



Host Proposal

History

Wilderness Safaris is first and foremost a conservation company.

The reason we exist is to protect pristine wilderness areas and the flora and fauna – or biodiversity – that they support. We believe that in protecting these areas, and including the local communities in this process, we will make a difference to Africa and ultimately the world. In short we believe that the world's wilderness areas will save mankind.

It is well known that the wilderness areas throughout Africa are under immense strain. Rampant development, extractive industries, population growth and other specters threaten the integrity of ecosystems across the continent. It is extraordinarily difficult in the face of pressure to maintain conservation for conservation sake; conservation areas must provide viable alternatives to proposed development. Conservation after all is as much about people as it is about the environment.

We are extremely proud that our conservation estate extends to 2.6million hectares of prime wilderness that might otherwise not be as secure as it is today and believe (and hope) that our success will create imitators.

Of all the countries we operate in across Southern Africa, it is in Zimbabwe where conservation needs are perhaps the clearest and most focused. The economic crisis in which the country has been held in recent years has in some areas resulted in unprecedented pressure on wildlife and natural resources, a situation that has been worsened by periodic drought conditions. Accordingly our conservation initiatives in Zimbabwe have been tailored to address the most pressing threats to the survival of wildlife with fruitful partnerships and encouraging successes very evident.

As the concessionaire of a large area in south-eastern Hwange National Park, Wilderness Safaris has taken responsibility for many aspects of the management of this 100 000ha area. For example we have drilled and supplied engines, piping and pumps on 18 of the 57 operational boreholes in the entire Park. Since February 2002, supported financially by the Wilderness Trust, we have taken on responsibility pumping 22 boreholes 24 hours a day, thereby supporting the department of National Parks and Wildlife Management both logistically and financially. This includes daily refueling and maintenance and a full oil change every 250 hours!

We have also joined the National Park in jointly combating the effects of poaching along the Park's southern boundary, an area beyond our concession. Along the reserve boundary itself and also in the community areas beyond it, a large variety of mammal species fall victim to snaring, with larger species such as elephant and buffalo breaking free from their wire nooses and heading back to the refuge of our Park. Our efforts to combat this are threefold. Firstly Wilderness Safaris and the Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust provide funding and logistical support in the form of transport, fuel and rations to the anti-poaching units of the National Park based in this remote area, this support extending to manpower and physical assistance in anti-poaching patrols. In addition, animals that wander back into the Park are sometimes debilitated by the snares still in place around legs or necks. In cases such as this Wilderness Safaris provides qualified personnel, equipment and drugs to dart the injured animals, remove the snares and treat their wounds. To date, a number



of elephant, buffalo, zebra, waterbuck and even a baboon have been rescued in this way. Lastly, support for a local school engenders an appreciation for the area's wildlife and the role it can play in rural economies.

Even the white rhino appear to be increasing and in order to bolster and ensure this trend another joint project between Wilderness Safaris, the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management and the Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust successfully translocated a substantial breeding nucleus of the species into this area of Hwange. The first five animals arrived in July 2007 and were temporarily held in bomas before being released into the wild. Research on the threatened species as well as lion and wild dog is supported by our staff in the area, both in terms of logistical support of the researchers themselves and also observations and monitoring conducted while on game drive. In the case of the lion study, the long term effects of the sport hunting on the species have been examined by a team from Oxford with the result being a significant reduction by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management of the number of lions on quota for sport hunting on lands lying along Hwange's boundaries.

In order to achieve our conservation goals and maintain a sustainable business we create journeys and experiences for discerning global caring travelers – people who choose to travel with us not only because we offer access to the best wilderness areas, but also because of the knowledge that support for our business translates into support for conservation and communities across southern Africa. Hence our maim “ our journeys change peoples lives ” – not just those of our guest , but those of our staff and all our stakeholders , be they share holders or neighboring rural communities who partner us in achieving this ideal.

Wilderness Safaris puts the natural environment above everything else. We therefore employ full time environmentalists whose job it is to ensure that our camps are as eco friendly as possible.

Current Wilderness Safaris projects in Hwange National Park :

- Data Gathering (Waterhole counts , road / spoor transects , water usage monitoring)
- Assistance with Hwange Lion Research Project (Oxford University)
- Bird (Raptor) Monitoring
- Darting and Snare removal
- Hwange Water Supply (Diesel Engines , Windmill and maintenance)
- Anti poaching (Deploying of scouts on patrol)
- White Rhino Relocation and Monitoring
- Leopard Monitoring Project
- Back of house environmental efforts (grease traps etc)

