

WILDERNESS
WILDLIFE TRUST

CHILDREN IN THE
WILDERNESS



2016 **ANNUAL REPORT** *Wilderness Wildlife Trust
Children in the Wilderness*



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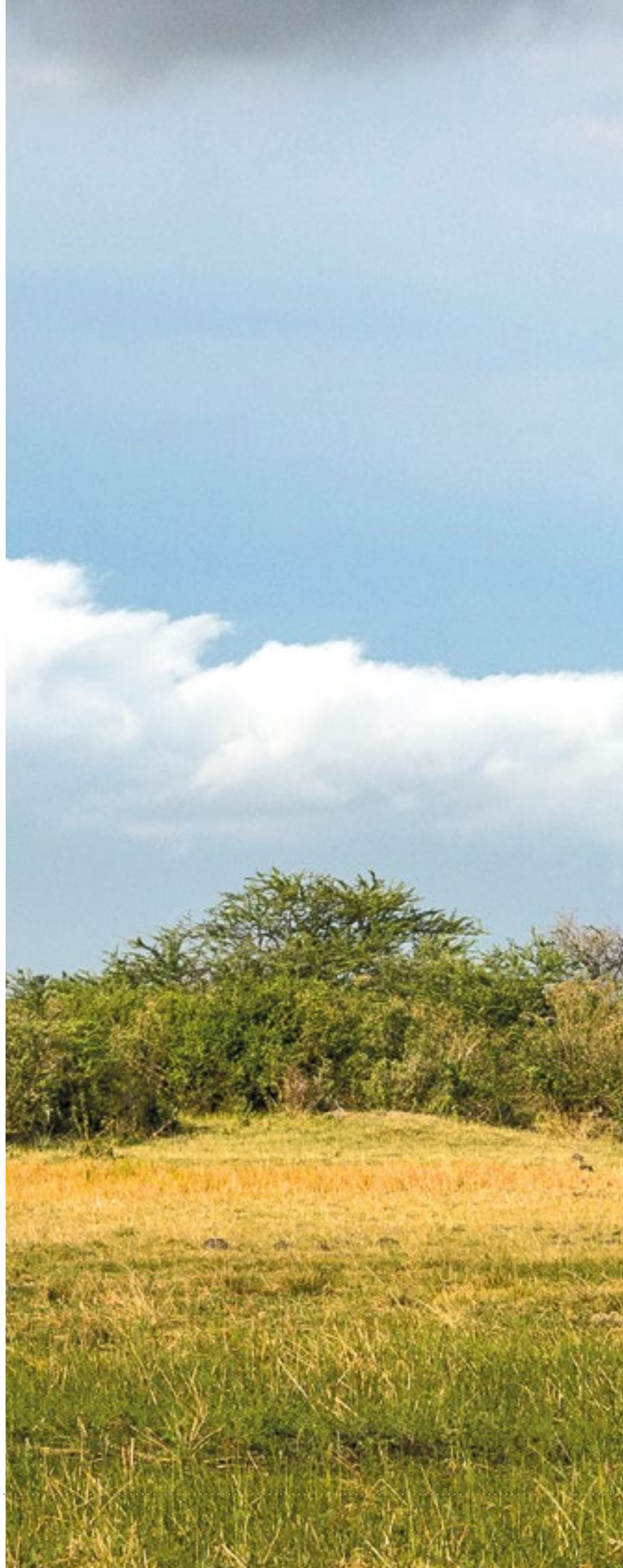
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The Wilderness Wildlife Trust supports a wide variety of conservation projects in Africa within the categories of wildlife management, research and education.

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





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 reach 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

Over the past year, we have continued to focus our support on our three key conservation areas (wildlife research, anti-poaching and management, and community empowerment and education), each of which reinforces the others. In particular, the theme of rhino conservation continued over into 2015 and early 2016, with the bulk of donations to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust targeting this cause.

The Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project continues to be a force for change, with no less than eight international relocations of black rhino taking place during 2015 and all rhinos settling in well. The project has garnered a number of awards over the year and is clearly inspirational, lifting the spirits of people across the conservation world and especially in Botswana. More translocations are set to take place as and when funds and circumstances allow.

Meanwhile, in Namibia, while the poaching threat had previously been lower, there were disturbing signs of increase in 2015. Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) leapt into action, adjusting patrols and training new field trackers and Rhino Rangers; the Trust has been supporting this NGO's efforts over the years and 2015 was no exception. Despite the combined pressures of poaching and

drought in the area, rhino numbers appear to be stabilising. We were thrilled to hear of new births. However, Namibia's rhinos are still under serious threat and we will continue our support of anti-poaching efforts in 2016.

Another project which the Trust has assisted significantly is the Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit (SAPU) in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park. The Trust's funds covered anti-poaching scout salaries, rations, transport and consumables such as vehicle spares etc. – all vital for the continued running of the unit, thus ensuring that Hwange continues to be a safe haven for Zimbabwe's wildlife.

Our bursary recipients for 2015 had some particularly interesting theses and projects, from looking at coastal forest bird community structures to superparasitism in wasps!

All in all, the past year has again been an extremely rewarding one and we have been gratified to be able to continue to act as an efficient and cost-effective funding agency for nearly 30 important conservation projects all over Africa including our partners in this Annual Report, Children in the Wilderness.

The end of the financial year 2015 also marked a change in our partner fundraising organisation in the US.

For many years, Resources First Foundation (RFF), led by Amos Eno, had ably assisted us in raising and transferring funds from the US, via its tax-deductible facility. We'd like to thank Amos and RFF for their incredible efforts and help over the years. As of March 2016, this important work has been taken over by Krista Krieger and her team at Empowers Africa, and we'd like to welcome them on board.

We'd also like to thank those at Wilderness Safaris who have donated their time, energy and expertise over the year: Mari dos Santos, Richard van der Wel, Chris Roche, Ilana Stein and Motheo Sehlako who wrote, edited and designed this Annual Report. We acknowledge the generous support from partners such as auditors (Deloitte & Touche), legal advisors (Fasken Martineau), and printers (Colorpress).

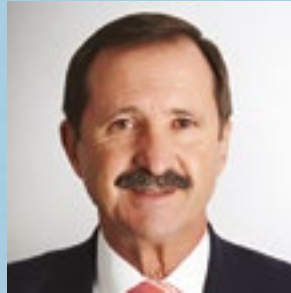
Last, but certainly not least, to our donors who ensure that African conservation and community upliftment continues to be feasible and sustainable, we thank you.

The Trustees





Russel Friedman
Wilderness Safaris



Andrew Leontsinis
Independent Expert

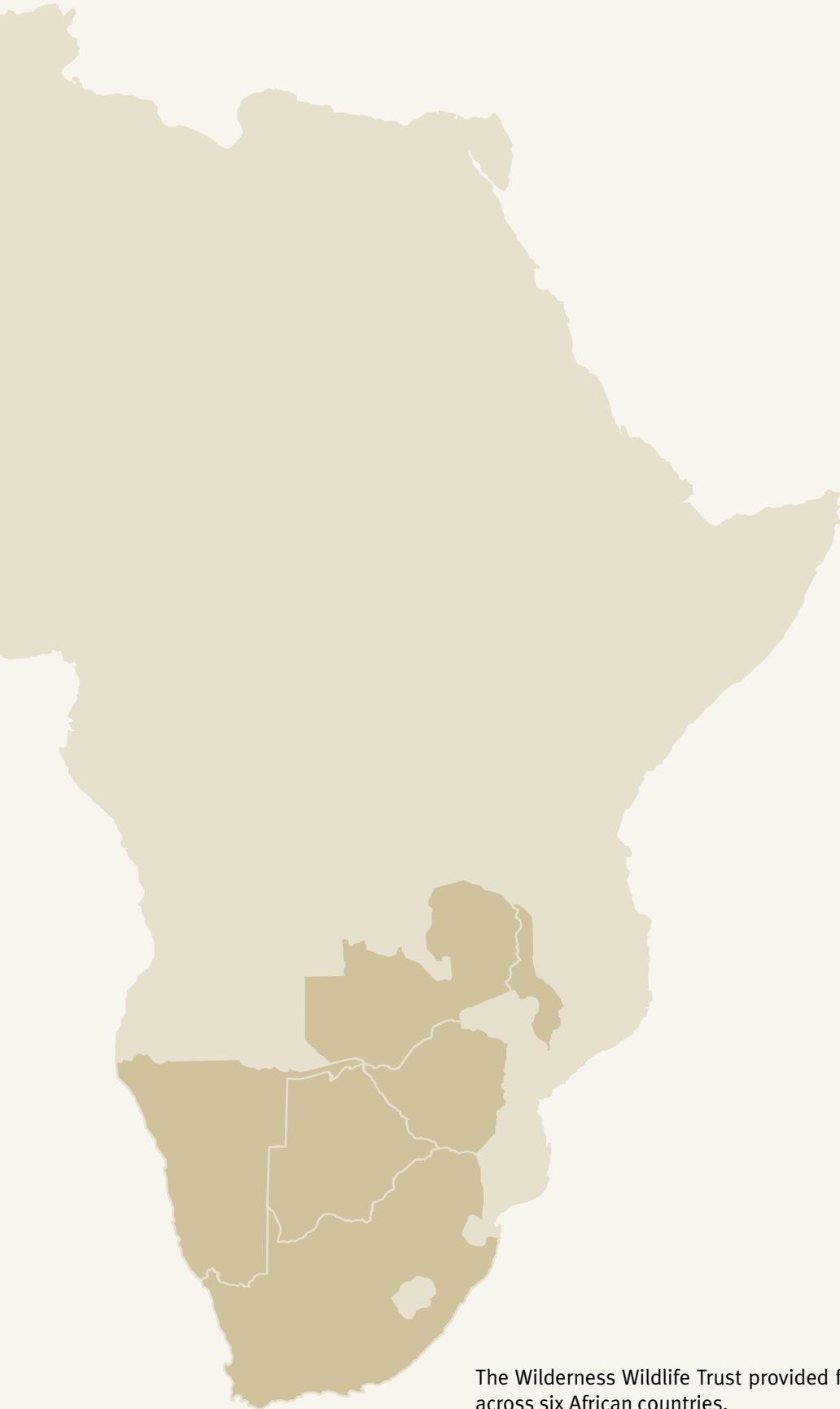


Dr Jennifer Lalley
Independent Conservation Expert



TRUST Locations and Funds 2015

Countries/Number of projects



Botswana | 10



Namibia | 3



Malawi | 2



South Africa | 3



Zambia | 3



Zimbabwe | 5

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust provided funding for **26** projects during 2015 across six African countries.

Projects / Page Number **Donation Figures**

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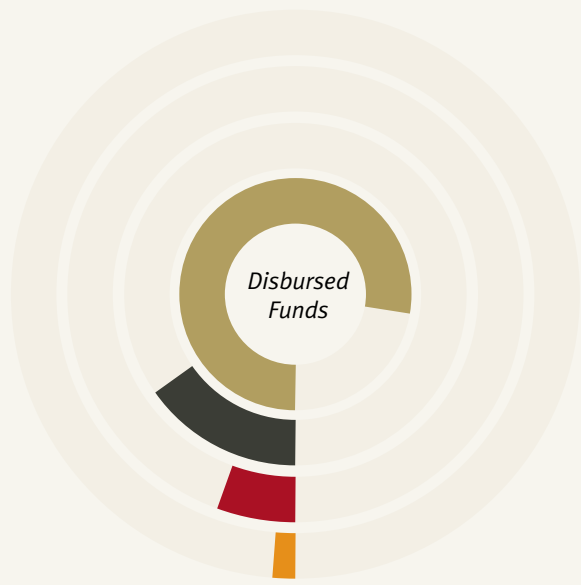
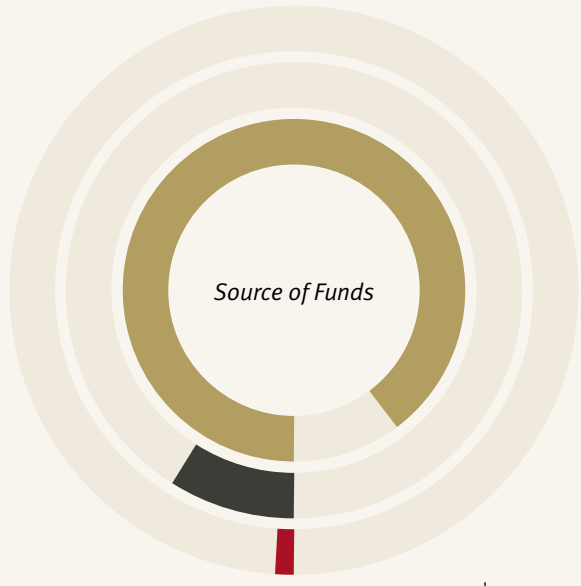
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Note: the majority of funds in Research and Conservation were allocated to the Botswana Rhino Reintroduction and Monitoring Project.

Total expenditure on all projects **US\$432 000**.



Update

Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project

Coordinators: *Map Ives and 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



While white rhino *Ceratotherium simum* generated the majority of media attention in the last few years of intense poaching pressure in South Africa and certainly continue to bear the brunt of this assault, black rhino *Diceros bicornis* are far more threatened, totalling a global population of less than 5 000 individuals (white rhino number around 20 000 individuals).

As a result of this, and on the back of a very healthy white rhino population already in existence in the Okavango, the Project has focused its efforts over the last few years on black rhino in particular.

During the course of 2014 and 2015, the project facilitated the reintroduction of further black rhino into the Okavango Delta in several complex and delicate operations valued at well over R10 million, with 2015 seeing the completion of the largest-ever cross-border translocation of Critically Endangered black rhino, in a partnership between Wilderness Safaris, the Botswana, South African and Zimbabwean Governments, individuals and organisations. This was the latest phase in a collaborative project that has

spanned over 15 years to become one of the most important rhino translocations ever undertaken in the history of conservation.

The last in a series of international relocations took place during May and June 2015, with rhino sourced from multiple locations in South Africa and Zimbabwe safely transported to Botswana in a Hercules C130 aircraft. In an unprecedented gesture of state and private sector collaboration, the aircraft, along with expert crew, was provided by the Botswana Defence Force, with fuel costs covered by the Department of Wildlife and donors.

The project also stands out in terms of the proactive roles the various Governments played in ensuring its success. A number of the black rhino were donated by the Malilangwe Trust on behalf of the Zimbabwean government, following discussions between the two Ministers of Environment: the Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere from Zimbabwe and the Honourable Tshekedi Khama in Botswana.

Over 12 months, no less than 1% of the total global population of this highly-threatened species had been moved into a safe haven in Botswana's Okavango Delta – thanks to this unique partnership of individuals, organisations and governments.

The success of the project has already been measured in the number of calves born in the wild, with one of the translocated black rhino giving birth to a calf soon after her arrival. While the protective maternal instincts of the mother prevented the Rhino Monitoring Officers from getting close, both appeared to be in excellent health.

continues on page 12

Images: Hercules C130 lands in the Okavango (above); black rhino (right).





The project now has the enormous responsibility of constant monitoring and protection of what is now a population of continental significance. This important work continues to be undertaken by Wilderness Safaris' Rhino Monitoring Officers, the Botswana Defence Force and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks' specialised Anti-Poaching Unit. Rhino monitoring patrols are sent out daily to locate and monitor conditions of the rhino as well as record any behaviours and breeding status. Some rhino have moved further afield, resulting in the need for patrols to these outlying areas as well.

This forms the basis of the project's monitoring programme which involves locating the rhinos by means of telemetry or tracking and recording their GPS localities, condition and behaviour patterns – all of which is added to the Rhino Monitoring Database.

Botswana also stepped up its efforts in the fight against wildlife crime, with the Botswana Defence Force making the protection of the country's wildlife a high priority. Earlier this year, the Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism secured budget from Parliament towards the recruiting, equipping and training of a new specialist "rhino squad" whose sole duty is to patrol and

protect Botswana rhino, indicating the incredible commitment from the political leadership in Botswana and the security agencies charged with their protection.

The Project is extremely thankful for the ongoing support of its partners in the Botswana and South African governments and their respective conservation agencies – especially the unheralded efforts of the people on the ground in the Botswana Defence Force and the Wildlife Department's Anti-Poaching Unit. Such success could not have been achieved without the donors and sponsors involved.

The Trust's fundraising efforts here were invaluable, with a variety of organisations and private donors supporting the project via the Trust and Resources First Foundation, including the International Rhino Foundation, the Tiffany & Co Foundation, Empowers Africa, and a number of very generous anonymous individual donors, to name a few.

