



WILDERNESS USAWA GUIDE ZEPHANIA ELIAS NG'WENI

Zeph is a Senior Field Guide at Wilderness Usawa with over 14 years of experience in the safari industry. Born in 1986 in Karatu and raised in Ngorongoro, his passion for guiding was sparked by childhood encounters with wildlife and the sight of tourist vehicles traversing the area.

Zeph's journey into the world of guiding began after completing his primary and secondary education in Karatu, followed by studies in tourism at a wildlife college in Arusha in 2005. After gaining foundational experience as a naturalist at Gibbs Farm, Zeph joined Wayo as an activity guide, where he conducted bicycle tours and explored his love for wildlife. By 2013, he had achieved his dream of becoming a full safari guide, a role he has excelled in ever since. Following Wilderness' acquisition of Wayo in 2023, Zeph transitioned to Wilderness and continues to mentor younger guides, just as he was inspired by senior guides during his youth.

Zeph's career is filled with standout moments, from nervously guiding his first solo safari in the rainy southern Serengeti to the empowering experience of driving through Ngorongoro, where he once dreamed of working as a child. A particularly touching highlight was when a young guide approached him to express admiration for his work – a moment that reaffirmed Zeph's commitment to excellence.

"Currently I am focusing on increasing my birding knowledge; they are fascinating and underrated, and most people don't know them well enough. I hope to inspire my guests to appreciate the beauty of these through my knowledge and passion".

If he could be any animal, Zeph would choose an elephant. "They fear nothing and have no worries. They are engineers of the ecosystem, balancing everything. People think that elephants are destructive, but they are actually creating balance. I would like to do that".

His advice to first-time safari-goers is simple: "Enjoy the moment. Don't place too many expectations on what you want to see; by the end of your journey, you'll realise you've witnessed exactly what you wished for".

About Wilderness:

Founded over 40 years ago, Wilderness is a world-leading conservation and hospitality company, offering immersive journeys to a range of environments in Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Wilderness is part of a global collective working to conserve the world's iconic unfenced, untamed and unpredictable wilderness areas. With more than 60 exceptional camps and lodges, Wilderness helps protect some 2.3 million hectares (6 million acres) of land across its eight African destinations. Its goal – to double that by 2030. Four decades on, the company's purpose is stronger than ever: To increase the world's wilderness, together.

www.wildernessdestinations.com

