Dear Friends,

We invite you to share in the success story of the WORLD YOUTH WILDLIFE SUMMIT,
21 - 24 September 2019 (incorporating World Rhino Day),
Kruger National Park, South Africa.

A WORLD-WIDE CALL TO ACTION BY THE YOUTH AGAINST ALL FORMS OF WILDLIFE CRIME...

Setting the Scene

Along with habitat destruction, the illegal wildlife trade, driven by criminal organisations, rebel militias and high consumer demand particularly in Asia, is contributing to the dramatic decline of wildlife species across the world.

Wildlife crime affects rural livelihoods and negatively impacts on tourism revenue and job opportunities. Wildlife poaching also puts human lives at risk; it is estimated that over 1,000 park rangers have been killed in the line of duty over the past 10 years. In the process, Africa’s iconic wildlife species are being decimated.

RHINO: Over 50,000 rhino once roamed sub-Saharan Africa but now less than 25,000 remain.

ELEPHANT: In the 1800s, there were around 27 million elephants on the continent. Today, fewer than 415,000 remain.

PANGOLIN: A pangolin is snatched from the wild every five minutes and is the most trafficked mammal in the world.

LION: The ‘King of the Beasts’ has disappeared from 94% of its historic range. The second largest feline predator in the world after the tiger, lions are now extinct in 26 African countries.

Wildlife criminals also target countless other species including cheetah, giraffe, hippo, vultures, wildebeest, leopard, tiger, crocodile, chimpanzees, gorillas, amphibians, birds and marine mammals – to name a few.

Recent statistics published by the IUCN put more than one million species at risk of extinction.
About the World Youth Wildlife Summit

Mission
To engage youth leaders in wildlife conservation and protection strategies and to empower, educate and equip delegates to become ambassadors to influence policy and implementation to reduce wildlife crime.

Outcomes
- To Sound: A world-wide call to action by the youth to save wildlife, led by Africa’s young conservation leaders.
- To Send: Key ‘hearts and minds’ messages from the youth to CITES, the UN and African and International leaders.
- To Attract: National and international media and public attention.
- To Shape: 150 young leaders to become future global wildlife & conservation ambassadors.
- To Inspire and Instill: A compassionate concern for wildlife in the next generation responsible for protecting biodiversity.
- To Increase and Extend: Knowledge of wildlife conservation, protection & anti-poaching initiatives.

Key Success Factors
A uniquely African-owned event, held in a symbolic location, which encourages African leadership and solution-finding among the youth generation.

- Summit delegates are selected based on their leadership qualities and existing commitment to conservation and are nurtured to become youth conservation ambassadors in their home countries.
- Provides a platform for future leaders to engage prominent conservationists on provocative and compelling issues related to poaching, global wildlife crime and the future of endangered species.
- A post-summit programmes will provide ongoing interaction and engagement with delegates in their unique locations, encouraging a global network of active youth.

Objectives
Empower
- Deepen the commitment to conservation amongst the youth, particularly for rhino and other endangered species
- Enable youth to build and maintain a sustainable future for Wildlife and Biodiversity

Engage
- Connect concerned youth with political, traditional, business and conservation leaders and connect stakeholders through collaborative global networks
- Sign a World Youth Wildlife Declaration that is acknowledged by global bodies including the United Nations, IUCN and CITES

Equip
- Provide tools, resources and support for the young leaders to use in their classrooms and communities
- Develop social media platforms, facilitating and fundraising tools

Educate
- Tomorrow’s leaders about the problems and issues around international wildlife crime, including an understanding of the social, economic and political impact.
- Youth leaders to expose early youth (8 – 14) to educational and awareness campaigns such as Rhino Art and Youth Camps between Summits
Background

World Youth Rhino Summit 2014

The inaugural 2014 World Youth Rhino Summit brought together 140 delegates from 20 countries, including Vietnam, USA, UK and New Zealand, to discuss solutions to the rhino poaching crisis. The three-day summit was held at Kwazulu-Natal’s iconic Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, internationally known as the ‘home’ of the Southern White Rhino, where it was saved from extinction 100 years ago.

The programme included probing discussions, interactive and robust dialogues, an anti-poaching demonstration and informational presentations by renowned conservation figures such as: Dr Paula Kahumbu (multi award winning Kenyan wildlife conservationist and CEO of WildlifeDirect), the late Dr Ian Player (world renowned wildlife rehabilitation vet), Kingsley Holgate (celebrity explorer and humanitarian) and Ted Reilly (Swaziland – CEO of Big Game Parks).

Winter Summit 2015

A second Winter Summit was held in July 2015 on the banks of the Tugela River, and brought together 70 youth leaders from 25 schools. Speakers included Dr William Fowlds, Dr Leonardo Simão (Quaquam Chizamo Foundation, Mozambique), the late Nigel Morgan (Focus Africa Foundation), Chris Laubscher (Conservationist & local politician), David Bocas (Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization), Julia Murray (14 year-old fundraiser and activist) and the late Digs Pascoe (founder of Space For Elephants).

Significant outcomes of these two Summits were:

- A delegation of Summit participants were invited to attend the WildFest Film Festival in Vietnam and give presentations on the rhino poaching crisis in Africa to Vietnamese schools, universities and youth organisations.
- The online ‘Rhino Shout Out’ campaign that was spearheaded by the Summit delegates;
- The powerful World Rhino Day ‘Let Our Voices Be Heard’ video that garnered an international following;
- Thousands of endorsements of the World Youth Wildlife Declaration, which included messages of support from Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, the Scouts Association and international conservation experts in the USA, Canada and the UK.

About The World Youth Wildlife Summit

The Wild Warriors

Chosen for their future leadership potential in business, government and society, 150 youth (Wild Warriors), aged 15 to 24, were invited to attend the World Youth Wildlife Summit. An additional 14 youth (previous attendees of the 2014 and 2015 World Youth Rhino Summits and youth leaders already active in conservation) were also selected as Regiment Leaders.

The youth delegates, educators, conservation role models and speakers represented 16 countries: South Africa, Eswatini, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, India, Norway, Greece, the UK and the USA. The strongest representation of youth was from the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

A highlight of the Summit was the inclusion of a group of five Vietnamese youth, who were able to witness the challenges facing Africa’s game reserves first-hand, form bonds with their African peers and hear the words of conservation experts dealing with the realities of wildlife crime on a daily basis.

