

HWANGE CONSERVATION WILDLIFE FUND

Lodges in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, have introduced a voluntary conservation levy of USD 10 per person and night, effective from January 2016.

In order to take action against poaching of Africa's iconic species – lion, elephant and rhino – some concerned conservationists and stakeholders of Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park region have created a collaborative group and formed a 'none profit Trust', namely the Conservation & Wildlife Fund (CWF).

CWF is appealing to the guests and the tourist industry to support Zimbabwe's game changing initiative based on the concept of putting aside a wildlife trust fund, a capital for nature for the sustainable management of Africa's wildlife resource.

At this stage the participating safari accommodations in Hwange are: African Bush Camps, The Hide, African Luxury Hideaways and The Amalinda Collection. The voluntary levy will be collected by the safari camp and will be passed on to CWF. The Trust will manage it through a private committee comprising the local stakeholders and founding members. The finances and activities of the Trust will be audited by a reputable international auditing firm.

The primary objectives of CWF are:

- To work together with stakeholders, including other environmentalist and conservation groups, and local communities, in order to raise awareness, and provide adequate tools for the management of Zimbabwe's precious wildlife resources.
- The fight and the victory for the success of our wildlife and its future is one that cannot be fought alone. As an urgent call for action, the founding private stakeholder lodges are introducing a voluntary conservation levy of US\$10.00 per person per night.
- The founding members of CWF are currently engaged in various ambitious conservation and community projects through their independent non-profit Trusts and Foundations and this will continue from their personal profits.
- CWF resources will go directly towards funding key stakeholders in supporting the outer communities and conservation areas surrounding the Hwange National Park.
- Visitors to Zimbabwe enjoy vast amounts of free and open spaces, experience ecological diversity, and encounter large numbers of wildlife with some of the most proficient naturalists and professional guides in the world. They leave with a sense that all is as it should be in the wildernesses visited.

