

ANNUAL REPORT

2011





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If we have left anyone out, this has not been intentional and we apologise.

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Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust supports a wide variety of projects in southern Africa, within the categories of wildlife management, research and education. These projects address the needs of existing wildlife populations, seek solutions to save endangered species and provide education and training for local people and their communities.

The goal of the Trust is to make a difference to Africa, her wildlife and her people.

About the Trust

Since its formation, the Wilderness Trust has supported a wide variety of wildlife management, research and education projects in southern Africa, making use of a number of methods and types of projects to do so.

One kind of project studies and monitors a particular species in its natural environment and in so doing also contributes to its protection. The long-running Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta, Botswana, and the Wild Dog Research Project in Zimbabwe are cases in point. Ecosystem and vegetation research is one variation on this theme, with hands-on management and aerial censuses others.

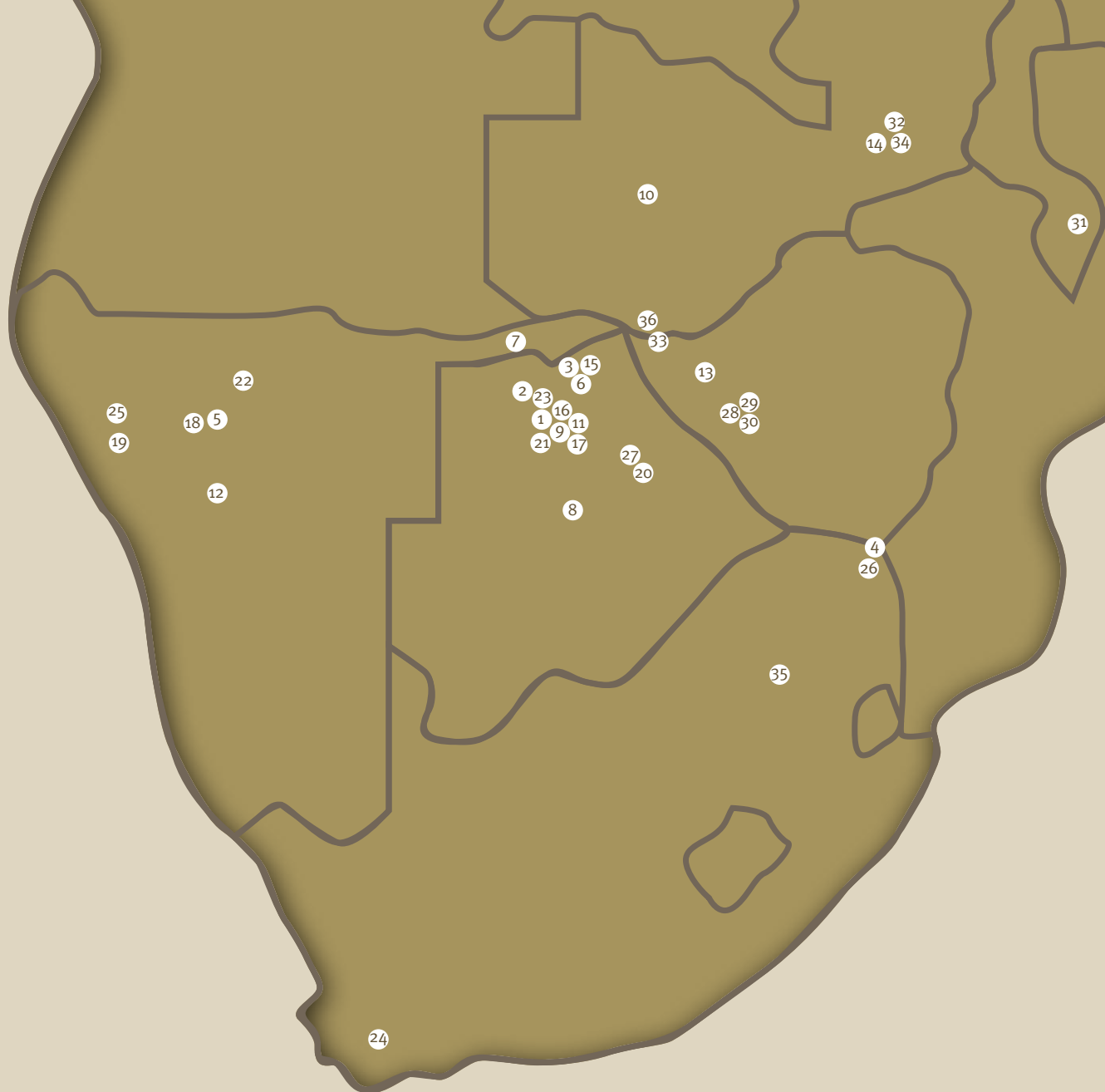
Study of a species sounds like a purely academic pursuit, but within such investigation lie the seeds for its protection and survival. The better we understand a species and its environment, the more efficiently we'll be able to protect it in a world where the struggle for space becomes paramount and human-animal interactions become increasingly conflicted. Most of the Trust's projects have this as an ultimate objective and some amazing headway has been made, for example in the Lake Ngami Bird Monitoring Project, which brought the Lake and this Important Bird Area (IBA) to the attention of the Botswana government, resulting in its being declared a "no-hunting area."

The Trust is involved financially in a number of such projects, supporting research, habitat management, and practical conservation measures such as anti-poaching projects, while Wilderness Safaris contributes logistically in terms of human resources and equipment.

But conservation of flora and fauna is limited as long as the people who live in the vicinity are unconvinced or left out of the process. Financial and educational empowerment of local communities so that they benefit from the wildlife on their doorsteps is therefore vital, and as such, broad-based and comprehensive initiatives are in fact the bedrock of the Trust, providing skills, knowledge and education necessary to communities to value and manage their wildlife populations.

Rounding off this educational goal, the Trust supports students, schools via grants and bursaries, along with the support of Wilderness Safaris as an acknowledged leader in innovative formal and informal education projects. It also assists in funding the Children in the Wilderness programme, thus supporting its aim of educating the youth of Africa, inspiring and assisting them in preserving their magnificent natural heritage.

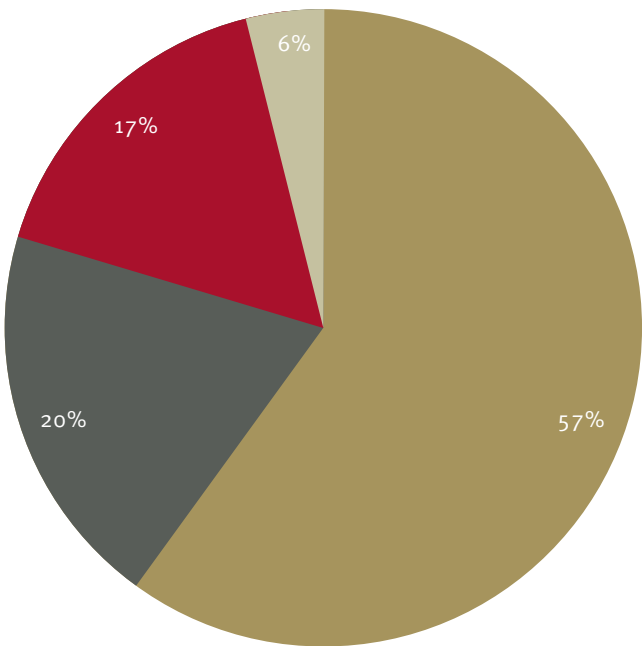




Trust Project Locations

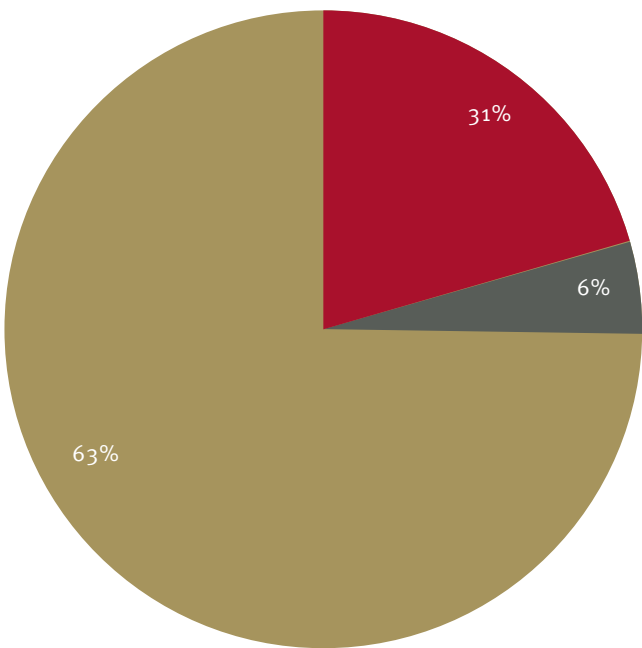
1. Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction Project
2. Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta
3. Linyanti Elephant and Biodiversity Project
4. Makuleke Transboundary Elephant Movements
5. Namibia Elephant Population Dynamics Project
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Distribution of Funds



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, FINANCIAL YEAR: 2010/11

- Research and Conservation
- Community Empowerment and Education
- Anti-Poaching and Management
- Administration (brochure, website, printing)



SOURCE OF FUNDS, FINANCIAL YEAR: 2010/11

- Wilderness Safaris Guests/Direct
- Wilderness Safaris
- Wilderness Warmers

From the Trustees

The past year has again been an extremely rewarding one and we have been gratified to be able to continue to act as an efficient and cost-effective funding agency for some 36 important conservation projects all over southern Africa as well as to our partners in the Wilderness stable – Children in the Wilderness (CITW). We are thrilled that this year we have decided to publish a joint annual report with CITW and feel that the combined presentation of the work of both these entities is greater than the sum of its parts.

The 2010/11 financial year again presented challenging economic circumstances the world over and the Trust was not immune to these pressures. Nonetheless we have held steady in terms of funds raised and disbursed over the past 12 months when compared with the 2009/10 financial year, and for this we owe a deep debt of gratitude to our many funders, whether individuals, companies, institutions or other bodies. Thank you. We were in fact delighted to have hosted several private donors this past year on field trips to various locations for elephant collaring, rhino monitoring and other operations. Being able to participate in these activities is tangible and rewarding and we hope that this is a trend that will continue.

On a more disappointing note – especially in light of the huge escalation in rhino poaching in southern Africa – we have again this year not been able to secure the translocation of a small black rhino population from Zimbabwe to bolster Botswana's only wild population in the Moremi Game Reserve. This is a long-running project to which we remain committed. Nonetheless the past year saw us continue funding to several long-running projects but also contribute to a number of exciting new initiatives that we feel have huge potential to drive large conservation initiatives. Elephants Without Borders (page 13), the Kafue Lion Project (page 17), new spotted hyaena (page 20) and roan antelope (page 22) projects and an investigation into the large mammal usage of a Ramsar site (page 33) are all new associations for the Trust and we have high hopes for the outcomes of these projects.

Once again we have focused our funding in three key areas: i) research and conservation, ii) community empowerment and education, and iii) anti-poaching and management. The proportion of funds released into these areas can be seen on the facing page.

The last category of the pie chart illustrating distribution of funds on the facing page is that of administration cost. Over the past year some 6% of funds received were used for administration costs such as the production and distribution of the Annual Report you are holding in your hands, the revamping of the website (www.wildernesstrust.com), and the production of awareness-raising collateral such as vehicle decals. This figure rose from 3% in the 2009/10 year but is still exceptionally low for an entity such as the Trust and is a figure of which we are justly proud.

Keeping our cost base so low is largely a result of the support of the Wilderness group of companies (Safaris; Adventures; Explorations; Air; Collection) who – aside from covering direct financial costs – are generous providers of enormous logistical support without which we could simply not operate. We are indebted to their support and promotion of the Trust and are proud to be part of Wilderness' slogan line: "For the long run."

Once again this year we have also received very generous support from partners such as our auditors (Deloitte & Touche), legal advisors (Bell-Dewar), web designers (Buynary Digital), printers (Colorpress) and Amos Eno and Angela Bellegarde from the Resources First Foundation. Last but not least we could have achieved very little without the individuals who have devoted and donated so much of their time and commitment to the efficient running of the Trust: administrator Mari dos Santos, accountant Richard van der Wel, advisor Chris Roche and editor Ilana Stein. We are also very grateful for the time and efforts of Wilderness designers and writers, Mary-Anne van der Byl, Ulrike van der Hoven, Martin Benadie and Monica Jooste for their tireless working in creating yet another spectacular annual report and for keeping the website up to date.

Lastly a sincere thank you to all our donors and supporters as well as those field workers dedicated to African conservation. We look forward to a great year ahead.

Russel Friedman, Andrew Leontsinis & Dr. Jennifer Lalley

Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction

Coordinators: Kai Collins, Map Ives & Simon Dures



During 2010 the rhino monitoring team, comprising ‘Poster’ Mpho Malongwa, ‘George’ Njunja James, Mohaladi Sarefo, Simon Dures and Kai Collins, kept up with all the rhinos and recorded a few more births which is wonderful news, proving that the animals have settled down well in this area. The monitoring was carried out in close collaboration with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, the Anti-Poaching Unit and the Botswana Defence Force.

Joint monitoring patrols with the DWNP Anti-Poaching Unit are achieving good results, and are also successful in tracking rhino as they move further away into new areas to find the best grazing. Thanks to the project, breeding populations of both African rhino species have been re-established in the Okavango Delta, and aside from the value that is added to world rhino numbers and population distributions, guests visiting Wilderness Safaris and other camps have the privilege of encountering rhino on game drives – an encounter that enhances the concept of changing lives of people and Africa.

The main drive of the project now is to raise funds to acquire more black rhino in order to form a healthy founder population in the Okavango Delta. With a large enough population of black rhino to make up a minimum viable population, it is hoped that they will begin reproducing and re-expanding their range into parts of Botswana where they have not been seen in many years.

The Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project is a true success story: Collaborative conservation efforts between Wilderness Safaris, Wilderness Wildlife Trust, Botswana’s Department of Wildlife (DWNP) and the Botswana Government have realised a dream with the successful reintroduction of black and white rhino into the Mombo area of the Moremi Game Reserve and elsewhere in the Okavango Delta.

Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta

Researcher: Anna Songhurst

The third year of the project has progressed well in 2010 and the project write-up phase has now commenced.

Only 185 fields were raided in 2010 compared to 208 in 2009 and 413 in 2008. A detailed comparison of raided and non-raided fields over the past three years was conducted. 12 elephants were killed in 2010, with a total of 27 killed as problem animals over the past three years in the eastern Okavango Panhandle.

The project trained and employed 12 enumerators in 2010 from the 12 main villages in the study area. Ground-transect surveys collected data on the spatial use of elephants, people and livestock and 589 detailed interviews were conducted with farmers from elephant-raided and non-raided fields, contributing to a total of 942 interviews conducted over the past three years. Farmers were generally very cooperative.

A comprehensive aerial survey took place in July in collaboration with Elephants Without Borders, covering NG11, NG12 and NG13, finding a population of approximately 14 800 elephants in the area.

Two training workshops for farmers took place, the first providing theory and practical training in Conservation Agriculture (CA) techniques. CA enables farmers to establish smaller, permanent fields that produce higher harvest yields than traditional fields, whilst conserving soil quality and water through minimum tillage and mulching techniques. Smaller fields are easier to protect from wildlife damage especially when used in combination with mitigation techniques. The second workshop discussed current methods and taught new methods of community-based conflict management, including the use of chilli pepper as an elephant deterrent.



Linyanti Elephant and Biodiversity Project

Researcher: Gabriella Teren

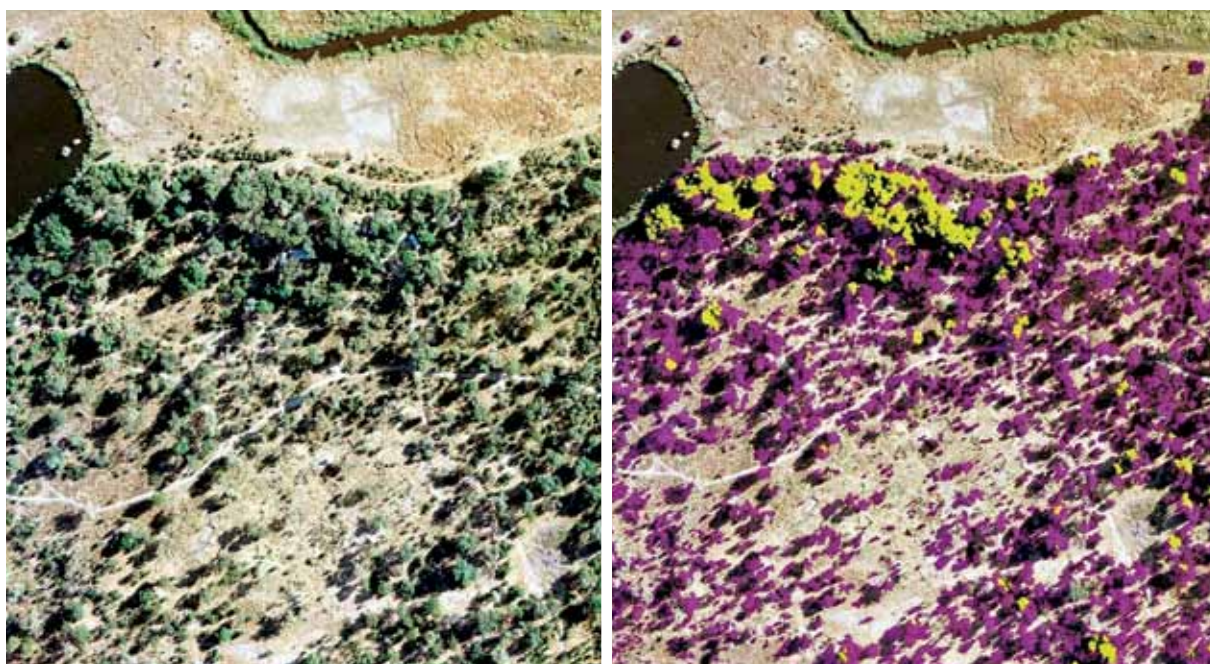
This project assesses the effect of concentrated elephant impact on biodiversity, incorporating the paradigm that savannahs are non-equilibrium systems, by looking at the system over large spatial and long temporal scales. The advantage of this study is the existence of high resolution (1:10 000) aerial photographs taken in 1992 and 2001 covering 50km of riparian woodland and 18 years of data. 2010 saw an opportunity to replace problematic 2008 aerial photographs with new images, sponsored in part by the Trust. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data was acquired at the same time; a laser is used to create a super-accurate 3D image, and as the laser penetrates the canopy, this includes shrubs underneath trees – a vital component of savannah structure.