Conservation Educators

The Wild Warriors were accompanied by a group of 20 chaperones - whilst the clear objective of the Summit was a call to action by the youth against all forms of wildlife crime, we realised that this could not be achieved without the support of their teachers, parents and community leaders. They have the task of mentoring and encouraging the Wild Warriors to continue the work started at the Summit.
The Venue for the World Youth Wildlife Summit

Kruger National Park

Kruger is a South African National Park and one of the largest game reserves in Africa. Spanning the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces, it covers an area of 18,485 km² and is 360 km from north to south.

The Kruger Park became part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park in 2002, a cross-border Park that links Kruger with Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, and Limpopo National Park in Mozambique. It is also part of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere, a UNESCO designated ‘International Man and Biosphere Reserve’.

All the Big Five game animals (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino and elephant) are found in Kruger, which has more species of large mammals than any other African game reserve. Along with 114 species of reptiles, it is also home to 500 bird species and the ‘Big Six Birds’; the lappet-faced vulture, martial eagle, saddle-billed stork, kori bustard, ground hornbill and the reclusive Pet’s fishing owl.

Southern African Wildlife College

Part of the Greater Kruger National Park, the Southern African Wildlife College is a non-profit organization delivering conservation education as well as training and skills development programmes to help conserve the region’s rich biological diversity and ensure that its threatened species are protected. In doing so, the College provides tomorrow’s conservation leaders, field rangers and the community with the skills needed to become partners in saving the continent’s natural heritage. The College also plays a valuable role in the counter-poaching sector within the region, hosting an aerial surveillance and K9 anti-poaching unit.

The location of the College allows access to a diversity of land use types from national, provincial and private reserves, community owned agricultural land and local community trust areas.

The youth delegates and chaperones were accommodated at the Ranger Training Campus of the College; they were each allocated a sleeping bag and bunk bed in the basic canvas tents that rangers-in-training use. All Indaba sessions took place within a 50 metre geodesic dome – erected on the ranger parade ground especially for the event.

www.wildlifecollege.org.za

Interesting Facts:

- A 14 metre high geodesic dome, which took a team of eight, eight days to erect
- 700 m of extension cord, including 120 m daisy chain inside the dome
- 450 m² of shadecloth flooring
- 20 game drive vehicles
- A core implementing team of 12, assisted by eight Vet Books volunteers
- Six months to pull off

Feeding over 250 people each day from a bush kitchen:

- 300 plates, cups, bowls and spoons
- 16 kg corn flakes
- 93 kg bananas
- Thousands of eggs
- In 35 degree heat
### The Regiments

Upon arrival, the Wild Warriors were assigned to a Regiment named after an African wild animal. The Regiment leaders, delegates from previous Summits and youth with a demonstrated passion for conservation, helped to lead them through the busy four-day, three-night programme.

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<tr>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ingwenya (Croccodile)</td>
<td>Danie van Rensburg</td>
<td>Robin Franklin, Aneu Mugakutirhe, Jozef Moloi, Tlotlotswa Nyathi, Cefery / Vaca Ako, Lily Makusha, Karabo Sithole, Bredan Takalakudule, Eric Berhant, Aspreenie Shongwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingwe (Leopard)</td>
<td>Gwendolyn Bokos</td>
<td>Princess Shabalala, Sanfiona Andrew-Raymond, Wendi Pemphuo, Cotillia Muhla, Sidney Pienaar, Lebogang Motshwane, Lesego Kcwanyane, Nolusiso Ngubane, Adam Davies, Anh Ta Le</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imvelo (Buffalo)</td>
<td>Natalie de Wet</td>
<td>Matseon Marath, Lebo Van Rooyen, Sbelela Magane, Delma Ngubeni, Dominique Schirmacher-Thoeye, Andrisi Yumulangi, Nosuqo Mnyanda, Muziki Senada, Ngqubho Mfuyazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impisi (Hyena)</td>
<td>Jacome Pleters</td>
<td>Ayilah Maneli, Thabathwa Mamo, Anahle Khoza, Takalani Fakude, Mpahlekazi Mkhumbi, Jaimo Lale, Kayla Schoeman, Ludumo Lebeyi,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ibhubezi (Lion)</td>
<td>Emma van de Meulen</td>
<td>Hlompho Chetty, Leslashensi Sadinu, Libile Nthiane, Anspikhazi Mkhari, Montseka Maphutha, Thebeho Mopane, Michil Masambato, Noa Saarewa, Lucy van de Meulen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imbono (Giraffe)</td>
<td>Lufura Sibanda</td>
<td>Tiso Sibanda, 1amela Godlingamang, Sipho Nkabinde, Molefi Mthaha, Vukukho Shipanda, Lehlobo Letlola, Cebuzile Ntsikela, Oshan Mayn-Ndlozi, Quandlhe Dlo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Umkhombe (White Rhino)</td>
<td>Shitaka Civena</td>
<td>Niyree Jere, Nkubza George-Salina, Tsetse Fiasa, Nollele Uxhe, Cindy Nkuthi, Sibongile KwaTzane, Mokat Myame, Thembeni Butchel, Nicholas Grasshead, Thi Thay Nga Othi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impumbe (Pangolin)</td>
<td>Nonito Ntiro</td>
<td>Bonawethu Botha, Elizabeth Nyamgana, Charity Molomai, Adutu Tshobi, Tisilo Mlombe, Grace Mncane, Sibonile Mandyi, Samuorah Kirodi, Sebilo</td>
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The Programme

Roused at sunrise by the sound of beating drums, and engaged far into the night, the Summit delegates and their chaperones enjoyed a four-day programme in the company of over 30 conservation experts. Held on the doorstep of Kruger National Park, every delegate also experienced wildlife up close in this iconic game reserve.

