

Annual Report 2017



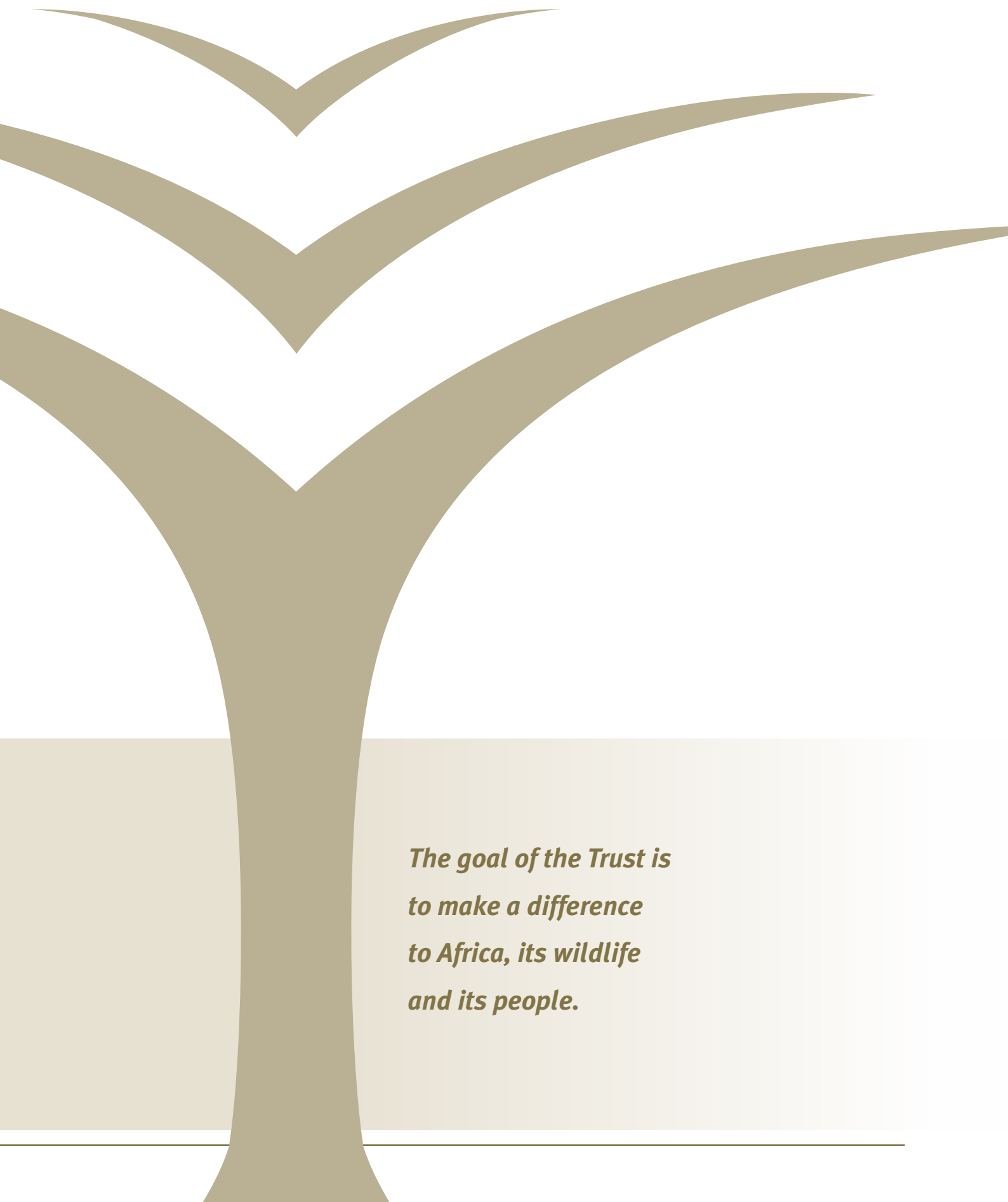


Contents

Wilderness Wildlife Trust	1	Children in the Wilderness	65
ABOUT THE TRUST	3	FROM THE DIRECTORS	67
FROM THE TRUSTEES	4	HOW CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS WORKS	69
TRUST PROJECT LOCATIONS 2016	5	CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS NUMBERS	71
TRUST PROJECT FUNDS	6	CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS TEAM	71
RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION	13	COUNTRY REPORTS	73
Botswana Cattle Predation Study.....	15	Botswana	75
Botswana Leopard Scent and Spatial Study.....	17	Botswana – Limpopo Valley.....	81
Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project	19	Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area	83
Botswana Wildlife Research – Expanding Capacity.....	21	Malawi.....	87
Botswana Zebra Migration Project	23	Namibia.....	95
Hwange Elephant Movements Study.....	25	South Africa	99
Kafue Large Carnivore Conservation Project	27	Zambia.....	105
Makgadikgadi Human-Elephant Study.....	29	Zimbabwe.....	111
Namibia Desert-Dwelling Giraffe Study.....	31	MAKING A DIFFERENCE	119
Namibia Desert Lion Conservation	33	How you can help.....	121
Okavango Tsessebe Project.....	35		
Zambia Avian Frugivore Project.....	37		
ANTI-POACHING AND MANAGEMENT	39		
Malawi Mobile Response Unit.....	41		
Save the Rhino Trust: Tracker Support	43		
Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit.....	45		
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION	47		
Children in the Wilderness Projects	49		
Simonga Village Support.....	51		
Education Bursaries	53		
Completed Projects.....	57		
MAKING A DIFFERENCE	59		
Donations and Donors.....	61		
Acknowledgements and Donors.....	63		



The Wilderness Wildlife Trust supports a wide variety of conservation projects in Africa within the categories of wildlife management, research and education. These projects address the needs of existing wildlife populations, seek solutions to save endangered species and provide education and training for local people and their communities.



*The goal of the Trust is
to make a difference
to Africa, its wildlife
and its people.*

ABOUT THE TRUST

About



The Wilderness Wildlife Trust, an independent entity within the Wilderness Safaris Group, was formed in the late 1980s when it was understood that Wilderness Safaris could only do so much for conservation in the course of its day-to-day activities and needed a dedicated vehicle to take matters further. More funds and a greater reach were needed in order for overall conservation activities to be more effective. Accordingly, it was decided that an independent entity that facilitated fundraising and the disbursement of the monies to deserving projects would mean that, both directly and indirectly, Wilderness could assist more people, wildlife and places.

The relationship between Wilderness Safaris and the Trust is therefore symbiotic. In many projects supported financially by the Trust, Wilderness is able to contribute through logistics and in-kind support (e.g. equipment; manpower; fuel; vehicle servicing; access; accommodation) to ensure the enhanced viability of the work. On the other hand, the fact that the Trust is independent also means that it is able to engage with projects beyond the geographic scope of Wilderness Safaris' camps and concessions and ensure that conservation is the driving force.

The Trust focuses its work in three key areas:

- i) Research and conservation
- ii) Anti-poaching and management
- iii) Community empowerment and education

Research and Conservation: These include ecological studies of specific species, transboundary movements, migration corridors and human-animal conflicts, interactions between species, and climate change. Such studies are not science for the sake of science, but rather help pave the way for better informed conservation management decisions and thus the sustainability of Africa's wildlife and wilderness areas.

Anti-poaching and Management: Hands-on management contributes to the survival of both individual species and their endangered habitats. The Trust supports a number of anti-poaching entities and assists in further management initiatives, such as aerial surveys.

Community Empowerment and Education: Conservation of animals and plants is only as strong as the people who live in their vicinity. Without the engagement and involvement of such people, conservation is likely to exist only on paper. Therefore, educational and financial empowerment of local communities is the bedrock of the Trust, providing much-needed skills and knowledge to these communities.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

From

The past year was, once again very successful and exciting for the Trust. We continued to focus our efforts on the three main areas of wildlife research, anti-poaching and management, and community empowerment and education.

Over the past year, the publicity regarding the decline of black and white rhino numbers has continued, as the poaching of these animals carries on unabated, particularly in South Africa. Our approach of creating a viable gene pool in Botswana for both species therefore remains extremely important; the Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project thus maintained its momentum throughout 2016. While no translocations took place during the year, we're thrilled to report that the black rhino population has grown with the birth of a number of calves and that both black and white rhino populations are thriving in the Delta. We continue to support the ongoing research and wellbeing of these iconic and endangered mega-herbivores.

Our focus, of course, extends beyond the iconic to other threatened species in all regions; we support those who are trying to learn as much as possible about them, as well as finding further methods of ensuring that these species survive.

Several of the projects we have funded on a regular basis over the years continue to yield outstanding results, including our ongoing support of Save the Rhino Trust in Namibia, and the Victoria Falls and Hwange Scorpion Anti-Poaching Units in Zimbabwe.

Our sustained support of Children in the Wilderness has enabled them to expand their programmes across all the regions of southern Africa.

A number of years ago, we began to support students through the awarding of educational bursaries. This has been incredibly successful with a number of long-term students achieving their PhD and Master's degrees.

We would like to thank our new partners, Empowers Africa in the USA, who generously administer and receive funds through their 501c organisation. More especially we would like to once again thank all our incredible donors who have been extremely generous in their support for the work we are doing in the Wilderness Trust. Without your donations we would not be able to do as many projects on a yearly basis.

We would also like to thank Wilderness Safaris for its continued support, including members of the Marketing Team, who have tirelessly assisted in many ways such as the production of this report. Thanks also go to the many helpers who volunteer their time to the Trust: Chris Roche, Ilana Stein, Richard van der Wel and Mari dos Santos as well as to the continued support from Deloitte and Touche our auditors, legal work from Fasken Martineau and Savage and Jooste, plus our new printers Law Printing who have generously donated the printing of the report.

Finally, we would like to thank Jennifer Lalley for her contributions and commitment as a Trustee for the past ten years. Jennifer has resigned as a Trustee to pursue other interests and so we wish her lots of success in her new venture.

At the same time we have appointed Dr John Ledger as our new Trustee and look forward to the Trust benefiting from his immense knowledge and expertise.

The Trustees

Russel Friedman, Andrew Leontsinis & Dr Jennifer Lalley

Russel Friedman – Wilderness Safaris

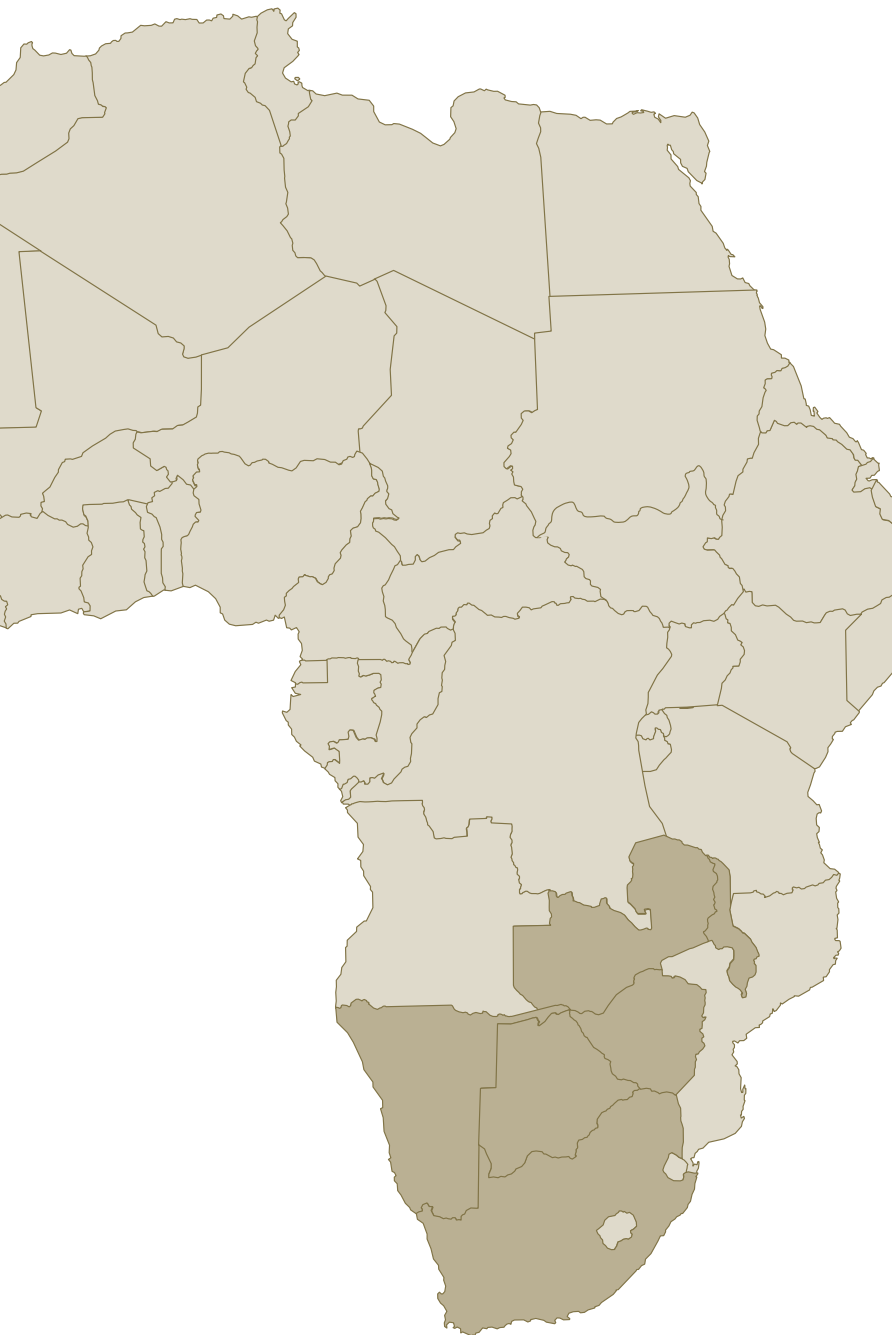
Andrew Leontsinis – Independent Expert

Jennifer Lalley – Independent Conservation Expert

TRUST PROJECT LOCATIONS 2016

Locations

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust provided funding for 20 projects during 2016 across six African countries.



Botswana

- Botswana Cattle Predation Study
- Botswana Leopard Scent and Spatial Study
- Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project
- Botswana Wildlife Research – Expanding Capacity
- Botswana Zebra Migration Project
- Children in the Wilderness and related programmes
- Makgadikgadi Human-Elephant Study
- Okavango Tsessebe Project



Namibia

- Children in the Wilderness and related programmes
- Namibia Desert-Dwelling Giraffe Study
- Namibia Desert Lion Conservation
- Save the Rhino Trust: Tracker Support



Malawi

- Children in the Wilderness and related programmes
- Malawi Mobile Response Unit



South Africa

- Children in the Wilderness and related programmes
- Education Bursaries



Zambia

- Children in the Wilderness and related programmes
- Education Bursaries
- Kafue Large Carnivore Conservation Project
- Simonga Village Support
- Zambia Avian Frugivore Project



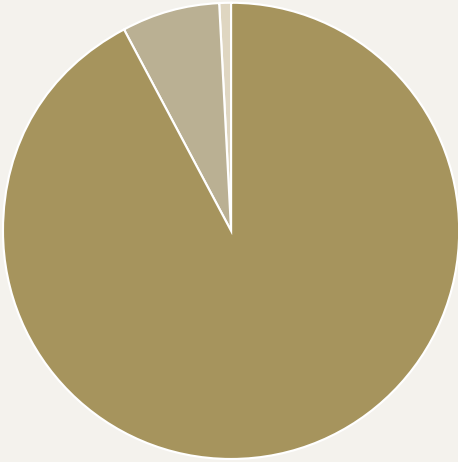
Zimbabwe

- Children in the Wilderness and related programmes
- Hwange Elephant Movements Study
- Hwange Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit
- Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit
- Zimbabwe Parks Game Water and Anti-Poaching Project



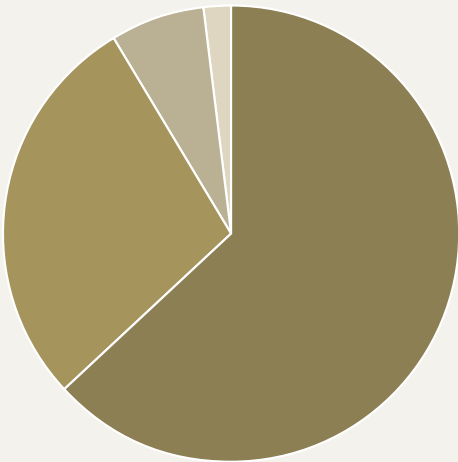
TRUST PROJECT FUNDS

Source of Funds



Wilderness Safaris guests & trade partners	92,42
Wilderness Safaris	6,96
WildlifeCampus royalties	0,62

Disbursed Funds



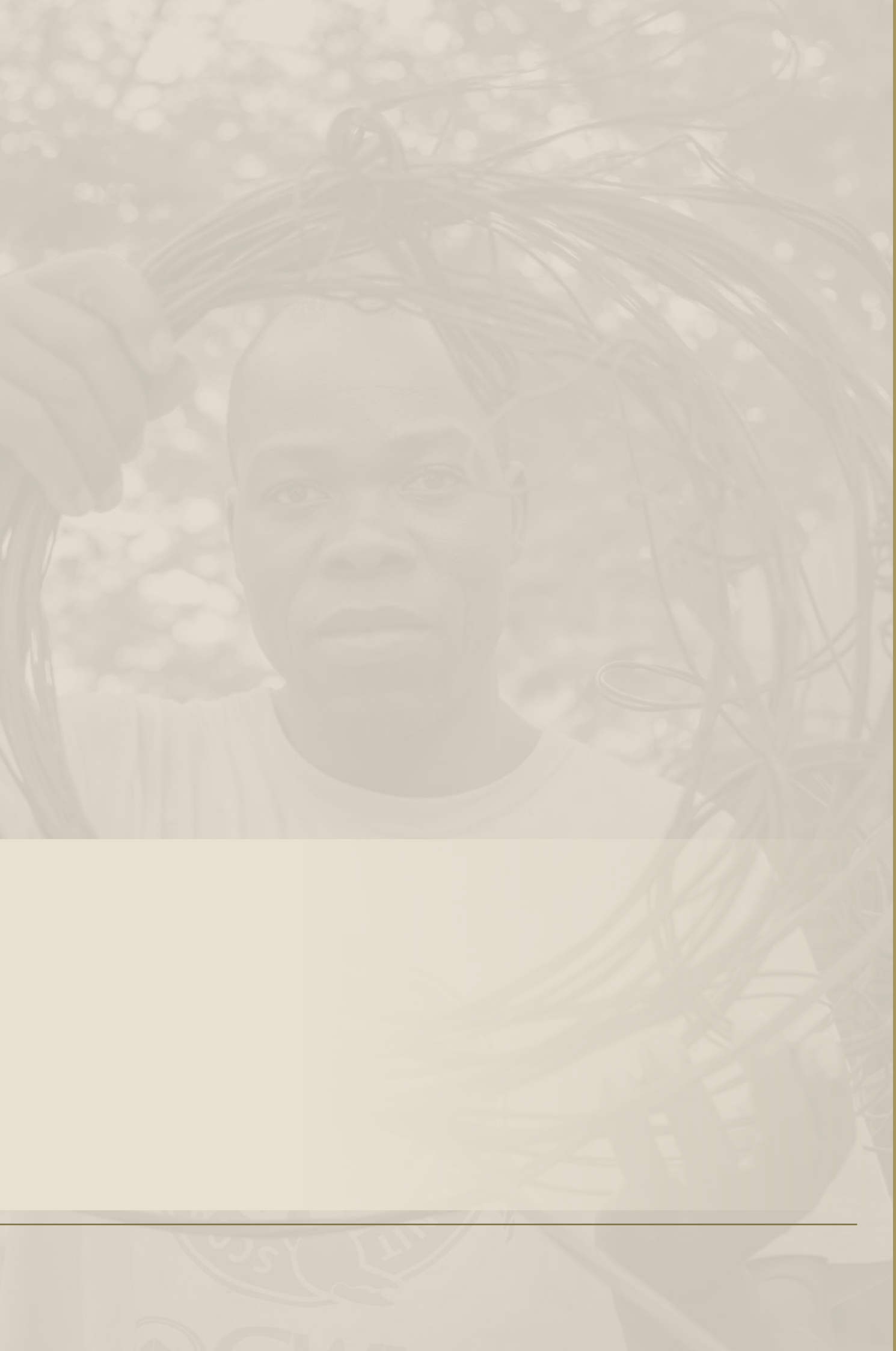
Research & Conservation	63,1
Community Empowerment & Education	28,2
Anti-Poaching & Management	6,9
Administration (website, annual report)	1,7

Note: the majority of funds in Research and Conservation were allocated to the Botswana Rhino Reintroduction and Monitoring Project.





Featured Project



HWANGE SCORPION ANTI-POACHING UNIT

Featured Project



History of the Unit

The wildlife of Hwange National Park has a high mortality rate due to subsistence poaching and accidental snaring. Evidence shows that many wire snares are set for medium and large animals, specifically targeting elephant and giraffe.

The real number of snare mortalities is inevitably much higher than data suggests, because this poaching is frequently concealed by the perpetrators. Carnivores are particularly vulnerable due to their wide-ranging movements, known to move into high-risk areas attracted by prey caught in snare lines.

Since 2000, 40 collared lions have been accidentally killed in snares set for other wildlife in Hwange. This excludes 38 lions intentionally snared in retaliation for livestock losses. Accidental snaring accounts for 21% of recorded lion mortalities, amounting to a cause-specific mortality rate of 0.185 for radio-collared individuals.

Coordinators: Arnold Tshipa and Courteney Johnson



The Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit (SAPU) aims to provide the manpower and resources to assist the ZPWMA to reduce levels of poaching within the boundary areas of Hwange National Park.

More recently there has been a worrying increase in the use of poisons (mostly cyanide) to kill elephants for ivory. In 2013, 87 elephants were poisoned on the eastern border of Hwange, with sporadic incidents also occurring in 2014. It is perhaps significant that this occurred outside the area policed by the Anti-Poaching Unit. The use of poison by ivory poachers is expected to escalate, so it is critical that anti-poaching efforts are maintained and if possible, increased to cover larger areas.

To combat this, an anti-poaching unit was started in 2008, operating in the north of Hwange National Park. Since 2011, the unit (renamed Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit) has worked in partnership with Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) and Wilderness Safaris camps in Hwange and is based at Wexcau Camp close to the eastern boundary of the park.

HWANGE SCORPION ANTI-POACHING UNIT

Featured Project

Coordinators: Arnold Tshipa and Courteney Johnson

Anti-Poaching Objectives

The objectives of the anti-poaching work are:

- To provide a practical, on-the-ground response to the problem of bushmeat poaching and snaring by removing wire snares and arresting poachers.
- To collect data on distribution, trends and potential impact of poaching on wildlife populations and, if possible, measure the benefits provided by anti-poaching activity. Significantly less is known about bushmeat hunting in African wooded savannah habitats compared to the bushmeat trade in tropical forest systems, so this is important in quantifying and understanding the extent of the problem.
- To provide logistical support for ZPWMA anti-poaching operations where possible.