The project has also garnered a number of awards:

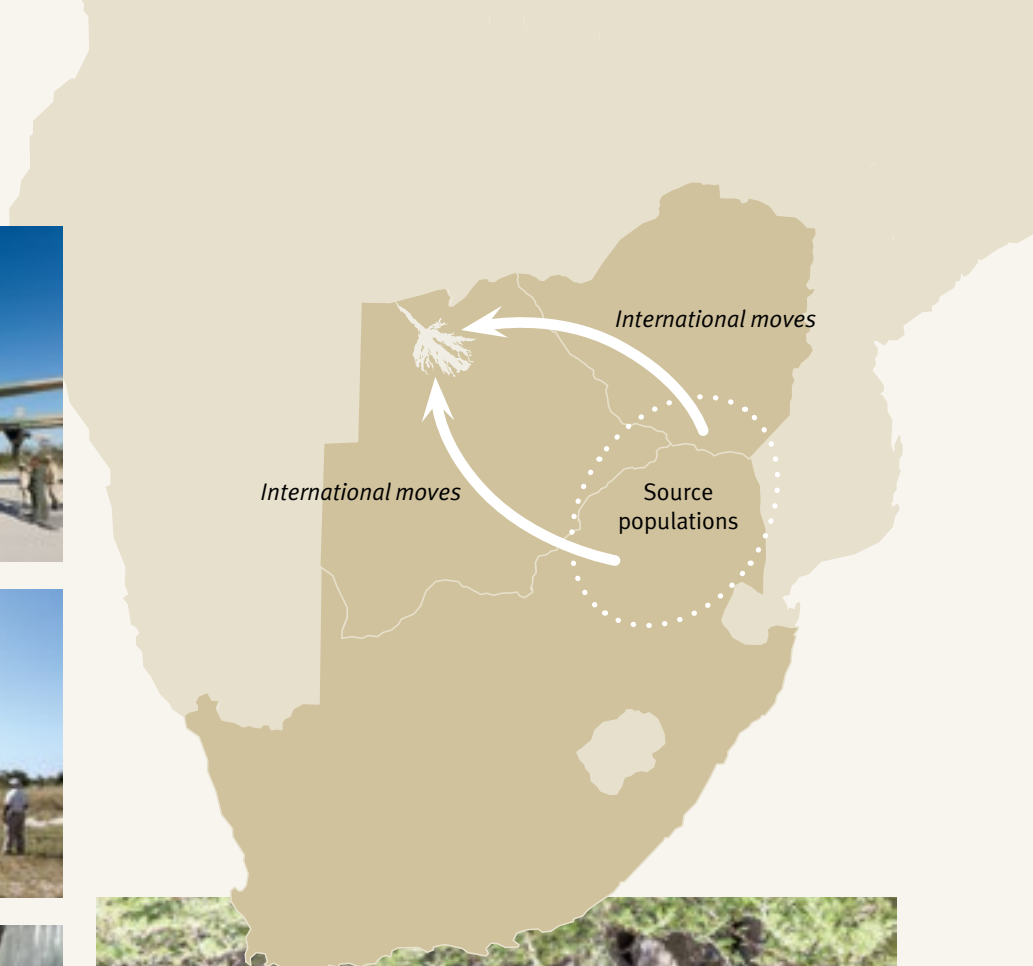
- May 2015: The Rhino Project won the Conserve Africa category at the We Are Africa Innovation Awards 2015.

- April 2016: Wilderness Safaris won the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) 2016 Tourism for Tomorrow Award in the Environment category for its pioneering Botswana Rhino Conservation Programme.

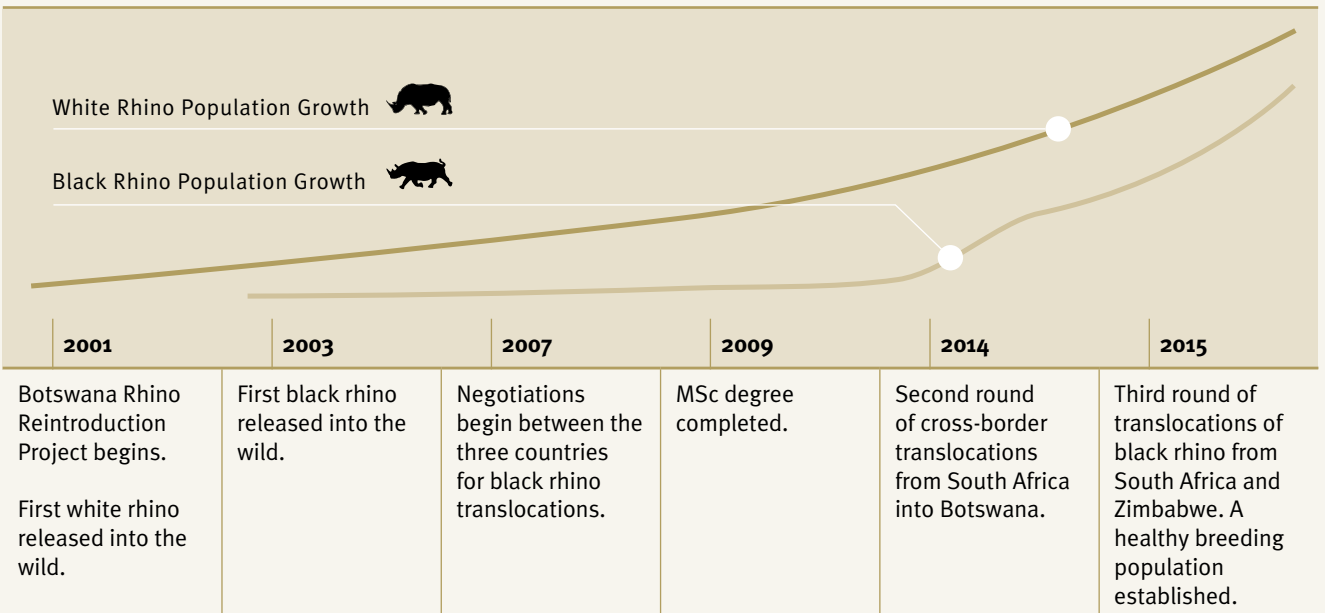
The final budget report includes the following items:

- Aerial tracking flights and ground monitoring patrols
- Construction of specialised trailer for offloading rhino crates
- Purchase of new rhino monitoring vehicle
- Boma management and feeding costs for rhinos
- Capture and transport costs of rhinos from South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Darting operations to fit tracking devices

Images: rhino exits boma (above); removing precious cargo from aircraft (opposite top left); taking off (opposite middle left); rhino in boma (opposite bottom left); proof of success – rhino and baby (opposite bottom right).



Rhino Project History





Research and Conservation

Botswana Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development
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Botswana Vulture Conservation Project
Botswana Zebra Migration Project
Hwange Elephant Movements Study
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Makgadikgadi Human-Elephant Study
Namibia Desert Lion Conservation
Okavango Spotted Hyaena Study
Okavango Tsessebe Project
Save the Rhino Trust: Tracker Support
Whale Coast Cetacean Project
Zimbabwe Pangolin Programme





Botswana Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development

Researcher: Lindsey N. Rich (PhD candidate)

Addressing the knowledge gap by identifying and implementing a sustainable method for monitoring carnivore communities

Images: Serval (above) and leopard (below) taken by one of the study's camera traps.



The research project explores 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.

Camera traps were deployed at 221 locations across a 550 km² study area between February and August 2015. The study area fell across a gradient of human use, including a game reserve, wildlife management areas, and a livestock grazing area.

During 2015 sampling, 10 766 detections of 54 species were recorded during 6 607 trap nights, including 44 mammal

species of which 22 were carnivores. Brown hyaena *Hyaena brunnea* (n = 3) and cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* (n = 3) were photographed least often while elephant *Loxodonta africana* (n = 1665) and impala *Aepyceros melampus* (n = 900) were photographed most often.

With the help of colleagues at the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust (BPCT), photographed carnivore species (e.g., leopard *Panthera pardus*, wild dog *Lycaon pictus*, and spotted hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*) were identified to the individual level using pelage patterns; for example, 67 individual leopards and 209 spotted hyaena were identified.

A children's outreach programme was carried out in 2015 with the help of Dikatholo Kedikilwe, a long-time research assistant at BPCT. Each of the 90 children in grades 3 – 7 in the rural community of Sankuyo, Botswana, participated in the programme twice; ~10 children participated per day as well as a teacher.

The programme took children on day trips to the bush to see wildlife in its natural environment and learn about field techniques, natural history, animal behaviour, ecosystems and conservation. Currently, Lindsey is working on analyses and writing her dissertation. She anticipates completing her PhD by September 2016.

Botswana Cattle Predation Study

Researcher: Carolyn Whitesell (PhD candidate)

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

During this last year, the research team was able to collar one additional male lion, replace two collars whose batteries were running low, and remove one collar that had collected sufficient data.

The team continued conducting seasonal game counts and track counts along the veterinary fence that separates the wildlife area from the cattle area and recorded large carnivores crossing the fence on a daily basis. It expanded the track counts to a transect further north than those we covered in 2013 and 2014 in order to increase our coverage of the study area.

Hundreds of cattle have entered the wildlife area, and the research team recorded numerous incidences of livestock depredation by lions within the wildlife area, in addition to livestock losses within the cattle area.

Interestingly, during this last year a coalition of collared male lions shifted home ranges and is now alternating between spending time in the cattle area and near tourist camps within the Okavango Delta.

This highlights the fact that lions that are important for tourism can be the same lions that are facing persecution in cattle areas.



These males are covering multiple prides, and if they are removed or lose a member of the coalition as a result of persecution, all those prides could be negatively affected.

The project is beginning to wind down and will be completed in 2016. Preliminary results show the collared lions spending significantly more time in the cattle area during the dry season than during the wet season.

In addition, early results show that lions are avoiding the cattle area during times of human activity, suggesting that lions may be actively avoiding humans. Further analyses are currently underway on the GPS collar data and track count data.



Images: Research assistants holding a lion skin (left); spotted hyena (above) next to the veterinary fence that separates the wildlife area from the cattle area. It had just crossed back into the wildlife area in the early morning.



Botswana Vulture Conservation Project

Coordinators: *Dr Glyn Maude and Pete Hancock*

A multi-disciplinary approach to vulture conservation in Botswana



The overall aim of this project is 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.

Poisoning events claim countless numbers of vultures across southern Africa; ivory poaching has now been directly linked as a key source of these. In 2015, six African vulture species were up-listed by IUCN to either Endangered or Critically Endangered. All vultures in Botswana now fall into these two categories. Ongoing research has found that elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) in vultures pose a potentially significant threat to populations. Out of 600 vultures captured and tested to

date, representing populations from across Botswana, 31% have elevated lead levels. The highest average BLLs were associated with hunting farms and, in addition, 40% of birds had high BLLs within the hunting season whilst 24% had elevated BLLs out of hunting season.

These findings support the hypothesis that spent lead ammunition in carcasses is likely the main source of lead for vultures. However, other potential sources of lead such as water, forage and soil are being investigated.

Lappet-faced vulture breeding success rates in 2015 were 31% (5 out of 16 nests), marginally higher than 2014 but significantly below those that have been found in other parts of Africa (40-50%).

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 will be 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.

Images: Tagged and released Cape vulture (above); community education (below); young hooded vulture (opposite).







Botswana Wild Dog Movement Study

Researcher: Briana Abrahms (PhD candidate)

Use of novel GPS collar technology to understand African wild dog movement patterns and highlight important areas for mitigation by land managers of barriers to dispersal.

The project successfully collected sufficient movement data on African wild dogs to analyse movement patterns and landscape connectivity for this species. Twenty-two individual wild dogs in 14 packs were fitted with custom-designed GPS radio collars provided by the University of London Royal Veterinary College. Each collar included a GPS unit and an Inertial Measurement Unit consisting of a three-axis accelerometer and gyroscope to record position, velocity, and acceleration data.

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.



Images: African wild dogs pause to drink while on a hunting excursion (above); collared dog with pups (below).

From these data, the researchers were able to pair GPS locations with discrete behavioural states (resting, travelling, and chasing) determined by the acceleration data, allowing them to uniquely quantify habitat use for these different behaviours. In total, 467 971 African wild dog GPS locations were collected.

Results from this project were presented to a scientific audience at the 27th International Congress for Conservation Biology, and are being drafted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal Conservation Biology. A progress report on this research was distributed to the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust and Botswana's Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, and Tourism.



To build local capacity, the team initiated an information and training exchange with Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks, in which Botswana Predator Conservation Trust scientists are paired with park officers to train them in wildlife management and science practices. The first stage of this occurred in July 2015, when two park officers were hosted at the field camp for a week to train them on spoor survey collection. The next training events are set to occur on a quarterly basis and to focus on radio-telemetry skills and camera trap surveys.

Botswana Zebra Migration Project

Researcher: *Dr Emily Bennitt*

The ecology of migrating plains zebra in Botswana

Image: Collared zebra (right).



This study aims to provide a greater understanding of the zebra migration that takes place between the Okavango Delta and the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park in Botswana.

Of the eight zebra that were collared in November 2014, only one individual (Z596) completed the migration from the Okavango Delta to the Makgadikgadi Pans. A second (Z593) began migrating but turned around before reaching the halfway point. Z596 departed several days before Z593, and her journey coincided with several large storms, which she appeared to move towards (Figure 1). We think that there was insufficient water for Z593 to complete

the migration when she attempted it several days later, and that she would have migrated under different conditions.

The other six collared zebra remained in the Okavango Delta until their collars dropped off on 17 September 2015. As the VHF components of some of the collars ceased functioning, not all were recovered. In October 2015, a further eight collars were deployed onto zebra identified as potential migrants. Unfortunately, this year has also seen unusual rainfall, and in January 2016, the collared zebra were still in the Okavango Delta.

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 December 2015, at which point only five zebra harems had passed in front of them in the direction of the Makgadikgadi, and within eight days, five zebra harems passed in front of the camera traps in the opposite direction. This suggests that some zebra began the migration but probably turned around and returned to the Okavango because of insufficient water availability.

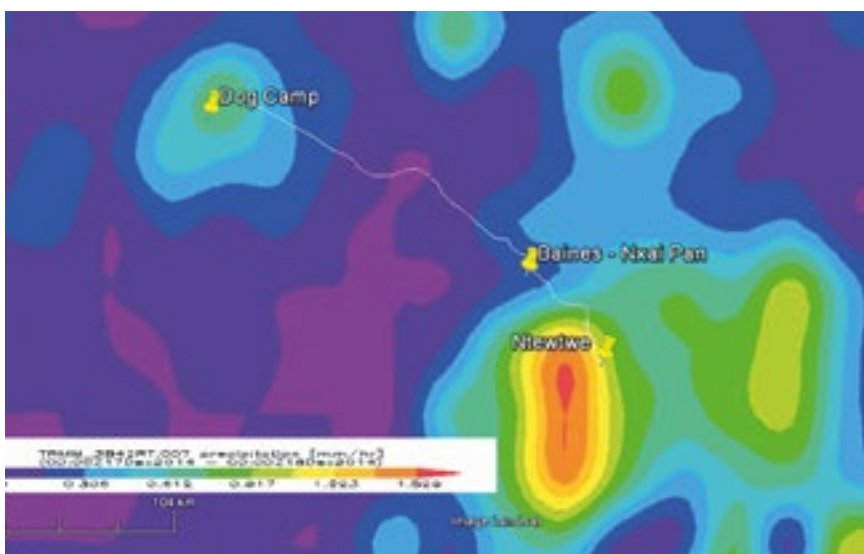


Figure 1. Migration route taken by Z596. The blue to red spectrum represents rainfall, with red showing a storm. This image was taken during the final stages of the migration, when the zebra moved from Baines to Ntwetwe.



Hwange Elephant Movements Study

Researcher: Arnold Tshipa (MSc candidate)

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

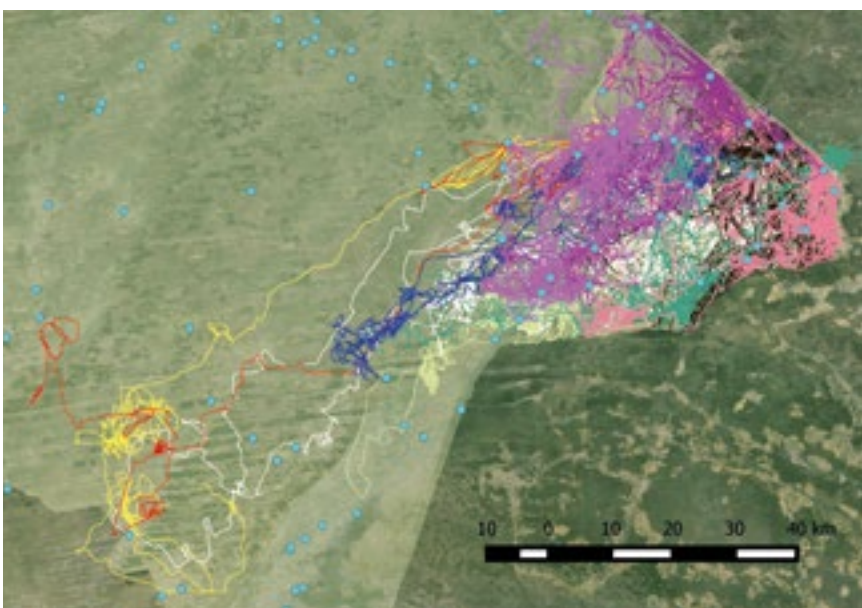
Image: Elephant herd, Hwange (right).



In Hwange, Zimbabwe's premier national park, elephant density is particularly high. This study is looking at the relative effect of resources (water and food), social interactions (dominance hierarchies) and predation risk (by lions) on elephant ecology.

Satellite data collected has undergone analysis to show some key components of elephant movements, which include timing and patterns. Such movement patterns show a wide variation, with some individuals covering long distances in the wet season, remaining for long stretches at the Park boundary, and returning only in the dry season, while others move off rapidly at the start of the wet season and return to dry season patterns quite quickly.

Map of collared elephant movements, January 2016.



Legend ■ Hwange NP ● Waterpoints ■ Ele 1 ■ Ele 2 ■ Ele 3 ■ Ele 4
■ Ele 5 ■ Ele 6 ■ Ele 7 ■ Ele 8 □ Ele 9 ■ Ele 10

It is also evident that the Wilderness Concession at the south-east of the Park is being utilised heavily by collared elephant during the dry season, with one individual spending 50% of its time at the Mbiza Pan. Many elephants make use of the localised waterholes from which to drink.

In general all elephants seem to show some form of movement after the start of the rains in the wet season (see map). The variations again are wide, with some moving as far away and for as long as possible from the reference waterholes (elephants 2 and 8), while others move off but return regularly (elephants 9 and 10). From the month of July onwards, movements become localised with most of the elephants moving only about 20 km from the reference waterhole. It will be interesting to see if the same pattern is maintained in 2016.

The element of competition has proven to be rather difficult to follow; however we have changed this so as to understand the component of competition at waterholes specifically. At the same time we would like to understand if migration has a demographic impact by studying the age structure of herds in the month of March and April this year and next year in different locations.