Extensive fieldwork was completed in December 2009, with over 10 000 trees, shrubs and seedlings identified, measured and GPSed. Adding to the historical 1992 and 2001 aerial photographs, over 30 000 individual dead canopy trees have been mapped across the 50km long woodland, with identification of dead trees in the 2010 images underway.

Results so far show that acacias have largely disappeared from the canopy tree layer through debarking by elephants. Whilst seedlings of some canopy trees are found, these do not survive to replace parent trees, and conversion from woodland to shrubland has occurred. A single shrub species, *Combretum mossambicense*, has annexed the woodland, comprising over 50% of the total number of individuals taller than 2.5m. As such this indigenous shrub is behaving as an invasive and is apparently more of a threat to biodiversity than the decline in canopy trees.

Preliminary investigations using OBIA (Object Based Image Analysis, where artificial intelligence creates a tree from a group of pixels) point to exciting results showing where tree canopy cover declines, where shrub canopy cover increases, and the intensity of these changes, pointing to possible causes.

This research is primed to effectively increase our understanding of long-term, spatially explicit savannah dynamics, driven by disturbance, and climate (both long-term, and anthropogenic-induced change) at the scale needed for regional planning and biodiversity management.



Object Based Image Analysis of a riparian site adjacent to Kings Pool Camp on the Linyanti fault line.

Makuleke Transboundary Elephant Movements

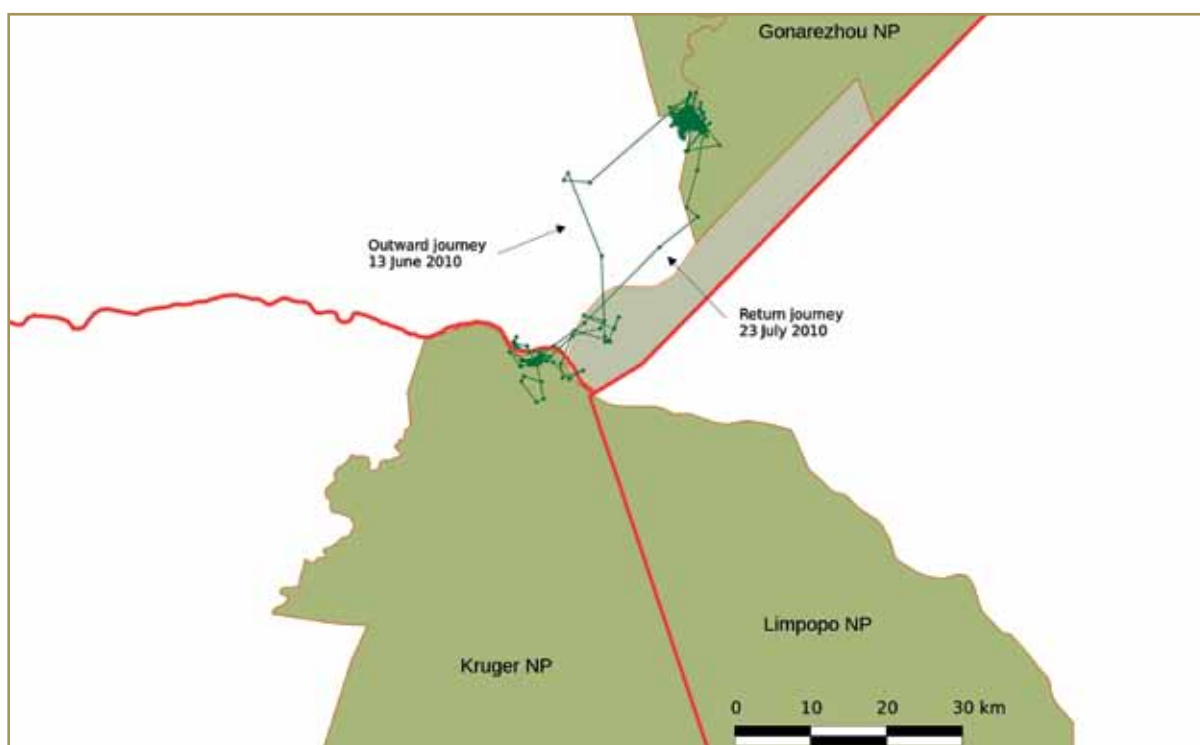
Researchers: Dr. Steve Henley, Dr. Michelle Henley, Chris Roche & Walter Jubber

Between 2005 and 2008 Wilderness Safaris guides noted that elephants were common during the dry season within the Pafuri region of the northern Kruger National Park (KNP), but practically disappeared with the first rains. Save the Elephants (STE), involved in elephant research in the Park, was approached and a collaborative research project was initiated with two primary objectives: to determine 1) where the elephants move to in the wet summer months and 2) if there was any linkage between these and elephants in Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, to be included within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP).

The project is gathering data, primarily from GPS collars placed on 12 elephants, tracking their movements for the past year and into 2011, and bolstered by observations in the field by Pafuri Camp guides using an elephant identification study. Based on patterns of nicks and tears in elephant ears, a register of known individuals that contains 82 bulls and 10 family groups has been developed.

Initial results suggest that the elephants move south of the Luvuvhu River when the rains come. This raises the question why they only use the Pafuri area in the dry season? Are there key resources here that enable them to get through the relatively hard winter months, a seasonal stepping stone? Are they constrained by the rising Limpopo and Luvuvhu Rivers which bound the area in the north and south and want to avoid getting trapped between these when the waters rise in summer? Another full year's data is needed before any real patterns in their movements can be established which may elucidate the motivation.

In February 2010 sightings records were gathered in Gonarezhou NP to compare against the Pafuri register to determine what percentage of elephants observed in southern Gonarezhou are known from northern Kruger NP. Already one of the six collared bulls has made a return journey from KNP to Gonarezhou, providing some insight into the possible route elephants may follow when moving between these two. This will be important information in designing the Sengwe Wildlife Corridor to link these two areas and bring Gonarezhou into the GLTP.



The movement path of a GPS-collared elephant bull, 'Gila', between Kruger National Park, South Africa and Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe. Location points were recorded at an eight hour interval.

Namibia Elephant Population Dynamics

Researchers: Werner Killian & Dr. Conrad Brain

INTEGRATING ELEPHANT POPULATION DYNAMICS, DEMOGRAPHY AND ANTHRAX IN NORTH-WESTERN NAMIBIA

With over a thousand elephants now photographed from the air for demographic purposes this project is in its final phase. Namibian elephant herds from Kaudum westwards across northern Namibia have been photographed from the air and age determination of these herds is nearing completion. The challenge for this past year has been to record as many elephants as possible in the arid north-western regions of Namibia.

Elephants in this region are particularly difficult to find, but by combining our efforts with other aerial operations in the area, we have been particularly successful in recording the animals without spending huge amounts on aircraft hire in searching for these elusive herds. This approach has inevitably prolonged the project so as to allow us to make use of helicopter and aircraft time as other opportunities presented. The actual measurements of the elephants for age determination are being undertaken at the Etosha Ecological Institute and the University of California Berkley.

Determination of mortality factors amongst these elephants has remained a focus to assess the influence of anthrax on the elephant herds along an east-west gradient across Namibia. To compliment this project, 21 elephants in the north-west were collared with GPS transmitters which will allow for accurate follow-up on selected herds and provide accurate movement data of these elephants.



Elephants Without Borders

Researchers: Dr. Michael Chase & Kelly Landon



After 27 dry years, in May 2008, the Savute Channel started to flow again and by January 2010, water was entering the Savute Marsh. Elephants now make use of this river along its entire length, feeding on the surrounding vegetation as they move between the Mababe Depression and the Linyanti River.

This study, a collaboration between the Trust and the Botswana-based conservation charity Elephants Without Borders, investigates the movements of elephants through satellite collaring. Through the generous assistance of Wilderness Safaris guests Madeleine Delman Cohen and Jeffery Neu, we were able to collar two elephant cows and one bull in two areas critical to the northern Botswana elephant population. The first of these is the Linyanti Concession, formerly an area of exceptionally high elephant density in the dry season and incorporating a large portion of the Savute Channel. The second was in the Mombo Concession, Moremi Game Reserve, where elephants are suspected of impacting on vegetation.

During the first month of monitoring, both Linyanti elephants had modest movements, remaining close to permanent water sources. With rains beginning in November, both made considerable treks in pursuit of alternative resources. One of the cows followed the Savute Channel south-east, but returned to her original dry season home-range close to the Linyanti Marsh. However, the bull continued to move eastwards, 350km, across the Mababe Depression towards Chinamba Hills in the southern Chobe National Park. Within this remote area elephants aggregate in their thousands around water-filled pans. During the three months we have been tracking their movements, the bull has ranged over a 7 000km² area. An aerial flight was taken to track and attain a visual check of the bull; he was spotted amongst a breeding herd of approximately 40 elephants.

We will continue monitoring the collared elephants over the next four years to determine what influence water in the Savute Channel has on the seasonal home ranges, distribution and movements of elephants in the region. We will compare this data with the home ranges and seasonal movements of elephants when the Savute Channel was dry and with those collared along the once-dry Boteti River. This long-term spatial analysis will provide important information on the spatial ecology of elephants in these dynamic river systems.

Caprivi Spotted Hyaena Project

Coordinator: Lise Hanssen



The project examines the role of spotted hyaena as well as livestock management practices that contribute to Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), and attempts to establish the density and population stability of the species.

It is perceived by livestock farmers that problem animals originate from Protected Areas (PAs) to kill livestock. Data on predator related livestock losses showed that highest number of losses occurred within Mashi Conservancy (69 cattle and 53 goats) followed by Sobbe (19 cattle and 19 goats), assumed to be due to their close proximity to Mudumu National Park.

To assess farmer vigilance, the road from Singalamwe in Kwandu Conservancy to the Mudumu entrance gate was driven nightly between 19h30 and 22h30. All livestock outside kraals and unaccompanied by herders were recorded. Farmers within Kwandu adhere strictly to the HACCSIS (Human Animal Conflict Community Self Insurance Scheme) whereas many in Mashi Conservancy leave cattle to graze for weeks in the veld unguarded.

Methods used to assess hyaena presence and density included baiting areas, collaring one individual (unsuccessful due to poor network coverage) and covering transects in search of scat and latrines. From four baiting areas, only two spotted hyaena were recorded on infrared camera at one baiting site within the conservancy areas. Three sites had no hyaena response and two had no response from any predator at all.

Despite extensive driving and walking, no latrines have been located. Only five individual scat samples were recovered throughout the MNC access roads; these consist mostly of powdery calcium with minimal prey remains, indicating that all were the result of scavenging activity. The few species found in the scat include springhare and duiker.

Results therefore indicate that spotted hyaena play a much smaller role in HWC than is thought. It is clear that farmer vigilance contributes significantly to HWC mitigation. There is every indication that density is extremely low and that the population in the East Caprivi is fragmented due to trophy hunting and persecution.

Recommendations have been made to MET to remove spotted hyaena from the trophy hunting quota in the West Caprivi due to the park's role in protecting the species; further research into the sustainability and effects of trophy hunting on this species in the Caprivi is a matter of urgency.

CONSERVANCY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK AVAILABLE AS PREY PER NIGHT	RANGE	NUMBER OF TRANSECTS
KWANDU	2	0 - 4	2
MASHI	24.3	12-28	3
MAYUNI	1.34	0 - 4	3
SOBBE	42	0-42	1

Number of livestock available to be predated on per night in the MNC

Central Kalahari Wild Dog Research

Research team: Dr. Glyn Maude & Botilo Tshimologo

The Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) wild dog research project made some important strides over 2010 and now has continuous spatial data for the past 22 months of the main pack of wild dog in the CKGR. This pack went from six members to four in the last year; its long-term viability is thus in question. The pack continues to move over a massive area in the northern CKGR expanding its range from 3100km² (2009) to approximately 4500 km² in the last five months.

The project is also monitoring a wild dog captured in a farming area north-east of Makopong, collared and released into the northern CKGR in August along with three captive-bred dogs and their three pups from Grasslands. In September the female of this pack was found dead approximately 20km from the release site. We were able to locate the male on October 12th from the air, 5km outside the CKGR to the east. The search will continue in the hope that he and the females and pups are alive and well.

The project has been looking for wild dogs that live adjacent to the CKGR pack to add to the study and after much effort finally located and collared two wild dogs from a pack of six on Bokomoso, a 600km² game farm to the east of the CKGR. It will be fascinating to see the range they have.

The CKGR wild dog research project is collaborating with the Western Kgalagadi Conservation Project (WKCP) in a study in the southern part of the Kalahari. Two months ago, the first collar went onto a wild dog that was located in the Khutse Game Reserve.

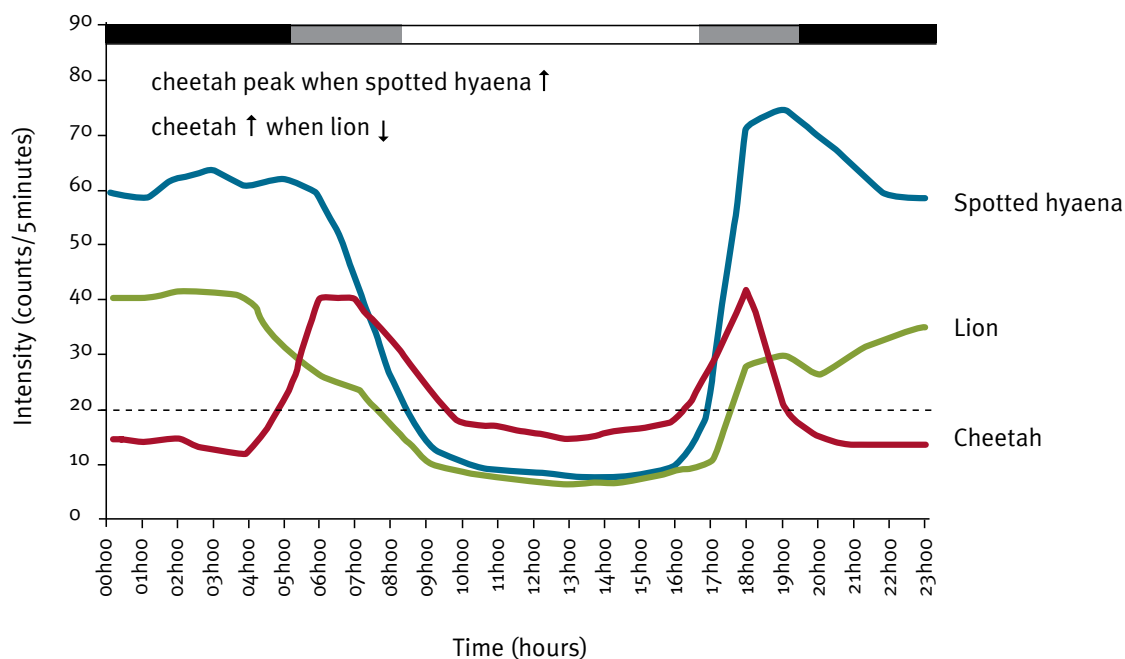


Cheetah Niche Segregation in the Okavango Delta

Researcher: Femke Broekhuis

Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) are negatively influenced by both lion (*Panthera leo*) and spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*) (e.g. direct mortality and stealing of kills). However, quantitative evidence of the influence of lion and spotted hyaena on the behaviour and ecology of cheetah is scarce. This research, in the Okavango Delta in northern Botswana, investigates the spatial and temporal mechanisms that allow cheetah to coexist with lion and spotted hyaena.

In 2010, the main focus of the project was to determine temporal patterns of segregation. GPS radio collars embedded with accelerometers were fitted on all three species to continuously record the animals' activity. The results indicate that cheetah have different mechanisms to coexist with lion and spotted hyaena. For example, the data reveal that at dawn cheetah activity increases only when lion activity has significantly decreased whereas, during the same period, cheetah and hyaena activity overlap. Nevertheless, cheetah activity only peaks once hyaena activity has decreased.



Comparative plot of daily activity patterns for cheetah, lion and spotted hyaena. The dashed line is the activity threshold of 20 counts/5 minutes. Activity values below this threshold were considered inactive and above were considered active. The banded bar above the plot represents the different periods of the day (black=night, white=day, grey=dawn and dusk).