About the Unit

The focus for anti-poaching work is the 170km-long eastern boundary of Hwange, adjacent to Tsholotsho Communal Land. This is a 'hard' boundary with no buffer zone and is particularly vulnerable to poaching incursions. The boundary fence consists of a poorly-maintained three-strand cable and galvanised wire veterinary fence. Data collected by Hwange Lion Research between 2007 and 2011 shows that much of the galvanised wire has been stripped off the park fence and used to construct wire snares for the extraction of bushmeat from the Park.

SAPU's partnership with ZPWMA has been successful, but the Authority is under-resourced and does not have the logistical capacity to undertake security patrols in the 14 000 km² Park, particularly the areas far from the main management stations. SAPU provides additional, trained manpower for anti-poaching patrols, as well as the logistical capacity to deploy and support scouts and park rangers in the field.

SAPU comprises six fully-equipped and uniformed anti-poaching scouts who were selected and professionally trained by security expert, Martin Steimer. They are paid, equipped and provided with food and housing by the Trust and other supporters. SAPU has a permanent base from which patrols are made on a daily basis.

ZPWMA allocates between two and four park rangers to participate in these patrols. These men are fed and housed by the project while on duty with SAPU. SAPU also provides transport for patrol deployments and transport of arrested poachers to police custody.



Latest News and Data 2016-2017

In 2016, SAPU received training on the use of a Spatial Mapping and Report Tool (SMART) which is being used for data collection and will make reporting more effective and efficient.

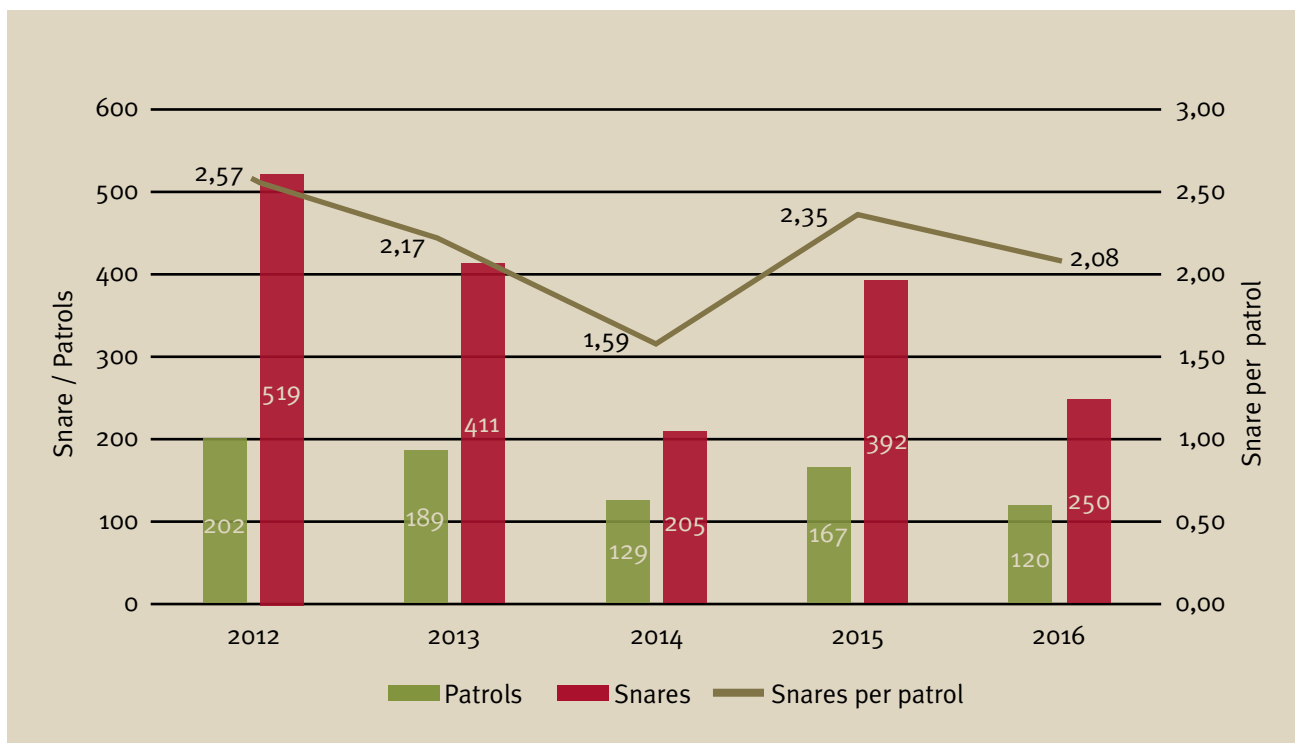
The rate of snares removed per patrol is still high, with a rate of 2.08 snares per patrol recorded. A total of 250 snares were removed during 120 patrols, with the month of November having the highest number of snares removed. This is a trend that has not been seen before and this could possibly be due to the drought that was experienced in the region.


The team became more involved with incidents of commercial poaching, assisting in the apprehension of four poachers. The team also observed the increased use of dogs for hunting within the park, with dog spoor being tracked back into the communal areas. Other communal people accessed the park to harvest thatching grass at some park boundary areas.

A total of 16 carcasses was found by the team. Most of the carcasses were as a result of natural death (nine) while the rest were due to poaching. Of the seven poached carcasses found, six were elephants of which four of these were attributed to the syndicate that was arrested. Only two pairs of tusks were lost to poachers among the six elephant carcasses found. One carcass was an impala and another was a wildebeest which was hit by a train; mortalities caused by passing trains have become increasingly frequent.

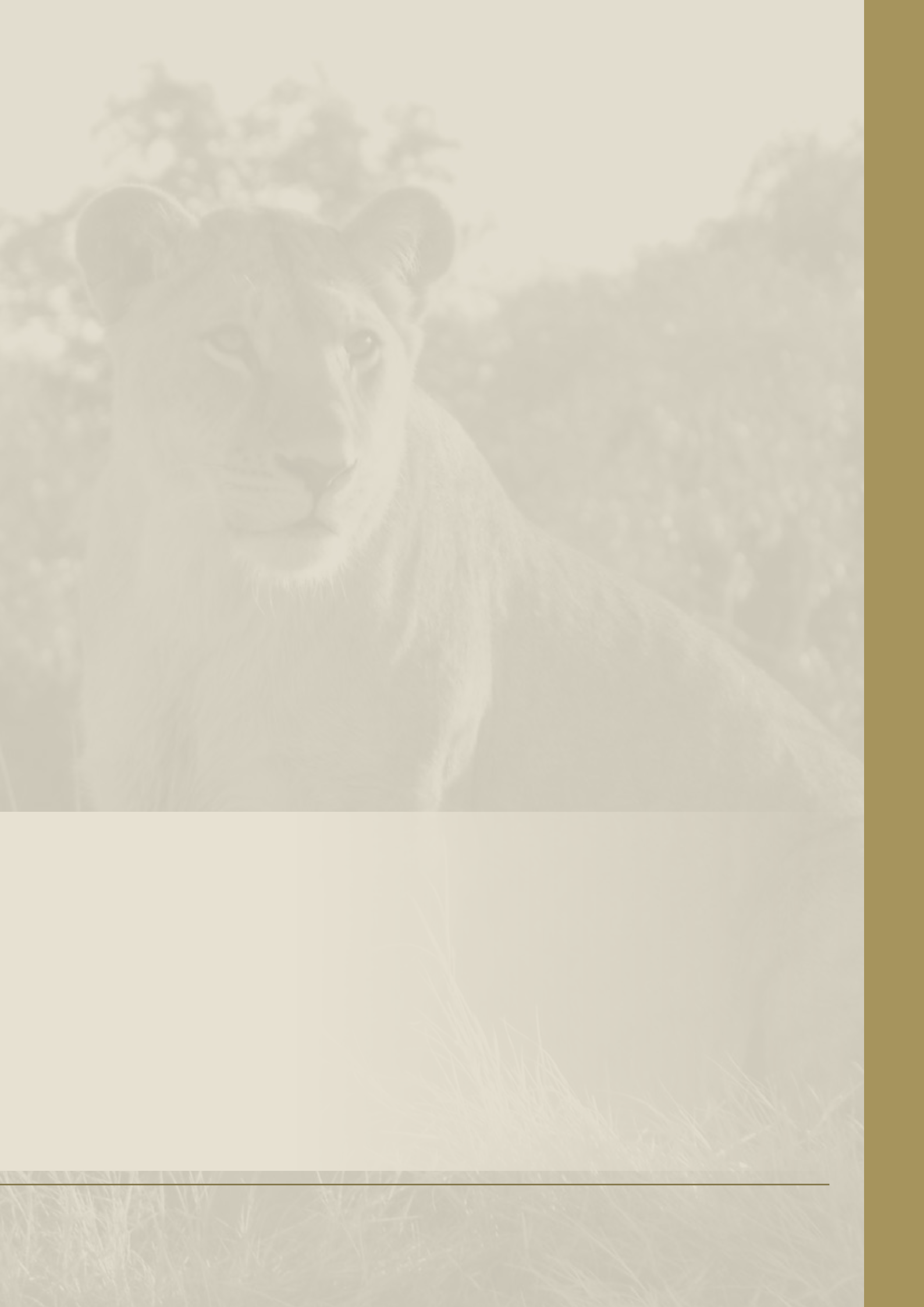
We are grateful for the support that has been provided by the donors (Wilderness Wildlife Trust, Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe, SATIB Conservation Trust and Imvelo) and Zimparks over the past year.

Figure 1: Snares and patrols done per year since 2012.





Research and
Conservation



BOTSWANA CATTLE PREDATION STUDY

Research and Conservation



This year marked the final year of data collection for this project. During the 2016 wet season, a total of 610 km of large carnivore track counts was conducted along 75 km of the veterinary fence that separates the cattle area from the protected area. These counts provide valuable information on large carnivore movements across this boundary during the wet season.

With the wrapping up of the project, as many GPS collars as possible are being removed from their lion subjects, including a collar on a male who had shifted his home range after being ousted from his pride in 2013. The battery on his collar failed a short time after he shifted home ranges, making it difficult to find him. Interestingly, this male, who is now approximately nine years old, had moved from the area bordering the cattle area further into the protected area. There, he formed a coalition with a younger male, and together they are covering a new pride.

Researcher: Carolyn Whitesell (PhD candidate)



Studying the movement patterns, abundance, and distribution of lion and other large carnivores living within a cattle-dominated landscape

A total of three prides are covered by two coalitions of males that had been collared for the project. It was exciting to discover that all three of these prides gave birth to cubs in 2016. We look forward to continued updates by the tourist guides in the area on the status of these litters.

The data collected is now in the process of being analysed, with at least three scientific papers and the completion of the PhD anticipated by the end of 2017.



BOTSWANA LEOPARD SCENT AND SPATIAL STUDY

Research and Conservation



Over the past few months, four of the targeted six leopards have been radio-collared with high-resolution GPS-tracking tags. Two of these radio collars also have collar-mounted audio recorders that will provide insights into where and when leopards vocalise and the role played by vocalisations in mediating interactions. The data will be retrieved and downloaded once the collars drop off the animals in mid-June.

In order to investigate the responses of large predators to leopard scents, camera traps are being used to record the leopards' scent markings. The majority of this data will be collected during the dry season when the weather and vegetation are better suited for following the cats.

Researcher: Kasim Rafiq



Aiding the development of scent- and acoustic-based leopard deterrents that could be used to reduce human-leopard conflict

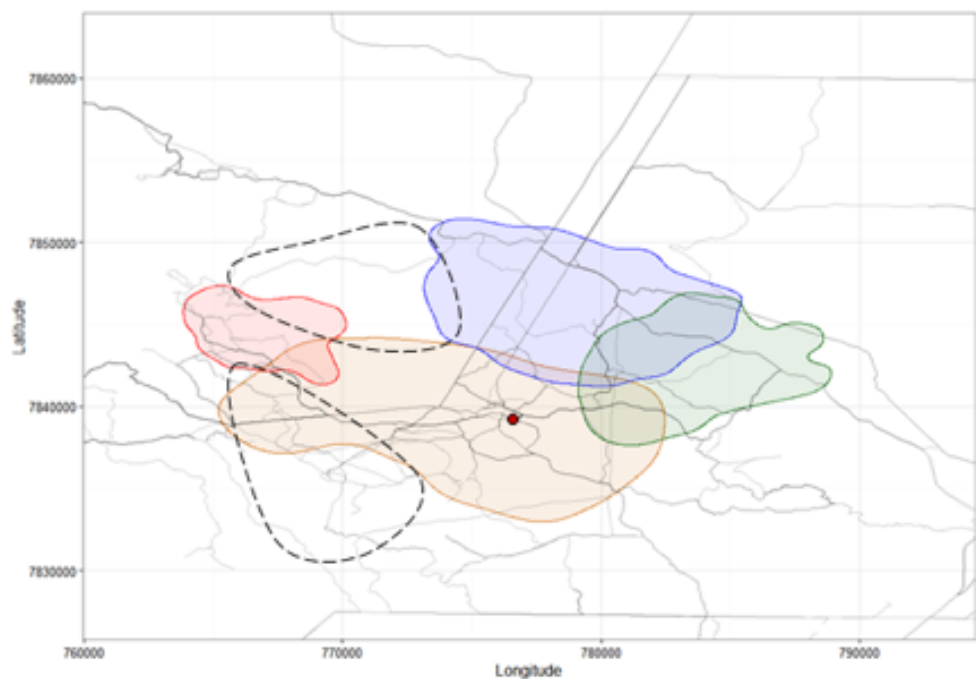


Figure 2. Territories of the radio-collared leopards (solid polygons) and estimated territories of remaining target leopards (dashed polygons). The Botswana Predator Conservation Trust Field Site is marked as the red circle.

In January the control phase of the project began, testing the suitability of tomcat-thiol as a leopard deterrent. Five camera-trap scent stations have been placed on roads within the territories of the radio-collared leopards. Two scent dispensers have been placed within the centre of each station on either side of the road – currently empty at this point to allow the project to quantify baseline camera capture rates of predators and baseline responses to empty scent stations. Once two months' worth of camera trap videos have been collected at each site, vials of tomcat-thiol will be placed within the dispensers to see if whether leopards and other predators show avoidance behaviours to the scent, or if capture rates decrease.

BOTSWANA RHINO REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

Research and Conservation



Despite there being no new rhino translocations into the Okavango in 2016, it was a very busy year for the Rhino Project. At the beginning of the year, the monitoring teams linked up with the Botswana Defence Force to conduct extended patrols into more remote areas. This allowed them a longer period to track different rhinos. Findings were very positive, with several new calves being seen. Additional darting operations were carried out in order to fit new state-of-the-art electronic tracking devices to the animals, thus enhancing security and monitoring. Sub-adults lacking identifying ear-notches were also given unique notch numbers so that they could be identified by observation or from a photograph.

Sometime in the middle of the year, three 'wandering' rhinos moved outside their core area. With the aid of other safari operators and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, they were located and moved back into the safety of the core Okavango Delta. Since moving them, they have settled down and two of the bulls have been sighted with young females, which is excellent news.

The black rhino population continues to increase steadily, with three new births this

Coordinators: Kai Collins



The successful reintroduction and monitoring of black and white rhino in northern Botswana thanks to collaborative conservation efforts between Wilderness Safaris, Wilderness Wildlife Trust, Botswana's Department of Wildlife and the Botswana Government

year. Indeed, it was calculated that one of the mothers must have conceived her calf within the first two months of being released back into the wilds after the translocation – remarkable, as most specialists believe it should take at least a year for black rhino to settle down enough to begin mating. This is evidence that the translocation was carried out with the minimum of stress to the animals, thus allowing them to return to normal behaviour very soon after the move was completed.

Since the large-scale black rhino reintroductions began in 2014, there have been five recorded births in the population, providing hope for the future of this Critically Endangered species.

In late 2016, another aerial survey of rhino was carried out and the numbers were very encouraging, indicating that both species are doing well and the populations are growing healthily.*

* Exact numbers of rhino are withheld for security reasons.

BOTSWANA WILDLIFE RESEARCH – EXPANDING CAPACITY

Research and Conservation



1. Seronga Lion Conflict Study

Centre for Wildlife Management (University of Pretoria); Pride in our Prides Project

This project documents pride compositions using direct observations and tourist photographs from which to determine individual IDs. This allows the researchers to follow life histories in subsequent years. Guides and guests of lodges in the area have been asked to supply lion photographs, in this way aiming to enhance the knowledge about lions in the area by a detailed population assessment, using a replicable approach that includes citizen science information.

2. Spoor surveys of Large Carnivores on Mombo Concession

Part of the Looking 4 Lions Conservation Project

Robynne Kotze spent a month at the Mombo Research Tent collecting data for her MSc through the University of Witwatersrand. She is using spoor surveys as an indirect method to determine the abundance of large carnivores in the area. Mombo Concession served as an ideal site to test the relationship between spoor frequency, required sampling intensity and actual density of lions in the Okavango Delta.

Coordinator: Kai Collins



*Two research projects
utilised the Trust Research
Tents during the past year*

Spoor surveys were conducted along established roads in the concession. Only fresh spoor, that is, spoor from the past 24 hours, was recorded for all large carnivores, namely lion, leopard, spotted hyaena, cheetah and wild dog. Transects driven each day were separated by at least 5km from the previous day's transect, to prevent double counting individuals. Other information recorded for each spoor encounter included GPS position, time and date of recording, as well as information (where possible) on group size and sex of individual spoor. This information will be used to calculate spoor frequency, which is the number of kilometres between spoor encounters, which can be related directly to actual density of lions in the area. This data will be analysed in conjunction with other extended data sets of spoor surveys in the western Okavango Delta.

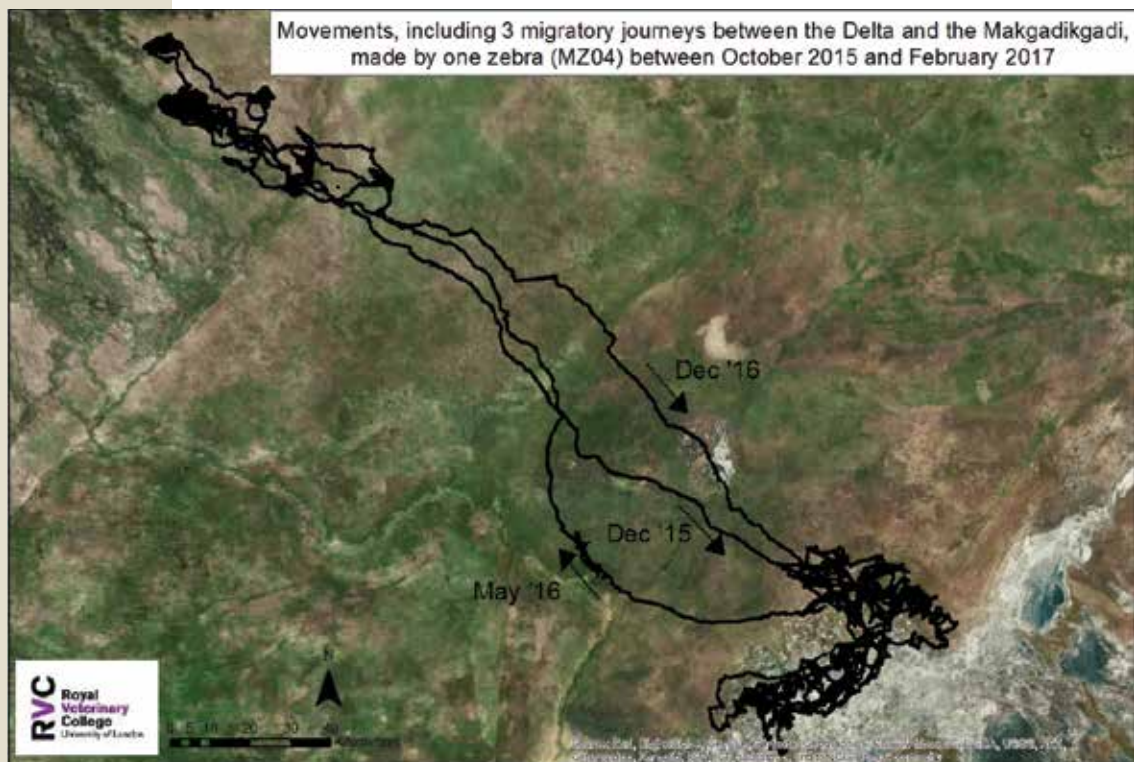
Spotted hyaena had the highest spoor frequency, followed by lion, leopard and then wild dog and cheetah. This gives a preliminary indication of the relative densities of large carnivores on the Mombo Concession.

BOTSWANA ZEBRA MIGRATION PROJECT

Research and Conservation



Figure 3. Migration route taken by Z658. The top migratory route to the Makgadikgadi (December 2016); the middle route to the Makgadikgadi (January 2016); the bottom migratory route via the Boteti River to the Okavango Delta (May 2016).



Researcher: Dr Emily Bennitt



The ecology of migrating plains zebra in Botswana

In 2014, only one of the collared zebra completed the journey down to the Makgadikgadi Pans. This individual was used to identify zebra that associated with her, and which therefore had a higher likelihood of also being migrants. Of the nine that were collared, only one migrated in 2015. The collars were programmed to drop off in April 2017 to try and capture movements across two consecutive seasons. The same zebra, Z658, migrated in 2016 (Fig. 1), following a very similar route to that taken last year, with her 2015 and 2016 departure points from the Okavango Delta and her 2015 and 2016 arrival points in the Makgadikgadi being within 1 km of each other.

Of the remaining eight zebra, two collars malfunctioned and three collared animals were observed in the mopane woodland close to the beginning point of the migration, indicating that they did not migrate. The dense woodland has made it hard to approach them, so their data has not been recovered. There are therefore three individuals who have not been located since the beginning of the rainy season, despite numerous field trips to track for them; aerial support is being considered to locate them.

Six camera traps are currently deployed along the zebra migration route, strategically placed at optimal locations for capturing images of the maximum number of migrants. The camera traps were last checked in February 2017, when they had recorded several zebra harems moving both towards and away from the Makgadikgadi.

We are currently deciding the best course of action, given our relatively low success rate with identifying and collaring migrants. We hope to find sufficient funding to re-collar the one known migrant and to deploy approximately 20 more collars to increase our chances of collaring migrants.

HWANGE ELEPHANT MOVEMENTS STUDY

Research and Conservation



The collars worked efficiently through the year with one having problems in November. The maximum distance between the two furthest points in elephant movements was calculated as the basis of the elephant status grouping: 4 residents, 2 intermediate movers and 3 migrants. Elephants moved to their wet season home range in November due to the early rains. As previously seen, some of the elephants went into Botswana and back, while some moved into the central part of the Park.