Kafue Large Carnivore Conservation Project

Coordinator: *Dr Matthew Becker*

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

The overall aim of the Zambian Carnivore Programme's (ZCP) Kafue Project is to continue providing key data and conservation actions on threatened large carnivore species and their prey in the Greater Kafue Ecosystem (GKE) – given its importance as the country's largest wild dog and cheetah population and second-largest lion and leopard population, as well as the most diverse antelope populations in the region.

During the latter half of the dry season, work continued on the three components funded by the Wilderness Trust, 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. Ensure sustainability of conservation efforts through education and capacity building

Populations of lion, wild dog and cheetah were intensively researched, and camera surveys of leopard and their prey continued.

Together with NGO Panthera's cheetah programme, the project continued to build on the known number of cheetah and wild dog in the Greater Kafue ecosystem and the factors affecting them. Aerial support was critical for this work.

Snaring likely increased in 2015, and herbivore analyses demonstrated likely impacts of bushmeat poaching and associated human encroachment.

Analyses of human encroachment throughout the Zambian KAZA system were completed for conservation planning.

The project continued with weekly programmes for students visiting TreeTops Educational Centre and employed a former Conservation Club student from ZCP's secondary school programmes who underwent its intensive Conservation Biologist Training Programme.

Zambian Ph.D. student, Dr Wigganson Matandiko, continued analyses on the environmental, biological and human factors affecting ungulate distribution and abundance.

Dr Kambwiri Banda excelled as a local wildlife vet, darting an array of carnivores and getting training on large herbivores, and special training on snared elephants.



Images: Collared cheetah (above); Dr Kambwiri Banda and team attend to an immobilised lion (below).



Makgadikgadi Human-Elephant Study

Researcher: James Stevens (PhD candidate)

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



Images: Elephant climbing over a fence (above); elephants drinking at the river away from a field of crops (below).



The PhD research aims to increase knowledge about elephant crop raids, particularly focusing on understanding more about the demographics of the

Where the sex of the elephants could be determined, all but one of the crop-raiding incidences involved male elephants. Group sizes of crop-raiding elephants ranged from 1 to 5 individuals, although the majority of incidences were carried out by 1 to 3 individuals.

By the end of the ploughing season, 97% (n=44) of the farmers visited during 2015 had completed questionnaires.

These questionnaires aim to assess differences between farmers' own estimates of the amount of damage caused by elephants during the season and the estimates or measurements of wildlife officers. These will be compared with scientifically-measured estimates of damage.

The questionnaires also add data on expected harvest yields and attitudes towards human-wildlife conflict.

Data collection continues throughout the 2016 ploughing season, although low rainfall levels have so far resulted in few farmers ploughing their fields. Ultimately it is hoped that the results from this study will increase understanding of the demographics of crop-raiding elephants and reveal their motivation for carrying out such activities, as well as providing some assessment of possible future mitigation measures.

elephants involved in this activity and the characteristics of fields that may increase their susceptibility to being raided.

Since April 2015, a second data collection season was completed, attending reported incidences of crop raiding in the community lands bordering the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park (MPNP) including 87 crop-raiding incidences; 52% (n=45) of the fields ploughed were visited to collect data on elephant and field characteristics. On average in 2015, farmers reported crop-raiding incidences to the study 2.6 times (range 1-15).

Namibia Desert Lion Conservation

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

This project monitors the desert-adapted lion, the most threatened and endangered of the large carnivore species in Namibia. In 2015, two satellite collars were purchased and placed on two lions – a male and a female respectively – as well as prepaid air time for two years. A lion and lioness that pose a potential threat to the livelihood of the farmers were identified and the collars attached.

This will hopefully avert the inevitable livestock losses and subsequent elimination of the desert-adapted lions as the necessary precautionary steps can be put into place in time to prevent these.

The satellite collars have provided valuable information about the movements of the prides and their behaviour. The lions can also be monitored to see when they come close to human settlements, and actions can be put into place to avoid conflict behaviour.

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. Home range analyses are based on locating the daytime resting spots of lions by radio telemetry, with at least 24 hours between fixes. Home range size is calculated using the Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP) and Kernel Contour methods.



Images: Young desert-adapted lions (above);
 Dr Stander monitoring members of a pride.





Okavango Spotted Hyaena Study

Researcher: *Jessica Vitale (MSc candidate)*

Investigating the role of spotted hyaena in the Okavango Delta ecosystem of northern Botswana

Images: Spotted hyaena and youngsters at a den (right and below).



After 20 months of fieldwork, substantial progress has been made in the investigation of spotted hyaena behaviour in the Okavango Delta ecosystem. Research thus far has provided insight into variable behaviours such as clan size, territoriality, scent marking, and interactions with other predator species. Three experiments are being conducted to investigate olfactory eavesdropping by hyaenas and sympatric heterospecifics.

Population monitoring

Five hyaena clans are being monitored in the study area by visual observation, recording the GPS location and taking photographs to identify individuals and determine clan membership. A database is cataloguing all individuals, which

currently contains 463 individuals. Determining clan membership is an ongoing process, but clans in this ecosystem are likely comprised of 30-40 individuals.

Latrine use

Hyaena latrines – sites at which individuals deposit scent marks including faeces, urine, and secretions from anal and interdigital glands – contain information on the presence and movement of individuals, and are used in territorial defence by clans.

Latrines are being monitored with remote cameras to collect data on the identity of visitors, rate of hyaena visitation, and responses by sympatric carnivores.

Since monitoring began in 2012, 215 latrine sites have been identified in the study area and changes over time are being investigated. Data analysis will relate latrine size and growth to factors such as visitation rate, spatial patterning, habitat type, and rainfall.

Intra-guild encounters

Spotted hyaenas interact with all members of the large predator guild in this ecosystem, and data on these encounters are collected continuously through the research programme. At the time of this report, there have been 105 observed intra-guild interactions involving hyaenas: 32 lion, 16 leopard, 46 wild dog, and 11 cheetah. Continued field observations will increase this dataset, and analyses will investigate the factors that influence the outcomes of these interactions.

Olfactory cues

Urine samples which have been collected opportunistically are deployed in the environment, and camera traps are monitoring any responses to these. The study includes responses from hyaenas as well as from sympatric carnivores, mesocarnivores, and herbivores.



Okavango Tsessebe Project

Researcher: *Dr Emily Bennitt*

The ecology of tsessebe in the Okavango Delta, Botswana

Images: Collared tsessebe (right and below).



In September 2015, GPS-enabled collars were deployed onto eight female tsessebe *Damaliscus lunatus* in different herds between Black Pools and Second Bridge, in the Moremi Game Reserve. Barring two individuals in December, each of these animals has been located once a month to check on their condition, record any changes in population demographics, and download data from the collars.

Most of the herds have remained in a similar area to where they were collared,

although one (T619) engaged in a long, exploratory movement (Figure 1). These animals continue to be located and data downloaded on a monthly basis. The unusual lack of rainfall this year may affect the data, in terms of how representative they are of an average year.

The project plans to sample vegetation selected by tsessebe and compare it to that selected by wildebeest, zebra and buffalo, but the vegetation has been strongly affected by the lack

of rain, so this sampling regime will only begin if there is sufficient rain this season. While there is not yet sufficient data for analysis, the collars will be on for a full year, until the 31st of October 2016. The project will then use spatial analysis and remote sensing images 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.

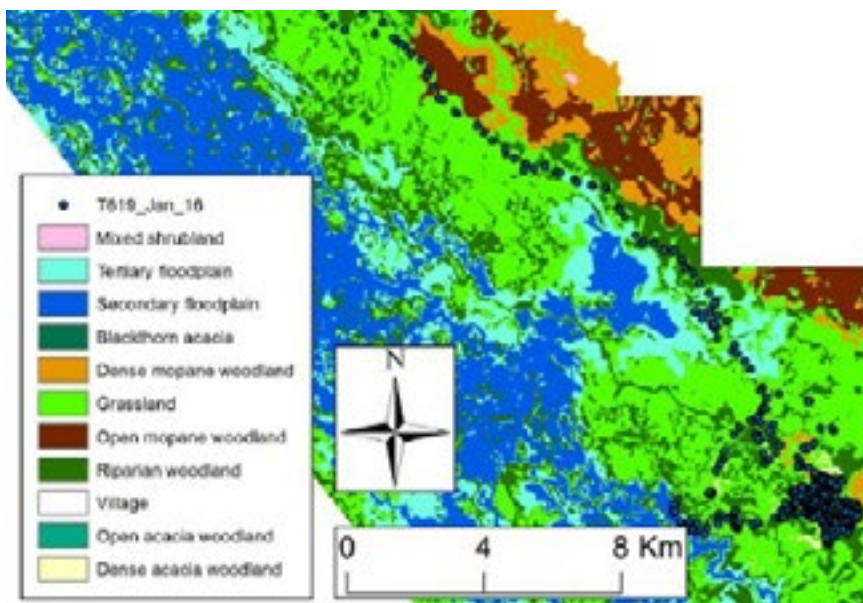


Figure 1: Locations of tsessebe T619 between September and December 2015.



Save the Rhino Trust: Tracker Support

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



Save the Rhino (SRT) field trackers have adjusted well to the new modus operandi since its introduction late December 2014 – involving patrolling mostly on foot and for longer periods. The field trackers were carefully evaluated to determine which were more adept at monitoring and patrolling and which were better at patrolling as an anti-poaching unit (APU). With this clarity in the field, proper information assimilation has picked up.

Logistics at the Mai Go Ha Operational base camp is jointly being managed by Dr Axel Hartmann as COO and Director of Field Operations Lesley Karutjaiva; Science Advisor Jeff Muntifering has set up the new computer-based data management system at the Ops Room having trained both Lesley and our Data Management Specialist, Budget Basco in data capturing.

Lesley is conducting in-house training for SRT field trackers and Rhino Rangers involving the following:

- Training in following and tracking of rhino spoor
- Correct completion of identification forms
- Photography and interpretation of rhino body conditions
- Monitoring and reporting of rhino behaviour
- Evaluation of the habitat of the rhino
- Armed security patrolling efforts have increased, aiding in combating poaching. Human monitoring evaluation has been sharpened with threats communicated to the Namibian Police for immediate action.

Natural mortalities have been primarily related to drought conditions in the region. One disturbing factor that seems related to drought is the manifestation of wandering rhino. Because of their need for water, rhino currently are moving closer to settlement areas and are thus in danger of falling prey to poaching or exposure.

Because of this, trackers have started including awareness-raising in their patrols in areas with high levels of human-animal conflict. They approach the community in the relevant conservancies and brief them on the importance and benefits of having rhino in their area and the aid we need from them to successfully protect the species. Slowly but surely, trust is building up in the community.

Finally, the confirmation of new life. The new rhino calves born in this reporting period are the ultimate proof needed by Save the Rhino Trust that the fight is worth it.

Images: SRT trackers pose for camp guests (above right); desert-adapted black rhino and baby (above left); SRT trackers in training (below); desert-adapted black rhino (opposite).



History of Save the Rhino Trust and Wilderness Trust

Desert-adapted black rhino *Diceros bicornis bicornis* were historically found across Namibia and into western South Africa, but are now restricted primarily to north-west Namibia where 90% of this subspecies occurs, and a few limited locations in South Africa.

In the 1980s, due to poaching, the population teetered on the edge of extinction. In response, Save the Rhino Trust was formed and, together with government, local communities, and partners like Wilderness Safaris and the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, succeeded in protecting the species.

North-west Namibia is home to the largest black rhino population in the world to have survived and increased its numbers outside a formally protected park.

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust has been involved over the past 15-20 years in funding and supporting rhino conservation in the Kunene area, both funding the science (via research) to ensure the credibility of the programme and understand the likelihood of success, as well as translocation, logistics and, most recently, tracker training.





Whale Coast Cetacean Project

Principal researcher: Dr Katja Vinding Petersen

Monitoring of whales and dolphins along the coast of South Africa



Images: Southern right whales surfacing (right); monitoring whale activity (below).



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.

1. An analysis of historical data from a local whale-watching vessel (WWV) consisting of more than 5 500 cetacean encounters in more than 2 500 trips between 2003 and 2012.

The analysis revealed that the study area is regularly frequented by five cetacean species:

- Southern right whale *Eubalaena australis*
- Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*
- Bryde's whale *Balaenoptera brydei*
- Indian Ocean humpback dolphin *Sousa plumbea*
- Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops aduncus*

Three other incidental visitors were: common dolphins (*Delphinus spp*), killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and Heaviside's dolphins (*Cephalorhynchus heavisidii*).

Southern right whales were by far the most common with a marked seasonal presence from August to December.

2. Shore-based observations, using a surveyor's theodolite (during four southern right whale seasons consisting of 1 558 hours (1 204 scans) over 270 days between 24th August 2011 and 11th December 2014. This enabled behavioural analysis and confirmation of spatial and temporal distributions obtained from the historical data.

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 the two dolphin species.

3. Passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) using a single bottom-moored hydrophone to obtain sound recordings over 44 days: three periods in January/February, September, and October 2014. PAM was used simultaneously with the theodolite observations to investigate vocalisation patterns of southern right whales.

Two types of sounds were used in the analysis and compared to the number of visually counted animal group types.

Southern right whale sounds were recorded 79% of the time that they were visually present, indicating that PAM is a useful technique when monitoring the presence of this species but, with simultaneous occurrence of several group types, it was not possible to correlate specific behaviour or group type to specific sounds.

The acoustic data was presented at two conferences – in Denmark and the US – and the PhD of Katja Vinding Petersen was submitted.

Zimbabwe Pangolin Programme

Coordinator: Lisa Hywood

Rescue, monitoring of ground pangolin in Zimbabwe

Images: Ground pangolin (above); attending SC66, the 66th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (below).



The ground pangolin *Smutsia temminckii* is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, but true rates of decline are not known. Threats include exploitation for traditional medicine and bushmeat, as well as Asian trade.

The Tikki Hywood Trust has been working with ground pangolin for the past 20 years in Zimbabwe, expanding its experience to include other African species of pangolin in the past five. Hywood operates the only rescue, rehabilitation and release programme for ground pangolin in Zimbabwe.

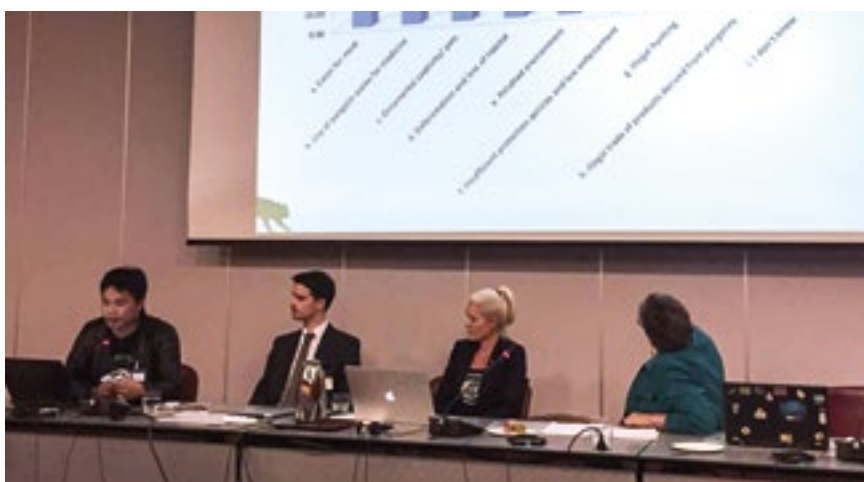
Expenses covered by the Wilderness Trust include veterinary care of pangolins rescued from poachers as well as equipment such as sleeping boxes, heat pads and bedding needed for pangolins that need to be housed and fed before they are fit and healthy enough to be released.

Post release, the pangolins are tracked and monitored to ensure their safety; microchips and receiving units were purchased for this with Trust funding.

Finally, a media campaign and survey was launched to increase pangolin awareness and education in Zimbabwe.

The Trust is currently 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 will be tabled at the next Convention of Parties in South Africa in Sept/Oct 2016.





Anti-Poaching and Management

*Hwange Anti-Poaching Unit
Kafue Elephant Study
Malawi Mobile Response Unit
Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit*





Hwange Anti-Poaching Unit

Coordinators: *Jane Hunt and Dr Andrew Loveridge*

Provides manpower, logistical support and resources to assist Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Zimbabwe to reduce levels of bushmeat and other poaching in the boundary areas of Hwange National Park



Most illegal activity this year was found within a few kilometres of the boundary fence with Tsholotsho and included tree cutting and poaching with dogs, snares and weapons. More of the boundary veterinary fence was cut, presumably to make snares. In all, 352 snares were removed in the nine months of operation in 2015: 186 were set for mammals and 166 set for birds. Nineteen elephant carcasses were identified, 11 of which were poached/shot with 8 being natural deaths.

The ivory was recovered and handed into Main Camp. There has been a worrying increase in the use of poisons (mostly cyanide) to kill elephants for their ivory in other areas of the park, with around 80 elephant reportedly poisoned in 2015, so it is critical that anti-poaching efforts are maintained and if possible increased to other parts of the park.

Images: Anti-poaching vehicle (above); the anti-poaching team at the base (below).



Snaring hot spots were identified, all within a few kilometres of the boundary fence.

Very few animals were seen carrying broken-off snare wires in adjacent photographic safari concessions and only a few carcasses as a result of poaching found, indicating that APU presence in this area of the Park has significantly deterred the poaching activities common here in previous years.

On 7th December, just outside the park, a young male lion known as Mbuzini from the Ngamo Pride was snared for having killed two cattle from the village nearby.

The subadult male had been chased out of the park by new pride males that had moved into the area after the dominant males of the Ngamo area were shot, on quota, by trophy hunters. Lion Research, with the aid of Parks and SAPU, managed to track the snared lion back into the park, where he was darted and the wire snare removed.

He was translocated further into the park to the Mbiza area, in the hope of relieving the conflict with livestock in Tsholotsho lands.

Kafue Elephant Study

Researcher: Dr Kerryn Carter

Assessing the severity and dynamics of human-elephant conflicts around southern Kafue

Images: Dr Kerryn Carter and John Carter conducting training with DNPW Community Scout (right); poliwire fence line during trial (below).



