

A BRIGHTER FUTURE...



Africa's greatest assets are her natural resources and her children





## VISION

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**Children in the Wilderness aims to create a network of learning sanctuaries that uplifts, conserves and cares for our children and our planet.**

The Children in the Wilderness programme is dedicated to helping disadvantaged children see the beauty and potential in the wild places of Africa. Using environmental education, therapeutic recreation and good old-fashioned fun, Children in the Wilderness creates an awareness of interpersonal skill and an increased involvement in the environment whilst fostering the creative

spirit. The programme develops resilience in the children, increases their self-esteem and therefore builds and strengthens their capacities to cope with life's challenges. It also provides them with the life skills necessary to actualise their greatest potential. Children in the Wilderness sets out to create hope in the lives of children where and when it is least expected.



## LETTER FROM THE TRUSTEES

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The Children in the Wilderness programme is in its eighth successful year of operation and has grown from strength to strength. It is the belief of Wilderness Safaris that the world's wilderness areas are key measures in the capacity of humans to manage our impact on the planet. The challenge that we face today is that Africa's wildlife areas are under severe pressure and the areas in which we operate are some of the planet's more sensitive and fragile environmental hotspots.

Children in the Wilderness programmes focus on the next generation of rural decision makers. It is one of the programmes aimed at bridging the divide that exists between communities and wildlife. Through these programmes we teach the children the importance of conservation and strive to instil a passion for the environment so that they become the custodians of these areas in the future. When coupled with Wilderness Safaris' integrated ecotourism business model, which engages these rural communities as true partners, substantial progress and real results are achieved. Excitingly, we have expanded our operations to more countries, so that currently Wilderness Safaris camps are closed to paying guests to run the Children in the Wilderness programme in Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, South Africa, the Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

Malcolm McCulloch

- Children in the Wilderness Trustee



# WHERE WE OPERATE





## STRUCTURES



Children in the Wilderness is an association of non-governmental, non-profit organisations. Its programmes operate in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Children in the Wilderness is endorsed by private ecotourism company and conservation organisation

Wilderness Safaris. Founded in 2001. Children in the Wilderness is the vehicle by which Wilderness Safaris can provide life skills, education, and opportunity to vulnerable children living in communities around the wilderness areas in which it operates.

Children in the Wilderness was inspired by The Association of Hole in the Wall Camps (USA).





## HOW IT WORKS

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Wilderness Safaris currently closes down some of its camps to full paying guests for a number of weeks each year allowing Children in the Wilderness to operate with sole use of these camps.

Groups of 16 to 45 children are transferred into the respective camps for a period of six days at a time and given the opportunity to experience these wilderness areas and their wildlife.

Children in the Wilderness creates a physically and emotionally safe and supportive environment for the children to discover their own unique strengths and develop new talents and interests. The children gain knowledge on many subjects and disciplines that are

not generally available to them. Not surprisingly, the children's outlook on life and nature after their time 'on safari' is changed forever.

On the programme, the children participate in wildlife activities, game drives, boating and nature walks; they attend and participate in interactive workshops about the wildlife they have seen during the day, environmental management, the geography and geology of the area, HIV/AIDS, nutrition and the importance of wilderness areas to their communities and the country. The children are hosted by our best guides and mentors. Our camp staff are predominantly from the neighbouring communities, many of whom soon become the children's heroes and role models.







IN THE WILDFINNESS  
A Better Future



## OUTCOMES



Using environmental education, therapeutic recreation, mentoring and above all fun, the Children in the Wilderness programme and curriculum:

- Exposes the children to new experiences:
- Increases their self-esteem:
- Inspires the children to continue with their education:
- Teaches the children skills, crafts and sports that they have not had the opportunity to experience
- Builds and strengthens the children's capacity to cope with life's challenges:
- Educates and equips the children with life skills that are necessary to realise their greatest potential:
- Increases awareness and knowledge of HIV/AIDS and overall health and nutrition.

