







# WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

**EMPOWERS AFRICA** is a U.S. public charity under IRC Section 501(c)(3) that supports programs in the areas of human empowerment, wildlife protection and land conservation in sub-Saharan Africa.

We partner with some of the most effective organizations on the ground in Africa that are creating lasting and sustainable change. Since 2013, we have granted over 27 million dollars to over 70 organizations in 16 countries.

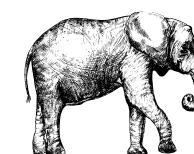
**OUR FOCUS IS ON:**

1. Funding programs in communities that live in proximity to protected conservation and wildlife areas or World Heritage Sites
2. Funding programs in urban communities where tourism is a strong source of development and
3. Funding programs that support the protection of wildlife and land conservation

At Empowers Africa, we support community-led, measurable and sustainable programs that bolster communities by improving access to education, healthcare and business opportunities. We also support programs that protect wildlife and land conservation because we believe safeguarding Africa's natural wealth is critical to the empowerment of the surrounding communities.

Empowers Africa funds and produces educational documentaries about conservation and human empowerment issues in Africa, with a focus on matters such as: wildlife protection, habitat conservation, education, small business development, and female empowerment.

Additionally, Empowers Africa serves as a fiscal sponsor to over 35 organizations working on the ground in Africa. Through our 501(c)3 status, we are able to efficiently collect and process donations for some of the most effective changemakers on the continent, allowing them to focus on what's most important—the work being done on the ground.







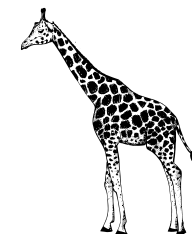
# AFRICA'S GROWING YOUTH POPULATION

According to recent United Nations projections, by 2050, Africa will be home to nearly one-third of the world's youth (defined as those aged 15 to 24). It makes Africa the only region in the world where the youth population is growing, with an increase of over 40% expected by mid-century. This presents both urgent challenges and enormous opportunities. Without access to education, jobs, and economic pathways, a growing youth population could deepen cycles of poverty. Already, about 60% of the world's extreme poor live in sub-Saharan Africa, and that proportion is projected to rise if structural barriers remain. But with the right support, Africa's youth could drive the continent's next era of innovation and growth.

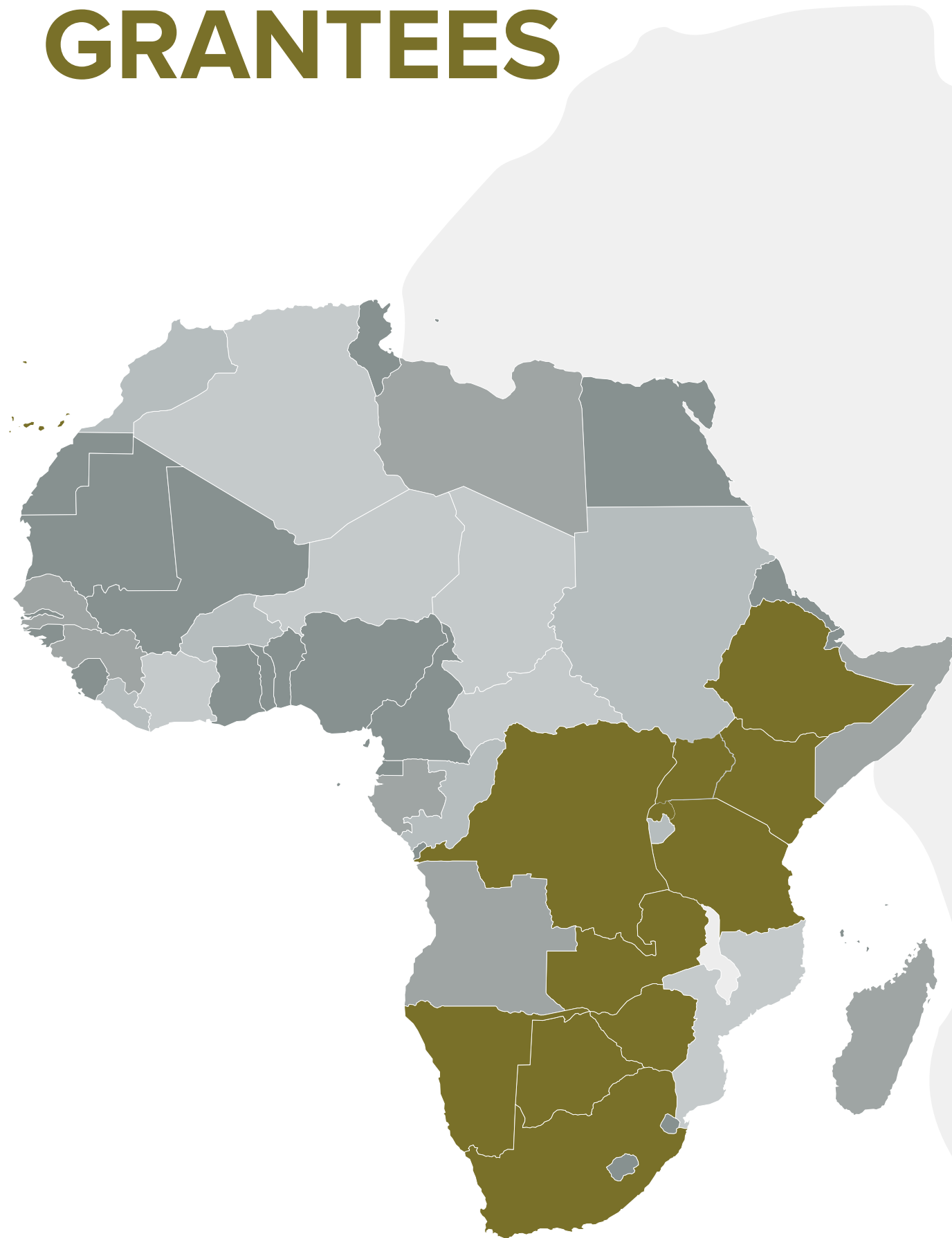
At Empowers Africa, we work with partners who are committed to supporting community-based projects that empower young people, not by imposing solutions, but by investing in local leadership and grassroots innovation. By expanding access to education, health care, and entrepreneurial tools, we help unlock the talent and resilience that already exists across the continent.

At the same time, Africa's wild areas are under increasing threat from poaching, destructive land management practices and global warming. At current poaching rates, some of Africa's most iconic residents, like the rhino and the pangolin, could be extinct in our lifetime. But conservation isn't just about protecting wildlife; it's about securing livelihoods, preserving heritage, and building sustainable economies. When local communities are supported to protect and benefit from the natural world around them, everyone wins.

The organizations and projects that Empowers Africa supports through annual grants and our Fiscal Sponsor Program tackle issues of education, healthcare, economic empowerment, wildlife protection, and land conservation with the understanding that they are all inextricably linked to one another.



