



# WORLD YOUTH **WILDLIFE** SUMMIT

21-24 September 2019



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**SUMMIT JOURNAL**

*Let our voices be heard*

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## WELCOME TO THE WORLD YOUTH WILDLIFE SUMMIT

### *Dear Wild Warriors, Chaperones and Regiment Leaders*

You have been selected to attend this auspicious gathering based on your passion for conservation, your inherent leadership qualities, your willingness to speak out against all forms of wildlife crime, and your potential to become valuable ambassadors for critically endangered species and habitats that are under serious threat of extinction in your lifetime.

You represent 16 nations, speak more than 12 different languages and the crisis facing the world’s wildlife and environment means something different to each of you. This Summit is a unique opportunity for you to forge cross-border and intercontinental friendships and join a global network of energetic, enthusiastic and engaged young people who can – and will – powerfully change the world in the years to come.

We encourage you to make the most of this unique opportunity: be willing to listen and learn from the Summit speakers, conservation experts, regiment leaders and your fellow delegates. Be willing to discuss and debate critical issues, but please respect the opinions of others.

Most of all – participate! Let your minds be active, your hearts open and allow yourself to *feel* the energy of the natural environment that surrounds and nurtures you.

This is your chance to ‘let your voices be heard’ and become an influential youth leader in the vital work of combatting wildlife crime, conserving endangered species and protecting the Earth’s threatened biodiversity.



***“We, the older generation, have done our bit.  
Now we pass the baton on to you – the youth.  
You need to make your voices heard...”***

**Dr Ian Player, World Youth Rhino Summit 2014**



# MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

## *A world-wide call to action by the youth against all forms of wildlife crime*



The **2019 World Youth Wildlife Summit** brings together 200 leading youth delegates and adult chaperones (teachers and community leaders) who have a passion for conservation, and provides them with the opportunity to learn about critical issues facing Africa's endangered species and the wildlife poaching crisis, and formulate resolutions on what is needed to stop the illegal global wildlife trade.

### **MISSION**

To engage youth leaders in wildlife conservation and protection strategies and to empower, educate and equip delegates to become ambassadors that influence policy and its implementation to reduce all forms of wildlife crime.

### **OBJECTIVES**

#### **1. To Empower...**

- Deepen the commitment to conservation amongst the youth, particularly for rhino and other iconic and endangered species.
- Enable youth delegates to build and maintain a sustainable future for wildlife and biodiversity.

#### **2. To Engage...**

- Connect concerned youth with political, traditional, business and conservation leaders.
- Connect stakeholders through collaborative global networks.
- Launch the 2019 World Youth Wildlife Declaration to be acknowledged by global bodies including the United Nations, IUCN and CITES.

#### **3. To Equip...**

- Provide toolkits, resources and support for youth delegates, teachers and community leaders to use in their classrooms and communities.
- Develop social media platforms and other youth-orientated networks for ongoing facilitation support and fundraising tools

#### **4. To Educate...**

- Tomorrow's leaders about the problems and issues around international wildlife crime, including an understanding of the social, economic and political impact.
- Youth leaders to expose their peers and younger children to educational and awareness campaigns.



### **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 a biodiversity economy.

**To Extend:** Knowledge of wildlife conservation, protection & anti-poaching initiatives.

## SETTING THE SCENE

Along with habitat destruction, the illegal wildlife trade, driven by criminal organisations, rebel militias and high consumer demand particularly in Asia, is contributing to the dramatic decline of wildlife species across the world.

The illegal wildlife trade is estimated at more than US\$20 billion every year – the fourth most ‘profitable’ transnational organised crime in the world after drugs, arms and human trafficking and it affects every level of society. Other criminal activities such as money laundering, corruption and fraud also go hand-in-hand with wildlife crime.

Wildlife crime affects rural livelihoods and negatively impacts on tourism revenue and job opportunities. Wildlife poaching also puts human lives at risk; it is estimated that over 1 000 park rangers have been killed in the line of duty over the past 10 years.

In the process, Africa’s iconic wildlife species are being decimated.

**Rhino:** Over 500 000 rhino once roamed sub-Saharan Africa but now less than 25 000 remain. The poaching onslaught of the 1970s and 1980s annihilated the rhino populations of Central and East Africa; the Serengeti’s rhino were reduced from 700 to just 10 in six years; in the great Zambezi River Valley all the rhinos are gone, as they are in West Africa. Last year, ‘Sudan’, the last surviving male Northern White Rhino in the world died, marking the end of yet another rhino species. Today, the Black Rhino is listed as critically endangered and the Southern White Rhino is bearing the brunt of the current poaching tsunami. In South Africa, over 9 000 have been slaughtered in the past 10 years – killed for their horns for use in traditional medicine or as a status symbol. Asia’s rhino populations are even more at risk with alarming population statistics: Greater One-Horned Rhino – 3 500; Sumatran Rhino – less than 80, and the Javan Rhino – just 69 left.

**Elephant:** In the 1800s, there were around 27 million elephants on the continent. Today, fewer than 415 000 remain. In East Africa, elephant populations have nearly halved in the past decade. Botswana is currently home to more elephants than any other African country and southern Africa remains a stronghold for 293 000 or 70% of the estimated remaining African elephants. Elephants play a vital role in Africa’s ecosystems and their demise would adversely affect scores of other indigenous animal, insect and plant species. The two primary factors behind the decline of African elephants – demand for ivory and changes in land-use – pose a serious threat to their survival, with an estimated 20 000 African elephants killed every year.

**Pangolin:** A pangolin is snatched from the wild every five minutes and is the most trafficked mammal in the world. In 2014, an estimated two million African pangolins were confiscated from Asian ports – many experts believe this represents only a small portion of its illegal trade. They are poached for their meat, which is seen as a delicacy and their scales, which are used in traditional Asian medicines.