Human-elephant conflict is a major problem for communities adjacent to the game management areas (GMAs) surrounding southern Kafue National Park (KNP). 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 movements from the KNP into farming areas of Nkala GMA, where elephants have developed a culture of crop raiding. Poliwire was chosen so as to eliminate any collateral damage from wildlife snares in the event that wire was stolen from the fence-line.



The fence was also intended to enable other animals to pass under the strands, thereby ensuring that ecosystem processes remained intact.

The project's previous trials of single-strand poliwire fences on individual maize fields confirmed that the method was a promising elephant-deterrent method for conflict areas. The fence was monitored frequently to record data about elephant incursions.

It was found that elephants approached the poliwire fence-line on 10 occasions, and footprints were recorded within 2 and 7 metres from the fence-line for six of these encounters, yet 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.

Elephant tracks were seen to pass underneath the poliwire (voltage 5.3 kV) on two occasions, and fence posts were removed by elephants – the voltage of the fence at this location was 3.8 kV.

Unfortunately the trial was interrupted by a sudden government programme to construct a road along the Nkala 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.

Buffalo, impala, waterbuck and zebra were recorded moving under the electric poliwire, proving that this fence design has the potential to enable ecosystem processes to remain intact by limiting its impact to only the target species without affecting other large mammals.



Malawi Mobile Response Unit

Coordinator: Amanda Salb

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

Images: WERU staff checking old snare injury on an elephant (right); dealing with spotted hyaena (below).



Since July 2013, the Wilderness Trust has supported the Wildlife Emergency Response Unit (WERU), a mobile veterinary unit in Malawi. Jointly managed by the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), WERU has additional support from the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD).

WERU provides in-situ veterinary services for elephant, black rhino, and other animals in need. In addition, WERU supports research projects and wildlife management initiatives in parks and wildlife reserves across the country.

In the past year, WERU has responded to over two dozen call-outs for veterinary services, both emergency and scheduled, in 10 different locations across Malawi. As more people have become aware of the existence of WERU, calls for wildlife management and

human-wildlife conflict assistance from private reserves and other concerned citizens have increased. In addition, DNPW have increasingly requested WERU input and assistance for wildlife matters arising at the State House, the President of Malawi's private residence.

Selected WERU highlights include:

- Rechecking old snare injury on an elephant in Liwonde National Park and placing a VHF collar (donated by African Wildlife Tracking) so that it could be monitored and rechecked in future.
- Partnered with Cluny Wildlife Trust in providing veterinary assistance to a months-old black rhino that had been seen with a snare injury. This required anaesthesia of both mother and baby. The latter was successfully treated and has been observed since; the leg has now healed.

- Assisted with examinations of animals held at the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre (LWC), including African lions, side-striped jackal, and African rock python.
- Call-outs for human-wildlife conflict consults included visiting the State House as part of a team to assess human-wildlife conflict risks involving spotted hyaenas and side-striped jackals; accompanying park rangers to a remote village into which a hippo had inadvertently wandered.
- Provided DAHLD with information regarding diseases in wildlife and wildlife casualties, both natural and those associated with poaching. Sampled elephant carcasses for DNA to help provide law enforcement with intelligence for wildlife trafficking.

After attending the course in wildlife immobilisation in Zimbabwe in 2015 supported by the Wilderness Trust, Dr Joseph Nkhoma has been advocating for an increase in wildlife veterinary services in both DAHLD and DNPW. He has joined WERU in selected activities and serves as a critical link joining government departments.





Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit

Coordinator: Charles Brightman

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

Images: VFAPU scouts with snares (left); scouts tracking (below).

In 2015, the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit's (VFAPU) 17 scouts ran a number of successful anti-poaching operations as well as daily foot patrols, vehicle patrols and integrated multi-day patrols into the Zambezi National Park. A number of bushmeat poachers were apprehended at ambushes set at snare lines/carcasses.

This form of poaching results in up to 3.5 million tons of wildlife being consumed annually in south-central Africa, thus maintaining a constant patrol presence is vital.

In undercover operations, four ivory dealers were captured with ivory, and sentenced to nine years in jail. A number of poachers were arrested for possession of cyanide, weapons and tusks. A pangolin was rescued from two men attempting to sell the animal, VFAPU assisting.

Wood poaching remains a problem, with many people collecting firewood in state-protected areas. Zambian poachers regularly cross into Zimbabwe and take mammals or fish: a number of buffalo have been poached in Zambezi National Park. VFAPU was able to apprehend some of these culprits.

Statistics 2015

Persons apprehended by VFAPU scouts and handed over to appropriate authorities for further action and/or prosecution:

- Wood poachers = **321**
- Fish poachers = **3**

- Mammal poachers = **12**
- Persons selling game meat without correct permits = **4**
- Housebreakers (thieves) = **5**
- Illegal entry to national parks = **14**

Mammal carcasses discovered by VFAPU:

- 1 zebra, 2 baboons, 3 impala, 1 kudu, 1 buffalo and 4 warthog
- 1 female leopard found hit by a vehicle
- 2 giraffe died after walking through power cables

Total number of wire/cable snares removed from the bush = 181

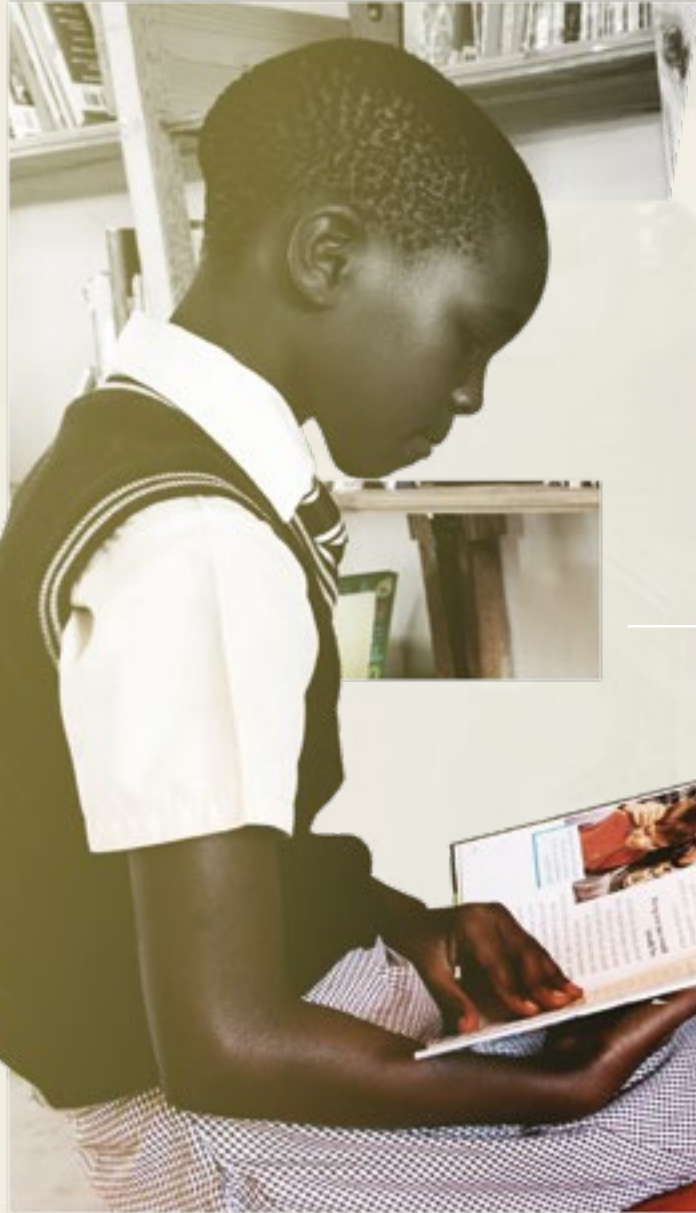
- Down from last year
- In 1999, just over 4 000 snares were discovered.
- Since 1999, VFAPU has now removed over 22 000 snares from the bush.

Mammals found snared and/or injured from snares that were darted, treated and released back into the wild

- 1 warthog, 3 kudu
- Since 1999, **181** mammals have been saved from a slow, painful death in this manner.

Let us pay tribute to the dedicated Game Scouts who are out there every day, risking a great deal to save our wildlife. We are grateful to National Parks and Wildlife Management and the Zimbabwe Republic Police for the opportunity to work together in a joint, collaborative effort to conserve Zimbabwe's valuable wildlife resources.







Community Empowerment and Education

*Children in the Wilderness Projects
Education Bursaries*



Children in the Wilderness Projects

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

Images: Eco-Club campers, Rocktail (right); YES campers, Botswana (below); Eco-Club campers, Botswana (opposite).



Children in the Wilderness is a non-profit organisation supported by ecotourism company Wilderness Safaris – by donations via the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, numerous corporates, individual guests and through fundraising events – to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development and education of rural children in Africa.

The primary focus of Children in the Wilderness is on supporting weekly Eco-Clubs in local schools, with over 2 500 Eco-Club members supported in such innovative clubs across all the regions in 2015.

Since 2001, over 5 600 children have participated on an annual Children in the Wilderness camp, while another important aspect is the scholarship programme, which supported over 300 children in 2015, with some of the monies for this coming through the Trust from many donors. This includes Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe's scholarship programme – where children in rural village schools are supported to complete their education.

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 from page 50 onwards.





Education Bursaries

Coordinator: *Dr Jennifer Lalley*

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 several students in their Masters studies, as well as two students who received bursaries for a second year running. Both had achieved excellent results in their first year, and were therefore well-deserved recipients of support for their second year of studying.



Lindokuhle Xolani Dlamini

Lindokuhle Xolani Dlamini, MSc candidate, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Herbivory (the eating of plants, especially ones that are still living) is assumed to change the architecture of and is usually costly to plants. However, many studies have shown the importance of apical dominance and suggested that herbivory may result in compensatory regrowth, or even overcompensation (growth in excess of current growth).

Even though there is a vast body of literature on the subject, it focuses mostly on herbaceous or biennial herbs. Furthermore, using plant functional traits to understand such a complex subject has scarcely been explored.

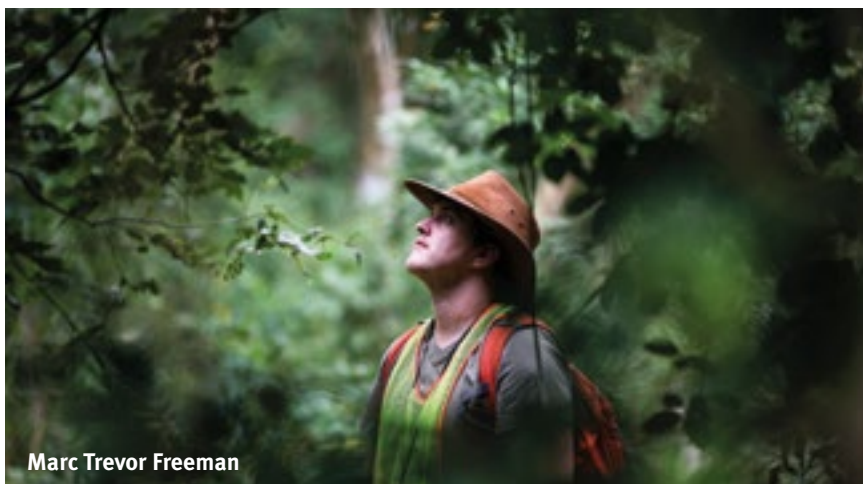
In a greenhouse study, Xolani simulated herbivory through clipping of apical and lateral meristems to different degrees (25% and 75%) in both fine- and broad-leaved tree species that are dominant in South African savannahs. He found significant differences between broad- and fine-leaved trees in all functional traits except for specific leaf area and belowground biomass, and no significant differences between clipping treatments in almost all the functional traits measured.

No single hypothesis can explain both responses but they responded in a similar way to a “browsing lawn” (i.e. a positive feedback between browsing and growth responses). Additionally, the results did not differ from most studies on herbaceous or woody plants and did not support the idea that heavy browsing results in bushier architecture and overcompensatory growth in plants.

Marc Trevor Freeman, Honours candidate, University of Pretoria

Marc completed his Honours in Zoology, with his project looking at whether the anthropogenic transformation of matrix habitats will alter the structure of coastal forest bird communities.

Forests along the eastern coast of southern Africa have been naturally fragmented over time as a result of climate change and other stochastic events. In response to this, many forest-dependent bird species may have become adapted to live within a fragmented landscape, making the composition of the surrounding matrix important for their survival.



Marc Trevor Freeman

However, in recent times these matrices have been transformed – sugarcane and agroforestry plantations now surround forest fragments instead of natural grasslands and woodlands.

Using surveys of birds within forest fragments, species-area models and other methods, Marc concluded that matrix transformation causes forest-specialist bird species to disappear from small forest fragments.

Forest conservation strategies that ignore matrices could result in the extinction of forest specialist species, which may have implications for the functionality of forest ecosystems.



Marike Louw (right)

Marike Louw, MSc candidate,
University of Pretoria

Marike's study examined the relationships between parasitoid density, the occurrence of superparasitism, and hymenopteran sex ratio adjustment for the egg parasitoid *Anaphes nitens* (a chalcid wasp) that parasitises *Gonipterus sp.* (eucalyptus snout beetle) in South Africa.

Host quality can affect the fitness of parasitoids. Whether a host is already parasitised is one factor that can influence host quality. Superparasitism occurs when female parasitoids make use of poor quality hosts (parasitised hosts). The study postulated that 1.) *A. nitens* females place eggs without active avoidance of superparasitism; 2.) superparasitism negatively affects growth and development of *A. nitens* larvae; and 3.) superparasitism elicits a behavioural response in ovipositing female *A. nitens* in terms of offspring sex ratio adjustment.

A constant number of *Gonipterus* egg packets were subjected to increasing densities of female *A. nitens*. Half of the *Gonipterus* egg packets were dissected (to determine parasitism rate before emergence) and the other half were left to examine the actual rate of emergence of *A. nitens*. No significant relationship was found between the rate of parasitism and wasp density. Parasitism rate was low possibly because the density treatments were not high enough to elicit superparasitism. A failure of *A. nitens* offspring to emerge did not allow for the last two hypotheses to be addressed conclusively highlighting the need to improve rearing and experimental methods in order to explore this parasitoid-wasp association.



Storme Viljoen

Storme Viljoen, MSc candidate,
University of Cape Town

Storme is examining the health status and disease ecology of black-backed jackals and caracals living on Great Karoo farmlands, with a focus of molecular epidemiology of blood parasites of these species. Her MSc work contributes to the larger Karoo Predator Project, a collaborative partnership between UCT's Department of Biological Sciences and the Centre for Social Science Research.

Fieldwork and laboratory analysis were completed, which included disease prevalence testing of selected tick-borne blood parasites using a conventional PCR approach.

In November 2015, use of the reverse line blot (RLB) hybridisation assay was used to screen for at least 41 different blood pathogens in samples collected in the Great Karoo farmlands and caracal blood samples collected in Namaqualand farmlands.



The final stages of lab work involved cloning and sequencing of blood pathogens detected using the RLB hybridisation assay, completed in early March 2016. The dissertation examines morphometrics and body condition of Karoo predator populations, blood pathogen prevalence rates in caracals across the Great Karoo, Namaqualand and Table Mountain National Park populations and finally, a generalised linear mixed model framework to look at how individual characteristics, such as sex, age and location, influence pathogen presence and rates of co-infection.

Continuing Studies

Two students received bursaries for a third year running.

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 2016, as a result of his studies and commitment, he was promoted to Fire Chief for the entire Kafue National Park, currently in charge of fire management for both northern and southern regions

Bobby Rakaru is studying for his Diploma in Nature Conservation through the University of South Africa. His ambition is to expand his knowledge in the field of natural sciences and conservation, with the goal of completing eight more theory modules.

He passed all his subjects with distinction; this year, he is studying Animal Studies, Plant Studies, and Conservation Interpretation.



Completed Projects 2014 - 2015





Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study
Researcher: *PhD candidate Moses Seibatso (University of Botswana)*

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) wildebeest study took place over three years. Findings suggested that the wildebeest are actively selecting pans and valleys, even though the pans and valleys represent less than 5% of the total habitat area available.

There is also evidence of daily and seasonal patterns when wildebeest are most active. Early hours of the day and late afternoon show some high levels of activity by wildebeest, which is more pronounced in the wet season.

The project published the findings by the end of 2015, giving insight into the conservation status of Botswana's migrating wildebeest population, which is thought to be declining along with other wildebeest populations of Africa. The papers focus on movement patterns, habitat selection and use, diet composition and demographic patterns of this often-overlooked species.

Education for Carnivore



Images: Blue wildebeest (2; above); livestock guarding pups training with goat (above middle); aerial of elephant in Liwonde National Park (below right).



Conservation

Researcher: *Rebecca Klein (Executive Director Cheetah Conservation Botswana)*

The project promoted best practice in farm management and raised awareness for carnivore conservation in Botswana.

Site visits to affected farmers took place to provide appropriate solutions to reduce conflict between them and carnivores.

Workshops at Cheetah Conservation Botswana's (CCB) Tiisano Education Centre reached some 90 farmers, providing training in predator behaviour, assessing livestock losses, good husbandry, herd health and fertility, reducing livestock losses through kraal designs, herding strategies and livestock guarding dogs (LSGDs).

CCB maintains a network of 150 LSGD users that receive support, training and free veterinary care. Long-term conflict mitigation studies were completed in 14 settlements in Ghanzi, Okavango, Boteti and Chobe to evaluate how kraaling livestock and employing LSGDs help to reduce livestock losses and improve farmers' perceptions.

Liwonde National Park Annual Aerial Wildlife Census
Coordinator: *Derek Macpherson*

Between 2006 and 2012, seven consecutive aerial total area censuses were conducted in Liwonde National Park. In October 2014, another was conducted using total area count methodology.

