

Ant Community and Diversity • Bat-Eared Fox Project • Biodiversity and Conservation of Amphibians in northern Botswana • Black and White Rhino Status Study • Black Mongoose Identification Project • Black Rhino Custodianship Programme • Botswana Bateleur Study – Spatial and Temporal Distribution • Botswana Endangered Species Research Wild Dog and Sable • Botswana Lion Genetics project • Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project • Botswana Roan

150 projects funded since 2007

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014


Antelope Home Range and Habitat Utilisation • Botswana Sable Home Range and Habitat Utilisation • Botswana Wildlife Research Capacity Increase • Brown Hyaena Research Project • Brown Hyaena Study of Social Organisation and Genetics • Busang Plains Aerial Census • Cederberg Caracal Project • Central Kalahari Game Reserve Wildebeest Study • Central Kalahari Wild Dog Study • Cheloni Niche Segregation Study • Children in the Wilderness • Community Ecology of Herbivores in the Okavango • Conservation Lower Zambezi • Ecological Research in Hwange National Park • Ecology of African Buffalo • Education in Botswana • Education for Pre-Conservation in Africa • Educational For Pre-Conservation in Africa • Water Availability on Elephant Savanna • Kavutse and Elephants Wildlife Botswana • Giraffe Rehabilitation Project • Giraffe Ecology of African • Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park Large Mammal and Human Land Uses • Human-Elephant Conflict in Okavango Park • Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango • Hwange National Park Anti-poaching Project • Hwange Rhino Translocation Project • Identifying Conservation Management on Small Mammal Population Dynamics • Inchi Op • Teacher Transformation • Kunene Community Project • Population Distribution and Social Dynamics • Rhino Monitoring • Lake Ngami Monitoring of Bird Populations • Leopard Transfrontier Predator Project • Linyanti Elephant Impact Study • Liwonde Aerial Census • Long-term Vegetation Dynamics in the Okavango Delta • Luamfwana Anti-Poaching Study • Makgadikgadi Migration • Makgadikgadi Migration Ecology and Human-Elephant Conflict • Makgadikgadi Migration • Makgadikgadi Migration • Makgadikgadi Migration Research Project • Elephant Collar • Makgadikgadi Migration • Makgadikgadi Migration • Wetland System – Seasonal Pan Study • Makuleke • Makgadikgadi Migration • Makgadikgadi Migration • Maws Sterivac Programme • Mkambati Sand • Mkwinda Vulture Conservation Programme • Namibia Crane and Wetland Bird Conservation • Namibia Desert • Namibia Elephant and Giraffe Trust • Nutrition Programme – Jabulani Primary School • Okavango Biodiversity • Okavango Governance Workshops • Okavango Next Box Project • Okavango-Kalahari Research • Okavango Manual • Range and Habitat Utilisation of the Chacma Baboon • Rhino Translocation • Rhino Translocation • Rhino Translocation • Save Valley • Save Valley • Save Valley Conservancy Wild Dog Reintroduction • Seasonal Feeding Preferences of Rhino • Rhino Behaviour in Chacma Baboons • Simonsa Villages Projects • Skeleton Coast Lichen Project • Social Organisation of Rhino-Panther Species – Giraffe • Limpopo Conservation Anti-Poaching Support • Spotted Hyena • Spotted Hyena • Spotted Hyena • Spotted Hyena • Victoria Falls Area • Victoria Falls • Wild Dog Population • Wild Dog Population • Wild Dog Population • William Kamkwamba Community Library • Zambezi Society Buffalo • Zambia African Wild Dog Meta-population Dynamics • Zimbabwe Lowveld Wild Dog Project • Zimbabwe Rhino Intensive Protection Support • Zimbabwe School Rehabilitation Programme

WILDERNESS  
WILDLIFE TRUST



CHILDREN IN THE  
WILDERNESS





**40** projects  
funded in **2013** in  
**8 African**  
countries

# Contents

## WILDERNESS WILDLIFE TRUST

<b>About the Trust</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Letter from the Trustees</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Project Locations</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Research &amp; Conservation</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Botswana Rhino Reintroduction & Monitoring Project.....	9
Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study.....	10
Botswana Roan Antelope Ecology Project.....	11
Kafue Human-Elephant Conflict Study.....	12
Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring & Protection Project.....	13
Save the Rhino Trust Trackers Support.....	14
Botswana Lion Genetics Project.....	15
Botswana Human-Lion Conflict Study, Boteti River.....	16
Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development.....	17
Namibia Desert Lion Conservation Project.....	18
Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project.....	19
Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study.....	20
Congo Gorilla Tracker Training Project.....	21
Liwonde Butterfly Survey.....	22
Cape Fur Seal Survey.....	23
<b>Community Empowerment and Education</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Children in the Wilderness Projects.....	27
Hope Educate Love Protect (H.E.L.P.) Malawi Support.....	28
Simonga Village Infrastructure Development.....	29
Education Bursaries.....	31
<b>Anti-Poaching and Management</b> .....	<b>33</b>
Botswana Wildlife Research – Increasing Capacity.....	35
Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit.....	36
<b>Completed Projects 2012–2013</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>Make a Difference to Africa</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Acknowledgements and Donors</b> .....	<b>42</b>

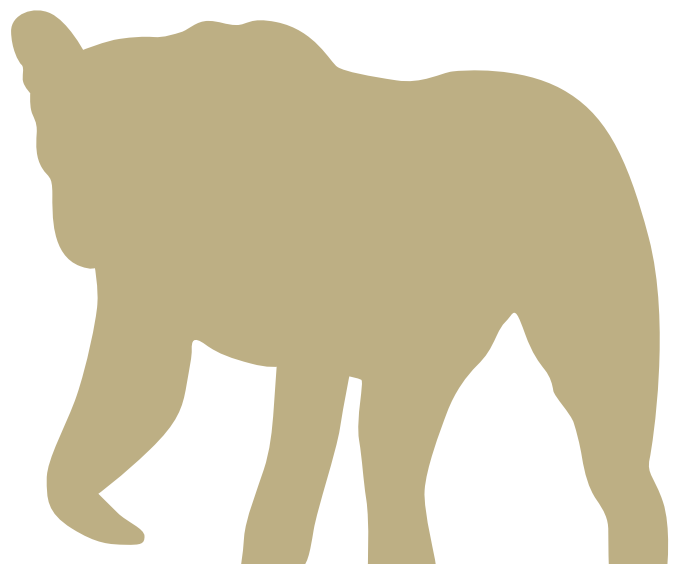
## CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

<b>From the Trustees</b> .....	<b>47</b>
<b>About Children in the Wilderness</b> .....	<b>48</b>
<b>Children in the Wilderness Numbers</b> .....	<b>49</b>
<b>How Children in the Wilderness Works</b> .....	<b>50</b>
<b>Eco-Clubs</b> .....	<b>51</b>
Eco-Clubs.....	53
Botswana.....	55
Malawi.....	57
Namibia.....	59
South Africa.....	60
Zambia.....	61
Zimbabwe.....	62
<b>Camp Programmes</b> .....	<b>63</b>
Camp Programmes.....	65
Camp Programmes run in 2013.....	66
Botswana.....	67
Limpopo Valley.....	68
Malawi.....	69
Namibia.....	70
South Africa.....	71
Seychelles.....	72
Zambia.....	73
Zimbabwe.....	74
<b>Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme</b> .....	<b>75</b>
Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme.....	77
<b>Mentor Training</b> .....	<b>79</b>
Mentor Training.....	81
<b>Educational Support</b> .....	<b>83</b>
Scholarships.....	85
Community Initiatives.....	89
<b>Fundraising</b> .....	<b>93</b>
Fundraising.....	95
Make a Difference.....	96
Donation Options.....	97
Our Sponsors.....	98

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, her wildlife and her people.



# About the Trust

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust, an independent entity within the Wilderness 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.

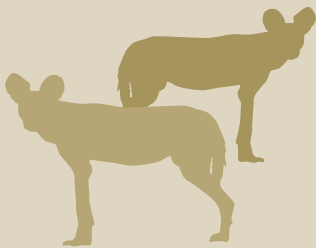
The relationship between Wilderness Safaris and the Trust is therefore symbiotic. In many projects supported financially by the Trust, Wilderness is able to contribute through logistics and in-kind support (e.g. equipment; manpower; fuel; vehicle servicing; access; accommodation) to ensure the enhanced 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) Community empowerment and education
- iii) Anti-poaching and management

## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



# Letter from the Trustees

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust wishes to thank the many travellers and dedicated donors who have enabled us to throw a wide net across conservation issues in Africa for 2013. The world's awareness of environmental issues has been steadily increasing and we hope that Africa remains on the minds of all who travel here so that our wildlife can receive the global protection that it needs.

In 2013, most global awareness of Africa's wildlife has been focused on rhino and elephant, both of which have fallen victim to unrelenting poaching. Southern Africa has seen dramatic declines in rhino, while elephant numbers are falling fast across the continent. The Wilderness Trust has supported studies in elephant movement and human-elephant conflict for many years and will continue to do so in 2014. Our support of rhino conservation has included the movement of rhinos to safer areas, support of anti-poaching training and ground operations as well as education.

In addition to Africa's loss of rhino and elephant, the increasing bushmeat trade has led to broader poaching of wildlife species across Africa. We know that anti-poaching efforts, such as the Victoria Falls anti-poaching unit and the Congo primate programme supported by the Trust, can help to prevent illegal trade, as can the many conservation awareness programmes we support. An important piece of wildlife protection will continue to be the ecotourism industry that has the ability to stimulate rural economies in a more sustainable manner and maintain a presence of wildlife watchers in important protected areas. So keep up the travelling!

In 2014 and previous years, many of the Trust's chosen projects have focused on wildlife movement such as roan, elephant, lion, wild dog, wildebeest and zebra. Africa's wildlife have ever-changing obstacles along their migration routes or within important resource areas, such as expanding human settlements, roads, mining, agriculture and climate change. An important part of understanding the effects of these impacts is to monitor movement.

Within the scope of most of our projects are goals to open or maintain channels of communication with people in rural settlements near wildlife areas. Additionally, the Children in the Wilderness programme creates environmental awareness in rural communities through their youth who are the future of conservation. Teaching young learners about self-respect and respect for others and the environment will continue to be central themes in the Children in the Wilderness camps.

Finally, wildlife conservation not only depends on donors and awareness, but very much on the individuals in the field making a difference. Our bursary programme aims to support those individuals who are considering careers in wildlife conservation. For those who have already chosen that path and who are at this very moment sitting in the blaring sun tracking an animal, or on their knees identifying plants or typing up data while swatting flies, we thank you for your dedication.

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 Ulrike Howard-Ginsberg who wrote, edited and designed this Annual Report.

**Trustees:** Russel Friedman, Andrew Leontsinis & Dr Jennifer Lalley

# Project Locations



The Wilderness Wildlife Trust provided funding for 27 projects during 2013 across eight African countries.





**Botswana**

Botswana Rhino Reintroduction & Monitoring Project.....9  
 Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study.....10  
 Botswana Roan Antelope Ecology Project .....11  
 Botswana Lion Genetics Project.....15  
 Botswana Human-Lion Conflict Study, Boteti River .....16  
 Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development.....17  
 Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project.....19  
 Children in the Wilderness Projects.....27  
 Botswana Wildlife Research – Increasing Capacity .....35

**Congo**

Congo Gorilla Tracker Training Project.....21

**Malawi**

Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring & Protection Project.....13  
 Liwonde Butterfly Survey .....22  
 Children in the Wilderness Projects.....27  
 Hope Educate Love Protect (H.E.L.P.) Malawi Support.....28

**Namibia**

Save the Rhino Trust Trackers Support.....14  
 Namibia Desert Lion Conservation Project.....17  
 Cape Fur Seal Survey.....23  
 Children in the Wilderness Projects.....27

**Seychelles**

Children in the Wilderness Projects.....27

**South Africa**

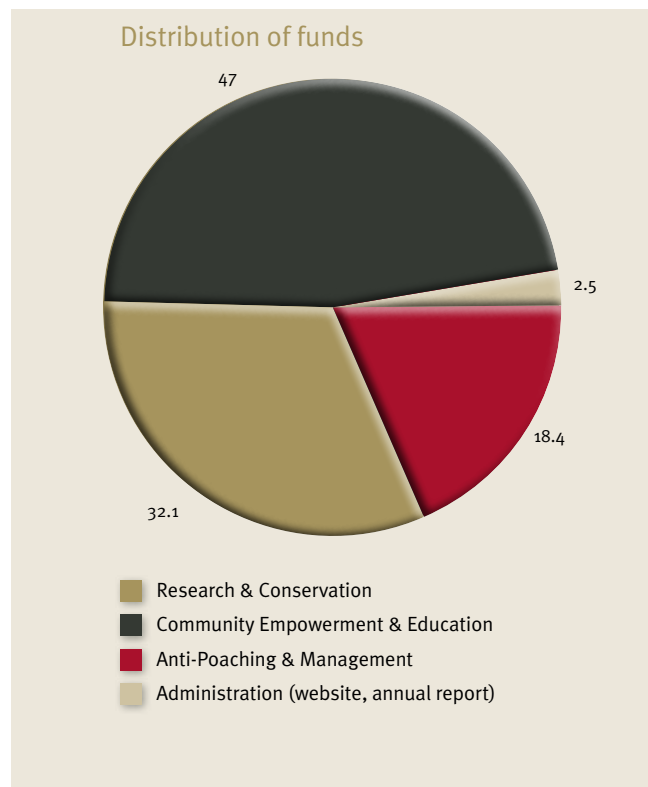
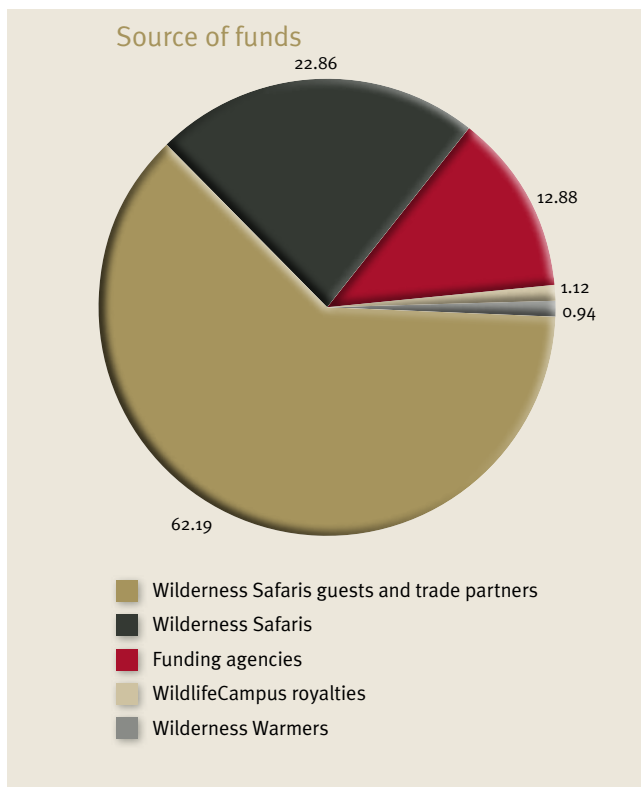
Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study.....20  
 Children in the Wilderness Projects.....27  
 Education Bursaries.....31

**Zambia**

Kafue Human-Elephant Conflict Study.....12  
 Children in the Wilderness Projects.....27  
 Simonga Village Infrastructure Development .....29

**Zimbabwe**

Children in the Wilderness Projects.....27  
 Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit .....33



Botswana Rhino Reintroduction & Monitoring Project • Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study • Botswana Roan  
Antelope Ecology Project • Kafue Human-Elephant Conflict Study • Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring & Protection  
Project • Save the Rhino Trust Trackers Support • Botswana Lion Genetics Project • Botswana Human-Lion  
Conflict Study, Botswana Desert Lion Conservation Project • Carnivore Monitoring Methodology  
Development • Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project • Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study • Congo  
Congo Gorilla Tracker Training Project • Liwonde Butterfly Survey • Cape Fur Sea Survey • Botswana Rhino  
Reintroduction & Monitoring Project • Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study • Botswana Roan  
Antelope Ecology Project • Kafue Human-Elephant Conflict Study • Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring & Protection  
Project • Save the Rhino Trust Trackers Support • Botswana Lion Genetics Project • Botswana Human-Lion  
Conflict Study • Botswana Desert Lion Conservation Project • Carnivore Monitoring Methodology  
Development • Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project • Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study • Congo  
Gorilla Tracker Training Project • Liwonde Butterfly Survey • Cape Fur Sea Survey • Botswana Rhino  
& Monitoring Project • Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study • Botswana Roan  
Antelope Ecology Project • Kafue Human-Elephant Conflict Study • Liwonde Black  
Rhino Monitoring & Protection Project • Save the Rhino Trust Trackers Support  
• Botswana Lion Genetics Project • Botswana Human-Lion Conflict Study • Botswana  
Desert Lion Conservation Project • Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development • Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog  
Research Project • Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study • Congo Gorilla Tracker Training Project • Liwonde  
Butterfly Survey • Cape Fur Sea Survey • Botswana Rhino Reintroduction & Monitoring Project • Central  
Kalahari Wildebeest Study • Botswana Roan Antelope Ecology Project • Kafue Human-Elephant Conflict Study  
• Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring & Protection Project • Save the Rhino Trust Trackers Support • Botswana  
Lion Genetics Project • Botswana Human-Lion Conflict Study • Botswana Desert Lion Conservation  
Project • Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development • Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project •  
Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study • Congo Gorilla Tracker Training Project • Liwonde Butterfly Survey  
• Cape Fur Sea Survey • Botswana Rhino Reintroduction & Monitoring Project • Central Kalahari Wildebeest

# Research & Conservation



*Research and Conservation • Community Empowerment & Education • Anti-poaching and Management*

# Botswana Rhino Reintroduction & Monitoring Project

*Coordinators: Map Ives and Kai Collins (Rhino Conservation Botswana)*

HERBIVORES



*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 (DWNP) and the Botswana Government*

Towards the end of 2012 and through 2013 there was evidence of much dispersal of rhino from their core range. This has probably come about through the natural “coming of age” of many of the rhino born between 2003 and 2007, many of whom are now old enough to either breed calves of their own in the case of females, or to look at establishing a territory of their own if they are bulls.