Highlights

- Presentations by Keynote Speakers.
- A Walk of Silence and building of memorial šxivišane (stone cairn) in honour of fallen wildlife and rangers due to poaching.
- Four Indaba sessions that included discussion and debate of the 5 Critical Issues.
- Discussions and career guidance with conservation role models and anti-poaching specialists.
- Guided visit to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre.
- An address by the Charge d’affaires for the US Embassy in South Africa, David Young on World Rhino Day.
- The Screening of STROOP - Journey into the rhino horn war.
- Anti-poaching demo by the Southern African Wildlife College’s K9 Unit.
- Voices of Protest – iThemba Rhino Play presented by well-known South African actors and an evening of Rhino Art, traditional dance and singing around the fire in the Boma.
- A Question and Answer session with the ‘Wildlife Council’.
- A ‘Conservation Education’ programme designed specifically for the chaperones to assist them in imparting knowledge to fellow teachers and their youth delegates.

Key Note Speakers

Dr William Fowlds (South Africa)
Celebrity wildlife vet and project coordinator of the Medivet Saving the Rhino campaign for Wilderness Foundation Africa.

Maria Dieckmann (USA, Namibia)
Founder and director of Rare and Endangered Species Trust (REST) focussing on the “ Forgotten 5” species, which includes Africa’s most trafficked animal, the pangolin.

Eric Nkhangweleni Madamalala
(South Africa, Mozambique)
Operations Manager at Parque Nacional do Limpopo, Mozambique, part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

Dr Johan Marais (South Africa)
CEO of Saving the Survivors, wildlife veterinary surgeon and photographer.

Ivan Carter (Zimbabwe)
Conservationist, professional guide and photographer. Celebrity TV host best known for the series Carter’s W.A.R.

There is a powerful force unleashed when young people resolve to make a change.

Dr Jane Goodall

The summit culminated with each Regiment presenting their Resolutions on one of the five Critical Issues, outlining their suggestions to improve the survival of wildlife and reduction in wildlife crime.

The youth delegates also wrote personal pledges regarding what they will do in the weeks, months and a year proceeding the Summit and all delegates, chaperones and speakers signed the World Youth Wildlife Declaration.
**Arrival and Welcome**
Youth delegates are assigned to a Regiment, named after an endangered African animal and meet their counterparts representing many nationalities.

**Grand opening of the World Youth Wildlife Summit 2019**
A powerful ceremony of sound, dance and audio visual introduces the reasons for the summit.

**Dj William Fowlds presents 'Dare to Matter - How music showed us a way to feel alive'**

**Chaperone Programme**
The chaperone programme, “Effective communication for Conservation,” runs concurrently to the delegates’ Indaba and is presented by Dr Judy Main from South African Association for Marine Biological Research.

**Fireside Action**
Campfire evening with storytelling and traditional song and dance.

**The Regiments begin working on their first Indaba: Wildlife Crime and the Summit in Context. Facilitated by Abahlali Wolf-Illegique and Sboniso Phakathi.**
Programme Day 2

Youth Ideas 2
“TED” Talks, expert presentations and lively discussions around the 5 critical issues

Maria Dieckmann presents “What it takes to be a true conservationist & why I’m the happiest woman in the world.”

12-year-old Hunter Mitchell proves that you’re never too young to make a difference.

Innovating and informative presentations from US Embassy Chargé d’Affaires, David Young, and Dr Johan Marais, Saving the Survivors

A Day in the Life of a Ranger

The Bhek Mambas: A formidable Anti-Poaching unit protecting wildlife in the greater Kruger area and made up almost entirely of women rangers ...

A highlight of the day was a demonstration from Johan van Straaten and the SAWC K9 Unit, which included a simulated poaching arrest and Q & A session

Delegates come to grips with the crippling realities of rhino poaching in a film screening of STRONG - Journey into the rhino horn war, with an introduction from Bonnie de Bod & Susan Scott

Dining and African music, as well as talking stick discussions. An opportunity for the delegates to ask questions, share personal experiences and reflect on critical issues with the conservation experts.

Fireside Cultural Evening

The “One-Horned Rhino” shout-out, in honour of guest conservationist, Jatin Boruah, all the way from India.

World Rhino Day

World Rhino Day
Delegates interact with conservation experts, deepening their understanding of critical conservation issues as well as receiving career guidance.

Hand prints on ‘Rallaton’ the Rhino Mascot, a symbolic pledge from each delegate.

Kim Carter challenges the delegates to think critically about conservation, especially when it comes to controversial issues. Eric Mfundulala offers an informative keynote address, providing insight into the challenges conservation professionals face managing protected areas, as well as personal successes.

Delegates experience the beauty of the African wilderness first-hand, on a game drive in the Kruger National Park.

A walking tour of Mopani’s Endangered Species Centre gives delegates the opportunity to learn about endangered species and pose perceptive questions.

Delegates have fun expressing their creativity in Inqaba 3: Voices of Protest.

Rosemary Zimu and Mthokozisi Zulu present ‘Thembu’, a rhino play about hope and tolerance and the Nkwichi Hoigale Foundation facilitate a Rhino Art session.
The final day of the World Youth Wildlife Summit, as delegates submitted personal pledges regarding the actions they will take in the weeks, months and a year following the event and received Certificates of Participation from their Regiment Leaders.

Youth Speaker, Nadav Ossendryver, speaks about turning your passion into a business. His 'Latest Sightings Kruger' YouTube channel has already reached more than 1 billion views.

Pertinent questions were posed to the Wildlife Council - Musa Mtshaba, Chris Galliers, Maria Diekman, Bupe Bande, and Dr Johan Marais.

All delegates, chaperones and conservation experts signed the World Youth Wildlife Declaration before departing.

Closing Ceremony:
Each Regiment had an opportunity to share their Resolutions to the Five Critical Issues which they had worked on over the last three days.

Special recognition was given to Neville Ngomano from the Wild Shiva Omania photographic team. Neville was awarded GAWEN Environmental Photographer of the Year for his photo, “Desperate Measures,” depicting a rhino being de-horned in an attempt to protect it from being poached.