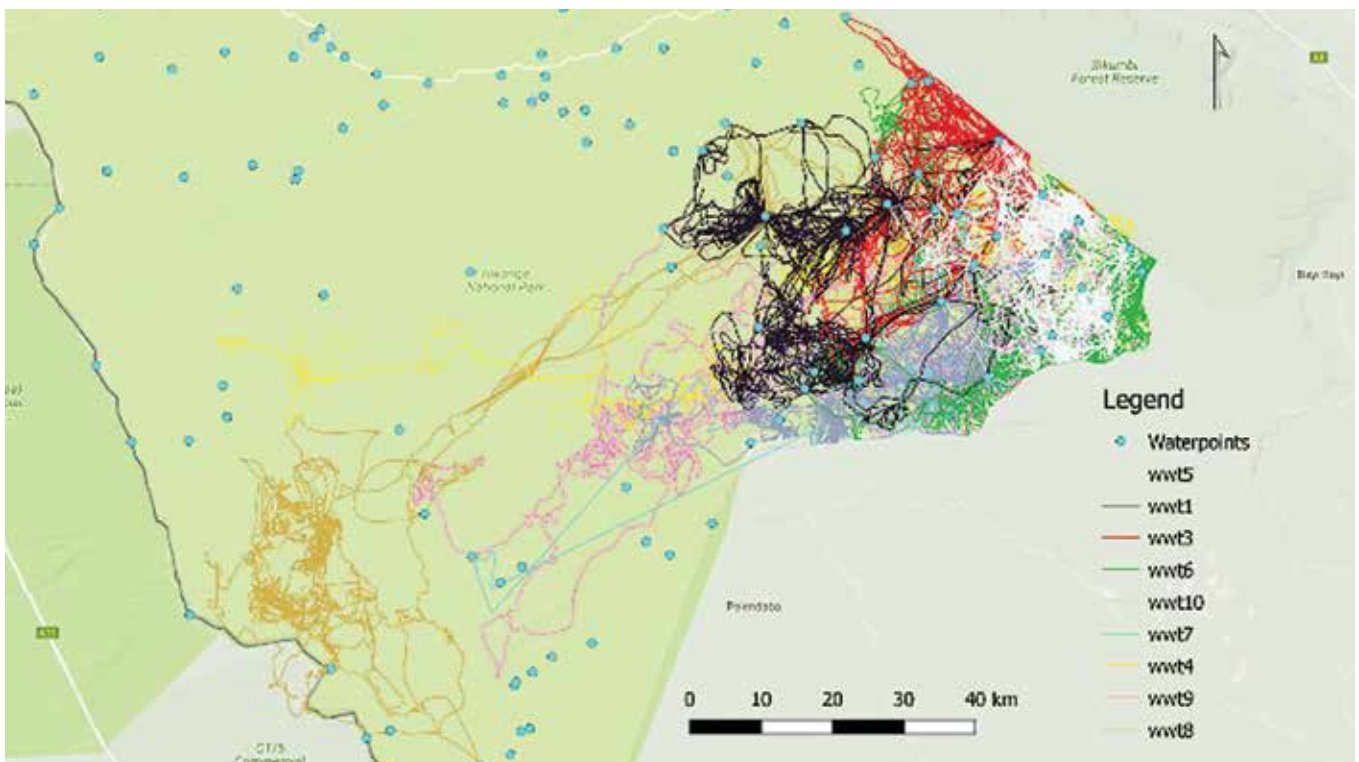
Home ranges (50 and 95% kernel density estimates) for the wet season (Feb-Apr) and dry season (Aug-Oct) for the three elephant status groups were established while the rest of the months were termed as “transition periods” – i.e. elephants are in transit hence spend less than 50% of their time in these areas. The wet season home range was larger than the dry season home range; this is expected since in the dry season water becomes a limiting factor for elephants and so they use a smaller area (usually containing pumped pans).

There was a distinction noted between the home range of migrants and those of resident elephants with migrants having a larger home range. Most of the migrants use a larger area within each season – hence the barriers of space use in any given landscape and how these shape movement patterns have to be investigated further. It was also noted that elephants have a high fidelity to home ranges used in the previous season. Migrants have a lower overlap than resident elephants between the two seasons.

Researcher: Arnold Tshipa (MSc candidate)



Gaining a better understanding of elephant movements and habitat use in Hwange National Park



KAFUE LARGE CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROJECT

Research and Conservation



The Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) continued its long-term conservation work in the Greater Kafue Ecosystem (GKE) in 2016. The GKE is home to the country's largest cheetah and wild dog population and second-largest lion and leopard population – in addition to being a substantial portion of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area, connecting five countries and their wildlife populations.

Three components were worked on, namely:

1. Providing key data on large carnivore populations and their prey, as well as threats to them
2. Addressing key threats to large carnivores, their prey and habitat
3. Ensuring sustainability of conservation efforts through education and capacity building

Intensive research of cheetah, wild dog and lion populations was carried out, as well as leopard and herbivore surveys, while collecting an array of data on the factors affecting their distribution and abundance.

Coordinator: Dr Matthew Becker



Studying the main threats to both carnivores and herbivores in Kafue, as well as ensuring ongoing conservation efforts

Dr Kambwiri Banda, ZCP's full-time field-based wildlife veterinarian and researcher, continued to play a critical role in anti-snaring work by darting and treating snared wild dogs, lions and hyaena during the season in addition to deploying radio-collars on carnivore groups. The combination of anti-snaring work and intensive monitoring of carnivores through ground and aerial tracking continues to grow in importance by providing a means to regularly locate, monitor and treat snared carnivores across a vast landscape.

Educational programmes in collaboration with Tree Tops Educational Centre continued to expand through the work of former ZCP Conservation Club programme graduate, Lameck Sakala, and the ZCP continued to run its Conservation Biologist Training Programme for aspiring Zambian wildlife professionals. The Kafue Project's Dr Wigganson Matandiko – ZCP's first PhD student – received his degree in May following his research on human and ecological factors affecting density, distribution and group size for large herbivores in Kafue National Park.

MAKGADIKGADI HUMAN-ELEPHANT STUDY

Research and Conservation



The PhD research aims to increase knowledge about elephant crop raids, particularly focusing on understanding more about the demographics of the elephants involved and the characteristics of fields that may increase their susceptibility to being raided.

The 2016 ploughing season started slowly with low levels of rainfall recorded and therefore few fields were ploughed as well as farmers choosing to plough fields in the receding riverbed to make use of ground water. Data was collected by attending crop-raiding incidences in community lands bordering Makgadikgadi Pans National Park (MPNP). In total, 98 crop-raiding incidences were reported by 26 farmers. On average in 2016, farmers reported crop-raiding incidences to the study 3.8 times (range=1-21).

Damage assessments completed after each crop raid showed on average that when elephants had raided a field, 9.6% of the crops were destroyed either through trampling or grazing. Whilst at the end of the ploughing season, on average 29.4% (range=0.22-100) of the crop was destroyed.

Initial results suggest that fields that are more isolated and have a higher diversity of crops incur larger areas of damage. Using data from all three field seasons, fewer

Researcher: James Stevens (PhD candidate)



A study of crop-raiding elephants in the communities bordering the Makgadikgadi Pans

crop raids occur during full moon phases, with the frequency of crop raiding gradually increasing from January and peaking in April.

Elephants were tracked moving towards fields and inside the field (n=32). Preliminary data suggests elephants know where they are going when moving towards fields and analysis will be completed to determine how elephants move inside fields in relation to the distribution of different crops.

At the end of the ploughing season, all 26 farmers that had reported crop raids completed questionnaires to determine their perceptions of the resulting value of damage. These estimates will be compared with scientifically-measured estimates of damage to determine what influences farmers' perceptions.

Data collection for this study has now been completed and analysis is ongoing.

NAMIBIA DESERT-DWELLING GIRAFFE STUDY

Research and Conservation



With the generous support of the Wilderness Wildlife Trust as well as by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), this study is going from strength to strength. The first few months of the year were taken up by the development of a database of the giraffe that inhabit the large study area. With this in place, and with the help of both Namibian students and international volunteers, data collection began on each individual giraffe.

Since July 2016, continuous data has been collected (including data on movements, herd structure, age, size and DNA) on over 280 individual giraffe. The aim is to continue to collect and analyse this data over the coming three years, a process that will allow publication on new and exciting insights into giraffe behaviour and genetics.

Between July and September, five giraffe were also fitted with GPS satellite collars. These collars are providing regular data on the giraffes' movements, allowing deeper insights into how they use their environment.

The project has offered opportunities for Namibian students to gain experience in cutting-edge conservation research. An Honours student in Nature Conservation and a Master's student in Remote Sensing joined the project; both students are enrolled in the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST).

The past two field trips have seen the rivers in flood in the study area, and rain falling across the plains. While this marks the end of the drought and is good news for giraffe in the short-term, giraffe face longer-term threats to their survival.

Researcher: Emma Hart (PhD candidate; Giraffe Conservation Foundation)



An investigation of the social structure and population dynamics of the desert-dwelling giraffe populations of the ephemeral Hoanib and Hoarusib Rivers in north-west Namibia



NAMIBIA DESERT LION CONSERVATION

Research and Conservation



This project monitors the desert-adapted lion, the most threatened and endangered of the large carnivore species in Namibia. Since 1999, the population dynamics of lions have been evaluated by monitoring a core group of 13 radio-collared lions. These analyses include several population parameters, such as birth rates, mortality, fecundity, exponential rate of increase, and age-specific survivorship.

A Trust-funded collar had been fitted on the lioness XPL 104 “*Margaux*” – also known as the Okongwe Female. During 2015, she was doing very well and was seen mating with XPL 93 “*Tullamore*” – the last surviving Musketeer.* In the middle of January 2016, “*Margaux*” gave birth to a litter of cubs (too small to be identified at the time) in the mountains east of Okongwe waterhole.



Coordinator: Felix Vallat (TOSCO); Researcher: Dr Flip Stander (Desert Lion Conservation)



A long-term study of this unique lion population; aims to assist local communities with conflicts whenever and wherever they occur

The other collar donated was fitted on “Ben”, one of the Five Musketeers who was killed in human-lion conflict in 2016, and was unfortunately burnt by the culprits. A case has been opened with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as well as the police.

The last batch of new collars arrived from Germany and Dr Stander aims to fit them onto a male lion and a leopard.

** A coalition of five young males had been named the “Five Musketeers;” all eventually became casualties of human-lion conflict in the area. At 21h00 on 14 April 2017, the satellite collar of “Tullamore” stopped transmitting data. After a careful study of the satellite data, it was concluded that he was most probably poisoned and the satellite collar destroyed near Tomakas.*



OKAVANGO TSESSEBE PROJECT

Research and Conservation



In September 2015, GPS-enabled collars were deployed onto eight female tsessebe in different herds between Black Pools and Second Bridge, in the Moremi Game Reserve. These collars were programmed to drop off in October 2016 and four of them did so on time. One was recovered from the ground in March 2017. Of the remaining three, two were removed in November 2016.

Several attempts were made to dart the last collared individual, but these were all unsuccessful. The high rainfall that has occurred this rainy season has made it very difficult to track any animals, let alone approach them for darting. Since the animals that had been darted showed no signs of hair loss or any other discomfort often associated with collars, it was decided that the last individual would not suffer any adverse effects

Researcher: Dr Emily Bennitt



*The ecology of tsessebe
(Damaliscus lunatus)
in the Okavango Delta,
Botswana*

if she carried her collar until the end of the rainy season, at which point another attempt to remove it would take place.

Data gathered from tsessebe and other species that were collared concurrently (wildebeest, zebra and impala) has been analysed. Spatial analysis and remote sensing images are being used to quantify tsessebe resource requirements and compare current environmental conditions to those over the last two decades, which will provide an indication of the factors causing the current population decline. Resource requirements for each of the herbivore species will be compared, so as to identify factors that could affect the species' resilience to climatic variation.

ZAMBIA AVIAN FRUGIVORE PROJECT

Research and Conservation



Frugivorous birds are an important part of ecosystems and play vital roles in dispersing seeds and improving seed germination. Our understanding of the dynamics that exist between avian frugivores and fruits are superficial and calls for more studies to be done. This project thus aims at bridging this gap by understanding the impacts of seasonal variation in fruit species richness on the diversity of obligate avian frugivores.

The results from this project were to provide insights into how changes in fruit species richness affect the assemblage of avian frugivores and other frugivorous guilds. However, due to changes in the academic calendar at Copperbelt University, the initial project could not be accomplished – as the new academic year did not encompass both the wet and dry seasons. The study's focus now aims towards understanding the relationship between fruit species richness and the diversity of obligate avian frugivores. This new research would still provide information on assessment of the

Researcher: Michael Chungu



Impact of seasonal variation in fruit species richness on the diversity of obligate avian frugivores

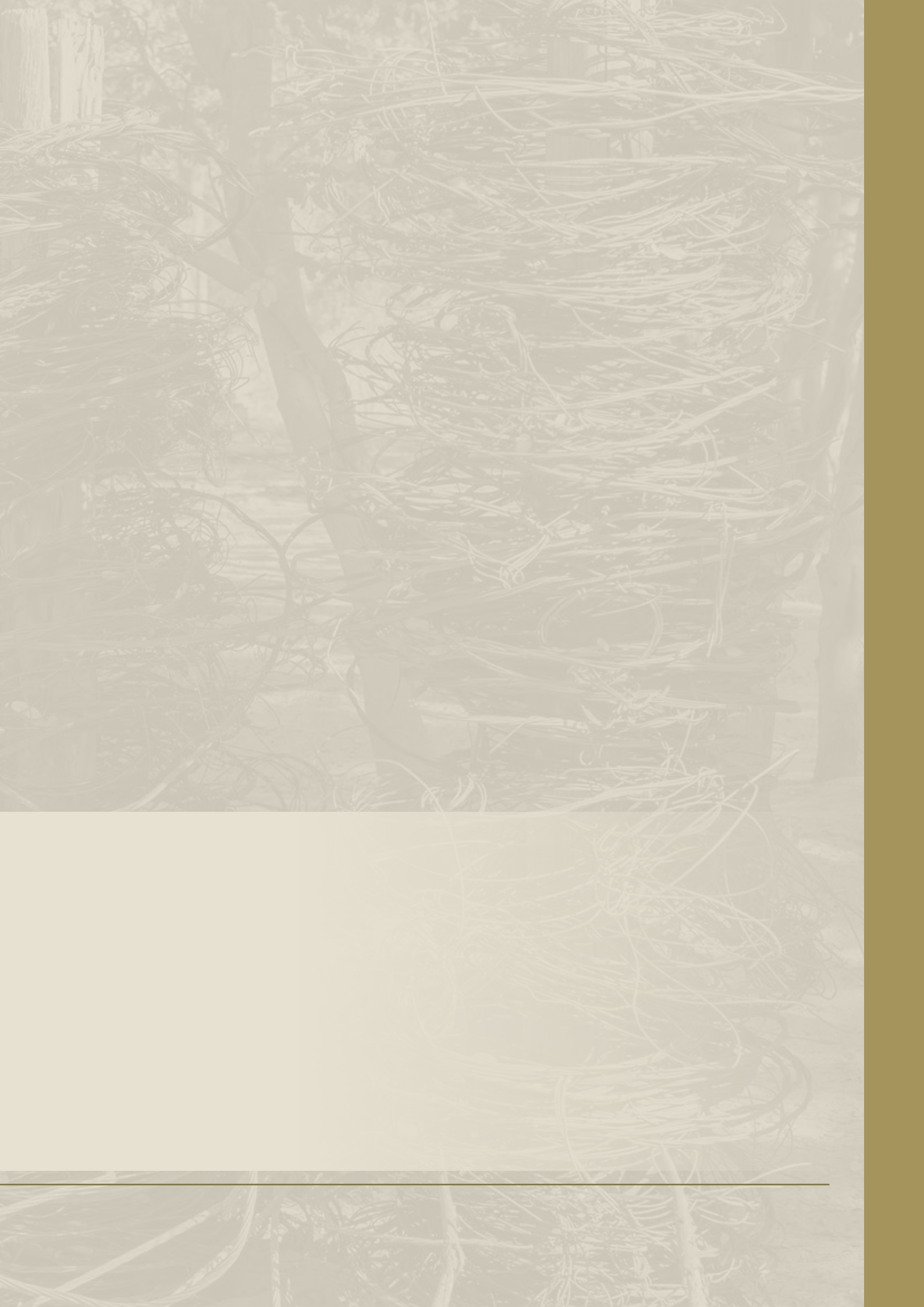
health and capacity of habitats for supporting frugivorous species. The new research was successfully carried out and data was collected at Chembe Bird Sanctuary for two weeks in February 2017.

During data analysis, there were challenges in classifying fruits to species level, due to the scarcity of literature on fruiting trees of southern Africa and specifically Zambia. However, with the help of experts, fruits were separated into species taxa but were not identified.

The results of the research show that there is no relationship between fruit species richness and the diversity of obligate avian frugivores. There is now a need to carry out similar research in the dry season in order to find out how the effects may change across seasons. The thesis report was compiled and submitted, and the results published.



Anti-Poaching and Management



MALAWI MOBILE RESPONSE UNIT

Anti-Poaching and Management



Since July 2013, the Wilderness Trust has supported the Wildlife Emergency Response Unit (WERU). Jointly managed by the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), WERU provides in-situ veterinary services, supports research projects, and assists with wildlife management initiatives in parks and wildlife reserves across the country.

In 2016, WERU joined the African Parks team in Liwonde National Park to participate in the translocation of over 250 elephants to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. WERU has continued to work closely with DNPW and the State House (the President of Malawi's private residence) to assist with management of their animals.

Coordinator: Amanda Salb

Selected WERU highlights include:

1. Removal of old snares on two young elephants in Liwonde National Park via helicopter darting. These animals were inaccessible from the ground and by accomplishing the capture from the air meant they could also be quickly reunited with their family groups.
2. Recapture of an elephant to treat a chronic wound from an old snare that had been removed in 2014. WERU placed a collar in 2015 to be able to find him for further treatment. In 2016, WERU radiographed and successfully treated the wound and the elephant recovered well.
3. Assistance with capture, handling and transport for release of wildlife at the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre (LWC). WERU also provides long-term medical support for the centre's geriatric African lions.
4. Partnered with DNPW officials and Liwonde National Park to facilitate the rescue and release of a pangolin confiscated in a village. Liwonde donated helicopter time so that the pangolin could be captured, brought to the park, and released as quickly as possible.
5. Supported research initiatives involving wildlife health, including examining the relationship between stress and faecal pathogens in released primates, external parasite diversity in elephants, and banking of genetic samples from translocated elephants.

Wildlife Emergency Response Unit (WERU) provides in-situ veterinary services for elephant, black rhino, and other animals in need



SAVE THE RHINO TRUST: TRACKER SUPPORT

Anti-Poaching and Management



In order to address the escalating poaching threat, rhino monitoring in north-west Namibia continues to improve and intensify.

Due to increased risk and new focus on proactive measures, SRT tracker teams were joined on patrols by Rhino Rangers, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) field staff, and Directorate Special Field Force members. MET and Namibian Police Force members ensured the safety of the unarmed members of the teams to safeguard effective and armed coverage of the 25 000 km² area of operation.

All data from the field and monthly patrol statistics are entered into the SMART programme for essential evaluation thus providing an indication of the impact of SRT efforts in patrolling and monitoring the black rhino.

Statistics for 2016-2017:

- Overall number of rhino sightings and individual rhinos seen on average per month (i.e. effort and effectiveness) increased by 108% and 36% respectively since 2015.
- Rhino monitoring, largely led by SRT, has become much more efficient illustrated by the crude cost per rhino sighting decreasing by roughly 50% (i.e. halved) since the first poaching incident in 2012.

Conservancy Rhino Rangers (CRRs) and other support organisations were integrated into SRT patrols. Evidence suggests that the adjusting of operations by support organisations to better integrate CRRs has made a significant difference towards improving overall effectiveness and efficiency.

Coordinator: Lesley Karutjaiva



Training all new Save the Rhino Trust field trackers and Rhino Rangers; including Basic and Advanced Rhino Monitoring Courses in collaboration with Science Advisor, Jeff Muntifering

- The ratio of rhino sightings with CRRs present versus absent shifted from 10% in 2014 to 62% in 2016.
- CRR patrols, field days and ranger rhino sightings all increased exponentially over the past few years.

SRT reduced its staff compliment per patrol to enable effectively tripling the number of SRT-led teams out each month to expand coverage. Currently, SRT runs 10 teams of two, filling any skill gaps by integrating CRRs in each patrol. IRDNC now supports two teams (sometimes three) focused solely on rhino monitoring with CRRs.

The building and strengthening of partnerships with beneficiaries and stakeholders through awareness-raising visits to the local Traditional Authority and communities continued over the year. SRT CEO Simson Uri-Khob attended various meetings such as the Rhino Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) and NACOPEC (Namibian Conservation Parliamentarian Focus Standing Committee), as well as briefing a Parliamentary Committee on SRT's operations in September.

Deployment of SRT's Proactive Patrol Section

The emphasis of this team is on looking for illegal or suspicious human activity, and involves the deployment of trackers at observation posts and roadblocks, as well as on mobile patrols. The Proactive Patrol Section is led by Sebulon Hoeb in his capacity as Principle Field Officer and consists of two teams comprising SRT staff and the Namibian Police. During the reporting period the teams conduct proactive patrols and clandestine operations focusing on signs of human infractions into sensitive rhino areas in order to pre-empt poaching events.

VICTORIA FALLS ANTI-POACHING UNIT

Anti-Poaching and Management



Coordinator: Charles Brightman



Now in its 17th year, VFAPU continues the fight against all forms of poaching in the Victoria Falls region

Still with 17 scouts in the team, the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) has continued to be an effective deterrent against illegal wildlife trade (subsistence and/or organised crime) in the Victoria Falls region. Daily local patrols, together with integrated extended patrols deeper into the Zambezi National Park and surrounds have produced the following results and statistics through 2016:

Total snares removed from protected area = 307

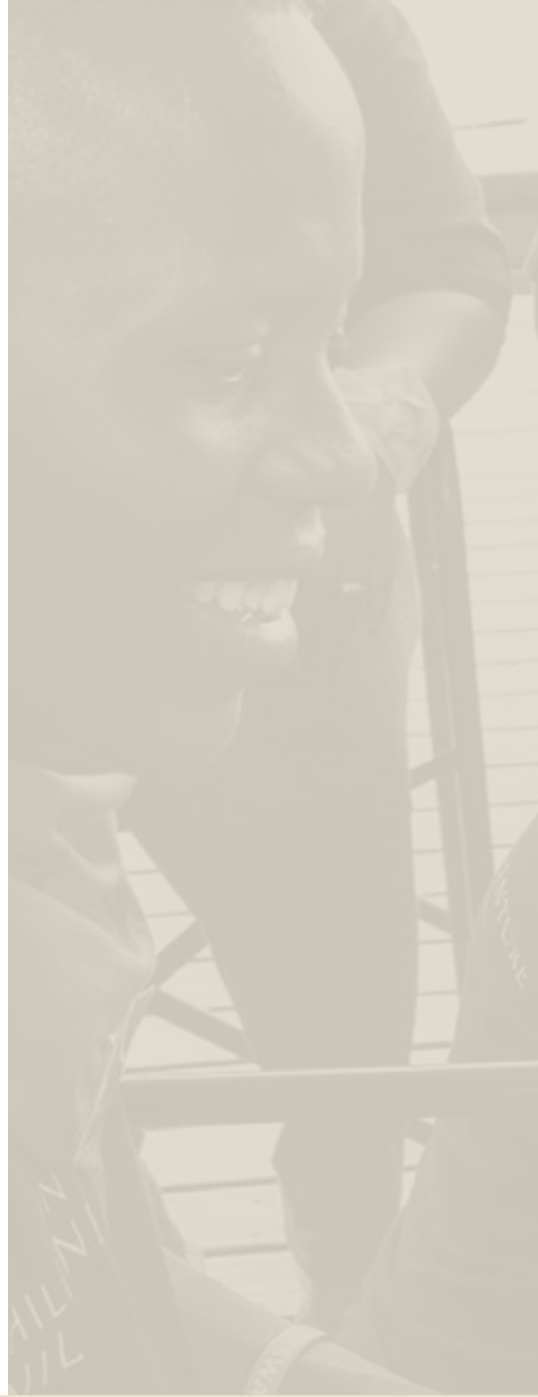
Poachers apprehended	Mammals discovered poached (as detected by VFAPU)	Mammals injured through poaching, which were darted, treated and released
Mineral poachers 36 Curio vendors 12 Mammal poachers 5 Wood poachers 111 Fish poachers 8	Elephant 3 Hippo 1 Zebra 1 Warthog 3 Impala 4 Waterbuck 1 Buffalo 2 Kudu 1	Elephant 5 Warthog 10 Impala 6 Buffalo 6

VFAPU recorded 8 elephant bulls found dead, with the cause of death uncertain, but a possible cause could be as a result of eating trash and plastic from the town's rubbish dump.

