



WILDERNESS
TRUST



REPORT

2018 - 2023





THE WILDERNESS TRUST

INCORPORATING

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Stakeholder report for the period

1 March 2018 - 30 June 2023

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report covers the activities of The Wilderness Trust (formerly The Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust), as well as the various entities collectively known as “Children in the Wilderness” (“CITW”), in respect of which The Wilderness Trust has an oversight function.

The Wilderness Trust is the principal oversight trust in respect of the activities described in this report.

CITW is, in turn and in certain instances, operated through the following entities:

Country	Name of Entity
Botswana	Children in the Wilderness Pty Ltd
Namibia	Children in the Wilderness Trust
Zambia	Children in the Wilderness Trust Zambia Limited
Zimbabwe	Children in the Wilderness (Zimbabwe) Trust
South Africa	Children in the Wilderness – Mkambati (Pty) Ltd (in liquidation) (“CITW SA”)

The report covers the period from 1 March 2018 to 30 June 2023. During 2021, the financial year end of The Wilderness Trust was changed from 28 February to 30 June. As a result, the results reported for the period ended 30 June 2021 cover a 16-month period.

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LETTER FROM THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE WILDERNESS TRUST

“It demonstrates the responsibility of The Wilderness Trust to achieve the greatest possible impact, at a time in history when its imperatives are more critical than ever before”.



After a long break occasioned by the Covid pandemic and the significant slowdown of activities of The Wilderness Trust, as well as the various Children in the Wilderness programmes, we are pleased to now be in a position to finalise this report covering the period from 1 March 2018 to 30 June 2023.

The Wilderness Trust has, over the last 18 months, positioned itself for greater impact into the future. As further described in this report, this has included:

- strategic review, and alignment with Wilderness' newly adopted impact pillars to Educate, Empower and Protect;
- improvements to its governance structures and processes, monitoring of grants and activities, and transparency of activities;
- careful thought towards potential new approaches to fundraising activities, and optimising and synchronising the activities of Children in the Wilderness across its regions.

The Wilderness Trust affords its donors the benefit of independent oversight, while also benefiting from the tremendous and privileged platform it gains from its symbiotic relationship with the Wilderness Group. This report details some of the ways in which

that relationship breathes life into the activities of The Wilderness Trust. It also demonstrates the responsibility of The Wilderness Trust to achieve the greatest possible impact, at a time in history when its imperatives are more critical than ever before.

My sincere thanks go to the Wilderness team that has assisted with the preparation of this report, to my fellow trustees, and the team that supports us, for their ongoing support, engagement and collaboration, and to the even broader team of talented people who implement the initiatives highlighted in this report.

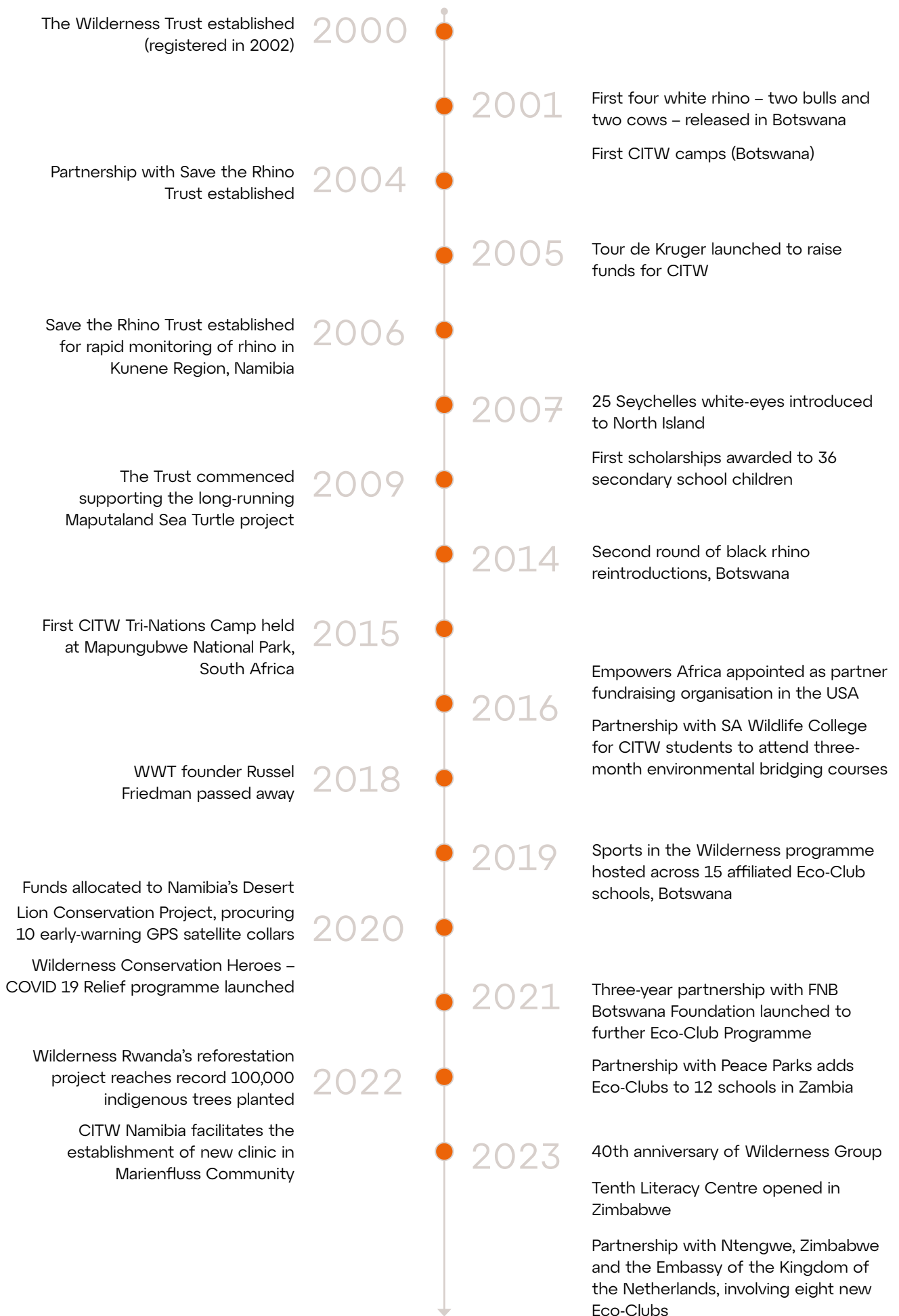
Charles Douglas
Chairman of The Wilderness Trust





KEY MILESTONES







IMPACT

AT A GLANCE

OVERVIEW

USD6,2 million
in funding generated

Project disbursements of
USD5,3 million

EDUCATE

2,500
children participate
annually in Eco-Clubs

Core programme cost
USD630,000
(further costs incurred in
support by Wilderness)

Community projects valued at
USD1,12 million
supported

300
children attend annual
camps at Wilderness
camps each year

Almost
600
scholarships awarded, valued
at USD1,02 million

EMPOWER

4
projects supported

USD1,08 million
spent on projects

20,000
Covid relief food
parcels distributed over 6
countries to more than
100,000 people

PROTECT

25
projects, to the value
US\$911 000, supported

More than
100,000
trees planted

Gorilla habitat expanded by
6.5
hectares

Note that most projects provide benefits under more than one pillar. For the purposes of this report, projects are classified under just one pillar and not allocated across the others.



PURPOSE AND STRATEGY

The goal of The Wilderness Trust is to make a difference to Africa, its wildlife and its people. The Wilderness Trust, formerly the Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust, is an independent non-profit organisation established in 2000 and re-registered in 2021. The Wilderness Trust was established by the Wilderness Group of companies (known at that time as Wilderness Safaris). At the time, it was recognised that Wilderness Safaris could only do so much for conservation in the course of its day-to-day activities and that a dedicated entity was needed to take matters further. More funds and a greater reach would make the conservation and development activities more effective and impactful. Accordingly, it was decided that an independent entity that facilitated fundraising and the disbursement of the monies to deserving projects would mean that, both directly and indirectly, Wilderness could assist more people, wildlife and places.

The relationship between Wilderness and The Wilderness Trust is therefore symbiotic. In many projects supported financially by The Wilderness Trust, Wilderness contributes significantly through logistics

and in-kind support (e.g. equipment; manpower; fuel; vehicle servicing; access; accommodation) to ensure the enhanced viability of the work. Wilderness has also long been a donor to The Wilderness Trust. On the other hand, the fact that The Wilderness Trust is independent also means that it is able to engage with projects beyond the geographic scope of Wilderness' camps and concessions and ensure that conservation and development are the driving forces, unconstrained by business realities.

Until recently, The Wilderness Trust focused its work in three key areas:

- research and conservation;
- anti-poaching and management; and
- community empowerment and education.