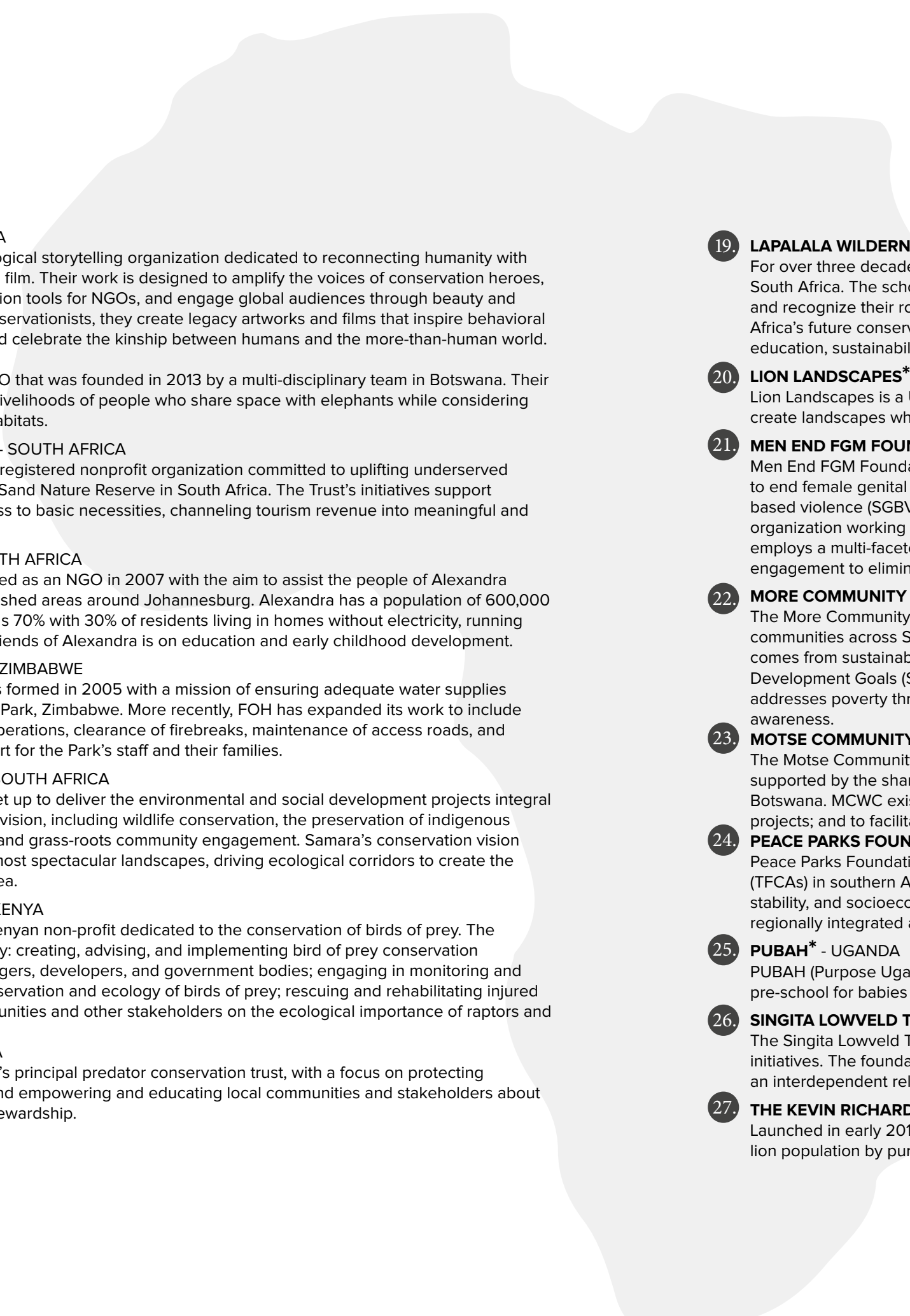
# GRANTEES



- 1. AFRICAN LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY\*** - RWANDA / MAURITIUS  
Founded as an evolution of Fred Swaniker's groundbreaking African Leadership Academy, the African Leadership University (ALU) is a network of tertiary institutions committed to educating the next generation of African leaders and entrepreneurs. It currently has two campuses, in Rwanda and Mauritius respectively, but hopes to expand to 25 campuses across the continent in the next 50 years. ALU's unique approach to learning includes a focus on developing real-world skills, a commitment to peer-to-peer education, and an emphasis on students declaring a personal mission along with a major to confront the issues faced by the continent head on.
- 2. AFRICAN BUSH CAMPS FOUNDATION\*** - BOTSWANA, ZIMBABWE & ZAMBIA  
Since its inception in 2006, the African Bush Camps Foundation has worked to improve lives in the communities surrounding its safari camps in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The Foundation is dedicated to enhancing quality of life and achieving long-term conservation goals through targeted initiatives in education, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship. Its model is built on deep collaboration with local communities to ensure sustainable impact.
- 3. AFRICAN PARKS** - ACROSS AFRICA  
African Parks is a non-profit conservation organization committed to the protection, management, and rehabilitation of national parks in partnership with governments and local communities. As of 2018, African Parks manages 15 national parks in nine countries—Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Zambia
- 4. ASILIA GIVING\*** - KENYA / TANZANIA  
The Asilia Charitable Corporation supports impactful community empowerment and conservation initiatives across the regions of East Africa where Asilia Africa operates its safari lodges. By working in close alignment with local priorities, the organization helps foster sustainable development and protect critical ecosystems.
- 5. CAPE LEOPARD TRUST\*** - SOUTH AFRICA  
The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, public benefit organization based in the Western Cape, South Africa. The organization facilitates and promotes the conservation of biological diversity, with a focus on the leopard as a flagship species. CLT's purpose and vision is to ensure the continued survival of leopard populations, help secure their habitat and prey base, and promote their coexistence with humans.
- 6. CHILDREN IN WILDERNESS TRUST\*** - ACROSS AFRICA  
Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is an independent non-profit organization established and supported by Wilderness—a leading operator of high-end safari camps and conservation tourism experiences across Africa. CITW engages rural children living near Wilderness camps and partner concessions, introducing them to the importance of conservation through its Eco-Clubs, YES Programme, and Eco-Mentor training. By reconnecting children with their natural heritage, the program helps build knowledge, confidence, and life skills to better navigate future challenges.
- 7. CONNECT FOUNDATION\*** - ACROSS AFRICA  
The Connect Foundation empowers nonprofit organizations by producing high-quality visual content that amplifies their missions. Through compelling films and photography, the Foundation helps partners engage broader audiences, attract funding, and extend their reach. Their content is strategically developed for use across digital platforms, including social media, websites, and donor reports—effectively bridging the digital divide many nonprofits face. All films are featured on the Foundation's YouTube channel, where they are building a global community of supporters dedicated to driving positive change.
- 8. DAUNARA FOUNDATION\*** - BOTSWANA  
The Daunara Foundation's mission is to uplift the community of the Daunara Village and its surrounding villages, by ensuring the benefits of the tourism industry flow through to the communities and create long-term benefits for the community as a whole. The foundation focuses on small business development, education, and wildlife protection efforts.
- 9. DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST** - KENYA  
The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) is widely regarded as the most successful orphan elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in the world and, since its inception in 1977, has led the way in wildlife and habitat protection in East Africa. At the heart of its many conservation activities is the "Orphans' Project," a rescue and rehabilitation program for Kenya's threatened elephant and rhino populations.
- 10. DYER ISLAND CONSERVATION TRUST\*** - SOUTH AFRICA  
Founded by conservationist Wilfred Chivell in 2006, Dyer Island Conservation Trust aims to protect the critically-important marine environment on the southern tip of Africa and the Marine Big 5 that call the area home.