These differences in cheetah behaviour may result from the different threats posed by lion and hyaena. Lion are known to mainly kill cheetah whereas hyaena mainly steal kills. As interactions with lion could potentially be fatal, cheetah may seek complete temporal segregation with lion. On the other hand, hyaena are only a threat when cheetah are on a kill. This non-fatal interaction allows cheetah to temporally partially overlap with hyaena. Nevertheless, during these periods of overlap cheetah might adapt their behaviour in order to minimise scavenging events. It is likely that the peak of cheetah activity indicates hunting behaviour, which would suggest that cheetah only hunt when hyaena are no longer active.

Whether this peak in cheetah activity represents hunting events is yet to be investigated. The next step is to synchronise behavioural observations collected in the field with the activity data collected from the collars to determine the temporal distribution of cheetah foraging events.

Kafue Lion Project

Researcher: Neil Midlane

As a species, lions are in trouble, having been extirpated from over 80% of their former range and with population estimates putting their numbers at less than 30 000 individuals. One of the major issues facing lion conservation is the lack of knowledge on the status of lions in many areas where they still persist.

At 22 500km², Zambia's Kafue National Park is one of the world's largest protected areas and a potential stronghold for lions in the region, yet very little is currently known about the status of the species in the park. The Kafue Lion Project was therefore established in July 2010 to investigate the conservation status of Kafue's lions, as well as to identify potential threats to the species in the greater Kafue ecosystem.

Lions are unfortunately notoriously difficult to count. In order to derive an estimate of lion density for Kafue, we are therefore using a combination of survey techniques. First of these was a call-up survey in July and August 2010, where we played buffalo distress calls at 80 points throughout the north of the park and recorded predators responding. We will be calibrating the survey in July/August 2011 and thereafter will be able to produce a lion density estimate. In addition to the call-up survey we conducted a number of spoor and prey counts which will be used in conjunction with the call-up for the above purpose.

During September we deployed six GPS collars on lions in the Busanga Plains region of northern Kafue, spread across three prides of females and three male territories. With poaching, fire, flooding, disease and hunting forming a suite of potential threats, the spatial data provided by the collars will assist us in determining which, if any, of these factors is limiting lion numbers in the park and surrounding Game Management Areas.

After a successful first season in 2010 we look forward to the expansion of the project during 2011.



Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research

Researchers: Botilo Thato Tshimologo & Kai Collins

This study compares wild dog packs at two locations within the Okavango Delta Ramsar site with wild dog packs in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR). Movement and activity data from GPS collars, as well as behavioural observations of wild dog packs in the CKGR are compared with that of wild dogs in the Delta. Due to recent advances in technology, the collars are lighter than before which is vital for such a highly mobile species. This study forms part of an MPhil research project being carried out by Botilo Thato Tshimologo, through the University of Botswana's Okavango Research Institute. The project is linked to the Central Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project as both studies compare data.

The same data collection methodology and time period is being used across study sites in order to gain a better understanding of how wild dog have adapted to survive in such different habitat types, build on past research and add to the body of knowledge particularly in areas where wild dog packs have not been closely studied.

There is movement between packs in the northern Okavango and Linyanti region with both areas close to villages and communal rangeland areas. This is a major cause for concern as rabies can easily spread from domestic dog populations into free-ranging wild dog populations, a significant threat to the species. Preliminary results have showed some surprising and alarming findings with packs moving very close to villages where domestic dogs occur, potentially bringing them into close contact with domestic dogs that might have diseases such as rabies or canine distemper.

Efforts are now being put in place to arrange a domestic dog vaccination programme in those specific villages initially. The focus now is to raise funds for rabies vaccinations for dogs in villages adjacent to wildlife areas so that the risk of disease spread to free-ranging wild dog populations can be minimised. An initial trip has been undertaken to vaccinate several hundred dogs in the affected areas and additional trips will be planned as funding allows.



Shadow Hunter Research Project

Researcher: Sara Tromp



After some final adjustments, all data has been analysed and papers are being submitted on the species status of the black mongoose. This is an important event for the Shadow Hunter Research Project – the long-term debate is over and the black mongoose can now be officially recognised as Namibia's largest endemic carnivore. It is hoped that the information we have gathered during the course of the Shadow Hunter Research Project will be valuable in terms of establishing targeted conservation practices and management of Namibia's granite inselbergs through collaboration with local communities.

During this past year, the project has therefore focused on data management, analysis and publication. All molecular work was completed by July and I had the privilege of presenting some results at the International Conservation Biology meeting in Edmonton, Canada (6-9th July). This presentation was very well received and scientists from across the globe were very encouraging. All data analysis was complete by August and three publications are in the final stages before submission to journals with more to follow. The final project results and outcomes will be presented to relevant Namibian communities in July 2011 following international review.

Sadly, much work on this project was lost in the January 2011 flooding of Brisbane, Australia, but thankfully copies of the data, some of the publications and back-up samples are safely in Namibia.

Spotted Hyaena Dilemma

Researcher: Stephanie Periquet

Human and wildlife have coexisted for millennia, but recent increase of human population has greatly increased conflicts with wildlife. Conflicts with large carnivores are the best known and studied, partly because these species are often highly emblematic. Although less studied than other predators, the spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*), is often in conflict with local populations killing livestock. In rural areas in the periphery of Hwange National Park (HNP), Zimbabwe, where livestock represents the only richness and source of income, conflict with hyaena has particularly serious consequences.

Hyaena are also engaged in a fierce competition with other carnivore species, especially lion (*Panthera leo*). Indeed, lion are one of the main causes of hyaena mortality (after human) and often steal carcasses from hyaena, therefore reducing the latter's food intake. In Hwange, following a moratorium against lion trophy hunting, the male lion population has increased greatly during the past few years. The subsequent increase of competition between lion and hyaena might force the latter to forage outside the protected area, where they kill livestock.

This PhD project aims to investigate the competition pressure between lion and hyaena in HNP, as well as quantifying and determining the characteristics of the human-hyaena conflict. We will use GPS collars deployed on both lion and hyaena, direct observations, interviews with local communities and livestock attack reports to reach our goals. The end result is to be able to propose mitigation solutions to limit consequences of this conflict both for humans and hyaena and participate in large carnivore conservation in Africa.



Zambia Wild Dog Conservation

Researcher: Dr. Matthew Becker

The 2010 field season marked the formal transition of African Wild Dog Conservation Trust into the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP), reflecting the expansion of focus from a single species/single area to a nationwide organisation with an emphasis on conservation of all large carnivore species and the ecosystems in which they reside.

With the assistance of the Wilderness Trust, intensive studies of African wild dog and lion continued in the Luangwa Valley. Minimum estimates of dog populations in the system for 2010 were over 110 adults. Dog presence continued to be documented in previously undescribed areas, the most notable of which was Lukusuzi National Park, the last of the protected areas in the Luangwa and mid-Zambezi valleys to have dogs present – further emphasising the importance of eastern Zambia for wild dog conservation.

However small pack size, poor pup production, low dispersal success and short pack tenure was observed in several packs, particularly in the Game Management Areas (GMAs) and believed to be largely due to snaring mortalities. Anti-snaring efforts in collaboration with the Wilderness Trust-supported South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS) continued and intensified this year for both wild dog and lion in the study area, however both species were still heavily impacted by snaring.

Intensive lion work in the Luangwa was expanded to the Luamfwa area in 2010 with the first radio-collaring of a resident male coalition and preliminary data from lion research was provided to the Zambia Wildlife Authority to assist in lion management and quota setting. Intensive studies of wild dog and cheetah were approved by the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) in the country's largest potential population for both species, the Kafue National Park and its surrounding GMAs. Spanning over 70 000 km², the area is believed to hold the country's largest populations of both species. The Kafue fieldwork will initially base out of northern Kafue with the support of Wilderness Safaris. ZCP now works on all the country's major populations for both species.



Botswana Roan Habitat Project

Researcher: Carl Havemann



The main aim of this study is to determine the home range use of various roan antelope herds occurring in the Linyanti Concession in northern Botswana, where they appear to be thriving. Together with home range, a number of other aspects of roan antelope ecology are being studied including habitat use within the home range, the seasonal variation in nutritional status of roan populations and how predation and competition effects the movement of roan herds in the area.

Fieldwork began towards the end of 2010, and continue until the beginning of 2012, thus ensuring that the two main seasons – the dry season (May - October) and the wet season (November to April) – are incorporated into the study for seasonal comparison.

Roan antelope were formerly one of the widest-ranging antelope species in Africa occurring throughout most parts of the northern and southern savannahs. Today, although they appear to be widely distributed throughout Africa, only populations in West Africa appear to be thriving and locally abundant. Over the past decades, roan antelope numbers south of the Zambezi have been drastically reduced due to poaching, habitat destruction and predation and continue to remain threatened. Currently, roan populations are confined to surviving in and around protected areas and in other areas that have low densities of people and livestock. Even though the status of roan antelope falls under the category of least concern, they are still considered one of the rare and locally endangered mammal herbivores of southern Africa.

Botswana Sable Research

Researcher: Michael Hensman

HOME RANGE AND HABITAT USE OF SABLE ANTELOPE IN BOTSWANA

Having finished the fieldwork on sable in the Kwedi Concession I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help, support, enthusiasm and friendship during the fieldwork period.

Unfortunately, in August, one of the collared female sables was killed on an island which we were unable to access during the high floods. As soon as the floods had receded enough we located the carcass (which suggested that lion had been the culprits) and also managed to recover the collar. The other two collars were removed at the beginning of December 2010 after more than 20 000 hourly GPS positions and associated data were collected. In the late dry season, the herds avoided the teak woodlands until after the first rains when there was a fresh flush of green grass in the understorey. This movement pattern was the same as last year. The sable also avoided floodplain grasslands where other herbivores concentrated. All three herds supplemented their grazing again this year by spending a lot of time eating leaves and stems of *Philenoptera nelsii* as well as the fallen flowers of *Kigelia africana* in mid-to late September. Observations of geophaga (particularly on the edges of termite mounds) and osteophaga were also common during the late dry season which may be an effort by the sable to supplement their diet with calcium and phosphorus.

In May, a well known sable bull named “Stompie” (easily recognisable by his missing tail) was killed by lion on the edge of the Vumbura airstrip and in July, two adult female sable were killed by lion. A big concern is that only four of 15 calves born at the beginning of the year are currently surviving. Two of these are males, leaving little breeding stock for future years. Sable hide their calves for up to three weeks while the adults forage and it is during this period that I suspect they are picked up and killed most likely by hyaena and other smaller predators.



Ecology of Buffalo in the Okavango Delta

Researcher: Emily Bennitt

This year was the last in terms of fieldwork for this PhD study. By August, all collars that could be located were removed. Two collars that had abruptly ceased to send GPS information or emit a VHF signal could not be found despite numerous attempts.

Water levels were extremely high for the majority of the year, which had a major impact on the study in terms of access, as well as on the buffalo themselves. None of the collared animals crossed the Gomoti Channel on their return from the wet season home ranges. They avoided secondary floodplains almost completely and spent very little time in tertiary floodplain. Presumably this was because most of the forage was under water.

I left Botswana in November 2010 to return to Bristol in order to process information, analyse data and write up the thesis, due to be submitted at the beginning of 2012. My last few months in Botswana were spent at the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC), now the Okavango Research Institute (ORI). Of 1 800 grass samples collected and separated, 540 were pseudo-randomly selected for nitrogen analysis. Between August and November, most of these were prepared for analysis but a variety of factors, including faulty equipment, lack of supplies and strikes, meant that no analysis was carried out. A lab assistant has been tasked with completing the analysis and sending through the results, which should be available by February 2011.



Giraffe Social Organisation Study – Etosha

Researchers: John & Kerry Carter



SOCIAL ORGANISATION OF A FISSION-FUSION SPECIES, THE GIRAFFE (*GIRAFFA CAMELOPARDALIS*) IN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK, NAMIBIA

The project has completed another year of study on the female giraffes in Etosha National Park. The identification catalogue of giraffe observed in the Okaukuejo area now includes 250 adult and sub-adult females and 65 juveniles. Work has begun on the genetic analysis of relatedness between female giraffe, which will help our understanding of the social bonds formed, if any, between related females. We have used new sequencing technology to isolate potential genetic markers from giraffe tissue DNA, and in early 2011 these will be tested to find the best microsatellite markers for the overall analysis. These will be the first genetic markers developed for this Namibian subspecies and once developed, they will be made available to the genetic community for future studies of giraffe.

In the field, analysis of data has found that adult female giraffe benefit when foraging in a group because they are able to spend more time feeding and less time looking for predators when another giraffe is feeding nearby, but as the distance from others increases, an individual will spend more time scanning the environment and less time feeding. This behaviour suggests that giraffe feel more secure in the presence of others; however the numbers of giraffe in the group has no effect on this anti-predator behaviour, so it appears that safety in numbers is not an important factor for giraffe. In addition, it was found that female giraffe with young calves incur an energetic cost through increased vigilance as they cannot spend as much time feeding as other giraffe as they are continually checking their surroundings for threats, even if other giraffe are nearby. These initial findings will be further investigated in 2011.

The aims for the next year are to look at the strength of relationships between pairs of giraffes and produce social networks of giraffes, looking at how different seasons, reproductive states of females (i.e. heavily pregnant or with small calf) and relatedness between females affect their social bonds over time. This will provide a greater understanding of what factors are important in female giraffe societies.

Hartmann's Mountain Zebra Conservation

Researchers: Jeff Muntifering & Dr. Tara Harris

In July 2010 the Minnesota Zoo, in partnership with Save the Rhino Trust, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and local communities, initiated the Habitat Assessment component of the Kunene Hartmann's Zebra Programme. The overall aim is to identify key conservation areas (cores and corridors) for Kunene's Hartmann's zebra and to work with the Namibian government, local communities and conservation NGOs to craft a regional conservation action plan for this sub-population to inform land use and management practices. Our first field season focused primarily on piloting the deployment and use of GPS/UHF collars, and initiating a community-based monitoring programme with local game scouts.

The project team successfully deployed two GPS/UHF collars during the initial start-up phase. Using the remote UHF modem, we successfully downloaded over 3 000 locations from one GPS collar, programmed to record one location every 30 minutes, which was placed on a bachelor male in the rugged basalt escarpment mountains of Etendeka Concession. During a nine-week period, this individual surprisingly moved on average only about 5 kilometres per day across roughly 2 500 hectares venturing no further than 3km from water. As predicted, he has recently dispersed with the onset of the rains to the east. His next download, which may require aerial reconnaissance, will reveal his wet season whereabouts and transit pathways. We hope to deploy an additional 10 collars in 2011 now that we are confident in the system.

To initiate the community-based monitoring programme, a local Namibian was trained, who joined Save the Rhino Trust's field teams, logging over 260km during eight patrols accumulating 344 Hartmann's zebra observations across Palmwag and Etendeka concession areas. In the neighbouring Conservancy lands, we implemented an incentive-based monitoring programme that will provide a monetary payment to the Game Guards for the completion of targeted Hartmann's zebra monitoring forms during routine fixed-route patrols. The programme was initiated in November with Anabeb and Torra Conservancy Game Guards, committing to cover approximately 40 and 50 kilometres on foot each month, respectively.



Makgadikgadi Zebra Migration

Researcher: James Bradley



The Makgadikgadi Zebra Migration Research project was initiated in 2001 in response to a plan to fence the Makgadikgadi. After the initial phase of the research was completed in 2005 the project restarted in 2008 in order to assess what impact, if any, the establishment of the Makgadikgadi fence has had on the zebra population within the Makgadikgadi. GPS data available from collared adult zebra mares during 2009 and 2010, as well as the detailed sampling of grazing and water resources and behavioural observations, allows for the analysis of current trends and for a comparison with pre-fence data.

In the current post-fence conditions, zebra return to the Boteti River to drink more frequently than they did prior to the fence (3 days between drinking post-fence, 4 days pre-fence), but they are still walking large distances in order to graze. During 2010 collared zebra have been regularly recorded more than 15km, up to a maximum of 30km, from the Boteti River during their search for grazing. It will be interesting to see how the analysis of pre- and post-fence grazing resources compare.

The search for grazing was heavily disrupted in early September when a bush fire burnt across the Makgadikgadi in just over 24 hours, burning nearly all of the available grazing resources within 3 000 km² of the 5 000km² Makgadikgadi National Park. Since the fire it has been noticeable that zebra are actively choosing to graze in areas which were burnt, favouring the fresh green shoots which have grown rapidly.

The project will continue with fieldwork until the end of March 2011 when all of the collars will be removed from zebra and the final analysis of data will begin. The initial assessment suggests that the Makgadikgadi fence has had a positive impact on the long-term health of the Makgadikgadi zebra population.

Botswana Bateleur Eagle Project

Researcher: Pete Hancock

The Bateleur (*Terathopius excaudatus*) is currently regarded as a globally threatened species in Botswana and listed as a “Bird of Conservation Concern.” While Bateleur populations are stable in large national parks and protected areas, outside these areas their population has suffered an 80% decline. The decrease outside protected areas is attributed to habitat loss, secondary effects of poisoning on farms, and a lack of carrion, the Bateleur’s main food source.