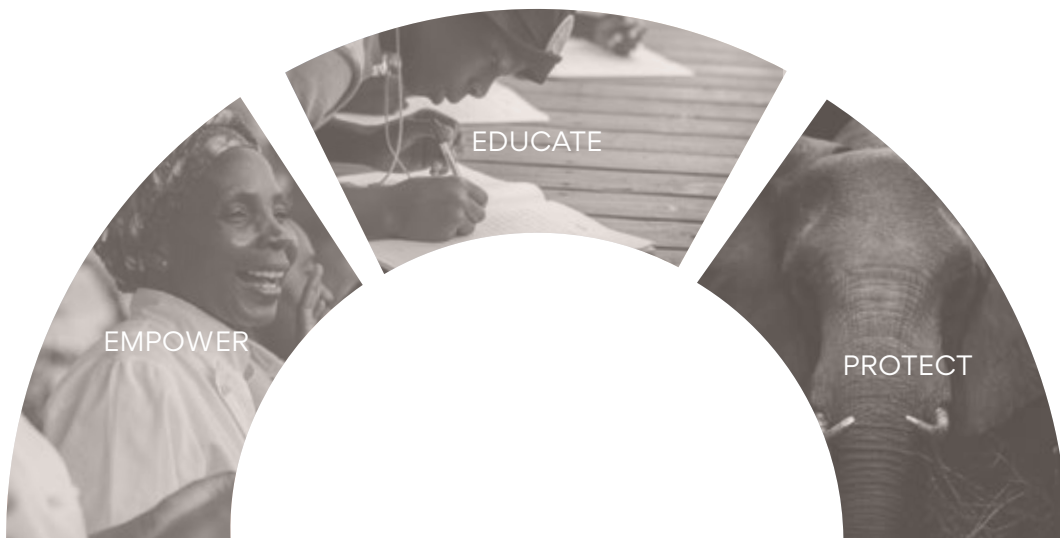
During the Covid pandemic, Wilderness conducted an assessment of threats to conservation and biodiversity in the seven African countries in which it conducts ground operations. This threat analysis was done by concession, and findings varied between countries and concessions. In summary, however, this analysis showed clearly that the major threats are:

- human-wildlife conflict;
- human encroachment on-, or conversion of-, wildlife habitats;
- climate change; and
- poaching for bushmeat and/or horns/ivory.



Accordingly, Wilderness has overhauled its approach to conservation, biodiversity and related development activities by adopting an Impact Strategy which focuses on three main “Impact Pillars”: Empower, Educate and Protect. The Wilderness Trust has resolved to align its own focus with that of Wilderness. As might be expected, this nonetheless means very little change to the focus of The Wilderness Trust.

Projects supported by The Wilderness Trust have been implemented in a number of locations across the African continent, as illustrated by the map on pages 18 and 19. Examples of projects implemented and funded through the support of The Wilderness Trust, under the Impact pillars, are provided on pages 21 to 43.



GOVERNANCE

THE WILDERNESS TRUST

The Wilderness Trust is managed by an independent board of trustees. The Wilderness Trust Board meets periodically, in person or by round robin, to discuss and agree strategy, review financial summaries, approve funding plans, and consider applications received for funding of projects and initiatives. It also periodically receives reports from the implementers of such projects, in order to monitor progress towards its goals.

During the reporting period, four new trustees were appointed. Firstly, Charles Douglas joined as Chairman and Derek de la Harpe joined as a Wilderness representative, replacing Neil Midlane who resigned. More recently, The Wilderness Trust was pleased to welcome Olivia Mufute and Basilia Shivute as trustees. These new trustees joined seasoned members Malcolm McCulloch and Dr John Ledger who have provided wise counsel for several years.

MEMBERS OF THE WILDERNESS TRUST BOARD



Charles Douglas
Chairman of The Wilderness Trust

Charles Douglas is an M&A attorney with more than 20 years' experience in the legal profession. He is a partner, and member of the partnership board, remuneration committee and sustainability committee, of Bowmans.

Specialist interest areas of relevance to the activities of The Wilderness Trust include corporate governance and sustainability, including impact investment, ESG governance, carbon markets and projects, and the energy transition. Charles is committed to wildlife conservation and education.



Malcolm McCulloch
Trustee

Malcolm McCulloch is a Chartered Accountant with more than 40 years' experience. He is a former CEO and current board member of listed and unlisted companies. He has been involved with the Wilderness Group since 1992 and is currently a trustee of The Wilderness Trust, and has been a board member of CITW since 2001.



Olivia Mufute
Trustee

Olivia Mufute is a wildlife ecologist with Masters' degrees in conservation and natural resource management, and over 25 years' experience in Zimbabwe and southern Africa. She has extensive experience in ecology, policy development and implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements including CITES. Currently, she is the African Wildlife Foundation's Country Director for Zimbabwe and managing projects which focus mainly on species conservation, anti-poaching support for protected areas, community engagement to improve local community livelihoods, governance frameworks, conservancy development and trans-boundary collaboration.



Basilia Shivute
Trustee

Basilia Shivute has an MBA from the African Leadership University and has accumulated more than 15 years' hands-on experience in project management, community-based conservation, biodiversity management, sustainable tourism, and environmental awareness. Having started out with Wilderness, she also spent time with a regional consultancy firm. She now has a leadership position with a community-based NGO in the north-western Kunene Region of Namibia. As Senior Operations Manager, she oversees a team providing support to about 30 Community-based Organisations. Being a leader and an African woman, Basilia is dedicated to making positive changes and showing that women can play a leading role in driving the change needed to improve conservation.



Dr John Ledger
Trustee

John Ledger has had a varied and interesting career as a medical entomologist (18 years), heading a conservation NGO, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (17 years), teaching energy and related subjects at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Johannesburg (16 years), consulting on environmental issues, especially the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (21 years), as well as writing for and editing various journals and publications, mainly in the environmental and conservation fields.

He served as Visiting Associate Professor at Wits University from 2010 to 2017 and has been Consulting Editor of *African Wildlife & Environment* magazine since 2016.



Derek de la Harpe
Trustee

Derek is a Fellow of the Botswana and Zimbabwe Institutes of Chartered Accountants, with more than 40 years' experience in southern and eastern Africa. He has been an executive director of Wilderness Holdings Limited since April 2010. He is presently the Wilderness Group's Chief Risk and Corporate Affairs Officer. Amongst other responsibilities, he leads the development of impact strategies and oversees their implementation.

CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

The CITW programme, the core element of the Educate pillar, is in some instances implemented with assistance from separate, independent non-profits registered in the relevant countries. Such entities currently exist in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as listed on the inside cover. These entities are managed by locally-appointed boards and operated in accordance with relevant local legislation. Unlike The Wilderness Trust, which does not function as an operational entity and is solely a strategy, oversight and grant-making entity, these organisations have to date actually implemented the CITW programme in their country/s.

These local CITW entities receive funding from a variety of sources, including The Wilderness Trust, hence the decision referred to below to “consolidate” the results of all of these entities.

With the cessation of CITW activities in South Africa, and the discontinuation of the Tour de Tuli (as discussed in greater detail on pages 28 to 29), there is no longer any need for the South African entity and this is currently being liquidated.

We thank these office bearers for their leadership, guidance, time and commitment to the cause of CITW. We also extend our grateful thanks to a number of former trustees or directors who have resigned in recent years.

TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS OF CITW

BOTSWANA

Joseph (Joe) Matome
Derek de la Harpe
Ruth Stewart
Ben Anthony Zuze

NAMIBIA

David Bishop
Norman Tjombe
Zenzi Awases
Umbi Karuaihe-Upi
Alexandra Margull

ZAMBIA

Ian Gloss
Maureen Vincent
Emma Seaman
Bines Bwali
Corrine Brightman
Sue Goatley
Dean Morton

ZIMBABWE

Ian Gloss
Maureen Vincent
Hudson Mtomba
Davison Ganyaupfu
Anne Taggart
Dean Morton
Sue Goatley



FINANCIALS

Grants and donations received by The Wilderness Trust, whether directly or through Empowers Africa (see page 51 for details) are deposited into The Wilderness Trust's bank accounts. These are then subject to the oversight of The Wilderness Trust Board, which also approves all disbursements.

When The Wilderness Trust has funds available to be granted, it either invites grant applications or responds to those already received. These applications are reviewed in the light of priorities and pillars of the Impact Strategy, funds available, various governance criteria and, on this basis, a decision is made whether (or not) to support the project. If approved, the funds are then disbursed to the relevant grantee (which could be a CITW entity) in accordance with prescribed conditions. The Wilderness Trust then receives progress reports on implementation of the project.

In some instances, funds are donated towards a purpose (and even a grantee) that is specified by the donor. Where this is the case, a truncated grant application process is followed but, even in these instances, the members of The Wilderness Trust Board apply their minds to the needs of the project and the wishes of the donor before approving the grant and making the disbursements.

A financial report for The Wilderness Trust and the CITW entities is presented on page 45.







PROJECT MAP

The locations of the projects financed by The Wilderness Trust during the review period.