**Lion:** The ‘King of the Beasts’ has disappeared from 94% of its historic range. The second largest feline predator in the world after the tiger, lions are now extinct in 26 African countries and only occur in the south Sahara Desert and in parts of southern and eastern Africa. Today, due largely in part to habitat destruction, human-wildlife conflict and the despicable lion bone trade, less than 25 000 lions remain in Africa. Asiatic lions are in an even more perilous position as human encroachment has reduced their habitat; a 2015 census counted just 523 lions in the Gir Forest National Park of India.



Wildlife criminals also target countless other species including cheetah, giraffe, hippo, vultures, wildebeest, leopard, tiger, crocodile, chimpanzees, gorillas, amphibians, birds and marine mammals – to name a few. A paper recently published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature states that **more than one million** species are facing extinction.

**It’s time for Africa’s wildlife to be recognized as more valuable alive than dead.** According to the latest study by the World Travel & Tourism Council, global wildlife tourism generates **five times more** revenue than the illegal wildlife trade annually and in 2018, it directly contributed US\$120 billion to global GDP. In Africa, 3.6 million people are employed in the wildlife economy, which generates 40% more full-time jobs than the same investment in agriculture. It has twice the job creation power of the automotive, telecommunications and financial industries. It also provides more job opportunities for women compared to other sectors.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUMMIT DIRECTOR

This 2019 World Youth Wildlife Summit is a continuation of two previous World Youth Rhino Summits held in 2014 and 2015 in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, which launched the inaugural World Youth Wildlife Declaration.

These platforms clearly showcased the deep empathy, rage and passion of young people wanting to conserve the world's rhinos and other endangered wildlife species, and their desire to play a valued role in ending the illegal trade in wildlife – for good. (See 'Background' for more information.)

This third Summit maintains a focus on the rhino as an iconic species, but also broadens its emphasis to include other targeted African animals, such as elephant, pangolin and lion.

This year, the Summit is hosted by the Southern African Wildlife College, bordering the 19,633 km<sup>2</sup> Kruger National Park, South Africa's most recognised game reserve. The Park is home to the Big Five, cheetah and wild dog, but its size and proximity to the Mozambique border has made it a target for poachers, including elephant, and in particular, rhino.

The youth delegates, coming from across southern and pan-Africa, the UK, Europe and Asia, have been chosen based on their will to demonstrate activism and community engagement, either in their school or in their communities. A significant number of the delegates come from communities bordering southern Africa's game reserves, including areas that lie within known poaching hotspots surrounding Kruger National Park.

The extensive four-day programme includes several hours of discussion and debate sessions regarding the responsible use of wildlife resources, the biodiversity economy, strategies for demand reduction, the link between poverty and poaching, habitat loss and the role of education and awareness. Numerous conservation experts will be on hand during this time to impart knowledge and answer questions.

The youth delegates will be empowered to become local, national and international ambassadors for wildlife conservation. It is our aim to equip them and their Chaperones (teachers and community leaders) with the knowledge and tools to do presentations at their schools and host, in partnership with local conservation organisations, 'mini-Summits' in their communities following this 2019 World Youth Wildlife Summit.

The Project Rhino organisers will remain connected to the Summit delegates and partners in the months and years to come, to develop a process of engagement with all parties in their unique locations – the aim being to build an expanding network of active youth who play an increasingly important role in protecting and conserving the world's endangered species and biodiversity.

It is our aim to host a World Youth Wildlife Summit every two years from now on, to ensure ongoing engagement with the youth generation to tackle the scourge of wildlife crime, particularly here in Africa, through the establishment of resilient and economically beneficiated communities who develop and maintain landscapes that have sustainable social, economic and environmental integrity.

We trust you will enjoy the four-day programme and emerge energised and motivated, with the knowledge and tools you need to play an active role as an inspirational Youth Wildlife Ambassador in your schools and communities in the years to come.

**Siyabathanda iMvelo Siyabathanda!**



**FRANCOIS DU TOIT**

**DIRECTOR: 2019 WORLD YOUTH WILDLIFE SUMMIT**



# WORLD YOUTH WILDLIFE SUMMIT PROGRAMME

## 1. Arrival and Welcome

Delegates and Chaperones arrive at the Southern African Wildlife College bordering the Kruger National Park. After registration, they are shown to their bush-tent accommodation.

## 2. Regiments

Youth delegates are assigned to a regiment named after an African wild animal and meet their Regiment Leaders and counterparts from around the world.

## 3. Opening Ceremony and Tribute of Silence

A powerful opening ceremony, followed by a silent Wildlife March and the building of a traditional *Isivivane* in tribute to Africa's fallen Rangers and Wildlife, culminating in the opening Keynote Address by Dr William Fowlds.

## 4. Indabas

Lead by Isabel Gillespie-Wolf from Earth Awareness, four *Indaba* sessions will encourage and equip delegates to become informed Wildlife Ambassadors and provide them with the tools and knowledge needed for use in their communities.

- **Indaba 1 – Setting the Scene:** Wildlife Crime and the Summit in context.
- **Indaba 2– Debating the Issues:** lively discussions around 5 Critical Issues that will culminate in Resolutions written by the delegates for presentation in the Closing Ceremony. (See 'Critical Issues' for more detail.)
- **Indaba 3 – Voices of Protest:** delegates creatively showcase their voices of protest through drama, dance, poetry, art and other forms of creative expression.
- **Indaba 4 – Formulating Key Questions:** this final Indaba summarises all the discussions of the Summit and formulates key questions for Regiments to pose to the Wildlife Council in the Closing Ceremony.

## 5. Chaperone Programme

Whilst youth delegates are engaged in the *Indabas*, the Chaperones (educators and community leaders) will have their own Master Class in 'Effective Communication for Conservation' developed by Dr Judy Mann.

