

GREEN AFRICA GROUP

Who we are

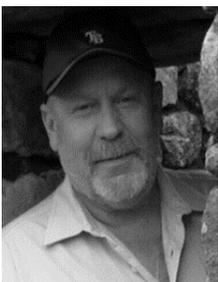
Green Africa Group is a multidisciplinary group of highly skilled environmental, legal and agricultural specialists. Based in Cape Town with offices in Australia and the Middle East, we advise at each stage of a project or business development. We provide bespoke professional consulting services to clients across Africa and the Middle East by creating and project managing teams of specialist consultants from our extensive network of industry leading and accredited experts.

What we do

- Agricultural Consulting
- Biodiversity & Conservation Management Services
- Environmental Management & Tools
- Advanced Environmental Management Software
- UNESCO Site Consulting
- Carbon Offset Solutions
- Climate Change Impact Consulting Services
- Ecotourism & International Ecotours
- Environmental Law
- Environmental Project Management & Control Officers
- International Project Funding Applications
- Green Design & Landscaping
- Renewable Energy Solutions
- Waste Management Solutions
- Water Resources Management Consulting

Our team

The Green Africa Group consists of a core team of associated consultants as well as a large group of international affiliated consultants:



Johan West (Founder) Designer, Environmentalist, Horticulturist, Botanist, UNESCO Consultant, International Project Funding, Business Development & Project Management.



Charl Palm

Agricultural & Farming in Africa Consultant, Environmental Investment Fund Specialist & Business Developer.



Alex Pelsler (Australia) MBA, University of Sydney

Civil Engineering,
Planning, Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Project Management.



Heinrich Marnewick

Hi-Tec Environmental Systems, IT integration, Eco Building, Project Management.



Bertus van Schalkwyk, B. Ing.

Electronic engineering.
Water Solutions, Eco Building & Project Management.



Ben de Villiers

Renowned fruit expert.
Agricultural & Farming in the Middle East Consultant.



Shannon Eyssen

Agricultural audits, GlobalGAP, Tesco's Nature's Choice, HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) & ISO9001



Jacques van Rensburg, M.Sc

Scientist dealing with natural and anthropogenic environmental impacts. Environmental management, conservation, Invasive alien plant control, ecosystem management, sustainability reporting, GRI standards, EIA's and GIS specialist.

Our specialised services

Agricultural Consulting

Agricultural Audits & Quality Management Systems

As a guiding principle, we acknowledge that in Africa it is the human element that is paramount in successful farming and therefore go to great lengths to understand (and become compatible with) the sensitive socio-political balances affecting agricultural projects – this before the first sod of earth is turned.

We plan, implement and manage projects of any size anywhere in Africa incorporating all operational services necessary to achieve a sustainable, efficient agricultural business. Our services include:

- Review and advice on farming operation strategies to achieve competitive advantages and improve profitability
- Advice on ways to access new markets
- Farm valuations, taking into consideration any invasive species – see further below, as well as calculation of the value of any losses
- Management skills short courses and basic personnel training
- Alien Invasive Species Control – see further below
- WWF Conservation Champion applications – see further below

We also design, implement and manage the necessary systems to comply with quality standards. Some of the better-known systems that we can design and assist with implementation within the farming practice are:

- ISO9001:2000 – Quality Management Systems
- HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points)
- GlobalGAP
- Tesco's Nature's Choice
- Marks & Spencer Field to Fork

Gaining acceptance as a quality producer or exporter into one or another quality assurance scheme has some important operational implications. As all export producers know, a small technical misjudgment on the farm can turn into an enormous and irretrievable problem on arrival at foreign markets, resulting in a rejection of the product and extreme consequential losses – both financially and in terms of market credibility. Therefore, beyond monitoring product flow at the so-called 'critical control points', it is important to understand and manage the impact on quality of some of the operational decisions, including pre-harvest irrigation, harvesting and cooling time, post-harvest handling and cool chain.

We help growers to design and implement effective quality-focused control methods to avoid disaster. Scientific protocols and development projects are designed according to the clients' specific need in accordance with the relevant regulatory requirements. We also undertake:

- Agricultural product development (fungicides, insecticides, nematicides, post-harvest treatments, herbicides, adjuvants, defoliant, fertilizers, foliar feeds and plant growth regulators), including efficacy and field stability trials in South Africa on fruit, vegetables, wheat, barley, maize, sorghum, sugarcane, sunflowers, tobacco, ornamentals, berries, turf, forestry, coffee, cotton and crops under protection.
- Project management and preparation of registration documents.

- Product label design, marketing research and technical support.
- Laboratory screening trials and field testing for potential efficacy of applicable products or ingredients against target pathogens and pests, phytotoxicity and residue trials.
- Disease clinics for agricultural and recreational clients.
- Complex disease and pest diagnosis, research and control.

