Phase 1

South African Palm Academy – Detailed Budget Proposal (2026/28)

Total Required: $50,000 (*$25 000 requested form IPS*)

1. Property Acquisition & Renovation (40% of Total Budget: $20,000)

This allocation covers the initial purchase of the 60-year-old property and immediate, critical upgrades to ensure the facility is safe and functional.

Property Acquisition: $15,000

Essential Repairs & Upgrades: $5,000

This includes initial structural repairs, roof and plumbing fixes, and basic electrical work to bring the buildings to a usable state.

2. Research & Development (60% of Total Budget: $30,000)

This portion of the budget is dedicated to building the foundation's digital presence and establishing its academic and research framework.

Website & Platform Development:

Development and launch of www.palmfoundation.africa

and www.palmfoundation.co.za.

Creation of online resources, course materials, and a digital library.

Academic & Research Program Development:

Conducting research to identify and partner with universities and colleges across Africa that would be interested in the services offered by the academy in Koingnaas.

Curriculum development for the palm academy.

Initial research into palm species and cultivation techniques.

Research & Development Budget Breakdown (Total: $30,000)

This budget is allocated to establish the academy's digital infrastructure, build its academic framework, and initiate key research projects.

1. Digital Infrastructure & Platform Development ($12,000)

This covers the design, development, and maintenance of the foundation's online presence.

- **Website Development (www.palmfoundation.africa & www.palmfoundation.co.za): $7,000**
    - Includes professional design, content management system (CMS) setup, and development for both domains.
    - Ensures the sites are mobile-responsive and user-friendly.
- **Online Learning & Resource Portal: $3,500**
    - Development of a portal for hosting course materials, a digital library, and research publications.
    - Integration of basic e-learning functionalities.
- **Hosting, Maintenance, and SEO: $1,500**
    - Covers the first year of web hosting, domain registration, security (SSL certificates), and initial Search Engine Optimization (SEO) to improve online visibility.

2. Academic Program & Partnership Development ($10,000)

This focuses on building the curriculum and forging strategic alliances with other institutions.

- **Market Research & University Outreach: $5,000**
    - Funding for a comprehensive study to identify and engage with universities, colleges, and botanical institutions across Africa.
    - Includes travel and communication costs for partnership meetings.
- **Curriculum & Courseware Design: $4,000**
    - Allocated for subject matter experts and instructional designers to develop the initial curriculum, course outlines, and teaching materials.
- **Accreditation & Certification Fees: $1,000**
    - Budget for initial applications and consultations required for getting the academy's courses accredited.

3. Foundational Research Projects ($8,000)

This allocation is for the initial scientific and horticultural research that will form the core of the academy's work.

- **Initial Research Lab & Nursery Setup: $4,500**

- Purchase of specialized equipment beyond the basic setup, such as soil testing kits, germination trays, and climate monitoring tools.

- **Horticultural Research Grant: $2,500**

  - A small grant to fund the first research project, such as a study on indigenous palm species or sustainable cultivation practices.

- **Data Collection & Publication: $1,000**

  - Costs associated with documenting research findings, data analysis software, and preparing initial findings for online publication.