\* This organization is a member of Empowers Africa's Fiscal Sponsorship Program. See the Fiscal Sponsorship section for more information



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11. **eARTh AGENCY** \* - SOUTH AFRICA  
eARTh Agency is a non-profit ecological storytelling organization dedicated to reconnecting humanity with nature through art, storytelling, and film. Their work is designed to amplify the voices of conservation heroes, provide much-needed communication tools for NGOs, and engage global audiences through beauty and curiosity. By pairing artists with conservationists, they create legacy artworks and films that inspire behavioral change, foster spiritual ecology, and celebrate the kinship between humans and the more-than-human world.
12. **ECOEXIST**\* - BOTSWANA  
Ecoexist Trust is a not-for-profit NGO that was founded in 2013 by a multi-disciplinary team in Botswana. Their mission is to support the lives and livelihoods of people who share space with elephants while considering the needs of elephants and their habitats.
13. **ESIDULINI COMMUNITY TRUST**\* - SOUTH AFRICA  
The esiDulini Community Trust is a registered nonprofit organization committed to uplifting underserved communities surrounding the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve in South Africa. The Trust's initiatives support education, infrastructure, and access to basic necessities, channeling tourism revenue into meaningful and lasting community upliftment.
14. **FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRA**\* - SOUTH AFRICA  
Friends of Alexandra was established as an NGO in 2007 with the aim to assist the people of Alexandra township, one of the most impoverished areas around Johannesburg. Alexandra has a population of 600,000 people. Unemployment is as high as 70% with 30% of residents living in homes without electricity, running water or sewerage. The focus of Friends of Alexandra is on education and early childhood development.
15. **FRIENDS OF HWANGE TRUST**\* - ZIMBABWE  
Friends of Hwange Trust (FOH) was formed in 2005 with a mission of ensuring adequate water supplies for the wildlife of Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe. More recently, FOH has expanded its work to include anti-poaching and animal rescue operations, clearance of firebreaks, maintenance of access roads, and supplying adequate medical support for the Park's staff and their families.
16. **FRIENDS OF SAMARA TRUST**\* - SOUTH AFRICA  
The Friends of Samara Trust was set up to deliver the environmental and social development projects integral to Samara Private Game Reserve's vision, including wildlife conservation, the preservation of indigenous knowledge, landscape restoration and grass-roots community engagement. Samara's conservation vision is to restore one of South Africa's most spectacular landscapes, driving ecological corridors to create the country's third largest protected area.
17. **KENYA BIRD OF PREY TRUST**\* - KENYA  
The Kenya Bird of Prey Trust is a Kenyan non-profit dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey. The foundation acts on their mandate by: creating, advising, and implementing bird of prey conservation management plans with land managers, developers, and government bodies; engaging in monitoring and research programs that inform conservation and ecology of birds of prey; rescuing and rehabilitating injured birds of prey; and educating communities and other stakeholders on the ecological importance of raptors and the threats they face.
18. **KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST**\* - KENYA  
Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) is Kenya's principal predator conservation trust, with a focus on protecting vulnerable predator populations, and empowering and educating local communities and stakeholders about conservation and environmental stewardship.

19. **LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL**\* - SOUTH AFRICA  
For over three decades, the Lapalala Wilderness School has played a vital role in conservation education in South Africa. The school aims to inspire children and young adults to understand the value of biodiversity and recognize their role in protecting the natural world. It is also dedicated to identifying and nurturing Africa's future conservation leaders. Today, the school stands as a leading institution in environmental education, sustainability, and hope, contributing meaningfully to the future of South Africa and the planet.
20. **LION LANDSCAPES**\* - KENYA, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA  
Lion Landscapes is a UK registered Charity that works with local communities and conservation partners to create landscapes where both large carnivores and local people can thrive in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.
21. **MEN END FGM FOUNDATION**\* - ACROSS AFRICA  
Men End FGM Foundation is a global, award-winning initiative that mobilizes men and boys in the fight to end female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), child marriage, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Launched in 2013 as an online campaign, MEF has evolved into a leading nonprofit organization working across sectors—including civil society, media, and government. The Foundation employs a multi-faceted approach encompassing movement building, policy advocacy, and community engagement to eliminate harmful practices and protect the rights of women and girls.
22. **MORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**\* - SOUTHERN AFRICA  
The More Community Foundation is committed to building a brighter, more sustainable future for vulnerable communities across Southern Africa. The Foundation's mission is rooted in the belief that real change comes from sustainable, community-led development and is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Guided by a 'triple bottom line' approach to sustainability, the Foundation addresses poverty through long-term educational opportunities, access to resources, and environmental awareness.
23. **MOTSE COMMUNITY WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY**\* - BOTSWANA  
The Motse Community and Wildlife Conservancy (MCWC) is an independent non-profit established and supported by the shareholders of Limpopo-Lipadi Private Game and Wilderness Reserve, in the Tuli Block, Botswana. MCWC exists to empower and assist local communities through developmental and educational projects; and to facilitate conservation through science-based research activities.
24. **PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION** - SOUTH AFRICA  
Peace Parks Foundation facilitates the establishment and development of Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) in southern Africa, also known as Peace Parks, to promote biodiversity conservation, regional stability, and socioeconomic development. They work to transcend man-made boundaries by creating regionally integrated and sustainably managed networks of these conservation areas.
25. **PUBAH**\* - UGANDA  
PUBAH (Purpose Uganda Babies At Home) is a non-profit organization funding a small orphanage and pre-school for babies and young children in the Entebbe region of Uganda's Wakiso district.
26. **SINGITA LOWVELD TRUST**\* - SOUTH AFRICA  
The Singita Lowveld Trust is committed to a number of conservation and community initiatives. The foundation has made a lasting impact on various parts of Africa orchestrating an interdependent relationship between communities, wildlife and tourism.
27. **THE KEVIN RICHARDSON FOUNDATION**\* - SOUTH AFRICA  
Launched in early 2018, the foundation is committed to changing and reversing the state of Africa's declining lion population by purchasing habitat and raising awareness to create safe spaces for lions to flourish.