Fourteen sorties were flown over five days to complete the census, covering an area of 67 500 hectares. A systematic flight path pattern was used during elephant, buffalo and sable counts that covered woodland and floodplain areas of the park.

An irregular flight pattern was flown in preferred habitats for hippopotamus, waterbuck, impala and warthog – these species strongly favour water and floodplain habitats.

Increasing population trends were observed for the following species: elephant, buffalo, waterbuck, impala, warthog and hippopotamus. A marked declining trend was observed in the case of sable. Snare poaching was identified as the most important threat to healthy wildlife populations in Liwonde National Park.

Recommendations were made to improve the integrity of the boundaries, law enforcement, surveillance and future monitoring of wildlife populations in Liwonde National Park in an attempt to reverse the negative effects of illicit human activity in the Park.



Namibia Black Rhino Conservation Support
Coordinator: Dr Jeff Muntifering

Two 4x4 vehicles were donated to SRT to help combat the threat of poaching and secure critical black rhino populations in the Kunene region of north-west Namibia.

The handover of the vehicles took place in Windhoek on 12 May 2015.

The vehicles operate on a cost-share basis between SRT and Wilderness Safaris Namibia, boosting the already-high standard of field-based monitoring taking place for roughly 75% of the Kunene's black rhino population and help guarantee an effective ground presence.



Zimbabwe Cheetah Conservation Project
Researcher: Dr Esther Van Der Meer

In order to determine the current status of the cheetah population and the conservation challenges the species faces, Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe (CCPZ) ran a countrywide questionnaire-based cheetah population survey. In 2013, the north-west of the country was covered, expanded in 2014 to the south, an area which historically used to harbour a strong cheetah population. Here, the main cheetah populations (≥ 10 adult cheetah) were found in five wildlife-

protected areas; the historical cheetah hotspots outside protected areas are no longer in existence.

As in the north-west of the country, human-cheetah conflict is virtually non-existent and people generally have a positive attitude towards the species. In addition, CCPZ continued to collect sightings and pictures from the public.

Thanks to the cheetah's unique coat pattern, this enabled the project to add another 23 individual cheetah to their national database, with the total of identified adult cheetah in Zimbabwe coming to 86.



Images: Taking blood from sedated rhino (above); one of the Trust-donated vehicles and SRT trackers (above right); cheetah on the move (right).



Make 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 USA.
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 the Trust.

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 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: 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!

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:

Donors – Over \$5000

Anonymous
Catherine Brown
Christine O Halloran
Clark Foundation
Darr Family
Ed and Michelle Hetherington
Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
Empowers Africa
G E Foundation
Isdell Family Foundation
Jack Clenaghan
Jeff Neu
Jerome and Madeleine Cohen
John T and Bonnie Mollen *J Charitable Foundation Trust*
John Whitesell
Journeys Unforgettable – *Steve and Brennan Rimer*
Kappy Debutts
Lusyd Doolittle
Michael Blumberg
Natural Migrations – *Paul and Caroline Swart*
Robert Steinberg

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.

Nissan – for its partial donation of vehicles that are being used in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

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

Shirley Sanderson who exhibits her photos at art galleries and elsewhere; proceeds of some of her sales go to the Trust.

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 below, this was unintentional; please accept our apologies and let us know.

Donors – Below \$5000

A Bulterman
Aardvark Safaris
Amina Kahn
Andrea and Adler Nordell
Andrew Jones
Anthony Furnari
Bette F Degraw
Betty J Tatro
Bryan Brautigam
Cheryl Sexton
Colin Ma
Cooper Munroe
Craig Beal
Dalfen American Corp
Daniel Fox
Daniel Scheinberg
Danielle Attaie
Elliot and Orba Weisenberg
Eve Adler
Fibre Clean Hygiene
Francis Antrobus
Game Plan Africa – *Vee Thompson*
Georgina Antrobus
Heather Smith
Heidi Rinehart
Ira Guttentag

Jamie Rutgers
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Jennifer Schmidt
Jersey Lanfairlawns
Joel and Laurie Rosenberg
John and Roebuck Catt
John Woodnutt
June Thaden
Kathlene Makara
Krista Kruger
Linda Sandman
Mary Egan
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Nancy and Thomas Mohr
Natalie Lockyer
Paul Walker
Peregrine Adventures – *Peter Lemon*
Peter and Amy Price
Peter Wilton
Phyllis Bossin
Piper and Heath – *Chris Liebenberg*
Piper and Heath Travel
Sabrina Woodridge
Sally Kipper
SATIB Underwriters
Seasons in Africa
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Steve and Liz Ricklefs
The Nelson Foundation
Timothy Brandt
Vee Romero
Wayland Travel – *Karen Schragle*
WildlifeCampus
William and Barbara Hutchinson
Oregon Community Foundation





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.

Our Vision

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.

About Children in the Wilderness

Children in the Wilderness has as its overall goal to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development of rural children in Africa. This is achieved in a variety of ways, from running Eco-Clubs at schools within the rural communities that live on the edges of the wild areas of Africa to running three-night camps at Wilderness Safaris and partner camps, as well as a number of other supportive programmes.

In their villages the children are faced with many challenges. The Children in the Wilderness Eco-Clubs make use of a standardised curriculum adapted to suit the specific country or community, delivered in a fun, interactive and engaging manner. In this way, Children in the Wilderness introduces children to their wildlife heritage, builds and strengthens their capabilities to cope with life's challenges and educates them with the life skills necessary to actualise their greatest potential.

The camp programme, run at Wilderness Safaris and other partner camps, combines leadership skills, environmental education and recreation – all in a unique and safe wilderness environment. The programme aims at increasing the children's understanding and appreciation of the diversity of natural environments, as well as to encourage them by demonstrating the opportunities that exist for them.

The Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme focuses on children with commitment and potential who have been identified on annual camps and in Eco-Clubs as showing a particular interest in conservation and leadership potential.

The curriculum in the programme is an extension of concepts introduced in Eco-Clubs and on annual camps, with a greater focus on career guidance, leadership, team building, communication and further environmental education. The YES camps are usually smaller, with fewer children attending, allowing for focused work groups and increased participation of all children.

The YES programme also allows the opportunity for Eco-Mentors to spend more time with the children and identify candidates for the scholarship and internship programme.

Via these programmes, Children in the Wilderness also aims to develop leadership values amongst the participants, so as to create leaders who are inspired to care for their legacy and can show others the way.

To further achieve these goals, Children in the Wilderness runs a number of other initiatives to assist children and their teachers and parents within their own milieu, such as school nutrition schemes, village and school upliftment and scholarships.

The Children in the Wilderness programme:

- Practises and teaches sustainable environmental education
- Fosters leadership qualities in Africa's children
- Exposes the children to new experiences and new friends
- Helps to build self-esteem and teach life skills
- Inspires the children to continue with their education
- Focuses on everyday issues pertaining to their particular situation, such as HIV/AIDS, nutrition, and poaching
- Provides the children with a sense of hope and opportunity







FROM THE DIRECTORS



Leone Jooste



Jan Mallen



Dr Sue Snyman



Russel Friedman (Chairman)



Malcolm McCullough



Mike White



Children in the Wilderness continues to grow from strength to strength with the continually-evolving structure of the programme, ensuring long-term sustainability and greater reach and impact.

Children in the Wilderness was proud to have been recognised as one of the runners-up in the 'Innovation and Excellence in Non-Governmental Organisations' category at the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Awards held in Madrid, Spain in January 2016. The UNWTO Awards honour the work being done in the tourism industry to benefit communities and are considered a flagship for the global tourism sector, recognising organisations focusing on knowledge creation, dissemination and innovative applications in tourism. Children in the Wilderness received kudos and global recognition thanks to this award nomination as well as recognition from the South African Government.

Numerous Eco-Mentor Training programmes were conducted with 192 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 Eco-Club programme in the various communities with which we work has also seen a huge amount of development in the reporting period, with many interesting Eco-Club projects on the go. In 2015, we had 2 554 Eco-Club members, with a total of 58 Eco-Clubs being supported and 148 teachers/Eco-Mentors assisting.

The publication of the Children in the Wilderness Eco-Club Curriculum Book One was certainly a highlight in 2015. This book is a fantastic tool for those running the Eco-Clubs, with a range of lesson plans containing lesson objectives, materials required, Eco-Mentor notes and fun activities. The Children in the Wilderness team is working on Book Two and Three of this curriculum.

Twenty-one Children in the Wilderness annual Eco-Club camp programmes were run for a total of 434 children in 2015. The three-night four-day annual camp programme has proved to be very effective and the structured curriculum has proved to be 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.

In 2015, the Children in the Wilderness Adult Eco-Club programme continued to expand in the regions, with 9 clubs being supported, comprising 115 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.

The annual Community Development/Children in the Wilderness Regional Workshop was held in February 2016. The workshop started with a full-day personal leadership workshop followed by three days where the Coordinators and Community Development Liaisons from the regions shared ideas and projects and discussed strategies and plans for the year ahead.

Each country prepared presentations on its projects, plans for the future, what worked well, challenge areas, etc. There was much discussion about the new curricula and the future growth of the programme. General topics were covered too, such as governance, marketing, branding, and communication to ensure that all regions are on the same page. The participants also enjoyed a visit to the Mogalakwena Women's Project to get ideas for their Adult Eco-Club programmes.

Our partnership with the Dūcere Foundation saw the publication of the first Children in the Wilderness African Children's stories. This wonderful partnership encourages creative writing, story-telling and literacy. Another publication launched was Eco-Stars, a colourful upbeat magazine that is a collection of stories, pictures and writings from the children and their

Eco-Mentors, shared at Wilderness Safaris camps for guests and staff to read and be inspired.

In terms of fundraising, the 2015 Nedbank Tour de Tuli event – our 11th annual fundraising cycling event – was a great success! 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. Other important partners over the year have included H.E.L.P. Malawi, Pack for a Purpose, Peace Parks Foundation, Dūcere 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.

How Children in the Wilderness Works

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 or a minimal cost, 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 (www.childreninthewilderness.com/about-us/eco-stars).

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

CAREERS

**TERTIARY
EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIPS
and/or INTERNSHIPS**

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

**SECONDARY SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Provides children from our programme, who are doing well academically but whose parents are unable to afford to send them to secondary school, an opportunity to complete their schooling.

**YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP (YES)**

The YES programme focuses on children with commitment and potential who have been identified in Eco-Clubs and on annual camps as showing leadership and an interest in conservation and on leadership qualities.

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

ANNUAL CAMPS

A Wilderness Safaris/partner camp is closed for a few days each year, and 12-30 children between 10 and 17 years old are hosted in the camp for a four-day educational and fun-filled programme, including lessons, games, practical sessions and wildlife activities.

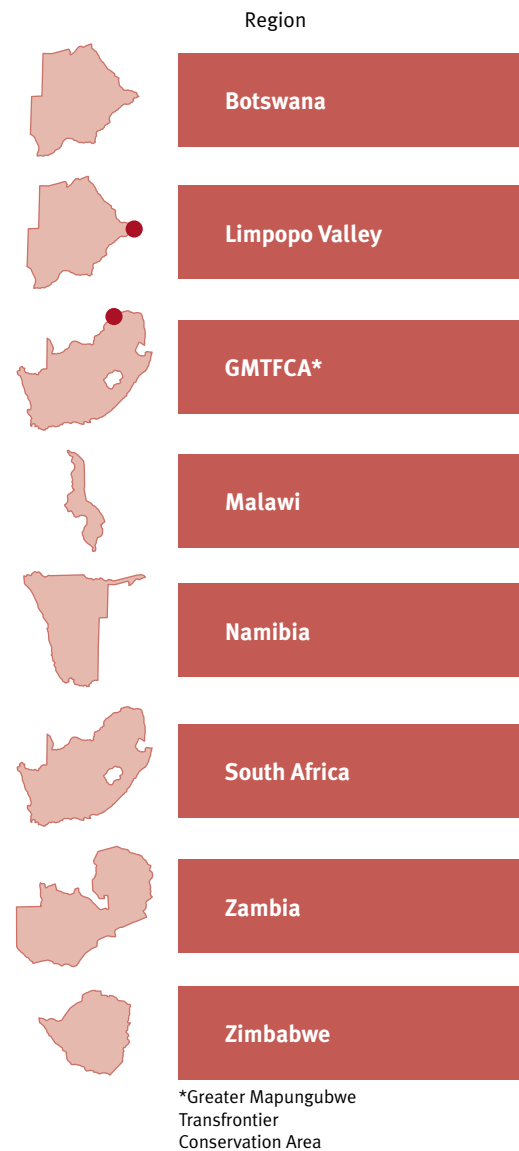
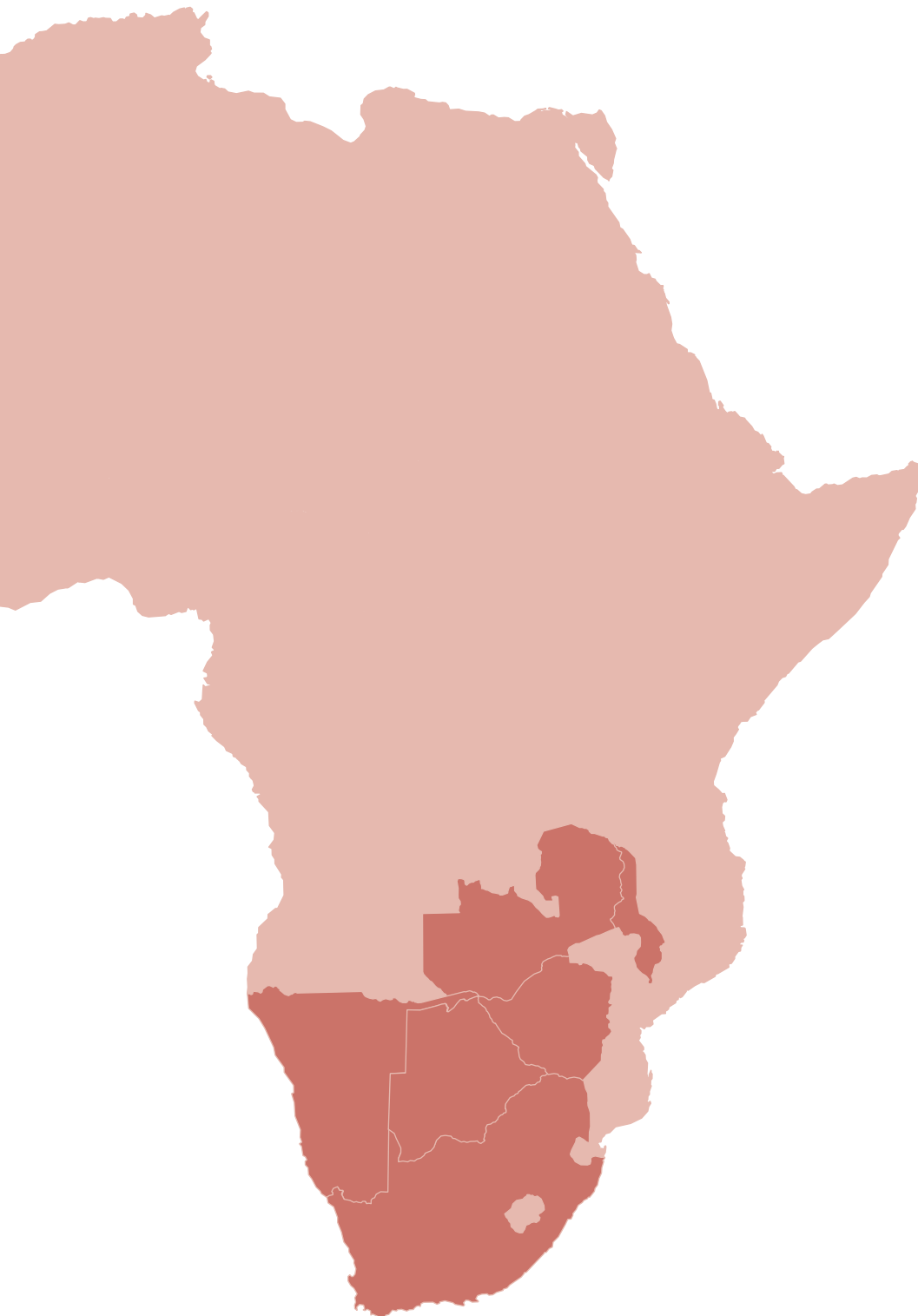
ECO-CLUBS

Throughout the year, we operate Eco-Clubs in rural schools in the communities with which we work. They 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 on the camps are selected from Eco-Clubs.



Children in the Wilderness Numbers

In 2015, Children in the Wilderness ran 58 Eco-Clubs with 2 554 children participating and hosted 434 children in 21 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

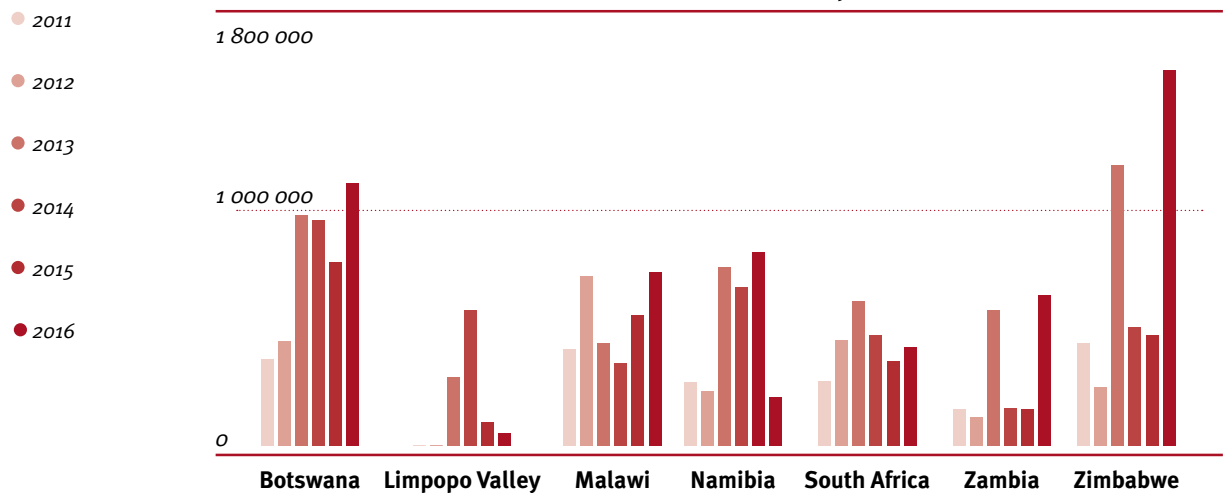
as becoming a more structured, standardised programme, so its contribution has become greater: positively impacting more children's lives more often. Children in the Wilderness previously ran annual camps on North Island, Seychelles; this programme is no longer operational.

