

# The WILD Foundation

(USA and International)

Founded in 1974 as The WILD Foundation to motivate and assist people to understand, experience and protect wilderness.



**World Wilderness Congress**—WILD's flagship project, the WWC, is the world's longest running, best-known and most effective platform for debating and acting on wilderness issues. This truly objective forum integrates the needs of people with the needs of conservation to achieve consensus and produce practical results. The WWC has convened eight times over the past 30 years, involving many thousands of organizations, policymakers, scientists, indigenous people, artists, educators, corporate leaders and heads of state from over 80 nations. In addition, WILD's main program areas are:

**WILD International**—*Wilderness Policy and Protected Areas*—WILD works through its World Wilderness Congress, the Wild Planet Project, and the IUCN-WCPA Wilderness Task Force (founded and co-chaired by WILD) as platforms to convene partners, apply the best research and information to designate wilderness worldwide, and coordinate cutting-edge wilderness policy work.

**WILD Action**—*Practical Field Projects*—WILD manages or sponsors practical field projects that address the needs of wildlands, wildlife and local people. Projects have been implemented in many countries in Africa and elsewhere, working with endangered species (cheetah, elephant, rhino, wild dog, etc), wild areas (in South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, etc), and with local peoples (tribal villagers, game guards, senior policymakers, scientists and educators).

## Wilderness Information—

*Publishing, Education and Outreach*—Through its partnership with Fulcrum Publishing (Colorado), and many government agencies and nonprofit partners, WILD co-publishes a wide range of informational tools and educational books, such as *Wilderness Management, International Journal of Wilderness, International Wilderness Law and Policy, When Elephants Fly, Zulu Wilderness: Shadow and Soul; The Human Footprint*; and many more. WILD also initiates media programs to inform and educate the public, and training programs for professionals.



Chairman—Robert C. Baron • Vice Chair—Charlotte Baron

President—Vance G. Martin

Vice President for Science—John Hendee • Vice President for Policy—Cyril Kormos

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## Collaboration is the key to The Wilderness Network

Many groups and organizations are close co-operators or affiliates. In addition to those Non-Government Agencies (NGOs) and government agencies mentioned earlier, plus the United Nations agencies and many international institutions, a few of the many other organizations and institutions are:

### Some of The Wilderness Network partners

African Parks Foundation	People and Nature Trust (Botswana)
Agrupacion Sierra Madre (Mexico)	Sanctuary Asia
Associazione per la Wilderness Italiana	SANParks (South Africa)
AVIS	The Sierra Club/Sierra Foundation
Cheetah Conservation Fund (Namibia)	State University of New York
Conservation International	University of Idaho
Forum Natureza em Perigo (Mozambique)	University of Montana
Fulcrum Publishing	WILDCON
International League of Conservation Photographers	Wilderness Action Group (SA)
Kalahari Conservation Society	Wilderness Foundation (Germany)
Kamchatka League of Independent Experts	The Wilderness Society (Australia)
Kissama Foundation (Angola)	The Wilderness Society (US)
Magqubu Ntombela Foundation	Wildlands Endowment Fund
Mantis Collection	World Conservation Union (IUCN)
National Outdoor Leadership School	World Wilderness Trust (India)
Outward Bound	Worldwide Fund for Nature
Peace Parks Foundation	Zambezi Society (Zimbabwe)



Courtesy of Patricio Robles Gil

# THE WILDERNESS NETWORK

## A Consortium of Forward-thinking, Like-minded Organizations

**Members**—The WILD Foundation; Wilderness Foundation and Wilderness Leadership School (South Africa); and the Wilderness Foundation (UK)—are independent organizations with different skill sets but two fundamental aspects in common:

**We share a common past**—each founded and/or inspired by Dr. Ian Player, game ranger and international conservation statesman from South Africa, and by his Zulu mentor and “brother,” the late Magqubu Ntombela.

**We look to the future**—carefully crafting individual and collaborative projects that yield practical conservation results while meeting the economic, social, and spiritual needs of human communities.

**A mission conceived in the wilderness**—The Wilderness Network was born in wild country, informed and inspired by the many decades of work in the African wilderness by Ian and Magqubu—saving the white rhino from extinction, creating new wilderness areas, emphasizing the central role traditional people play in conservation, and creating the first multi-racial environmental education programs in apartheid-era South Africa. Now as a group of closely collaborating organizations, we work worldwide to:

- Protect and sustain wilderness, wildlife, and human communities around the world
- Promote the values and services supplied by wildlands and seas
- Provide wilderness-related information, education, experience, and training

**The World Wilderness Congress (WWC)** is the program that unites The Wilderness Network and its many cooperating organizations, institutions, and individuals. The WWC is the world's longest running, international, public environmental forum. Since 1977, it has convened eight times: in South Africa (1977), Australia (1980), Scotland (1983), the United States (Colorado, 1987), Norway (1993), India (1998), South Africa (2001), and the United States (Alaska, 2005).

The WWC has a long list of practical accomplishments, a few of which are: providing the driving force behind new wilderness and other protected areas; creating new models for private, public, and corporate wildlands protection; raising millions of dollars for projects; launching many new organizations; providing assistance to native communities; training hundreds of wilderness professionals; and more. From launching the concept for a Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank, which has contributed over \$12 billion in conservation funding, to promoting the concept of marine wilderness, to organizing the first Native Lands and Wilderness Council—the WWCs generate new ideas that translate into conservation results.

