

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of various colors and textures. It features broad, expressive brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, red, green, and purple. A prominent feature is a white grid pattern that is semi-transparent and overlaid on the background, particularly visible in the upper right and lower right areas. The overall effect is dynamic and artistic.

**INNOVATION
AWARDS 2018**

DISCLAIMER

To keep things fair, all entries included are shown exactly as they were submitted. We Are Africa Innovation Awards has endeavored not to edit for spelling, grammar or readability – as such, please be aware that we take no responsibility for such errors.

ENGAGE AFRICA

Tell us how you're collaborating with the local population to support, train and transform the community, with the end goal of building a more united Africa.

VOLCANOES SAFARIS

PROJECT TITLE: GAHINGA BATWA VILLAGE

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Volcanoes Safaris' long term goal is to provide land that can be used in perpetuity by the Batwa, where they can have their own homes and community facilities as well as an agricultural area where they can grow their own crops to help them start generating their own income. The houses are being built by the Batwa, following their own traditions and culture, using a volcanic stone base with mud and water to form the core of the design. The site plan will act as the backbone with cultivation, recreational and communal areas demarcated. Sanitation is to be provided. The Gahinga Batwa Village is to be funded by VSPT supported by Volcanoes Safaris as well as some donations received from guests. The settlement will enable the Batwa to break the cycle of manual labour and land rental payments and to use the land for growing crops. This will support the community's development and allow their children to access education and health facilities. The project has been widely welcomed by the Batwa and also by the wider local community. VSPT has built a relationship with the Gahinga Batwa community for several years which has allowed us to develop a solid understanding of their needs.



RESULTS:

Currently around 18 Batwa families live about 4km from Mount Gahinga Lodge on a tiny rocky site at Musasa, in makeshift huts with poor sanitation and drainage. In 2016 VSPT purchased 2.1 acres of land for \$7,000 to create a new settlement for the Batwa. In November 2016 the community will be consulted on the settlement, to be designed by Praveen Moman, working in partnership with Felix Holland from Studio FH Architects, who have kindly agreed to work pro bono on the project. The goal is to provide simple family units, with communal facilities and space to grow crops. Houses with a volcanic stone base with mud and wattle are likely to form the core of the design. Water is a key issue, to be addressed by rainwater harvesting. Basic sanitation is to be provided. Volcanoes Safaris has now started to build a permanent village for the Batwa community and their families. About 10 acres of land has been purchased to allow them to build homes, a community centre and have land for agricultural and recreational use. The main aspects of the project are have been completed by January 2018. The Gahinga Batwa community is comprised of over 100 adults and children. They have had no permanent home since they left Mgahinga National Park over 25 years ago.

DESCRIPTION:

In 1991, Mgahinga forest was gazetted as a national park to promote Mountain Gorilla conservation. The Batwa were displaced from their home and given no compensation. Since 2013 Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust (VSPT) has developed a series of projects to support the Batwa through tourism related enterprises and to preserve their cultural heritage at Mount Gahinga Lodge. In 2016 VSPT purchased land to build a settlement for 18 families. This project is now providing basic housing, community facilities, sanitation and land for cultivation to these conservation refugees.



ASILIA AFRICA

PROJECT TITLE: DUNIA CAMP, SERENGETI

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

On the 1st June 2017, Asilia opened Dunia Camp for the new season with an entirely female staff. The camp had been managed by Tanzanian Angel Vendeline Namshali for the two previous seasons and was the only camp of more than 120 in the Serengeti to have a female, Tanzanian manageress. She was passionate about employing and empowering more women and, inspired by her dedication, Asilia committed to creating an entirely female staffed camp. Asilia's ambition was to encourage women to take their rightful place in tourism and to promote gender equality. At its core Asilia is a positive impact company, with the primary objective of empowering crucial wilderness areas in East Africa, benefiting people and nature alike. By launching the first female staffed camp in Africa Asilia is helping Tanzanian women change societal norms, smash through glass ceilings and become role models in their communities, delighting our guests along the way.