This has resulted in a need for increased monitoring activity by Wilderness Safaris officers who spent considerable time on lengthy patrols to previously untravelled areas. What is of interest here is that the patrols continue to be fully integrated with the Botswana Anti-Poaching Unit and members of the Botswana Defence Force. Thus, on one patrol there are two members of each unit together with two members of the monitoring team. Their results are truly impressive given the high floodwaters of the last few years, and the large areas over which they have to move.



Although this dispersal is expected and completely natural, it is pleasing to see that the rhino are seeking out prime habitats and are breeding at an extremely high percentage per annum, with several calves located especially during the rainy season, which coincides with green grass and therefore the mothers' good condition.

## Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study

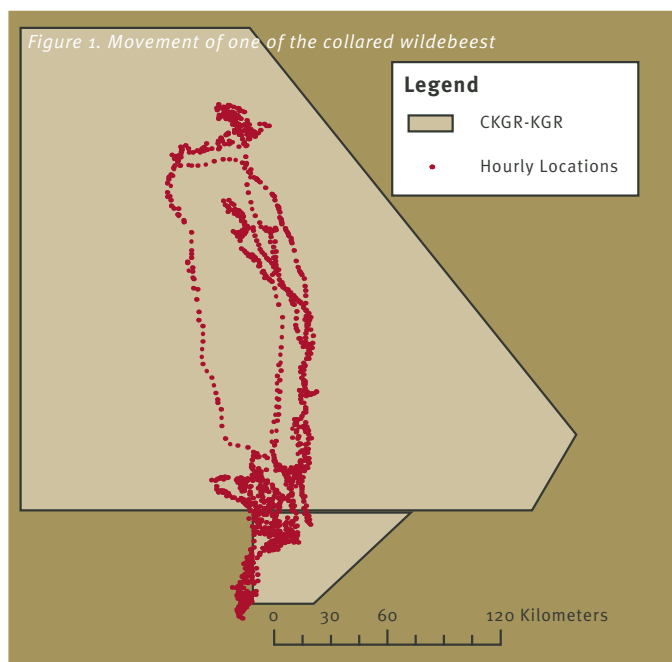
Researcher: PhD candidate Moses Selebatso (University of Botswana)

2013 was a busy and productive year for the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) Wildebeest Study, beginning with 8 collared wildebeest of which 7 collars worked well for more than 12 months.

The survival rate of the wildebeest population seemed to have improved, although three waterholes (Piper, Molose and Letiahau) dried up in the middle of the wet season for at least a month. No confirmed mortality was associated with the drying of the waterholes, but there were fewer wildebeest recorded at Piper after this occurrence than before; some may have died or moved somewhere else. In general, there was only 2/8 mortality of collared wildebeest, compared to 6/11 of the same period in 2012.

The herd that was collared at Khutse Game Reserve (KGR) continues to show consistent movement, spending the wet season in Deception Valley, northern CKGR and the dry season in southern CKGR and KGR, with some excursions to the west of KGR (Figure 1). This seems to imply that the northern CKGR is good for the wet season and that the southern part is a good habitat for the dry season. The project is working on determining the validity of this and the factors that influence it.

Grass samples were also collected, with some samples analysed for nutritional value, and general chemical composition used in interpreting diet and habitat selection by wildebeest. Dung samples from wildebeest,



*The ability of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve to maintain a viable wildebeest population independent of surrounding areas*



springbok and gemsbok were collected to determine the diet and level of overlap, to quantify interspecific competition for grazing resources. Water samples are being collected from artificial waterholes and water availability in the waterholes monitored to relate these to habitat selection and the influence of water quality on the population.

For much of 2014, laboratory analysis of grasses, water and dung are taking place with data analysis to be conducted during the last third of the year.

# Botswana Roan Antelope Ecology Project

Researcher: MSc candidate Carl Havemann (University of Pretoria)

HERBIVORES

*The study of population dynamics and foraging ecology of roan antelope Hippotragus equinus in northern Botswana*



The project on roan antelope in the Linyanti and Abu concessions of northern Botswana began in December 2010 and the fieldwork component was successfully completed in January 2013. This project was the first study that focused specifically on the ecological aspects (abundance, home range size, habitat utilisation and foraging behaviour) of roan antelope in this region.

The results obtained have provided invaluable information regarding the ecology of this species. The current abundance estimates of roan antelope in northern Botswana have been determined primarily by aerial surveys, which often underestimate rare and cryptic species, due to observers missing a large percentage of the animals. This study showed that photographs of recognisable individuals can be used as an alternative method to calculate roan antelope numbers and the results indicate that there may be more roan antelope in northern Botswana than previously determined (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Roan antelope estimates for Linyanti (NG15) Concession obtained by aerial survey and photographic capture-recapture methods. CI = Confidence Interval.

Method	Estimate	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Aerial Survey*	38	8	68
Photographic Capture-Recapture	108	90	128

The home range extent of roan antelope was determined by deploying telemetry devices on four adult female roan antelope (three in the Linyanti and one in the Abu Concession). The Linyanti herds showed larger home range sizes compared to the Abu herd, but all herds showed some variation in their seasonal home ranges. The habitat utilisation differed between the various herds in the two concessions although all herds had a positive selection for habitats with low densities of competitor and predator species.

The available literature indicates that the ecology of roan antelope is largely unknown throughout large parts of their distribution across Africa, even in northern Botswana despite its apparent abundance here. The data obtained from this study has provided important information regarding roan antelope ecology for northern Botswana, which will hopefully contribute to the better understanding of this rare ungulate species.

## Kafue Human-Elephant Conflict Study

*Researcher: Dr Kerry Carter*



Kafue National Park in western Zambia is home to 2 000+ elephants in the Park itself, with an estimate of 3 000+ elephants in the Kafue ecosystem, which includes nine Game Management Areas (GMAs) adjacent to the Park. The unique Ngoma forest complex in southern Kafue National Park is an important elephant habitat where a large number of breeding herds concentrate, as it provides year-round shelter and food in the vicinity of perennial water sources. However, this forest is buffered from farming communities only by the 10 km-wide Nkala GMA, and breeding herds regularly move through the GMA into farming areas.

The primary goal of the research project is to assist the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) with the management of an increasing number of human-elephant conflict incidents within the communities living contiguous to the Nkala GMA in southern Kafue National Park. Human-elephant conflict has become a major problem for local communities in this area, with some media reports highlighting displacement of farmers from their homes due to fear of elephants.

Data relating to human-elephant conflict events since 2007 were mapped, showing that areas of highest conflict in the communities are those closest to the ~40 km-long boundary of the Nkala GMA as expected. Movement data collected this year suggest that elephants move in the direction of the communities in the late afternoon and return to the protected area before dawn. Mapping of the conflict events, combined with knowledge of elephant habitat use within the protected area, has enabled projections about the movement pathways of breeding herds into the conflict hotspots and the likely source locations of these herds within the Park. Work planned for 2014 includes experimental trials of potential mitigation measures, based on the knowledge of these elephant movement pathways into the communities.

*To investigate and provide solutions for human-elephant conflict within the communities bordering southern Kafue National Park, Zambia, and help communities to realise some benefits of living with elephants*

# Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring & Protection Project

Researcher: PhD candidate Krisztián Gyöngyi (University of Kent)

HERBIVORES

*The conservation, management and monitoring of the endangered black rhino population in Liwonde National Park, Malawi*

Black rhino conservation efforts have been conducted in Liwonde National Park under the auspices of a partnership comprising Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), Central African Wilderness Safaris, Malawi (CAWS), and Wilderness Wildlife Trust (WWT). The results include the Rhino Monitoring Regime, a Rhino Sanctuary Surveillance Fence and Maintenance Project (with primary support by Mr Bentley Palmer, stakeholder) and a conservation ecology PhD project.



Following a major darting/collaring operation in November-December 2012, monitoring rhino in 2013 became considerably easier. Regular daily monitoring (aided by new tracking devices on the individuals) began disclosing a wealth of interesting information about the cross-seasonal habitat use and browse preference of individual rhino. Near rhino home ranges and territories, illegal human activities (e.g. poaching) were detected and countered.

A new research vehicle (Nissan Hardbody 3.2) began operating on 18 April 2013. During the course of the year no fewer than five darting and/or rescue operations were mounted, which were sponsored by a number of stakeholders and helped by a number of voluntarily assisting friends. In these rhino capture operations the primary aim was to fit transmitters on as many rhino as possible in order to maximise monitoring efficiency in the face of intensifying poaching pressure in Liwonde, as well as to respond to crises, usually involving the rescue and treatment of poached animals. In fact, a large part of the efforts involved snare removals off individuals, thereby saving the lives of a number of Liwonde's black rhino.

Other conservation measures and activities conducted by the project included large-scale snare sweeps and support of fire regime work.

**Table 1:** Operations that took place in 2013

Date	Vet	Operation	Results
24 May	Dr Dave Cooper	Darting Operation	Leonard ♂ successfully captured and wound treated
10–18 June	Dr Pete Morkel	Darting Operation	Namagogodo ♂ successfully fitted with VHF collar
23 July – 15 August	Dr Amanda Salb, Dr Pete Morkel & Mr Bruce Carruthers	Darting Operation	Failed attempt to dart and treat gin-trapped Justerini ♀. The old female's desiccated carcass was found 15 October. VHF collars fitted to Julia ♀ and Knockando ♀.
17–29 Nov	Dr Pete Morkel	Darting Operation	VHF transmitters fitted on five individual rhino. Some old or non-functional collars replaced.
21–23 Dec	Dr Pete Morkel	Darting Operation	Successful darting and snare wound treatment of Nyanyale ♂. New VHF horn implant fitted.



## Save the Rhino Trust Trackers Support

*Coordinator: Simson Uri-Khob (Save the Rhino Trust – Namibia)*

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) required funding support for the Communal Rhino Custodian Support Programme (CRCSPP). The overall aim of the CRCSPP is to assist the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and Communal Rhino Custodians by providing incentives to ensure more effective rhino patrols are conducted.

The Programme is implemented by a Communal Rhino Custodian Support Group (CRCSG). Each of the nine Conservancies involved provides one or two employed staff to work as 'Conservancy Rhino Rangers' for a joint 7-14 day patrol every second month. CRCSG provides transport, basic food rations, basic rhino tracking and monitoring training while on patrol, performance bonus payment, general field equipment, basic uniforms and one set of specialist rhino monitoring equipment.

The Coordinator of the Programme records, maintains and manages rhino monitoring data collected by the Conservancy Rhino Rangers by:

- Collecting and checking rhino ID forms from Conservancy Rhino Rangers on a monthly basis, processing rhino sightings and ensuring payment is made to the relevant Conservancy Rhino Rangers.
- Ensuring that data is handed to MET for entry into the database.

### Results

On average, joint patrols occurred slightly less than planned (average being four, with the rangers who joined later in the year doing one or two). This was due largely to the unanticipated interest in the programme, which resulted in two new conservancy teams joining halfway through, requiring team leaders to conduct additional training patrols. Further, a capture operation caused one month to be dedicated to this activity.

All patrol reports were completed as planned by each team leader for each month (33, including one month with no joint patrol reports due to capture) and all rhino ID forms and photographs from joint patrols have been submitted to MET.

*Building capacity amongst rhino 'custodians' in the conservancies of the Kunene region of north-west Namibia, thus increasing the monitoring and protection of the desert-adapted black rhino *Diceros bicornis bicornis**



# Botswana Lion Genetics Project

Researcher: PhD candidate Simon Dures (Imperial College London)

CARNIVORES

*To develop a comprehensive understanding of the past and present genetic structure of the lion population centred around the Okavango Delta*



During 2013, tissue, blood, hair and faecal samples were collected or donated to the project from across the study region, including most of northern Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. For the initial stages of the research, just skin biopsy samples were used as they produce the highest quality DNA. These were all collected using a dart rifle with a specially-adapted dart that cuts a small piece of tissue on impact, and then immediately falls away from the animal, to be collected at a later stage. This means the animal does not need to be immobilised, thus reducing stress and risk to the animal. It is also logistically much simpler.

At present, the DNA is being extracted, replicated, and then, using special markers that attach to specific regions within the DNA (microsatellite markers), a code is obtained that is unique at each of these marker locations according to the individual's heritage. This unique identifier for each animal can also specify its relative genetic relationship to all the other animals sampled. Within the lions processed so far – 65 – there is approximately 1:64 000 000 chance that any individual will have the same marker combination. This likelihood will become even more dramatic as more samples from across the range are sampled. Once all the data is processed, relationships between individuals or groups can be assessed, relative to the whole population. After this, the regional analysis will begin – including an attempt to diagnose Mombo's famous maned female lion.

Since the results so far are based on 65 lions, much of the initial findings will not be reported until they are complemented by the full data set to ensure results are valid. Until the remaining samples have been analysed, caution must be exercised regarding any inferences made, but it is becoming clear that there is likely to be significant genetic structure within the Okavango population, probably due to the natural fragmentation of the landscape. So far, this analysis indicates that the samples collected to date cluster into two genetically distinct populations with clear geographic clustering (Figure 1). A few outliers have also been collected, each of which is likely to be a recent male immigrant.

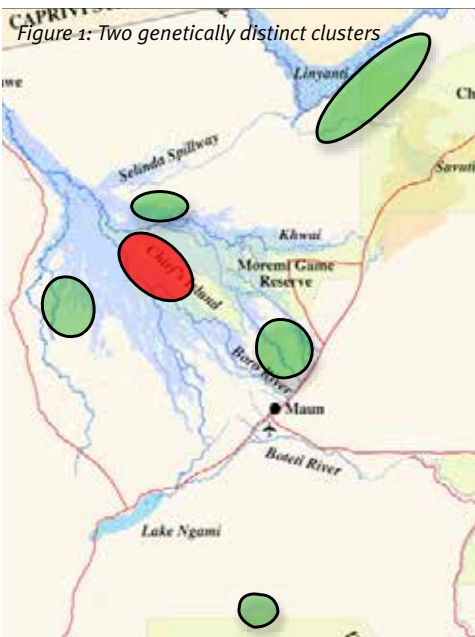


Figure 1: Two genetically distinct clusters

# Botswana Human-Lion Conflict Study, Boteti River

Researcher: MSc candidate Keitumetse Ngaka (University of Botswana)

The objective of the project's data collection, which was done in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park (MPNP), is to assess the influence of the conflict fence and river-flow on the persisting human-lion conflict. Major data collection activities were therefore concentrated along the Boteti River, located on the western side of the MPNP where these two factors (conflict fence and river-flow) take place (Figure 1).

The periods used for the assessment of the conflict:

- BEFORE: when there was no barrier (fence and river);
- FENCE: the conflict fence as the only barrier;
- RIVER: the fence has openings but the river flowing.

*The influence of the erection of an electric fence and the flowing Boteti River on the spatio-temporal distribution of human-lion conflict:* The findings (via data and questionnaires) prove that there were higher conflicts during the BEFORE and RIVER periods. Lion preyed more on large-sized livestock such as cattle at this time.

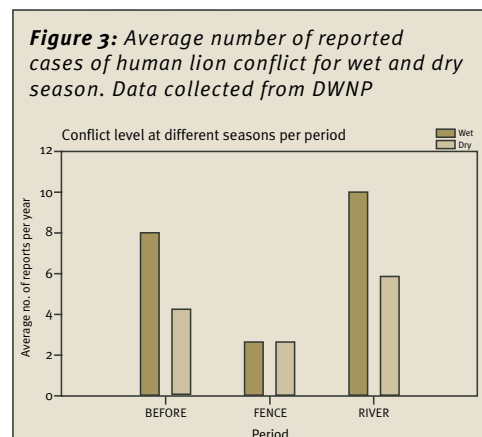
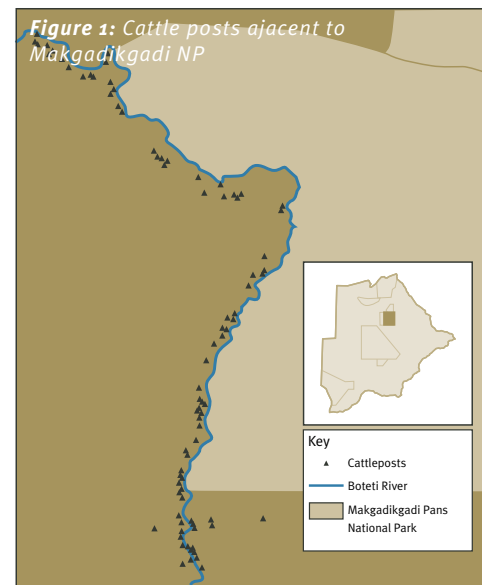
*Lion population and distribution before, and after fence and river in relation to prey abundance, and distribution:* Using data analysis and discussion (80% complete), it seems that the lion population has increased almost threefold from the BEFORE to RIVER period. Possible factors for this include the conflict fence which restricted lion movement to dangerous places outside of the park, and an increase in prey abundance especially those within the weight range preferred by lion (e.g. zebra).

*Lion spatial coverage intersection with conflict level before, and after fence erection, and river flow:* Lion were closer to cattle post areas, possibly as this provides access to easier livestock kills and water. However, lion generally spent their time (>50%) mostly inside the Park.

Generally the conflict level was lower when the fence was still intact and higher when the river was flowing (Figure 3).

The main challenge now is to find the collared lions so as to remove the collars, as they are no longer working. Field guides, researchers and other people working in the area are on the lookout for these animals so that immediate action can be taken.

## Comparative investigation of human-lion conflict along the Boteti River, Makgadikgadi



# Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development

Researcher: PhD candidate Lindsey N. Rich (Virginia Tech)

CARNIVORES

Table 1: Number of detections of carnivores

Species	Number of Detections
Aardwolf	28
African wild cat	47
African wild dog	17
Bat-eared fox	11
Black-backed jackal	72
Caracal	16
Cheetah	9
Civet	85
Honey badger	50
Leopard	64
Lion	29
Serval	28
Spotted hyaena	237



With one of the most diverse carnivore guilds in Africa, northern Botswana is considered a stronghold for many carnivore populations. However, with Botswana recently reporting declining wildlife populations, increasing pressures from illegal hunting, and large-scale changes in land management policies, these species are under threat. To address such concerns, information on the species' densities, distributions, and ecology is needed.