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28. **THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO FOUNDATION\*** - SOUTH AFRICA  
The Royal Portfolio Foundation supports community upliftment, wildlife protection, land conservation, and environmental preservation across Southern Africa. Closely aligned with The Royal Portfolio—a collection of luxury boutique hotels committed to sustainable tourism—the Foundation channels resources toward meaningful and lasting impact.
29. **THE SAFARI COLLECTION FOOTPRINT\*** - KENYA  
The Safari Collection Footprint is a registered nonprofit trust in Kenya, committed to advancing impactful community and conservation initiatives nationwide. In partnership with The Safari Collection—a luxury Kenya-based safari company—the trust supports vital programs in healthcare, education, clean water access, and wildlife conservation.
30. **THE SAVANNA TRUST\*** - SOUTH AFRICA  
The Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting community-led projects and partnerships around the Sabi Sand area of South Africa in collaboration with local stakeholders. Its mission is to build resilient, self-sufficient communities where every individual can thrive.
31. **TSAVO TRUST\*** - KENYA  
Tsavo Trust is a field based Kenyan non-profit organisation headquartered in Tsavo, southern Kenya. The Trust follows a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation, combining professional wildlife conservation activities and grass-roots community engagement with valued partnerships and committed supporters for the protection of Tsavo's wilderness.
32. **THE TSWALU FOUNDATION\*** - SOUTH AFRICA  
The Tswalu Foundation supports ecological research in South Africa's southern Kalahari, advancing conservation through a growing body of scientific work. Research is deeply embedded in daily life at Tswalu, informing land management and sharing insights with neighboring communities. By deepening understanding and refining conservation policy, the Foundation helps protect one of Africa's most complex and threatened ecosystems.
33. **VOLCANOES SAFARIS PARTNERSHIP TRUST\*** - RWANDA & UGANDA  
In 2009, the Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT), a non-profit organization, was established to connect Volcanoes Safaris lodges to neighboring communities and conservation activities. VSPT aims to create long-term, sustainable projects that enrich the livelihoods of local communities and promote the conservation of the great apes.
34. **WILD EARTH IMPACT FOUNDATION\*** - SOUTH AFRICA  
The Wild Earth Impact Foundation (WEIF) is the dedicated non-profit conservation & social impact partner for WildEarth, a global and trusted brand in nature conversation with an audience of over 7 million global viewers monthly. Through the transformative power of storytelling, WEIF seeks to foster a deep connection between people and nature in order to preserve the wild for future generations.
35. **WILDERNESS WILDLIFE TRUST\*** - ACROSS AFRICA  
Wilderness Wildlife Trust, an independent non-profit entity associated with the Wilderness Group, supports a wide variety of projects across Africa. The projects and research it supports address the needs of existing wildlife populations, seek solutions to save endangered species and provide education and training for local people and their communities.
36. **WILDTRUST\*** - SOUTHERN AFRICA  
Wildlands is one of South Africa's leading environmental non-profit organizations. Through strategic partnerships with communities and the South African Government, Wildlands is helping South Africa to strengthen its natural ecosystems, educating local communities and improving livelihoods in the process.

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# WILDCAT FOUNDATION GRANTEES

The Wildcat Foundation, established by David Bonderman, is a private philanthropic organization committed to the long-term conservation of endangered wildlife and wild places, with a primary focus on Africa. Its mission includes supporting anti-poaching efforts, combating wildlife trafficking, and safeguarding some of the continent's most vulnerable ecosystems and the species that depend on them.

Through visionary leadership and strategic grantmaking, the foundation has made an extraordinary impact across Africa's conservation landscape. Its funding has enabled the widespread deployment of advanced technology for rangers, significantly strengthened anti-poaching and intelligence operations, and sustained high-impact programs that are transforming the outlook for wildlife conservation in Africa.

## THE WILDCAT FOUNDATION GENEROUSLY SUPPORTS FUNDS THAT EMPOWERS AFRICA HAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

### 1. **BIG GAME PARKS TRUST - ESWATINI**

Big Game Parks Trust is a non-profit organization tasked with managing some of Eswatini's most important wildlife reserves. Established through a unique public-private partnership with the government, the Trust oversees four protected areas: Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, Hlane Royal National Park, Mkhaya Game Reserve, and KaLanga Nature Reserve. These parks are home to a range of iconic African species, including rhinos, elephants, lions, and diverse birdlife. Big Game Parks plays a pivotal role in conservation, ecotourism, and community outreach, contributing significantly to Eswatini's biodiversity preservation efforts.

A cornerstone of the Trust's mission is its robust anti-poaching program, which has earned international recognition. With rhino poaching and wildlife trafficking posing ongoing threats in the region, Big Game Parks maintains well-trained ranger teams, aerial surveillance, and rapid-response units to protect endangered species. The organization works closely with law enforcement and judiciary systems to strengthen legal action against poachers and traffickers. Through intelligence-sharing, community awareness campaigns, and constant field presence, the Trust has successfully deterred organized wildlife crime and created one of the more secure environments for rhinos in Southern Africa.

### 2. **DEFEND (FORMERLY NATIONAL PARKS RESCUE) - ZIMBABWE**

DEFEND, formerly known as National Parks Rescue, is a conservation organization dedicated to protecting wildlife in Zimbabwe's Chizarira National Park. In partnership with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks), DEFEND has implemented comprehensive anti-poaching strategies to combat illegal wildlife activities. Their efforts have included training and equipping rangers, establishing rapid response units, and enhancing surveillance to deter poachers. These initiatives have led to a significant decline in poaching incidents within the park.

Beyond enforcement, DEFEND emphasizes community engagement to address the root causes of wildlife trafficking. By providing employment opportunities and involving local communities in conservation efforts, they foster a sense of ownership and responsibility towards protecting wildlife. This holistic approach not only safeguards endangered species but also promotes sustainable development in the region.

### 3. **ENJOJO FOUNDATION SOUTH SUDAN - SOUTH SUDAN**

Enjojo Foundation is a nonprofit conservation organization operating in South Sudan and Uganda, dedicated to managing protected areas through a holistic model that promotes peace, supports sustainable community livelihoods, and fosters socio-economic stability.

In South Sudan, Enjojo has entered into co-management agreements with the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism to lead the conservation, rehabilitation, and management of Lantoto National Park. Lantoto National Park spans 1,547 km<sup>2</sup> and forms a contiguous protected area with the Garamba Complex, sharing approximately 98 km of common border along the Congo-Nile watershed divide. Enjojo's work in Lantoto includes implementing law enforcement and anti-poaching patrols, conducting wildlife and habitat monitoring, engaging local communities through conservation education and livelihood support programs, and laying the groundwork for future eco-tourism.

### 4. **FORGOTTEN PARKS FOUNDATION - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

Forgotten Parks Foundation (FPF) is a nonprofit dedicated to restoring and managing underfunded national parks, primarily in Africa. Through partnerships with governments and local communities, FPF promotes biodiversity, sustainable conservation, and community-driven initiatives.

FPF manages Upemba National Park in the DRC under a 15-year partnership with the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), focusing on wildlife protection, habitat restoration, and local engagement. The foundation is also reintroducing extinct species such as the Katanga lion and black rhino to help restore ecological balance. Additionally, FPF leverages technology—like surveillance systems and communication networks—to improve park management and anti-poaching efforts.

### 5. **LANTOTO NATIONAL PARKS - SOUTH SUDAN**

Lantoto National Park, located in Central Equatoria, South Sudan, was established under the Wildlife Act of 1986 and the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act of 2003. It encompasses approximately 760 square kilometers of diverse habitats and is home to a variety of wildlife including elephants, buffalo, baboons, antelopes, and ostriches. Despite its ecological significance, the park faces challenges due to undefined boundaries and limited conservation resources. Efforts are underway to demarcate these boundaries and implement effective management strategies to preserve biodiversity.

### 6. **LILONGWE WILDLIFE TRUST - MALAWI**

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) is Malawi's leading conservation organization, with a strong focus on combating illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. As wildlife crime remains one of the primary threats to biodiversity in Malawi, LWT plays a critical role in frontline enforcement and capacity building. The organization works in close collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes. LWT provides specialized training for prosecutors, magistrates, and investigators, and has been instrumental in securing landmark convictions for trafficking offenses, particularly involving ivory and pangolins.