The principal objective of this study is to assess the spatial and temporal distribution of Bateleur Eagles and determine if there are any negative anthropogenic and natural factors impacting on populations inside and outside conservation areas in Botswana. Certain parts of the Okavango Delta show some of the highest densities of Bateleurs especially in the juvenile and sub-adult age classes – this study aims to gain some insight into why this is the case.

Aerial and ground surveys are taking place within the study area and are looking at spatial and temporal distribution of adult and juvenile birds, as well as their sex and age ratios. Bateleur distribution will be mapped with the use of GIS and nesting sites in the Okavango sand tongue regions and Linyanti Concession identified and plotted for annual monitoring purposes. To date only two Bateleur nesting sites have been identified in Botswana. Overall population density will be determined, to establish key areas of high and average density; this may be extrapolated to determine the breeding population status of adults in the concession areas. With the use of this data, any decrease or increase in the Bateleur populations may be monitored on an annual basis.

Initial ground surveys consisting of road counts have been carried out in Chitabe, Santawane and Moremi Game Reserve during the rainy season.

Once a species has been identified as requiring conservation concern, BirdLife Botswana formulates a ‘Species Action Plan’ based on the bird’s status, biology and stakeholder participation. The plan involves coordinating habitat research, conservation and education programmes. BirdLife Botswana will thus be able to assess the data collected in this project and update the status of the Bateleur Eagle.



Namibia Crane and Wetland Bird Conservation

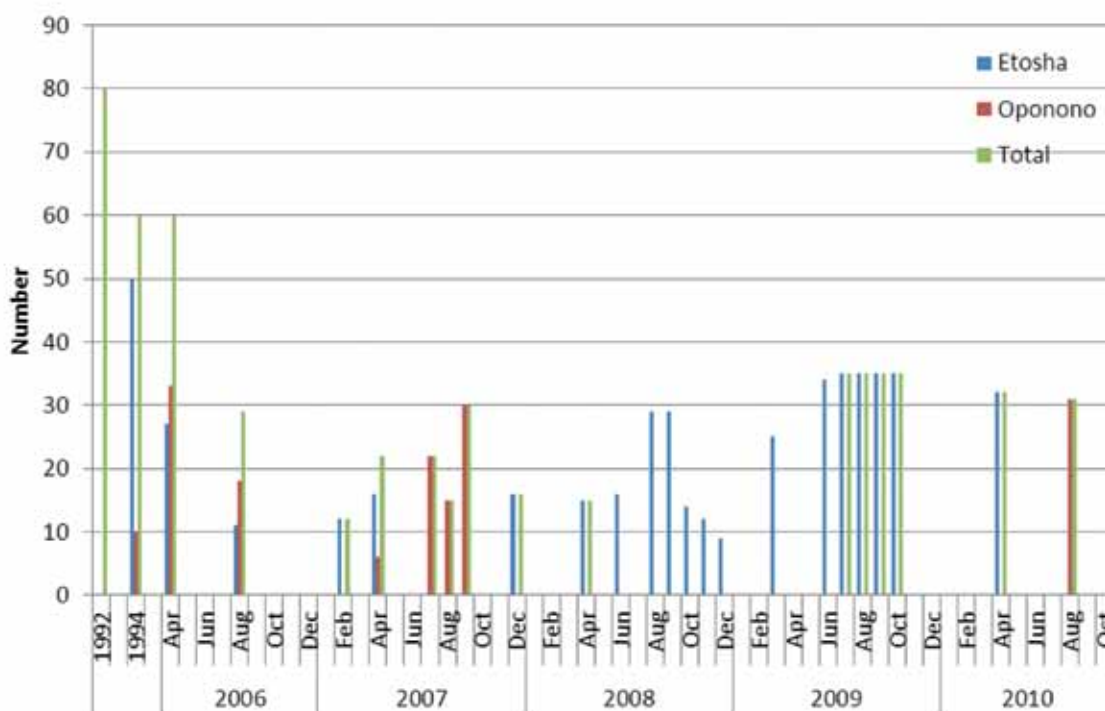
Researchers: Mike Scott & Ann Scott

The Blue Crane is rated as Globally Vulnerable, and Critically Endangered in Namibia. The isolation of the small subpopulation and its survival in an arid, predator-rich environment within Etosha and the Lake Oponono wetlands to the north pose a conservation enigma. In 1992, the Namibian population of Blue Cranes was estimated at 80 with an apparent decline to 60 in 1994. As part of the Namibia Crane Action Plan, the Namibia Blue Crane Project was initiated in March 2006, but the dropping numbers, despite conservation efforts, lead in November 2010 to a reassessment of the project and the development of a five-point action plan.

One of the main findings has been that, since a count of 60 in April 2006, total numbers have not exceeded 35 birds. This trend could possibly be related to good rains at Etosha and/or within the Cuvelai catchment in 2006, 2008 and 2009; it is believed that there may be a “floating” population of non-breeding birds that may have found (temporarily) suitable habitat elsewhere – hopefully in a crane-friendly area. However, a combined aerial/ground survey in April 2010 yielded only 30 adults and two chicks; and no Blue Cranes at the flooded Lake Oponono. With mounting concern, we waited until the dry-season survey by the MET in August 2010, when the cranes would be concentrated around water points. This resulted in a total count of only 31 cranes, all at Lake Oponono. This now appears to be the total population of Blue Cranes in Namibia; if so, there has been a decline of 50% in numbers in less than five years.

Consequently in November 2010, the team came up with a five-point Blue Crane Action Plan, namely to collate and analyse existing data, determine where the birds are and how they use the landscape; investigate habitat changes and address human impacts and other threats.

Blue Crane counts at Etosha and Lake Oponono, 1992 - 2010



Counts of Blue Cranes at Etosha National Park and Lake Oponono, 1992-2010.

Okavango Amphibian Biodiversity and Conservation

Researcher: Marleen le Roux



Amphibians are of significant ecological importance and a species loss can have widespread and dire consequences. Recent population declines and extinctions have resulted in amphibians being labelled the most threatened vertebrate class on earth. The unique Okavango ecosystem is well known and documented, yet its amphibians are poorly known. This project aimed at assessing diversity in the Okavango Delta by testing isolation as a possible driver for community composition; determining the effect of hydrology on breeding behaviour; and assessing the status and prevalence of the pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) responsible for the widespread epidemic, chytridiomycosis, implicated in amphibian decline.

Using various monitoring techniques, observations of species occurrence were made at three locations representing different degrees of isolation over a 20-month period. Breeding indicators were observed and frogs were screened for amphibian chytrid fungus.

A total of 29 species were recorded, and results indicated that there were no significant differences in community composition between sampled localities. Species presence, however, was significantly correlated with habitat type. Thus, the availability of suitable habitat appears to be driving amphibian diversity patterns, rather than geographic isolation; and increased habitat diversity near the Delta periphery explains increased amphibian diversity in these areas.

249 swab samples were collected and screened for amphibian chytrid fungus. The geographical distribution of collection samples were evenly spread throughout the localities, and were obtained from at least 25 amphibian species. Analyses proved negative for Bd for the 79.92% swabs analysed thus far and it is concluded that Bd seems absent in the study region, a result which has massive conservation implications for the region.

Despite the fact that the Okavango Delta has benefitted from conservation and tourism efforts in the past, the system and its biodiversity remains threatened and effective conservation management strategies must be devised and implemented to ensure its preservation. This project was completed in 2010.

Self-Medicative Behaviour in Chacma Baboons

Researcher: Paula Pebsworth

This is the first study to document geophagy in the genus *Papio* since a brief account by Hall (1965); these findings were presented at the International Primatological Society's Congress in September 2010.

Fieldwork has been completed, as have statistical analyses on over 1 800 trap camera images at three clay sites on and around Wildcliff Nature Reserve. The results show that the baboons spend more time consuming soil that is alkaline rather than acidic and has high concentrations of clay and silt. Time spent consuming clay by age class, gender and reproductive state has also been determined and the data is being submitted for publication.

PARASITE ANALYSIS:

Parasites are ubiquitous in nature, and controlling their intensity and infestation is one of the greatest health challenges facing wild animals. 275 baboon faecal samples were analysed at Kyoto University's Primate Research Institute (PRI) in Japan for prevalence, diversity and intensity. The Wildcliff troop is infected with several protozoans, at least 7 nematodes and at least one cestode. The focus of this study is nematodes. Because hookworm eggs are morphologically indistinguishable, I am currently culturing the eggs so identification can be made at the larval stage, which is distinct. The cestode proglottids will be genetically analysed in February. I will be looking at diet, use of medicinal plants, and plants with secondary plant metabolites, such as tannins and alkaloids, and their affect on parasite intensities. I will also look for correlations in parasite intensity and climatic conditions. It is expected that parasite infection is highest during the rainy season and times when the baboons consume foods found in close association with soil, i.e. tubers, roots, corms, and bulbs. Additionally, I have begun a meta-data analysis to determine how many dietary items the baboons consume with known medicinal properties.



Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy

Researcher: Dr. Chris Lockhart



The Namibian government has proposed a new national park in the Kunene Region, the stated purposes of which are to conserve this vast wilderness and its wildlife, while also linking the Skeleton Coast and Etosha National Park, thereby facilitating wildlife migrations and creating one of the largest conservation area complexes in the world. Surrounding communal conservancy private lands – which make up the vast majority of the area – must also support the protective area system if the park is to be ecologically viable and serve as a functionally effective corridor.

One of the main barriers towards achieving the overall purpose of the proposed park is the current state of land management plan/activities in the Kunene, which are non-existent, ad hoc, and/or rudimentary in nature, and are not informed by conservation science. In order to address these issues, Round River initiated the Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy in 2007. The Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy is a long-term and multifaceted programme with a particular emphasis on supporting the development and implementation of synchronised, scientifically informed land management plans for the proposed protected area system in the Kunene.

In 2010, Round River successfully developed summary land management zonation documents for 9 communal conservancies. These documents are in addition to the 5 developed in 2009, for a total of 14 land management zonation documents (our project area consists of a total of 15 communal conservancies). In addition, Round River successfully completed the mapping of all water features and wet/dry season grazing patterns for the entire project area. This extensive mapping effort provides the most detailed and up-to-date spatial description of water features and land use patterns for any area in the country.

In addition, Round River initiated an elephant monitoring project in the southern Kunene. This project targets a critical information gap regarding this important species, and provides information that will validate, refine, and broaden our regional ecological analysis. During the past year, we sampled the entire Huab River watershed, collecting over 500 elephant dung samples for DNA analysis to determine important genetic relationships and to contribute to our understanding of elephant movement/migration patterns.

Makuleke Pan Characteristics Project

Researcher: Romy Antrobus

Mammal species have different strategies for predator and human avoidance. As a result different species may have different preferences or tolerances for water quality, camouflaging vegetation and human activity. This study aims to establish how perennial pan characteristics (water quality, surrounding land cover, soil type and degree of human activity) in the Makuleke Wetland System influence pan usage by mammals.

The first fieldtrip for this study was successfully conducted in October 2010, at the end of the dry season. Water samples were taken from five perennial pans and the Limpopo and Luvuvhu Rivers. Spoor counts were conducted and camera traps were set up for a 48-hour period at each of the pans and along the two rivers, to get an indication of usage by mammal species of the different water sources.

Preliminary results from this first fieldtrip show that the water in the pans is generally more mineralised (average Electrical Conductivity of 0.87ms/cm) than the water in the two rivers (average Electrical Conductivity of 0.27ms/cm). It also shows that, in general, the pans further away from their source rivers tend to have more alkaline water. Analysis for Total Suspended Solids shows that the water in the rivers also has a much lower sediment load (less muddy) than the water sampled from the five pans.

Preliminary camera trap and spoor count data shows a preference by smaller, more secretive animals, such as civet, porcupine and vervet monkeys, to use the pans. Large antelope species, such as nyala, waterbuck and kudu, do not seem to have a particular preference and were recorded at both pans and rivers. Herds of elephants, however, seem to prefer the cleaner water in the rivers.

Three more fieldtrips will be conducted in 2011 to highlight seasonal discrepancies. Once more field data has been collected, better conclusions can be drawn with regards to how perennial pan characteristics (water quality, surrounding land cover, soil type and degree of human activity) in the Makuleke Wetland System influence pan usage by mammals.



Wildlife Migration Corridor Study - Botswana

Researcher: Dr. Harriet Bartlam

Whilst 2010 was a relatively quiet year in the field, research continues to go well, with the team focusing on publishing results as well continuing to collect continuous data on this poorly understood migration.

In August I was awarded a PhD by the University of Bristol, UK, for my work on herbivore ecology in the Okavango Delta, Botswana (Entitled: Spatial heterogeneity in a dynamic wetland: determinants of herbivore distribution in the Okavango Delta and their relevance to conservation). The results from this study, which the Wilderness Trust also supported, were numerous, but perhaps the most relevant for the long-term conservation of this fragile Delta system was the movement and vegetation data that quantitatively illustrated the importance of flooding regime on herbivore assemblage patterns in the Delta, through their effect on landscape heterogeneity and resource quality. The spatially contained nature of the Delta within the Kalahari basin means a decrease in flood extent could affect herbivore abundance by increasing home range size and thus inter- and intra-specific competition. Long-term conservation of herbivore populations within the Delta is primarily dependent on the success of trans-boundary water use policies within the Okavango River system. These results have now been submitted for publication in international peer-reviewed journals.

GPS and VHF collars continued to record the movement patterns of Okavango-Makgadikgadi migratory zebra. With another year of good rains the zebra have spent the majority of the year on the Makgadikgadi grasslands, interspersed by a relatively short dry season in the south-eastern Delta. Collaborative work with academics in the USA is ongoing, allowing us to utilise highly detailed daily satellite data to remotely link zebra movement patterns with vegetation quality and localised rainfall. Working across such a large and remote area means the use of such methodology is both cost- and time-efficient and we hope to publish the results from this work in 2011. The first academic paper detailing the migratory route has already been accepted for publication and will be published in early 2011.



Hwange Anti-Poaching Project

Coordinator: Jaelle Claypole



Anti-poaching continues to be an essential activity in the south-eastern section of Hwange National Park, as poaching and snaring for the illegal bush meat trade has been on the rise. The south-eastern boundary of Hwange is bordered by rural villages and due to the difficult economic times that Zimbabwe is experiencing, subsistence bush meat trade is one of the main means of survival. Wire snares and traps are being set up around the periphery of the Park and Zimbabwe's precious wildlife is being targeted as a result.

Since 2007, with the aid of a vehicle funded by the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, anti-poaching efforts have been augmented to counteract the large amount of poaching. These efforts include those of Wilderness Safaris, in conjunction with the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA), the Painted Dog Anti-Poaching Unit, and various other NGOs. These units all conduct frequent patrols along this boundary in the hope of minimising the effect of poaching.

As another initiative to save Hwange's wildlife, Wilderness Safaris and the Hwange Lion Research Project have taken on six trained rangers to work together with PWMA rangers within the Hwange concessions and along the south-eastern area of the Park. The main benefit of this is that two areas can be covered at once by trained anti-poaching personnel, thus covering more ground.

The beginning of the year started off well, with patrols being conducted on a regular basis, however vehicle problems later in the year meant that anti-poaching efforts decreased from June. In total 87 snares were removed from the field this year, in comparison to 172 in 2009. Two poachers were apprehended in 2010.

Darting and de-snaring operations were carried out throughout the year in an attempt to give snared and injured animals a second chance. With the invaluable help and assistance of PWMA and Wilderness staff, five elephant and one buffalo were successfully immobilised and de-snared.

Hwange Research Coordinator and Ecologist

Coordinator: Jaelle Claypole



Monitoring and statistical analysis are key to obtaining information to be used for wildlife management. In the past, Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) conducted such research, but political and economical turmoil over the last decade has impacted on the extent of this work.

The Research Coordinator for Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe, Jaelle Claypole, has therefore established various projects over the last two years including monthly rhino monitoring exercises, monthly full moon 24-hour pan counts, road strip counts, spoor transects, assisting with Lion and Leopard Research Projects (run by independent researchers), assessment of game water supply, measurement of borehole depths throughout the season, darting and snare removal, assisting with anti-poaching, vulture counts, environmental assessment of camps and various other projects.

The arrival of a new vehicle for ecological work and research in the south-eastern section of Hwange National Park (HNP), thanks to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, has meant that all research can now be carried out to its full potential.

At the beginning of the year, I attended a Dangerous Drugs course on the chemical and physical restraint of wild animals. It couldn't have come at a better time as the numbers of snared animals sighted in the south-eastern area of HNP were increasing. Again, thanks to the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, and the assistance of PWMA and Wilderness Safaris staff, a number of animals were given a second lease on life in 2010.

Statistics analysed using pan count data have shown that animal concentrations in the south-eastern area of HNP have increased over the last few years.

Hwange Game Water Supply

Coordinator: Jaelle Claypole

Since 1997 Wilderness Safaris has taken on the responsibility of drilling, pumping and maintaining a number of waterholes in the south-eastern sector of the Hwange National Park.

2010 has been a year of experimentation and change with regards to pumping, including two new windmills arriving to replace diesel engines as well as other experimental pumping systems.

With the experimental windmill at Mbiza Pan bearing positive results, in August 2010 two more windmills were installed on the concession (Ngamo Pan and Airstrip 2 Pan). These 12-metre towers are expected to produce a higher yield of water than the ten-metre tower at Mbiza. Both have been installed with water meters and have been pumping on average between 16 000 and 18 000 litres a day, however this is expected to slow down as winds subside.

