

# Nature Speaks & Responds

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Presented by Gogo Nomsa Sibeko



**NATURE  
SPEAKS**

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Taking responsibility for  
our earth



# Traditional Healers taking responsibility

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As custodians, we have the responsibility to give back to Nature what we have taken



# Who we are

Nature Speaks and responds is a NPC established in April 2022

- We are custodians of indigenous knowledge and one of the primary users of our natural resources for healing our nation
- Conserving our biodiversity and Indigenous knowledge is at the core of the organization's principles
- Concept formulated by Nomsa Sibeko a traditional Healer with 18 years experience thus far
- Backed by three other healers, Sarah Sekhoto, Lebogang Sibeko, Christinah Phiri all with varying experience the least of which is 3 years in the traditional healing space
- Three of the healers are women and youth
- Through our involvement in various recognized national traditional healer organizations, we have the potential to spread conservation awareness to a wide audience within our fraternity nationwide
- We are passionate about biodiversity conservation, sustainable cultivation and restoration



# Vision

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To provide an enabling platform for communication and networking for all stakeholders that are concerned with use of natural resources for spiritual and healing purposes and to encourage Traditional and Spiritual Healers to realise their roles and responsibilities pertaining to the preservation of natural resources and the communities at large.



# The Plan

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- Unearth traditional skills of medicinal herb identification, ancient cultivation by using sustainable harvesting methods thereby bringing Traditional Healers into the economic mainstream
- Create Nature Champions whose focus is healing both the community and the environment, these will be picked from the unemployed youth, women and people with disabilities
- Demystify traditional healing and remove the negative perceptions by cleaning up the natural resources we use and restoring the wild
- Promote an environment of traditional healing for the communities using natural remedies while replenishing nature and protecting the sacred water resources. This we aim to do while working together with western medicine
- Create and facilitate strategic partnerships with all key role players that can advance conservation and traditional healing by forging meaningful pathways that will ensure sustainability for all parties
- To conduct Citizen Science Workshops for aquatic spaces with the aim of traditional healers being citizen scientist to gather data for other healers, scientists and the government for not only aquatic areas but in all aspects of Nature.
- To create 200 medicinal plant nurseries in all local municipalities by utilizing the knowledge of the local healers
- Healers take plants from the wild to heal people so we aim to replenish what is taken so that we restore balance and preserve the plants for future generations
- To clean our sacred spaces and revitalize them while providing a safe and clean environment to continue our practices and possibly turning them into OECM's
- To provide education and training g on conservation, preservation, sustainable harvesting, packaging and commercializing , planting, maintenance and restoration

# Citizen Science Awareness Workshops

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## Working with SANBI and DWS

- Since March 2024 7 workshops have been conducted thus far with 3 more to go this year
- Each workshop had 40 or more healers from that local municipality
- Areas covered thus far are Pretoria Zoo, Daveyton, Nigel, Alexandra, Soweto, Tembisa and Vosloorus. The outstanding areas are Mabopane, Atteridgeville and Mamelodi
- We have reached over 300 Healers and most were aboGobela which means the Spiritual trainers which ensures continuity
- Two Nature Champs are identified and selected at each workshop for further and intense training.
- Their duty is to assist other healers to collect data for the rivers in their local communities..
- To arrange regular river cleanups with their local; healers
- Educate other healers in their local municipalities on conservation and assist in reminding them of their role as custodians of indigenous knowledge systems
- Collect data for other relevant scientific bodies on the status of their rivers
- Report any illegal behaviors in the rivers
- The project will be ongoing as they will constantly be replanting



# What to look forward to: Thriving Earth For All



# THANK YOU!

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