



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the African Conservancy's mission?

The African Conservancy's mission is to preserve the last remaining African wilderness for the benefit of current and future local, regional and global stakeholders.

What kind of projects does the African Conservancy implement in Africa?

The core program of the African Conservancy is the preservation of national parks in partnership with the Zambian Wildlife Authority. In addition, the African Conservancy sponsors conservation and socio-economic development projects around Zambia, which are implemented with local, regional, and global partners. Such projects include anti-poaching, famine relief, healthcare distribution, and education. Educational safaris, as well as art, coffee and textile import projects further the Conservancy's mission by educating to the western public and developing local African economies.

What is different about the African Conservancy's approach?

The organization believes in an integrated approach. Instead of several large projects spread out over the entire continent, the Conservancy localizes its efforts to deliver a coherent portfolio of programs in well-defined, manageable areas. These programs address the various causes of wildlife and environmental destruction and societal/cultural disintegration. The organization also differs from other organizations in its insistence on grass-root partnerships from project concept through delivery.

Where is the organization located?

The African Conservancy is headquartered in Vista, California, and has an active national board of directors in the US. The Conservancy also has headquarters, a board of directors, and an active membership in Lusaka, Zambia. It delivers its programs on the ground in Zambia through partnerships with the political, business and rural communities.

How long has African Conservancy been in existence?

The African Conservancy was established in 2000 by Norbert and Corinne Waldenmayer. Its membership base has been growing at an average rate of 20 percent each month since inception.

How does the organization minimize operational costs?

Volunteers carry out all of the African Conservancy's administrative work. A well-developed technical infrastructure allows effective operations with very low overhead. The organization's fiscal goal is 80 cents of each donation dollar applied to programs in Africa.

What purpose does the African Conservancy's Web site serve?

Its comprehensive online presence (www.africanconservancy.org) includes components such as:

- Information about the African Conservancy
- An online marketplace and art gallery with rotating African art exhibits
- Details about the educational safari program in Zambia
- An archive of our monthly e-mail newsletter
- A press room for the media
- Resources for our members

What services does the African Conservancy provide to its members?

The African Conservancy provides education, travel programs and art acquisition services to its members.

What does it take to become a member?

Any donation qualifies someone as an African Conservancy member for a year. We do not specify a minimum donation. New members can join online at www.africanconservancy.org or by calling (760) 945-7571.

Why did you choose Zambia as your primary destination for travel to Africa?

We specialize in Zambia because we believe in offering what we know, and we know that country very well. Zambia is the up-and-coming peaceful destination in sub-Saharan Africa. The country offers a great variety of environments, abundant wildlife, and a plethora of traditional and contemporary cultural experiences. Best of all, it is unspoiled by excessive tourism, and travelers will come home feeling privileged to have experienced true wilderness.

What makes a wilderness experience in Zambia more authentic than other countries like Kenya?

Destinations untouched by excessive tourism offer a more authentic experience. While Kenyan, South African and Tanzanian lodges often accommodate more than 100 guests, lodges in Zambian national parks are restricted to 40 beds, and most accommodate 12 guests or less. The concentration of lodges in Zambia is also a fraction of that in more recognized tourist destinations, which means that game drives and walks can often be enjoyed without encountering another human soul. Cultural encounters in Zambia are genuine experiences rather than being theatrical and contrived for high concentrations of tourists.