

INNOVATION AWARDS 2019

DISCLAIMER

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

Conserve Africa

For those demonstrating outstanding leadership in the complex area of conservation, embarking on bold initiatives to protect Africa's natural resources

BORANA

Women as part of the security team on Borana Conservancy

DATE(S) STARTED

22 January 2019

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

The objective of employing ladies as part of Borana Conservancy's security team was to empower young women from various communities on the conservancy's boundaries. This will inspire local women and girls to take part in conservation, they patrol fence lines, act as gate keepers, and monitor radio communications. These women are now proving to be the voice of communities through their conservation work. They are taught new skills and as a result have become role models for girls living in remote places.

HOW THE PROJECT EMPOWERS THEIR COMMUNITY

By employing women as part of the security team on Borana Conservancy the immediate impact is female presence in an otherwise male-orientated work force. This creates opportunities which could be considered unobtainable for women living in small remote villages. Women's dependence on men is drastically reduced, with personal income generated rather than relying on fathers or husbands to pay for every day staples such as food and sanitary items.

Borana Conservancy's anti-poaching team is proud to report 100% local employment rate. This brings local communities to see value in live Rhinos and Rhino conservation in general. This is one of the core values of Borana Conservancy as a whole.



RESULTS?

A month after recruitment of female rangers the project has had a positive impact. The women are galvanized and happy to be in their new positions. With female gate-keepers Borana Conservancy is sending a unifying message to local communities as well as travelers who pass through Borana's public access roads. The women employed are seeing alleviated pressure when it comes to starting a family, allowing them to take charge of their reproductive destiny. Borana's security team is a dynamic and active workforce which is keen to take part in conservation.

THE MOST OUTSTANDING PART OF THE PROJECT

The women employed as part of Borana Conservancy's security team were recruited from nearby communities and are becoming the face of conservation within these communities. As a result of working on Borana Conservancy they are gaining first hand experience into working as part of a conservation team and hand in hand with nature. These female rangers will bring their experiences back to their children, parents and wider communities which will lead to a transfer of knowledge and the further engagement in conservation.



ECOTRAINING

Chinese EcoQuest

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DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED

Ran the first test in 2014 and have been escalated yearly

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

We wanted to find a better solution to the ongoing Rhino poaching and other conservation issues such as declines in pangolins, and felt that anti poaching isn't going to be the best route, although necessary now. We wanted to reach the Chinese market to train them in Africa, and to provide them with environmental consciousness and knowledge of the african continent.

We engaged and trained Chinese nationals in our camps as field guides and interpreters to assist us to create a new immersive, environmental educational safari that addresses the lack of knowledge and understanding for the need for biodiversity.

We started the product delivery in South Africa, and have now expanded it to Kenya as a way to increase numbers of participants and exposure to different habitats and biodiversity in Africa.

The initial trained guides, now the tour leaders manage a tour operator, that send clients on trips that are all environmentally educational (Our EcoQuest is a Ranger experience)

This assists anti -poaching efforts by tackling the problem from a user perspective and addresses the need to educate Chinese buyers about Rhino, and other threatened species.

We also reach a lot of school groups and future leaders of the communist party to change their perspective on global warming and the need to preserve Africa for future generations.



WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

We have a set course that we deliver ongoing (450 pax trained in South Africa and Kenya to date) that is escalating yearly.

We have 7 weeks booked out for these training courses in Kenya, and 7 weeks booked out for South Africa in 2019

The initial students that were trained now run an independent Tour Operation in China, focussing only on conservation, and environmental training trips (It's created a large movement in China, that we refer to as our Green Army)

EcoTraining has won the infinite nature discovery award in China

EcoTraining have participated in round table discussions as an invited guest of the Chinese government to advise on the Shanghai and Yangtze River greening project.

Last year November our MD also attended government round table talks to address the creation of stop over points/Islands being created in the Yangtze River to assist with and ensure birding migration routes stay intact as this impacts on Africa and the rest of the world.

THE MOST STAND OUT ASPECT OF THE PROJECT

Chinese participants in the form of a new immersive tourism product learn about environmental awareness, and the need to protect biodiversity.

They participate and contribute to conservation projects in Africa and take this knowledge home with them to impact on Mainland China that has been and identified culprit linked to ongoing conservation issues in Africa.

We had one Chinese government sponsored group that consisted of future leaders of the Chinese communist party that attended a week long environmental conservation safari with us. This will assist us in addressing the future in China and the way they impact on Africa

The initial Agency created to market our EcoQuest, has grown to a Tour operator and we are able to reach more people on China and impact outside the eastern China that was part of the initial approach.

HATARI

Heritage Foods Africa

DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED

1 February 2018

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Heritage Foods Africa is a social enterprise that aims to bring traditional, nutritiously healthy and environmentally clean foods back to the table that play a critical role in maintaining the biodiversity of the ecosystem and the health and wellbeing of its people.