## 6. Guest Speakers

A range of conservation experts from across Africa and Asia will engage and inspire youth delegates and Chaperones on a variety of topics, ranging from key species presentations and personal stories of life on the frontline of the wildlife poaching crisis. (See 'Meet the Speakers' for more information).

## 7. Wildlife Experiences & Meeting the Heroes

These include a powerful, simulated anti-poaching demonstration by the Kruger National Park's security team with aerial and K9 dog unit action, interacting with APU rangers and the all-women Black Mambas anti-poaching unit, a tour of an endangered species' centre and a guided game drive through the Kruger National Park.

## 8. Evening Activities

These include a Tribal Council & Culture evening of traditional song and dance, a Talking Stick campfire evening hosted by the celebrated African explorer Kingsley Holgate, and screening of the award-winning wildlife documentary, 'Stroop – journey into the Rhino War'.

## 9. Closing Ceremony and Wildlife Council

The Summit ends with the Rite of Passage, presentation of the delegates' Resolutions and a lively Q&A with the Wildlife Council, before a rousing Closing Ceremony that includes the unveiling the 2019 World Youth Wildlife Declaration.



## 5 CRITICAL ISSUES

During the *Indabas*, delegates will deeply engage with and debate the following Critical Issues in both small-group and plenary discussions with conservation experts. They will also reflect on their own personal responses to thought-provoking questions around each Critical Issue, which are designed to challenge their existing opinions and emotions, leading to better-informed decision-making and personal actions in the future.

1. **Responsible Use of Wildlife Resources:** Benefits, responsibility and sustainability in trade, ecotourism, community enterprise and hunting.
2. **Culture and Society:** Strategies for demand reduction.
3. **The Human Tragedy:** The link between poverty and poaching, rangers on the thin green line.
4. **Habitat Loss:** Strategies to build protected areas.
5. **Wildlife Education and Awareness:** Opportunities, tools, personal initiatives, networking and social media

## WORLD YOUTH WILDLIFE DECLARATION

The 2019 World Youth Wildlife Declaration is an immediate outcome of this year's World Youth Wildlife Summit and will be signed by all delegates, chaperones, guest speakers, conservation experts and special guests. Beautifully hand-made in leather and canvas by Melvill & Moon, it is a powerful statement by the world's youth calling for action against all forms of wildlife crime.

In the coming months, the World Youth Wildlife Declaration will travel the world collecting more supportive messages and signatures, to further the Summit's aim of building a global youth movement against the illegal trade and decimation of our wildlife and wild spaces.



### THE DECLARATION

*“We, representing the Youth of the World, gathered at the Southern African Wildlife College in the iconic Greater Kruger National Park from the 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as a call to action against all forms of poaching and wildlife crime.*

*This Declaration is a continuation of the 600 000 ‘hearts and minds’ messages already composed by young people participating in the international Rhino Art Education Campaign and the thousands of messages contained in the 2014 World Youth Wildlife Declaration.*

*We, the Youth, are deeply disturbed by the worsening wildlife crime crisis, the exploitation of our natural heritage by organised criminal syndicates, and the subversion of our communities – all fed by human greed and deep-rooted corruption.*

*We demand that our voices be heard!*

*We do not want to be the generation that tell our grandchildren that we did nothing about it, and we call upon global leaders to join us in bringing the illegal trade in wildlife to an end.”*

# MEET THE SPEAKERS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### **DR WILLIAM FOWLDS (South Africa)**

Dr William Fowlds is a qualified wildlife vet who dedicates his life to championing the plight of the rhino through his veterinary and awareness initiatives. He has truly gone above and beyond for the issues he passionately believes in.

Dr Fowlds started conveying the brutality of wildlife crime in 2011, when he was first called to the aid of a rhino butchered by poachers. Amongst others, his team then documented a poaching attack on three rhinos at the Kariega game reserve in the Eastern Cape in March 2012. Two died and Dr Fowlds narrated the story of the slow rehabilitation of the single remaining rhino that survived the attack, as a means of raising awareness around anti-poaching and the illegal rhino horn trade. These emotional accounts from Dr Fowlds prompted media from around the world to convey the tragedy befalling the magnificent rhino.

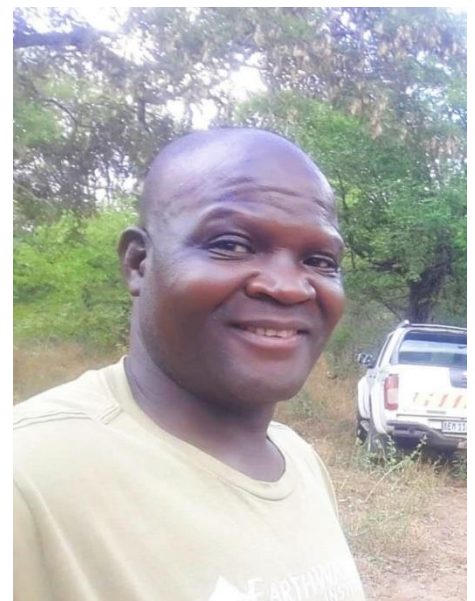
Apart from his veterinary wildlife work, he co-founded Investec Rhino Lifeline in 2013. He is project coordinator for Wilderness Foundation Africa on the Medivet Saving the Rhino campaign, which has enabled him to increase his work in rescue, education and awareness and prevention of poaching at both protection and demand reduction sides of the crisis. He is a trustee of the Chipembere Rhino Foundation and the African Rhino Conservation Collaboration and strives to encourage a multi-faceted approach to the rhino crisis through increased collaboration and cohesion.

He is based in the Eastern Cape and lives on Amakhala Game Reserve, which he co-founded with several neighbouring families 20 years ago. He believes in the power of the youth as the ultimate solution to global environmental issues. “These issues can be overcome if humanity realises what lies ahead if we fail.”

