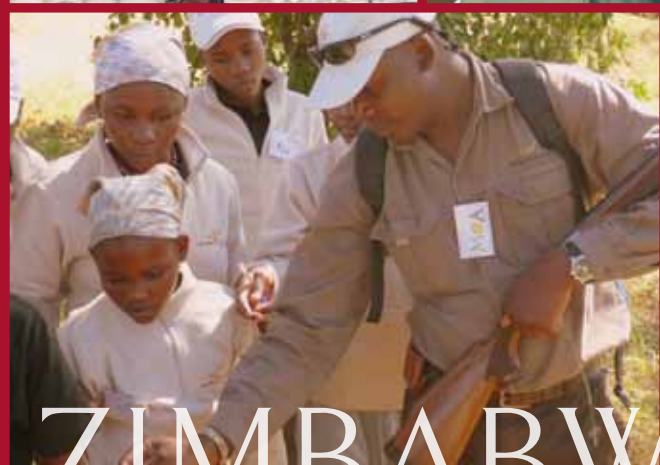


CHILDREN IN THE  
WILDERNESS



A brighter future

# ZIMBABWE

# 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.



# CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

The first Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe camp took place in 2008 at Linkwasha Camp, Hwange National Park. Since then the programme has grown from strength to strength.

Due to the unique situation in Zimbabwe, it was decided that instead of establishing a Follow-Up programme, Children in the Wilderness should rather support and assist the local schools, which generally are very short of resources.

From this was born our Education Rehabilitation Programmes which include:

1. Feeding Programmes – providing a meal a day for the four schools in which Children in the Wilderness is involved, thus encouraging many children to return to school.
2. Teacher Support – assisting with teacher salaries and incentives. Thanks to our feeding programme, the schools now have students but a limited amount of teachers, so ‘O’ and ‘A’ level school-leavers from the community were pulled in to help teach, under instruction from the Headmasters. Recently, qualified teachers have begun to return.
3. Improvement of Facilities and Educational Tools – After a full survey of the four schools under our umbrella, it was decided to work on improving the buildings, classroom equipment, textbooks and stationery.



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*"...We learned a lot, on how to share responsibility to use our natural resources wisely and to conserve our beautiful flora and fauna. When I met these children they had had no teacher for quite a while ... The bible says 'the stone that was rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone.' And so it is with this in mind I took on the task of helping them have a better tomorrow. As their teacher I see these children have shown a lot of improvement. Thank you all so much for the big positive contribution to their lives. May the Lord God bless you, keep you and cause his face to shine on you".*

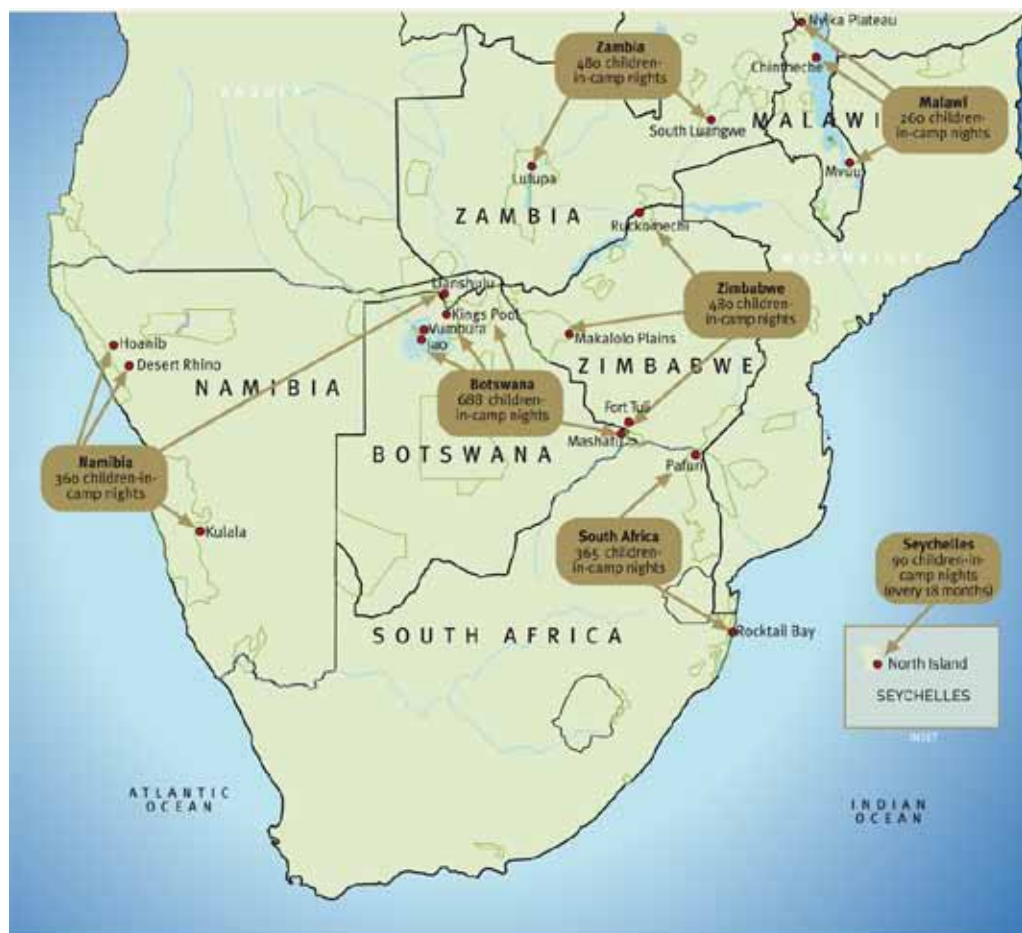
*- Bakanani Sibanda, Acting Deputy Head, Mpindo Primary School –*

*Zimbabwe*





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 may make a transfer to the Children in the Wilderness bank account, the details follow:

Account Name:	Children in the Wilderness
Bank:	First National Bank, Maun, Botswana
Account Number:	62177978560
Branch code:	282367
Branch:	Maun
Swift Code:	FIRNBWGX

Donation reference to be sent to Sue Goatley: [sue@wilderness.co.zw](mailto:sue@wilderness.co.zw)

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.

Sue Goatley  
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: [sue@wilderness.co.zw](mailto:sue@wilderness.co.zw)

Contact Number: + 263 13 43371/2/3

Fax Number: + 263 13 45942

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