Working in collaboration with the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust, this project aims to address this knowledge gap by identifying and implementing a sustainable method for monitoring carnivore communities across northern Botswana. To do so, camera trap and track surveys are being employed.

During the 2013 pilot season, all meso (medium) and large carnivores indigenous to the area were photographed and all large carnivores were detected via track surveys. As can be seen from Table 1, spotted hyaena were detected most often and cheetah least.

Currently, newly-developed statistical analyses are being employed to estimate the density and occupancy of these carnivore species.

The long-term implementation of this monitoring programme requires the involvement of local organisations and communities with field training being offered and presentations to communities, government agencies, and research institutes to build local capacity to monitor wildlife populations.

Lastly, to instil a conservation ethic in Botswana's future generations, Wild Joys, an outreach programme that takes children from rural communities into nearby protected areas to view and learn about the diversity of wildlife has been initiated.



## Namibia Desert Lion Conservation Project

*Coordinator: Felix Vallat (TOSCO);*

*Researcher: Dr Flip Stander (Desert Lion Conservation)*



The desert-adapted lion is the most threatened and endangered of the large carnivore species in Namibia. Throughout their range, and along the borders of the protected areas, conflict between lion and the Namibian people is a regular and significant problem. Lion prey on domestic livestock, and in protection of their livelihood, local people shoot, trap, or poison them. These incidents of conflict result in significant financial and conservation losses. Furthermore, the lion is a key and flagship species for the influential and growing tourism industry.

In 2013, three satellite collars, pre-paid airtime for two years, and camera traps and lithium batteries were purchased and three lions collared. The satellite collars provide valuable information about the movements of the prides and thus 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.

Key lion and lioness posing a potential threat to the livelihood of the farmers will be identified and by attaching this collar, this will hopefully avert the inevitable livestock losses and subsequent elimination of the desert-adapted lion as the necessary precautionary steps can be put into place in time to prevent these.

The first satellite collar was fitted to Xpl-70 – a lioness of the Okongwe Pride – on 17 February 2013. The daily movements of Xpl-70 along with the movements of “Rosh” Xpl73 are being noted and placed on the Desert Lion Conservation website. This will significantly anticipate local conflict with communities and make a real positive difference in the field.

*Securing a future for the Namibian desert-adapted lion population via conservation and monitoring*



# Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project

Researcher: MSc candidate Botilo Tshimogolo (University of Botswana)

CARNIVORES



*This study aims to compare wild dog packs in two locations within the Okavango Delta to wild dog packs in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve*



Informed and strategic conservation of any wide-ranging large predator requires sound comprehension of its behavioural patterns, including spatial habits. The scent-marking behaviour of most large predators has been thought to hold important clues to understand their habitat utilisation. This study was part of a larger project that investigated the relationships and factors driving predator-prey dynamics and human-wildlife conflict in Kalahari (CKGR) ecosystems and the Okavango Delta through an observational behavioural study.

Field data collection ran from 2010 until April 2012 from three study packs, ranging in and around NG15, NG16 and NG22. Thereafter data analysis and thesis write-up commenced and was completed in August 2013.

Several hypotheses were tested about the scent-marking behaviour of African wild dogs. Scan sampling and other methods were used to observe 24 adult and sub-adult African wild dogs from three packs in northern Botswana. Data collection in the CKGR, marred with logistic and financial difficulties, is still ongoing. The mean scent-marking rates of individuals were compared by age, social status and sex.

Preliminary findings showed no significant difference in the scent-marking rates of males and females. Age also did not significantly show any association with an individual's scent-marking rates. However, social status positively correlated with the scent-marking rates of individuals, as dominants scent-marked at higher rates than subordinates. Scent-mark densities were significantly higher within home range cores compared to the middle and edges. Medium-sized ungulates were the preferred prey group while large ungulates were generally avoided; impala were the most common prey. Diet did not respond to seasonal changes.

The thesis was submitted to the University of Botswana, Okavango Research Institute, and Maun in September 2013 for examination.

## Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study

*Researcher: Dr Paula Pebsworth (University of Texas)*



The project, which makes use of the Wildcliff baboon troop in South Africa's Western Cape to assess whether soil can adsorb plant toxins, is off to a great start. In February, a camera trap was set up to monitor baboon geophagic behaviour – i.e., the deliberate and regular consumption of soil and other earth materials. Initial images confirm that the main geophagy site is still frequently used and that the baboons remain selective in where they consume soil. Teeth and nail marks are present where the baboons obtain soil (Figure 1).

Soil is being collected from the most frequently-visited geophagy site, which will be used in the laboratory phase of this study. These soil samples will be sent to the University of Ottawa in Canada where the researcher and collaborators will create an in-vitro testing protocol that simulates intestinal biochemistry and liver metabolism to assess these soils' ability to detoxify plant secondary metabolites.

In addition to soil consumption, behavioural observations confirm that the baboons' diet remains high in plants containing toxins such as tannin, alkaloids, and flavonoids. During the next phase, the baboons will be observed, plant samples collected, and plant extracts created to be used in the laboratory phase of this study.

*A study of self-medication against plant toxins within baboons, determining whether geophagic soil can adsorb plant toxins*

**Figure 1:** Teeth and nail marks at geophagy site



## Congo Gorilla Tracker Training Project

*Researchers: Dr Magdalena Bermejo and German Illera (University of Barcelona)*

OTHER SPECIES



*The sustainable conservation of western lowland gorillas Gorilla gorilla gorilla through the training of trackers and rangers, gorilla research and conservation projects*



Dr Magda Bermejo of the University of Barcelona and her partner, German Illera have focused their research on the western lowland gorilla in northern Congo (Brazzaville) for the past 15 years, first in the Lossi area where they pioneered the first successful habituation of this species, and more recently in the Ndzehi area where they have been based since 2010. A key element of the project is the habituation of gorillas for ecotourism purposes and the effect this has on broader gorilla conservation. Their permanent research team in the Ndzehi Forest includes highly skilled master trackers as well as post doctorate and PhD students.

The training of trackers is significant for three reasons: It enables detailed observation of the gorillas that would otherwise not be possible in this environment; it preserves a unique set of traditional skills; and it provides employment opportunities for local communities.

During the past year, training of gorilla trackers from local communities has continued, with five additional trackers currently in training and additional tracker recruitment trials being carried out involving 17 candidates to form part of the new tracker recruitment process. Funding received has enabled the training of additional trackers to continue as well as the purchase of field equipment, vehicle maintenance and communication devices.

Communication has always been a significant challenge in the very dense marantaceae forest and the acquisition of new satellite messaging devices is proving to be of great help as radio coverage is extremely limited due to the thick vegetation and varied topography.

The project continues with regular research and monitoring of existing habituated gorilla groups, habituation of new groups and monitoring of other wildlife in the area through a camera trap monitoring programme.



## Liwonde Butterfly Survey

*Researcher: Yankho Kaimila (Museums of Malawi)*



*Identification of butterflies found around Mvuu Camp in Liwonde National Park, Malawi*



The area around Mvuu Camp and Lodge in Malawi's Liwonde National Park is rich in butterfly biodiversity. The surveys undertaken in 2013 therefore aimed at compiling a species list of all butterflies found in the area. Two surveys were carried out: one in the dry season (August 2013) and one in the wet season (December 2013). Two main methods were used to sample the butterflies: the opportunistic sampling method – where butterflies were collected on an as-encountered basis – and the systematic sampling method – which involved the use of butterfly traps set at different locations baited with fermented banana.

Six butterfly families were recorded, which included about 26 species. Nymphalidae family recorded the greatest number of species (14) followed by Pieridae (6), Papilionidae (3), Acraeidae (1), Danaidae (1) and Satyriidae (1). The wet season survey recorded 16 new species, which also included one family (Papilionidae) that was not recorded in the dry season survey. Overall, the surveys recorded 55 species of butterflies, within the seven families.

It was observed that the species collected during the wet and dry seasons differ, with the butterflies collected during the wet season being in better condition than those in the dry season. For a complete species list, one more survey needs to be undertaken in winter to assess if new species can be identified. This is necessary as different butterflies are available during different times and seasons of the year. So far only one family (Hesperiidae) out of the eight families of butterflies has not been recorded and it cannot be concluded at the moment whether or not it is available in this area until all seasons have been sampled.

# Cape Fur Seal Survey

*Researchers: Dr Conrad Brain (Wilderness Safaris) & Paul van Schalkwyk*

OTHER SPECIES



*Surveying the number of Cape fur seals along Namibia's coastline using infra-red technology*



Recent events in Cape fur seal management off Namibia's coast have highlighted the critical need to have as accurate a population estimate as possible. Past surveys have used various methods to obtain an overall number, but to date there still remains uncertainty as to a total population estimate

Therefore, the aim of this section of the project was to introduce and test the viability of using highly sophisticated Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) cameras as a method of recognising and counting seals at a specific colony at Cape Cross on the Namibian coastline. Because this type of technology is only available to police and military units, and the only camera in Namibia belongs to the Namibian Police Air Wing, specific approval was requested and obtained from the Inspector General for the temporary use of the police helicopter with the FLIR attached.



In February 2014, when the Cape Cross colony had returned, the pilot survey was carried out with support from the Wilderness Trust, Wilderness Safaris, Paul van Schalkwyk Photography, the Namibian Police Air Wing and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Fixed-wing support and photography to use and compare standard digital photography with the infra-red camera was provided in the form of the specialised Air-Cam aircraft.

While the software to automatically count the infra-red signatures captured with the camera is still being developed, the survey was a huge success in that researchers were able to ascertain that the FLIR camera can easily and with great clarity identify seals both on the beach and in the water up to a few metres in depth. Manual counting of the signatures is also possible and both methods will be elaborated on in the final report. The project will now be expanded to count the entire Namibian coastline and thereby contribute invaluable data to seal conservation and management.





# Community Empowerment and Education



## Children in the Wilderness Projects

*Coordinator: Dr Sue Snyder (Children in the Wilderness)*



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



Children in the Wilderness is a non-profit organisation supported by ecotourism company Wilderness Safaris – by donations via the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, numerous corporates and individual guests – to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development and education of rural children in Africa. Since 2001, over 5 000 children have participated in a Children in the Wilderness camp programme and over 3 800 children in an Eco-Club programme. Over the past year, the Trust received numerous monies from donors for a variety of Children in the Wilderness programmes, from Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe’s Nutrition Scheme – where children in rural village schools are provided with one meal every school day – to support for Malawi’s Eco-Club programme.

Because of the breadth of this project, across seven southern African countries, details of its initiatives can be found in the second half of this report on pages 45 onwards.

## Hope Educate Love Protect (H.E.L.P.) Malawi Support

*Coordinator: Dominic Finelli (H.E.L.P. Malawi)*



The overall aim of the project is to provide organisational support to offset the cost of non-profit organisation H.E.L.P. (Hope, Educate, Love and Protect) Malawi's current education programme as the capacity is built for a sustainable future of the teachers' programme. A grant by the Trust guaranteed three-month salaries for 12 staff in Malawi who serve in three functional areas: monitoring and evaluations (M&E), secondary school pre-training, and assistant teaching, as well as operational costs for the National Programme Officer, Lemani Ngaiyaye.

This enabled Lemani to do the following: manage and oversee two capital infrastructure projects (the school block and Activity Centre), conduct evaluations of the current M&E handbook and M&E procedures, and oversee daily monitoring of all H.E.L.P. educational programming.

Additionally, the operational support provided by the Wilderness Trust allowed H.E.L.P. to begin the measuring process of the assistant teachers' programme, which yielded astonishing results. Through this process, H.E.L.P. identified strategic partnership opportunities that will allow the organisation to transform three of its core areas: Afterschool English Programme, Assistant Teacher Programme and the International Volunteer Programme. This initiative will establish a more sustainable means of educational intervention through new curricula developments, hiring of qualified teachers, and the support of an international volunteer base who will implement the programme changes.

*Building capacity at H.E.L.P. Malawi's education programme at Nanthomba Full Primary School*

# Simonga Village Infrastructure Development

*Coordinator: Peter Jones (Friends of Simonga Village)*

## *Support of Simonga village structures and schoolchildren*

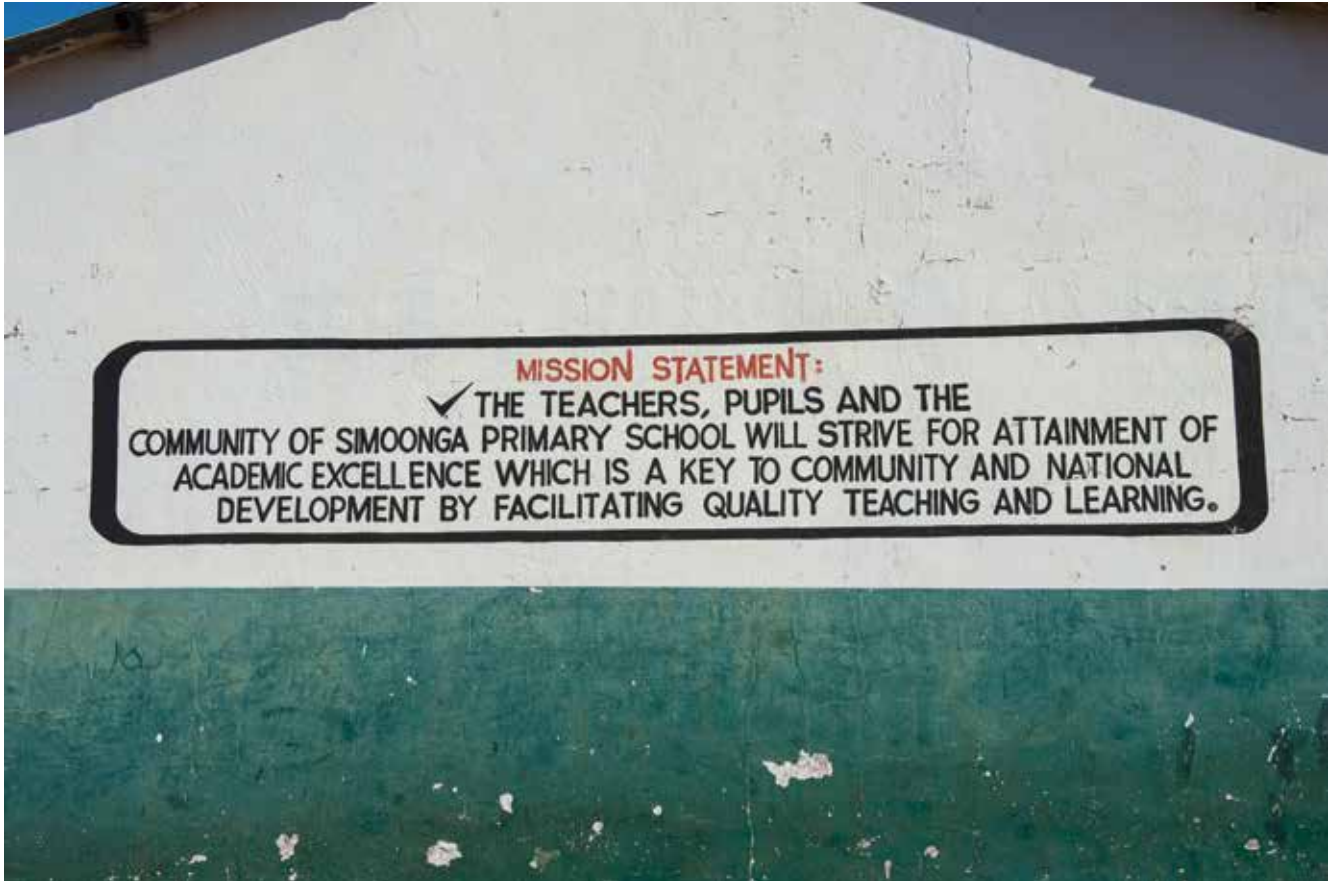


Since 2000, the Trust has helped to support The River Club in Zambia in its partnership with the nearby Simonga village. Over the years, a range of projects in the village have been carried out, funded by the generous donations of guests in conjunction with the Trust. These included sponsorship of students and teachers to further their education, construction of a school library, provision of school supplies and books, digging wells and construction of a police post in collaboration with neighbouring lodges. Projects to date have focused particularly on assisting women and children, although the project has branched into initiatives that help the village inhabitants (some 4 000) in general generate an income and therefore help the entire community. In order of priority, focus areas are sanitation, health, education and improvement of the village through construction of buildings.

In late 2013, heavy winds blew off a section of the roof of Simonga's Community Hall and it was found that the hall needed to be completely restructured; without making the roof secure, the building would continue to deteriorate. The same contractor who built the Kindergarten took on the project, as his standards are of the highest, along with The River Club's supervision. Equipment bought included timbers, new roofing sheets, and some blocks to raise one section of the building so as to increase the slope of the roof run-off. Simonga village's headwoman gave her blessing to effect the repairs to the existing building. The roof was completed in 2014.







## 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, with studies that range from river analyses to completing a higher certificate.

### **Penelope Waller**

*University of Cape Town*

Within the highly endemic Cape Floristic region, all renosterveld plants in the Cape lowlands are falling short of their conservation targets. Ecological restoration has a crucial part to play in the future of this area, but how best to go about restoration has not been clear. This study revealed that intervention is crucial and most effective when it includes burning and tillage, followed by alternating herbicide application and seeding until communities become self-perpetuating.

### **Sheila Muniongo**

*University of Cape Town*

Sheila is employing three methods to assess the sustainability of the Olifants River, namely:

- Sampling of the water (at various places) and comparing it with the water standards as legislated by the National Water Act;
- Using the DPSIR model to see what pressures are being put on the river, from 'driving forces' (human activities) through 'pressures' (waste) to 'states' (physical, chemical and biological) and 'impacts' on ecosystems, human health and functions, eventually leading to political 'responses' (prioritisation, target setting, indicators). In the case of the Olifants River, the driving forces may include industry, refineries/mining, agriculture, sewage systems or land uses;
- Interviewing local people who are dependent on this fresh water resource, i.e., the indigenous people, farmers, local municipality, water associations etc.