### **ERIC NKHANGWELENI MADAMALALA (South Africa/Mozambique)**

Eric Nkhangweleni Madamalala is the Operations Manager at Parque Nacional do Limpopo, Mozambique, part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Aside from extensive experience in Protected Areas, Wildlife and Biodiversity Management, Eric’s expertise lies in conservation-based Community and Tourism Development. A major focus of his work involves building relations with communities bordering the Park, improving their lives and addressing human-wildlife conflict. He also manages the Park’s tourism development.

Eric has a long history with the North-West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPTB) – first as the Borakalalo National Park Manager, then as a Regional Manager and finally as Protected Areas Manager, responsible for maintaining a network of formally protected areas in the province, which contribute to socio-economic development through biodiversity conservation. One of Eric’s key achievements was spearheading the establishment of the NWPTB Anti-Poaching Unit in 2010. Eric is also an active member of the Game Rangers Association of Africa, where he sits on the Africa Committee.







## MARIA DIEKMANN (USA/Namibia)

Maria Diekmann is the Founder and Director of REST (Rare and Endangered Species Trust), established in Namibia in 2000. REST chose to focus on the 'Forgotten 5' species, which includes Africa's most trafficked animal, the pangolin, and the Cape Griffon Vulture, in an effort to focus on wildlife that do not often get the attention needed by the media. The three other species are Dwarf Pythons, Spotted Rubber Frogs, and Damara Dik Dik.

Maria has published numerous scientific papers on vultures & will soon do the same using data collected on pangolins. Maria has a very hands-on approach to the work she does, with the conservation of the species at REST taking priority above all else - she has truly found her passion.

## DR JOHAN MARAIS (South Africa)

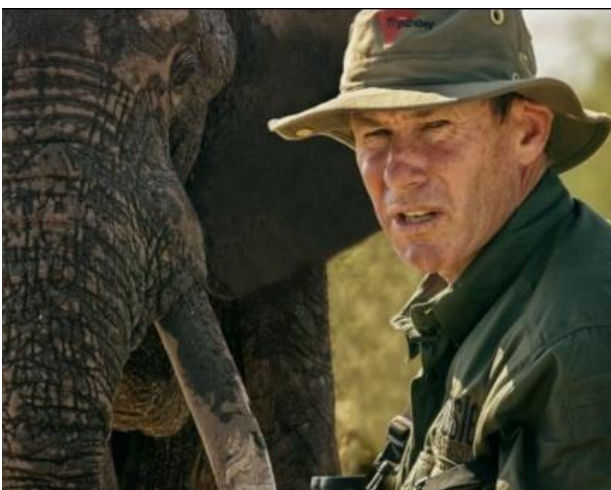
Dr Johan Marais is CEO of Saving the Survivors and Director of Leading Edge Conservation. He is also an author, photographer, veterinarian and equine and wildlife surgeon.

Saving the Survivors was founded in 2012, born out of an urgent need for information and veterinary treatment of rhino poaching victims. Johan pioneered the treatment of facial injuries ranging from slight to severe, where the horns had been brutally hacked off. He and his team continue to treat 30 to 50 rhino each year.

Johan is currently doing research on the maxillofacial anatomy and the anatomy of the limbs of White Rhino. This information is vital in rhino poaching cases where the horns have been removed, leaving the paranasal sinuses exposed and infected, as well as for the many rhino that sustain limb fractures from gunshots. Johan has also performed some world firsts in the field of wildlife surgery, all with successful outcomes.



## IVAN CARTER (Zimbabwe)



Growing up in Zimbabwe, and after 30 years of guiding safaris all over Africa as well as hosting the TV show Carter's W.A.R., Ivan has seen first-hand the complex layers of Africa's human-wildlife conflict, including the rampant poaching of elephants and rhinos. Not only has he witnessed the serious decline in animal numbers and fast diminishing habitat, but he has also come to understand the complex political, cultural and human development issues that go with it.

Despite this, Ivan has come to know many true conservation heroes who inspire him in his work of giving people the tools, financial support and the training they need to truly thrive in their conservation missions. He has a passion for working with the youth and seeing the world through the eyes of his own children, is inspired to do his best to preserve it.

## YOUTH SPEAKERS



### **NADAV OSSEENDRYVER (South Africa)**

Nadav (23) is a previous 2014 and 2015 Summit delegate and is currently studying a BComm part-time at the University of the Witwatersrand. He's had a passion for wildlife since very young and at the age of 15, developed the award-winning website [www.latestsightings.com](http://www.latestsightings.com) for real-time wildlife sightings in the Kruger National Park, which reaches over 700 000 people online every day.

Nadav has won numerous awards, including the 2014 Nelson Mandela Youth Leadership Award and is listed on Forbes Africa's '30 Under 30' list.

He is a regular guest on TV and radio and continues to build social media communities for people who are just as addicted to wildlife as he is. In 2018, Nadav received the YouTube Gold Play Button for hitting one million subscribers on his Kruger Sightings channel.

### **HUNTER MITCHELL (South Africa)**

12-year-old Hunter Mitchell proves that you're never too young to make a difference. On New Year's Eve in 2015 when he was just 8 years old, Hunter heard about an orphaned baby rhino that had been rescued in the middle of the night in a game reserve in the Western Cape. Knowing that every rhino life counts and each one needs every chance to survive, Hunter decided to donate his pocket money. He then started an international campaign 'Raise the Baby Rhino with Hunter'.



Hunter's involvement has grown beyond fundraising to creating awareness about the plight of the rhino, inspiring his peers around the world to use their voices for change. It's not unusual to find Hunter in front of his computer at 4am talking to a classroom of children as far away as Japan or organising an event to fundraise for rhino conservation. Hunter has raised over R250 000 so far! Hunter's work has been acknowledged through numerous South African and international awards and he's grateful for these additional opportunities for the voices of our rhino to be heard.