Biodiversity & Conservation Management Services

Alien Vegetation Management and Invasive Species Control

Botanical Consulting & Surveys

Water Catchment Management

Invasive species are controlled by the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) and the Alien and Invasive Species (AIS) Regulations which became law on 1 October 2014. The AIS Regulations list 4 different categories of invasive species that must be managed, controlled or eradicated from areas where they may cause harm to the environment, or that are prohibited to be brought into South Africa. Category 1a and 1b plants are to be controlled, to keep category 2 plants one needs a permit and category 3 plants are exempted, but certain conditions apply such as trade.

NEMBA also requires every landowner to exercise a “Duty of Care” by amongst others, notifying the Department of Environmental Affairs, Biosecurity Compliance of invasive species on their properties. A property that contains invasive species is also liability to a buyer. The AIS Regulations state that the seller of any immovable property must, prior to the relevant sale agreement, notify the purchaser of the property in writing of the presence of listed invasive species on that property. Non-compliance is very serious, and convictions may result in jail time and fines amounting to millions.

The Green Africa Group can assist you with:

- Identifying and GIS mapping of invasive species;
- Drafting and implementation of Invasive Species Control Plans; and
- Removal of invasive species, as well as applications for permits to keep or trade in listed invasive species.

WWF Conservation Champions

Conservation Champions that are recognised by WWF as environmental leaders in South Africa’s wine industry, have received international recognition as leaders of the global wine sector in demonstrating the balance between nature and farming. Achievement of this status is a key marketing tool for market differentiation. Those who have attained WWF’s Conservation Champion status (previously known as the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative) are able to use the logo of the sugarbird on the protea on their wine bottles which acknowledges these producers as environmental industry leaders.

We can provide you with advisory support as well as practical implementation in respect of the environmental management tools that are required to achieve and maintain your status as a WWF Conservation Champ.

Biodiversity Offsets

Bushfire Management & Post-fire Response

Game Reserve Management

Environmental Management

Environmental Advice & Project Management

- Strategic environmental management advice for all stages of a project life-cycle
- Compliance advice/auditing in terms of environmental best practice
- Internal, external & peer review of environmental assessments and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes
- Environmental awareness training
- Siting assessments based on environmental criteria and project feasibility reporting
- Appraisal, review and evaluation of environmental aspects of projects (as transaction advisor)
- Integration of environmental studies and processes into larger engineering-based projects

Environmental Impact Assessment & Planning to Ensure Compliance

- Assessment & management of environmental risk
- Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) including Basic Assessments in terms of the EIA Regulations and Environmental Management Programme development
- Applications for Environmental Authorisations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Water Use licenses in terms of the National Water Act and various other licenses and approvals.
- Assessments for linear & nodal developments
- Environmental feasibility reporting
- Environmental site/control officer (ECO) services to audit compliance with EMPs, Environmental Authorisations and other approvals
- Environmental policy, strategy & guideline development
- Integrated waste management planning

Environmental Management Tools

GIS Solutions and mapping

Advanced Environmental Management Software & Modelling

Drone Services

- Aerial Photography & Video
- Aerial Thermographic Imaging, Surveying & Mapping
- Aerial Inspection, Surveillance & Monitoring
- Assets, Plant & Site Inspections & Surveys
- Aerial Photogrammetry
- Disaster Site Monitoring & Mapping
- Archaeological Site Mapping
- Tidal Zone Mapping
- Forestry (Tree Growth Monitoring)
- Agriculture (Crop Monitoring & Management)
- Vegetation Identification (Weed monitoring)
- Forestry (Tree Illness Monitoring and plantation surveying)

UNESCO Site Consulting

Biosphere Reserves

The UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) originated in 1968 at the Biosphere Conference in Paris, France. The MAB Program promotes the establishment of biosphere reserves throughout all biogeographical regions of the world. Nominated by national governments, biosphere reserves remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located, and their status is internationally recognized. There are currently 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries, including 16 transboundary sites.

The Green Africa Group has extensive knowledge on biospheres all over the world, as well as the process of registering a new biosphere. We will gladly assist in all the related aspects such as:

- Drafting of Strategic Framework Plans
- Drafting of Management Plans
- All GIS work, research, government visits etc.
- Finalising of UNESCO applications and site visits.

World Heritage Sites

Global GeoParks

RAMSAR Sites

Carbon Offset Solutions

Carbon Footprinting

A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product. A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). The carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) allows the different greenhouse gases to be compared on a like-for-like basis relative to one unit of CO₂. CO₂e is calculated by multiplying the emissions of each of the six greenhouse gases by its 100-year global warming potential (GWP).

A carbon footprint considers all six of the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases: Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

The main types of carbon footprint for organisations are:

- Organisational carbon footprint – Emissions from all the activities across an organisation, including buildings' energy use, industrial processes and company vehicles.
- Value chain carbon footprint – Includes emissions which are outside an organisation's own operations (also known as Scope 3 emissions). This represents emissions from both suppliers and consumers, including all use and end of life emissions.
- Product carbon footprint – Emissions over the whole life of a product or service, from the extraction of raw materials and manufacturing right through to its use and final reuse, recycling or disposal.

Our carbon footprinting overview guide explains what is included in organisational and product footprints, how you can measure and communicate them, and the benefits of doing so. We also set out the specific steps you need to take to calculate your carbon footprint(s) and some of the key things to consider if you do. Find out if your company is Carbon Neutral or not.