### **Carin Strauss**

*University of Pretoria*



Carin is looking into determinants of millipede assemblages in coastal forests. Local species assemblages are structured through a combination of local, niche-based, and regional, dispersal-based, processes.

In this study, Carin developed a framework for disentangling the relative importance of local and regional processes in generating millipede beta-diversity along a successional and spatial gradient. The finding that local and regional processes alternately dominate in structuring local assemblages brings us closer to resolving the debate between niche and neutral theory, as it reveals that it is not so much a dichotomy, but rather a continuum of dominance between local and regional processes. Conservation incentives should combine the dispersal limitation component of the neutral models and the deterministic niche concept to develop management strategies.

**Renata Lawton-Misra***Honours Thesis, University of the Witwatersrand*

The aim of Renata's research was to determine the health and main uses of the Jukskei and Klein Jukskei Rivers in Alexandra Township and Bryanston (Johannesburg) respectively, and possible treatment and prevention solutions that could improve the water quality. It was determined that the Jukskei River water is of a poor quality, with high nutrient concentrations, and should be treated, as residents of the Township are dependent on it for personal use. The Klein Jukskei River water is of a better quality than the Jukskei River, however it also contains high nutrient concentrations and decreasing dissolved oxygen levels. The residents of Bryanston are not dependent on the river water, as it serves recreational purposes only.

**Victor S. Samalumo***Higher Certificate, Southern African Wildlife College*

The Trust sponsored Victor, hailing from Zambia, in his studies towards a Higher Certificate Course in Nature Conservation, Conservation Implementation and Leadership at Southern African Wildlife College in South Africa. The Southern African Wildlife College is one of the few institutions where people from across the Southern African Development Communities (SADC) spend time together while learning and sharing new ideas on the same subject: conservation of the environment. Victor says, "Being here also has an added advantage because, besides learning from the lectures, I have also had the privilege to learn from other students as well. The environment at the College is conducive. Everything provided is of high quality and standard, the accommodation, student facilities, curriculum, etc.

"I would like to convey my words of thanks to Wilderness Wildlife Trust being my sponsor for the rare opportunity that has been awarded to me to be part of this important course that will see the survival of our natural resources."

**Bobby Rakaru***Diploma in Nature Conservation, University of South Africa*

Thanks to donations by Madeleine Delman-Cohen, Bobby has been studying for his Diploma in Nature Conservation through UNISA. So far, he has achieved excellent results in subjects such as Soil Sciences and Conservation Ecology.



# Anti-poaching and Management



# Botswana Wildlife Research – Increasing Capacity

*Coordinator: Kai Collins (Wilderness Safaris)*



*Aiding field-based wildlife researchers in securing study sites, vehicles and logistical support in the form of accommodation, food, communications, access to fuel and mechanical services*



The aims of this project are to accommodate and facilitate wildlife researchers within private concession areas in northern Botswana and thus to increase research capacity in hosting and funding researchers and research that addresses questions of national and international importance in the field of ecology and endangered species protection.

Over the years, the Wilderness Wildlife Trust and Wilderness Safaris Botswana have been offering researchers facilities such as accommodation, vehicles, back-of house food, communications and access to fuel and mechanical and logistical services. The first vehicles used by researchers – all second-hand Land Rovers – had run their course in the very rugged and demanding terrain of the Okavango and Linyanti systems and were in need of replacement.

In 2013, Nissan South Africa via the Wilderness Wildlife Trust donated four Nissan Hardbody double-cab 4x4s – three of which went to the research units and one which went to the Children in the Wilderness and its attendant community outreach programmes.

These vehicles have already been used by a host of research projects and are standing up nicely to the demanding terrain.

## Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit

*Coordinator: Charles Brightman (Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit)*



The Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) has continued to keep a check on poaching in the Victoria Falls area throughout 2013 and we thank the Area Manager and his team from National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (NPWMA) and the Zimbabwe Republic Police for their collaborative efforts. VFAPU Scouts continue to patrol an area of approximately 50 square kilometres surrounding Victoria Falls town, as well as integrating with NPWMA Rangers for extended patrols.

There are a number of different types of poaching that are encountered during patrols. Surprisingly, subsistence mammal poaching makes up a small percentage of the statistics, whilst commercial bushmeat poaching is a more common practice. Wood poaching in its various forms remains a big problem, with people entering the Park regularly to gather and sell firewood or to poach a number of hardwood trees to produce curios for the tourist market. High-end commercial poaching for elephants remains a threat throughout Africa and Zimbabwe is experiencing its fair share of this.

Supported by comments made by Minister Saviour Kasukuwere, vowing to pull out all the stops to put an end to all forms of poaching, VFAPU remains committed to wildlife conservation. With this commitment from all stakeholders, VFAPU has achieved great results and to date (since January 1999), just over 600 serious offender poachers have been apprehended and over 21 400 wire snares have been removed from the bush. 161 mammals that were injured through poaching activities were successfully treated and released back into the wild.

*A privately funded and managed anti-poaching unit that works to patrol a 50 km<sup>2</sup> area around the Victoria Falls, helping to conserve Zimbabwe's flora and fauna*

# Completed Projects 2012–2013

## **Caprivi Spotted Hyaena Project**

*Researcher: Lise Hanssen (Kwando Carnivore Project)*

In 2012, the project collected baseline data on spotted hyaena within the Mudumu South Complex (MSC) to assist the communities with decisions regarding the management and conservation of this species. A human-wildlife conflict investigation that was carried out found that conflict was due to un-herded and unguarded livestock grazing close to the Mudumu Park boundary. All project results were presented to communities through workshops and at hunting quota setting meetings. Committees from all conservancies in the study area agreed to remove spotted hyaena from their trophy hunting quota for 2013.

## **Central Kalahari Wild Dog Research**

*Researcher: Dr Glyn Maude (Central Kalahari Research Group)*

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) wild dog research project was able to confirm that wild dog numbers in the northern CKGR are indeed very low. However, good numbers were found in the remote middle and southern CKGR, with 10 or more packs. The primary goal was to learn about the ecology and movements of these remote packs and to determine why the northern CKGR has so few wild dogs today. Contact work with farmers as well as a wildlife educational programme (“Kids for Wildlife”) was begun, the latter working with children living rurally in the study area.

## **Cetaceans of Greater Dyer Island**

*Researcher: PhD candidate Katja Vinding Petersen (University of Pretoria)*

The second year of the Dyer Island Whale and Dolphin Project focused on monitoring cetaceans using a land surveyor’s theodolite (a non-invasive and cost-efficient method that allows a large area to be surveyed at one time), combined with analysing records of cetaceans collected by Dyer Island Cruises’ whale-watching vessel from 2000 to 2011. The theodolite tracking provided an unprecedented comprehension of habitat use, spatial and social behaviour, and seasonal occurrence of cetaceans in the study area. Over the period 2000-2012, eight species of cetacean were recorded in the Greater Dyer Island Area as it is a major mating and nursing ground for southern right whales that occur here around half of the year.

## **Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe (Hwange Cheetah Conservation Project)**

*Researcher: Dr Esther van der Meer (Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe)*

The Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe began a country-wide cheetah population survey to find out where cheetah occur in Zimbabwe, how many there are and what conservation challenges they face. An awareness campaign was begun and a National ID database set up in which cheetah sightings and photos from all over Zimbabwe were collected. Over the year, 523 cheetah sightings from all over Zimbabwe were collected; more than 25% of these were accompanied by photos, thus enabling the identification of 33 individual adults so far.



**Fossil Plant Study**

*Researcher: PhD candidate Abraham Nqabutho Dabengwa (University of Cape Town)*

The project involved screening samples in the laboratory for pollen and associated grains for use in vegetation reconstruction. The result of the screening led to refinements in the methods and new questions – as pollen preservation appeared to be poor in most areas sampled. The latter part of the year was spent in the laboratory and over the microscope gathering data searching for pollen, charcoal particles and spores, which can be used to reconstruct past vegetation, fire and herbivore records at respective study sites. This work continued for a few months until moving on to describing the present-day environment.

**GLTFCA Wild Dog Project**

*Researcher: Dr Rosemary Groom (African Wildlife Conservation Fund)*

This project investigated the extent of connectivity between the wild dog population in Kruger National Park in South Africa and Gonarezhou National Park in the Zimbabwean Lowveld, both key components of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA). Previous studies have suggested a lack of connectivity. The collection of genetic samples from Gonarezhou National Park and then analysed, together with samples collected by the Endangered Wildlife Trust in Kruger. Excitingly, four adult dogs in one of the packs in the south of Gonarezhou were known individuals that originated about 200 km further north in Savé Valley Conservancy, indicating that at least the sub-populations within Zimbabwe are connected.

**Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta**

*Researcher: Dr Anna Songhurst (Imperial College London)*

2012 was the fifth year in which Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) was monitored. Overall, there were fewer elephant raids in the 2012 crop season compared to the previous four years, with 149 fields raided. Project activities included continual monitoring of HEC incidents, training of farmers and trainers in Conservation Agriculture techniques, trialling solar-powered fences as a mitigation measure to reduce HEC and disseminating information to stakeholders.

**Kafue Lion Project**

*Researcher: PhD candidate Neil Midlane (University of Cape Town)*

The 2012 field season was a busy and productive one, with a large proportion of time spent conducting track count surveys of the entire northern section of the Kafue National Park (about 11 000 km<sup>2</sup>), thus arriving at a density estimate for lion in the park, which will be compared with the estimate obtained from call-up surveys conducted previously to ensure a more accurate final assessment of the Park's lion population. In response to the ongoing snaring problems, the project initiated discussions amongst all stakeholders in the Park to establish an organisation to assist the Zambia Wildlife Authority with its law enforcement activities.

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

The annual census of Malawi's Liwonde National Park took place in October 2012 using a Total Area Count methodology to count large mammals resident in the survey area, which comprised the Park in its entirety. 678 elephant, 548 buffalo, 407 sable, 3 802 waterbuck, 1 450 impala, 851 warthog and 1 627 hippopotami were counted during this survey, population estimates that are considered to be accurate. The frequency of illicit use of Park resources by border communities had increased; this and measured declines in the populations of sable, impala and warthog led to the conclusion that poaching is now the most important limiting factor to healthy populations of wildlife in Liwonde National Park.

**Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan Elephant Study***Researcher: Dr Kate Evans (Elephants for Africa)*

Elephants for Africa explored the Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan National Park and got to know the individual male elephants that utilise the area. The project also made contact with the rural communities living alongside the Park boundary and began to understand the issues that they face. Alongside the research, the project ran two successful Elefun weekends, bringing the children of the neighbouring villages into the National Park to engage them in science and their wildlife.

**Makuleke Transboundary Elephant Movements***Researcher: Dr Michele Henley (Save The Elephants – South Africa)*

The project tracked 12 elephants from the Makuleke Concession in the far north of Kruger National Park from 2008 to 2012. For the first time, it mapped elephant movements from Kruger to Gonarezhou, through and outside the proposed Sengwe Corridor, a straight-line distance of approximately 40 km. The tracking data showed that the Concession area is important for providing key dry season resources and safety. This study called for the continuation of these tracking initiatives in collaboration with all stakeholders within the Peace Parks vision in order to ensure a better understanding of the tenuous connectivity between Kruger and Gonarezhou.

**Pro-Namib Fairy Rings Study***Researchers: Professor Eugene Moll (University of the Western Cape) and Klaus-Peter Knupp*

Using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) the project attempted to “see” what underground structures could be found. Surprisingly, it was discovered that there is a clear reflective, cone-shaped zone beneath the fairy rings that begins at the edge of the ring and penetrates to about five metres. The conclusion is that insects such as ants or termites that live underground that create the fairy rings are ephemeral, and the ring only becomes apparent when the animals have died. Thus, fairy rings are the ‘tombstones’ of an erstwhile insect colony. It is also the opinion of the researchers that a “new” fairy ring can be detected from a slight circular pattern of dying grasses of the matrix grassland, and that once the much taller grasses have become established on the rim, the makers of the rings are long gone.



**Top left:** cheetah identification photo, Zimbabwe • **Middle left:** fairy circle investigation, Namibia • **Bottom left:** beached cetacean, Gans Baai  
**Top right:** wild dog research, Zimbabwe • **Middle right:** spotted hyaena, Caprivi • **Bottom right:** de-snaring lion, Kafue

# Make a Difference to Africa

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.
2. A small percentage is paid by Wilderness Safaris for each guest bednight booked.
3. Fundraising initiatives such as the Wilderness Trust Warmer, Wilderness Trust bag organisers, Rhino Force beaded bracelets and Tilley hats. All proceeds accrue to the Trust.
4. Independent donations from concerned individuals or organisations.
5. Via our partner organisation – the Resources First Foundation. This facility, for donations from the USA, is tax-deductible (501c) and levies a small administration fee. Please contact Denise Shames at the Resources First Foundation on [dshames@resourcesfirstfoundation.org](mailto:dshames@resourcesfirstfoundation.org) or 207-221-2753 for more details.
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](mailto:marid@wilderness.co.za) or telephone **+27 11 257 5057**. More information can be found on our website at <http://www.wildernesstrust.com/donations>

## About Resources First Foundation:

The Wilderness Wildlife Trust is supported by the Resources First Foundation (RFF), a non-profit organisation formed to promote and design conservation and education tools and solutions to promote conservation and restoration activities for fish, wildlife and other natural resources primarily on privately owned lands across the United States and in southern Africa. Because the Foundation's financial resources are relatively small, grants will be made only upon the invitation of the Foundation's officers and board, which meets four times a year. An area of grant-making focus includes training and education programmes for wildlife professions and innovative wildlife restoration projects (from the tagging of marine turtles to the reintroduction of white rhinoceros). Donations via RFF are tax-deductible in the USA.

## 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 theme (Anti-poaching and Management, Research and Conservation or Community Empowerment and Education), project, or even specific part of a project. Since less than 5% is spent on administration costs, donors can be assured of their monies being spent almost 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.

Then there are 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. The Trust would like to thank **Tracy Bamber** for raising funds through her Comrades Ultra Marathon for the seventh 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. They are:

**Jeffrey Neu**, and **Madeleine & Jerry Delman-Cohen** for their contribution to Rhino and Elephant Collaring projects in Botswana, Malawi and South Africa. The Delman-Cohens also donated to education projects in the form of bursaries.

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

To **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.

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

To **Tilley Endurables**, famous for the Tilley Hat; with every purchase of a Tilley Hat, a portion is donated to the Trust.

**NISSAN**



## Donors over \$5 000

Allegretti Foundation	GEOTERRAIMAGE (Pty) Ltd
Anonymous	Geo Data Design
B&H Photo Video & Pro Audio	Jack Clenaghan
Blake Ireland	Jeffrey Neu
Classic Africa	Johnson & Johnson
Daniels Family Foundation	Madeline and Jerome Delman-Cohen
Ed and Mitchell Kappy deButts	Nissan South Africa Motor Company
Edward and Michelle Hetherington	Paul and Caroline Swart, Natural Migrations
Emerson Collective / Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Stanbic Bank Botswana Wilderness Safaris

## Other Donors

African Foundation	Patricia Vidovich
Alan Greenwood	Paul Trepanier
Anthony Furnari	Paul Walker
Barbara Langdorf	Peter Lemon, Peregrine Geckos Adventures
Clark Foundation	Rhino Force
Craig Beal	Richard Williamson
Florence Shore	Romero V Webber
Gail Uilkema	SATIB Insurance Brokers
Ira Guttentag	Schwab Charitable Fund
John Dewar	John Catt and Sheila
John Whitesell	Suzanne Golt
Julie Whitesell	Teresa Waterman
Leona and Muzuki DeBoer	Tracy Bamber
Lynn W Catania	Vee Thompson, Game Plan Africa
Mary Duffy	Zenfolio Inc.
Maurice and Coral Meyer	WildlifeCampus
Nelson Foundation	





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.



CHILDREN IN THE  
WILDERNESS



*Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • Environmental Stewardship • Mentor Training • Educational Support*

# From the Trustees

2013 has been an exciting year, with a number of positive changes and new developments. Wilderness Safaris' Regional Community Development Coordinator, Dr Sue Snyman, took over as the Regional Director of the Children in the Wilderness programme. This has ensured even greater support from Wilderness Safaris, both monetary and in-kind, and the streamlining of all related community development and engagement initiatives – which in turn has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme.

Our Eco-Mentor Training programme was hugely successful, with 100 teachers/mentors trained. This training helps to develop local community members and Wilderness Safaris camp staff by upgrading skills, increasing environmental understanding and enabling them to better implement school and village environmental projects and initiatives.

During the course of the year, the Children in the Wilderness ground team has been, in partnership with local teachers and Wilderness Safaris staff members, operating Eco-Clubs in the various communities with which we work. The Eco-Clubs follow a structured curriculum and, depending on the region, take place weekly or monthly. Eco-Clubs give all learners who are interested in the environment a chance to meet, study, discuss and expand their knowledge of environmental issues. We are also able to reach more children in the communities and on a more regular basis. Children participating on the camp programmes are now selected from the Eco-Clubs. In 2013, we had 2 575 Eco-Club members.

25 Children in the Wilderness annual camp programmes were run for a total of 506 children in 2013. The new structured curriculum has proved to be hugely popular and, with the children already having an environmental grounding from the Eco-Club programme, we have been amazed at their knowledge and ability to apply what they have learnt.

A group workshop took place at Davison's Camp, Hwange National Park, with 24 community development and Children in the Wilderness staff attending. Each region reported on community development and Children in the Wilderness initiatives and the workshop included think tank sessions on various aspects of the programme and ways in which it could be improved. A big focus was on the introduction of Eco-Clubs in all regions, with lessons learned from those regions with existing Eco-Club programmes. The workshop was a fantastic opportunity to share ideas, learn from other regions and ensure the long-term sustainability of the programme.

In terms of fundraising, the 2013 Nedbank Tour de Tuli event was, according to many cyclists "the best one ever!" We continue to build positive relationships with all stakeholders, sponsors and partners involved in the event and were pleased to win the We Are Africa Innovation Awards for Most Original Itinerary. Another big fundraising initiative is the Wilderness Safaris Residents Programme, whose R5 000 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 and the Mother Bear Project.