Although windmills do not pump as much as Lister engines, they work well in these areas as water is most needed in the driest and windiest months (March-November). In the recent October game count figures, 700 elephants were recorded coming to the waterhole to drink over a 24-hour period. It is gratifying to see them quench their thirst on the new water pumped by the windmills.

In March, we were kindly lent a Kubota engine to test on the concession. The benefits of Kubota engines include lower carbon emissions and less noise pollution. A flow meter was fitted to the Kubota engine in order to compare its yield to Lister engines. Since its installation, it has been pumping an average of 48 700 litres a day. Being such a success, Wilderness purchased and installed an additional two Kubotas on the concession. We are considering them as an alternative to the Lister engines, which are costly to replace, and hope to obtain more in 2011.



Liwonde National Park Aerial Census

Coordinator: Chris Badger

October 2010 saw the fifth consecutive annual aerial survey of Liwonde National Park funded by the Wilderness Trust. As with previous years the primary objectives of the survey were to determine the populations and the distribution of all of the large mammal species of the park. Such measures provide baseline information and can allow effective management decisions about the area to be made, including whether, and in what number, animals of certain species may be removed from the area to restock other protected areas in Malawi and further afield. Insight into myriad other aspects of the park's ecology can also be gained and over time, provided such surveys are conducted at regular intervals and using similar methodology, comparisons can be drawn and trends identified.

In 2010 a number of additional objectives aside from those described above were identified: i) evaluate the extent of human encroachment into the corridor linking Liwonde National Park with Mangochi Forest Reserve, ii) evaluate the condition of the boundary fence, and iii) evaluate the extent of illicit use of the park using indicators easily observed from the air.

As in 2009, a Bantam B22J two-seat microlight was used to fly a total of 21.1 hours over four days to cover the approximately 55 000-hectare National Park and to survey the connecting corridor to the north.

Comparative figures for key large mamal species in Liwonde National Park for the aerial censuses of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010 (Some totals are affected by live animal removal to other Malawian National Parks)

SPECIES	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
ELEPHANT	530	696	554	501	404
BUFFALO	297	343	351	324	348
SABLE	280	1158	134	539	451
WATERBUCK	1705	2702	742	2046	2002
IMPALA	510	1608	559	1124	1350
WARTHOG	364	1042	525	765	791
HIPPO	844			1017	1133



South Luangwa Conservation Society

Coordinator: Rachel McRobb

ANTI-POACHING SUPPORT

In addition to standard law enforcement activities, community and education projects, a large portion of the South Luangwa Conservation Society's (SLCS) work in 2010 consisted of wildlife rescue and immobilisations for snared and injured animals.

Snaring continues to be the major cause of a high number of wildlife mortalities in the national park and GMAs. Statistics show that 2010 appears to be the worst year yet for snaring in South Luangwa. Despite current conservation projects working in Luangwa, snaring continues to increase, especially during the dry season, causing massive reductions to wildlife populations. Possible reasons for this include an increase in human population bordering the national park, the wide availability of wire that can be used for snaring in the area, the ease at which snaring is done i.e. very little skill needed and all ages of the community can do it, weak convictions by the courts on suspects apprehended for snaring, poverty and at the same time an increase in wealth amongst some of the community thereby providing a market for the sale of bush meat.

SLCS darted and treated a large number of wild animals in 2010, including eight lions, two wild dogs, two hyaena, a giraffe, 16 elephants, a bush pig and more, while at the same time removing hundreds of snares from the area.

Working with one of our partners, the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP), SLCS formed and manages the wild dog anti-snaring team. The group was primarily created in order to address the ongoing problem of snaring mortality in the region's wild dog populations. The four-man patrol team is employed and managed by SLCS. Apart from wild dog conservation, the team has been instrumental in reducing the number of snares that would have potentially trapped and killed hundreds of other species prone to snaring. The scout team movements are structured using valuable GPS coordinates remotely downloaded from wild dogs and lions collared by ZCP. This sharing of information improves the effectiveness of the scout patrols and the removal of snares.



Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit

Coordinator: Charles Brightman



The role that the Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) continues to play in the Victoria Falls region is crucial – the poaching situation would be far worse without all of our joint efforts to fight the crime of poaching. It is very encouraging to report that there has been a marked improvement in game sightings in the region, with good sightings of sizable herds of elephant and buffalo, giraffe, zebra, kudu, eland, waterbuck as well as other plains game including sable. There have also been sightings of lion, leopard and wild dog recently.

VFAPU would therefore like to express its gratitude to the Wilderness Trust for its continued support, the National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Victoria Falls Municipal Police and the Tourism Police for this opportunity to work together in a combined effort to conserve Zimbabwe wildlife for everyone's benefit, present and future. This support plays a vital role in this challenge that continues to face us. Below are details of our operations during the year 2010.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 2010

Snares located: 443

Persons apprehended within National Park estate: 328 (5 x mammal poachers, 20 x illegal miners, 256 x wood poachers, 19 x illegal vendors, 10 x illegal entry into parks estate, 2 x drug dealers, 2 x thieves, 9 x fish poachers, 4 x border jumpers and 2 x smugglers)

Mammals darted: 14 (4 x buffalo, 5 x warthog, 1 x elephant, 2 x kudu, 2 x impala)

Mammals poached: 44 (12 x buffalo, 12 x impala, 2 x elephant, 2 x kudu, 2 x eland, 3 x waterbuck, 8 x warthog, 1 x sable, 2 x spotted hyaena and 1 x wild dog)

Zambia Poacher Transformation Project

Coordinator: Dale Lewis

Threats to wildlife and natural resources caused by problems of food shortage, lack of income and lack of livelihood skills continue to be a challenge for wildlife conservationists working around Luangwa Valley and especially in the western regions of the Luangwa Valley. To address this challenge, two Poacher Transformation Trainings were conducted in Serenje. The first one was held from 7 September to 7 October, 2009. This was the ninth of its kind, where 38 former poachers were trained by COMACO (Community Markets for Conservation) and in turn they trained 95 others.

The second Poacher Training was held from 7 to 28 June, 2010. 32 participants were trained by COMACO, who in turn trained 61 others. Serenje has to date trained 226 poachers, and as a result, 411 guns and 3 092 snares have been collected.

Training included topics such as carpentry, metal fabrication and basic conservation farming skills and other livelihood skills as vegetable gardening, fish farming, poultry and goat rearing. COMACO has also assisted transformed poachers with basic tools for the activities they want to be engaged in such as carpentry and metal fabrication kits, gardening tools, goats, fish fingerlings, etc. These tools ensure that the transformed poacher makes a living from the skills learnt and earns some legal income.

The challenge remains for COMACO to intensify these trainings in Serenje and other districts around COMACO operational areas where poaching incidences still occur and many poachers have still not been transformed.

Together with ZAWA, efforts by law enforcement have been combined with COMACO's alternative livelihoods approach to ensure that wildlife numbers are increased and natural resources in protected areas and their surrounding areas are conserved.



Education Bursaries

Coordinator: Dr. Jennifer Lalley

In its continuing efforts to educate the youth of Africa, the Trust's Education Bursaries Programme funds bursaries for students at the post-graduate level in the wildlife and environmental fields. In 2010, the Trust funded Buhle Francis in her M.Phil. degree on Environmental Economics.

Honours student Miranda Muller wrote a paper on "Using spatial distribution and leaf vegetation indices (VIs) of evergreen phreatophyte trees to identify potential sinkholes on dolomitic grasslands." In this study, Muller looked at methods to map zones of likely sinkhole formation as by-products of mining, but also collected data during the dry season when plants without access to the phreatic zone (via developing sinkholes or other discontinuities) are predicted to show plant drought stress.

Kelly Nesbit completed her Honours in Geography. Her report subject was "The analysis of five wild dog packs by the use of spatial techniques: Northern Botswana." This paper attempts to quantify the space utilised by five wild dog packs in the northern Botswana region and assesses their movements according to natural and human-associated landscape features. The results suggested that there was a strong tendency towards natural boundaries creating barriers, namely river systems and the associated vegetation as well as extensive evidence to support denning periods through the notion of site fidelity.

Recipient Bakker Manuel attended and passed a B.Tech in Nature Conservation at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University for the 2010 academic year.



Simonga Village Projects

Coordinator: Peter Jones



The Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust has been working with The River Club in Zambia in its partnership with the nearby village of Simonga since 2000. In the ten years a range of projects in the village have been carried out, which have been funded by the generous donations of guests in conjunction with the Trust. Projects to date have focused particularly on assisting children via schooling, and include those that help the inhabitants in general generate an income and therefore help the entire community. While there are specific once-off projects (school buildings, community hall etc.), various projects have been running for a number of years which incur yearly expenses. These include:

WATER PROJECT

The water project was begun a number of years ago with the construction of a borehole, pump, pipes and storage tanks. In addition, distribution points for running water were installed in the village. The water project has provided 50 000 litres of water per day to the 4 000 villagers since June 2006. Upkeep of the Water Project – including maintenance for the water system, funds for diesel consumption for the generator, and water carrying equipment for the villagers – is ongoing.

SCHOOL PROJECT

Continued funding of the school project include the school and exam fees for all Grade 8 and 9 school children at Simonga and all internal and external sport activities. The school continues to receive donated books from the USA and UK from guests staying at The River Club.

Projects Completed in 2010

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

BOTSWANA RHINO ECOLOGY PROJECT

50 rhino were radio collared, six of which were successfully tracked over seven months, gaining a greater understanding of rhino habitat use in the protected Moremi Game Reserve. Where radio transmitter lifespans expired, rhino were also tracked on foot and their diet examined using a method known as “back-tracking”. The study showed that rhino distribution is largely influenced by the availability of water, food and vegetational cover. Rhino sightings and signs (rubbing posts, middens, scrape-markings, etc.) were primarily located along the river channels during the dry season but were distributed more throughout the reserve during the wet season as water and food were readily available.

HWANGE WHITE RHINO REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

In 2009, two white rhino were translocated from Matobo National Park to the Wilderness Concession in Hwange National Park; Trust funds being used mainly for the transfer by road from the one park to the other. The rhino were fitted with radio transmitters, ear-notched for ease of identification and dehorned to reduce the risk of poaching. Removal of excess numbers of rhino creates more space and resources for the remaining animals and encourages breeding and ongoing population growth. Hwange’s population has benefitted from the genetic diversity introduced by the Matobo population. The increased opportunity for tourists to encounter rhino in National Parks contributes to tourism revenue for Zimbabwe, and raises awareness about rhino conservation.

NAMIBIAN ELEPHANT AND GIRAFFE PROJECT

The project aimed to contribute towards a better understanding of the elephants living in Etosha National Park and the Omusati Region. Five collaring operations took place between 2002 and 2008 to provide data, and behavioural studies observed change in feeding behaviour: from mostly browsing during “normal” years to mostly grazing during wet years. The seven years of data were analysed for annual variations in home range. Only five elephants out of the 21 that were collared were analysed in detail due to the fact that either the collars failed before two consecutive years of data could be gathered or insufficient data was gathered over the time-span of the collar. The home range of the elephants was determined by minimum convex polygon (MCP) analysis.

EDUCATION FOR PREDATOR CONSERVATION

The cheetah is Africa’s most endangered large cat with an estimated 12% of the remaining world population found in Botswana, making it one of the last strongholds of the species. Botswana’s activities with regard to cheetah conservation are therefore essential to the maintenance of the Southern African population. The Trust funded Cheetah Conservation Botswana’s (CCB) Education Programme which aims to raise awareness of the importance of predators in healthy ecosystems, encourage good environmental stewardship and promote alternatives to existing in conflict with predator species. Aimed at schoolchildren and teachers throughout Botswana, activities include teacher training workshops, school visits, visits to CCB sites and resource distribution.

GREATER LIMPOPO TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA WILD DOG PROJECT

Little is known about carnivore populations in Gonarezhou National Park, which holds a key position within the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), spanning South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The project investigated the status of the highly endangered African wild dogs, with the aim of determining whether or not viable populations exist there, and the extent to which they cross international borders. A comprehensive, park-wide spoor survey was taken of all large carnivore species (lion, leopard, cheetah, hyaena and wild dog) to gain a preliminary idea of abundance and distribution. The results showed that while hyaena and leopard were doing well, the lion population showed low numbers, considerably lower than in the early 1990s. Future work will focus on investigating the causes of the decline.

HWANGE LEOPARD POPULATION DYNAMICS

This project, a collaboration between the Zambezi Society and the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at the University of Oxford, was provided ten camera traps by the Trust in April 2009 to be trialled by the field team to test their suitability for field surveys to determine population size using a mark-recapture approach. Field trials

Projects Completed in 2010

suggested that the cameras have a trigger speed too slow to ensure that photos of animals passing the trap would be taken (in the absence of bait). This might bias any population estimate derived from the study. The project is liaising with Wilderness Safari staff in Zimbabwe to find a different make of camera trap with a faster trigger speed.

PREDATOR-FARMER CONFLICT RESOLUTION MANUAL

The Trust helped to fund the publishing of a predator management manual in English and Afrikaans, aimed at some 10 000 of the 20 000 livestock farmers in South Africa, encouraging them to promote new methods of ethical farming and thus help reduce the conflicts between economic practices and predators. Promoted in the manual are both new and adapted methods of dealing with predators that are being used the world over. These methods provide for ethical farming, and aim to produce benefits for biodiversity on farms. An array of acceptable production methods, their application, and details of further assistance, are available in the publication. The manual was published through the Landmark Foundation.

NORTHERN BOTSWANA GIRAFFE POPULATION STUDY

Following on from collaborative research undertaken by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and Omaha Zoo, this project aimed to clarify the taxonomic classification of Botswana's giraffe – listed as either *Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa* (Cape or Southern giraffe) or *G.c. angolensis* (Angolan giraffe) depending on taxonomic reference. On a broader level, all giraffe taxonomic classifications are outdated and limiting, thus this research, using the giraffe's DNA collected from populations in Moremi, Chobe and Central Kalahari areas, aimed to unravel the mystery of giraffe speciation across Africa. Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust funding supported field costs for the project including travel, accommodation, food and equipment.

OKAVANGO NEST BOX PROJECT

Africa's indigenous forests and woodlands are under grave threat, threatening cavity-nesting species with habitat loss. The project set out to determine whether artificial nest boxes could be used as a conservation tool and if so, what nest box design and location would best suit cavity-nesting bird, mammal and reptile species. Between 2007 and 2009, a 24-month survey of artificial nest boxes was compiled, showing an occupancy rate of over 75% of nest boxes. Over 50% of all nest boxes were however occupied by tree squirrel, lesser bushbaby, and woodland dormouse. But nest boxes in riverine forest patches and acacia-combretum marginal woodlands were dominated by cavity-nesting bird species: African Grey Hornbills, Woodland Kingfishers, and Green Woodhoopoes, Meyer's Parrots and other secondary cavity-nesting bird species.

BOTSWANA WILDLIFE RESEARCH – INCREASING CAPACITY

In 2008, the Trust secured funding to develop three research camps in key areas of northern Botswana. In this way, research capacity within private concession areas in northern Botswana has been increased by hosting and funding researchers and research which addresses questions of national and international importance in the fields of ecology and endangered species protection.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION

ZIMBABWE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROJECT

This project raised funds for scholarships to assist disadvantaged students from the schools and communities surrounding Hwange and Mana Pools national parks with their primary and/or secondary school education. In Zimbabwe this includes children living in extreme poverty, vulnerable children, and those who may have lost one or both of their parents. The hope is that the funding of scholarships will produce a group of potential leaders within the communities who will be an example of the way that a good education can influence and improve their chances in life. In 2010, Ketumetsi Ndlovu, Nesisa Moyo, Clive Mhlanga, Nomatter Ncube and Lesley Mpofu all received scholarships.

For previous projects please refer to the website: www.wildernesstrust.com

Make a difference to Africa

Africa's conservation needs are enormous and in urgent need of money and logistical support. The Trust is therefore grateful for all donations received either for specific projects or those donated in general to be used wherever they are needed most.

THE WILDERNESS TRUST RECEIVES DONATIONS IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS:

1. Wilderness camp guests regularly donate to a project of their choice.
2. A small percentage is paid by Wilderness Safaris for each guest bednight booked.
3. Fundraising initiatives by Wilderness Staff: Staff members are enthusiastic about raising funds for the Trust and CITW; marathons are run and mountain bike rides undertaken all in the name of the Trust. (See details of the Tour de Tuli as an example on page 78).

4. Independent donations from concerned individuals or organisations

If you would like to assist us in any of these efforts, please contact Mari dos Santos at marid@wilderness.co.za or telephone +27 11 257 5057

5. Via our partner organisation – the Resources First Foundation

Donations from the USA can take place via the Resources First Foundation. This facility is tax-deductible through a 501c facility and levies an administration fee. Its online donations facility can be found via our website:

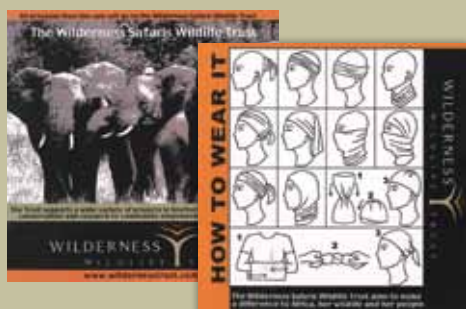
www.wildernesstrust.com/trust/donations.jsp

Please contact Angela at the Resources First Foundation at angelab@resourcesfirstfoundation.org or telephone 207-221-2753 for more details.

