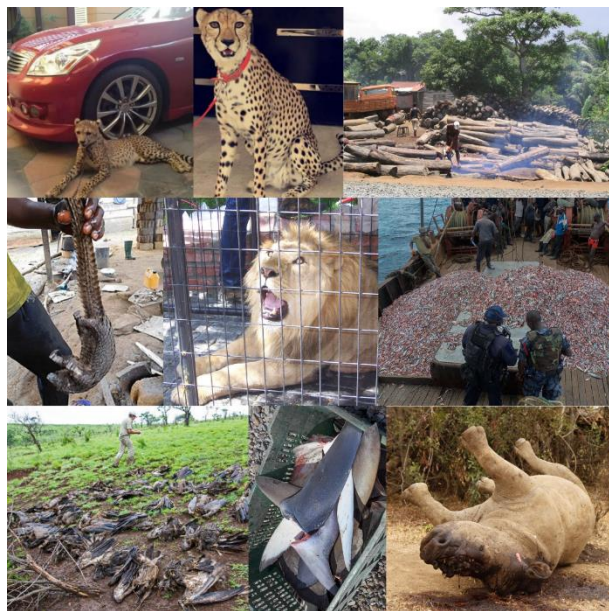


CONTEXT

The world over, entire ecosystems, and the wildlife in them, are threatened by human activity. In 2019, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) [reported](#) that **1 million species are threatened with extinction**.



Wildlife Crime Crisis

The **illegal wildlife trade is a severe threat to wild animals** across the world. Iconic African species, such as the rhino, and elephant are horrifically poached for their horns and ivory. Hundreds of thousands of pangolins are removed from the wild each year and vultures are poisoned by the hundreds. In recent years, the captive-breeding and canned hunting of lions and tigers for their bones has been exposed, a shocking violation of animal welfare. These wildlife parts are used mostly in Chinese Traditional Medicine, but wildlife parts are also used in African Traditional Medicine.

Cheetah cubs are smuggled through the Horn of Africa and sold to wealthy individuals in the Middle East, who parade them as exotic pets but care little for their health and wellbeing.

Sharks are caught for their fins and abalone (large sea snails) are considered a delicacy and are poached to supply demand. Globally, overfishing is decimating fish populations and destroying the local fishermen's livelihoods. It is made worse by illegal trawlers harvesting endangered iconic species like the Blue-fin Tuna. Sharks, turtles and

dolphins also suffer and die as bycatch: they are unintentionally caught.

Snaring and illegal bushmeat hunting in both Africa and Asia puts similar pressure on terrestrial populations.

COVID-19

Zoonotic diseases, like COVID-19, SARS and Ebola, are transmitted through an infected wild animal. In Africa, **the health of ecosystems and wild animals is degraded when habitats are destroyed** and the likelihood of people coming into contact with a new disease increases. **Wildlife markets** in Asia, like the one where COVID-19 is thought to have originated, are perfect 'laboratories' for viruses: live animals from across the world that wouldn't usually come into contact with each other are kept in deplorable, overcrowded conditions and slaughtered without concern for hygiene.

Without action, wildlife populations will continue to decline or disappear.

PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES

Critical Issues

The youth delegates will **engage** throughout the programme **with Conservation Role Models**, who give generously of their time, **around critical conservation issues** such as: the responsible use of wildlife resources, cultural demand and consumption of wildlife parts, community-based conservation, habitat degradation, wildlife in captivity and the effects of the illegal wildlife trade, including zoonotic diseases.

Activities: March of Silence for Fallen Wildlife & Rangers, presentations by Conservation Role Models, a game drive, antipoaching demos, Rhino & Wild ART, Culture & Conservation through music & dance, conservation games & movies, social media tools etc.

Wild Warriors

Since the inaugural World Youth Rhino Summit in 2014, the **Youth Summit program has brought together young leaders and conservation experts from 28 different countries**. To date 375 delegates have participated and 2021's Youth Camp Wild Warriors will leave, as have those before them, motivated to build a thriving future for people and wildlife and inspired to speak up against wildlife crime.

Founding Partners



World Youth Wildlife Declaration

2021's Youth Leaders Camp delegates will **pledge support for wildlife conservation** through the World Youth Wildlife Declaration. Thousands of messages have already been collected from the youth, keynote speakers and conservation experts from each of the previous three Youth Summits. Conservation icons, business, traditional and spiritual leaders have also added their messages of support, including the late Dr Ian Player, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr Jane Goodall.

Post-Summit

The youth will be engaged via numerous social media platforms as well as WhatsApp groups. The WYWS team will continue to educate, empower and equip them through the sharing of news, events and toolkits. These platforms also build a sense of community, provide a space for the youth to ask questions and most importantly, share their own activities and ideas.



OBJECTIVES

1. Engage

- Connect concerned youth with political, traditional, business and local conservation leaders.
- Connect a network of stakeholders (participating conservationists, speakers, organisations, educators and youth alumni) through collaborative global networks.
- Take the 2021 World Youth Wildlife Declaration around the world, aiming to present it to global bodies such as the United Nations, IUCN and CITES.

2. Educate

- Share topical conservation issues with tomorrow's leaders.
- Raise awareness amongst the youth about wildlife protection and anti-poaching strategies including the social, economic, political and human health impact of wildlife crime.
- Build capacity for youth leaders to conduct awareness campaigns to educate their peers and younger children e.g. the Rhino ART campaign that has already reached over 600 000 youth to date.

3. Empower

- Deepen the commitment to wildlife conservation amongst the youth.
- Enable youth delegates to envision a thriving future for wildlife and biodiversity – one that they are actively part of.

4. Equip

- Provide the youth delegates, their teachers and community leaders with toolkits and resources to enable them to be conservation ambassadors, implementing activities and awareness campaigns.
- Grow the Summit social media platforms and other youth-orientated networks for ongoing facilitation and fundraising support.

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: Young leaders to become future global wildlife & conservation ambassadors.

To Inspire: The next generation to build the wild economy.

To Extend: Knowledge of wildlife conservation, protection & innovative solutions.

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Founding Partners

