

# CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS IN A NUTSHELL



Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is a life skills and environmental educational programme for children who live in the neighbouring villages around the wild areas. The programme is a grassroots initiative of Wilderness Safaris aimed at giving disadvantaged children an opportunity to learn about their environment and their role in saving it.

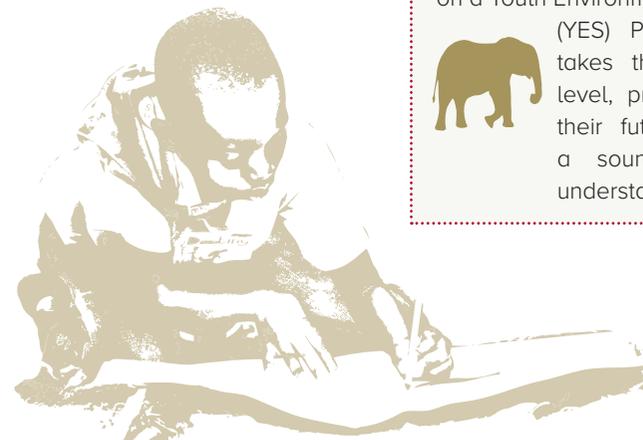
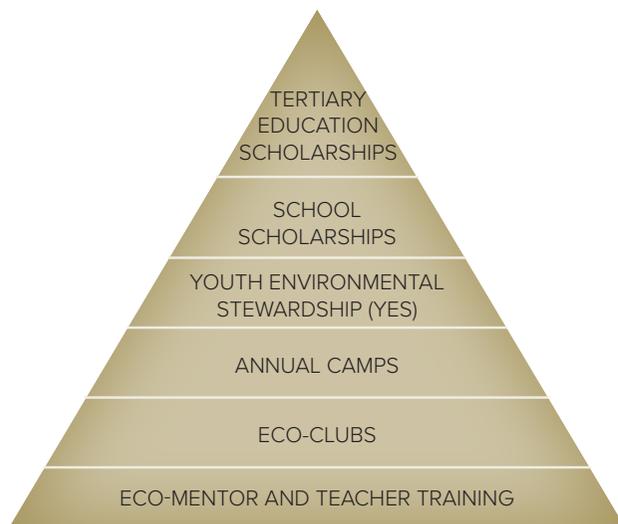
CITW began in 2001 in Botswana and currently takes place in seven countries: Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

CITW currently supports over **3 000 children** in Eco-Clubs.

Since CITW is a not-for-profit organisation, it relies on funds donated by the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, generous donors, or fundraising events such as the Nedbank Tour de Tuli mountain bike event.

DURING 2018							
Eco-Clubs supported	Eco-Club members	Teachers involved in Eco-Clubs	CITW camps	Children on camp	Children on YES programme	Teachers trained	Scholarships given
70	2 588	189	21	481	339	249	605

*Sustainable conservation through leadership development*



# HOW IT WORKS

- 1 First, the CITW Coordinator and his/her Eco-Mentors (i.e. Wilderness staff who volunteer their time) meet with teachers in village schools and, with their help, start an Eco-Club at each school. The Eco-Club is run as an extra-mural activity on a monthly or weekly basis, where the curriculum is all about wildlife, the environment and livelihoods. The children can choose to become members of the Eco-Club.


- 2 Once a year, the nearest Wilderness Safaris or partner camp is closed to paying guests and a CITW programme run at the camp. Participants are chosen from the Eco-Club members.


- 3 The camp lasts four days, for about 12 – 30 children. The programme is both educational and fun, and includes lessons, games, practical sessions and wildlife activities.


- 4 The children return to their schools inspired to continue their education and with a newfound love and pride in their wildlife heritage. In some of the countries, a few of those in need of financial assistance receive scholarships so as to complete their schooling.


- 5 Students who show an aptitude for environmental leadership are hosted on a Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme, which takes them to the next level, preparing them for their future careers with a sound environmental understanding.


- 6 Post school, the CITW team then helps with finding internships or relevant training, with the ideal 'end' being that of the young adult being able to give back to his/her community through a career.
- 7 Through all of this, Eco-Mentor Training is the vital foundation to ensure that teachers and Eco-Mentors are fully prepared and able to run the Eco-Clubs. This training empowers and uplifts them to be effective role models within their communities.