LWT also supports on-the-ground anti-poaching efforts through surveillance, intelligence-sharing, and the deployment of rapid-response units in wildlife trafficking hotspots. Their wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center—the only one of its kind in Malawi—serves as a haven for animals confiscated from the illegal trade, including monkeys, birds, and endangered species like pangolins. These operations are supported by scientific research and data collection, which inform national conservation policies and targeted enforcement strategies. Through its integrated approach—combining legal action, public education, field operations, and policy reform—LWT has emerged as a key player in the regional fight against wildlife trafficking.

### 7. **NIASSA CARNIVORE PROJECT - MOZAMBIQUE**

Niassa Carnivore Project (NCP), managed by the TRT Conservation Foundation, is a South African nonprofit focused on the long-term conservation of large carnivores—particularly lions and African wild dogs—in Mozambique's Niassa Special Reserve, one of Africa's largest and most remote protected areas. Spanning over 42,000 km<sup>2</sup>, Niassa is both a biodiversity hotspot and a wildlife trafficking front line. NCP plays a pivotal role in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts, deploying ground teams and aerial patrols to monitor carnivore populations, deter illegal activity, and respond swiftly to incidents of poaching. By integrating technology, such as GPS collars and camera traps, with intelligence-led operations, NCP works to dismantle poaching networks and secure critical habitats.

With over 60,000 people living inside the reserve, community engagement is central to NCP's strategy. The organization trains and employs local community scouts, develops education programs to raise awareness of the importance of carnivore conservation, and implements conflict mitigation measures such as predator-proof livestock enclosures. These efforts help reduce retaliatory killings and limit the appeal of poaching as a source of income. By aligning wildlife protection with human well-being, NCP not only safeguards one of Africa's most vital carnivore populations but also strengthens local resilience against the pressures of wildlife crime and trafficking.





**8. THE ROOIKAT TRUST - NAMIBIA**

Rooikat Trust is a Namibian conservation organization dedicated to protecting the country's unique biodiversity by combatting wildlife crime and promoting sustainable environmental stewardship. At the core of its mission is the urgent need to address the growing threats posed by poaching and the illegal wildlife trade, which continue to undermine conservation progress across the region. The Trust focuses particularly on species targeted by traffickers—such as rhinos and pangolins—and works to disrupt the networks that enable these crimes.

To achieve its goals, the Rooikat Trust collaborates closely with Namibian government agencies, including law enforcement and wildlife authorities, to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts. This includes supporting intelligence-led investigations, enhancing surveillance and monitoring systems, and facilitating rapid response capabilities to intercept and apprehend poachers and traffickers in real time. In addition, the Trust engages local communities and conservation partners to build a network of vigilance and support for frontline conservation work.

**9. TIKKI HYWOOD FOUNDATION - ACROSS AFRICA**

Tikki Hywood Foundation has become a leading force in the conservation of lesser-known endangered species, with a special focus on pangolins—the most trafficked mammal in the world. Recognizing the critical threats these elusive animals face from the illegal wildlife trade, the Foundation has made it its mission to protect pangolins from poaching, trafficking, and habitat loss. Their work spans more than 12 African countries, where they operate frontline wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release programs aimed at restoring individuals to the wild whenever possible.

A core pillar of the Tikki Hywood Foundation's approach is its work to disrupt the wildlife trafficking chain. The organization collaborates closely with law enforcement agencies, customs officials, and wildlife authorities to provide training on species identification, anti-poaching strategies, and legal procedures. It also plays an instrumental role in the prosecution process by ensuring that rescued pangolins are treated as victims of crime and that traffickers are held accountable. The Foundation has helped shape national and regional legal frameworks, contributing to the reclassification of pangolins under CITES Appendix I and influencing stronger sentencing guidelines for wildlife crimes.

**10. VIRUNGA FOUNDATION - DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

Virunga Foundation is the nonprofit organization responsible for managing Virunga National Park in the country's eastern region. Founded in partnership with the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN), the Foundation works to protect one of the most biodiverse protected areas on the African continent. Virunga is home to a third of the world's remaining mountain gorillas, as well as elephants, okapis, and hundreds of other endangered species. The Foundation's work centers on preserving this unique ecosystem while supporting sustainable development for communities living around the park.

A major focus of the Virunga Foundation is the protection of wildlife from poaching and the illegal wildlife trade. Armed rangers, trained through one of Africa's most rigorous ranger programs, conduct daily patrols to safeguard the park's wildlife. The Foundation has also invested in intelligence-led operations to identify and dismantle poaching networks and trafficking routes. These efforts are vital in a region where armed conflict and poverty have made wildlife particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Their anti-trafficking work is supported by close partnerships with government agencies, international conservation organizations, and local law enforcement.

**11. WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP - MALAWI**

Wildlife Action Group (WAG) is a Malawian NGO dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves, two critical ecosystems in central Malawi. These reserves are home to a variety of wildlife, including elephants, antelope, hyena, and over 300 bird species. WAG works in partnership with Malawi's Department of Forestry to safeguard these areas from the escalating threats of poaching and wildlife trafficking, which have led to significant declines in wildlife populations across the region. The organization plays a vital role in preserving biodiversity while promoting the ecological integrity of the forest reserves.

WAG's core mission centers on anti-poaching and wildlife crime prevention. The organization operates highly trained ranger teams that carry out daily foot patrols, intelligence-led operations, and surveillance to detect and deter illegal activity. Rangers are supported with basic equipment, training, and community-based informant networks that provide early warnings of poaching threats. WAG also collaborates with law enforcement and judicial authorities to ensure wildlife crimes are prosecuted. In addition to enforcement, the organization invests in community outreach and education, building local support for conservation and offering sustainable livelihood alternatives to poaching. This integrated strategy has made WAG a frontline defender against wildlife trafficking in Malawi.



# FISCAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Through our fiscal sponsorship program, we make it easier for some of the most effective organizations on the ground to process donations from U.S. donors. By collecting funds on behalf of these NGO's, we've freed them up to focus on their important work on the ground. Currently we have over 35 organizations in our Fiscal Sponsorship Program including these entities and more:



## AFRICAN BUSH CAMPS FOUNDATION

Since its founding in 2006, the African Bush Camps Foundation has been committed to improving the lives of communities surrounding its safari camps in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. The Foundation drives long-term conservation success by investing in education, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship. Its impact is rooted in strong, collaborative partnerships with local communities, ensuring sustainable and meaningful change.

## ALU FOUNDATION

Dedicated to developing ethical, entrepreneurial African leaders, ALU Foundation supports the African Leadership University's bold mission to transform the continent through education. With a network of campuses and innovative peer-based learning, it equips students with the tools to tackle Africa's most pressing challenges.



## ASILIA GIVING

The philanthropic arm of Asilia Africa exists to empower crucial wilderness areas in East Africa, benefitting both people and nature. By making bold and often pioneering investments into ecologically and economically vulnerable areas, they aim to turn these regions into viable conservation economies, benefitting both the local communities as well as the environment. By collaborating with and funding in-country NGOs that work on everything from vocational school scholarships, women's income-generating projects, anti-poaching initiatives, wildlife conservation and land rehabilitation, AsiliaGiving ensures measurable change.