Throughout 2016, VFAPU vehicles assisted local authorities with daily deployments of scouts and rangers and rapid responses to reported poaching incidents. VFAPU also supplied monthly rations to extended patrols, as well as medical supplies, fuel, tyres and spare parts for relevant local authorities to assist in joint operations against poaching.

A number of these assisted operations led to the arrest and nine-year conviction of elephant poachers. VFAPU also aided in response deployments where one Zambian elephant poacher was killed.

Thanks to the National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and the Zimbabwe Republic Police for the opportunity to work together in wildlife conservation.



Community Empowerment



and Education

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS PROJECTS

Community Empowerment and Education



Children in the Wilderness is a non-profit organisation, supported by ecotourism company Wilderness Safaris, to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development and education of rural children in Africa. Donations are largely via the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, numerous corporates, individual guests, and through fundraising events such as the annual Nedbank Tour de Tuli.

The primary focus of Children in the Wilderness is on supporting weekly Eco-Clubs in local schools, with over 2 658 Eco-Club members supported in 61 of these innovative clubs across all the regions in 2016.

Since 2001, over 5 600 children have participated on an annual Children in the Wilderness camp. Another important aspect is the scholarship programme, which supported over 300 children in 2016, with some of the monies for this coming through the Trust from numerous individual donors. Children in the Wilderness also receives funding from donors via the Trust to support its Youth Environmental Stewardship programme.

Because of the breadth of this project, across six southern African countries, details of its initiatives can be found in the second half of this report on page 65 onwards.

Coordinator: Dr Sue Snyman



Children in the Wilderness is a life skills, educational and environmental programme for children who live in villages around conservation areas

SIMONGA VILLAGE SUPPORT

Community Empowerment and Education



Since 2000, a range of projects have been run in Simonga village via The River Club, funded by generous donations of lodge guests, in conjunction with the Wilderness Wildlife Trust. The village's water project was begun in June 2006 when a borehole was sunk and distribution points for running water were installed in the village, providing water to Simonga's inhabitants since then. Where in the past villagers walked 3 km down to the Zambezi River to get their water, taps can now be found throughout the village.

The village however has grown substantially, so that water shortages had become the norm and another pump was desperately needed to draw more water to meet the villagers' needs. Funds donated via the Trust along with other donations enabled The River Club to buy parts for and install a solar pump, all of the necessary equipment, and

Coordinator: Peter Jones



*Supporting projects in
Simonga Village, Zambia*



four holding tanks. The families in Simonga also contributed to the project by either donating 40 bricks, a bag of cement, or their time and labour to build the structure that houses the water pump.

With the new pump, water is now pumped from 50 metres below ground to the four holding tanks, then distributed to various points in the village. One of the tanks specifically supplies water to the medical clinic, while the other three tanks supply communal taps spread throughout the village. The water is drinkable as it is, and does not need to be boiled or filtered. The pump has doubled the borehole's capacity to 100 000 litres per day which is now available to the 4 000 inhabitants of the village.

EDUCATION BURSARIES

Community Empowerment and Education

In its continuing efforts to educate the youth of Africa, the Trust runs the Education Bursaries Programme, funding bursaries for students at the post-graduate level in the wildlife and environmental fields

This year, the Trust funded five students in their post-graduate studies, four others in their third year of studies, and two in their fourth year, the last having received bursaries from the Trust over three consecutive years.

Anneke Lincoln Schoeman, BSc (Hons) candidate, University of Pretoria



Thesis topic: The role of olfactory cues in the speciation of the dung beetle genus *Epirinus*

Insects rely heavily on olfactory cues, both for survival and reproduction. Thus, traits influencing species discrimination through semiochemicals may form a platform for speciation. This study examined the role of olfactory cues in the speciation of dung beetles by comparing both the cuticular hydrocarbon (CHC) profiles and integumentary abdominal glandular ultrastructure of seven *Epirinus* dung beetle species with one another and a close relative, *Sisyphus muricatus*.

Multi-species comparisons revealed congruence between CHC profiles, abdominal glandular morphology and phylogeny in *Epirinus*, suggesting that olfactory cues play a crucial role in the speciation of this dung beetle genus and probably dung beetles in general. Furthermore, distinct species-specific CHC profiles and discriminating sub-cuticular abdominal glandular ultrastructure highlight these traits' role as species-specific markers and possible reproductive isolating mechanisms. This finding encourages future uses in chemotaxonomy. Finally, this study is the first to demonstrate the role of both glands and semiochemicals to facilitate divergence within a dung beetle genus and to touch upon the topic of CHCs in dung beetles.

Coordinator: Dr Jennifer Lalley

Elelwani Nenzhelele, MSc. candidate, University of Cape Town

Thesis topic: Long term impact of livestock grazing in the Succulent Karoo: a 20-year overview

Elelwani is involved in a long-term study on the impact of grazing on the vegetation of Paulshoek, a communal area in the semi-arid Namaqualand. In September, Elelwani surveyed the permanent plots which were established in 1996 in the communal area, as well as those on neighbouring privately-owned farms. The percentage cover of all plants were estimated in each plot and the heights and breadths of the dominant five species determined.

Elelwani then entered all the data into spreadsheets, completed the basic statistical analysis of her data and developed the key figures and tables necessary for the Results section of her thesis. This includes a summary of the volume of each dominant shrub species as well as the number of seedlings in both the communal and privately-owned farms. Size class distributions of the five indicator species were constructed and changes in different growth forms over time were also established.

The findings have implications for biodiversity conservation and also for the potential expansion of the land reform programme in this biodiversity hotspot.



Sachin Doarsamy, MSc. candidate, University of KwaZulu-Natal



Thesis topic: Ecological responses of the removal of alien plants in the riparian zone and changes in vegetation and macroinvertebrate communities

Riparian zones in South Africa are heavily invaded by invasive alien trees, in particular *Acacia spp.* and *Eucalyptus spp.* Ecosystem functioning in these riparian zones is compromised by non-native plants, which have negative effects on vegetation and macroinvertebrate community structure. This study aims to assess the effects of alien invasive plants on the riparian and macroinvertebrate communities and the extent of recovery after the aliens have been removed.

The study was conducted along the Umgeni River in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Macroinvertebrates were sampled using the SASS5 protocol and later identified to family level. Riparian vegetation was assessed by recording richness, abundance and basal cover using quadrats. A Redundancy Analysis (RDA) was used to interpret the changes in communities. Species richness and cover were significantly higher in cleared sites compared to invaded sites. Macroinvertebrate communities showed no significant changes in abundance and distribution. Salinity was the most important environmental variable explaining the macroinvertebrate community distributions.

Clearing encourages the natural establishment and recovery of indigenous riparian vegetation. There is no difference in the condition of macroinvertebrate communities between cleared and invaded sites. Therefore, it is important to manage riparian vegetation even after clearing to promote the recovery of macroinvertebrate communities.

EDUCATION BURSARIES

Community Empowerment and Education

Sean Heighton, MSc. candidate, University of Pretoria

Thesis topic: Scaly bacteria: the quest to identify pangolin pathogens



Increased contact between multi-host populations due to climate change, habitat alteration and trade in animals is being increasingly recognised as a catalyst for pathogen transmission events. Multidirectional pathogen transmission events across a multidimensional transmission interface have led to major disease epidemics in wildlife, human and domestic animal populations across the world. With the recent spate of illegal trade in the already vulnerable Temminck's ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*), concern over health risks has been raised. To address the current paucity of data on diseases of pangolin, the first ever baseline data of *S. temminckii*'s bacterial prevalence and diversity was attempted using single gene and metagenomics approaches.

This was achieved through PCR amplification of the 16S rRNA gene with broad-range primers and through an Ion Torrent 16S metagenomics protocol. The former resulted in the first identification of *Clostridium haemolyticum* in South Africa and *Clostridium algidicarnis* in wild animal tissue, whilst the latter confirmed that bacterial diversity in this under-studied mammalian host spans five phyla with soil-borne *Firmicutes* predominating. The baseline data created will be used to determine the disease risks that handling and trafficking of *S. temminckii* may pose, provides valuable population health measures and a reference database for future multidirectional transmission events involving pangolins.

Coordinator: Dr Jennifer Lalley

Further support

Over and above the four bursaries granted annually, the Trust has granted further funding assistance to four other students:

1. **Tendai Chinho**, Cape Town University – studying for a Master’s degree in Science Conservation Biology.
2. **Wishikoti Sydney** – in his third year studying for Bachelor of Natural Resources Management, Namibia University of Science and Technology.
3. **Jimmy Muwowo** – in his final year of Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology and Management at Copperbelt University, Zambia.
4. **Kabelenga Harrison** – in his third year studying for a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management at Copperbelt University, Zambia.

Continuing Studies

Victor Samalumo of the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) is continuing his studies, undertaking a Bachelor of Science, Wildlife Conservation and Natural Resources Management at Livingstone International University of Tourism Excellence and Business Management (LIUTEBM).

In addition to his studies, Victor was promoted to park ranger, with all field staff of Kafue National Park (North) reporting to him, including the anti-poaching units. This is in no small part due to his commitment to his studies and to his aim of conserving the wildlife of Zambia.



Bobby Rakaru has continued his Diploma in Nature Conservation through the University of South Africa, studying Animal Studies, Plant Studies, and Conservation Interpretation. He manages to study while guiding at Wilderness Safaris’ Kings Pool Camp in Botswana.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Completed Projects 2015-2016

Botswana Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development

Researcher: Lindsey N. Rich (PhD candidate)

The research project explored the utility of camera trap surveys and advanced modelling techniques to inform biodiversity management, by applying a multi-species approach to a community of mammals in the Okavango Delta, Botswana, with a focus on carnivores. During 2015, 10 766 detections of 54 species were recorded during 6 607 trap nights, including 44 mammal species of which 22 were carnivores. With the help of colleagues at the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust (BPCT), photographed carnivore species were identified to the individual level using pelage patterns. A children's outreach programme was carried out in 2015. Lindsey completed her PhD in September 2016.

Botswana Vulture Conservation Project

Researchers: Dr Glyn Maude and Pete Hancock

The overall aim of this project was to ensure that vulture populations remain viable in Botswana and thus southern Africa in general, due to transboundary movements of vultures by strengthening community and transboundary conservation efforts. Throughout 2015, more than 15 000 km of raptor road surveys were conducted across northern Botswana, with 2 471 recorded raptor observations of 28 different species. This study was compared with research conducted in the 1990s to identify population trends of raptors over the last 20 years.

More than 1 500 participants were involved in raptor conservation education during 2015, whilst it is hoped that the vulture conservation message was communicated to many more. The recent opening of a vulture restaurant in Ghanzi promises to be a very valuable tool for vulture conservation education for all ages.

Botswana Wild Dog Movement Study

Researcher: Briana Abrahms (PhD candidate)

The project successfully collected sufficient movement data on African wild dogs to analyse movement patterns and landscape connectivity for this species. A key result learned is that African wild dogs have a much greater tolerance for high-risk human-dominated areas when dispersing. This implies that to ensure safe and successful dispersal essential for maintaining healthy populations, establishment of movement corridors through these areas must be paired with intensive carnivore-human conflict mitigation.

Kafue Elephant Study

Dr Kerry Carter

An experimental trial of a solar-powered electric poliwire fence-line was conducted in the 2016 maize-growing season to assess its potential as a seasonal barrier fence to prevent elephant moving from Kafue National Park into farming areas, where elephants have developed a culture of crop raiding. It was found that elephants approached the poliwire on 10 occasions, but the fence-line was not challenged. From the large amount of elephant activity recorded at the end of the fence-line, it appeared that to pass the fence, elephant herds were generally moving along the fence-line to the end. Unfortunately, the trial was interrupted by a sudden government programme to construct a road along the GMA boundary, and the fence-line had to be removed just two months before the end of the maize-growing season. Despite this, it was concluded that the conductivity of this poliwire product is suited to farm-based applications in order to deter elephants from smaller farm plots, especially as it is locally available and very economical for farmers to purchase compared to conventional fencing wire.

Okavango Spotted Hyaena Study

Researcher: Jessica Vitale

This study investigated the role of spotted hyaena in the Okavango Delta ecosystem. Research provided insight into variable behaviours such as clan size, territoriality, scent marking, and interactions with other predator species. Three experiments were conducted to investigate olfactory eavesdropping by hyaenas and sympatric heterospecifics. Five hyaena clans were monitored in the study area; the database catalogued 463 individuals. It was determined that clans in this ecosystem are likely comprised of 30-40 individuals. Latrines were monitored with remote cameras to collect data on the identity of visitors, rate of hyaena visitation, and responses by sympatric carnivores. Some 215 latrine sites were identified in the study area and changes over time investigated. There were 105 observed intra-guild interactions involving hyaenas: 32 lion, 16 leopard, 46 wild dog, and 11 cheetah.

Whale Coast Cetacean Project

Principal researcher: Dr Katja Vinding Petersen

Three methods were used to investigate the occurrence, behaviour, spatial distribution, and temporal distribution of cetaceans in the Dyer Island area, Western Cape, South Africa. The analysis of historical data from a local whale-watching vessel consisting of more than 5 500 cetacean encounters in more than 2 500 trips between 2003 and 2012 revealed that the study area is regularly frequented by five cetacean species. Shore-based observations, using a surveyor's theodolite during four southern right whale seasons enabled behavioural analysis and confirmation of spatial and temporal distributions obtained from the historical data. Finally, passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) using a single bottom-moored hydrophone obtained sound recordings over 44 days.

The area is an important location for nursing and socialising southern right whales; it is part of a migration route of humpback whales and may be a summer feeding area for Bryde's whales. Finally, it was found that the area serves as a year-round socialising and resting area for two dolphin species: Indian Ocean humpback dolphin and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin.

Zimbabwe Pangolin Programme

Coordinator: Lisa Hywood

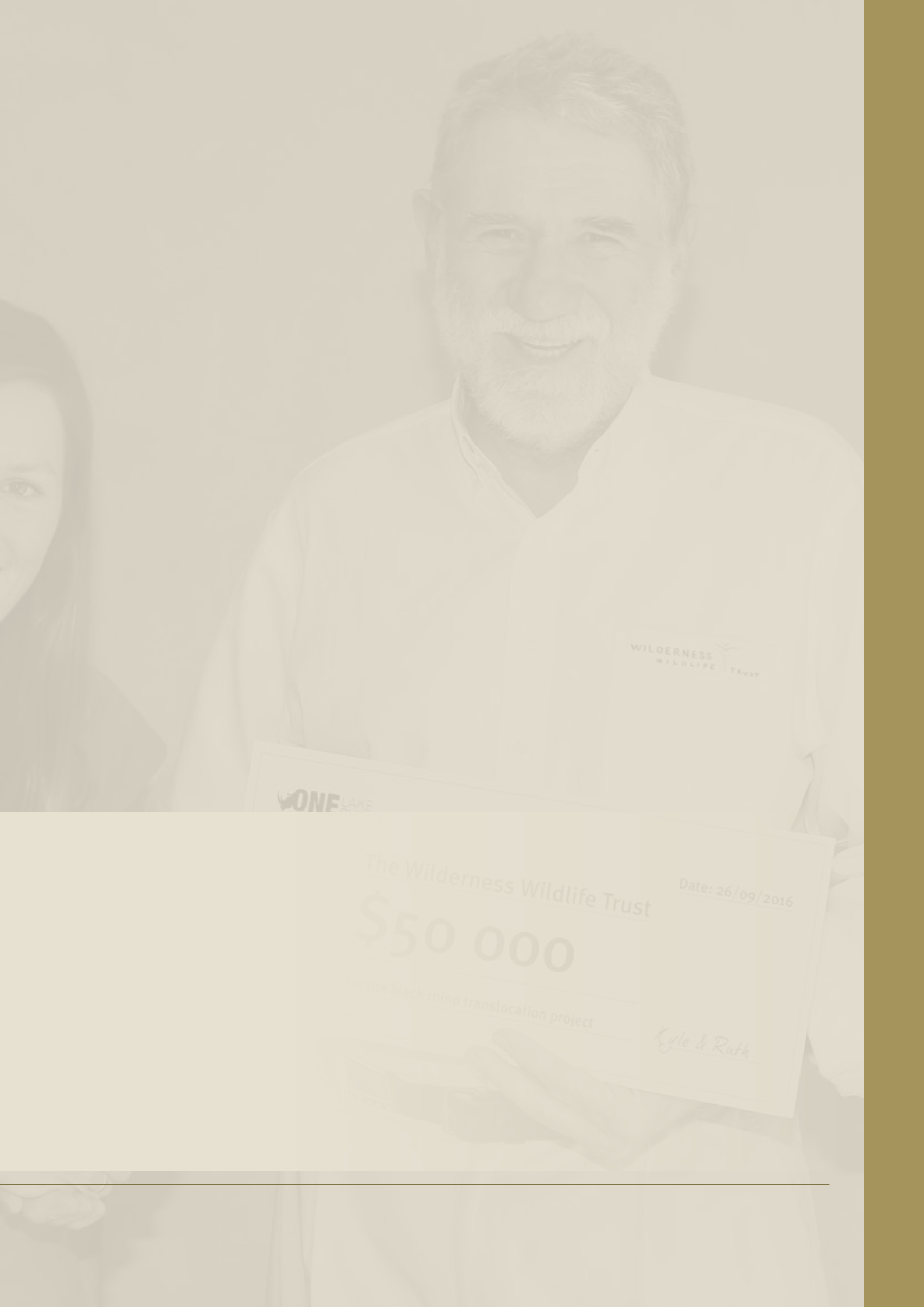
The Trust funded the Tikki Hywood Trust, which has been working with ground pangolin for the past 20 years, operating the only rescue, rehabilitation and release programme for ground pangolin in Zimbabwe. Expenses covered by the Wilderness Trust include veterinary care of pangolins rescued from poachers as well as equipment such as sleeping boxes, heat pads and bedding needed for pangolins that need to be housed and fed before they are fit and healthy enough to be released.

The Trust was part of a collaborative effort to propose the uplisting of all African species of Pangolin from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I, as well as supporting a proposal to uplist all eight species of pangolin worldwide. This proposal was duly fully accepted at CITES COP17 in 2016.





Making a Difference



WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE TRUST

ONE LAKE

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust

Date: 26/09/2016

\$50 000

for the black rhino translocation project

Kyle & Ruth

DONATIONS AND DONORS

Making a Difference

Africa's conservation requirements are enormous and in urgent need of money and logistical support. The Trust is therefore grateful for all donations received either for specific projects or those donated in general to be used wherever they are needed most.

The Wilderness Trust gratefully receives donations in a number of different ways:

1. Wilderness Safaris camp guests regularly donate to a project of their choice or to the general fund.
2. A small percentage is paid by Wilderness Safaris for each guest bednight booked.
3. Via our fiscal partner organisation, Empowers Africa (EA). Donations via EA are tax-deductible in the U.S.
4. Fundraising initiatives such as the Wilderness Trust Warmer, Wilderness Trust bag organisers, and Rhino Force beaded bracelets. All proceeds accrue to the Trust.
5. Independent donations from concerned individuals or organisations.
6. Wilderness staff members are enthusiastic about raising funds for the Trust and CITW – marathons are run and mountain bike rides undertaken all in the name of conservation and community.

If you would like to assist us in any of these efforts, please contact Mari dos Santos at marid@wilderness.co.za or telephone **+27 11 257 5057**. More information can be found on our website at <http://www.wildernesstrust.com/donations>

About Empowers Africa

Empowers Africa is a U.S. public charity under IRC Section 501(c)(3) that facilitates tax-deductible donations for U.S. donors on behalf of Wilderness Wildlife Trust and Children in the Wilderness.

Empowers Africa's mission is to support programmes in the areas of wildlife protection, human empowerment and land conservation in sub-Saharan Africa. Empowers Africa's focus is on funding programmes that support the protection of wildlife and land conservation; programmes in communities that surround protected conservation and wildlife areas or World Heritage Sites; and programmes in urban communities where tourism is a strong source of development.

Empowers Africa does not charge any administrative fees, therefore, 100% of the funds donated to Empowers Africa on behalf of Wilderness Wildlife Trust and Children in the Wilderness are granted directly to the respective Trusts. Please contact Krista Krieger at Empowers Africa at kriegerk@empowersafrica.org or (917) 328-1611 for more information, or visit the website: <https://empowersafrica.org/wilderness-wildlife-trust/>.

How your donations are used

Donors to the Trust have the choice to contribute to the general funds, to be used wherever required, or to a particular category (Anti-poaching and Management; Research and Conservation; or Community Empowerment and Education), project, or even specific part of a project. Since Empowers Africa does not charge for any administration costs, donors can be assured of their monies being spent completely on their chosen component.

Acknowledgements and Donors

Thanks to the generosity of many donors over the past year, we have achieved some notable successes in the conservation of animal and plant species, a furthering of knowledge of ecosystems and the ongoing engagement of neighbouring communities. We would like to thank all our donors in this regard.

Every year, we are humbled by those committed individuals who have undertaken, often on an annual basis, to raise funds of their own accord. Such people have cycled, run or walked for our conservation and community projects. For example, **Tracy Bamber** raised funds through her Comrades Ultra Marathon for the ninth year in a row!

Donors

Our Patrons

The Trust would like to pay special tribute to individuals and companies who have given in such a way as to define them as Patrons, those with such a special affinity to the Trust that without them, certain projects would not have come to fruition. In alphabetical order, they are:

B&H Photo Video & Pro Audio for being a long-time supporter of the Trust, donating cameras, photographic equipment and camera traps for species research – as well as partnering with the Trust in the B&H Photo Video Wilderness Photo Competition.

Madeleine & Jerry Delman-Cohen – for their continuing enthusiastic support and contributions to a range of projects, from elephant collaring to education projects in the form of bursaries.

Jeffrey Neu – for his unstinting assistance over the years, particularly with regards to rhino conservation in the form of translocations and anti-poaching vehicles, educational bursaries and more.

Empowers Africa – Krista Krieger of the charity Empowers Africa – for its support of programmes in the areas of human empowerment, wildlife protection and land conservation in sub-Saharan Africa.

SATIB, for its continued support for the Trust and CITW, including the insurance for the new Nissan vehicles.