Children in the Wilderness statistics for the reporting period

Members/Participants	No. of Eco-Clubs	No. of Eco-Club camps	No. of YES camps	Total costs of programme** (Botswana Pula)
Eco-Club members: 581 Camp participants: 116	9	6	2	1 057 256
Eco-Club members: N/A Camp participants: 32	n/a	2	0	51 554
Eco-Club members: 225 Camp participants: 19	7	1	0	81 031
Eco-Club members: 860 Camp participants: 70	17	3	1	194 909
Eco-Club members: 175 Camp participants: 37	4	2	1	233 067
Eco-Club members: 240 Camp participants: 40	6	3	0	397 134
Eco-Club members: 245 Camp participants: 58	7	2	0	604 355
Eco-Club members: 228 Camp participants: 164	8	7	1	1 689 942

**Does not include camp opportunity costs but includes costs for Eco-Clubs, trainings, camps, and scholarship

Children in the Wilderness expenditure 2011-2016 (Botswana Pula)



Notes:

The increased spend in Zimbabwe in 2016 relates to the inclusion of scholarships in this total, as well as the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on the US\$-based donations in Zambia and Zimbabwe. The decreased spend in Limpopo Valley is due to increased external donations used to fund the programme. Decreased Namibian expenditure in 2015/6 was due to staff changes and programme restructuring.



Children in the Wilderness Team

Zambia / Zimbabwe



Sue Goatley
Children in the Wilderness
Programme Manager



James Mwanza
Children in the Wilderness
Programme Coordinator



Cain Chikwava
Children in the Wilderness
Assistant Coordinator



Mxolisi Sibanda
Community Coordinator and HIV/
AIDS Assistant Coordinator



Shuvanayi Taruvinga
Children in the Wilderness
Administrational Assistant

Botswana



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



Gabainele (Gaba) Modirapula
Children in the Wilderness Administrator

Namibia



Agnes Tjirare
Community Engagement Administrator



Jermain Ketji
Community Engagement Manager

Regional



Dr Sue Snyder
Regional Programme Director



Bongani Baloyi
Regional Programme Coordinator



Richard van der Wyl
Sustainability & Risk Division

Malawi



Symon Chibaka
Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator



Christopher Mvula
Community Development Liaison and
Children in the Wilderness Liaison



Limpopo Valley
Tanya McKenzie
Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator

South Africa and GMTFCA



Janet Wilkinson
Children in the Wilderness
Programme Coordinator



Liza Steyn
Administration and Bookkeeping





Country Reports

Botswana
Botswana – Limpopo Valley
Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area
Malawi
Namibia
South Africa
Zambia
Zimbabwe



Botswana

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

Gabaneele (Gaba) Modirapula: *Children in the Wilderness Administrator*

Children in the Wilderness Botswana began annual camps in 2001 and to date has hosted nearly 1 700 children on these camps. Youth Environmental Stewardship camps started in 2008 and have hosted over 200 children. Since their inception in 2013 Children in the Wilderness Botswana has hosted over 1 500 children in Eco-Clubs



Statistical analysis of programme for Feb 2015-Jan 2016

	Numbers
Eco-Club camps run	4
Children on Eco-Club camps	80
Schools engaged with for all activities	9
Teachers on all camps	18
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	20
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	80
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	45
Adult Eco-Clubs	6
People involved in Adult Eco-Clubs	51



Eco-Club Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of children in Eco-Club	No. of teachers involved	Eco-Club Projects/Activities
Maun	Shashe Primary School	49	8	4Rs* projects Beadwork Renew worm units Drawing and writing stories Waste sorting
Sankoyo	Sankoyo Primary School	80	5	Vegetable gardening Extension of worm farms Orchard Mosaic and collage artwork
Kareng	Kareng Primary School	67	8	Worm farms Field crops production Anti-litter campaign Mosaic and collage artwork
Habu	Habu Primary School	60	7	Poultry Farming Vegetable gardening Anti-litter campaign Craft production 4Rs projects
Tubu	Tubu Primary School	67	7	Traditional hut model Beadwork Weaving Vegetable gardening Tippy tap Sewing Fencing of school tap Mosaic and collage artwork
Seronga	Seronga Primary School	88	7	Tree planting Crafts from natural resources 4Rs projects Vegetable gardening Ornamental flowerbeds
Gunotsoga	Gunotsoga Primary School	60	5	Vegetable Gardening Marula jam project Crafts from natural resources Poultry Farming
Beetsha	Beetsha Primary School	55	8	Vegetable gardening Information boards Orchard
Gudigwa	Gudigwa Primary School	55	6	Tree identification – name tagging Shade net for the garden Reuse of milk cartoons

*4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Respect



Eco-Mentor/Teacher Training

Training venue	Number who attended	Where attendees were from	Topics covered
Santawani Camp	17	Gunotsoga Primary School Beetsha Primary School Gudigwa Primary School Shashe Primary School Tubu Primary School Habu Primary School Kareng Primary School Sankoyo Primary School Seronga Primary School	Lesson preparation Lesson presentation Development of activity plans per school Eco-Club curriculum book orientation Infuse cultural activities into Environmental Education activities Monitoring and evaluation
Maun – River Side Lodge	23	Regional Education Office Gunotsoga Primary School Beetsha Primary School Gudigwa Primary School Shashe Primary School Tubu Primary School Habu Primary School Kareng Primary School Sankoyo Primary School Seronga Primary School	What does learning look like from the inside out? Brain-based and brain-compatible learning Multiple Learning Styles (auditory, visual, kinaesthetic) Multiple Intelligences Theory Creating Supportive Learning Environments Enquiry-based learning Checking for understanding Creative group management Flow Learning Method Visual Aids Lesson Plan Templates Eco-Clubs meet MOE Objectives for Environmental Science Implementation and Measurement
Victoria Falls – Zimbabwe	5	Gunotsoga Primary School Beetsha Primary School Seronga Primary School Regional Education Office	The importance of Grade R Resources and strategies for developing oral language Resources and strategies for developing emergent reading Resources and strategies for developing emergent writing Resources and strategies for implementing CAPS home language



Annual Camps

The camp programme hosted four annual camps this year. 80 children attended these camps accompanied by 9 teachers.

The camps were held quarterly, at Santawani, Wilderness Tented and Jacana camps.

Highlights

- Jacana Camp was attended by a BBC World Reporter.
- Representatives from the American Embassy, Children in the Wilderness sponsors, attended the camp held in September.
- Seronga School project – reuse of plastic bags was a great success.

Some 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

The best thing to have ever happened to me in my entire life, camp – Refilwe Maeze, Seronga Primary School

If I am asked to describe how I feel about camp, I can only use one word – happy – Thabang Gasetlhaselwe, Tubu Primary School

I never thought I could be so close to elephants and they don't hurt me, I have a different perspective of elephants now – Olesego Nkare, Beetsha Primary School

Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme

Last year, two YES camps were held at Santawani with 36 children attending.

The topics covered included:

- Animal track identification
- Anti-poaching
- Plants and trees
- Career Fair
- Wildlife quiz





Adult Eco-Clubs

Name of Club	Name of 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 Beekeeping Screen printing
Habu Adult Eco-Club	Habu	12	1	Patchwork Dressmaking Basket weaving Leatherwork Wood carving Handmade elephant dung paper Screen printing
Kareng Adult Eco-Club	Kareng	5	3	Poetry Leatherwork Wood carving
Sankoyo Adult Eco-Club	Sankoyo	7	0	Knitting Beading 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 Vegetable gardening Screen printing





Soccer in the Wilderness – coaching clinics with Gordon Gilbert

Gordon Gilbert, a former professional soccer player (Kaizer Chiefs, Mpumalanga Black Aces, Moroka Swallows to name a few), is now a professional mountain biker and a wildlife enthusiast committed to making a difference.

In 2013, he became a Children in the Wilderness Ambassador, combining the fun of sport with education and raising environmental awareness, and has been running soccer clinics ever since.

In Botswana this year, these were held in February and October:

- 2 coaching clinics at Shashe and Habu primary schools
- 1 coaching clinic with Wilderness Safaris staff in Maun
- 1 coaching clinic with staff at Vumbura
- 1 coaching clinic with Mombo staff

“My personal goal is to see wildlife and heritage conserved and protected whilst adding value to communities. I feel extremely proud and excited to be associated with a company like Wilderness Safaris which shares the same vision” – Gordon Gilbert





Botswana – Limpopo Valley

Tanya McKenzie: *Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator*

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 (GMTFCA) each year, traversing large areas of Mashatu Game Reserve. It has hosted 168 children on annual camps since its inception. Mashatu Game Reserve provides all the bednights for the camps.

Statistical analysis of programme for Feb 2015-Jan 2016

	Number
Eco-Club camps run	2
Children on Eco-Club camps	32
Schools engaged with for all activities	3
Teachers on all camps	1
Total number of Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	19
Mashatu staff participating in camps	3
Staff members who do not get involved in the camp but run the lodge as usual (kitchen/cleaning/manager/garden etc.)	7-10

Annual Camp Highlights

- Illala, the elephant play, and the circle of life activities have strong conservation and moral messages which are enjoyed by the children.
- The children are given little Canon cameras to share for the duration of the camp and taught how to “shoot” animals with a camera, rather than with a gun. The children absolutely loved the photography workshops which were very well presented by photographers Travis Bester and Gabriel Nel.
- Outings included the Limpopo Valley Airport, Mashatu Lodge and the Pont Drift Customs and Immigrations Office, where they learnt about different job opportunities associated with Northern Tuli Game Reserve.
- The highlight of this day is the Discovery Room at Mashatu Lodge, a ride in the cable car over the Limpopo River into South Africa and a ride on the fire engine at Limpopo Valley Airfield. The children and volunteers asked the fireman to spray them with water to cool them down in the heat. As well as being much fun, the morning games, songs and team challenges provide moral lessons.
- An enthralling presentation on wildlife film-making by the famous wildlife film-maker, Kim Wolhuter. The children were absolutely amazed by Kim’s photos and movie clips. They had many questions for him and were inspired to take more videos and photos of the wildlife with their cameras.





Some topics covered

- Conservation – specifically elephant conservation
- Bird biology and identification
- Littering
- Photography
- Circle of life and ecosystems
- Anti-poaching

What they said

My face came full of smiles looking at the pictures. I will always remember this camp for the lovely and friendly people we have on this camp. Wilderness areas are important because you learn and play – Tebogo Nkele, 11

I will always remember the day we were taught about birds. The difference I will make to the world is that I can make a lodge and collect people and teach them how to conserve animals and how they are important to the country – Lame Masoba, 12

I expected to be taught about the camp only but what was different is we were taught about wild animals and their differences and the birds and how they live a good life. For the first time in my life I answered a few questions even when I did not know about them before – Maatha Dihutso, 10

I have learnt to understand other people for other cultures. I will make a difference to the world like decorating the environment with traditional clay pots and I will make them and give Botswana money – Patricia Moloto, 12



Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA)

Programme Coordinator: Janet Wilkinson

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.

Statistical analysis of programme for reporting period Feb 2015-Jan 2016

	Numbers
Eco-Club camps run	1
Children on Eco-Club camps	19
Schools engaged with for all activities	8
Teachers on all camps	3
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	9
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	2
Eco-Clubs supported	7
Eco-Club members	205
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	12
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	22



Eco-Mentor/Teacher Training

Training venue	Number of attendees	Where attendees were from	Topics covered
Shashi Community Centre, Zimbabwe	5	Shashi and Maramani, Zimbabwe	Introduction to Eco-Clubs, Frogs and Respect
Mathathane Primary School, Botswana	12	Mathathane and Motlhabaneng, Botswana	Introduction to Children in the Wilderness, Mentoring, Running Eco-Clubs, Appreciation, Respect, Plants in our school grounds
Kranenberg Primary School, South Africa	4	Musina, South Africa	Introduction to Children in the Wilderness, Mentoring, Running Eco-Clubs, Appreciation and Respect
Mogalakwena Research Centre, South Africa	1	Simson, South Africa	Various topics from the Eco-Club Curriculum

Eco-Club Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of children in Eco-Club	No. of teachers involved	Eco-Club Projects/ Activities
Shashi, Zimbabwe	Shashi Primary School	30	3	Appreciation Web of life No littering
Maramani, Zimbabwe	Limpopo Primary School	30	2	The water cycle Climate change Soils No littering
Maramani, Zimbabwe	Jalakanga Primary School	30	1	Climate change Plants in our schools No littering
Beitbridge, Zimbabwe	Nottingham Primary school	20	1	The water cycle Food chains and webs
Mathathane, Botswana	Mathathane Primary School	30	2	Plants
Motlhabaneng, Botswana	Motlhabaneng Primary School	30	2	Ongoing gardening project
Simson, South Africa	Modikwa Primary School	35	1	Growing trees from seeds



- A career workshop
- Many new friends were made and the hope is that the children will keep in touch via the Children in the Wilderness Eco-Club pen pal project.

Some topics covered

- The importance of wilderness areas and the GMTFCA for their communities
- Life skills and building self-esteem

What they said

Wilderness areas are important because once a species has gone extinct it will never exist again – Jane, 15, South Africa

I would like to make a difference, make good decisions and respect other people – Tshwetso, 11, Botswana

Annual Camps

Children in the Wilderness, in partnership with the South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the GMTFCA, held the first-ever Tri-Nations Camp from 7 – 10 December, 2015 at Mapungubwe National Park. Schoolchildren from rural communities in Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa came together to make new friends, while learning about the importance of conserving the environment.

The DEA kindly funded the accommodation, with Children in the Wilderness funding the remainder of the expenses and Peace Parks Foundation assisting with funding for passports.

Highlights

- The night drive
- A visit to the Mapungubwe Interpretive Centre
- Seeing the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo rivers where the three countries meet



Malawi

Symon Chibaka: *Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator*

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

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.

Statistical analysis of programme for reporting period Feb 2015-Jan 2016:

	Numbers
Eco-Club camps run	2
Children on Eco-Club camps	40
Schools engaged with for all activities	17
Teachers on all camps	12
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	8
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	4
Children on YES programme	110
YES camps	1
Children on YES camps	30
Eco-Clubs supported	17
Eco-Club members	860
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	34
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	32
Adult Eco-Clubs	2
Adult Eco-Club members	24
Secondary school scholarships (2015; total benefited so far 360)	107
Tertiary scholarships	8



Eco-Club Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of children in Eco-Club	No. of teachers / Eco-Mentors involved	Eco-Club Projects/Activities
Kwenje	Nanthomba	84	2	Tree nursery Vegetable garden Permaculture Worm farming Paper recycling
Kwenje	Kavunguti	46	2	Tree nursery Orchard Paper recycling
Ligwang'wa	Kafulafula	40	2	Tree nursery Paper recycling
Bimbi	Limimbi	29	2	Tree planting
Kalembo	Namalomba	27	2	Tree nursery Tree planting Stop, Sink and Shade (water and soil conservation)
Mbweso	Ntapwa	56	3	Tree nursery Tree planting Park fence clearing
Njahito	Katambasula	46	2	Tree planting Park fence clearing
Makote	Nangondo	47	2	Tree planting Park fence clearing
Ntangayi	Ntangayi	46	2	Tree planting Paper recycling
Msundu	Chihame	75	2	Tree nursery Tree planting Stop, Sink and Shade (water and soil conservation)
Malanda	Mgodi	56	2	Tree planting Paper recycling
Luweya	Chintheche	42	2	Tree nursery Tree planting
Chimbano	Bandawe	38	2	Tree planting Stop, Sink and Shade (water and soil conservation)
Malenganzoma	Chifira	46	2	Tree planting
Malenganzoma	Mac Alpine	54	2	Tree planting
Malenga	Malenganzoma	76	2	Tree planting
Mazembe	Mazembe	52	2	Tree nursery Tree planting



Eco-Mentor/Teacher Training

Training venue	Number who attended	Where attendees were from	Topics covered
Chintheche Inn (Central African Wilderness Safaris)	12	Bandawe	Technology and Kindles Navigating through Kindles Teaching using Kindles Handling a classroom when using Kindles Handling Kindle library
Mvu Camp (Central African Wilderness Safaris)	22	Nanthomba Primary Kafulafula Primary Kavunguti Primary Limimbi Primary Ntangayi Primary Nangondo Primary Katambasula Primary Ntapwa Primary	Conducting Eco-Club lesson sessions Managing Eco-Club projects Four basic learning and teaching methodologies Flow learning Three methods of planning Eco-Club activities Eco-Club curriculum, content flow and assessment Taxonomy, biodiversity and ecology Intro to botany (plants)



Annual Camps

The annual camps were held at Chintheche Inn, on the shores of Lake Malawi.