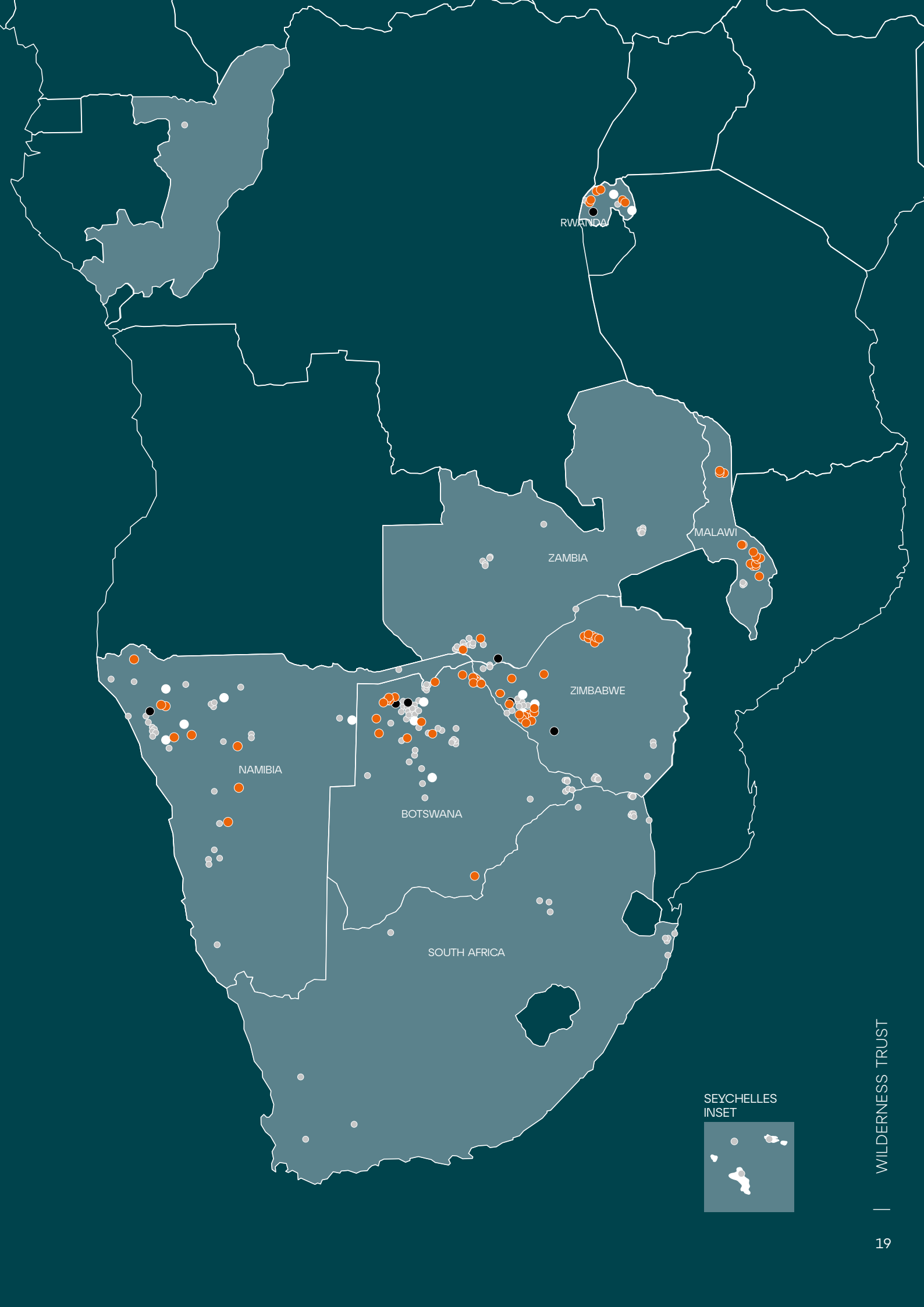
- Projects under our Educate pillar
- Projects under our Empower pillar
- Projects under our Protect pillar

HISTORICAL PROJECTS BY REGION

- Past Projects

This includes all Trust and CITW past projects.

For a detailed list see the Annexure [here](#).



RWANDA

MALAWI

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE

NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

SOUTH AFRICA

SEYCHELLES
INSET



Donated by G.C.F 2012

Donated by G.C.F 2012

Donated by G.C.F 2012

G.C.F 2012

G.C.F 2012

Donated by G.C.F 2012



EDUCATE

Improved education increases economic opportunity, family resilience and support for conservation of wildlife.

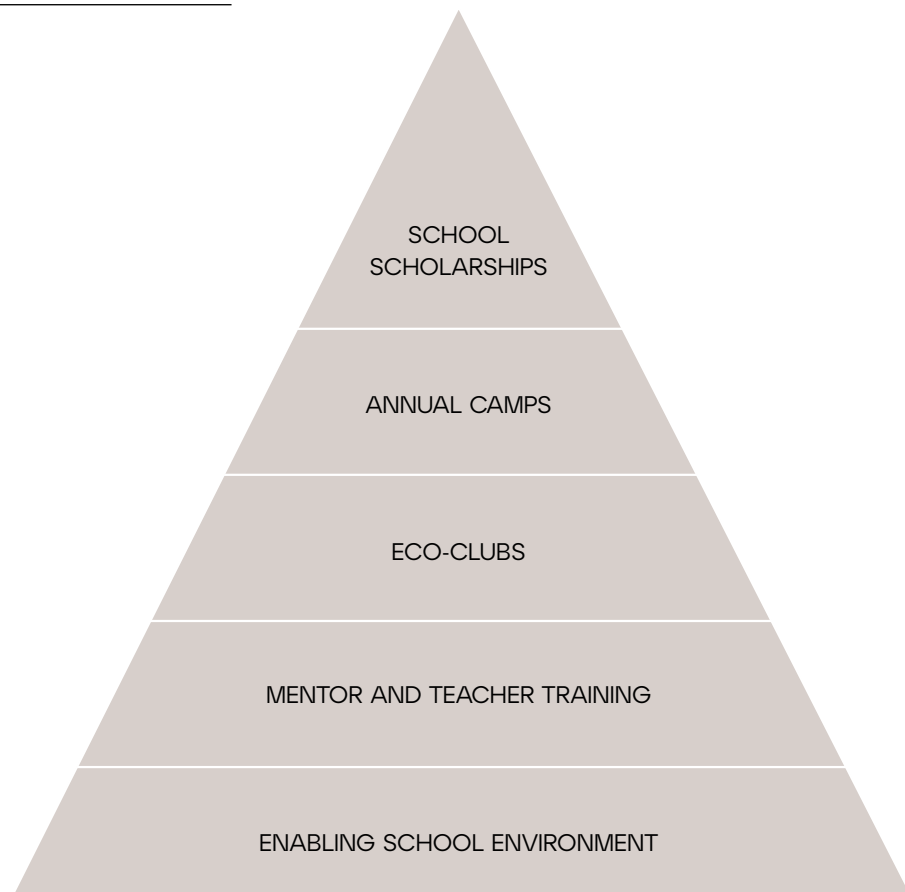
The core of The Wilderness Trust's Educate impact pillar is formed by the CITW programme. CITW is a programme designed and implemented by Wilderness, with assistance from The Wilderness Trust and various country-level non-profit organisations. It is dedicated to empowering rural African children and communities through environmental education and leadership development. Founded in 2001, CITW operates in several African countries, including Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and (until recently) South Africa.

At its core, CITW aims to foster environmental stewardship and conservation ethics among children in rural areas near wildlife reserves and national parks. Through immersive wilderness experiences, educational workshops, and community outreach initiatives, CITW instils a deep appreciation for natural heritage in children, while equipping them with the knowledge and skills to become future conservation leaders. CITW's holistic programmes educate children about conserving Africa's biodiversity and address broader issues like health, nutrition, and socio-economic empowerment. By engaging with local communities and collaborating with schools, government agencies, and conservation partners, CITW works to create lasting positive impacts benefiting both people and wildlife.

“Through its innovative approach, CITW is not only shaping the lives of individual children but also contributing to the long-term conservation of Africa’s precious ecosystems”.

HOW CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS WORKS

CITW PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



ENABLING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

The CITW programme thrives best in environments with formal educational systems in place, although it is not entirely dependent on them. Establishing a supportive school environment is crucial as a foundation for formal education initiatives, benefiting all stakeholders involved – students, teachers, schools, the CITW programme, parents, and the broader community. Addressing basic needs like clean water, sanitation, nutrition, healthcare, literacy, and teacher support is essential for CITW to create a sustainable future for children and communities. Ensuring schools have necessary infrastructure, such as well-equipped classrooms and libraries with diverse reading materials, enriches the educational experience and promotes a culture of learning. Collaboration and community engagement are key, as CITW actively involves local communities, parents, and educators to build strong partnerships that ensure the programme's lasting success.

MENTOR AND TEACHER TRAINING

Teacher and mentor training entails the implementation of a comprehensive programme designed to equip educators with the essential knowledge and skills needed to serve as Eco-Mentors for Eco-Clubs. This training is centred on environmental education, conservation principles, and leadership development. The process involves the careful selection of dedicated teachers who are passionate about environmental conservation, the utilisation of a curriculum that covers a wide range of environmental topics, the facilitation of workshops and training sessions that offer hands-on experiences, and the provision of continuous support and mentoring. By empowering teachers to take on the role of Eco-Mentors, the programme aims to generate a multiplier effect, thereby extending its reach and impact to a greater number of students. This initiative cultivates a culture of environmental stewardship and sustainable conservation in rural communities throughout Africa.

