



Umzi Wethu Training Academy

The Umzi Wethu programme is a comprehensive training and mentoring conservation initiative with guaranteed jobs in ecotourism, which benefit not only selected vulnerable orphaned youth, but their communities at large.

The Umzi Wethu programme was developed in Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape as a dynamic model for transforming youth that show resilience and ambition, but despair of any opportunity to support their households, into skilled and highly employable young adults with secure, well-paying ecotourism jobs. Called the 'Umzi Wethu Training Academy for Displaced Youth', this model was launched with a feasibility study that assessed the job qualification needs of Eastern Cape parks and game reserves. It involves partners from the conservation, social development, government, and academic sectors to craft a blueprint put into practice with the opening of the founding Umzi Wethu Academy in Port Elizabeth in April 2006 and the rural game ranger Academy in Somerset East in March 2008. Successes of the Umzi Wethu Program include four student intakes graduated during 2007/2008 with a fifth intake (Hospitality) having graduated in August 2009.

A total of 71 students have participated in the five intakes, 46 being hospitality students (63%) and 27 field ranging students (37%). Over **88%** of graduates have been successfully placed in hospitality and field ranger jobs on private game reserves and receiving salaries well above the average minimum wage, as well as benefits including housing.

At this stage the model is being refined with further partner recruitment taking place so that this can lead to the replication of Umzi Wethu across Southern Africa.

The Green Leaf Environmental Standard is an International Standard that measures environmental issues. The aim of the standard is to reduce the effects of consumption on our environment and improve upon environmental management and awareness in an eco friendly manner.
www.greenleafecostandard.net

SUSTAINING THE WILD COAST

The Wilderness Foundation recognises the essential role played by mining and other important developments of natural resources. We also insist that such activities be done in the right place, and in an environmentally and a culturally sustainable manner. The Wilderness Foundation stands with our sister organization the WILD Foundation (USA) and other prominent NGOs in the Sustaining the Wild Coast (SWC) initiative, and with local communities in the affected area, to ask that the South Africa government not allow mining in this area.

www.swc.org.za

The Wilderness Foundation Supports CAP!

CAP (Climate Action Partnership) is a select partnership of the major conservation organizations in South Africa who have a common vision of mitigating and adapting to climate change, a particular threat to the unique natural environment of South Africa.

<http://www.cap.org.za>

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Individuals and Organisations who wish to become a sponsor of Umzi Wethu, kindly contact:

South Africa: Andrew Muir, Executive Director, Wilderness Foundation South Africa, 11 Newington Road, Central 6006, Port Elizabeth. Tel: +27 (0)41 373 0293

United States: Julie Anton Dunn, U.S. Program Director, Wilderness Foundation, Tel: 703-864-7770, Julie@wild.org





Quality entry level outdoor experiences for previously disadvantaged youth to stimulate and inspire interest in the natural environment and conservation – providing opportunities for personal growth to encourage leadership development.

Imbewu

Imbewu is a project that takes 16-18 year-old young men and women from previously disadvantaged backgrounds on a remarkable educational experience in the wilderness.

The Imbewu programme was conceived by the Wilderness Foundation and has been in operation for the past 9 years in partnership with South African National Parks.

Since its inception Imbewu camps have been established in five national parks (Kruger, Imfolozi, Tsitsikamma, Namaqua and Addo National Parks), in five different provinces with over nine thousand youth leaders participating.



Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve

The Baviaanskloof Mega-reserve project is at an interesting stage with an active handover underway between the Wilderness Foundation Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Eastern Cape Parks Board (ECPB) as the management authority.

To read more about the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve project go to:
www.baviaanskloofmegareserve.co.za

BECOME A SUPPORTER OF THE WILDERNESS FOUNDATION!

To read more and fill out an application form:

www.wildernessfoundation.co.za/content.asp?PageID=248&menuid=345

Pride

Pride is an outdoor-based, experiential education programme which takes groups of 45 - 50 youth (from surrounding communities) on an educational one day trail. The trails are led by volunteer youth leaders, who are trained within the Pride Project.

Due to the success of the Table Mountain Pride Project, the Wilderness Foundation has duplicated the Pride project in the Durban and Groendal areas.

To date over fourteen thousand youth have been through this important programme (over 13,000 in Cape Town alone!) and approximately 60 youth leaders have also been trained and the experience that they have gained has greatly assisted them with work their opportunities.

Khula Nam

Khula Nam was initiated at the end of 1996 as a result of a partnership between MTO Forestry and the Wilderness Foundation.

Khula Nam is a Xhosa word, which means, "Grow with me" and symbolizes "growth" of environmental awareness and also ties in with MTO Forestry's motto - "Deeply rooted in the Future".

The trails form an entry-level environmental programme for primary school pupils in grade six and seven. A majority of the courses take place along the Garden Route section of our South East coastline. To date over nine thousand youth have participated in Khula Nam.

To find out more information about the **Wilderness Leadership School** (a sister organisation of the Wilderness Foundation) or book a trail go to:

<http://www.wildernesstrails.org.za/default.asp>

Without the support of our valuable sponsors, the above programmes of the Wilderness Foundation would not be possible.

THANK YOU

Individuals and Organisations, who wish to become a sponsor of any of the programmes listed above, kindly use the contact details listed below.

Wilderness Foundation, PO Box 12509, Centrahil, Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape, 6006
Tel: +27 (0)41 3730293, Fax: +27 (0)41 3741821, Email: info@sa.wild.org
<http://www.wildernessfoundation.org.za>