



**WILDERNESS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

FOURTH QUARTER 2016



INTRODUCTION

The last three months of 2016 proved to be some of our busiest, with most regions holding their annual Children in the Wilderness camps, in between Eco-Club activities, community development projects, training and many other exciting initiatives.

We held our second annual Tri-Nations Camp at Tshugulu Lodge in Mapungubwe National Park in South Africa. This brought together children from Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe, for four days of learning and fun. The aim of the Tri-Nations camp is part of an agreement to give back to the communities through which the Nedbank Tour de Tuli (CITW fundraising event) cycle ride traverses.

It was also during this final quarter, that our beautiful Children in the Wilderness video was shot in Botswana. The video can be viewed on our website here: <http://www.childreninthewilderness.com/about-us/what-is-children-in-the-wilderness/> (a heads up – you might need to keep your Kleenex handy for this). We are exceptionally proud of this wonderful showcase of Children in the Wilderness.

In March 2017, the second edition of our Eco-Stars Magazine will be coming out. The Eco-Stars magazine is packed full of information on some of our partners, as well as information on our main fundraising event - the Nedbank Tour de Tuli. We take a look at our Eco-Mentors, Eco-Club members and plenty of other inspiring stories from Children in the Wilderness.



Thank you to all our donors, staff, partners and volunteers who ensure that our programme continues to grow reaching more children, more often and more positively. Please don't forget to like Children in the Wilderness on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Childreninthewilderness?fref=ts> for regular updates and heart-warming stories.

BOTSWANA

Beetsha and Gunotsoga Adult Eco-Clubs

The Children in the Wilderness team went on follow up visits, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, to our Beetsha and Gunotsoga Adult Eco-Clubs. The main objective of the follow up visits was to check on the projects that are being done by the Adult Eco-Clubs, and also to provide them with training as to how to use the milling machine.



It was interesting to see how the members of the groups were active and eager to learn how to make their projects a success. Despite the unavoidable challenges many of our Eco-Club members face, CITW and Mr Ntsie from the Ministry of Agriculture have had a great impact on their projects, and have hence helped improve their lifestyles.

Shashe Primary School

On the 14th of November 2016, guests visited Shashe Eco-Club to share information about what they are doing as environmentalists. The main aim of the visit was to gather information on how people in Botswana live and take care of their wildlife. Charles and his daughter Olivia, from the US were eager to visit Shashe Primary School, as Olivia is doing a project on Children in the Wilderness Eco-Clubs in Botswana. They had been reading about our Eco-Clubs and wanted to see first-hand how things work in our Eco-Club schools.

The school's Deputy Head welcomed the guests and gave them some background on Shashe Primary School. The school's Eco-Club then had a chance to present their projects to the guests. The guests were excited about the presentations from the children and adults in our Eco-Clubs.

The guests then had a chance to report back. Charles mentioned that he will spread the word about our CITW programme in the USA and he encouraged Shashe Eco-Club members to become tourism ambassadors and mentioned that they are lucky to be taught about the environment and nature. The children were encouraged to create employment for other people – to become entrepreneurs in their communities. Olivia said that she had learnt a great deal about Eco-Clubs, and said that she will use her project to tell her community in America about what Botswana is doing in terms of conservation and the protection of nature. The guests were given beaded Botswana flags as a token of appreciation.



End of Year Camps 2016

Children in the Wilderness hosted a total of 84 children and 9 teachers during the annual camps held in September/October and November/December 2016. Children in the Wilderness had some of its annual camp from the 25th September to 2nd October 2016 at Santawani Camp. We hosted 54 children and 6 teachers in total, split between two groups of three nights each. The children flew from Maun Seronga to Santawani Camp. As CITW Botswana works closely with the Ministry of Education, Lesley Kehitlwe representing the Ministry of Education, was one of our Eco-Mentors on camp at Santawani.

CITW hosted its second annual camp at Jacana Camp from 26 November to the 4th of December 2016. We hosted 32 children and 3 teachers (from Tubu, Shashe and Sankuyo Primary schools) in total, split between two groups of three nights each. The children flew from Maun to Jacana Camp in the Okavango Delta. A few of our colleagues from the South African Children in the Wilderness Team joined the November camp: Warren Smart and Caroline Culbert as photographers and videographers, and Regional Programme Coordinator and Eco-Mentor Bongani Baloyi.