See websites:

www.wilderness-safaris.com

www.childreninthewilderness.com

www.wildernesstrust.com

Overview of Volunteer Programme

- 4-5 days Rhino monitoring (possibly camping out for 1 or 2 nights at Makona/ Sitchtche)
- Full moon Pan count .This is from 12 noon on the designated day till 12 noon the following day. Volunteer will assist Jaelle in counting all wildlife coming to drink at a specified waterhole for a period of 24 hours.
- Road strip counts, spoor transects (done every 3 month - takes 2-3 days.)
- Lion monitoring can be done at all times in-between .This assists the lion researchers . Volunteer will accompany and assist the researchers in our area with Captures, tracking and downloads.
- Anti-poaching with Jaelle and National Parks Rangers – assist with deploying and resupplying scouts and going on one or two of the shorter patrols / snare sweeps.
- Leopard monitoring- assisting researcher setting up and checking camera traps on a daily basis when he is in our area. May also assist with trapping and fitting collars .
- Back of house environmental reporting - going around camps to all the camps with Jaelle checking that they are adhering to environmental minimum standards set out by Wilderness Safaris
- Assisting maintenance staff with refueling and maintaining water pumps for pumping water holes
- Accompany maintenance staff for 2 days doing general repairs and maintenance in camp
- Check-up on the Windmill at Mbiza waterhole
- Volunteers will also have the opportunity to accompany guides on a game drive as well as a walking safari
- Visit the local School (Ngamo School) with our Community Liason Officer to deliver books or check up on projects.
- Be part of a Children's camp (Children In The Wilderness) * Set dates

Wilderness Safaris host information sheet

The following information you are being asked to provide will allow Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe to add you as a Host to our Data base. It will be used for no other purpose. Please use a different colour font to input your information. All of these fields must be filled out.

Contact Details

1. Name of your Project - Hwange Wilderness Volunteer Programme
2. Your full Name – Susan Goatley
3. Email address – sue@wilderness.co.zw
4. Cell phone number – 263 11 208377
5. Land Line number – 263 13 43371-4
6. Fax – 263 13 - 45942
7. Physical Address – 366 Gibson Road , Victoria Falls , Zimbabwe
8. Country - ZIMBABWE

The cost will be US \$ 2 250.00, this includes, accommodation, laundry ,meals, transfer into and out of camp . This does not include flights to Victoria Falls from their home countries. Bar bill will be settled directly in camp. The volunteer will be responsible for travel fees, visa fees and their own comprehensive medical cover.



Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe employs a full time Environmentalist in our Hwange concessions (Jaelle Claypole). She is fully responsible for gathering data on endangered animals such as the White Rhino as well as other wildlife in our concessions. She assists both the Lion and Leopard Researchers with their projects (radio tracking , down loading from GPS collars and fitting collars to new lions) and we have a number of our own environmental projects on the go in Hwange and she moves around camps checking up on these (water pumping figures , windmill figures etc) . The volunteers will assist Jaelle with all hands on work as she carries out her duties and at the same time experience a truly wild area with an abundance of wildlife (All the big 5). At some point during the volunteers stay they will also be able to go on an activity with a qualified guide and his guests whether on foot or by Land Rover.

See work program attachment. Obviously this can change on the ground depending on the opportunities that present themselves.

What do you expect the volunteer to achieve during their stay with you?

- To experience the Zimbabwean culture
- To experience the operation of a Safari facility
- To experience and assist with our Conservation Projects within Hwange National Park
- Understand the importance of communities and community projects for conservation
- To appreciate and understand the importance of conservation
- To appreciate wildlife and the habitats in which they survive
- To teach basic bush skills
- To give a hands on experience with maintenance work in the concessions (Working on Land Rovers , Diesel Lister Pumps , basic plumbing and general maintenance)

Does the volunteer have access to internet, a vehicle, and front line medical facilities?

- Limited access to internet during generator running hours. Email in the camps is primarily a business tool.
- Vehicle will be provided for activities and outings and will be driven by WSZ staff member responsible for the volunteers.
- MARS medical Evacuation is available (All volunteers must come with travel insurance)
-

Please outline the living quarters, eating facilities and entertainment that is available for volunteers:

- Volunteers will be housed in single roomed permanent wooden lodge houses with en-suite bathroom (shower and flush toilet)
- Lighting in the staff houses are via 12 volt battery and candles. None of the camps have 24 hour electricity
- Staff will eat all meals at the staff dining area

How many Volunteers can you host at one time?

- 2 at a time (Hwange National Park)

Age bracket of Volunteer:

- 16 – 28 years of age



Working Hours and time off for Volunteers:

- Generally 07:00– 13:00 and 15:00 – 17:00 but while monitoring Leopard , Lion or Rhino this is unpredictable and often means working over the lunch hour and possibly arriving back in camp after dark.
- If conducting waterhole counts over full moon this will be all night (24hrs)

How long could you house a volunteer for? (Bearing in mind they only have a 3 month holiday visa), and we advise no less than 4 weeks.

- 1 – 2 months

Who will the Volunteer be attached to on your project?

- Julian Brookstein / Jaelle Claypole (In house environmentalist)

Are you insured for “Public Liability”

- YES