Last but not least, **Wilderness Safaris** – for financial, logistical and personnel support since the Trust’s inception, and Wilderness Air for its continued and valuable assistance over the years.

If we have left out anyone from our donor list, this was unintentional; please accept our apologies and let us know.

OVER \$5000

Amy and Schaefer Price	Classic Africa – Pierre and Margaret Faber	One Lake One Rhino Foundation
Anonymous	Conservation Safari Co. – Jaime Thom	Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund – Jeff and Julie Thompson
Banovich Wildscapes Foundation – John Banovich	Jeffrey P Neu	Sean Katz
Bob and Shirley Sanderson	Lederle Safaris – Greg Lederle	Sheryl Entwistle
Clark Foundation – Mike Clark	McKenzie Foundation	Tim Donlan
	Nick Price	

BELOW \$5000

A & J Cadkin Foundation	Hilton Wasilewski	Polar Quest
Africa Dynamics	Inger J Fair	Rachel Grunert
Sandra Collier	J Quinn Sweeney	Raghav Magunta
Alan Edwards	Henderson	Richard Walker
Andrew Wadsworth	Jane Thaden	Robert and Sue Ann Schiff
Astrid Botha	Jean Barash	Rose Porter
Bill and Doris Spitzig	Jeffrey M Woldrich and Louise Guzman-Woldrich	Safari True – Amanda Sunderland
Bond Koga	John and Gail Wirth	Scott Wechsler
Book Boutique	John Hilton	Shannon Marnell
Caleb Kadetz	June Thaden	Shirley and Bob Sanderson
Campbell Family Foundation	Karell Travel	Signature African Safaris – Simon A Lacey
Carole Neves	Katherine Davies	Stribling Family Foundation
Caroline Beginski	Krista Krieger	Sue Ellis
Caroline Porter	Laura Brodsky	Susan Benson
Carolyn Luce	Lauren M LaPietra	The Adler Nordall Family Trust
Cathy Thomas	Lesley Kaye	Tina Porter
Civilized Adventures Inc.	Marcus Alborough	Tracy Bamber
Cyril and Ann Herber-Percy	Mark Abrahams	Travel Beyond – Craig and Kay Beal
Daniel Chaknova	Mary Engel	Travel Sommelier - Darren Humphreys
Daniel Snowden	Mary Lamy	V Webber Romero
Dawn Frider	Megan Behl	Vicki Craver
Elizabeth Hess	Nancy Mohr	WildlifeCampus
Elliot Welsenberg	Pablo Haraker	
Firestone Foundation Fund – Lisa S Firestone	Patti Lower	
Flora Corley Pratt	Pau Garcia Laita	
	Peter Lemon	
	Piper & Heath – Chris Liebenberg	





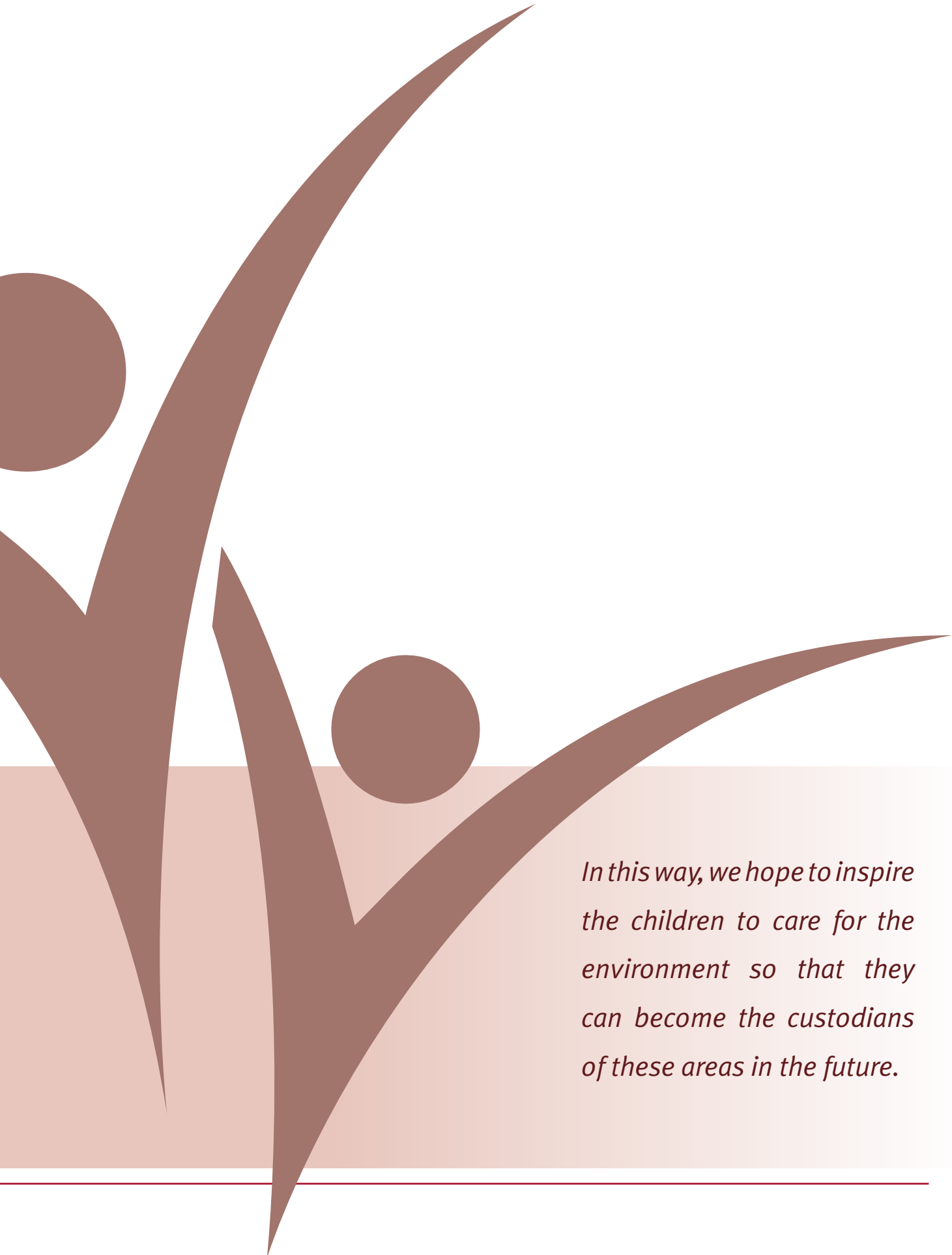


CHILDREN IN THE
WILDERNESS



Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is a non-profit organisation, supported by ecotourism company Wilderness Safaris, that aims to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development and education of rural children in Africa.

By exposing children to their natural heritage, Children in the Wilderness aims to create a network of learning sanctuaries that uplifts and cares for our children and conserves our planet.



In this way, we hope to inspire the children to care for the environment so that they can become the custodians of these areas in the future.

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Directors



Children in the Wilderness had another successful, productive year, continuing to grow from strength to strength with the roll-out of more programme elements, enhancing existing programme elements and resources – all ensuring long-term sustainability and greater reach and impact.

Numerous Eco-Mentor Training programmes were conducted, with 117 teachers/Eco-Mentors trained. This training helps to develop local community members, local school teachers and Wilderness Safaris camp staff by upgrading skills, increasing environmental understanding and enabling them to better implement school and village environmental projects and initiatives. The training workshops also provide new, creative teaching skills that can be used in other subjects and other classes, and they empower teachers and community members by providing knowledge, resources and tools for them.

The Eco-Club programme in the various communities with which we work progressed well in the reporting period, with many interesting Eco-Club projects on the go. In 2016, we had 2 706 Eco-Club members, with a total of 61 Eco-Clubs being supported and 168 teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in the Eco-Clubs. The publication of the Children in the Wilderness Eco-Stars Issue 1 was a highlight in 2016. This publication provides information, stories and fun photos of all our programme elements, as well as introducing guests and donors to our “Eco-Stars” – i.e., everyone involved in our programme. Issue 2 was published early in 2017 and the publication will be an annual one.

Seventeen Children in the Wilderness annual camp programmes were run for a total of 427 children in 2016. The three-night, four-day annual camp programme still proves to be very effective and the structured curriculum provides lots of fun with a large amount of learning involved too. The children arrive with environmental grounding thanks to the Eco-Club programme, and we have been amazed at their knowledge and ability to apply what they have learnt. The camp programme also provides opportunities for community members to understand tourism and how it works.

In 2016, the Children in the Wilderness Adult Eco-Club programme continued to grow and develop in the regions, with 11 clubs being supported, comprising 185 members. These clubs are aligned with the children’s Eco-Clubs ensuring that the adults pass on traditional skills



and knowledge and also take part in the environmental education learning and projects. A number of excellent livelihood diversification projects have been implemented, along with associated training courses to develop and enhance skills.

The annual Community Development/Children in the Wilderness Regional Workshop was held in June 2016. The workshop started with a full-day personal development workshop, focused on communication and providing and receiving feedback, followed by three days where the Coordinators and Community Development Liaisons from the regions shared ideas, projects and discussed strategies, resource development and plans for the remainder of the year. A large part of the workshop focused on monitoring and evaluation and how we can implement this in all regions, including all programme elements. Other general topics were also covered, such as governance, marketing, branding, fundraising, and communication to ensure that all regions.

In terms of fundraising, the 2016 Nedbank Tour de Tuli event – our 12th annual fundraising cycling event – was a great success! Despite some logistical challenges due to last-minute required changes to the route, we continue to build positive relationships with all stakeholders, sponsors and partners involved in the event. Another big fundraising initiative is the Wilderness Safaris Residents Programme, whose R5 500 joining fee is donated in its entirety to Children in the Wilderness: we are very grateful for the support of this programme and the enthusiasm and passion of its staff. Some of our other important partners over the year have included Pack for a Purpose, Peace Parks Foundation, Ducere Foundation, Qhubeka and the Mother Bear Project.

Sincere gratitude is extended to the many individuals, corporate companies, travel companies, Tour de Wilderness team, Wilderness Safaris and the Wilderness Safaris Residents Programme who have supported us over the past year, with monetary as well as in-kind donations. We are also greatly indebted to our staff, volunteers, teachers and Eco-Mentors who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that the programme continues to remain true to its vision of facilitating sustainable conservation through leadership development.

Directors: Russel Friedman (Chairman), Malcolm McCullough, Mike White, Leone Jooste, Jan Mallen and Dr Sue Snyman

HOW CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS WORKS

How

The Children in the Wilderness programme covers a range of educational and support initiatives:



Eco-Mentor Training: In most regions, our Eco-Mentors volunteer their time in order to work with the children. They interact with the children as counsellors, friends and, most importantly, role models. Our Eco-Mentor Training aims to develop local community members, including local teachers, local community members and Wilderness Safaris camp staff by upgrading their skills in environmental understanding and enabling them to better implement school and village environmental projects and initiatives.

Eco-Clubs: Throughout the year, we support Eco-Clubs in rural schools in the communities with which we work. These Eco-Clubs follow a structured curriculum, providing all learners interested in the environment a chance to meet, learn, discuss and expand their knowledge of environmental issues. Children participating in the annual camps are selected from Eco-Clubs. Environmental projects and tasks are earmarked and organised in cooperation with the community members and teachers. The children are encouraged to participate in the planning process and come up with their own ideas in order for them to take ownership of their Eco-Clubs and the projects. The Eco-Clubs are increasingly providing positive community development while reaching a wider community. Projects to date have included indigenous tree nurseries, collage competitions raising environmental awareness, and reforestation projects.

Camps: A Wilderness Safaris or partner camp is closed for a few days each year, and 12-24 children between the ages of 10 and 17 are hosted in the camp for a three-night, four-day educational and fun-filled programme, including lessons, games, practical sessions and wildlife activities.

Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme: The YES Programme focuses on children with commitment and potential who have been identified on annual camps and in Eco-Clubs as showing an interest in conservation. YES campers are selected through a rigorous and transparent process based on criteria such as leadership potential, interest in the environment and academic performance. YES camps are usually smaller, with fewer children attending, allowing for focused work groups and increased participation of all children. The programme curriculum is an extension of concepts introduced in Eco-Clubs and at camp, with a greater focus on career guidance, communication, leadership, teamwork and further environmental education. It also aims to inspire the participants to come up with sustainable conservation methods so as to sustain their own lives as well as those of future generations.



Scholarship Programme: In almost all the areas where we operate, primary education is free, but secondary schooling usually has a fee attached to it, resulting in a large majority of children only ever completing their primary schooling. Through Eco-Clubs and Camp programmes, we are able to identify students who are doing well academically but whose parents are unable to send them to secondary school. Our Scholarship Programme aims to give these children an opportunity to complete their schooling. The programme provides funding for the necessary school fees and, as often as possible, we try and assist with uniform, stationery, and other schooling needs. Funding comes largely from Wilderness guests and agents, as well as other partner NGOs, corporates, etc.

Other Initiatives: Other important related initiatives include community development and livelihood diversification programmes to reduce poverty, improve living conditions and enhance local education systems. This is achieved through improving school infrastructure, water provision, providing teaching materials, and supporting scholarship and nutrition programmes.

Publications: Eco-Stars is an upbeat magazine that introduces readers to the people behind the scenes, from the tireless Children in the Wilderness team and the dedicated and caring Eco-Mentors to the gifted children themselves – the Eco-Stars. The magazine is available in all Wilderness Safaris camps to guests and staff, as well as in airport lounges and online:

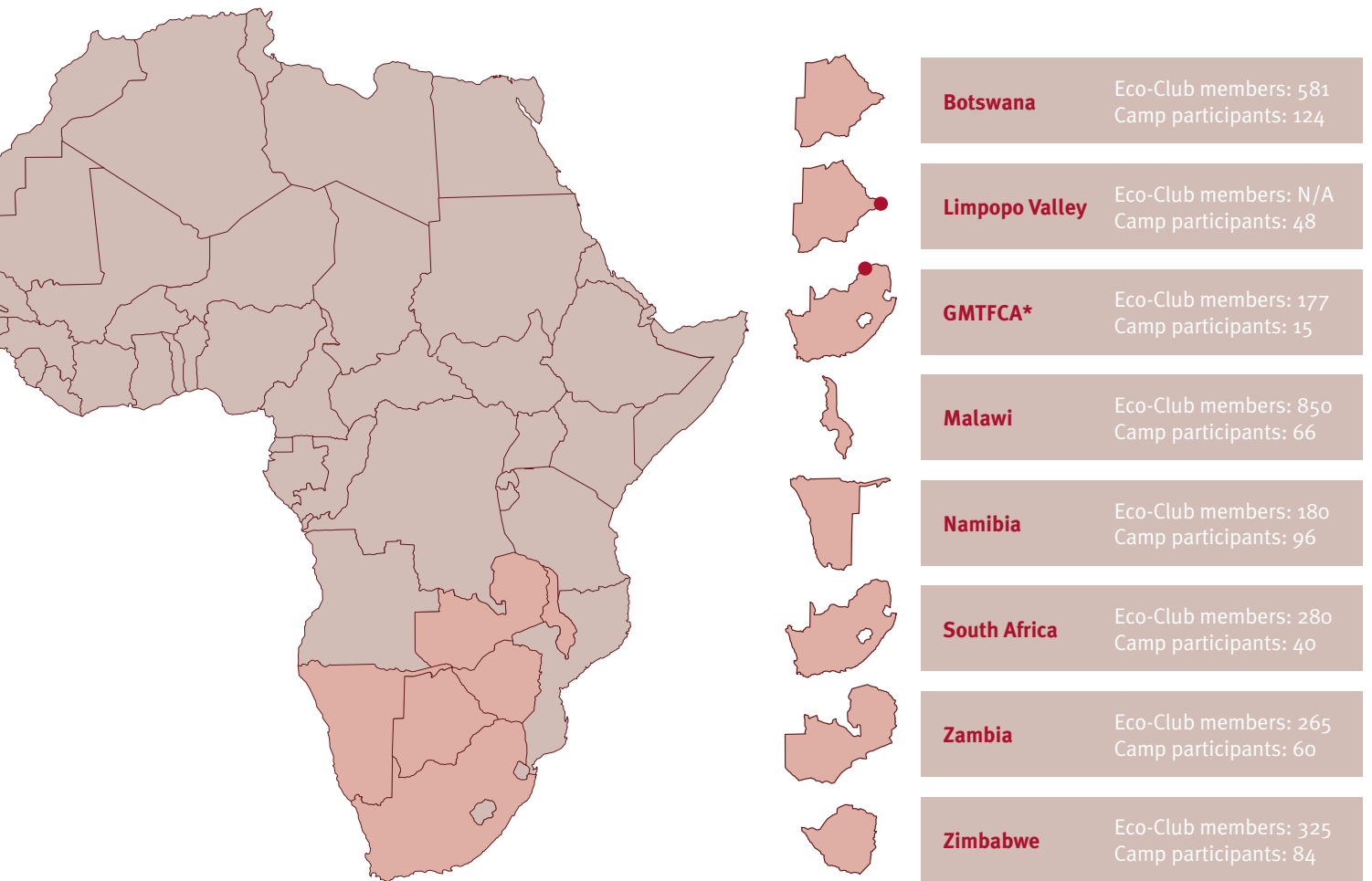
<http://www.childreninthewilderness.com/about-us/eco-stars/>

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS NUMBERS

Numbers

In 2016, Children in the Wilderness ran **61 Eco-Clubs** with **2658 children** participating and hosted **533 children in 22 Eco-Club camps**.

As of the end of 2015, Children in the Wilderness has run camp programmes for over 5 600 children in seven southern African countries, and over 6 400 children have participated in our Eco-Clubs across the subregion, changing their lives dramatically and positively. As the programme has been rolled out to many of the regions in which Wilderness Safaris operates, as well as becoming a more structured, standardised programme, so its contribution has become greater: positively impacting more children's lives more often. Children in the Wilderness previously ran annual camps on North Island, Seychelles; this programme is no longer operational.



*Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS TEAM

BOTSWANA:

Mary Hastag: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

Gabainele (Gaba) Modirapula: Children in the Wilderness Administrator

LIMPOPO VALLEY:

Tanya McKenzie: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

MALAWI:

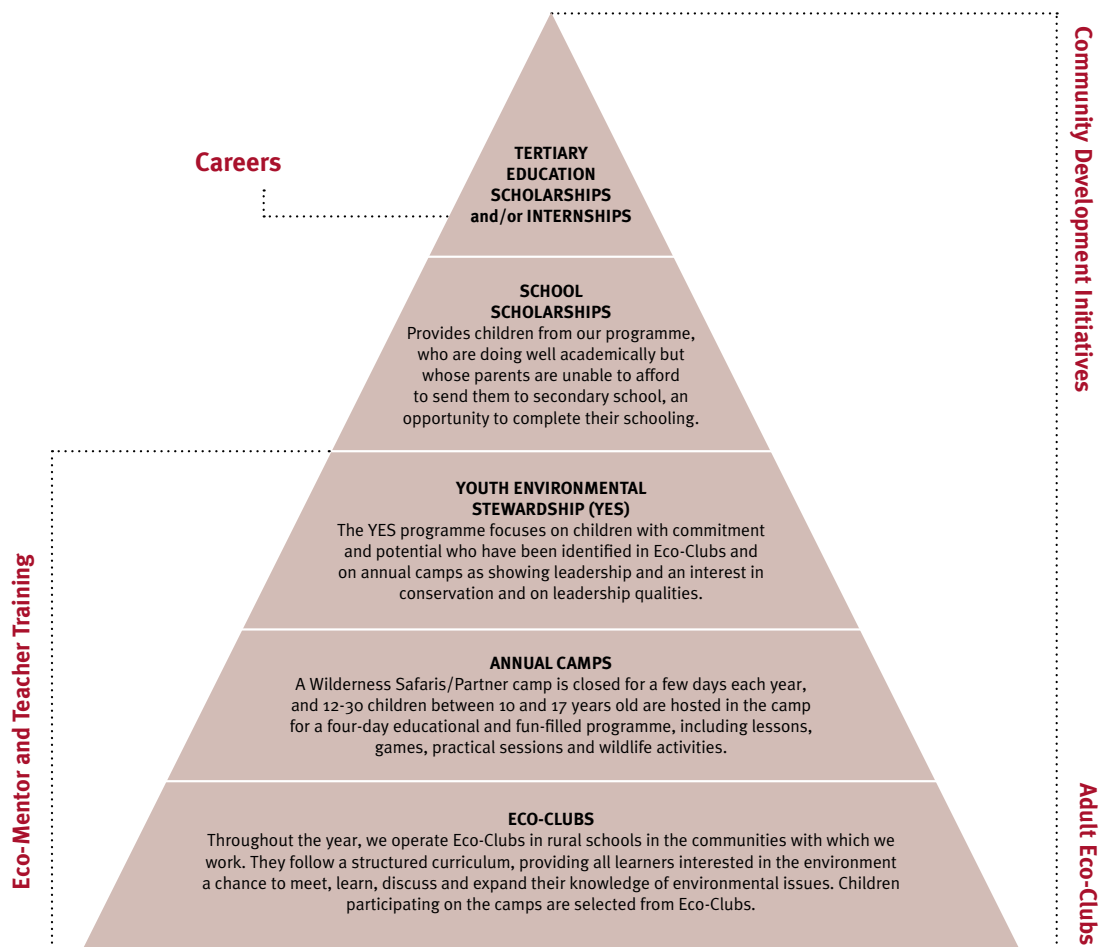
Symon Chibaka: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

Christopher Mvula: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Liaison

NAMIBIA:

Agnes Tjirare: Community Engagement Administrator

Jermain Ketji: Community Engagement Manager



Eco-Mentor and Teacher Training

Our Eco-Mentor Training aims to develop local community members, including local teachers and Wilderness Safaris camp staff by upgrading their skills in environmental understanding and enabling them to better implement school and village environmental projects and initiatives.

Community Development Initiatives

These initiatives include school support, community development and livelihood diversification projects to reduce poverty, improve living conditions and enhance local education systems.

Adult Eco-Clubs

Assisting with skills training, livelihood diversification projects, business skills and providing an important link between parents, elders, teachers and children on our programme.

REGIONAL:

Dr Sue Snyman: Regional Programme Director
Bongani Baloyi: Regional Programme Coordinator
Liza Steyn: Administration and Bookkeeping
Richard van der Wyl: Sustainability & Risk Division

SOUTH AFRICA AND GMTFCA:

Janet Wilkinson: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

ZAMBIA:

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager
James Mwanza: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

ZIMBABWE:

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager
Shuvanayi Taruvinga: Children in the Wilderness Administrative Assistant
Mxolisi Sibanda: Community and Field Coordinator



Country Reports



BOTSWANA

Country Report

Children in the Wilderness Botswana began in 2001, its first initiative being to run annual camps. To date, over 1 800 children have been hosted on these. Youth Environmental Stewardship camps began in 2008, with over 300 children participating to date. Since the inception of Eco-Clubs in 2013, Children in the Wilderness Botswana has had over 2 000 children as members.