About Resources First Foundation:

The Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust is supported by the Resources First Foundation (RFF), a non-profit organisation formed to promote and design conservation and education tools and solutions to promote conservation and restoration activities for fish, wildlife and other natural resources primarily on privately owned lands across the United States and in southern Africa. Many community-based and private landowner conservation techniques and policies were first initiated and developed in a number of countries in southern Africa. Because the Foundation's financial resources are relatively small, grants will be made only upon the invitation of the Foundation's officers and board. An area of grant-making focus includes training and education programmes for wildlife professions and innovative wildlife restoration projects (from the tagging of marine turtles to the reintroduction of white rhinoceros). Donations via RFF are tax-deductible in the USA.

6. The Wilderness Trust Warmer



Wilderness Trust Warmer:

One of the Trust's fundraising initiatives is the "Wilderness Trust Warmer", the costs of which have been generously covered by Wilderness Safaris. In return for a donation of US\$20, guests at Wilderness Safaris camps receive this versatile and stylish headwear that has a multitude of practical applications for use on safari. All proceeds accrue to the Trust and will be ploughed back into conservation projects in southern Africa.

Make a difference to Africa

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED

Donors to the Trust have the choice to contribute to the general funds, to be used wherever required, or to a particular theme (Anti-poaching and Management, Research and Conservation or Community Empowerment and Education), project, or even specific part of a project. Since administration costs are negligible, donors can be assured of their monies being spent almost completely on their chosen component.



Acknowledgements & donors

Thanks to the generosity of many donors over the past year, we have achieved some notable successes in the conservation of animal and plant species, a furthering of knowledge of ecosystems and the ongoing engagement of neighbouring communities. We would like to thank all our donors in this regard.

The Trust is dependent on funds donated by individuals and we applaud those committed individuals who have undertaken to raise funds of their own accord. Such people include many who have cycled, run or walked for our conservation and community projects.

OVER \$5 000

Colorpress	Madeleine Delman Cohen and Jerome Cohen
Craig Beal – Travel Beyond	Otto Werdmuller
David Brown	Paul and Caroline Swart – Natural Migrations
Georges Sayegh	Philip Eisenberg – Urban American Partners
Iva Spitzer	Pierre and Margaret Faber – Classic Africa
Jeffery Neu	SATIB
Jenne Pierce	Steve Rimer and Brennan Rimer – Journeys Unforgettable
John and Wendy Neu Family Foundation	Tracy Bamber
Jon & Julie Landau	



SATIB UNDERWRITERS DONATIONS

Andrew Wadsworth – Marketform	Steve Bessant – Arthur J. Gallagher International
Ivory Group	Toby Saywer – Aegis London
Murray Anderson – Sportscover Syndicate	William Alderton – Chaucer Syndicate
Neil Smith – QBE Insurance (Europe)	Wayne Forrester – SJ&A
Paul Newson – Marketform	
Simon Jefferies – Amlin Underwriting	

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UNDER \$5 000

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Barbara van Beuren and Stephen L. Glascock	Mary Bransfield
Bell Dewar Hall (in memory of Alister Payne)	Masons Travel
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Jennifer Dinges	Sunninghill Striders
Jennifer Kennery	Tony and Danielle Duquette
Joel Mintz and Meri-Jane Rochelson	United Jewish Appeal – on behalf of Bat Mitzvah of Jennifer Schnadig
Kelly Shea - Earl Travel	Vee Thompson – Game Plan Africa William and Jacqueline Marks
Kim Nixon	WildlifeCampus
Krista Krieger	Zachary Brown – Bridgewater Associates
Lauren Tartaglia	Zachary Steuer – on occasion of his Bar Mitzvah
Lesley Bellus Kilman	
Lesley Kaye – Discover Africa	





Children in the Wilderness is an environmental and life skills educational programme that focuses on the next generation of rural decision makers, developing environmental leaders who are inspired to care for their natural heritage so that they become the custodians of these areas in the future.

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.

About Children in the Wilderness



OUR AIM: TO FACILITATE SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

Children in the Wilderness is an environmental and life skills educational programme through which rural children are taught the importance of conservation and are inspired about the environment and their natural heritage so that they become the custodians of these wilderness areas in the future.

Focusing on the next generation of rural decision makers, the Children in the Wilderness programme selects children from the communities that live alongside conservation areas where Wilderness operates its camps and hosts them on a five-night programme, so that they have the opportunity to see the beauty and potential in the wild places of Africa.

Using a curriculum suited to the specific country or community, delivered in a fun and engaging manner, 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 like skills necessary to actualise their greatest potential. During the programme, Children in the Wilderness also aims to develop leadership values amongst the participants, so as to create leaders who are inspired to care for their legacy and can show others the way.



Letter from the Trustees

It is with great excitement that 2011 sees the celebration of Children in the Wilderness' ten-year anniversary. A programme that started with humble beginnings in 2001 has grown to include seven southern African countries and has shown great success in its sustainability through the years. We are now in a fortunate position of seeing the results of the programme, with past participants from Children in the Wilderness becoming employees of Wilderness Safaris, and mentors on the Children in the Wilderness programme, thereby going on to spread the message of conservation to the children of their communities.

In 2010 we hosted 490 children and 2 450 children-in-camp nights, across the seven countries in which we operate. As of December 2010 Children in the Wilderness has hosted 3 502 children and 16 759 children in camp nights throughout southern Africa.

In order to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the programme and to develop better desired outcomes, over the last two years, we have been focusing our attention on developing the environmental educational content of the curriculum, strongly underpinned with instilling leadership values. We believe that creating environmental leaders is fundamental to the success of the child and the programme. By giving the children an educational wildlife experience coupled with life skills and leadership values, we feel that we are setting the groundwork for creating passionate environmentalists who will return to their communities to share what they have learned – and thus ensure that our wonderful natural heritage is protected.

In 2010, we expanded the programme to include the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area – a transfrontier area that straddles Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Our Tour de Tuli cycle tour traverses this region and as a result of this, the Children in the Wilderness programme is now operational in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve, with the hope that it will extend to other parts of the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area.

Fundraising in 2010 has been slower than in previous years, due to the continued economic downfall. Our mountain bike fundraising event, the Tour de Tuli, continues to be one of our major fundraising initiatives and has grown in numbers and stature in the cycling community. Over and above this we continue to have wonderful support from many different sources.

Sincere gratitude needs to be extended to the many individuals, corporate companies and travel companies who have supported us over the past year, with monetary donations and donations in kind. We are also greatly indebted to our staff and volunteers who have taken the programme and run with it and who work tirelessly to create a brighter future for the next generation of rural decision makers.



History

In August 2001, Paul Newman and his family travelled to Africa on a two-week safari with Wilderness Safaris. During this trip, it was suggested that the respective visions of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps and Wilderness Safaris could be combined and blended to create a sustainable and effective African programme. In December of the same year the first Children in the Wilderness programme was launched.

The creation of Children in the Wilderness was an organic evolution of the vision of Wilderness, which has always been that we need to face the challenge of Africa's wildlife areas being under severe pressure – indeed, the areas in which Wilderness operates are some of the planet's more sensitive and fragile environmental hotspots. Therefore, by focusing on children, Children in the Wilderness believes that a programme of this calibre can impact significantly on the local communities in the hope of securing the future of these fragile areas.

In December 2001, Children in the Wilderness successfully ran its first camp in Botswana and since then has expanded its operations to all the countries in which Wilderness operates including Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, South Africa, the Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe. With the right sponsorship, the programme has the potential to grow and make a huge contribution to the sustainability of Africa's people and parks.



How it works

Wilderness closes some of its camps for a number of weeks each year, allowing Children in the Wilderness to host groups of selected rural children instead. Groups of 16 to 45 children between the ages of 10 and 17, pre-selected from schools and communities in the surrounding areas, are invited to spend five nights in camp and participate in the programme.

When the programme began in 2001, the selection process focused mainly on the vulnerable children in the communities. However the concepts of leadership values became a growing priority, with the result that children with leadership qualities or community influence have been included as participants alongside the vulnerable youngsters. In this way, the programme facilitates sustainable conservation through leadership development, reaching further than one camp, and growing in strength and influence.

The programmes are run by a Camp Director assisted by a full staff complement of mentors, generally consisting of Wilderness camp staff who volunteer their time and energy to this cause. Ultimately, since many mentors come from the same communities or villages as the camp participants, they are excellent role models who in effect restore a sense of hope to the children.

The Children in the Wilderness programme and curriculum:

- Practises and teaches sustainable environmental education
- Develops leadership qualities in Africa's children
- Exposes the children to new experiences and new friends
- Helps to build self-esteem and teach life skills
- Inspires the children to continue with their education
- Focuses on everyday issues pertaining to their particular situation, such as HIV/AIDS, nutrition, poaching and many more
- Provides the children with a sense of hope and opportunity

Children in the Wilderness operates Follow-up Programmes to provide a support structure for the children that have attended the camps. These include Environmental Clubs which have been formed in the schools. Part of their function is to encourage the children to continue with their education as well as keep their newfound love of wildlife alive.





CITW Project Locations

BOTSWANA

- 1. Jacana Camp
- 2. Wilderness Tented Camp
- 3. Mashatu Tent Camp
- 4. Tuli Trails

MALAWI

- 5. Mvuu Camp

NAMIBIA

- 6. Hoanib Camp

SOUTH AFRICA

- 7. Pafuri Camp
- 8. Rocktail Beach Camp

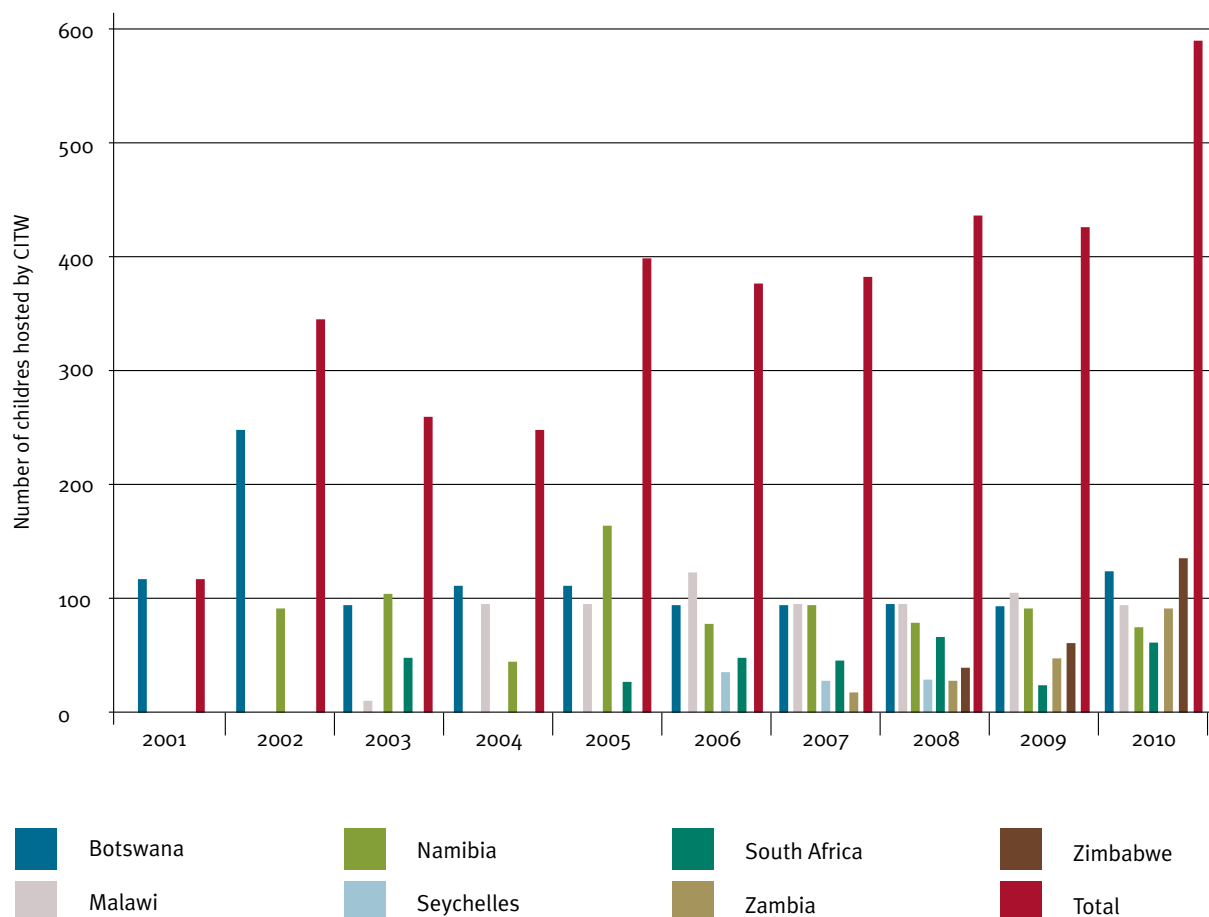
ZAMBIA

- 9. Kalamu Lagoon Camp
- 10. Lufupa River Camp

ZIMBABWE

- 11. Davison's Camp
- 12. Ruckomechi Camp

Number of Children hosted by CITW



Children in the Wilderness Botswana

Children in the Wilderness Botswana, running since the inception of the programme in 2001, had a great 2010. Children in the Wilderness hosted four camps and several Follow-up sessions, which we believe will keep conservation and the skills attained at camp at the forefront of the children's minds.

2010 CAMPS

96 children were hosted by Children in the Wilderness Botswana in 2010. The first two camps of 16 strong were hosted at Jacana Camp and the children were selected from Tubu and Gumare villages.

Two other camps were held at Wilderness Tented Camp which hosted 32 children per camp. The Wilderness Tented Camp region is a wonderful place of learning for these local children, as it is rich in San (bushman) culture.

The first of these camps saw the arrival of children from Shashe Primary School in Maun and Sankoyo Primary School. The final programme included four schools from the Okavango Community Trust – Seronga, Gunotsoga, Beetsha and Gudigwa Primary Schools. During this last week some dignitaries were also hosted, including the Honourable Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Mr Kitso Mokaila and the Assistant Minister of Education, Mr Rakhudu. It was a great honour that they could be present at one of the programmes.

At all the programmes, game drives were a highlight and the children were inquisitive and willing to learn. Another successful session was the Conservation Talk. These talks are divided into three main topics focusing on environmental conservation and identifying areas where the children can have an impact:

- Me and My Home
- Me and My River
- Me and Wildlife Conservation

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMMES

Children in the Wilderness Botswana conducted Follow-up Programmes with some of the schools and communities with which they work. Each visit had a theme, namely: camp reflection and feedback; peer pressure, teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS; and information and knowledge sharing.

Another programme run in conjunction with the Follow-up sessions is the Environmental Stewardship Programme. The four-year-old programme focuses on children who showed great potential and a real interest in the environment when they were in camp. These children are offered a seven-day guiding course and the curriculum expands on what has been previously learned with a strong conservation emphasis. We have hosted 56 children so far – and every child has expressed an interest in a career in conservation and tourism.

A special Follow-up session was organised for eight children from the Okavango Community Trust villages to Khama Rhino Sanctuary, on the other side of the country. These children, who had originally attended a Children in the Wilderness camp, are now studying in high schools, so it was important for us to connect with them once more. This session showcased the variety of fauna and flora that Botswana has to offer and educated the children on different conservation challenges that other regions may need to deal with.

Children in the Wilderness Botswana

BOTSWANA



CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley

Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley is the new kid on the block. As a direct result of a partnership created through our fundraising cycle tour, the Tour de Tuli, Children in the Wilderness has managed to expand its operation to include the areas in which the mountain bike event takes place – the Limpopo Valley. This area is surrounded by some of the most fascinating wilderness areas in Africa.

Trained by the Children in the Wilderness team, the programme has been handed over to and is being run fully by its own team. One of the greatest achievements of the first year has been gaining the trust, encouragement and admiration of the community.



2010 CAMPS

We ran two camps in 2010, both of which hosted 16 children each. The first was held in April at Mashatu Tent Camp in the northern part of the Northern Tuli Game Reserve. Mashatu kindly donated the camp and the staff helped us with the programme. Two members of staff from Children in the Wilderness Botswana came with their experience to assist with the programme. The children attending this camp came from Motlhabaneng Primary School.

Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley

The second camp was held in December at Serolo Camp which is located in the southern part of the Tuli Wilderness Trails. Tuli Wilderness kindly donated this commercial camp for the benefit of Children in the Wilderness. In attendance were children from the Lentswe le Moriti Primary School and Motlhabaneng Primary School which are both located on the boundaries of the reserve.

Part of the Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley curriculum involved some exciting wildlife tracking. Andrei Snyman, the resident lion and leopard researcher, and Mark Harden, the elephant researcher, led some sessions and were given the opportunity to explain the important roles that these animals play in maintaining the health of an ecosystem.

A day's outing to Tuli Lodge, Pont Drift Immigration and Customs and Limpopo Valley airfield was conducted with emphasis on careers in the conservation and tourism arena.

The head of the Mashatu Anti-poaching Team, Rex Masupe, came to talk to the children about anti-poaching, where he demonstrated setting a wire snare and explained the consequences of this. The children learnt how badly the animals are injured and how they suffer before they eventually die. By coincidence on one of the anti-poaching days, the children saw an elephant with "half a trunk" as a result of a snare. This had a huge impact on some of the children.