Sincere gratitude is extended to the many individuals, corporate companies, travel companies, 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 mentors who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that the programme facilitates sustainable conservation through leadership development.

**Trustees:** Russel Friedman (Chairman), Malcolm McCullough, Mike White, Miles Crisp, Leone Jooste, Jan Mallen and Dr. Sue Snyman

# 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 three- to five-day camps at Wilderness Safaris camps, to running Eco-Clubs at schools, within the rural communities that live on the edges of the wild areas of Africa.

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. Finally, the programme is designed to increase self-esteem, teach new skills and impart knowledge to our children.

Back at their villages, the children are faced with many challenges. The Eco-Clubs make use of curricula suited to the specific country or community, delivered in a fun 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.

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 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 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

# Children in the Wilderness Numbers

In 2013, Children in the Wilderness hosted 506 children in 25 camps and ran 69 Eco-Clubs with 2 575 children participating.

As of the end of 2013, Children in the Wilderness has run camp programmes for over 5 000 children in seven southern African countries, and over 3 800 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.



Key: Eco-Club members • Camp participants

# How Children in the Wilderness Works

The Children in the Wilderness programme includes:

**Eco-Mentor Training:** 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 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.

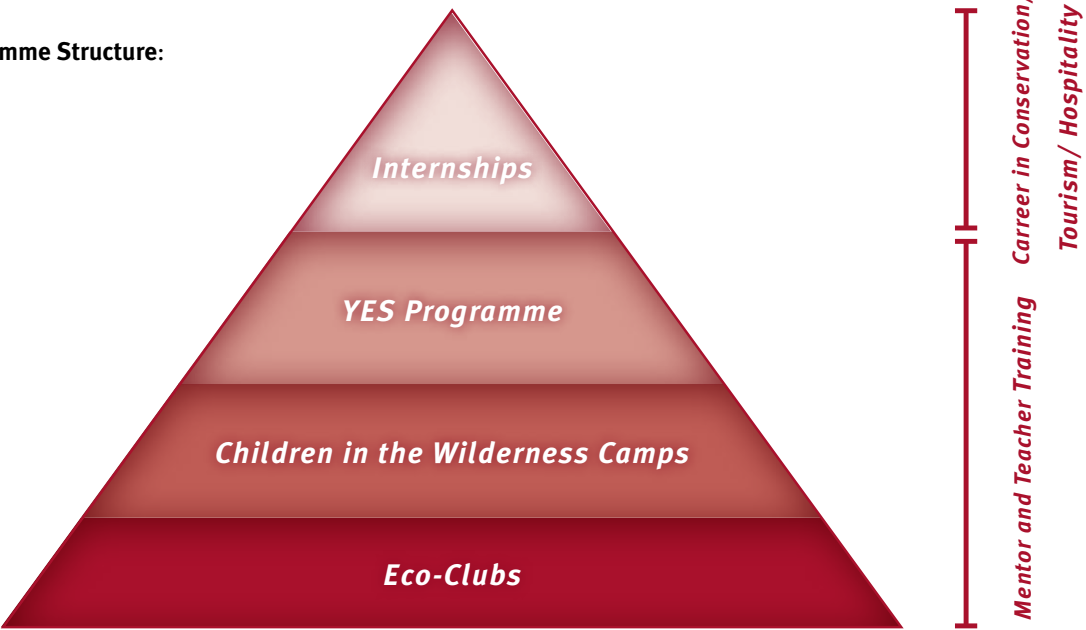
**Eco-Clubs:** Throughout the year, we operate Eco-Clubs in rural schools in the communities with which we work. They follow a structured curriculum, providing all learners interested in the environment a chance to meet, learn, discuss and expand their knowledge of environmental issues. Children participating in the camps are selected from Eco-Clubs.

**Camps:** A Wilderness Safaris/partner camp is closed for a few days each year, and 12-30 children between the ages of 10 and 17 are hosted in the camp for a three- to five-day educational and fun-filled programme, including lessons, games, practical sessions and wildlife activities.

**YES Programme:** The Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) programme focuses on children with commitment and potential who have been identified on annual camps as showing an interest in conservation.

**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, provision of teaching materials, and supporting scholarship and nutrition programmes.

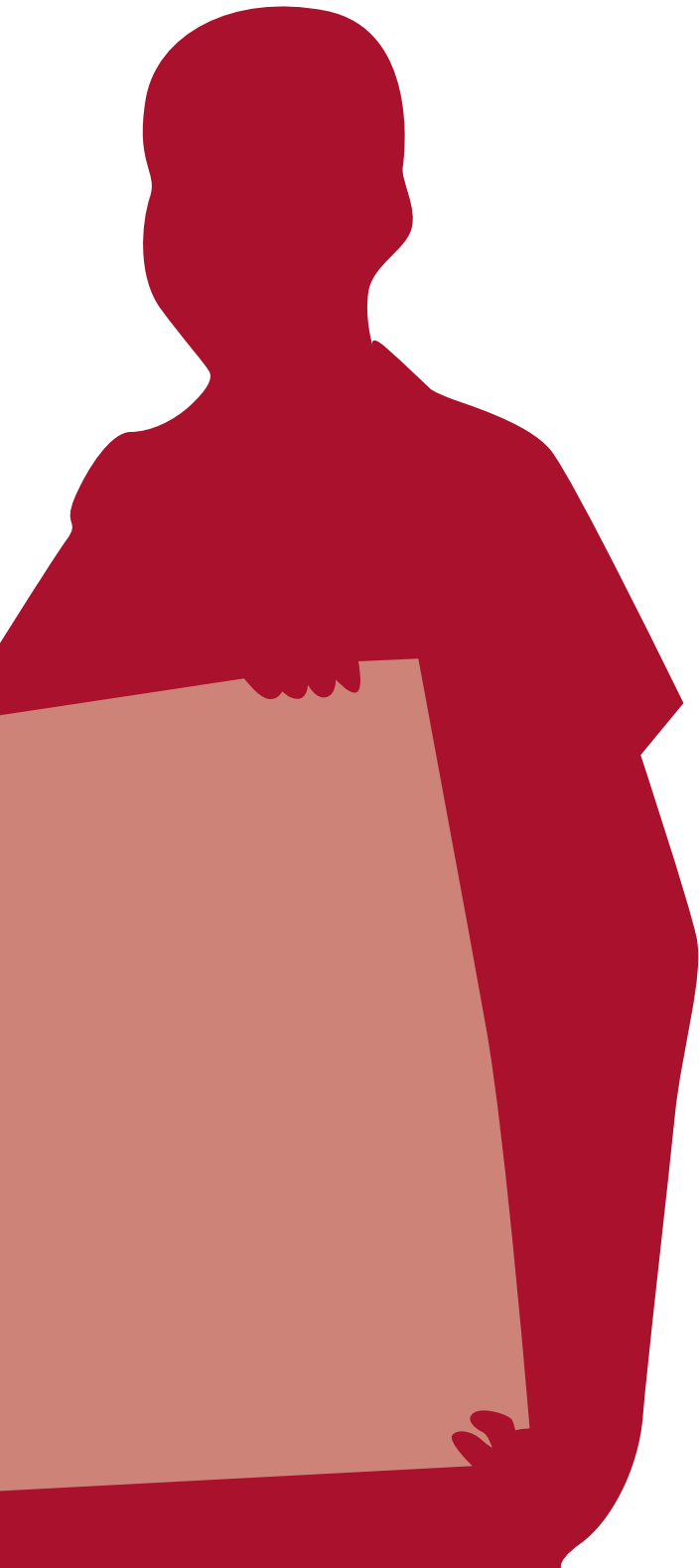
**Our Programme Structure:**



Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • Environmental Stewardship • Mentor Training • Educational Support

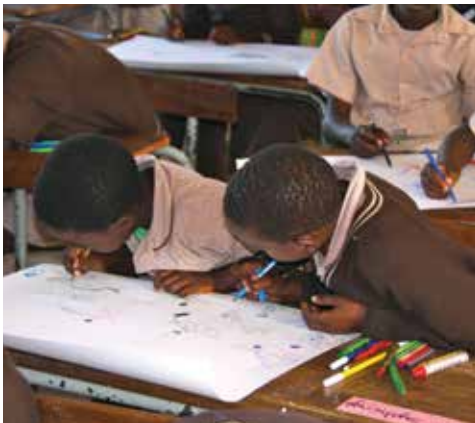


# Eco-Clubs



*Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • YES Programme • Mentor Training • Educational Support*

# Eco-Clubs



Very early on, Children in the Wilderness as an organisation recognised the need for more than a once-off camp experience for the children, firstly so as to continue to inspire the camp participants, as well as to be able to reach out to more children than could be hosted at a camp. Eco-Clubs were formally introduced in 2013, since then constituting the foundation on which the rest of Children in the Wilderness is built. Over 2 000 children are members of some 67 clubs throughout the countries in which Children in the Wilderness operates.

### The benefits of Eco-Clubs include:

- Improved means of spreading the conservation message
- Ensure sustainability of Children in the Wilderness' message
- Empower more children – and their adult mentors – in the villages
- Ensure more children are reached on a more regular basis in the communities than we are able to accommodate on the CITW annual camps
- Help to build relationships with the communities
- Strengthen and identify future leaders amongst the youth
- Help the schools run environmental projects
- Creating tools for children to lead with their heads but not be afraid to feel with their hearts

The Eco-Clubs are increasingly providing positive community development while reaching the wider community.



### How Eco-Clubs are run:

Children are invited to join an Eco-Club at their school. Eco-Club sessions are usually held in a village school classroom or the grounds of the school on designated afternoons – monthly or weekly – and hosted by volunteer Children in the Wilderness Eco-Mentors or teachers. Thus, they take place within the school structure and with the school's approval, without attempting to replace any approved curricula. The sessions are developed with the teachers as well.

In the sessions, children with a common interest in the environment meet to learn, discuss, make friends and have fun. The interactive sessions are designed to be informative, aimed at involving children in projects that benefit the community while developing an appreciation for their natural heritage. Environmental projects and tasks are earmarked and organised in cooperation with community members, teachers and the children themselves, who are encouraged to participate in the planning process and come up with their own ideas so that they can take ownership of both their club and the projects.

Eco-Club membership is mostly limited to 50 members per school (40 in South Africa). The primary reason for this is to maintain a high standard within the Eco-Clubs and so that activities and projects can be created and focused in a meaningful and sustainable way.

In Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana, teachers in the schools run the Eco-Club sessions as part of a normal school curriculum, while in South Africa, it is the camp staff – all members of the local community – who volunteer to run the Eco-Club sessions in their home communities. This not only exposes children to different mentors but increases the respect of the staff members within the community. It allows the staff to be leaders, connects them to their jobs, instils pride in their culture, history and their community, builds team spirit, offers an enriching experience, builds confidence and reveals new skills and talents.

Eco-Clubs are set to begin in Limpopo Valley in 2014, under the leadership of Janet Wilkinson, Coordinator of Children in the Wilderness South Africa. As these Eco-Clubs are closely situated to other areas where Janet works, it makes sense for her to operate the Limpopo Valley Eco-Club programme as well.

Janet will be supervising and facilitating the Eco-Clubs with the assistance of community leaders. She is meeting with teachers and community leaders to inform them of the programme, assisting them in keeping an up-to-date child database for the Eco-Clubs, as well as with child selection for the camp programmes for the year.

Children in the Wilderness Seychelles does not run its own Eco-Clubs but is discussing continuity with the Wildlife Clubs that already exist on Mahé and Praslin. Some of the camp programme participants come from these clubs with good knowledge and enthusiasm for the island environment.

Finally, it is at the Eco-Clubs that the Children in the Wilderness Coordinator and Mentors can look for children who are genuinely interested in nature, wildlife and the environment as well as those who show leadership potential: all in keeping with the vision and values of the programme. Participants for the camp programmes are chosen from amongst the Eco-Club members.

## Botswana

*Coordinators: Geoffrey Aupiti and Mary Hastag*

In Botswana, most schools already have established Environmental Education clubs, but these had not been operating efficiently. Children in the Wilderness Botswana therefore began to assist and support the teachers and schools by introducing Eco-Clubs into their partner schools in 2013, initially into eight, with a further two added subsequently. Teachers in the schools were trained to run the Eco-Clubs and have been provided with educational materials, as well as stationery and various other tools to assist them in the running of the programme. Children in the Wilderness staff visit the schools every three months to provide more materials and also moral support and advice.

No. of children at Eco-Club	School	No. of teachers	Projects undertaken
70	Shashe Primary School	5	Vegetable garden Worm units Crocheting with plastic bags Tree identification Tree planting
35	Sankoyo Primary School	4	Vegetable garden Worm units Bird bath
45	Kareng Primary School	7	
50	Habu Primary School	4	Chicken farming
40	Tubu Primary School	4	Vegetable garden Tree planting Worm units Tree identification Paper mache Wall decorations
55	Gumare Primary School	6	Worm unit
60	Seronga Primary School	2	Worm unit
58	Gunotsoga Primary School	4	Vegetable garden Worm unit Recycled milk cartons Crafts with natural resources (e.g., mats)
52	Beetsha Primary School	6	Vegetable garden Worm units Fencing of vegetable garden Crafts with natural resources (e.g., traditional dance skirts made out of reeds)
35	Gudigwa Primary School	6	Worm unit Vegetable garden Paper mache
<b>Total</b>			
500		48	



# Malawi

*Coordinator: Symon Chibaka*

Children in the Wilderness Malawi currently runs 12 Eco-Clubs where children learn about and undertake micro-projects, aiming towards improving local general ecosystems. By 2013, some 750 children who have been through the camp programme were directly accessed through the Eco-Clubs which take place in 12 Primary and Secondary Schools across Malawi.

## Main Projects of Malawi Eco-Clubs:

- Tree nursery and reforestation projects – Chintheche and Liwonde zones
- Permaculture and nutrition project – Chintheche and Nanthomba zones
- Children participation in minor Park fence maintenance – Liwonde zone
- Adobe Youth Voice Electronic Media Projects
- Recycling (making briquettes; making wine glasses; making candle lamps; making earrings etc.) – all zones

**Nanthomba Primary School** is the oldest Children in the Wilderness Eco-Club (started in 2003) and is engaged in a number of projects such as permaculture, worm farms and a nursery for the reforestation project.

**Park fence maintenance and protection programme:** Eco-Clubs from the Children in the Wilderness Cluster Centre – Nanthomba (the four schools of Nanthomba, Kavunguti, Kafulafula Primary and Namalomba Secondary School) decided to commemorate the 21st of March (International Forest Day), with some environmental action. The children with support from their Eco-Club coordinators (school teachers), decided to undertake Park fence clearing around Liwonde National Park. As the rainy season was coming to an end (March – April), a firebreak along the Park fence was a worthwhile project, so as to protect the Park's forest from uncontrolled fire likely to be started in nearby village fields.

The day was led by the Park Fence Eco-Club, which has 25 members who have been specially trained by Park officers in fence management. The 25 members were followed by all Eco-Club members from respective schools; the Eco-Clubs were in turn followed by all other interested pupils/students from their respective schools. The total number of people who participated in the exercise was 345 children, 11 teachers and 11 Village Headmen. The children managed to make a firebreak of a distance of six kilometres south and north from Makhanga gate.

**Namalomba Secondary School** piloted an E-Readers/Kindles project. The project aims at improving the reading culture among the students and adding value to the general education development at the school. The project is funded by World Readers through the Rosemary Pencil Foundation (USA). The school received a donation of 60 E-Readers each loaded with more than 120 texts, teachers' guides and other reading books. The school uses these micro-computers as books and libraries.

Women of the Nanthomba community have formed an Eco-Women Club and have begun a crafts project and micro-revolving fund activities.

No. of children at Eco-Club	School	No. of teachers	Projects undertaken (i.e., projects or activities that CITW sponsored)*
76	Bandawe	2	Water SSS Project – Stop, Sink and Shed water. The project is all about fighting water erosion and conserving the available water around the school
58	Chifira	2	Weekly meetings and discussions as an Eco-Club
68	Malengamzoma	2	Water SSS Project – Stop, Sink and Shed water
76	Chihame	3	Permaculture Project – Aimed at educating and changing the school grounds from dusty bare ground to green cover with fresh filtered air. Also providing a steady supply of fruits and other plant food to pupils while they are at school Reforestation Project – Working with Root to Fruit NGO, raising over 70 000 seedlings per year
50	Mgode	2	Reforestation Project – Working with Root to Fruit NGO
58	Chintheche 1	2	Reforestation Project – Working with Root to Fruit NGO
78	Ntapwa	4	Reforestation Project – Working with Root to Fruit NGO Park Fence Monitoring and Maintenance Project, Liwonde National Park
74	Nangondo	3	Park Fence Monitoring and Maintenance Project, Liwonde National Park
75	Katambasula	3	Park Fence Monitoring and Maintenance Project, Liwonde National Park
77	Nanthomba	4	Park Fence Monitoring and Maintenance Project, Liwonde National Park AYV Media Projects – Collecting children’s fears, views, concerns and successes, and putting them into media products and exhibiting them to targeted audience and the general public Permaculture Project Reforestation Projects – Raising over 60 000 seedlings and donating them to local communities. Tree planting in school grounds Paper Recycling Project – Paper pulp made into 3D animal shapes, briquettes and cooking charcoal pieces
82	Kavunguti	3	Park Fence Monitoring and Maintenance Project, Liwonde National Park Reforestation Projects
68	Kafulafula	3	Park Fence Monitoring and Maintenance Project, Liwonde National Park Food Forest Project – Establishing a ‘school forest’ of food-producing trees (providing food and nutrition security) Reforestation Projects
<b>Total</b>			
840	12 Eco-Clubs	32	19 projects from 12 primary schools

\* There have been additional micro-projects (one-week or one-day projects) completed by local Eco-Clubs that are not included here.