BOTSWANA NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Eco-Club camps	4
Children on Eco-Club camps	88
Schools engaged with for all activities	9
Teachers on all camps	18
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	24
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	51
Children on YES programme	0
YES camps run	2
Children on YES camps	36
Eco-Clubs supported	9
Eco-Club members	581
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	61
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	42
Adult Eco-Clubs	6
People involved in Adult Eco-Clubs	51
Secondary school scholarships	0
Tertiary scholarships	1

Mary Hastag: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator
 Gabainele (Gaba) Modirapula: Children in the Wilderness Administrator

ECO-CLUBS

VILLAGE	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN IN ECO-CLUB	NO. OF TEACHERS / ECO-MENTORS INVOLVED	ECO-CLUB PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Maun	Shashe Primary School	49	8	Beadwork; Worm units; Vegetable production; Storytelling
Sankoyo	Sankoyo Primary School	80	5	Orchard; Vegetable production; Knitting; Worm units; Bird feeders
Kareng	Kareng Primary School	67	8	Worm units; Bird feeders; Vegetable production; Anti-litter campaign; Field crop production
Habu	Habu Primary School	60	7	Poultry production; Field crop production; Arts and Crafts
Tubu	Tubu Primary School	67	7	Tippy Taps; Tree planting; Beadwork; Cultural awareness; Tie and dye
Seronga	Seronga Primary School	88	7	Beauty contest; Arts and Crafts; Lawn; Tree planting
Gunotsoga	Gunotsoga Primary School	60	5	Beekeeping; Vegetable production; Poultry production; Tree planting
Beetsha	Beetsha Primary School	55	8	Orchard; Worm unit; Tree planting; Information board; Beekeeping
Gudigwa	Gudigwa Primary School	55	6	Vegetable production; Culture awareness; Crop production; Tree planting

ECO-MENTOR / TEACHER TRAINING

TRAINING VENUE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	WHERE ATTENDEES WERE FROM	TOPICS COVERED
Beetsha Primary School	20 members – Adults, Eco-Club members, teachers	Gunotsoga Beetsha	Introduction to Beekeeping
Bocodol, Maun	22 Adult Eco-Club members	Gunotsoga Beetsha Habu Shashe	Batik; Tie and dye; Beadwork; Screen printing

ANNUAL CAMPS



Highlights

- Jacana Camp was attended by photographers from South Africa (Caroline Culbert and Warren Smart)
- Botswana turned 50 years old this year and all campers' projects were based on this theme. Beetsha Eco-Club's project caught the Eco-Mentors' eye as it dealt with the three chiefs and on how Botswana got its independence.

Topics covered

- Mammals
- Food chain
- 4RS (Respect, Reuse, Recycle and Reduce)
- Photography and photo framing
- Bird adaptation
- School project presentations
- Wildlife quiz

What they said

I did not think that I will learn about 4RS, I have learnt that respecting my environment is the most important thing.

Amelia Noah, 10 years old,
Tubu Primary School

I have learnt that when you are in camp or bush there are some rules to follow, example I should always walk with my mentor. It teaches me that even at home/school I should always talk to my teachers and parents when I am going to see my friend.

Osego Ntwagaefe, 9 years old,
Tubu Primary School

Mary Hastag: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator
 Gabainele (Gaba) Modirapula: Children in the Wilderness Administrator

ADULT ECO-CLUBS

ECO-CLUB NAME	VILLAGE	NO. OF WOMEN	NO. OF MEN	PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Shashe Adult Eco-Club	Maun	7	0	Dressmaking; Beadwork; Handmade elephant dung paper; Basket weaving; Tapestry; Screen printing
Habu Adult Eco-Club	Habu	12	1	Patchwork; Dressmaking; Basket weaving; Wood carving; Handmade elephant dung paper; Screen printing
Kareng Adult Eco-Club	Kareng	5	3	Poetry; Leatherwork; Woodcarving
Sankoyo Adult Eco-Club	Sankoyo	7	0	Knitting; Beadwork; Basket weaving; Handmade elephant dung paper; Pottery; Beekeeping
Gunotsoga Adult Eco-Club	Gunotsoga	7	1	Beekeeping; Milling station; Knitting; Screen printing
Beetsha Adult Eco-Club	Beetsha	7	1	Beekeeping; Milling station; Screen printing



Women Entrepreneurship Training

Twenty-two Adult Eco-Club members from Shashe, Habu, Beetsha and Gunutsoga attended the Women Entrepreneurship Training which was held in Maun. It was facilitated by the highly-motivated Miss Dorcas Mbezi, who works with women aged 50 to 70 in Zimbabwe.

Screen-Print Training

The Adult Eco-Club groups also had the chance to be trained in screen-printing by Magic Concept Company in Maun. They were taught about the materials that are needed to screen-print, and how to use materials that consider the impact on the environment. Twenty-one participants attended this workshop.



BOTSWANA

Country Report

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

VILLAGE/ COMMUNITY	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Beetsha	Ex-Children in the Wilderness camper (Beetsha Primary School)	0	1	South African Wildlife College



Through our scholarship programme, Children in the Wilderness Botswana assisted in sending a camper, Naledi Kgoba, to study at the South African Wildlife College. Naledi has attended Eco-Clubs and Annual Camps and continues to work closely with the Botswana team as he has volunteered annually as an Eco-Mentor since 2008.



Mary Hastag: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator
 Gabaneele (Gaba) Modirapula: Children in the Wilderness Administrator

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Beekeeping Training

A workshop in beekeeping took place at Beetsha, where four teachers, two Eco-Club members and 12 Adult Eco-Club members attended. Trained by a member of the Ministry of Agriculture, the workshop covered the following topics:

- The importance of bees
- How to start a beekeeping project
- Types of beehives
- Bee biology
- Apiary and layout
- Colony capturing
- Feeding bees
- Colony inspection and harvesting
- Honey pests and protection
- Record keeping



Namibian Visit – “Fostering a Culture of Openness and Transparency”

Children in the Wilderness Namibia coordinators visited Botswana to see and gain knowledge on how to start and work with Adult Eco-Clubs back in Namibia. They visited one of the Adult Eco-Clubs in Shashe to see some of the projects that are run by the club and gained much insight through meeting and talking to the members.



Botswana Mentors – Jacana Camp 2016

BOTSWANA – LIMPOPO VALLEY

Country Report

The Children in the Wilderness programme started in Limpopo Valley in 2010, as a result of the Tour de Tuli mountain bike event that takes place in the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA) each year, traversing large areas of Mashatu Game Reserve. It has hosted 280 children on annual camps since its inception. Mashatu Game Reserve provides all the bednights for the camps.



LIMPOPO VALLEY NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Eco-Club camps run	3
Children on Eco-Club camps	48
Schools engaged with for all activities	3
Teachers on all camps	3
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	18
Mashatu staff on all camps	4

Tanya McKenzie: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

ANNUAL CAMPS

The Limpopo Valley camps were held at Mashatu Tent Camp this year. Shortened to three-day camps the curriculum included general wildlife and environmental conservation, photography, circle of life and ecosystems, film-making and very importantly anti-poaching. These topics are always followed by informative game drives to back up what has been learnt during the camps. The creative activity included painting T-shirts to take home, and singing and dancing.

Highlights

Some valuable and interesting anti-poaching talks and activities were included as an important component of the curriculum. It had a very strong impact on the children and they were especially interested in the laws of Botswana with regards to poaching.

The children also went on an outing to Mashatu Lodge where they learnt about different careers and various job opportunities associated with the Northern Tuli Game Reserve.

One of the highlights during the camps is always the presentation on wildlife film-making by well-known wildlife filmmaker, Kim Wolhuter. The children were absolutely amazed by Kim's photos and movie clips.

The game drives are a highlight, where the various personalities of the children become apparent.

The volunteers who assist on the camps come from various backgrounds and they learn so much about wildlife and conservation. The camps end on a high note where special relationships have been formed and unique learning experiences have been had by all involved.

What they said

I would like to learn more about how to protect animals and plants from being extinct. I will always remember the different careers in the game reserve. I will make a difference by encouraging people to love animals and plants because they are the same like human beings

Lucy Ntwaekgile, 12 years old

On this camp, I learned how to differentiate (sic) between male and female animals. I did not expect to see such beauty and eat so much food and to find many things in our new bags. I will always remember that poaching is a bad idea. I am going to make a difference to the world by teaching others that poaching is bad and if animals are extinct, there will be no tourists and if there is no tourist, there will be no money and all beautiful animals are going to be dead.

Letsweletse Kgosi Makgosa, 12 years old

I will always remember the people in the camp and their kindness. The best thing about the camp is that no one was shouting at us.

Tumisang Matinkeja, 10 years old

The one thing I will always remember about the camp is that the camp is beautiful with uncles and aunties that love and respect us. I will make a difference in the world by making medicines for the sick animals.

Kgabolang Mabina, 12 years old

The most important thing I learnt on the camp is that we should respect animals and they will respect us.

Clara Manaka, 11 years old

When I finish school I want to teach people about what Children in the Wilderness is.

Carol Moipolai 10 years old

A CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS ALUMNUS

Gaone Dikinya was 10 years old when she attended our first camp in April 2010. She has now (in 2017) been accepted to study Travel and Tourism at the Tonota College of Education in Botswana next year. We are very proud of her.

GREATER MAPUNGUBWE TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA

Country Report

(GMTFCA)

As a result of the Tour de Tuli mountain bike event taking place annually in the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA), in 2015 Eco-Clubs were started in villages in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe surrounding the GMTFCA. Eco-Club camps followed soon after, with the children being hosted on the Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley camp programme and on a newly-introduced Tri-Nations camp held in Mapungubwe National Park.

Children in the Wilderness GMTFCA began Eco-Club camps in 2015 and to date has hosted 34 children on these camps. Since its inception in 2015 Children in the Wilderness GMTFCA has hosted 399 children in Eco-Clubs.



GMTFCA NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Eco-Club camps run	1
Children on Eco-Club camps	15
Schools engaged with for all activities	7
Teachers on all camps	4
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	8
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	5
Children on YES programme	0
YES camps	0
Children on YES camps	0
Eco-Clubs supported	7
Eco-Club members	177
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	9

Programme Coordinator: Janet Wilkinson

ECO-CLUBS

VILLAGE	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN IN ECO-CLUB	NO. OF TEACHERS / ECO-MENTORS INVOLVED	ECO-CLUB PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Simson (SA)	Modikwa Primary School	40	2	School vegetable garden
Mathathane (Botswana)	Mathathane Primary School	30	2	Eco-Club lessons
Motlhabaneng (Botswana)	Motlhabaneng Primary School	15	1	Eco-Club lessons
Maramani (Zimbabwe)	Shashi Primary School	38	1	School vegetable garden
	Jalukanga Primary School	24	1	School vegetable garden
	Limpopo Primary School	13	1	School vegetable garden
Nottingham Farm (Zimbabwe)	Nottingham Primary School	17	1	School vegetable garden



ANNUAL CAMPS



Tri-Nations Camp at Mapungubwe

As part of our 'giving-back' efforts in the communities we work with on the Tour de Tuli, Children in the Wilderness hosted its second annual Tri-Nations at Mapungubwe National Park, South Africa.

Fifteen children and teachers from three different countries – Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe – participated on a three-night, four-day camp where they got to be tourists, make new friends and have plenty of fun while learning more about the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA) in which they live.

Initially the children were very shy and wary, but one ice-breaker game in and everyone was smiling and chatting. Children learned about each other's countries including some interesting facts about each country's major tourism attractions. The usual camp topics and activities like the "Burning of Fears" activity and some storytelling were complemented by discussions on the importance of respect and its importance as a Children in the Wilderness value. The Team Building had children effortlessly building trust between their groups, gaining confidence and sharing thoughts, ideas and strategies to get through the activity as a team.

The Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre visit was a highlight – seeing the Golden Rhino and hearing stories about the rich heritage around Mapungubwe during the museum tour. The Web of Life activity got the children thinking more about how everything is connected and why everything is important regardless of size.

A highlight was the sustainability activity where children had to be community members using their local natural resources and engage, discuss and justify their annual tree usage in *mini-kgotlas*. This resulted in some rather interesting behaviour from the children – some getting totally immersed in their role plays.

Sue Snyman spoke to the children on the importance of TFCAs and a group of visiting journalists talked to them about tourism and various careers. It was the first time any of the children got to hear what it takes to be a journalist, work in the Department of Environmental Affairs and to work for an ecotourism company like Wilderness Safaris.



"Who Goes There?" was an activity involving tracks, spoor and observation. The children were required to work in their teams to create their own creature using natural materials found around the camp. This was an exercise in planning and collaborating and some of the teams worked well together while others were less successful.

Children enjoyed the visit to the Confluence and Treetop Walk where they learned more about the Limpopo River and various environmental facts about Mapungubwe. They loved standing on the Confluence Deck looking out over the three countries.

Programme Coordinator: Janet Wilkinson



What they said

I want to learn more about Respect.

Arnold, 13 years old, Zimbabwe

I would like to make a difference by keeping the dirty things out the environment so that it should be clean at all times.

Fhumulani, 14 years old, Zimbabwe

I learned about giraffe and it can give birthday (sic) standing on its life (sic – legs).

Keneiloe, 12 years old, Zimbabwe

I learn that a giraffe it sleep while standing up.

Kingsly, 12 years old, South Africa

Wilderness areas are important because they take care of the animals and plants.

Juddley, 13 years old, South Africa

One thing I will remember about camp is respecting and caring and to respect environment also.

Mojo, 14 years old, South Africa

I learnt more about respecting yourself and also the things around us. The camp has helped us develop the self-confidence.

Kethamile, 11 years old, Botswana

I had fun with people from different countries. It was absolutely fun! I would like to learn more about life with the wildlife. I would like to make a difference by changing mindsets. It will be my theme for next year so I will include every lesson I learnt here to my big Adventure 2017 Action plan.

Jonathan, 15 years old, Botswana

I was so too very very excited on camp. The thing I like most about camp is hygiene.

Evans, 10 years old, Botswana

I want to learn more about the Great Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA) because my country also benefits on it a lot. I like the way campers from different countries were cooperative, respectful and patient regardless of their nation.

Kimmi, 14 years old, Botswana

I like the listens (sic – lessons) time because they teach us important words.

Collin, 13 years old, South Africa

The most important thing is respecting each other and to have perseverance. I will make a difference by showing people that I am an Eco-Club member, keeping the environment tidy, making tip taps and to be kindness.

Tapelo, 13 years old, Zimbabwe

I will remember that you always learn more things. I like most is learning.

Luzu, 12 years old, Zimbabwe

I was first scared of others but I over comed (sic) my fear and now I am having fun.

Kamogelo, 13 years old, South Africa

I loved viewing/learning some birds that I have yet know in my village and the beauty around here. I would like teaching my school mates and my family and relatives to make up a tip tap to save water.

Katlego, 12 years old, Botswana

MALAWI

Country Report

Children in the Wilderness Malawi began running annual camps in 2003, with over 900 children hosted to date. Eco-Clubs started in 2006, hosting over 5 800 children to date.



MALAWI NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Eco-Club camps	1
Children on Eco-Club camps	36
Schools engaged with for all activities	17
Teachers on all camps	6
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	6
Central African Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	6
Children on YES programme	130
YES camps	1
Children on YES camps	30
Eco-Clubs supported	17
Eco-Club members	850
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	34
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	17
Adult Eco-Clubs	2
Adult Eco-Club participants	24
Secondary school scholarships	105
Tertiary scholarships	9

Symon Chibaka: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

Christopher Mvula: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Liaison

ECO-CLUBS

VILLAGE	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN IN ECO-CLUB	NO. OF TEACHERS / ECO-MENTORS INVOLVED	ECO-CLUB PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Kwenje	Nanthomba Primary School	64	2	Tree nursery; Vegetable garden; Permaculture; Worm farming; Paper recycling
Kwenje	Kavunguti Primary School	51	2	Tree nursery; Orchard; Paper recycling
Ligwang'wa	Kafulafula Primary School	56	2	Tree nursery; Paper recycling
Bimbi	Limimbi Primary School	29	2	Tree planting
Kalembo	Namalomba Primary School	25	2	Tree nursery; Tree planting; Stop, Sink and Shade (Water and soil conservation)
Mbweso	Ntapwa Primary School	58	3	Tree nursery; Tree planting; Park fence clearing.
Njahito	Katambasula Primary School	42	2	Tree planting; Park fence clearing
Makote	Nangondo Primary School	44	2	Tree planting; Park fence clearing
Ntangayi	Ntangayi Primary School	47	2	Tree planting; Paper recycling
Msundu	Chihame Primary School	65	2	Tree nursery; Tree planting; Stop, Sink and Shade (Water and soil conservation)
Malanda	Mgodi Primary School	48	2	Tree planting; Paper recycling
Luweya	Chintheche Primary School	58	2	Tree nursery; Tree planting
Chijere	Bandawe Primary School	42	2	Tree planting; Stop, Sink and Shade (Water and soil conservation)
Chiweyu	Chifira Primary School	48	2	Tree planting
Chimbano	Mac Alpine Primary School	58	2	Tree planting
Malenga	Malengamzoma Primary School	67	2	Tree planting
Mazembe	Mazembe Primary School	48	2	Tree nursery; Tree planting

ECO-MENTOR/TEACHER TRAINING

TRAINING VENUE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	WHERE ATTENDEES WERE FROM	TOPICS COVERED
Chintheche Inn (Central African Wilderness Safaris)	8	Bandawe Primary School Chintheche Primary School Chihame Primary School Mgodi Primary School	Introduction to mammals Birds around our schools Eco-Club administration Eco-Club lesson planning Working with YES members
Mvuu Camp (Central African Wilderness Safaris)	9	Nanthomba Primary School Kafulafula Primary School Kavunguti Primary School Limimbi Primary School Ntangayi Primary School Nangondo Primary School Katambasula Primary School Ntapwa Primary School	

ANNUAL CAMPS

Mvuu Camp hosted 36 children from 8 different primary schools' Eco-Clubs around Liwonde National Park. Aims included increasing knowledge and understanding of Liwonde and its wildlife, meeting with their role models in tourism and other fields and of course, having eco-fun!

Main aims:

- To increase their knowledge and understanding of Liwonde National Park, its wildlife and the value of ecotourism.
- To appreciate the role taken by CAWS and African Parks on some conservation projects.
- To meet and chat with their role models in tourism and other fields (other volunteers from various professions were hired as camp mentors, e.g. Teachers, nurses, people from media and the like).
- To have eco-fun!

DAY	THEME	MAIN TOPIC
Day 1	Awareness/Focus	Campsite orientation; Introduction to natural resources and wildlife; Swimming test; Camp fire
Day 2	Creativity/Integrity	Basic inter-dependences among wildlife; Permaculture; Recycling; Arts and crafts workshops
Day 3	Creativity/Integrity	<u>Life skills</u> My life and threats – HIV/AIDS; Meeting my role model; Future planning; Celebrating cultural diversity
Day 4	Service	Go and be of service; Quiz – Camp in review; Graduation; Departure

Symon Chibaka: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

Christopher Mvula: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Liaison

Highlights

Community understanding, involvement, contribution and support are necessary elements for Children in the Wilderness successes. On the last day of our first group of campers, seven Traditional Authorities, District Commissioners from the three districts around Liwonde National Park (Mangochi, Machinga and Balaka) and one official from African Parks joined the camp to participate, meet and interact with the youth. It was great to hear and see how both entities (the adults and the youth) could learn from each other.

The Traditional Authority, Chowe (Mangochi District, north-east of Liwonde National Park) spoke on behalf of the rest. In his speech he included the following points:

It has been my first time to learn more about CAWS, its businesses and its engagements with the communities here in and around Liwonde National Park. And that Children in the Wilderness has such a huge and effective programme which is successfully raising leaders who are promising to become champions of conservation, education, and development in their own communities. On behalf of my fellow TAs and the District Commissioners, I would like to say that we are impressed and feel challenged and appealed for more involvement and support. The only thing we can say is to register and promise our total support towards what Children in the Wilderness is already doing around the Park.



Traditional Leaders and District Council Leaders who came to witness the 2017 Eco-Club and YES camps in December 2016.

Some of us have never been to Liwonde National Park and indeed never been at Mvuu Camp and Lodge. We thank you CAWS and Children in the Wilderness for inviting us and allow us enjoy the beauty hereby. We have for sure carried home something new to share with our families and those in authorities which we work with and work for.

We are very much impressed and have been inspired very much.

What they said

I have learnt that elephants and other wildlife activities can sustain this Earth for more millions years to come, but human activities if not controlled, will end life on this Earth in the next few years to come. So who is wise between wildlife and human being?

Kondwani Chirwa, Bandawe Eco-Club

I have learnt a lot about bats. For the first time, I am taking bat as wildlife just like any other. I have been regarding bats as unwanted animals associated with witchcraft. Bats have greater ecological work, but work at night and we miss to notice their importance.

Eliot Wadi, Nanthomba, western side of Liwonde National Park

I have discovered so many things about baobab tree. Ask me when we meet next time, I will tell you even more about this tree. I am loving it more than before.

Ethel Mwalwanda, Nanthomba

I loved every part of camp experience here. I have learnt a lot. I have chosen Hippo to be my wildlife animal of my heart. I will be learning more and more about Hippos as I am growing up.

Felix Pachani, Ntapwa, eastern side of Liwonde National Park

I am taking the message home that human life comes from, or is supported by natural environment. So we should love and protect wildlife just the way we love our own life.

Halina Chisuse, north-eastern side of Liwonde National Park

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (YES) PROGRAMMES

The first week of camp hosted 30 YES members, from four centres or YES Clubs.

Newsletter Publication Training

Children in the Wilderness Malawi continues to provide knowledge to its Youth Environmental Stewards, who in turn share this with others. A newsletter project has been one of their tools to communicate, put across their voices and spread the information to many people at community level. Therefore, capacity-building training has taken place, with the Chihame YES Club in the northern part of Malawi undergoing a two-day advanced training course in newsletter production. Professionals from top media houses, namely Zodiak Radio Station and Nation Newspaper, facilitated the training.

CITW TRAINING AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

In July 2016, four youth were able to go to South Africa and study at the Southern Africa Wildlife College. After their training course at SAWC, the students were given an opportunity to do their internship with Central African Wilderness Safaris and African Parks.



ADULT ECO-CLUBS

ECO-CLUB NAME	VILLAGE	NO. OF WOMEN	NO. OF MEN	PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Chihame Eco-Women	Nsundu Village	12	0	Capacity-building training to begin in the following year.

Symon Chibaka: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

Christopher Mvula: Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Liaison

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

Secondary School Scholarships				
VILLAGE / COMMUNITY	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Malengamuzoma	Chifira Secondary School	3	3	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Nsundu	Chintheche Secondary School	14	11	Rosemary Pencil Fund
Mawato	Chintheche Private Secondary School	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Chijere	Bandawe Girls Secondary School	6	0	Rosemary Pencil Fund
Chijere	Bandawe Boys Secondary School	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Tukombo	Tukombo Girls Secondary School	1	0	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Namandanje	Namandanje Secondary School	16	9	Rosemary Pencil Fund
Kalembo	Namalomba Secondary School	9	8	Rosemary Pencil Fund
Masanje	Masanje Secondary School	6	5	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Ntaja	Mbenjere Secondary School	1	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Namwera	Our Lady Secondary School	2	0	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Balaka	Balaka Secondary School	5	3	Rosemary Pencil Fund
Malosa	Malosa Secondary School	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund
Andiyamo	St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School	0	2	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Dedza	Dedza Secondary School	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Dedza	Dedza Secondary School	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES CONTINUED

Tertiary Scholarships				
VILLAGE / COMMUNITY	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Blantyre City	University of Malawi Polytechnics	0	2	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Zomba City	University of Malawi CHANCO	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Kapeni	Malawi Institute of Tourism	1	0	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Lilongwe City	Malawi College of Health Science	1	0	Rosemary Pencil Fund
Lilongwe City	Malawi College of Accountancy	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Mzuzu City	Mzuzu Technical College	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Nkhotakota	Maranatha Girls Secondary School	1	0	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness
Mchinji	Ludzi Girls Secondary School	1	0	Rosemary Pencil Fund; Individual donors; Children in the Wilderness

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tree Nursery and Reforestation Project

The tree nursery and reforestation project helps to educate the youth in understanding and skills in managing tree nurseries, and provides an opportunity for them to practice leadership, while being creative, innovative and of service to the others in their own communities.

