

CHILDREN IN THE
WILDERNESS



A brighter future

LIMPOPO VALLEY

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 actualize 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 since then it has been rolled out in seven Southern African countries.





The Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley programme was initiated as a direct result of the mountain bike fundraising event, the Tour de Tuli, which traverses the Trans Frontier Conservation Area. The intent of the Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley programme is to host children from the surrounding areas.

The Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley programme is hosted at Mashatu Tent Camp, Tuli Wilderness Trails and Tuli Safari Lodge, with the hope and anticipation that it will be expanded into the other regions of the TFCA. The camps are closed to guests and children from the surrounding areas are selected 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 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.

The outcome of the programme is a win-win for all. The children are inspired to strive to achieve their utmost potential and their enthusiasm and new ideas rub off on their families and communities thus ensuring that critically threatened environments are preserved.



CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

The first Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley camp took place in 2010 at Mashatu Tented Camp and followed shortly thereafter with a camp at Tuli Wilderness Trails in December 2010.

The Limpopo Valley programme is run by Mashatu Game Reserve, Tuli Wilderness Trails and Tuli Safari Lodge staff who fulfill other roles in the camps, but are passionate about the programme and the children. We hope that as the programme expands more staff will be trained and we will be able to reach more children, especially through the Follow-up Programme.

Two members of staff have been appointed as community workers who spend one day every month at the schools with the children, trying to help them with various projects as well as acting as role models and mentors during this crucial stage in the children's lives and schooling. Some of the projects that the programme is working on within the schools include starting vegetable and herb gardens with the aim that in time, these gardens will supply the neighbouring camps and in so doing help the communities with the revenue for the purchasing of books and uniforms and the maintenance of school classrooms.





"For the first time in my life during camp I saw a owl. I was so happy to see owl. I remember of some animals, trees and bird."

Magdeline, 11

"I will always remember about different things that they teach me about wildlife and animals. I will never forget about the protection of wild animals trees and birds." Casly Ramonwana, 12

"For the first time in my life during camp I saw the place of peace and love." Sylvia, 11

"I am a person who aims that when I grow up I want to be a lion researcher like uncle Andria." Gaone, 11



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



Whilst 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.

Funding of the programme is undertaken by Mashatu Game Reserve, Tuli Wilderness Trails, Tuli Safari Lodge and also through kind donations from our guests and corporate sponsors.

If you wish to make a transfer to the Children in the Wilderness bank account, the details follow:

Account Name:	Children in the Wilderness – Limpopo Valley
Bank:	First National Bank
Account Number:	62278720886
Branch Code:	285067
Branch:	Selebi Phikwe
Donation reference to be sent to Tanya McKenzie: tanya@wildnetafrica.com	

We would love to keep you updated about the 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.

Tanya McKenzie
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



E-mail Address: tanya@wildnetafrica.com

Contact Number: +27 (0) 82 417 0434

Fax Number: +27 (0) 0866 711 227

www.childreninthewilderness.com