## CAPE LEOPARD TRUST

The Cape Leopard Trust is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization based in the Western Cape, South Africa. The organization promotes the conservation of biological diversity, with a focus on the leopard as a flagship species. The leopard is the last large predator and last member of the Big 5 to still roam free in the Western Cape and faces multiple threats, including limited and fragmented habitat, reduction in prey numbers and high levels of conflict with people. The Trust's purpose and vision is to ensure the continued survival of leopard populations, securing their habitat and prey base, and promoting coexistence with humans. A three-pillar approach of research, conservation, and education is utilized, each operating in synergy within the Cape Leopard Trust as well as communities, private landowners and partner organizations.



## CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS

Children in the Wilderness (CITW) is an independent non-profit organization established and supported by Wilderness—a leading operator of high-end safari camps and conservation tourism experiences across Africa. CITW engages rural children living near Wilderness camps and partner concessions, introducing them to the importance of conservation through its Eco-Clubs, YES Programme, and Eco-Mentor training. By reconnecting children with their natural heritage, the program helps build knowledge, confidence, and life skills to better navigate future



### CONNECT FOUNDATION

Connect Foundation produces powerful visual storytelling, including films and photography, that helps nonprofits raise awareness and attract funding. By offering high-quality, cinematic content for use across social media, websites, and donor platforms, Connect bridges the digital gap faced by many grassroots organizations. All content is shared on a growing YouTube channel, building a global community around positive change.

### DAUNARA FOUNDATION

The Daunara Foundation is dedicated to uplifting the community of Daunara Village and its surrounding areas by ensuring that the benefits of the tourism industry directly support local people and create lasting, meaningful impact. The Foundation focuses on small business development, education, and wildlife conservation to foster long-term community well-being.



### ECOEXIST

Operating in Botswana, Ecoexist helps rural communities live safely alongside elephants by promoting coexistence strategies that secure both food security and habitat. Ground-level projects are guided by research and education, addressing the complex realities of human-elephant conflict.

### ESIDULINI COMMUNITY TRUST

A registered non-profit connected to Dulini Lodge in the Sabi Sands, the Trust works with underserved communities living beyond the reach of government services. Its initiatives support education, infrastructure, and access to basic needs, channelling tourism income into transformative local upliftment.

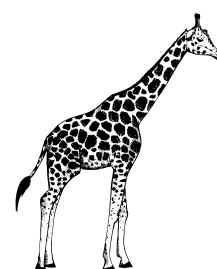


### DYER ISLAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Near Africa's southern tip, the Dyer Island Conservation Trust protects the Marine Big Five (sharks, whales, dolphins, penguins, and seals) through research, policy advocacy, and community engagement. It links local efforts to long-term global marine conservation goals through education and action.

### eARTh AGENCY

eARTh Agency is a non-profit ecological storytelling organization dedicated to reconnecting humanity with nature through art, storytelling, and film. Their work is designed to amplify the voices of conservation heroes, provide much-needed communication tools for NGOs, and engage global audiences through beauty and curiosity. By pairing artists with conservationists, they create legacy artworks and films that inspire behavioral change, foster spiritual ecology, and celebrate the kinship between humans and the more-than-human world.

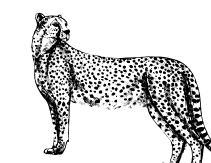


### FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRA

Friends of Alexandra was founded in 2007 to assist the people of Alexandra township, one of the most impoverished areas in Johannesburg, home to 600,000 people. Unemployment is high and 30% of residents live in homes with no electricity, running water or sewerage. The focus of the organization is on education and early childhood development, but they are frequently involved in other areas such as Xenophobia relief, fire relief and flooding in shacks.

### FRIENDS OF HWANGE TRUST

Born out of the 2005 drought, FOH sustains water resources for wildlife in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, an immense wilderness area that is home to the Big Five. In the dry, winter months, water has to be pumped from underground so that the wildlife can drink. This involves raising funds to drill sufficient boreholes and equip them with solar powered pumps, plus ongoing maintenance. Recently, the Trust has expanded to include anti-poaching, firebreak clearing, road maintenance, raptor conservation, and healthcare support for park staff.







**FRIENDS OF SAMARA TRUST**

Friends of Samara supports Samara Private Game Reserve’s mission to rewild South Africa’s Karoo and link three national parks into South Africa’s third-largest protected area. Community engagement, indigenous knowledge, and habitat restoration lie at the heart of this ambitious landscape-scale conservation vision.

**HODNETT HOUSE**

A day care centre in South Africa supporting adults with intellectual disabilities, Hodnett House offers a warm, structured, and inclusive space where participants develop life skills, engage socially, and feel valued. It ensures individuals aged 18 and older can lead enriched, purposeful lives.



**THE KEVIN RICHARDSON FOUNDATION**

Launched in early 2018, the foundation is committed to changing and reversing the state of Africa’s declining lion population by purchasing habitat and raising awareness to create safe spaces for lions to flourish. By partnering with specialised organisations and engaging with impoverished communities on the fringes of these protected areas, the foundation also aims to minimise human/wildlife conflict whilst improving living conditions for local villages.

**KWANDO IMPACT**

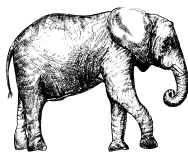
Driven by its safari camps in Botswana, Kwando Impact directs tourism revenue, guest contributions and donations into grassroots initiatives focused on education, conservation, and community development. The Kwando Compass philosophy guides all projects, which are identified and led by local stakeholders, ensuring support is both relevant and sustainable.

**KENYA BIRD OF PREY TRUST**

The Bird of Prey Trust protects East Africa’s raptors through rescue, rehabilitation, scientific research, and educational outreach. With over 50 years of expertise, the trust trains future conservationists, advises on policy, and fosters coexistence between birds of prey and local communities.

**KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST**

Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) is Kenya’s leading organization dedicated to predator conservation. Operating across the Mara, Samburu-Laikipia, and Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystems, KWT focuses on protecting lions, cheetahs, and wild dogs through data-driven, community-supported programs. By combining rigorous scientific research with grassroots education and policy engagement, the Trust delivers impactful, sustainable conservation outcomes.



**LAPALALA WILDERNESS SCHOOL**

For over 30 years, this school has helped South African youth discover the value of biodiversity and conservation. Through immersive wilderness education, it nurtures future environmental leaders and plays a critical role in shaping a more sustainable future. The school has grown into a beacon of conservation, sustainability, education and hope for a better future for all South Africans, the country, and the planet.

**LION LANDSCAPES**

Working across Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia, Lion Landscapes ensures lions and people can thrive together. By focusing on predator ecology, healthy prey populations, and local benefits, the organization supports coexistence through research, conservation planning, and community collaboration.