For details, please visit [www.wild.org](http://www.wild.org)



Courtesy of Boyd Norton

## Your involvement is welcomed ...

Each organization raises funds annually to achieve its conservation objectives. Support comes from many different private foundations, individuals, businesses, and government agencies. Your support is welcomed and appreciated. Please contact the specific organization mentioned above, or contact Vance Martin at The WILD Foundation ([vance@wild.org](mailto:vance@wild.org)) for further details on all activities of The Wilderness Network.

[www.wildernessnetwork.net](http://www.wildernessnetwork.net)



## Wilderness Leadership School (South Africa)

**"My concept of the Wilderness Leadership School was to bring about individuals of all cultures together in the wilderness, where they would see one another as people and together appreciate the sacred nature and practical importance of wilderness areas. I wanted them to feel the soul of Africa through the soles of their feet."**

—Dr. Ian Player



The Wilderness Leadership School was the first organization founded by Ian Player and it remains the spiritual heart of The Wilderness Network. Started in 1957, it pioneered multi-racial environmental programs in South Africa

and set a new standard for wilderness experience. It concentrates on providing wilderness experience programs for leaders from all sectors, of all ages. The WLS takes small groups of up to eight participants at a time on five-day wilderness trails throughout Southern Africa. More than 35,000 people have participated in these courses in areas such as the iMfolozi Game Reserve, Lake St Lucia, the Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area, and elsewhere.

"On trail" with the WLS is one of Africa's quintessential experiences. Experienced Trail Officers and Zulu Guides lead their small groups through Africa's archetypal wilderness where humankind evolved, interpreting the natural history and allowing participants the time they need to unwind, listen to the roar of the lion and the trumpeting of the elephant, experience solitude under the African stars, and feel the spirit of the wild.

The School has an enviable track record of safety, with no significant injury to a participant in 50 years of operation.



Chairman—Andrew Muir

Vice-Chairman—Gladman Buthelezi • Director—Alistair Rankin

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## Wilderness Leadership School (South Africa)



nature, often for the very first time.

### Among many programs, WF-SA initiated and runs:

- Umzi wethu, the first conservation program to directly address the HIV/AIDS crisis by training orphans and vulnerable children for a sustainable role in the nature tourism industry and elsewhere.
- Opinion Leader's Trails, reaches out to national parliamentarians and other community and environmental leaders and gives them a personal and direct experience of wilderness, thereby building a key constituency to protect and sustain wild areas in South Africa.
- Imbewu, a national environmental and cultural awareness program among emerging young community black leaders. Retired black game rangers are employed as the teachers (elders). Imbewu has been implemented in other African countries including Ethiopia and Kenya.
- Pride, an urban-linked program introducing black township leaders to their nearest wild areas and training them as guides.
- Baviaanskloof Mega Wilderness Reserve, the project to create one of the largest wilderness and wildland area in South Africa

through the consolidation and collaborative management of 500,000 hectares of land owned by government and the private sector in the Eastern Cape.



The Wilderness Foundation focuses on working in partnership with government, civil society and the private sector, and to influence people's perception of wilderness and wildlands. Our goal is to demonstrate the benefits that a healthy wilderness resource gives to all communities and wildlife gain from its preservation.

## WILDERNESS FOUNDATION SOUTH AFRICA

Chairman—Windsor Shuhenyane • Vice Chairman—Adrian Gardiner  
Director—Andrew Muir

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## The Wilderness Foundation

(South Africa)

The Wilderness Foundation (South Africa), founded in 1972, protects and sustains African wilderness and wildlands through integrated conservation, social and education programs.

The Wilderness Foundation has been a pioneer in using wilderness as a positive force for social change in South Africa. To date, through our programs and those of the Wilderness Leadership School, we have taken more than one hundred thousand political, business and community leaders, as well as historically disadvantaged youth, through our programs, allowing participants to experience wild

## The Wilderness Foundation (UK)

Founded in 1976, the Wilderness Foundation is dedicated to preserving the world's remaining wilderness areas through advocacy, education, and wilderness experience programs. With a central mission that wilderness is the base upon which human society exists, the Foundation's projects highlight the critical balance between wilderness, wildlife, and people.



Drawing on many lessons taken from our African experience and close partnerships, the Foundation offers people an opportunity to reconnect to wilderness and wildlands through a rich program of trail experiences in Scotland, Wales, Northern Europe, South Africa and other parts of the world. In addition, it creates dynamic projects and opportunities for people from all walks of life to discover the healing and therapeutic benefits of wilderness areas. Working with numerous collaborators, it also supports action for the preservation of wild areas.

### Examples of our active programs are:

- Working with schools and Army Cadet Forces to take young people into wilderness
- Youth at Risk and Community Mentoring project partnering other NGOs, local Government, and religious groups
- A Sustainable Peace Initiative in Northern Ireland with wilderness experience in both Scotland and South Africa, drawing on different experiences but always seeking to find the threads of common humanity
- Campaigning to protect one of Kenya's last remaining indigenous forests by partnering with nearby local communities
- Wild Britain—a program for establishing wild areas in Britain, demonstrating that these can bring economic and social benefits to neighboring communities, farmers, and landowners
- Development of youth leadership through a wilderness trails program
- Supporting and training of game scouts to protect one of Zimbabwe's remaining wilderness areas
- Conducting and coordinating research into the social benefits of wilderness, ie, the 'wilderness effect' on people and communities, and its role in social change
- Corporate trails program taking corporate leaders into wilderness areas to help affect personal change, as well as develop a deeper understanding of interdependence with nature, and sustainability issues

## WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

Chairman—Euan MacDonald  
Vice Chairmen—Toby Aykroyd, Andrew Sheepshanks  
Director—Jo Roberts

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