

CHILDREN IN THE  
WILDERNESS



A brighter future

# NAMIBIA



# 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 Safaris 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.



# CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Children in the Wilderness Namibia began in 2002 and hosts approximately 90 children annually, the country's beautiful landscapes being the platform for CITW's experiential learning programmes. Programme sessions include habitat and species conservation, human-animal conflict, particularly elephant and rhino, HIV/AIDS and sexual rights, prevention of alcohol abuse, art, sports, and envisioning one's future career path.

One of the favourite camp activities is the Elephant Walk, where the children examine elephant tracks and make plaster casts of the tracks. This activity includes the exploration of the conflict between local communities and elephants. The children are given the opportunity to express the challenges that they face, such as elephants raiding crops. In response to this, the guides are able to teach the children about responsible methods of preventing elephants and other wildlife from raiding their crops.

Follow-up Programmes for past participants take the learning experience to a higher level. An advanced programme is offered to older children returning to camp, tackling issues including HIV/AIDS, water conservation, biodiversity and job creation. Some CITW alumni return to camps as junior leaders and school graduates can attend the Wilderness Guide Training Course: two former CITW participants are now permanently employed at Wilderness.



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*"I will remember the games and the friends that I met and the wild animals and the food and dancing and the dramas. I was very happy and I was not feeling alone."*

Richard, 15 years, Windhoek

*"My favourite activity was the game drives and walks because I learned so much. I am going to go home and teach all my friends about what I learned, especially about HIV."*

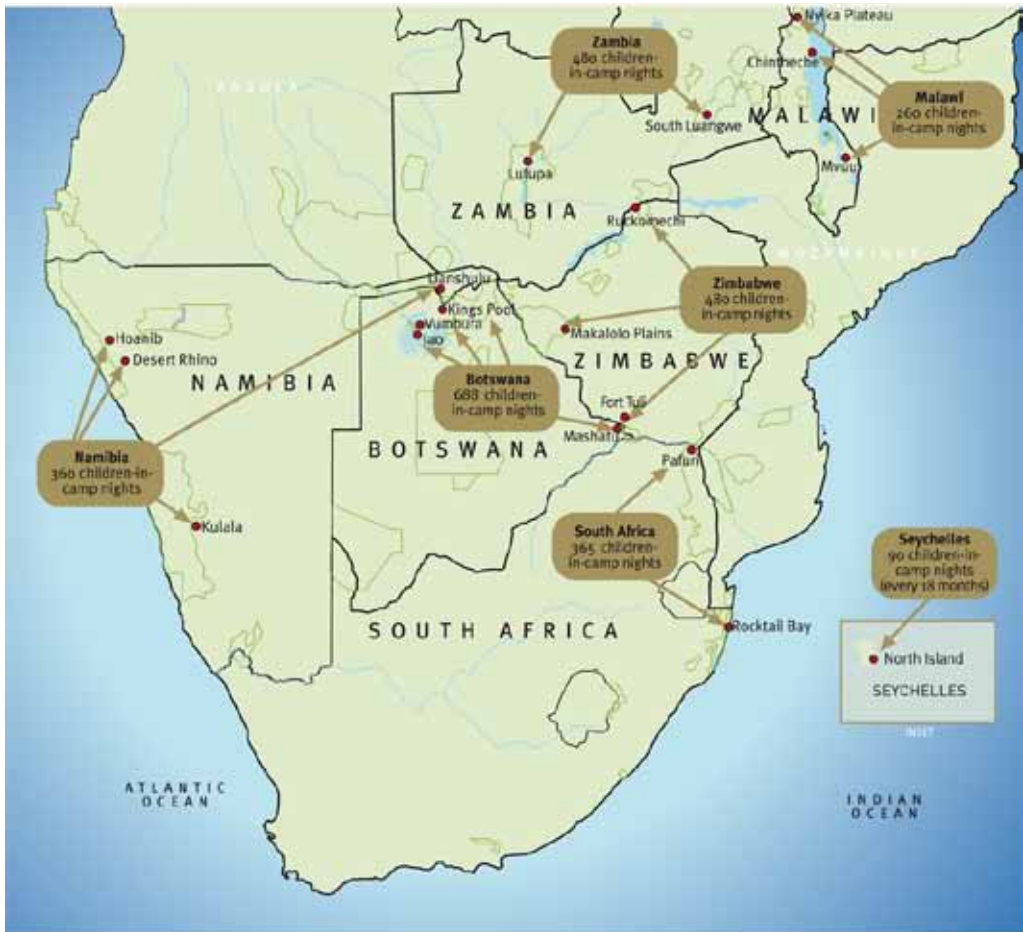
Teapot, 12 years, Warmquelle

*"I learned how the tok tokkie drinks water. I also learned where the name Namibia comes from. Now I have the knowledge about my environment. Thank you Wilderness for giving me this time. Thank you for the chef".*

Aloysius



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	737	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
<b>Total</b>		<b>4065</b>	<b>19482</b>

# 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 Namibia bank account, the details follow:

Registration Number	21/2004/487
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 Kim Awbrey: [citw@wilderness.com.na](mailto:citw@wilderness.com.na)

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.

Kim Awbrey  
Programme Coordinator



*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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[www.childreninthewilderness.com](http://www.childreninthewilderness.com)