The winning Voices of Protest art piece - a challenging decision for the judging panel from Rhino Art, the Kingley Holgate Foundation and Jule Boruth.
The Conservation Experts

Black Mambas
Anti-Poaching Unit, South Africa

BUPE BANDA
National Community Resources Board Association, Zambia

CHRIS GALLIERS
Project Rhino Coordinator, South Africa

CRAG SPENCER
Founder, Black Mambas APU, South Africa

NOMSA MABILA
Technical Officer Lubombo TFCA, Eswatini

NUNU JOBE
Director, Initendi Africa Trails, South Africa

PALLOMA PACHITI-MUTE
I Pan African Conservation Education (PACE), Zimbabwe

SBONISO PHAKATHI
Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC), South Africa

GILBERT NWALE
National Community Resources Board Association, Zambia

ISHMAEL MAKWABA
SANParks, South Africa

JANET FRANZ
Wilderness Guide, South Africa

JOHAN VAN STRAETEN
Dog Master, Southern African Wildlife College K9 Unit, South Africa

SETH MAPHALALA
Lubombo TFCA Programme Manager, Eswatini

SIBUSISO VILANE
Motivational Speaker & Mountaineer, South Africa

SNOTHILE GAMA
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, South Africa

SOLLY THEMBA
SANParks: Kruger National Park, South Africa

JULIN BORIAL
President, Nature Care & Tourism Education Foundation, India

MARLICE VAN VUIREN
Co-Founder, N/a’an ku sê Foundation, Namibia

MICHELE HENLEY
Director, Elephants Alive, South Africa

MUSA MBATHA
Reserve Manager, Babanango Game Reserve, South Africa

VUSA TSIBALALA
SANParks Project Manager & RFM Radio Presenter, South Africa

VYETTE TAYLOR
Executive Director, Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization, South Africa
The Five Critical Issues:

1. Responsible Use of Wildlife Resources: Benefits, responsibility and sustainability in trade, ecotourism, community enterprise and hunting.
3. The Human Tragedy: The link between poverty and poaching, rangers on the thin green line.
4. Habitat Loss: Strategies to build protected areas.
5. Wildlife Education and Awareness: Opportunities, tools, personal initiatives, networking and social media.

The Critical issues are designed to challenge the youth delegates’ existing opinions and emotions, leading to better-informed decision making and personal actions in the future. These were debated and reflected on the four Indaba sessions (a Zulu or Xhosa word for discussion or conference).

The Indaba Sessions:

INDABA 1 – SETTING THE SCENE
Putting the global reach and impact of wildlife crime into context.

INDABA 2 – THE FIVE CRITICAL ISSUES
Lively discussions and debates that formed the background to each Regiment’s Resolutions. Delegates worked in their Regiments with the conservation experts, who were on hand to answer questions and provide insight.

INDABA 3 – VOICES OF PROTEST
Well-known South African actors, Rosemary Zima and Mphokise Zulu presented iThemba – a play about an unfaithful rhino told through puppetry, song and dance. The youth were also able to creatively express their feelings about wildlife crime through Rhino Art.

INDABA 4 – FORMULATING THE RESOLUTIONS
The final Indaba summarised all the discussions and learnings of the Summit. Each Regiment presented their Resolutions and Declaration, wrote personal pledges and formulated questions for the Wildlife Council.

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

“In order to reduce demand, we need to aim to educate icons and leaders in high demand countries as influencers – to encourage and motivate youth to detach themselves from using unsustainable wildlife products.

We need to institute more education programmes in countries where the demand for wildlife products is high. This can be done by reaching out to communities and showing them the value of the environment as well as the reality of where these wildlife products actually come from. By broadening such education programmes to the young and old in Asia we can inform them that rhino horn has no medicinal value, that rhino horn is useless. Except to the rhino.”

–LUNJEANE REGIMENT

RESPONSIBLE USE OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

“To combat the irresponsible use of wildlife resources we as the youth need to take a bottom-up approach by encouraging community enterprise. The involvement of local communities will reduce poaching as it will jeopardize the reserve which supports the community. These locals should be trained and given diplomas to use for future job promotion. Their knowledge is now not only valuable, but also an investment.

The hunting industry can potentially play a large role in community welfare as it is an important part of the tourism industry and must therefore be allowed in a sustainable and controlled manner. In doing so, both the hunter and the community can benefit.”

–INGWEYIA REGIMENT

HABITAT LOSS

- Focus on implementing better spatial planning on agricultural land to conserve areas of natural habitat on farmlands
- Implement stricter penalties/re-enforce laws when habitat is destroyed

–IMFUMBE REGIMENT

THE HUMAN TRAGEDY

- “We found that in order to decrease the impacts of wildlife poaching on humans, Rangers need to be given the best chance of survival by means of receiving military-like training and weapons as well as being trained and mentally prepared for traumatic experiences. They should also receive trauma counselling if these traumas should occur.
- Rangers should be given financial support, such as life insurance, if the rangers are harmed in any way during their line of duty.
- Poachers, as criminal as they are in the eyes, are people too and we feel that they should be given the chance to attend rehabilitation programs so that they can use their skills in a more effective way.”

–NQOLUVI REGIMENT

WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Empowering local people by involving them in management and ownership of game reserves and parks.
- Making sure that local economies benefit from wildlife by ensuring that both local government and parks management is entirely transparent with where money from wildlife goes and guaranteeing that some of it is returned to the communities.
- Engaging with foreigners who are from countries where wildlife products are consumed, such as Vietnam and China, especially the youth, in settings such as school exchanges or holiday programs, because we believe the rest of their population will listen to messages of someone from their own culture above those of westerners.

–IBHUBEZI REGIMENT
The World Youth Wildlife Declaration

The 2019 World Youth Wildlife Declaration is an immediate outcome of the 2019 World Youth Wildlife Summit and has been signed by delegates, chaperones, keynote speakers, conservation experts and guests. Beautifully handmade in leather and canvas by Melvill & Moon, it is a powerful statement by the world’s youth calling for action against all forms of wildlife crime.

From now, the World Youth Wildlife Declaration will travel the world collecting more supportive messages and signatures, to further the Summit’s aim of building a global youth movement against the illegal trade and decimation of our wildlife and wild spaces.

THE DECLARATION

“We, representing the Youth of the World, gathered at the Southern African Wildlife College in the iconic Greater Kruger National Park from the 21 - 24 September 2019 as a call to action against all forms of poaching and wildlife crime.

This Declaration is a continuation of the 600,000 ‘hearts and minds’ messages already composed by young people participating in the international Rhino Art Education Campaign and the thousands of messages contained in the 2014 World Youth Wildlife Declaration.

We, the Youth, are deeply disturbed by the worsening wildlife crime crisis, the exploitation of our natural heritage by organised criminal syndicates, and the subversion of our communities – all fed by human greed and deep-rooted corruption.

