




WILDERNESS
SAFARIS

**SUPPORTING OUR CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY HEROES
WILDERNESS SAFARIS COVID RELIEF: APRIL TO AUGUST 2020**

THANK YOU to our Chairman's Foundation, all our guests, trade partners, staff and supporters – your generosity has helped us provide life-saving food relief to thousands of the most vulnerable people in our neighbouring communities.



Community Support:
April - August 2020



Over
6 000 food parcels
delivered



Positively impacting over
30 000 people



From over
35 communities



In 6 Countries
Botswana, Kenya, Namibia,
Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe



1 food parcel feeds a
family of 4
for 1 month

While COVID-19 has put our journeys on hold, Wilderness Safaris' enduring determination to change lives remains unequivocally true. For 37 years, the core of our conservation tourism business has been to create sustainable economic opportunity for rural communities living next to Africa's precious protected areas. Now, when they need us the most, our unwavering commitment to our neighbours has provided life-saving assistance to them, in the form of essential relief parcels.

Over 30 000 lives have been positively impacted since the April launch of our [Conservation Heroes – COVID-Relief Fund](#), and we could not be more grateful for the generous support from our guests, trade partners, staff and especially our Chairman's Foundation for helping us to achieve this.

The vast majority of people living in rural African communities surrounding pristine wilderness areas rely on income from wildlife

tourism to support their livelihoods. Often employed by Wilderness Safaris, and other safari operators, there is little to no alternative economic opportunity in these areas. The biggest contributor to livelihoods is salary income for people who work for tourism businesses. Alongside that, an entire industry of small businesses has developed around bigger tourism operators, forming an interdependent web of communities, wilderness, wildlife and travellers that benefits all.

When COVID struck, and worldwide travel bans and lockdowns were introduced, many of these people lost their livelihoods. Our Conservation Heroes campaign stepped in to help, providing crucial relief to those most impacted by the pandemic, with further handovers planned for the coming months.

[Wilderness Safaris Community Support: March to August 2020](#)
[VIDEO](#)



REGIONAL COMMUNITY ROUNDUPS



BOTSWANA



1 820
food hampers
April – August



Over
60 tons
of food



17
settlements



12 delivery
runs



Positively impacting
thousands
of people

“Getting the hampers to the most vulnerable is often the biggest challenge, as many of the villages are remote. It took us 11 hours to drive 500 km to Seronga. Tiring and testing roads, with potholes deep as a donkey standing. We saw evidence of malnutrition in some of the children, and people whose food was running out. They didn’t know food was coming”.

Kim Nixon
Wilderness Safaris Botswana MD

“The hampers went to the right places at the right time. We all were touched by what we saw, and by how much the food we brought was appreciated. I am forever grateful and happy to have been part of the team. It was life changing for me”.

Patricia Motshereganyi
Wilderness Safaris Botswana Training GM, who helped distribute hampers

In Botswana, the Wilderness Safaris team has delivered 1 820 food hampers to over 17 settlements since April. This has involved 12 separate delivery runs, comprising over 60 tons of food assistance. As Botswana now moves into the hottest and driest time of the year, the daily struggle for many communities will intensify. Even with some domestic tourism opening up in the region, community needs remain great.

[Click here](#) to read a more in-depth blog post highlighting one of the handovers in the Kalahari, and [here for an overview](#) of our efforts to date.

Wilderness Safaris Botswana Community Relief [VIDEO](#).





KENYA



500 food hampers
June – August



Over
17 532 kg
of food



340
families positively impacted

Through our partner, Governors' Camp Collection, emergency support to communities in the Masai Mara, Lake Naivasha and Laikipia has brought the total number of food parcels donated to 500, since June 2020.

The families were very grateful for this help and it was an honour for us to be able to facilitate the drive.

[Click here](#) to read a more in-depth blog post detailing these efforts to date.

“On behalf of the Kasarani community I wish to recognise your good job towards this community. It's not easy and not everyone can do that kind of act. It was good. May God bless all your endeavours, not only now but also forever. God bless the Stone Foundation by Wilderness Trust and Governors' Camp Collection Loldia House. Ahsanteni sana”.

Sam, one of the Lolido Primary School teachers and a respected figure within the community

“We look forward to facilitating further handovers and assisting more families in need. Thank you to everyone who has supported these efforts so far; the impact it has had on these families during these difficult times is hard to overstate. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Chairman's Foundation for providing these much needed funds”.

Alisa Karstad

Conservation and Community Manager for Governors' Camp Collection





NAMIBIA



1 200
food hampers
September – November



5 conservancies
Doro Nawas, Torra,
Anabeb, Sesfontein and
Marienfluss



2 100 km
covered
each month



1 food parcel feeds a
family of 4 for 1
month

In early September 2020, Wilderness Safaris Namibia distributed 400 food hampers to vulnerable families in the north-west Kunene region, with further handovers planned for October and November.

The hampers were delivered to five conservancies, including Doro Nawas, Torra, Anabeb, Sesfontein and Marienfluss. They contain essential groceries, including maize meal, salt, sugar, rice, cooking oil, soup and soap, and can sustain a family of four for a month.