# Namibia

Coordinator: Stefanus Nangombe



Children in the Wilderness Namibia began running Eco-Clubs in 2013, at Okaukuejo Combined School with 40 learners and Jacob Basson Combined School with 30 learners. The Eco-Clubs allow for the spread of the conservation message, ensuring sustainability, empowering children and adults, increasing environmental projects, building relationships and strengthening identification of future leaders. In 2014 we will be working more closely with these Eco-Clubs to develop sustainable projects in our partner schools, encouraging the members to actively participate in conservation and community endeavours.

No. of children at Eco-Club	School	No. of teachers	Projects undertaken
40	Okaukuejo Combined School	2	Formation of Eco-Club Cleaning campaign Visit to the environmental centre in Etosha for learning purposes
30	Jacob Basson Combined School	2	World Water Monitoring Day – visit to the local water supply: learn about purification methods Cleaning Bergsig Phase 1 Cleaning Bergsig Phase 2 Tree planting Field Trip: Save the Rhino
<b>Total</b>			
70		4	

## South Africa

*Coordinator: Janet Wilkinson*



Three Eco-Club sessions are run each term, by Mentors who champion the cause within the villages and get involved in projects in the long term.

It was highly encouraging to receive a positive response from former Pafuri staff to continue hosting Eco-Clubs in the Makuleke village, despite the fact that Pafuri Camp had closed due to flooding. This shows that the community believes that Children in the Wilderness is making a meaningful difference to their children. The highlight of the year was the Tourism session, which included a day-trip into Kruger National Park – a first visit for some of the children – to better understand the value and meaning of tourism and the value of their natural heritage and national park. Other topics dealt with included the importance of trees, seed-planting, endangered species and climate change.

The Eco-Club members at Mqobela and Vululwazi Primary Schools in KwaZulu-Natal were given the opportunity to show off their poetic and artistic talents at some Eco-Club sessions. Many remain shy of artistic expression, but with more and more encouragement we will soon see their flair regularly in environmental expression.

### Super Kids to Save the Environment

In an inspiring development, previous Children in the Wilderness campers now attending high schools which are not on the Children in the Wilderness programme have formed their own club in the village and continue to share their environmental learnings with other children in the schools and villages. They are undertaking a research project on how community members dispose of litter. This will provide them with insight as to how to assist in educating more people in the correct or preferred environmental methods of litter disposal. Children in the Wilderness supports them as and where it can with material for their projects.



No. of children at Eco-Club	School	No. of teachers
40	Vuluwazi	2
40	Mqobela	2
40	Makuleke	1
40	Makahlule	1
40	Joas Phahela	1
40	Boxahuku	1
40	Nwanati	1
<b>Total</b>		
280		9

# Zambia

Coordinator: Ingrid Baas



Sonwell Malambo, who joined the Children in the Wilderness Zambia team as teacher and Eco-Club coordinator, visited all the schools that Children in the Wilderness works with in Zambia – namely Twabuka, Kamakechi, Jifumpa, Kabulwebulwe and Mapoko – formed good relationships with all teachers and headmasters and initiated Eco-Clubs at these schools. Sonwell’s means of transport in these areas is his bicycle. He does weekly trips to the schools over some rough terrain and has many punctures, but nothing stops him from carrying out his visits.

After a teacher training workshop at Toka Leya and the delivery to the school of an “Eco-Club trunk” filled with lessons and materials, an Eco-Club was launched at Twabuka Primary School in June 2013 – with an overwhelming number of children keen to join. The Eco-Club runs on a weekly basis and many projects have been undertaken, including the planting of indigenous trees in the school grounds and the establishment of a vegetable garden. The school, the teachers and of course the children are very excited with the start of this Eco-Club, which now has 46 members, and two teachers in charge.

Eco-Clubs have been established in schools in the Kafue area, their kit delivered, and children are joining and participating in weekly lessons.



No. of children at Eco-Club	School	No. of teachers	Projects undertaken
46	Twabuka Primary School	2	Teacher Training Tree Planting Litter Collection and Sorting
46	Kamakechi, Kafue	2	
46	Jifumpa, Kafue	2	
46	Kabulwebulwe, Kafue	2	
46	Mapoko, Kafue	2	
<b>Total</b>			
230		10	



## Zimbabwe

*Coordinator: Sue Goatley*

As there is a provision for environmental clubs in the existing primary school curriculum, Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe has utilised the present government teachers in the schools to carry out the running of the weekly lessons. Eco-Clubs are usually held in a village school classroom or the grounds of the school; they take place within the school structure as an extramural activity and the club's weekly sessions are developed in conjunction with the teachers. There is a three-year curriculum, 30 modules per annum, for a self-selected audience of students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 who are genuinely interested in nature, wildlife and the environment. They meet to learn, discuss, make friends and have fun with lessons and activities that are focused on environmental science, life skills and team-building.

Projects to date have included:

- Rhino Awareness Campaign where the Eco-Clubs from each school were encouraged to participate in a competition creating their own paper mache environmentally-friendly rhino using wire heads made from recovered snares.
- Planting trees, where each child takes responsibility for nurturing his or her own indigenous fruit tree planted in the area surrounding the school.
- The rearing of broiler chickens for the pot, thus creating a sustainable project that assists in generating an income for the school to supplement the extra teachers required to keep the teacher/child ratio down.
- Implementation and management of vermiculture beds to make compost for the vegetable gardens, and planting and care of vegetable gardens.



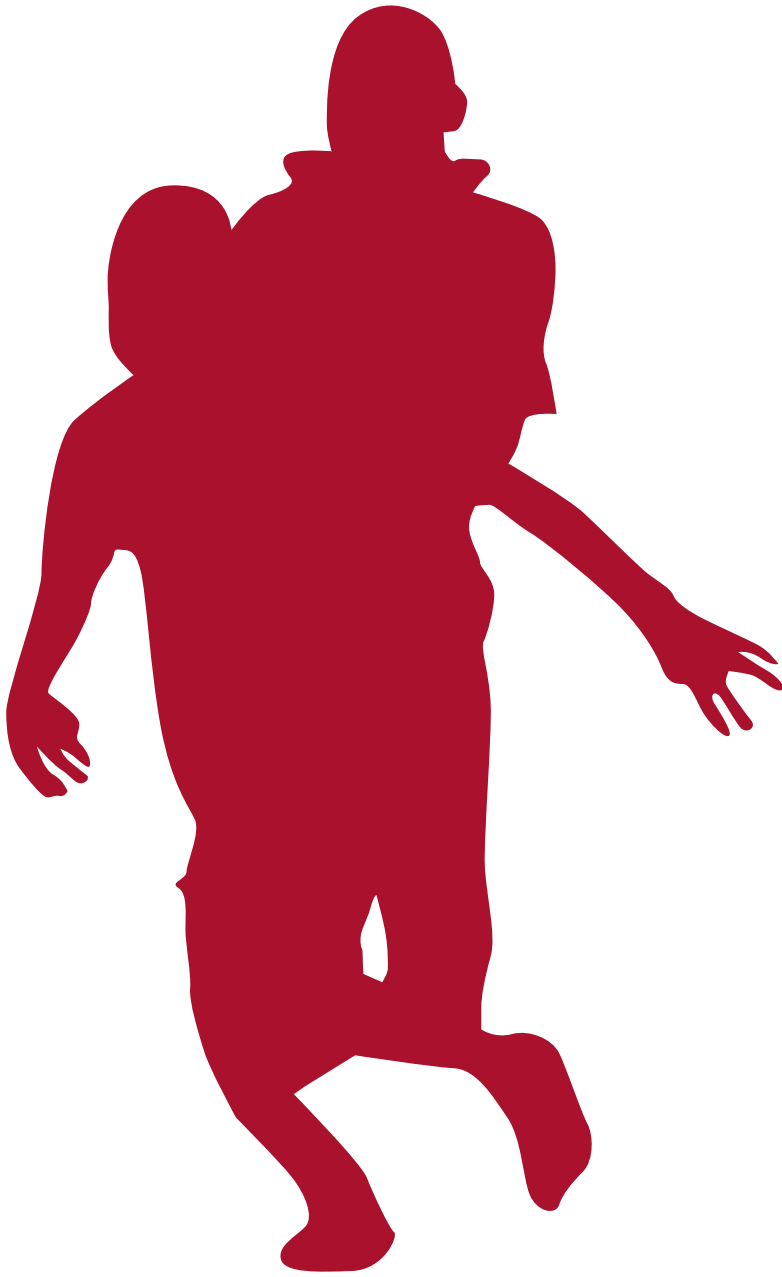
These interactive sessions are designed to be informative, and are aimed at involving children in projects that benefit the community, whilst developing an appreciation for their natural heritage.

Zimbabwe Children in the Wilderness Eco-Clubs have 12 enthusiastic teachers from six primary schools in the Tsholotsho and Victoria Falls areas running the clubs in their respective schools. These host 280 children annually and there is no shortage of participants.

No. of children at Eco-Club	School	No. of teachers	Projects undertaken
40	Jakalasi, Hwange	2	Teacher Training Eco-Gardening Rhino Project Tree Planting
47	Mpindo, Hwange	2	
43	Ziga, Hwange	2	
56	Kapane, Hwange	2	
39	Ngamo, Hwange	2	
50	Jabulani, Victoria Falls	2	
<b>Total</b>			
280		12	



# Camp Programmes



*Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • YES Programme • Mentor Training • Educational Support*

## Camp Programmes



Children in the Wilderness runs Camp Programmes in seven southern African countries. For these, Wilderness Safaris, Mashatu and other partner companies close some of their camps for a number of weeks each year, allowing Children in the Wilderness to host groups of selected rural children instead. Groups of 12 to 30 children between the ages of 10 and 17, pre-selected from schools and communities in the surrounding areas, are invited to spend three to five nights in camp and participate in the programme. When the programme began in 2001, the selection process focused mainly on the vulnerable children in the communities. However, the concept of leadership values became a growing priority, with the result that children with such qualities or community influence have been included as participants alongside the vulnerable youngsters. In this way, the programme facilitates sustainable conservation through leadership development, reaching further than one camp, and growing in strength and influence. The programmes are run by a Camp Director assisted by a full staff complement of mentors, generally consisting of Wilderness camp staff who volunteer their time and energy to this cause. Ultimately, since many mentors come from the same communities or villages as the camp participants, they are excellent role models who in effect restore a sense of hope to the children.

## Camp Programmes run in 2013

Region	Dates	No. of nights	No. of children	Wilderness Safaris Camp	Village
Botswana	28 Mar – 2 April	5	12	Khwai Discoverer Camp	ESP Tubu, Gumare, Shashe, Sankoyo
	2-6 April	4	12	Khwai Discoverer Camp	ESP Gudigwa, Beetsha, Gunotsoga, Seronga
	30 Nov – 5 Dec	5	16	Jacana Camp	Mentors in camp; Tubu
	5-10 Dec	5	16	Jacana Camp	
	12-17 Dec	5	32	Banoka Bush Camp	Sankoyo, Shashe
	17-22 Dec	5	32	Banoka Bush Camp	Gudigwa, Beetsha, Gunotsoga
<b>Total</b>			<b>120</b>	<b>6</b>	
Limpopo Valley	6-12 Dec	5	16	Mashatu Camp	Lentswe le Moriti; Mothlabaneng
	12-18 Dec	5	16	Mashatu Camp	Mathathane
<b>Total</b>			<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	
Malawi	29 Nov – 1 Dec	3	20	Chintheche Inn	Camp and Eco-Club mentors
	2-6 Dec	4	24	Chintheche Inn	Bandawe village
	7-11 Dec	4	24	Chintheche Inn	Chihame village
<b>Total</b>			<b>68</b>	<b>3</b>	
Namibia	1-8 July	7	15	Explorations Camps	Tsumeb SOS village; Klein Aub area
	25-30 Nov	11	24	Damaraland Camp	Donkerpos, Omaheke region
	6-10 Dec	12	24	Damaraland Camp	Okaukuejo, near Etosha National Park
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>3</b>	
Seychelles	9-12 Dec	3	29	North Island	Mahé; Praslin
<b>Total</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	
South Africa	22-25 Sept	3	24	Rocktail Beach Camp	Vululwazi, KwaMqobela Primary
	25-27 June	3	8	Pafuri Trails Camp	N'Wanati High School
	28-30 June	3	8	Pafuri Trails Camp	N'Wanati High School
<b>Total</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	
Zambia	13-17 March	4	24	Lufupa Camp	Kabulwebulwe and Mapoko Basic Schools
	2-5 Dec	3	24	Toka Leya	Twabuka School, Sinda village
<b>Total</b>			<b>48</b>	<b>2</b>	
Zimbabwe	20-25 March	5	30	Ruckomechi Camp	Nyamakate Primary School
	19-22 April	3	12	Davison's Camp	Mpindo, Jakalasi, Kapane, Ziga and Ngamo
	11-14 Nov	3	24	Davison's Camp	Mpindo, Jakalasi, Kapane, Ziga and Ngamo
	15-18 Nov	3	24	Davison's Camp	Mpindo, Jakalasi, Kapane, Ziga and Ngamo
	19-22 Nov	3	24	Davison's Camp	National Parks School at Main Camp
<b>Total</b>			<b>114</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Children in camps in 2013</b>		<b>161</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>25</b>	

# Botswana

*Coordinators: Geoffrey Aupiti and Mary Hastag*

*1 475 children have been hosted on camp programmes in Botswana since 2001.*



2013 was the first time that Children in the Wilderness Botswana hosted children for three nights instead of five, as per the recommendations of the 2013 Educational Workshop. This worked out very well as it meant that, while we were still able to fit in our educational aims, we could also host more children than in previous years: 112 children as opposed to 96. The increase in the number of campers was also due to the fact that Children in the Wilderness Botswana is now working with 10 schools; Kareng and Habu Primary Schools are the new additions.

## Highlights

Campers received solar jars as presents at the end of the camp, which were sponsored by Wilderness Safaris, Wilderness Air and Northern Air Maintenance, as well as individual employees of these companies.

Since the campers must be members of Eco-Clubs at their schools, it was a logical follow-on when they presented their respective Eco-Club projects that they had been working on before camp. This was excellent as the children were able to compare with and learn from each other, planning to take new ideas back to their Eco-Clubs.

The boma nights were a definite highlight, where the campers had an opportunity to both experience their own cultural heritage and present it to others.

At camp, Children in the Wilderness awarded Atanang Mothaedi a certificate of appreciation for having volunteered for ten years on the Camp Programme. Atanang originally arrived at a Children in the Wilderness camp as a chaperone for the children from Beetsha Primary School in 2002 and since then she has volunteered of her own accord – a full ten years of hard work. Atanang, known as Motty when in camp, has passion, a love of the programme and for children.



## Limpopo Valley

*Coordinator: Tanya McKenzie*

Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley hosted two camps during the year, both held at Mashatu Tent Camp, which is situated on the northern border of Northern Tuli Game Reserve, near the Tuli Circle in Zimbabwe. The first camp hosted 16 children from Mothabaneng and Lentswe le Moriti Primary Schools. Mothabaneng is a village on the south-western periphery of the reserve and Lentswe le Moriti is a village within the boundaries of the reserve. The campers were from grades 4 to 6 and their ages ranged between 9 and 11 years old. The second camp was held directly after the first camp and hosted children from Mathathane Primary School. Mathathane is a village on the western boundary of the reserve. The children were in Grade 6 and were all 12 years old.

Most of the volunteers who joined the camps were students from Botswana and South Africa.



### Highlights

Some of the topics covered in the curricula were herbivore, bird and insect worksheets followed by game drives, Illala the Elephant play and the circle of life, all of which have strong conservation and moral messages. The creative activities included lapdesk decorating and making of dream-catchers and memory mobiles. Some valuable and interesting anti-poaching activities were included, which are most important to these children as they all know poachers who live in their communities, sometimes within their families. HIV and nutrition activities form part of the curriculum and were extremely well presented by Miranda Moraba and Gaone Ratsomi. The children also went on many outings including the Limpopo Valley Airport, Mashatu Main Camp and the Pont Drift Customs and Immigrations Office, where they learned about different careers and various job opportunities associated with these places.

Game drives always prove to be an invaluable time to get to know the children and their various personalities. The children love to interact and bond with volunteers and guides during game drives and outings. As well as being much fun, the morning games, songs and team challenges provide moral lessons.

*Since Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley began in 2010, 168 children have been hosted on a camp programme*



# Malawi

Coordinator: Symon Chibaka

*Since 2003, Children in the Wilderness Malawi has hosted a total of 1 016 first-time campers and 86 repeat campers.*



The 2013 Children in the Wilderness Malawi camp programme – its 11th year of operation – hosted 100 children through two weeks of camp: two one-week programmes for first-time campers and two one-day camps for alumni. The camps took place at Chitheche Inn, in the northern region of Malawi, hosting 42 new campers and 58 former campers. The first-time participants were drawn from Eco-Clubs at their respective schools, while the former campers came from the alumni clubs that are run in the Bandawe and Chihame centres. All came from the Tonga community in the Chitheche area.

## First-Time Camper Highlights

At camp, a different theme was introduced each day at breakfast and then was carried through all planned activities and lessons throughout the day. Participants could be heard discussing the theme or making use of it during the day which was excellent to see. In addition, every activity and lesson was based on the camp theme of “I am a seed, give me time and care.”

The trip to Kande Horse Farm where permaculture is practised in the local area aimed at teaching the children about this concept by viewing some working field projects. Because the site is rich in natural cover and animals (both farm animals and wildlife), it also proved to be the best place to practise photography – thus explaining the term “shooting with cameras – not with guns” to the campers.

## Children in the Wilderness Alumni Camper Highlights

The alumni joined on the last day of camp, with the ‘new’ campers keen to show off what they had learnt to the alumni and vice versa! The alumni group had a chance to review their clubs’ objectives and plans. Their revised policies showed that they would like to engage more in actual research and projects which could improve livelihoods in their local villages and communities. They also highlighted the need for support towards entrepreneurship training for them to develop skills which would help them improve their economic status and keep them shining as leaders in their local communities.

Mercy and Patuma are examples of the type of individuals on whom the programme has had an impact. They represent some former campers who have fallen in love with the programme and have developed huge understanding and love of the environment and wildlife. They aim to be good leaders and citizens, working towards better livelihoods and sustainable conservation.