ECO-CLUBS

CITW is an extracurricular initiative and the Eco-Club acts as the primary platform through which CITW supports students, nurturing their involvement to ensure effectiveness. CITW establishes Eco-Clubs in various communities, predominantly in rural primary schools, and follows a structured, interactive curriculum with weekly meetings led by resident teachers. These clubs offer all interested learners the chance to gather, learn, discuss, and deepen their understanding of environmental issues. Eco-Clubs not only engage more children in the communities regularly but also provide field trips, interactive sessions led by Wilderness guides, local community members, and teachers. By promoting active participation and ownership, children are encouraged to generate their ideas for Eco-Clubs and projects, contributing to positive community development and broader outreach.

ANNUAL CAMPS

Selected students from the Eco-Club programme are invited to attend an annual camp. Each year, a Wilderness or partner camp is closed and 16 to 30 children between the ages of 11 and 13 are hosted for a four-day programme. The Camp Co-ordinator, along with a full staff complement of volunteers and Eco-Mentors, organises a fun-filled educational programme that serves as a culmination of the topics covered in the weekly Eco-Clubs throughout the year. A unique theme guides the activities undertaken during the week. These camps provide a special opportunity for children to immerse themselves in the wildlife areas they reside so close to, yet often do not have the chance to explore.

Mentors are assigned to the children, engaging with them as counsellors, friends, and most importantly, as role models. These Mentors, who are Wilderness staff members volunteering their time, hail from the same communities or villages as the camp participants, making them exceptional role models. Through subtle encouragement, Mentors instil a sense of hope in the children, demonstrating that "if I can do it, so can you".



The key benefits of the annual camps encompass:

- practicing and imparting sustainable environmental education;
- introducing the children to novel experiences and fostering new friendships;
- utilising team-building activities, communication games, and other educational tools to enhance self-esteem and life skills, thereby bolstering the children's ability to navigate life's challenges;
- inspiring the children to pursue their education further;
- imparting skills, crafts, and sports to the children; and
- enhancing awareness and knowledge regarding overall health and nutrition.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In many of the areas where we operate, primary education is free or has a minimal charge, while secondary schooling typically has a larger fee attached to it. As a result, a significant number of children may only complete their primary education, with some not even having the opportunity to attend primary school.

CITW's scholarship programme is therefore an additional but, especially in some countries, hugely significant additional layer to CITW. The scholarship programme provides funding for the necessary school fees and, if possible, we also try and assist with uniform, stationery and other school expenses. Funding from the scholarship programme comes largely from Wilderness guests and agents, as well as other partner NGOs.

CITW 2018–2023

The CITW programme has shown astonishing growth since its inception in 2001. From just one country at the outset, it is now operational in seven African countries, with a further two new country programmes planned.

Sadly, the Covid 19 pandemic had a significant negative impact on the programme for this reporting period. Despite these challenges, CITW demonstrated some resilience and adaptability in responding to the impacts of COVID-19. By leveraging technology, fostering community partnerships, and prioritising the health and well-being of participants, CITW continued to work towards its mission of empowering children and promoting conservation in rural African communities, albeit in a changed landscape shaped by the pandemic.

The programme statistics for the period 2018 to 2023 show that, while the expected decrease in numbers did occur due to Covid impacts, a recovery is apparent as the programme continues to add new learners to both the Eco-Clubs and the annual camps. Approximately 2 500 children participate in Eco-Clubs at any one time and, once normalised again, more than 300 children should be participating each year in Eco-Club camps. Cumulatively, at least 11 374 children have attended Eco-Clubs over the life of the programme, with a further 8 238 participating in annual camps.

Annual scholarships provided, while not as high as the peak in 2019, are also on the rise again after a slight decrease during Covid. Between 500 and 600 scholarships were provided each year. Over the life of this programme, more than 5 963 such scholarships have been awarded, to the value of more than US\$1.5 million.

During the period under review, a total of US\$3.2 million was disbursed in support of projects falling under the Educate pillar. The CITW core programme absorbed US\$630 000, with a further US\$1.02 million expended on scholarships. (Note that additional costs for the programme were incurred and absorbed directly by the Wilderness business.) In addition, community projects to the value US\$1.12 million were also supported under this pillar. We note that, while the Educate pillar is key, many of the latter projects also achieve impact under the Empower pillar.

Figure 1
Eco-Club camp participants

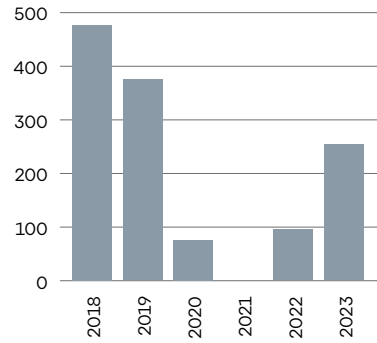


Figure 2
Eco-Club participants

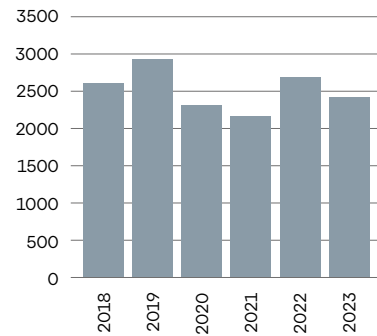
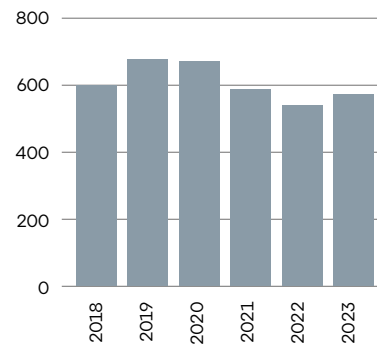


Figure 3
Scholarships





MEASURING OUR IMPACT

To ensure that the CITW programme generates measurable changes in knowledge and attitudes, CITW has adapted the Children's Environmental Attitude and Knowledge Scale (CHEAKS) for monitoring and evaluation. CHEAKS is used to evaluate the effectiveness of environmental education programmes, interventions, and curriculum in schools and communities. The CHEAKS typically consists of a series of questions or statements that assess various aspects, such as children's awareness of environmental issues, understanding of ecological concepts, attitudes towards conservation and sustainability, and behaviour related to environmental stewardship.

CITW uses CHEAKS to gather quantitative data on children's environmental literacy and to track changes in attitudes and knowledge over time. By administering the scale before and after participating in environmental education activities, we can assess the impact of these interventions and tailor future programming to better meet the needs of students.

The higher the score, the more environmentally aware the student is, perhaps also demonstrating the most environmentally friendly behaviour and the most knowledge regarding environmental issues.

The text box alongside illustrates the workings of CHEAKS, as applied to a sample of schools in Rwanda. The names of the schools have been removed to preserve confidentiality.

FUTURE PLANS FOR CITW

As mentioned above, the Wilderness Impact strategy was released in October 2023 and The Wilderness Trust has resolved to align its strategic direction accordingly. By making use of the Wilderness Theory of Change, we have been able to identify specific threats to our natural world. The three key Impact pillars of Educate, Empower and Protect allow us to stay focused on themes of work that will hopefully lead to reaching our identified outcomes. The CITW programme is the core of our Educate pillar and it is our intention to not only increase the number of children that take part in the programme, but also to grow the programme into new countries (most notably Kenya and Tanzania) as well as to accurately measure the impact of our lessons on the development of the learners.



SNAPSHOT OF RESULTS FROM TWO SCHOOLS IN RWANDA

Below is an analysis of CHEAKS test results from two Rwandan schools. Eco-Club members' results were examined for any changes by comparing participants' test results from the beginning of Term 1 (2021) to the end of Term 3 (2022), in which students within the clubs would have completed one full year of Eco-Club lessons following the CITW Eco-Club Curriculum.

The results from these two schools are both promising and interesting in that, for all but one of the sections, an improvement is reflected. This allows us to conclude that the education sessions did result in a noticeable change in awareness and knowledge

for most of the learners. It is however, important to note that increased awareness doesn't always lead to behaviour change, especially when it comes to complex issues like environmental conservation.

The data for section two supports this notion as it is clear that the actual commitment, in terms of behaviour, did not change. This is valuable information that allows us to start looking at perhaps employing a more multifaceted approach that will hopefully increase the likelihood of translating awareness into meaningful behaviour change.