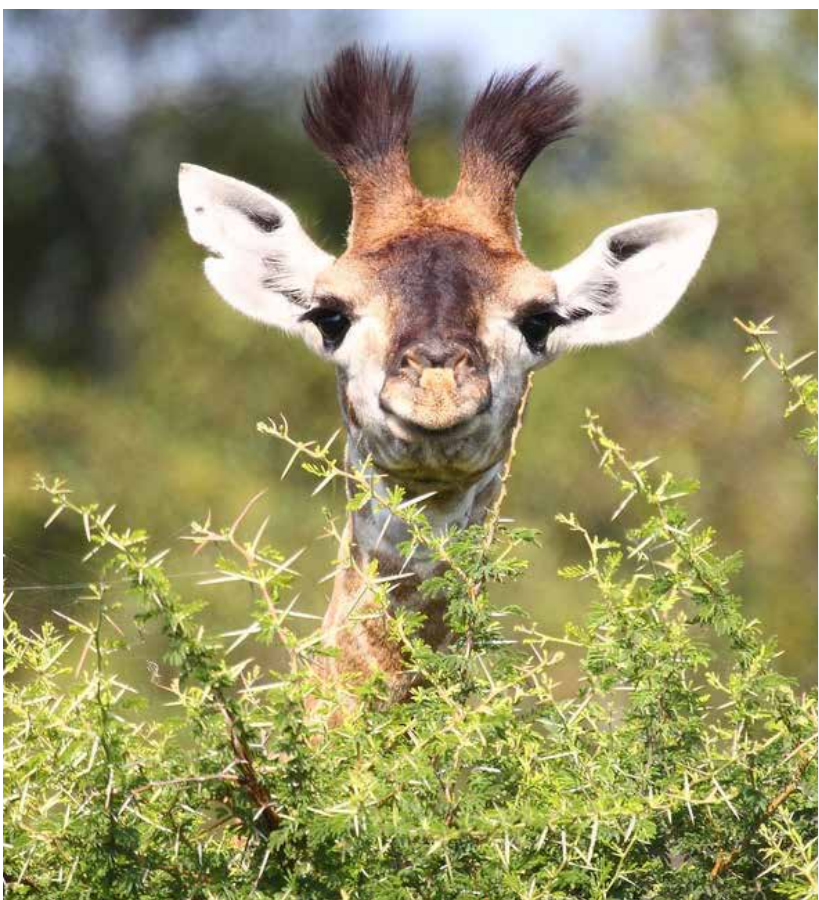


**MEN END FGM FOUNDATION**

The Foundation is a global movement rallying men and boys to help end female genital mutilation, child marriage, and gender-based violence. Founded in Kenya, the organization works through policy advocacy, grassroots education, and powerful campaigns to shift cultural norms.

**MORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

The More Community Foundation supports vulnerable communities in Southern Africa through sustainable, long-term development. Its work spans education, women’s empowerment, conservation, and youth training and is grounded in the belief that transformation comes from opportunity and meaningful connection.

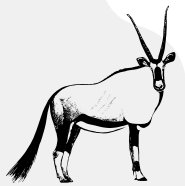


**THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO FOUNDATION**

Connected to The Royal Portfolio’s collection of luxury lodges and hotels, the Royal Portfolio Foundation funds initiatives in education, job creation, healthcare, youth development, and conservation across Southern Africa—ensuring that tourism revenue drives community upliftment and environmental protection.

**THE SAFARI COLLECTION FOOTPRINT**

The Footprint Foundation is a conservation and community initiative linked to The Safari Collection’s camps cross Kenya. It funds critical programs in health, education, clean water, and wildlife protection and each project is tailored to local needs, ensuring responsible tourism leaves a meaningful impact.



**MOTSE COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY**

The Motse Community and Wildlife Conservancy (MCWC) is an independent non-profit established and supported by the shareholders of Limpopo-Lipadi Wildlife and Wilderness Reserve, in the Tuli Block, Botswana. MCWC exists for three distinct purposes – to empower and assist local communities through development projects and educational programming; to facilitate conservation efforts; and to conduct research through science-based research activities, with a specific focus on endangered species.

**PURPOSE UGANDA BABIES HOME (PUBAH)**

PUBAH is a non-profit organization funding a small orphanage and pre-school for babies and young children in the Entebbe region of Uganda’s Wakiso district. Their mission is to make a difference in these children’s lives while providing a caring home and encouraging donor sponsors for each child’s education. PUBAH has successfully carried out international adoptions, fostering and resettlement of many children in Uganda. Their vision is to provide a stable home and environment for children who have been neglected, orphaned or removed from incapacitated families.



**THE SAVANNA TRUST**

The Savanna Trust is a non-profit organization committed to advancing community-led initiatives through strong partnerships with local stakeholders in the communities surrounding the Sabi Sands Nature Reserve. Its mission is to foster resilient, self-sufficient communities where individuals have the opportunity to thrive. From healthcare and education to livelihood support and animal welfare, the Trust works to meet essential needs while laying the foundation for a brighter, more sustainable future.

**SINGITA LOWVELD TRUST**

The Singita Lowveld Trust has made a lasting impact in various parts of South Africa by orchestrating an interdependent relationship between local communities, wildlife and the tourism industry. Its diverse projects include the Singita Community Culinary School in Kruger National Park, a professional development program that imparts culinary skills to the area’s youth; the Holistic Early Childhood Development Support program that supports the physical and social development of children living near the Sabi Sands and Kruger National Park; and the the Black Rhino Guardianship Program that aims to safeguard the species through increased monitoring of movements and behavior. Additionally, the K9 Anti-Poaching Unit protects rhinos against poachers by tracking and disabling individuals and their weapons.







#### TOFAUTI FOUNDATION

The Tofauti Foundation supports both wildlife and people by addressing the needs of isolated communities and ecologically fragile areas through practical skills development and improved infrastructure. With a deep understanding of on-the-ground challenges in Kenya, the foundation operates across four core pillars: human–wildlife coexistence, environmental awareness, wildlife protection, and habitat restoration. Each initiative is carefully evaluated, and trusted partners are engaged to ensure success—even in the most challenging environments.

#### TSAVO TRUST

The Tsavo Trust is a field-based conservation organization working in close partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to protect biodiversity and support communities in and around Tsavo National Park. Its core focus areas include wildlife conservation, the development of community conservancies, animal welfare, and strategic partnerships that strengthen both ecological integrity and social resilience.



#### WILDEARTH IMPACT FOUNDATION

The nonprofit arm of the WildEarth broadcast platform—a global leader in nature storytelling with over 7 million monthly viewers—WildEarth Impact & Development (WEID) supports conservation education and storytelling through live safaris, school outreach, and global engagement. By connecting audiences with Africa’s wilderness in real time, WEID fosters empathy, awareness, and action for the natural world.

#### WILDERNESS WILDLIFE TRUST

Wilderness Wildlife Trust is an independent non-profit organization established in 2000 by Wilderness Safaris (now known as Wilderness). Based in South Africa, the Trust serves as the dedicated fundraising arm of Wilderness, aiming to extend the company’s conservation efforts beyond its ecotourism operations. The Trust focuses on securing and managing funds to support impactful wildlife protection and conservation projects across Africa.



#### THE TSWALU FOUNDATION

The Tswalu Foundation supports ecological research in South Africa’s southern Kalahari, advancing conservation through a growing body of scientific work. Research is deeply embedded in daily life at Tswalu, informing land management and sharing insights with neighboring communities. By deepening understanding and refining conservation policy, the Foundation helps protect one of Africa’s most complex and threatened ecosystems.