A devastating drought has already destroyed many livelihoods here and, for many families, tourism had become their only source of revenue before COVID-19 struck. Communities like the Himba have been particularly hard hit. The area around Serra Cafema received a dismal three millimetres of rain last year, after a very dry spell, resulting in the Himba community losing their entire herd of cattle. Without the herd, and being unable to sell their crafts through tourism, support in the way of food parcels and essential goods was desperately needed.

Wilderness Safaris Namibia Community Relief [VIDEO](#).

“Since March 2020, when Namibia’s borders closed to international tourists, the country’s tourism industry came to a standstill. Communities living in Namibia’s most remote areas, who depend on tourism for their livelihoods have been severely affected. We travelled to these remote areas over a span of six days, covering 2 100 km to distribute the much-needed food parcels”.

Agnes Tjirare
Communities and Culture Coordinator for Wilderness Safaris Namibia
and its non-profit partner, Children in the Wilderness

The communities were thrilled about the generous offer and thanked Wilderness for the timely gesture.

“My heart is filled with joy today by Wilderness for helping us to feed our children. Thank you very much”

Kapiarukoro Tjambiru
Foreman at Otinungua





RWANDA

Governors' Camp Collection and Wilderness Safaris



1 615
food hampers



Over
30 tons
of food



Positively impacting
850 families



over
4 000 people

At the end of August 2020, Wilderness Safaris and Governors' Camp Collection had delivered over 1 600 food hampers (over 30 tons of food) to communities within Rwanda, positively impacting 850 families and over 4 000 people.

Governors' has also provided ongoing support for 90 single mothers for over 19 weeks, and Wilderness has provided health insurance for 244 community members in the Bisate village. Other projects include the installation of water tanks for additional hygiene measures at Bisate Primary School, the repair of two class rooms at Akayange Primary School near Magashi Camp, and assistance with face masks, sanitiser, soap, Tippy Taps, uniforms, shoes and school materials for students at Gisunzu Primary School near Gishwati – all in order to help prepare the schools for their imminent reopening post-lockdown.

Whilst tourism slowly starts up again at Bisate Lodge at Volcanoes National Park, communities surrounding other areas such as Akagera National Park and Gishwati may not see an immediate revival. This is why Wilderness Safaris' latest handover in August focused on supporting the most vulnerable members of the [Gishwati community](#).

“In total we distributed 1 915 kg of maize, 987 kg of beans and 260 soap bars, amounting to over 3 tons of supplies. As we met with the people in the community they clapped, cheered and sang to express their gratitude to Wilderness Safaris and our generous Chairman's Foundation, whose contributions made this happen. The villagers are enthusiastic and feel the support, giving them hope for the future and the possible opportunities that will arise as tourism develops further in the Gishwati area”.

Ingrid Baas

Wilderness Safaris Rwanda Operations Manager

To read a more in-depth blog post about our Rwanda Community Support, [click here](#).

Wilderness Safaris Community Relief at Bisate [VIDEO](#).





ZAMBEZI

ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE



750 food parcels

August – October



5 communities



4 530 people

positively impacted

In the [Zambezi region](#), Children in the Wilderness (CITW), Wilderness Safaris' non-profit partner, distributed 250 food parcels to vulnerable families, the elderly, and child-headed households in six of its partner communities in August, with further distributions planned for September and October. The first 250 hampers has positively impacted 1 510 people from the following regions in Zimbabwe: Victoria Falls, Hwange, Tsholotsho and Bulawayo, as well as Sinde and Livingstone in Zambia.

Despite food shortages in Zimbabwe causing many products to disappear off the shelves, CITW's food parcels contain one month's worth of essential items, including maize meal, rice, sugar beans and porridge, as well as matches and soap. Since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown in March, CITW has been providing additional support to its community partners through the provision of food relief, hygiene products as well as educational assistance in the form of student allowances, positively impacting a further 5 700 people in 18 villages.

“COVID-19 has affected everyone in the world, and calls for us to collectively assist our neighbouring, and most vulnerable, communities. With our long-standing partnership with these communities, we didn't hesitate to assist in any way possible. While we realise that there is still a long way to go in combating the challenges of the pandemic, we also acknowledge that a little can go a long way. We are extremely grateful for the support of our Chairman's Foundation to help us to continue making a difference”.

Sue Goatley

Children in the Wilderness Zambezi Programme Coordinator

Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe Food-Relief at Jabulani Primary School [VIDEO](#).





SUPPORT OUR
CONSERVATION HEROES

WILDERNESS SAFARIS COVID RELIEF

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

Although the journey is far from over and the crisis not yet averted, the work by our Conservation Heroes has been life changing. Many more of our community partners face an uncertain future, particularly as they depend on tourism. By continuing to support our Conservation Heroes, we can curb some of that uncertainty. Addressing this need also reduces the likelihood of ordinary people resorting to poaching wildlife for food. It is also vital to do all that we can to help protect wildlife and wilderness areas from other increased poaching threats; this is especially important for criminal poaching syndicates looking to capitalise on reduced law enforcement and tourism presence.

Please join us to continue supporting our Conservation Heroes. Together we are stronger, and together, we can continue to change lives.

All donations, no matter how big or small, will go a long way in helping Africa's wildlife and communities.



USD5 000

funds an anti-poaching/
concession monitoring
team for a month



USD50

provides basic food for
a family of four for a
month

<https://wilderness-safaris.com/conservation-heroes>




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