Carbon Tax Advice

Carbon Sequestration Projects

Climate Change Impact Consulting Services

The impact of climate change on existing and proposed developments could be considerable and therefore assessments of the possible effects and the inclusion of adaptation and mitigation strategies are increasingly important aspects of development proposals.

We are constantly researching new avenues to strategically identify the most significant economic opportunities and threats that climate change presents to local economies, including how threats and opportunities might vary geographically, taking different local government circumstances into account. Industries, agriculture and local authorities are in a key position to make a substantial difference in advocating low-carbon lifestyles and tackling climate change through their pivotal role with the public, private and voluntary sectors. They can also promote and implement actions through sustainable procurement, investment in infrastructure and buildings, waste management, renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable development and promoting walking, cycling and public transport.

Contact us to find out how your business can benefit from our specialized advice on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Environmental Finance & Investment Mechanisms

Ecotourism

International Ecotours

- 2020 - International Ecotourism Tour: Machu Picchu, Peru
- 2021 - International Ecotourism Tour: Amazon

Please contact us on info@greenafricagroup.com if you are interested in joining these tours and would like further information.

Ecological Consulting & Footprinting

As more regions and countries develop their tourism industry, it produces significant impacts on natural resources, consumption patterns, pollution and social systems. The need for sustainable/responsible planning and management is imperative for the industry to survive as a whole. Our services include:

- Hiking Trail Audits
- Tourism Accreditation and Certification
- Ecotourism Certification and Carbon Offsetting

Environmental Law

- Legal analysis, research and advice on environmental, heritage and land use planning law
- Environmental litigation support
- Environmental legal compliance assessment and assistance - assessing and advising clients on achieving compliance with environmental legislation including applications in terms of section 24G of the National Environmental Management Act.

- Conducting environmental legal reviews and due diligence on environmental impact assessment processes and Environmental Management Programmes
- Legislative drafting - working with regulators to develop appropriate and plain language environmental legislation
- Development of environmental policies and strategies

Environmental Project Management

Environmental Control Officers/Project Managers

Provision of Environmental Control Officers/Project Managers to:

- Monitor, manage and reduce environmental risks and impacts of developments, film shoots, invasive alien vegetation clearing
- Ensure compliance with environmental approvals and reporting thereon
- Assistance with creating and managing onsite nurseries for plant rehabilitation

International Project Funding

- Applications for international funding for large-scale projects

Community Projects

Environmental Education & Training

Green Design

City Roof & Vertical Gardens Designs

Green Building Design & Décor

Buildings will fundamentally transform over the next fifty years due to developments ranging from jet-powered maintenance robots to high-rise farms and photovoltaic paint, all of which are already in development. We envision a movement towards living buildings that respond and adapt to the conditions around them. “The urban building of the future fosters this innate quality, essentially functioning as a living organism in its own right – reacting to the local environment and engaging with the users within”. The world’s first algae-powered building recently opened in Hamburg. Dubbed “the BIQ House”, the project features a bio-adaptive algae facade and it will serve as a testing bed for sustainable energy production in urban areas and self-sufficient living buildings. The BIQ House is the first major step towards that vision.

The facade of the BIQ House is designed so that algae in the bio-reactor facades grows faster in bright sunlight to provide more internal shading. The ‘bio-reactors’ not only produce biomass that can subsequently be harvested, but they also capture solar thermal heat – and both energy sources can be used to power the building. This means that photosynthesis is driving a dynamic response to the amount of solar shading required, while the micro-algae growing in the glass louvres provide a clean source of renewable energy.

From the extreme to the sublime – from living hi-tech buildings to electricity saving luminous paints that light up your home at night – whatever your needs may be, we can assist you. Homes, hotels, offices, government, hospitals, architects and designers can all benefit from our expertise in this field.

Land Rehabilitation & Re-vegetation

Landscape Design & Implementation

Renewable Energy Solutions

With the costs of solar powered renewable energy coming down and attractive incentives in many countries, solar provides great opportunities for developers, investors and consumers. We assist solar project developers and investors over the entire lifecycle by providing advice on regulatory frameworks, revenue forecasts, site potential, pricing and project due diligence. We also facilitate processes for wind farm applications and stakeholder liaison. Prospective investors, contractors and landowners can make use of our extensive environmental services to facilitate and construct wind generators.

In addition, we specialise in low emissions biomass steam and syngas generator technology to cater for your green electricity needs. Please contact us for detailed construction proposals.

Waste Management Solutions

Strategic Waste & Recycling Solutions

Water Management Consulting

Water Stewardship

Water Resource Management

Catchment Management Plans

Water Quality Management Services

Water Purification Projects

Riparian Management Services

River Rehabilitation & Management Plans

Desalination Projects

Environmental responsibility

The Green Africa Group practices the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle. We only print documents where necessary, and recycle any paper, glass, aluminum, plastic and electronic waste that our office produces. We also carpool wherever possible. We hope to expand our green office project soon.

Our contact details

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We support the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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