Figure 4
Overall CHEAKS Test results

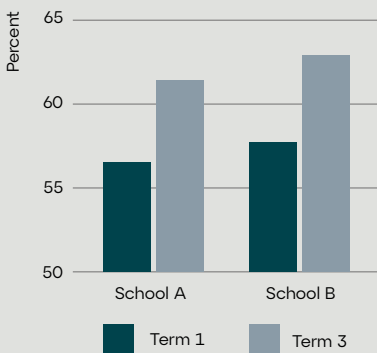


Figure 5
Section 1 Results

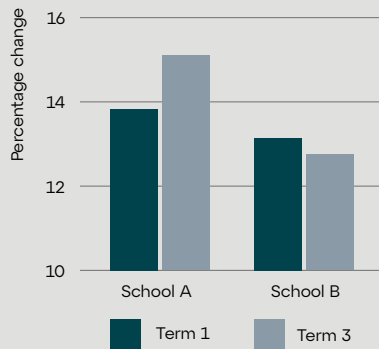


Figure 6
Section 2 Results

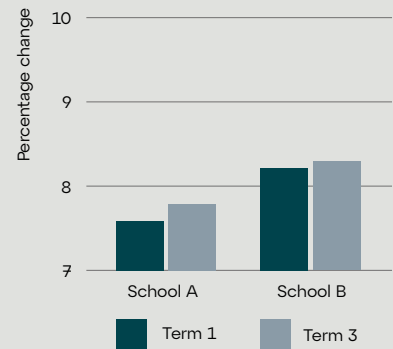


Figure 7
Section 3 Results

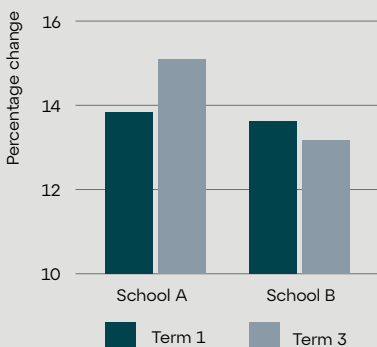
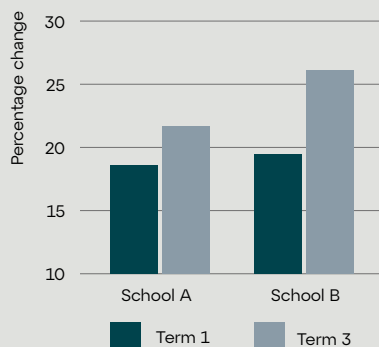


Figure 8
Section 4 Results





TOUR DE TULI

As supporters will know, the annual Tour de Tuli mountain bike ride was an important vehicle for generating funding for CITW: all profits generated from the event were used to finance CITW programmes and activities. Generously sponsored by Nedbank, with support from many other organisations, the tour became one of southern Africa's premier cycling events, attracting entries from all over southern Africa, as well as increasing numbers of international entrants.

The event – a social ride through wilderness areas, not a race – was also unique in that it traversed three countries, using informal border posts set up specifically for that purpose by the Governments of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The route varied from year to year but typically covered the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area. It usually started in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve in Botswana, moved through into the south-western corner of Zimbabwe, before crossing the Limpopo into South Africa and ending in Mapungubwe National Park. The route covered approximately 250 kilometres and was covered by riders over a four-day period. Up to 300 participants per year were housed in camps set up for the occasion by a network of faithful supporters and volunteers, with these camps being moved as the event progressed. The cyclists were guided and supported in their teams by guides and backup riders to ensure they remained on track and safe, given that much of the route crossed areas populated by wildlife including large numbers of elephant. A formidable backup and logistical tail including catering, medical support, communications, bicycle maintenance etc. was also developed and followed the event.

Along the route, cyclists engaged with schools and scholars participating in the CITW programme and many donations of equipment and supplies were handed over. The philanthropic aims of the event, the unique character and route, and the quality of the facilities provided to cyclists, ensured that Tour de Tuli attracted an enthusiastic following of participants who returned every year. It also became a popular and unusual means for corporates to entertain important clients and staff. Over its life, the event attracted 4 700 entrants and helped raise significant funds for CITW.

After having operated successfully for 18 years, the event was materially impacted by the Covid pandemic. In both 2020 and 2021, it was necessary to postpone the event owing to uncertainty about lockdowns, border closures and disease control measures implemented in the three countries. In both instances, significant expenses had already been incurred in preparation for the event, before the postponements were effected. These expenses drained resources, which were already stretched because of reduced tourism, leading to almost complete cessation of donations to CITW. By 2022, the organising team were highly focused on hosting a successful event to restore finances and the CITW programme, as well as to satisfy demand from the entrants. Even so, ongoing uncertainty about Covid prevention measures continued to negatively impact the event, leading to significantly increased costs due mainly to delays at borders. Regrettably, some poor management decisions were also made during planning and the event itself, and these did not help with the eventual outcome.



The final blow was dealt when heavy rains fell in the Johannesburg (the main catchment for the Limpopo river) area in July: rains of this volume, at that time of year, are almost unheard of but led to the Limpopo being uncrossable by vehicles at the critical time. This was the first time in the long history of the event that the river could not be crossed by vehicles: this led to long detours being taken by all logistical support, through formal border posts. This caused massive increases in costs and these pushed the event into a loss-making position, requiring the Wilderness Group to step in to settle unpaid bills incurred by the event. In view of these losses, and the inability to guarantee such a situation would not again arise, the board of directors of CITW SA reluctantly decided to discontinue the event. This, in turn, led to the decision by that board to liquidate CITW SA.

The Wilderness Trust is so grateful to the many sponsors and supporters who made the event such a success during its early years. It also extends its grateful thanks to the Governments of Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa, as well as to Nedbank and other supporters, the cyclists, volunteers, landowners, local communities and so many other people and organisations who made such an undertaking possible.





EMPOWER

The creation of conservation economies that give value to wilderness and wildlife. Employment and support for development of small businesses reduce reliance on natural resources.

Four projects were supported by The Wilderness Trust under this pillar, to the value \$1.08 million. The following pages outline the most significant of these projects. It should be noted that there is crossover of impact of these projects between the Empower and Protect pillars. In addition, community projects to the value US\$1.12 million, classified as Educate for the purposes of this report, also have impact under the Empower pillar.



PROJECT

CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY HEROES

Many people living in rural African communities surrounding pristine wilderness areas rely on income from wildlife tourism to support their livelihoods. Often employed by Wilderness and other safari operators, there is little to no alternative economic opportunity in these areas. The biggest contributor to livelihoods is salary income for people who work for tourism businesses. Alongside that, an entire industry of small businesses has developed around bigger tourism operators, forming an interdependent web of communities, Wilderness, wildlife and travellers that benefits all.

When Covid struck, and worldwide travel bans and lockdowns were introduced, many of these people lost their livelihoods. The Wilderness Conservation Heroes campaign stepped in to help, and The Wilderness Trust's support for the fundraising was

enlisted. With the generous support of Wilderness' guests, trade partners, staff, and especially the Group Chairman's Foundation, approximately US\$750,000 was raised. These funds were in turn used by the in-country Wilderness businesses to purchase parcels of food and other essential household supplies. Wilderness also assisted with the distribution of these supplies to communities in six countries. More than 20,000 such parcels, totalling more than 700 tonnes, was handed out to 35 communities, impacting more than 100,000 people.

Community handovers continued monthly across all Wilderness regions until May 2022.

It should be recognised that CITW staff played a major role in the purchase and distribution of these food relief parcels.

COVID RELIEF FOOD PARCELS DISTRIBUTED

Positively impacted some
100,000
people

Over
20,000
food parcels delivered

Over
35
communities

In
6
countries (Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe)



PROJECT

COMMUNITY-BASED BLACK RHINO PROTECTION

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) Namibia was requested to establish a rhino ranger programme at Nyae Nyae Communal Conservancy, situated in the north-east of Namibia, and home to the Ju/'hoansi San community. The conservancy borders Botswana to the east and the Khaudum National Park to the north, where the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) has plans to move black rhinos.

The objective of the expansion is to build capacity within the conservancy to monitor rhinos which are likely to move south out of the park and into the conservancy area. Nyae Nyae will be the only conservancy in Namibia to host both black and white rhinoceros.

Support from The Wilderness Trust has assisted SRT with food and provisions for the rhino monitors, salaries for a Senior Field Officer and new Nyae Nyae Ranger Co-ordinator, fuel and running costs for vehicle patrols, a new vehicle, and an upgrade to the Rhino Ranger base camp and data centre.

This important initiative not only results in the protection of rhino, while also expanding the range of this species, but also elevates and contributes

to the successful community conservancy model implemented in Namibia.

The Nyae Nyae expansion project is positive in several ways. The request from the MEFT to replicate the rhino ranger programme is a nod to SRT's success in Kunene over the last four decades. New jobs linked to conservation have already been created at Nyae Nyae, with more to come. Finally, the expansion of rhino range is positive for these Critically Endangered rhinos.

SRT's planned activities for the conservancy include initiating the use of a SMART (Spatial Mapping and Reporting Tool) database, alongside training and equipping Rhino Rangers appointed by Nyae Nyae. Recent SRT training included exchange visits to Kunene in north-west Namibia, exposing the new rangers to SRT monitoring methodology, data collection and patrols.

During 2023, the Nyae Nyae rangers covered more than 22 000 foot kilometers and nearly 700 ranger days in the field.. No poaching incidents were reported.

“Assistance would be given in rehabilitating and developing the land and its infrastructure”.

PROJECT

TSHABOLISA TRUST: REHABILITATION & CONSERVATION OF A WILD AREA IN SOUTH-WESTERN ZIMBABWE

Wilberforce is located in western Zimbabwe, in the Mangwe South District of Matabeleland. Since the early 90s, the property (12,000 acres) was allocated to 15 community beneficiaries to use as grazing for their livestock: cattle, goats and donkeys. Due to the poor soils, low rainfall, unreliable surface water and vandalised infrastructure (fences, water lines and boreholes) the area was overgrazed by the greater communities' cattle, with subsistence poaching of wildlife and firewood rife. The community members were unable to benefit from their livestock or any of their natural resources.

