

CHILDREN IN THE
WILDERNESS



A brighter future



BOTSWANA



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 one of the programmes that 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 actor, the late 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 their first successful camp in Botswana and has not looked back since.



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For weeks at a time, Wilderness Safaris close their 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 partake in a life skills and environmental educational programme. The programme covers topics such as wildlife and conservation, health & 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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Over the years, *Children in the Wilderness* has gained momentum and grown in stature and we are very excited about the opportunities and possibilities that await us.

Children in the Wilderness Botswana is now excited to see some of the first participants that we hosted at the *Children in the Wilderness* camps in 2001 returning to a career in conservation and tourism. One of these, Guitseone Monnawaphuthego is currently working in the Okavango Delta as a waiter - ‘... the love for nature conservation culminated when I was firstly made aware of the importance of nature conservation through the *Children in the Wilderness* programme...’

Children in the Wilderness Botswana has also started an Environmental Stewardship Programme. This is a secondary programme aimed at children who have participated in the initial *Children in the Wilderness* camp and have shown a keen interest and aptitude in the tourism and conservation industry. These children are invited back on the Environmental Stewardship Programme which offers more in-depth learning. The programme focuses on new topics as well as revisiting subjects from the initial camp. Some of the topics covered are ‘Conservation in our Communities’, ‘Environmental Awareness’, ‘Survival in the Bush’, ‘Animal Adaptations’, ‘The Tourism Industry in Botswana’ and ‘HIV/AIDS’.



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"I learnt how termites, elephants and hippos are important in the Delta. I learnt how to play games. I learnt what teamwork means example helping others. I learnt how tourism is important in our country e.g it creates employment and its source of income. I learnt how wild animals live together in the same place. I learnt that female lions are mostly the ones who hunt. After they hunt the male ones are the ones who eats first. I learnt how to make friends. I learnt that tourism is created in two ways they are photographic safari and hunting safari. I learnt that water lilies are created in two ways. I learnt that we should not have unprotected sex when we are young. I learnt that we should not kill wild animals. I learnt that we should not be poachers. I learnt new songs"

- Onneetse Oageng 11 yrs - Botswana



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
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 bank account, the details follow:

Registration Number:	55127
Account Name:	Children in the Wilderness
Bank:	First National Bank, Maun, Botswana
Account Number:	62047685443
Branch code:	282367
Branch:	Maun
Swift Code:	FIRNBWGX

Donation reference to be sent to Geoffrey Aupiti: geoffreya@wilderness.co.bw

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.

Geoffrey Aupiti
Camp Director



*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