

CHILDREN IN THE
WILDERNESS



A brighter future

MALAWI

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Children in the Wilderness is an environmental and life skills educational programme that focuses on the next generation of rural decision makers. It is 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 in them a passion for the environment so that they become the custodians of these wilderness areas in the future.

Children in the Wilderness runs a network of learning sanctuaries that develop leadership values in Africa's children, creating community leaders who are inspired to care for their natural heritage and can show others the way. Children in the Wilderness exposes 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.

Children in the Wilderness began with on-safari discussions between the late actor, Paul Newman, and Wilderness Safaris in August 2001. Newman's organisation, The Association of Hole in the Wall Camps and Wilderness Safaris combined forces to create a new rural African children's environmental and life skills programme. In December 2001, Children in the Wilderness ran its first successful camp in Botswana and has not looked back since.



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For weeks at a time, Wilderness closes its camps to paying guests and hosts rural children across seven southern African countries. We invite groups of between 16 - 45 rural children to spend five nights in camp and to take part in a life skills and environmental educational programme. The programme covers topics such as wildlife and conservation, health and nutrition, life skills, creativity and culture through participation in a variety of activities including game drives, interactive workshops, arts and crafts and various other fun but educational games. A career guidance session is also vital, where the children get to spend time with our chefs, mechanics and guides, exposing them to a range of different career options.

All of the above topics and camp interactions are underpinned with sound leadership values that include awareness, creativity, integrity, perseverance, service, focus and empathy. We believe these values are the moral fibre of all good leaders.

The outcome of the programme is 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.



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Children in the Wilderness Malawi was launched in 2003. Some of the children who attended the first Children in the Wilderness camp are returning, this time as mentors - taking their turn to teach the children in their communities the importance of conservation.

Danford Manda came to one of the Children in the Wilderness camps in 2004, here Children in the Wilderness recognized his potential and supported him through school. Danford is now employed by Wilderness Safaris Malawi and has been exposed to all the different lodge departments so that he can learn different skills and find the position that he is best suited.

Future planning is one of the programmes most popular activities at camp. The children interview all the staff, from cleaner to manager, to gain an understanding of the importance of their roles. Another vital topic covered in our Children in the Wilderness camps in Malawi is the sustainable use of Lake water. Due to the proximity of Lake Malawi and other lakes within the country, learning to swim is one of the life skills taught.



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"In the middle of Malawi in the rainy season, a group sit around a fire on cool, white sand on the banks of the enormous Lake Malawi all singing softly in Tonga. The full moon seems to laugh as it rises out of the still black water. The fire crackles and the 24 children of about 10 years old and their mentors listen transfixed as Matthews, a guide at Mvuu Camp and volunteer with Children in the Wilderness, tells the children the following: "Don't be afraid of learning. You have come here to have fun but also to learn and learning is the best thing in life. Don't be afraid of it."

- Anonymous



NUMBER OF CHILDREN-IN-CAMP NIGHTS HOSTED ON
CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS, PER COUNTRY, PER ANNUM



NUMBER OF CHILDREN HOSTED FROM 2001 TO 2011

Country	First Camp Held	Total No of Children	Total no of Children-in-Camp-Nights
Botswana	2001	1347	6703
Namibia	2002	862	3900
Malawi	2003	732	3579
South Africa	2005	403	1972

Country	First Camp Held	Total No of Children	Total no of Children-in-Camp-Nights
Seychelles	2006	126	378
Zambia	2007	258	1290
Zimbabwe	2008	332	1660
Total		4065	19482

HOW YOU CAN HELP



While the Children in the Wilderness programme continues to be successful, there is still an urgent need to grow and expand the programme for greater impact and to reach as many children in sub-Saharan Africa as possible. With the right sponsorship, the programme has the potential to make a huge contribution to the sustainability of Africa's parks and wildlife.

If you would be interested in helping us with our programme, below is a list of areas where you can help:

- Donations in kind, such as services or products which would assist the programme
- Sponsor a Children in the Wilderness child through secondary education
- Sponsor a Children in the Wilderness Camp
- Volunteer or participate in a Fundraising Event
- Become a Fundraising Ambassador
- Monetary donations to assist in covering the day-to-day camp operation expenses.

Monetary donations can be sealed in an envelope and handed to your camp manager. If you wish to make a transfer to the Children in the Wilderness Malawi bank account, the details follow:

Account Name:	Children in the Wilderness
Bank:	Standard Bank, City Centre Branch
Account Number:	014/00/030375/00
Branch Code:	08277200
Branch:	Capital City, Lilongwe
Swift Code:	SBIC MWMX

Donation reference to be sent to Symon Chibaka - citw@wilderness.mw

We would love to keep you updated on our programme so please let us know your name and email address and you will receive regular updates. For any further information on the programme please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your kind support.

Symon Chibaka
Programme Coordinator

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*"In the end we will conserve only what we love,
We will love only what we understand,
We will understand only what we are taught"*

– Baba Dioum



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