



# KruShan Foundation Sustainability Policy

## KruShan Foundation Vision Statement

We value nature for its intrinsic worth rather than the human-centered approach that values nature as something humans can exploit. The human-centered approach to nature diminishes all other forms of life and has, over time, imperiled all life on our shared planet, including human life.

We view ourselves as part of a larger web of life rather than separate from it. As individuals, we must recognize that every action we take impacts the environment. Every living thing has an inherent right to exist and thrive.

When ecosystems collapse, all lives, including human lives, are jeopardized. Let us strive towards creating a world where humans cherish nature's worth and safeguard nature through conscious choices and sustainable practices.

## KruShan Foundation Mission Statement

We protect endangered African penguins by partnering with organizations in South Africa to provide medical care and rehabilitation, chick rearing and release, disaster response (oiled birds), education, and awareness to protect them from becoming functionally extinct in the wild by 2035 because they are an iconic and special species found only in South Africa and parts of Namibia. Our frequent visits to our partners and African penguin colonies keep us at the forefront of African penguin conservation efforts.

African penguins serve as marine sentinels; their endangered condition warns us of the state of their marine ecosystem, much like a canary in a coal mine, and they are telling us that the oceans, and therefore humans, are in trouble. If we can save one species, we will leave the world brighter for future generations.



Our work contributes to and is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life Below Water.

## Objectives

Our commitment to protecting the endangered African penguins includes environmental, social, economic, and governance responsibilities including transparency, accountability, internal controls, equity, and justice. To be innovative and demonstrate leadership on important issues to those we serve.

We commit to the following:

- Minimize waste, water, energy, land use, and air quality environmental impacts.
  - We work remotely and commit to lowering our carbon impact as much as possible. We collect rainwater, use energy-efficient electric appliances and workstations, reuse, repair, and recycle, own one compact car that gets 33 mpg city/40 mpg highway (until we can afford an electric vehicle), and reject consumerism.
  - We have banking relationships with institutions that do not do business with the fossil fuel industry.
  - Land acknowledgment and certifications: Our home and workplace are situated on the land of the Jumano Nation people. Our 4.5-acre forested property in Wimberley, Texas, is a National Wildlife Foundation Certified Wildlife Habitat (#171510), a Xerces Society Pollinator Habitat, a MonarchWatch Monarch Waystation (#10692), a North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Certified Monarch Garden (#2223) and is recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)-Texas Chapter as Nature, Neighbor, and Night-Skies Friendly
  - Given the nature of our work, we must fly to Sub-Saharan Africa. We directly plant trees to offset air travel GHG emissions rather than purchasing carbon offsets.
  - We hold 90% of our meetings online.
- Give back to communities by volunteering and donating resources.
  - We are members of the Texas Master Naturalists (Hays County chapter), where we volunteer for environmental projects, donate personally to Sub-Saharan Africa wildlife organizations, and participate in The Climate Reality Project as Al Gore-trained Climate Reality Leaders.
- Ensure our supply chain has responsible social and environmental practices to the extent possible.
- Call for transparency in our financial reporting, board governance, funding sources, and grantor/grantee relationships.
- Embracing diverse communities and the unique voices they support. We can't solve complex problems with only the voices of a few.
- Practice [trust-based philanthropy](#), which demonstrates equity in an unequal dynamic between grantor and grantee. We look for organizations that aren't on the more prominent donors' radar and center on those who have been historically least well served (funding those furthest from opportunity first).

We acknowledge we have limited influence over third parties whose events we may attend but do not organize, such as trade shows, conferences, and other gatherings. While we cannot control the decisions of these parties, we commit to sharing our policy and encouraging them to align their operating practices with sustainability goals.

## Reporting

We report our progress on our sustainability goals and financials at our annual board meeting and by publishing an annual report that we post to our website and on social media.