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMMES

Being a very recent addition to the Children in the Wilderness family and operational for less than a year, our Follow-up Programmes are still in the pioneering stages. However, success has already been achieved by introducing vegetable gardens into the schools involved in the Children in the Wilderness programme. We have assisted the schools with registering with the Environmental Society of Botswana. Worksheets have been taken to the schools to expand on what was learnt at camp. These worksheets focus primarily on conservation but also include the importance of nutrition and recycling. Our Children in the Wilderness representatives have maintained a regular presence in the schools and communities and the progress of the camp participants is being regularly monitored.

PLANS FOR 2011

Children in the Wilderness has concrete plans for three camps during 2011. Two camps will be held at Mashatu Tent Camp and one at another camp to be specified. Our aim is to host at least 16 children at each camp. The children will again be selected from Motlhabaneng and Lentswe le Moriti; however we will also extend this to children in Mathathane.

We would like to extend our programme into the Mapungubwe National Park and have made contact with the park with regards to this. These camps will therefore benefit South African and potentially Zimbabwean children (permission dependent) as Mapungubwe falls right on their boundaries.

Our Follow-up Programmes will expand as the programme hosts more children from different areas. We are exploring the feasibility of targeting international volunteers to assist with future Follow-ups. With the extra skilled assistance, we will also be able to expand the Follow-up Programmes to include environmental education for children that are not yet eligible to attend a camp. This addition of suitable human resources will allow the provision of weekly Follow-up Programmes within all of the schools.

Children in the Wilderness Malawi

Children in the Wilderness Malawi began in 2003. Conservation, the sustainable use of Lake Malawi, and forestation are key elements in the Malawian environmental curriculum. Due to the proximity of the children to Lake Malawi, learning to swim is one of the life skills taught.

2010 CAMPS

While we usually operate four camps and host 96 children a year, we were only able to have 60 children in two camps this year due to the change in the school calendar. Both camps were held in December at Mvuu Camp in Liwonde National Park. A group of 34 girls and 26 boys between the ages of 9 and 16 were hosted on two programmes. Children were selected from the Machinga district east of the Liwonde National Park, the Balaka district west of the Park, and from the Chintheche community, 500km from the Park.

As December is the rainy season in the area we faced some challenges bringing the children into camp but despite the bad conditions everyone made it – some arriving in style on the Mvuu tractor!

Our activities included game drives, walking safaris, night drives and boat trips. While mammals were in abundance, the guides made sure to also point out birds, trees and flowers. All of this is done to develop the children's love of nature and conservation. A National Parks Ranger also attended one of the walks and talked to the children about the damage and mutilation that snares and poaching cause.

Future Planning, as always, was one of the favourite programmes run at Mvuu Camp. In this programme, children are given a chance to interview those who have made a career in ecotourism and in other professions including doctors, nurses, managers, guides, chefs and accountants, to name a few. This inspires them to see a future for themselves and to continue their schooling.

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMME

Children in the Wilderness Malawi operates a comprehensive Follow-up Programme with previous campers in their communities. The trained mentors facilitate two-hourly sessions four times a month in each community. These sessions are designed to continue on from what was learnt in the camp sessions. Often material is revised to keep the knowledge fresh in the children's minds. Another critical element is social interaction and therefore time is frequently spent simply talking to the students. All in all 387 children take part in these sessions.

During the year, we also hosted a Children in the Wilderness Open Day in each community. We use this as a platform to showcase activities and achievements of the camps and Follow-up Programmes, as well as to educate the community and parents about Children in the Wilderness. Teambuilding and the sense of ownership of the programme is the underlying theme of the day.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

There are a number of additional programmes in which Children in the Wilderness Malawi is involved. Running for three years and sponsored by the University of California, the Nutrition Project aims at empowering local parents in our Chintheche community and offering food security. Up to 60 families in two clubs are involved in this project; one has all women as members. During the growing season, 30% of the produce harvested is sold and the money paid into the clubs, 30% goes into the community grain banks and the rest is for personal use. The club money is used to buy farming equipment and seeds, while the capital grows year by year.

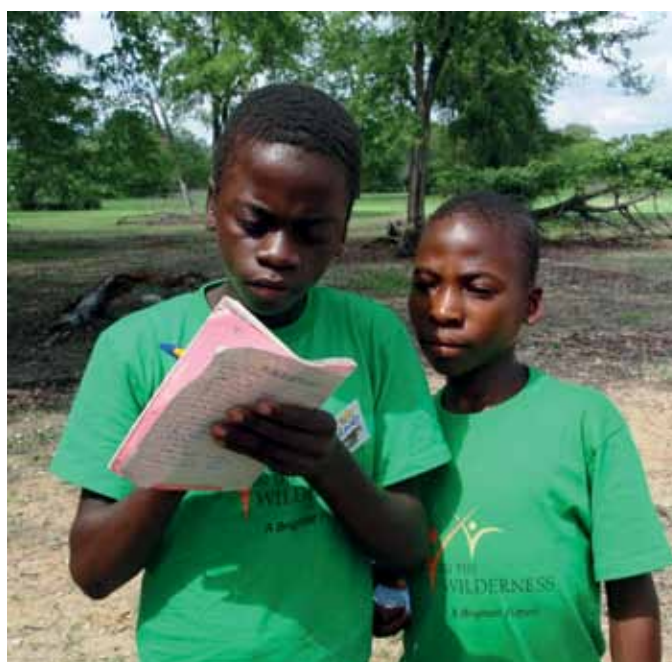
Children in the Wilderness Malawi

For six years Children in the Wilderness Malawi has extended its outreach and has been running a scholarship programme for children who have shown academic and leadership potential. Those selected are able to further their education at high schools and even universities. Currently we have 65 students on the programme, while a total of 110 children have been assisted by our sponsors since the programme's inception.

PLANS FOR 2011

Children in the Wilderness Malawi will be running three camps at Chintheche Inn this year. We are working on about 90 children being hosted.

The Follow-up Programme has been running successfully to date and we intend to continue this momentum. In addition we are already working on the feasibility of initiating a number of other programmes. Many of these have been proposed by the children themselves. They include tree nursery and woodlot plantations, National Park fence maintenance and protection, permaculture and nutrition security.



Children in the Wilderness Malawi

THE STORY OF DANFORD MANDA

In 2005 Danford Manda, a local child from the Chintheche region attended a Children in the Wilderness camp. Already identified by his mentors as a leader, he was inspired by the Wilderness guides and the knowledge he gained from them during camp. His dream was to become a Wilderness guide one day.

While attending the weekly Follow-up meetings he learned more and more about conservation. In 2009 after some research in his home community he identified an ever-increasing demand for wood and realised that deforestation was an issue. He wrote a proposal to Children in the Wilderness requesting funding and support with regards to starting a tree nursery and woodlot project for his community.

Thanks to Danford and to an enthusiastic community, this year the project is already in action. A one-hectare piece of land has been donated by the local chief for the woodlot. A number of trees have already been planted along the boundary of the land and the community children will be working together with our Wilderness tree experts in raising seedlings for the 2011 December tree planting season. We expect that 2 500 trees will be planted on the land eventually.

When Danford finished his secondary school level, he applied for a job as Wilderness guide and he is now working as a trainee guide at Mvu Camp. With his monthly earnings, he is able to give his younger sister the opportunity of going to secondary school.

Danford also volunteered his services as a mentor during the 2010 Children in the Wilderness programme at Mvu Camp. Coming from the same community as some of the children in camp, he is an excellent role model who in effect restores a sense of hope in the children, allowing them to see a future for themselves – “if I can do it, so can you” is his subtle encouragement.



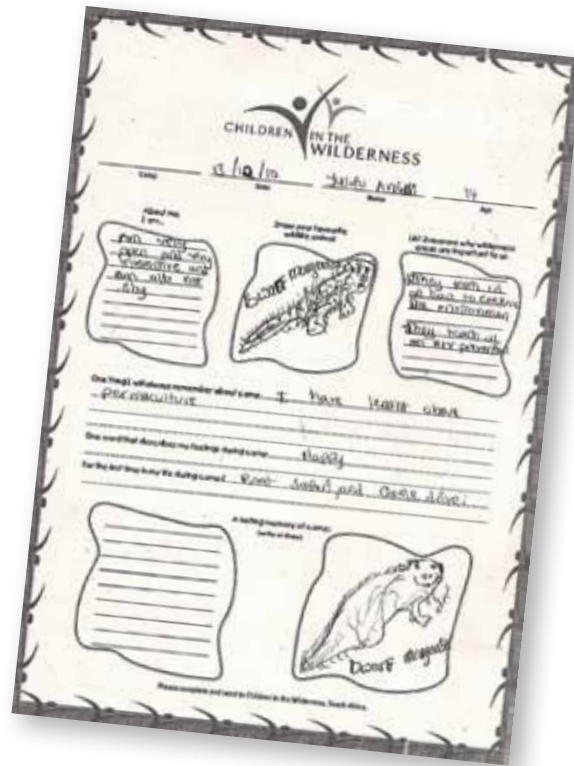
Children in the Wilderness Malawi

THE STORY OF YUSUFU AMINI

14-year-old Yusufu was one of the campers who was considered by his mentors as a leader at our camp at Mvuu in 2010. A friendly boy, he is liked and respected by all of his peers. Mentors saw how he helped other campers if they encountered any difficulties. He showed great interest in wildlife and conservation and even suggested ways in which to combat poaching within the parks. One of his suggestions included bringing the wonderful work of Children in the Wilderness to as many children as possible. As more children see the beauty and importance of the wilderness more will appreciate it and help conservation in Malawi.

His interest in the programme proved to be more than just the week at Mvuu Camp. After the programme he has attended every single weekly Follow-up session.

Yusufu's uncle is the Group Village Headman and a member of the Children in the Wilderness Child's Rights Committee. Yusufu is a great example of the type of personality we now include in our selection process for Children in the Wilderness programmes. His leadership qualities and influential skills will help Children in the Wilderness grow their objectives with the probability of taking our message further than just within his village.



'They teach us on how to conserve the environment'



Children in the Wilderness Namibia

Children in the Wilderness Namibia began in 2002. In 2010, Children in the Wilderness Namibia hosted a total of 81 children in the Sossusvlei area and at the remote and stunning Hoanib River Camp in the northern regions of Namibia.

2010 CAMPS

One of the schools we earmarked for the Children in the Wilderness Namibia programme in 2010 was Otjikondavirongo, located in a very remote village at the end of a 30km gravel track that takes two hours to travel by car. The children who attend the school come from mainly Himba families in the outlying areas. They often walk barefoot to school over long distances for the week and return home on weekends.

The school is still only partly built due to lack of funds and the majority of it is still roofless. There is no water or electricity and therefore water is taken from a nearby stream for bathing, drinking and cleaning.

The children really enjoyed the Children in the Wilderness Programme; not only did they have a roof over their heads, proper running water and electricity, but the learning experience for them was wonderful. It seemed as though their confidence grew in the short week they spent at camp.

One of the highlights of the camp was the novelty of much of the food the children had while on camp – some had bananas and pears for the first time. On early mornings children went on a nature walk from Hoanib River Camp and followed the pathway made by animals towards the Hoanib riverbed and were introduced to many denizens of the desert. Other programmes included an Alcohol Workshop (due to the high incidence of alcoholism in the community) and the Elephant Nature Drive where the children dealt with the problem of human-elephant conflict in the area.

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMMES

The Follow-up Programmes are offered to a few past participants selected to take the learning experience to a higher level. Many activity packets and worksheets are sent out throughout the year tackling issues including HIV/AIDS, water conservation, biodiversity and job creation and opportunities. The programme is run through active Children in the Wilderness groups all over Namibia with many members regularly receiving and completing the activities. There is then further opportunity for school graduates to attend Wilderness guide training courses: two former Children in the Wilderness participants are now permanently employed at Wilderness.



Children in the Wilderness Namibia

THE STORY OF ASNATH AND RUMATEE

Asnath aged 11 and Rumatee aged 9 are sisters. Their mother passed away when Rumatee was only two months old. After her death the sisters were sent to live with different family members, one in Purros and the other in Warmquelle. They are able to see each other from time to time but with the poor road conditions and the distance to travel, these meetings are few and far between. As luck would have it the two schools that the girls attend were asked to participate in the Children in the Wilderness camp and the two sisters were selected to take part. They were even put into the same tent together. They both said that how wonderful it was to see one another again and to share the experience of the programme together.



"For the first time in my life during camp I learn to share things with [each] other. I learn to trust other people"
Sherlym Amxas, 13 years old

"For the first time in my life I feel happy and safe"
Uakamisa Tjiningine, 11 years old

Children in the Wilderness South Africa

Children in the Wilderness South Africa currently hosts annual camps at Rocktail Beach Camp and Pafuri Camp.

South Africa, while the economic powerhouse of Africa, has a massive gap between the haves and have-nots, one which seems to widen year on year. While the majority of South African rural children have access to schools there is still a huge need for them to realise the opportunities and potential of their environment, be it for career opportunities, for conservation efforts or for the future of the country as a whole.



Children in the Wilderness South Africa

2010 CAMPS

Held late in September 2010, 24 children from the neighbouring communities were hosted by Children in the Wilderness at Rocktail Beach Camp.

A wide range of activities and learning components formed the agenda covering the relevant and important topics of conservation, HIV/AIDS awareness, nutrition, sustainable fishing, littering, the concepts of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' and ecotourism. Here at the coast, the children from this community face very different environmental issues than those living adjacent to the Kruger Park. Over-fishing and sea pollution are some of these challenges and Children in the Wilderness therefore focuses on these and similar key factors of the community and their immediate surroundings.

While these children arrived at camp a little overwhelmed and shy, they were soon singing and dancing with the loud and fun-loving staff. It is remarkable to see the development of these youngsters over the course of a week, and the real impact this type of programme has on their lives.

Highlights of the programme included a boat ride that brought the kids within a few metres of some playful humpback whales, and an excursion to Lake Sibaya where the children saw hippo and crocodile for the first time and learned about traditional uses for plants and the sustainable use of resources.

The second programme in South Africa was held at Pafuri Camp in the Kruger National Park, in mid-December. This time 40 children were chosen from five schools in the Makuleke community, comprising 24 girls and 16 boys.

All the components and activities (game drives, arts and crafts, and energisers) were linked to the theme of leadership. The curriculum included topics such as conservation and the sustainable use of resources, recycling, littering, ecotourism, health and nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

The highlight of the programme for the children was the game drives. Swimming was also a favourite activity, especially when the temperatures soared to over 40 degrees Celsius!

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMME

The Follow-up Programme consists of Eco Clubs, held at the five schools in the Makuleke region. Overseen and managed by Children in the Wilderness, they continue to grow, and now host approximately 200 children. The clubs highlight specific environmental community concerns and the need to take action within the community to promote awareness about the causes and effects. "What is Soil Erosion?" was the topic at one of the Eco Clubs. Outside the classroom it was pouring with rain and this made it easy for the mentors to demonstrate effects of soil erosion within the school grounds. Children actively participate in discussions, complete worksheets and show great commitment to the Eco Club meetings. Children were amazed when they realised a tree provides more than wood for burning, but is also home to a host of birds, insects, all while cleaning the air – this time the Eco Club topic was Ecosystems. The most recent topic was the thought-provoking Waste and Waste Management.

PLANS FOR 2011

In 2011 we will continue to operate the camps at Rocktail Beach Camp and Pafuri Camp. This year we will be concentrating on a more formal integration of leadership values into the existing curriculum – elements that we feel are fundamental to its success.

As of yet we do not have a formal Follow-up Programme operational at Rocktail Beach Camp and this will be our main focus for the year. We will use a very similar concept to that of Pafuri's Follow-up Programme by forming Eco Clubs in the schools which will be coordinated and hosted with the assistance of the community teachers.

Children in the Wilderness South Africa

FEEDBACK FROM CHILDREN AND STAFF

"Seeing the kids put the papers on fire where they wrote their wishes. I can only wonder what those wishes are and pray that they all come true. Seeing the kids transformed from being shy to vibrant, interactive and energetic kids."

Jack Chakanga, Rocktail Beach Camp

"One thing I will always remember about camp is learning about how to conserve."

Snalithemba, 10 years old, Rocktail Beach Camp

"I will remember the food that we ate at Beach Camp."

Betty Gumede, 12 years old, Rocktail Beach Camp

"A lasting memory of camp is seeing a humpback whale."

Betty Gumede, 12 years old, Rocktail Beach Camp

"I was very happy when a doctor came to camp to teach us about HIV."

Nokuthula



Children in the Wilderness South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA



"The things I will always remember about a camp are the animals like the vultures, my new friends and the beautiful Limpopo and Luvuvhu River."

Abgail Khosa, 14 years old, Pafuri Camp

"My name is Patricia. I am a girl. I love to play netball. My favourite food is meat and rice. The animals that I have seen are lion and impala and those are the animals which I love so much."

Patricia Masia, 12 years old, Pafuri Camp

"The thing that made me happy was to learn animals, culture, conservation and how to reduce reuse and recycle and how can we protect our body from getting HIV/AIDS."

Hebron Makamu, 12 years old, Pafuri Camp

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Children in the Wilderness Zambia

Children in the Wilderness Zambia has been running since 2007, with programmes being held at our camps in the Kafue National Park and South Luangwa National Park. The children hosted come from the communities that border the parks. Poaching is possibly one of the biggest issues that Zambia's wildlife habitats are currently faced with. Therefore a major part of our Children in the Wilderness curriculum concentrates on the negative impact of poaching on wildlife conservation, the surrounding communities and the future of Zambia's wilderness areas.