In 2019, through the Ministry of Lands and the local Rural District Council, a partnership was established between The Tshabolisa Trust and local community members from Dukwe and Mapolisa villages. As part of the agreement, assistance would be given in rehabilitating and developing the land and its infrastructure. This involved community input, to ensure they derive an equitable share from this development. This is a long-term project.

Key areas for development:

- CITW environmental education for the community and school;
- clean water in the community for domestic use, as well as to create community orchards/gardens;
- wire and fencing to secure grazing and protection of natural resources; and
- reintroduction of wildlife.

Major achievements over the last four years:

- establishment of a Community Co-operative;
- drilling and equipping two community solar-powered boreholes, with pipelines and cattle troughs;
- introduction of an Eco-Club at local school;
- supply local school with running water;
- planting two orchards;
- rehabilitating infrastructure: 54 km of road that was previously overgrown, restored eight km of old water pipeline, rehabilitation of 17 km of barbed wire cattle fences;
- reintroduction of tilapia into three community dams;
- employment of six community members also trained as anti-poaching scouts;
- employment of 10 community members to assist with the rehabilitation;
- built two anti-poaching camps;
- supply of a 22 km electric game fence;
- construction of four wildlife drinking points;
- reintroduction of wildlife (giraffe, wildebeest and impala);
- construction of seven “elephant grids”, which allow free movement of elephant into and out of the property to drink and feed, while keeping re-introduced wildlife within the game fenced area;
- almost entirely stopped illegal cutting of trees and snaring.



While a slow process, the communities now have water on tap for themselves and their livestock and can see benefits that will come in the future, while other neighbouring communities have already approached us to extend the project to incorporate further areas in the community.

The Wilderness Trust has supported The Tshabolisa Trust with grants of US\$149,000, with the generous backing of a donor.

Although this project is reported under the Empower impact pillar, it also has major Educate and Protect components and its impact under these other pillars should also be recognised.





PROTECT

Protection of wildlife from humans, and humans from wildlife, reduces conflict and promotes co-existence.

Under the Protect pillar, The Wilderness Trust broadly aims to contribute to initiatives falling into the following categories:

- preventing or mitigating human/wildlife conflict;
- maintenance or expansion of wildlife habitats;
- reintroductions of wildlife where populations have been depressed;
- research and monitoring;
- provision of water; and
- wildlife security.

A total of 25 projects, to the value US\$911,000, were supported by The Wilderness Trust under this pillar. Below are some of the most significant projects.



PROJECT

EXPANSION OF RANGE AND HABITATS FOR PRIMATES IN RWANDA

The Volcanoes National Park was first gazetted in the 1920s, one of the first to be declared in Africa. Although it once covered an enormous area, extending into what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during the 1950s, 60s and 70s it was reduced in size to provide land for subsistence agriculture. This constrained the already much-restricted range and habitat available to mountain gorillas and other rain forest primates and other species.

Since then, the country's economy has stabilised and grown, and the tourism industry has expanded dramatically, with concomitant positive implications for local and national growth and empowerment of local communities. This has demonstrated the value to the country and its people of the VNP and its inhabitants, and this has in turn led to a decision by the Government to expand the VNP and its habitats. This entails the purchase of designated land parcels around the VNP to allow for them to be reforested to stimulate the recreation of the habitats and eventual repopulation by gorillas and other species. The people using this land use the funds so received to create new livelihoods (and homes, if necessary) in other locations, with active assistance from the Government (such as the creation of model villages with all infrastructure).

Wilderness decided to support this initiative, as a supplement to its own purchase and reforestation of land for construction of Bisate and Bisate Reserve lodges. The latter process has been highly successful with more than 100,000 trees planted and now self-sufficient, and with camera traps showing the return of many species. Land is also being purchased and reforested in the vicinity of Gishwati-Mukura National Park, in order to provide range and habitat for the chimpanzees in that park.

A number of generous donors have supported this project with fund-raising support by The Wilderness Trust. At the time of writing, a total of 49 plots, comprising 6.5 hectares of land, have successfully been purchased at a total cost of US\$168,000. The plot owners are completing their cropping cycles on this land and, once that process is completed, rehabilitation of that land can commence.

The targets for this exercise, in support of Government's efforts, require the purchase of a further 38 hectares. Some existing donor funding remains for this purpose but it will not be sufficient to complete the process and so additional funding is required.

PROJECT

HWANGE SCORPION ANTI-POACHING TEAM

Hwange National Park (HNP) has a high mortality rate of lions to accidental snaring, while evidence has shown that many wire snares are set for medium and large animals, including elephant and giraffe. In addition, there has been an increase in the poisoning of elephant by ivory poachers.

The real number of snare mortalities is inevitably much higher than data suggest, because the illegal killing of wildlife is frequently concealed by the perpetrators. There is evidence to suggest that carnivores are particularly vulnerable to snaring due to wide-ranging movements and the attraction of scavenging carnivores to high-risk areas by prey animals caught in snare lines. Specific impacts on other populations in the HNP system are largely unquantified but continuous snaring and killing of prey species indirectly affects predators like lions.

The Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) aims to provide the manpower and resources to assist Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) to reduce levels of poaching within the boundary areas of Hwange National Park. The focus for anti-poaching work is the 170 km eastern boundary of HNP, adjacent to Tsholotsho Communal Land. This is a "hard" boundary with no buffer zone and is particularly vulnerable to poaching incursions. The boundary fence consists of a poorly-maintained three-strand cable and galvanised wire veterinary fence.

The APU's partnership with ZPWMA has proved particularly successful, as the Authority is under-resourced and does not have the logistical capacity to undertake security patrols in the 14,000 sq. km Park, particularly the remote areas distant to the main management stations. The APU provides additional, trained manpower for anti-poaching patrols, as well as the logistical capacity to deploy and support scouts and park rangers in the field.

The objectives of the anti-poaching work are:

- to provide a practical, on-the-ground response to the problem of bushmeat poaching and snaring by removing wire snares and arresting poachers;
- to collect data on distribution, trends and potential impact of poaching on wildlife populations and, if possible, measure the benefits provided by anti-poaching activity. Significantly less is known about

bushmeat hunting in African wooded savannah habitats compared to the bushmeat trade in tropical forest systems, so this is important in quantifying and understanding the extent of the problem;

- to provide logistical support for ZPWMA anti-poaching operations where possible.

The APU was selected and professionally trained by security expert Martin Steimer, and comprises eight fully equipped and uniformed anti-poaching scouts. They are paid, equipped and provided with food and housing by the project, with support from Panthera. ZPWMA allocates between two and four park rangers to participate in patrols. APU also provides transport for patrol deployments and transport of arrested poachers to police custody. The APU has a permanent base from which patrols are made daily.

The Wilderness Trust has supported the APU to the tune of US\$66,000 in cash, but with considerable further in-kind assistance rendered by Wilderness.

For 2023 (January 2023 – January 2024) the Scorpion APU conducted 312 foot patrols covering 6,853 kilometres over 2,560 hours. The unit also carried out 93 vehicle patrols covering 2,755 kilometres over 184 hours. These surveys are not only extremely valuable for anti-poaching efforts but are also used to collect sightings information on specific species, and in this regard, the unit collected 681 wildlife sightings during these surveys. From an anti-poaching effort perspective, the team found 36 snared animal carcasses and removed 77 snares from the patrolled area.





PROJECT

SAVE THE RHINO TRUST (SRT)

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) was founded by Blythe Loutit and Ina Britz in 1983. From humble beginnings, SRT has grown to become the only NGO with a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Namibia for the monitoring, research and protection of the black rhinos in the country.

During its 40-year existence, SRT has been instrumental in bringing this important population of black rhinos back from the brink of extinction. In the early 80s there were only a few dozen black rhinos remaining in the western Kunene landscape but today that number has more than quadrupled.

The SRT core organisational mission is; “How do we improve the value that local people attach to saving rhinos”. This is a fundamental departure from a militaristic approach to conservation, which often calls for more guns and security. The ethos at SRT is one of community involvement in decision making, benefit sharing, and the creation of long-term and sustainable conservation-related employment. The idea of Rhino Pride features heavily in the different outreach projects initiated over the years.

SRT employs 45 staff members, of whom 95% are from the local communities they operate in. Over the past five years, SRT and its partners have managed to reduce poaching levels in the landscape in which they work by close to 80%, compared to the previous five-year period. This work area has now experienced more than two years without a single rhino poaching incident.

In 2022, SRT expanded its rhino ranger programme to include the Nyae Nyae Communal Conservancy in the north-east of Namibia. This expansion represents a significant addition to the landscapes where they work. Combined, the two landscapes total 2,900,000 hectares – 2,500,000 for Kunene and 400,000 for the new programme expansion at Nyae Nyae.