We demand that our voices be heard!

We do not want to be the generation that tells our grandchildren that we did nothing about it, and we call upon global leaders to join us in bringing the illegal trade in wildlife to an end.”
Extracts from the Declarations

We, the delegates of the World Youth Wildlife Summit, commit to educate our families and communities about wildlife crime, illegal trafficking and the culture around consumption. We as the INGWE Regiment pledge ourselves to create education campaigns in our respective countries in order to break the chain of consumption. Corruption needs to stop and we demand that government step up to the plate and protect our heritage.

– INGWE Regiment

We, the regiment of IMPISI from the World Youth Wildlife Summit, the leaders of tomorrow, commit to share what we have learnt with our friends and family.
We commit to implement projects at our schools and in communities across the country, to instil in their hearts the passion and urgency that we feel in ours.
Siyathanda imvelo, siyathanda! We WILL let our voices be heard.

– IMPISI Regiment

We of the IDUBE Regiment solemnly vow to engage in the war to end wildlife poaching and trafficking in ways that help to sustain and protect the growth of natural habitats in Africa and throughout the world and nurture the human communities and spirit involving them.
We will work to be the voices of the animals and of our generation to establish a better government, specifically in legislature that help to better fight wildlife destruction, corruption on any level and better educate involved communities, local and abroad, to instil respect for the natural world.

– IDUBE Regiment

I am the representative of the UBEJANE Regiment.
As a group, we pledge to go home and educate our own communities on all that we have learnt at the World Youth Wildlife Summit – as we believe that the community is the first line of defence against combating wildlife crime.
We pledge to take the baton handed from the older generations and not wait as we believe that the greatest threat to our environment is believing someone else will save it for us.

– UBEJANE Regiment

Let our voices be heard
Once-in-a-lifetime Experience for Vietnamese Youth

Five Vietnamese youth were chosen to attend the World Youth Wildlife Summit, experience the Kruger National Park and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, join a rhino de-horning exercise, visit the Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing and K9 Unit, and participate in a walking trail with a renowned guide.

Dinh Thi Thu Ngoc (26), Do Quang Thien (26), Le Anh Tu (21), Nguyen Son Tien (21) and Truong Quoc Van (23) were selected through a competition organised by non-governmental and charity organisation, WildAct Vietnam, and were funded by USADF’s VukaNew Activity, Mark Spicer, WildAct Vietnam’s technical adviser, acted as the group mentor.

After watching the hard-hitting documentary STRIPOOP - journey into the rhino horn war and seeing Vietnamese individuals engaged in the illegal trade and consumption of rhino horn, Van from Ho Chi Minh City, gave an emotionally charged speech expressing a deep shame for the Vietnamese involvement.

“This is such a big system [wildlife crime] that’s already in place, how I’m going to fight something like that?”

However, the documentary also showed courageous Asian individuals, including a Vietnamese conservationist, who do undercover work alongside the South African authorities in the fight against the illegal trade network. Van continued to answer his own question emphatically, referring to meeting fellow delegates and engaging with the Summit speakers, “I want to be more courageous and you have helped me do that.”

After the Summit, the Vietnamese delegation, accompanied by Janet Frangis, a freelance Wildlife Guide, spent a further week learning more about wildlife, specifically rhino and the poaching epidemic, as well as engaging with South African culture and communities.

Their excursion began at Bongani Mountain Lodge near southern Kruger before they headed for Zululand. When speaking to the staff at the lodge, the group realised that the decimation of wildlife is not only ecologically tragic but also puts jobs, families and communities in jeopardy.

To contrast the Summit’s intense discussions and revelations, a walking trail in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve was arranged with Nunu Jobe, also known as the "Barefoot Ranger" - a highly experienced trails ranger and Director of Isibindi Africa Trails. Nunu highlighted the beauty of the wilderness and the vital importance of conservation to visitors and surrounding communities and shared his unique story; he was once a bushmeat poacher but is now a passionate conservationist.

Reflecting on the walk, Tu from Hanoi, said, “Nunu’s story of the transition from a poacher to a ranger was so moving and thought-provoking... we got to witness his trying to connect humans with nature in an effort of reminding humans of their roots.”

Wildlife Conservation student Son Tra, also commented, “I had a chance to see the animals I’m trying to protect in the wild and that gives me more motivation to continue my conservation work. Furthermore, walking with Nunu and listening to his story make me believe that we can change the local community.”

After getting close to wild rhinos, with their horns intact, the group then participated in a rhino-dehorning exercise on a private Zululand reserve.

Son Tien added that the dehorning process pushed him to question the best ways to protect this species’ long-term, as dehorning is a costly ongoing procedure.

Nga from Danang in central Vietnam, was also moved by the experience, “Although there can be some failures of wildlife protection in dehorning rhinos instead of keeping them freely in nature, I appreciate the effort of the private reserve in doing their best to prevent rhinos from poachers.”

A visit to Project Rhino’s Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing (ZAP-Wing) and the K9 Unit, based in Hluhluwe, further emphasised the protection strategies employed by reserves to protect their wildlife – and the immense cost.

Thien, Van and Tu, who all work in or are studying marketing, communications and business, quickly realised that such industries are also of critical use to the conservation sector. Van, a passionate videographer and photographer, has already committed to making a short video about his trip here.

Thien, studying at the National Economics University in Hanoi said, “At the circle of sharing today, I absorbed many interesting ideas from everyone, and actually thought that with my marketing and business knowledge, I can somehow make an impact on the behaviour of rhino horns consumers in the future... and I hope it will be, because we are running out of time here.”

Further to this reflection, Tu added that conveying conservation messages should be done in the language that resonates with the local people – whether in Africa or Asia. He strongly believes that saving the rhino, and other wildlife, relies on relaying the human stories and tragedies behind this crisis – stories that may resonate more with Asian communities.