#### VOLCANOES SAFARIS PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Connecting luxury eco-lodges in Uganda and Rwanda with neighbouring communities and conservation initiatives, the Trust’s programs focus on great ape conservation, habitat restoration, and sustainable livelihoods, creating long-term impact in some of Africa’s most sensitive landscapes.



#### WILDTRUST

Inspired by the interconnectedness of all life on Earth, WILDTRUST is guided by a core mission: to help restore the foundational elements of South Africa’s rich and diverse biodiversity. Central to this mission is the belief that the communities who live alongside and benefit from natural resources must be active participants in sustainable conservation, serving as custodians of the ecosystems we aim to protect.

Through innovative programs, WILDTRUST is working to restore balance and reconnect wildlife, nature, people, and places. The organization is dedicated to reversing— and ultimately halting— environmental degradation, while empowering future generations to create a healthier, more sustainable planet.





COMMUNITY UNITED FOR ELEPHANTS

# R.E.S.C.U.E

## OUR FILM WORK

Empowers Africa funds and produces educational documentaries about conservation and human empowerment issues in Africa, with a focus on matters such as: wildlife protection, habitat conservation, education, small business development, and female empowerment.

To date, we have produced 10 short film documentaries, many of which have participated in local and international film festivals and won awards, including the Winter Film Festival NYC, the Independent Short Film Awards, and the Travel Beyond Film Festival.

Our latest film R.E.S.C.U.E. has won several awards including Winner Best Documentary Short - Winter Film Festival NYC, Winner Best Documentary Short - Travel Beyond Film Festival, Best of Show - Nature without Borders International Film Festival, Outstanding Excellence - Documentaries without Borders, Winner Platinum Award Best Documentary Short - Independent Short Awards and more. The film is a heartwarming short documentary about resilience, hope, and triumph in the fight to protect a species and to empower women and their communities. The film gives viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the groundbreaking work of the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and The Sarara Foundation in Northern Kenya. It is an inspiring example of what is possible in the realm of community-led conservation.

Our short film, Dehorning a Rhino in the Wild, was featured in National Geographic's Short Film Showcase and won Best Documentary Short at the 2017 London Independent Film Awards. We have also been involved in two full-length documentaries: Edge of Existence and The Last Horns of Africa.

Empowers Africa also hosts an annual film festival in Southampton, New York, that celebrates World Elephant & Lion Day and features documentaries from leading conservation filmmakers. For a full list of Empowers Africa's documentaries and films, please visit our [YouTube](#) channel or our [website](#).





DEHORNING A RHINO IN THE WILD



LION PRIDE TRANSLOCATION



EMERGENCE - Saving Africa's Super Tuskers



EMPOWERS AFRICA CONSERVATION TRIP







# MEET THE CHANGE MAKERS

At Empowers Africa, we firmly believe the best empowerment and conservation work is done on the ground by those who live through the challenges every day, rather than well-wishers coming in for one-off projects from afar. That's why we thoroughly research the projects we support to make sure they are community-led, measurable and sustainable. Here are some of the people who made a difference this year.

## **FRED SWANIKER, FOUNDER OF THE AFRICAN LEADERSHIP GROUP**

About 15 years ago, Ghanaian entrepreneur Fred Swaniker saw some staggering numbers and treated it as a challenge. By the end of the century, Africa will be home to some 4 billion people. By 2035, the continent's young population will amount to the largest workforce in the world. But where others saw an impending crisis—crunch the numbers and, with current development gaps persisting, that could all amount to a billion unemployed people in Africa—Swaniker saw an opportunity. How to unleash the potential of a young, entrepreneurial population that's constantly facing institutional obstacles?

He started with the African Leadership Academy, a boarding school in South Africa that teaches children from across the continent entrepreneurial skills and prepares them for university. In 2016, in a further effort to develop a socially-conscious generation of leaders committed to the betterment of the continent, Swaniker opened the first African Leadership University campus in Mauritius, followed shortly by another in Rwanda. By 2060, Swaniker hopes to have opened 25 campuses across the continent, contributing to the growth of an estimated 3 million leaders.

Besides keeping Africa's brightest minds in Africa, the African Leadership Group has also developed a groundbreaking curriculum that places an emphasis on service, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Students are encouraged to learn from each other in a carefully designed peer-to-peer learning system that isn't dependent solely on trained teachers. That learning is largely project-based and incorporates the latest technology, giving real-world skills to its students.

In June 2024, ALU celebrated its largest graduating class to date, with 431 students from 30 African countries receiving their degrees. The Kigali campus has expanded significantly, now hosting over 2,900 students from 40 African nations. This growth underscores ALU's commitment to fostering a diverse and pan-African educational environment. ALX, an initiative under the African Leadership Group, offers accessible, world-class training in fields like data science, software engineering, and cloud computing. Through a partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, eligible candidates can access these programs for a nominal fee, ensuring broader reach across the continent. Launched in 2018 in partnership with the Mandela Institute for Development Studies, the Mandela Centennial Scholarship Program aims to honor Nelson Mandela's legacy by supporting 100 African students. Founder Fred Swaniker envisions training 3 million ethical and entrepreneurial African leaders by 2035. Through ALU, ALX, and associated initiatives, the African Leadership Group is steadfast in its mission to transform the continent's leadership landscape.





# TOURISM AND CONSERVATION

## **A Q&A ON THE CONNECTION OF TOURISM AND CONSERVATION WITH WILDERNESS SAFARIS MANAGING DIRECTOR, DAVE BENNETT**

Wilderness Safaris is one of Africa's leading safari companies and through its partner NGOs, the Wilderness Wildlife Trust and Children in the Wilderness, has a proven commitment to the areas in which they operate.

### **1) What obligation, if any, does the safari industry have to conservation?**

The safari industry and conservation are mutually dependent. There needs to be more collaboration between the industry and various stakeholders to encourage countries to work together to preserve species through initiatives such as the trans-frontier conservation areas. Most importantly, the industry needs to ensure that local people also truly realize the benefits of ecotourism; if people understand the long-term benefits of conservation through tourism, then they are more likely to become the custodians of these areas in the future. The support of our non-profit partners, Children in the Wilderness and the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, and other key stakeholders and conservation programs are key to ensure authentic and sustainable ecotourism continues to make a positive difference to Africa, its wildlife and its people.

### **2) Where would you like Wilderness Safaris to have the most impact?**

Whilst Wilderness Safaris is deeply committed to ensuring a holistic positive impact in all of the areas where we currently operate (Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe). We also feel that we have an obligation to migrate our ecotourism model into less well known and even more threatened ecosystems, and to prove the merit of conserving these spaces and species. For over 35 years, we have been committed to building successful conservation economies in Africa and we are looking forward to expanding our reach and positive impact to new regions in the future.

### **3) Could Wilderness Safaris exist without the Wildlife Trust? How are the two connected?**

Since 2001, we have been deeply connected to our two non-profit partners, Children in the Wilderness and the Wilderness Wildlife Trust. Our relationship with the latter is symbiotic – The Trust is involved financially in supporting various conservation research, habitat management and community upliftment projects across the continent, while Wilderness Safaris contributes logistically in terms of human resources and equipment. Over the last 10 years, we have funded over 100 different projects and impacted the lives of more than 10,000 children in eight African countries, helping to change the face of nature-based tourism in Africa.



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