Across the groups, there were some who are married and came along with their babies. Some were still in school and some were employed. Finally there were those who had finished their secondary education and were looking for job opportunities or waiting to continue their college education.



## Namibia

*Coordinator: Stefanus Nangombe*

Three camps were held in 2013, two being traditional camp programmes and one Exploration (a Wilderness Safaris mobile safari) for follow-up campers. On the Exploration which took place in July, Kulala Adventurer Camp and Lagoon Chalets in Walvis Bay were our hosts. Damaraland Camp welcomed us with open arms for the first time in December for our two traditional camps.

*1 006 children have participated in a camp programme in Namibia since 2002.*



### Highlights

The December camps were another milestone in Children in the Wilderness Namibia's history with the participation of a group of San children from Donkerpos. David Tjavava from the Omaheke region and a former Wilderness guide approached Children in the Wilderness Namibia in early 2013 to lobby for San children to attend a camp. The result was a group of 24 San children who joined the Damaraland Camp programme in December 2013.

The children – from Donkerpos in the Omaheke region, near the Namibia-Botswana border – were completely different to our previous campers. With the little English they knew, they were not shy or hesitant to speak. They possessed high levels of self-esteem and confidence and were very happy to join all the English words they knew together in order to communicate throughout the camp. Again significantly, most of these children had left their homes and were seeing animals such as desert-adapted elephant, kudu, gemsbok, zebra and springbok for the first time. Wilderness Safaris guides educated them on the importance of conservation and ecotourism during game drives and other activities. The campers had many questions about the animals and why they were being protected.

Following the success of last year's Explorations camp – where campers get introduced to adventurous experiences and learning becomes enhanced – a second one was held this year. 15 campers – seven from Tsumeb SOS village and eight from the Klein Aub area – were selected for this adventure and enjoyed eight days of moving places and beautiful views of dynamic Namibian landscapes. This camp ran with the theme "Children in the Wilderness Explores" with the objective of encouraging and motivating campers through self-experience, as we believe that motivation is not only necessarily through talking but also through seeing and self-experience.



# South Africa

Coordinator: Janet Wilkinson

*Children in the Wilderness South Africa began camp programmes in 2003; 501 children have taken part since then.*



## Rocktail Beach Camp:

This camp coincided with World Rhino Day and it was fitting to make these endangered species the theme for the camp. Although none of the children has actually seen a rhino, they are aware of the dangers the species is facing and there was much discussion about solutions to poaching.

Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley and Children in the Wilderness Zambia sent representatives on an “exchange programme.” At the final dinner, everyone was enthralled and moved when the Zambian representative introduced a candle-lighting ceremony to welcome the campers to the Children in the Wilderness Camp family.



## Pafuri Camp:

Following the closure of the flood-ravaged Pafuri Camp, we met with concerned Makuleke community members when we visited the village shortly after the disaster. We assured them that the Children in the Wilderness programme would continue despite the camp setback.

We decided to host a new kind of camp and we invited two groups of eight children to participate – but this time they stayed at Pafuri Trails Camp, a tented Explorations camp. We also invited two village elders from the community to accompany each group. These elders were among those who had originally lived in the Pafuri area until 1969 when the Apartheid government had forcibly relocated the community. This was an incredible success with the children gaining insight into their heritage and more respect for their elders and their history. In turn, the elders were thrilled to spend time on their land and to interact with the children and assist with their camp research projects.



## Seychelles

*Coordinator: Ruby Pardiwalla*

Children in the Wilderness Seychelles hosted a group of 29 Seychellois children – 25 from Mahé and four from Praslin – on an educational, fun and rewarding camp on North Island. Held in collaboration with the National Council for Children (NCC) and with the support of Mason’s Travel and Zil Air, North Island hosted the children in its luxury villas for four days in December.

### Highlights

A full programme was put together to ensure that they were able to experience the wonders of the island, whilst at the same time learning about the importance of island and ocean conservation and its relevance in their lives. Activities included singing, dancing, tree planting, team building, scuba diving and tug of war, as well as various life skills lessons to encourage them to dream, hope and to realise their true potential in making a difference to our world.

The camp’s closing ceremony was attended by Seychelles Minister of Education, Macsuzy Mondon and Designated Minister, Vincent Meriton, who urged the children to take advantage of their right to education, to grasp it with both hands and to study hard in order to be able to achieve their dreams.

The volunteers gained an immense amount from their running of the educational programme as well as from the interaction with the children.

*Children in the Wilderness Seychelles runs camp programmes every two years; 150 children have been hosted since 2006.*



*“It was amazing and inspiring to watch the incredible change taking place in the children over the four days, especially in terms of their confidence, self-esteem and sense of pride in their natural heritage. To ensure the longevity of the Island and its unique species, we will continue to support this incredible programme to educate and inspire our neighbouring rural children to be the future custodians of our natural areas.”*

Wayne Milgate, North Island General Manager



# Zambia

Coordinator: Ingrid Baas



*To date, Children in the Wilderness Zambia has hosted 296 children in camps since 2007.*



Children in the Wilderness Zambia ran its camp programme at Toka Leya Camp this year. 24 children, between 10 and 13 years old, and two teachers from Twabuka School in Sinda Village attended. The children were hosted for three nights and four days, taking part in a well-structured programme with Wilderness guides as Mentors. The children were all members of the existing Eco-Club that had been started at the school in the same year and so the programme formed an extension of the Eco-Club curriculum.

## Highlights

The children were divided into four teams, each with a team leader and mentor for the duration of the programme. All the activities of the camp were done in these teams; in this way and with the small group size, the learning was very interactive and intense. For the team leader and the guide the challenge was to get the team ready for the team quiz at the end of the programme. For each team the goal was to learn as much as possible!

One of the highlights was the visit to Victoria Falls on the Zambian side. They learned so much during this visit, not only about the Victoria Falls, but also about the importance of caring for their natural and cultural heritage.

A “photographic workshop” was run, where the children had the opportunity to learn how to use a camera. During this workshop, the concept ‘Shoot with your camera, not with your gun’ was explained. The children loved taking pictures and for many of them it was one of the highlights of their stay.

## Zimbabwe

*Coordinator: Sue Goatley*

Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe held five camps in 2013, each of which took place over three nights and four days. The March camps were held at Ruckomechi Camp with 24 children and two teachers from Nyamakate Primary School which borders on the Mana Pools National Park. In November, we had four camps of 24 children and two teachers each at Davison's Camp in Hwange National Park. The students for the first three camps were drawn from the schools on the south-eastern boundary of Hwange – Mpindo, Jakalasi, Kapane, Ziga and Ngamo. The fourth camp consisted of 24 children from the National Parks School at Main Camp.

In general, the mentors at camp comprised the exceptionally knowledgeable Wilderness Safaris guides who embrace the programme fully and leave no stone unturned when working with their teams ensuring consolidation of the information and knowledge they had learnt at Eco-Clubs.

The theme for the 2013 camps was “Creepy Crawlies,” and the majority of the daily activities throughout the camp revolved around them. A highlight was the “creepy crawly walks,” where children armed with magnifying glasses, nets, glass jars, and a newfound knowledge of the difference between insects and the other invertebrates followed their guide around the camp chanting: “An insect has three body parts, No more, no less than three: Head and thorax, abdomen – It sure makes sense to me!” They captured, identified, classified, recorded – and then let the creatures go.

Daily game drives proved to be times of exploration, discussion, learning and wonderful team spirit as guides ensured their teams were equipped with a knowledge, understanding and appreciation of everything around them.

Photography was introduced as a new activity this year as Children in the Wilderness now has eight Canon cameras. The Capture your World activity teaches students how to hold a camera, shoot a picture adjusting the distance, and the proper etiquette when taking and having your photo taken. Some splendid photos were taken, and 90% of the end-of-camp presentation consisted of the students' photographs.

The Careers Programme was a great hit with all the children and we now have children aspiring to be mechanics, guides, chefs, photographers, teachers and camp managers.

*Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe has hosted 756 children on camp programmes since its inception in 2008.*



Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana  
• Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo  
Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley •  
Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley •  
Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley •  
Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley •  
• South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South  
Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South  
Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe  
• Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe •  
• Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana •  
Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo  
Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley •  
Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi •  
Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia •  
• South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South  
Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South  
Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe



# Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme

Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • YES Programme • Mentor Training • Educational Support



## Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme



The Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme focuses on children with commitment and potential who have been identified on annual camps as showing a particular interest in conservation. The curriculum in the programme is an extension of concepts introduced in Eco-Clubs and at camp, with a greater focus on career guidance and further environmental education.

These 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 mentors to spend more time with the children and identify candidates for the scholarship and internship programme.

These programmes, previously called Environmental Stewardship Programmes (ESP) have been running in Botswana since 2008, where they have hosted 144 children to date; they will now be introduced in other regions as well. This will allow the programme to grow with the children and continue to provide them with environmental education and support.





Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • YES Programme • Mentor Training • Educational Support

No. of children hosted	Communities that children come from	Camp Dates	Wilderness Safaris Camp	No. of Wilderness Safaris volunteers	No. of teachers
12	Shashe / Sankoyo / Tubu	28 March - 2 April	Khwai Discoverer Camp	12	1
12	Okavango Community Trust	2 - 6 April	Khwai Discoverer Camp	12	1
<b>Total</b>					
24		10		24	2



# Mentor Training



*Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • YES Programme • Mentor Training • Educational Support*

## Mentor Training

*“This is going to go a long way in aiding my experience in teaching, making work easier and worth it.”*  
 Teacher Twabuka Primary School,  
 Zambia



*Above: Mercy Mapiko, a third-year student at the University of Malawi (former camper), facilitating a topic about Staying Healthy. Her voice for conservation and better livelihood is growing and becoming more effective.*



The training of Eco-Mentors is of vital importance, as this is how Children in the Wilderness seeks to educate its Eco-Club members and spread the conservation message. After training, Mentors are able to participate in camp programmes or at Eco-Clubs. Mentors hail either from within the school system or are Wilderness Safaris staff members.

### Botswana

Eco-Club teacher training took place three times in 2013, where 36 teachers from different schools were trained on how to run a Children in the Wilderness Eco-Club.

### Namibia

Children in the Wilderness Namibia plans on strengthening the Eco-Clubs by conducting a Mentor training in 2014, run in collaboration with the schools themselves.

### Malawi

The 2013 camp season also recruited 18 Mentors in total, six of whom were former Children in the Wilderness campers. These are also some campers who are still active members as alumni in their local centres, in addition to finishing their education – a primary goal of Children in the Wilderness. Of these Mentors, Maria Chirwa and Patuma Banda are now qualified primary school teachers; Mercy Mapiko is a third-year student at Malawi University's College of Health Sciences; Andrew Viyano is a first-year student at Malawi Polytechnic; Jane Banda is expected to go to Kamuzu College of Nursing in Lilongwe; and Irene Nkwamba is also aspiring to go to Machinga Teachers' College.

Other mentors included schoolteachers, medical technicians, as well as guides, waiters and kitchen staff and camp managers of Wilderness Safaris camps.

### South Africa

We have continued our involvement with the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), using their local representative to facilitate the Eco-Mentor training. The Rocktail Beach Camp staff Mentors continue to learn more about the environment and improving their children's education as well as working on their teaching and communicating skills. Mentor training will be run in the Makuleke community in 2014.

## Zambia

CITW Zambia ran a three-day workshop at Toka Leya with the help of four teachers from the El Hefni Foundation in the US. Working with the teachers from Twabuka, the U.S. team guided workshop participants through the process of creating dynamic Eco-Club lesson plans that are driven by physical activities, investigations and learning games.

When the last guests departed Shumba Camp at the end of October, we repeated the three-day Eco-Club teacher training workshop, this time hosting eight teachers from four schools in the Kafue area. During the workshop, the setup of Eco-Clubs in these schools was discussed, as well as lesson plans and activities.

## Zimbabwe

Since 2010, Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe has worked with the Ibrahim El-Hefni Technical Training Foundation (TTF) to develop a teacher enhancement programme known as the Teacher Enhancement Collaborative (TEC), in which visiting U.S. educators share current educational theory and effective teaching strategies with educators from select primary schools in the Zambezi area. The aim is to offer rural school teachers professional development and support that will help them to grow and develop their skills as educators.

The focus for this year's project was to assist Children in the Wilderness in its development of Eco-Clubs. The visiting U.S. team consisted of three science educators and one education volunteer and were also joined by three Children in the Wilderness volunteers who helped support the teacher enhancement workshops. Over the course of three weeks, the team hosted four three-day teacher workshops for five schools in the Hwange area – Mpindo, Jakalasi, Kapane, Ziga and Ngamo Primary Schools with each school sending two Eco-Club representatives. At all these workshops the TEC team guided participants through the process of creating dynamic Eco-Club lesson plans that are driven by physical activities, investigations and learning games. In an effort to model this hands-on learning approach, the TEC team designed workshops that were very active, and filled with learning games and habitat investigations, and used minimum materials.

The reverse benefit of this collaboration lies in the undeniable enhancement this experience brings to the U.S. educators. For some members, this was their third visit to Zimbabwe and each time has brought new insights, as well as a deeper understanding of how to communicate ideas effectively and negotiate different learning styles.



Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana  
• Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo  
Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley •  
Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi  
• Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia •  
Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles  
• South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South  
Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa •  
Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia •  
Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe  
• Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana  
• Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo  
Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley •  
Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi •  
Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia •  
Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles  
• South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South  
Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa •  
Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia •  
Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe



# Educational Support



*Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • YES Programme • Mentor Training • Educational Support*

## Scholarships



*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” – Nelson Mandela*

Education is one of the key elements of Children in the Wilderness and as such, it quickly became clear that many children would need financial assistance to complete their schooling. While sadly not all children can be funded, many countries began to fundraise to provide scholarships for as many children as they could. The aim of the programme is to provide needy children who have attended a Children in the Wilderness camp or Eco-Club with access to better education. Other goals include raising self-esteem and confidence in the children themselves and lessening economic pressure on their parents or guardians.



## Malawi

The programme aims to provide school sponsorships to needy children from within Children in the Wilderness's catchment areas to allow them access to better education. Some immediate expected outcomes are:

- Raising self-esteem and confidence (empowerment) in the children themselves
- Lessening economic pressure on their parents or guardians who find it too hard to raise school fees
- Long term – improving scientific understanding of wildlife and natural environment of the next generation leaders

Out of the 250 children who have/are benefitting from the school programme:

- 12 children have been accepted into colleges and the University of Malawi (after passing their MSCE – Malawi School Certificate of Education Examination)
- 10 children have found jobs (after passing their MSCE)
- 50 children have achieved MSCE (and are currently trying to find jobs/ applying for college intakes)
- 48 children have obtained JC (Junior Certificate) and have attempted MSCE
- 25 children have attempted JC
- 105 are still in school (Secondary School level)
- 180 families have had their children benefit from the programme

## Namibia

Under the Secondary School Sponsorship programme – which started with two learners as a pilot test in 2012 and continued in 2013 as an ongoing programme with committed sponsors – Children in the Wilderness Namibia now has 11 learners between grades 8 and 12 from four different schools in Kunene region benefitting from this scheme. The sponsorship covers full school and hostel fees, examination fees for grades 10 and 12, a complete school uniform, and other materials, such as books, school bags, and even calculators.

## Zimbabwe

The aim of the scholarship programme is to provide a primary and secondary education to disadvantaged children from the schools and communities surrounding the areas in which Wilderness Safaris operates. The selection process considers high academic achievers and above-average/average students who are self-motivated and likely candidates to pass the minimum O Level requirements. We have 145 students on our scholarship programme at present, three of whom have gone through the schooling system and are currently at university pursuing careers in Conservation, Travel and Tourism and Media Studies.



## School Support

Schools in the rural areas of Africa face a number of challenges, from lack of infrastructure to insufficient nutrition for the children. In a number of countries Children in the Wilderness has taken these on and, with the help of generous donors, has transformed these places of education.

### Botswana

The following schools – Gudigwa, Beetsha, Gunotsoga, Gumare, Tubu, Habu, Shashe, Sankoyo and Seronga – received a variety of equipment and material during the year: 120 library books each, sports equipment, environmental books (e.g., wildlife guides and books about the Okavango), stationery, and equipment to create an Eco-Club vegetable garden, such as gum poles, shade netting and seeds.

### Namibia

A group of learners from the Deutsche Höhere Privatschule (DHPS) Rotary Interact Club extended a helping hand to less privileged learners in rural Namibia. In what can only be described as a genuine act of kindness, the learners approached Wilderness Safaris' community engagement team to seek guidance and advice on possible communities they could assist. Wilderness Safaris wasted no time in linking the kind hearts of the DHPS learners to less privileged students in rural schools from the greater Kunene region. The wish list presented to the enthusiastic DHPS children included stationery, food and clothing items. As a result of the severe drought experienced in the area, there is a shortage of food and their decision to have foodstuffs donated greatly helped the government's efforts through the drought relief programme.

### Zambia

In December 2013, Children in the Wilderness Zambia built a house for two members of staff at Mapoko School, in one of the villages adjacent to Kafue National Park. With the extra accommodation, the school has been able to appoint another teacher – therefore bringing the teacher-child ratio down to a more manageable number.

Other ongoing projects include the donation of laptops with solar chargers and planting trees in the school grounds in Sinda Village, near Livingstone.

Also in Sinda, we have completed the building of staff accommodation for two teachers, who have now moved in. The plan is to build more staff accommodation, as the teachers currently take approximately 45 minutes to get to school each day from Livingstone where they live, as well as having to pay for their own transport costs.



## Zimbabwe

Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe has been directly involved with eight community schools (approximately 2 177 children): Ziga, Ngamo, Mpindo, Kapane, Jakalasi, St Francis Xavier and St. Mary's Primary Schools in the Tsholotsho / Lukosi areas of Hwange, and Jabulani Primary School in Victoria Falls. The overall emphasis is aimed at improving the general wellbeing of all the children who attend the schools, the schools and environs themselves, and the quality of lessons and teaching.

Our school projects include:

**Nutrition Programme:** Providing one nutritious meal per school day for children at five schools in the Tsholotsho area and one in Victoria Falls school (approximately 1 600 children). This has resulted in an increased attendance, less absenteeism due to illness and improved concentration in the children.