While this is happening, the environment is the big winner. Sustainable environmental education and conservation is practiced and taught, which results

in these children returning to their communities as leaders in conservation and environmental matters. The outcome of the programme is therefore a win-win for all. The children are inspired to strive to achieve their utmost potential: their enthusiasm and new ideas rub off on their families and communities – and critically threatened environments are conserved. Children in the Wilderness also recognises the importance of ongoing education and follow-up once the groundwork has been laid. All the countries involved in the programme have formalised follow-up programmes in place, suitable to their specific needs and location. This ensures that our reach goes far beyond the children who attend the programme. We can confidently say that future leaders are being moulded from this programme: their horizons have been broadened with regards to the importance of conservation, HIV/AIDS, health, nutrition, the arts, education and tourism. All the children are given the opportunity to meet new friends and to work together as a team.

### Some feedback from schools after CITW camps:

- *“Children are outtroverts (sic) and can communicate freely.”*
- *“They have gained self confidence and have also shown some responsibilities as they help others.”*
- *“Children have shown tremendous changes in their social lives and began to be humorous and kind.”*
  - *“Also they have shown interest about the wilderness.”*
- *“Of all the children that went to camp something I have noticed is that they have opened up and grown in confidence and stature. Their behaviour has also improved as we have not had a case involving any of your products – they are role models.”*



## BOTSWANA

In Botswana, individuals and communities have been given the responsibility of being well informed and promoting sustainable methods of environmental use through education. We believe that the best approach is to work with the younger members of the community. As part of this approach, Children in the Wilderness has developed close partnerships with schools around the concessions that we operate in. Children in the Wilderness Botswana has created an Environmental Outreach Programme, teaming up with the Association of Environmental Clubs of Botswana to

develop programme materials for Environmental Clubs in schools. The Outreach Programme hosts a series of workshops to develop projects for the Environmental Clubs, followed by a year's activity plan with guidelines for teachers. This system has proved to be very valuable as close relationships with all the teachers have developed and they have become an extension of the Programme, continuing the work in the community that was begun at Camp. As part of the Follow-up Programme, the Clubs are visited to help them implement these projects and monitor their success.



*"For many it is the first time in a long time to experience a hug, or to be congratulated on for doing something well, and most of all to be made to feel proud of themselves. There is not one child in this group that has not been touched and in many ways changed from their experiences this week in camp. The five nights have sped by, our only wish is that it was the start and we could all do it over again!"*

*- Mavis Ka Nduchwa, Botswana*

*"Camp is where the future begins and ends. It is where we find our origins, our culture and our future. Camp is where you can add something that you did not know."*

*- Shovelu Baloui, 13 years*



*"Camp is good to attend and do something wherever we must learn about wild animals and how to conserve nature. And animals cannot survive without people conserving nature."*

*- Dion Hlungwani, 14 years*



## NAMIBIA

An incredible example of Children in the Wilderness Namibia's success is Franco Morao. He started as one of the first participants on a Children in the Wilderness camp in 2002 – and

has since developed into a very talented Wilderness Safaris Guide and Children in the Wilderness Camp Director.



*"I was brought up in a very closed environment so that the only life I knew was that within the orphanage. When I saw the open spaces I felt like this was where I wanted to be. It felt like I had found a new family, a sanctuary where everyone always feels welcome."*

*Namibia has many children like me. Children in the Wilderness can touch a lot of kids and make them feel rich in fortune. Everyone has dreams and for me my dream was and still is to be a successful ambassador for my country. I can achieve this through Children in the Wilderness and Wilderness Safaris Namibia, both of which have helped me so much."*

*- Franco Morao, Namibia*







## MALAWI

Children in the Wilderness Malawi has a different challenge in that the majority of its camps do not take place in a wilderness area, but rather on the shores of Lake Malawi.

Malawi is a densely populated country where fishing



and subsistence farming are the order of the day. While the aim of the programme remains the same, the methods used must change. The children first have to pass a 'swimming test' in the pool before being taken kayaking or snorkelling, depending on their skill. This allows them to see and learn about the Lake and its denizens in a different way. As lakeside people, they see the Lake as their source of food; after camp they become aware of the challenges of dwindling resources and how to draw sustenance from the waters in a sustainable way.