## CONSERVATION EXPERTS



### **Black Mambas Anti-Poaching Unit, South Africa**

The Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit is a mostly female ranger unit founded in 2013 with the purpose of protecting wildlife in South Africa, mainly in the regions of the Balule Nature Reserve and the Greater Kruger National Park. The Black Mamba APU was awarded the Champions of the Earth Award in 2015 by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).



### **BUPE BANDA - National Community Resources Board Association, Zambia**

Bupe is the National Administrator of the Zambia National Community Resources Boards Association and strongly believes that for conservation to be meaningful, it should benefit all parties involved. She has extensive experience and has been working with communities to strengthen community governance structures for wildlife and natural resources management on communal lands in Zambia's Game Management Areas (GMAs) since 2015. Bupe is currently coordinating over 76 Community Resources Boards, building a strong and legitimate community voice on issues of conservation, ownership and management of natural resources in the GMAs. She is also one of the officially appointed Task Force members that are currently developing a national CBNRM policy for Zambia.





### **CHRIS GALLIERS – Project Rhino Coordinator, South Africa**

Chris has been working in conservation for 15 years and his experience includes reserve and wildlife management, large mammal translocation, eco-tourism, developing wildlife economies, and working on environmental governance issues and environmental education. Chris has been deeply involved in the prevention of rhino poaching since

2010 and is currently the coordinator of Project Rhino. He is a past-Chairman of the Game Rangers Association of Africa and is the Africa Representative for the International Ranger Federation (IRF), and a Director of the Thin Green Line Foundation. Chris currently works for Conservation Outcomes, a non-profit organisation created to provide support to land that is being developed for biodiversity and conservation, outside of State protected areas.



### **CRAIG SPENCER – Founder, Black Mambas APU, South Africa**

Craig is the Ecological Advisor at Balule Nature Reserve, Warden of Olifants West Nature Reserve and Executive Director of Transfrontier Africa (NPC). He is also the Director of Wild Animal Tracking Solutions and the Founder and Manager of the Black Mambas (All Women) Anti- Poaching Unit. For the last few years, Craig has focussed on strengthening partnerships with the adjacent tribal communities and seeking new technologies and partnerships to solve the illegal wildlife trade.



### **DON ENGLISH – SANParks, Kruger National Park, South Africa**

Don is a second-generation Game Ranger, born and raised in the Kruger National Park. With 33 years’ experience, he is currently the Regional Ranger for the Marula South Region of the Park, also known as the Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) – an area that receives hi-tech, anti-poaching protection.



### **GILBERT MWALE - National Community Resources Board Association, Zambia**

Gilbert is a Secretariat member of the Zambia National Community Resources Board Association and is passionate about the conservation of natural resources. He has a personal goal of improving the livelihoods of rural communities living in game management areas of Zambia.



### **ISHMAEL MAKWAEBWA – SANParks, South Africa**

Ishmael is the Socio-Economic Development & Environmental Education Manager at South African National Parks, supporting parks across the country, including Kruger. His role includes managing Bioprospecting and Environmental Education and Awareness programmes. He has been working in Conservation Awareness since 1991, starting at the then Bophuthatswana National Parks.



### **JANET FRANGS – Wilderness Guide, South Africa**

Janet is a freelance Wilderness Guide, who engages in a range of activities that help remind people of their connection to nature. She takes young people into some of the last wild places left in South Africa so that they can experience the magic and power of mother nature at her best, opening hearts and minds to a new way of living and instilling a sense of respect for the wilderness and all creatures that roam within it.





**JOHAN VAN STRAATEN – Dog Master, Southern African Wildlife College K9 Unit, South Africa**

Johan is the head of the SAWC’s K9 Unit, which was started in November 2015. It consists of 50 dogs and five trainer/handlers. They developed the high-speed tracking programme and train line tracker dogs, detection dogs and apprehension dogs. Since February 2018, the K9 unit has arrested 131 poachers and removed 54 firearms.



**JULIN BORUAH – President, Nature Care & Tourism Education Foundation, India**

A passionate wildlife activist in India, Julin represented the Assam region on India’s One Horned Rhino Conservation Awareness Programme. He has been actively working to promote wildlife tourism and cultural exchange among fellow Indians for many years and his Nature Care And Tourism Education Foundation acts as catalyst to connect the wildlife-rich Assam province with the wider Indian tourism sector. Julin received widespread government and media recognition for his 2018 All-India Save The Rhino Campaign – a solo motorcycle journey of 28 000 kilometers across 29 states in 231 days, highlighting the achievements in preserving the endangered One Horned Rhino of Assam.



**MARLICE VAN VUUREN – Co-Founder, N/a'an ku sê Foundation, Namibia**

Marlice is one of Namibia's most well-known conservationists and has dedicated her life to the rehabilitation of wildlife impacted by human activity, as well as the conservation of Namibia's dwindling San culture. The non-profit N/a'an ku sê Foundation is committed to the preservation of Namibia's wildlife, landscapes and cultures, with a focus on mitigating human-wildlife conflict.



**MICHELE HENLEY – Director, Elephants Alive, South Africa**

After obtaining a PhD in Ecology, Michelle became Director of the Elephants Alive non-governmental organisation. She has studied elephants for more than 20 years and owes her passion and dedication to them, for all they have taught her along the way.



**MUSA MBATHA – Reserve Manager, Babanango Game Reserve, South Africa**

Musa has been in the conservation industry for 20 years, starting at Leopard Rock in 1999 and moving to Phinda Private Game Reserve where he was Assistant Reserve Manager from 2011 to 2018. Musa is now the Reserve Manager of the newly established Babanango Game Reserve and is highly respected for his deep knowledge of sustainable community-conservation practices.



**NOMSA MABILA – Technical Officer Lubombo TFCA, Eswatini**

Nomsa is a community development practitioner with more than 15 years’ experience working with communities, promoting community conservation and ecotourism opportunities by applying a sustainable livelihoods approach to poverty alleviation.