Highlights

- Community understanding, involvement, contribution and support
- Annual Camp Open Day for 2015 programme involved:
 - Traditional dances
 - Presentations about Children in the Wilderness successes and challenges
 - The aim and objectives for the 2015 annual camp
 - Support sought from the community
- Feedback/comments from the community leaders
- Final ceremony – welcoming the first group of campers by camp mentors together with community leaders.
 - This achieved:
 - Providing a warm welcome to the children
 - Introducing the cultural and traditional themes for the camp
 - The great feeling of ownership among community representatives
 - The great feeling of working together with communities
 - Great assurance and safety
- End of camp contest – between parents and children! The aims were:
 - To evaluate and see what new knowledge the children had learned and gained
 - To let the parents appreciate what their children had learned during their stay in camp
 - To create an atmosphere of respect from the parents to their own children
 - To celebrate together with the parents as children graduated from camp



What they said

If it can be possible, let me also come back to camp as a mentor. I cannot believe that our mentor Violet was a camper before. I just want to come back – Stella Banda, 13, Bandawe Primary School

Camp has taught me to be courageous. Therefore, I can be anything, label me as a musician, as a dancer, as an actor, as a future camp Director, as whatever you like, I will be and do....! – Caroline Chirwa, 12, Chihame Primary School

I would like to recount the species of fish in Lake Malawi. The Lake seems to be too big for only 850 species – Gomezyani Banda, 12, Bandawe Primary School

I would like to be to spend my whole life learning – Alinifa Banda, 13, Mgodhi Primary School

Some topics covered on the annual camp

- Wildlife interactions
- Life skills – my life and threats; HIV/AIDS; common diseases prevention
- Future planning (careers)
- Introduction to natural resources and wildlife
- Celebrating cultural diversity



Adult Eco-Clubs

Name of Club	Name of Village	No. of Women	No. of Men	Projects/Activities
Chihame Eco-Women	Nsundu Village	12	0	Seed banking Micro finance loans
Nanthomba Eco-Women	Kwenje Village	12	0	Hand crafts Tree planting



Scholarship Programme

Village/Community	Name of School	No. of girls	No. of boys	Main sponsors
Malengamuzoma	Chifira Secondary School	3	9	Rosemary Pencil Foundation Individual Donors Children in the Wilderness
Mawato	Chintheche Pvt Secondary School	2	2	
Chijere	Bandawe Boys Secondary School	2	0	
Tukombo	Tukombo Girls Secondary School	1	0	
Masanje	Masanje Secondary School	10	3	
Ntaja	Mbenjere Secondary School	1	2	
Namwera	Our Lady Secondary School	2	0	
Mwaulambia	Chitipa Secondary School	1	0	
Khusu	Destiny Secondary School	1	0	
Andiyamo	St. Charles Lwanga Sec School	0	2	
Dedza	Dedza Secondary School	0	1	
Balaka	Balaka Secondary School	2	3	Rosemary Pencil Foundation
Chijere	Bandawe Girls Secondary School	6	0	
Kalembo	Namalomba Secondary School	9	9	
Malosa	Malosa Secondary School	0	1	
Namandanje	Namandanje Secondary School	8	9	
Nsundu	Chintheche Secondary School	7	11	





Tertiary Education

Village/Community	Name of School	No. of girls	No. of boys	Main sponsors
Blantyre City	University of Malawi Polytechnics	0	1	Rosemary Pencil Foundation Individual Donors Children in the Wilderness
Zomba City	University of Malawi CHANCO	0	1	
Kapeni	Malawi Institute of Tourism	1	0	
Lilongwe City	Malawi College of Health Science	1	0	Rosemary Pencil Foundation
Bwiba	Karonga Teachers College	2	0	Rosemary Pencil Foundation Individual Donors Children in the Wilderness
Machinga	Machinga Teachers College	0	1	
Bembeke	Dedza Teachers College	1	0	



Namibia

Agnes Tjirare: *Community Engagement Administrator*

Jermain Ketji: *Community Engagement Manager*

Children in the Wilderness Namibia began in 2002 and has hosted over 900 children on annual camps to date. Eco-Clubs began operating in 2013 with over 300 children hosted to date.



Statistical analysis of programme for Feb 2015-Jan 2016

	Numbers
Eco-Club camps run	1
Children on Eco-Club camps	25
Schools engaged with for all activities	6
Teachers on all camps	6
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	4
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	6
Children on YES programme	12
YES camps	1
Children on YES camps	12
Eco-Clubs supported	4
Eco-Club members	175
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	6
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	10
Secondary school scholarships	13
Tertiary scholarships	1

Eco-Club Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of children in Eco-Club	No. of teachers / Eco-Mentors involved	Eco-Club Projects/Activities
Sesfontein	Elias Amxab Combined School	28	3	Waste management / collection of waste in the village
Warmquelle	Warmquelle Primary School	30	2	Nutrition education / volunteered at the community garden
Bergsig	Jacob Basson Combined School	40	2	Water management Desert adaptation Human and wildlife awareness with Torra Conservancy
Etosha National Park	Okaukuejo Combined School	77	3	Crafts Waste management Haikom community cultural teaching Conservation

Eco-Mentor/Teacher Training

Training venue	Number who attended	Where attendees were from	Topics covered
Outjo	10	Bergsig, Okaukuejo, Warmquelle, Sesfontein	Web of life Our body and planet Climate change Learning styles Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Annual Camps

One Eco-Club camp was held in 2015, at the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) Wêreldsend Centre in August, bringing together 25 children from Jacob Basson Combined School, 12 girls and 13 boys.

Most children were from Torra Conservancy and around Palmwag Concession.

Highlights

Jeff Muntifering, conservation biologist working with Save the Rhino Trust presented on the importance of saving rhino and the roles of rhino rangers and trackers in the area. He further tasked campers to draw rhino features, such as the ears – which is the same method that rhino rangers use to identify individual rhinos. The best artists were rewarded with rhino ranger’s hats and stickers.

Mervin, a former Wilderness guide and now a paramedic working for the Motor Vehicle Fund, educated campers about the welwitschia plant.

Three hungry hyaena that visited the camp at night!

Some topics covered

- Scavenger hunt
- “My body, my rights” session

What they said

I love my new friends – Camp participant, Wêreldsend
I enjoy learning while playing – Camp participant, Torra
People are good to us at camp – Camp participant, Wêreldsend

YES Programme

One Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) camp was run in April. Previously known as an Explorations camp, the idea for the YES programme, apart from the sightseeing to learn more about their country and opportunities out there, was to expose the students to professionals in different industries with the hope that they will then understand the various career paths; hopefully it will assist them in choosing the subjects in school for their chosen path.

Scholarship Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of girls	No. of boys	Main sponsors
Okaukuejo Bergsig Sesfontein Fonteine Warmquelle Rehoboth	Elias Amxab Combined School Braunfels Agricultural High School Paresis High School Da palm Secondary School Outjo Secondary Okaukuejo Combined School Rehoboth High School	7	7	Khomas Trust Children in the Wilderness Pete Walentin Stuart Crawford Chris Weaver Tertius Knoetze



Other Projects

Other projects initiated this year included planting gardens in the following schools:

- Okaukuejo Combined School
- Jacob Basson Combined School, Bergsig
- Warmquelle Primary School
- Elias Amxab Combined School, Sesfontein

Crafts were also popular at Okaukuejo Combined School.



South Africa

Janet Wilkinson: *Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator*

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 hosted over 1100 children to date.

Statistical analysis of programme for Feb 2015-Jan 2016

	Numbers
Eco-Club camps run	3
Children on Eco-Club camps	40
Schools engaged with for all activities	6
Teachers on all camps	2
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	11
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	9
Eco-Clubs supported	6
Eco-Club members	240
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	32
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	25



Eco-Club Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of children in Eco-Club	No. of teachers / Eco-Mentors involved	Eco-Club Projects/Activities
KwaMpukane	Vululwazi Primary School	40	6	Eco-Club sessions Overnight Eco-Club camp
KwaMqobela	KwaMqobela Primary School	40	6	Eco-Club sessions including topics such as: Endangered and threatened animals
Makahlule	Makahlule Primary School	40	5	The importance of appreciation and thank you
Makuleke	Makuleke Primary School	40	5	Rhinos
Makuleke	Joas Phahlela Primary School	40	5	Animal adaptation
Mabiligwe	Boxahuku Primary School	40	5	Tortoise, Turtle and Terrapin Water cycle

Eco-Mentor/Teacher Training

Training venue	Number who attended	Where attendees were from	Topics covered
Makuleke Community Centre	19	Makuleke, Makahlule and Mabiligwe villages	Introduction to Eco Clubs and Eco-Club lessons
Gugulesizwe Cultural Centre	6	KwaMpukane and KwaMqobela villages	Eco-Club lessons, Tippy Taps and Photography

“I had always wanted to do something to educate my community about wildlife and the environment but did not know where to start. CITW gave me the opportunity through this training to realise my dream by allowing me to participate in this programme” – Mr Phanny Makhubele Risimati, a volunteer from Makuleke village



Annual Camps

Three camps were held over the year: Two at Pafuri Trails, Kruger National Park and one at Rocktail Camp iSimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu-Natal.

Highlights – Pafuri Trails

A daytime visit by a young pangolin was an unforgettable experience for all the participants.

Wonderbag provided Wonderbags for the participants and they learnt how to use the bags during the camp as their daily meals were prepared using these stand-alone, non-electric insulated bags (designed to reduce the amount of fuel required in the cooking of food).

Game drives are always a highlight.

Highlights – Rocktail

The highlight of the visit to Lake Sibaya was seeing hippos for the first time.

Some of the children were delighted when they saw crayfish and an octopus while snorkelling.

Super Camper is always a winner with children becoming introspective and then very proud.

Some topics covered

Pafuri Trails: Leadership values, gratitude, a mammal research project, and presentation skills, diversity, biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage of Makuleke.

Rocktail: Leadership values, teambuilding, snorkelling, beach games. Environmental topics included web of life / food chains, turtles and five senses in animals.



What they said – Pafuri Trails

I learn when we kill animals our child they would not see them [sic] – Askar Maranele, 19

On camp I enjoyed watching the nature and just understanding about my heritage – Hlayisani Mabasa, 15

I have learnt that we must not allow people to do the poarchings and pollutions [sic] – Mountain Rivala, 17

I have learnt it is important to respect and show appreciation – Zanele Baloyi, 14

When we were removed we left our (domestic) animals behind. It is wonderful to see all the animals now – our cows have become buffalos, our donkeys are zebras and the goats are impalas. – Elder Gezani Alpheus Maluleke (on his attitude to the Makuleke Concession, the land from which he was evicted)

What they said – Rocktail

I would like to make a difference by:

Respect all thing that help me [sic] – Thembelani Vumase, 16

Stop litering (sp.) at home and school – Mngqobi Masuke, 13

For the first time during camp I:

Learnt about respect – Thembelani Vumase, 16

Learnt to swim in a pool (sp.) – Philasande Ngubane, 12

Eating berger (sp.) and forest work (walk) – Mngqobi Masuku, 13

To saw a hippo [sic] – Thando Mbonambi, 11

Met the other learners from Vululwazi – Zethembe Nhlozi, 12

Adventure Camp, KwaZulu-Natal

A 24-hour camping experience called an Adventure Camp was held for members of the Vululwazi Primary School Eco-Club at the nearby Gugulesizwe Cultural Centre. Mentors, all staff members of Rocktail Camp, joined 27 children – all camping in sleeping bag/tents for the first time ever!

Topics included:

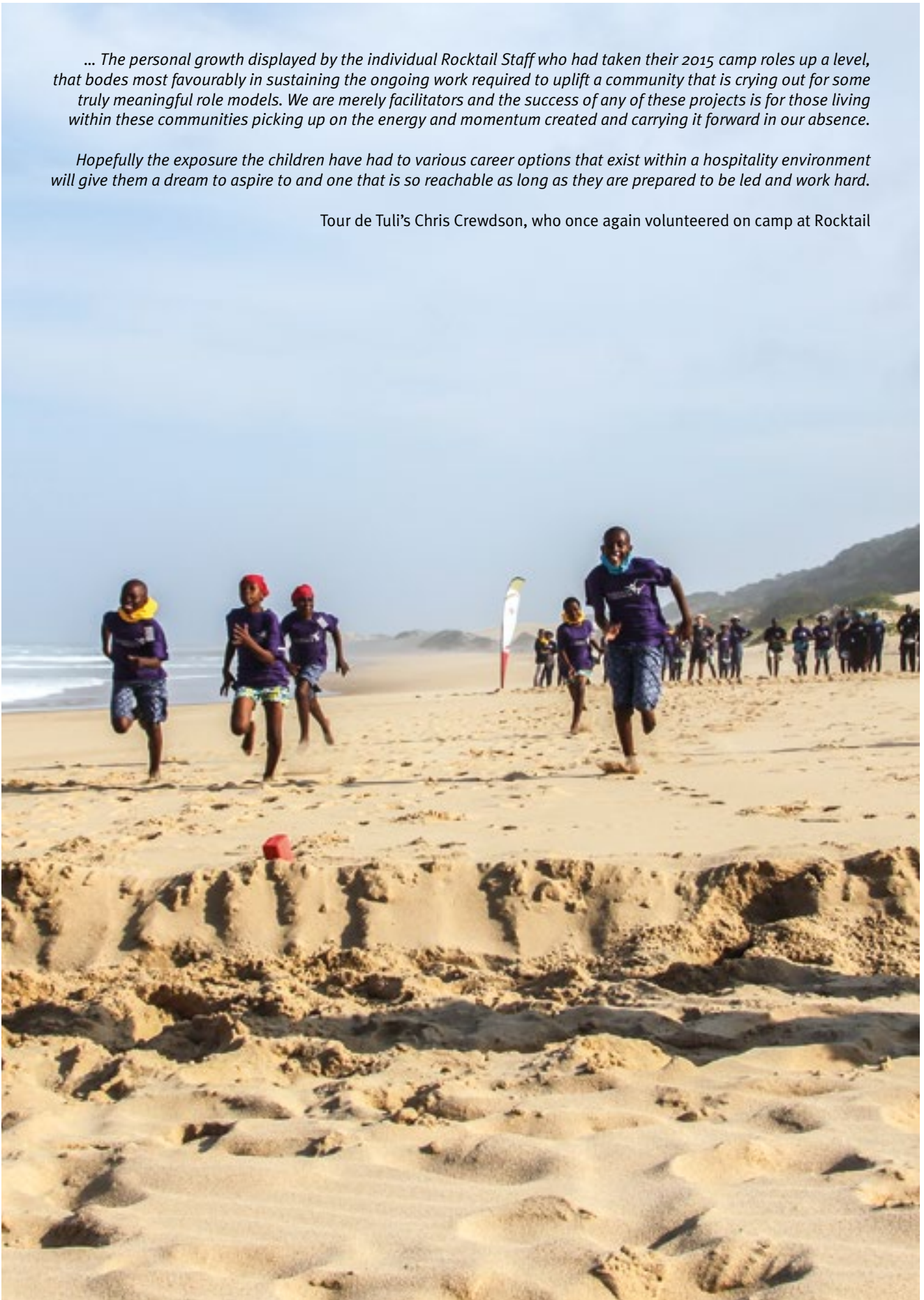
- Making Tippy Taps
- Team building – pitch your ‘khaya’ home for the night (two children sharing a tent)
- Practical outdoor activities that taught about the importance of grasslands and coastal forest
- The team poster relay competition was a huge hit.



... The personal growth displayed by the individual Rocktail Staff who had taken their 2015 camp roles up a level, that bodes most favourably in sustaining the ongoing work required to uplift a community that is crying out for some truly meaningful role models. We are merely facilitators and the success of any of these projects is for those living within these communities picking up on the energy and momentum created and carrying it forward in our absence.

Hopefully the exposure the children have had to various career options that exist within a hospitality environment will give them a dream to aspire to and one that is so reachable as long as they are prepared to be led and work hard.

Tour de Tuli's Chris Crewdson, who once again volunteered on camp at Rocktail





Zambia

Sue Goatley: *Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager*

James Mwanza: *Children in the Wilderness Programme Coordinator*

Children in the Wilderness started running annual camps in Zambia in 2007 and has hosted 396 children on these to date. Eco-Clubs began in 2013 with over 700 children hosted since then.



Statistical analysis of programme for reporting period Feb 2015-Jan 2016

	Numbers
Eco-Club camps run	2
Children on Eco-Club camps	58
Schools engaged with for all activities	7
Teachers on all camps	10
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	6
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	73
Eco-Clubs supported	7
Eco-Club members	255
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	20
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	39
Adult Eco-Clubs	1
People involved in Adult Eco-Clubs	30
Primary school scholarships	34
Secondary school scholarships	4
Tertiary scholarships	1



Eco-Club Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of children in Eco-Club	No. of teachers/ Eco-Mentors involved	Eco-Club Projects/Activities
Sinde	Twabuka	38	3	Eco-Garden Tree planting Artwork Recycling and reuse of solid waste
Mapoko	Mapoko	35	2	Tree planting Anti-litter Soil erosion management at school
Kabulwebulwe	Kabulwebulwe	35	3	Tree planting Animal adaption Insects Solar cars
Sikauzwe	Lupani	35	5	Solar cars Tippy Taps Insects Animal adaption
Simoonga	Simoonga	25	3	Solar cars Tippy Taps Insects Animal adaption Art for animals
Linda, Dambwa Central, Dambwa North and Maramba compounds	Holly Cross	37	3	Solar cars Tippy Taps Insects Animal adaption Art for animals
Linda, Dambwa Central, Dambwa North and Maramba compounds	Nalituwe	40	3	Solar cars Tippy Taps Insects Animal adaption Art for animals

Eco-Mentor/Teacher Training

Training venue	Number who attended	List of where attendees were from	Topics covered
Toka Leya Camp	20	Twabuka School, Twabuka Pre-School Simoonga Lupani Holly Cross Nalituwe School	Use of solid waste into learning toys for Pre-School children.
Twabuka Primary School	2	Twabuka, Simoonga	Word Works Training
Woodlands Lodges	15	Twabuka, Lupani, Simoonga, Nalittuwe Holly Cross	Eco-Club Curriculum training 3rd edition
Victoria Falls – Ilala Lodge	2	Twabuka School	STELLAR Programme: New methods on infant grade teaching



Annual Camps

One camp was held at Lufupa Camp in Kafue National Park in November for 28 children from Mapoko and Kabulwebulwe Primary Schools, while the annual camp in the Livingstone area took place at Toka Leya Camp on the Zambezi River.