*"We would like to thank you for your love and a lot of other things that you taught us. We thank you more for the games we did not know. We also learnt a lot of new skills and new knowledge. We promise to teach everything to our friends who did not go to camp. Lots of love"*

***Madalisto Sani – Malawi***

*"We would like to thank you for the way you cared of us. We also thank you for our comfortable sleeping place. While there we learnt a lot of new things. You gave us enough good food like we have never eaten. We request that you please call us again once school closes. With Love"*

***Daniel Sinkhonde – Malawi***

# NUTRITION

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## SOUTH AFRICA

The yearly programme run at Pafuri is aimed at children between the ages of 11 and 15, who are selected from the local Makuleke people to



whom the Makuleke Concession belongs. This is particularly significant, considering that this gives the children a chance to see the very land from which their grandparents were evicted so many years ago. They are able to appreciate its wealth of beauty and diversity and to learn from and be inspired by those members of their villages who have become knowledgeable guides and staff at Pafuri Camp. Children in the Wilderness' ideals of creating role models and a sense of hope in the future are thus fulfilled.



*"Pafuri Camp, miracle that you have done to me I will never forget my hole (sic) life forever. I like to say don't stop what you are doing. Go on please. Take care of the children that are coming next year and show them all what you show us this five days and teach them what you taught (sic) us. God bless you the Pafuri members and CITW staff."*

*- Helper Manganyi, CITW Pafuri 2007*



*"Thank you to CITW to be at Pafuri. Is a wonderful day seeing big five and other animals. I never forget these days: to cleaning our countries, to HIV, to swimming in the pool; to make a body clean. To not fighting. Do not kill animals... all this I learnt in the wilderness."*

*- Vukosi Chauke*





## SEYCHELLES

Since 2006, the award-winning North Island has introduced an annual Children in the Wilderness programme and has to date



hosted 66 children, allowing them the run of the island for four days at a time. North Island staff team up with The National Council for Children, a Mahé-based organisation, to run the programme, the only project of its kind in the Seychelles. The programme was designed with the specific concerns of the Seychelles in mind, the most common of which is child abuse.

With 33% of the population under the age of 18, Seychelles has an urgent need to improve the quality of life of its children as well as to inspire them to care for their environment. Thus the Children in the Wilderness programme was designed somewhat differently to those on the 'mainland' and educates the children on marine and land based environmental issues pertinent to Seychelles. It also aims to educate the children on social, health, environmental and moral issues.





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## ZAMBIA

As Wilderness Safaris expanded its presence in Zambia in the national parks of Kafue, South Luangwa, as well as around Livingstone, more



opportunities have arisen to partner with the local people in caring for and learning about our environment, with the major focus being education. The first camp, run at Lufupa Camp in the Kafue National Park, saw a group of children who had very little exposure to their wildlife and natural heritage. On a morning game drive, the children were lucky enough to come across two very large male lions, which was a highlight for all, including the Headmaster, as no one had seen a real lion before! Indeed, wildlife was not the only novelty; participant Mason told us that the best thing about camp was seeing a "Muzungu" (white person) for the first time!



*"Camp enables you to grow, you grow physical and mentally you expand your knowledge in knowing how to stand by your self. The last but not least about camp you stay away from different things that might be abusing to your well being which is every important and can be very helpful."*

*- Bridget Makamu, 14 years*

## ZIMBABWE



Given the political and economic state of the country, we believe that young Zimbabweans need hope and encouragement more than ever. Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe endeavours to fulfil the credo of 'a brighter future' for these youth through the Children in the Wilderness programme and is looking forward to implementing this programme in late 2008.





## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



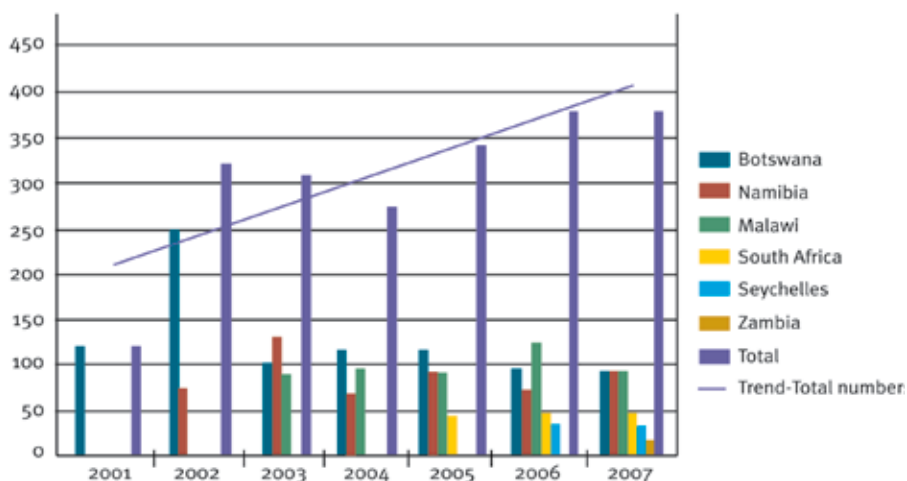
The success of the programme can be measured by:

- Street children who had previously dropped out of school and were living a life on the streets, who re-enrolled in their schools after being on the programme;
- Some previous campers returning as 'mentors in training' (one of the first camp participants is employed as a full time guide by Wilderness);
- Wonderful feedback from the children themselves, as well as guides and staff who participate in the children's camps;
- Feedback from the children's teachers, telling of the positive changes that can be seen in the children after they have attended a camp.

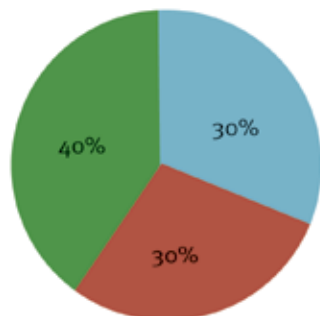


### Number of children hosted in camps

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Botswana	120	250	98	112	111	96	96	883
Namibia		72	120	72	96	78	96	534
Malawi			90	96	96	122	96	500
South Africa					40	48	45	133
Seychelles						36	30	66
Zambia							18	18
<b>Total</b>	120	322	308	280	343	380	381	2134

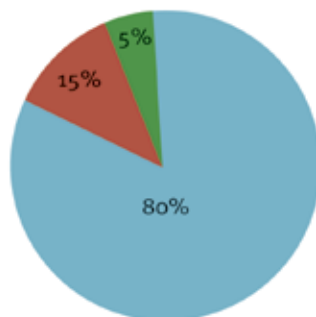


Source of funds %



■ Corporate donors  
■ Fundraising Events  
■ Individual Sponsors

Allocation of resources %



■ Programmes  
■ Follow up Programmes  
■ Administration



## HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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### Fundraising events

In addition to individual donations, Children in the Wilderness operates annual cycle tours as fundraising vehicles. Innovative bike ride events have been incredibly successful. In addition to being a unique opportunity for cyclists to ride through remote and beautiful National Parks, these events raise much-needed money for Children in the Wilderness. From time to time there are other fundraising activities arranged in

the different countries. Our website is kept updated with any forthcoming fundraising events.

### How you can help

As successful as the Children in the Wilderness programmes continue to be, the numbers of disadvantaged children and those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic are rising. There is an urgent need to grow and expand this programme and the number of its participants, so that it can have an even greater impact on African communities and reach as many children in sub-Saharan Africa as possible. With the right sponsorship, the programme has the potential to grow and make a huge contribution to the sustainability of Africa's parks and the improvement of the quality of life of her people.

Children in the Wilderness is seeking funding from partner organisations and individuals to assist in covering day-to-day camp operation expenses. There are a number of ways to help: make a donation or sponsor a complete camp programme.

Children in the Wilderness Southern Africa comprises several independent non-profit organisations throughout the region. Although Wilderness Safaris underwrites much of the programme, we do rely on charitable donations to secure vital and ongoing financial support. Our aim is to achieve operational independence in all countries to guarantee a legacy of empowerment for the children that need it most.

## Should you wish to make a donation, there are various options available:

- i. Donate to the Resource First Foundation Trust (USA). For American donors, a 501c facility is offered to ensure that the donation is tax deductible. This facility levies a 5% administration fee. Please contact Laura Mass for bank account details (Tel: 2072212753; email lmass@resourcesfirstfoundation.org). Please ensure that you specify that the donation is to be allocated to Children in the Wilderness. These funds will be available to the programme on receipt of an approved funding application.
- ii. Donate directly to the relevant Children in the Wilderness country that you wish to sponsor as per its specific bank account details.

### Children in the Wilderness Botswana

Account Name: Children in the Wilderness. Bank: First National Bank, Maun, Botswana

Account Number: 62047685443. Branch code: 282367. Branch: Maun

Swift Code: FIRNBWGX. Accountant: Clive Dreyer clived@wilderness.co.bw

Donation reference to be sent to: Helena Faasen - citw@wilderness.co.bw

### Children in the Wilderness Namibia.

Account Name: Children in the Wilderness Namibia Trust. Bank: Standard Bank Namibia.