RESULTS:

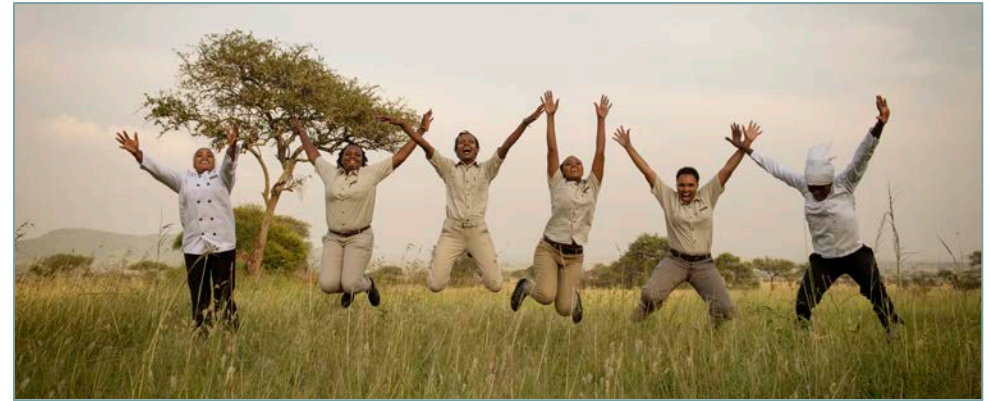
Today the camp employs 25 Tanzanian women from 19 different tribes. They perform almost every function in the camp; from management and guiding to the role of night watch(wo)men. Since opening we have had to employ two men in the roles of mechanic and maintenance man but there are high hopes that female apprentices will soon replace them. The camp proudly sits at #2 of 128 Speciality Lodgings in the Serengeti National Park and in February 2018 hosted a government symposium on the role of women in East Africa.

DESCRIPTION:

The most stand-out aspect of this project has been the growth and development of Angel Namshali. The key driver of the whole concept, she is a manager, a mentor and inspiration to her camp team. At home she is now seen as a role model in her community. She says, in her own words, " My community was very dismissive of my choice in the beginning. They're not laughing anymore; now my parents and my community look to me as a mirror and I am constantly asked to give advice to young girls."

VIDEO LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Svml6ExML8>

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ELEVATE DESTINATIONS

PROJECT TITLE: BUY A TRIP, GIVE A TRIP

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

The Buy a Trip, Give a Trip (B1G1) program democratizes tourism by dedicating a portion of profit from private FIT traveler trips towards funding culturally and environmentally significant day-trips for under-represented youths to touristic sites in their home countries. B1G1 not only allows youths what is frequently their first opportunity to travel to otherwise inaccessible sites, it also promotes cultural preservation by strengthening children's connection to their ancestral roots. Environmentally-minded trips help to cultivate environmentally aware young leaders that will act as advocates for conservation in the future. Our model empowers the most vulnerable members of local communities as a direct result of clients' travels, connecting the dots between tourism and impact in the destinations we work in Africa. B1G1 is operated in conjunction with local, grassroots nonprofit organizations and ground operators to ensure that the communities and youths' best interests and safety are always advocated for.

RESULTS:

Hundreds of vulnerable youths have been impacted by the Buy a Trip, Give a Trip program over the years. In 2017 alone, the program enabled youths in Kenya to engage in meaningful leadership training opportunities and achieving students in Darling, South Africa to visit Robben Island for the first time – finally gaining an opportunity to make their long-time studies of Nelson Mandela tangible. In addition to democratizing the transformational power of tourism in local communities, marketing content developed for B1G1 helps our US-based travelers gain a deeper appreciation for ethical and sustainable travel in Africa.



DESCRIPTION:

The Buy a Trip, Give a Trip model is inherently scalable. Our efforts to democratize tourism have impacted hundreds of youths; however, as more tour operators and tourism entities engage in this model our impact scales dramatically. In 2016, Responsible Travel joined forces with us to leverage our model and have since been able to run trips for over 1,000 youths. This year, leading sustainable travel publication, Travindy touted B1G1 as a transferable and saleable model for the democratization of tourism. Elevate Destinations' positive impact in democratizing tourism, cultural preservation, and environmental education has laid the groundwork for other tour operators to collectively expand our impact. To help facilitate thought-leadership and best practices for the B1G1 model, we launched the One for One Travel Alliance - a collective of tourism entities that share our mission in 2017.



