilitators. This was a great achievement and the team did an exceptional job of organizing and running a very successful camp!

The camp staff were inspired to witness the positive transformation that took place in the youth. After returning, one parent shared how her son, who has grown up in Lavender Hill exposed to gangsterism, shootings, harsh language and violence was a changed boy. She had never seen him so happy and calm, and wanted him to be part of all the Earthchild Programmes.

“I love being part of the Alumni because it inspires me to be a better person, not only for myself but also for my family” - SASHA DYASON
On the 2nd March 2019, we held our 4th annual Teachers Wellness Convention, generously sponsored by Truworths. Attended by 180 teachers from various under-resourced communities, the day was filled with 17 wellness workshops and facilitated sessions, as well as massage treatments, mini manicures, a market area, and a healthy lunch. The event aims to empower teachers with the knowledge and tools to better manage their stress and improve their health and overall well-being.

“The yoga and massage was unreal for me. I haven’t done those before. My body has never felt so good. I loved it!”
MEET THE TEAM

NOKUPHIWO
I work in my community, doing what I love to do - Making a difference!

LINCI
I love children, I love education and, more deeply, I love bringing people together, and I get to do all that through the work I do with ECP. Every day with the earthchildren not only uplifts me but inspires me to continue bringing yoga and mindfulness to them. I see how they love it, feel it through their hugs, and experience it through their respectful behaviour. The teachers love what we do and they have embraced us and our work.

ROM
My interaction with all the children we support opens my heart and has made me a more generous, calmer, understanding person. I've learnt more from their resilient and flowing approach to life than I could ever have imagined. Their joy and eagerness to learn and share and explore is a lesson, each and every day, to live in the present and make the most of what you have.

SIKI
My inspiration has been witnessing the transformation in the children before and after doing a yoga class. What drives me is seeing their little faces being happy and smiling during my time with them and knowing that I'm teaching them a great valuable skill that they can use today to transform their lives completely. Also knowing that I have a responsibility in creating a better future generation.

ATHENKOSI
What drives me is the passion and the pure love that I have for children. As well as the fact that Earthchild Project teaches young people to be able to connect with themselves, nature and also to educate them about having a healthy lifestyle.

CARLY
Seeing tangible results from our programmes proves to me that what we do works - growth and development and self love and meaningful goals and connection and confidence in our children. We are making a difference in the lives of thousands of children every day - this is what drives me.

ASEMAHLE
The holistic approach to teach children to become aware beings and leaders that can influence change at the early age drives me every day to make sure that I give them my 100%. I am also inspired by the support of the teachers and how they were always willing to assist and use our lessons and facilitation tools.

JADENE
I have been part of ECP's programmes for 10 years and I've flourished. Now, as an Intern, I have this platform to give back to my community and be an example to the children and this is an absolute honour for me. Giving back what I've been taught is what drives me.
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS @ 31 DECEMBER 2019

### REVENUE

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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### OTHER INCOME

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<tr>
<td>Interest Received</td>
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### EXPENSES

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<td>Advertising &amp; Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
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<td>Bookkeeping Fees</td>
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<td>Compensation Fund</td>
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<td>Computer Expenses</td>
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<td>Consultation Fee</td>
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<td>Courier &amp; Postage</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>General Expenses</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Interest - Penalty</td>
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<td>Office Expenses</td>
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<td>Organisational Development</td>
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<td>Printing &amp; Stationery</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<td>Operational Salaries</td>
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<td>Programme Salaries</td>
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<td>Programme Costs</td>
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<td>Secretarial Fees</td>
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<td>Staff Refreshments</td>
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<td>Telephone - Telkom</td>
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<td>Transport</td>
<td>131,224</td>
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### NET PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE TAX

76,833

*Please note the above reflects a loss due to financial year end changing and income being deferred to new year*
## CAPITAL EMPLOYED

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<td>Retained Income</td>
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<td>Net Profit/Loss This Year</td>
<td>76,833</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>225,097</td>
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## EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL

### Fixed Assets

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### Current Assets

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trade and Other Receivables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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### Current Liabilities

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<tr>
<td>Trade and Other Payables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>225,097</td>
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</table>
DONORS

We are incredibly blessed to have a network of individuals, businesses, foundations and ambassadors who support us. We would like to thank all of our donors for their trust, generosity and for being part of our Earthchild Project family. Our work would not be possible without you!

Major donors of R50 000 and more for the 2019 calendar year include:
Our dedicated team is passionate about inspiring positive change in society!

Join us in creating a new generation of confident, conscious and responsible young leaders!

CONTACT

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JOIN THE EARTHCHILD PROJECT FAMILY