Ngo’s wants to focus her efforts on education and awareness. “Greed in human beings cannot be completely removed until their heart has been naturally convinced. I personally don’t want to threaten, scare, or show anger when [I] request people [join in the] efforts of wildlife conservation,” she says.
Youth Speakers, Media & Volunteers

Hunter Mitchell (Youth Speaker)

12-year-old Hunter Mitchell proves that you’re never too young to make a difference. On New Year’s Eve in 2015 when he was just 8 years old, Hunter heard about an orphaned baby rhino that had been rescued in the middle of the night in a game reserve in the Western Cape. Knowing that every rhino life counts and each one needs every chance to survive, Hunter decided to donate his pocket money. He then started an international campaign ‘Raise the Baby Rhino with Hunter’.

Hunter’s involvement has grown beyond fundraising to creating awareness about the plight of the rhino, inspiring his peers around the world to use their voices for change. It’s not unusual to find Hunter in front of his computer at 4am talking to a classroom of children as far away as Japan or organising an event to fundraise for rhino conservation. Hunter has raised over R250,000 so far! Hunter’s work has been acknowledged through numerous South African and international awards and he’s grateful for these additional opportunities for the voices of our rhino to be heard.

Nadav Ossendroevre (Youth Speaker)

Nadav (23) is a previous 2014 and 2015 Summit delegate and is currently studying a BComm part-time at the University of the Western Cape. He’s had a passion for wildlife since very young and at the age of 15, developed the award-winning website www.latesightsightings.com for real-time wildlife sightings in the Kruger National Park, which reaches over 700,000 people online every day.

Nadav has won numerous awards, including the 2014 Nelson Mandela Youth Leadership Award and is listed on Forbes Africa’s ‘30 Under 30’ list. He is a regular guest on TV and radio and continues to build social media communities for people who are just as addicted to wildlife as he is. In 2018, Nadav received the YouTube Gold Play Button for hitting one million subscribers on his Kruger Sightings channel.

Roving Reporters: Mluweki Mletchane

“The summit exposed me to an entirely different world of young people, community leaders and activists who completely changed how I looked at the planet.”

At the time, “conservation” was a relatively new word in my vocabulary, particularly as a student journalist. But the enlightening presentations and discussions at the summit opened my eyes to wildlife and environmental crime and the pain we humans inflict on mother nature. The passion, determination and unity displayed by the 200 or so twenty-somethings at the event was inspiring.

I couldn’t wait to get home to my community and share what I had learnt.”

Mlu Mletchane is a Durban University of Technology journalism graduate enrolled on Roving Reporters environmental journalism training programme, Developing Environmental Watchdogs. Read more about the programme at www.rovingreporters.co.za

Wild Shots Outreach Photography

The team of young photographers assigned to document the 2019 summit are all graduates of the Wild Shots Outreach programme. Founded by Mike Kendrick in November 2015, Wild Shots Outreach (WSO) aims to engage young people from local communities in wildlife and conservation through photography. Very few young people from the communities bordering the Greater Kruger Area have ever been into the Kruger park or neighbouring reserves. WSO addresses this by taking each group of students with their new photographic skills on game drives in wildlife reserves to take images of iconic African wildlife. With over 500 graduates, this award-winning programme has been able to identify some really exceptional young photographers and provide them with DSLR cameras and advanced training. The WSO media team evolved from this group of exceptionally talented graduates of the programme.

Photo Left to Right: Wisani Ngwenya, Neville Nqomo, Vusi Mathe, Rihumiso Mathebula

Vet Books for Africa

Vet Books for Africa is a truly unique, student-run initiative established in 1993, with the aim to serve and enrich the Veterinary field in extensive parts of the African continent, as well as to make a difference in the lives of the people and animals encountered along the way. This is done by distributing veterinary text books, journals and other educational tools to veterinary faculties in a number of southern and central African countries. Since its inception, Vet Books volunteers have made 13 trips, reached 9 countries, 7 universities, driven 84,000km and distributed approximately 2,100 books.

The team consists of 8 veterinary students, from the University of Pretoria’s Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science. Vet Books for Africa aims to unlock the true potential of conservation in Africa through the education of its people.
Reaching a Global Audience

Building a Network - Africa and Beyond

The World Youth Wildlife Summit engaged over 100 organisations and individuals working in wildlife conservation in Africa, Asia, North America and Europe.

Media Coverage
The Media Room was a hive of activity, with teams of photographers, videographers and journalists. The World Youth Wildlife Summit was featured in numerous online and print articles, including:


Global Media: UN Environment, The Hills Times (India) and IPP Media (East Africa)

Radio
In addition to interviews on community radio stations, Ballito Lifestyle and Radio Laveko, national radio station, Jacaranda FM, provided extensive coverage of the World Youth Wildlife Summit during the month of September. Including a dedicated slot on their community upliftment programme, Good Morning Angels. Jacaranda FM’s footprint covers Gauteng, Limpopo, Marmacanga and the North West Provinces, with a listening audience of 2 million people a week and a digital community of more than 1.1 million people a month.

Social Media
Facebook
The World Youth Wildlife Summit Facebook page gained 695 followers between 17 September and 17 October 2019 and is most popular with an audience of 18 to 24.
Reach: Greatest reach was on the 20th and 27th September, with 49,795 and 49,444 persons respectively. Between the 20th September and the 17th October, the total Post Reach was 161,616.

Twitter
Between 19 September and 17 October, the Twitter page received 28,200 impressions, with 216 profile visits and 22 new followers.

Instagram
The account grew from under 100 Followers in April to over 500 by October. It is most popular in the nations of South Africa (majority), USA, UK, Tanzania and Botswana and ages 18 to 34.
Posts in the Feed are usually seen by hundreds of users. An average Post will receive 70 likes, with the top post receiving 93 likes and 14 comments.