The project at Nanthomba Primary School was carried out by Eco-Club and YES members from four surrounding schools namely: Nanthomba, Kafulafula, Kavunguti and Mlambe primary schools.

For the season of 2016/2017 they managed to plant and grow over 15 000 seedlings. The seedlings were then distributed in January to six nearby schools, seven surrounding villages, five organised village conservation groups and over 150 individuals.

Benefits of the project:

- To learn and practice skills in tree nursery management.
- To learn and practice leadership.
- To play an active role in increasing forest cover and reducing land degradation caused by water run-off, strong wind and direct impact of the sun.
- To reduce pressure faced by their own plants in searching for timber and firewood.



Symon Chibaka: *Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator*

Christopher Mvula: *Community Development Liaison and Children in the Wilderness Liaison*



Open Day Events

Open Day Events took place towards the end of August and into early September in a number of villages around Liwonde National Park in the southern region, and in various villages around the Chintheche community in the northern part of Malawi and near the Lake.

During the Open Day Events, the youth interacted with their own communities and discussed a number of issues, ranging from conservation to social-economic development. The youth used media, interviews and discussions with their community leaders, and came up with presentations using videos, poems, stories and songs. Their presentations debated issues and possible solutions, as discussed by those interviewed. Their presentations were then aired to the general public.



NAMIBIA

Country Report

Children in the Wilderness Namibia began in 2002 and has hosted 1 536 children on annual camps to date. Eco-Clubs began operating in 2013 with over 300 children becoming members to date.



NAMIBIA NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Eco-Club camps	2
Eco-Club camp participants	96
Schools engaged with for all activities	10
Teachers on all camps	14
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	10
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	4
YES programme participants	20
YES camps	1
YES camp participants	16
Eco-Clubs supported	4
Eco-Club members	180
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	12
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	0
Adult Eco-Clubs	0
Adult Eco-Club members	0
Secondary school scholarships	15
Tertiary scholarships	1
Number of children on nutrition programmes	100

Agnes Tjirare: Community Engagement Administrator
Jermain Ketji: Community Engagement Manager

ECO-CLUBS

VILLAGE	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN IN ECO-CLUB	NO. OF TEACHERS / ECO-MENTORS INVOLVED	ECO-CLUB PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Etosha	Okaukuejo Combined School	55	4	Eco-Club school garden; Beading project; Waste management campaigns; Rhino anti-poaching campaigns
Bersig	Jacob Basson Combined School	35	3	Eco-Club school garden; Human-wildlife conflict; Nutrition education; Waste management
Sesfontein	Elias Amxab Combined School	40	4	Village clean-up; Eco-Club school garden; Cultural regional competition
Warmquelle	Warmquelle Primary School	50	3	Recycling campaign; Research on natural pesticides; Eco-Club school garden; Human-wildlife conflict

ECO-MENTOR/TEACHER TRAINING

Eco-Club Coordinators workshop

Dr Sue Snyman and her team conducted a teacher and Eco-Mentor workshop in Namibia late last year, which looked at the academic as well as socio-economic challenges experienced by learners. Eco-Club coordinators selected for both Elias Amxab and Okaukuejo Combined Schools also joined the training. Teachers were educated on various ways children learn and different approaches to stimulating interest during lessons. The session was very productive with proposals submitted by the teachers from the different schools as part of their targets for 2016.



ANNUAL CAMPS

The Annual Camps took place at Damaraland Adventurer Camp, Wereldsend.



Highlights

Children enjoyed visiting the Damara Living Museum, the Twyfelfontein rock engravings, and Burnt Mountain. They loved seeing desert-adapted elephants. They enjoyed the food and the amount of care and attention they received while at camp.

Topics covered

- Conservation
- Importance of indigenous knowledge for the human race
- Desert-adapted animals
- Poaching
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Discipline
- Education

What they said

Can I stay here at the end of camp?

Rachimo Khomob

How did the animals know we were coming?

Suzette Tjiveze

At camp we become special

Rejoice Kapetua

This is the first time I sleep in my own blankets

Tuahanika Kongoro

Agnes Tjirare: Community Engagement Administrator
Jermain Ketji: Community Engagement Manager

ADULT ECO-CLUBS

NAME OF CLUB	VILLAGE	NO. OF WOMEN	NO. OF MEN	PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Huab Tannies Adult Eco-Club	De Riet	7	2	Tailoring tablecloths and napkins for Wilderness Safaris camps

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

VILLAGE / COMMUNITY	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Otjimbingwe	Da Palm Secondary School	1	0	Khomas Trust
Khorixas	Cornelius Goreseb	1	0	Khomas Trust
Etosha	Okaukuejo Combined School	1	1	Khomas Trust
Outjo	Namibian College of Open Learning	0	2	Khomas Trust
Opuwo	Mureti High School	1	0	Stuart Crawford
Windhoek	University of Namibia	2	0	Khomas Trust
Sesfontein	Elias Amxab Combined School	1	0	Pete Valentin
Khorixas	Braunfels Agricultural High School	2	2	Khomas Trust

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Nutrition programme

Children in the Wilderness Namibia was able to provide nutrition for all 200 Eco-Club members and 100 vulnerable day scholars in the form of one meal a day – with the assistance of Hartlief which kindly donated meat products worth N\$62 000.

De-Riet Kindergarten

One of the old buildings at De Riet, Die Winkel, was renovated by community members who worked tirelessly on the site, to make it into a kindergarten. Stakeholders such as Wilderness Safaris and Torra Conservancy supplied materials and meals. The building consists of one main hall that will serve as the classroom and three additional rooms that will house the teacher and some children coming from far, as well as a storeroom. The kindergarten will employ a full-time teacher, who will be paid by the government, and will enrol approximately 20-30 children. A kindergarten committee was elected that will oversee further needs of the centre and liaise with stakeholders.



SOUTH AFRICA

Country Report

Children in the Wilderness South Africa began in 2003 and has hosted over 500 children on annual camps since its inception. Eco-Clubs were started in 2012 and have had over 1 100 children as members to date.



SOUTH AFRICA NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Eco-Club camps	1
Eco-Club camp participants	24
Schools engaged with for all activities	6
Teachers on all camps	2
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	16
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	10
YES programme participants	20
YES camps	1
YES camp participants	16
Eco-Clubs supported	6
Eco-Club members	280
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	16
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	17

Janet Wilkinson: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

ECO-CLUBS

VILLAGE	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN IN ECO-CLUB	NO. OF TEACHERS / ECO-MENTORS INVOLVED	ECO-CLUB PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Kwampukane	Vululwazi Primary	38	2	Focus on recycle and reuse
Kwamqobela	Kwamqobela Primary	42	2	Ongoing litter project
Makuleke	Joas Phahlela Primary	40	2	Vegetable garden
Makuleke	Makuleke Primary	40	2	Vegetable garden
Makahlule	Makahlule Primary	40	2	Vegetable garden
Mabiligwe	Boxahuku Primary	40	2	Vegetable garden
Alexandra	Bovet Primary	40	4	Eco-Club lessons



ECO-MENTOR / TEACHER TRAINING

TRAINING VENUE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	WHERE ATTENDEES WERE FROM	TOPICS COVERED
Wilderness Safaris Johannesburg Office	17	Alexandra township, Johannesburg	<p>What Eco-Clubs are and why form Eco-Clubs What is an Eco-Mentor and what does it mean to be an Eco-Mentor. Children in the Wilderness teaching and Learning styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow Learning Techniques • Intentional programming • Enquiry-Based Learning • Learning modalities • Eco-Club curriculum • How to use the curriculum book • How to conduct lesson plans

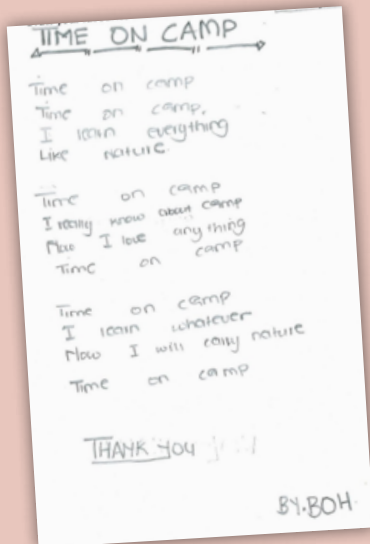
SOUTH AFRICA

Country Report

ANNUAL CAMPS



What they said



I learnt how to thanks when someone give you something.

Zinnie, 13 years old

I will always remember the way they welcome us, treat us as their children.

Luyanda, 12 years old

Rocktail Camp

We hosted another successful annual camp at Rocktail Camp for 24 children and two teachers from the local primary schools. The extremely overcast, windy and sometimes rainy weather did not deter anyone from having fun, and the outdoor activities included beach games and a trip to Lake Sibaya.

Topics

- Leadership values
- Teambuilding
- Web of life / Food chains
- Turtles
- The importance of trees

Highlights

- The children delighted in making biscuits during the Careers module and loved receiving Super Camper Awards.
- Given Mbonambi (Children in the Wilderness Eco-Club Coordinator for Rocktail) had her first opportunity to be Camp Director and performed admirably.
- Symon Chibaka (Children in the Wilderness Malawi Programme Coordinator) and Bongani Baloyi (Children in the Wilderness Regional) joined the camp as volunteers.
- Members of Rocktail Camp staff took on the roles of the Eco-Mentors, doubling as tent-, team- and activity leaders. This worked really well.

Janet Wilkinson: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (YES) PROGRAMMES

Pafuri Trails

The first fully-fledged YES camps were held at Pafuri Trails. Eight boys participated on the first and eight girls participated on the second camp. Children were invited to submit application essays titled “What I can do to improve the environment around my village” and selection for campers was based on these.

All of the selected participants had either attended previous Children in the Wilderness camps, Eco-Clubs or both, and the camp curriculum was set at a higher learning level than that of the previous camps.

Topics

The YES camp-specific topics included:

- Leadership and values
- Diversity, biodiversity and my natural heritage
- Invasive and alien species
- Sustainability
- Our solar system
- Orienteering
- Decision making and my future
- Study tips and presentations
- Appreciation and giving back in my community

The daily programme was the same for both boys’ and girls’ camps. The children received Children in the Wilderness workbooks that contained notes and further information on the topics in the curriculum along with additional exercises. The Eco-Mentors’ workbook complemented the children’s workbook and provided guidelines for all the activities.

Highlights

Game drives were always a highlight. The bittersweet highlight on the girls’ camp was seeing a live snared lion. This generated much discussion about poaching.

It is shocking to note that none of the children could tell time from an analog clock, but they all loved learning to do so. This then led into using protractors and measuring angles and finally using a compass. This was another highlight for many of them!

The nightly stargazing lessons were extremely well received and we are sure that these children will be looking up into the night skies with more appreciation in the future.

Despite the heat of the day, the boys enjoyed the Datura plant removal along a section of the Pafuri Airstrip.

The girls got to pick up litter along the tar road in the Makuleke Concession of Kruger National Park. They each made their own anti-litter placards to wear during the pick-up and displayed them every time any vehicle went past, whether from Park staff, police, tourists or those using the park as a thoroughfare to Mozambique. Many of the tourists and lodge guests stopped to take photos of the girls and compliment them on their efforts and placards.

A big thank you to Return Africa for the use of Pafuri Trails Camp – the ideal venue for these YES camps.



SOUTH AFRICA

Country Report

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (YES) PROGRAMMES CONTINUED...

What they said

On 'What difference has CITW made in your life?'

It has taught me about my environment and it has made me aware of the environmental problems we face.

Tracey, 17 years old

Teaches me how to respect each other and do not hate each other.

Hlulani, 15 years old

It teach me how can I do to make my community become clean.

Wesly, 16 years old

They made me to know history of our community and nature conservation.

Request, 15 years old

It made me to see that I can win.

Thorsten, 14 years old

To live well at home or anywhere. Do not cut tree at home or anywhere and respect someone, respect our environment and don't put pumper (Pampers) in river.

Mixo, 15 years old

It made me to know and discover myself. It made me know how to plan for my future and it has given me the fierce to care for my environment.

Destiny, 15 years old

It gave knowledge and experience about many challenges that I could face in life and how I could overcome them.

Thabo, 18 years old



Janet Wilkinson: Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

YES WORKSHOP, MAKULEKE

High school children who participated in Children in the Wilderness camps at Pafuri Trails between 2013 and 2016 were invited to attend a workshop held at Makuleke Primary School. The aim was to focus on some life skills regarding tertiary education.

Twenty-eight children attended the one-day workshop over a South African long weekend. These children form the core of the CITW Makuleke YES group.

Three topics were covered: The River of Life, Grow Your Own Money and I Want To Be A...

Lindy Nieuwenhuizen volunteered once again, hosting The River of Life sessions where children created their own picture that reflected what had shaped the direction of their lives.

Bongani Baloyi hosted the Grow Your Own Money sessions where children learned about square-metre gardening and the value of growing and trading vegetables in the square metre. The financial aspect of these sessions proved to be very thought provoking.

Janet Wilkinson facilitated the I Want To Be A... sessions, which provided information on study paths and options for tertiary education and ways to fund this. Children were encouraged to do further research into their dream careers and study paths required. Information was provided to encourage considering 'Plan E' – become an entrepreneur, start your own small business.

Children then formed smaller groups (per village) to set themselves undertakings to for 10 months.

MABILIGWE VILLAGE GROUP	MAKAHLULE VILLAGE GROUP	MAKULEKE VILLAGE GROUP
Youth Eco-leaders	Creating A Healthy Community	Green House
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Filling up road potholes 2. Collecting plastics (street) 3. Collecting plastics (house to house) 4. Collecting papers (street) 5. Collecting papers (house to house) 6. Raising awareness 7. Starting a garden 8. Make Tippy Taps 9. Recycling (reusing) 10. Collecting bottles and cans 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No littering 2. Planting trees 3. Stop poaching 4. Water management 5. Stop deforestation 6. Helping disabled people 7. Collecting pampers 8. Giving to orphans or poor people 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cleaning the environment; fight litter 2. Filling up potholes 3. Planting more trees 4. Spreading the news to save water 5. Collecting used cans to build something out of them 6. Recycle bottles 7. Picking up baby diapers in the rivers 8. Helping old people in the community 9. Start a small business (car wash) 10. Teach fellow community members about the importance of the environment

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Thabo Maluleke, a YES student from the Makuleke community, dreams of becoming a vet. Children in the Wilderness helped him spend two weeks with the South African National Parks Veterinary Wildlife Services Team in Kruger National Park (KNP) by funding his accommodation, food and transport.

Thabo has this to say about his life-changing time: *"I have a lot of interest in working with wildlife and helping vulnerable animals that are under threat from extinction. I want to thank Children in the Wilderness and South African National Parks for giving me the opportunity to spend time in the Veterinary Wildlife Service. This opportunity has been an eye-opener and given me a lot of information based on my dream job and how to work as a team in the laboratory or in the field.*

My biggest highlight was working with the Veterinary Wildlife team; the experience that I obtained from them has made a very big difference in my life. Ever since I was little I always wanted to be part of nature conservation, I always had a goal to work with wildlife. This opportunity has brought a positive change in my life, as my life will never be the same again."

ZAMBIA

Country Report

Children in the Wilderness started running annual camps in Zambia in 2007 and has hosted 456 children on these to date. Eco-Clubs began in 2013 with over 900 children becoming members since then.



ZAMBIA NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Eco-Club camps	2
Eco-Club camp participants	60
Schools engaged with for all activities	8
Teachers on all camps	8
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	6
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	9
YES programme participants	60
Number of YES camps	0
Number of children on YES camps	0
Eco-Clubs supported	7
Eco-Club members	265
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	21
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	32
Adult Eco-Clubs	2
Adult Eco-Club members	60
Primary school scholarships	34
Secondary school scholarships	10
Tertiary scholarships	2
Number of children on nutrition programmes	486

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager – Zambezi Region

James Mwanza: Assistant Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator – Zambezi Region

ECO-CLUBS

VILLAGE	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN IN ECO-CLUB	NO. OF TEACHERS / ECO-MENTORS INVOLVED	ECO-CLUB PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Dambwa North Dambwa Central Maramba Nottie Broad Elen Britel	Nalituwe Primary School	40	3	Tippy Taps Solar Cars Living and Non Living Animal Adaptation Insects Afforestation No littering Birds Plants around the yard Food web Reduce, Reuse and recycle Seeds
Siatela Mulyani Lypwaya Katiba	Twabuka Primary School	35	3	
Simoonga Sekute	Simoonga Primary School	35	3	
Dambwa North Dambwa Central Maramba Nottie Broad Elen Britel	Holy Cross Primary School	35	3	
Kabulwebulwe Mulungushi	Kabulwebulwe Primary School	40	3	
Mapoko Mwelundi Chiyewo	Mapoko Primary School	40	3	
Lupani Sikauzwe Swebo	Lupani Primary School	40	3	

Zambian schools have completely embraced the Eco-Club programme, with all schools showing a pleasing increase in Eco-Club membership in 2016.



ECO-MENTOR / TEACHER TRAINING

TRAINING VENUE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	WHERE ATTENDEES WERE FROM	TOPICS COVERED
Spray View, Victoria Falls	21	Nalituwe (3); Simoonga (3); Holy Cross (3); Twabuka (3); Lupani (3)	Interactive teaching methods; Coping with mixed abilities; Grouping; Use of Eco-Club Curriculum; Reporting and Recording
Kabulwebulwe Primary, Kafue	14	Mapoko (6); Kabulwebulwe (6); District Education Standards Office (2)	Interactive teaching methods; Coping with mixed abilities; Grouping; Use of Eco-Club Curriculum; Reporting and Recording
Richland Lodges, Livingstone	22	Twabuka (5); Lupani (4); Holy Cross (6); Nalituwe (4); Simoonga (5)	Recycling of solid waste into learning aids for ECD classes
Richland Lodges, Livingstone	21	Nalituwe (5); Twabuka (5); Holy Cross (5); Lupani (1); Simoonga (5)	Word Works – STELLAR Emergent Literacy Programme



Word Works teacher training workshops

Word Works Emergent Literacy Organisation ran a workshop in Livingstone, promoting the STELLAR Emergent Literacy programme which is specially designed to support Grade 0 and Grade 00 students, and equips teachers with knowledge and skills to teach oral language to children, predominantly from underprivileged backgrounds. STELLAR stands for ‘Strengthening Teaching of Early Language and Literacy in Grade R’ (in Zimbabwe and Zambia, Grade R relates to Grade 0 and Grade 00 students). The teachers absolutely loved the course and were grateful to learn new skills that would assist them with their teaching of small children.



El Hefni Foundation Workshop, Kabulwebulwe Primary School

El Hefni Foundation ran a workshop in June 2016 in a remote area in the Kafue Region in Zambia. Despite the logistical difficulties in reaching the Kafue, twelve teachers attended the intensive training programme that was run by the Foundation’s educationalists, Coleen Ryan and Annie Johnson. The programmes are formulated to incorporate Children in the Wilderness philosophy: our planet’s future is reliant upon how its resources are used, and that preserving and creating sustainable resource utilisation is key to a bright future. The programme also recognises the importance of having good teachers who are well trained and equipped to instil this message in the children that they teach.



Singakwenza Waste to Toys Workshop

The Waste to Toys Programme is based on the belief that ‘play’ is the foundation for learning in young children. The workshop was aimed at teaching caregivers how to educate early learners by making toys and playing games with easily accessible, recycled or waste material such as plastic bottles, egg boxes, and plastic lids. This complemented Children in the Wilderness’ “Reduce, reuse and recycle” Eco-Club projects. All 60 participants thoroughly enjoyed learning new and innovative methods of educating the young and eager minds of children in rural areas.

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager – Zambezi Region

James Mwanza: Assistant Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator – Zambezi Region

ANNUAL CAMPS

The theme for the camps for 2017 was “Our Fragile Planet.” They took place during April, November and December at Lufupa in Kafue National Park and Toka Leya near Livingstone.

Topics

- Life’s Webs
- Keeping a Balance
- Endangered Species
- Integrity and Respect
- Team Work
- A Taste of Careers

Highlights

The inter-team quiz was an amazing time of comradery between team members; the passion, wisdom and amount of knowledge these children have is remarkable. (Leah Guwamombe, volunteer)

Game walks – small groups led by passionate, knowledgeable guides who inspired these young students with sponge-like brains to become the custodians of our delicate planet. (Grace Konadaris, volunteer)

Up close and personal with an endangered species and its calf – a rhino. (Adolf Moomba, volunteer)



What they said

I am a good member of my Eco-Club and the camp helped me learn more so I can help to lead other students in the Eco-Club to understand how important the environment is.

Webster Moono, Grade 6, Simoonga Primary

My guide Histon taught me so much, he has much knowledge and wisdom, I want to be like him when I am old and teach my brothers.

Emmanuel Chileshe, Grade 6, Holy Cross

The safari business is very important as it helps give money to protect our wildlife and give us jobs, without Safari much will be destroyed.

Given Mukuwa, Grade 6, Nalituwe Primary

I learn that the tree I planted at school comes from a seed, I can get the seed to make another tree so now I walk forwards and collect seeds to make more trees for my school and village.

Chrispin Kasuku, Grade 6, Lupane Primary

We work together as a team with a good team leader to do good things for our world – I am a good team leader so I will do well for my environment.

Lindiwe Mbewe, Grade 6, Twabuka Primary

I like my environment so I must protect it.

Doreen Manje, Grade 6, Lupane Primary

ZAMBIA

Country Report

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (YES) PROGRAMMES

To be introduced in 2017.

ADULT ECO-CLUBS



NAME OF CLUB	VILLAGE	NO. OF WOMEN	NO. OF MEN	PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Sinde Adult Eco-Club	Sinde	25	5	Tree planting; Sewing; Entrepreneurial outreach; Eco-gardening
Lupani Adult Eco-Club	Lupani	20	10	Tree planting for firewood and poles

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

VILLAGE / COMMUNITY	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Simoonga Village	Simoonga Combined Secondary School	4	2	Kristina Tester
Sinde	Twabuka Primary School	14	13	Sally Pearson Kristina Tester Children in the Wilderness Robert Boyer Jeff Keller Marilyn Knowles
Mapoko	Mumbwa High School	1		Kristina Tester
Lypwaya	Nalituwe Secondary School	1		Kristina
Siatela	Copperbelt University		2	Planting Hope
Sekute / Simoonga	Linda High School		2	Children in the Wilderness

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager – Zambezi Region

James Mwanza: Assistant Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator – Zambezi Region

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other initiatives run throughout the year included:

- Community Borehole and Vegetable Garden – 28 community members and their households, Sinde Village
- Women’s Craft and Entrepreneurial Group – 30 community members and their households, Sinde Village
- Tree Planting and Plantations for Firewood and poles – 30 community members and their households, Sinde and Lupane villages

Arbour Day Celebrations

Arbour Day originated in the USA in 1872 on the treeless plains of Nebraska. However, in Africa, deforestation has had a negative effect on many rural areas and in an effort to embrace reforestation efforts, Children in the Wilderness-affiliated schools in Zambia, including Twabuka, Simoonga, Lupani, Holy Cross and Nalituwe Primary schools in Livingstone, and two schools in Kafue National Park, were very involved in the September 2016 Arbour tree-planting day.

