



## CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is a non-profit organisation which aims to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development and education of rural children in Africa. By exposing children to their natural heritage, CITW creates a network of learning sanctuaries that uplifts and cares for our children and conserves our planet. In this way, we inspire the children to care for the environment so that they can become the custodians of these areas in the future. Children in the Wilderness started operating in Botswana in 2001 and has since expanded to Namibia, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

During the course of the year, the CITW ground team operates Eco-Clubs in the various communities with which we work. The Eco-Clubs, which take place at the rural schools, follow a structured curriculum and give all learners who are interested in the environment a chance to meet, learn, discuss and expand their knowledge of environmental issues. We are able to reach more children in the communities and on a more regular basis. Children participating on the CITW annual camps are selected from Eco-Clubs.

Our Eco-Mentor Training develops local community members by upgrading skills, increasing environmental understanding and enabling them to better implement school and village environmental projects and initiatives. This project assists in addressing the critical teaching skills shortage in environmental education in Southern Africa. Once trained, Eco-Mentors are able to host Eco-Clubs in the local village schools and assist the Eco-Club members in implementing environmental projects in their village.

Our annual camp programme hosts rural children on a three-night environmental and life skills educational programme in Wilderness Safaris and/or partner camps where we teach children the importance of conservation and strive to instill a passion for the environment. The programme covers topics such as wildlife, conservation, health, HIV/AIDS awareness, nutrition, life skills, geography, geology, arts, crafts and theatre.

Our Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme focuses on children with commitment and potential who have been identified on annual camps and in Eco-Clubs as showing a particular interest in conservation. The curriculum in the programme is an extension of concepts introduced in Eco-Clubs and at camp, with a greater focus on career guidance, leadership, team building, communication and further environmental education.



Overall, CITW aims to develop leadership values amongst the participants, so as to create leaders who are inspired to care for their environment and can show others the way.

Other related initiatives which we support, depending on the country and region, include community development programmes to reduce poverty, improve living conditions, and enhance local education systems through improving school infrastructure, scholarship programmes, feeding schemes and the promotion of small community businesses.

For further information, see [www.childreninthewilderness.com](http://www.childreninthewilderness.com)

### **NEDBANK TOUR DE TULI**

The Nedbank Tour de Tuli has been running for the past 14 years and is a renowned, premier mountain bike adventure, traversing some of Africa's most pristine wilderness areas in Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Taking place in July/August each year, participants can enjoy riding and exploring unmarked routes and ancient game trails for four days and five nights.

It is the main fundraiser for Children in the Wilderness (CITW), where all funds raised are channelled directly into the CITW programme. Over the last 14 years, the Tour has hosted approximately 3 500 participants and raised R19 million. This has allowed us to host over 5 600 children on our camp programme since 2001 and over 11 000 children on our Eco-Club programme since 2012.

This authentic mountain bike Tour is renowned for its extremely high standards of service and the unique experience of riding through some of Africa's most pristine, wildlife and geologically rich areas. The event focuses on following strict environmental practices, working with the community and setting unforgettable routes, allowing participants to experience amazing bush surroundings with a group of likeminded individuals.

The event starts on the 23 July at 14h30 at Mapungubwe National Park, Confluence Site in South Africa and ends on the 28 July 2019 at Mapungubwe National Park at 07h00.

For further information, see [tourdetuli.com](http://tourdetuli.com)