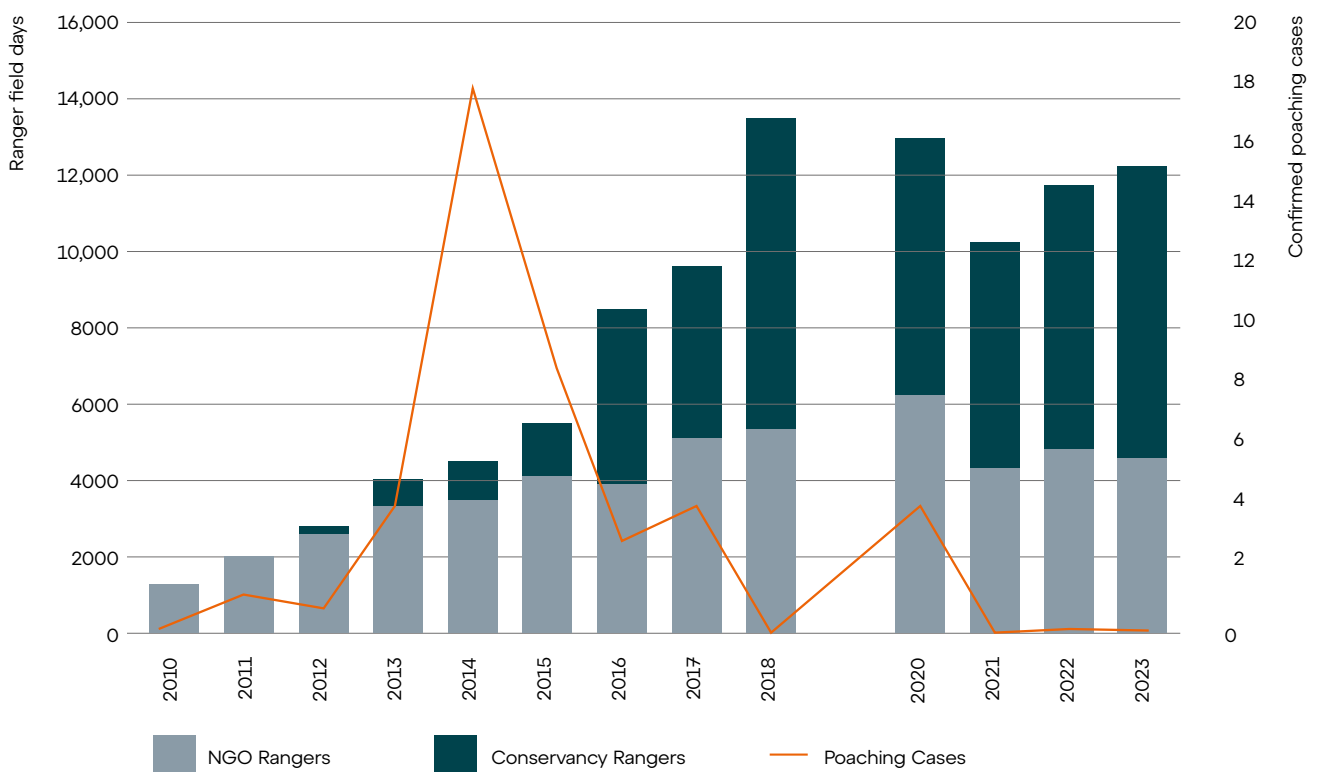
The Wilderness Trust, as well as the Wilderness Group, has worked with and supported the SRT almost since inception. Most recently, funding from The Wilderness Trust has been used to assist in covering the cost of field rations for patrol teams, vehicle running and maintenance costs and a significant contribution to the purchase of a new Land Cruiser that is used for patrol deployments and resupply missions.

In addition to the 45 permanent employees, SRT supports around 70 rhino rangers to conduct patrols. This “support” entails vehicle drop off, support and collection during patrols, the provision of patrol equipment, the provision of rhino monitoring incentives (cash payments for patrol performance) and provision of field rations for patrols.

During the past decade SRT has demonstrated that “boots on the ground” act as a deterrent to would-be poachers. The driving mission of this work is therefore to maintain a large field presence, making sure to keep rangers in the field 24/7, 365 days a year. Figure 1 below shows the correlation between poaching and field effort over the past decade. The link between more ranger field days and a reduction in poaching is clear.

In the calendar year 2023, SRT verified close to 12,000 individual ranger field days and almost 4,000 individual rhino sightings. Considering the size of the landscape, the number of rangers on patrol at any given time and the logistical challenges associated with running such an operation in a rural area with no national park status, this is a significant achievement.

Figure 9
Ranger Field Days vs. Poaching over 13 years. Credit SRT





“A great deal was achieved and this illustrated what can be done through co-operation between Government, NGOs and the tourism industry”.





PROJECT

BOTSWANA RHINO REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

The Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project ran for 20 years. It commenced in 2001 when the Botswana Government requested Wilderness to assist in the reintroduction of rhinos to Moremi Game Reserve. Wilderness enlisted the support of The Wilderness Trust to raise funds for the initiative, and the two worked closely with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks to bring this request to fruition. Substantial funding was raised from many generous donors over the life of the project and these supported implementation of what was to become a massive undertaking. The initial introductions of white rhino in that year were followed two years later by the translocation of small numbers of black rhino. This was followed in 2014 and 2015 by further introductions of black rhino in a dramatic process involving airlifts using C130 aircraft provided by the Botswana Defence Force. These animals came from state and private protected areas in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In the initial stages, the founder animals did well and they started to produce offspring. Once the introductions were completed, the focus of The Wilderness Trust and Wilderness shifted to ongoing monitoring of the animals and supporting the DWNP and the BDF in their efforts to protect them. Sadly, the first carcasses of poached animals were detected during 2019 and these escalated during 2020 as the

pandemic and associated lockdowns commenced. At some point in 2020, the Government terminated the project and the remaining animals were translocated to another, undisclosed location. Funds remaining in The Wilderness Trust were reallocated, with the agreement of the original donors, to other (mainly rhino) conservation or development initiatives.

Although the eventual outcome was extremely sad, The Wilderness Trust is proud of the significant resources it was able to mobilise, from such generous donors, to support this important effort. A great deal was achieved and this illustrated what can be done through co-operation between Government, NGOs and the tourism industry. This model bodes well for future significant conservation initiatives. Also, whilst re-introduction into the wild again was not an ultimate success, there are now still founder populations of both black and white rhino in secure locations in Botswana that continue to grow and, so far as we are aware, no further animals were poached since they were moved, so in this regard it was successful.

Support for this project tailed off during the review period but disbursements nonetheless exceeded US\$149,000.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The tables below show a “consolidated” Funds Statement and Balance Sheets of the entities overseen by The Wilderness Trust, as listed on the inside cover page (“The Wilderness Trust Entities”), for the period 1 March 2018 to 30 June 2023, since the last report was published. There is no legal or accounting basis for consolidation of the financials of The Wilderness Trust Entities, but publication of separate financials for each would result in meaningless and confusing detail. Accordingly, a proforma “consolidation” has been performed, with transactions between The Wilderness Trust Entities eliminated to remove duplications and “inter-group” transactions. In addition, as pointed out above, while each project has been allocated under a particular pillar of Educate, Empower or Protect, there is often an impact in the other pillars – we do not seek to apportion impact for purposes of this financial review.

Figure 10
Funds Statement

(all in US\$)	Feb-19	Feb-20	Feb-21	Jun-22	Jun-23	Total
Income	1,020,374	1,523,542	1,490,765	1,594,327	523,281	6,152,290
Disbursements						
Educate						
CITW community projects	146,177	329,019	249,040	168,496	226,397	1,119,130
CITW scholarships & education	140,593	226,811	138,182	164,720	289,095	959,400
Tertiary scholarships	23,854	26,380	9,163	0	0	59,397
CITW programme general	281,045	191,957	49,321	28,697	79,103	630,123
CITW administration	117,497	100,893	37,660	120,344	90,084	466,478
Educate total	709,167	875,060	483,365	482,258	684,679	3,234,528
Empower						
Food security	0	0	283,608	404,586	52,141	740,335
Water provision: human	0	24,500	0	0	0	24,500
Tshabolisa farming project	0	0	52,024	58,956	38,170	149,150
Empowerment	0	0	0	0	163,000	163,000
Empower total	0	24,500	335,632	463,542	253,311	1,076,985
Protect						
Anti-poaching	50,000	30,000	0	35,900	0	115,900
Habitat expansion	0	279,016	5,500	5,000	0	289,516
Human-wildlife conflict	26,434	0	1,233	20,353	14,550	62,570
Monitoring and research	80,378	12,000	12,387	0	125,000	229,765
Reintroductions	0	0	126,132	37,899	0	164,031
Water provision: wildlife	0	25,900	17,000	6,500	0	49,400
Protect total	156,812	346,916	162,252	105,652	139,550	911,182
Administration	3,245	3,792	2,775	1,810	1,090	12,712
Total Disbursements	869,224	1,250,268	984,024	1,053,262	1,078,630	5,235,407
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	151,151	273,275	506,741	541,065	(555,349)	916,883



The Funds Statement shows that, over the five-year period under review, The Wilderness Trust Entities were able to raise contributions to the value US\$6.2 million. Included in this amount was a donation of computer networking equipment to the value US\$749,000 from Cisco Systems, Inc. This equipment is to be used to equip an advanced operations centre to be installed in Botswana’s Chobe National Park.