### **NUNU JOBE – Director, Isibindi Africa Trails, South Africa**

Charismatic and outspoken, Nunu is widely known as the ‘Barefoot Ranger’. A former bushmeat poacher but now a passionate and experienced game ranger, Nunu leads walking trails and youth outreach initiatives in Hluhluwe-IMfolozi Park for Isibindi Africa, to showcase the beauty of the wilderness and the vital importance of conservation to visitors and surrounding communities.



### **PALLOMA PACHITI-MUTEMI - Pan African Conservation Education (PACE), Zimbabwe**

Run in partnership between Tusk and Siren Conservation Education, the Pan African Conservation Education project (PACE) is all about sharing simple ideas to make big changes. Palloma is the PACE Champion for Zimbabwe and Director of Sebakwe Conservation & Education Centre. She is a passionate Environmental Educator with over 15 years’ experience working with rural communities and schools on environmental conservation.



### **SBONISO PHAKATHI – Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC), South Africa**

Sboniso is Project leader for the SAWC Community Department’s Rural Initiatives for a Sustainable Environment Unit (RISE). The Unit’s work focusses on rural community-conservation initiatives, with project sites in Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, and Mozambique. His passion for the natural environment, community development and conservation is rooted in his curiosity about people, especially regarding environmental and developmental psychology.



### **SETH MAPHALALA – Lubombo TFCA Programme Manager, Eswatini**

Seth Maphalala has over 15 years of experience in biodiversity management and planning, having started as a Biodiversity Programme Officer. He is also an environmental educator and community trainer and consults at national and international level on a range of environmental issues including ecology, environmental impact assessment, disaster management and biosafety.



### **SIBUSISO VILANE - Motivational Speaker & Mountaineer**

Sibusiso is an ex-game ranger turned adventurer, mountaineer, motivational speaker and a self-professed conservationist. He has climbed Mount Everest and summited twice. He is a popular motivational speaker who is passionate about inspiring the youth to face their own challenges in life.



### **SNOTHILE GAMA – Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, South Africa**

Snothile is an Environmental Education and Community Conservation Officer, implementing conservation education and awareness programmes in schools and communities surrounding Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park, KwaZulu-Natal. She also assists with the roll-out of Ezemvelo’s community projects. She is passionate about sharing her passion with the youth regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and the importance of conserving nature.



**SOLLY THEMBA – SANParks – Kruger National Park, South Africa**

Solly began his work at Kruger National Park as a Social Ecologist in 1996. Now, he works in the People and Conservation Department and is the Community Facilitator for the area. His work includes building community constituency and driving socio-economic development through corporate leadership. He is responsible for community-based conservation initiatives, community economic development and empowerment, and corporate social investment.



**VUSI TSHABALALA – SANParks Project Manager & Rfm Radio Presenter, South Africa**

When he’s not behind the camera or producing nature documentaries, Vusi can be found at the Rfm radio station, presenting on tourism matters. He is also the SANParks project manager for environmental monitoring at the Kruger2Canyons Biosphere in Hoedspruit. Vusi serves as national Chairperson for the People & Parks Youth Forum and has recently been selected to represent South Africa at the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. He is passionate about community development, working with youth, helping with career development and solving problems.



**YVETTE TAYLOR – Executive Director, Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization, South Africa**

The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organisation seeks to reverse the dwindling spiral of the plant and animal kingdoms through education and action. Under Yvette’s direction there are now 13 international offices. Yvette has created numerous environmental educational campaigns, reaching tens of thousands of children and adults. She is also a Trustee for the Centre for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), Chairperson of Happy Earth PMB and is a member of Project Rhino KZN. She has raised over R9 million for rhino protection and the creation of a rhino orphanage in Zululand.

**YOUR YOUTH WILDLIFE SUMMIT COMMUNITY**



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African Conservation Trust	@ACTsafrica	@africanconservationtrust
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Rhino Art – Let Our Children’s Voices Be Heard	NA	NA
Southern African Wildlife College	@SAWCtweet	@wildlifecollege



# BACKGROUND TO THE WILDLIFE YOUTH SUMMITS

## 'RHINO ART' CONSERVATION EDUCATION

In early 2013, as rhino poaching in South Africa reached crisis levels and with the realisation that less than 2% of South Africa's youth had seen a rhino in the wild, the Kingsley Holgate Foundation joined forces with Project Rhino for the Land Rover-supported Izintaba Zobombo Expedition.

This expedition to track the ancient Lubombo Mountain Range travelled the length of the Kruger National Park and neighbouring private reserves, across the fence line into the 'Rhino War Zone' of Mozambique and Parc Naçional do Limpopo, and south through the nature reserves of Swaziland and northern KwaZulu-Natal, visiting hundreds of schools to talk to children about the rhino poaching crisis. This region holds the largest concentration of wild rhinos left in the world.

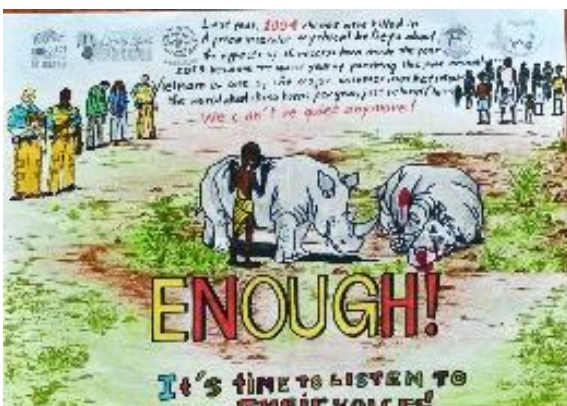


And so began '*Rhino Art – Let the Children's Voices Be Heard*'- the most comprehensive school-orientated rhino education campaign ever carried out in South Africa, which uses art and conservation-themed soccer matches to not just educate children on the impact of the rhino poaching crisis, but importantly, hears their voices and records their thoughts and opinions.