A total of 400 indigenous plants were successfully planted in each school’s grounds by Eco-Club members. Students were also introduced to Dr Seuss’s Lorax story as part of the Eco-Club curriculum, which teaches the reader about the importance of preserving the biodiversity of his/her surroundings.



Zambezi Region 2016 Soccer Clinic

Professional soccer player, Gordon Gilbert, first launched ‘Soccer in the Wilderness’ with Children in the Wilderness in 2013. Being an avid wildlife enthusiast, the programme uses the game of soccer to teach the value of wildlife. Since soccer is a much-loved sport in most of Africa, Gordon is able to promote both the importance of teamwork as a player, and the value of conservation at the same time. Gordon spent time coaching at Children in the Wilderness-associated schools in Zambia again in 2016.



ZIMBABWE

Country Report

Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe began in 2008 and has hosted over 580 children on annual camps to date. Eco-Clubs were initiated in Zimbabwe in 2012 and have hosted over 1 500 children to date.



ZIMBABWE NUMBERS – MARCH 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

Other interesting statistics:

Average cost per child Primary schooling for 8 years – \$800

Average cost for student at Secondary school for 5 years – \$2500

Total paid on scholarships for 2016/17 \$57639.54

Eco-Club camps	2
Eco-Club camp participants	60
Schools engaged with for all activities	10
Teachers on all camps	10
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	4
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	16
YES programme participants	60
YES camps	1
YES camp participants	24
Eco-Clubs supported	10
Eco-Club members	325
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	26
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	44
Adult Eco-Clubs	2
Adult Eco-Club members	50
Primary school scholarships	176
Secondary school scholarships	52
Tertiary scholarships	17
Number of children on nutrition programmes	986

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager

Shuvanayi Taruvunga: Children in the Wilderness Administrative Assistant

Mxolisi Sibanda: Community and Field Coordinator

ECO-CLUBS

VILLAGE	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN IN ECO-CLUB	NO. OF TEACHERS / ECO-MENTORS INVOLVED	ECO-CLUB PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Ngamo	Ngamo Primary School	38	3	
Ziga	Ziga Primary School	35	3	
Ziga	Kapane Primary School	40	4	Tippy Taps Solar cars Living and non-living
Jakalasi	Jakalasi Primary School	40	3	Animal Adaptation Insects
Mpindo	Mpindo Primary School	35	2	Afforestation No littering
St Mary's	St Mary's Primary School	35	3	Birds Plants around the yard
Hwange	Sinamatella	12	2	Food web Reduce, Reuse and recycle Seeds
Hwange	Main Camp	30	2	
Jabulani	Jabulani Primary School	30	2	
Emfundweni	Emfundweni (BH36) Primary School	30	2	

Eco-composting and gardens

The provision of hardy and highly nutritional seeds and seedlings for the Eco-gardens has continued to be a success. The harvesting periods are timed to fall in line with the start of each school term so most schools started 2017 with plenty of food to supplement the nutrition programme which provides a meal a day for both children and teaching staff. The continued training on eco-composting has been vital in assisting with high yields of both crops and vegetable gardens. The sweet potato, speckled sugar beans and cow beans were especially high yielding. This is very exciting as these crops have many nutritional benefits: they are high in vitamins and protein content, which helps develop muscle growth and reduce the risk of heart disease.

The continued success of these crop and garden projects at all the schools has been further enhanced by the installation of solar boreholes. With vital funding being provided by donors, these boreholes not only provide safe drinking water but irrigation for the plants in this drought-ridden area. The children continue to take pride in their gardens, hoping to win the annual prize for the best garden – a Grade Seven Visit to Victoria Falls. Ziga Primary School were the worthy winners for 2016.

Arbour Day celebrations

Deforestation is a major problem in many areas in Zimbabwe. Children in the Wilderness introduced reforestation as one of the themes of the Eco-Clubs to counteract this issue by teaching children the many benefits of nurturing their natural forests. All Eco-Clubs took part in the international Arbour Day celebrations, which included many tree-related activities – poems and story writing, producing plays and posters. The aim of the celebrations was to create awareness about the importance of trees amongst the children. This theme continues in 2017 with each Grade 6 Eco-Club member receiving two saplings from Children in the Wilderness – one indigenous and one a fruit tree. These are planted around their homesteads and each member takes responsibility for the growth and care of their trees.

ECO-MENTOR / TEACHER TRAINING

TRAINING VENUE	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	WHERE ATTENDEES WERE FROM	TOPICS COVERED
Main Camp, Hwange National Park	24	Ngamo Primary (3); Ziga Primary (3); Kapane Primary (3); Jakalasi Primary (3); Mpindo Primary (3); Main Camp (3); St Mary's (3); Sinamatella (3)	Interactive teaching methods; Coping with mixed abilities; Grouping; Use of Eco-Club Curriculum; Reporting and Recording
Spray View, Victoria Falls	20	Jabulani (3); Sikumbi (2); Chamabondo (2); Mzipah (2); Chisuma (2); Chikandabubi (2); BH36 (3); Monde (2); Sinakande (2)	Interactive teaching methods; Coping with mixed abilities; Grouping; Use of Eco-Club Curriculum; Reporting and Recording
Victoria Falls Primary School	26	Jabulani (3); Sikumbi (2); Chamabondo (3); Mzipah (2); Chisuma (2); Chikandabubi (2); BH36 (3); Monde (3); Sinakande (3); Victoria Falls Primary (3)	Recycling of solid waste into learning aids for ECD classes
Richland Lodges, Livingstone	1	Jabulani (1)	Word Works – STELLAR Emergent Literacy Programme

Word Works teacher training workshops

CITW and the *Word Works Emergent Literacy Organisation* both focus on disadvantaged children, sharing the same belief that early childhood education is the most important stage to every child's education foundation. Two workshops were held in October 2016 aiming to provide educators with new and exciting teaching skills to educate children to read and write in an interactive and fun environment. Workshops also included comprehensive training packs that contain teaching aids such as books, puppets, sequence pictures and stories.



Singakwenza Waste to Toys workshop

The workshop was aimed at teaching caregivers how to educate early learners by making toys and playing games with easily accessible, recycled or waste material such as plastic bottles, egg boxes, and plastic lids.

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager
 Shuvanayi Taruvunga: Children in the Wilderness Administrative Assistant
 Mxolisi Sibanda: Community and Field Coordinator

ANNUAL CAMPS



The theme for the camps for 2017 was “Our Fragile Planet.” The 2016 Zimbabwe Camps were hosted at Wilderness Safaris Davison’s Camp, and children from five schools in the Tsholotsho Region attended.

Topics

- Life’s Webs
- Keeping a Balance
- Endangered Species
- Integrity and Respect
- Teamwork
- A Taste of Careers

Highlights

The morning of Day 3 personally was my favourite day as the children did a range of teambuilding and leadership activities. It was interesting to see everyone’s true character coming out during these activities; you could distinctly separate the natural leaders from the children who were followers, or the careful, deep-thinking children from the ones who rushed things. Each and every child came out of all the activities having learnt a lesson, be it to help each other, to listen to others or to just simply think before acting. (Courtney Pritchard, volunteer)

Going through to the different stations set up by the Wilderness staff to give the children an opportunity to experience the careers on offer within a Safari Camp. Seeing how much this impacted on the children’s sense of worth as they developed more confidence and an idea and hope of what they may reach for in the future. (Bridget Mack, volunteer and SAWC student)

What they said

On the game drive we saw animals I had has been told about but never seen before like wild dogs and we learnt the names of so many different birds.

Angela Mpala, Grade 6, Jabulani Primary School

One thing I will always remember about camp is I pledged to protect animals and for the first time in my life during camp I was not afraid because we learnt if you respect wild animals they will not hurt you.

Praise Neluswi, Grade 6, St Mary’s Primary School

We must be careful to not litter as we can spoil our environment, I will not litter and if I see some I will pick it up.

Romeo Shoko, Grade 6, Sinamatella Primary School

I learnt a lot about conservation and the importance of trees, animals and insects in the circle of life, it goes round and round.

Takudzwa Chipato, Grade 6, St Mary’s Primary School

Wilderness area visits are as important for these children as they raise awareness on how important it is to protect our environment.

Jacqueline Tarara, Eco-Mentor, St Mary’s Primary School

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (YES) PROGRAMMES

Annual Camp

The first annual camp brought together 24 students between the ages of 14 and 16 from the YES clubs, for a three-night, four-day interactive camp at Davison's in Hwange. The theme was "Adventure Unlimited," and the emphasis was on life skills required for the journey from child to adult that these children were embarking on. All activities included the underlying messages of important values such as respect, tolerance, integrity, perseverance and responsibility and were creatively presented including re-enacting real-world dramas, designing artwork and teambuilding games.



Career Day

A daunting challenge for the majority of secondary school students in remote communal areas is choosing a career. An annual Career Day at one of the schools is therefore organised at the beginning of the academic year as the first activity for the YES club, but is not limited to YES participants. Here, students are exposed to many vocations with guest speakers from all walks of life, with varied skills and careers, who are gainfully employed in and around their community, sharing their stories.

In 2016, the day was hosted by Kapane Secondary School on 2 September. Invited guests included heads of schools and teachers, lecturers from local polytechnic colleges and universities, nursing staff, members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police, agricultural extension officers, tourism and conservation employees, a female pilot from Wilderness Air, as well as local business owners. All encouraged the students to take every learning opportunity that came their way – either in work experience, or in the classroom; to take

responsibility for their own futures, leading to the ultimate goal of employment and job satisfaction. The day was very well attended and the enthusiasm shown by the youth was very encouraging.

Small business planning

The students took part in brainstorming sessions to produce ideas for small businesses. Each group was then guided on how to consolidate its ideas, carry out market research, set up business plans and write a business proposal. The ideas that came forward were amazing, from a Road Runner Project for "chicken on the run," to a broiler project, to pumping water for livestock. We are very pleased to see that one of the proposals – a borehole at the dip tank assisting in tick eradication in livestock – has been accepted for funding in 2017.

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager
 Shuvanayi Taruvunga: Children in the Wilderness Administrative Assistant
 Mxolisi Sibanda: Community and Field Coordinator

ADULT ECO-CLUBS

NAME OF CLUB	VILLAGE	NO. OF WOMEN	NO. OF MEN	PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES
Jabulani Women's Club	Ngamo	20	5	Sewing; Batik; Tie and Dye; Basketry; Beading; Crocheting
Ziga Women's Club	Ziga Zandile	21	4	Goat and poultry keeping; Sewing; Basketry



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

Primary Schools

NAME OF VILLAGE / REGION	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Victoria Falls Hwange Lukosi	Chamabondo	10	12	Odysseys
	Chinotimba	6	5	Sam O'Neil – GCF
	Emfundweni (BH36)	4	1	Hunter Valley Grammar School
	Jabulani	17	12	Hunter Valley Grammar School
	Jakalasi	28	22	Jim Kotas
	John Tallash	1	0	Furnari Twins for Education
	Kapane	0	2	Hunter Valley Grammar School
	Mpindo	4	4	Jim Kotas
	Ngamo	19	10	GCF
	St Mary's	3	3	Sarasota Rotary Club – Suzi Norbeck
Ziga	6	7	Albert Litewka Jim Kotas Ron Goatley	

ZIMBABWE

Country Report

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES CONTINUED

Secondary Schools				
NAME OF VILLAGE / REGION	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Matabeleland North	Dibutibu	1	0	Holly Hook + Dennis Glaves Walter Kroner + Jean Stark Empowers Africa Jim Kotas Empowers Africa Markeeta Brown Blue Collar Rosemary Pencil Foundation
	Hwange	1	0	
	Inyathi	1	0	
	Jabulani	2	7	
	Kapane	1	1	
	Lukosi	1	2	
	Makwandala	0	1	
	Matopo	0	1	
	Mkhosana	1	0	
	Mosi Oa Tunya	7	2	
	Ngamo	8	2	
	Regina Mundi	1	0	
	Sipepa High	8	2	
	St James	1	0	
Tsholotsho High	1	0		

Tertiary Schools				
NAME OF VILLAGE / REGION	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF GIRLS	NO. OF BOYS	PRIMARY SPONSORS
Matabeleland	Step Ahead Study	3	3	Delores Leber – GCF Hutton Phillips Albert Litewka Grand Circle Keith & Maureen Vincent
	Bindura	1	0	
	Foundation Tech	2	0	
	National Science	0	1	
	Solusi University	2	0	
	SAWC	1	3	
	United College	1	0	

Sue Goatley: Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager
Shuvanayi Taruvinga: Children in the Wilderness Administrative Assistant
Mxolisi Sibanda: Community and Field Coordinator

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Boreholes

St Mary's Primary – 875 students and teachers, Lukosi area
 Ngamo Secondary – 130 students and teachers, Ngamo village
 Ngamo/Ziga Dip Tank – 675 households in both areas and their livestock

Projects

Craft and Entrepreneurial Workshop – 50 members of both Ziga and Ngamo communities
 Goat Project – 22 members and their families, Ngamo and Ziga communities

School and Community Projects

Jabulani Primary School near Victoria Falls benefited from the construction of a newly-built classroom block, as well as a separate art room, and a much-needed infants toilet block.

Two laptops were donated to Ziga Primary School in Tsholotsho.

Emfundweni Primary School just outside of Victoria Falls benefited from the implementation of a library.

Stationery donations

In June 2016, guests delivered school supplies, a donation so generous that it benefited seven different schools.

Zambezi School Project

No less than 33 000 books were distributed to 14 rural Zimbabwean schools

The schools chosen to receive the books have well-organised, secure libraries; systems have been introduced to ensure they are monitored and accessible to both students and teaching staff. This project was further enhanced with a generous donation of 1000 solar-powered reading lights thanks to the Bourke Family Foundation. Most rural schools have no access to electricity, so the addition of these lights have made reading and studying after sunset possible – an exciting addition to the project.

Zambezi Region 2016 Soccer Clinic

Professional soccer player Gordon Gilbert spent time coaching at Children in the Wilderness-associated schools in Zambia and Zimbabwe again in 2016. He witnessed fantastic examples of wildlife and humans living in harmony as elephants fed quietly only metres away from the soccer pitch, whilst students enjoyed their game enthusiastically.

Women's goat rearing project in Tsholotsho

Thanks to generous donor funding, the Ziga community in Tsholotsho was provided with South Kalahari Red male breeding goats, a breed resilient to drought and disease and known for producing high-quality products. The funding also provided for safe pens, medications and dips to keep the goats healthy. This exciting project will make an immense difference to the rural communities in expanding their income-generating possibilities.

Shoes for Christmas

2016 ended with an appropriate community donation that warmed the hearts of many school children involved in our programmes. A Wilderness Safaris employee in the Cape Town office, Samantha Botes, who has two children of her own, pondered the question of how she could make a difference to children in underprivileged communities. She had been collecting shoes that her children had outgrown, hoping that she could do something with them one day. Reading through a Children in the Wilderness brochure in the office, she noticed that many school-going children were barefoot and she realised she had finally found a place for the shoes she had accumulated. She contacted Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe with her idea, and the project snowballed as workmates in various Wilderness offices, who shared her vision, contributed with hundreds of donated shoes to add to her collection. Samantha sent out an appeal for new socks to accompany the donated shoes, and this too was met with an overwhelming response. To further enhance the donation, Crocs Footwear South Africa donated 200 pairs of small-sized Croc shoes. Although transportation proved to be quite an undertaking, thanks to the help of many transporters, the shoes arrived in Zimbabwe in time for Christmas. Seeing the delighted faces of the children when they received their shoes, Samantha knew that she had made a difference!



Making a Difference



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Making a Difference

FUNDRAISING

The costs of operating and continually growing the Children in the Wilderness programme in six southern African countries are extensive. We are very grateful for all the support that we receive from Wilderness Safaris and its guests, tour operators and other travel agencies and corporate companies who give monetary donations, goods in kind and in some instances sponsor a part of the programme, such as Eco-Clubs, Eco-Mentor Training, an annual camp, etc.

The full membership fee to join the Wilderness Safaris Residents Programme (**wilderness-residents.co.za**) is a charitable donation to Children in the Wilderness – thus making a significant difference and allowing us to grow the programme each year.

However, over and above this, in order for the programme to be sustainable, Children in the Wilderness needs to run fundraising activities and events for the group as a whole, while each country is also responsible for initiating some of its own fundraising activities.

Children in the Wilderness' prime fundraising activity for all the regions is our annual mountain bike event – the Nedbank Tour de Tuli. With the cooperation of the governments of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, the mountain biking adventure continues to grow in popularity every year whilst generating revenue for Children in the Wilderness.

Now one of South Africa's premier multi-stage, multi-country mountain bike tours, in 2016, the 12th annual Nedbank Tour de Tuli took place. Aside from its success in the cycling fraternity, the overriding objective is to raise money for the Children in the Wilderness programme and that we did, raising R3.5 million!

The Tour comprised 279 cyclists, as well as some 130 staff and volunteers who did everything possible to create the adventure of a lifetime. It is four days of serious single-track riding, mainly along elephant and other game trails, deep into rural areas. Approximately 250 kilometres are covered, with the cyclists crossing at specially arranged informal borders between Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The cooperation and success of this event is an excellent demonstration of the ability of all three countries to manage matters related to cross-border access and consolidating the foundation of the cross-border concept of Transfrontier Conservation Areas and Parks.

The Tour starts in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana. From here, cyclists ride through the south-western corner of Zimbabwe and end in South Africa's Mapungubwe National Park – a World Heritage Site. Some cyclists were lucky enough to enjoy sightings of elephant, leopard and lots of plains game. A beer in the community and cultural interaction were just some of the highlights for many cyclists.

A wonderful donation from Wilderness Safaris of backpacks, each with a stationery set inside, was carried by the cyclists to Lentswe le Moriti Primary School and handed over to the children. The overnight camps were set up in scenic locations along the route, providing a fitting end to a hard day in the saddle.

While the Tour attracts many top South African business leaders, we are also seeing more international participants attending this event. This year's event was represented by a "united nations," including Australia, Botswana, Brazil, UK, Canada, Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Tanzania, USA and Zimbabwe.

PADDLING FOR CHILDREN



Emma Badger (18) and Emma Bryant (18) took part in the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon – a 125 mile long race, with 77 portages. This legendary race has been going since 1948, and is known as the “Everest of canoeing.” These two motivated young ladies, who are both currently completing their A levels at Lord Wandsworth College in Hampshire, chose to paddle in support of Children in the Wilderness Malawi, raising approximately MK 500 000 during this short period of time.

These funds have been allocated towards the payment of school fees for children who are part of the Children in the Wilderness programme and a dedicated ledger under the name “Emma & Emma’s Scholarship Support” has been opened up as a tribute to the two, who stepped forward as brand ambassadors and completed a gruelling and extremely physically demanding race to raise both awareness and funds for this all-important programme.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Making a Difference

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With the right sponsorship, the programme has the potential to make a huge contribution to the sustainability of Africa's parks and wildlife.

If you are interested in helping us with our programme, below is a list of opportunities, though there are a number other options available as well and any donation is welcomed:

- Monetary donations to assist in covering the day-to-day camp operational expenses.
- A donation of \$1 800 will sponsor a Children in the Wilderness Eco-Club for one year.
- \$250 will sponsor a community member's Eco-Mentor training.
- Sponsor a child on a Children in the Wilderness camp – A donation of US\$200 will sponsor a child to attend a life skills and environmental Children in the Wilderness programme and includes follow-up.
- Sponsor a Children in the Wilderness Camp – For a donation of US\$5 000 you can host and brand an entire Children in the Wilderness camp of 24 children. The costs do vary slightly depending on the region and the number of children hosted in a specific camp.
- Sponsor a Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Club for 40 children for a year for US\$2000
- Become a Fundraising Ambassador – Create a fundraising event or participate in a sporting event and make Children in the Wilderness the beneficiary. You can create your own webpage and circulate to potential donors who can donate online via credit card at the GivenGain site: www.givengain.com/cause/4773/
- Donations in kind – i.e. services or products in kind that could be utilised on the programme and thereby reduce the camp's operational costs. These would include items such as stationery, sporting equipment, school equipment, etc. When making donations in kind, please ensure that the relevant Programme Coordinator is advised in advance as there is paperwork for importation that is required to be completed. In some instances relevant import fees may outstrip the value of the goods and therefore this does need some consideration.



DONATION OPTIONS

If you wish to make a donation, we have various options available as below:

1. Donate Online

www.childreninthewilderness.com

2. Deposit directly into a Children in the Wilderness Country Bank Account

When donating to a specific country, please email info@childreninthewilderness.com with your name, donation amount, and the country or project to which you would like to donate funds and we will send the relevant bank details.

Note to South African donors: Children in the Wilderness has a Beneficiary Analysis Certificate, certifying that 100% of its beneficiaries are black children. Donors can thus claim the full donation back on the basis of the Socio Economic Development and BEE Scorecard. South African donors are also eligible for a section 18A certificate.

3. For US donors: Payment via Empowers Africa

Empowers Africa is a U.S. public charity under IRC Section 501(c)(3) that can facilitate tax-deductible donations for U.S. donors on behalf of Children in the Wilderness. Empowers Africa does not charge any administrative fees, therefore, 100% of funds donated to Empowers Africa on behalf of Children in the Wilderness are granted directly to the respective Trusts.

To donate, please go to <https://empowersafrica.org/children-in-the-wilderness/>

4. Wilderness Safaris Agents

Wilderness Safaris agents can elect to give a donation per booking to Children in the Wilderness that will be invoiced at the time of making your reservation. Should you be interested in this option, please email info@childreninthewilderness.com to facilitate this process.

Children in the Wilderness Communications

We communicate with all supporters of our programme via an email newsletter every three months, as well as daily on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Childreninthewilderness). Should you wish to be included in the newsletter communication, please email info@childreninthewilderness.com. You can also follow us on Instagram: [childreninthewilderness](https://www.instagram.com/childreninthewilderness)



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Making a Difference

OUR SPONSORS

We are very grateful to all the individuals, companies, travel partners and charitable trusts and foundations for their generous support. We certainly could not have achieved what we have to date without your kind support. We would also like to thank and acknowledge all our cyclists, volunteers and various fundraising ambassadors who participate in our many fundraising events and also arrange and operate their own. Your donations have made an enormous difference to the Children in the Wilderness programmes!

Thank you for your support.

Children in the Wilderness Sponsors

PLATINUM – US\$10 000 PLUS IN A YEAR

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