Highlights

Lufupa Camp: Visit and session with pilots at the airstrip: This outing and career guidance by the pilots motivated the children that with education, anything is possible.

Children were given the opportunity to look and sit inside the plane.

Toka Leya Camp: Interaction with rhinos during a game drive excited the children. Zambia's only rhino are found in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, protected by a heavy guard presence.

The park officials allowed the children to see the rhino and assigned a senior conservation officer to explain the importance of wildlife, and the need for coexistence and protection of our natural assets such as animals, water bodies and other biodiversity.

Topics covered

- Web of life
- Trees and wildlife
- Career guidance on guiding, food and beverages, mechanics and front of office
- Living and non-living organisms
- Solar cars
- Tippy Taps
- Insects
- Animal adaptation

What they said

I never knew that insects and ants are important to man, I will never kill them – Namuyamba Gertrude, Kabulwebulwe

I will remember this camp as it was my first time to go on a boat cruise – Thandiwe Luhana, Holy Cross School

It was my first time to see the elephant so close like 2 metres, this is my best memory of the camp – Zenzo, Lupani School

I enjoyed being in an aircraft – I will study hard and become a pilot – Prudence, Mapoko School

I loved being on the car trying to drive – Patrick, Twabuka School



Adult Eco-Clubs

Name of Club	Name of Village	No. of Women	No. of Men	Projects/Activities
Twabuka Community Club	Sinde	11	4	Tree planting at schools and in the village
Lupani Community Club	Sikauzwe	10	5	Tree planting at schools and in the village

Note: Trees were planted at schools with parents – members of the Adult Eco-Club – who later took other plants back to their villages to be planted in the backyards as part of their afforestation efforts.



Scholarship Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of girls	No. of boys	Main sponsors
Sinde	Twabuka Primary School	15	13	Sally Pearson Marilyn Knowles Kristina Tester Jeff Keller Gene and Linda Finley Children in the Wilderness
Simoonga	Simoonga Primary School	3	2	Christin Guy Kristina Tester Children in the Wilderness
Sinde	Tongabezi Primary School	1		Children in the Wilderness
Mapoko	Mumbwa Secondary School		1	Kristina Tester
Sinde	Linda Secondary School		2	Children in the Wilderness
Sinde	Nalituwe Secondary School	1		Kristina Tester
Sinde	CBU University		1	Children in the Wilderness



Other Projects

Construction of teachers' house, Mapoko School – 200 parents involved in the implementation.

Pre-School Play Park, Sinde Village – 30 parents involved and 30 children benefiting from the project.

Construction of Water Tank Stand, Sinde Village; 430 households involved with over 500 members of the community benefiting.

Furniture repairs, Twabuka Primary School – 50 pupils involved.

Twabuka School de-worming project – 286 children de-wormed.

Borehole drilling, Twabuka School – 50 community members helping out at site preparation.

Tree planting, Twabuka Community Club – 50 families are managing two plants each at the school via the Adult Eco-Club.

Tree planting, Simoonga School – 15 parents are involved in tree planting and management; this Eco-Club is under formation.

Drilling of borehole, Twabuka School.



Zimbabwe

Sue Goatley: *Children in the Wilderness Programme Manager*

Shuvanayi Taruvinga: *Children in the Wilderness Administrative Assistant*

Cain Chikwava: *Children in the Wilderness Assistant Coordinator*

Mxolisi Sibanda: *Community Coordinator and HIV/AIDS Assistant Coordinator*

Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe began in 2008 and has hosted over 500 children on annual camps to date. Eco-Clubs were initiated in Zimbabwe in 2012 and have hosted over 1200 children to date.

Statistical analysis of programme for reporting period Feb 2015-Jan 2016

	Numbers
Eco-Club camps run	6
Children on Eco-Club camps	140
Schools engaged with for all activities	8
Teachers on all camps	12
Eco-Mentors/volunteers on all camps	3
Wilderness Safaris staff on all camps	22
Children on YES programme	20
YES camps	1
Children on YES camps	20
Eco-Clubs supported	8
Eco-Club members	228
Teachers/Eco-Mentors involved in Eco-Clubs	17
Teachers/Eco-Mentors trained	50
Adult Eco-Clubs	2
People involved in Adult Eco-Clubs	50
Primary school scholarships	96
Secondary school scholarships	40
Tertiary scholarships	12
Children on nutrition programmes	932



Eco-Club Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of children in Eco-Club	No. of teachers / Eco-Mentors involved	Eco-Club Projects/Activities
Kapane Kapanyana Tshayakuhle Mbizo Khoneni Xhojina Mazwi Nlulula	Kapane Primary	25	3	
Vhozheka Sistsmbali Zikwakweni Nganyana	Ngamo Primary	29	2	
Somkhaya Mqolweni Fumabatshena Mvana Mpindo Tshefutshefu Funda	Mpindo Primary	24	2	Tippy taps Animal adaptations Birds of a feather Insect investigation Living and non-living Litter helper Food webs
Ziga Zandile Siwela Mbizo	Ziga Primary	30	2	Reduce Reuse Recycle Topography Being part of a group Life at night Plants in our school yard
Jakalasi Mqolweni Siphepha 1 Siphepha 2 Sakaphika Luwilili Caphuka	Jakalasi Primary	27	2	Using your senses Water is everywhere Gardening and soils Solar energy Community debate/problem solving Orienteering Seeds Efficient cooking stoves
Borehole 34 a and b Borehole 36 a and b Borehole 37 a and b Phakhama	Emfundweni Primary	28	2	Electricity Use a photovoltaic cell to run a motor Building a DC motor Solar-powered systems
Borehole 18, 14, 29, Forestry commission Airport compound Kavela Mobabia	Jabulani Primary	24	2	
Kashiga Bangale Kahuluweluwe Dick Gamba Change Sansingu Mpongola Lubeludile	St Mary's Primary	41	2	



What they said

One thing that I will always remember about the camp is going for game drives and seeing beautiful animals – Moreblessing Sibanda, Ngamo Primary School

One thing that I will always remember about the camp is, to look at the animals, dancing, going driving, and the super campers – Kimberly Gumbo, Ngamo Primary School

My lasting memory of the camp, I saw my totem: a tortoise, which I like very much – Memory Mlilo, Emfundweni Primary School

One word that describes my feelings during camp is Happy – Shyline Ncube, Jabulani Primary School

One thing that I will always remember about the camp are Mr Tendai and Mr Albherth for teaching us about many animals like kudu, giraffe, warthog and brown snake eagle – Sheron Sibanda, Jabulani Primary School

I will always remember the lessons we were taught by the guides – Trust Tshuma, Mpindo Primary School

For the first time in my life I saw a very big elephant in the wild – Arnold Dube, Mpindo Primary School

Annual Camps

Highlights

- The focus of the camps was on trees. The groups went on “tree walks” where they learnt to identify the trees by leaves and bark.
- The trees’ value in the Circle of Life – for oxygen, food, housing.
- The different groups were named after trees in the area. The posters they made using a combination of old brochures and natural materials were amazing collages of the trees.

- Grand finale was a team quiz where competition was fierce; we were constantly reminded how absorbent these youngsters’ minds are.

List of topics covered

- Game Drive – animal and bird identification using a checklist
- Teambuilding exercises
- Importance and uses of trees
- Bush Walk – tree and insect identification walks
- Ecosystems
- Food webs
- Water cycle
- Career guidance

Adult Eco-Clubs

Name of Club	Name of Village	No. of Women	No. of Men	Projects/Activities
Ziga Ladies Group	Ziga	17		Broiler Project Entrepreneur and Financial Awareness Workshop Craft Centre and Marketing of products Goat Breeding Project Livestock Water Troughs Borehole and solar pump at Community Dip Tank
Ngamo Ladies	Ngamo	32	1	Community Garden Entrepreneur and Financial Awareness Workshop Roadrunner project Craft Centre and Marketing of products Livestock Water Troughs Borehole and solar pump at Community Dip Tank

Scholarship Programme

Name of Village	Name of School	No. of girls	No. of boys	Main sponsors
Mkhosana and Chinotimba townships	Chamabondo Primary	5	5	Mark Brown, and Richard and Dorothy Dorsay
Mkhosana and Chinotimba townships	Chinotimba Primary	6	3	Odysseys, Dot Mitchell and Liz Bond
Mkhosana and Chinotimba townships	Elite Independent College	5	0	Blue Collar, and Albert Litekwa
Borehole 36 a and b Borehole 34 a and b Borehole 37 a and b Phakhama	Emfundweni Primary	4	1	David and Jacs Taylor-Smith
Victoria Falls	Inyathi High	1	0	Odysseys
Victoria Falls	Jabulani Primary	16	15	Hunter Valley Grammar School, Jim Kotas, Funari twins, Joan Sammacro, Maria Simons, Carl's parents (Hunter Valley Grammar School)
Victoria Falls	Jabulani Secondary	1	1	Jim Kotas, Funari twins
Jakalasi Mqolweni Siphepha 1	Jakalasi Primary	3	1	Jim Kotas, Classic Africa, Rosemary Pencil Foundation
Chinotimba township	John Tallach/Ngwenya High	1	0	Albert Litekwa
Kapane	Kapane Primary	1	1	Jim Kotas, Ron Goatley
Mbizo	Kapane Secondary	0	1	Grand Circle
Kapane	Lukosi Secondary	1	1	Gabriella Vanetti
Hwange	Matopo High	0	1	Grand Circle
Mkhosana and Chinotimba townships	Mosi-oa-Tunya High	4	2	Odysseys, Liz Bond, Kathleen O'Hare, Marylou Mculough
Somkhaya Mqolweni Fumabatshena Mvana Mpindo Tshefutshefu Funda	Mpindo Primary	5	4	Winston Goatley, Rosemary Pencil Foundation, Classic Africa
Vhozheka Sistsmbali Zikwakweni Nganyana	Ngamo Primary	4	1	Jim Kotas, Grand Circle
Vhozheka Sistsmbali Zikwakweni Nganyana	Ngamo Secondary	13	6	Rosemary Pencil Foundation, Grand Circle, Gordon and Julieann Knox, Rosenweigs, Joanne and David Magavern
Sipepa	Regina Mundi Secondary	1	0	Grand Circle

continues on page 94



Name of Village	Name of School	No. of girls	No. of boys	Main sponsors
Sipepa and Tsholotsho	Sipepa High	3	1	Grand Circle. Rosemary Pencil Foundation
Vozheka	St James High	1	0	Albert Litekwa
Kashiga Bangale Kahuluweluwe Dick	St Mary's Primary	5	2	Gabriella Vanetti, Grand Circle
Ngamo	Tsholotsho High	0	1	Albert Litekwa
Ziga Zandile Siwela Mbizo	Ziga Primary	7	7	Jim Kotas, Empowers Africa, Bonnie Emmons, Holly Hook and Dennis Glaves, Walter Kroner and Jean Stark
Sitambare	Bindura University	1	0	Anne and Christopher Lewis
Dick	Lupane State University	1	0	Grand Circle
Zandela	Foundation College	2	0	AAC – Alison Nolting
Ngamo	Solusi University	2	0	Kristina Tester, Albert Litekwa
Siwale	Bulawayo Polytechnic	1	0	Keith and Maureen Vincent



Other Projects

Chalk and exercise books for all subjects at three schools for the year – 1 159 students benefited.

Metal stationery cupboards supplied for three schools – 963 students benefited.

Wool for approximately 100 jerseys supplied for the 24 Ziga knitting ladies to start their business.

Fencing of Jabulani Primary Vegetable Garden – impacting 182 students.

Building of two modular classrooms for Jabulani Primary School – impacting 182 students.

Provision of classroom furniture for two classrooms at Jabulani – impacting 50 students.

Provision of nutrition to Jabulani Primary for 2015.

Rehabilitation of one double classroom block at Emfundweni – impacting 68 students.

Rehabilitation of double classroom at Jabulani Secondary – impacting 120 students.

Arts for Animals drawing classes (Connecting to Conservation through Creativity) – three schools and 150 students.

Jabulani Primary and Secondary Garden Projects establishing a vegetable nursery and orchard – 350 students.

Nutrition supplied to three schools in the Tsholotsho area for the third term – 982 students.

STELLAR literacy training of ECD teachers, 30 teachers from 15 rural Primary Schools.

Building of a third block of modular classrooms at Jabulani Primary School – benefiting 182 students.

Provision of desks and chairs for two classrooms at Jabulani – 50 students impacted.

Building of block of six Blair toilets at Ziga Primary School – impacting 260 students.

Building of block of Blair toilets at Jabulani Primary School – impacting 182 students.

Drilling of boreholes and installation of solar pumps and tanks at two schools in Tsholotsho supplying water to 625 students and 1 200 community members.

Building of three double modular teachers' cottages at Jabulani Primary School providing housing for six teachers, which in turn impacts 182 students.

Establishment of working community committees at all eight schools and communities under Children in the Wilderness umbrella.





Fundraising

The costs of operating 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, Zimbabwe and South Africa, 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 2015, the 11th 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 R2.5 million!

The Tour comprised 270 paying cyclists, as well as some 150 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 300 kilometres are covered, with the cyclists crossing at specially arranged informal borders between Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

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 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, lion 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 350 backpacks, each with a stationery set inside, was carried by the cyclists to Jalukange Primary School and handed over to the principal. 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.



There is a need to grow and expand the programme for greater impact and to reach as many children in sub-Saharan Africa as possible. 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 of 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 \$2 000 will sponsor a Children in the Wilderness **Eco-Club** for one year.
- \$350 will sponsor a community member's **Eco-Mentor training**.
- Sponsor **a child** on a Children in the Wilderness camp – A donation of US\$300 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\$7 200 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.
- 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.

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

Donate Online
www.childreninthewilderness.com

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.

Children in the Wilderness General – (18A status for SA citizens)

Account Name: Children in the Wilderness
Mkambati
Bank: Standard Bank
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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.

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 empowersafrica.org/children-in-the-wilderness

Make a Difference

Children in the Wilderness communications

We communicate with all supporters of our programme via an email newsletter every three to four 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.



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

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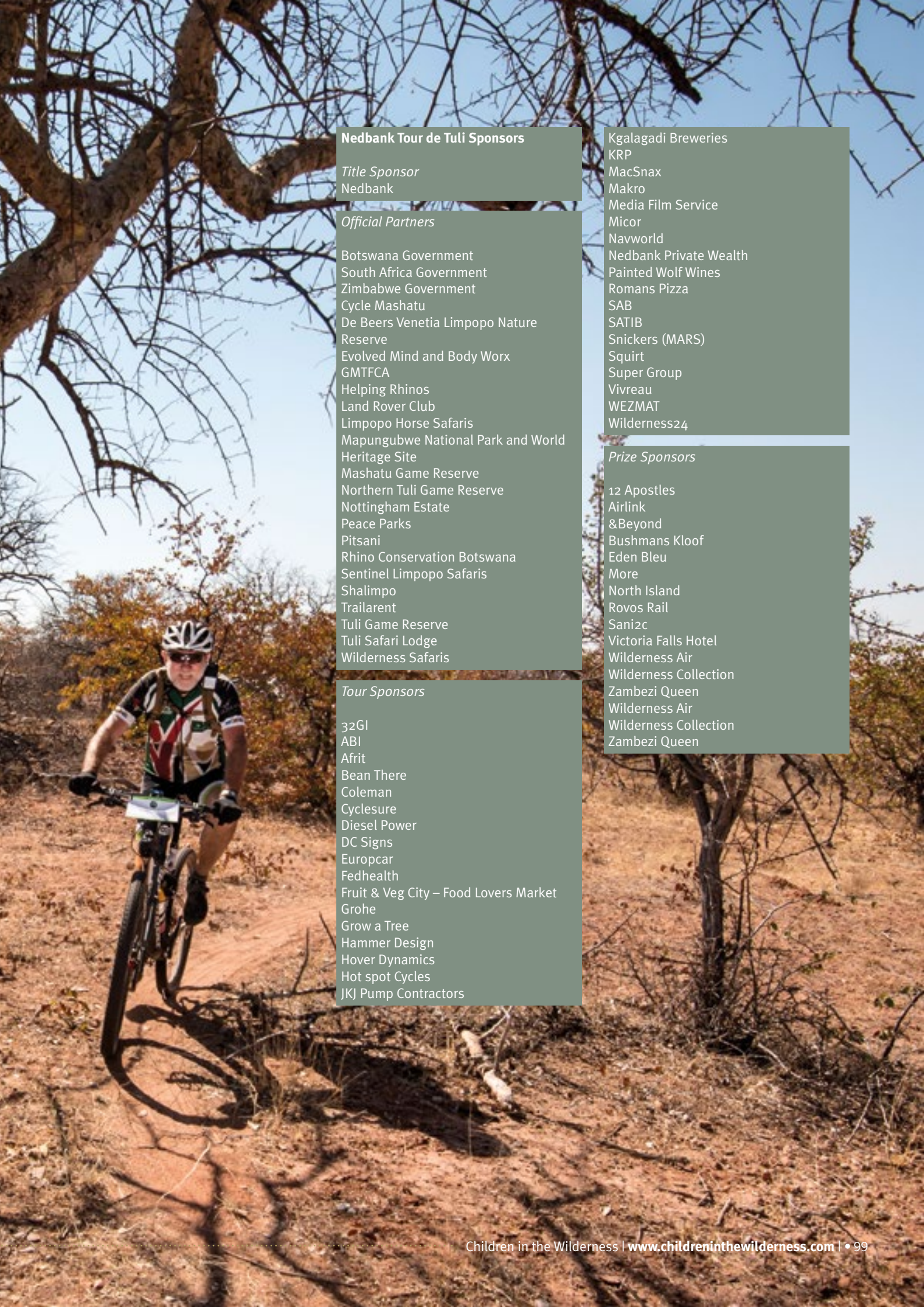
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If we have left anyone out, this was unintentional; please accept our apologies and let us know.