2019 Core Organising Team

CARIEN ESTERHUZEN
Project Rhino Administrator, Event Programme Manager

DAVE PATIE
Project Rhino, Rhino Art Manager Eastern Cape, Eastern Cape Delegate Coordinator

FRANCOIS DU TOIT
CEO of African Conservation Trust, Summit Director, Fundraising & Logistics

GRANT FOWLES
Project Rhino, Rhino Art Manager KwaZulu-Natal, Summit Fundraising & Logistics

ISABEL WOLF-GILLESPIE
Managing Founder & Lead Facilitator: Earth Awareness Consulting, Youth Delegate Programme Development & Facilitator

DR JUDY MAUN
Conservation Strategist at South African Association for Marine Biological Research, Chairperson Programme Development & Facilitation

KINGSLEY HOLGATE
Kingsley Holgate Foundation, Founder of Rhino Art, Summit Creative Strategy & Cultural Coordinator

KIRA MCDOUGALL
Funding, Marketing & Human Resources at African Conservation Trust, Summit Design, Branding & Administration

LEE FULLER
Private Safari Guide at Lee Fuller Safaris & Outfitter Educator at Tugela Trails, Summit MC

MICAH VAN SCHALKWYK
African Conservation Trust, Summit Communications, Event Organising, Community Manager, Post-Summit Delegate Mentors

SHEELA ANTHROBUS
Kingsley Holgate Foundation, Former Project Rhino Coordinator, Summit Creative Strategy & Event Media

RICHARD ‘MAHLEMBELEMBE’ MABANGA
Project Rhino, Rhino Art Facilitator, KwaZulu-Natal, Cultural Team Leader

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Wild Warrior Pledges

On the final day, the youth delegates each submitted personal pledges regarding the actions they will take in the weeks, months and year following the event. The Summit team will remain in regular communication with the youth, providing them with guidance and the tools to put these into action.

Popular ideas included giving presentations and educating family and friends through social media, hosting local mini-Summits, using marketing, photography and videography to spread awareness, as well as fundraising for wildlife conservation.

Baraka Baudi (17), from Tanzania, sponsored to attend by the Gymnastics Fund, pledged to arrange a district community gathering to educate others about wildlife crime and conservation.

Mahiub Dhami (15), a delegate from Eswatini, expressed heartfelt thanks to the organisers and pledged to start his own wildlife foundation in the future.

Sthembiso Myeni (18), from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, also decided that he would like to study Nature Conservation in order to help protect wildlife.

And, Do Quang Thien (20), from Vietnam said, "In the next few months I want to reach 100 or more people to directly talk about wildlife crime and I will do further volunteering for conservation initiatives."

By the end of the event, the youth delegates, from across southern Africa, Europe and Asia, had exceeded expectations and demonstrated real commitment to raising awareness for conservation issues.

David Young, Chargé d'Affaires US Embassy, South Africa, provided further motivation to the delegates in his World Rhino Day speech, saying, "You are not alone in this great task. Look around you. You are surrounded by an amazing body of experienced experts, and fellow young conservation leaders. There is a wealth of knowledge and tools to help you."

“In the weeks after the Summit I will organise a ‘Youth for Wildlife’ symposium.”

Larona Gaongalawe, 19, Waterford Kamhlaba United World College

“I would like to see solutions to habitat loss and the human tragedy of poaching.”

Nzobile Ubisi, 16, Humani School in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere

“Teach elders about how they can be part of the solution.”

Tintswalo Nyanhu, 17, Kruger to Canyons, Mahlale

“Help to remove snares and traps in the wild”

Lundi Meyiwa, 23, Tshwane University of Technology

“I am going to start teaching classes with my club in the next year to create awareness.”

Nicole Mashaba, 16, Scouts South Africa

“I will educate the young children at church.”

Namthla Buthelezi, 15, Manyoni, KwaZulu-Natal

“I would love to come back to the Summit as a Regiment Leader.”

Robyn Franklin, 17, George, Western Cape

“I want to be a conservation ambassador, to be a leading role (model)”

Debe Ao, 22, Naankuse, Namibia
Wildlife crime is a multi-billion-dollar illicit business that is decimating Africa’s iconic animal populations and undermining the economic prosperity and sustainable development of countries and communities throughout southern Africa. In countries like China, Thailand and Vietnam, the use of wildlife products in traditional medicine fuels the demand for items like pangolin scales, rhino horn and elephant ivory. Increasingly, wildlife products are also seen as status symbols. Many of these products come from southern Africa, where animals are poached and illegally trafficked. These crimes threaten the region’s natural capital and undermines sustainable development from legal nature-based enterprises such as tourism. Wildlife crime also threatens social stability and cohesion as it robs citizens of their cultural and natural heritage, while its organised criminal networks threaten regional peace and security.

Protecting biodiversity and combating wildlife crime in southern Africa are critical policy priorities for the United States Government (USG). Successful responses to combating wildlife crime require changing minds and behaviors to reduce both consumption and the illegal trade, and young people across the globe play a critical role in this regard.

Through the USAID VukaNow activity, USAID sponsored the attendance of 81 delegates from Vietnam and various southern African countries at the World Youth Wildlife Summit in Hoedspruit, South Africa. As part of the current USAID Southern Africa Combating Wildlife Crime program, the USG has invested approximately US$65 million across various southern African landscapes and projects.

MEGAdome

The MEGAdome is a perfectly constructed geodesic sphere-like structure that is made up of a complex network of triangles that provide its remarkable strength and mobility. The dome is a fully mobile and temporary structure and is therefore easily and quickly erected in just about any environment where it has the ability to withstand extreme winds and bad weather. The dome shape provides one of the strongest structures known to man which is why this type of building structure is used for extreme requirements worldwide.

The MEGAdome is covered with various skins, depending on the event, and can accommodate temporary flooring, air-conditioning, sound and lighting, together with a wide variety of furnishing and staging options. The MEGAdome is ideal for events, launches, conferences and functions.

- Corporate Events
- Conferences
- Festivals
- Exhibitions
- Gala Dinners
- Weddings / Parties
- Restaurants / Bars
- Chill Out Lounges
- Product Launches
- Activations
- Permanent Structures

South African National Parks (SANParks)

South African National Parks (SANParks) was established in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No 57 of 2003). In terms of this act, the primary mandate of SANParks is to oversee the conservation of South Africa’s biodiversity, landscapes and associated heritage assets through a system of national parks.

The core areas that provide a fundamental basis of SANParks’ mandate are: conservation management through the national parks system, constituency building and people-focused ecotourism management, and corporate governance and sound business and operational management.

The organization plays a significant role in the promotion of South Africa’s ecotourism business, targeted at both international and domestic tourism markets.

The work of SANParks also focuses on building strategic partnerships at international, national and local levels, in support of the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of South Africa. It also has to ensure that South Africans participate and get involved in biodiversity initiatives, and that all its operations have a synergetic existence with neighbouring communities for their educational and socioeconomic benefit.