Figure 11 shows that The Wilderness Trust Entities were consistently able to generate donations exceeding US\$1 million per annum, although this outstanding outcome was somewhat marred by the unfavourable result of the 2022 Tour de Tuli, discussed above. The Wilderness Trust is actively seeking new and innovative sources of funding, as well as revitalising traditional donor sources, to replace, and increase, that which was achieved by the Tour de Tuli in its successful years.

Total disbursements over the same period amounted to US\$5.3 million, meaning that a surplus of US\$917,000 was generated over the period.

Figure 12 shows how these disbursements were distributed across the three main Impact pillars on which The Wilderness Trust focuses its efforts. Almost two-thirds were committed to the Educate pillar, mainly CITW. The balance was divided roughly equally between the Empower and Protect pillars.

The largest proportion of these disbursements was made in Zimbabwe. This is a reflection of the outstanding CITW programme in that country and local Wilderness management’s remarkable capacity to generate donations. Botswana and Rwanda have also obtained significant amounts, followed closely by Namibia.

Figure 11
Income Generated

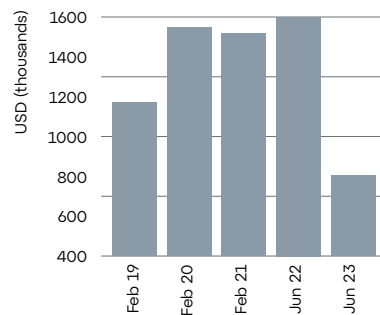


Figure 12
Disbursements by Impact pillar

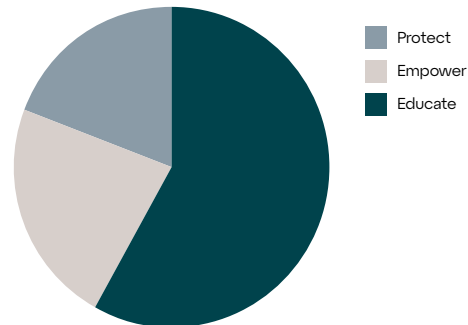


Figure 13
Disbursements by country

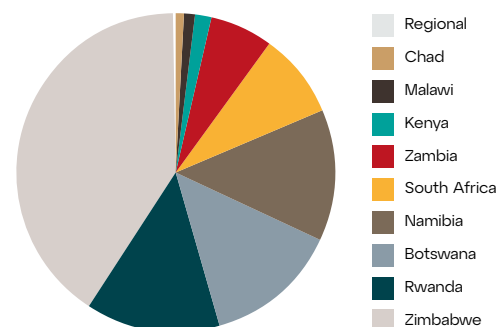






Figure 14
Balance Sheet

The consolidated balance sheet of The Wilderness Trust Entities is presented below. This balance sheet shows the healthy state of affairs of The Wilderness Trust Entities, most notably the significant cash balances available to them.

(all in US\$)	Feb-19	Feb-20	Feb-21	Jun-22	Jun-23
Funds and reserves	(1,402,921)	(1,622,003)	(2,101,274)	(2,650,176)	(2,098,601)
Assets					
Fixed assets and equipment	77,128	96,903	61,833	806,679	796,982
Current assets					
Receivables and other current assets	86,066	400,587	239,970	309,289	200,223
Cash at bank	1,532,402	1,450,156	2,330,240	2,199,135	1,690,465
Total assets	1,695,597	1,947,646	2,632,043	3,315,103	2,687,671
Current liabilities	(292,676)	(325,644)	(530,769)	(664,927)	(589,070)
Net assets	1,402,921	1,622,003	2,101,273	2,650,176	2,098,601



Africa's conservation and development requirements are enormous and in urgent need of money and logistical support.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: HOW TO DONATE

Africa's conservation and development requirements are enormous and in urgent need of money and logistical support. The Wilderness 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 and CITW gratefully receives funding in a number of different ways:

- Wilderness camp guests regularly donate to a project of their choice or to the general fund;
- Wilderness itself periodically provides in-kind and cash support to the Trust;
- via our partner organisation – Empowers Africa; donations via Empowers Africa are tax-deductible in the USA;
- various fundraising initiatives run from time to time;
- independent donations from concerned individuals or organisations;
- Wilderness staff members are enthusiastic about raising funds for The Wilderness Trust and CITW.

To donate to The Wilderness Trust, please make use of one of the options below:

1. Make a direct deposit in our US Dollar bank account:

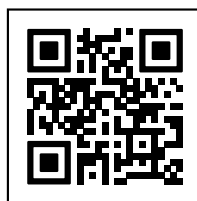
Name of Bank: Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited
Branch Name: Fairground Gaborone
Branch Sort Code: 064 967
Account Name: The Wilderness Trust
Account Type: Current
Swift Code: SBIC BW GX
Account Number: 906 000 167 4825

If you wish to donate to a particular project, please email info@wildernesstrust.com with your proof of payment and the name of the project you wish to support. Your request will be considered in light of the strategy and constitution of The Wilderness Trust.

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

2. Via our partner organisation – Empowers Africa. Donations via Empowers Africa are tax-deductible in the USA.

Empowers Africa is a U.S. public charity under IRC Section 501(c) (3) that facilitates tax-deductible donations for U.S. donors on behalf of The Wilderness Trust and CITW.



Scan here to donate or follow the instructions below.

Empowers Africa supports programmes in the areas of wildlife protection, human empowerment and land conservation in sub-Saharan Africa. Empowers Africa's focus is on funding programmes that support the protection of wildlife and land conservation; programmes in communities that surround protected conservation and wildlife areas or World Heritage Sites; and programmes in urban communities where tourism is a strong source of development.

Empowers Africa charges a nominal administrative fee of 5% (this was kindly reduced to 2.5% during the Covid pandemic and the following years), therefore, 95% of the funds donated to Empowers Africa on behalf of The Wilderness Trust and CITW are granted directly to the respective Wilderness Trust Entities. Please contact Krista Krieger at Empowers Africa at kriegerk@empowersafrica.org or (917) 328-1611 for more information, or visit the website: <https://empowersafrica.org/wilderness-wildlife-trust/>.

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE USED

Donors to The Wilderness Trust have the choice to contribute to the general funds, to be used wherever required, or to a particular category (Educate; Empower; Protect), or even specific part of a project. Since Empowers Africa charges only nominal administration costs, and The Wilderness Trust does not charge any fees at all, donors can be assured of their monies being spent completely on their chosen component

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DONORS

Thanks to the generosity of many donors over the past years, we have achieved some notable successes in empowering communities, educating people (especially children) and the conservation of wildlife. We would like to thank all our donors in this regard. Every year, we are humbled by those committed individuals who have undertaken, often on an annual basis, to raise funds of their own accord. Such people have cycled, run or walked for our conservation and community projects.

We thank the following generous donors to The Wilderness Trust or CITW over the reporting period:

More than 750 other generous donors made grants of US\$1 000 or less. Listing these would run to several pages and thus this has been excluded. But this should not be taken as suggesting these donations are less worthy: collectively they amount to a substantial sum, received gratefully, and we extend our thanks to these donors.

DONATED OVER US\$5,000

Barbara Grassechi
Chris Koenemann
Classic Africa (Safari Professionals)
Craig Beal, Travel Beyond
Cynthia Kalkomey, Kurt Kalkomey
Diana Blanchard vis Schab Charitable
Diane Goldberg
Dr. Med. Beat Raschle
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Empowers Africa
Eunique Travel
Fidelity Charitable Foundation
Foley Family Charitable Foundation
Foster Bam
Griet van Malderen
Heather Shirif
Jane Berkey
Jeffrey Philip Neu
Jerry Cohen/ Madelaine Colman
Jesse Thomas
Jill M and Steve Cholewa
John Ryan Kissick
Karin Froehlich with family & friends
Karl Francis Leinberger
Kissick Family Foundation
Lesley Joanne Kaye, Discover Africa
Lesley Sondey

Louis de Charbonnières
Mango African Safaris (Safari Professionals)
Marci Tint Kotay – Well Deserved Organisation
Mary and George William Lawson
Maya Chorengel via Stone Foundation
Michael and Karen Stone Foundation
Natural Habitat Adventures USA
Panthera
Patrick Mcloughlin
Phil West Safaris
Ralf Lieb
Raymond Muzyka
Renate Werthenbach, All Around Africa GmbH
Robert and Shirley Sanderson
Robert Green
Sabine Bottner Westerfeld
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Steve Ellis via Stone Foundation
Susan Stribling
Suzanne Wright
The Clark Foundation
The Coulter Family Foundation
Trunk and Tracks
Ulrike Pongratz
Vee Romero
Winston-Salem Foundation



DONATED US\$1,000 TO US\$5,000

Alexander Ruebberdt
Amanda Pashelinsky
Andreas Ganslmeier
Ann Marie Ballard
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund
Benevity
Bergdorf Priesteregg (Family Oberlader)
Bill Engvall
Bob Noyen
Bruno Junqueira
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