

CHILDREN IN THE  
WILDERNESS



A brighter future

SOUTH AFRICA

# 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.



# SOUTH AFRICA



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 South Africa hosts two annual camps – one at Pafuri Camp in northern Kruger National Park (for children of the Makuleke community who own the land on which Pafuri is built) and the other at Rocktail Beach Camp in the lush coastal forest of KwaZulu Natal’s iSimangaliso Wetland Park (for the children of the neighbouring KwaMqobela and KwaMpukane communities).

The curriculum covers relevant and important topics of conservation, HIV/AIDS awareness, nutrition, sustainable fishing, littering, the concepts of ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ and ecotourism. At Rocktail Beach Camp, the children from this community face different environmental issues than those living adjacent to the Kruger Park. Over-fishing and sea pollution are some of these challenges and therefore we focus on these and similar key factors of the community and their immediate surroundings.

Apart from the camps themselves which host 70 children per annum, we also oversee the running of Environmental Clubs in the Makuleke community. We are hoping to do the same in the schools around Rocktail Beach Camp. This ensures that the learning from camp is sustained and enhanced. These clubs are run by teachers at the schools in conjunction with a community liaison and Children in the Wilderness assists with providing the curriculum, logistics, transport and materials.





*"The miracle that you have done to me I will never forget in my whole life forever. I want 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 that you showed us and teach them what you taught us."*

H Manganyi – Children in the Wilderness Participant.

*"One thing I will always remember about camp I feel strong and healthy I feel happy I feel good".*

Gerald Mthombeni, 13 years, Pafuri Camp 2010

*"This place is a small heaven I imagine."*

Sline, 13 years, Rocktail Beach Camp 2008



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
<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 South Africa bank account, the details follow:

Registration Number:	2004/024727/08
Account Name:	Children in the Wilderness
Bank:	Standard Bank
Account Number:	023031735
Branch Code:	001255
Branch:	Rivonia
ABA routing No. use Swift code	SBZAZAJJ

Donation reference to be sent to Janet Wilkinson – [janetw@wilderness.co.za](mailto:janetw@wilderness.co.za)

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.

Janet Wilkinson  
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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