SANParks is currently responsible for the management of 22 national parks. The strategic direction of SANParks in the next five years will focus on the following key objectives: enhancing the organisational reputation by bringing trust, confidence and transparency to stakeholders and positioning the organisation as an ultimate brand to be associated with, growing community support and providing access and benefit-sharing, promoting tourism that works to protect the environment and benefit local cultures and communities, and to improve the state of the conservation estate through informed park planning, development and effective biodiversity monitoring.

Peace Parks Foundation

Founded in 1997 by Dr Anton Rupert, President Mandela and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, Peace Parks Foundation was born of the belief that Africa’s wild spaces can be reconnected and developed to create a future for man in harmony with nature. To make this dream a reality, Peace Parks works tirelessly to reverse and preserve large, functional ecosystems that stretch across international boundaries.

Peace Parks engages with governments to secure protected land and channel investment into the development of transboundary conservation areas, whilst implementing innovative strategies that restore ecological functionality and protect biodiversity.

The Foundation develops nature-based tourism and enterprise opportunities to ensure the long-term sustainability of protected areas, that also depends greatly on the involvement and support from the people living in and around these conservation spaces.

Peace Parks focuses on empowering these communities - capitalizing in the sustainable use of natural resources and unlocking opportunities for them to derive equitable benefits from conservation.

Additionally, much effort goes into investing in youth empowerment initiatives that aim to nurture leadership, elevate an appreciation for nature, and strengthen young people’s resolve to conserve their natural heritage. The youth hold the long-term well-being of our world in the palm of their hands, and it is our responsibility to guide them into a healthy and happy future.

Peace Parks is therefore delighted to be part of the World Youth Wildlife Summit that educates, empowers, awakens and inspires, as well as provides a platform for young voices to be heard as part of the conservation conversation.
Traversing Africa

At Traversing Africa we pride ourselves on offering an unparalleled service for arranging bespoke trips to Africa and beyond. We are a family-owned and run company dedicated to sharing our passion for transformational travel with our clients at a personal level.

At Traversing Africa we are passionate about responsible and sustainable tourism. As such, we partner with causes who aim to protect and conserve wildlife, the environment, and local culture. We strive to make a positive impact in the world through deeper and more meaningful travel experiences. We want to ensure our great, great grandchildren have a chance to experience the natural world as it was intended to be.

Cullinan Holdings

CULLINAN HOLDINGS is a South African company proudly owned by the Toliman Family. In the Transport Division there are several brands that operate across South Africa and Namibia.

Hyton Ross Tours, Rapa Coaches, Eastgate Safari, OnSafari and Springbok Affair Coaches provide transport to a variety of clients, with diverse and fluid requirements. The services and fleet range from 03-seater luxury sedans to 60-seater luxury coaches, as well as open Safari vehicles.

Cullinan Holdings believes in giving back to the communities in areas they operate in: only through responsible tourism will we be able to protect - and conserve our beautiful country for future generations. Hyton Ross Safari Touring, On Safari Africa, and Eastgate Safaris - three of their safari specialist operations - are based in the greater Kruger Park and Mpumalanga Reserve areas. Their focus is not only to bring clients in terms of nature conservation, but also to educate tourists and the public regarding our responsibilities towards our natural resources.

As part of their commitment, the Cullinan Group do the following:

- Volunteer on an ongoing basis to assist South African National Parks with the clean-up and maintenance campaign of the main road from Harare to the Kruger Park Gate.
- Offer support to the forensic teams doing on-site investigations in the Kruger Park, and assist with fund-raising to keep them effective.
- Eastgate Safaris in Hoodspruit assists with fund-raising events for anti-poaching organisations.
- Volunteers for - and assist with - transport and fund-raising events for educational programs about rhino poaching.

The Cullinan group will continue to assist with the education of the youth, to be the next generation to take responsibility for, and stop the extinction of our wildlife.

South African Tourism

South African Tourism, South Africa’s destination marketing organisation, is mandated by the Tourism Act (Act No. 3 of 2014) to market South Africa as a domestic and international tourist destination by promoting the country’s tourism products, services and facilities. As a government entity, the purpose of South African Tourism is to ultimately improve the lives of South Africans by contributing to the inclusive growth of the South African economy through tourism.

To ensure a unified direction and synergised efforts towards achieving this envisaged growth, South African Tourism developed its five-year Enhanced Strategy for Growth (known as the 5-in-5 strategic), which has set a strategic goal of increasing the base of tourism by five million arrivals or trips during the period 2017 to 2021. This goal is made up of four million additional international tourist arrivals and one million more domestic holiday trips. With this end in mind, the following strategic objectives were identified:

Strategic objective 1: To contribute to inclusive economic growth by increasing the number of international and domestic tourists;
Strategic objective 2: To contribute to an enhanced, recognised, appealing, resilient and competitive tourism and business events brand for South Africa across the target markets and segments;
Strategic objective 3: To enhance stakeholder and partnership collaboration, both local and international, to better deliver on South African Tourism’s mandate;
Strategic objective 4: To contribute to an improved tourist experience in line with the brand promise;
Strategic objective 5: To position South African Tourism’s corporate brand to be recognised as a tourism and business events industry leader in market intelligence, insights and analytics; and
Strategic objective 6: To achieve operational efficiencies in all activities, including human, marketing and other resources available to South African Tourism.
“There’s massive opportunity through conservation: opportunity from an economic point of view, a social point of view and an environmental point of view. You can look at wildlife-based tourism, you can look at nature-based solutions to climate change, you can look at sustainable utilisation - there are all manner of opportunities that arise from taking a fresh approach and a fresh view to conservation. This is where we need you!”

Video message by John E. Scanlon, African Parks Special Envoy & Former Secretary-General of CITES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
Wildshots Outreach
Neville Ngwane
Ritamo Mathebula
Wisani Ngwemka
Vusi Mathe

CONTACT US:
Care of African Conservation Trust
Tel: 031 766 0131
Postal Addr: PO Box 310, Linkshill, 3052, South Africa
Email: coa@projectafrica.com or
siledh@projectafrica.com

FIND US ONLINE:
Web:
www.projectafrica3youthsummit
Facebook: @YouthWildlifeSummit
Twitter: @WildlifeSummit
Instagram: @youthwildlivesummit

Let our voices be heard