SARUNI

PROJECT TITLE: SARUNI RHINO & BLACK RHINO TRACKING IN SERA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY IN NORTHERN KENYA

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Saruni is the tourism partner with Sera Community Conservancy, northern Kenya - running a small 3-unit camp, Saruni Rhino, on the community's behalf. Restored and revamped, the camp provides accommodation for guests participating in on-foot rhino tracking sessions in the nearby Rhino Sanctuary - 13 endangered black rhino roaming around a 54,000 hectares-large area. It is the FIRST ever community-owned & run conservation project in East Africa. Guests pay a daily conservation & tracking fee (the highest in Kenya!) paid back to the community providing them with significant tourism revenue which supports their rhino & other wildlife protection and social development. Lodge staff are hired locally from the community, having undergone training at nearby Saruni Samburu. As an established player in responsible tourism & community empowerment in Kenya, Saruni was a natural choice to put the Sera Community and its innovative Rhino Sanctuary on the international map. Incredible press and increasing visitor numbers means Sera and its growing population of rhino will play its part in rhino preservation for years to come.

RESULTS:

Only 12 months on, Saruni has added a family cottage (and an infinity pool) to meet the demand. Daily rhino tracking sessions have 100% sighting rates, in complete safety, with 6 rhino spotted 1 session the record. Increased job opportunities for the local community. International media coverage through marketing efforts; BBC, National Geographic, Financial Times, Forbes, The Telegraph & CNN have all featured Sera's ground-breaking conservation story. Overall proof of success has been the growing rhino population - 3 births since the rhino were translocated, with 2 more rumoured pregnancies. Happy rhino, happy guests, happy community.



DESCRIPTION:

Being part of a series of FIRSTS – FIRST black rhino back in northern Kenya after 30 years. FIRST time for a generation of Samburu to see black rhino in its natural habitat on their land. FIRST community-owned & run Rhino Sanctuary. FIRST time on-foot black rhino tracking experience available in Kenya. FIRST highest daily conservation fee in Kenya – that goes back to the community to its development & rhino and wildlife protection. FIRST choice of Sera Community of Saruni as its tourism partner – in the chance to make a difference. This is a success story that cannot be considered only as ‘our project’ – but a combined ‘partnership’ across committed partners – NRT (Northern Rangelands Trust, Sera Community Conservancy & Saruni. What better way of contributing to a unified Africa than to ensure some of its most precious citizens are saved from extinction!

VIDEO LINK: <http://www.sarunirhinotracking.com/en-gb/videos>



GROOTBOS FOUNDATION

PROJECT TITLE: MASAKHANE COMMUNITY FARM
1 FEBRUARY 2017

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

A staggering 97% of South African households experience anxiety and uncertainty about sufficient household food supply. The residents of Masakhane face these challenges and this was the impetus to create the Masakhane Community Farm hub. A household food production scheme serving to supplement households finances and nutrition was created and since inception has provided training to 91 women from the community. The centre has developed into a training and support hub addressing all sorts of frustrations and dialogue needs and has created a direct correlation between growing produce and this being used to supplement the household nutritional requirements and supplement the household income by selling on to other households.

RESULTS:

91 of the local community, largely women, have been through a Department of Agriculture endorsed urban agriculture training programme. 17 of these have gone through additional employability training and of these a number are being supported in the setup of their own home gardens. To the programme participants the link between growing produce and supplementing their households nutritional needs and income has been created. Recently an indigenous foods workshop was held with 55 participants to retain the importance of indigenous plants and it's uses in the community. The project is establishing itself as a hub for self-development and training.

DESCRIPTION:

A vibrant community hub addressing food security, training and household sustainability. This project truly is working to help change lives!