Now, six years later, it has reached over 600 000 young people in South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique and other key rhino regions in Africa, including Zakouma National Park in Chad, as well as Vietnam, Malaysia and Nepal. Hundreds of schools and youth organisations continue to take part in this conservation education initiative every year and because of it, many schools have now initiated their own in-school activities, to deepen and widen their pupils' understanding of not just rhinos, but conservation and wildlife crime in general.

The programme has now extended to educating youth about the scourge of elephant poaching; driven by community-based volunteers, the Elephant Art campaign is now active in Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Tanzania.

Rhino Art is not a colouring-in competition; it is a lesson-on-a-page that not only teaches, but also listens to and records the perspectives of the youth. Their heartfelt messages showcase their clear awareness of the devastating impact rhino poaching is having on tourism, jobs, the economy and the involvement of criminal syndicates in the illegal wildlife trade, as well as their perspectives on the need to protect biodiversity and conserve all iconic wildlife species as part of their national heritage. The programme is also an excellent way for game reserves to build better relations with their neighbouring communities.



In September 2014, the Rhino Art conservation education programme initiated the inaugural World Youth Rhino Summit. At his last public appearance, renowned rhino conservationist Dr Ian Player addressed the hundreds of youth delegates from all over the world and leading conservation experts with these words: '*If we do not hand the baton of conservation over to the youth, we are doomed*'.

## WORLD YOUTH RHINO SUMMIT 2014

The inaugural 2014 World Youth Rhino Summit brought together 140 delegates from 20 countries, including Vietnam, USA, UK and New Zealand, to discuss solutions to the rhino poaching crisis. The three-day summit was held at KwaZulu-Natal's iconic Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, internationally known as the 'home' of the Southern White Rhino, where it was saved from extinction 100 years ago.

The programme included probing discussions, interactive and robust dialogue, an anti-poaching demonstration and informational presentations by renowned conservation figures such as: Dr Paula Kahumbu (multi award winning Kenyan wildlife conservationist and CEO of WildlifeDirect), the late Dr Ian Player (world renowned rhino conservationist), Dr William Fowlds (world renowned wildlife rehabilitation vet), Kingsley Holgate (celebrity explorer and humanitarian) and Ted Reilly (Swaziland – CEO of Big Game Parks).

Guest video messages were also given by Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, and Dame Jane Goodall, considered the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees.



## WINTER SUMMIT 2015

A second Winter Summit was held in July 2015, on the banks of the Tugela River, and brought together over 70 youth leaders from 25 schools.

Speakers included Dr William Fowlds, Dr Leonardo Simão (Joaquim Chissano Foundation, Mozambique), the late Nigel Morgan (Focus Africa Foundation), Chris Laubscher (Conservationist & local politician), David Bozas (Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization), Julia Murray (14-year-old fundraiser and activist) and the late Digs Pascoe (founder of Space For Elephants).



### Significant outcomes of these two Summits were:

- A delegation of Summit participants invited to attend the WildFest Film Festival in Vietnam and give presentations on the rhino poaching crisis in Africa to Vietnamese schools, universities and youth organisations.
- The online 'Rhino Shout Out' campaign that was spearheaded by the Summit delegates;
- The powerful World Rhino Day 'Let Our Voices Be Heard' video that garnered an interational following;
- Thousands of endorsements of the World Youth Wildlife Declaration, which included messages of support from Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, the Scouts Association and international conservation experts in the USA, Canada and the UK.





# 2019 ORGANISING PARTNERS & SUMMIT HOSTS

## PROJECT RHINO [www.projectrhinokzn.org](http://www.projectrhinokzn.org)



Founded on World Rhino Day, 22 September 2011, Project Rhino is a unique collaboration that brings together several recognised conservation organisations, game reserves and anti-poaching security specialists in a common aim of securing our black and white rhino populations.

Project Rhino supports more than 30 private and state reserves, who are collectively responsible for the second-largest rhino population on the continent, and the most genetically diverse white rhino population. They are also home to key species such as elephant, lion, giraffe and leopard.

Unfortunately, these reserves are under sustained and increasing attack from poaching syndicates, linked to well-funded international criminal organisations. More than 5,500 rhino have been poached in South Africa in the last 5 years, equating to almost one rhino every 8 hours.

Poaching methods are always changing and so counter-poaching interventions need to be adapted, improved and implemented. Project Rhino members recognise that the work in conserving and protecting rhinos from the threat of poaching is symbolic of the broader threat faced by **all** wildlife.

### Main Projects and Activities

#### 1. Project Management Unit

Keeps the projects going; develops new networks and maintains existing ones - includes the actual staff on the ground, tax and insurance commitments, fundraising and financial administration.

#### 2. Ranger and Reserve Support

The Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing (ZAP-Wing), Canine and Equine Units conduct daily aerial and foot patrols, assist rangers and anti-poaching units in pursuit of poaching gangs, investigate suspicious vehicles, notify game reserves of unusual activities around their boundaries and help to locate missing rhinos in difficult terrain. Project Rhino supports rangers with essential equipment and training to ensure their skills are up to the highest level possible to counter the threat of wildlife crime and assists with dehorning of rhino as a temporary, but urgent, means of protection.

#### 3. Education, Awareness and Engagement

The Rhino Art, "Let our children's voices be heard" project and World Youth Wildlife Summits aid in increasing conservation awareness amongst the youth and cultivating a next generation of conservation leaders. Youth camps, reserve visits and engagement with traditional leaders, provide a unique opportunity for community members to visit a game reserve and develop appreciation and awareness.

#### 4. Wildlife Economy Development

Meeting basic food and water security needs, building stronger relationships, advancing skills and income opportunities within the biodiversity and wildlife economy for community members.



**MONITORING.PROTECTING.CONSERVING.TOGETHER.**



## AFRICAN CONSERVATION TRUST (ACT) [www.projectafrica.com](http://www.projectafrica.com)



The ACT vision is simple: **A Living World. People on a Profitable Planet.**

*A World which is able to sustain human life, profitable as a result of investment into our most precious asset: Planet Earth, with its abundant natural resources; profitable enough for people to draw from its environmental goods and services, and from a social and economic sense. Living, in that our Planet and its inhabitants are not simply surviving, but are flourishing, and have capacity to give, grow and share.*

ACT is a proud founding member of **Project Rhino** and manages the **Rhino Fund** on behalf of the collaborative. ACT provides the foundation of the project management team and secretariat, leases invaluable airfield capacity and employs certain field staff. The Trust has raised over R5M per annum to support these initiatives, and actively guides the sector in strategic imperatives and resource allocations.

ACT's ultimate aim is the fostering of genuine partnerships within which communities surrounding reserves are resilient, empowered, engaged and benefitting, in whatever terms they require, be that economically, ecologically or socially. Stakeholders are equal partners in decision making and benefits are real with expectations met at all levels.

ACT's other initiatives include endangered species protection, food security through ecological agriculture, sustainable use of natural resources (water, land, energy) and biodiversity preservation and expansion. The Trust also employs a dedicated Applied Ecology Unit (AEU), working to address complex problems associated with the protection of ecosystems and rangeland expansion.

## KINGSLEY HOLGATE FOUNDATION [www.kingsleyholgate.com](http://www.kingsleyholgate.com)



Using adventure to improve and save lives – that is the key concept of the Kingsley Holgate Foundation, founded by one of Africa's most colourful modern-day explorers. Kingsley Holgate is a humanitarian adventurer, author, TV personality, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, speaker at the New York Explorers Club and a legend that Getaway Magazine calls their 'Explorer in Residence' and the most travelled man in Africa.

On every expedition – many of them world-firsts – the Kingsley Holgate team distribute life-saving malaria education and mosquito nets, water purification LifeStraws and Rite to Sight spectacles to remote villages throughout Africa; to date, more than one million lives have been improved. The Foundation is also strongly linked to conservation across Africa and wherever possible, they assist game rangers and anti-poaching units with humanitarian needs and work alongside conservation agencies, helping to show that 'Conservation cares for communities too'. Educating young people about wildlife crime and the ongoing scourge of poaching continues to be a major focus for the Kingsley Holgate team, through the Rhino and Elephant Art conservation education programme.

Having explored all 54 countries on the African continent, no other team of modern-day explorers have achieved so much and use the energy of adventure to make such a positive difference to the lives of so many. They are also the only expedition team in the world to have discovered the geographic centre-point of Africa and reached all seven 'extreme' geographic points on the African continent.



## SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE [www.wildlifecollege.org.za](http://www.wildlifecollege.org.za)

As a centre of specialisation in conservation education, training, and skills development, the SA Wildlife College equips people with the qualifications, practical experience, and thought leadership to manage complex ecosystems, conserve wildlife, and empower local communities.

Designed to blend into the natural environment, the college uses innovative designs to minimise the use of natural resources like water and electricity without compromising the comfort of students. The location of the College allows access to a diversity of land use types from national, provincial and private reserves, community owned agricultural land and local community trust areas. As such, the College offers a myriad of on-site training opportunities which have empowered and inspired people from Africa and beyond to manage and conserve some of the world's most biologically diverse areas.

Life on campus provides the best of both worlds; immersed in Kruger's abundant nature, yet fully equipped with the facilities to support theoretical learning and physical training.

# 2019 CORE ORGANISING TEAM



**FRANCOIS DU TOIT**  
CEO African Conservation  
Trust

Project Rhino Ambassador &  
Summit Director & Logistics



**ISABEL WOLF-GILLESPIE**  
Managing Founder & Lead  
Facilitator: Earth Awareness  
Consulting

Youth Delegate Programme  
Development & Facilitator



**MICAH VAN SCHALKWYK**  
Summit Communications,  
Event Organising,  
Community Manager

Post-Summit Delegate  
Mentorship



**GRANT FOWLDS**  
Project Rhino, Rhino Art  
Manager KwaZulu-Natal

Summit Fundraising &  
Logistics



**CARLIEN ESTERHUIZEN**  
Project Rhino Administrator  
  
Summit Event Programme  
Manager



**KIRA MACDOUGALL**  
Funding, Marketing & Human  
Resources at African  
Conservation Trust

Summit Design, Branding &  
Admin Assistant



**LEE FULLER**  
Private Safari Guide at Lee  
Fuller Safaris & Outdoor  
Educator at Tugela Trails

Summit MC



**DR JUDY MANN**  
Conservation Strategist at  
South African Association  
for Marine Biological  
Research

Summit Chaperone  
Programme Development  
& Facilitation



**RICHARD 'MAHLEMBEHLME'  
MABANGA**  
Project Rhino, Rhino Art  
Facilitator, KwaZulu-Natal

Summit Cultural Team Leader



**KINGSLEY HOLGATE**  
Kingsley Holgate Foundation,  
Founder of Rhino Art

Summit Creative Strategy &  
Cultural Coordinator



**SHEELAGH ANTROBUS**  
Kingsley Holgate  
Foundation, Former Project  
Rhino Coordinator

Summit Creative Strategy &  
Event Media



**DAVE PATTLE**  
Project Rhino, Rhino Art  
Manager Eastern Cape

Summit Eastern Cape  
Delegate Coordinator



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## WITH THANKS TO

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 NYANI CULTURAL VILLAGE  
 STROOP - JOURNEY INTO THE RHINO WAR  
 WILDFACT VIETNAM  
 SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE K9 UNIT  
 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK ANTI-POACHING UNIT  
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