YEAR BOOK 2017

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BACK

CONSERVATIONLAB



I CHAPTER 1 THE UN-CONFERENCE I CHAPTER 2 THE UN-AGENDA I CHAPTER 3 BE INSPIRED BY A CONSERVATION I CHAPTER 4 INNOVATION STARTS WITH A SPARK I CHAPTER 5 DISCUSS AND CONQUER I CHAPTER 6 WHAT WE LEARNED I CHAPTER 7 WHO MADE IT HAPPEN I CONTACT US

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A big thank you to our 2017 partners for helping to make the Conservation Lab possible. If you'd like to see it continue and are interested in partnering on our next edition, get in touch.



CHAPTER 1



Find out what we're all about and what went down at the second edition of the Conservation Lab un-conference.



When it comes to conservation, there's no shortage of people who care. On-the-ground researchers and activists; filmmakers, writers and promoters; NGOs and government organisations; travel brands and other private sector firms; innovators and inventors; wellmeaning philanthropists – you name it: we're all trying to do our bit. But, with more collaboration, we could have an even greater impact.

The Conservation Lab is a platform for creative collaboration, where the travel and conservation sectors unite in a shared vision for a better future, and the full weight of people who care can be felt.

In 2017 we grew to 140 participants - and 140 heads sure are better than one. Over two days we heard 15 SPARK talks, where speakers outlined their big idea to change the future of conservation in under four minutes; we engaged in 30 DISCUSS sessions, where leaders introduced a topic before opening it to the floor; and we got our hands dirty with TEAMWORK, where five groups were set a challenge to present an innovative new model of conservation tourism to their peers. Down-time came in the form of long, sunny lunches bright with chatter and candlelit dinners accompanied by delicious Spier wine, along with popcorn-fuelled screenings of documetaries - including The Ivory Game, which was followed by a Q&A session with investigator Hongxiang Huang. (Yeah, that's how we 'relax'.)

In just one weekend we heard countless progressive ideas, engaged in no end of lively debate, fiercely challenged current practices, saw the sparks of future innovation, and got that warm tingly feeling that happens when you work together towards a common goal - so just imagine what we could achieve in the months and years to come?

What happens next is up to you. Conservation Lab is the catalyst, a place to connect the dots; but it's the people who make things happen. As Dr Richard Leakey reminded us...

"Together, we can fight our way foward."





It's half time in the fight for conservation. So far, the game hasn't gone our way - even as we speak, entire species are in danger of being lost altogether and the opposition comes at us from all sides.

But it's not too late to turn things around. We've got the players. We've got the skills. Now it's time to regroup and work together to win Africa's conservation challenges...

The inaugural Conservation Lab was a landmark event, the first of its kind; but the 2017 event really took things to the next level, featuring representatives from even more diverse sectors - including travel, conservation, tech, government and the private sector. Once again, we were so proud to witness the coming together of different industries in the name of one great cause: to save the future of our planet.

The Conservation Lab is designed to create optimal conditions for creative thinking and collaborative innovation; but rather than formulate a strict agenda, our un-conference gives control back to you.

In the wake of the event, some people have looked to us, Beyond Luxury Media, for direction; but to this I say: our specialty is bringing people together - it's up to you what happens next. With all of the incredible experience, talent and motivation we bore witness to, I truly believe this is the beginning of a brave new shift in conservation.

Special thanks to our venue host, Spier Hotel, and our partner, Botswana Tourism; and thank you, also, to every single one of you for being there.

way back.

- Serge Dive CEO and Founder of Beyond Luxury Media and Conservation Lab

If we come together as a team, we can fight our



Within our innovative un-conference format, the only limitation was to follow our...





3 PUT DOWN YOUR DEVICES digital detox is the new cool

5 BUT... KNOW WHEN TO SIT DOWN AND SHUT **UP** don't suck the oxygen out of the room!

ego at the

9 REMEMBER:

you are the content - pipe up or get bored

8 SEEK COLLABORTION we're better

]] HAVE FUN!

CHAPTER 2

The Un-Agenda

From collaborative group sessions, four-minute timed talks and freeform debates, find out how our unconventional programme got participants' igniting real innovation for conservation.



- Check in, meet the participants and claim your spot on the **DISCUSS** board
- **TEAM TALK** be inspired by Dr Richard Leakey
- **SPARK** hear the big ideas that will change the future of conservation... each in under four minutes
- **DISCUSS** pitches start creating your own agenda for the following day
- **FILM SCREENING** of The Ivory Game, followed by an exclusive Q&A session with film investigator, Hongxiang Huang hear the story behind the story







- **MORNING ACTIVITIES** get your energy up for the day ahead
- **DISCUSS** check out the debates on conservation's hot topics and decide which to engage with
- **TEAMWORK** collaborate on a set conservation challenge

Renowned (and often controversial) Kenyan politiciancum-palaeonthropologist-cum-conservationist, Dr Richard Leakey, kicked off the 2017 Conservation Lab with a Team Talk on the main stage, imparting invaluable insights from his extensive career and challenging participants to think differently about certain aspects of conservation – no doubt prompting plenty of debate throughout the rest of the event.

CHAPTER 3

Be Inspired by a Conservation Legend

Insights from the renowned Dr Richard Leakey

WATCH HIS TALK

CHAPTER 4

Innovation Starts with

What's the most impressive thing you've ever done in less than four minutes? Fifteen visionary participants presented their big idea that will change the future of conservation using just 15 slides, in precisely three minutes and 45 seconds - with slides timed to move on automatically, that's harder than you might think. From building (virtual) fences to breaking down (figurative) walls, the inspiration was as varied as it was insightful.

Chris Roche

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

"If we continue to focus on the savannah, we aren't going to make an impact. What's your next move?"



BEYOND THE SAVANANNA



"A virtual fence is a horror movie to your target animal. It knows what the threat is and must be unpredictable." *"What about people who can't travel? We can reach them too: people can experience what it means to be in an elephant herd."*



HOW TO CONNECT CONSERVATION WITH TECHNOLOGY

Thomas Ropel

gle

► WATCH THE VIDEO



"Being tourists in our own country has made us more assured to ensure our girls and wildlife survive." *"If you want to save conservation areas, you need to make them economically viable."*

THE SUSTAINABLE MONETISATION OF AFRICA'S CONSERVATION ESTATE

Francois Barnard

on Capital

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

REPHRASING THE CONSERVATION NARRATIVE

Fortunate Phaka

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

"People who are degrading ecosystems are better salespeople than we are – we are not sure about our own stories."

"National Parks need to be run like a business if they're going to survive and contribute positively."

IEW?



ERVAT

CAN FIGHTOUR

#conservation



► WATCH THE VIDEO

SOCIAL MEDIA AS A TOOL For change

Simon Espley Africa Georgraphic

► WATCH THE VIDEO

"Conservation is about changing perceptions in a busy world that doesn't care." "There is no better qualifier than the shark when it comes to being a life coach: they have survived five mass extinctions."

THE SHARK, OUR GREATEST TEACHER

CONSE

HECAN

#cor

Lesley Rochat

rvation Alliance

► WATCH THE VIDEO

AFRICA'S SECRET WEAPON

Craig Spencer Transfrontier Africa

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

"Are we trying to fight rhino poachers? No: we're building allies in the community. It's a long-term investment." "There are dozens of animals you may have never heard of on the edge of extinction, with little or no conservation attention."







"We need to have informal education: places where girls can be seen and heard, and can think independently." *"We can't stop baiting, but we can reduce the reasons why people bait."*



SIMPLE CONCEPTS CAN EFFECT GREAT CHANGE

WILDLANDS

Andrew Venter

Wildlands Trust

▶ WATCH THE VIDEO

"Imagine if the poorest of the poor could feed themselves, clothe themselves and house themselves by growing indigenous trees?" "Our aim is to create millions of wildlife addicts, but also visibility and meaningful finance for projects being worked on."

RVAT

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USING GAMING TO ENDORSE CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Gautam Shah

Elephants

► WATCH THE VIDEO

CHAPTER 5

Discuss and Conquer

With 30 topics scribbled on the DISCUSS board, the first debate was over which to attend. Taking place five at a time, session leaders introduced their subject and posed questions, before opening the conversation out to the floor. We can't name names (we play by Chatham House Rules), but we will say that the topics were varied as they were inspired - and the resulting discussion was very high energy!

CREATING CONSERVATION ALLIANCES a new network of NGOs combining strengths

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EDUCATION'S IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES, CULTURE, ECONOMY & CONSERVATION

THE LATENT THIRD SECTOR communities alongside public and private sector conservation have an equal role

BLURRING THE LINES!

Fortress conservation isn't working: what now?

INCREASING THE COLLABORATION **BETWEEN CHINA** AND AFRICA

MARINE CONSERVATION how do we prove automatic benefit?

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IS TOURISM DOING ENOUGH FOR **CONSERVATION? ARE** COMMUNITIES TRULY **BENEFITTING FROM** WILDLIFE?

CONSERVATION INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS what should we be showing?

HANDS ON OR HANDS OFF?

is tourists getting involved in conservation a negative or a positive?

N

BOTSWANA: THE CONSERVATION POSTER-CHILD? if so, for how long?

HUNTING: THE (TROPHY) ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM is trophy hunting a necessary evil?

WOLVES AND HUNTING DOGS

in Ethiopia dogs frequently interact with wild animals; should all dogs be tamed, or should we vaccinate?

CURRENT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING METHODOLOGIES AND WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING NETWORKS CONVERGE AS KEY CHOKE POINTS

INDIAN CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

what our traditions taught us and what we grew up with... only to lose it all

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EMPOWERING

CONSERVATION

WOMEN IN

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THE DIVIDE BETWEEN **CONSERVATIONISTS** can we narrow the gap?

CASE STUDY RESULTS: COMPARING THE SAME AREA UNDER HUNTING **VS. PHOTOGRAPHICS** what are the macro benefits for the country?

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EXPLOSIVE HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH AND ITS EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT where are we now and what should we do?

> DO ZOOS HAVE A ROLE IN NATURE CONSERVATION?

TECHNOLOGY IN CONSERVATION

chapter 6 What We Learned

A few of our participants share what the un-conference experience meant to them.







BEYOND THE BIG FIVE: UNLOCKING TOURISM'S POTENTIAL TO STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION



Tourism generates significant and critical resources for conservation; it enables individuals to experience the wonder of nature and advocate for it. However, tourism can equally threaten conservation of Africa's ecologically important spaces.

The exquisite setting of the Spier Hotel, bursting with thought-provoking art and sculptures, was the perfect place from which to explore how these two sectors can more closely align.

The Conservation Lab is playing an important role in exploring this relationship, and the un-conference format allowed the discussion to roam from the articulation of ambitious 'moonshot' projects unconstrained by finance or time, to the spiritual connections of the Samburu, to rhino-darting.

Extensive representation by the tourism community indicates how serious the industry considers this issue. Willingness by tourism and conservation professionals to find mutually supportive approaches were present in all the conversations I had – issues ranging from how to broaden the narrative of African conservation and tourism beyond the big five, to setting up a sustainable marine project with government, local community, and tourism engagement were enthusiastically explored.

Participants also didn't shy away from the overwhelming challenges to strengthening this relationship, often undertaken in continually dynamic political and economic contexts. It was humbling to hear how conservationists and tourism operators are making things happen in a geography that spans the Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Botswana and South Africa. Participants also

acknowledged the exclusionary nature of both conservation and tourism across the continent. There was a palpable sense that community ownership and engagement in tourism, as key partners for conservation, is crucial. How to include community voices, indigenous people and governments in future discussion will be an important evolution for the Conservation Lab, and one, I sense, they're ready to embrace.

One of my key takeaways was the range of possibilities, still unexplored, that can be leveraged by the tourism sector to strengthen conservation. Tourism's network includes high-networth and influential individuals, governments, local communities and media. This network affords them important access and a mechanism with which to communicate the value of nature. This is critically important, as conservation is one of the least well-resourced and understood sectors - tourism can play an important role in shifting this. Building on the partnerships established in Stellenbosch, and incorporating

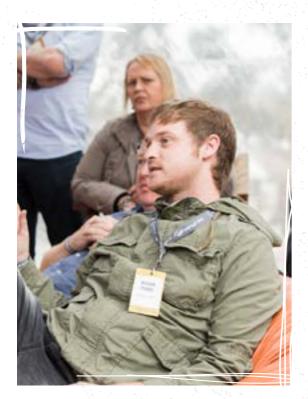
Dr. Helga Rainer

Arcus Foundation

governments and local communities will ensure that a much deeper understanding of the challenges facing conservation are known and shared. The Conservation Lab is providing an important forum for this to occur and I'm excited by the prospects.



A POWERFUL WAKE UP CALL



This year's Conservation Lab event was one of the most unique and powerful gatherings of humans I've had the pleasure of attending. All throughout the weekend, I felt extraordinarily privileged to be immersed in what truly felt like a sea of brilliance: brilliant minds, bright and brilliant people, and brilliant ideas.

The firing synergies and instant connections I felt with so many people involved in the conservation world were all thanks to the organisers, who allowed the powerful networking and idea sharing to flow seamlessly.

Of all the common sentiments that were shared at the event, I think that perhaps the one most widely shared and loved was that this was no ordinary conference. More specifically, it was quite boldly stated to be an 'un-conference'. Forfirst-timers like me, that was particularly exciting and energising, and any feelings of intimidation and apprehension about what I had to both offer and to learn from the coming-together of this wonderfully diverse kaleidoscope of brilliant individuals vanished very quickly.

Unlike most conferences, where the experts preach to the masses of bored, tired-of-listening individuals, this was an open and welcome invitation to share and to learn as much as you could from all involved.

And I think that, having very quickly picked up on the resonating vibe of inclusion at ConsLab, it allowed one very powerful thing to permeate my thinking about how to make the best of the little conservation world that we live in: the fact that we NEED each-other. The fact that we are all CONNECTED to the common goal of African wilderness and wildlife preservation. You see, this wasn't just a friendly, welcoming invite to become more involved. This was a wake-up call. And a welcome one at that.

With the powerful motif that WE CAN FIGHT OUR WAY BACK, this was a somewhat more suggestive way to inspire the message amongst all of us involved from various sectors that this is not a courtesy call for us to make when the timing is right – this is a fight.

It's an urgent, pressing fight and the inspiration drawn from the event must be used to stay in the fight, together. Each in our own little way. Each doing what we can, but doing it together.

And having become more cognisant of the dire need for spider-weblike synergy in all the webs of our world, it was a pleasure, as a media person, to find myself on the level of conservationists, travellers, writers, community leaders, technology entrepreneurs and others as I tried to be the best person I could be at ConsLab: connected. Connected to the ideas and stories of as many

Rich Pearce

Africa Geographic

wonderful, inspiring people as possible, and connected to the common goal of allowing it to form a relationship for us to work together in the fight.

WELCOME THE GREEN-SHOOTS OF REALISTIC DISCUSSION



It was with a real sense of excitement and anticipation that I arrived at Spier to join the Conservation Lab 2017, having been given the opportunity to meet and actively engage with many of Africa's conservation and ecotourism legends. In my opinion, it is imperative that these two worlds actively work together.

This may seem obvious, but the significant growth of the luxury eco-

tourism sector over the past two decades has largely been independent of the grass roots conservation community. Furthermore, the ecotourism explosion around iconic destinations has often been at the expense of the very ecosystems that underwrite these destinations. On a positive note, the eco-tourism model has demonstrated that it is possible to deliver tangible local economic development benefits in remote environments.

The event did deliver. The SPARK talks were amazing, opening multiple windows of opportunity for endless conversations. I also enjoyed the DISCUSS sessions, led by individuals passionate about specific issues - of personal interest were the debates around the conservation value of hunting; the rise of a third philanthropic conservation movement; and the growing development and extraction pressures on the marine environment. The hunting debate has become very polarised, and so it was reassuring to see the green shoots of a more realistic discussion.

The hunting community is under siege, largely as a result of highly publicised bad behaviour, and thus the

hunting safari footprint is shrinking, Unfortunately, it is shrinking faster that the photographic safari footprint is growing – and this is leaving vast areas of 'wild' Africa vulnerable. The future of wild Africa depends on the photographic and hunting communities finding common ground and working together with local conservation agencies. Greg Reis' Niassa Wilderness story presented an intriguing alternative view, with the underlying reality being that both hunting and photographic tourism are not sufficient to protect and save Niassa! The marine story was thin and this is a flag given the significant growth in this sector. The shining light was Lesley Rochat's shark conservation contribution, which demonstrated innovation and passion, and should be a clarion call for all of us.

I left Conservation Lab 2017 enthused, challenged and yet, concerned. I think that the luxury eco-tourism sector needs to be further challenged to move past their eco-tourism destination focus towards a broader conservation

Dr. Andrew Venter

CEO, Wildlands

landscape focus; to transform leadership so that we see more colour and gender equity; and to nurture young precocious leaders that will push all the boundaries. I also believe that the discussion needs to include the communities whose land we talk about... And the government agencies who have the responsibility that they talk about...

I look forward to seeing the impact of the Conservation Lab-inspired movement in years to come and hope to play a small part in the change that is so desperately needed.

CONSERVATION COMES FROM CONNECTING WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE



In a previous life I was a creative director in advertising. I don't miss the corporate world, but I do miss the brainstorming - the process of tapping into your imagination is more an art than it is a science, but there is a process you can follow. In my case and many others', it involved hours of solitary musing, long walks to stimulate the brain, and then moments of relaxation to let all the ideas fall into place - this is when the "Aha!" moment would occur, often in the shower.

But all of that takes time. Without doubt the best, and fastest, way to get the creative juices flowing was through collective imagination: putting every creative person connected with the job into the same room. It was stimulating, it was fun, it was serious, and it was quick - by bouncing ideas off one another we came up with solutions in no time. But it wasn't ideal. Why not? Because we didn't have ALL the people connected with the job in the room.

There were no strategic planners, no account managers, and most importantly there were no clients - the people we needed to sell the idea to, the ones who knew more about the product than anyone, and who were fully invested in their brand – who lived and breathed it.

As a creative team we would try and sell our incredible ideas to clients. who would often blanch because what we presented was often too risky, or irrelevant. By and large, it had little to do with the brand that they knew. And this is where I relate my experience with the Conservation Lab.

The Lab is a great way to network, to find out what's going on in different corners of Africa. It is incredibly

connected with conservation in the

stimulating, it is fun and it can be damn serious; it is also very quick we come up with solutions in no time, but we don't have ALL the people room. We don't have the people who are closest to the wilderness, who know it better than anyone, who live and breath it. And I'm not talking about lodge owners and safari guides. One thing was very clear at this last iteration of the Conservation Lab in fact, it became the thread of most discussions: conservation depends on the communities who live in or near the wilderness areas that we are trying to preserve. It is clear that we need many more community members at the un-conference, so that we can include them in the process, learn what the real challenges are and, that way, come up with real solutions. Anton Grone Safarious





ADAM PIRES PROGRAMME MANAGER ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

Holistic view of the wildlife trade supply chain having worked on the ground for an anti-poaching unit to managing projects that attempt to improve wildlife contraband detection at ports of entry and exit.

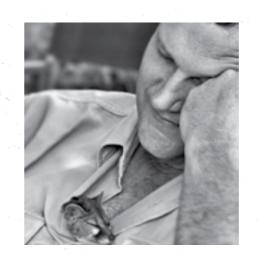
www.ewt.org.za SOUTH AFRICA



ADAM WELZ CHIEF COOK AND BOTTLE-WASHER ADAM WELZ MEDIA

A keen birder and news junkie, lived and worked on four continents and will debate you on just about anything.

www.adamwelz.net SOUTH AFRICA



ALEX WALKER OWNER ALEX WALKER'S SERIAN

An observer of wild spaces, I live in the bush. Our business is to help open others' eyes to the natural world.

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ALEC WILDENSTEIN DIRECTOR OL JOGI LTD

I am a director of the 58,000-acre Ol Jogi wildlife conservancy. I am striving to achieve an economically sustainable model for private sector endangered species conservation in Kenya.

www.oljogihome.com KENYA



ALISTAIR RANKIN CEO MACHABA SAFARIS

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www.machabasafaris.com SOUTH AFRICA



ANDREW STUART CO-FOUNDER BUSHTOPS CAMPS

Co-founder and family managed operator/ owner of Bushtops Camps and Isaaten Wildlife Conservancy in the greater Mara.

www.bushtopscamps.com KENYA



ANDREW VENTER CEO WILDLANDS TRUST

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www.wildlands.co.za SOUTH AFRICA



ANTON CRONE CEO SAFARIOUS

CEO of Safarious, an online travel portal to the world's wild places. I use journalism as a way to connect people to the importance of the communities that live side-by-side with wildlife.

www.safarious.com SOUTH AFRICA



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BRENT STAPELKAMP MANAGING TRUSTEE SOFT FOOT ALLIANCE

Self-diagnosed "lion-addict" who has spent the last decade tracking and photographing them. Realising that to save lions it is not enough to just talk the talk, we need to walk the walk!

ZIMBABWE



ANTONELLA BONOMI FOUNDER CAMPI YA KANZI / MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST

www.maasai.com www.maasaitrust.org KENYA

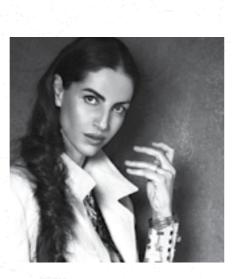


BEKS NDLOVU FOUNDER AND CEO AFRICAN BUSH CAMPS

Developed an interest in wildlife and safaris as soon as I left school and soon made it my career. I enjoy experiencing the world with my family of five.

www.africanbushcamps. com

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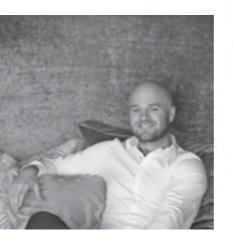


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www.softfootalliance.com



BRIAN HUGGINS MANGO AFRICAN SAFARIS

Travel planner and designer of fun and funky safaris. Favorite fruit: Mango. Straight shooter, except off the tee.

www.mangoafricansafaris. com UNITED STATES

CAMILLA RHODES PHILANTHROPY COORD INATOR ABERCROMBIE & KENT PHILANTHROPY

Growing up in Zimbabwe, Africa has taken root deep within my bones. The more I see, the greater my desire to protect it grows.

www.akphilanthropy.org

ZAMBIA



CASPAR VENTER MANAGING DIRECTOR **VENTER TOURS**

I am a man of simple tastes, easily satisfied by the best. Safari, bush and animal lover. Can operate my Pentax (camera). Hobby triathlete. Happy amongst good company.

www.ventertours.de

GERMANY



CHARLIE MAYHEW GLOBAL CEO TUSK TRUST

Founder and CEO of Tusk, the African wildlife conservation charity of which HRH The Duke of Cambridge has been an active patron since 2005.

www.tusk.org

UNITED KINGDOM



CHRIS ROCHE CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER WILDERNESS SAFARIS

Lifelong biodiversity advocate; ecotourism and conservation professional; convinced that high-end ecotourism can do better.

www.wilderness-safaris. com

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CLIVE STOCKIL DIRECTOR

CHILO GORGE SAFARI LODGE

Born and raised in the South East of Zimbabwe, was appointed an Honorary Warden of the Gonarezhou National Park in 1977 to 1987.

www.chilogorge.com

ZIMBABWE



COLIN BELL DIRECTOR NATURAL SELECTION

Passion for securing the future of wildlife through full community participation in the tourism and wildlife sectors... and passionate about rhinos too.

www.naturalselection. travel

SOUTH AFRICA



CHRISTABELLE PEECH COMMUNITY PROJECT FOUNDER THE HIDE / CHANGA SAFARI CAMP

Social entrepreneur, conservationist, lover of nature and all things wild.

www.thehide.com/ community

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CLARE DOOLAN MARKETING MANAGER SAFARI DESTINATIONS

Aspiring hobo, bundu basher, picture taker and travel marketer. Bush smart but scientifically stupid. Can't put down a map until I've found a new adventure.

www.safaridestinations.net

BOTSWANA

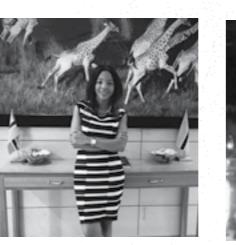


CLAUDIA STUART CO-FOUNDER BUSHTOPS CAMPS

Co-founder of Bushtops Camps which we set up in 2006 with the flagship Mara Bushtops & Spa with its private conservancy.

www.bushtopscamps.com

KENYA



CYNTHIA MOTHELESI PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER Botswana tourism organisation

Currently I'm working on curating stories that will help best position Botswana on the global map as far as responsible tourism is concerned.

www.botswanatourism. co.bw

BOTSWANA



DANIEL WOODLEY HEAD OF CONSERVATION H12 AFRICA

Served in Kenya's National Parks for over 20 years. Anti-poaching operations with British Army Northern Frontier District Special Operations.

www.hl2africa.com

KENYA





CRAIG SPENCER HEAD WARDEN

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DEX KOTZE DIRECTOR

Youth 4 African Wildlife Now or Never AWF

A deep passion for Africa's wildlife aiming to create next generation global ambassadors for endangered African wildlife.

www.youth4africanwildlife. com www.now-or-never-africa. org SOUTH AFRICA

ELIZABETH GORDON FOUNDER EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS

I have visited over 40 countries and taken more than 30 trips to Africa. I am active with the Safari Professionals of the Americas. I was one of Travel Agent Magazine's "30 under 30".

www.extraordinaryjour neys.com UNITED STATES



EMMA FINNEY FOUNDER THE WILD CO

Animal activist via digital strategy and impact travel. Lover of creating art. Believe experiential awareness to be the greatest agent of change.

www.thewildco.org

UNITED STATES



GRAHAM BOYNTON TRAVEL EDITOR NEWSWEEK

Journalist, writer, author, photographer and amateur conservationist. I'd like to think that some of my writings over the years have made a difference but I have now come to doubt that.

www.grahamboynton.com UNITED KINGDOM



GREG MONSON CEO **KICHECHE CAMPS**

Camp owner passionate about conservancies,

conservation and communities.

www.kicheche.com

KENYA



FORTUNATE PHAKA **PROJECT LEADER** YOUTH 4 AFRICAN

Wildlife conservationist. Photography and Film enthusiast. Wildlife ambassador. Believes science communication and youth are key to conservation.

www.youth4africanwildlife. org

SOUTH AFRICA



FRANCOIS BARNARD ASSOCIATE Conservation capital

Conservation enterprise, investing and business planning. Passionate about innovation and sustainability. Find me on the mountain.

www.conservation-capital. com

SOUTH AFRICA

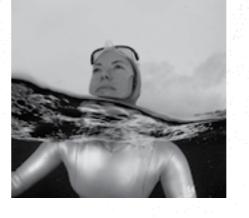


GAUTAM SHAH FOUNDER INTERNET OF ELEPHANTS

I quit my perfectly good job at Accenture to work on technology solutions for wildlife conservation and am now the proud father of Internet of Elephants.

www.internetofelephants. com

KENYA



HANLI PRINSLOO FOUNDER & CEO I AM WATER OCEAN CONSERVATION

Freediver and ocean adventurer. Reconnecting people with nature through I AM WATER non-profit and Ocean Travel freediving expeditions. I have very big lungs.

@hanliprinsloo www.iamwaterfoundation. org

SOUTH AFRICA



HELGA RAINER DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION PROGRAM ARCUS FOUNDATION

Political ecologist managing a conservation program at a private foundation. Lifelong student of the environment and our place in it.

www.arcusfoundation.org

UNITED KINGDOM



GREG REIS CEO NIASSA WILDERNESS TRUST

Just crazy about our beautiful planet and all the incredible wild places still untouched by human greed.

www.niassawilderness.com SOUTH AFRICA



HENRY COMYN **PROJECT MANAGER** HENRY COOKSON ADVENTURES

Travel designer and bespoke trip planner. Amateur cricketer.

www.henrycookson.com UNITED KINGDOM



HILTON WALKER SALES AND RESERVATIONS DIRECTOR GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION

Officially: Sales & Marketing Director for @GreatPlainsCons. Reality: Proud husband. Awestruck dad. Dedicated conservationist. Loyal friend.

www.greatplainsconser vation.com

SOUTH AFRICA



HONGXIANG HUANG JOURNALIST/ACTIVIST CHINA HOUSE

Founder of China House, a social enterprise to integrate Chinese into Africa. Featured in the Ivory Game. One of the few Chinese investigators working on global illegal wildlife trade.

CHINA



IAN CRAIG **DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION** NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST

Co-Founder of Lewa Wildlife conservancy and the Northern Rangelands Trust.

www.nrt-kenya.org KENYA



JANINE SOUTHWOOD HEAD OF LUXURY COLLECTION BY THOMPSONS AFRICA

A free thinker with a zest for life and wildlife! I like to surround myself with like-minded people. Animals are the heart and soul of who I am.

www.thompsonsafrica.com

SOUTH AFRICA



JENNIFER FLOWERS DEPUTY EDITOR AFAR

Deputy Editor at AFAR. Safari newbie hungry to see it all. Fixated on telling stories about Africa and conservation in compelling new ways.

@jennflowers / www.afar. com UNITED STATES



INDERPAL KOCHHAR FOUNDER SEWARA

Thinker-dreamer. Seeker of knowledge and truth. Naturelover and humanitarian. Agriculturist, restauranteur and lodgeowner.

www.sewara.com

INDIA



JAMES HAIGH **CEO. DIRECTOR OF SALES** AND MARKETING ELEWANA

I have good a understanding of the potential and as yet undervalued contribution the private sector can make to conservation.

www.elewanacollection. com KENYA



JAMIE GAYMER CONSERVATION MANAGER OL JOGI LTD

I am a born and bred Kenyan. I am the conservation manager at Ol Jogi Ltd since 2007. I am an honourary warden of the Kenya Wildlife Service.

ww.oljogi.org

KENYA



JEROEN HARDERWIJK MANAGING DIRECTOR ASILIA AFRICA

Co-Founder and MD of Asilia Africa. Contributing to a handful of organisations and causes in East Africa.

www.asiliaafrica.com

TANZANIA



JESSICA DAWSON **GENERAL MANAGER** VICTORIA FALLS WILDLIFE TRUST

Wildlife conservationist and nature lover. Bookworm, oenophile and runner. A good laugh with friends and family (dogs included) can solve a lot of problems.

www.vicfallswildlifetrust. org

ZIMBABWE



JENNIFER MURPHY WRITER FREELANCE JOURNALIST

Journalist and adventurer who covers fitness, travel, high-end adventure travel, food, sports, conservation and culture for lifestyle magazines and web sites in the U.S. Avid surfer, snowboarder, and runner.

@jenrunsworld www.jenrunsworld.com

UNITED STATES



JESSIE DAVIE HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS & REGIONAL COORDINATOR MALIASILI INITIATIVES

I like communications and strategy and to make sure that great impacts, stories, approaches and thinking gets noticed and heard - I've done this for almost a decade in African conservation.

www.maliasili.org

TAN7ANIA



JOANNE ZHANG **GENERAL MANAGER** NATURAL INSTINCTS TRAVEL

African safari specialist. Freelance writer.

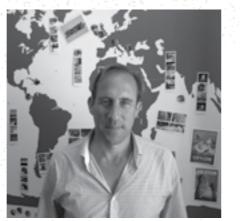
www.natural-instincts.cn CHINA



JOOST TANIA CEO/OWNER THIKA TRAVEL

Innovator in my field of work as a specialised tour operator, coupling the best wildlife experiences to direct benefits for the visited sensitive areas and its wildlife and people.

www.thikatravel.com NETHERLANDS



JUSTIN WATERIDGE MANAGING DIRECTOR STEPPES TRAVEL

Growing up in Africa, I saw the ability of people to cope with not very much but to do so with ingenuity and a smile. I try, not very well, to emulate those people.

www.steppestravel.co.uk

UNITED KINGDOM



KEITH VINCENT CEO

WILDERNESS SAFARIS

I started life off as a guide 35 years ago, and to this day would like to retire having left a legacy of conservation.

www.wilderness-safaris. com

BOTSWANA



KELLY DELLINGER NEXT ADVENTURE

safaris for individuals, families, conservation organisations. corporations, alumni travel programs and vacation membership clubs.

www.nextadventure.com UNITED STATES



KAREN ZULAUF DIRECTOR DEEPER AFRICA

Intense, driven, goodhearted. I believe in the transformative impact of nature. I believe that each person can impact change.

www.deeperafrica.com

UNITED STATES



KEITH SPROULE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PHILANTHROPY ABERCROMBIE & KENT PHILANTHROPY

Communities living on the edge of wilderness must benefit from a commitment to living with wildlife for the tourism industry to survive. My work and passion.

www.akphilanthropy.org UNITED STATES



KEITH MADDERS DIRECTOR RESOURCEAFRICA

Passionate about resolving problems to ensure effective conservation and preventing poaching and illegal harvesting of wildlife products.

UNITED KINGDOM



LAURA GRIFFITH-JONES EDITOR TRAVEL AFRICA MAGAZINE

I produce the print magazine from start to finish - commissioning, copy-editing, picture research, subbing and proofreading - as well as managing and editing all the website content and social media.

@TravelAfricamag www.travelafricamag.com

UNITED KINGDOM



LAURIE SIMPSON **PROJECT MANAGER** SOFT FOOT ALLIANCE

Permaculture practitioner and environmentalist.

www.softfootalliance.com

ZIMBABWE

I design customised wildlife



KLARA GLOWCZEWSKA EXECUTIVE TRAVEL EDITOR TOWN&COUNTRY MAGAZINE

Writer/editor. Nature and wildlife lover. Obsessed with the lack of consensus on about how to save wilderness and wild things.

www.townandcountrymag. com

UNITED STATES



LES CARLISLE **GROUP CONSERVATION MANAGER** ANDBEYOND AFRICA

Rhino Without Borders project to move 100 Rhino from SA to Botswana. Adres Duiker breeding project on Mnemba island Zanzibar

www.andBeyond.com www.rhinowithoutborders. com

SOUTH AFRICA



LESLEY ROCHAT FOUNDER/CEO AFRIOCEAN CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Conservationist, underwater photographer, photojournalist, teacher, keynote speaker; on a mission to help others become the voice for those who cannot speak and to reconnect people to nature.

www.aoca.org.za SOUTH AFRICA



LUCA BELPIETRO FOUNDER CAMPI YA KANZI / MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST

Conservationist, dreamer, doer.

www.maasai.com / www.maasaitrust.org

KENYA



LUKE BROWN CEO/CO-OWNER VAYENI

I am the co-owner of Vayeni and a #VisitZimbabwe pioneer. I live all things safari and care about integrating conservation into my life and business.

@Vavenitravel www.vayeni.com UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



MATTHEW SAUS MANAGING DIRECTOR

THE MANTA RESORT AND UNDERWATER ROOM

Chairman of an NGO called The Kwanini Foundation and Managing Director/ Part-owner of The Manta Resort and Underwater Room.

www.themantaresort.com www.kwaninifoundation. com

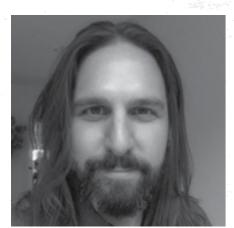
TANZANIA



MICHAEL POLIZA OWNER MICHAEL POLIZA EXPERIENCES

Wildlife photographer and WWF ambassador Michael Poliza takes travel and nature enthusiasts to the last untouched places of this planet.

GERMANY



MARK LAKIN **CO-FOUNDER** EPIC ROAD

Design bespoke luxury journeys for similarly minded curious global nomads to our planet's far-flung regions, incorporating thoughtprovoking experiences around pressing conservation and humanitarian issues.

www.epicroad.com UNITED STATES



MARK BOYD **COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION** MANAGER THE SAFARI COLLECTION

I run the Community and Conservation programmes for The Safari Collection at each of their four properties in Kenya.

www.thesafaricollection. com

KENYA



MARY JEAN TULLY FOUNDER AND CEO TULLY LUXURY TRAVEL

There isn't a day that goes by that I do not think of conservation and ways that I can help and create awareness.

www.tullyluxurytravel.com

CANADA





NEIL MIDLANE CONSERVATION MANAGER SINGITA

Lion biologist, guiding and finance experience. Passionate about wild cats. Support tourism for conservation. Run trails, ride on mountains, paddle oceans.

www.singita.com

SOUTH AFRICA



NELLA NENCINI-HUTCHINGS FOUNDER/OWNER/CEO TIN TRUNK SAFARI

I care deeply about this transformative place and have a huge amount of respect for those here who are devoting themselves to helping the conservation that will keep it that way.

www.tintrunksafari.com

KENYA

www.michaelpoliza.de



NAKEDI MAPUTLA SENIOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGER AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

I am AWF's representative in Southern Africa including South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia to steward relationships with key stakeholders.

www.awf.org SOUTH AFRICA



NICHOLAS MILNE

CEO **BUMI HILLS FOUNDATION TRUST**

Avid conservationist, rehatching conservation using out-of-the-box thinking and new ideas to solve age-old problems.

@bumifoundation www.bumihillsfoundation. org

ZIMBABWE



NICK CRANE DIRECTOR SIMIEN LODGE

I hope to preserve the Simien Mountains and its fauna, especially the Ethiopian wolf.

www.simiens.com FTHIOPIA



NICOS CONTOS MANAGING DIRECTOR

WILD PLACES SAFARIS

Born in Italy - and boasting Greek blood - Nicos is a great traveller in love with the world and Africa in particular. A pioneer of tailor-made travel in Italy and for years a point of reference for the most demanding customers.

www.wildplacessafaris.com ITALY



NIGEL VERE NICOLL

THE AFRICAN TRAVEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION (ATTA)

The eyes, ears and voice of the African tourism industry rolled into one perfect frame.

www.atta.travel

UNITED KINGDOM



PAUL TELFER CEO

ODZALA DISCOVERY CAMPS

Conservation of wildlife and intact habitat is our most sacred responsibility. I won't be able to face my children if I don't try.

www.odzala.com

SOUTH AFRICA

PAUL SWART PRESIDENT NATURAL MIGRATIONS

Passionate African travel specialist and conservationist based in the USA who believes that tourism done right equals conservation. Trustee of Rhino Conservation Botswana.

www.naturalmigrations. com UNITED STATES



OBENNE MBAAKANYI MARKETING MANAGER BOTSWANA TOURISM ORGANISATION

My role within the Tourism Organisation is to globally coordinate all the promotion and strategically position Botswana as a tourism destination.

www.botswanatourism. co.bw

BOTSWANA



OTCH OTTO **OPERATIONS DIRECTOR** GREATER KRUGERENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOUNDATION

Manage and coordinate counter-poaching operations in the Kruger National Park (KNP), RSA and Mozambican Private Reserves.

www.gkepf.org

SOUTH AFRICA



PAUL HERBERTSON DIRECTOR FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL

Conservation finance and enterprise specialist. Looking to bring people together to develop new ideas to deliver conservation better.

www.fauna-flora.org UNITED KINGDOM



PETER MARSHALL **CO-FOUNDER** I AM WATER OCEAN CONSERVATION

I AM WATER. Ocean travel. Waterman. Photographer. Bodywhomper passionate about reconnecting humanity with our ocean wilderness.

www.iamwaterfoundation. org/ www.iamwateroceantravel. com

SOUTH AFRICA



PHIL BIDEN CHAIRMAN THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO

Hotelier and financier. Special interest in the protection of wildlife and its environment specifically in the protected area of the Lowveld.

www.theroyalportfolio.com SOUTH AFRICA







PAULA FRANKLIN DIRECTOR EMPOWERS AFRICA

After spending over a decade as a travel public relations specialist with a focus on Africa I made the transition to full time nonprofit work in 2015.

www.empowersafrica.org

UNITED STATES

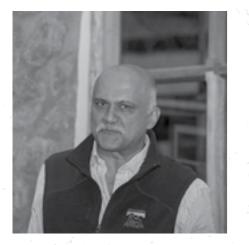


PHIL RICHARDSON HUMAN WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS

Behavioural ecologist specialising in human wildlife conflict. Solution-provider linking technology with animal behaviour.

www.hwsolutions.co.za

SOUTH AFRICA



PRAVEEN MOMAN FOUNDER **VOLCANOES SAFARIS**

Founder of Volcanoes Safaris, leading gorilla and chimpanzee eco-tourism company. Have built four lodges in Rwanda and Uganda.

www.volcanoessafaris.com UNITED KINGDOM



PRISCILLA MACY MANAGING DIRECTOR GLOBAL SOJOURNS

I love collaborating with others on how to educate travellers on conservation and socio-economic issues in Africa and providing a spark for them to act on this knowledge.

www.globalsojourns.com UNITED STATES



RAOUL DU TOIT DIRECTOR LOWVELD RHINO TRUST

Hands-on conservationist working to maintain large rhino populations at the cutting-edge of wildlife politics, land-use conflicts, conservation financing, wildlife crime, rhino management needs.

www.lowveldrhinotrust.org

ZIMBABWE



RUPERT KOOPMAN BOTANIST CAPENATURE

Specialist in identifying threatened fynbos species and habitats and assisting conservation thereof. Communicator. Plant/ people conflict resolution.

www.capenature.co.za

SOUTH AFRICA



SABA DOUGLAS-HAMILTON CHAIRMAN SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Kenyan conservationist with Save the Elephants. Pioneer of conservation tourism, wildlife presenter and filmmaker. Infatuated with scorpions.

KENYA



RICHARD LEAKEY CHAIRMAN KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Conservation pioneer in East Africa.

www.turkanabasin.org KENYA



RICHARD MAASDORP **OPERATIONS MANAGER** ZAMBEZI ELEPHANT FUND

Collaborator. Leader without portfolio. Capacity builder. Strategist. Develop cross-cutting relationships in a challenging socialpolitical-economic environment.

www.zambezielephantfund. org

ZIMBABWE



ROB MOFFETT MANAGING DIRECTOR ONGAVA GAME RESERVE (PTY) LTD

Ecotourism and sustainability advocate.

www.ongava.com





SANDOR WEYERS CEO & FOUNDER ELEMENTZ TRAVEL

A South African based in Asia I can share unique perspectives with participants of the Lab. We also have a unique techbased approach to help educate kids in China about conservation efforts.

www.elementztravel.com

HONG KONG



SANDY EVANS MANAGING DIRECTOR MANYARA RANCH CONSERVANCY

I was involved in many Conservation projects while working for the Royal Geographical Society. In Tanzania, I ran Friends of Conservation on behalf of A&K.

www.manyararanch.com

TANZANIA



www.savetheelephants.org



SAMSON PARASHINA PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST

President and Chairman of the Board of the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (MWCT) where its work takes place in the Southern part of Kenya.

www.maasaitrust.org

KENYA



SEBNEM DENKTAS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ROBB REPORT TURKEY

Editor-in-chief of Robb Report Turkey and founder of the blog especially africa. com.

www.especiallyafrica.com

TURKEY



SHARON GILBERT-RIVETT HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT PEOPLE'S WEATHER

Safari specialist, conservationist, sustainable tourism expert and wordsmith. I am passionate about telling Africa's stories and sharing them with the world.

www.peoplesweather.com

SOUTH AFRICA



SHOBA NARAYANSWAMY FOUNDER PARTNER RARE INDIA

Founder Partner at RARE, I have tirelessly crusaded experiences and small, immersive concept hotels for close to 20 years.

www.rareindia.com

INDIA



SIMON ESPLEY CEO AFRICA GEOGRAPHIC

Content marketing and social marketing specialist. Creating brief, powerful stories about Africa that people feel compelled to read.

www.africageographic.com SOUTH AFRICA



SUE SMART CEO **KWANDO SAFARIS**

I chose to live in dusty Maun due to my passion for the outdoors. My role is challenging as well as rewarding. I strive to empower and educate, with all staff pushed to move up through the ranks.

www.kwando.co.bw BOTSWANA



SUZANNE BAYLY-COUPE MANAGING DIRECTOR **CLASSIC PORTFOLIO**

MD of Classic Portfolio and Africa enthusiast

SOUTH AFRICA



STEFANO CHELI CEO CHELI & PEACOCK SAFARIS

A pioneer in community conservation and "Parks beyond parks". On the board of Northern Rangeland Trust, Africa Conservation Centre. founding member and Chairman of Mara North Conservancy.

www.chelipeacock.com

KENYA



STEPHEN CUNLIFFE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SINGITA GRUMETI FUND

I am responsible for the conservation management, law enforcement, community outreach and research work on the 350,000-acre Singita Grumeti concessions in the Serengeti region of Tanzania.

www.singitagrumetifund. org TANZANIA



STUART SLABBERT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AFRICAN PARKS

Responsible for economic development within the African Parks network across Africa with the goal of sustainability in community, environment and finances of our parks.

www.african-parks.org

SOUTH AFRICA



THOMAS ROPEL HEAD OF TRAVEL VERTICAL SEARCH GOOGLE

Driving Google's innovative travel solutions across EMEA. Passionate about connecting travel, technology and conservation.

www.google.com

GERMANY



TOBY JERMYN DIRECTOR PANGOLIN PHOTO SAFARIS

Photo-tourism pioneer. I'm convinced that everyone is a photographer these days and all they need is the chance to unleash their talents!

@pangolinphoto www.pangolinphoto.com

SOUTH AFRICA

www.classic-portfolio.com



TARRYN TONOLI INSPIRED JOURNEYS EXPERT LIVINGSTONE SAFARIS

Bush girl at heart and happiest in nature with a pair of binoculars at close range to delight in birding opportunities and anything else mother natures decides to share.

www.livsaf.com SOUTH AFRICA



TONY ADAMS SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR ANDBEYOND AFRICA

Lodge-operating conservationist with experience in creating benefit to communities adjacent to conservation areas.

www.andBeyond.com

SOUTH AFRICA



TRISTAN COWLEY Managing Director Ultimate safaris namibia

A published scientist, conservationist and specialist guide, cofounder of Ultimate Safaris Namibia, a conservation travel company.

www.ultimatesafaris.na NAMIBIA



VINCENT SHACKS General Manager Wessa

Ecologist and sustainable tourism specialist. Spends all available free-time in wetlands, preferably with crocodiles.

www.wessa.org.za SOUTH AFRICA MANAGING DIRECTOR JOURNEYS BY DESIGN CEO and environmental scientist, exploring impact travel and ecosystem legacy opportunities in East Africa.

WILL JONES

www.wildphilanthropy.com UNITED KINGDOM



ZAHOR EL KHAROUSY DEPUTY DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT — ZANZIBAR

Policy and planning. Marine conservation areas establishment and management.

www.mlfzanzibar.go.tz

TANZANIA



@TheConservationLab f @conserv_lab y

www.conservation-lab.com

Serge Dive CEO & Founder +44 7775 568 904

serge@beyondluxury.com

Ryan Wallace

Event Director

+27 611 057 261

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Paul Nel

Senior Sales Executive +27 828 864 556 paul@beyondluxury.com