**Deworming Programme:** Annual deworming of all children in the nutrition programme so as to ensure that they receive the full nutritional benefit of the food being provided. 1 650 children are dewormed annually.

**Teacher Support:** To aid in keeping student/teacher ratios down, Children in the Wilderness assists by sponsoring additional trainee teachers in its schools. At present we have 15 teachers on this programme.

**Teacher Training and Workshops:** Aimed at improving and updating the teachers' skills, regular teacher training workshops with an emphasis on literacy, environmental science and life skills take place at the schools – to assist trainee teachers as well as acting as refresher courses for qualified teachers. With the recent introduction of in-house training on the Early Literacy Programme by *Wordworks South Africa*, we are now able to help young children learn to read and write in English as a second language and hope to improve literacy levels.

**School Rehabilitation:** Includes the building of toilets, classrooms, library or media centres and teachers' accommodation, as well as the repair and maintenance of school buildings, supply of desks and chairs, educational tools such as text and library books, stationery, etc.

**Sustainable Teacher Support:** In order to assist with teacher salaries, implementation of sustainable income earning projects aimed at supplementing government wages have been implemented. These projects not only assist with income, but also complement the nutrition and Eco-Club programmes at these schools. Recent introductions include broiler poultry projects, eggs, honey and vegetable gardening. We have also called on the "gogos" (grandmothers) in these areas to help support this programme so that the teachers in the schools are not spread too thin.



# Community Initiatives

Over and above school support, Children in the Wilderness funds and supports other initiatives that include community development and livelihood diversification programmes to reduce poverty, improve living conditions and enhance local education systems. Funds for these programmes often come from Wilderness Safaris guests who have enjoyed a village visit.



## Malawi

In Malawi, Children in the Wilderness was involved in building a pre-school in Njobvu village, thanks to generous guest donations. The pre-school was warmly received by the community as the young children now don't have to walk as far to school every day.

In 2011, Children in the Wilderness Malawi became involved in the Chintheche Inn Reforestation Project, the children subsequently taking part in the process of tubing, seeding, distributing and planting. In 2013, Children in the Wilderness children participated in the reforestation programme managed by Root to Fruit (NGO) in the Chintheche community (northern Malawi). The project raised more than 70 000 seedlings of different kinds of tree species.

The trees were donated to schools and village conservation clubs. In Nanthomba community (southern Malawi) children raised over 12 000 seedlings of a variety of species of trees, which were donated to schools and village conservation clubs.

## Zambia

Sinde village is situated approximately 25 minutes' drive from Toka Leya Camp and has a population of approximately 1 200 people. The majority of our community development projects are concentrated at the local school, Twabuka Middle Basic School. We have regular meetings with the school PTA and the village headmen to ascertain what the priorities are in the village and at the school and to ensure that we have the community's buy-in and support for all projects that we are involved in.



During the year, thanks to generous donations from guests, we were able to provide the village centre and the school with a solar water pump, two water tanks and a tank stand each. This has provided the school and village with much-needed fresh water. We have also lined up funding for an electric fence around the vegetable garden, playground equipment for the pre-school, and training related to vermiculture and conservation agriculture will be taking place in 2014.

**Soccer in the Wilderness:** In November 2013, the inaugural Soccer in the Wilderness clinics took place at Sinde Football Club, Twabuka Community School and with Wilderness Safaris' staff at Toka Leya Camp in Zambia and Jabulani Primary School in Zimbabwe. Children in the Wilderness partnered with professional soccer player, Gordon Gilbert, to raise awareness about various conservation issues, including poaching and rhino conservation, motivating and inspiring them to get actively involved in the conservation of the wilderness areas they live next to. The importance of setting goals and having the discipline and dedication to achieve them was also discussed to encourage the children to broaden their horizons and to aim high.



## Zimbabwe

Our community projects are self-sustainable programmes that are used as a learning tool for students at the schools and can assist in supplementing villagers' income so that they are able to ensure their children can attend school wherever possible.

Projects include:

- **Eco-Composting/“Vermiculture”:** This project was introduced in all schools under the direction and instruction of Conservation Science Africa (CSA). It has enabled schools and communities to implement conservation farming techniques, using eco-compost and environmentally-friendly practices to grow vegetables and crops.
- **Borehole water projects:** In 2013, five borehole water projects took place at Jabulani Primary School (Victoria Falls) and Kapane, Mpindo, Jakalsi and Ziga Primary Schools (Tsholotsho). This included all the equipment and labour necessary to implement fully-operational solar borehole water systems, which are benefitting both the schools and community.
- **Vegetable gardening:** Helps supplement both the school nutrition programme and the communities' diet as well as being part of the Eco-Club Programme.
- **Poultry projects:** Both layer and broiler projects have been established in the communities and continue to run well.
- **Knitting and crocheting projects:** Parents and community members are taught how to knit, crochet, sew and read patterns. With donor support we are at times able to provide these communities with wool; however we have also educated them on the use of alternative materials such as using recycled plastic bags (known as “plarn”) to create saleable commodities such as bags, mats, hats etc.). The women put 60% of their profits back into the project for materials. It is hoped that in time and with the production of quality knitwear, these groups will be able to provide Wilderness Safaris with jerseys as part of the staff uniform requirements. Research is also underway to teach these women how to make washable feminine hygiene kits (sanitary ware), which will assist greatly in these poverty-stricken areas.







Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana  
• Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo  
Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi  
• Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia •  
Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles  
• South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South  
Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa  
Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia •  
Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe  
• Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana  
• Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo  
Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley  
Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi  
Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia •  
Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles  
• South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles •  
Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa  
Zambia • Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia  
Zimbabwe • Botswana • Limpopo Valley • Malawi • Namibia • Seychelles • South Africa • Zambia • Zimbabwe





# Fundraising



*Eco-Clubs • Camp Programmes • YES Programme • Mentor Training • Educational Support*

# Fundraising

The costs of operating the Children in the Wilderness programme in seven 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, Mentor Training, an annual camp, etc.

The full membership fee to join the Wilderness Safaris Residents Programme ([wilderness-residents.co.za](http://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.

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 Tour de Tuli. With the cooperation 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 2013 the 9th 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 R1.5 million for Children in the Wilderness.

The Tour comprised 286 paying cyclists, 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 300km is 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. They also endured high temperatures, winds and saddle sores! A beer at the Shashe Tavern and cultural interaction were just some of the highlights for many cyclists. 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 Angola, Australia, Botswana, UK, Canada, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Tanzania, USA and Zimbabwe.

## Make a Difference

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.

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.

If you are interested in helping us with our programme, below is a list of opportunities:

- **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.
- \$300 will sponsor a community member Eco-Mentor training.
- **Sponsor a child** on a Children in the Wilderness camp – A donation of US\$400 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\$9 500 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/](http://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 CITW Project Director is advised in advance as there is paperwork for importation that is required to be completed. In some instances relevant import fees may outstrip the value of the goods and therefore this does need some consideration.

# Donation Options

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

1. DONATE ONLINE: [WWW.CHILDRENINTHEWILDERNESS.COM](http://WWW.CHILDRENINTHEWILDERNESS.COM)
2. DEPOSIT DIRECTLY INTO A CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS COUNTRY BANK ACCOUNT

When donating to a specific country, please email [info@childreninthewilderness.com](mailto:info@childreninthewilderness.com) with your name, donation amount, and the country or project to which you have donated funds.

Children in the Wilderness General – (18A status for SA citizens)	
Account Name:	Children in the Wilderness Mkambati
Bank:	Standard Bank
Account Number:	023031735
Branch Code:	001255
Branch:	Rivonia
ABA Routing No use Swift Code:	SBZAZAJJ

3. PAYMENT VIA H.E.L.P. Malawi, a Children in the Wilderness partner (501C FOR USA RESIDENTS)

To donate through H.E.L.P Malawi, cheques can be made out to Elisa Burchett and mailed to:  
 H.E.L.P Malawi  
 147 Bell Street  
 #206, Chagrin Falls  
 OH 44022

<p>Please Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E.L.P. can only accept donations in US\$</li> <li>• H.E.L.P. collects donations for many different programmes, please ensure that your documentation is clearly marked for Children in the Wilderness</li> <li>• If you would like to EFT into the H.E.L.P. account on behalf of CITW, please contact Elisa Burchett – email: <a href="mailto:Elisa@helpchildren.org">Elisa@helpchildren.org</a></li> </ul>
--

4. WILDERNESS SAFARIS AGENTS:  
 Wilderness Safaris agents can elect to give a donation per booking to Children in the Wilderness that will be invoiced at the time of making your reservation. Should you be interested in this option please email [info@childreninthewilderness.com](mailto:info@childreninthewilderness.com) to facilitate this process.

## CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS COMMUNICATIONS

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

### CITW Sponsors

#### Platinum – US\$10 000 plus per annum

Abax Foundation • Albert Litewka • American Embassy Botswana • Doug Levin • Epic Holidays • Johnson & Johnson • Jonathan Trollip • Mashatu Game Reserve • Namdeb • Nicolaas Vlok • Ongava Game Reserve • Rosemary Pencil Foundation • Standard Bank • Sylvia Burberry • Wilderness Air • Wilderness Residents Programme • Wilderness Safaris • Willens Family

#### Gold – US\$2 500 plus per annum

AAC African Adventure Co • Africa Adventure • Andrew Deighton Clegg • Andrew Rogers • Budget Car Rental • Deloitte • Desert Dash • Elephant Charge Zambia • Europcar • Exclusive Resorts • Furnari & Guttentag Families • Matt & Kay Frank • Michael Rivers & Sarah Stair • Mother Bear • Ngamiland Adventure Safaris • Nolting Family • Puma • Rebecca Zuurbier • Sally & Dave Pearson & Dennis Manalo • Sree & Marci Kotay • Standard Bank • Summerlea Golf Club • Tracy Bamber • UCLA Program in Global Health • University of California • Vee Romero • Wilderness Safaris Explorations

#### Silver – US\$1 000 plus per annum

Adobe Foundation • Adventure Camping Hire • Africa Adventure Company • African Marketing • Andrea Bolte • Barrow Construction • Borekamp Family • Catamaran Charters Namibia • Citi Produce • Cox & Kings • E.power • Eyes on Africa Ltd • Faith Taylor • Kathy Mills • KG Sand and Stones Transport • Khomas Trust • Kirkland Family • Mapungubwe National Park • Martins Family • Natural Habitat Adventures • Penny Pencil Foundation • Simon and Fiona Thomas • Sylvia Pons – Makila Voyages • The Karell Travel Group • Weck and Voigots

### Nedbank Tour de Tuli Sponsors

#### Official Partners

Botswana Government  
South Africa Government  
Zimbabwe Government  
Mapungubwe Mashatu  
Nottingham Estate  
Pitsani  
Peace Parks  
Sentinel  
Shalimpo  
TFCA  
Uitspan  
Venetia – De Beers

#### Tour Sponsors

& Beyond  
12 Apostles  
Bean There  
Beekman  
British Airways  
Bushman's Kloof  
Cayenne  
Coleman  
Cycle Lab  
Cycle Mashatu  
DC Signs  
Diesel Power  
Dis-chem  
Ellerman House  
Enervit  
Europcar

Fedhealth  
Fit Track  
Go Multi  
Hammer Design  
JKJ Pump  
Contractors cc  
Kgalagadi Breweries  
KRP Auto Body  
Kwezi Software  
Land Rover Owners Club  
Le Quartier Francais  
Livingstones Supply Co  
Makro  
Media Film Services  
Micor Shipping  
Navworld  
Nedbank Capital  
Oceaneering  
Premium Group  
Royal Malewane  
SAB  
SATIB  
Squirt Lube  
Super Group  
SuperSport Lets Play  
Symp Corp  
The Blue Train  
The Venue  
Trailarent  
Wilderness Air  
Wilderness Collection  
Wilderness Safaris

#### Wilderness Safaris Travel Partners

Admiral Travel International Inc.  
African Portfolio, USA  
Aladdin Travel & Meeting Planners  
Brownell Travel  
Cox & Kings, USA  
Currie & Co  
En Route Travel  
Explore Inc.  
Extraordinary Journeys, LLC  
Eyes on Africa Ltd  
Goway Travel  
Greatways Travel Inc.  
Jet Set World Travel, Inc.  
Ker & Downey, USA  
Preferred Travel of Naples (Signature)  
Protravel, Chicago  
Protravel, Boca Raton  
TCS Expeditions  
The Travel Network Corp.  
Universal Travel  
Valerie Wilson Travel – H/O  
Virtuoso  
Wentworth Travel

In Memoriam: Geoffrey Aupiti  
1976 – 2014

*We pay tribute to Geoffrey Aupiti who was the Children in the Wilderness Botswana Coordinator for many years. Known far and wide as “Uncle Bones,” Geoffrey’s energy and passion for the programme was legendary. He helped to set up Children in the Wilderness programmes and shared his expertise with other regions. He hosted over 1 600 children on annual camps, 500 children on Eco-Clubs, and touched the lives of so many more during his visits to communities in Botswana.*

*His inspiration lives on. Rest in peace, Uncle Bones.*



**Photographers**

Dana Allen, Martin Benadie, Dr Conrad Brain, Charles Brightman, Will Burrard-Lucas, CITW Photographers, Dr Kerry Carter, Kai Collins, Caroline Culbert, Clive Dreyer, Simon Dures, Dr Kate Evans, Olwen Evans, Dominic Finelli, Russel Friedman, Krisztián Gyöngyi, Nicola Harris, Simon Hartinger, Carl P Hävermann, Peter Jones, Yankho Kaimila, Dr Glynn Maude, Mike Myers, Keitumetse Ngaka, Dr Paula Pebsworth, Katja Vinding Petersen, Moses Selebatso, Dr Flip Stander, Dr Sue Snyman, Botilo Tshimogolo, Simson Uri-Khob, Dr Esther van der Meer, Paul van Schalkwyk, Janet Wilkinson.

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

Ant Community and Diversity • Bat-Eared Fox Project • Biodiversity and Conservation of Amphibians in northern Botswana • Black and White Rhino Status Study • Black Mongoose Identification Project • Black Rhino Custodianship Programme • Botswana Bateleur Study – Spatial and Temporal Distribution • Botswana Endangered Species Research Wild Dog and Sable • Botswana Lion Genetics project • Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project • Botswana Roan



Antelope Home Range and Habitat Utilisation • Botswana Sable Home Range and Habitat Utilisation • Botswana Wildlife Research Capacity • Busanga Plains • [www.wildernesswildlifetrust.com](http://www.wildernesswildlifetrust.com) • [www.childreninthewilderness.com](http://www.childreninthewilderness.com) • Central Kalahari

Wild Dog Study • Cheetah Niche Segregation Study • Children in the Wilderness • Community Ecology of Herbivores in the Okavango Delta • Conservation Lower Zambezi Anti-Poaching • Ecological Research in Hwange National Park • Ecology of African Buffalo in the Okavango Delta • Education Bursaries – South Africa • Education For Predator Conservation • Effects of Water Availability on Elephant Movements, Savute Channel • Elephants Without Borders • Endemic Species Reintroduction on North Island • Fairy Rings in the Pro-Namib • Genetic Architecture of Giraffe in Northern Botswana • Giraffe Indaba Function • Grazing Ecology of African Buffalo • Greater Dyer Island Cetacean Study • Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park Large Mammal and Human Land Uses • Hartmann's Mountain Zebra Project • Human Elephant Conflict in Okavango Panhandle • Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta • Human-Predator Conflict on Game Farms • Hwange Ecologist Vehicle • Hwange National Park Anti-poaching Project • Hwange National Park Game Water Supply • Hwange White Rhino Translocation Project • Identifying Conservation Management Areas for Hartmann's Mountain Zebra • Impact of Fires on Small Mammals • Integrating Elephant Population Dynamics • Kafue Lion Project • Kalengo Library Construction • Kamakechi Operational Base for Poacher Transformation • Kunene Community Perceptions Towards Reintroduced Black Rhino • Kunene Elephant Project – Population Distribution and Social Dynamics • Kunene Lion Project • Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy • Kunene Rhino Aerial Monitoring • Lake Ngami Monitoring of Bird Populations • Leopard Population Dynamics • Limpopo Transfrontier Predator Project • Linyanti Elephant Impact Study • Liwonde Aerial Census • Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring • Long-Term Vegetation Dynamics in the Okavango Delta • Luamfwa Wet Season Anti-Poaching Support • Makgadikgadi Brown Hyaena Project • Makgadikgadi Male African Elephant Ecology and Human-Elephant Conflict • Makgadikgadi White Rhino Translocation Project • Makgadikgadi Zebra Migration Research Project • Makuleke Elephant Collaring • Makuleke Large Mammal Reintroduction Project • Makuleke Ramsar Wetland System – Seasonal Pan Study • Makuleke Small Business Support • Malawi Rhino Project • Maputaland Sea Turtle Project • Maws Sterivac Programme • Mkambati School Projects • Namibia Cape Vulture Reintroduction Programme • Namibia Crane and Wetland Bird Conservation • Namibia Desert Lion Conservation • Namibian Elephant and Giraffe Trust • Nutrition Programme – Jabulani Primary School • Okavango Biodiversity Project • Okavango Community Governance Workshops • Okavango Next Box Project • Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project • Predator Conservation Manual • Range and Energy Utilisation of the Chacma Baboon • Reconstructing Palaeovegetation Sequences at Biome Boundaries • Save Valley Conservancy Bushmeat Survey • Save Valley Conservancy Wild Dog Population Survey • Seasonal Feeding Preferences of Rhinos • Self-Medicative Behaviour in Chacma Baboons • Simons • Spotted Hyaena Ecology - Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching • [www.wildernesswildlifetrust.com](http://www.wildernesswildlifetrust.com) • [www.childreninthewilderness.com](http://www.childreninthewilderness.com) • William Kamkwamba Community Library • Zambezi Society Buffalo Appeal • Zambia African Wild Dog Meta-population Dynamics • Zimbabwe Lowveld Wild Dog Project • Zimbabwe Rhino Intensive Protection Support • Zimbabwe School Rehabilitation Programme

Free for distribution worldwide.

Printed on sustainably sourced paper. Please recycle. 