Native to East Africa, the oysternut, or 'kweme' in Swahili, is our first and flagship food. A traditional food source that is nutritious, easy to grow, and protects the mountain forests. By working closely with smallholder farmers to create an invigorated market for traditional foods, we can help increase income and food security for farmers and their families, provide local consumers with healthier food options and protect vital natural resources and forests.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

Over the past year, we have closely investigated and tested the oysternut in order to discover its nutritional properties and culinary applications. In parallel we have mapped out the supply chain in range of Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro and discerned the positive side-effects for the local farming industry and the forest environment. The results are promising - we've introduced the oysternut into our menu and at other small-scale kitchens, while making preparations to build a processing facility.



THE MOST STAND OUT ASPECT OF THE PROJECT

The oysternut is not an undiscovered food product but an obscure one. Our neighbors in Northern Tanzanian have enjoyed 'kweme' as dietary staple for a time longer than memory, but it has not extended beyond the community because it is difficult to extract by-hand. Modern equipment creates new opportunities, and the wider world is becoming increasingly interested in traditional food options.

Additionally, the oysternut provides multi-dimensional benefits: it creates new income opportunities for farmers and supports forest biodiversity.



GREEN SAFARIS

Ila Safari Ecco Lodge

DATE(S) THE EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED

2017

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Green Safaris' philosophy has been to develop lodges in pristine, untouched wildlife areas in need of tourism to assist in their preservation. In particular Green Safaris' aim to operate the lodges within their portfolio in the most sustainable way.

Driven by their passion to preserve nature and to contribute towards an eco-friendly and unique safari experience, Green Safaris invested in a solar-powered boat and an electrically-powered vehicle, enabling guests to enjoy game-viewing in silence. Pushing the boundaries a little further, the 'green team' chose to build the lodge using sandbags to reduce its footprint as well as creating a plastic free environment. Furthermore, harnessing the sun's energy through solar-generated power and biogas exemplified another commitment to 'green thinking'.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

Green Safaris Properties are entirely solar powered with the use of a generator as a backup only. The eLandy has saved over 15,000 liters of diesel and the eBoat over 5,000.

Ila Safari Lodge's sandbag building required no energy consumption for burning bricks or producing cement.

Green Safaris year on year spends approximately 5-10% of our revenue on Conservation efforts.



THE MOST STAND OUT ASPECT OF THE PROJECT

Having built the entire lodge infrastructure using only sand bag building is most certainly our proudest aspect of the lodge. Built with zero use of steel and concrete, making our lodge construction incredibly eco-friendly.

To find out more about our projects visit:
www.greensafaris-foundation.com

ULTIMATE SAFARIS NAMIBIA

Wildlife Credits in// Haub Conservancy, Namibia

DATE(S) STARTED

March 2018

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

Wildlife Credits (wildlifecredits.com), a new joint initiative between NGO's, corporates, safari operators and Communal Conservancies in Namibia, is an innovative approach towards conservation financing. The scheme rewards communities for protecting wildlife and creates opportunities for smart conservation where wildlife thrives, and people prosper.

In //Haub Conservancy the income generated is a joint venture between the Conservancy, Safari Operator and other stakeholders that raise funds for wildlife and habitat for conservation performance payments. Performance is measured by independently verifiable monitoring and documenting wildlife sightings, breeding success of iconic species, as well as management and performance of land used by wildlife.



HOW THE PROJECT EMPOWERS THE COMMUNITY

One of the greatest challenges facing Africa is finding the balance between the integrity of wildlife populations and the land on which they roam and the rights of rural people who share this land. Access to water points and grazing, human encroachment on traditional wildlife migratory paths, the destruction of crops, and the enticement of quick money from poaching jeopardize the survival of Africa's iconic species. In Namibia, the community conservation programme has spearheaded the recovery of many wildlife species on communal land by focusing on rural farmers, who can benefit economically from wildlife and will then actively protect wildlife and its habitat.

Wildlife Credits takes this a step further by creating a direct incentive for communal conservancies to keep wildlife on the land by providing performance payments to communal conservancies who are successfully protecting and conserving wildlife and its habitat, thus empowering communities by putting monetary value on wildlife.

RESULTS?

To date Wildlife Credits have paid almost ZAR 200,000 for the //Huab Conservancy (where Ultimate Safaris has a joint venture tourism partnership) alone since its inception in 2018, for protecting and conserving wildlife and its habitat. Payments may be used for wildlife management and protection, household damage offset claims, wildlife monitoring and research, and ultimately improved the tolerance of wildlife on communal conservancies. In //Huab the Conservancy invested into VHF communication for game guards as well as the employment of a further five game guards and their associated costs, as well as replacement of wildlife damaged property.

THE MOST OUTSTANDING PART OF THE PROJECT

Wildlife Credits unlocks the value of wildlife and provides an important income stream for communal conservancies, which allows wildlife to pay for itself on communal lands. Creating additional direct incentives for communal conservancies to keep wildlife on the land in addition to the more traditional joint venture agreements and payments common in the eco-tourism industry is an immeasurable achievement, and one that will hopefully contribute towards the conservation of biodiversity in general on communal conservancies. In the //Huab Conservancy the investment of Wildlife Credit has directly further secured the populations of wildlife in the Conservancy.