



Wild Horizons Social Corporate Responsibility

Wild Horizons takes social responsibility seriously and giving back is an integral part of ensuring the preservation of the environment and uplifting of the local community; both of which we rely so much upon. We have a large number of initiatives that we support in the Victoria Falls region. Here is a summary of some of the projects that Wild Horizons has chosen to get involved, and assist in logistically and financially.



Wild Horizons pioneered the establishment of the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, which is a non-profit organisation promoting conservation awareness, together with education and empowerment of local indigenous communities, through sustainable use of indigenous resources. The Trust is dedicated to protecting the area's unique indigenous fauna and flora, in collaboration with authorities, local communities and other stakeholders. Projects include the rehabilitation of injured or orphaned wildlife, anti poaching and wildlife veterinary assistance through our Wildlife Laboratory, disease sampling within the local community and livestock and human/wildlife conflict mitigation.

In addition to offering visiting guests an opportunity to interact with our elephants and gain a unique insight into elephant behaviour, education forms a vital part of our operation. Annually over a thousand schoolchildren are transported to our facility, and treated to an educational interaction with our elephants and/or with Sylvester the Cheetah Ambassador. Research into elephant behaviour, communication and social structure will remain a vital part of our operations.



Our Mission

The Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance and promote environmental conservation in Southern Africa through hands-on wildlife research; management of a wildlife veterinary diagnostic laboratory and rehabilitation facility; the education and empowerment of local peoples in the sustainable utilization of indigenous resources through active involvement in conservation training and community outreach programs.

Based at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, the Trust is dedicated to protecting the area's unique indigenous fauna and flora, in collaboration with appropriate Authorities, local communities and stakeholders. Projects include but are not limited to, rehabilitation of injured or orphaned wildlife, anti poaching and wildlife veterinary assistance, assisting with community based projects, and a children's conservation education program. The objectives of the organization are:

- To find sustainable solutions for communities and wildlife to co-exist
- To determine veterinary disease prevalence and assist in disease management and prevention
- To work with stakeholders to understand wildlife conservation drivers and form regional natural resource management strategies
- To facilitate the conservation education of local communities

There are four areas in which our projects focus: Community Outreach and Training, Wildlife Research, Veterinary Laboratory, Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Our Community Outreach & Training program works with local communities to mitigate human wildlife conflict and provide conservation education training as well as a range of projects aimed to improve self-sustainability. To conserve wildlife we work with local communities that are directly affected by wildlife and find ways in which both wildlife and humans benefit. The Wildlife Research Projects look at understanding various species and causes of their decline or improvement and then evaluating the factors that are occurring to try and find sustainable solutions for conserving all species. A key part of these projects is finding ways for humans and wildlife to live together and reduce conflicts between them.



The recently established Wildlife Veterinary Laboratory and Clinic is a field research station in an area that is endemic to wildlife and their diseases. Working together with local stakeholders we sample wildlife and domestic animals to gain a understanding of disease prevalence & transmission.

We run a Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre to provide veterinary care to wildlife that has been injured, orphaned or abandoned due to human interference (poaching, wildlife conflict, vehicles, etc.). It is our goal to be able to release every animal that comes in back into the wild. **The Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust aims to make a difference. Every day.**

Support for National Parks Game Scouts

Wild Horizons currently provides assistance in the form of food rations and fuel to assist in the anti-poaching efforts of the National Parks Staff in the Kazungula & Matetsi Safari areas of Zimbabwe.

Rainforest Raincoat Project

This project undertakes to provide jobs and income on a grassroots level. We source and provide raincoats to an association of vendors who then provide them for hire to Visitors to the Victoria Falls. Our guests and others then hire these when visiting the iconic waterfall providing an ongoing income source to the vendors and their families. This provides income for more than 30 families.

Pobwe Home Hosted Meals

This initiative aims to empower local people by providing income and allowing them to have a fun interaction with visitors while teaching them about local culture and traditions. Families welcome visitors into their homes for a fee and provide them with a traditional meal. This has proved highly successful and greatly beneficial to the individuals involved.



The Clean up Team

Wild Horizons, together with other tourism entities in the area are helping keep Victoria Falls clean by engaging the services of cleaners whose sole duty is to clean the city. The Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust and Wild Horizons personnel assist with supervising and engaging these cleaners.

Victoria Falls Anti Poaching Unit

We sponsor 2 officers in this unit to assist with anti-poaching activities in and around Victoria Falls.

Tourism Police Unit

Wild Horizons has sponsored 2 officers of this unit since its inception in 2004 and have equipped the unit with Uniforms and operating equipment. The Unit has a total of 28 officers and are funded by the Victoria Falls business community. Wild Horizons also offers personnel who sit on the board.

School Fee Payment

We continue to pay per semester school fees for the school children we are sponsoring. We do this as a way of giving back to our community through investing in its future. We sponsor 32 children.

Eco-Initiatives at our Camps

We are passionate about our environment and in an effort to lessen our footprint where possible, we have initiated a number of measures to reduce our impact. These include but are not limited to:



Grey Water Systems

Wherever possible we treat and use grey water for irrigation at The Elephant Camp, notably on our indigenous tree nursery.

Solar Heating

All of our water heating systems are either solar or currently in the process of being converted to solar.

Worm Farm

All plant waste from the Elephant Camp, as well as a significant amount of elephant dung from our resident elephant herd, is fed into our worm farms, creating valuable, rich compost for use in our organic vegetable garden.

Indigenous Tree Planting Program

In an effort to rehabilitate areas that were once denuded of trees by uncontrolled firewood and wood carving collection, The Elephant Camp has created an indigenous tree nursery. Only trees indigenous to the area are planted from seed, and once well enough established, are transplanted into areas in need of such rehabilitation.

Biological Monitoring and Erosion Control

As part of our responsibility toward protection of the eco system we live and work in, WH employs the services of a suitably qualified Environmental Officer, whose sole purpose is to monitor the biology of the reserve and assist with mitigation measures where needed. Bi-annual biological surveys are conducted to monitor the impact of both the domestic elephant herd as well as the naturally occurring wildlife on the property. Alien vegetation species are eradicated when discovered and soil erosion is carefully managed, both within the reserve as well as on neighbouring communal areas.



Community Relations

In an effort to empower local neighbouring communities, WH and The Elephant Camp make every effort to employ staff from neighbouring areas, and some 20% of the total WH workforce is drawn from the immediate vicinity. In addition we work closely with the community on self help projects such as vegetable and subsistence crop growing, providing assistance in the form of fencing to keep out wild animals, and machinery and transport where possible to cut thatch for roofing of homes in the community.