Account Number: 241503876. Branch code: 08277200. Branch: Gustav Voigt Centre, Windhoek

Swift Code: SBNMNX. Donation reference to be sent to: Sarah Omura - citw@wilderness.com.na

### Children in the Wilderness Malawi

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

Account Number: 014/00/030375/00. Branch code: 1015 Branch: Capital City, Lilongwe

Swift Code: SBICMWMX. Donation reference to be sent to Gladys Msonda - citw@malawi.net

### Children in the Wilderness Seychelles

Please donate via the Children in the Wilderness South Africa bank account and earmark it for Children in the Wilderness Seychelles. . Donation reference to be sent to Cate Procter - catep@wilderness-safaris.com

### Children in the Wilderness South Africa

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

For South African taxpayers, donations to the above account are tax deductible through the 18A facility.

Donation reference to be sent to Heather Wilson - heatherw@wilderness.co.za

### Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe & Zambia

Account Name: Children in the Wilderness. Bank: First National Bank, Maun, Botswana

Account Number: 62177978560. Branch code: 282367. Branch: Maun

Swift Code: FIRNBWGX. Accountant: Clive Dreyer clived@wilderness.co.bw

Zimbabwe - Donation reference to be sent to Sue Goatley - sue@wilderness.co.zw

Zambia - Donation reference to be sent to Emma Seaman - emmas@wilderness.co.zm



## THANKS AND RECOGNITION

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Our heartfelt thanks go to the staff members of Wilderness Safaris, volunteers both from abroad and locally, and our fundraisers and supporters. Children in the Wilderness would not be possible without your generosity of spirit. Constraints of space do not allow us to mention every deserving name; below are just a few inspiring examples of the type of people we are truly privileged to have involved in this worthy endeavour.

### Ex-Camp Participants

Gobotswang Mokgathong is one of the true success stories of Children in the Wilderness. Gobo was first introduced to the programme as a camper in 2003 which was a life-changing experience. He returned to camp as a mentor-in-training in 2005 and again in 2007 as a mentor and tent leader. Gobo, a true inspiration on camp for both children and adults, is currently doing a course in Tourism and Hospitality.

Lazerus Petrus is an alumnus of two Children in the Wilderness camps who went on an eight-week tour of Namibia with a group of Australians called OzQuest. He had some amazing experiences – building a community garden at Serra Cafema Camp and an elephant crib (waterhole) near Tsumkwe, amongst others. He passed his Grade 10 with flying colours and has started his Grade 11 at Mweshipandeka Senior Secondary School in Ongwediva. His plans are to be a guide for Wilderness Safaris and work his way up to being a manager.

### Wilderness Safaris Staff Member

Leso Ramagapedi has been an invaluable member of the Children in the Wilderness team in Botswana since the first camp at Vumbura Plains in 2000. He started out as a tent leader and is currently the acting Assistant Camp Coordinator. Leso's experience with Children in the Wilderness resulted in him being accepted into a Walt Disney Exchange Programme where he acted as a guide for the African animal section in Disney World in Florida. Leso is employed by Wilderness Safaris at Vumbura Plains and joins Children in the Wilderness every year for the camp season.

### Volunteers, supporters and ambassadors

"The more I read about CITW, the more I admired the work being done. I wanted to be a part of it. I wanted to give back to Botswana. But I didn't know how. Then finding Children in the Wilderness through Paul Newman's website felt like a call from God. It was a perfect fit." - Vee Romero

"I would also like to say a huge THANK YOU for allowing me the privilege of being part of the Tour de Kruger. Not only for the selfish reasons of being there to have fun (which I did in bucketloads!), but also to be part of something unique and special and something that will have a far-reaching impact in the lives of many people." - Mike White

"The aim of our expedition is to paddle the length of the Okavango, from its source in the Benguela Plateau in the highlands of Angola, across Namibia and into Botswana where it ends as the world famous Okavango Delta, eventually filtering into Botswana's Kalahari sands..." - Rod Wilson, Clinton Edwards and Mark Hill, raising funds for Children in the Wilderness.



Children in the Wilderness Southern Africa – Regional Project Coordinator

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Endorsed by:

