



WILDTEAM®



# AFRICAN-LED CONSERVATION CAPACITY BUILDING

**Summary:** In this 3 year project WildTeam will train 60 African lecturers to deliver courses in key conservation skills to their students. In this way, this project will create capacity building leaders across Africa and help overcome the barriers to training that African conservationists face, such as cost, language, and computer access. These lecturers are expected to train a minimum of 1,200 students in key conservation skills over the course of the project, leading to their career progression and increased conservation impact. This will ultimately contribute to Africans' ability to address climate change and preserve its biodiversity over the long-term. We are looking to raise funds to cover staff time, bursaries, and training material translation.

[www.wildteam.org.uk](http://www.wildteam.org.uk)

Registered charity in England and Wales number 1149465

## Challenge

Climate change and biodiversity loss is an urgent global crisis threatening the well-being of all life on earth (1). One of the main ways to scale up efforts to tackle these challenges is to use training to empower nationals to develop innovative and impactful solutions.

WildTeam has developed a range of online conservation courses that empower conservationists to plan and deliver projects that achieve measurable benefits for nature, climate, and local communities. From our surveys we know that there is a huge demand for this training. For example, over 80% of conservationists surveyed wanted to take at least 4 of the 6 available WildTeam courses (Box 1).

### Box 1. WildTeam conservation courses

- Project planning
- Project management
- Grant Writing
- Stakeholder engagement
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Leadership

**However, many aspiring and professional conservationists, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds, can't access the training they want due to barriers such as cost, time, language, institutional support, internet issues, and computer access.** For example, 97% of conservationists are unable to cover the cost of a place on a WildTeam training course. These and additional barriers are even greater for African conservationists, who face additional systemic barriers that prevent them from participating and leading conservation efforts in their own countries (2). For example, conservation practices in post-apartheid South-Africa are still exclusionary for the majority of the black population (3).

## Solution

In this 3-year project, we will train and support 60 African trainers to deliver class-based WildTeam courses in key conservation skills. To maximise the impact of this project, we will focus on training up and supporting University lecturers who specialise in conservation-related topics, as they are in the best position to empower the next generation of conservationists in their country. We will also provide training materials in French for lecturers in 22 francophone African countries. We know that demand is high to participate in this project because 59 of the lecturers surveyed so far said that they are interested in delivering 1 or more of the current WildTeam

### Box 2. Training testimonial.



*"I would recommend WildTeam's courses because it is a marvellous learning experience that brings important and relevant contents to anyone who wants to know more about how to manage wildlife projects"*

**Lu Cambula, LUPA, Mozambique.**

courses for their students. We will engage and work with the trainers to foster a supportive community for learning and collaboration. These trainers will become capacity building leaders in their countries and reduce reliance on international trainers.

Each trainer is expected to instruct a minimum of 20 students annually, adding up to over 1,200 students trained over the course of the project, and an additional 1,200 students trained/year afterward. Ultimately this project will enable Africans to lead climate change efforts and preserve biodiversity. We will measure the impact of this work through the number of skills gained (assessed through course exams), and an annual survey to assess how the training has benefited the career and work of those involved.

## Team

**WildTeam UK** is a registered charity in England and Wales (number 1149465). At WildTeam we believe every conservationist should have access to the education they need to progress their career and ultimately make a meaningful difference to our natural world, no matter who they are and where they are from. Since our inception in 2012, we have:

- **Developed 5 best practices**, which have been downloaded over 4,000 times.
- **Trained over 1,400 conservationists** who have applied their new skills to progress their careers and collectively manage 5.25 million km<sup>2</sup> of wild areas more effectively.
- **Created the online WildHub community** with 3,000 members across 140 countries.



This project will be managed by WildLearning specialist Dr Beth Robinson, who has a PhD on conservation and certification as an adult learning professional. Beth has 6 years of experience designing, creating, and delivering courses in professional conservation skills.

## Budget

We are looking to raise a total of **£144,000** to cover the costs of this 3 year project. This cost is spread equally across the 3 years of the project at **£48,000/year**. This budget does not account for the considerable in-kind support provided by the Universities to cover the cost of their lecturers' time and use of their training facilities.



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