2010 CAMPS

During the year Children in the Wilderness ran three camps, hosting 66 children between the ages of 10 and 14 years of age and an equal mix of girls and boys.

The first programme was held at Lufupa Camp in May, with children from Kabulwebulwe School in Nalusanga, on the eastern boundary of Kafue National Park. This is our second programme with this school and both have proved to be hugely successful.

Shortly after this we hosted a camp at Kalamu Lagoon Camp in South Luangwa. With the exception of one child who came from Chiongozi School as a repeat camper, the rest of the children came from Malanga Basic School.

The third camp was held at the end of the season at Lufupa where we hosted children and teachers from Jifumpa and Kamakechi Basic Schools, located north of Kafue National Park. This is our third programme with these two schools. In fact, schools that have been hosted more than once are proving to be our most enjoyable camps. We hope that the legacy and messages that have been passed down by previous campers have made this the variable difference. We were honoured to have the Headmaster of Kamakechi School and the Deputy Head of Jifumpa School join us.

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMMES

Throughout the year the children are visited by Children in the Wilderness coordinators to follow up on their various projects. These Follow-up Programmes are now in place to revisit lessons learnt in camps from previous years so that precious information is not forgotten and education continues to be encouraged.

In April 2010 Children in the Wilderness held a Follow-up Day at Kabulwebulwe School with the 24 children who we hosted the previous year at Lufupa. We revisited some of the lessons learnt in camp, in particular those related to conservation; it was extremely encouraging to see how much the children had remembered and had even tried putting into practice in their own homes. We then spent some time talking to each child personally to find out what they had achieved over the year and how they were faring at school and at home.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

In addition to the Children in the Wilderness Camps and Follow-up Programmes we also run other events. In October we invited 18 children from a village in South Luangwa to Chipembele Wildlife Centre to learn more about conservation in the South Luangwa area. This was a huge highlight for the kids and a great day out.

In April we paid for the school fees and the uniform of Martin Chisenga, one of our outstanding campers who had to drop out of school during the course of the year as his uncle, who he lives with, was unable to pay for either. We are glad to see him back at school. Other contributions include clothing, stationery and sporting equipment through kind donations from our guests.

To encourage "green fingers" and provide nutritious food in a sustainable manner we donated seeds and fertiliser

Children in the Wilderness Zambia

to various schools so that the children could start their own vegetable gardens.

Through guest donations at Kalamu Lagoon Camp we have built a library at Kalengo Basic School. Called the “Malama Wilderness Community Library,” it will be used by all the villages in the area.

PLANS FOR 2011

We intend to run our first Children in the Wilderness Camp at Toka Leya Camp in Livingstone in 2011. We are working with various schools and communities in this area in the hope of creating a sustainable long-term relationship with them. This is in addition to running two camps at Lufupa and one at Kalamu. All in all we would like to see the numbers of children we host up to go during the year.

Planned additional Follow-up Programmes include a conservation club which we would like to launch in 2011. These programmes will take place in a number of our schools with the assistance of teachers and our guides. The programme is aimed at continuing conservation classes introduced to children at camp. We feel it is important that these children gain confidence by sharing their thoughts and experiences with someone on an ongoing basis.

A “chicken project” will be launched at Kamakechi Basic School in 2011. Each child at the school will be given a chicken so that it can produce eggs for food or sale.

“For the first time during camp I used a flushing toilet, baked a pancake, saw a lion, slept in a tent and I was happy.”

“Being with these children humbles you. To see things through the eyes of these children who have so little in terms of material things – how they appreciated every tiny thing they received on camp, absorbed everything that they learnt and went away with something to hold onto for the future....”
Emma Seaman (CITW Zambia Coordinator)



Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe

To date Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe has hosted a total of 396 children and the programme continues to go from strength to strength. Wary of creating any dependency syndromes through our programmes and donations, we try to give communities the tools they need to run sustainable projects.

Following some very difficult years for Zimbabwe, the country seems to be getting back on its feet. While there is a sense of “cautious” optimism in Zimbabwe, we must not forget that many children have had their lives disrupted by poverty and disease and therefore many are living in despair. We believe that Children in the Wilderness can positively impact on these individuals by creating an understanding and passion for their environment.

2010 CAMPS

2010 saw quite a number of Children in the Wilderness camps including children from the surrounding communities of Hwange and Mana Pools National Parks. For the first time we also invited children from the Tuli area to attend camp. The Tuli Game Reserve forms part of our fantastic cycle challenge – the Tour de Tuli.

In April, Ruckomechi Camp in Mana Pools National Park hosted two camps and in November Davison’s Camp, Hwange National Park, hosted an outstanding four programmes, thus necessitating the closure of the camp to guests for a month.

SELF-FUNDING CHILDREN’S CAMPS

This programme is marketed to more affluent children who are able to pay to participate in a Children in the Wilderness Camp. It is important that these children also learn to love the wild and become aware of environmental and conservation issues in Africa. The fees that they pay to attend camp are used in turn as funds for camps for disadvantaged children.

In 2009 a pilot camp of this sort took place at Ruckomechi and proved very successful. We therefore hosted a second camp in 2010 and look forward to hosting these camps once again in 2011.

We run a very similar programme for young adults from all over the world who wish to make a difference. Commonly known as Voluntourism, these young adults pay to have an authentic experience and opportunity to discover Africa. They volunteer to help in the communities and at camp and in turn gain well-balanced environmental and community-based knowledge. Once again the fees go towards our Children in the Wilderness Programme.





ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

Zimbabwe used to have one of the best education systems in southern Africa; however with the instability of the Zimbabwean economy, education has paid the price. Good teachers have immigrated looking for greener pastures and the few left behind lacked the motivation to educate the children to the best of their abilities. It was therefore decided that instead of establishing a Follow-up Programme where we brought back those children who showed an interest in conservation and hospitality at the previous camps, Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe would be better off going back to the source and helping more children in their communities and in their schools. Out of this was born our education rehabilitation and school nutrition programme.

The school nutrition programme aims at providing a meal a day for 430 children for every school day of the year. In 2009 we committed to providing one meal a day for 790 children and this grew to two meals a day in 2010.

We have also recruited and incentivised O- and A-Level school-leavers from our communities to teach under the instruction of the headmaster. To improve and update the teachers' skills we hired two qualified science teachers and four volunteers to train our teachers in innovative ways to incorporate environmental science into all aspects of the curriculum and how to utilise limited resources to create teaching aids and material.

Other ways in which we have helped is in building and renovating existing school buildings, supplying desks, chairs, textbooks and stationery. We have helped to electrify two schools and have drilled boreholes in a number of schools to ensure water accessibility for the students.

Finally we have sponsored projects for the community as a whole. By providing work and an income for the adults we are ensuring the continuity and sustainability of our children and school programmes. These include projects such as vegetable gardening to supplement both the school nutrition programme and the community's diet; a knitting project where we supply the materials, expertise and market; and the Living Hedges programme in which we supply seedlings and expertise for the communities to run a nursery that supplies *Jatropha* plants to the villages which prevents the further felling of trees for fencing.

Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe

PLANS FOR 2011

All of the above programmes are ongoing and will continue throughout 2011. We will hold more camps in April/ May in Mana Pools National Park and towards the end of the year in Hwange National Park.

We are planning a sponsorship programme with the aim of providing primary and secondary school education to disadvantaged children from schools and communities surrounding the areas in which Wilderness operates. The selection process incorporates high academic achievers, above average and average students who are self-motivated and likely candidates to pass the minimum O-Level requirements. We hope that this will produce a group of potential leaders within the community who will be an example of how a good education can influence and improve their chances in life.



Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE



"I don't know of a better way to get a sense of a country than to volunteer for Wilderness. We saw life in Zimbabwe through the eyes of children, through national parks workers, through camp managers and by socialising with other young volunteers and Zimbabweans. Highlights of our experience were seeing the disadvantaged children participate in a Children in the Wilderness camp and experience some things for the first time. Eating an apple! Seeing a plane! Fishing! Despite some being children of game wardens, seeing lions and herds of sable were new experiences for them. It has made me really appreciate the simple things in life."

Anna Orban, Oregon, USA.

"While on the airstrip, Busi one of our children at camp showed great interest. She asked me if a woman could become a pilot and I told her that the sky was the limit. She had never seen an aircraft before so it was with great fascination that she moved around the plane. A new world of possibilities was discovered by the children during camp - a world where age, race or geographical location does not discriminate."

Angeline Mhlanga - Wilderness Safaris Hostess and CITW volunteer

"Things I will remember about camp... The children's awe at the running water and then double awe that the water was hot! It has hard to get them out of the shower."

Bulusani – Tent leader

Fundraising

The costs of operating the Children in the Wilderness programme in seven southern African countries are extensive. We are very grateful for all the support that we receive from Wilderness guests, tour operators and other travel agencies and corporate companies who give monetary donations, goods in kind and in some instances sponsor camps.

However, over and above this, we need to run further fundraising activities and events in order for the programme to be sustainable. In addition, each country is responsible for initiating some of its own fundraising activities.

An example of this in 2010 was the Children in the Wilderness Botswana Soccer in the Wilderness fundraising soccer tournament, which coincided with the 2010 Soccer World Cup. The aim was also to build excitement for the impending World Cup on our continent and to promote a healthy lifestyle at the same time. Over a period of three months, our own highly competitive Soccer in the Wilderness tournament took place with the final being held at Vumbura Plains Camp on 1 May. In addition to the prestige and the cup that winners received, we raised an amount of BWP85 000 (approximately US\$ 13 000) for Children in the Wilderness Botswana. This fundraiser is set to become an annual activity.

One of the Children in the Wilderness' prime fundraising activities for the groups is our annual mountain bike event – the Tour de Tuli. With the cooperation of Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa, the 310km, five-day mountain biking adventure continues to grow in popularity every year whilst generating revenue for Children in the Wilderness. This year it raised R1.5 million.

The Medscheme Tour de Tuli 2010 Mapungubwe Route attracted 420 cyclists, 54 cyclist leaders and 150 staff and volunteers. The event was represented by many different nationalities including Australia, Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles, Slovakia, South Africa, USA, and the UK – and not forgetting Zimbabwe!

The increasing popularity of the tour in 2010 saw, for the first time, two consecutive starts and an increase by 54% of the number of cyclists that had participated in 2009.

Over five days, the cyclists travelled through four different National Parks and crossed through three 'informal' country border posts. The cyclists were exposed to some of the finest places that the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) has to offer, namely the Northern Tuli Game Reserve, the Tuli Safari area, Shashe and Maramani villages and the Sentinel paleontological sites. The tour ended at the Mapungubwe National Park, a World Heritage Site.

The highlights of the tour included some excellent elephant sightings (including some close encounters that definitely got the cyclists' attention!), hyaena sightings and even a lion kill. The warm welcome of the communities along the way will live long in the memories of many cyclists. At Fort Tuli, the cyclists enjoyed camping in the Shashe riverbed, a gorgeous setting after a difficult day of cycling. Many cyclists enjoyed wallowing in the Limpopo River, despite the warnings of crocodile presence cautioning them not to do so....

It has surprised and delighted us to see so many people embracing the Tour de Tuli event and making it their own. The community spirit that has evolved has been overwhelming. An event such as this could not be possible without the commitment and contribution of many people. We would like to thank Medscheme, all our partners, sponsors, suppliers, cyclists and volunteers for participating in this event and making it the overwhelming success that it was.



Make a difference - how to donate

As 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 are interested in helping us with our programme, below is a list of opportunities:

1. **Monetary donations** to assist in covering the day-to-day camp operational expenses.
2. **Sponsor a child on a Children in the Wilderness camp** – A donation of US\$400 (or the equivalent) will sponsor a child to attend a six-day life skills and environmental Children in the Wilderness programme and includes follow-up.
3. **Sponsor a Children in the Wilderness Camp** – For a donation of approximately US\$6 400.00 you can host and brand an entire Children in the Wilderness camp of approximately 16-24 children. The costs do vary depending on the region and the number of children hosted in a specific camp.
4. **Become a Fundraising Ambassador** – Create a fundraising event or participate in a sporting event and make CITW the beneficiary. You can create your own webpage and circulate to potential donors who can donate online via a credit card at the BackaBuddy site: www.backabuddy.co.za/cw/
5. **Donations in kind** – i.e. services or products in kind that could be utilised on the programme and thereby reduce the camp's operational costs. These would include items such as stationery, sporting equipment, school equipment etc. When making donations in kind, please ensure that the CITW Project Director is advised in advance as there is paperwork for importation that is required to be completed. In some instances relevant import fees may outstrip the value of the goods and therefore this does need some consideration.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

If you wish to make a donation, we have various options available as below:

A. DEPOSIT DIRECTLY INTO A CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS COUNTRY BANK ACCOUNT:

Children in the Wilderness Botswana

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.za

Children in the Wilderness Limpopo Valley (Botswana)

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

Children in the Wilderness Malawi

Account Name: Children in the Wilderness
Bank: Standard Bank, City Centre Branch
Account Number: 014/00/030375/00
Branch Code: 08277200
Branch: Capital City, Lilongwe
Swift Code: SBIC MWMX
Donation reference to be sent to Symon Chibaka - citw@wilderness.mw

Make a difference - how to donate

Children in the Wilderness Namibia

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: SBNMNANX
Donation reference to be sent to - **citw@wilderness.com.na**

Children in the Wilderness Seychelles & South Africa (18A facility for SA citizens)

Registration Number: 2004/024727/08
Account Name: Children in the Wilderness Mkambati
Bank: Standard Bank
Account Number: 023031735
Branch Code: 001255
Branch: Rivonia
Swift Code: SBZAZAJJ
Donation reference for Seychelles to be sent to Laura McCraith - **lauram@north-island.com**
Donation reference for South Africa to be sent to Janet Wilkinson – **janetw@wilderness.co.za**

Children in the Wilderness Zambia

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 Emma Seaman – **emmas@wilderness.co.zm**

Children in the Wilderness Zimbabwe

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**

Children in the Wilderness General – (18A status for SA citizen)

(Funds paid into this account and referenced CITW general donation will be allocated to a pool to be distributed across all the programmes in the various countries)

Registration Number: 2004/024727/08
Account Name: Children in the Wilderness Mkambati
Bank: Standard Bank
Account Number: 023031735
Branch Code: 001255
Branch: Rivonia
ABA Routing No use Swift Code: SBZAZAJJ
Donation reference to be sent to Heather Wilson: **heatherw@wilderness.co.za**

Make a difference - how to donate

B. PAYMENT VIA RESOURCES FIRST FOUNDATION (501C FOR USA RESIDENTS)

To donate through the Resources First Foundation cheques can be mailed to:
Resources First Foundation
189 Main Street
Yarmouth, MA 04096

Please Note:

- Resources First Foundation can only accept donations in U.S. dollars.
- The Resources First Foundation collects donations for many different programmes, so please ensure that your donation is clearly earmarked for CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS.
- If you would like to do an EFT into the Resources First Foundation account, please contact Angela Bellegarde at angelab@resourcesfirstfoundation.org for more information.

C. DONATE VIA CREDIT CARD:

If you would like to make a credit card donation, there are two options available: either through the BackaBuddy facility or directly with us. These funds will be allocated to CITW general fund to cover funding in all the regions.

- BackaBuddy: To donate through the BackaBuddy website please go to: www.backabuddy.co.za/cw/
- Directly with CITW: You can download a credit card authorisation form off our website www.childreninthewilderness.com on the Donate Now page. Please complete the form and email proof of payment to heatherw@wilderness.co.za.

D. WILDERNESS SAFARIS AGENTS:

Wilderness Safaris agents can elect to give a donation per booking to Children in the Wilderness that will be invoiced at the time of making your reservation. Should you be interested in this option please email heatherw@wilderness.co.za to facilitate this process.

E. JEWEL AFRICA:

Jewel Africa is a world-class interactive shopping destination that offers exclusive jewellery tours, engagement rings, diamonds, tanzanite and more. Any purchases made through Jewel Africa either directly at its workshop or online and referenced to Children in the Wilderness will accrue a donation of 5% of your purchase to Children in the Wilderness. Jewel Africa provides complimentary shuttles to/from your hotel to their showrooms in Johannesburg or Cape Town, as well as worldwide shipping. www.jewelafrica.com

Contact:

Johannesburg: email johannesburg@jewelafrica.co.za ; telephone +27 (0) 11 0119188 or after hours +27 (0) 82 460 4042

Cape Town: email capetown@jewelafrica.co.za ; telephone +27 (0) 21 4245141 or after hours +27 (0) 82 658 8712

Please Reference: Children in the Wilderness (to ensure the donation reaches us)

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS COMMUNICATIONS

We communicate with our donors via an email newsletter every three to four months. Should you wish to be included in the newsletter communication please email heatherw@wilderness.co.za and let us know.

Our Sponsors

We are very grateful to the following individuals, companies, travel partners and charitable trusts and foundations for their generous support. We certainly could not have achieved what we have to date without your kind support. We would also like to thank and acknowledge all our cyclists, volunteers and other fundraising ambassadors who participate in our fundraising events and also arrange and operate their own. There are too many people to name, however their time and donations have made an enormous difference to the Children in the Wilderness programmes.

INVESTORS



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Tracy Bamber's Comrades and Two Oceans
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